

Winter 2019

Newsletter for the Town of Townsend

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❖ Land Use & Development
❖ Public Works

Patrick Miller
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❖ Public Safety
❖ Veterans committee

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❖ Wildlife Habitat

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FROM THE HEART

Holidays in Townsend

Warm up your voices and get ready for some fun caroling in the park. On Sunday, December 8th from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Townsend Municipal Park the Immanuel Methodist Church chorus will be leading us in several joyous Christmas carols. There will be songbooks available so you can join in. The large tree in the circle by the gazebo will be decorated in all the color of the season and there will be refreshments for your enjoyment. Don't miss this annual event. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Sunday, December 15th at the same time and place.

Prepare Your Property For Winter Winds

As winter comes upon us here are some tips to help you prepare for the winter winds and weather.

- Listen to weather forecasts and plan ahead.
- If you lose power, use flashlights. Do not use candles or kerosene lamps; they can create a safety hazard.
- Develop a family emergency plan that includes alternative arrangements should you need to leave your home. Make provisions for special needs family members such as the elderly, disabled, medically affected, or infants. If you are dependent on electric-powered medical equipment, seek alternate arrangements in the event of an outage.
- Have the following items on ready:
 - Flashlights, not candles
 - Fresh batteries
 - Battery-operated clock radio
 - Fully charged cell phone
 - Non-perishable foods
 - Water: one gallon of bottled water per person per day without electric service. If your home is served by well water, fill a bathtub with water for sanitation use.
 - Local maps
 - Blankets
- Keep a first-aid kit in your home and in your car.
- Make a list of emergency phone numbers (including 1-800-898-8042 to report outages).
- Keep cash on hand.

For further information visit the website at [FEMA How To Prepare For A Winter Storm](#) and download the booklet HOW TO PREPARE FOR A WINTER STORM for recommended items.

Slip & Fall Accidents: Avoid the Cost!

Winter is coming which means snow and ice! If you don't clear your walkways and someone gets hurt, you may be at fault for negligence and the average cost of a slip and fall claim is \$23,000! Townsend Ordinance #11 requires that sidewalks are reasonably clear of debris, which also includes snow and ice. Please help us keep our residents happy, healthy and safe.

A Facelift for Commerce Street

The Town is happy to announce that we have entered into a contract with Delaware Department of Transportation to begin repairs to the curb and sidewalk along Commerce Street. DelDOT is allowing the Town to work through the existing contract that allowed for the repair and repaving of Commerce Street over the Summer.

The sidewalks and curbs areas that have been damaged over the years from Main Street to Dexter's Corner Road will be repaired. It was more efficient and cost-effective to complete the project through DelDOT and the existing contractors.

The total cost of this project is approximate \$46,090. The money is coming from the Municipal Street Aid which is provided by the State and is intended to provide for improvements to transportation related areas dedicated for public use within the Town.

Earlier this summer Delaware Department of transportation completed a roadway restoration for commerce Street. We want to make sure that our curbs and sidewalks are also restored our Heart of Townsend. The work will begin shortly. We are in the process of scheduling the work with DelDOT.

From The Town

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Workshop meetings are held at 7:00 pm two weeks prior to the first meeting of the month. Agendas are posted on the website and at the Post Office. Meetings are open to the public.

Minutes of prior meetings are posted on the website under "Government, Past Meeting Minutes" once approved by Council.

Rental Ordinance

Rental Ordinance No. 17-05 was effective 1-1-19. License applications for 2020 will be sent out within the next few weeks. If you are a new landlord or tenant and are not familiar with the requirements of the Ordinance, please call Town Hall so that the required forms may be forwarded to you for completion and fines for non-compliance can be avoided.

Emails

Register to sign up for emails on the Town's website (www.townsend.delaware.gov) and you will automatically receive email notifications of each "news post" that is entered on the website. You can also unsubscribe at any time.

Dogs

Numerous complaints about dogs barking and unrestrained dogs off owner's property have been received the past several months. Residents are reminded that these are violations of Town Ordinance No. 04-02 which pertains to "nuisance animals".

Under Delaware law it is mandatory that owners have their pets licensed. If you get caught without a license, you will be fined by the State. Additional information about licensing fees and procedures may be found at:

<https://animalservices.delaware.gov/services/dog-licensing/f-a-q>

Street Light Outages

Although the Town is happy to report street light outages that are brought to our attention, anyone can report outages directly thru the Delmarva link listed under "Resident Info" on the website.

Safety

If you see any suspicious activity, call the Delaware State Police on 302-573-2800. Your report can be kept confidential. Whenever possible, get the license plate of any speeding vehicles and report it to the DSP. Again, anonymity is not a problem when reporting.

Town Park

The Town Park on Edgar Road is open daily from dawn to dusk. The pavilion may be rented out for special events. Resident fee is \$50 for 3 hours.

Code Red, Code Red: What is it?

Code Red is an Emergency Notification System that notifies residents of emergencies and time-sensitive situations in our area. Any message that affects the safety and welfare of our community will be broadcasted using Code Red. In order for residents to receive these important and possible life saving announcements, you must register!

Visit <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFE540570CAF> and create an account. A phone number is required to create an account. You can also select to receive email and text notifications through the system. Don't wait! Register now!

New Billing for Trash & Lights

Beginning January 2020, residents will receive quarterly bills for trash service and streetlights. This change will result in a savings of approximately \$2,600 quarterly in administrative and postage costs for the town. Trash service is required through the town and any account that was suspended will be charged a \$50 reactivation fee. The first quarterly bill will cover the months of January-February-March.

Troopers Offer Holiday Safety Tips

With the holiday shopping season upon us, the Delaware State Police would like to remind you to make safety a priority to avoid being vulnerable to theft and other holiday crimes. By taking a few extra precautions you can help ensure your holiday is a happy and safe one. We would like to provide these few safety reminders to help keep you safe this holiday season.

- Try to shop during the day, but if you shop at night, do not do it alone.
- Parking lots are an easy place to fall victim to a crime. Always park in a safe, well-lit location.
- Remember to lock your car doors and secure your valuables in a place where they aren't visible from outside the vehicle.
- When walking to and from your vehicle, stay alert to your surroundings and be aware of possible suspicious persons, vehicles or situations. Always remember, if you see something to say something.
- Use caution if carrying a wallet or purse. They are prime targets for criminals in crowded locations.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and carrying large amounts of cash. Beware of strangers approaching. At this time of year, con-artists may try various methods of distracting you, including working in teams, with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Avoid being preoccupied with your cellphone and other electronic devices.

From the Mayor

As the end of the year draws near, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Joyous Holidays along with a wonderful New Year. This is the time to celebrate with family and friends, for fond remembrances and moments to reflect on our future. May all the residents be able to celebrate our holiday season with good cheer and hope. May we draw upon our faith in each other and our neighbors in facing the future together.

For those in uniform, whether civil or military, our thanks and appreciation for your service. It is your commitment to service that allows us to celebrate, safe in our communities.

Our town has endured many changes and will undoubtedly face many more in our future. The Town is in the process of growing and we are working hard to ensure a bright future for us and our children. I ask you to celebrate and accept, the differences in our cultures, as that is what makes us stronger together.

Warmest regards,
Mayor Thomas McDonald

