

Fall 2022

Sept/Oct/Nov

Newsletter for the Town of  
Townsend

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**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**

- ❖ 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

141 Main Street  
P.O. Box 223  
Townsend, DE. 19734  
(302)378-8082



## FROM THE HEART

### Planning Commission Has New Members

Two new residents were sworn in to join the Planning Commission during the August 24<sup>th</sup> Special Town Council Meeting and have joined the Planning Commission meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Lisa Brooks, a native Delawarean, has been a Townsend resident for 15 years. She has wanted to be involved in the community and took the opportunity to join the Planning Commission when openings were advertised. Januarius Asongu, has also volunteered to fill an open position on the commission. He is interested in making Townsend a better town and especially interested in creating an environment that will help address the issues of global warming. Planning Commission meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month. Please join in person or virtually to provide resident input regarding the development of your community.

### Townsend Police Department is Growing

Townsend Town Council has hired Sergeant Earl McCloskey as the newest addition to our police force. Sgt. McCloskey was sworn into position during the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Town Council meeting. Both Chief Longo and Sgt. McCloskey are patrolling our streets and park area to make sure the community remains safe.

### School is Open

Townsend Elementary and Townsend Early Childhood Center have opened their doors for the 2022-2023 school year! Residents, please use extreme caution when driving. We have many of our children that wait for buses in the dark, some that walk to school and even ride their bikes.

When driving, please provide these children safe access to load and unload from their buses. Yield and allow them to cross the streets safely. Follow the instructions of the crossing guards, and the school's procedures for drop off and pick up.

Main Street is our main road in and out of town. Please show kindness and respect to all those involved in getting our children off to a fabulous school year!



# Local Eagle Scout Honoring Veterans

## Resources:

### TOWN STAFF

Mariaelena Rivera-  
Town Clerk  
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

### Appoquinimink Community Library

204 E Main Street, Middletown  
302-378-5588  
Hours:

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

### SCHOOLS

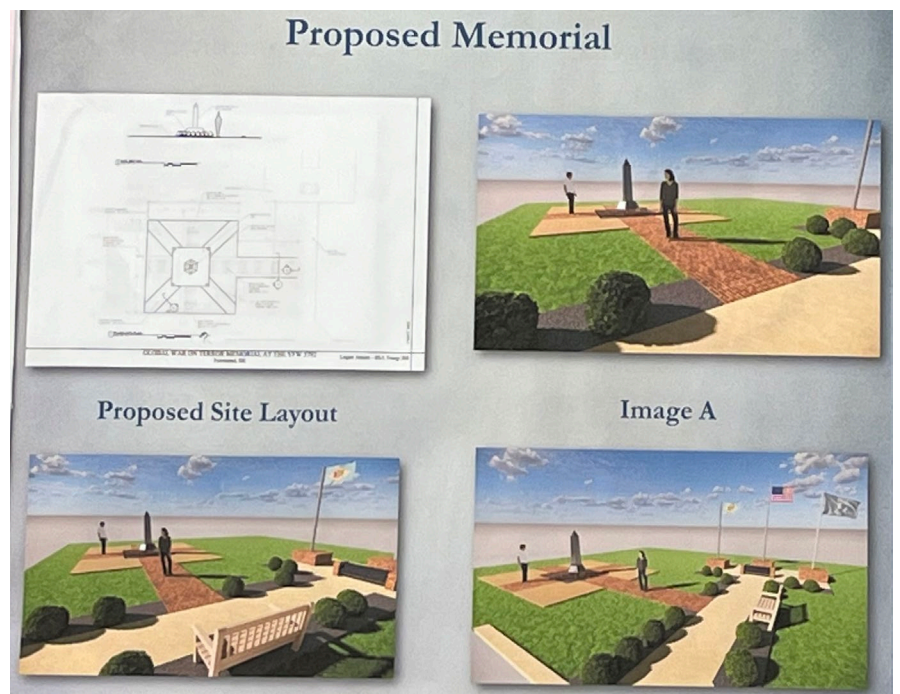
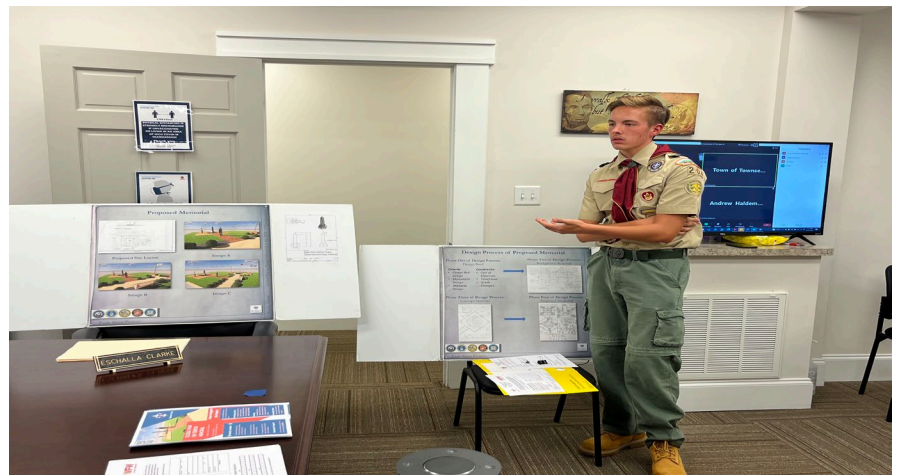
Townsend Early Childhood  
10 Brook Ramble Lane, Townsend  
302-378-9960

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

Odessa High School Junior, Logan Ament, of Boy Scout Troop 204, needs assistance to make his veteran project a reality. Logan has designed an elaborate memorial for the VFW Post 3792 in Townsend. This memorial will recognize and honor all those who served over the past 20 years (Post 9/11) in the Global War on Terror. The memorial will be walkway will be constructed of brick pavers. Logan is looking for donors to purchase a brick for \$100. Your brick will allow you to honor a loved one, engrave your family name, or put your business name on the brick. Check the Town website for donation information or go to Facebook page, **GWOTM**, for project information.



## Past Events

### Back To School

Townsend held a free back to school event on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Town Park on Edgar Road. The event was a success due in part to the wonderful sponsors who provided the funds for the Town to purchase supplies for over 200 children!

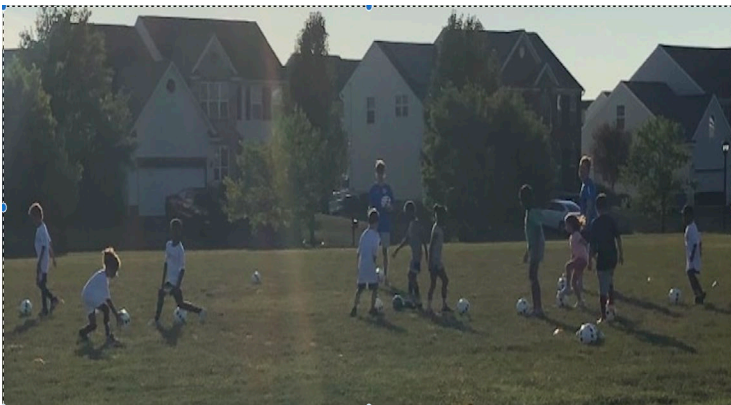
Our local Townsend Fire and Police Departments vehicles, along with New Castle County Paramedics and Police, and Middletown K-9 unit were all in attendance for the residents and children to explore.

Chief Longo held a safety presentation that enthralled the resident's attention, Master Corporal Brian McKinery with his trusty K9 partner demonstrated how searches are conducted, and our own Councilman Mertz and his super assist Emmet Mertz did some great experiments with explosions!



### Soccer In The Park

Our future soccer stars had the opportunity to participate in a workshop sponsored by the Town and Albion Soccer Club. The workshop hosted the workshop for ages 5-10 years of age to work on ball handling techniques, basic skills, and game play.



## Pickleball Returned

Diamond State Pickleball Club hosted another learning event at the court on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Another enjoyable learning session was provided to residents to learn the hottest game sweeping communities all over the country. Certified Pickleball Instructor, Harold Holeman, with The Pickleball Academy held a fun filled session that was full of technical skills training, rules, scoring and game etiquette. This group had so much fun that they plan on getting together to practice, play and learn again.



## 9/11 Day of Service

The 9/11 Day of Service was delayed, due to weather, but not forgotten. Town Council members, the Mayor, Chief Longo, and other community members cleaned up the landscape of our new Townsend Police Department on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. New plants were added and on flying was the 9/11 Freedom Flag that will be flown at Town Hall on every future 9/11 Patriot Days to come at Town Hall on every future 9/11 Patriot Days.



## Townsend Pumpkin Patch

The Town of Townsend participated in the annual Trunk or Treat at Townsend Elementary School on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Mertz was presenting creepy experiments and handing out candy too. The town theme was a train that represented Townsend's history. GFL donated 200 pumpkins to the town for a pumpkin patch on the front lawn of Town Hall.



## Upcoming Events

### November

#### Thank a Veteran

Veterans Day will be recognized on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall beginning at 10:30. Eagle Scout, Logan Ament, will discuss his Global War on Terror Memorial Project, and a local cub scout troop will talk about Veterans Day and read a poem about the red poppy that is associated with veterans. Pictures colored by our local children will be displayed in the windows of Town Hall from November 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. A moment of silence will be recognized at 11:11am in recognition of the Armistice Agreement ending WWII.

#### DVSA Food Drive

The Town of Townsend is again joining forces with DVSA to stomp out hunger in the community. There will be a donation box at Town Hall beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 22<sup>nd</sup>, for a food collection.

### December

#### Tree Lighting & Caroling

The Town of Townsend Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Caroling in the park and the tree lighting will return for this year with the support of Immanuel Methodist Church of Townsend. The tree lighting will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. There will be a collection in conjunction with the Marines Toys for Tots drive. Please consider donating a new unwrapped toy. Also, be on the lookout for a special visitor from the North Pole. (Rain date-December 11<sup>th</sup>- please visit the Town website and Facebook for event updates)

## Holiday Lights Contest

The Town of Townsend will again hold a Holiday Light Contest! Homes will be judged in two categories of animated movement and traditional static displays. Judging will occur the week of December 14<sup>th</sup>. No registration is required!

## Our Daily Bread Food Drive

The Town of Townsend is again requesting residents' assistance to stomp out hunger in the community. There will be a donation box at Town Hall beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> for a food collection of nonperishable items. Donations will be taken to Our Daily Bread in Middletown.

## 3 Palms Zoo

Beginning December 12<sup>th</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup>, the Town of Townsend will be collecting food and other needed items for the animals at our local 3 Palms Zoo.

Here is a list of food that animals eat:

- Squash / Summer & Winter
- Cucumbers
- Melons (Cantaloupe/Honey Dew/Watermelons)
- Kale, Leaf Lettuce, & Romaine
- Collard & Turnip Greens
- Tomatoes
- Bananas
- Apples
- Carrots
- Pumpkins
- Berries
- Corn on the Cob

Here are some non-food items:

- Lumber (2×4's, 4×4's, Plywood, Particle Board, etc.)
- Rolls of wire fencing
- Chain link & fence posts / Chain link panels / Kennels
- Dog houses or boxes / Igloos / In-tact Play Houses
- Paper Towels
- Dawn / Laundry Detergent / Bleach
- Holiday Decorations
- Outdoor extension cords

## **WE NEED YOU!**

## Volunteers Needed: 2023 Town Parade & Fair

Townsend Residents and Local Business Owners, please consider helping with the planning of the 2023 Townsend Parade and Fair. All ages are welcome to assist in the planning of the parade, fair activities and bring new or old ideas into the 2023 Parade and Fair. If you're interested in attending some planning meetings, please reach out to either the Town Manager at [atantillo@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:atantillo@townsend.delaware.gov) or Councilwoman Sheryl Rojas at [srojas@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:srojas@townsend.delaware.gov). Please provide your name, phone, email, and times that you're available.

Thank you for considering!

## Holidays Are Approaching...FAST!!

Families gather to enjoy each other, watch football, and EAT! Let us know what some of your favorite recipes are for the holidays. Is there a family recipe that has been handed down throughout the years to make candied yams? What about grandma's special cookie recipe? We'd love to know what you're baking and share those recipes with our community. If you have a favorite appetizer, entrée, side dish, or desert recipe you'd like to share please email it to Councilwoman Rojas at [srojas@townsend.delaware.gov](mailto:srojas@townsend.delaware.gov). Make sure to include your name with the recipe so all the residents will know who to thank.

## From the Town

### 9/11 Patriot Day Recognized

Resolution 2022-021 was approved to remember those who lost their lives during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. The Freedom Flag will be flown on this day so that our community will never forget.

### New Town Employees

Administrative Assistant Kelsey Gallagher and new Town Clerk Mariaelena Rivera are the newest employees of our Town. Kelsey assisted the Town at the Back to School event in August. Mariaelena started training for the Town Clerk position in September. Ms. Tantillo states both employees are learning quickly.

### Committee Meetings Open to Residents

Residents, watch the Town website for your opportunity to provide input to your Town regarding, safety, events, and code updates. We encourage you to join the meetings in person or via zoom.

### Townsend Police Department

Our local police continue to patrol the parks and streets of Townsend. Chief Longo and Sgt. McCloskey have clocked 2,337 patrol miles within the town's boundary. Additional necessary equipment was approved for the officer's use and protection. Continued improvements are being made to the current station including a video court phone and a new outdoor sign was approved by Town Council and will soon be present on the building. The total department savings, a result of procured equipment by Chief Longo is over \$66,000.

### Annexation of Property into Town

Town Manager Ms. Tantillo is fielding calls from property owners expressing interest to annex into Townsend. Ms. Tantillo is working with the Planning Commission to update the annexation map in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan to provide controlled growth opportunities for the town.

## Townsend Fun Facts

- Before 1850, the area within the present boundaries of the town was occupied by a small African American community called "Charley Town," named after Charles Lloyd, one of the residents.
- In 1856, the town was renamed Townsend after the largest landowner- Samuel Townsend, also known as the "Peach King".
- Two ways they say it: Towns'nd, for the Townsend family. Or Towns-end because Delaware Railroad conductors used to sound it out that way.



Delaware Railroad Station

Delaware Public Archives, RG 9015-028-000\_02341.tif, 9015-028-000 Caley Postcard Collection  
digital date 2013, original date 1907

## **The Mayor's Corner**

As you will all see in reading this newsletter, it has been quite a busy time for the Town. There were many well attended events for the residents, and we were thrilled to see so many faces out and about at these events and around Town.

There are also many upcoming events in November and December which we are excited about and hope to see similar participation!

Our Police department is celebrating their 1-year anniversary this November. Chief Longo and Sgt. McCloskey have made tremendous strides in growing the department over this last year. The strong foundation they have built will ensure the Police department's success for many years to come.

With the holidays and colder weather coming, keep an eye out for your neighbors and fellow residents. The great thing about having a small-town environment is that it is easy to look out for one another and to help those who may need it.

We wish everyone Happy Holidays for all the upcoming celebrations over the next few months and as always do not hesitate to reach out to the Town if we can assist with anything!

Mayor Scott Lobdell