THOSE DAYS OF LONG AGO.....

Our thoughts go back to Christmas,
To those days of long ago,
When wintertime came early,
And the trees were dressed in snow.

When a warm fire crackled
As the logs burned in the grate,
And we cold toast our chilly toes
On the nights we stayed up late.

The kitchen smelled all spicy
From homemade pumpkin pie,
And sometimes there'd be fudge
Or cookies we could try.

The tree we had was balsam
'Cause it kept its needles on.....
We'd decorate with popcorn strings
'Til all the corn was gone.

We always hung our stockings
By the fire in a row,
And then we'd wait for Santa
In those days of long ago.

NEW DATE

COMMISSION ELECTION
SATURDAY
MARCH 1, 2003

Due to a charter change the Commission Election will be held the first Saturday in March from noon until 7:00 PM. There are three positions available: one one year term and two two year terms. The deadline for candidates to file is January 29, 2003. The positions available:

* One-year term - Patricia Correll
* Two-year terms - Joseph Conaway
  William Jefferson

Carry-over Commissioners: Margaret Sipple and Earl Greason.

IMPORTANT!

All residents who wish to vote in the Town election MUST be registered by February 18, 2003. Office hours at the Town Hall are 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Absentee voting is available. For more information call the Town Hall at 337-7135.

*****

Town Office Closed

December 24 & 25, 2002

And

January 1, 2003

Happy Holidays from the Commissioners and Employees
MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETINGS:

OCTOBER 14, 2002:

- Total traffic arrests for September 75 with three trucks stopped.
- Hydrant located at Laws and Jacobs Ave damaged from vehicle accident was repaired.
- Water Dept-results for lead and copper indicates that all samples taken met the parameters set by the EPA.
- Three septic haulers for a revenue of $1,924.
- Commissioners adopted Ordinance #A02-8, an ordinance to amend Chapter 234 of the Town Charter to establish a residential planned zoning district.
- Special meeting to be held Oct. 21, 2002 to present to introduce the rezoning changes.
- Public meeting will be held Oct. 17, 2002 at the fire hall regarding the annexation of several parcels of land. Annexation Election to be held October 19, 2002.
- Resolution #RES02-1 was presented and adopted that establishes a process for the procurement of material and services for the Commissioners of Bridgeville by obtaining the best price.
- Town will apply to the State Planning Office for funding to help cover the cost of the new zoning ordinance.
- Commissioner approved the purchase of new F350 one ton truck from Frederick Ford Co.
- Mr. Rick Tull, Independent Auditor with Lank, Johnson & Tull, presented the 2002 Financial Statement for the Town.
- Ordinance #A02-7-Big Box Stores was presented for second reading. Ordinance adopted by the Commission.
- Ordinance #A02-9-Sewer impact fees for commercial, institutional and industrial structures presented for second reading. Ordinance adopted by the Commission.

NOVEMBER 11, 2002:
- New computers arrived for the Town Office and the WWTP.
- Ms. Bobbi Gier and Mr. Dan Rose of DelDOT presented a plan for a bicycle and pedestrian network for the Town.
- Grant received to plant trees along Delaware Avenue.
- Miss Annie Williams, DBF, presented the concept plan for the upgrading of the water and wastewater facility. Town will see a waiver requirement from DNREC pertaining to the 5 NTU turbidity.
- Commission presented Lion President Ron Hatfield with an Appreciation Certificate to the Lions Club for their participation in the Community Clean-Up Day.
- A new bulkhead will be installed at the branch on N. Main Street. The unsafe house on the north side of branch will be purchased by the State and removed.
- A new policy approved regarding delinquent bills: delinquent bills are paid as they are owed not as billed-this pertains to all bills and services.
- A new heat pump will be installed upstairs in the Town Hall. Contract awarded to Moyer’s Heating Service.

DECEMBER 9, 2002:
- There were 172 traffic arrests.
- Three septic haulers for a revenue of $3,026.
- Savings account established for the water and wastewater depts.-each month will deposit $1,000 for each dept.
- Public hearing held for Community Block Development Funding Program. Applied for the funding.
- Commission approved to draft ordinance pertaining to vacant and deteriorating structures.
- Commission approved the additional land growth area recommended by the Planning Commission-land south of Town limits between Wesley Church Rd & Wilson Farm Rd.
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...

I would once again like to take this opportunity in the name of the Town Commission to wish all the residents of Bridgeville a very happy and blessed Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.

In October the voters of Bridgeville overwhelmingly voted to annex 832 acres of land to our Town. Plans continue to move forward through the efforts of Allen and Rocks to develop the 754 acres of the Passwater property into a housing community of single family, multi-family, and town homes. A championship golf course will be built on this parcel; this complex will include a golf lodge for visitors and golf villas for those who want to live on or near a golf course. Negotiations are on-going with a nationally known course designer that will make Bridgeville a golfing destination, not just another golf course. We all share a sense of excitement as we anticipate the construction of this project. The Department of Transportation has already begun the design of the new Rt. 404/13 intersection and its accompanying service roads. This project should be completed in 2006.

Bridgeville was the first town in Delaware to create its own zoning ordinance. First adopted in December of 1962, this ordinance has served the Town well and is a tribute to the foresight of past Commissioners. Now forty years later, it’s time to update this ordinance. Over the past two years the Commission has refined and amended the ordinance but this approach will take too long as things around us continue to grow and accelerate. It is important that we be able to handle what is coming. Towards that end the Commission has signed a contract with the University of Delaware to not only update the zoning ordinance but to create a subdivision ordinance to go with it. We must have standards to which new subdivisions will be held accountable. This $24,000 contract will cost Bridgeville $6,000, but we are hopeful to have that cost covered by grants. Councilman Finley Jones has already provided us with $1,000 from his Councilmatic funds and Bonnie Walls, Bridgeville’s- Director of Development, has applied for a grant from the State of Delaware that could cover the remainder.

In the November Commission meeting we put in place an updated Water and Wastewater Facility Plan for Bridgeville. This new plan will provide the outline that will be used to bring the new developments on line and to enable us to apply for federal and state grants and loans to help defray the cost of these improvements; improvements that we will be required to make regardless of whether Bridgeville grows or not. By the way, Allen & Rocks provided the $25,000 that the Town needed to do this planning. Not only didn’t this plan cost the taxpayers of Bridgeville anything, we used these funds as a match for a state grant of $12,500. We made money on this study!

We are also pleased to announce that the $200,000 loan borrowed for operations in 1997 from Greenwood Trust (Discover Bank) has been reduced to $20,000.

The future looks very bright for our Town and with your continued support, Bridgeville will continue to lead the way in Sussex County.

Joe Conaway

******

VOTING IN BRIDGEVILLE ELECTIONS

According to the Charter there are three elections in which the voters and residents of Bridgeville participate.

(1) Section 3 of the Charter deals with who may vote in an Annexation Referendum. In this election it is only the "registered" voters of Bridgeville who can vote. In order to become a registered voter, one must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of Bridgeville, and an American citizen. One can register during regular business hours in the Town Hall but registration for a particular election must occur ten (10) days prior to the date of that election.

(2) Section 5 of the Charter deals with voting in the election of Town Commissioners. Again,
Only registered voters in the Town of Bridgeville can vote in this election.

(3) Section 29 of the Charter deals with elections to sell bonds that would indebt the Town for a period of time. An example would be the issuance of bonds to fund improvements to our existing water and wastewater systems. In this election every citizen of Bridgeville 18 years or older “shall have one vote”. In addition every individual, partnership, or corporation owning property within the corporate limits of Bridgeville “shall also have one vote”. In this election every voter who would participate must be current with Town taxes and there is no need to be listed as a registered voter.

In all three elections it is permitted to vote by absentee ballot prior to the election. Call the Town Office for information regarding absentee voting.

SUCCESSFUL CLEAN-UP DAY

On Saturday, Nov. 9, 2002, the Town Commissioners held a very successful Town wide “Clean-Up Day”. The Bridgeville Lions Club sponsored the project thereby making the Town eligible and a recipient for a grant from Discover Bank for which we are most appreciative.

Not only did the Lions Club sponsor this important project, but the Club was the only one to step up and provide community service to the residents. Seven Lions Club members worked effortlessly—Ron Fleetwood, Howard Hardesty, Bill Seitz, Orlan Brown, Charles Hawk, Rick Tull and Bill Nennstiehl. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Also our thanks to Mr. Kentillo Saunders in assisting with equipment to help compact trash items. Our appreciation and thanks are extended to Charles, C.J., Whittington. Mr. Smith, and Town public works employee, Doug Jones, for their hard work and many efforts.

It is the hope of the Commissioners that we continue yearly with this project. To do so, needed funding must be available and in place. Just as important as funding is the need of manpower. The help and support of all civic groups, organizations, and residents is necessary to reach our goal of keeping our community clean, safe and attractive.

Thank you to all who assisted with this project. We deeply appreciate all you did in providing outstanding service to the community.

*

On behalf of the Commissioners of the Town of Bridgeville, we sincerely appreciate and thank those residents who voiced their opinion in the October 19th annexation vote. Of those residents voting, 112 residents supported the proposed annexation, with 16 being opposed. The annexed land is south of the present town Limits, west of U. S. Dual Highway 13 and east of Wilson Farm Road.

The developer, Allen & Rocks, Inc. will now begin the permitting process with state agencies. This is a very timely process, usually taking a year or more. Plans are to build a mix of single family homes, town houses and condominiums, as well as an 18 hole golf course.

At any time you have questions or want an update of the development’s progress, please just give me a call at the Town Office (337-7135). Again, thanks to those residents voting and showing an interest in the future this community.

Bonnie Walls
Director of Development

********

REMAINDER: Snow must be removed from sidewalks 24 hours after each snow fall.
**CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATING CONTEST**

The Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville will again sponsor the Bridgeville Christmas Home Decorating Contest. The Kiwanis judging committee has announced the judging will take place on **Friday, December 27 2002**. Turkeys will be awarded for the Best Home, Best Doorway and the Best Home of a Kiwanian.

This annual contest has been sponsored by the Kiwanis Club since 1945. World War II had ended that year and the “Black Out” nights were no longer required. The Kiwanis club encouraged residents to return to the holiday spirit of decorating their homes with the use of lights once again.

For those that don’t understand the term “Black Out”, the U.S. government issued an order for all homes along the east coast to secure their homes so no light would be visible to the outside during hours of darkness. Home owners put up “Black Out” curtains to prevent light coming from their homes. This was enforced so the enemy would not be able to distinguish landmarks in case of attack.

The Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville also sponsors the Home Decorating Contest during the Apple-Scrapple Festival.

**2002 FESTIVAL WINNERS**

1st Place: $75-Mr/Mrs. Richard Benson
313 Delaware Avenue

2nd Place: $50-Mr/Mrs. Kenneth McDowell
408 Laws Street

3rd Place: $25-Mr/Mrs. John Tomeski
413 Laws Street

Honorable Mention: Mr/Mrs. Russ Chaney
401 Cedar Street

This coming year a similar contest is planned for Memorial Day (more info later).

A special thanks to the Bridgeville Kiwanis Club....

---

**“SNUGGLE UP WITH A GOOD BOOK”**

Join the “Winter Reading Program” at the Bridgeville Library for children up to age 14. Sign-ups and reading begin on Friday, Dec. 13. Everyone is invited to attend the programs:

- Thursday, January 16 - 5:00 p.m
- Thursday, February 13-5:00 p.m
- Thursday, March 6-5:00 p.m

* Reading prizes will be awarded on March 6th.

Call 337-7401 for more information....

***

**WELCOME NEW HOMEOWNERS**

Mr. Nelson Parker, Sr.
Ms. Deborah J. Mitchell
Mr/Mrs. Vance Joseph
Mr/Mrs. Ray Millman
Ms. Karen Barnatny
Ms. Kathy Kennedy

**NEW BUSINESS**

Li House Clinic ....... 612 Market Street

***

**NEWSLETTER.......**

“The Journal” is now five years old!
How times flies.....we would like to thank our sponsors who made it all possible. The area business people have supported our efforts every since the newsletter began. Please support them by patronizing their businesses.

Commissioners of Bridgeville
CANDIDATES FILE....

Incumbents Pat Correll, Joe Conaway, and Bill Jefferson have filed for the Commission positions in the upcoming election. Ms. Correll filed for the one year term, while Mr. Conaway and Mr. Jefferson filed for the two year terms.

Any one interested in filing have until Wed., January 29, 2003. Letter of intent must be received by the close of the business day.

*****

COMMISSION ELECTION: Saturday, March 1, 2002, noon until 7:00 P.M., Town Office. Residents must be registered in the “Book of Registered Voter” to be eligible to participate in this election.

*****

DATES TO REMEMBER

JAN. 1—New Year’s Day-Town Office Closed
13—Commission Mtg., 7:00 P.M.
20—Martin Luther
28—"Fireside Chat", 7:00 P.M.
   Town Hall
29—Commission Candidates Filing Deadline.

FEB. 10—Commission Mtg, 7:00 P.M.
18—Deadline for registering to vote in Commission election.

MAR. 1—Commission Election, noon to 7:00 P.M., Town Hall.
10—Commission Mtg, 7:00 P.M.

Stocking Stuffer Word Find

TO KICK OFF the holidays, try solving this Word Find. It’s sure to keep you on your toes.

Stuffed into the letters below are 24 words (listed below left) that refer to treats hidden in a Christmas stocking. Take steps to find them by connecting letters up, down, diagonally and backward.

APPLE
BASEBALL
BOOK
CANDY
CRAYONS
DOLL
FRAGRANCE
GLOVES
JACKS
JEWELRY
MAGAZINE
MUG
NUTS
ORANGE
ORNAMENT
PICTURE
POTPOURRI
PUZZLE
SCARF
SOAP
TICKETS
TOOL
WALLET
YO-YO

J G E B S O L J N L M V Y K I T N B Y
P A G C Y H P E A U C S A T P U J Y
S E V O L G I Z G W S A C E K T A I
G S Y E Q T A A J C E V E F I T S W B
C N U S J X Z P G S V L K R Y C J C A
D N O C K I N E L B V X R U B H K R O
D J X Y N C T V H M U U A Y U U N L F
L L O D O R F J R P O I A N H I X T N
F J M K M K C Q T L B W S F N D U D W
L R J X S A P O S L F F J T Y C P G P
O I A C G M P R P A I J P W E M A B S
O N A G C V F A U B E A Q L Y K B E K
T R A Z R T A N M E O R P V D A C I M
F Z F S E A Q G W S B P U Q N B B I P
X B F L H U N E A A A K R T A J U K T
S T L K Y R P C I B Q N G N C H Y O Y
E A D Y B A P J E D R W Y F Q I A O P
W U R E L Z Z U P M K G U M I A P B A
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!