



January-February Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In January, the Town issued eleven (11) building permits totaling \$11,202.46. Three (3) building permits were issued for new construction, and four (4) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new homes.

In February, the Town issued eleven (11) building permits totaling \$50,198.42. Five (5) building permits were issued for new construction, and three (3) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new homes.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds for \$42,301.49 in realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf in January 2026, and \$62,049.19 in February 2026.

We have a total fund balance of \$4,738,237 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:

- Horizon Farm Credit – Minor Development Plan, Passwaters Farm Road – Pending Final Submission
- Heritage Shores Phase 6 – (~~January~~ March 2026)
- Vaibhav, LLC – Liquor Store Expansion

2026 Municipal Election

The Town of Bridgeville's Municipal Election, scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2026, was canceled. Bridgeville's last election was held in 2018.

District 2 candidate Jacqueline Parker has withdrawn from the election, leaving Sandra Richards unopposed. The following candidates have submitted the required documentation for their candidacies in their respective districts, were unopposed as of the filing deadline, and will be sworn in at the March meeting.

District 2 – Sandra Richards, for a 2-year term

District 3 – John Tomeski, for a 2-year term

District 4 – Robert Dutton, for a 1-year term

District 5 – Darrynn Harris, for a 2-year term

Workiversaries

In January and February, we recognized the following anniversaries for Town Employees –

- Casey Johnson, Clerk - 1 Year
- Jordan Chelton, Public Works - 5 Years
- Brandon Slater, Public Works Director - 6 Years
- Rick Passwaters, Public Works – 31 Years, and officially taking retirement as of 3/31/26. Congratulations Rick!!

Employee Recognition – DRWA Awards

Town Commissioners and several employees were in attendance at the Annual Delaware Rural Water Association Conference awards dinner, where one of our very own was recognized.

Jordan Chelton has worked with the Town of Bridgeville since January of 2021, entering a new public works career during a time of chaos and uncertainty, while the world was still reeling from the pandemic. He spent the next several years acquiring skills and education and elevating himself within our ranks; he successfully completed the DRWA apprenticeship program and earned his water operator's license. He has been working with our public works crew, taking the lead in everything from water system operations and snow removal to streets and fleet maintenance, and even in more creative and impressive efforts for our many events (remember that Lite Brite from our parade? Or our giant tree lighting switch?) Public works crews tackle so many roles, and through all the challenges, his patience, personality, and perseverance shine brightly.

He has become a valued, core member of our team, and so his recognition last night came as no surprise to us -

We are proud to see him selected as Water Operator of the Year. One Water and one Wastewater Operator from the state are chosen each year by the Delaware Rural Water Association, and we may be biased, but we can't think of a better choice! Congratulations, Jordan! We are all incredibly proud!



Open Positions – Board of Adjustment

We still have an open position available on the Board of Adjustment.

The board position serves a three-year term. The Board of Adjustment only meets as needed when applications are received; there is no set schedule. These meetings are usually during the day.

This is an excellent opportunity to get involved with the Town. Letters of interest may be dropped off at Town Hall or submitted to townofbridgeville@gmail.com.

What’s Going There Update

With the start of construction on the new AutoZone project near Walgreens, we have updated our “What’s Going There” page on our website. Be sure to check out this page whenever you see construction activity in town, as there may be useful information!


What’s Going There?

Welcome to our page dedicated to keeping you updated and informed about construction-related projects around Town!
 ***This page is constantly being updated – have a question about something you don’t see here? Contact Town Hall!

Approved/Active Projects:

AutoZone

Where: Commercial Centre Drive, Next to Walgreens
What: A 7,382 square foot AutoZone commercial building/store.
Links: [Plan Sets: January 20, 2026 Planning and Zoning Meeting – https://bridgeville.delaware.gov/events/planning-and-zoning-meeting-36/](#)
 Look for the “Elevations with Color” and “Proto Renderings” links for concept photos of the building.



Water Tower Valve Leak Recap

On February 9, 2026, we had an incident at the Heritage Shores Water Tower. Due to prolonged deep-freezing temperatures, a valve at the bottom of the sphere that holds the water failed, requiring the tower to be emptied. This tank holds around 400,000 gallons of water, and that was emptied into the field south of the tower. Fortunately, repairs were coordinated with our tank maintenance contractors, Southern Corrosion, and the tower was repaired, tested, and brought back online by the end of the same week.



More work will be scheduled to prevent this type of event from occurring in the future, and we will announce in advance when the tower will be taken temporarily out of service again. Our goal is to plan this alongside other maintenance work to minimize disruption to the water system and service. The incident created no concerns for water quality, as the tower was isolated as soon as the leak was detected. When the tower was refilled, it was tested per state requirements, and



only brought back into service once that test was successful. Residents may have experienced a slight drop in pressure while the tower was out of service.

Insurance Renewal DFIT

We just completed our annual renewal process for Property and Liability insurance through DFIT.

This year saw an increase of \$16,686 overall, or 16.22%. This increase was largely due to increases in determined property values, vehicle counts, and police employees under Law Enforcement Liability. Details of the Premium summary are attached to this report.

Hometown Heroes Banners Applications

The Commission previously approved the next round of Hometown Heroes Banners, and applications are due by mid – April. Please visit Bridgeville.delaware.gov for application information, under Info – Hometown Heroes.

HOMETOWN HEROES BANNER APPLICATION

Honoree Profile: Please fill this out and return it to the Program Coordinator.

Name: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Branch of Service: _____
E-mail: _____

Eligible:

- Global War on Terror (Sept 22, 2001 - Present)
- Persian Gulf War (Jan 22, 1990 - Aug 31, 1991)
- Civil War (Sept 9, 1795 - Dec 31, 1865)
- Vietnam Conflict (Feb 28, 1962 - Nov 7, 1975)
- Korean War (June 27, 1950 - Jul 31, 1953)
- WWII (Dec 7, 1941 - Dec 31, 1945)
- WWI (Apr 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918)
- Spanish American War (Apr 1898 - Aug 1899)
- Civil War (1861-1865)

Eligibility: 10+ year residency in Bridgeville or within 10000 zip code area, or graduation from Woodbridge School District and submission of DD214 or proof of honorable discharge

Sponsor Name and Phone Number: _____
Status (VA / POW / MIA): _____
Medals (Purple Heart / Silver Star / Bronze Star): _____

Preferred Placement of Banner (Circle One):
Cannon Street Delaware Ave Lakes Street Walnut Street
Family Address to assist in placement (optional): _____

Banner Price \$ 110.00 Bracket Price \$ 65.00 Total Cost \$ 175.00
<https://bridgeville.delaware.gov/hometown-heroes/>
Program Coordinator:
Karen Johnson-Kemp, Library Director 302-337-7401 karen.johnson-kemp@tda.us

Grant Application Updates

The first quarter of 2026 has been incredibly busy with grant applications. These applications are essential to support projects in our town that do not deplete tax revenue or reserves. Below is a summary of applications that have either been submitted or are in process to be submitted soon.

DEMA Grant Update – \$22,750. This grant provides security features to Town Hall and our water towers and well houses. The funding has been on hold with federal restrictions over the past year, and we hope that it will be released soon. The Commission approved a match to this grant for estimated project costs with the FY26 Capital Budget. We reapplied to this funding as a change request from a previously awarded project.

DSHA Technical Assistance Grant – Not direct funding, technical assistance. This grant provides a designated planner to the eight awarded municipalities that applied in 2025 under Senate Joint Resolution 8. The program is designed to support local governments in implementing zoning and land use reforms that promote housing opportunities.

Chesapeake Bay Trust – Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Program – Not direct money, funds the program and any necessary expenses. The program helps plan and hold a two-day charette with key stakeholders to discuss and plan green infrastructure that minimizes flooding, manages stormwater, and creates beautification opportunities. Encourages natural approaches (rain gardens, tree canopies, aesthetic elements, etc.). Seaford



did a similar project approximately two years ago, which created a pathway for ten years of capital improvement projects.

Emergency Operations Planning – Technical Assistance program through Sussex County, which provides free training, templates, and guidance for updating the Town’s Emergency Operations Plan, which kicks in during emergencies/disasters. The Town’s existing plan was adopted in 2006.

DelDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) – This program facilitates the development of non-traditional transportation projects with the goal of providing choices for non-motorized users that are safe, reliable, and convenient. The application would fund a study to address/assess pedestrian/bicycle facilities, shared use paths, infrastructure elements for disabled/elderly, sidewalk connectivity, safety, and more.

Emergency Response Protocol Proposal for Surveillance Infrastructure Evaluation – \$6,000 Value - Awarded to Western Sussex Municipalities to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the current surveillance camera, Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR), and infrastructure capabilities of the Western Sussex County municipalities: Greenwood, Bridgeville, Seaford, Blades, Laurel, and Delmar. This initiative aims to provide each community with an individual report outlining their existing systems, recommendations for best practices, a proposed system architecture, and estimated funding needs for future expansion. The goal is to assist each municipality in making informed, efficient, and cost-effective decisions when implementing or upgrading public safety surveillance systems.

UD CRDS Project – University of Delaware Coastal Resilience Design Studio – This program works with graduate students in the University of Delaware Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative and the University of Delaware Landscape Architecture Program to connect communities, students, not-for-profits, governmental entities, and professionals with the common goal of increasing the sustainability and resilience of Delaware’s coastal communities. The program will recognize hazards of storm surges, chronic flooding, erosion, and land subsidence, and help design solutions and resiliency plans for the same. They have worked over the last few years with Milton, Georgetown, and Slaughter Beach.

UD IPA Cohort – The University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration, providing technical assistance funded by USDA – Rural Community Development Initiative – Awarded to Bowers Beach, Bridgeville, Dagsboro, Ellendale, Georgetown, and Milford. RCDI grants are awarded to help low-income rural communities to support community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas through training and technical assistance. Delaware USDA RCDI Focus Areas: community planning, capital budgeting, and project management IPA Support Provided: training, workshops, and hands-on technical assistance Monthly Training & Workshops from January 2026 - December 2026. Ongoing Project Development Support from January 2027 - December 2027. On-call assistance throughout.



FY27 Community Project Funding (CPF) – Dual Application through Representative Sarah McBride and Senator Chris Coons - \$4 Million dollar combined application for the Baltimore Trust renovation project – The Vault.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – In coordination with Sussex County, we have agreed to hold a public hearing for the next round of CDBG funding. That hearing is estimated to occur in June, and we are working through a potential list of residents that may benefit from the information. The hearing will be advertised when the day is confirmed.

Status updates on previously awarded grants and projects will be part of the April meeting packet/ March Town Manager’s Report.

Save the Date – Community Events

May 2, 2026
Spring Town Wide Yard Sale

June 13, 2026
We are planning a Town event for June 13, 2026, so save the date! More information will come soon, but we are planning to incorporate our Memorial Bricks ceremony, with a little nod to history in the spirit of 250 events, and ending with a patriotic concert in the park! Food and other fun will, of course, be involved. We can’t wait to share more details, coming soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager

