

# CODE & BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR

## ERIC EVANS

What a year we have had here in Millville with new phases starting in the developments of Millville by the Sea, Bishops Landing and Coventry, and the first subdivision of Windhurst Manor winding down. Here is an overview of what has taken place.

### Millville by the Sea:



Above is the lake view of the new Amenity Center which consists of a Wellness Center, Community Building, Pool House and Crab Shack Pavilion. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on April 26, 2014, at the Wellness Center and Community Building. The Pool House and Crab Shack Pavilion are still under construction.

### Bishop's Landing:



Above is the Bishops Landing Amenity Center under construction. What appears to be 1 building is actually 2 buildings attached with a portico connecting the 2 buildings. The pool is located behind the building. On the right side is the Club House and on the left is the Pool Room and Fitness Area.

The Town issued 178 Building permits for fiscal year 2014, which runs from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014. That's an increase of approximately 112% from fiscal year 2013.

Of the 178 building permits issued, 119 were for Single Family Homes and Townhouse Units. This is an increase of 116% from fiscal year 2013.

Here's the break down by development:

	Permits Issued	Certificate of Occupancies Issued
<i>Bishops Landing</i>	57	35
<i>Coventry</i>	14	12
<i>Meadows</i>	3	2
<i>Millville by the Sea</i>	32	37
<i>Windhurst Manor</i>	12	16

## ERIC EVANS (CONTINUED)

The remaining 59 building permits were issued for Commercial tenant fit-outs, the United Methodist Church's meeting hall, various amenity buildings and fences and sheds. So, as you can see, the Town is growing at a pretty fast pace. I tell everyone that Millville is the fastest growing Town in Sussex County, if not the State.

Notwithstanding the following still applies for construction hours:

§ 72-2 Construction activities on weekdays and Saturdays.

A. September 1 to May 15:

(1) Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(2) Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

B. May 16 to August 31:

(1) Monday through Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(2) Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

§ 72-3 Construction activities on Sundays and holidays.

A. No interior or exterior construction of buildings and dwellings shall take place on Sunday.

B. No interior or exterior construction of buildings and dwellings shall take place on the following holidays: New Year's Day; Memorial Day; Fourth of July; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day.

C. Nothing contained herein shall prevent any homeowner from working within his own property boundaries, provided that such work is done by the homeowner and members of his immediate family and the property is used exclusively by him or his family and guests as the dwelling of the property.

§ 72-4 Infrastructure construction activities.

Construction activities related to the installation of water and sewer infrastructure, roads, stormwater and roadways are exempt from time limitations stated in § 72-2.

## MILLVILLE AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY

The turn of the twentieth century saw continued development of Millville's physical, social and political infrastructure.

In 1897, Delaware Laws enacted incorporation of the Derickson's Millpond Branch Ditch Company (see Town website for Map 1 from May, 2013 newsletter for location of Derickson's Millpond). Owners along the Branch's "lowlands" were to meet "the second Saturday of May in every year" at "the storehouse now owned by Elisha C. Dukes, at Millville..." to manage the drainage and reclamation of the lowlands (see Map 2 of the May, 2013 newsletter for the store location).

Generally, tax ditches were constructed to improve drainage on agricultural lands.

"The leading characteristic of Baltimore Hundred is the large number of small farms that have been carved out of what, in early years, was almost worthless soil, and by dint of good management and intelligent farming, made highly productive. The major part of the population is composed of sea-faring people, who after following the sea for years, are able to husband enough means to return to Baltimore Hundred and buy a small farm, where their latter days are spent in ease and quiet." (Source: History of the State of Delaware, Henry Clay Conrad, 1910)

Chapter 135 of the 1907 Delaware Laws provided for the authorization of the Commissioners of School District No. 181 to borrow \$2,000 to build and furnish a Millville schoolhouse. State law required taxpayer approval with "...one vote for every dollar and fractional amount of a dollar of tax assessed to him or her respectively..." provided tax obligations had been met. 1905 County tax records show that taxable real and personal property generally included cows, horses, mules, sows, yoke oxen, land and buildings. George Townsend's mill was among the taxables listed under his name.



Photo 4: Strawberry picker's house, facing southeast.

cent photo.

The Millville Methodist Presbyterian Church (now Reflections Antiques) was built in 1897; and Millville United Methodist Church in 1907. The Doric Lodge was constructed in 1904 and dedicated in 1905.

All of this activity coincided with the Town's political birth. In 1907, the State incorporated the Town of Millville: "Elisha C. Dukes, George H. Townsend, and Thomas R. Steele are hereby appointed commissioners ...to survey and lay down on a plot the town of Millville...and establish its limits making and describing the streets and sidewalks..." with an election "to be held in Millville, Sussex County on the first Saturday of March, A.D., 1908..."

The Millville Historical Preservation Commission welcomes copies of photographs or any other artifacts. Thank you.

In 1900, John G. Townsend of Selbyville had formed a partnership with Millville's George Townsend (no relation). Together, they purchased 118 acres of timberland for cutting and manufacture into shipping crates: "By 1900 at least one basket or crate factory was to be found in almost every town in Sussex County." (Source: "Industry in Delaware, 1860-1900," Burton G. Brown, 1958). A strawberry picker's house located on the former Pearl Robinson property (where Giant is now located) appears in the adja-