



March Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In March, the Town issued five (5) building permits totaling \$998.50. Zero (0) building permits were issued for new construction, and one (1) Certificate of Occupancy was issued for a new home.

Realty Transfer Tax Data has not changed since our last meeting on March 30, 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
- Vaibhav, LLC – Liquor Store Expansion

Workiversaries

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

- Chief Parker, Chief of Police - 24 Years

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.

K9 Fundraiser – Kiwanis Chicken BBQ Event

We have an upcoming fundraiser for our Police Department. The Kiwanis Club of Bridgeville opened its 65th Chicken BBQ Stand Season on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Their stand currently benefits 28 different local community groups, and we are thankful for the opportunity to help support our beloved K9 Officer Django! The Bridgeville Police



Department will be on-site Sunday, May 3, 2026, for our annual K9 Fundraiser. Please note that the price for Kiwanis chicken changed in 2025 - platters are now \$12, and a half chicken only is now \$10. Various baked goods will also be available for purchase, so come hungry!

Reminder that the Kiwanis stand is accepting additional payment forms, including Cash App, Venmo, and PayPal, for an extra \$1 per platter.

For anyone who can't make the fundraiser but would still like to donate, we accept donations at Town Hall, and donations can also be made through our website by clicking "pay online" and then "virtual treat."

Emergency Services Funds

At the March Commission Meeting, it was voted to allocate 50% of the Emergency Services funds collected in 2025 to the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. These funds are collected through building permit fees throughout the calendar year. Since the program's inception in 2003, the fund has now contributed \$764,901.18 to the Fire Company!



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.

- **Submitted, Pending Approval, Affected by Federal Funding Freeze.**

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.

- **Kickoff Meeting in April**



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.

- **Submitted March 12, 2026, awaiting notice**

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.

- **Project in Progress – Workshops held March 5 and April 8, 2026. Technical assistance available through May 2026.**

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.

- **Submitting April 14, 2026.**

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.

- **Awaiting details for next steps**

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.

- **Kickoff meeting in April, work to be completed during UD summer semester**



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 to December 2027. On-call assistance throughout.

- **Already in progress – continuing throughout the year**

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.

- **Applications submitted March 6 and March 20, 2026, awaiting notice**

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.

- **Public Hearing to be in June 2026**

Upcoming Deadlines for Potential Applications:

- **Community Reinvestment Funds (State of Delaware, Bond Bill) – May 1, 2026**
- **DNREC Outdoor Recreations, Parks & Trails Grant Program (ORPT) – May 15, 2026**
- **Department of Transportation – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4) - May 26, 2026**
- **Downtown Development District (DDD) – June 15, 2026**
- **DNREC Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF)**

Save the Date – Community Events

May 2, 2026

Spring Town-Wide Yard Sale

May 3, 2026

Kiwanis Chicken BBQ – K9 Fundraiser

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