



May 2024 Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In May, the Town issued nine (9) building permits totaling \$15,218.33. There were three (3) building permits issued for new construction. Three (3) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new homes.

To date, 276 Rental Property Licenses have been applied for (number unchanged). Of those, 261 units have successfully passed inspection and received licenses, seven (7) have failed inspection and are currently non-compliant, and eight (8) have applied but have not scheduled inspections.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$28,247.37 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during April 2024.

We have a total fund balance of \$3,241,823 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/DG Market, Rt. 13 – Preliminary Approved September 2023, received a partial submission for final, expecting remainder soon.
- 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 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.
- PODS has submitted their building permit application to the Town and Sussex County.

Workiversary – Happy Anniversary to Bethany DeBussy, Town Manager - 4 Years now complete – on to year 5!



In Memoriam – Margaret “Bootsie” Sipple

We take a moment to honor the life of someone who was a truly dedicated member of our community who passed away on June 2, 2024. Bootsie was a past Commissioner of Bridgeville, the first female Commissioner, and served on the commission for over fourteen years. She was also a dedicated member of the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company’s Ladies Auxiliary and was a driving force in the development of the new Bridgeville Public Library. Bootsie was also well known for her love of gardening and was featured many times in the media for her own award-winning gardens. She also volunteered time to help maintain the flowers around Town Hall and the adjacent monument, along with the flower barrels downtown and began the relationship with the Garden Club at Heritage Shores to continue that work.



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.

Grass Cutting and Yard Maintenance - Ongoing Reminders

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.

Recent Water Leak at Sussex and S. Main Street

On Saturday, June 1, 2024, we had a leak occur in the area of Sussex Avenue and S. Main Street. The below notice was posted online in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Drinking Water. We are aware that part, and not all, of this notice, was shared throughout the community and caused panic and concern related to water quality. Please be assured that the process was followed as mandated by the Office of Drinking Water, and due to the nature of the leak, a mandatory boil water notice was not required. In the case that a mandatory boil water notice IS required, notices must be delivered directly to all properties served by the system. We thank the contractors and staff involved during the situation, which was fully resolved in around five to six hours that day.



Town of Bridgeville

June 1 at 4:36 PM · 🌐

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UPDATE - As of June 4, 2024 the Office of Drinking Water has verbally confirmed that all samples have come back without trace of contamination. Printed results will be available in the next few days.

!!! PUBLIC NOTICE UPDATE: Repairs are now complete for the water main issue on Sussex Avenue. To make the repairs successful, we had to very briefly isolate a larger area around Sussex Avenue, Main Street, and Laws Street. There would have been a drastic loss of pressure in other areas as well while this isolation occurred, not from the break itself.

The water has now been turned back on, and the pressure should be returning to normal. We thank you for your patience while crews made these necessary repairs.

When a mandatory boil notice is required - it must be delivered directly to all customers. Since this was not a traditional water main rupture with an opportunity for contamination/infiltration - a boil water notice is **NOT REQUIRED**, but we will provide the information for a boil water advisory **ONLY** for those wanting to take extra precautions. For boil water advisories, additional information can be found here - <https://www.cdc.gov/.../drinking.../boil-water-advisory.html>

The water system will be fully tested, and results will be released as soon as they are received. Again, due to the nature of this repair, there is no cause for panic about water quality. Testing is done as a precaution and to provide continued assurance and transparency regarding water quality.

Attached here is the generic notice as required by the Office of Drinking Water for standard water main breaks.

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Bridgeville Water Department

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Increased Risk From Microbial Contamination

On June 1, 2024, Saturday, we experienced a drop in pressure related to repairs on a water main that caused a loss of positive water pressure in our distribution system. A loss of positive water pressure is a signal of the existence of conditions that could allow contamination to enter the distribution system through back-flow by back-pressure or back-siphonage. As a result, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

What should I do?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using. Alternatively, bottled water may be used. You should use boiled or bottled water for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and food preparation until further notice.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, seeking medical advice is recommended.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

What happened? What is being done?

We will inform you when all corrective actions have been completed and when you no longer need to boil your water.

For more information, please contact Bethany DeBussy at 302-337-7135 or Caitlin Berchto, Environmental Health Specialist II with the Office of Drinking Water at 302-741-8630.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Bridgeville Water Department

PWS ID# DE0000559:

Date distributed: 06/01/2024



Property Reassessment Letters

We are aware that letters have been sent out from the county for property reassessments. We have started getting inquiries from residents for building construction information to verify the square footage of their homes. This step is crucial in the reassessment process.

