

June 2023 Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In June, the Town issued twenty (20) building permits totaling \$37,899.68. There were nine (9) building permits issued for new construction.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$34,066.78 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during May 2023.

We have a balance of \$2,788,958.83 that may be earmarked for future debt payments or capital projects.

Land Use and Development

Pending Applications include:

- Bridgeville Town Center – Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion – Next stage is Final Development Plan Approval. Preliminary Approved in August 2022.
 - Now expected Summer 2023 – Received partial submission, pending DeIDOT
- Ghulam Dastgir– New Minor Development Plan – Preliminary Approved in May 2022.
 - Received partial submission, pending DeIDOT
- Heritage Shores Phase 6 – Expected Summer.
- Heritage Shores Phase 7A – Received partial submission, pending DeIDOT
- Annexation Request – Fioravaniti/ Reaniti, LLC– Approx. 1.62 Acres on the South end of Town at the intersection of 13 and Cannon Road – Will complete this summer.

Meet our new K9 – Django!

Who is a good boy?! That's Django-our newest team member! Please welcome Django to the Bridgeville Police Department Canine Unit! Django is a one-and-half-year-old German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix. He is a dual-purpose trained canine from Poland, by way of Ventosa Kennels in North Carolina. He recently completed training with his handler, Corporal Smith, and has already had a successful first month on the job! The Department will be holding several upcoming fundraisers to help with Django's care - we want to provide our growing boy with the best! Your first opportunity to show support will be on **August 11th at the Kiwanis Chicken BBQ**. Django, and the rest of the Department, would love to see you there!





Comprehensive Plan Surveys

Please help with our Comprehensive Plan update! We strongly encourage you to participate – the more data, the better, as your voice helps direct the future of our community.

Surveys are now ready and available on our website – bridgeville.delaware.gov. Look for a news post on the main page or the dedicated page can be found under “Info,” then “Important Information and Maps,” and 2023 “Comprehensive Plan Update.”

We are Hiring!

We are actively interviewing and hiring for THREE positions.

- Full-time Streets/Building Grounds and Maintenance position within the Public Works Department.
- Full-time Payment and Billing Clerk within the Administrative Department
- Full-time Police officer within the Police Department

Employment is contingent upon the ability to pass drug screening and background checks. Salary depends upon experience. The Town of Bridgeville offers a competitive package of benefits – including health, dental, life, and disability insurance packages, a pension plan, and sick and vacation time. The Town of Bridgeville is an Equal Opportunity Employer. An application and complete job description with the required skills and abilities are posted online at bridgeville.delaware.gov and can be obtained at Town Hall.

We will continue to take applications until the positions are filled.

2023 Property Taxes

Property Tax bills will be mailed out to all property owners around the middle of July. Please remember that property tax statements are for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024, which will be the date shown on your statement – and payment is due NO LATER than September 30, 2023. Interest will automatically accrue on October 2, 2023, and every month after that. We are in year 5 of the approved five-year tax increase. The FY24 tax rate is \$3.00 per hundred dollars of 50% of the County assessment.

The reassessment process has not yet been completed and is projected to be now finalized in 2025. It was initially planned for 2024 but has been granted an extension. Details on that project can be found at <https://sussexcountyde.gov/assessment>.

If you live in Heritage Shores and have not prepaid your Special Tax District taxes, your property tax bill will have a separate line item for those taxes. The Town will process the payment and pass it on to the bond management agency, Municap. If you have questions regarding your Special Tax District assessment, you may contact Municap directly at (443) 539-4104 or www.municap.com.



For all taxes, you can view or pay your tax bill through our iGovServices tax payment portal – by going to our website, under the “Pay Online” tab, and clicking “Tax Payments.” The direct link is <https://bridgevillede.igovservices.com/User/Login>. You can choose to create an account or simply use the search tab, which brings you to our public record portal, and view or pay directly there. Please note that your tax bill for 2023 will not show until mid-July, when the bills are generated and mailed out.

Clarification on Heritage Shores Phase 5 – Villas at Bridgeville

We have been hearing a lot of misinformation and rumors surrounding the next phase of Heritage Shores, which just recently began construction. This area is south of Earlee Avenue and directly across Main Street from Antique Alley.

This section of Heritage Shores is where the non-age-restricted section of the development will go. The approved plan is for townhouses, and they will be market-rate rentals. Because this is the only non-age-restricted section, they will have their own amenities and HOA, but this is still a part of the Heritage Shores Community.

We have asked the developer to release a statement related to the HUD funding obtained as part of the construction. They will also soon be releasing a website and social media page for this section which will include marketing information and rental information.

The Villas at Bridgeville; May 24, 2023:

The Villas project includes 152 single-family attached units, including 40 two-story units (duplexes) and 112 three-story units (townhouses). The Villas is an all-ages community with their own amenity package.

The Villas are being constructed under a conventional HUD lending program. The sign posted on the property, per HUD requirements, references the project being financed by a HUD-insured Loan.

The Villas are built under the program **for market-rate (conventional) multifamily housing**. In this HUD program, single-family townhomes are considered "multifamily" when there is a specific count of units per building; the project includes sticks of 2, 4, or 6 units.

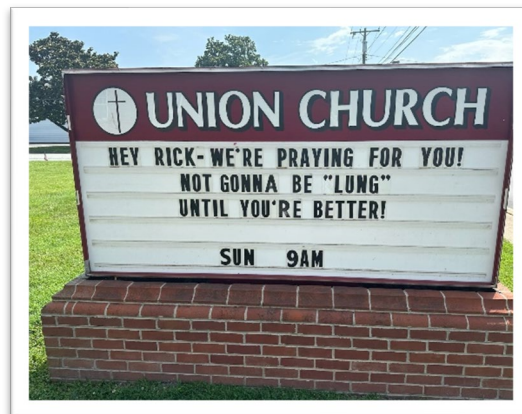
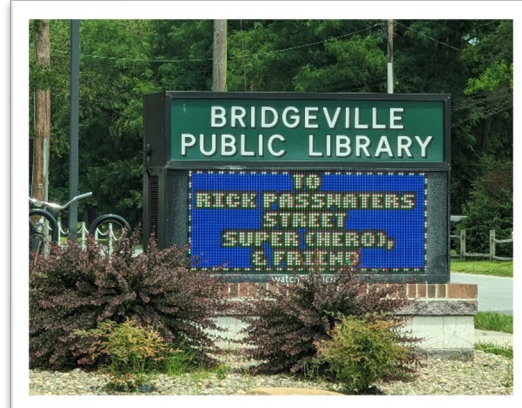
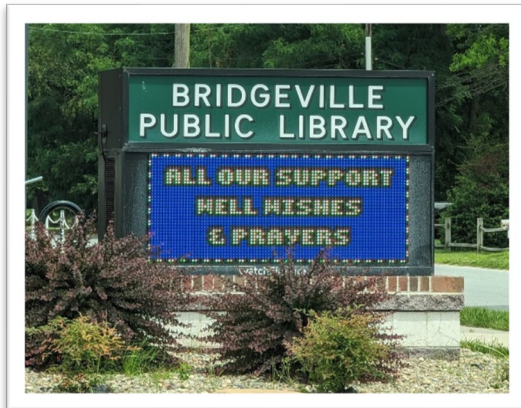
Employee Update – Rick Passwaters

We are asking all to keep Rick Passwaters Sr. in your thoughts. Rick is our Street Department Superintendent and has been a town employee for over 28 years.

You may have seen circulating on social media pages the GoFundMe page to help the family recently, which has helped to break the news.

We learned last week that Rick would undergo his lung transplant on July 4, 2023. And he successfully made it through the surgery but has a long way to go.

We reached out to the community to help give Rick and his family the support they need - many of our businesses and organizations have placed supportive messages on their billboards. Rick has dedicated his life to this Town; we know that many have worked with him or have developed friendships with him over the years. We continue to hope that he does well on his path to recovery and gets to come home soon!





Thank you to our Legislators

Thank you to Senator Dave Wilson and Representative Jesse Vanderwende – we secured \$45,000 in funding in the FY24 Bond Bill to assist with the safety and security of our Town Hall. We have had vehicles hit the building or memorial multiple times now that, for various reasons, have failed to stop at the Market and Main Street intersection. This funding will help install a series of decorative concrete planters and bollards along with lighting across the front of the property to ensure the safety of our building, staff, and anyone visiting or entering the Town Hall or memorial site.

I know that I promised updates on the grants and other projects that we have. I will now be able to do so after we review with our July Workshop and then report with our August meeting – along with some summary information about the past year with the Town.

Community Events

Save these dates for our upcoming Fall and Winter Events!

- K9 Django – Kiwanis Fundraiser – August 11, 2023
- Apple Scrapple Festival Fundraiser – Clay Shoot – September 10, 2023
- Farm to Table Dinner event with the Woodbridge FFA – September 16, 2023
- Fall Yard Sale – Saturday, October 7, 2023
- Fall Cleanup Day – Thursday, October 12, 2023
- Apple Scrapple Festival – Friday, October 13, and Saturday, October 14, 2023
 - Stay tuned for announcements regarding additional Apple Scrapple events this year!
- Annual Charity Golf Tournament – Friday, October 13, 2023
- Halloween Trick or Treat and Downtown Trunk or Treat – “Monster Mash” – Tuesday, October 31, 2023
- Tree Lighting Ceremony – Tuesday, November 28, 2023
- Christmas in Bridgeville Craft Show – December 2, 2023
- Christmas Parade – “...And a Partridge in a Pear Tree!” – Saturday, December 9, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager