



April 2024 Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In April, the Town issued eleven (11) building permits totaling \$7,072.11. There was one (1) building permit issued for new construction. Seven (7) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new homes.

To date, 276 Rental Property Licenses have been applied for. Of those, 252 units have successfully passed inspection and received licenses, nine (9) have failed inspection and are currently non-compliant, five (5) have applied and are scheduled for inspection soon, 8 have applied but have not scheduled inspections, and two (2) are new properties. The first round of fines for noncompliance was issued in April, totaling \$8,100.00.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$36,095.59 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during March 2024.

We have a total fund balance of \$3,213,576 that may be earmarked for future debt payments or capital projects. **Please note that some of the total balance may already be earmarked for capital improvements or budget supplements.

Land Use and Development

Pending Applications include:

- Dollar General, Rt. 13 – Preliminary Approved September 2023.
- Bridgeville Self Storage – Modifications to Minor Development plan, initially approved in 2019, withdrew from January 2024 P&Z for future submission.
- Bridgeville Town Center – Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion – The next stage is Final Development Plan Approval. Preliminary Approval in August 2022.
 - Now expected Spring 2024 – Received partial submission, pending DelDOT
 - Also working on necessary utility easements
 - Received partial submission, pending DelDOT – Expected early 2024
- Heritage Shores Phase 6A and 6B have been partially submitted for initial engineering review and will come to a full P&Z Meeting soon.
- We are in discussions with the property management group handling the Heritage Shores Commercial Pad sites off of Passwaters Farm Road, and they are looking at developing those in the near future. We are currently providing them with data, including information from our Comprehensive Plan outreach surveys, existing data about businesses and projects in Town, and pulling from the 2008 era research that was originally done in Concept plans on these sites.



We are STILL Hiring!

The Town of Bridgeville is still accepting applications for a full-time Financial Manager position within the Administrative Department. The ideal applicant must be able to multi-task, carry out oral and written instructions, be self-motivated, and be a strong team player. Applicants should also have strong customer service skills. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or related field, with a minimum of three to five years related experience or a combination of related experience and education/training. QuickBooks Desktop and payroll experience preferred. Employment is contingent upon the ability to pass drug screening and background check. Salary is dependent upon experience.

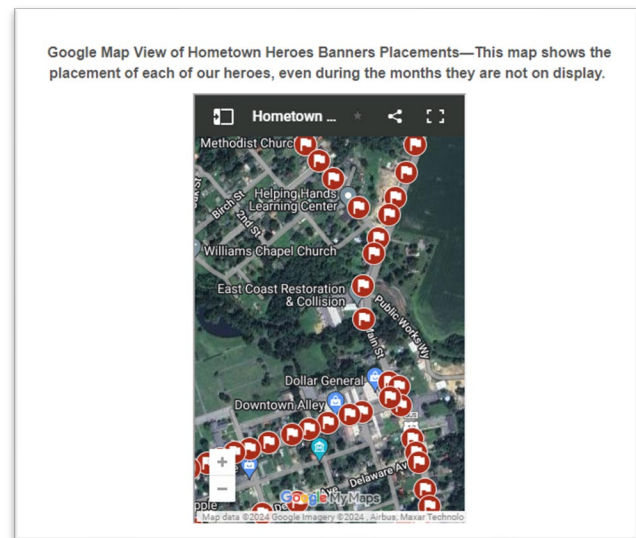
The Town of Bridgeville offers a competitive package of benefits – including health, dental, life, and disability insurance packages, pension plan, and sick and vacation time. The Town of Bridgeville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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. Submissions should be sent to the attention of Town Manager Bethany DeBussy, 101 N. Main St., Bridgeville, DE 19933, or emailed to townofbridgeville@gmail.com. The position will remain open until filled.

Hometown Heroes Banners Expansion

The recent expansion of the Hometown Heroes Banners Project added 18 banners to the list. A ceremony was held on April 26, 2024, at the Bridgeville Public Library to recognize the new batch. The banners are currently being installed and will be in place by Memorial Day.

A new future exists on the dedicated Hometown Heroes page on our website. An interactive map now exists with the placement of each banner. By clicking on the flags, you can see the image of the banner, name and location. This way, even during the winter months, when the banners are not displayed, they can still be viewed.



Grass Cutting and Yard Maintenance - Ongoing Reminders

Now that Spring has officially sprung - Reminder of Chapter 90 of the Town Code - No landowner shall permit the unregulated growth of vegetation, including but not limited to weeds, grass, hedges, bushes, or shrubs, to be maintained on any property within the corporate limits of the Town of Bridgeville. No weeds, grass, or other ground cover

vegetation shall exceed a height of eight inches at any time of the calendar year. No hedges, bushes, shrubs, trees, or other vegetation shall be permitted to grow in such a manner as to inhibit the free passage of or present a danger to pedestrians on any street, alleyway, sidewalk, or walkway. No weeds, grass, or other vegetation clippings, etc., shall be placed on any street, alleyway, passageway, sidewalk, or walkway. Violations of this Code will result in fines.

Annual Water Quality Report

The 2023 Water Consumer Quality Report is available on our website - bridgeville.delaware.gov. Go to Government, Water Department, and then find the link for the 2023 CCR Report.

This report is designed to provide details about the source of your water and compare its contents to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Water Meter Pits, Meters and Irrigation Companies

We have had an increase in incidents involving landscaping/irrigation contractors tampering with meter pits, including turning the water on and off within the meter pit itself rather than using the irrigation control boxes. This has caused extensive issues and even damage to lids, meters, and service lines. Per Section 228-5 of the Bridgeville Town Code, “No unauthorized person shall maliciously, willfully or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface or tamper with any structure, appurtenance or equipment which is a part of the waterworks.” This is a fineable offense.

More importantly – tampering with Public Water Systems is a federal crime under the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Act and can carry prison sentences and hefty fines. Tampering with any lines can cause contamination back into the drinking water supply, which is a danger to the health and safety of thousands of residents and, as such, is taken very seriously. Please help by preventing your landscaping/irrigation contractors from tampering with meter pits.

May Sussex County Association of Towns Dinner

Bridgeville hosted the May Sussex County Association of Town’s dinner at the Bridgeville Fire Hall on May 1, 2024. Our speaker was Heather Warren, the new Executive Director for Delaware Rural Water Association, who spoke about some of the upcoming programs, funding opportunities, and EPA regulations that are coming down the pipeline and will affect all water utilities. Special thanks go to the Bridgeville



Ladies Auxiliary for another amazing dinner, Vanderwende’s Creamery for the ice cream to go with dessert, RAPA Scrapple for the scrapple gifts to all of our visitors, town Engineers Davis Bowen and Fridel for sponsoring the cost of the bartenders, Jeff’s Taproom and Grille for providing bartenders, and last but not least, the Town staff who rallied together to help organize, decorate, and run the event. We had 105 RSVPs, with visitors from 15 different Sussex County towns, along with several professional organizations and, of course, our very own Senator Dave Wilson and Representative Jesse Vanderwende. We hope everyone enjoyed the evening as much as we did, and we look forward to hosting next year’s event!

Upcoming Events

K9 Fundraising

Kiwanis BBQ—Thank you to everyone who came out to support K9 Django at the Kiwanis Chicken BBQ on Sunday, May 5, 2024! It was so nice that we sold out twice! Thank you to the Kiwanis for cooking more chicken when the supplies ran out and to those who were willing to wait.



Stepping Stone Paint Night

Stepping stones have been selling for tomorrow’s paint night! This is another fundraiser for K9 Django. Custom concrete stepping stones are being made special for this event, and we are excited to show them off! And remember, if you would like to make a donation but cannot attend any of our events, donations can be made at any time by check or cash at Town Hall or through our website under “Pay Online” and then “K9 Fundraising.” There are still stones available for anyone interested in attending or if you would just like to purchase a stone directly.



Respectfully Submitted,



Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager