

Town of Betterton Newsletter

Winter 2019

From the Mayor

Happy Holidays and welcome to 2019! The Council and I wish each of you a Safe and Happy New Year. It is with great sadness, though, that we note the loss of Ms. Judy Kohl. Her loss leaves a huge hole in our hearts and our thoughts go out to her family during this time. She was a tremendous supporter of the many arts and entertainment activities in Town and in Kent County. The Town is seeking comments for ways to honor Ms. Kohl's memory. Please send your thoughts and comments to Town Hall, so that we can show our appreciation of all that the wonderful things she accomplished in her life.

As we move into more freezing temperatures, we remind you to please make sure that your homes are winter ready. Help your neighbors and the Town by keeping an eye out and reporting any of the typical water leaks that we see as the ground freezes and thaws.

Once again, our many thanks to Mr. Larry Crew, Councilman Bob Pyfer and Mr. Dick Story, along with all the other volunteers for all their work setting up and running the Train Show at the old Town Hall again this year. The show, even with the rainy weather, was well attended. Also, thanks go to the volunteers for the holiday decorations in Town and the caroling sponsored by the Betterton Fire Department and the Youth Group.

As in previous years, our Town employees will be picking up the used, undecorated evergreen trees for recycling on the 7th, 14th and 21st of January (weather permitting). April 2nd will be the start of our typical Monday yard waste collection for recycling at the Nicholson Landfill.

The new Wastewater Treatment Plant construction is mostly finished, except for some plantings and minor details. The plant has been operational since mid-October and is exceeding expectations in the reduction of nitrogen in our effluent that goes to the Bay. Thanks go to the Kent County Sanitary District staff for all the help in getting the plan up and running.

We are still working towards the construction startup of the Greener Wheeler Avenue project and have awarded the engineering design work on the bluff erosion on Bayside.

The new Post Office is finally here and should be operational in the next few weeks.

That's all for now and as always, please stop by the Town Hall and or attend a Council meeting if you should have any questions.

Mayor Sutton



Dates to Remember

Trash Pick-Up: Mondays

Recycling Pick-Up: Tuesdays

Undecorated Tree Pickup:

Monday, January 7th, 14th, 21st

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

Monday, January 21st

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 18th

President's 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.

No Council Workshop on January 22nd.

Town Manager Report

It has been a busy fall here in Betterton. We continue to move forward with many projects around town. I wanted to highlight three of the ongoing projects:

Bayside Blvd. has had severe erosion for a long time. The town received a grant from FEMA this summer and we are moving forward with the project. The Request for Proposals was advertised this fall and 2 engineering firms bid on the project. George, Miles and won the bid and will have the engineering design done by September 2019. Our goal is to break ground in the spring of 2020. We also have received engineering money for stormwater management on Bayside. The funding is pending, but we hope to complete the stormwater engineering simultaneously with the erosion control.

The Wheeler Avenue project is fully funded. The town received \$800,000 from a Community Development Block Grant and \$283,000 in grant funding from USDA. The project will improve water, sewer, stormwater, sidewalks, pavement, and landscaping on the street. The engineering is complete, however, the project cannot begin until the town is able to obtain easements from several homeowners. At this point, we do not have an anticipated date to break ground.

The grant taskforce submitted a grant in December for the Idlewhile Pump Station to be replaced. The engineering design is now complete, and we are hopeful that we will hear back in the next 6-8 weeks as to whether we were awarded the grant. The Idlewhile Pump Station is the last of the 5 pump stations in town. It's equipment is antiquated and updating it will create energy savings for the town and reduce the chance for pump failure. Have a happy holiday!

Elizabeth



Photos of the new Post Office being installed.



Photo from this year's train show showing the new Betterton Beach display.

BCDC News

The members of the Betterton Community Development Corporation share the sadness with the entire community in the death of Judy Kohl. Judy was a guiding light for BCDC beginning with the change from the original Betterton Day Committee to the non-profit, BCDC. She recognized the need to form a non-profit as a way to provide many opportunities for community improvements through grant funding and donations. She has left us a wonderful legacy in so many ways.

Judy was the guiding force in many special events and projects; two wonderful Betterton House Tours, the restoration of the Betterton Fishing Ark, and the renovations for the Community Center. She and her husband Ben provided essential historical information and support for these projects. Through her many contacts in Kent County, Judy brought a variety of special events to our community. She planned and facilitated many musical events by fostering a strong connection with the MainStay and brought valued insight for other cultural activities. BCDC will endeavor to honor her memory by continuing to work to share and inspire our friends and neighbors.

Volunteer Spotlight

Betterton has many people who volunteer to make this town a success. We will be highlighting a community volunteer each quarter.

For our first volunteer spotlight, we would like to recognize Dr. Joseph Stock. Like so many people who have fallen in love with this quaint town, Joe didn't grow up in Betterton. In fact, he was raised on a dairy farm in Nebraska. He completed his medical residency in Boston and then moved to Pennsylvania, where he was a Radiologist in the same group for 39 years. He was Chairman of Radiology for 18 years until his retirement this past July.



Joe first came to Betterton in 1983, when he visited his friends, James and Ginna Clark on First Avenue. At the time, his daughters were 7 and 4. He and his wife, Jean, were so taken by Betterton's beauty that they purchased the house next door to the Clark's the very next day!

Joe has fond memories of his daughters playing in the yard, riding their bikes around town, and swimming in the Bay. The town continues to be a place the family gathers. Joe and Jean live in Wallingford, PA but have made frequent trips to Betterton over the years. Now that he is retired, Joe plans to spend 3-4 months here each year.

Joe has been volunteering on the grant taskforce for the past year. He and Maryann Wasko-Smith approached the town and wanted to apply for a FEMA grant for Bayside. They were both concerned about the ongoing erosion. Even though their properties were not directly affected, they wanted to preserve the beautiful vista on Bayside. Joe wrote many of the narratives for the FEMA grant; but his help didn't stop there. With the momentum going, the grant taskforce continued and started applying for other grants around town.

Joe has been a valuable member of our volunteer grant taskforce. When asked what he wants to see for the future, he said he wants Betterton to remain a charming, friendly place where his grandkids can enjoy. He also would like to see some slow growth that allows for the attraction of new businesses. Joe says that he is proud to be part of the grant team and that he enjoys working with Mayor and Council to make Betterton a safer, more beautiful place to live.

Thank you, Joe, for your service to our town!



A curbside pick-up of live Christmas trees will be on Monday, January 7th. Please make sure all tinsel and decorations are removed. Yard Waste pick-up will begin again in April.

Youth Group

The Youth Group meets in the basement of the Betterton UM Church from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. They will meet on the following dates this spring:

January 11, 18

February 8, 15

March 8, 29

April 12, 19

May 10, 24

If you have questions, please contact Patti Bone 443-298-0057.



Spring Happenings Around Town

March 2nd the Lions Club Horse Races

March 5th Pancake Dinner at the Firehouse

Betterton Post 246 American Legion News

The American Legion in Betterton is offering Buffet style dinners on the **4th Saturday of each month** from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. Please come down and support your local American Legion, "Public is welcome." Watch for the flyers for the menu, as it will change monthly. Menus will be posted on Facebook page "Betterton American Legion Post 246".

The Auxiliary hosted the annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15th. Santa visited and brought gifts to over 60 kids. Thanks to the KCHS Band for playing Christmas music and Marzella's for donating the pizzas.



Dr. Harry Marcy's granddaughter, Paige talks to Santa.



Kent County High School Band poses with Santa.



Patti Bone, helping to make the party a success!

Do you have something newsworthy?

Any articles or photos you would like included in the next newsletter should be emailed to Elizabeth at egreenwell@townofbetterton.com or Sheila at info@townofbetterton.com no later than March 19th.