



OUR TOWN

BRIDGEWATER
Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

AUGUST 2023

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The
Fair!

Message from Our First Selectman

We all tend to focus on our own backyards. As summer hits its stride, our attention may be captured by the big mama bear with her three cubs that wander around town, or the upcoming Bridgewater Country Fair & Firemen's Parade, or all the local recreational opportunities with our families and friends. However, I sometimes consider it my duty to keep you tuned in to important Connecticut news that could affect our town's rural balance between forests, farmland, and housing zones.

CT Towns will soon be assigned a "Fair Share Allocation" after determining the need for affordable housing units in each of the state's planning regions. Bridgewater's region is WCCOG (Western CT Council of Governments) (westcog.org), which encompasses eighteen towns in southwest CT from the "Gold Coast" up to New Milford. Each municipality in WCCOG will be assigned its own number of affordable units to comply with this newly passed CT legislation.

The CT Office of Policy and Management will then adjust a municipality's Fair Share Allocation if it has a higher equalized net grand list, higher median income, lower federal poverty rate, and/or lower population share residing in multi-family housing relative to other towns. Even though the CT Legislature passed this legislation to develop the fair share calculation, the mandate to build units within any set timeline was removed due to threats of immediate legal challenges.

Bridgewater's position within the WCCOG region, as defined in our Affordable Housing Annex and Town Plan of Conservation and Development, is that our town is basically inappropriate for intense development because we have no public water or sewers available and no public transportation or food shopping nearby.

This argument may work to some degree, but we may have to pay a price in the future to help neighboring Towns build mandated affordable housing projects. For more details, please visit www.bridgewater-ct.gov. Ultimately, preserving more large tracts of land in town via easements may be the best defense against future housing pressure.

Back in Bridgewater, grant awards have enabled us to complete both the sidewalk connection to Center Street and major renovations to Hilltop Center Barn and the Town Garage Salt Shed. Upcoming work include repairing the slate roof on Burnham Library, finishing the Captain's House interior, and landscaping the Grange Park.

Another piece of good news is that the Bridgewater Black Sox baseball diamond is finally renovated and ready for the first pitch of the new season!

Three Cheers for Our Town,

Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: April 2023

- Merideth Kerby and George Schifini to Benjamin Prober, land and buildings, 255 Hut Hill Road, \$340,000
- David and Samantha Flook to Haissam Ramadan, land and buildings, 12 Hank Becker Lane, \$550,000
- Theodore and Peggy Anson to David and Samantha Flook, land and buildings, 39 Castle Hill Lane, \$680,000

Land Transfers: May 2023

- Homelift Holdings, LLC to Daniel and Chelsea Church, land and buildings, 8 Landmark Drive, \$1,096,130
- Edward and Ann Lamont to Robert and Adriana Mnuchin, land, Northrop Street, \$1,000,000
- Edward and Ann Lamont to Bridgewater Land Trust, Inc., land, Northrop Street, no consideration.
- Susan Daigle to Andrew and Madelyn Zimmerman, land and buildings, 37 Lake Lillinonah Road, \$540,000

Land Transfers: June 2023

- Carl and Janice Klinger to Patrick, Katherine, and Rachel Alagna, land and buildings, 154 Blueberry Hill Road, \$560,000
- David Schneider and Kevin Yuen to Nishith Ajitsaria and Bria Moran, land and buildings, 127 Clapboard Road, \$1,675,000
- Lisa Deford to Jon Bates, land and buildings, 229 New Milford Road West, \$633,150

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

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

Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

The members of the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club would like to thank the Bridgewater community for their donations during Give Local and support for our annual Plant Mart. We would especially like to thank those who donated divided plants from their gardens, the Bridgewater Firehouse who allow us to hold our Plant Mart on their grounds, and Maywood for their plant donations. Thanks to your support we are able to create and maintain garden spaces throughout the town, decorate public buildings for the holidays and put on programs at the school, library and senior center.

We welcome new members at any time and usually meet at St. Mark's fellowship Hall at 9:30 am on the second Thursday of every month. Details about events, programs, speakers, and field trips can be found at our website roxburybridgewaterclub.com.

Our members will be on hand again this year to accept horticultural entries to the Bridgewater Fair, We hope to see you and your entries this year!

* H A P P Y *
Labor Day

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Taxpayers who wish to file for Farmland, Forest Land or Open Space under Public Act #490 must do so between September 1st and October 31, 2023. 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 in early October. Personal property that is required to be claimed are any assets owned by October 1, 2023, 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 include 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, 2023.

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 below \$40,300 if you are single or \$49,100 if married, you may qualify for an Additional veteran's exemption. Also, if you were designated by the Veterans Administration as disabled, please bring your VA disability form in as you may qualify for a Disabled Veteran's benefit. These forms must be in our office before October 1, 2023.

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 2023.

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.

Sincerely,
Denise C. Pinter, Assessor

The Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation



First off, I would like to acknowledge the time and dedication Jeanne Papparazzo has provided the Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation over the past two decades. Jeanne announced her retirement from the committee following the completion of this year's work. Jeanne has been a cornerstone providing guidance, sound judgment and, when needed, a good sense of humor. We can never thank her enough.

The 2023 applicants, as in prior years, showcased the best our young people have to offer both locally and on the global stage. Their academic achievements, community service hours logged, maturity, and enthusiasm to make positive change in the world are inspiring attributes that give us hope for a bright future. Recent Shepaug Valley High School graduates Abigail Creech, Caitlin Murphy, and Mia Wallace were among this year's award recipients. Scholarships were also presented to Alexis Aita, Garrett Brown, Taryn Crossley, Frances Dwyer, Kayleigh Hendy, Bailey Herron, Ava Landry, Evan Landry, Anna Maxwell, Arthur (AJ) Murphy, Julia Sinatra, and Sierra Wilson. It is with pride and pleasure that we congratulate these impressive young people and offer them our best wishes for a well-deserved summer to reset and recharge.

This year marks the start of the 50th year the Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation has served the Town of Bridgewater and its students. It was created by civic-minded individuals who were intent on providing long-term assistance to the residents of Bridgewater. None of the funds are the result of taxes or appropriations by the Town. If you would like to contribute to the Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation or to explore the opportunity of becoming a mentor to a local college student, please contact lenary1@gmail.com.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Neary, Chairman

Office of the Tax Collector

LAST DAY FOR ON-TIME PAYMENT:
AUGUST 1, 2023

Thank you, Bridgewater! Fiscal Year 22/23 closed out with a terrific overall tax collection rate of 99.90%. The breakdown by tax category:

Real Estate	99.96%
Personal Property	100%
Motor Vehicle	99.19%
Supplemental MV	98.58%

At the close of the fiscal year on June 30th, only \$4802.62 was outstanding on the 2022 Grand List. Paying your taxes on time helps our town run smoothly, and predictable collection allows the town to budget accurately.

Paying your motor vehicle bills promptly ensures that you won't get blocked at the DMV. Please let the Tax Office know if you have cancelled your registration, and send a copy of your plate receipt to the office. You may be eligible for an adjustment of taxes already paid.

Get out of line by going online! Visit the revamped DMV website at www.ct.gov/dmv. Check the status of your license and registration; check property tax, insurance, emissions and other compliance issues; pay infractions online; cancel or renew registrations, and more.

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

Are You Receiving Bridgewater Town News?

If not, go to www.bridgewater-ct.gov and use the
"subscribe to e-alerts" button



REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Our office in Town Hall is open
the first and third Tuesday
of every month
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Theresa Angell, Republican Registrar
Denise Valeri, Democratic Registrar



VETERANS' NEWS

VA BENEFITS TO INCREASE: On June 14, 2023, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023, a bipartisan piece of legislation, was signed into law by President Joe Biden. This directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for Veterans benefits in 2024 equal to the COLA applied to Social Security benefits, as determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The COLA will affect certain VA benefits including, but not limited to: disability compensation, clothing allowance and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for spouses and children. While the exact amount of next year's adjustment has not been determined, it's based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The last adjustment in January 2023, which Veterans are currently receiving, saw an 8.7% increase following a second year of high inflation.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE: Has a new number. It's a lot shorter too. As of Saturday, July 16, anyone in need can call 988. The three-digit number still goes to the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, and the Veterans Crisis Line. Any veteran or current member of the military can dial 988 and then press 1 for the specialized service.

CT OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE (OA&A): This office assists Veterans, their spouses and dependents in obtaining Veterans benefits under federal, state and local laws. OA&A employs certified Veteran Service Officers in each Congressional District to perform the following:

- Represent Veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs concerning claims and benefits including gathering, preparing and presenting claims.
- Connect Veterans with local services to include: educational training, health and medical services, housing facilities, and employment services.
- Collect and prepare data relating to benefits and services for Veterans, their eligible spouses and dependents.

Additional DVA Services for CT Veterans

Veteran-Owned Micro-Business Certification: CT Veteran-owned microbusinesses can receive a 15% price preference when bidding for state contracts after certification by DVA.

Connecticut Wartime Service Medal: CT Veterans who served our state and nation in a time of war may receive the state Veterans Wartime Service Medal.

Veterans Flag on License or ID: Eligible Veterans may apply for an American flag and Veteran designation on their driver's license or State-issued ID.

Eligibility Qualifying Review Board: Veterans with an Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharge characterize may be eligible for State Veterans benefits if the OTH is determined by the DVA to be a result of conduct related to PTSD, TBI, military sexual trauma or based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

For info & to request assistance call: 860-616-3685 or visit

<https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Office-of-Advocacy-and-Assistance>.

CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

The State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, where recently completed two major appearance and expansion projects, is the only operating official Veterans cemetery in Connecticut and offers several interment options for Veterans with full military honors and for their spouses. For information on cemetery services please call: (860) 616-3688

Don't forget to look at Military.com and see the companies offering deep discounts to military members, retirees and those related for the upcoming holidays.

Joe Buchheit, LTC-USA (Ret), VA Liaison, 860-355-2433
or email: townofbridgewaterva@gmail.com



REGION 12
SCHOOLS

Region 12 Schools

Region 12 students enjoyed a fabulous spring and a festive closing of the 2022-2023 school year.

Burnham School Fifth Graders celebrated the end of their elementary journey and their new path ahead as middle schoolers with the annual Aloha Day tradition. Students received awards and joined family and friends for fun, food, and festivities. The slip and slide hosted by the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department was a highlight of the day.

Shepaug Valley School (SVS) honored graduating seniors with a beautiful commencement ceremony on the school's campus by the scenic pond and the Agriscience Center. Sunshine, cheering families, and happy animal sounds filled the air with a joyful noise. The event was an incredible graduation experience for our seniors and a tradition worth preserving in the years to come.

The school district remains busy during the summer months with ongoing maintenance and improvement projects. SVS will get new exterior windows this summer, Burnham School will get fresh interior and exterior painting, and all schools will receive the latest interactive whiteboards to support engaging learning opportunities for Region 12 students.

The biggest summer project at Burnham will be the preparations to transition from a multi-age classroom model to a traditional age-graded classroom model. This reconfiguration will help the school meet growing enrollment and increased elementary curriculum expectations. Dr. Rhew and her team have been working hard to find incredible teachers and look forward to welcoming new staff in the fall.

Congratulations to Alex McNaughton on re-election to Region 12 School Board and to newly-elected member Victoria Ceylan. We are excited to have these talented individuals volunteer on the Board and look forward to their guidance and expertise. The energy and enthusiasm of all of our Board members is a unique gift that distinguishes Region 12 as one of the top districts in Connecticut.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many members of the Bridgewater community and hear about your dreams for Region 12 students. Your support allows our students to enjoy an unparalleled experience in our fine public schools. I look forward to your engagement in the exciting 2023-2024 year ahead.

Dr. Marc J. Gosselin Jr.
Superintendent of Schools



Burnham School Aloha Celebration





Burnham School PTO NEWS

We can't help but look forward to the return of school for the 2023-2024 school year! With that comes a wave of activities for the school community. Starting with Kindergarten orientation, we are thrilled to welcome this new class to the school. Then the whole school gets excited for the Tractor Parade. Burnie is practicing his moves already! Of course, there is the Ice Cream Social to help everyone reconnect from the summer time away and meet the new staff and students. Finally, we are so eager to welcome the community to the Fall Festival every year. Keep your eyes open for information on that as we get close to fall. It's an event you don't want to miss!

The Burnham School is always interested in hearing ways we can connect with the community. Please feel free to reach out to the PTO if you have an upcoming event or any thoughts on further collaborating the school with the community.

We would also like to thank the past PTO officers for their service last year. It was a tremendous year full of great events that enriched the students and the community! The new officers for this coming year are:

- President - Tabitha Potok
- Vice President - Joe Pannozzo
- Secretary- Jeremy Lingenfelter
- Treasurer- Joy Ruppert

You can reach them at BurnhamSchoolPTO@gmail.com

For more up-to-date information on any happenings, check us out on Facebook - "Burnham School PTO" or our website - burnhamschoolpto.weebly.com

We hope everyone had a terrific summer and thanks for your continued support!

Kindly submitted by The Burnham School PTO

FIRE BRIDGEWATER
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

BEER & WINE TASTING

EXPLORE OVER 40 CRAFT BREWERIES, 180 BREWS, AND WINE

ENJOY FOOD TRUCKS

EXPERIENCE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY
September 16
5:00PM-8:00PM

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

PRATT PAVILION
2 SARAH SANFORD RD EAST
BRIDGEWATER, CT

NeJAIME'S
wine & spirits
NEW MILFORD SPIRIT SHOPPE

Thank You

Julie Stuart was awarded a memorial chair honoring her six years representing Bridgewater on the Region 12 Board of Education. She retires as the Board Secretary and Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Julie was also the only Burnham and Shepaug graduate serving on the twelve-member board.



Julie Stuart pictured with Greg Cava, Chairperson of the Region 12 Board of Education and Dr. Marc Gosselin, Superintendent



The Bridgewater Land Trust

The Bridgewater Land Trust has had a lot to celebrate! Over the last year, through long term lease agreements and land donations, we are conserving an additional 125 acres in Bridgewater with more opportunities on the horizon. Our most recent acquisition, The Lamont Preserve, includes 45 acres of forestland, meadow and wetlands along Lake Lillinonah with connecting frontage on Northrup Street. We will always be grateful to Ned and Annie Lamont for their generous gift to the community.

We also honor conservation in other ways, such as: expanding wildlife corridors, protecting our wetlands, and connecting people to the natural world. These small steps add up and help keep our air fresh, water clean and wildlife healthy. Natural and open landscapes also provide a visual appeal that make our town the envy of many and a contributor to our mental well-being and health.

Thanks to all who continue to support our important work. We have been amazed at the diverse and widespread involvement from the community and could not succeed without the knowledge, skills and generosity of our residents. That alone is worth a celebration.



Please Join Us For the Grand Opening of **Tappen Brook Trails & Volksmarsch Walk**

Saturday, September 30, 2023

The Bridgewater Town Park, 221 Tappen Road Bridgewater

Start time between 12 - 1 PM

Pre-registration is required: www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org

**Tickets: \$25 per person
Children 12 & under Free**

Walkers can chose from a variety of walks ranging from 1/2 mile to 3 miles. After your walk pull out your lawn chair and stay a while! Twins Barbecue Food Truck will offer pulled pork, chicken and all the fixings. Games and good times! Adults BYOB.

Thank You To Our Sponsors:
Bridgewater Recreation Commission
Eversource Energy, Union Savings Bank

Our new Tappen Brook Trails network is open. We are looking forward to more progress including a new kiosk, trail improvements and trail expansions. We will be having our official opening on Saturday, September 30th. Please save the date! At the opening there will be opportunities to hike various trails then enjoy some tasty food from Twins Barbecue and time to relax at the Town Park overlooking Lake Lillinonah. Thank you to the Bridgewater Recreation Commission for co-sponsoring this event!

We are also looking forward to participating in some upcoming town wide events. Look for us at the Bridgewater Tractor Parade on September 3rd and the Bridgewater Trunk or Treat on October 31st. In addition we will be taking some Burnham students on a field trip to learn about and explore the great outdoors.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Julie Stuart, *Executive Director*
The Bridgewater Land Trust

Bridgewater Land Trust

Hope To See You At
The Bridgewater
Tractor Parade!

Save The Date

The Bridgewater Tractor Parade
Sunday, September 3rd



Thank You Joe Dolen

A special thank you to Joe Dolen who takes beautiful photographs of our properties and willingly shares them for all to enjoy. The barn and horses he captured below is at our Jane Pratt Farm Preserve on Town Line Road.



Fun On The Ridge

Many thanks to all of our guests and sponsors of the On The Ridge benefit. A special thank you to Donna Zaccaro and Paul Ullman for hosting over 110 guests on their beautiful farm.



Thank You

Your support will help protect the land we love!

Event Sponsors

Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman, Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Annie & Rich Kaplon, Mae & Tom Orkisz, Will Stuart of Berkshire Hathaway

Benefactors

Julie & Bob Bailey, Evelyn Rodstein & Glenn Kaplan

Table Sponsors

Chris Amorossi (2), Will Stuart, Maureen Hayes, Norman Adler & Michele Shackelford

Friends

Ann & Andy Bazos, Susan & Chuck Harris, Elizabeth Macdonald, Kat Sullivan & Tom Messina, Karen & Bob Dinerstein, Jeanne Paparazzo, Victoria Westhead & John Levy

Product Sponsors

The Litchfield Distillery, Cynthia & Christian Feuer, Bridgewater Chocolate, Stuart Family Farm, Molly & Andrew Smith, Shallow Brook Farm, Susan & Joe Wilcox

KEEP UP WITH ALL THINGS BURNHAM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR HAVE NEWS DROPPED INTO YOUR INBOX



www.burnhamlibrary.org

Burnham Library

Where Community Connects

August, September, October 2023

Visit us Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 - 5:00 and Saturdays from 9:00 - 1:00

Fair Weekend Hours - Friday, August 18 from 10:00 - 2:00 and CLOSED on Saturday, August 19

Short on time? Schedule a Curbside or After Hour Pick-up. Available Tuesday - Saturday! Simply email, call, or place a request through the catalog and we will notify you when your pick-up is ready!

Help us welcome our newest team member! We are thrilled to introduce Katie, our new Library Programming Assistant! Katie brings with her over 5 years of experience in public libraries, where she has worked with both children and adults. She is truly passionate about creating programs that address the diverse needs of the community and providing a welcoming space for creative expression, connection, and fun. Katie is also super crafty and loves gardening!

A Library Of Things

Your library card gives you access to Burnham's Library of Things! Looking for something to do? Borrow one of our Museum Passes which offers free or discounted admission to local museums and cultural institutions. Heading on the road? Borrow a mobile hotspot which provides you with internet access when you are on the go. Hosting a picnic? We have a great selection of lawn games such as bocce ball, croquet, cornhole, and Can Jam. Visit our website for a complete list of all our Things!

Art @ Burnham Library

Visit and view during Library hours

July & August - Katushka Millones with "Conversations with Nature"

September - Gerry Stacks with works in abstract acrylic pour painting.

October & November - Paula West of Bridgewater with works in collage using vintage books, magazines, and hand printed papers.

Book Discussions All are welcome to join in the discussion on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:00. Questions? Email Catherine Flynn at cwflynn60@gmail.com Copies of each title will be available at the library.

Sept 27 - Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

October 25 - American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America by Colin Woodard

Burnham Satellite Library at the Hilltop Center - 4th Wednesday at 12:30

Did you know that a member of the Burnham Library team visits the Hilltop Center once a month? Check-out new books, register for a library card, explore our digital offerings, or stop in for a chat.

Two Town Tabletop Club - 2nd Saturday from 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Teen and adult gamers join us every 2nd Saturday of the month. We have tons of games or bring one you want to share. Registration NOT required.

The Coloring Club - 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Looking for a new way to have fun and relieve stress? Come and rediscover the joy of coloring! The library will provide adult coloring pages and colored pencils. Registration NOT required.

Burnham Library, cont.

Burnham Beer Garden - Fridays August 4 & 11 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Each week will feature craft beers from local breweries (and maybe a surprise or two!) Weekly events may include live music, lawn games, and more! Fun for the entire family! Walk in to any event for \$20.

Bridgewater Ice Cream Social & Summer Reading Finale Saturday, August 6 from 11:00 - 12:00

You are invited to a town ice cream social with FREE treats from Ice Cream Emergency! Bring a picnic, hangout with friends (or meet new ones), play lawn games, and/or just chill. If you participated in one of our Summer Reading Challenges, then this is your last chance to hand in your reading log! Raffle winners will be contacted on Wednesday, August 9th. In collaboration with the Bridgewater Recreation Commission.

Back-to-School Parent Social - Tuesday, August 29 at Drop-off

Hooray, It's the First Day! Drop in after drop off for refreshments and a chance to relax with fellow parents & caregivers. Hosted by the Burnham Library and the Burnham School PTO.

Get Carded @ Burnham - National Library Card Month in September is the perfect opportunity to renew or obtain a new library card! Explore all that Burnham has to offer, such as books, magazines, movies, digital resources, workshops, classes, puzzles, and more! For the entire month of September, every time you use your library card you will be entered for a chance to win \$25 Amazon Card! Look for giveaways, scavenger hunts, special events and more!

The Great Burnham Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Mark the date for this year's Great Burnham Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Drop-off your decorated (no-carved) pumpkin on Tuesday, October 24th. Voting will take place until October 31st with the winner announced LIVE at Trunk or Treat!



MAKING
spirits
BRIGHT

**O SILENT
NIGHT**

Friends of the Library Fundraising Soiree

NOVEMBER

18

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Tickets on sale October 17th

Proceeds to benefit Library programs and digital services



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
Dr. Seuss.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer. We are all busy with our summer activities at the Fire House. Congratulations go out to two members who completed their Fire Fighter course and five members that have completed an EMR class. We have welcomed two new members in the past three months and are glad to have them around.

When cooling off in the pool, keep in mind some pool safety: make sure gates are operating properly, the door alarms are in working order, and someone is always watching the kids. When storing your pool chemicals, keep them in a well-ventilated area out of excessive heat. When you are out on the boat, keep that life vest on and all your safety gear in working order. The lake is filled with various patrons: stay alert and keep an eye out for the kayakers, paddle boarders, and fishermen out there. September and October are right around the corner, and everyone should check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

October is fire safety month. Replace batteries and have your alarm system serviced. When making the phone call to the alarm company, please update your key holder and contact information. When we respond to alarms and no one is around this can save valuable time when responding to your home. August is just a couple of days away and we all know what that means - large white tents pop up on the fairgrounds and then it's "Fair Time." Set up starts the first week of August. This is a time when the community comes together to help us with one of our sole fundraisers to operate the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept. A lot of hard work and a lot of good times will be had by all. Thanks to those who are already hard at work in preparation. Stop by the Firehouse and grab a Fair book before they're all gone.

We are there various times but always on Thursday nights at 7 pm.

Friday night, the Firemen's parade kicks off the Fair on August 18th, 19th and 20th. On Monday, August 21st, we will pull the winning ticket for the raffle. Make sure you get your chance - this may be your year to win!

If you are interested in volunteering at the fair, please email Eric Gsell Fair Chairman at ericm.gsell@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer. See ya'll at the Fair!!!

John Stietzel, Chief, Bridgewater Fire Department
chief@bvfd.org



Bridgewater EMS Update

With summer in full bloom, now is the perfect time to make one very important improvement to your home: street numbers! It is essential that the entrance to your residence can be easily identified from the road. Please make every effort to make sure your residence is clearly marked with your residence number, which should be easily visible to our first responders from both directions to minimize potential delays.

We recently held an EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) course that finished up the end of May. Several members are currently undergoing testing for their certification, and we eagerly look forward to their completion and certification.

Bridgewater has a wonderful team of volunteers who provide Emergency Medical Services to our neighbors in Bridgewater, and we are always in need of additional volunteers. If you have any interest in joining our team, please contact me at the email address below or come see us at the First Aid Tent at the Bridgewater Fair. We would be happy to explore the opportunity with you to become a volunteer first responder in Bridgewater.

Sincerely, Diana Haskell Ambulance Coordinator
bvfdems7@gmail.com

BRIDGEWATER FAIR AUG. 18, 19, 20



BFD Women's Auxiliary

The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept Women's Auxiliary meets every third Monday of the month at 7:30pm.

Calling all bakers!! It's that time to put your aprons on and start making some wonderful confections for our Cake Wheel. We depend on you for your support because this is a wonderful tradition where townspeople participate in providing the baked goods. We also welcome those who would like to work at the Cake Wheel. It's a delight to see the smiles on children and adults winning a delicious homemade confection for only 50 cents! Where else, but at the Bridgewater Fair! A postcard will be coming out soon with directions as to where to drop off your baked goods.

Our members will also be slinging beer at the Watering Hole. Volunteers are also welcome. There are great local musicians who will entertain us, and a good time will be had by all.

Save the date for our Annual Beer & Wine tasting On Saturday, September 16th from 5pm to 8pm at the Pratt Pavilion. There will be over 40 vendors and 4 great food trucks. The first weekend in October, we will have our annual Town Wide Tag Sale. At this 2 day event, for a small donation, we will collect addresses of all the tag sales in town and plot them on a map for the shoppers.

The Auxiliary always welcomes new members. Please join us as we support our terrific Volunteer Fire Department.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!

Ann Frattalone, President



HRRA Household Hazardous Waste Events

Do you have unwanted paint, old gasoline, or household chemicals you need to dispose of? The next HHW event for the region is scheduled as follows:

- September 9th 9am to 1pm Miller-Driscoll School, Wilton
- October 14th 9am to 2pm John Pettibone School, New Milford
- November 4th 9am to 2pm Brookfield High School, Brookfield



A list of acceptable items and details about the event can be found on www.hrra.org.

For questions on all things regarding waste, recycling, household hazardous waste, composting, textiles, medical waste etc. email info@hrra.org or call 203.775.4539

Literacy Volunteers On The Green

With the 4th of July behind us, summer is definitely underway! We wish our friends, tutors and donors from Bridgewater a great summer!

The first six months of 2023 have seen wonderful energy as LVG staff welcomed new students, trained new tutors, presented tutor professional development opportunities and hosted a June Celebration of Literacy with 130 people in attendance. Learning teams, comprised of a tutor and adult students, meet weekly in public places using current and relevant curriculum and support materials. Our mission remains steadfast - to offer free English language literacy to adult learners in northern Fairfield and Litchfield counties, as they strive to become independent readers, writers, listeners, and speakers of English, enabling their full participation in the communities we share.

Literacy programs include: English language learning, basic skills remediation in reading and writing, U.S. citizen preparation, family literacy, and English tutoring for families from Afghanistan and the Ukraine, settled by Refugee Resettlement Groups in New Milford, Washington and Brookfield.

Please consider impacting the lives of adult learners and their families by revitalizing the working lives of adults seeking English language proficiency. The next new tutor training is scheduled for early fall of this year. Please contact Lynn@lv-g-ct.org to learn of ways to support English language literacy in northwestern Connecticut.

Lynn Davies, Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers on the Green

Historical Society News



The Bridgewater Historical Society has had a busy few months. In May, we awarded two scholarships to local high school seniors, Jack Buchholz and Garrett Brown (pictured below), for their outstanding essays. Each essay reflected a person or place of historical significance to Bridgewater. These essays will be featured in future Our Town publications. We know that you will find them both very interesting. In May, we also hosted a fun-filled visit to The Peck House from the Burnham School fifth graders (photos below). They enjoyed a scavenger hunt, a tour of the one room school house, tried on old fashioned accessories, used a rotary phone, listened to a Victrola and an organ, bought goodies at the Maple Lawn Gift Shop (1920's name of The Peck House store) with old fashioned prices, and recited tongue twisters on the porch. They even left with some treats to take home. A great time was had by all! We hope that the fifth grade students will visit us every year from now on. The Historical Society has been hosting several Open Houses where self guided tours of the Peck House and complimentary refreshments are always available. Please feel free to join us on the porch for a cup of coffee or some goodies. **The next Open House will take place on September 9th from 10am-12 noon.** Why not coordinate with a friend or family member and enjoy a beverage on our beautiful porch together? We hope to see you then. More to follow!



From The Desk of the Town Historian

There are probably a handful of very senior citizens in Town who remember the arrival of the original "Captain's House" between the library and the Peck House. A team of oxen dragged the house from its original location to its new home. Unfortunately, no arrangements were made for a foundation for the house. The location selected was the low point on empty land between the library and the Peck House - great visibility, but not a great place for the Captain's House, an already old building made of very dry wood. Nature took its course over the years and the wood wicked up the moisture, causing extensive damage and insect and rodent infestation.

continued on page 16



BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

September is National Senior Center Month. Celebrate LIFE at The Hilltop Center.

- L - Learning: Expand your knowledge
- I - Independence: Live on your terms
- F - Friends: Enjoy life, laughter and feeling connected
- E - Energy: Discover health and vitality

The Center offers ongoing programs as well as special monthly programs and educational presentations. Pre-registration is suggested as some programs have a limited capacity.

For the latest updates and news you will want to be on our email list. Give us a call at 860-355-3090 or email bwscseniorcenter@gmail.com and request that we add your name. Visit our website to view the current newsletter & calendar: bridgewater-ct.gov/hilltop-senior-center

UPCOMING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Makeup for Mature Women Forum - Joby Rogers - Monday, August 7 at 1:00
Armchair Travel- India - Thursday, August 10 at 1:00
Downsizing & Declutter Seminar - Monday, August 14 at 1:00
Birthday Social - Thursday, August 17 & October 19 at 1:00
Lunch & Learn - Pain Prevention: Occupational Therapy Tips and Tricks - Monday, August 21 at 12:30
Renegades Baseball Game - Tuesday, August 22 at 7:00 pm game
James Michael - Broadway Singer luncheon - Thursday, August 31 at 12:00
Lunch & Learn - Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer & Dementia - Thursday, Sept. 28 at 12:00
The White House Butler, Alan DeValerio - A History of White House Entertainment - Mon. Oct. 2 at 1:00
The Magic of Jim Sisti luncheon - Thursday, October 26 at 12:00
Bingo - Thursday, August 24, September 14, October 12 at 1:00

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Body Conditioning Exercise: Monday 10:30 and Wednesday 11:30
- Social Services: Tuesday 9:00-12:00
- Corn Hole Games: Tuesday 10:00
- Silver Needles: Tuesday 1:00
- Tai Chi: Wednesday 10:00
- Mahjong: Wednesday 1:00
- Rummikub: Friday 10:00
- Chair Yoga: Friday 10:30
- Canasta: Friday 1:00
- Breakfast Group: 1st Thursday of each month - reservation needed.
- Sunday Concert Club: One Sunday a month - check with center for dates
- Hilltop Book Group: Last Monday of each month at 2:00
- Blood Pressure Clinic: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:00
- Burnham Library Program: 4th Tuesday of each month at 12:30
- Massage: Twice a month, Wednesday at 1:00 - appointment needed.

BRIDGEWATER SENIOR VAN - The van is available weekdays for MD appointments, grocery shopping, senior center programs and special activities. The van has a limited destination distance of no more than 20 miles. Contact Ann Frattalone at 860-350-3042 at least 2 weeks in advance for an appointment. We transport people that are well on a first come first serve basis.

Patricia Babbage, Director



Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc. (CCB)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

Paper Shredding Day

Our annual Paper Shredding Day is scheduled for Saturday September 16, 2023 from 9-12pm at the Town Garage. Take some time to check your files, basement or other storage areas for items that you would like to remove and shred. We provide this service free of charge. Also, if you have flags that need to be retired you are welcome to bring them along with your shredding material and we will be sure that the flags are disposed of properly.

The Benefits of Chores

Although engaging in routine chores can be tiresome and irritating at times, chores provide unexpected health benefits. Please see the articles in the links that follow:

https://www.rd.com/list/health-benefits-chores?_cmp=stf

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20210416/Engaging-in-household-chores-may-be-beneficial-for-brain-health-in-older-adults.aspx>

Other Offerings

If there are offering that you would like to see that are not covered by the Town or other organizations, please let us know.

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@ccbridgewater.org or cheryl@westernviewfarms.com

Town Historian cont. from page 14

For many years, Mary Allen added to the collection of "general store" objects. It was open to the public over the Memorial Day observations, selling penny candy to local children. The electrical service gave way about 20 years ago. The contents of the building were carefully wrapped and put in storage. Covid did the rest and the Captain's House was no more. Now, we are watching with interest as the "new" Captain's House takes its place in the center of town. This new structure has a foundation AND electricity. It follows the general design of the older house. It is hoped that this new addition to the town will offer historic exhibits. The Captain's House got its name from the Burnham Family, who lived there for a number of years before moving to New York City, where young Burnham found his calling to sail the seas and make his fortune. It's hard to imagine a family of five living in that tiny house. Now, their memories live on as we make new memories for the people of Bridgewater.

- Eileen Buchheit



A glimpse inside the old Captain's House

OUR CHURCHES

St. Marks Episcopal Church



AUGUST,
SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER
2023

We are having a service at 9:30 every Sunday morning both in church and on Zoom.

We use the same zoom link every week

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83870216947?pwd=UGRIQkFMRElttWI3NG9tRWsydEFKQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 7021 6947

Passcode: 840126

August 18-20 Bridgewater Fair

We will have our usual cheese, pickles, jams & baked goods. We will need lots of help. If you are interested, call the church (860-354-8269) and leave your name and phone number, and we will call you. (We are only there on Wednesdays so we will do our best to get back to you promptly.)

September & October

Our plans for anything more than our Sunday services are not set at this time, although we will be likely to have an event in late September or early October which we will list on the town news and other places.

TRUNK OR TREAT October 31st



Sponsored by
The Bridgewater
Congregational
Church

Details
To
Follow



The Bridgewater Congregational Church

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

We welcome you any time... "Come make a home with us."

Hybrid Sunday Service and Sunday School @ 10 a.m. (virtual worship www.bwucc.org and click "Join Now"). Subscribe to our YouTube Channel @ Bridgewater Congregational Church. Worship is followed by fellowship and coffee hour in the Friendship Hall. All Are Welcome!

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES AT BCC

Come walk our Labyrinth: The labyrinth is located in our Meditation Garden to the right of our parking lot.

Community Prayer Box: BCC has a Community Prayer Box where anyone can anonymously leave a prayer request.

Bridgewater Food Pantry

Available to Bridgewater residents. The Food Pantry needs grocery store gift cards and the following: Black Beans, sugar, Brown sugar, Paper towels, baggies, Tylenol, snacks, fun cereal (not cheerios), cookie mix, vinegar, salad dressing, Band-Aids, pasta sauce. The Bridgewater Food Pantry is located in the Friendship Hall of BCC. The pantry is open during the office hours of the church, or by appointment. As always, thank you!!

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA meets in the Friendship Hall every Friday night at 7 p.m.

Friendship Hall Facility Rental

Available for parties, meetings, family gatherings, social clubs, and more. Full Kitchen, air conditioned, handicap accessible. Call 860-354-8283 to book your event.



Friends Of The Lake Celebrates 20 Years

Friends of the Lake is proud to be celebrating 20 years protecting Lake Lillinonah! To commemorate this incredible achievement, on Thursday August 10th, Friends of the Lake is hosting a very special 20th Anniversary Celebration at Sunny Meadow Farm in Bridgewater. The evening will include a cocktail hour, passed hors d'oeuvres and a full dinner. The food will be accompanied by an awards ceremony & lake health update presented by all key stakeholders & some surprise VIPs! Tickets are \$50/per person and are available for purchase on our website (www.friendsofthelake.org) You must be an active member to attend, so please renew your membership ahead of time. We hope to see you there to celebrate this remarkable milestone together!

As always, thank you for your membership and support!

Seven Bridgewater Students Awarded \$4,000 Scholarships from Persbacker Family Fund

BRIDGEWATER, CT - The Persbacker Family Fund at Connecticut Community Foundation proudly announces the recipients of its prestigious college scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year. Seven outstanding Bridgewater students have each been selected to receive \$4,000 scholarships to support their higher education aspirations.

Established by former Bridgewater resident Victor L. Persbacker, the Persbacker Family Fund is one of the largest scholarship funds available specifically for Bridgewater students. The fund aims to make college more accessible and affordable for deserving individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to community service within the town.

To be eligible for the award, students must showcase an outstanding dedication to community service in Bridgewater and have resided in the town for a minimum of six years. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years, ensuring ongoing support throughout the students' academic journey.

"I'm incredibly thankful to the Persbacker Family Fund. I am filled with immense gratitude that I have received this award. As the first woman in my family to attend university, it is remarkable that my community supports me in many ways to ensure my success," said Kayleigh Hendy, a Persbacker Scholarship recipient. "My family is truly blessed to live in such a nurturing environment. This award is proof positive that giving back has both its tangible and intangible benefits, and I shall endeavor to continue to do so in the future."

Since its inception in 2004, the Persbacker Fund has empowered 31 deserving students with scholarships totaling over \$325,000. This milestone reflects the Fund's commitment to investing in the future of Bridgewater's youth and fostering their growth and success.

The Persbacker Family Fund and Connecticut Community Foundation extend congratulations to the following scholars for their exceptional achievements and dedication to their community:

- Taryn Crossley
University of Connecticut, Class of 2024
- Kayleigh Hendy
American University, Class 2025
- Bailey Herron
Elon University, Class of 2024
- Julia Sinatra
Hamilton College, Class of 2024
- Annika Vikstrom
Middlebury College, Class of 2025
- Sierra Wilson
Delaware Valley University, Class of 2025
- Evan Woerner
Quinnipiac University, Class 2026

Learn more about the Persbacker Family Fund scholarship and Connecticut Community Foundation's regional scholarship program at conncf.org/scholarships.

Bridgewater Recreation News

Recreation News

Have questions about Bridgewater Recreation?
Contact Allison Gsell, Bridgewater Recreation
Coordinator www.bridgewater-ct.gov
Email - bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com
Cell - 203-417-0744 Office - 860-355-9133

Table Tennis

Table Tennis begins again September
18th at the Senior Center 6:30pm
132 Hut Hill Rd. Bridgewater

Pickleball



Pickleball Monday Night 6:00pm Burnham Gym PTO
Group begins September 11, 2023 contact Rebecca
Alferi 203-788-2929.

Pickleball Tuesday and Friday Nights Burnham Gym
contact Jean Robinson. jeanr2758@gmail.com
begins September 12, 2023 917-887-2455.



Mindful Moves Yoga

Held at the Friendship
Hall at Bridgewater
Congregational Church.

For more information on classes, email Tanya at:
yoga.mindfulmoves@gmail.com

Pavilion Rentals



Book your gathering today! Please contact
Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com.

The Bridgewater Tractor Parade

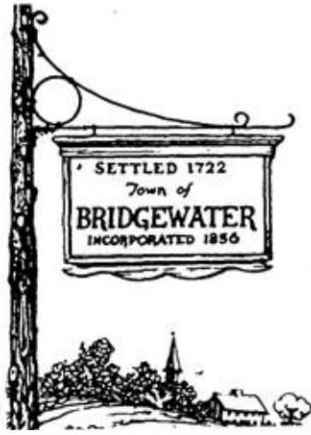
Sunday, September 3rd



The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

Dawn MacNutt- *Chairman*
Lynn Kubisek - *Secretary*
Josh Murphy
Mike Dubos
Julie Scott
Charlene Sullivan
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.



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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, 2023.*

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 Wagner

CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 1 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 8 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 18 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

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Labor Day ****Town Hall Closed****
- 5 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 5 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 12 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 20 Board of Finance 4:30 PM, Town Hall
- 21 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 26 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 28 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

OCTOBER

- 3 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 3 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 9 Columbus Day ****Town Hall Closed****
- 10 Board of Selectmen 7:00 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

For additional information and updates, please visit our website at www.bridgewater-ct.gov

Come To The Bridgewater Fair Parade: 6:45 PM Friday August 18-20

