



June Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In June, the Town issued fifteen (15) building permits totaling \$39,957.72. Twelve (12) building permits were issued for new construction, and two (2) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new homes.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$80,090.23 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf in May 2025.

We have a total fund balance of \$4,047,393.43 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:

- Bridgeville Town Center – Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion – Received Final Approval in November – Site Work Started, Working out Waterline Agreements
- AutoZone – Minor Development Plan – Sketch Plan at May Planning and Zoning

2025 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 7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026, which will be the date shown on your statement, and payment is due **NO LATER than September 30, 2025**.

Interest will automatically accrue on October 1, 2025, and every month after that.

The reassessment process was not complete as of June, when the Town Charter requires us to adopt our budget, so reassessments will not be utilized for Town of Bridgeville property taxes until 2026 (for FY27). The property tax rate did NOT change for this year. More details on the County reassessment project can be found at <https://sussexcountysde.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 OpenGov tax payment portal – by



going to our website, under the “Pay Online” tab, and clicking “Tax Payments.” The direct link is <https://bridgevillede.taxandrevenue.opengov.com/>. 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.

Heat Wave and Buckling Roadways

During the record heat wave in the last week of June, temperatures with the head index were around 106-109 degrees. Throughout the state, several roadways failed and buckled in the heat, and we also experienced this issue in Bridgeville as part of a brutal introduction to summer 2025.



DelDOT came out to work on the intersection at N Main Street and Church Street, where Crews ground down the raised area. They will return for more formal repairs when the heat subsides. Please be cautious in the area in the meantime.

Town staff did a street-by-street survey of roadways to determine if we had any other potential issues. So far, we are fortunate that this is the only known area.

What causes this? Here is some of the science behind the issue: Roads buckle in the heat due to thermal expansion. Pavement materials, especially concrete, expand when heated. Most State roads have a layer of concrete underneath the asphalt. When temperatures rise significantly, the pavement can expand beyond its capacity to accommodate the expansion, causing it to buckle upwards, creating bumps or cracks. This is particularly noticeable where there are joints or where new and old concrete meet. This is also why full repairs cannot be completed until the heat subsides and the materials shrink back to normal.

Utility Billing Software Updates

After several months of hard work and three years of water meter upgrades, our new software is FINALLY here!



With this upgrade, you will see a new look to your bills and have access to a customer portal that will enable you to view, print, and pay your bills online. Through the customer portal, you can sign up for E-billing and autopay, view your bills, and view your usage history. Once you have received your first new bill, you will be able to register your account or use the quick pay feature by visiting <https://bridgeville.authoritypay.com>. **Your new bill will provide you with the necessary registration information, such as your new account**



number and CID number in the top right corner. You can also find the portal link by going to our website and clicking on “Pay Online” and then “Water Payments.” Once you are registered, you can set up your profile, payment methods, and bill delivery preferences.

We have received many questions about Autopay options. Be assured this IS coming, and we will announce it as soon as it goes live. It is currently still in development with our processor.

YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER HAS CHANGED – PLEASE BE SURE TO USE YOUR NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER ON ANY CHECKS OR BANK CHECKS.

For anyone with an irrigation account, we have merged those meters onto one bill – no more separate bills!

Autopayment features for Muni-Link (water bills) is still underway. We have been told to expect the feature around September.

Remember that enrolling in the customer portal does NOT automatically enroll you in E-billing. E-billing is a second selection within the account once you create your customer account. Please contact Town Hall if you have issues with enrollment.

If you have a tenant, they can create their own customer account using your account number and CID from your bill. It will not be connected to your account information. Many landlords have utilized this to allow for easier payment options. Please note that the landlord is still ultimately responsible for any unpaid accounts.

This process has not been without its challenges, as our old software was in place for 20+ years. If you have questions or concerns about your bill, please contact us at Town Hall – we are happy to review your account with you!

Another New Feature – Report a Concern

Another upgrade we have been working on has also launched – our new report a concern module. This feature is one of five developing modules with GovPilot. We contracted with GovPilot in 2024 to take on items, including licensing, permitting, and code enforcement, which are currently all being processed manually/by paper.





The Report a Concern module is our segue into Code Enforcement, but includes much more. Here, residents can report various issues they spot throughout town, from potholes to deceased animals in roadways, curb damage to fallen trees, and everything in between.

Once a concern is reported, the reporter will receive updates for the complaint as it is investigated and resolved.

On the back end, this feature gives the Town valuable data for the types and locations of concerns being reported and reporting on the resolution timelines. This

module also allows us to carry those concerns into code violations with letter templates, tracking, and billing for the standard code enforcement processes.

We will announce the additional modules as they are brought on; next should be rental and business licensing!

Swimming Pools- Code Reminder

Please remember that per Chapter 205-5 of the Town Code, all swimming pools must be enclosed by a fence at least four feet in height, and constructed of a material difficult for a person or child to pass through, such as wood stockade or chain link.

Also, per Chapter 205-6, water from the swimming pools shall not be drained into the ground. If the owner of a swimming pool wishes to drain the pool into the Town's storm sewer, he or she must first advise the Public Works Department of the Town. The Public Works Department may set certain conditions on the time and method of draining. A chemical analysis to determine whether the water to be drained would be harmful to the treatment facility or aquatic life must be performed by a certified laboratory at the owner's expense.

And finally, the owner of such land where a swimming pool will be used and maintained shall apply for a building permit from the Town of Bridgeville, prior to commencement of construction. Approval of such permit does not imply any liability on the part of the Town of Bridgeville, in the case of any future liability, criminal, or any other form of legal dispute that may arise.

Inflatable pools do not require a building permit but must meet all requirements set forth in this chapter.

Our section of code on swimming pools can be found at <https://ecode360.com/8859714>



Water Meter Pits, Meters and Irrigation Companies – Code Reminder

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.

Upcoming Events

Friday, June 25, 2025 – 8:00 PM Join us for a FREE Movie Night in the Park! Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy free popcorn while watching the classic 1995 Jumanji, starring Robin Williams! Jumanji is rated PG and runs for 104 minutes. This event is sponsored by our friends at Community Bank Delaware - where community matters!



Thursday, August 7, 2025 – Back to School Bash at the Bridgeville Police Department 2:00-6:00 PM





Save the Date!

Saturday, September 27, 2025 – Fall Town-Wide Yard Sale

Thursday, October 2, 2025 – Town-Wide Cleanup/Bulk Trash Pickup Day

Thursday, October 9, 2025 – Fall Free Movie Night

Friday, October 31, 2025 – Bridgevilleween –
Downtown Trunk or Treat and Trick or Treat –
Classic Board Games - “Clue”

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 – Tree Lighting
Ceremony



Saturday, December 13, 2025 – Annual Holiday
Parade – “Parade of Lights”



Respectfully submitted,

Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager