

Town of Betterton Newsletter

Summer 2019

From the Mayor

Welcome Summer!

We are almost done with the construction of the Wastewater Treatment plant, with only a few final punch list items to be completed. Once it has been accepted by the Town, we are planning on an Open House event to offer tours of the new facility. We will follow up with the date once we have it set.

The news from the budget meetings of the County Commissioners is that they have included the construction of a new bathhouse for the Beach in this year's budget, along with a re-do of the steps from the Mary Roe Walkup Pavilion and an attendant to help monitor the Beach area from Thursday through Sunday. We're not sure when construction will begin but would assume that it would be after the Summer season.

Unfortunately, we are still seeing speeds in excess of 50 MPH at the entrance to Town and First Avenue sign is recording speeds in excess of 42 MPH. The average number of violators runs around 20% of those driving into Town. I ask again, as we see the increase of traffic for the Summer days, that you encourage your guests and anyone else you know, to observe the speed limits.

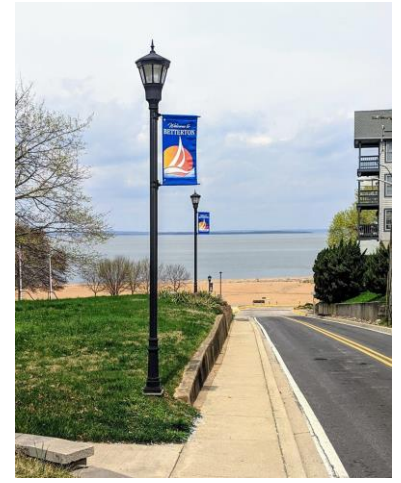
Also, please remember that the trash cans provided by our collector are only for household trash. Appliances and larger items are the homeowner's responsibility and are not to be put in the weekly trash collection.

The Betterton Fire Company will again be hosting Betterton Day on August 3rd. They have also informed me that, the Cow Plop Bingo will be back this year, so be sure to get your tickets for this fun event.

This year's National Night Out is August 6th and the Town will be hosting a meet and greet at the Town Hall with light snacks again this year from 7:00 to 8:00 P. M. Come out and show your support for the Sheriff and his Staff.

The Mayor and Council wish everyone a safe and fun Summer.
That's all for now,

Mayor Sutton



Dates to Remember

Trash Pick-Up: Mondays

Yard Waste Pick-Up: Mondays

Recycling Pick-Up: Tuesdays

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

Thursday, July 4th
Independence Day

Monday, September 2nd
Labor Day

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
8 am – 3 pm
Closed on Wednesdays

Council Meetings

2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 pm.
All are invited to attend.

From the Desk of the Town Manager

The town has been busy this spring. We have continued to work on the engineering plan for the Shoreline Erosion project on Bayside Blvd. Other projects in town include Wheeler Avenue and the Idlewhile pump station, which are both funded through grants and are set to begin work this summer.

The town is coordinating with the county to have the Bluff by the Rigbie Condos cleared of invasive species, an access road added, and the bank replanted in the late summer/early fall. The town also continues to apply for grant funding to restore the Rigbie Steps – a project that rated as the #1 priority for town residents on the survey that was distributed in March.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that the town was chosen for a Program Open Space grant to put in a new Tree House themed playground at the Sixth Avenue Park. The new playground equipment and safety surface will replace the existing dated equipment and be called the Arbor Play Area. I frequently hear comments from town residents about wanting to attract young families to Betterton, and the new playground will be a beautiful edition.

Betterton is heading in a positive direction. We have seen an increase in home sales in Betterton over the past few months and are pleased to see that 2 blighted properties on Main Street have been purchased and are being made into beautiful homes.

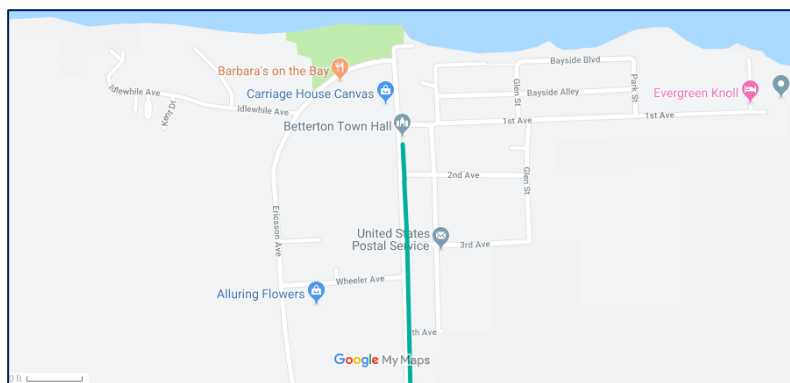
Finally, I am pleased to announce that my husband and I are purchasing a home in town and I will be increasing my schedule to 4 days a week beginning August 1st. This will allow me the extra time needed to manage the grants we have and move the current projects forward. Betterton has become such a special place to us over the past 2 ½ years and we are excited to call this our home.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee, please reach out. We have a strong volunteer base but are always looking for more people to get involved. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Elizabeth

High Speed Internet

ThinkBig offers 5G internet services to communities via a fiberoptic line. These services are only installed when enough residents of a community sign up for the service. Betterton currently has fiber along most of Main Street. Please contact sales@thinkbignets.com to sign an intention form if you would like to have High Speed Internet available to your address. When we get enough households signed up, fiber can be added to our side streets.



Lending Library, DVDs, and Free Wi-Fi

The town is excited to announce that we now have over 100 DVDs in our lending library thanks to a generous donor. In addition, we have two bookshelves with hundreds of books. Feel free to stop by the Community Center during office hours to use the free Wi-Fi, or to browse our books and DVDs.

Survey Results

Thank you to the 157 people who returned surveys. Restoration of the Rigbie Steps is ranked as the top project the citizens want to see move forward. We have applied for funding through Community Legacy and will know this fall if it will be funded. Other results indicated that the residents want the town to grow slowly while maintaining the current character. The majority of residents (85%) felt town taxes are fair and 90% felt public services were adequate. Many residents wrote in the comments section that they would like to see a convenience store in town. Results will be used to guide our Comprehensive Plan and Sustainable Communities update. Full results are available upon request.



BCDC News and Heritage Museum

Many thanks to our great volunteers who make a difference in our community. Our Garden Committee has been hard at work to keep the public areas looking attractive. Many thanks to the following: Joe and Jean Stock have taken over the upkeep of the garden around the Welcome to Betterton sign at Sixth Ave. It looks wonderful. Also, thanks to Joe and Jean for the new planters at the entrance to the Community Center. The flowers make the entrance to the building so welcoming. Merceda Eckstrom and Maryann Smith work hard to keep the gardens in the "bump out" and along the front wall looking good. Maryann and Ginny Story work on the gardens at the Bayside Foot Bridge.

The Betterton Heritage Museum opened for the season on Saturday, May 25th and will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 - 3:00pm until the end of September. The museum is staffed by volunteers who share lots of good history of Betterton. We also have a variety of Betterton memorabilia for sale. A new addition is a T-shirt of the Betterton Gilling Skiff, designed by Ken Warwick. Stop by to tour the museum and pick up some of the items. A plaque dedicating the bell from the Most Precious Blood Church was recently installed in memory of Alicia Sarabalis. Alicia grew up attending church in the building and had many fond memories of her years in Betterton.

Sunday, August 4th - The MainStay plays Betterton, a special concert arranged by friends of Judy Kohl. The concert is free, but donations to the museum are encouraged. More details will follow.

Saturday, August 24th - The annual Betterton Community Yard Sale will run from 8:00am until 12:00 pm. Residents will set up at their homes and BCDC will do the advertising in the Tidewater Trader. The cost to participate is \$5.00 to help with the cost of advertising. If you are interested, please complete the form below and return to the Betterton Town Office BEFORE July 31st to be included in the promotion. If you have any questions, contact Candi at ccsorge@gmail.com.

Yes, I will participate in the BCDC/Community Yard Sale on Saturday, August 24th from 8:00am until 12:00pm.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Enclosed is my \$5.00 registration fee to cover the advertising.

Return to Betterton Town Office no later than July 31 to be included in the advertising.

Betterton Weekend means Fun for All

Betterton Weekend will kick off on Friday, August 2nd with a beach party and fireworks. Saturday, August 3rd is Betterton Day. You won't want to miss the parade, food, vendors, live music, and famous cow plop bingo. We hope to see you there!



Daytripper plays at Betterton Day 2018



Crowds line up for the parade at Betterton Day 2018.

Congratulations!

Congrats to Mr. Jeff Miller for his hard work at our new Wastewater Treatment plant. Our new plant is exceeding the standards for Nitrogen and Phosphorus discharge to the bay. Betterton was recognized in May as **Maryland Wastewater System of the Year** by Maryland Rural Water.



Photo of the new post office on Third Street.



Thank you to Joe and Jean Stock donated these beautiful planters in front of town hall.