



TOWN OF BRIDGEVILLE

# THE JOURNAL

VOLUME 43 CHAPTER 308

FEB / MAR 2008

## From the President's Desk

Work will begin this month on the new paved intersection to the Little League Fields. This new entrance will serve the Little League Fields, the Woodbridge Athletic Complex and the new Bridgeville Library. This money, \$132,370, was included in the Special Tax District funds set aside to improve this multi-use site.

To meet federal requirements for Homeland Security funds, the Town has adopted a new Emergency Management Plan. When Sussex County adopts its new plan, our Emergency Planning Committee will review both documents and recommend appropriate changes to blend both plans. The adoption of this plan allows Bridgeville to remain eligible for Homeland Security grants and, if there were to be a natural or man-made disaster, to be eligible for Emergency Management Funds to recover from such a tragedy.

As you are all aware, the economy has plunged into a recession. Town revenues are down, especially Transfer Tax and Building Permit revenues. We had anticipated a decrease in these sources of revenue, but not such a dramatic decrease. We re-budgeted both revenues and expenditures in January so that we would not face drastic cuts in this budget year. Even with careful planning, unexpected losses have also occurred. The major hit came in our property taxes. Since 2001, Verizon has been fighting all the governments in Delaware as to the value of their holdings (assessment). In fact, they took New Castle County to court to challenge their assessments. In January, 2008, Verizon was successful in the court challenge and New Castle was ordered to reduce assessments, thus reducing the property taxes that Verizon will pay. After their success in New Castle, Verizon turned their attention to Sussex. The county was advised by its attorneys that a court fight would lead to increased legal costs, but ultimately the county would lose due to the precedent set by the New Castle case. Sussex agreed to reduce its Verizon assessments, thus reducing its property tax revenues. Since Bridgeville uses Sussex County assessments, our tax revenues will also go down. It gets worse. The Woodbridge School District also uses these same assessments; therefore, its tax revenues will also go down. How bad are the cuts? The Town lost \$70,000 in tax revenues and Woodbridge lost \$160,000. It gets worse. The cost of electricity, gasoline and gas have all increased. Moreover, this is the budget year that we began paying off the debt caused by the construction of the new, mandated wastewater plant.

There is good news! Three years ago the Town began setting aside dollars in a "Rainy Day" Escrow Fund to cover just such occurrences. Two years ago we cut taxes and fees so that, on average, each property owner in Bridgeville has paid \$100 less to the Town yearly since then. One of the options that is not on the table is to restore those tax cuts and fees. The Fiscal 2009 Budget will be balanced through cuts that don't affect services and by the judicious use of our Rainy Day account and other revenue sources. In this time of recession with rising costs coming at us from many directions, you don't need your government considering a tax increase. We will do what we have to do by cutting expenditures without cutting services, where possible, and by using all funds available to us.

A few years ago when we began to grow, we said that growth would pay for itself. Today, not only is it paying for itself, but it is helping us to pay for what is coming. Stay tuned.

Joe Conaway

## THE JOURNAL CELEBRATES COMPLETING 10 YEARS !

Proudly begun in March 1998 with 22 sponsors, your Town Newsletter now boasts 47 business sponsors and looks forward to many more years of sharing information for all residents.

*See article on page 3*

**Please support  
our sponsors  
with your  
business!**

# Minutes from the Monthly Commission Meetings

February 11, 2008

January Traffic Arrests: 215 Criminal Arrests: 48

Nine building permits were issued in January bringing revenue of \$2,195.00.

Six untagged vehicles were turned over to the Bridgeville Police for action and one demolition permit was issued.

Two water meters were installed at Heritage Shores.

The annual water usage report and all wastewater reports were completed and sent to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (where applicable).

The Town is in the process of connecting Town water and sewer to the Royal Farms store, annexed into the Town in August 2007.

Town employees are finishing the interior of the new Public Works building, saving the Town a great deal of money. The rough-in electric and plumbing have been completed and insulation and drywall are being hung.

