

Lee Bunting's Information for the BBLA Newsletter

#1

Hi, I am Lee Bunting and I am running for Town Council, because I have a strong passion for the Town of Bethany Beach. My grandfather purchased property in 1927 during the early days of the town's development. I grew up here and feel a civic responsibility to give back by running for Town Council. I believe I can provide stewardship to preserve the vision and values of the founding fathers. My campaign slogan, "**VOTE FOR LEE, LET IT BE**", means that I want to keep the character values and vision similar to our founders' intent. Bethany Beach should always remain as a place for people and families to spend quality time together, relaxing and invigorating the mind, body, and soul.

I graduated from the local high school, Indian River, received a BS from the University of Delaware and a MS from Indiana University. I was a Bethany Beach Lifeguard in the early 70's and was Captain of the Beach Patrol for 3 years.

Last year I retired from a 37-year career in the YMCA, 29 years as an Executive Director working with boards, committees, and volunteers. During that time, I worked successfully in municipal meetings to seek zoning approvals, acquire property, form partnerships, raise funds from both the private and public sector and operate major facilities that serve youth, families, and communities. I have supervised multi-million dollar operational departments, and managed budgets similar to those in Bethany Beach. I will bring those experiences as well as a fresh perspective and new energy to the council. I will be open to re-examining issues due to current situations.

#2

The Town Council has the duty of making difficult decisions. I believe in informed decision making and will welcome and encourage discussion while being respectful of both differences of opinion and constructive criticism. I will keep a sharp eye on labor cost as a percent of expenses, and insure that capital projects and policies enacted in a time of prosperity are sustainable. The rapid pace of change, constant development, urgent public safety concerns, aging infrastructure and rising cost of expenses are pressing challenges I will work on.

My goal is to insure that the decisions of the Town Council are understood and transparent. I pledge to work with the BBLA and others to inform and demystify budgets, ordinances and policies. I will be reluctant to raise taxes, aggressive at minimizing wasteful spending, scrutinize discretionary spending, and will look for new solutions to long-standing problems such as internet and phone accessibility.

#3A

Flooding remains a major issue in Bethany Beach. Studies have been authorized and paid for, reports written and read, causes identified, but the problem still remains! We cannot allow ourselves to shake our heads in frustration, but instead double down on finding a solution. I support exploring remedies such as bladder dams, flood gate control, preservation of wetlands and private storm water management. The town government, business owners and private citizens all have a role to play because sea level rise is not going away.

#3Ca

Pedestrian and vehicle safety is a paramount concern and continues to escalate each summer season. Pedestrians are 1.5 times more likely than passenger's vehicle occupants to be killed in a car crash. I would support experimenting with crossing guards at busy intersections, raising fees on shuttle services, adding more warning signage, lowering speed limits, and installing flashing lights at some pedestrian crossings.

#3Cb

Trash management is an important town responsibility that must be completed in the early morning before streets are filled with people and cars. I would make sure pick up routes are efficiently planned and truck noise is minimized. I support a green economy and believe we must keep pace with environmental protection and recycling needs.