Message from Our First Selectman

The "Dog Days of Summer" are still upon us, which means it's almost time for the Bridgewater Fair. The BVFD and other volunteers will be working overtime with preparations followed by the big weekend of August 17th-19th. Let's hope the weather behaves for the event that makes our little town a regional hot spot.

Speaking of the weather, the southern half of Bridgewater is still recovering from the tornado-like winds of May 15th. Damage to trees will take years to disappear. We should recognize the fast response to this natural disaster by our town crew, firemen, citizens and contractors. It was as immediate and effective as it could have been in restoring the utilities we tend to take for granted. Some residents needed patience and understanding while the necessary work was underway. We all know it could have been much worse. Needless to say, the town crew was amply rewarded with cookie deliveries from thankful storm victims. Hopefully, FEMA will reimburse Bridgewater for 75% of our expenses to clear town roads and public properties.

On June 14th the Blue Star Memorial marker was dedicated near the walkway between the Burnham Library and the Peck House. It is a gift from the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club that commemorates military families. I give kudos to Adrienne Caruso for spearheading this initiative and organizing the unveiling ceremony. Passers-by will see this beautiful bronze marker and the flowering dogwood planted alongside. Our garden club members do so much to beautify Bridgewater by tending to plantings in many public areas. They never ask for the credit that they certainly deserve.

I hear that Bridgewater will be featured this Fall in the Sunday New York Times Real Estate section as a great place to live. I hope you all agree with this sentiment.
LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: April 2018
- Courtney E. Hora of Watertown, CT to AnneMarie Shannahan of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 42 Stackhouse Lane, $355,000.
- Stuart Farms, LLC of Bridgewater, to Sunny Meadow Farm, LLC of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 199 Curtis Road, $2,575,000.

Land Transfers: May 2018
- William B. Goldstein, MD, Trustee of Wilton, CT to 99 Town Line Road, LLC of Bridgewater, land, Town Line Road, $1,500,000.
- Vincent and Jane Harrison of Southport, NC to Adriana Mnuchin of Washington, CT, land and buildings, 7 Landmark Drive, $535,000.

Land Transfers: June 2018
- Linda W. Burton of Portland, Oregon to Jason and Nicole Orletski of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 15 Mine Hill Road East, $585,000.
- Carl J. Weese, Jr. and Bettina Skor Weese of Woodbury, CT to Sunny Meadow Farm, LLC, land and buildings, 180 Curtis Road, $625,000.
- Colette M. Bennett of Milford, CT to Jamie S. and Christopher Joseph of New York, NY, land and buildings, 53 Hut Hill Road, $545,000.
- Thomas R. and Wendy Dever of Bangor, PA, to Alexandra W., Sharon J. and Antonio Freitas of New Fairfield, CT, land and buildings, 430,000.
- Donald P. Garrity of Bridgewater to Holland Joint Venture LLC of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 20 Garrity Lane, $375,000.

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

Registrars of Voters

August
Tuesday 8-07-18 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 8-14-18 PRIMARY DAY
Bridgewater Senior Center
6:00A.M. to 8:00P.M.
Tuesday 8-28-18 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

September
Tuesday 9-04-18 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 9-25-18 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

October
Tuesday 10-02-18 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 10-30-18 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

All registration sessions will take in the Bridgewater Town Hall, second floor, 44 Main Street South, Bridgewater, CT. For further information, please call the Registrars at (860)-354-5901 during regular office hours on the first and last Tuesday of each month between 9:00A.M. and 11:00A.M.

Margaret Judith Sullivan, Democratic Registrar
Susan Patrick, Republican Registrar

Congratulations

Congratulations to Trooper First Class Kevin Anderson, who retired (effective June 30th) after eight plus years serving the towns of Bridgewater and Roxbury.
Thank you for your dedication to our towns!
Effective July 1, Tfc. Matthew Cimelus is taking on this responsibility until a permanent replacement is found.

The Grange

The Grange will be holding a Roast Beef Dinner in St. Mark Church’s hall on Friday, October 13, 5:30 --7:30 pm. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Weds. of each month starting at 7:00pm in St. Mark’s hall. As always, new members will be warmly welcomed. “There’s a place for everyone in the Grange.”

Regards,
Nancy Mascio 860-354-2028
FALL BULKY DROP OFF/PICK UP

Starts Monday, October 22nd

BULKY ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE TOWN GARAGE

Large dumpsters will be at the town garage located at 324 Hut Hill Road, where residents may drop off bulky household items to be disposed of from Monday October 22nd through Friday October 26th from 7:30am-3:30pm. And on Saturday October 27th from 9am-1pm.

One free pickup truck load or two carloads per household. Additional pickup loads will cost $25 per load. 1-3 ton truck loads will cost $50 per additional load, with a maximum of 3 total loads per household.

All articles that are too large to transport to the Town Garage in your own vehicle may be placed on the roadside for pick-up BY 7:30 A.M. MONDAY, OCTOBER 29th. If you put anything out after pickup is completed, it will be your responsibility to remove it.

NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!

What NOT to bring: HAZARDOUS WASTE (paint, solvents, pesticides, etc.), CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS, GARBAGE - State Law prohibits the town from accepting household garbage at the Town Garage.

The following items are accepted year round at the Town Garage; please do not put these things out for pick-up, although you may bring them to the Garage.
- TIRES - accepted for a fee, payable by check or cash
- APPLIANCES/ELECTRONICS (TVs, computers, refrigerators, microwaves, etc.)
- BRUSH (3 inches in diameter or less)

We accept bulky waste from BRIDGEWATER RESIDENTS ONLY!!
ASSESSOR’S OFFICE

Taxpayers who wish to file for Farm Land, Forest Land or Open Space under Public Act #490 must do so between September 1st and October 31, 2018. A Qualified Forester’s Report must accompany the Forest Land application, so please apply early as the process does take awhile.

Personal Property forms will be mailed early October. Personal property that is required to be claimed are any assets owned by October 1, 2018 and used for business purposes and unregistered motor vehicles. Examples of items used for a business are tools, office supplies, furniture and equipment (computers, fax, printers etc.). Unregistered Motor vehicles including campers, RV’s, snowmobiles, trailers and cars registered in another state but garaged in Bridgewater for more than 90 days. Tractor and horses need to be claimed if used for business purposes only. The Personal property forms must be received by November 1, 2018.

Attention Veterans- If you have not filed your honorable discharge papers with the Town Clerk you must do so before September 30th to receive your tax benefit for next year. There are various tax programs available for Veteran’s. If your income is below $35,300 if you are single or $43,000 if married not including Veteran benefits) you may qualify for an Additional veteran’s exemption. Also, if you were designated by the Veteran’s Administration as disabled please bring your form in as you may qualify for a Disabled Veteran’s benefit. These forms must be in our office before October 1, 2018.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in September to hear disputes on motor vehicle assessments only. Please contact our office in August for applications.

Totally Disabled and Certification of blindness must be filed with our office by October 1st.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (860) 355-9379.
Our hours of business are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8am until 12:30pm and Tuesday 8am until 3:30pm.

Denise C. Pinter Assessor

Volunteer Firefighter Among Eight Bridgewater Students Awarded Scholarships from Persbacker Fund

The Persbacker Family Scholarship Fund at Connecticut Community Foundation has awarded college scholarships of $2,725 each to eight Bridgewater residents for the 2018-19 academic year.

The Persbacker fund is among the largest college scholarship funds available to students residing in Bridgewater, Connecticut. To receive a scholarship from the fund, a student must demonstrate an outstanding commitment to community service in the town of Bridgewater, and student’s primary residence must have been in Bridgewater for at least six years. The awards are renewable for up to four years.

Hunter Wilson, whose community service includes volunteering on the Bridgewater Fire Department, is one of the newest Persbacker scholarship recipients. Following in the footsteps of both parents (and a brother!) who also volunteer at the department, Wilson is CPR trained and certified in first aid, and is as practiced at rescuing people from cars after an accident as he is cleaning Bridgewater’s fire trucks.

The Persbacker scholarship will help defray Wilson’s education expenses as he pursues a degree in agricultural equipment technology at University of Northwestern Ohio.

Former Bridgewater resident Victor L. Persbacker established the scholarship fund at the Foundation with the intention of making college more affordable for students dedicated to community service.

The Persbacker Fund has awarded 65 scholarships totaling over $200,000 since its inception in 2004. This year’s recipients of the scholarships are:

Rachel Crossley (University of Connecticut)  
Kelsey Johnson (Purdue University)  
Katherine Klein (Boston College)  
Kristine Klein (Syracuse University)  
Kathleen Sinatra (Union College)  
Emma Virbickas (Western Connecticut State University)  
Lars Vikstrom (Ithaca College)  
Hunter Wilson (University of Northwestern Ohio)

For more information about the scholarship program at Connecticut Community Foundation, visit http://conncf.org/scholarships/.
VA MISSION ACT (S.2372)
Signed into law on Jun 6, 2018. This law applies to ALL America’s veterans, their families and caregivers. It will extend eligibility for VA’s comprehensive caregiver assistance program to ALL generations of seriously injured veterans. Currently, VA offers full caregiver benefits only for veterans injured on or after September 11, 2001, leaving family caregivers of veterans injured in earlier conflicts and eras ineligible for this critical support. The new law will require that VA first update the caregiver program’s IT system to handle the expanded number of eligible veterans and caregivers, and then extends eligibility to veterans from the Vietnam, Korean and World War II eras. Two years later, eligibility will be phased in for veterans injured between 1975 and 2001, including those hurt during the Gulf War. There are many other benefits to this law but above is the most critical. If you are enrolled in VABenefits.gov, you can now check your status for further care and benefits previously denied.

The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)
This allowance for Surviving Spouses is now a Permanent Benefit: The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) is a benefit for surviving spouses who receive a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity that is offset by a Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payment from the VA. SSIA is now a permanent benefit. The benefit will now be paid at $310 per month plus a cost-of-living adjustment each calendar year. The cost-of-living adjustment will begin in 2019. It can be confusing how this allowance works so please contact: www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Understanding-SBP-DIC-SSIA for the exact wording and eligibility.

New Clothing Allowance:
Did you know that you may be eligible for an annual clothing allowance if you use a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance and/or medication for a service connected skin condition that causes permanent damage to your outer garments? If you're eligible, and you haven't yet applied for this year, you need to act fast! If you have already submitted your application, then no further action is required on your part. Your application should be submitted on or before August 1, 2018. To apply, submit (in person, by mail, or fax) VA Form 10-8678, Application for Annual Clothing Allowance, to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at your local VA medical center. Additional information on this benefit is available at https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/Clothing_Allowance.asp. Note: If you were in Vietnam, Agent Orange is presumed and this would help secure your case for the Clothing Benefit.

If you have any questions or suggestions on how to improve this information, please email me at townofbridgewaterva@gmail.com or give me a call at 860-355-2433.

