



TOWN OF BRIDGEVILLE

# THE JOURNAL

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## From the President's Desk

Eight years ago, Pat Correll, Bill Jefferson and I ran for the Commission of the Town of Bridgeville. We dedicated our efforts on behalf of the people of Bridgeville and it was our firm intention to turn Bridgeville around and make it the Town that we all could be proud to call home.

2001 was a difficult time in Bridgeville's history. The Town was approaching bankruptcy; our General Fund checking account held only \$469. The budget was out of control and was not balanced. Morale was low among our employees. On that cold Monday evening when we took our places at the Commission table, times looked bleak. But we immediately went to work to change this situation. Finances had to be brought under control, spending curtailed and new revenues sought. And we did it without a tax increase! When the Fiscal Year ended on June 30, 2001, Bridgeville had an \$18,000 surplus. And we did this without any annexations!

With finances under control, we turned our attention to other matters. If Bridgeville was to survive, it had to grow. We focused our attention on developing Bridgeville's first land plan and in 2002 Bridgeville became the first municipality in Delaware to have a certified Comprehensive Plan under Governor Minner's Liveable Delaware Plan. By the way, that plan has since been recertified through 2012. With this plan in hand, Bridgeville was in a position to move forward. And move forward we did. Since 2002 when we annexed 411 acres, through 2008 when we annexed 140 acres along Route 13, we have grown from a Town of 1,500 acres to a Town of 4,054 acres. From the Route 404 bypass to our north and Route 18 to our south, Bridgeville has become a major attraction for those who would call Bridgeville their home or for those who want to develop commercial activities in our community. From a Town of 612 homes, we have become a community of 5,236 prospective houses. We are proud of our new development, but we are most proud of the twelve new homes built in what I call "Olde" Bridgeville.

Finances in Bridgeville continue to be the envy of other governments and although the Fiscal 2010 Budget will present difficult choices, we are still in better financial shape than most other governments. Not only have we controlled our finances and developed a rainy day fund, we have cut property taxes by 10 cents; we have eliminated the capitation tax of \$3.00; we sliced the monthly water meter fee by \$3.50; and Bridgeville taxpayers have saved on average \$150 in taxes and fees over the past three years. Our annual audit continues to be exceptional.

Bridgeville is about to open a state of the art Wastewater facility on Apple Tree Road just east of Bridgeville. Not only do we own 126 acres, the site of the plant, we also have a long term lease on 1,100 adjacent acres that solves and meets Bridgeville's wastewater needs for the next twenty-plus years.

The philosophy that we developed in 2001 that those who cause the expense should pay for it, led us to develop the State of Delaware's first Special Tax District. Through this innovative program we were able to pay for the cost of growth and provide \$700,000 for the new Bridgeville Library, presently under construction.

We have been able to develop a police force authorized at seven officers that provided us with 24 hour, 7 day coverage and although we have struggled with maintaining our force at that level, we should be at full strength by April of this year. We have developed a strategic plan that will enable us to grow our police force as needed. Bridgeville police officers now start at \$33,000 a year, which makes us more than competitive with other municipalities in Sussex.

During our tenure in office, we have passed a number of Ordinances that have enhanced the quality of life in Bridgeville. Included in these Ordinances were: (1) The toughest sexual predator law in Delaware; (2) protection against, if not complete elimination of any adult entertainment facilities within our Town limits; (3) an updated and modern Planning and Zoning Ordinance; (4) Delaware's first Agricultural Overlay zone; (5) an absentee voting law;

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## From the President's Desk (Continued)

6) an Ordinance that protects the integrity of military funerals in our Town, eliminating the possibility of the disgraceful picketing that occurred in Seaford when two of our brave young heroes were laid to rest; (7) English as our official language; (8) new Election Districts that ensure fair and universal representation; (9) Delaware's first Special Tax District law; and (10) an enhanced Animal Control Ordinance.

During our time in office, Punkin Chunkin joined the Apple Scrapple Festival and Christmas in Bridgeville as one of a trifecta of outstanding festivals that call Bridgeville their home.

Actively seeking to involve the citizens of Bridgeville to assist with the running of their Town, a number of committees were created including the first Bridgeville Planning and Zoning Commission, a Parks and Recreation Committee, an Emergency Planning Committee, a Town Beautification Committee, a Citizen's Advisory Committee, an Economic Development Committee and an Election Board. In addition, two "Olde Fashioned Town Meetings" have been held allowing an open discussion of citizens' concerns.

The reality of a new and safer Route 13 and 404 intersection is now only months away.

To assist our community-based organizations, the Bridgeville Charity Open Golf Tournament was created resulting in a total thus far of \$52,500 raised for the Bridgeville Lions Club, the Bridgeville Kiwanis Foundation and the Bridgeville Senior Center.

Through our efforts; the efforts of Senators Thurman Adams, Bob Venables and Gary Simpson, along with former Representative Ben Ewing; the Bridgeville Library Trustees and the Friends of the Bridgeville Library, a modern library facility is under construction on land obtained by the Town at no cost to the taxpayer.

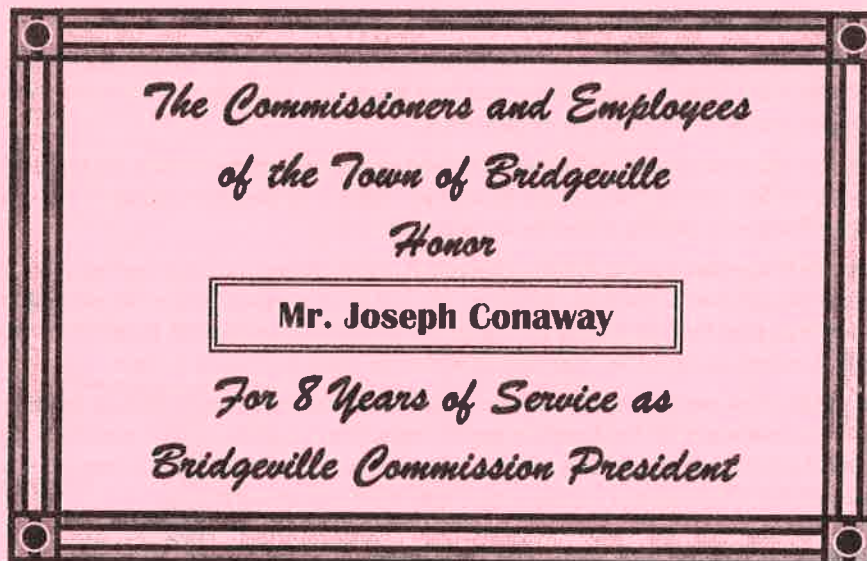
Ten acres of additional land, again at no cost to the taxpayer, was obtained for the Woodbridge Little League.

Things have truly improved and Bridgeville has, in our opinion, become the center of the universe. Bridgeville's future continues to be bright, but storm clouds are gathering. Economic conditions in our county, state and country threaten the economic well being of our citizens and our Town. Future Commissions must continue to closely monitor our finances. Our present budget must be cut a minimum of \$300,000 to bring Fiscal 2010 into balance. I am confident that all of this is doable. Pat and Bill are still here; with the addition of Mike Collison as the new Commissioner from the Fourth District and the cooperation of the two remaining Commissioners, I am confident in Bridgeville's future. The new President should come from either Pat, Bill or Mike. Experience, background, ability, knowledge of our past and a commitment to our future make these individuals ready to lead. I am sure that the spirit of cooperation and unity that have been the hallmarks of the past eight years will continue.

I want to thank the people of Bridgeville for the opportunity that they gave me to serve. I have been humbled by their support over these past years. I want to thank the employees, especially Town Manager Walls and Finance Director Savage, for their efforts; nothing could have been accomplished without them. To all those Commissioners that I have had the pleasure to serve with, I thank you for your cooperation and patience. Working with me is no walk in the park. And to my wife and family who allowed me this opportunity to serve, I thank you for your support and sacrifice.

Tonight is my last meeting as a Commissioner. I know not what the future holds for me or where I will spend the remainder of my time here on earth, but I shall never forget my experiences here in Bridgeville and will always be ready to help.

Joe Conaway



# Minutes from the Monthly Commission Meetings

December 8, 2008

November Traffic Arrests: 77 Criminal Arrests: 20

Nine building permits were issued in November bringing revenue of \$2,494.00. One certificate of occupancy for a new home was issued and one demolition permit was issued.

Ten house inspections were made by the Code Enforcement Constable and five vehicles were tagged for off-street parking violations.

Four water meters were installed at Heritage Shores.

Wastewater Superintendent Mowbray joined engineers Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc. in the annual industrial pretreatment inspection of Rapa Scrapple and Pet Poultry Products.

Storm drains were cleaned throughout Town.

Georgetown Mayor Ed Lambden presented the Return Day Hatchet Toss Trophy to President Conaway. The trophy will remain in Bridgeville until the 2010 Return Day Celebration.

A final walk-through inspection of the spray irrigation system was completed, with representatives from USDA, DNREC Financial Department, Town engineers Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc., project contractor Daisy Construction and Wastewater Superintendent Mowbray.

Mr. Brad Whaley from the Sussex County Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) was present to conduct a public hearing allowing the citizens to participate in a Community Block Grant application. Over the past 15 years, Bridgeville has received more than \$980,000 for approximately 90 rehabilitation and demolition projects. The CDBG will apply for \$100,000 on behalf of Bridgeville to continue housing rehabs this year.

CPA Mr. Richard Tull of Lank, Johnson & Tull presented the FY-08 Audit Report. He advised the audit was conducted in accordance with government auditing standards and feels the Town would be able to go to the bond market to borrow money based on the Town's financial condition.

Out-going State Representative Ben Ewing has provided \$32,000 for several concrete and street paving projects for the Town and contracts have been awarded. We appreciate Representative Ewing's assistance for these improvements.

Ms. Ruth Ann Tull and Mr. Bill Atwood were reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission for three-year terms.

Police Chief Parsons advised the Bridgeville Police Department will apply for 2009 funding through the SALLE and EIDE Police grant programs. Among other requests, they hope to replace outdated computers and purchase updated video recorders that will greatly enhance video surveillance.

January 12, 2009

December Traffic Arrests: 74 Criminal Arrests: 23

Five building permits were issued in December bringing revenue of \$353.00; two demolition permits were issued.

Building permits issued in 2008 totaled 123, a decrease from 2007. Nineteen permits were issued for new home construction in 2008.

There were two water/sewer inspections at Heritage Shores. Meters installed now total 529.

Verizon repaired a phone line allowing the main control panel at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to communicate with the RTU located at Heritage Shores Water Tower.

Chemical feed pumps at Well 2/2D and Well 5D were rebuilt.

There were no NPDES violations for the month of December at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Final inspection and acceptance of the Spray Irrigation Project was completed on December 5, 2008.

The salt spreader was repaired and prepared for winter weather.

Various signage and posts were replaced throughout Town.

It was announced the Economic Development Committee will convene in January to discuss the Bridgeville downtown area.

The Commission adopted a budget amendment which will reduce expenditures and place more funds in reserves for future needs.

The Commission adopted a Resolution to allow the Police Department to participate in the State of Delaware Municipal Pension Plan. This will take the place of their current pension plan through the Town.

Reverend Dale Brown and Mr. George Hardesty were reappointed to the Board of Adjustment.

The Commission and several residents expressed concerns about the growth of petty larceny in Town. Police officers will work overtime to place a greater police presence on the streets to deal with this problem. The Town will be fully staffed when three police recruits graduate from the academy in April.

Commission President Conaway delivered the State of the Town Report concerning improvements and accomplishments. Copies are available at the Town Hall.

## Town Manager's Report

The third annual Spring into Health Community Walk is scheduled for 9 - 10 AM on Saturday, April 4th. The Walk will be held at the Woodbridge School District Sports Complex. Please plan to attend. This event is sponsored by the Sussex Child Health Promotion Coalition and Nemours Health and Prevention Services, in partnership with the Towns of Bridgeville, Seaford, Laurel, Delmar and Georgetown. An important goal of the Walk is to familiarize everyone with the 5-2-1 Almost None Program of eating at least 5 fruits and vegetables per day, limiting screen time to 2 hours or less and increasing physical activity to 1 hour per day, while eliminating sugared beverages. Woodbridge has successfully captured the "cup" the last two years for the most participants. It looks like some of the other participating Towns are making an extra effort to "overthrow" our winning streak. Let's show our community pride and win the "cup" again; let's keep the trophy in Bridgeville for a third year. Bring your family, friends and neighbors; enjoy the fellowship and get some exercise while you're at it!

Caroling in the Park was held in December with canned food items collected to assist families in Bridgeville over the holidays. Thank you to those who braved the cold to sing Carols. On behalf of the Commissioners, we thank Mr. Jerry Butler for providing music and leading us in song. Santa came to the event and placed some big smiles on the children's faces. Following the Caroling event, additional canned goods were collected at Town Hall from residents and Town employees. We appreciate the generosity showed by all those who donated. The 8 families who received the food baskets

were very pleased and appreciative. It was wonderful to help make their Christmas brighter.

I am very pleased to report that a new high pressure sodium light has been installed at the Town Hall parking lot to provide extra lighting, not only to the parking area, but also to the recycling center. The additional lighting will go a long way to make the area brighter and safer during the evening hours.

The deadline date to file for candidacy in the General Municipal Election was February 6th. Two seats were available this election year - District 4, currently held by Joseph T. Conaway, and District 5, held by William A. Jefferson. Billy Jefferson filed for another two-year term and R. Michael Collison filed for the District 4 seat. With there being no other candidates, there will not be an election and these two gentlemen will take the Oath of Office for Commissioner of their respective districts at the March 9th Commission meeting.

The Town had several calls concerning frozen pipes during the recent cold spell. To prevent problems we would encourage all homeowners to insulate their pipes with foam insulation wrap, especially those that run through unheated spaces in your home. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember - the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be. When the mercury drops, a trickle of hot air cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. If you are going to be away during cold weather, set your thermostat no lower than 55 degrees.

By the time the next Journal newsletter goes to press we should be experiencing some beautiful spring weather. Hang on until then!

Bonnie Walls

### From the Bridgeville Police Department

The Bridgeville Police Department would like to take this opportunity to inform the citizens of events that have occurred in the Town over the past few months and notify them of steps they can take to protect themselves against criminal acts.

Recently there have been vehicle break-ins which have resulted in GPS units, car radios and other items being removed from vehicles. As a reminder, always keep your vehicle locked and remove all aftermarket electronics and other items that could easily be stolen. Hopefully, if the items are not easily viewed by criminals, they will not break into your vehicle.

You should also practice keeping your residence secured, even if you are only leaving for a quick trip to the store.

As colder temperatures have arrived, please keep a watchful eye on fuel that you use to heat your home, as fuel oil has been stolen in years past during very cold periods.

In addition to thefts during cold weather, the homeless are at greater risk of hypothermia and possible death. Please contact the Bridgeville Police Department if you see or know of anyone that could be at risk.

If you see anything that you believe to be suspicious or if you notice criminal acts in progress, please call us immediately at (302)337-8302 or dial 911. If you have a concern about a police-related matter, please either stop by the department at 302 Market Street or call us to discuss your concerns.

**Bridgeville Police Department: Telephone: (302) 337-8302 Fax: (302) 337-8359**

## Town News

### New Faces on the Block

Welcome to our new Homeowners!

Amanda's Teal Drive:

Mark Sikowitz

N. Cannon Street:

Gary Novack

Emily's Pintail Drive:

The William Zemitises

Walnut Street

The Corbin Beans

### Bridgeville Municipal Election

#### Election Districts #4 & #5

March 7, 2009

#### Candidates:

Election District #4 Election District #5  
Mr. R. Michael Collison Mr. William A. Jefferson

Since no other Candidates filed by the February 6th deadline, these seats are not contested. Both candidates have been qualified by the Bridgeville Board of Election and are hereby elected to the Commissioners of Bridgeville.

**Next Municipal Election: March 6, 2010**

**Election Districts #1, #2 & #3 Will Vote**

### Electronic Recycling

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority's Electronic Goods Recycling (EGR) program allows RESIDENTS ONLY to conveniently drop off their unwanted items for FREE at DSWA facilities statewide.

Recycling electronic goods removes potentially hazardous materials from the waste stream and saves landfill space. With the imminent change to digital TV, many residents have old equipment to dispose of responsibly.

Local sites for Electronic Goods Recycling include:

- Bridgeville Collection Station, 16539 Polk Road off of Route 404 - 24 hours a day.
- Jones Crossroads Landfill, 28560 Landfill Lane, Georgetown

Check the Delaware Solid Waste Authority website [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com) for directions to the recycling centers and more information about electronic recycling.

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Electronic Toys

#### Radio / TV / Etc.

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Video Cameras  
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Audio Amplifiers  
VCR's  
Cassette Players  
Record Players

\* DSWA also supports donating cellular phones to an organization which donates working cell phones to United States Soldiers. For more information, please visit [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com).

**ELECTRONIC GOODS RECYCLING PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH**

## Community Activities

### Easy IHOP Fundraiser Continues For the Bridgeville Library

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Pat McDonald at 337-7192

### Friends of the Bridgeville Library

**Membership** The Friends' goal is a membership of 150 by June 30th. We are well along the way to meet that goal and invite you to join your neighbors by becoming Library Friends. For as little as \$10.00 per year, you can support your library! Membership forms are available at the Library and Town Hall.

**View Library Construction Pictures** We invite you to view the ongoing construction of the library by going to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bridgeville/>. We hope these pictures will add to your excitement about the progress being made.

### Lions / Lioness Club News

**Annual Lions Club Show** It's amazing how quickly a year goes by! It will soon be time for the Lions Club 56th Annual Show on Friday & Saturday March 13 -14, 7:30 PM, at the Woodbridge High School Auditorium. The Lioness will have refreshments for sale in the lobby at intermission. We are holding the ticket price at \$6.00 and are looking forward to another great show. We appreciate everyone who attends and helps make the show a success. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year. Tickets are available from any L member or at the door.

**Christmas Giving** The Lioness and Lions joined together at Christmas to provide 29 needy families and 81 children with Christmas who otherwise would have had nothing. Food, gifts and clothing were provided. We wish to thank those who helped and those who donated items.

**New Members** A warm welcome to new Lions Club members David Kenton and Christine Lewis.

### Bridgeville Public Library

**Volunteers Needed** The Bridgeville Public Library is seeking volunteers for our new library. Please stop by the library and fill out a volunteer application.

**Volunteer Coordinator Needed** The library is searching for a volunteer coordinator. This challenging volunteer position serves as the principal point of contact for all volunteer library workers. Responsibilities include recruiting, orienting, scheduling, assigning, encouraging and tracking volunteers. This position coordinates closely with the Library Director and/or Assistant Director. Qualifications include ability to organize, prioritize and perform work assignments independently, effective communicator, basic knowledge of library procedures, functions and operations, good technical/computer skills and minimum high school graduate/GED.

**Genealogy Programs** Individual genealogy consultations will take place on Saturday, February 28, March 28 and April 25, from 9-11 AM. Sign-ups are required; please call the Library at 337-7401.

**Storytime** continues on Tuesdays

10 AM: 2-4 year-olds

11 AM: 4-6 year-olds

### Bridgeville Historical Society

**General Meeting** The next meeting will be held at the Heritage Shores Club House on March 21st at 7:00 PM, with a guest speaker followed by a short meeting to elect officers. The cost of this social meeting will be \$5.00; a cash bar will be available.

**Annual Auction** Please save the date! The Society's Annual Auction is scheduled for August 1st at the Heritage Shores Club House. It's not too early to consider auction donations. Please contact Mrs. Eleanor Bennett at 337-3347 or Howard Hardesty at 337-8595 to express your interest in donations.

**Firehouse Museum** The museum will be open to the public on the first Sunday of each month from May 3rd through October 4th. The museum is also available by appointment. Contact Howard Hardesty at 337-8595 or Michael Ballenger at 337-7077.

**"Minute of History"** These popular display boards are located at the Town Hall, Bridgeville Library and PNC Bank. Take a minute to learn more about our community and its people.

## Community Activities

### Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville News

**Christmas Street Lights** Kiwanians and Woodbridge High School Key Club members installed the Community Christmas Street Lights along five streets this holiday season. The lights were completely refurbished three years ago and hopefully, they will be enjoyed by our residents and visitors for many years to come. Our thanks to the Town Commission for paying the electric bill each year!

**Christmas Decorating Contest** The Kiwanians wish to thank the winners, as well as all those participating in the contest. These decorated homes gave our community a very festive appearance and certainly added to the Christmas spirit. The following winning families received a ham:

The Mackay Kirkleys	104 Will's Island Dr.	The Richard Bensons	313 Delaware Ave.
Ms. Catherine Ross	609 N. Cannon St.	The Dan Driscolls	409 Walnut St.
The Robert Richeys	203 S. Main St.	Mr. David McCurley	107 S. Main St.

**Kiwanis Club Hosts Key Club** On February 2nd the Club hosted the Woodbridge Key Clubbers and their new faculty advisor, Mrs. Kelli Duncan, who is a former Key Clubber and Division Lt. Governor. Kiwanis International sponsors several youth organizations, one of which is the Key Club for high school students. Our local club has been sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville since 1975.

**Charter Night** Charter Night takes place on March 16th. The Kiwanis Club will celebrate 70 years of community service.

**Membership** Last year, eight area residents joined the Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville. Already this year we will have four new members by our February meeting date. If you're interested in community service and helping others, perhaps a membership in Kiwanis is the answer. Please contact the club secretary, G.H. Hardesty, Jr., at 302-337-7070 for more information concerning the local club.



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**Sunday****Wednesday**

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10:45 - Morning Worship

7:00 - Community Connections

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## Important Dates to Remember

### February

28 Library Genealogy Consultations

### March

1 Bridgeville Fire Company Dinner  
Fire Hall, Noon-5 PM

3 Friends of the Library Meeting  
St. Mary's Parish Hall, 6:30 PM

8 Daylight Saving Time Begins

9 Monthly Commission Meeting  
Town Hall, 7 PM

10-12 Monthly Street Cleaning

13-14 Lions Club Show  
Woodbridge Auditorium, 7:30 PM

16 Kiwanis Club Charter Night

21 Historical Society Meeting  
Heritage Shores Club House, 7 PM

### March

28 Court of Appeals Town Hall, 12-1 PM  
Library Genealogy Consultations

### April

4 "Spring into Health" Community Walk  
Woodbridge School District  
Sports Complex, 9 am

7 Friends of the Library Meeting  
St. Mary's Parish Hall, 6:30 PM

10 Good Friday Town Offices, Library  
& Woodbridge Schools Closed

11 Library Closed

12 Easter

13 Monthly Commission Meeting  
Town Hall, 7 PM

13-17 Woodbridge Schools Closed

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