



June 2024 Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In May, the Town issued eighteen (18) building permits totaling \$39,594.36. Eight (8) building permits were issued for new construction, and fourteen (14) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new homes.

To date, 288 Rental Property Licenses have been applied for (from 276). Of those, 265 units have successfully passed inspection and received licenses, eight (8) have failed inspection and are currently non-compliant, and fifteen (15) have applied but have not scheduled inspections.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$35,730.92 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during May 2024.

We have a total fund balance of \$3,277,554.55 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.
 - Received partial submission, pending DelDOT
 - Also working on necessary utility easements
- Heritage Shores Phase 6A and 6B have been partially submitted for initial engineering review and will come to a full P&Z Meeting soon.

2024 Property Tax Bills

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 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025, which will be the date shown on your statement - and payment is due NO LATER than September 30, 2024.

Interest will automatically accrue on October 1, 2024, and every month after that.

The re-assessment process has not yet been completed and is now projected to be finalized in 2025. 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. Should you have any questions regarding your Special Tax District assessment, you may contact Municap directly at (443) 539-4112 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.

THANK YOU to our Legislators

Thank you to Senator Dave Wilson and Representative Jesse Vanderwende – we secured \$569,077 in funding in the FY25 Bond Bill to assist with creating safe walkways through sidewalks, curb, and stormwater in the areas between the Woodbridge Middle School and the Bridgeville Public Library.



Concert in the Park Recap – Saturday, June 29



Our first concert in the park had a turnout of over 200 people – thank you to Barren Creek Band, the Friends of the Bridgeville Public Library, Sweets on Scene, Hometown Harvest, and K&R Concessions, and all of the staff who pulled off organizing the event in the extreme heat! We look forward to planning similar future events in this space. The Town

now also has a salvaged/remodeled trailer that serves as a stage/event trailer so that it can be used at our many events during the year.



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.

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.

Town of Bridgeville - Capital Budget Work

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

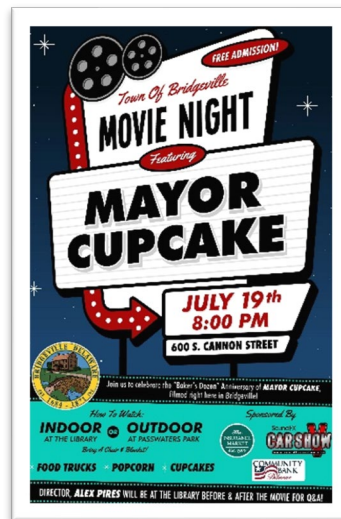
- Concrete work, including curbs and several handicap ramps, has started in Heritage Shores in the area of Whistling Duck Drive and Amanda’s Teal. Crews will work their way through the list within Heritage Shores, then move into the central part of

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.

- 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 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.

Upcoming Events

- **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