Joe Buchheit LTC, USA (Ret.) VA Liaison, Town of Bridgewater
Region 12 Updates

The Region 12 School District is entering a very exciting time. Although change can be scary, it can also mean the beginning of something wonderful. The first phase of the AgSTEM program, which is the demolition phase of the project, is underway. The Shepaug campus is closed to visitors during demolition to ensure safety.

The physical building itself will be going through a transformation as will the opportunities for the Shepaug students. All Shepaug students will be invited to take courses that explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). We are not just building the AgSTEM academy, we are building up Shepaug. The AgSTEM program is not just about traditional farming and mechanics, but is also about creating dynamic learning opportunities for our students. Students will not only work with drones to collect soil samples to determine crop success, but will also extract DNA from plants to determine medicinal impacts of plants, study bioengineering, learn about chemical impact on our environment, explore farm-to-table options, identify variables and apply business concepts. This is STEM with an agricultural focus!

At a recent Board of Education meeting, Ms. Cathy Colella shared the positive effect of the teacher teams on the students' achievements in the multiage classrooms at Burnham School. The dynamic approach to having multiple ages in the classroom allows students to break through the constraints of grade levels. Students are given the learning materials they need for their own progress.

An additional change for the Region is new leadership. Superintendent Megan Bennett began her role on July 1st. Megan is excited to join the three communities in building a world class education system. To stay up-to-date with all of the latest information about our schools, please visit the Region 12 website (www.region-12.org) as well as our social media network.

A special thank you to the Bridgewater community for their support. As a district, we will continue to seek resources to improve educational opportunities for our children. Bridgewater may be small, but it has a big heart!

The goal of the Region is to make sure our schools reflect our communities. Feedback and communication are always welcomed and considered.

Welcome Our New Superintendent

The Regional School District #12 Board of Education selected Ms. Megan Bennett as their next superintendent of schools. Ms. Bennett began her tenure on July 1, 2018.

“We are confident Ms. Bennett has the skill set and the character traits that will fit perfectly within our regional framework. In a strong applicant pool, Ms. Bennett emerged as our candidate of choice due to her commitment to children, her lifelong love of learning, and her highly successful career as an educator and as an administrator. Ms. Bennett has a deep understanding of K-12 teaching and learning which is illustrated by her work in Southington, Rocky Hill, and Taunton, MA as an elementary school principal and her district wide leadership work in both Taunton, MA and Hartford, CT.”

- Anthony Amato, Chairman Region 12 Board of Education
Burnham School
PTO NEWS

A new school year is in the books, and we had quite a successful year! One year ago, we were all introduced to the stunning new classroom configuration at Burnham School. The students and staff had some adjusting to do but this 'new' configuration now feels normal and everyone seems to be very happy with it. We can never thank our Principal, Cathy Colella and her staff enough for all their hard work throughout the year. Thank you!

The PTO and Fundraising Committee spent the last year planning for Burnham’s annual major fundraiser, which was on held May 1st at the school. The event featured over 100 silent auction items and live auction keepsakes crafted by the students was heartwarming to say the least. All efforts in planning and preparing for the event paid off, as we grossed over $14,000 that night! The PTO and school community sends a big ‘Thank You’ to all who contributed to the success of this grand event!

The Burnham School PTO has a new slate of board members. Please welcome the 2017-18 Board!

**Co-Presidents:** Danielle Livingston & Greg Bura

**Vice President:** Cindy Meglio

**Co-Treasurer’s:** Joy Ruppert & Rhei C. Gordon-Bura

**Secretary:** Alix Gustavson

Important Upcoming Dates:
- Kindergarten Bus Orientation: August 22 at 2:30
- First Day of School: August 27th
- Ice Cream Social: August 29th at 6:00pm

Have a Safe and FUN Summer!!

Kind Regards,
Diana Kelly (Former) PTO President, Burnham School
Diana.kelly@live.com

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The Bridgewater
Scholarship Committee

**Summer Edition 2018**

This year’s "class" of applicants was smaller than in recent years. 34 students completed the process and will be awarded scholarships as compared to 44 last year and 48 the year before. However, the quality of this group was arguably superior to any we've had. Both academically and as civic volunteers, they are Bridgewater’s shining stars.

This year we began a mentor program for those students who wanted guidance in their chosen fields. Eleven students asked for mentors, and we were able to match them with kind and accomplished professionals. We are very excited about the future prospects of this new aspect of our efforts.

The Fund received a $250,000 gift from the estate of Dorothy Gustafson. We have established a scholarship in her name for the student that best represents a social conscience and has been active in civic volunteerism. This represents who Dorothy was and will forever keep her memory alive. For anyone wishing to give a tax-deductible gift, please contact Susan Wilcox or myself. Also, please consider this as part of your estate planning. You would be helping some really great young people at a time when they need help the most.

We are pleased to welcome Cheryl Pinkos as an alternate to our committee and to move Russell Marcus to a regular member position. We are fortunate to have such quality and dedication in two very special individuals.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Neary- chairman

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**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
August 27th
The Bridgewater Fair is the main source of income for the BVFD. We are the last self-sustaining Fire Department in the State of Connecticut. We do not take tax revenue from the Town of Bridgewater to support our operations. We own, maintain and run our apparatus, buildings and property including the fairgrounds. We thank you for supporting us in this huge endeavor.

ADMISSION
General Admission $8.00
Seniors (60+) $6.00
Children (12-) Free
3-day pass $16.00

FREE PARKING

HOURS
Friday 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

NEW ATTRACTIONS
- Dark Knights, Acrobatics and Jousting
- Pre-Historic Dinosaur Adventures, T-Rex
- Music and Headliner Bands
- New showings - Dock Diving Dogs

2018 BRIDGEWATER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RAFFLE
A total of three (3) prizes are to be awarded. Tickets: $10

- First Prize: 2018 Jeep Wrangler Willys with Tow Package
- Second Prize: 2018 Kubota RTV-X900 Diesel
- Third Prize: $5,000 Visa Gift Card Package

Fireman’s Parade down Main Street starts at 6:45 PM Friday night
THIS OLD HOUSE

Do you live in an old house? I do. When we moved here some twenty five years ago, I was curious about the history of this home. I asked for help in researching the land and buildings. Dorothy Gustafson came to the rescue and walked me through the process, using Town Hall land records. A while back, I got a call from Regina Kay. She wanted to know the history of her home on Hatch Road. We met at Town Hall and, once more, we were helped, this time by Denise Pinter. She even flagged the pages which we would probably want to see. We were able to trace the land back to 1856. Here’s the story:
Regina’s mother, Genevieve Baltrushnas Kay, purchased her house from Dorothy Sarah Harrison. Harrison was a Hatch descendant. The land had passed into her hands from Charles Hatch, Senior and his wife, Nancy B. Hatch. They had purchased the property for “a valuable sum in dollars” in 1897. When Charles Junior died in 1939, he gave some of the land to Elizabeth Johnson. The remaining land and house was sold following Nancy’s death.
The original owner? He was Charles Senior’s father, Mark T. Hatch, his mother, Hannah Camp Hatch. His story came from “Landmarks of Bridgewater”. The article was written by Mary Hatch Mosher, his grand-daughter. She wrote that the house and farm were established in 1849 on property which had been in the family since 1767. At the time of the article, original features of the house, such as a Dutch oven, hooks to support milk pans and mantels were still in the home. The house was wired for electricity in 1912.
At one time, Mark Hatch owned land reaching from Bridgewater Center to the present New Milford line. Following his death, his widow married John Sturdevant, a widower with six children. Eventually, the land was sold to his three sons, two of whom joined interests in farming the property. They also invested in land throughout Bridgewater.
If you are curious about your property, let me know! Between the helpful people in Town Hall and the Library, maybe we can find answers!

For information on the Historical Society or a tour of the Peck House please call Audrey Wilkicky 860-354-7827 or Eileen Buchheit 860-355-2433

Please visit our website:
bridgewaterhistoricalsocietyct.com

FROM THE TOWN HISTORIAN

THE STORM

When tornadoes and macro burst storms raced through Connecticut on Tuesday, May 15th, they left a random path of destruction. In our area, Brookfield was hit particularly hard, but we, in Bridgewater, also had damage to deal with. Power and phone lines were down and cable was out. Limbs and trunks of trees were scattered on roads and lawns. Falling trees took down wires which were left hanging until crews were available. But there was another kind of loss following the storm - the loss of history.
The late Mary Allen was a Girl Scout in the years of the Depression. She took great pride in the fact that her troop planted the Christmas tree on the town green. As it grew, it served as the gathering place for the beginning of the Holiday season. The lighting of the tree, the Christmas carols sung around it and the hot chocolate served afterwards was a happy way to begin Christmas in Bridgewater. That tree was lost in the storm. Thankfully, a plan is underway to replace it.
Other trees along Main Street North also fell. They had been planted by the members of the Bridgewater Village Improvement Society, which was formed in 1896 by Mrs. C. N. Hatch. She and other like-minded people raised money for the purchase and planting of trees along Main Street North and South. Photographs taken following the Civil War show little vegetation along the road. Most trees had been cut down when the land was cleared or when firewood was needed. They also encouraged the planting of "Husband and Wife" trees in front of a home when it was built. Few of those remain today.
Mother Nature is in charge. Maybe we need another "Improvement Society" to repair the face of Bridgewater.

- Eileen Buchheit
Library Hours:
Visit us on Tuesday 1-5, Wednesday 9-5, Thursday 3-7, Friday 1-5, and Saturday 9-1. PLEASE NOTE on Friday, August 17 we will be open from 10:00 - 2:00. See you at the Fair!

The Burnham Pop-up Library will be at the Fair! See our 3D printer in action, sign-up for a library card, check-out our gently-used sale books, learn about our Digital Branch offerings ... or just stop by to say hello!

Get Carded @ Your Library
What does your library card offer you? Not only do you have the choice of NY Times Best Sellers, hot topic books, new releases and classic literature. But, you also have FREE access to DVDs and audiobooks, digital streaming services, eBooks and eAudio, tech tutoring, homebound services, book discussions, WiFi, magazines, museum passes, art exhibits and programs for all ages. The Library also has some of the coolest new technology, such as Kindles, iPads, mobile hotspot, Chromecasts ... and a 3D printer.

Program Highlights
For a full listing of all our Fall/Winter activities and dates, please visit our website at www.burnhamlibrary.org

Junior Library programs and Burnham Bunch Storytime will begin in September. A complete listing of programs and registration will be available mid-August.

Book Discussions
Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Join in on the discussions! Copies of the book are generally available at the Circulation Desk

- September 27: The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
- October 25: 1984 by George Orwell

Our Digital Branch is always open! Your library card grants you access to instantly borrow eBooks or eAudio, comics or music, or stream movies, television and concerts via Hoopla and RBdigital. Anglophiles try our new offering, Acorn TV from RBdigital! Love music? Check out Qello Concerts. Want to be a smarty pants? Try Great Courses. Like independent and foreign films? Try Indieflix. Are comics and graphic novels your thing? Hoopla has an amazing selection including The Walking Dead. All sponsored by The Friends of the Library.

AND did you also know that you can use that same library card to borrow materials from other Connecticut libraries? That’s right, one card for ALL Connecticut libraries. If we don’t have a book you are looking for, we can get it for you through the state’s borrowCT service. Over 3 million titles were delivered around CT last year.

NEW downtown WiFi! The Library has not just opened its doors to the community, but also opened up its WiFi. You can now connect and communicate on us!

NEW Paperback Book Exchange! A great selection ... Take one, leave one! Also visit the Around the Corner Bookstore for a nice selection of new or gently used books and DVDs.

Tech Tutoring with Chris Chris is happy to assist you with tech questions and needs you might have. He can also sign you up for Hoopla and RBdigital, so that you can use our Digital Branch! He is available by appointment of by chance.

There are several ways to keep up-to-date on our programs and services! Visit our website, register for weekly emails, our NEW Wowbrary Newsletter which will keep you current on new items ready for circulation, or visit us on Facebook!

So, do you need a library card? It's easier than you think! Pre-register via our website and then you have 14 days to pop-in and pick up your card or visit us during library hours.
ART SHOW

August:
The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club presents: *Anisoptera Odonata* dragonfly artwork by Burnham School students.

September:
*Bridgewater’s Finest* - This show will feature many of the fine artists that reside in Bridgewater coming together for a large group show. The Friends of the Burnham Library will host an opening reception to be held on Saturday, September 8th from 4-6 at the library. A few artist will host open studio hours on Saturday, September 15th and 16th from 12:00-4:00. Maps and further details will be available at the opening reception. Free and open to the public.

October - November:
Lori Barker of Goshen with mixed media works blending nature and spirituality into an exploration of the rhythms of life.

Apple Product Workshop
Tuesday, October 16 from 3:00 - 4:30
Whether you’re new to Apple products or are already comfortable with your iPhone, iPad, or Mac, this easy, non-technical lecture will reveal many features you may not know of; give you the best tips so you can get the most out of your device; and show you the solutions to the most common mistakes made by newer users. Limited to 12 participants. Registers by emailing cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Black Bears in Connecticut
Saturday, October 6 at 11:00
This engaging presentation by Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn provides an overview of the natural history of black bears in Connecticut, black bear habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction and current research efforts. It also provides practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our black bear population. Black bear artifacts will be shared with the audience. Free and open to the public.

Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 31st
We’ll be waiting for you, so stop by to get a trick or a treat!!

O Silent Night
Saturday, November 17th from 5:00 - 8:00. Silent and LIVE auction. Tickets will go on sale November 1st. Donations and sponsorships are welcome! Email friends@burnhamlibrary.org for questions or details.
NEWS FROM THE SENIOR CENTER

COMPUTER GROUP Join us for an "OLD OPRY MUSIC CONCERT/ HOE-DOWN SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH AT 6:00 PM.
Dinner will include salad, chicken and shrimp, potato salad, baked beans, bread rolls, apple strudel/
vanilla ice cream, fruit salad/cookies ice tea, lemonade, soda and water. Dinner will be followed by a
concert video from the "GRAND OLD OPRY" featuring some of your favorites - Patsy Cline, Willie
The August breakfast is cancelled in lieu of the above.

COMPUTER MEETINGS AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER - will include learning from "Trips and
Tricks".
1. Workshop on smart phone basics
2. Sharing files too big to email
3. How to use the TV, DVD and computer displayed to the TV

TRIP TO SEVEN ANGELS THEATER - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH 2:00 PM THE EDWARDS
TWINS bring their fantastic live show to Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury. THE EDWARDS
TWINS are the number one impersonators of all time. Enjoy the music of Celine, Billy Joel, Bette
Midler, Barbara Streisand and many, many more. Tickets are $50. We have 10 seats on the town
van for the first ten who sign up - others will have to drive themselves. Please call and reserve your
seat now.

TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA - Tuesday, October 23 - Thursday, October 25. Includes visit to One
Liberty Observation Deck, Historic Walking City Tour, Reading Terminal Marketplace, National
Constitution Center and the Museum of the American Revolution. Cost $455 per person double.
Sign up deposit of $150 due August 7th.

Exercise programs are available as follows:
Monday - Line dancing 11:00 am- 12 Noon
Wednesday - Walking club - meets 9:00 am in the parking lot
Wednesday - Tai Chi 10:30 am - 11:30 am
Wednesday - Line dancing practice 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Friday - Chair yoga 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Other activities at the center include, Mahjong, Canasta, Poker. New players always welcome.
Please call if you have any questions.

Our September lunch will be Thursday, September 20 at noon and our guest speaker will be
Charlene from the Western Ct. Agency on Aging. She will have all the latest gadgets to help make
life a little easier for all of us.

OKTOBERFEST
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18 at Noon. This will be our usual amazing authentic food with our favorite
German music. Reservations are required and suggested donation is $10 per person.

RENTALS - The Center is available for rental for social activities. Please contact us for details.

Marilyn Curtin, Senior Center Director
Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc.  
(CCB)  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

Health Awareness Event

Our event in conjunction with New Milford Hospital, New Milford VNA & Hospice and APEX Community Care that was scheduled for May was postponed due to the severe May storm that hit Bridgewater. CCB is rescheduling the event in September - stay tuned for date, time and location. The discussion will focus on current critical health issues.

Chimney Cleaning

CCB is looking into a subsidized, chimney cleaning program for seniors in Bridgewater. We successfully sponsored a similar service several years’ ago. Please let us know if you are interested in taking advantage of this service.

Chore Service for Seniors

CCB’s Chore Service can help with late summer/Fall repair and maintenance items. Please ask us to help with any bothersome maintenance issue. If we cannot assist, we can refer someone who can.

Contact Us
If you need assistance please do not hesitate to contact us (all requests are confidential). We can be reached:

By Phone: 860-350-2194.  
By Mail: CCB, P.O. Box 338, Bridgewater, CT 06752  
By Email: info@ccbridgewater.org

Become a member! Friends of the Lake is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2003 and has spent the last 13 years preserving and protecting Lake Lillinonah for our community to enjoy! Each member who joins Friends of the Lake is another voice. The more voices we have, the stronger we are! All memberships include email alerts on lake activity, invitations to FOTL events, newsletters providing water quality updates & upcoming meetings, and much more.

Please visit our website for more information: www.FriendsoftheLake.org

Promisek Summer Bach Workshop
August 16-19, 2018
A celebration of solo string music by Bach. Continuing Promisek’s series of Bach workshops, directed by violinist Katie Lansdale, an array of Bach’s solo string music will be performed by professional and developing pre-professional students, ages 15-70

Concert
Sunday August 19th at 3pm, Katie Lansdale, violinist and director
Call 860-488-0556 for more information
Become a Volunteer with Bridgewater’s Ambulance

You can help to fill an important need in your town by volunteering your time with the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department’s ambulance, providing basic emergency medical care and transportation.

You don’t need a medical background or any experience. We offer the training necessary to be certified. Classes require a significant amount of time but the rewards are immeasurable.

Our ambulance is staffed by both emergency medical responders (EMR) and emergency medical technicians (EMT). The biggest difference between the two is the training and the scope of practice (what they are allowed to do). EMR’s require a minimum of 60 hours of training and EMTs are required to have a minimum of 150 hours of training. Both include written and practical examinations.

The scope of practice for EMRs and EMTs reflects the amount of training for each. In general, both can provide management of airways, CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation), AEDs (automatic external defibrillation), burn and wound care, and - yes - childbirth! EMRs are limited in the use of some diagnostic tools and administration of medications, among other things.

Tuition is covered for those who make a commitment to serve on Bridgewater’s ambulance.

We’re building a list of people interested in the next EMT and EMR classes. If you’d like to be added to the list or have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Peter Hammond, Ambulance Coordinator
Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department
Email: peterhammond@snet.net
Home: 860-354-7373
Work: 860-354-8283

Bridgewater Fire Department
Women’s Auxiliary

The Auxiliary would like to Congratulate Katryna Hook and Hunter Wilson on receiving the Auxiliary Scholarship!!

Congratulations

The fair is almost here and once again we need home baked goods from our wonderful townsfolk for our Cake Lotto, a postcard with more information will be in the mail soon.

Please visit us and have a refreshing drink at the “Watering Hole Saloon”.

Our annual Wine & Beer tasting will be held on Saturday, September 22nd at the Pratt Pavilion from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The Town Wide Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, September 29th & 30th from 9 AM - 3 PM. Please look for the application in this Our Town or contact Lois Gilmore for more information.

The auxiliary is always looking for people to join us in our efforts to support the fire department. Contact any member for information.

Carol Wilbur, President

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Fireman’s Beer & Wine Tasting

Sponsored by:
The Bridgewater Women’s Auxiliary
The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department
New Milford Spirit Shoppe & NeJaime’s Fine Wine & Spirits

There will be over 30 beer and wine vendors as well as food trucks

Saturday, September 22nd, 2018
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Pratt Pavilion
2 Sarah Sanford Rd, Bridgewater, Connecticut

$25.00 per ticket
AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2018

Every Sunday 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist. Pancake breakfast after service on first Sunday. On other Sundays coffee hour follows the service. Wednesdays - Jam-making 9 AM

All are welcome at any service or activity.

AUGUST 17, 18 & 19
Join us at our booth at the Fair - all the usual - JAM, CHEESE, PICKLES, ICED TEA, CIDER, DECAF COFFEE, HOME-BAKED GOODS

SEPTEMBER 22ND
Dinner - 6 PM - $15 Adult, $8 Child, $45 Family
Music

OCTOBER - TBA

Have Your Next Event Here!

The beautifully renovated Friendship Hall at the Bridgewater Congregational Church and the Church are available to rent for special occasions like birthday and anniversary celebrations, bridal and baby showers, in addition to meetings, dinners and luncheons, and more.

The Friendship Hall is now air-conditioned and has a large Health Department-approved kitchen. Church membership and town residency are not required.

Call the office Monday - Friday, 10:00-12:00, at 860-354-8283 or email office@bwucc.org for more information and a tour of the buildings or to book your event.

Coming up at the Bridgewater Congregational Church

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

VISIT US AT THE BRIDGEWATER COUNTRY FAIR - AUGUST 17, 18, AND 19
Look for our booth at the Fair and choose from refreshing and tasty items including chocolate-covered bacon, chocolate-covered bananas, pineapple-on-a-stick, lemonade, iced coffee, and home-baked breads, brownies, cookies, and more...

Save the date and watch for more news about...

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT - OCTOBER 31

ONGOING

Alcoholics Anonymous
AA meets in the Friendship Hall every Friday night at 7:00

The Bridgewater Food Pantry
Located in our Friendship Hall, the Bridgewater Food Pantry is available to any individual or family in Bridgewater who needs it. Contributions of non-perishable food items and grocery store gift cards are always welcome and needed.

We welcome you any time...
Sunday Service and Sunday School at 10:00 AM Followed by fellowship and coffee hour in the Friendship Hall

For more information about any of these events please call the Church Office: 860-354-8283, visit us at www.bwucc.org, or email us at: office@bwucc.org

The church is located at the corner of Route 133 (Main Street) and Clapboard Road in the center of Bridgewater.
The Bridgewater Land Trust with your help and support has had a great year so far. Our 2018 Give Local was very successful. Thanks to all for your generous donations. This fall, with the support from the Connecticut Community Foundation we will be opening our new public trail on our Town Line Preserve. We will be working diligently to create this new trail which we hope to expand in the future. This fall on Saturday September 8th from 9:30 - 12 Noon, we will be hosting the Grand opening of our new Town Line Trail. The event is called “Fun on the Farm” and is free to all. Come and enjoy!

Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2018. Those membership dollars are crucial to the operation of the trust and preservation of our beautiful Bridgewater. Visit us at our website www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org or our Facebook page.

Thank you!

Dawn Burdick, Administrator
Bridgewater Land Trust 860-354-9219

Literacy Volunteers on the Green

Literacy Volunteers on the Green provides a variety of literacy services to residents of 16 towns in Northern Fairfield and Litchfield counties. Programs include English as a second language, basic reading and writing, Family Literacy, and Preparation for the United States Citizenship Test. LVG provides relevant, individualized instruction in small groups of fewer than five learners. Its volunteer tutors are trained by the organization and provided with instructional materials. Class schedules are flexible to accommodate the work and family responsibilities of both tutors and students. For further information about tutoring, or to refer someone for our services, please call us at 860-355-0830 or visit our website www.lvg-ct.org. Literacy Volunteers on the Green, 7 Whittlesey Avenue, New Milford CT 06776.

Jacqueline Farrell, Executive Director
There always seems to be a project that lingers on our to-do lists. For us, that project was restoring Wewaka Brook. Thanks to a gift from Judy Black in the fall of 2015, we were finally able to realize our vision for the property. Over the last 3 years, we worked with countless naturalists to create a place where wildlife can thrive and the community can connect with nature. Today, we’re proud to announce the completion of this project and the opening of the Judy Black Wildlife Refuge at Wewaka Brook.

The restoration was no small task. Over the last three years, we created 25 acres of habitat for New England Cottontail and over 40 other species known as ‘early successional habitat’ while removing 70 acres of invasive shrubs and plants. Along with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and an independent forester, we created a forest management plan to guide our work into the future.

For the avid to the novice birder, over 70 acres of fields for grassland birds such as Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks and American Kestrel have been restored. In addition, there are 30 acres of grasslands in active agriculture. Visitors can also explore two miles of hiking trails that traverse a variety of landscapes including upland forest, wetland forests, grasslands, farmlands and early successional habitat. Just off of the trail near the farm pond is a newly built gazebo.

In Bridgewater and across the state, we’re keeping our promise to protect and preserve Connecticut. Stop by to see all that’s changed. We hope the Judy Black Memorial Wildlife Refuge at Wewaka Brook continues to further the legacy of conservation in Bridgewater for generations to come.

*There is public access, a visitor’s kiosk and parking at two entrances. The main entrance is located on Hut Hill Rd. south of Skyline Ridge. The north entrance is located on Keeler Rd.*

Sunny Valley Preserve
8 Sunny Valley Lane
New Milford, CT 06776
lshail@tnc.org
UPDATES AND REMINDERS
from the Health District

Fall Prevention

The Health District wants you to know that falling can be a serious problem, not just for the injury that may/may not result from the fall, it also increases the likelihood for a future fall.

Marilyn Curtin and her team at the Bridgewater Senior Center offer excellent programs to help reduce your risk as well as helpful tips in their periodic newsletter.

Many falls can be prevented. By making some changes, you can lower your chances of falling.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the following are Four Things YOU Can Do to Prevent Falls:

1. **Talk openly with your healthcare provider about fall risks & prevention.**
Tell a provider right away if you fall, worry about falling, or feel unsteady. Have your doctor or pharmacist review all the medicines you take, even over-the-counter medicines. The way medicines work in your body can change over time. Some medicines, or combinations of medicines, can make you sleepy or dizzy and can cause you to fall. Ask your provider about taking vitamin D supplements to improve bone, muscle, and nerve health.

2. **Exercise to improve your balance and strength.**
Exercises that improve balance and make your legs stronger lower your chances of falling. It also helps you feel better and more confident. An example of this kind of exercise is Tai Chi. Lack of exercise leads to weakness and increases your chances of falling. Ask your doctor or healthcare provider about the best type of exercise program for you.

3. **Have your eyes and feet checked.**
Once a year, check with your eye doctor, and update your eyeglasses, if needed. You may have a condition like glaucoma or cataracts that limits your vision. Poor vision can increase your chances of falling. Also, have your healthcare provider check your feet once a year. Discuss proper footwear, and ask whether seeing a foot specialist is advised.

4. **Make your home safer.**
- Remove things you can trip over (i.e. papers, books, clothes, shoes) from stairs and places where you walk.
- Remove small throw rugs or use double-sided tape to keep the rugs from slipping.
- Keep items you use often in cabinets you can reach easily without using a step stool.
- Have grab bars put in next to and inside the tub, and next to the toilet.
- Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors.
- Improve the lighting in your home. Brighter lights help you to see well. Hang light-weight curtains or shades to reduce glare.
- Have handrails and lights installed on all staircases.
- Wear well-fitting shoes with good support inside and outside the house.

**Your Health Department:** Health District office hours in the Bridgewater Town Hall are Monday and Wednesday from 8 am-12 noon. The Bridgewater office number is (860) 355-4467. Property files for Bridgewater are in the Bridgewater Town Hall. The main Health District office is at 3 Primrose Street in Newtown, and is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. The Newtown office number is (203) 270-4291 even though it's a different area code, it's still a local call. Our e-mail is health.district@newtown-ct.gov Please feel free to call or e-mail us any time if you have questions or concerns.

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The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club Offers
Thanks to the Community

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club has served our community for more than 100 years. We would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks to those who have helped us make our town beautiful and our April Give Local and our May Plant Mart fundraisers successful.

Thanks go out to all who supported our participation in the Give Local fundraiser in April and our Plant Mart in May. Those two efforts enable us to maintain the gardens on the green, the garden surrounding the flag pole at the firehouse, Hut Hill garden, the Friendship Garden behind Burnham School, and Mead’s Corner garden. Your contributions also help us to provide programs at our school and senior center and to decorate the public buildings in town at the holidays. This year we were also able to dedicate the Blue Star Memorial Marker and dogwood tree near the library. This memorial honors all who have served, currently serve, and will serve our country in the future. Many of you came to the dedication. Thank you for joining us.

We thank our First Selectman, Curtis Read, for his open door and advice when needed in working on our town gardens and projects, not to mention the occasional hands-on help in the Green garden. We are grateful also to the town crew for their assistance delivering mulch, topsoil, minor pruning and friendly advice when needed.

A special thanks to the Fire Dept. for allowing us to use their grounds each May for our plant sale and the firehouse each Dec. for our town wreath making activities. To the Burnham school we thank you for your welcoming us to come in to work with the students and staff. We are also appreciative of the Burnham Library for hosting the school children’s art show in August. We thank the friendly folks at St. Mark’s church for the opportunity to have a home base for our meetings. A most sincere thanks goes to Maywood for their generous donations and delivery to our plant sale each year as well.

To the Historical Society, it was a pleasure to have a private tour last fall and learn so much about our community’s past.

We thank too those of you who stop to chat and give thanks to those of us working in one of our town gardens. It really makes our work worth it! For those of you not mentioned, our club recognizes your contributions, large or small, that help to make our town such a beautiful, friendly community.
AUGUST
1  Lake Authority  7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
7  Inland Wetlands Commission  7:30 PM, Town Hall
14 Board of Selectman  7:00 PM, Town Hall
16 Planning & Zoning  7:00 PM, Town Hall
23 Recreation Commission  7:00 PM, Town Hall

SEPTEMBER
3 LABOR DAY **** Town Hall Closed ****
4  Lake Authority  7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
4  Inland Wetlands Commission  7:30 PM, Town Hall
11 Board of Selectman  7:00 PM, Town Hall
19 Board of Finance  7:00 PM, Town Hall
20 Planning & Zoning  7:00 PM, Town Hall
27 Recreation Commission  7:00 PM, Town Hall

OCTOBER
2  Lake Authority  7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
2  Inland Wetlands Commission  7:30 PM, Town Hall
8  COLUMBUS DAY **** Town Hall Closed ****
9  Board of Selectmen  7:00 PM, Town Hall
18 Planning & Zoning  7:00 PM, Town Hall
18 Board of Trustees  7:00 PM, Town Hall
25 Recreation Commission  7:00 PM, Town Hall

For additional information and updates, please visit our website at
www.bridgewatertownhall.org
Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 31st
Bridgewater Town Center

Join in on the fun by decorating your trunk and giving out goodies to Trick-or-Treaters.
Register at the Town Hall.
Prizes awarded for best trunk!

The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

Jim Moker - Chairman
Roberta Allen - Secretary
Josh Murphy
Lynn Kubisek
Eric Soetbeer
Brad Goldstein
Mike Dubos
Allison Gsell - Recreation Coordinator

The Bridgewater Recreation Commission is working hard to bring fun filled activities to all the residents of Bridgewater. Our newsletter is now incorporated into "Our Town" and programs will be announced through town email blasts, the town website and the town calendar. If you have any ideas, feedback or suggestions, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support of our programs.
The Bridgewater Tractor Parade
Sunday, September 2nd

All tractors are welcome. Gators and mules too! Floats are encouraged! Special award for antique tractors and youth floats.

Line up at 1:30 p.m. at Shallow Brook Farm, Bridgewater Parade starts at 2:30 p.m. Spectators welcome on Main Street. Music, awards and barbecue at Bridgewater Pavilion after parade. BYOB!

Many thanks to Sunny Meadow Farm and Union Savings Bank for sponsoring this event
Also thanks to the Town of Bridgewater and Bill Stuart of Shallow Brook Farm for supporting this event

Annual Town Wide Tag Sale

Sponsored by the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary. Will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 29 - 30, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. rain or shine

The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary will once again be sponsoring their Annual Town Wide Tag Sale. You may have a two day tag sale at your house or rent a table at the firehouse on Saturday only.

For the two day tag sale there is a fee of $30.00 which includes advertising, the town permit and locating your house on a map. The maps will be distributed at the Firehouse on Saturday the first day of the sale.

Tables will be available at the Firehouse, Saturday only on a first come first serve basis. The cost of the table will be $20.00. If you are interested in participating please fill out the form below and return it by September 24, 2018, with a check made out to the Bridgewater Women's Auxiliary to:

Lois Gilmore P.O. Box 216 Bridgewater, Connecticut 06752

Your permit will be ready to pick up at the Firehouse on Friday, September 28, 2018, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. You will also receive a sign to be placed at your home. All other signs will be put out by auxiliary members.

Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:_____________________________________________________

Phone Number:________________________________________________
Table at Firehouse (Saturday only) $20.00: __________
Tag Sale at your house Saturday and Sunday $30.00: ___