



# FOCUS<sub>on</sub>

June E-Newsletter  
2018

**Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce**

Mission: To promote business, tourism and civic responsibility.

## OFFICIALLY OPEN!

The Chamber of Commerce made the move to 306 Rehoboth Avenue official on May 23rd. The Board of Directors, Chamber Staff, Elected Officials and Members celebrated with a open house and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Feel free to stop by and say hello!



**The Chamber cannot thank our Members enough for their assistance with the move!**

From painting, flooring, furniture, keys, moving and more... you helped us get settled in! Thanks to Grub Grocery and the Cultured Pearl for supplying the open house refreshments!

**Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach**  
Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center

**“The Nation’s Summer Capital”**

P.O. Box 216 (Mailing Address)  
501 Rehoboth Avenue (Visitors Center)  
306 Rehoboth Avenue (Administrative Offices)  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971-0216  
302-227-2233 · 800-441-1329  
**Member Hotline · 302-227-6446**  
Fax · 302-227-8351  
rehoboth@beach-fun.com  
www.Beach-Fun.com

Chairman of the Board ..... Jay Becker  
First Chair ..... Barbara Brewer  
Second Chair..... Carrie Lingo  
Third Chair/Treasurer ..... Vince DiFonzo  
Immediate Past Chair ..... Bill Klemkowski  
Board of Directors  
Marvin Carney            Mitch Resnick  
Jerry Esposito\*\*        Scott Swingle  
Chip Hearn                Rachel Webster\*\*  
Dale Lomas               Chris Weeks  
Rob Marshall             Kay Wheatley  
Keith Martin              Susan Townley-Wood  
Michael Meoli             \*\*At Large Directors  
Steve Montgomery

CEO/President.....Carol Everhart  
Legal Counsel ..... Jay Becker  
Legislative Representative ..... Lincoln Willis

**Chamber Staff Contact Information**

Visitors Center Staff .....Ext. 10  
Sue Krick, Susan Maclary, Karen McMahon  
Nancy Stewart, & Meredith Thomas  
Emily Grothey, Event Coordinator..... Ext. 11  
Carol Everhart, President/CEO ..... Ext. 13  
Lisa Newnom, Administration..... Ext. 14  
Sophia Sawicki, Membership .....Ext. 15  
Meghan McCalley, Office Manager/Graphics.. Ext. 16  
Hourly Staff .....Ext. 19  
Zach Babbie, Susan Drake, Liz Leshine,  
Nick Passannante, Zoe Stayman, Mariella Trosko

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# 2018 Upcoming Calendar

DATE..... MEETING or EVENT ..... TIME/PLACE

July 13 .....Town of Dewey Beach Mtg .....6:00 pm/Lifesaving Station  
July 20 .....Executive Board of Directors Mtg..... 10:30 am/Jake's, Rt.1  
Aug 10.....Town of Dewey Beach Mtg .....6:00 pm/Lifesaving Station  
Aug 17.....Executive Board of Directors Mtg..... 10:30 am/Jake's, Rt.1  
Sep 8 .....Sandcastle Contest .....Daytime/Reh. Beach & Del. Ave.

For Resort Area Events, visit [www.Beach-Fun.com](http://www.Beach-Fun.com)

# 2018 Business After Hours

Members are invited to attend monthly Business After Hours! These mixers are a great opportunity to meet and network with your fellow Members. Each event runs from 5-7 PM. **A \$1.00 donation is collected at the door which creates the funds for the 50/50 raffle.** Business card drawings are also held and door prizes are given out to the lucky winners!

**Thursday, September 13** · Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach  
**Thursday, October 11** · Bluecoast Seafood Bar + Grill  
**November** · To Be Announced...Stand By!  
**Thursday, December 20th** · Christmas Party, Jake's Seafood House

# So Many Awards . . . So Little Time



**We have a great problem,**  
additional time is needed to allow  
recognition of the dozens of deserving  
Members, volunteers and special  
community supporters.

Beginning this year at a luncheon on **December 13, 2018**, several awards will be presented at the Cultured Pearl.

The remaining awards will be presented during a banquet scheduled for **January 17, 2019**, location to be announced.

**Stay tuned for details!**

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Governor John Carney was the guest speaker at the May General Membership Meeting.



Sharon Pierson of Capital One and Len Kidwell of SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives) were the guest speakers at the June General Membership Meeting.



## BRAG BOARD

### Thanks For The Product

Dear Sophia,

Thank you very much for providing the coupon books, dining and visitor guides for our recent NACADA, The Global Community of Academic Advising, Regional Conference, located in Dover.

There were almost 500 individuals in attendance from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C. and New Jersey that received your information.

On behalf of our organization, I want to offer our sincere appreciation to you and the Rehoboth Beach & Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce for your generosity.

Dr. Donna Smith-Moore  
Academic Advisor, Adjunct Faculty  
Wilmington University, Georgetown

**BEST of Delaware** Voted Best Lunch Spot & Best Sandwiches

# Arenas

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## DEWEY BEACH Movies & Bonfires

Brought to you by the Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

### 2018 Movie Schedule \*

- 7/2** - Moana
- 7/9** - Tomorrowland
- 7/16** - Despicable Me 3
- 7/23** - Finding Nemo
- 7/30** - Beauty and the Beast (2017)
- 8/6** - Cars 3
- 8/13** - Coco
- 8/20** - The BFG

\* Glow necklaces available for \$1.00 each

### 2018 Bonfire Schedule \*\*

Bonfires are Wednesday Nights from 7-9PM

**July** 3, 11, 18, 25

**August** 1, 8, 15, 22

\*\* Glow necklaces available for \$1.00 each; for a \$1.00 donation, get 4 marshmallows & you can borrow a roasting stick.

OFFICIAL MOVIE & BONFIRE SPONSOR:

**weis**  
markets



## **Groundbreaking for Lewes Transit Center's Maintenance Facility Celebrated**

Delaware Transportation Secretary Jennifer Cohan and Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) CEO John Sisson were joined by State Tourism Director Elizabeth Keller and other state and local officials to celebrate the start of construction on the Maintenance Facility at Lewes Transit Center along DE 1, just south of Five Points on May 21, 2018.

Addressing the crowd, Transportation Secretary Jennifer Cohan said, "This final phase of the Lewes Transit Center allows for sustained operations of much-needed year-round bus service to residents of eastern Sussex County, in addition to the many tourists visiting our fabulous beach communities." She added, "The new Maintenance Facility will house both fixed route and paratransit buses and allow for increased operational efficiencies, as it's closer to a large percentage of our customers."

The three-bay maintenance facility is designed for alternative-fueled vehicles which are cleaner for the environment, including propane for DART's paratransit fleet and eventually electric buses for the regular bus service, is slated for completion next summer. Last May, the Park & Ride at the Lewes Transit Center opened with 248 parking spaces, security cameras, passenger shelters, electric car charging stations, bike racks and repair station.

"The northern location of this transit center is ideal as it offers travelers an option before getting into the heaviest beach traffic. With free parking and frequent bus departures, passengers have a convenient way to get around, and with the dedicated bus lane, you can get to the beach faster than by car," said DTC CEO John Sisson.

The event kicked off the summer tourism season with the startup of DART's daily Beach Bus service, just in time for Memorial Day weekend. Local buses operate frequently from early morning to late night serving Lewes, Rehoboth Boardwalk, Outlets, Long Neck, Millsboro, Georgetown, Dewey, Bethany, Fenwick Island and Ocean City, MD. It also marked the inaugural run of the new Intercounty Route 307, providing weekday express service between Lewes, Milford and Dover, with connections at the Dover Transit Center to Christiana Mall and Wilmington Train Station. Route 305 Beach Connection provides seasonal weekend service from Wilmington, Christiana Mall, Middletown, Dover, Lewes and Rehoboth through Labor Day.

After the Beach Bus service ends on September 9, all Sussex County bus routes will be expanded to include Saturday service, and the two most popular Beach Bus routes (201 – Rehoboth and 204 – Lewes) will continue year round operating every 30 minutes from 7 AM to 11 PM, Monday through Saturday.

"This new facility, along with other improvements at the Lewes Transit Center, are helping to enhance the experience for visitors to Delaware using DART," said Liz Keller, Delaware Tourism Director. "Travelers, who are contributing to the industry's \$3.3 billion impact on the state, will not only be taking advantage of the new transit services during the prime season but will also enjoy the services into the shoulder- and off-seasons that are so important to the area's tourism businesses."

Enhancements at Lewes Transit Center this year include a new Visitor Center to be completed later this summer, providing an air-conditioned passenger waiting area, tourist information, ticket sales and public restrooms. Under the new large canopy, shelters accommodate LCD screens to display real-time bus information, and offer cell phone charging availability. And soon, customers will be able to purchase DART passes on their phones with the launch of mobile fare payment.

Secretary Cohan added, "While we continue to provide convenient transportation options to visitors and residents alike, we further strive to deliver that excellent customer experience."

The Delaware Transit Corporation, a subsidiary of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), operates DART First State. Real-Time Transit Information is available on the free DelDOT App (iOS and Android), as well as on DART's Trip Planner at [www.DartFirstState.com](http://www.DartFirstState.com). For more information, please call 1-800-652-DART.



# WELCOME New Members!

The following businesses have been approved or are pending approval for Chamber Membership. Please keep these businesses, as well as other Chamber Members, in mind when purchasing goods or services.

## Collector's World

Stephen Weber  
9 N. First Street  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971  
302-227-1684  
Retail - Gifts & Specialty Shops

## Home Foods at the Beach

Theresa Boston  
409 Rehoboth Avenue  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971  
215-313-3175  
www.homefoodsatthebeach.com  
Service - Concierge Services

## Hotel Dewey

Amy Trice  
1409 Coastal Highway  
Dewey Beach, Delaware 19971  
302-227-4343 · www.hoteldewey.com  
Accommodations - Hotel/Motel

## The Lodge at Truitt Homestead - Independent Living

Michele Strum  
36233 Farm Lane  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971  
302-232-6372 · www.truittlodge.com  
Service - Senior Services/Care

## Myschedule.com

Stephen Tallia  
38 Olive Avenue  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971  
1-877-235-6825 · www.myschedule.com  
Service - Internet Services

## Revelation Craft Brewing Company

Amanda Robinson  
19841 Central Street  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971  
302-212-5674 · www.revbeer.com  
Restaurant/Eatery - Tap Room

## Sharp Energy - Chesapeake Utilities

Gary Killmon  
22945 E. Piney Grove Road  
Georgetown, Delaware 19947  
302-316-7000 · www.sharpenenergy.com  
Service - Gas Companies/Heating & Oil Propane

## Sunrise Real Estate

Deniene Dailey  
75 Lake Avenue  
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971  
302-313-9949 · www.sunrisesells.com  
Real Estate - Sales



## Thank You Monthly Renewing Members

The Chamber wishes to thank the following Members who recently renewed their membership investment. The list below represents Members who renewed during the period of May 11 - June 14, 2018. Thank you for your continued support!

Ace Sport Fishing, Inc./Katydid Charters · Active Adults Realty · Alarm Engineering · Alesi Builder · American Classic Golf Club  
Arenas Famous Deli Bar · Avenue Apothecary & Spa · Bartlett Tree Experts · Baywood Greens · Beach Vacuums  
Becker Morgan Group, Inc. · The Blackwall Hitch · Budget Blinds · Café Azafrán · Casa DiLeo Italian Restaurant & Caterer  
Coastal Concerts, Inc. · Coastal Point · Cooter Brown's Twisted Southern Kitchen · Creative Impressions · Crosswinds Motel  
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce · Delaware Tech. Com. College · Delmarva Digital · Delmarva VoIP · Discover Bank  
Econo Lodge · EDiS Company · Fish On! · Focus Multisports · Fuqua, Willard, Stevens & Schab, PA  
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council · Hammerheads · Hazzard Auto Parts, Inc. · Holland Jewelers, Inc.  
Hyatt Place Dewey Beach · iHeart Media · Indian River Life-Saving Station Museum & Gift Shop · Indigo · Jam Bistro  
Johnson Orthodontics · Kaisy's Delights · Kilwin's Rehoboth Avenue · Kitchen & Company · Anna L. Legates/Patron Member  
Mug & Spoon · northbeach Restaurant & Bayside Bar · Outlet Liquors · Peninsula Pave & Seal · Pierpont's Creations  
The Pond Bar & Grill · Pot-Nets Homes · Rehoboth Art and Framing · Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market  
Rehoboth Summer Children's Theatre · Rodeway Inn · The Rookery Golf Club · RP Boat Rentals · Say "I Do" at the Delaware Beach  
Seagreen Bicycle · Storage Solutions · T.H. White General Contractors, Inc. · Tangier Island Cruises · Taylor Termite & Pest Control  
Tidewater Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation · Tommy Hilfiger · Wilmington Insurance Company · Wings To Go Dewey

**Thanks Again . . .** The Chamber Chicks thank Brett and his crew again for their assistance in moving Chamber publications to the basement. First Rate Movers is, well, **First Rate!!!**



## CHAMBER RECOGNIZES 20+ MEMBERS

The Chamber recognized a handful of 20+ Year Chamber Members. The following Members accepted their plaque at the June General Membership Meeting.



CHEER, Inc.



Beebe Healthcare



Morning Star Business Report



Rehoboth Beach Historical Society



Crosswinds Motel



Rehoboth Toy & Kite Co.

## Sandcastle Contest

September 8  
at Rehoboth  
Beach in front  
of Funland!

Come build your sand creation or stop by to vote for your favorite creation!

This fun event will take place off the Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk at Delaware Avenue in front of Funland and will include new activities and prizes. There will also be sandcastle building lessons and a community sand sculpture.

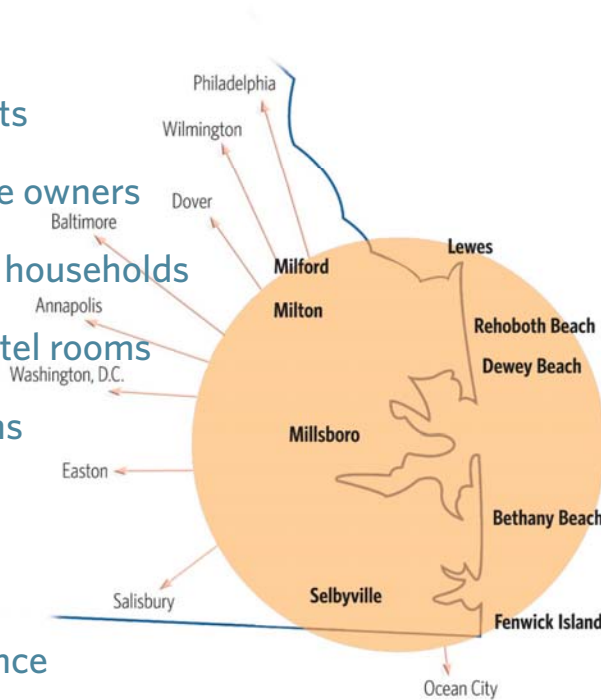
Members can sponsor the event either by:  
Logo on Event Trophy · \$100  
Children's Activities · \$500

Call Emily at 302-227-6446

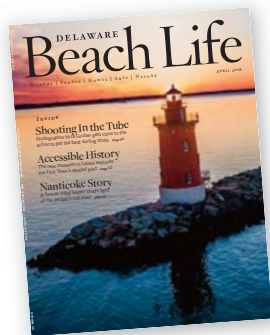
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- newsstands
- local events
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**Reserve your space today! Call (302) 227-9499**

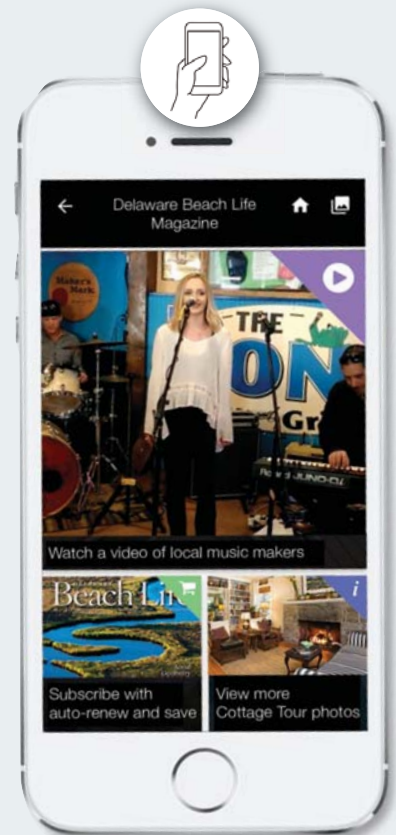


Benefits based on multi-ad commitment:

- ✓ save 15%
- ✓ get a free web ad
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- ✓ get free ad design

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Delaware Beach Life is the only publication where you can **turn your print ad into a digital, interactive experience!** Readers can watch videos, look at photos, make purchases, reservations, etc., all from a smartphone!



The premier lifestyle magazine of coastal Delaware: [delawarebeachlife.com](http://delawarebeachlife.com)

*Support locally. Thrive locally.*



# BUSINESS *after* HOURS PICTURES

THANKS to our June Host ... Chesapeake & Maine!

316 Rehoboth Avenue · Rehoboth Beach · 302-226-3600 · [www.dogfish.com](http://www.dogfish.com)



# REPORTS *and* STATISTICS



## Accommodation Occupancy Chart | 2017 vs. 2018

Weekend	Room Count	Weather	Event	Wednesday	Room Count
April 7-9, 2017	2,588	60's Cloudy	None	April 5, 2017	1,148
April 6-8, 2018	2,289	50's Cloudy	None	April 4, 2018	1,317
April 14-16, 2017	2,843	50's Cloudy	Easter/Dewey Music Festival	April 12, 2017	1,602
April 13-15, 2018	3,072	60's Sunny	Dewey Pop Fest	April 11, 2018	1,254
April 21-23, 2017	2,954	60's Sunny	Coastal DE Running Festival	April 19, 2017	1,439
April 20-22, 2018	2,992	50's Sunny	Coastal DE Running Fest/Bacon Fest	April 18, 2018	1,327
April 28-30, 2017	3,413	70's Sunny	Dewey Treasure Fest	April 26, 2017	1,382
April 27-29, 2018	3,193	60's Sunny	Dewey Treasure Fest	April 25, 2018	1,256
May 5-7, 2017	2,944	60's Cloudy	Dewey Country Music Fest	May 3, 2017	1,505
May 4-6, 2018	1,012	80's Sunny	Dewey Country Music Fest	May 2, 2018	663
May 12-14, 2017	2,940	50's Rainy	Mother's Day	May 10, 2017	1,827
May 11-13, 2018	2,102	60's Rainy	Mother's Day	May 9, 2018	1,652
May 19-21, 2017	3,415	80's Sunny	Sidewalk Sale	May 17, 2017	1,872
May 18-20, 2018	3,251	70's Rainy	Sidewalk Sale	May 16, 2018	1,875
May 26-28, 2017	3,386	70's Sunny	Memorial Day Weekend	May 24, 2017	1,703
May 25-27, 2018	3,381	80's Rain	Memorial Day Weekend	May 23, 2018	1,911

### Year to Date Occupancy TOTAL Comparison

#### WEEKEND

January - May 28, 2017 · 51,313

January - May 27, 2018 · 47,384

#### WEDNESDAY

January - May 24, 2017 · 26,001

January - May 23, 2018 · 25,607

Calls to accommodations are made each Wednesday for upcoming weekend availability and prior weekends occupancy count. Info based on 3,886 Room Referral Count (includes Hotels/Motels, Inns, Guest Houses, Bed & Breakfasts, etc.) and indicates the highest occupancy between Friday/Saturday/Sunday.

## Visitor Center Visitation

	2018	.....	2017	.....	2016	.....	2015	.....	2014
MAY	1,251	....	1,537	.....	2,028	.....	2,321	.....	2,207

Feel free to drop off your product such as business cards, brochures, coupons and menus to the Chamber's Visitors Center located at **501 Rehoboth Avenue.**



For more details, call Sophia at 302-227-6446!

## Delaware Labor Force Trends

(April 2018); Delaware's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April 2018 was 4.2%, down from 4.3% in March 2018. There were 20,100 unemployed Delawareans in April 2018 compared to 22,200 in April 2017. The US unemployment rate was 3.9% in April 2018, down from 4.1% in March 2018. In April 2017 the US unemployment rate was 4.4%, while Delaware's rate was 4.6%

Source: Delaware Department of Labor - Monthly Labor Review; published May 18, 2018. <https://lmi.delawareworks.com>

# REPORTS and STATISTICS

## Website Results for www.Beach-Fun.com | 2017 vs. 2018

Month	Pageviews		Users/Visits		Absolute Unique Visitors		Bounce Rate *		Avg. Time on Site *	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
January	35,856	21,740	10,682	6,892	9,896	6,347	45.53%	53.38%	2:02	1:47
February	47,246	33,479	14,461	10,437	13,406	9,665	49.34%	49.54%	1:52	1:56
March	54,490	41,473	15,733	12,770	14,697	11,899	49.61%	52.02%	2:07	1:51
April	74,459	40,053	23,564	12,720	22,195	11,887	54.82%	53.51%	1:42	1:48
May	68,097	54,949	19,648	16,086	18,424	15,270	49.19%	50.67%	1:53	1:59
<b>YTD Totals</b>	<b>280,148</b>	<b>191,694</b>	<b>84,088</b>	<b>58,905</b>	<b>78,618</b>	<b>55,068</b>	<b>49.70%</b>	<b>51.82%</b>	<b>1:55</b>	<b>1:52</b>

\* YTD Total Average

### Top Pages Viewed - May 2018

Page on Site	Page Views
1 Area Activities	4,144
2 Events	4,014
3 Attractions	2,919
4 Accommodations	2,315
5 Dewey Beach Activities	1,984
6 Dining	1,506
7 Sea Witch <sup>®</sup> Festival	1,260
8 Parking and Beach Rules	872
9 Order Free Visitors Guide	767
10 Shopping	745

### Top 10 States to Visit Website - May 2018

State	Visits
1 Pennsylvania	3,060
2 Delaware (partly Member driven)	2,552
3 Maryland	1,813
4 New Jersey	1,503
5 New York	1,303
6 Virginia	1,292
7 District of Columbia	1,250
8 Michigan	404
9 Ohio	363
10 Tennessee	232

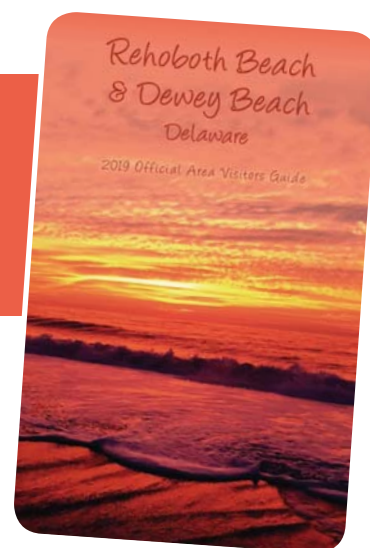


**"To stay ahead, you must have your next idea waiting in the wings".**

- Rosabeth Moss Kanter

Reserve your spot in the 2019 Rehoboth Beach & Dewey Beach Official Area **Visitors Guide!!**

Contact Sophia for more details!  
302-227-6446  
sophia@beach-fun.com



The Visitors Guide is a Member purchased advertising publication. In addition to some local distribution, the 132 page guide is mailed to potential visitors in direct response to Chamber purchased advertisement & placement. 140K copies are scheduled to be printed!

# MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## SoulFire Collective

SoulFire Collective is the only Baptiste style yoga studio located in Rehoboth Beach. The studio has an array of offerings, including: power and restorative yoga classes, workshops, one on one and group coaching sessions, retreats, and more. SoulFire's founders, and Lewes locals, Kat and Brooke Wyman established the studio on their strongly held belief that through community and connection, all things are possible. They believe in empowering individuals to live their best lives and with a whole bunch of gratitude and a bit of courage, the mat is a great place to start.

Stop by, roll out your mat, and be prepared to hear some sweet beats, get a good sweat, make a new friend, and feel inspired through each of SoulFire's offerings. "Be fearless in pursuit of what sets your soul on fire".

SoulFire Collective is located at 176 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971. For more information, contact them at 302-226-1110 or [info@soulfirecollective.com](mailto:info@soulfirecollective.com). ♦



SoulFire Collective



Merrill Lynch



Rita's Rehoboth Avenue



Home Foods at the Beach



Delaware Beacon Networks - The BeachLife App

# REACH MORE CUSTOMERS WITH DELAWARE TODAY!



They're active,  
affluent beachgoers!

**106,218 Monthly readers** – circulation is independently audited and verified.

**Statewide distribution** – Reach residents, weekenders and vacationers.

#### **Affluent readers**

- Average Household income of \$202,339
- 86% live or travel to Delaware beaches/ Sussex County regularly
- 25% own a home/condo at the beach/ Sussex County

**Paid circulation** with bonus distribution through local events, chambers, CVB's and realtors!

**Weekly beach e-newsletter** is distributed to more than 18,000 opt-in subscribers.

#### **Deadlines**

September Beach Guide Space Closes July 13  
Materials Due July 23

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## BEACH GOES RED, WHITE & BLUE!

# Growing, Growing, Grown!

**Despite dismantling early due to the rain, the 3rd Annual Beach Goes Red, White & Blue had the best display of Military and First Responders yet!**

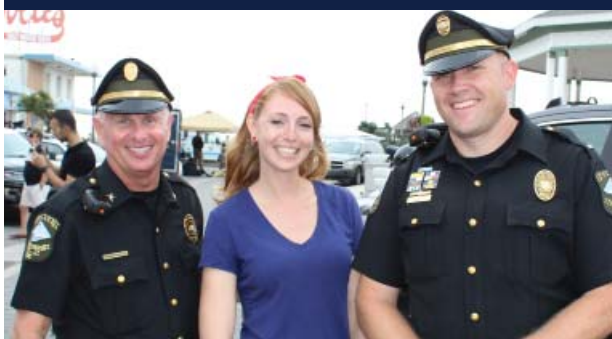
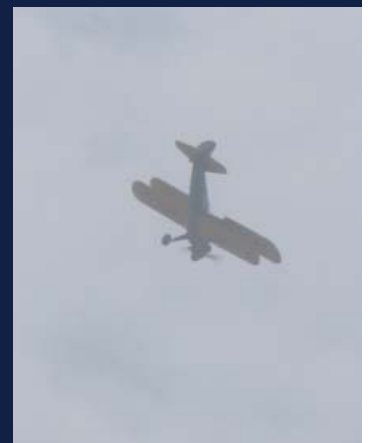
The Rehoboth Beach - Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce cannot thank enough those who assisted in growing this event and making it a great success! From the WWII vintage plane flyover, the Sussex County Family YMCA, USO Delaware, Air Force, Fort Miles, VFW, Veterans United Outreach, State Police, Paramedics, Rehoboth Beach Fire Department, Rehoboth Beach Police Department and other local police departments. **See you June 8, 2019!**



# BEACH GOES RED, WHITE & BLUE!



# BEACH GOES RED, WHITE & BLUE!





# BEACH GOES RED, WHITE & BLUE!





**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE**  
 FROM THE CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE LINCOLN WILLIS.  
 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE . . . As of June 14, 2018

**HOUSE AMENDMENT NO.1 TO HOUSE BILL NO.350 SYNOPSIS:**

This amendment eliminates “behavioral characteristics” from the definition of “biometric identifier.” This amendment includes an exception to the requirement that a person obtain an individual’s consent before acquiring, collecting, storing, using or capturing the individual’s biometric information is a security purpose. This amendment clarifies that an agency of the State or political subdivision of the State includes a law enforcement agency. This amendment adds language inadvertently omitted from the original bill. This amendment deletes the Geolocation Privacy Protection Act.

**STATUS:** Pulled and not scheduled in committee.

**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE NO.1 FOR HOUSE BILL NO.360, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 19 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES SYNOPSIS:**

As poll from 2017 revealed that 31% of people in the United States have been sexually harassed in the workplace. The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission released a comprehensive study of workplace harassment in the United States which concluded that between 25% and 85% of women reported having experienced sexual harassment in the workplace. However, the Commission estimated that 75% of all workplace harassment incidents go unreported. The purpose of this bill is to combat sexual harassment in the workplace and to ensure the safety and dignity of all employees in Delaware. This bill defines sexual harassment and makes employers responsible for the sexual harassment of an employee by a supervisor or by another employee when the employer knew or should have known about it and failed to take appropriate corrective action. Moreover, this bill prevents an employer from retaliating against an employee for filing a discrimination charge. This bill includes a requirement that the Department of Labor create an information sheet pertaining to sexual harassment that employers must distribute to employees. Employers having more than 50 or more employees in Delaware will be required to provide sexual harassment training to all employees and supervisory employees, which must be conducted every 2 years. This bill also empowers the Department of Labor to investigate violations of this Act and gives the Department jurisdiction over all sexual harassment cases which include an administrative process. This bill requires the Department of Labor to post the requirements in this bill on its website and perform outreach necessary to educate employers of the requirements. This bill takes effect on January 1, 2019.

**CHAMBER STATUS:** While the Chamber is not opposed to sexual harassment training and requirements – concerns remain regarding timeline and additional stipulations contained in the bill.

**UPDATE STATUS** (as of 6/14/18): HB 360 (Sexual Harassment Training) was \*not\* released from committee. It is unknown if there is time to make all of the changes suggested today and still get it through this session as a new bill would need to be introduced.

**HOUSE BILL NO.460, AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VIII, § 6 OF THE DELAWARE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO LIMITATIONS ON APPROPRIATIONS SYNOPSIS:**

This Act is the first leg of a Constitutional Amendment reflecting the recommendations of the Advisory Panel to the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council (DEFAC) on Potential Fiscal Controls and Budget Smoothing Mechanisms established as per House Joint Resolution 8 of the 149th General Assembly (Panel). This Act would build upon the State’s existing appropriation limit methodology by moving the Budget Reserve Account into a newly defined Budget Stabilization Fund, defining rules for deposits to and withdrawals from said Budget Stabilization Fund, and adding a check of the appropriation limit against an index comprised of relevant indicators of growth of the State’s economy. The Panel further recommended that any final adoption of the structural budget reforms included in this Act be accompanied by statutory enactment of structural reforms to the Personal Income Tax by broadening the tax base as initially recommended by the DEFAC Advisory Council of Revenues report dated May 2015 and further detailed in the Panel’s report dated June 1, 2018.

**CHAMBER STATUS:** The Chamber supports efforts to secure/save revenues into a stabilization fund.

**UPDATE STATUS** (as of 6/14/18): HB 460 (Budget Smoothing) was released from committee unanimously. It is expected to be heard on the floor as soon as today or tomorrow.

**HOUSE BILL NO.110, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 AND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE CREATING THE DELAWARE MARIJUANA CONTROL ACT SYNOPSIS.**

The Delaware Marijuana Control Act regulates and taxes marijuana in the same manner as alcohol. It allows adults over the age of 21 to legally possess and consume under 1 ounce of marijuana for personal use. It does not permit people to grow their own marijuana. See the full Synopsis at <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=25571>

**CHAMBER STATUS:** The Chamber has very strong concerns that the legalization of marijuana in the State would not be in the best interest of tourism, given it can change the demographic, particularly as a family destination.

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