We do keep records in an archive for building permits, but we may not have full surveys/details for ALL properties in town. We know that the response time is a relatively small window, so for organization and efficiency, we ask for calls or emails if you are seeking this data. We can then search the archive and email records back. Please contact us at (302) 337-7135 or by email at townofbridgeville@gmail.com.

For any questions about the reassessment process, please get in touch with Sussex County or Tyler Technologies directly. Additional information can also be found on Sussex County's website. <https://sussexcountype.gov>.

Sussex County Assessment Division - PO Box 589, Georgetown, DE 19947, 302.855.7824

Tyler Reassessment Office: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., 302.854.5274

Delmarva Power – Planned Work in Bridgeville

Through June and mid-July, Delmarva Power will perform electric grid modernization and reliability upgrades in the Town of Bridgeville to improve service for customers and reduce the duration and frequency of power interruptions. Work will occur along the following streets: **Cedar Street, Delaware Avenue, Laws Street, Main Street, Railroad Avenue, and Walnut Street**. Delmarva Power's efforts to reinforce the local energy grid, add new technology and smart devices, and targeted projects to increase resiliency against more frequent and impactful weather events resulted in customers experiencing the lowest frequency of electric outages ever in 2023. Bridgeville system upgrades include new poles, cross arms, fuses, secondary wire, and other assorted infrastructure enhancements. There are no planned power interruptions associated with this work, and all applicable permits from DelDOT have been secured. Traffic control will be in place, and Delmarva Power will make every attempt to minimize inconvenience to the residents of Bridgeville. Delmarva Power appreciates your patience during this work, and questions can be directed to Jim Smith, Delmarva Power External Affairs Manager, at jim.a.smith2@delmarva.com or (302) 854-8815.



Town of Bridgeville - Capital Budget Work

June is a busy time for contractors – several projects are now underway from the town’s FY24 Capital Improvements Budget.

- Concrete work, including curbs and several handicap ramps, has started in Heritage Shores in the area of Whistling Duck Drive and Amanda’s Teal. Crews will work their way through the list within Heritage Shores, then move into the central part of the Town where additional work is planned. This is part of \$35,000 dollars of approved repairs and will be completed by L&B Concrete.
- June 19-21, 2024 - Alley Milling and Repaving – work will begin on Maple Alley, Chestnut Alley, Pine Alley, Cooper Alley, and Mill and John Streets. Access to the alleys will be temporarily limited while work is underway. This work is part of \$240,000 of approved FY22 Bond Bill funding repairs and will be completed by Jerry’s Paving.
- Patch repair work – Canvasback Leak Repair patch, Walnut Street and Cherry Alley Intersection, Heritage Shores Drive patchwork, and some other small patches. This work is part of FY24 Capital Budget Street Repairs and will be completed by Del-Mar-Va Paving. They are the same contractors being used by Sussex County/Brookfield to repave in the area of Whistling Duck Drive, where sewer-related repairs are being made, and work will commence as soon as the repair work is finished.

WGMD Guest Appearance – The Talk of Delmarva

On June 6, I was asked to make an appearance on WGMD with Community Bank, who does a recurring series with towns in Sussex County to talk about all things exciting in our communities. While it is a brief appearance, I was able to discuss our positive growth, upcoming commercial development projects, and our line of quickly approaching fall events. This is the second year we have been asked to join the show, and it’s a great opportunity to promote our community. Thanks to Community Bank for including us!

Cedar Street Dead End – Barricades

Permanent barricades have been placed at the Western end of Cedar Street. The street dead ends to private property (T.G. Adams), and the Town was contacted with complaints and concerns about the continued passage through the property and in the vicinity of grain silos and equipment. Jersey barriers have been placed to prevent passage through the property, and additional signage has been placed to note the dead and no-thru traffic. We ask that private property be respected and passage to Railroad Ave be taken through alternate roadways.

Upcoming Events

- **June 29, 2024 - Concert in the Park – Free Community Event**
- **July 19, 2024 - Mayor Cupcake – Free Movie in the Park with Meet and Greet at the Bridgeville Public Library**
- **August 8, 2024 – Bridgeville Police Department Back to School Event**
- **September 28, 2024 – Farm to Table Dinner Event**



Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager