



April Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In March, the Town issued thirty-two (32) building permits totaling \$63,011.68. Sixteen (16) building permits were issued for new construction, and four (4) Certificates of Occupancy were issued for new homes.

The town received \$65,356.50 in realty transfer taxes collected during the month of March.

We have a total fund balance of \$4,821,583 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 (May)
- Vaibhav, LLC – Liquor Store Expansion

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.

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, first progress meeting May 12, 2026**

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.

- **Submitted April 14, 2026, awaiting notice**

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, with next meeting scheduled June 8-9.**

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**

Community Reinvestment Funds (FY27 Bond Bill) – Submitted for consideration of a 50/50 match in funding the proposed expansion to Town Hall (up to \$650,000 by estimate).

- **Submitted May 1, 2026**

Upcoming Deadlines for Potential Applications:

- **DNREC Outdoor Recreations, Parks & Trails Grant Program (ORPT) – May 15, 2026**

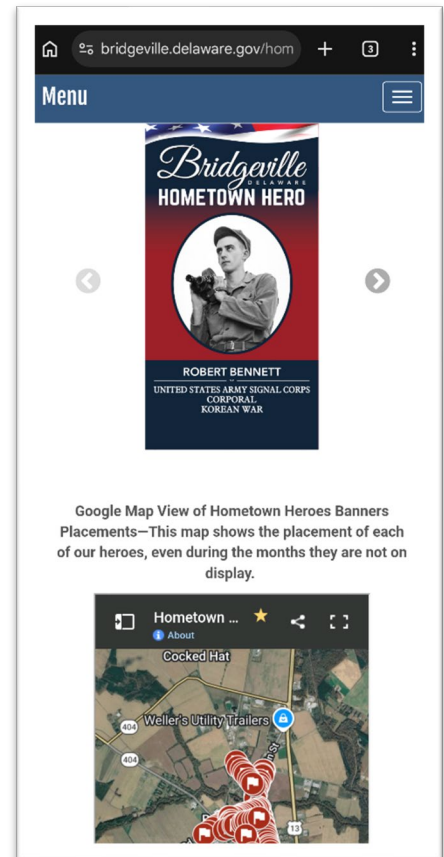
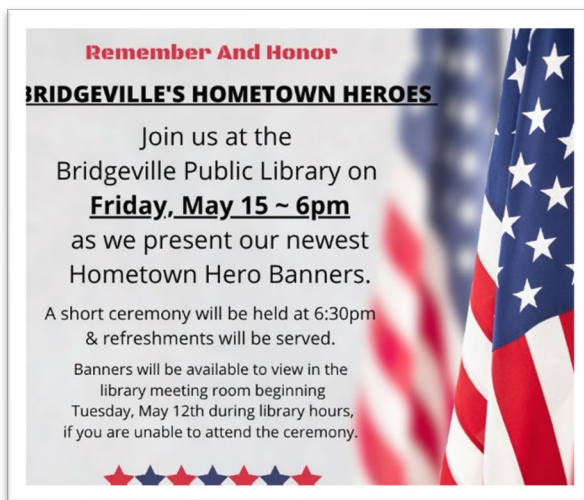
- **Department of Transportation – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4) - May 26, 2026**
- **Downtown Development District (DDD) – June 15, 2026**
- **DNREC Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF)**

Hometown Heroes Banners

A New round of Hometown Heroes banners will go up for this year’s season.

The new honorees are already on our website and shown in their locations on our interactive map.

A ceremony will be held at the Bridgeville Public Library – and the banners will be in place before Memorial Day.



Sussex County Association of Towns Dinner

On Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Bridgeville once again proudly hosted the monthly Sussex County Association of Towns' Dinner at the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. Each month, a different town in Sussex County hosts the dinner, which is a networking and educational event for municipalities, elected officials, and many of the businesses and vendors we work with.

This year, we had around 120 guests, including representatives from sixteen different cities and towns in Sussex County, as well as Sussex County Administration.





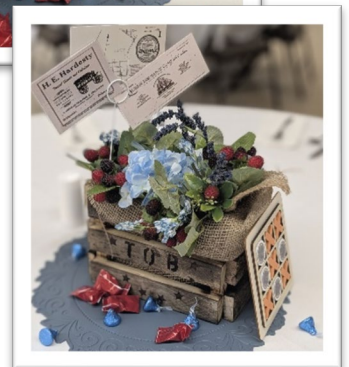
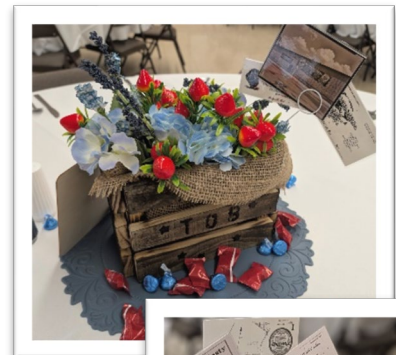
Special thanks to those who work with us to host the event - including the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary for the delicious food - and of course, the famous roast beef and dumplings that so many people look forward to! Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. for sponsoring, and It Takes Two - Event Bartending for providing bartending services. And of course, Rapa Scrapple for providing the scrapple that has become another of our signature Bridgeville features at our dinners! We displayed their banner this year and highlighted their 100th anniversary in operation right here in town.

Special thanks also to our guest speaker, Ed Lewandowski, University of Delaware Coastal Resilience Design Studio. He spoke about some work the program has already done for other towns in our state - providing professional-level designs and plans we can work with for projects, while also working with college students in the program. The Town will be working with this program over the summer session of 2026.

We also took the opportunity to honor one of our own, Rick Passwaters, who retired this year after 31 years with the Town of Bridgeville. President Darrynn Harris of the Town of Bridgeville, Councilman Steve McCarron of Sussex County Council, Executive Director Heather Warren with Delaware Rural Water, and Representative Jesse Vanderwende and Senator Dave Wilson presented tributes to him in recognition of his lifetime of public service to our community. ❤️



And last but never least - special heartfelt thanks to our employees, who work tirelessly to make these events happen. There is so much preparation and organization done behind the scenes for all of our events throughout the year, and it would never be possible without our dedicated crew. This year's decorations and centerpieces were extra special - inspired by the 250th anniversary events by celebrating local Bridgeville history, with custom-made crates containing peaches, strawberries, and raspberries, and displaying bits of our own history - from historic advertisements to patents, businesses, historic records, and more!



Save the Date – Community Events

May 25, 2026

The Heritage Shores Military Club is leading a Memorial Day Ceremony at Union Methodist Church on Monday, May 25th, 2026. Union Methodist Church, 2 N Laws Street. All are welcome!

June 13, 2026

Join us on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 4:00-8:00 PM - We are hosting a patriotic Concert in the Park featuring the Star Spangled Sweethearts!

The event will start with a brief Memorial Brick Ceremony - where we acknowledge and honor those who have contributed to the Memorial Brick program, which had been put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. Anyone who purchased bricks or benches during that time will also receive a direct invitation by mail.

Once this batch is installed, we will reopen the program to the public. Our plans for the continued growth and construction of the park space next to Town Hall include an expanded walkway to allow for many more bricks, so there will be plenty of room to participate!

Also, this is your chance to be a part of Bridgeville history - come sign our guest book for our official time capsule! Our 50-year time capsule will be on display. Businesses and organizations throughout town will also receive a direct invitation to contribute to the time capsule - so look out for an invitation with additional information by mail soon!

We will have a food truck on site, and this event will be the debut of our own custom, locally made mini-golf course!



Respectfully submitted,



Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager