

OUR TOWN

BRIDGEWATER
Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

NOVEMBER 2022

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Message from Our First Selectman

Predictions about the weather were probably wrong this year. Who would have guessed that we would experience the wettest of springs followed by the severe drought of summer? Well, on top of that, according to the Farmer's Almanac it's going to be a "hard" winter. That's not nice, especially for older residents, but we do know a truism as spoken by Mark Twain: "If you don't like the weather in New England, just wait a few minutes." Winter may be cold and snowy, but Bridgewater is lucky compared to other parts of our country.

I prefer to look for positives and can give some examples on how Bridgewater works with both federal and state resources to help our little town. The first example is ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, where monies were funneled down to the local levels to offset the financial effects of COVID. In our case we received a total of \$483,877 over a two year period. Of course, there were strings attached with reporting and potential challenges on how the monies could be applied. It was complicated, but our Board of Finance volunteers dug in and figured out how to comply with the confusing stipulations. In short, we were able to attribute the funds to "lost revenue" and put them directly into the "General Fund" for uses benefiting Bridgewater.

The last two Annual Town Meetings unanimously allocated a total of \$200,000 to the BVFD and Ambulance to help pay for necessary and mandated emergency equipment. Two years of pandemic restrictions without the BVFD Fair revenue was every resident's concern. We all recognized the importance of the safety equipment needed by these well-trained volunteers and its rising costs. It was also welcome that the Fair returned in 2022 with perhaps the best turnout and spirit ever. Thank you BVFD!

Another chunk of ARPA funding (\$180,000) went towards lowering property taxes over the past two years. At this year's Town Meeting, \$25,000 was set aside to help pay for a new Veterans Memorial on the Town Green. A sub-committee of mostly veterans and an architect is currently working on alternative designs for Town approval. The memorial will include over 700 names of Bridgewater veterans from historic wars.

That leaves about \$79,000 of ARPA funds yet to be allocated. One idea is to install a solar array at the Town Garage to offset future energy bills. The Burnham Library also needs a new roof. Other suggestions are welcome anytime; please contact the Selectmen or Board of Finance members.

Lastly, the Town was recently awarded another CT STEAP grant for \$107,750 to make repairs to the Police Barn and Town Garage Salt Shed. It seems like a never-ending quest to maintain or improve our own buildings and infrastructure. State and federal grants have certainly helped us realize significant progress over the years.

BTW, my prediction for the weather ahead is: who knows? Just roll with it. We live in a special community where volunteers and our Town Crew will help everyone get through the snows safely.

Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: July 2022

- Estate of Joan S. Tait to John Tyler Raps, land and buildings, 83 Christian Street, \$456,500
- Estate of Eve Perkins Mancino to Janet M. Blyn, land and buildings, 210 Skyline Ridge Road, \$2,185,000
- Sandra J. Keane to Daniel and Michelle Jermansen, land and buildings, 85 Quarry Road, \$490,000

Land Transfers: August 2022

- Ronald J. Cavalier to Jordan L. Greenwald and Neko F. Ennis, land and buildings, 300 Wewaka Brook Road, \$545,000
- Campbell & O'Keefe, LLC to Miao C. King and John Senior, land and buildings, 350 Northrup Street, \$2,135,000
- Wayne and Margaret Khare to Brendon Southard, land and buildings, 23 & 25 Barn Road, \$825,000
- Irving Surles to Robert E. Deakin, 7 Bridgewater Common Lane, \$246,500

Land Transfers: September 2022

- Alexander McNaughton to Peter May, land and buildings, 366 Skyline Ridge Road, \$3,010,000
- Mary Ellen Evans to Alexander McNaughton, land and buildings, 9 Castle Hill Lane, \$616,400
- Brendon Southard to Nicholas Provost, land and buildings, 93 Blueberry Hill Road, \$600,000
- Salvatore and Roseann Finazzo to Robert L. Dewar and Ariana G. Pazmino, land and buildings, 35 Canfield Drive, \$540,000
- John and Tina Luciano to Frederick Perlman and Carolyn Lindgren, land and buildings, 520 Main Street South, \$532,000

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

*Happy
Thanksgiving*



REMINDER!

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

Dog owners must license their dogs aged 6 months 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 November \$13.00 for a neutered male or spayed female and \$24.00 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

The Town wide Revaluation is being finalized. Notices of your new assessment will be mailed to you by the end of November. If you have any questions about your new assessment, you will have an opportunity to meet with a representative from the revaluation company which is Vision Government Solutions. Information on how to meet with a representative from Vision will be on your assessment notice. If you are still not happy with your new assessment after meeting with the representative, you can make an appointment with the Board of Assessment appeals which meets in March 2023. Information on how to meet with the Board of Assessment Appeals will be published on the Town website in February.

Taxpayers who wish to file for Farmland, Forest Land or Open Space under Public Act #490 must do so between September 1st and December 30th, 2022. A Qualified Forester's Report must accompany the Forest Land application, so please apply early as the process does take a while.

Personal Property

All individuals owning and operating a business in the Town of Bridgewater, including businesses that are being operated from home, are required by law to declare furniture, fixtures, tools, equipment, etc. for taxation purposes. Personal Property forms have been mailed out and **must be returned in our office by Tuesday, November 1st**. If forms are not returned or returned late there will be a 25% penalty on the value of a business owner's personal property.

Farm Machinery, Horses or Ponies

The application for an exemption on Personal Property of up to \$100,000 on all farm machinery, (except motor vehicles as defined in Section 14-1) and the \$1,000 exemption on horses or ponies which are actually and exclusively used in farming, within the provisions of Section 12-91 of the General Statutes must be filed annually by November 1st.

Applications to claim personal property and farm machinery, horses or ponies are available on the Town's website www.bridgewater-townhall.org or in the Assessor's office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 355-9379; we are here Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8am until 12:30pm and Tuesday 8am until 3:30pm. Or you can email me at: dpinter@bridgewater-ct.gov.

Sincerely,
Denise C. Pinter Assessor

The Bridgewater Scholarship Commission

Autumn colors abounding, pumpkins gracing doorsteps, the return of apples and cider - there is no better place to experience a New England fall than right here in Bridgewater. By this time, students have transitioned back to their school schedules and the excitement a new term brings. We wish them all a successful academic year as they work toward the futures they envision.

The Bridgewater Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to Bridgewater students of all ages pursuing higher education. With costs for post-secondary education at their highest levels, students, now more than ever, are faced with enormous loan debt. The Scholarship Committee strives to provide some assistance to ease this financial burden. These awards do make a difference. In the words of this year's recipients (excerpted from notes received):

"Thank you so much for awarding me the Bridgewater Scholarship for this year. Because of this I am able to further my academic career."

"...the money will be instrumental in helping me complete my final requirements for my degree."

"Thank you very much for all the support and for the generous scholarship you sent me for this year."

"Your contribution to my college funds allows me to pay for my education. It's wonderful that my hometown offers so much support to its local students, and I want you to know I accept this scholarship with the most heartfelt gratitude."

"I want to assure you that I will take full advantage of the opportunity you have so graciously granted me."

"Your contribution to my education is so gracious and will allow me to continue to focus on my studies. Prior to me depositing my check, I did take a moment to reflect on the many people within the town of Bridgewater who started this foundation and can clearly see that Bridgewater may be a small town, but it is truly a large village of giving individuals who always make a point to help their neighbor. That is truly what makes Bridgewater so very special!!!"

"This money will continue to aid me on my educational journey, especially this year when I study abroad."

"Words cannot express my gratitude... You have been so incredibly supportive in my post-secondary education. It brings a smile to my face when I think about how kind and amazing the people are from Bridgewater. You all make me proud to have grown up here."

For those wishing to make a difference in a Bridgewater student's life and contribute or to learn about The Bridgewater Scholarship Mentoring Program, please visit www.bridgewater-ct.gov/bridgewater-scholarship-committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Neary, Chairman

Office of the Tax Collector

TaxServ Debt Collection: Please be advised that Bridgewater is now under contract with TaxServ Capital Services for the collection of the Town's delinquent motor vehicle taxes. If you receive a letter from TaxServ, you must call TaxServ to discuss your account and arrange payment. If you do call the Tax or Assessor's office, you will be directed to TaxServ. Payment for accounts in collection cannot be made in the Tax Office. All delinquent taxpayers have been sent warnings via US Mail about pending collection enforcement.

Taxes Due: The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes is due January 1, 2023. Bills were mailed in June; **NO BILLS WILL BE SENT FOR THIS INSTALLMENT.** For Real Estate bills, please notify our office if the payer has changed since July. If a different bank will be paying the installment or if you will be paying the installment instead of a bank, please call or send us a note with the new information. If you purchased property after June and did not receive the bill at the closing, please contact the office and we will send a copy.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills: These bills are for new or replacement vehicles registered after October 1, 2021 and before September 30, 2022. The bills will be mailed in December and become due January 1, 2023.

Online Services: You may now look up and pay your bills online, and can complete your own tax payment history reports for any time period. Searches may be made by name, property location, or bill number.

Payment: Payments must be received or USPS postmarked no later than FEBRUARY 1, 2023 to avoid an interest penalty. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest.

PLEASE NOTE: If you use an online banking service, there is no actual postmark on the envelope and your payment may arrive after the due date. The effective date will be the date your payment is received in this office! Office postage meters are also not US Postmarks and will not be accepted as proof of on-time payment.

Pay Online: The Tax Department can receive payments made by e-check, credit, or debit cards. This service can be accessed at www.mytaxbill.net/bridgewater

NOTICE OF TAX SALE: Real Estate more than 2 installments OR \$5000 delinquent may be auctioned in a Tax Sale this winter. Tax Sale may be avoided by bringing your account up to date immediately.

TAX ALERTS: Would you like to receive an email alert regarding local tax news and a reminder of payments becoming due? Sign up through the link provided on the town website.

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 8-12:30 PM and Tuesday 8-3:30 PM.

Catherine B. Vikstrom, Tax Collector
Ann Virbickas, Assistant to Tax Collector

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 WANTS TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG VETERANS. Here are six essential facts to know: Proof of Veteran status - At local stores and restaurants, Veterans who are logged into the VA Health and Benefits mobile app can easily show their Veteran status for discounts and services without any paperwork. It's easy and convenient; Easy Login - Log in with FaceID or fingerprint; Manage health care on the go allows Veterans to: view and cancel their health care appointments; send and receive secure messages from providers; get their vaccine records anywhere, anytime; access the Veterans Crisis Line right from their phone;

Manage Disability Claims and Appeals - Veterans can view the status of VA Disability Claims and Appeals, and upload documents easily to send to VA related to their claim; and View VA Payments. VA is continually adding more features to the app. Stay tuned for these new features already in the works: Prescription refill, view lab and test results, and Travel pay reimbursement. Visit "How to download the app" for more info.

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS NOW: New Presumptives and Eligibilities: You are invited to the Q&A hosted by Together We Served and the Department of Veterans Affairs on Oct. 6 at 1 p.m. ET. VA subject matter experts will be answering your questions related to burn pits, agent orange, toxic exposures and survivors benefits. Ask your questions now!

Tell Your Friends About New PACT Act VA Health Care Eligibility: With the passage of the 2022 PACT Act, certain Post-9/11 Veterans are eligible for expanded VA benefits. Help spread the word to encourage your fellow Veterans to enroll for VA health care during a special enrollment period: October 1, 2022 - October 1, 2023. **BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!!!**

VA Is Here For You

1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is always the right number
Veterans Crisis Line: 988 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255
Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387
Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat
White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311

WWII Veteran Charlie Kohler, 101, Tells his Caregiver Support Story: After Charlie's wife died, his son Keith bought the family home and moved in to help his dad age in place with dignity. Log onto VA Benefits and read how the Caregiver Support Team in St Louis helped Keith and his father qualify for the Program for Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). On October 1, 2022, PCAFC will become available to eligible Veterans of all service eras and their caregivers.

Free Outdoor Retreats for Purple Heart Veterans: To support Purple Heart Veterans, the Warrior Bonfire Program organizes outdoor retreats, including sailing, hiking, horseback riding, golfing, kayaking and fishing.

Find Caregiver Support: Each VA medical facility has a trained and qualified local Caregiver Support Program team that delivers support and service referrals. Local teams share valuable resources to inform and support caregivers. Log into VA Benefits and find your referrals.

**DON'T FORGET VETERANS DAY - FRIDAY - 11 NOVEMBER
SENIOR CENTER - 10:45 am**

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

SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL



Region 12 Schools

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start. Judging from the buzz in classrooms and smiling faces, students have settled into the new year with a renewed sense of joy and optimism.

Our elementary schools have been recognized by the State of Connecticut as excellent places of learning, and Burnham School has certainly demonstrated outstanding student performance. This year, staff and leaders across the district have capitalized on sustaining a warm, challenging, and nurturing environment through individualized support and small group learning. Besides creating hopes and dreams for the year and setting classroom rules/expectations, students resumed working 1-1 with their peers, participating in group activities, returning to the rug for storytelling or other close instruction, and enjoying learning and playing in a less restrictive setting. Burnham promotes students' academic, social, and emotional wellbeing through the many opportunities such as field trips, author talks, after school activities, clubs, and other social events.

Burnham School's traditional ice cream social was held recently. Families, community members and staff enjoyed ice cream and socializing. At Burnham's Open House, parents and caregivers met teachers and got a glimpse into what their child's day looks like and learned about the curriculum and the many challenging, creative opportunities offered throughout the year. Burnham also had their first PTO meeting, which had an impressive showing of staff and parents. The PTO works diligently throughout the year to support the needs of staff, students, and families.

As a part of the academic program, staff are implementing the new math curriculum Eureka Squared. During staff time in August, our teachers worked closely with consultants to ensure they had a strong understanding of the instructional approaches to engage and challenge all students in math. In science, K-2 students experimented with objects they brought in from home to learn the properties of matter. Students in grades 3-5 recently worked on force and motion and thoroughly enjoyed launching stuffed animals and tracking which animal launched the farthest!

Burnham has focused on kindness and what that means. This is important in continuing to create and sustain a positive environment for all students. As part of the "kindness goal," students will write down on post-its visible acts of kindness they see at Burnham and add it to a school bulletin board. We might be a small school, but we care about each other in BIG ways.

Students at Shepaug have also started the new year off with a multitude of opportunities to enrich their learning and promote their growth. The academic pathways in both core and elective areas continue to inspire our students and prepare them for college and career. The schedule, which includes a "Spartan" period allows flexibility for teachers to work with groups of students for academic enrichment and social-emotional support. The newly renovated planetarium will be open to staff across the district to support space and astronomy content in the sciences. For the first time, our agriscience program now fully serves students in grades 9-12. The new Director, Tyler Cremeans, continues to develop engaging courses and activities for students through the agriscience program.

Finally, we would like to thank community members and town leaders in Bridgewater for their ongoing support. Our students, staff, and families appreciate all that you do to help us meet the needs of our children at Burnham.

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue,
Interim Superintendent





Burnham School PTO NEWS

The Burnham School PTO kicked off the 2022-2023 school year with an Adult Back-to-School Social on the First Day of School. It was the perfect opportunity to catch up and to also meet families who are new to the Burnham School - thank you to the Burnham Library for hosting this wonderful event! The school year is off to a great start: we had a huge turn out for the annual Ice Cream Social and our 'Bee Kind' float won 'Best Junior Entry' at the Bridgewater Tractor Parade! Thank you to all who attended and supported these events!

We would also like to thank the greater Bridgewater community for completing the 2022 Community Questionnaire this past summer. Based on your feedback, the BSPTO Fundraising Brainstorm Committee is working on some fun upcoming events, including:

- Wreaths & Wine: Back by popular demand, join us for a night of festive wreath making at The Barn at Sunny Meadow Farm on December 9th at 6:30pm!
- Bingo Night: Get your chips and daubers ready for Bingo Night, coming January/February 2023!

Check out the Burnham School PTO website for more information on these exciting events:
burnhamschoolpto.weebly.com

Consider supporting the Burnham School PTO this holiday season by purchasing some Burnham School Spirit Wear! Catalog & Order Form are available on our website:
<https://burnhamschoolpto.weebly.com/support>

Other easy ways to support the Burnham School PTO today:

- Amazon: www.smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0011749
- Box Tops are still being collected and returned to the school
- Online Donation: <https://burnhamschoolpto.weebly.com/support>

Thank you for your continued support!

Kindly submitted by,
The Burnham School PTO



Burnham's 'Bee Kind' float won 'Best Junior Entry' at the Bridgewater Tractor Parade



The Bridgewater Land Trust

The fall season is perhaps the most picturesque in Bridgewater. The vibrant colors provide a wonderful back drop for many outdoor events and cooler temperatures prompt enthusiasm for trail work and stewardship of our properties.

The 2022 Volksmarsch Walk was held on Sunday, October 2nd (see photos on opposite page). Despite the high winds and blustery conditions, approximately 85 people walked and celebrated with us at the Pratt Pavilion. The remnants of hurricane Ian did not stop those who were determined to complete either a 5K or 10K course that meandered through fields and forest. A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors who made this event possible: The Bridgewater Recreation Commission, Union Savings Bank, Will Stuart of Berkshire Hathaway, Ted Alt and Katherine Burke, Andrew and Molly Smith, and Stuart Family Farm.

The winners of the "Not Your Grandpa's Hayride" also took advantage of peak fall colors on October 8th and had a magnificent ride with panoramic views of Bridgewater. Guests were also treated to greetings by cowgirls and a cattle drive. Many thanks to our volunteers who drove the rig, managed the cattle and rode the horses: Bill Stuart Sr., Bill Stuart Jr., Ryan McClaughlin, Christian Stuart, and Liz Noeding.

We have begun the process of marking new trails on our 80 acres of leased land next to the Bridgewater Town Park and along Lake Lillinonah. Once the marking and mapping is complete, we will be welcoming hikers to enjoy this beautiful land.

Our year end membership letter will be arriving in your mail box soon. Please consider renewing your membership or joining as a new member. We do not receive funding from local or state government and rely on contributions from our residents to help us preserve and protect our natural and working lands. We are a non-profit charity and all contributions are tax deductible. We are also offering a 2023 wall calendar featuring Bridgewater barns for \$20 each. If you are interested, email jstuart@bridgewaterlandtrust.org.

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



The winners of the "Not Your Grandpa's Hayride" enjoy a perfect fall day.



A glimpse of our new Tappen Brook Trail network.



Volksmarsch Walk 2022



Burnham Library

Where Community Connects

November, December 2022, January 2023

Keep up-to-date with all the Burnham Buzz at www.burnhamlibrary.org, via Facebook OR have news dropped into your inbox by emailing cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org.

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

We will be closed on the following dates: early Closing at 2:00 - