

Town of Betterton Newsletter

Fall 2020

From the Desk of the Mayor

We hope that you are all safe and healthy as we enter the Fall.

Based on the latest data, we continue to keep the Town Office closed to the Public. You can still contact the Town by phone, email to ask questions, or to set up appointments for meetings. We will continue with our Online meetings and encourage all to login in and let us know your questions and concerns. We will get through this.

We do have an election on October 3rd. The Town Hall will be open from 8:00 A. M. until 6:00 P. M. for the voters to enter and cast their votes. We do require that all current safety protocols be adhered to and we will be limiting the number of voters at any given time in the Hall. Absentee Ballots are offered; however, they will need to be returned to the Town Hall before they close on October 3rd for the votes to be counted.

With all that being said, we have two candidates, Mr. Bob Pyfer and Mr. Bill Fracassi, that are running unopposed for the two Council Seats in this election. Although it is an uncontested election, our Charter does not provide for us not to have an election in this case. We will be working with our attorney to amend the Charter to allow for that option for future elections.

The Wheeler Avenue project is nearly complete with the addition of landscaping in the last couple of weeks. The new Arbor playground that was done thanks to a Public Open Space grant is open and being used.

Our new Wastewater Treatment Plant is operational and the outfall numbers for Nitrogen and Phosphorus are constantly below the State's limits for the plant, which is great! Thanks to our Operator, Mr. Jeff Miller for keeping things running smoothly.

The Radar Speed signs are still seeing excessive speeds with an average of one in five exceeding the 25 MPH Speed Limit. Please ask anyone you have visiting or friends that you know, that may be exceeding the speed limit, to slow down.

As always, please contact the Town Hall if you have any questions.

Mayor Sutton



Dates to Remember

***NEW* Trash Pick-Up Day/Time:**

Sundays at 3 pm

***Yard Waste Pick-Up Mondays
until November 23rd***

Recycling Pick-Up: Tuesdays

***Composting available upon
request.***

***The Town of Betterton will be
closed in on the following holidays:***

Observance of Veteran's Day

November 12th

Thanksgiving

November 26th-27th

Christmas

December 24th-25th

New Year's Day

January 1st

Office Hours

***Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri
8 am - 3 pm***

Office: (410) 348-5522

info@townofbetterton.com

Water/Wastewater Emergencies:

(410) 708-0096

jmiller@townofbetterton.com

Updates from the Town Manager

This year has been different in so many ways. From wearing masks inside businesses to that awkward moment where you meet someone and don't shake their hand, it will definitely be one for the history books. Some things, however, remain the same. The Town of Betterton has continued to move projects forward.

It's exciting to see the beautiful streetscape on Wheeler Avenue and to watch children play at the new Arbor Play Area. Stormwater design for Bayside and the area behind the county parking lot is finishing up and we hope to implement those designs in the future. The stone revetment for Bayside Boulevard is on schedule to begin construction late spring 2021. Each of these projects is being primarily funded through Federal and State grants.

The town has also received CARES Act funding for new computer equipment, virtual meeting software, and PPE in response to COVID-19.

While many of the grant programs are on-hold due to the current pandemic, the one grant we are working on applying for is a grant through Community Legacy for engineering funds for Ericsson. We are hopeful that we will be able to do a streetscape similar to Wheeler that will address the flooding and deteriorating sidewalks. I am grateful for the help of Dr. Joseph Stock who has spent many volunteer hours working with me to apply for town grants.

Like other families, we have been impacted by COVID-19. I have been working from home for six months while homeschooling my children. While I may not be working as many hours as before, I try my best to keep things moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns, I am only an email away.

I hope you enjoy the crisp fall weather and falling leaves that autumn brings. Betterton really is beautiful in the Fall.....even during a pandemic.

Elizabeth Greenwell
egreenwell@townofbetterton.com



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Arbor Play Area. Giosue Greenwell on the zip line. Dawn Holden, Naomi Miller, and Scott Barney.

Grab and Go Lunches

Grab and Go meals are available at the Betterton Fire Hall this fall. All children 18 and under qualify for free meals. Pick up times are Monday - Friday from 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm. Parents may pick up the bags for their children.

Betterton UM Church – Fundraising Campaign

Phase 2 of an ambitious fundraising program has begun at the Betterton United Methodist Church. Two years ago, members of the Church raised sufficient funds to repair, preserve and protect its 23 stained glass windows. Work included new lead between panes where needed, replacement or repair of broken glass and new weatherization material. In addition to preserving these works of art, the project has resulted in significant savings on energy costs.

Now underway, the second phase aims to raise \$150,000 to remove crumbling stucco from the exterior walls, removal of the old wood clapboard siding under the stucco and adding new, high-quality vinyl siding resembling the appearance of the structure when it was dedicated in 1915. Funds are being sought from the congregation, the community at large, Kent County businesses, and from agencies that might provide grant funding. The campaign will continue for the remainder of the year.

For information, contact Sue Copper at (410) 348-5695. To donate, mail contributions to PO Box 131, Betterton, 21610 or through PayPal on the Church website; www.stillbetterchurch.org and follow to the Betterton Church Page.



Sustainable Communities Award

The Town of Betterton was chosen by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission as a 2020 Sustainable Community of the year. We are honored to have been chosen for our work to better this town through an upgraded Wastewater Treatment Plant and several stormwater projects including the Main Street Outfall/Parking Lot and Wheeler Avenue. The town received a plaque and certificate and had the opportunity to make a 3-minute video of our town which will be released soon. The virtual ceremony will be on October 5th. We are grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who are helping to move this town forward.

BCDC and Betterton Heritage Museum Update

If you are interested in learning more about Betterton history while the Betterton Heritage Museum is closed, we have an exciting new way to share the history. Go to <https://tiny.cc/dspartners> for a Virtual Reality tour of the museum. The Virtual Reality tour was created by Digital Scholarship in Museum Partnerships at Washington College. The students in this program worked with local museums to create technology rich outreach resources that help spread the museum's message to a wider audience. At the Betterton Heritage Museum, students created a digital library with more than 4,200 images found in the museum, including post cards and old photographs showcasing the history of the resort town. Interviews with local residents resulted in a compelling oral history about how fishing was a major industry in the early days and how that led to Betterton becoming a popular summer resort. The tour includes 70 info buttons to help patrons engage with the museum's collection. Visit <https://tiny.cc/dspartners> to learn more about our history.

The museum has Betterton T-shirts, a book about Betterton history, and postcards for sale. Make an appointment to check out the gift shop with Candi Sorge at ccsorge@gmail.com.

Our sincere thanks go to Dr. Joe Stock and Merceda Eckstrom for maintaining the beautiful gardens at the Betterton sign and 100 Main St. They planted, weeded and watered throughout this hot summer to keep the gardens fresh for the enjoyment of all.

Need a book to read?

Just a reminder that there are three Little Free Libraries in town. They are located next to the Community Center on the corner of Main and First Avenue, across from the post office on the corner of Church Alley and 3rd Avenue, and on Ericsson near Wheeler Avenue. Look for the library boxes for some good reads that also include titles that would interest children.



Trick or Treating in Betterton will be October 31st from 5 pm to 7 pm. Mayor Sutton wants to remind everyone to please practice social distancing.

Lions Club postpones “Night at the Races”

Because of continuing Coronavirus concerns, the Betterton Still Pond Lions Club has canceled its video horse racing evening originally scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2020. At the same time, the local service organization has set Saturday, March 13, 2020 as a new date for the popular event.

While the Lions normally hold their ‘Night at the Races’ on the first Saturdays in the months of March and November, the March date would have conflicted with a major regional Lions Club event. Accordingly, the second Saturday in March has been set as the next race date. Mark your calendars – March 13 for another fun community activity.

Over the years, the Betterton Still Pond Lions Club has held more than 40 video races, raising over \$200,000 for non-profit and community organizations in Kent County. The Club also awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior at Kent County High School. The 2020 recipient is Brianna Pinder who reports that her classes started on August 31 at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI. All 3 of her academic classes are online, but her culinary labs are in person. With the help of our scholarship, Brianna is off to a great start.

Vision impairment and vision loss continue to be a primary focus of Lions Internation, and the local club has been active in assisting residents who need help, as well as collecting used eye glasses for repair and redistribution to those needing new eyewear. To donate your used eyeglasses, contact Terry Rabinowitz at ctownoptical@verizon.net

The Lions Club is always interested in new members. To learn more about the Club, contact Charlie Gloyd at ctgloyd@gmail.com (Chair) or Dick Story at dickstory24@gmail.com (Membership Chair).



Photo of Wheeler Avenue after paving.



Landscaping and permeable pavers.

Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste, and Composting

Due to the rising cost in trash collection, the town has switched companies from Blue Hen Disposal (formerly Charlie's) to Eastern Shore Environmental LLC starting in October.

Pick up is now Sunday at 3:00 pm. Please make sure that your cans are out in time.

Recycling is each week on Tuesdays. Recycling should be washed out and sorted into 2 different bins/piles. One pile is for paper/cardboard/fibers and the other is for plastic/glass/cans. Due to the cost per pickup, we recommend putting your recycling out once you have several items collected. For some people this may be every week, for others you may want to set your recycling out 1-2 times a month.



Yard Waste pickup will continue on Mondays until Thanksgiving. Homeowners are encouraged to utilize this free service to get rid of debris. Since Fall is upon us, just a reminder that leaves should be bagged. The town will not pick up huge piles of unbagged leaves.

Finally, Councilmember Wayne Gilchrest is composting at the Sassafra Environmental Center. He collects the compost in town and then returns the containers. If you would like your food composted (to save on the amount of trash that goes to the landfill) please contact the town office. You will be provided with instructions of where to drop off your compost.

Electric Charging Stations

The Town of Betterton recently added two electric charging stations to the parking lot at the Betterton Community Center. These charging stations were provided through a grant from Delmarva Power. The new stations allow customers to pay to charge their vehicle via an app.

Did you know that electric vehicles can reduce your carbon emissions by half? Electric vehicles cost an average of \$485 per year to charge whereas a small car costs over \$1,100 in gas plus the cost of oil changes. We are excited to have this addition to make our town more eco-friendly.



Do you have something newsworthy? Email articles or photos to egreenwell@townofbetterton.com or info@townofbetterton.com by December 10th.