



## **December 2021 Town Manager's Report**

### Economic Outlook

In December, the Town issued thirty-three (33) building permits totaling \$99,123.66. There were seven (31) building permits issued for new construction.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$27,531.83 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during November 2021.

We have a current set aside balance of \$1,500,578.85 that may be earmarked for future debt payments or capital projects.

There were no scheduled Sheriff's Sales for December, and there are currently no properties within town limits expected in January.

### Land Use and Development

Pending Applications include:

- 7-11 – Has officially started construction as of the beginning of December.
- Bridgeville Town Center – Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion – Next stage is Plan (Preliminary) submission – now expected back to P&Z Spring 2022
- Heritage Shores Phase 5 - Preliminary approved by P&Z in August –Next stage is Final Plan submission, expected Spring 2022
- Heritage Shores Phase 6 – Concept Plan reviewed by P&Z in December 2021.
- Annexation Request – Fioravaniti – Approx. 1.62 Acres on the South end of Town at the intersection of 13 and Cannon Road – Pending Public Works Agreement
- Annexation Request – The Life Center – 12.65 Acres located at 8887 and 8889 Redden Road.
- PODS – GED S Main Dist, LLC- New Minor Development Plan – Concept/Sketch approved by P&Z in September – next stage is Preliminary/Final Submission. Expected Spring 2022.

### Workiversary

Jordan Chelton of our Water Department and Public Works was hired in 2021; he will reach his first anniversary on January 11, 2022.

### Retirement

We wish Robin Bohn, our Police Department Secretary, a happy and healthy retirement. Robin began employment with Bridgeville in March 2013 and officially retired at the end of December 2021.

## In Memoriam

In 2021, we lost two of our past Commissioners, Sharon McDowell and William “Billy” Jefferson.

Sharon McDowell was a Commissioner from 2013 to 2020 and was Commissioner President in 2018.

Billy Jefferson was a Commissioner from 2001 to 2010 and was Commission President from 2009-2010.

Both individuals were deeply committed to our community, and their loss is strongly felt. Our deepest sympathies go out to both the McDowell and Jefferson families.

## Annual Audit

All documentation has been submitted to the auditors, Lank Johnston and Tull. Once the audit is complete, we will have the regular annual presentation for a future commission meeting.

## Municipal Park Donations

Union United Methodist Church surprised us at the end of the year with another donation to be used towards the future Bridgeville Municipal Park, next to Town Hall. We received \$484.00 from the Summer Camp Coin Wars and \$1,429.00 from their Bella’s Night of Praise event. UUMC previously made donations as well, and along with a small Sussex County Grant,

## Water System Updates

In December, we worked through an unfortunate incident when a water main along S. Main Street was severely damaged while a private contractor was working on a planned tap into the system. While attempting to isolate the damaged section to repair the line, one of the necessary valves failed. Normally, the two closest valves would be utilized to shut the water off to the damaged area so the water line could be repaired. Without the ability to isolate this area, the problem quickly turned into much more significant issues. Town staff and construction crews worked from approximately 11 AM through 5:00 AM the following day. To isolate the area, an emergency insertion valve was installed further down the line, which enabled the repair to then occur around 3:00 AM. During these hours, close to 2 million gallons of water was lost from our system – which drastically dropped pressure throughout most of the Town. Required testing was performed as required after the repair was completed.

## Christmas Parade

This year, Town Staff took on a new challenge of bringing back and organizing the annual Christmas Parade. Due to inclement weather, we had to make the decision to postpone the parade from Saturday, December 11, to Sunday, December 12. Fortunately, even with the changes, we still had a fantastic turnout. While we would have initially had over 70 organizations appearing (our biggest turnout ever!), the delay dropped us down to 46 appearing participants. We even had a few last-minute entries from the City of Dover’s parade, which was canceled due to the weather on Saturday. We invited any interested organizations to come to be a part of our celebration and loved having them join us! I can’t thank our dedicated staff and their families enough for helping to organize this event. There is so much work happening behind the scenes, and we wouldn’t have pulled it off without their efforts. We look forward to planning an even bigger and better event for 2022.

Town Hall Operations

We know the world is eager to return to normal. However, we are still seeing COVID cases increasing rapidly among staff, colleagues and residents, so we ask that you remain home and continue using the dropbox and online/phone payment options if you or your immediate family show any signs of illness. Cash payments may be dropped off in the payment tray inside of Town Hall, but we are not handling change at this time. Any excess payments will be applied as a credit to future billings. We thank everyone for helping to keep our staff safe!

Respectfully Submitted,



Bethany DeBussy  
Town Manager