Message from Our First Selectman

Recently I attended a meeting of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (recycling & garbage) where Bridgewater has just one vote out of 100. We are also members of the Western CT Council of Governments (WCCOG) where Fairfield County municipal leaders discuss I-95 traffic, rail corridors and lack of federal aid to fix infrastructure. I often ask myself: "What am I doing at this table?"

I guess my point is that Bridgewater is a bit player in the bigger world around us. It's like a beautiful island or mini Shangri-La with a pastoral tableau of farms and forests. Our village center is quaint and historic. We have a mix of people from many economic and social walks of life who generally are bound together by living here. My sense is that we are able to put aside the current discord and divisiveness exhibited on the state and national level.

Let's face it, we all live in a proverbial bubble. Bridgewater is blessed and lucky to have institutions and committed benefactors, both past and present, who have afforded current residents a place to live that is the envy of almost every visitor. So what is wrong with this idyllic picture? There are a few caveats.

Could we use more affordable housing to attract young families? Yes. We are trying by changing zoning regulations that allow for larger attached apartments and detached "guest houses". Affordable or clustered housing is risky where well water is scarce and large septic systems could compromise our environment. Bridgewater may not be the right town for increased density as we lack the municipal services to handle the associated problems. We are agrarian and rural, not a suburb.

Are we good country neighbors who help our elderly residents, volunteer at the Fair or on local commissions? For the most part, yes. However, some residents seek exclusive privacy or feel aggrieved. They may complain about minor inconveniences like road work, snow plowed onto their driveway or truck traffic. Some complaints are legitimate about their own neighbors. In these cases I try to understand and mediate or remediate interpersonal problems that arise when asked, but there is only so much I can do or that regulations can control.

The bottom line is that neighborliness, generosity and understanding are virtues that are requisite for our small town harmony. I can point to countless good examples. If you think you might be an outlier, think positive thoughts. This is Bridgewater after all, just not like most places on this planet.

Stay cool,

Curtis S. Read, First Selectman
860-354-5250
LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: April 2019

- Kristin T. and Dimitri Ghecas of Huntington Station, NY to Scott and Lisa Provino, land and buildings, 50 Old Town Highway, $442,000
- Steven and Jennifer Lee of New Milford, CT to Harris Capital Partners, LP of NY, NY, land and buildings, 251 Main Street South, $901,250
- Estate of Madeline B. Gale to Sarah Sanford House LLC of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 14 Sarah Sanford Road East, $175,000
- Estate of John Kevin Montanaro to Miranda Hora and Adam Cleary, land and buildings, 187 Keeler Road, $560,000
- Thomas J. and Deborah C. Meek of Bridgewater to Neil Barsky of New York, NY, land and buildings, 70 Hat Shop Hill Road, $2,275,000

Land Transfers: May 2019

- Estate of Eric Vaule to Joseph S. III and Susan C. Wilcox of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 117 Wewaka Brook Road, $470,000
- Michael T. Kinnicutt of South Kingston, RI to Michael Romano and Heloisa Fernandes Momesso of Danbury, CT, land and buildings, 232 Clapboard Road, $375,000
- Federal National Mortgage Association to Tyrone and Sunshine Power, land and buildings, 9 Bilberry Road, $327,000

Land Transfers: June 2019

- Bank of New York Mellon to Homelift Properties, LLC of New Milford, CT, land and buildings, 8 Landmark Drive, $367,500
- Christina O. Johnson of New Milford, CT to Michael Gustavson of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 79 Wewaka Brook Road, $185,000
- Farm Homes, LLC of Glastonbury, CT to Karen Schmidt of New Milford, CT, land, 100 Cedar Hill Road, $170,000
- 21st Mortgage Corporation to Spencer Ridge, LLC of Washington, CT, land and buildings, 245 Skyline Ridge Drive, $280,000
- Wesley E. Thornton of Fort Hill, SC to Asim and Victoria Ceylan of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 25 Bilberry Road, $160,000
- John L. and Susan Alper of LaJolla, CA to Scott M. Greenhut and Emily Becher, land and buildings, 80 Stuart Road East $1,620,000

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

Registrars of Voters

August
- Tuesday 8-06-19 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
- Wednesday 8-07-19 1:00P.M. to 4:00P.M.
- Tuesday 8-27-19 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

September
- Tuesday 9-03-19 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
- Tuesday 9-10-19 6:00A.M. to 8:00P.M.
- Primary IF held Tuesday 9-24-19 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

October
- Tuesday 10-01-19 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
- Tuesday 10-22-19 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 fourth Tuesday of each month between 9:00A.M. and 11:00A.M.

Margaret Judith Sullivan, Democratic Registrar
Susan Patrick, Republican Registrar

REMINDER

BRIDGEWATER DOG OWNERS MUST LICENSE DOGS AT TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE

Dog owners must license their dogs 6 months old and older at the town clerk’s office. Licenses may be obtained through the mail by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check or money order and the following information: rabies certificate, spay or neuter certificate, owner’s name, phone number, address, dog’s name, breed, age, color markings and sex. The address of the town clerk’s office is P.O. Box 216, Bridgewater, Connecticut 06752.

The state requires all dogs to have rabies vaccinations, so a certificate of the current shot is required. If licensing a dog for the first time, bring the spay or neuter certificate to qualify for a lower license fee. The fees for the month of August are $10.00 for a neutered male or spayed female and $21.00 for an unaltered dog. There is a $1.00 per month penalty for dogs not licensed in June.

Thank you. Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk
Office of the Tax Collector

LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY
AUGUST 1, 2019

Taxes received or postmarked August 2 through August 31, 2019
will be charged 3% interest with a $2 minimum charge, per State Statute.

COLLECTION HOURS:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8-12:30, Tuesday 8-3:30

Catherine B. Vikstrom, CCMC
Tax Collector
860-355-9220 cvikstrom@bridgewater-ct.gov
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8-12:30 / Tuesday 8-3:30

BRIDGEWATER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee has concluded its work of interviewing and processing thirty-seven student applicants for awards for the Academic year 2019-2020. Roughly $60,000 was awarded in total.

While we generally know these students personally, it is always a delight to speak one-on-one to learn their accomplishments and individual goals. We wish the entire town could see what a fine group of young people it is producing. The quality both academically and in citizenship of these young people is truly outstanding.

The students receiving scholarships this year are:

Emily Cable  Mason Gsell  Louise Gagnon  Alison Parker  Dan Laranetto  James Foote  Kathleen Sinatra  Sean Parker  Julia Billings  Andrew Stern  Jacqueline DeVito  Kaitlin Stumpf

Lars Vikstrom  Jack Mullen  Julia Ianucci  Ellyn Fritz  Jack Virbickas  Elizabeth Hawley  Frances Dwyer  Brian DiBella  Alberto Espinosa  Samantha Patrick  Taylor Weston  Dakota Wilson  Nick Valletta

Kenyon Kay  Hunter Wilson  Olivia Seger  Julia Lindblom  Evan Landry  Hayley Virbickas

Meghan DiBella  Kaitlin Smith  Patrick Mullen  Tim Murphy  Spencer Weston  Ethan Southard

Beside the general scholarships, we awarded eight named Memorial Scholarships in the names of Canfield, Ford, Francis, Gustafson, Herron, Hines, Krukar and Wooldrich.

Please consider creating a memorial scholarship for someone you love. For anyone interested, just contact me, Larry Neary, to get started. I can be reached at Leneary1@gmail.com. In addition to financial assistance, the committee is in its second year of providing Mentors to those students wishing to have some additional guidance in their fields of endeavor. Fifteen matches have been made in the past two years and we look forward to expanding this service in the future.

A big welcome to our newest committee member, Paul Hines. Paul is a longtime resident and has already proven himself an outstanding asset. We are thrilled to have his help and insight.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Neary Chairman
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, 2019. A Qualified Forester’s Report must accompany the Forest Land application, so please apply early as the process does take a while. Personal Property forms will be mailed early October. Personal property that is required to be claimed are any assets owned by October 1, 2019 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. Tractors and horses need to be claimed if used for business purposes only. The Personal property forms must be received by November 1, 2019.

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 Veterans. If your income is $36,000 or below and you are single, or $43,900 and below and married (not including Veteran’s benefits), you may qualify for an Additional veteran’s exemption. If you were designated by the Veteran’s Administration as disabled, please bring your award letter in as you may qualify for a Disabled Veteran’s benefit. These forms must be in our office by October 1, 2019.

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 2019.

If you rent and are 65 or older, a surviving spouse, or totally disabled on or before December 31, 2019 and are a full-time resident, you may be eligible for tax relief. To qualify for the State Renters program your income must be less than $36,000 if unmarried and less than $43,900 if married (including Social Security). The deadline to apply is October 1, 2019.

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

Denise C. Pinter Assessor

FALL BULKY DROP OFF/PICK UP

Starts Monday, October 21st

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 21st through Friday October 25th from 7:30am-3:30pm. And on Saturday October 26th from 9am-1pm.

One free pickup truck load or two carloads per household. Additional pickup loads will cost $25 per load. 1-3 ton truckloads 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 28th. 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.
- CONCRETE

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!!
H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, has been signed into law. Our brothers/sisters in blue who suffered for decades from illnesses and diseases linked to exposure to Agent Orange can now share in the same benefits as the grunts on the ground. Thanks to the leadership of House Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano and Ranking Member Phil Roe; Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson and Ranking Member Jon Tester; and Senate Bill sponsors Kirsten Gillibrand and Steve Daines. Without their efforts, this legislation would have stagnated for another year. Congratulations, and welcome home.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED: Please contact your representatives Sens. Blumenthal and Murphy; Rep. Johanna Hayes either thru MOAA (Military Officers of America) or DAV (Disabled American Veterans) websites and either craft a letter or use one of their pre-printed letters to let Congress know how we need their help on the following issues:

Ensure Safe Housing For Military Families: When military families face health threats in their homes, it can be harder for servicemembers to focus on their mission. Congress is considering legislation to address health threats in base housing by remediating environmental hazards, establishing strong tenants’ rights procedures, and restoring proper oversight of construction and maintenance contractors.

Act now to improve survivors’ benefits: S. 1047 would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits.

Do Not Cap Pay or Cut Benefits: Military pay and benefits matter. But apparently not to the Congressional Budget Office. On its list of budget options for lawmakers to consider are capping your pay raises and cutting back your BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing). Military families depend on BAH, and it’s only right that military pay keep pace with civilian salaries.

Do Not Dismantle Military Medicine: The Defense Department’s fiscal 2020 budget calls for the elimination of nearly 18,000 military medical positions, roughly 20% of today’s medical force. The results could be disastrous. By Oct. 1, 2019, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) will assume command and control of all military treatment facilities (MTFs). Original plans called for a phased approach to this goal by 2021. This is an aggressive undertaking, and officials admit it will require considerable effort to get it right — efforts that unquestionably would be hampered by a 20% reduction in military medical billets.

Do Not Raise TRICARE Fees: Think your health care already costs enough? So do we. But jacking up your TRICARE fees and out-of-pocket costs is on the list of budget options for lawmakers to consider. That would ignore the price military retirees and their families have paid up front with their service and sacrifice. Support full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees

Act now to support H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act. This bill provides full concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees, including Chapter 61 retirees.

Act now to end the widow’s tax: Current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or all of their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA’s Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the widows tax. For approximately 66,000 military survivors, the widows tax makes SBP the only insurance that you pay into but are legally prohibited from collecting.

VA Center near us: Health Center, 7 Germantown Rd, Danbury; Main Number: 203-798-8422
Mental Health: 203-932-5711 x4471. If you don’t use it, we lose it!

Joe Buchheit, LTC-USA (Ret), VA Liaison, Bridgewater, 8603552433, townofbridgewaterva@gmail.com.
Shepaug Valley School and its students were recognized throughout the school year for various achievements. Shepaug was ranked the 34th Best High School in Connecticut by US News and World Reports. The high school ranking is based on students taking Advanced Placement classes, student/teacher ratio, and graduation rates. We are proud of this recognition.

The arts program boasts two award winners, Julia Sinatra and Mahelet Steinmetz, from Congressional Art Exhibition at The Mattatuck Museum. Additionally, Shepaug artists’ work was displayed at Hunt Hill Emerging Artists Exhibit. Shepaug Dramatics Program received eight Halo nominations for their productions of Lapin Agile and Big Fish. Our Digital Media Club began their year traveling to New York City for the 2018 All American High School Film Festival and completed their year with ten nominations for the Fox 61 Student News awards.

Shepaug’s academic achievements include introducing Physics First, various AP scholars, Seal of Biliteracy, and the senior projects. We are proud to have our staff member, Mark Peters, recognized by UCONN as an Instructor of Excellence.

Our students won National Merit Scholarship Awards, public service awards, Foreign Service awards, and received numerous scholarships for their academic, athletic, and civic achievements.

Shepaug graduation was hosted by the Bryan Memorial Town Hall on June 15th. The construction at Shepaug Valley School forced a change of venue for the graduation ceremony this year.

The construction project at Shepaug is on-time and on-budget. The Shepaug campus will be closed during the summer to allow for abatement and large scale construction to occur. Shepaug Valley School along with the agriscience program will open to students on August 29, 2019. We could not be more excited!

Burnham School was proud to share their students’ achievements in the classroom and in our outdoor garden classrooms. The students transferred their understanding of scientific principles into environmental practices in their gardens. Our students flourished when applying their education to the world around them. Principal Colella and the entire Burnham staff appreciate the support of the community to create a world-class education for our students of Bridgewater.

Region 12 would like to recognize the time, efforts, and talents of our outgoing Bridgewater Board member, Alan Brown. Alex McNaughton will be joining Julie Stuart and Mike Sinatra as Bridgewater representatives on the Region 12 Board of Education. We are proud of the educational evolution occurring in our schools.

To learn more, we welcome you to visit our website at www.region-12.org and follow us on social media: Twitter@ShepaugRSD12, FaceBook Shepaug Regional School District 12, or our YouTube channel Region 12 Schools. We want our school system to reflect the needs and vision of the towns we serve. Thank you to our Bridgewater community for the care and support you give to our students.

Megan Bennett
Superintendent
Region 12 Schools

Julia Billings receiving her diploma during the Shepaug graduation.
The 2018-19 school year ended with several fun-filled, PTO-sponsored events including the 3-4-5 Fun Night, the 5th grade Aloha celebration, and the Teachers & Staff Appreciation Luncheon. We hope they are all now having a relaxing and well-deserved summer break - we can’t thank you enough for all that you do!

The PTO is looking forward to another successful upcoming school year and is busy planning events, enrichment programs, and fundraisers, including a new Fall Fundraiser and the return of the Read-A-Thon fundraiser coming this Winter/Spring. Stay tuned for more details! In the meantime, please consider supporting our school through AmazonSmile or the School Rewards program at your local grocery store (Big Y, Stop and Shop & Shoprite).

We would also like to introduce the new slate of Burnham School PTO board members. Please welcome the 2019-2020 Board!

President: Greg Bura
Vice President: Linda Fields
Secretary: Alix Gustavson
Co-Treasurers: Cindy Meglio & Rhei C. Gordon

Important Upcoming Dates:

August 26: Kindergarten Bus Orientation
August 29: First Day of School
September 1: Tractor Parade
September 4: Ice Cream Social

We truly appreciate the continued support from our families and community, thank you! Have a safe and FUN Summer!!

Kindly Submitted by,
Burnham School PTO

Throughout our history, the town of Bridgewater has housed many schools. In the earliest days, elementary schools were one room school houses scattered in various parts of town to make them accessible to the farming families living there. Later on, they were consolidated into the Burnham School on Main Street and were serviced by a wagon and, later, an open truck which served as a school bus. But, in all the archives, one school was never mentioned. It was "Green Tree - A Country Home for Convalescent Boys".

Founded in 1921, the Green Tree was designed to serve boys who had "...through illness, lost their strength and vitality." While restoring their health, this institution also provided education to their students with an accent on "the secrets of nature". Green Tree closed its doors in 1946. Dorothy Gustafson wrote to Bernadette Allingham in 2006 after being contacted by a man living in California who had attended this home. He said that it was located on hundreds of acres on Clapboard Road down from the intersection with Keeler Road. While the acreage has changed, the house remains and its history is remembered here.
The Bridgewater Historical Society’s Peck House

The Bridgewater Historical Society maintains its collection at the "The Peck House", located between Town Hall and the Burnham Library. The building has its own story to tell as well. Built in 1820, the original location was at the corner of Clapboard Road and Main Street South. Elijah Peck used the building as his home and store. Following the Pecks, John Sanford and Lyman Smith used the building as a store too. The Sanfords kept the house in the family until 1870. During that time both Charles Sanford and his wife Emily followed by Homer Sanford and both of his brides lived in the house. The property was then sold to Henry Beardsley who owned it only a few years before Edgar Peck and Austin Gillett purchased it. They used the house as a rental property until Edgar Peck sold his interest to Horace Gillett, who, in turn, bought out Austin Gillett and sold the property to Mallett & Hatch. Mr. Hatch married Mary Mallett in 1888 and moved the house to its present location so he could build a "dream house" for his new bride on the corner. Once moved, the Peck House became the permanent home of Edward and Ella Chasmar who had summered many years in a cottage on Second Hill. Ella Chasmar opened a gift store, Maple Lawn Gift House, where she sold her own hand painted china, hand painted cards and many other items. She also gave lessons in painting china. The Elijah Peck House is sometimes referred to as the "House of Brides" because of all the young brides that have called it home over the years. After the Chasmars ownership, it was purchased by the Town and became a fitting home for the Bridgewater Historical Society which outgrew its space at Burnham Library. What started out as a collection of historic books has blossomed into a collection of clothing, furniture, memorabilia, photographs and documents that span the last two centuries of life in Bridgewater.

As a reminder, don’t hesitate to contact the Bridgewater Historical Society for a private tour during the winter months. We are also here to answer any historical questions about the town or its past residents. You may contact us by email: bridgewaterhistorical@yahoo.com or by phone: Audrey Wilkicki 860-354-7827 or Eileen Buchheit 860-355-2433
Did you know...?

Many know that Bridgewater was once part of the town of New Milford. Taxes and access to religion pushed us to advocate for our independence. However, there aren't many that remember a shimmering moment in which the town gathered together to celebrate this independence with a spirit that few communities are able to muster. July 13th, 1956 was the kick-off to a three-day celebration of the incorporation of our quaint New England village and the creation of the community that we know and love.

Indeed, the schedule of the long weekend was filled with a number of events including a hoedown, costume and beard contest. Those lucky enough were awarded prizes across multiple categories. Don Gowan Sr, owner of the Village Store was awarded the prize for "Most Virulent Beard." He clearly was in the spirit of the event, because one report retells a story him teasing a customer that razors weren't allowed in town. The customer looked around at all the bearded men and believed him! Local organizations played their part, as well. The Burnham Library opened up its "historical rooms" (now the picture book room) and the mail was delivered to the post office by horse and buggy.

The second day of the event featured a staged recreation of the first town meeting written by Virginia Gilbert and directed by Edwin Gilbert. The cast itself was composed of thirteen descendants of the original settlers, including several names that many of us are still familiar with, such as Camp, Sanford, Marsh, Roberts and Carlson. The meeting dramatized a number of concerns of 1856, as well as 1956, including voting rights, the volatility of town politics and the sale of alcohol. The dramatization came to a head when Eli Roberts, played by Keith Randall shouted "[I]t's time to tax anything but hard cider, whiskey and apple brandy! Let's keep the spirits free!"

Looking back, we can see that this event was the epitome of Bridgewater. It's not just the fact that most of the small town pitched in to make it possible. It's that notion that it was so welcoming. Generations mingled. "Old timers" broke bread and laughed with new residents. It didn't matter who your parents or grandparents were. This is evident in the dramatization of the first town meeting. While it's impressive that we had thirteen people who were related to "original" families, we had twenty-eight who were not, and it didn't matter. This history belonged to everyone, and they all were there to celebrate it.

The program and script for the Dramatization of Bridgewater's First Town Meeting are available at www.bridgewaterhistory.com.

Submitted by Chris Fisher
Library Hours:
Our hours have changed! We are now open Tuesday 1-5, Wednesday 9-6, Thursday 9-6, Friday 1-5, and Saturday 9-1.
PLease note on Friday, August 16 we will be open from 9:00 - 1:00 and closed Saturday, August 17. see you at the Fair!

The Burnham Pop-up Library will be at the Fair! Stop by to say hello and check-out our gently-used sale books and DVDs!

We say goodbye to our Library Page Ethan Southard who is headed to University of Massachusetts Amherst. We will miss him! And we welcome, Julia Sinatra as his successor.

Please check-out our NEW Burnham Library website at www.burnhamlibrary.org and take our Technology Survey.

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Two years ago, we embarked on fulfilling the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan. Based on surveys, community feedback, and discussions with both residents and library professionals, we prioritized the Library’s needs to include enhanced technology, integrated and coordinated activities with other town organizations, and expanded programming as well as creating a "community campus" with free downtown WiFi, and modernizing the Library to add flexible work, meeting, and programming spaces.

To date, we have made significant strides in our technology offerings. Now, the Library offers instant access to streaming services that provide eBooks and eAudio, comics and music, movies, television, and concerts. Patrons can also enjoy free WiFi as well as some of the coolest technology, such as Kindles, iPads, Chromecasts, a mobile hot spot, and a 3D printer.

The Library has increased programming while promoting local artists, authors, professionals, and scholars. We are grateful to the community organizations with whom we have collaborated, including Bridgewater Historical Society, Bridgewater Town Recreation, Community Caring in Bridgewater, Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club, Burnham School, Bridgewater Land Trust, BCC Players, and the Bridgewater Bistro - to name a few!

Recently, we initiated projects to enhance our existing footprint. We created three separate meeting/work spaces and two comfortable reading areas. A series of low shelving has been installed, mobile shelving will soon be fitted to provide flexible programming space, and a new entry wall will showcase the Burnham Library logo, artwork, and wayfinding navigation.

In August, we will begin the renovation of the lower level Junior Library. This exciting project has been made possible due to the generosity of Bridgewater resident and Pediatrician, Dr. Susie Beris. The new Susie Beris M.D. Youth Learning Center will offer a fresh, inviting, flexible space complete with a revised layout, new circulation desk and other furnishings, makerspace, play area for our little folk, computer and study areas, as well as a meeting/programming space and kitchenette.

During the renovation, the Junior Library will be closed; however, a selection of children’s materials and interlibrary loan services will be available. We plan to hold a reveal party in mid-October after completion of the project!

As always, thank you all for your continued support!

Jean Kaylor
Library Director
Memorial Reception in Honor of Jean Walshe
Friday, October 4 from 4:00 - 6:00

The Board of the Trustees, The Friends of the Library, and the Burnham Library staff - both present and past - would like to invite you to a gathering to celebrate the life of Jean Walshe. Anyone who was familiar with Jean, knew of her quick wit, friendly smile, amazing sense of humor, love of cats and crosswords as well as her fondness for the patrons of the Burnham Library. As her birthday approaches, please join us in honoring her with stories and memories of a remarkable woman.

Art Exhibits

June 30 - August 31
Jan Lewin and Kathy Barlow with mixed-media, oils and marble paper.

September
Valeska Chelminski - Artist Reception on Saturday, Sept 7th from 3:00 - 5:00. All are welcome.

October - November 13
Chandra Rogers

Book Discussions - Discussions will be held on Thursdays at 5:00 pm and are open to anyone who wishes to participate. Copies of the book are generally available at the Circulation Desk.
September 26 - The Hunchback of Notre Dame by Victor Hugo

Two Towns Tabletop Club
Teen and adult gamers join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Burnham Library. Registration is NOT required. Questions? Email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Program Highlights

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

Discover Owls of New England
Saturday, October 12 at 11:00 AM

Peter Christoph's presentation features stunning photographs of his favorite owls combined with stories that entertain, educate and inspire. Peter wraps up his exceptional wildlife program with beautiful images of vagrant migrant - a rare visitor called the Great Gray Owl. Reserve your seat, as space is limited. Free and open to the public.

Trunk or Treat - We'll be waiting for you, so stop by to get a trick or a treat!!
Junior Library and Family Programs - School-age programs will resume mid-October!
The Burnham Bunch Storytime - Bubbles, books, parachutes and songs designed for the under 5 crowd. Thursday morning sessions from 10:30 - 11:00 begin September 12. Registration required.
NEWS FROM HILLTOP CENTER

Hilltop Center continues to be a very busy place with new programs, activities and trips being planned. Our breakfast once a month is still a great success not just for the food but as with most of our programs, the social interaction is very important for all of us. Check out our programs and come and try some new exercise, card games, join us for lunch or just stop in for a chat!

LUNCHES - 12:15 pm
August - No Lunch.
September Lunch - Chicken Parmesan
October 17th - Oktoberfest. Chef Uwe will once again prepare a delicious meal. Sign up is required
Suggested donation for lunches is $10

Birthday Social for July and August will be Thursday, August 22nd at 1:00 pm. Sign up is required.
Birthday Social for September and October will be Thursday, October 24th at 1:00 pm. Sign up is required.

EXERCISE PROGRAMS
LINE DANCING    Monday   11 - 12
TAI CHI         Wednesday 10:30 - 11:30
CHAIR YOGA     Friday    10:30 - 11:30

TOWN VAN
The van is available weekdays for doctor appointments, grocery shopping and special activities. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis but every effort is made to meet your needs. There is a limited destination distance of no more than 20 miles. Please contact the van director, Ann Frattalone, 860-350-3042 at least two weeks in advance for your appointments.

COMING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER - NEW YORK CITY, HOLIDAY EDITION (date to be announced). See the city during everyone’s favorite time of year aboard the world’s only moving theater as you are treated to surprise performances and winter sparkle. This 75 minute experience takes you through Midtown Manhattan and Times Square via multi-million dollar coaches equipped with LED lights, flat screen monitors, three rows of stadium-style seats facing floor to ceiling glass windows.
Sign up is required. Cost $98.00. Lunch on your own.

Friday, August 16th we will be closed for the Bridgewater Fair. Please support our Fire Department and COME TO THE FAIR!

Thank you!
To all who supported our Summer Soiree Fundraiser! We really appreciate it!!

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

Fall Chores for Seniors

Although when you are reading this it may still be the dog days of Summer, but by late September and October it will be time to consider Fall chores and winter preparation. Let us know if we can help you with bothersome chores and maintenance issues. We can also help get you prepared for the Town’s Fall bulky waste week.

Chimney Cleaning, Septic Cleaning, Energy Audits, Fire Prevention, OTHER

CCB has periodically helped seniors by organizing energy audits, chimney cleaning, septic cleaning etc. Please let us know if you are interested in taking advantage of any of these services or if you have suggestions for other group services that we can provide.

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.
Mail: CCB, P.O. Box 338, Bridgewater, CT 06752
Email: info@ccbridgewater.org

Friends of the Lake

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

The New Milford VNA is a non-profit health care agency dedicated to providing quality home care. It only takes one call. Services include: hospice and palliative care, rehabilitation therapies, elder care management, support groups, wellness programs, private pay home care, lifeline medical alert and nurturing families. Call (860) 354-2216 or go to www.newmilfordvna.org
Each year, in August, the Bridgewater Fire Department hosts one of the very best New England Country Fairs. In addition to providing a wonderful collection of entertainment opportunities to our guests, the Fair serves to demonstrate the warmth and generosity of the people who live in our Town. Just about every resident of Bridgewater lends enthusiastic support to help make the Fair happen. Volunteers from our neighboring towns also provide an enormous amount of assistance to help make the Fair possible. The members of the Bridgewater Fire Department are grateful for the support and efforts of all those who pitch in to help with this event. We thank each and every one of you. Your support helps us to continue providing you with volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services every day of the year. We invite you, your family and your friends to come and enjoy this New England Classic. We also invite you to do what you can to encourage the weather to cooperate with us this year!

Many of you know that Peter Hammond and his wife, Kim, have decided to take advantage of their ability to retire. In the Fall, they plan to relocate to Vermont and enjoy living much closer to their children and grandchildren. In addition to his duties as pastor of the Bridgewater Congregational Church, Peter is both a Volunteer Fire Fighter and an Emergency Medical Technician. His competent and compassionate approach to providing assistance to those in need has marked him as a leader and provided every member of our department with a valuable role model. The EMS community recently recognized Peter’s contributions by naming him Bridgewater’s Responder of the Year and awarding him the Christopher Blackwell Award for dedication to service. The Bridgewater Fire Department and, in particular, our Bridgewater Ambulance volunteers are very grateful to Peter. We will miss having him with us. Having said that, we wish Peter and Kim a long, healthy and happy retirement.

As you enjoy the many summertime experiences available to you in our Town please keep safety in mind. Each of us should be alert to the importance of staying hydrated and avoiding over-exposure to sun and heat. Dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are much more common during the summer months. It is wise for each of us to make a conscious effort to drink appropriate amounts of water and to avoid too much exposure to the sun. Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Jim McNulty, NREMT Ambulance Coordinator
The Bridgewater Fire Department, Inc.
Email: jamesmcnultyremt@gmail.com

Bridgewater Fire Department
Women's Auxiliary

Hope to see you at
The Fair!

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept.

BEER & WINE TASTING

EXPLORE
OVER 40 CRAFT BREWERIES. 180 BREWS. AND WINE

ENJOY
FOOD TRUCKS

EXPERIENCE
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 21
5:00PM-8:00PM

TICKETS
$25.00 IN STORE
$30.00 AT-THE-DOOR

NeJaime’s Wine & Spirits
NEW MILFORD SPIRIT SHOPPE
**OUR CHURCHES**

**St. Marks Episcopal Church**

August, September, October

Most Sundays 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist. All other Sundays - Morning Prayer - Still no permanent priest!. Pancake Breakfast after service on First Sunday of the month. Coffee hour after service on all other Sundays. Vestry meets on 4th Sunday in August, third Sunday in Sept & Oct. Wednesdays - Jam-making 9 AM

All are welcome at any service or activity.

**August 16, 17, & 18**

Join us at our booth at the Fair - all the usual - JAM, CHEESE, PICKLES, ICED TEA, CIDER, DECAF COFFEE, HOME-MADE GOODS

**September 22nd**

Dinner - 6 PM - $15 Adult, $8 Child, $45 Family

**October - TBA**

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**The Bridgewater Congregational Church**

**Visit Us at the Bridgewater Fair**

August 16, 17, and 18

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 - Oct. 31**

**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@gmail.com for more information and a tour of the buildings or to book your event.

**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@gmail.com The church is located at the corner of Route 133 (Main Street) and Clapboard Road in the center of Bridgewater.
The Bridgewater Land Trust Fall 2019

This Glorious Fall 2019 we welcome the public to enjoy our public trail located on the Town Line Preserve. We had a great summer including a hike in July on the eve of the Full Buck Moon. We also have been doing some much needed housekeeping on both of our trails. Our properties look great as we have made needed improvements last summer on our Town Line Preserve farm house and barn. We also hope that all visitors to our Town Line and Jane Pratt Preserve help to keep it looking as they found it and respect all the neighbors and wildlife we share the space with. We look forward to some fun and interesting events in the planning phase for fall of 2020. Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2019. Those membership dollars are crucial to the operation of the trust and preservation of our beautiful Bridgewater. The Bridgewater Land Trust is an approved 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Visit us at our website bridgewaterlandtrust.org or our Facebook page.

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

Bobolinks and cattle on the Jane Pratt and Town Line Preserves

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 email us at info@lvg-ct.org. Literacy Volunteers on the Green, 7 Whittlesey Avenue, New Milford, CT 06776.

Lynn Davies, Executive Director
MUSIC AT PROMISEK

2019 SUMMER BACH WORKSHOPS
AUGUST 1-4, 2019
AUGUST 15-18, 2019
Violinist Katie Lansdale returns to direct two 4 day workshops for string players from near and far, exploring and polishing performances of solo string music by J.S. Bach.

Concert: Sundays August 4 and 18, 3PM, St. Cecelia Music Room
Katie Lansdale, violinist and director

SALON CONCERT SERIES

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13, 3:00 PM
NEAVE TRIO

Beethoven: Piano Trio in G Major, Op. 121
"Kakadu Variations"
Debussy: Piano Trio in G Major and trios by Higdon and Clarke

Champagne reception follows
Call: 860-488-0556

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

The spring season has been a busy one for the members of the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club. Our annual Plant Mart was held on Saturday, May 18th under sunny skies, which was a blessing after so many rainy spring days! We would like to thank everyone in our community for their generous support for this event, which is our major fund raiser. Thanks also to those community members who donated to our club through the April Give Local campaign.

With these funds, we are able to continue our work to beautify many gardens throughout our town and in neighboring Roxbury. Here in Bridgewater, these beds include the gardens and container plantings on the green, the Hut Hill garden, the plantings surrounding the flagpole at the Firehouse, the Friendship Garden near Burnham School and Mead's Corner garden.

We would also like to thank the Fire Department for allowing us to use their grounds each May for our sale and again in December for our wreath workshop, when we decorate wreaths for all of the town buildings in both towns.

We welcome new members at any time! Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Church Hall. Our meetings provide us a time to plan future projects and programs as well as a time to connect with fellow garden enthusiasts. We also often feature guest speakers and field trips to local garden sites. For more information, feel free to contact Wendy Jones at 860 354-2070, or visit our website: roxburybridgewatergardenclub.com

At our October 10th meeting, we will welcome Roxbury resident and horticulture expert, Tovah Martin, who will present a program entitled: "The Garden in Every Sense and Season." She will be focusing on the delights of the fall season. This program will be open to the public, further details will be available as the date draws closer.

Finally, our members will be on hand to accept horticulture exhibits for the Bridgewater Fair again this year. Last year we processed 127 entries and would love to see even more participants this year! On behalf of all of our members, thank you, Bridgewater, for your continued support of our efforts. We love this lovely, friendly community!

Estelle Mackenzie, President RBGC

Sunday, November 3
The Bridgewater Tractor Parade
Sunday, September 1st

All residents and tractor enthusiasts are invited to participate
Lineup at 1:30 at Shallow Brook Farm
Parade begins at 2:30 p.m.
Or watch the fun from Main Street, and join us for
music, awards, and a barbeque to follow at the Pratt Pavilion
BYOB

You don’t have to have a tractor to participate...decorate your
mule, gator, or golf cart and join the fun! Floats are the highlight
of the parade and eligible for special awards.

This parade is made
possible through the
generosity of
Sunny Meadow Farm
And
Union Savings Bank

Many thanks to the
Town of Bridgewater
and Bill Stuart
for supporting this
event
Have Your Next Event At Friendship Hall!

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.

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Annual Town Wide Tag Sale

Sponsored by the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary

Saturday and Sunday, October 5 - 6, 2019
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 October 1, 2019, 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, October 4, 2019 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: _______
BRIDGEWATER RESIDENT
Bridgewater, CT 06752

Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose
This is the official town newsletter to communicate current issues, services and activities in Bridgewater to the residents of the town. The newsletter is published quarterly. Deadline for the next issue is October 5th, 2019.

About Our Town
Our Town is published with the assistance of town officials, employees and volunteers from boards, commissions, groups and organizations. The Town of Bridgewater reserves the right to edit submissions. Articles, input or ideas can be sent to Julie Stuart at juliestuartct@gmail.com

Bridgewater Board of Selectmen
Curtis Read, First Selectman
Alan Brown
Laz Pinter
Administrative Assistant
Anne Marie Lindblom

AUGUST
6 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
6 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
13 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
15 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
27 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
27 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall

SEPTEMBER
2 LABOR DAY ***Town Hall Closed***
3 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
3 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
10 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
18 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
19 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
24 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
26 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

OCTOBER
1 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
1 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
5 Household Hazardous Waste Day 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Pettibone Community Center
8 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
14 COLUMBUS DAY ***Town Hall Closed***
17 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
22 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
24 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
24 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM, Town Hall

For additional information and updates, please visit our website at www.bridgewater-ct.gov
Trunk or Treat
October 31st
Bridgewater Town Center

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

The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

Eric Soetbeer - Chairman
Roberta Allen - Secretary
Josh Murphy
Lynn Kubisek
Jim Moker
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.

Moonlight Hike
October 13th
Stay tuned for more details

Thank you for all the pavilion rentals, book yours early for next year.
68th Annual
Bridgewater Country Fair
August 16, 17, 18, 2019
Sponsored by: The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department

New attractions & entertainment

ADMISSION
General Admission $8.00
Seniors (60+) $6.00
Veterans (with valid ID) $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
* Friday night get a ride pass - ride all night for one price

IT'S THE BEST
Roast beef, chicken, pulled pork, burgers, hot dogs, fried clams, french fries, tacos, pizza, pastrami, fried dough, fried oreo, ice cream, fruit smoothie, beer

2019 Raffle
A total of three (3) prizes are to be awarded

First Prize: 2019 Toyota Tacoma Sport with TRD Sport Package, Double Cab, Technology Package, TRD Pro Wheels, TRD Pro Skid Plate, Predator Step Rails, Goodyear Wrangler Dura Track Tires
Bonus: $1,000.00 Exxon / Mobil Gas Card

Second Prize: $2,000 Visa Gift Card

Third Prize: $1,000 Visa Gift Card

1 Ticket is $10.00

All of the food at every food tent is cooked and served by Bridgewater Volunteer Firemen / EMS personnel along with volunteers.