

# Summer 2022

## Newsletter for the Town of Townsend

### In this issue:

- ❖ New Town Council
- ❖ Code Red Signup
- ❖ Welcome TPD
- ❖ Community Events
- ❖ From the Town
- ❖ Chief Longo Tips
- ❖ The Mayor's Corner

### TOWN MANAGER:

**Antonina Tantillo**

[townhall@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:townhall@townsend.delaware.gov)

302-378-8082

### TOWN MAYOR:

**Scott Lobell**

- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Human Resources
- ❖ Land Use & Development
- ❖ Code Review

### TOWN COUNCIL

**Eschalla Clarke**

- ❖ Community Engagement
- ❖ National Wildlife
- ❖ Public Safety
- ❖ Veterans committee

**Edward Dugan**

- ❖ Human Resources
- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ National Wildlife

**Joshua Mertz**

- ❖ Code Review
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ Public Safety

**Sheryl Rojas**

- ❖ Land Use & Development
- ❖ Veterans Committee
- ❖ Community Engagement



## FROM THE HEART

### New Town Council Seated

After the May 2022 Town Election, Scott Lobdell was seated alongside returning Councilmembers, Eschalla Clarke and Joshua Mertz. Due to a lack of candidates in the election for the remaining Council seats, Ed Dugan and Sheryl Rojas were nominated by Council to each serve a 1-year term on the Town Council which was unanimously approved by the seated councilmembers. Scott Lobdell was then nominated by Council as the new Mayor for a 1-year term.

Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month. Please join in person or virtually to see your Town Council at work.

### Code Red, Code Red: What is it?

Code Red is an Emergency Notification System that notifies residents of emergencies and time-sensitive situations in our area. Any message that affects the safety and welfare of our community will be broadcasted using the Code Red system. For residents to receive these important and possible life saving announcements, **you must register!**

We strongly urge you to visit the Town website and scroll to the bottom of the Town page for the Code Red registration button.

You can then elect to receive just emergency notifications or both emergency and general notifications. **Please register today!**

### Welcome Town Police Department



Do you feel like someone is watching you...well he's watching our community! Chief Bob Longo is officially on the job protecting the streets of Townsend. His official first day on the streets was May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Town is continuing to establish our "official" Police Station in the old Town Hall building. Chief Longo is making the rounds introducing himself to any residents he sees on the streets, unfortunately some by issuing citations. But he did stop to enjoy a glass of lemonade with some young entrepreneurs.

# **From the Town**

## **Juneteenth Recognized**

Resolution 2022-017 was approved to recognize the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War and will be celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup> every year. This is now an official holiday for town employees.

## **Speed Limits**

This is a reminder that all residential speed limits are 25 mph by default.

Also, our Town has been awarded an electronic speed sign. You will see it at various locations around Town to make you aware of how fast you're driving. Remember, Chief Longo is also patrolling our streets. Chief has issued 5 violations and has written 9 warnings as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Emails**

Register to sign up for emails on the Town's website ([www.townsend.delaware.gov](http://www.townsend.delaware.gov)) and you will automatically receive email notifications of each "news post" that is entered on the website. You can also unsubscribe at any time.

## **Town Complaints**

Please complete a complaint form regarding any issues you have or see in our town. Forms are available in the Town Hall or online here: [Complaint Form](#)

**ALL COMPLAINTS ARE 100%  
CONFIDENTIAL**

## **Grass & Weeds**

As we remain in the heat of the summer, grass and weeds continue to grow. Please remember to stay on top of mowing your lawn and maintaining vegetation. Overgrown grass and weeds are a violation of Town Code.

## **Parking**

Many residents have more than one vehicle. In some cases, neighbors may have as many as 3 or 4 vehicles. We all want to park our vehicles in our driveway or in front of our homes. However, it is never appropriate to block or park on or across the sidewalk or overhanging a driveway onto the sidewalk. Blocking the sidewalk is a violation of Town Code and has the potential of leading to tragic consequences as neighbors, children and individuals with mobility impairments may need to walk in the street to get around your vehicle. Remember...don't block the sidewalks or driveways.

## **Town Park**

The Town Park on Edgar Road is open daily from dawn to dusk. The pavilion may be rented out for special events. Resident fee is \$75 for 3 hours with a \$100 security deposit required

## **Property Tax Reassessment**

Beginning around July 18<sup>th</sup>, property owners should be aware of data collectors from Tyler Technologies in our community. They will be visiting every parcel asking basic information about the property: year built, number of bedrooms, square footage, etc. Please contact the New Castle County Assessment Office at 302-395-5520, should you have any questions.

## **Town Taxes**

Town of Townsend property tax bills will be mailed to residents and mortgage companies at the beginning of August. The Townsend tax rate remains at the rate of .008. Please contact Townsend Town Hall with any questions regarding your tax bill. Taxes that are paid by September 30<sup>th</sup> will receive a 5% discount and taxes are due by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Resources:

### TOWN EMPLOYEES

Jennifer Helms-  
Finance Officer  
Staci Guillotte-  
Administrative Assistant  
Kelsey Gallagher-  
Administrative Assistant  
Paul DiMartino-  
Public Works Supervisor  
George Hargrove-  
Maintenance Worker

### Townsend Fire Company 26

Fire Chief: Leonard Wallace III  
Deputy Chief: Patrick Gilchrist

107 Main Street  
302-378-8111  
911 for Emergencies

### Apoquinimink Community Library

204 E Main Street, Middletown  
302-378-5588

Hours:

Mon-Wed: 10am-9pm  
Thursday: Closed  
Fri-Sat: 10am-5pm  
Sun: Closed

### SCHOOLS

Townsend Early Childhood  
10 Brook Ramble Lane, Townsend  
302-378-9960

Townsend Elementary  
126 Main St, Townsend  
302-378-5020

Meredith Middle School  
504 S Broad St, Middletown  
302-378-5001

Odessa High School  
570 Tony Marchio Dr, Townsend  
302-842-2625

## Chief Longo's Safety Tips

Chief Longo has some reminders to help you, your property, and your pets remain safe for the summer:

- Keep your garage doors closed. An open garage door is a “Welcome” sign for mischievous behavior.
- Bring your pets INSIDE! This hot weather is tough on humans what about our pets that walk around covered in fur.
- Remember to lock your car doors and secure your valuables in a place where they aren't visible from outside the vehicle.
- Hydrate, hydrate and then hydrate some more! Drink plenty of water to help you avoid heat related health issues.
- Do not drive with your furry friends (or children) on your lap! This is a distraction and limits your reflex time. An airbag deploying could be deadly to all.
- Gates to a pool must be locked! Remove steps or ladders from pools to avoid a child entering on their own.
- Going on vacation, let your neighbors know! You can even contact the town to have Chief Longo swing by your house.

## Bicycle Safety for All

- Always pay attention to their surroundings when operating the vehicle
- Always keep both hands on the handlebars to maintain control
- Avoid distractions such as listening to earbuds and using cellphones
- Give full time and attention to the roadway
- Continually scan nearby and approaching traffic
- Watch for vehicles making sudden stops, and pulling out of side streets/parking lots
- Wear helmets whenever possible; riders aged 18 and under must always wear helmets.

## June Events

The Town hosted some fun events in June! Flag Day happened on the 14<sup>th</sup> with the Middletown JROTC demonstrating the process of how to fold our flag. Some residents then tried their hands folding the flag.

There was also a pickleball clinic on 6/28 sponsored by the Diamond State Pickleball Club. Residents attended the session that was held at 10:30am.

The walking club began taking steps walking from Town Hall to the Town Park on Edgar Road at 6:00 am or 6:00 pm. The route takes about 30-45 minutes to complete but this walk is at your own pace.



Town sponsored a wildlife photo contest to spotlight the beautiful nature that surrounds us in our community. Here are the winning photos:



## July Events

The walking club continued this month walking from Town Hall to the Town Park on Edgar Road at 6:00 am or 6:00 pm.



Cub Scout Pack 351 performed a knot tying demonstration for residents at the pavilion on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.



Pickleball will be back to Townsend! Watch for the announcement bringing Diamond State Pickleball Club to host another free clinic.



## August Events

The last dates to join the walking club will be August 4<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Town Hall and walk to the Town Park on Edgar Road at 6:00 am or 6:00 pm. Please join us!

Our final event for the summer will be our **Back To School/National Night Out** evening! This will be held at the Municipal Town Park on Edgar Road from 6:00pm until 9:00pm. School supplies will be handed out to residents with limits of 1 bag per child/1 per parents. Pizza and water ice will be available for purchase. Chief Longo will discuss back to school safety tips. Dr. Mertz will be demonstrating some cool science experiments, hopefully we'll have some static displays our emergency responder vehicles, and the evening will end with a flashlight walk on the park trail. Bring your flashlights!

## The Mayor's Corner

### **Hello Townsend!**

It's hard to believe that summer is already winding down and fall is about to take hold! As we begin to transition seasons, the staff at Town has been hard at work on many Town activities.

As the Town continues to grow, we have been putting measures in place to ensure that the growth will be managed responsibly. From the creation of our new Police Department to hiring our Public Works Supervisor, we are creating a proactive approach rather than reactive. Our new comprehensive plan has been certified and our zoning codes updated. These are important tools we use to help steer growth towards the Town goals.

With the pandemic restrictions winding down our committees are working diligently to schedule events for the residents to participate in. Pickleball, soccer, Flag folding and knot tying among the many activities we have had or still have planned. We are also looking forward to the upcoming back to school event at the Town Park.

We are excited to see everyone at the events and please don't hesitate to say hi if you see any of us while you are there.

Warmest regards,  
Mayor Scott Lobdell