

Town of Betterton Newsletter

Winter 2020

From the Mayor

Happy Holidays! As we welcome 2020, The Council and I want to wish each of you a Safe and Happy New Year.

As always, with cold weather, please make sure that your homes are winterized. We ask that you continue to 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.

Again, many thanks and congratulations go out to Mr. Larry Crew, Councilman Bob Pyfer and Mr. Dick Story, along with all the other volunteers, for their hours of work setting up and running the Train Show at the old Town Hall this year. Also, thanks again go to the Betterton Fire Department for the Hayride/ Caroling night and Breakfast with Santa.

As in previous years, our Town employees will be picking up the used, undecorated evergreen trees for recycling on the 13th and 27th of January (weather permitting). March 9th will be the start of our typical Monday yard waste collection for recycling at the Nicholson Landfill.

The new Wastewater Treatment Plant is operational with only some final punch list items to be completed. We are looking at a Spring Open House for the new plant. Please watch for a future date announcement.

As you may know, we received the grant funding, from USDA, for the construction of the Greener Wheeler Avenue project. We have approved the bid from Bramble Construction and are looking forward to an early Spring start of construction. Construction is expected to be approximately four to five months and there will be times that Wheeler will be closed for through traffic as part of the construction schedule. During those times, access will be available from Ericsson Avenue for the homeowners. We are working out the details for the school bus pickup and will be notifying the parents when complete.

The new playground surface and equipment for the Sixth Avenue Park is also slated for an early Spring start of construction.

We are continuing to apply for additional grant funding to work on the bluff erosion on Bayside.

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.



Dates to Remember

Trash Pick-Up: Mondays

Recycling Pick-Up: Tuesdays

Evergreen tree pick- up

January 13th and 27th

**Yard Waste Pick-Up Mondays
starting March 9th**

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

January 20th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 17th
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.

From the Desk of the Town Manager

I am excited to announce that Betterton has been chosen as **2020 Sustainable Community of the Year** for Maryland. A video will be made of our town highlighting our current projects and we will be presented with an award in Annapolis in the spring. Stay tuned for more information. All of this would not be possible without a supportive mayor and council, a wonderful staff, and a dedicated group of volunteers.

We were chosen because over the past two years, we have applied for 22 grants and received funding from 15 grant sources to help fund 12 separate projects in town. From electric charging stations to permeable pavers to stormwater solutions, the town is committed to improving the water quality to the Bay. Most of these projects are in the planning stages and will be implemented in the Spring.

We are blessed with committees of volunteers working hard on both our Sustainable Communities renewal and the updating of our Comprehensive Plan. If you are interested, please reach out to me as there are several opportunities to be involved.

I know the inconvenience of the construction on Bayside Blvd., Wheeler Avenue, and at the Sixth Avenue park this spring/summer will be a challenge, but I am hopeful that everyone will be patient as the improvements will last for years to come.

I also know that there have been several water main breaks this fall. The town is working on improving its notification to citizens when there is a sudden loss in water pressure. In addition, the town has received a \$30,000 grant from USDA to complete an engineering study on the water infrastructure so that the town can develop a long-range plan for updating the water system.

One final thing - I encourage you to join the group "Betterton" on Facebook. I frequently post news and pictures from happenings around town. It's a great way to stay connected.

I am honored to live and work in such a beautiful town. Have a great winter and reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Elizabeth Greenwell



At a BCDC fundraiser in November, people from Betterton and surrounding areas learned to line dance. The fundraiser was a big success and those who attended have requested another dance in the spring. Proceeds from the evening will be applied toward the cost of a permanent cover for the fishing shanty.

Do you have something newsworthy? Email articles or photos to egreenwell@townofbetterton.com or info@townofbetterton.com by March 19th.

Calling all Artists



The Town of Betterton in association with the Kent County Arts Council and Kent County Parks and Rec are holding a contest to design artwork for the 15 trash barrels at Betterton Beach. The contest is open during the month of January. Five designs will be chosen. All winning artists will receive a stipend. The trash cans will be painted this spring with the designs and slogans to encourage keeping the beach clean. Voting will take place in February. Stop by town hall to get a template so that you can participate. This is a great opportunity for both kids and adults! Email Elizabeth at egreenwell@townofbetterton.com for more details.

Happenings Around Town

It was wonderful to see so many families participate in the holiday activities around town. Many thanks to BVFC and the American Legion for organizing the Christmas party, caroling, and Breakfast with Santa.

An opportunity we have in town which is not well attended is youth group. I encourage all of the school-aged children to participate. It is a great way for the local kids to get to know one another by playing games together. As a bonus, it meets on Friday nights – which is a perfect time for parents to grab a pizza or go on a dinner date at Barbara's on the Bay.

Youth group will meet on **January 17th, January 31st, and February 7th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm** at Betterton UMC. I hope you will consider sending your children. School aged kids can be dropped off. Pre-schoolers need to be accompanied by an adult. If you have questions, reach out to Patti Bone 443-298-0057.



Trenton Montooth receives a gift from Santa Claus.



Families from around town sing Christmas carols.



Wayne Kaufman is in the Christmas Spirit.



Dick Story, John Naurer, Larry Crew, and Bob Pyfer at the annual train show.



New paint on the water tower.



Cain Spry opens a gift at the Christmas party at the Legion.

There will be a Pancake Dinner at the Fire House on Tuesday, February 25th from 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm. Both eat-in and take-out will be available.

Volunteers are needed at the fire department. If you are interested in joining, please call the fire hall at 410-348-5678 and leave a message. Also, a reminder to check your smoke detectors. If you need a new one, the fire department would be happy to provide you with a replacement at no cost.

Reasons to Plant a Tree from the MD Critical Area Commission

WET SPOT IN YOUR YARD?

A tree is like a water pump. A large tree can pull as much as 100 gallons of water out of the ground per day and discharge it into the air as oxygen and water vapor. Instead of continually mowing that wet place, consider planting a tree. There are many trees that can stand to have their feet a little wet (sweet bay magnolia, willow oak, common hackberry, river birch).

SAVE ON ENERGY BILLS

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, shading is a cost-effective way to cut air conditioning costs. Deciduous trees planted on the south side of your house block solar heat in summer but let sunshine in during the winter. Evergreens planted on the north can deflect cold winter winds.



WILLOW OAK



RED MAPLE



NORTHERN CARDINAL



SPRING AZURE

SHADE

Shading and evapotranspiration from trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6° F.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Through photosynthesis, a tree can absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) from the air and store it for decades. A single tree can take in between 13 and 48 pounds of carbon dioxide each year and sequester 1 ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old.

POLLUTANT REMOVAL/EROSION CONTROL

Trees intercept a large amount of rainfall in their leaves where it is temporarily stored in the canopy. Some of this water evaporates into the air and some travels to the ground, down branches and trunks where it can penetrate into the soil.

The layers of a tree work to slow the velocity of rainwater, allow more water to infiltrate and ultimately reduce the amount of stormwater that is available to pick up sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants and deposit them in the closest storm drain or stream. Tree roots also reduce erosion by holding the soil in place and increasing the spaces in the soil where water can be stored.

WILDLIFE AND TREES

Trees provide homes and food for cardinals, robins, squirrels, hummingbirds, fireflies, butterflies, and moths.

BREATHE

One large tree can supply a day's supply of oxygen for four people.