Public Safety Director Chaffinch introduced additional language to be included in the existing rank structure for the Police Department.

Fluoride is now being added to the drinking water supplied to all Town water users.

The Town is again participating in the yearly mosquito spraying program through DNREC.

The Commission presented a yearly \$1,000 grant to Bridgeville Library Board of Trustees President, Mr. Matt Davis. Friends of the Library member Mrs. Ruth Skala and Mr. Davis reported on the various activities taking place to raise funds for a new library.

The Commission attended a ribbon cutting at Rite-Tech Aerospace on Route 13 right outside of Town limits.

The Commission is reviewing an update to the Personnel Policy of the Town, first adopted in 1995. Additions include Sexual Harassment and Drug/Alcohol Policies.

The March Commission meeting was changed from March 10th to March 17th.

The 2007 Citizen's Survey was reviewed. A summary of survey results is available at Town Hall.

Commissioner Margaret Sipple was honored with a Resolution as a tribute to her 14 years of service to the Town as a Commissioner. Refreshments were served in her honor after the meeting, as she steps down from her position.

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March 17 2008

February Traffic Arrests: 77 Criminal Arrests: 27

Eleven building permits were issued in February bringing revenue of \$2,087.00.

There were three water/sewer inspections at Heritage Shores. Meters installed now total 493.

There were no NPDES violations in January and February at the wastewater treatment plant.

The new Public Works office and storage building interior was completed at the end of February and Public Works employees attended continuing education classes at the Delaware Rural Water Conference.

The Commission made a yearly \$1,000 donation to the Woodbridge School District for outerwear for needy children, with any surplus being designated for uniform assistance. They also made a \$1,000 donation to the Western Sussex Boys and Girls Club.

The Commission has interviewed candidates for two vacancies in the Police Department. State certified police training for prospective officers begins in April.

The development of commercial properties at Heritage Shores is progressing. A variety of businesses are considering locating in Bridgeville.

The Commission certified the results of the March 1st Municipal Election. Oaths of Office were administered to Mrs. Ruth Skala and to Commissioners Correll and Greason who were returned to their Commission seats, as they were unopposed in the election.

Ordinance A08-1 to include the Bridgeville Emergency Operations Plan in the Town Code was adopted. Residents, state and local police and fire company representatives met to prepare this plan.

The Commission proclaimed April 5th "Community Health Day" in honor of the Health Walk taking place at the Woodbridge Sports Complex. April 25th was proclaimed "Arbor Day" in the Town.

Ordinance A08-2 relating to dog ownership in Town limits was introduced. A Public Hearing will be scheduled at the April 14th meeting regarding the ownership, accommodations and control of dogs.

The Bridgeville Public Library informed the Commission they are preparing the amount of local matching funds for the new library building program. They will need state matching funds to make the project possible.

## Town Manager's Report

At the February Commission meeting the Town honored Margaret "Bootsie" Sipple for her fourteen years (1994-2008) of dedicated service as a Commissioner of the Town of Bridgeville. Bootsie is an outstanding citizen and a special lady who has always shown concern and love for her community. We wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

Congratulations to Patrolman First Class Robert James for being selected Officer of the Year! The Commissioners presented an award to Officer James for his outstanding accomplishments in 2007. This is the first Officer of the Year Award presented by the Commissioners.

We are also very proud to announce the promotion of Patrolman First Class Adam Hitchens to the rank of Corporal. Both of these officers have provided exemplary service to our Town and our citizens.

On behalf of the Commissioners, I would like to extend congratulations to the Woodbridge High School Boys' Basketball Team for a spectacular season! The team captured the Henlopen Conference Championship with a great deal of dedication and hard work. Bridgeville is proud of you. Enjoy your victory; you've earned it!

The Town will no longer have general elections for Commission seats. Bridgeville has changed to a voting system of election districts. Every voting resident of the Town has been placed in an election district, based on the location of his/her residence. There are a total of five election districts, each represented by a Commissioner living within that district. Prior to the March 2008 election, registered voters were notified of their election district number. Anyone interested in

reviewing their particular district location, may stop by the Town office and view an election district map. If you are not currently registered to vote in the Bridgeville Municipal Election, please stop by the Town office to do so. It will only take about five minutes of time. You must present your Delaware State Driver's License for voter registration.

I am pleased to report that the Town has received an Automatic External Defibrillator through Delaware Health and Social Services and the First State, First Shock Program. The current AED is an older model, which may be replaced when newer models become available. The Town Office is becoming a high traffic area and we must be prepared to serve the residents of Bridgeville and employees in the case of a medical emergency.

Bridgeville participated in the second annual Spring Into Health Community Walk on April 5th.

### Thank You Goes To:

Bridgeville Fire Company - for standby equipment  
 Police Officer Robert James - for presence and participation  
 Woodbridge School District staff - for organizational efforts  
 Brookfield Homes - for donation of water bottles

### And All Residents Who Supported The Walk With Their FEET!

Bridgeville had approximately 350 walkers, which outnumbered the other participating communities of Laurel, Seaford and Georgetown; therefore, the Health Walk Trophy will stay in Bridgeville for another year, where it belongs.

Keep walking and stay healthy.

Bonnie Walls

## Looking Back The Journal Celebrates Ten Years

Looking back and getting a sense of who we are, who we have been and how far we've come is a good thing. It is beneficial, not only for us as individuals, but also for us as a community.

Let's look back at Bridgeville ten years ago, based on the inaugural issue of The Journal. In some ways, we've come a long way. In other ways, we can chuckle, realizing we are still dealing with the same issues! Here are some of the highlights of that first newsletter.

- The Jan/Feb/Mar 1998 issue of The Journal began with the words, "Something New!!" This newsletter was created at the request of residents who wanted to be informed of Town Hall news and community happenings.
- Commission Elections were held in January in those days. 1998 Commissioners were: Robert Bennett, Margaret Sipple, Jack Dalton, Charles Singman and Robert Slater.
- Town-wide garbage collection was discussed at the Commission meeting "with no decision made."

- Fluoridation of Town water was discussed. (Fluoridation of Town water became a reality earlier this year.)
- Commissioner Sipple suggested in that first newsletter that organizations and residents adopt a street to keep it clean. She wrote, "Every time I go into the Town Hall, I have a handful of trash which I have picked up in the yard surrounding it. Anytime we (residents) see trash out of place, reach down and pick it up. It's good exercise and would make our Town a much prettier and cleaner place to live." (Still good advice! Former Commissioner Sipple visited Town Hall just last week...with a handful of trash she picked up in the yard!)
- We want to thank the eight original Journal sponsors who still advertise in the newsletter today. They include:
 

Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.	Elvin Schrock & Sons, Inc.
Town Bank (now PNC Bank)	The News Print Shop
Town Funeral Home (now Parsell)	A.C. Schultes
McDowell's Garage	Scott's Furniture, Inc.

# Town News

**Community-Wide  
Yard Sale**  
**Saturday, May 3**  
**7:00 AM - ?**  
**At Homes Throughout Town**

**Pool Owners**  
 Pool meters will again be available from the Town Hall for those who are interested. The metered hose will allow you to fill your pool with water  
**ONE TIME ONLY**  
**DURING THE SUMMER,**  
 charging only for water, not for sewer. Pool meters must be returned within one week.

**Town Clean-Up Day**  
**Saturday, May 10**  
**Curbside items must be out by 6:00 AM**  
**M-T Trash will only go down each street ONCE!**

**Curbside Pick-Up:**  
 Furniture  
 Household Trash  
 Stoves  
 Limbs (4' long bundles)

**The following must have Freon removed:**  
 Refrigerators  
 Freezers  
 Air Conditioners

**The following must be kept separate from other trash:**  
 Paint  
 Stain, Etc.

**Scrap Metal Container**  
**Town Hall Parking Lot**  
 Aluminum Siding  
 Bicycles  
 Window Frames  
 Stainless Steel  
 Barbecue Grills  
 Tire Rims, Etc.  
**Scrap Metal Only!**

**Large Tree Limbs**  
 Accepted at Wastewater Treatment Plant  
 Saturday morning  
 (Follow staff directions)

**THESE ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP:**  
 Rocks & Bricks      Batteries      Oil  
 Construction Materials      Dirt      Tires

## New Faces on the Block

**Welcome to our new Homeowners!**

Edgewood Street:  
 The David Rambos

Cedar Street:  
 Cynthia Lach

Main Street  
 Julie Sammons  
 Rita Webb

Emily's Pintail Drive:  
 The Randolph Smiths

N. Cannon Street:  
 The Michael Ryles

*The Commissioners and Employees  
of the Town of Bridgeville  
Honor*

**Mrs. Margaret "Bootsie" Sipple**

*as she Retires after 14 Years of Service  
as a Commissioner of Bridgeville*

# Town News

## Town Beautification

Spring is a great time for general outdoor clean-up and projects to improve your property. Many Bridgeville homes could greatly benefit from power (pressure) washing. The mold that grows on homes is a health hazard and should be addressed.

**Make your Home  
Happy and  
Healthy!**

## Building Permit Reminders

Most home improvements, inside and out, require a building permit issued by the Town of Bridgeville and Sussex County. The following list is not complete, but should be helpful. Please contact Town Hall before you begin an improvement / replacement project to determine if a building permit is required.

- Construction of New Home
- Shed / Storage Building
- Siding / Window Replacements
- Some Roof Replacements
- Concrete Slab / Patio
- Addition
- Fence
- Renovation
- Swimming Pool
- Driveway
- Porch Enclosure

The Town Code Enforcement Constable is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. to write building permits and answer questions.

## Sex Offender List Update

The following is a current, complete list of sex offenders residing within Bridgeville Town limits. Please direct any questions to the Bridgeville Police Department at 337-8302.

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Risk Level</u>
Christopher L.	Corkell	Moderate
Terrence	Teagle	Moderate
(currently in prison)		

**Outdoor Burning  
is Not Allowed  
In Bridgeville  
Town Limits**

**Bridgeville  
Town Code  
available on-line at:  
[townofbridgeville.net](http://townofbridgeville.net)**

## Please Pay Special Attention To These Town Codes During the Spring and Summer Seasons

- No unregulated growth of vegetation is allowed, including weeds, grass, hedges and bushes or shrubs.
- The Town's street sweeper requires a height clearance of at least twelve (12) feet at the curb and in alleyways; trim trees, bushes and shrubs accordingly.
- No weeds, grass or other ground cover vegetation over 8 inches is allowed.
- Weeds, grass or other vegetation, clippings, etc. may not be placed on any street, alleyway, or walkway; the street sweeper **CANNOT** pick up grass cuttings and leaves.
- All tree and lawn trimmings must be disposed of properly. No accumulation allowed.
- Please contact Town Hall before erecting an in-ground or above-ground pool with a depth greater than 2 feet. A permit is required and there are regulations concerning its location on the property and fencing requirements.



# Community Activities

## Lions / Lioness Club News

### Lions Club Show

The recent Annual Lions Club Show was a success. We wish to thank all of those persons who participated in the show to make it a success and, of course, thanks to all who attended. Without community support the show could not go on. This is a major fundraiser for the Lions Club.

### Lions Club Donation

The Lions club recently donated \$5,000 for the new Library Building Fund. The Lioness Club has also pledged \$2,000 to the Fund.

### Lion's Club Food Trailer

As springtime arrives, club members' thoughts are turning to our annual summertime Oyster/Food Trailer sales, another important fundraiser, both for the Lions and the Lioness. Be watching for our opening date in early July and join us for great summertime favorites.

### Membership

Both the Lions and Lioness would welcome new members. Interested persons may contact any member or call:

Lions: Ron Hatfield at 875-0609 Lioness: Hilda Donnelly at 629-4114

## Western Sussex Relay for Life

**May 9 - 10, 2008**

The American Cancer Society is pleased to announce that this year's site for the Relay for Life will be the Woodbridge Sports Complex. 14714 Woodbridge Rd. right outside of Bridgeville.

Relay for Life is a community-based, overnight event which honors cancer survivors and remembers those who have lost their battle.

Get involved by forming a team! For more information contact:

American Cancer Society 1-800-227-2345

Karen Buck 629-5708

On the Web: <http://events.cancer.org/rflwestsussex>

 <p><b>LANK, JOHNSON &amp; TULL</b> <i>Certified Public Accountants</i></p> <p>Seaford Office (302) 629-9543 Fax (302) 629-3501</p> <p>Milford Office (302) 422-3308 Fax (302) 422-4782</p>	<p><b>BARBARA-CHERRIX O'LEARY, Esq.</b></p> <p>Tel: (302) 337-0900 • Fax: (302) 337-8935</p> <p>O'Leary Law Offices 103 S. Main St. • Bridgeville, DE 19933</p>
<p><b>HARDWARE</b> (302) 337-8540</p>  <p>406 MARKET STREET</p> 	<p><b>PENINSULA</b> Oil &amp; Propane</p> <p>Automatic Delivery Easy Payment Plans Heat &amp; A/C Service Plans Heat &amp; A/C Installations</p> <p>40 S. Market Street Seaford, DE 19973 302-629-3001</p>
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<p><b>National Interlock Service, Inc.</b></p> <p>420 Market Street Bridgeville, DE 19933 302-337-9600 302-337-9602 Fax Jack Dalton, Regional Director</p> 	<p><i>Please Patronize Our Advertisers</i></p>



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**PIANO INSTRUCTION**

*Jeff Scott*

201 South Main Street, Bridgeville, DE 19933  
 302-337-3396

*Lifeway Church of God*

Mark L. Landon, Pastor

7046 Seashore Highway - Bridgeville, DE 19933 - 302-337-3044

**Sunday**

9:30 - Gateway

10:45 - Morning Worship

www.lifewaychurchofgod.com

**Wednesday**

5:30 - Cafe

7:00 - Community Connections

(all ages)

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Phillip Mowbray, Owner

Laura Lynn 302-841-8650

# Important Dates to Remember

## April

- 24 Joint Kiwanis/Lions Club Meeting
- 25 Genealogy Research - Library  
8:30 AM, Sign-up Required  
Bring Genealogy Questions

## May

- 3 Kiwanis-Sponsored Community  
Prayer Breakfast UUMC - 8 AM  
  
Community-Wide Yard Sale  
7 AM until ?  
  
Kiwanis Chicken BBQ  
Open Sat. & Sun. in May
- 9 Relay for Life
- 10 Town Clean-Up Day
- 12 Monthly Commission Meeting  
Town Hall, 7 PM
- 13 Monthly Meeting - Friends of the Library  
St. Mary's Parish Hall, 7:00 PM

## May

- 13-15 Monthly Street Cleaning
- 26 Town Memorial Day Celebration 9:30 AM  
Town Offices/Library &  
Woodbridge Schools Closed

## June

- 31 Saturday Trash Pick-up
- 1 Woodbridge Graduation
- 6 Woodbridge - Last Day for Students
- 7 Kiwanis Chicken BBQ  
Open Sat. & Sun. in June
- 9 Monthly Commission Meeting  
Town Hall, 7 PM
- 10-12 Monthly Street Cleaning
- 13 Library Summer Reading Program Begins

## TOWN OF BRIDGEVILLE

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