



# OUR TOWN

## BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

AUGUST 2020

INSIDE

Page 9 Fall Bulky Drop Off

Page 11 Reading Challenge

Page 14 EMT Classes

Page See Insert



### *Message from Our First Selectman*

Bridgewater and Connecticut have fared better than most in the battle to contain the COVID-19 pandemic currently sweeping across most other states. This was accomplished by early and ongoing vigilance with most citizens following health recommendations, especially mask wearing.

Medical experts are warning that until there is a vaccine, the corona virus and its mutations do not just go away when it is summer, and most likely, will become more virulent again in the traditional flu season. Let this be a reminder for all of us in Bridgewater not to let the contagion gain a new foothold here by giving in to the strong desire to return to business as usual.


Coping with the new reality is going to get harder, especially as schools try to reopen. It is a huge, complicated and costly job to prepare the PPE for buses and classrooms as well as formulating all the new plans, policies and schedules that affect all family members, support staff, and teachers involved. The good news is that the Region 12 School District seems up to this task under the leadership of Megan Bennett. There is little help forthcoming from state and federal guidelines or adequate funding. Sometimes, it seems like local governments and school districts have to "wing it" by doing what we perceive is best for our individual situation. Of course, we consult with neighbors and experts, but in the end, it's an example of the fine New England tradition of "Home Rule".

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department's fairground was the site for the Shepaug Valley High School drive-in graduation ceremony in June. This was a creative and safe solution that worked out well thanks to the BVFD members and local police officers. Our graduating seniors may have missed many of the usual traditions, but the graduation was certainly memorable and successful. Congratulations!

In the spirit of recognizing important contributions to our local wellbeing I would like to recognize the volunteers working to help senior citizens in the TOP (town outreach program), the town hall staff who were back on the job before other towns, town crew workers who dealt with the virus personally, the BVFD and Ambulance staff who never stop answering the calls, our Emergency Management Director, Ron Rotter who has spearheaded getting safety equipment for all of us, the Food Bank volunteers who have expanded and improved the facility in response to increased need, and all of you for your patience on the roads and respect for your neighbors.

These certainly are strange times we live in. There is also a big election coming up in November (just the President). Although nobody has decided how it will really work here, we await some guidance from above and anticipate you will be able to register and vote safely by absentee ballot or in person. Like everything else in what I call "Corona Times", it's a ..... (fill in the blank).

Stay safe,

  
Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

## LAND TRANSFERS

### Land Transfers: April 2020

- John P. and Mary Ellen Devlin of Bridgewater to Michael and Mara Kane of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 275 Wewaka Brook Road, \$562,500
- Elizabeth M. Nelson of West Palm Beach, FL to Sigridur Thora Eidsdottir and Udai Bishnoi of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 293 Wewaka Brook Road, \$650,000

### Land Transfers: May 2020

- John and Carolyn M. Ross of Bridgewater to Larina L. Cipolla of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 49 Main Street North, \$400,000
- Matthew and Amy Zaccara of Westerly, RI to John and Tamara Vena of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 40 Bilberry Road, \$412,000
- Henry and Elyse Allen of Kamas, UT to Henry and Katlyn Silver of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 25 Rock Ridge Road, \$600,000

### Land Transfers: June 2020

- Margaret Marsh of Bridgewater to Jonathan Schmidt of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 191 Henry Sanford Road, \$200,000
- John Richers of Westport, CT to Daniel A. Mart of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 7 Warner Road, \$237,500
- Keane and Debra Lynch of Bridgewater to Lisa Deford of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 229 New Milford Road West, \$450,000
- James Martin and Paul Sachs of Southbury, CT to Lee and Stephanie Rosen of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 350 Old Turnpike Road East, \$842,500

ATTEST:  
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk



## Registrars of Voters

### August

Tuesday	8-04-2020	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Thursday	8-06-2020	9:00A.M. to 12:00P.M.

### REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT CUT-OFF (BY MAIL).

Below is the deadline for registering and enrolling for voting in primary for State, District, or municipal unless individual registers in person with the Registrar of Voters (ROV). Enrollment application of unaffiliated voter must be received by this day unless unaffiliated voter files application for enrollment with ROV by 12:00 Noon of 8-10-20.

Monday	8-10-2020	9:00A.M. to 12:00P.M.
--------	-----------	-----------------------

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT CUT-OFF FOR IN PERSON WITH THE ROV.

Tuesday	8-11-2020	6:00A.M. to 8:00P.M.
---------	-----------	----------------------

PRIMARY

### September

Tuesday	9-01-2020	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday	9-15-2020	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday	9-29-2020	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

### October

Tuesday	10-06-2020	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday	10-20-2020	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday	10-27-2020	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

\*THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY MUNICIPAL, STATE OR FEDERAL DIRECTIVES.

All registration sessions will take place 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 third Tuesday of each month between 9:00A.M. and 11:00A.M.

Margaret Judith Sullivan, Democratic Registrar  
Susan Patrick, Republican Registrar

## Cancellation Notice

The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary will be canceling both the Beer & Wine Tasting and the Town Wide Tag Sale this year. We will miss seeing all of you that support these activities and look forward to enjoying them with you in 2021.

# Office of the Tax Collector

## COVID-19 Property Tax Relief Program for Bridgewater CT

On April 14, 2020 the Board of Selectmen adopted the Lower Interest Program for all Bridgewater Taxpayers with certain stipulations for landlords only:

Executive Orders 7S #6 7S # 6 and 7W ("EO 7S & 7W") issued by Governor Lamont on April 1, 2020 provided relief for taxpayers through a local option tax deferral and/or low interest program. Bridgewater adopted the low interest program.

This program allows the Town of Bridgewater to offer a lower interest rate for real estate property, personal property, and motor vehicle taxes that become due on July 01, 2020 for three months from the date that they become due and payable.

The effect of this program is that any taxpayer that pays the July installment amount due after August 03, 2020 will be charged 0.25% per month interest from the original due date instead of the statutory 1.5% per month. The last day to take advantage of this lower interest will be September 30, 2020. Any July installment amount due remaining unpaid as of September 30, 2020 will be charged interest back to July 01, 2020 at 1.5% per month.

No application is necessary for this program. Partial payments may be made online or by mail during the three months of the program, and are preferable to office visits. If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at (860-355-9220) or email us at [taxcollector@bridgewater-ct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@bridgewater-ct.gov).

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

## TAX COLLECTOR

**LAST DAY TO  
PAY WITHOUT  
PENALTY  
AUGUST 3,  
2020**

Taxes received or postmarked August 4 through August 31, 2020

will be considered delinquent.



## BRIDGEWATER DOG OWNERS MUST LICENSE DOGS AT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE OR BY MAIL

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



## 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, 2020. 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, 2020 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, 2020.

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 \$37,000 if you are single or \$45,100 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, 2020.

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 2020.

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.

Sincerely,  
Denise C. Pinter Assessor



happy  
halloween

## Bridgewater Scholarship Committee

First off, a huge thank you to Cheryl Nelson for her many years of service on our committee. Her insight and dedication were greatly appreciated. At the same time we welcome Joy Bollard to our committee. Joy brings previous experience along with her patented good nature as she fit in from the moment she was appointed. Welcome Joy!

This year was a challenge for us as it continues to be for many. But we found a way to do our work remotely and even though we had 30% more students to process, the committee was able to function efficiently. Not being able to interview students in person was a handicap as well as a disappointment, but we accomplished our work in the best possible manner.

This year we processed 49 students. Checks will go out approximately one week after this Newsletter is distributed.

This year's scholarship award recipients are:  
(In alphabetical order)

Jack Abbott, Yasmine Bazos, Cameron Brown, Taryn Crossley, Emily Damota, Jacqueline DeVito, Brian DiBella, Meghan DiBella, Frances Dwyer, David Flook, James Foote, Ellyn Fritz, Elizabeth Gagnon, Mason Gsell, Elizabeth Hawley, Bailey Herron, Julia Iannucci, Michael Iannucci, Kenyon Kay, Lily Keefe, Ava Landry, Evan Landry, Julia Lindblom, Olivia Lucchesi, Daniel Manning, Timothy Manning, Dylin Marano, John Maxwell, Aiden Mullen, Patrick Mullen, Alison Parker, Sean Parker, Lily Schur, Olivia Seger, Julia Sinatra, Kathleen Sinatra, Adeline Southard, Emma Spiegel, Andrew Stern, Kaitlin Stumpf, Nicholas Valletta, Willie May Vasquez-Peragine, Annika Vikstrom, Lars Vikstrom, Hayley Virbickas, Spencer Weston, Dakota Wilson, Hunter Wilson, Griffin Ylagan.

Once again, Bridgewater can be extremely proud of the quality young people it has helped to nurture.

Please consider gifting to the Scholarship Fund in your long term estate planning.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Neary, Chairman



## VETERAN'S NEWS

### Prepare for Your Future With VR&E with VA help:

If you are a Veteran, the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program may be able to help you prepare for and find a career. This Fourth of July, we encourage you to explore your career options and address any training needs you may have. VR&E offers support and services tracks to help you find and keep a job, and live as independently as possible. Explore the different tracks including the Reemployment track, Rapid Access to Employment track, Self-Employment track, Employment Through Long-Term Services track, and the Independent Living track. Visit [www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov) to learn more and get access to all the VA opportunities supported by the US Government.

### In-Person Claim Exams

Since VA resumed in-person Compensation & Pension (C&P) exams, a lot of Veterans want to know not only where to get one, but what they are. VA Claim exams may be required to complete your request for VA disability or pension benefits. If you require an exam, a medical exam provider will contact you.

#VAclaimexam

### Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP)

Veterans and their beneficiaries now have additional options for receiving VA benefits via direct deposit, as well as access to financial services at participating banks. Visit [www.Benefits.Gov](http://www.Benefits.Gov) to see more.

### Apply for a Job With VBA

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is dedicated to honoring Veterans and helping them get the benefits and services they deserve. We're always on the search for talented, passionate candidates who are eager to excel in their careers. Explore open positions near you and apply today! Visit [www.Benefits.Gov](http://www.Benefits.Gov) to see more.

### VVA Serves Those Who Served

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the only national organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era Veterans and their families. VVA has a national membership of over 85,000, with over 650 chapters that offer Veterans claims assistance, financial advising, job placement, and advocates on behalf of Veterans through legislative initiatives. Find out how VVA is supporting military communities across the country. Visit [VVA.org](http://VVA.org) for more information

**ALL GOOD NEWS!** But too much to put here. Please log into [www.Benefits.VA.Gov](http://www.Benefits.VA.Gov) or [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) to follow the latest bills and issues related to veterans.

VA Liaison: Joe Buchheit, [townofbridgewater@va.gov](mailto:townofbridgewater@va.gov), 8603552433.

## FALL BULKY DROP OFF Starts Monday, October 19th

### **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 19th through Friday, October 23rd from 7:30am-3:30pm. and on Saturday October 24th 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.

**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!!

**There will be no curbside pickup this fall due to Covid-19 precautions**

# Bridgewater Memories

Bridgewater 1859



What Bridgewater story is your favorite? What is your favorite memory of this little community? You don't have to be a lifelong resident of the town to have one. It could be from 100 years ago, or yesterday. Part of the reason I love history is because I spent so much time listening to my grandfather share stories about growing up in Bridgewater. I realized that all of our memories help to weave this incredibly rich history that we all are living and experiencing.

As I sit here steeped in sentiment and nostalgia for bygone 4th of July picnics, I reflect on one of my favorite stories that is apropos for this patriotic holiday.

My Grandfather, Ed Hager was born in 1922. He missed World War 1, but he was just old enough to see the ramifications of Black Tuesday in 1929, and was 23 when the United States entered World War. War wasn't a foreign thing to my grandfather. His older brother, Walter entered the fray. Poppy had friends who became soldiers, one of which, sadly, witnessed the bombings of Pearl Harbor. It never seemed that he romanticized it, but he had some underlying sense of duty.

Despite being born in Bridgeport, Poppy came to Bridgewater at a young age and embraced a rural lifestyle, working on a farm. When the war came, it became important for Poppy to do something. What he didn't realize is that he already was. As the war progressed, there was an amazing deficit of farm laborers. The labor force changed in such large strides that over 20 percent of the American workforce shifted out of the economy to the military. Helping to feed our country was (and is) an important job, but he wanted to have a greater impact. He went to enlist. To his disappointment, he was turned away because they needed him to continue to do the important work that he was doing.

Never to be deterred, he volunteered for civil defense programs, including at a lookout tower situated along route 133 in Bridgewater. The Ground Observer Corp was a group of men, women, and teenagers who manned towers, rooftops and open fields to scan for Japanese and German Aircrafts. His pride for his country, as well as his rebellious nature, shone through at the end of the war, though. Those who knew Poppy, knew the sly smile that he would give before he told a joke or played a prank. I can only imagine that the night that the war ended, a 23-year-old poppy had that smile as he and some friends attached a piece of string and rope to the bells in the churches in the center of Bridgewater to celebrate... and continued to ring them all through the night in between inspection by tired neighbors, selectmen, and police. Until the day he died, he would never tell me who else was involved in this raucous celebration. I like to think maybe they inspired a generation of family members to listen to their stories by recounting their memories much the way Poppy did for me.

Your memories matter. Tell them to who you can. Share them. Preserve them. Most of all, listen to the stories of those who want to tell you them. They are giving you a gift. There is beauty in the mundane, we just need preserve it while people are able to share it.

*By Chris Fisher*

*The Burnham Library is partnering with the Connecticut Crossroads Project, a 501c3 that collects community history through casual conversation. If you have a memory you'd like to share, or you'd like to have a conversation, email [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org). Your neighbors' memories are available at [www.ctcrossroadsproject.com](http://www.ctcrossroadsproject.com).*



## New Glass Recycling Program

The HRRRA (our regional garbage and re-cycling agency) is piloting a new glass recycling program approved by CT DEEP. Bridgewater residents could be asked to separate their glass from the mixed recycling stream in the near future. You would bring the glass to the town garage to recycle separately or you could ask your private hauler to collect it at the curb.

While it may be convenient for residents to mix recyclables in the same bin, it degrades much of the material and makes it nearly impossible for the glass to be recycled. One of the biggest contaminants is broken glass particles which attach themselves to paper, cardboard, and other recyclables. Because of this, most glass is sent to landfills and is never recycled into a new product.

The goal is to improve the quality of recycling in Connecticut and ensure glass is sent to a processor for a higher beneficial use such as: bottle to bottle, fiber glass products or industrial filler for cement. You can read more about the glass recycling program at [www.hrra.org/glass-recycling](http://www.hrra.org/glass-recycling). You will also find a list of licensed haulers who will collect glass separately from the mixed recycling stream at the curb.

**IMPORTANT to note:** Glass is a designated recyclable by state law. Glass should not be disposed of in the trash. Learn more about the State of Connecticut's recycling laws by visiting [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

**Other important waste management and recycling news:** Please remember when hiring a garbage hauler for your household garbage, recycling or for dumpster rentals, they must be licensed and registered through the HRRRA. Visit [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org) for list of registered haulers approved for Bridgewater. The next Household Hazardous Waste event is scheduled for September 12th in Brookfield.

If you have questions on waste disposal, such as hazardous waste, composting, or the new glass pilot program, email the HRRRA Executive Director, Jennifer Heaton-Jones at [Info@hrra.org](mailto:Info@hrra.org) or call 203.775.4539



## The Bridgewater Land Trust Welcomes Fall 2020!

This Fall 2020 we welcome the public to enjoy our public trail located on the Town Line Preserve & The Ketchum Children's Trail (maps are now on our website: [www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org](http://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org)). As always, we ask that you help take care of our trails and open space by removing any waste that you bring. 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 there. We look forward to some fun and interesting events in the planning phase for fall of 2020 including our First Annual Volksmarch Walk (see insert of this newsletter for more details).

Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2020. 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](http://bridgewaterlandtrust.org) or our Facebook page.

Thank you!  
The Bridgewater Land Trust

## SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL



## Region District 12 Updates

Region 12 Schools celebrated the end of the school year with non-traditional ceremonies to mark the end of a truly memorable year. Bridgewater hosted parades and graduations that exceeded all expectations for our students. Burnham Elementary School concluded the school year with a reverse parade. Burnham staff stood around the drop off circle with their masks on, holding signs and banners to celebrate their students. The Burnham families drove past beloved staff members honking horns, playing music, and shouting their mutual appreciation and love for our educators.



Shepaug Seniors began their graduation journey at Shepaug Valley School. The parade of cars traveled through the three towns. Our community members lined the streets (using social distance) and made our seniors feel honored and accomplished. Our Seniors arrived on the Bridgewater Fairgrounds in their family cars. Our students were celebrated with honking horns, cheers, fireworks, and confetti cannons. You are invited to view the entire graduation ceremony on the Region 12 YouTube Channel or by the direct link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aG0\\_V2WcZs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aG0_V2WcZs)

Region 12 Schools are deeply appreciative of the Bridgewater Fire Department and Trooper Bell's efforts before, during, and after the graduation ceremony. They pulled out all of the stops to make graduation happen in the grandest of fashions. Please join me in recognizing the efforts when you see our Bridgewater firefighters and police officers. Thank you to all of the families and community members in Bridgewater who supported our students academically and emotionally throughout distance learning. The pandemic proved that it truly takes a village to raise a child. We look forward to the students' return to our school buildings in the fall.

Megan Bennett, Superintendent  
Region 12 Schools





## Historical Society News



*Ralph Barnaby 1982*

If someone asked you to name one of the founders of aviation in the United States, who would you name? Orville or Wilbur Wright? Amelia Ehrhart? How about Ralph Barnaby?

This Bridgewater boy has been lost in history. Here is his story. From the time of the Wright Brothers' flight, Ralph Barnaby dreamed of flying. For him, "flying" meant gliding, something few in this country knew about, much less tried. Working on a farm in the summer gave this 16 year old the chance - and the money - to get supplies together. He bought lumber from the old Roxbury lumber yard. His father, an engineer on the Shepaug Railroad, helped him with the design. He covered the wings with cloth and added wheels. Finally, he was ready. He glided over the bluffs of the Shepaug River Valley in Bridgewater. He sailed from the farm owned first by August Kruger, then by the Thompsons near Minor Bridge. That experience was just the beginning for Ralph.

He began his thirty one year Navy career in 1917. In 1929, he flew a glider over the sand bluffs on Cape Cod and broke Orville Wright's record, sailing 15 minutes and 6 seconds. He eventually met the Wright Brothers and became friendly with them. When the government started issuing licenses for pilots, Barnaby received his, signed by Orville Wright himself. Wright was then commissioner of the small band of pilots who had proven flight was possible.

Ralph retired from the Navy as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Development Center at Johnsville, Pennsylvania but he was not done with aviation. He made a historic descent of 3,000 feet from the dirigible USS Los Angeles at Lakehurst, New Jersey in 1930. He participated in the development and use of improved aviation designs. He served five terms as President of the Soaring Society of America and of the "Early Birds of Aviation", an organization of pioneering aviators. Living well into his nineties, he was recognized by the National Aeronautic Association and the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

And to think, it all began in Bridgewater.



### From The Desk of the Town Historian

You may have noticed that many of the old trees planted along Main Street have died in the last few years. What you might not know is that those trees were planted when these now old houses were new in the 1800s or before. They were sugar maples and many were tapped for rendering into delicious maple syrup. That history continues today as several of the town members still tap and make the product.

There were always two trees planted - one for the "bride" and one for the "groom" of the new house. As the cornerstone of the house was laid, those trees were planted. Those happy couples have long since passed, but many of their trees remain. Maybe it's time to renew this custom. We can never have enough beautiful trees.

- Eileen Buchheit



## BURNHAM LIBRARY NEWS AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2020

On June 23, we reopened our doors for browsing and borrowing! To keep our patrons and staff as safe as possible, we established a reopening plan with guidelines developed in accordance with the Governor's directives and CDC guidance. Our plans are in constant flux as we determine the best way to serve our community and keep everyone healthy. A listing of our guidelines is kept current on our website [www.burnhamlibrary.org/covid19](http://www.burnhamlibrary.org/covid19).

### Guidelines at a glance:

- Temporary hours through August are Tues 1-5, Wed and Thur 9-4, Fri 1-5, Sat 9-1.
- Visitors must wear a face covering while in the library. Curbside pick-up is available for those unable to wear a mask.
- All library materials must be returned via the outside book drop.
- Library materials are disinfected and quarantined for 3 days and then discharged from your library account.
- Overdue fines are waived until further notice.
- Inter-library loan service has resumed as of July 6th.
- Restrooms are closed to the public.
- The play area and MakerSpace located in the Susan Beris, MD Youth Learning Center are closed and LEGO Bricks are unavailable.
- Computer use is limited.
- We are not accepting book donations at this time.

As I write this, we do not know what the next few months will look like for library services and programming. Because of this uncertainty, we have decided to wait on scheduling in-library programs until Phase 3 of the Governor's plan is released. However, we have some great events planned to bring the community back together once it is safe to do so!

Although in-person programming is paused at this time, popular virtual programs are in full-swing! Join us for weekly Bedtime Storytime and Burnham Bunch Storytime on Facebook LIVE, monthly Zoom book discussions and Dungeons and Dragons meet-ups, and virtual tech-tutoring.

In addition, we are continuing to develop and offer NEW services! Try our curbside pick-up which is available Tuesday - Saturday by appointment. Simply email, call, or place a request through the catalog and we will notify you when your pick-up is ready! Our staff will also curate a binge bag of books for you or your child, and movie buffs will love our NEW binge-box collections available for one-week loan.

If you need something printed, we are offering a NEW print on demand service. And, if you are in need of technology, check-out our Burnham Tech-2-Go service. Finally, don't forget to take advantage of our Digital Branch which offers Bridgewater residents 24/7 access to downloadable digital materials, such as ebooks, eaudio, streaming movies, comics, music and more.

Stay connected with us and stay current on all things Burnham Library! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, visit our website, and/or register for our digital newsletter with [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org).

We say goodbye to Julia Sinatra, our most recent Library Page, who is headed to Hamilton College in New York. We will miss her and wish her much success!

Jean Kallay, Library Director

## Support our Annual Endowment Appeal



THE BURNHAM LIBRARY ANNUAL APPEAL

**Donate Now**



While the Library receives a portion of our operating income from the Town of Bridgewater, we rely on additional income generated from our Endowment Fund to close the budget gap. Your gifts, grants, and contributions to the Library's Endowment Fund supports our annual operating budget which helps to advance library services, build collections, and improve technology and facilities.

For more information or to donate visit <http://burnhamlibrary.org/annual-appeal/>  
The Bridgewater Library Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit public charity. Tax ID: 06-6044812

## Burnham Library Reading Lover's Challenge

The BL Reading Lover's Challenge is a year-long opportunity for adult book lovers to explore new authors and genres while having fun with your reading list. We have chosen the prompts and we challenge you to read 14 books within those categories. The challenge began on February 1st and ends January 31, 2021. Upon completion you will receive a BL coffee mug to brag about your accomplishments and you will also be entered for a final raffle prize! More details available at the library or email [jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org). Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Burnham Board of Trustees.



## Virtual Programs and Events

**Virtual Book Discussions** - Our monthly discussions will continue to take place via Zoom. All are welcome! Copies of the monthly selection will be available at the library or request a curbside pick-up. Thursdays at 5:00 on September 24 - *World Without End* by Ken Follett and October 22 - *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo For further information or to receive Zoom login instructions, email [jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org).

**Virtual Bedtime Storytime** - Bedtime stories every Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Facebook LIVE. Resumes on September 2.

**The Burnham Bunch Storytime** - Bubbles, books, and songs designed for the under 5 crowd. Thursday morning sessions from 10:30 - 11:00. Fall/Winter storytime may be offered as Facebook LIVE events and/or via Zoom. Details to be determined. Resumes on September 3.





# BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** The Mission of the Bridgewater's Hilltop Center is to identify the total needs of our aging population, promote and encourage new and existing activities, provide services and education to enhance the quality of life for all of us.

This mission is more important than ever, but we have had to change how we accomplish that mission this year. Even though our programs were suspended, we made every effort to stay in touch with our friends. Behind our closed doors we redirected our efforts to reaching OUT of the center to stay in touch with our friends with phone calls, email, newsletters, cards and Zoom technology. Each week an email is sent out with updates and our blog. The blog includes a wealth of information from computer tips & tricks, to educational, interesting videos and websites, letters from the Director, wellness guides, and concerts. For those without email we have mailed letters with updates as well as a Special Connecticut Crossword Puzzle, Encouraging Words Search, Shelter At Home Bingo Card, and an At Home Scavenger Hunt. The Municipal Agent was always available by phone.

Using Zoom technology we are able to offer classes:

Body Conditioning Exercise Class - Monday & Wednesday 10:30  
Chair Yoga Class - Friday 9:30

The following groups meet socially through Zoom or on our patio under the umbrellas weather permitting.

Computer Club - Tuesday 10:00; Silver Needles -Tuesday 1:00  
Canasta - Friday 1:00; Mahjong - Wednesday 1:00

We did use the time wisely in other ways also. The interior of the Center was painted, floors polished, rugs shampooed, windows cleaned. We had talented residents making masks for anyone who needed them. The masks were available for pick up at the Center or brought to their homes. The Center looks beautiful and I am so thankful for the support I have received. I was just starting to get to know everyone, when things changed. I look forward to seeing everyone again and welcoming new participants in person inside the center.

Another casualty of these times was the cancellation of our annual fundraiser patio party. This means we are relying on an appeal letter as our main source of program funding. We hope that the community will consider a donation at this time of need. We want to be able to continue with our Mission.

## **SENIOR VAN**

The senior van is available for the use of residents over the age of 60 and for those under the age of 60 for people with disabilities. Use includes doctor appointments, grocery shopping and special activities with a limited destination distance of 20 miles. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis, but every effort will be made to meet your needs. Our drivers are Michele King, Alan Dinho, Matt DeVito and Ann Frattalone. Please contact the Senior Van Director - Ann Frattalone at 860-350-3042 at least two weeks in advance for your appointments.

To receive our emails please contact us at [bwscseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bwscseniorcenter@gmail.com) , 860-355-3090. We want to hear from you!

Patricia Babbage, 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 is still 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.

### Paper Shredding Day

Due to the COVID pandemic we had to cancel our spring paper shredding event. However, we have rescheduled it for Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 9-12pm at the Town Garage. CCB is happy that we can offer this service to our seniors free of charge. We expect that we will still be observing social distancing and safe handling of the material to be shredded. We will provide updates as 9/12/20 approaches.

### Contact Us

We are aware that the current economy and general uncertainty has put physical, mental and economic strains on all of us, but particularly our seniors. Please DO NOT HESITATE to contact us if you need assistance (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@ccbbridgewater.org](mailto:info@ccbbridgewater.org) or [cheryl@westernviewfarms.com](mailto:cheryl@westernviewfarms.com)



## From the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department

During these unprecedented times the BVFD is here to support the Town of Bridgewater. As of the end of June we have responded to over 120 emergency calls. This is on pace for a record # of calls in a year. I would like to thank all our volunteer members for their dedication not only during the COVID pandemic but also for their year-round EMS & Fire protection for the Town of Bridgewater.

We will be holding an EMT class beginning in August. The BVFD provides all the emergency medical coverage for the Town of Bridgewater. If you would like to join our crew, then this class is for you. We have a dedicated EMT squad and we are always looking for new members. If interested, please email [parapete@comcast.net](mailto:parapete@comcast.net) and we will get you an initial tour of our operations and details on the class. We have the biggest and badest toys in town. Become a member and we can train you on using them!!!!

Onto the fair..... Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Fair this year. Due to an overwhelming concern for our volunteers, patrons and vendors safety we felt the right decision was to cancel the fair. As you may know the fair is how we raise we 90% of our operating budget. The BVFD does not receive your tax dollars. We own, maintain and purchase all our buildings, apparatus and land. Not only is this a sense of pride for the BVFD, but it also is a huge tax relief for our residents. All our members love the fair as it always pulls our members together during the late summer and helps us regroup as a department. We are always looking for financial support to improve the department, and as always, your support is appreciated.

On a closing note we will hold another mask giveaway. This will be a contactless drive thru event. More details to follow via town wide emails and Facebook etc....

Ron Rotter - Chief BVFD - [chief@bvfd.org](mailto:chief@bvfd.org)

# EMERGENCY SERVICES



## Bridgewater EMS Update August, September, November 2020

It is probably not news to anyone that Covid 19 is still with us and necessitating changes in the way we live our lives. One obvious example is the absence of The Bridgewater Fair. The Fair is a beloved tradition in our town and it is also the primary source of funds for the operating budget of our Volunteer Fire Department. Our Emergency Medical Services are provided to the town by our Fire Department. True to its mission, The Fire Department cancelled the Fair this year out of concern for the safety of our citizens. Hopefully, the virus will be under control by next summer and our Bridgewater Fair will again be available for all to enjoy. For now, if you would like to help defray Fire Department operating expenses, your welcomed contribution can be sent to The Bridgewater Fire Department, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Bridgewater, CT 06902. You can be certain that your contribution will be used responsibly.

We are in need of additional Emergency Medical Technicians. All of our EMTs in Bridgewater volunteer their services. We are grateful for the dedication, skills and generosity of our volunteer EMTs. Their efforts are an important part of what makes Bridgewater such a special place. We take care of each other. If you have an interest in joining us, now is an excellent time. The Bridgewater Fire Department is hosting an EMT training class beginning on August 4. Classes will be held at the Firehouse on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6pm until 10pm. There will also be 5 Saturday classes from 8:30am until 4:30pm. Bridgewater residents who join the Department and volunteer their services are eligible for tuition reimbursement. This excellent training will prepare you to provide Emergency Medical assistance to your neighbors. Many people have found that their status as a Certified Emergency Medical Technician has helped qualify them for interesting and rewarding careers. Examples include careers in the medical field, law enforcement, fire departments, and the military. This is also a great opportunity for retirees and others who live here in town. If you would like to learn more about becoming an EMT please contact Pete Johnson at 860-601-8884 or by email at [parapete39@gmail.com](mailto:parapete39@gmail.com).

Everyone who has been adhering to the social distancing, hand hygiene and face mask protocols recommended by the CDC and our Public Health and Safety Officials is to be commended. Connecticut is one of only a few states that is presently enjoying a much improved situation relative to the pandemic. But the pandemic is spiking at alarming levels in many states. It is imperative that we remain vigilant and continue to respect and observe the precautions that have helped improve conditions in our state. As people travel and visit during this vacation season we are all at increased risk of exposure to the virus. If we are not vigilant it is likely that a resurgence of the virus will confront us. If this occurs at the same time as Flu season the next wave can be expected to be more harmful than the first. Now is not the time to stop believing in the necessity of the Covid 19 precautions. The shortest path to the end of the pandemic is the one we have traveled so far. Please stay the course.

Finally, please remember that if you have a medical emergency you should not hesitate to call 911. The EMTs of the Bridgewater Fire Department are willing and able to respond to your emergency. You will receive excellent care from highly trained, motivated volunteers. We are also your neighbors.

Sincerely, Jim McNulty,  
NREMT Ambulance Coordinator  
The Bridgewater Fire Department, Inc.  
Email: [jamesmcnultynremt@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmcnultynremt@gmail.com)

---

## Bridgewater Fire Department Women's Auxiliary

The Bridgewater Women's Auxiliary sadly announces that both our Beer & Wine Tasting event in September and the Town Wide Tag Sale will be cancelled for this year for the consideration and safety of our community.

In June we announced this year's Scholarship Recipient - it has been awarded to Lily Schur, an amazing and outstanding young lady that will be heading off to West Point this fall. Congratulations Lily! We wish you all the best in your future, we are proud of you.

The Auxiliary will meet on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 in the Bridgewater Fire House unless otherwise noted. We are always looking for new members so please come and join us at any time.

The calendar for the next coming months is:  
August 17th - Meeting at Firehouse  
September 21st - Meeting at Firehouse  
October 19th - Meeting at Firehouse

Carol Wilbur

## St. Marks Episcopal Church



August, September,  
October 2020

At this time we are expecting to continue having a service at the church every Sunday at 9:30 am. The service currently is a Eucharist at which communion consists of a spiritual prayer rather than bread and wine. We are, at the same time, offering the service on ZOOM. Unfortunately we do not know when this practice will end and we will return to regular Eucharist, followed by coffee hour and first Sunday breakfasts. All are welcome at any service or activity.

We are expecting to plan a outdoor fundraising sale at some time during the summer.

For current information please check our website at <https://stmarksbridgewater.weebly.com>

## The Bridgewater Congregational Church

### ONGOING

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

Meetings have been suspended for the time being. Pause a While will be hosting free conference call meetings. 2pm every day call 425-436-6360 access code 422932#. You can also email [pauldart@pauseawhile.org](mailto:pauldart@pauseawhile.org) to volunteer to chair a meeting.

#### The Bridgewater Food Pantry

located in our Parish House, 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. Please Call the church office at 860-354-8283 and leave a message if you need to access the pantry.

## The Bridgewater Congregational Church

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

The Bridgewater Congregational Church is holding its services on Sunday morning via Zoom at 10:15 a.m. We cordially invite you and your family to join your neighbors and friends to this lively and meaningful service of Christian worship. True, the hymn singing is a bit cacophonous due to the technology, but the solos and duets are beautiful and moving. We share our joys and concerns in a time of comforting prayer, and the brief messages by the pastor, Reverend Daniel England, are well received for their resonance in these strange and sometimes anxious days.

You can receive a personal invitation each week if you'll leave your name, email and phone number at the church office by emailing the office at [officebwucc@gmail.com](mailto:officebwucc@gmail.com) or call 203-354-8283 and leave a message. Someone will be in touch with you to explain how you join the service via Zoom. For those who would like to listen into the service without actually "showing up" on the gallery of people on the screen, you can easily do that. This is a tough time right now and we are having 60 to 70 people coming to the service to receive musical and spoken hope and comfort in a safe, friendly and welcoming way. We'd love to have you join us, too.

Reverend Daniel England



For more information call the Church Office: 860-354-8283 or email us at: [office.bwucc@gmail.com](mailto:office.bwucc@gmail.com) or visit us on the web: [www.bwucc.org](http://www.bwucc.org)

The church is located at the corner of Route 133 (Main Street) and Clapboard Road in the center of Bridgewater.



Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 273  
New Milford, CT 06776  
Carrier Route Presorted

## 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, 2020.*

#### 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](mailto:juliestuartct@gmail.com)

#### Bridgewater Board of Selectmen

Curtis Read, *First Selectman*  
Alan Brown  
Laz Pinter  
Administrative Assistant  
Anne Marie Wagner

# CALENDAR

## AUGUST

- 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
- 20 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 25 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 27 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 1 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 7 Labor Day \*\*\*\*\* Town Hall Closed \*\*\*\*\*
- 8 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 16 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
- 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

## OCTOBER

- 6 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 6 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 12 Columbus Day \*\*\*\*\* Town Hall Closed \*\*\*\*\*
- 13 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 22 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 22 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 27 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall

### RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED TO SIGN UP FOR TOWN NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those interested in receiving the latest notices regarding town events and news are urged to sign up for the email subscriber list on the town website: [www.bridgewater-ct.gov](http://www.bridgewater-ct.gov). To join the News & Announcements list or other subscriptions, visit the website and click on the SUBSCRIBE TO E-ALERTS button on the left side of the home page. For more information; contact Catherine Vikstrom, Website Coordinator, at 860-355-9220.



For additional information and updates, please visit our website at [www.bridgewater-ct.gov](http://www.bridgewater-ct.gov)



# Bridgewater Recreation News

## Recreation News

The Bridgewater Recreation Committee would like to extend our deep appreciation to the residents of Bridgewater. During this unprecident time in our lives everyone did a stellar job keeping social distance and being respectful of us having to close the playgrounds and basketball courts. We are happy to announce that we have reopened the recreation center playground and basketball courts. Please continue to practice social distancing and respect towards others.

Our pavilion is also back open for rentals. Per the State of Connecticut there is a maximum of 100 people allowed at outside gatherings. If you are interested in renting, please Email: [Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com).

As always we will continue to monitor the situation and proceed in a safe manner. Hopefully Trunk or Treat and other recreation sponsored programs will take place this fall.

Again, thank you for your support and enjoy the rest of the summer.

--

Thanks,  
Allison Gsell Bridgewater Recreation Coordinator  
[www.bridgewater-ct.gov](http://www.bridgewater-ct.gov)  
Email - [bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com)  
Cell - 203-417-0744 Office - 860-355-9133

## Pickleball



Tuesday / Friday  
Evenings  
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Recreation Center courts  
Drop-ins Welcome

## Pavilion Rentals



If you are interested in renting the Pratt Pavilion please contact [Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com).



Join us for the 1st Annual

## Volksmarsch Walk

Volksmarsching, or "People's March", is a form of non-competitive fitness walking that developed in Europe in the 1960s. Our 6 mile loop will begin and end at the Bridgewater Pavilion, exploring Land Trust trails and various points of interest in between. At the end of the day, guests will enjoy bratwurst, warm pretzels and German beer by a cozy fire.

Saturday, October 3rd, 2020 (rain date October 4th)  
Tickets: \$50 per person • Hosted by Bridgewater Land Trust



## 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.*

## Literacy Volunteers on the Green

2020 is a year of celebration as Literacy Volunteers on the Green marks the 15th anniversary of providing free English literacy instruction to adults residing in northern Fairfield and Litchfield counties! Welcoming adult learners from over 30 countries, LVG seeks to support adult students as they strive to become independent readers, writers, listeners and speakers of English, enabling their full participation in the communities we share.

LVG tutors and students have adapted to distance learning, using FaceTime, Zoom or Whats App to connect - learning continues, although adult students face the challenges of balancing family and job responsibilities with attempting to continue learning English, often using only their phones as an educational device. The LVG community remains closely connected and looks forward to offering a hybrid of tutoring options once local venues are open to LVG's learning teams.

New tutor trainings are planned for early September - a perfect opportunity for interested residents from Bridgewater to support adult literacy and revitalize the working lives of adults seeking English language proficiency. The LVG staff is actively working remotely. For further information, please contact Lynn@lvg-ct.org to learn of ways to support English language literacy in northwestern Connecticut.

Lynn Davies Executive  
Director Literacy Volunteers on the Green



### Bridgewater Grange #153 Celebrating 120 years as our Local Grange for our Surrounding Communities

**What is the Grange?** The Grange is the nation's oldest general farm and community public interest organization. Originally founded in 1867, today the Grange represents nearly 150,000 grassroots Grange members affiliated with 2,100 local, county and state Grange chapters located in 40 states. In the State of Connecticut, there are over 40 communities with Grange Chapters.

Grange membership is non-exclusive. Members are not limited by age, gender, culture, race or faith. In the ever-changing community, the Granges across the State of Connecticut provide diverse services. Our organization is comprised of all types of individuals - including men and women of all ages, from trades people and small business owners to educators and professionals. The Bridgewater Grange has members not only from our community, but many from our surrounding towns of New Milford, Roxbury and Washington as well.

The Grange and it's members provide service to not only agriculture and rural communities on a wide variety of issues, but has evolved into an organization concerned with the needs of all people - rural, suburban and urban - including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure strong and viable communities across America.

The fellowship, recreation and social activities in the Grange are developed with the family in mind - children and senior citizens alike are welcome. Activities we hold annually vary from the Chili Cook-off, to Roast Beef Dinners, a bake sale or two, all to raise funds for our organization, Scholarship, and aid to those in need. We also help with loaves and fishes on the first Saturday of each month and this spring we began "The Garden of Life" to help provide fresh vegetables to families that have been hard hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Greater New Milford Area through the help and guidance of Helping Hands for Heroes and Deerefield Farm.

**Membership** - We are always looking for new members that would like to be actively involved and willing to work to uphold the Grange values and become a pillar to the community. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month and the Membership Cost is \$30. If you would like more information about membership or to become a member, please contact Peggy Zottola at 860-799-7820 or PegZo@aol.com



For more information on the nation's oldest  
national agricultural organization, visit:  
[www.NationalGrange.org](http://www.NationalGrange.org)

Carol Wilbur - Secretary