

Ridgely, the Strawberry Capital of the world!

I have always had fond thoughts of Ridgely as I have lived in this area all of my life. I lived on Third Street. I went to Ridgely School for all 12 years. I remember the Bullet; fun at Wilkins dancing to the juke box to Bill Haley and the Comets and Elvis; visiting Cherry's Jewelry Store; reading every book in the little library next to the Fire House; Halloween street parties; visits to Dr. Fifer when sick. Clarence Sutton and Grayson Winstead were always there to keep things lively!

I care deeply about Ridgely and am happy and proud to again be part of the Ridgely community and use my skills and experience in helping govern. My government experience includes Town Manager in Greensboro. Many things were accomplished during my eight years there. We renovated the waste water plant. We were able to complete replacement of water, sewer, sidewalks and streets for Main Street and Sunset, a complex process that it involved many funding agencies and each covered different portions of construction. Riverside Park was created, we removed 5 houses and used AmeriCorps to place stone revetment along the river. The water tower on the east side of Town was paid for through two grants and a loan. The loan payment was made by renting antenna space to a cell phone company. Many of the Greensboro projects have application to Ridgely and I look forward to working in Ridgely residents, Commissioners and staff.

My last position was as Housing Rehabilitation Coordinator for Caroline County. During my seven years I wrote grants and received \$1,125,000 in grants to rehabilitate 110 houses. This was a very rewarding program. The program was discontinued due to budget cuts but I hope to reinvent and help Ridgely citizens in need of program services.

My goal is that our Town maintains current services at the least costly and most effective way possible and expand when need and funding permits. I have developed an excellent working relationship with staff of many funding agencies and hope to benefit Ridgely as a result.

Diane E Wojcik  
Ridgely Town Administrator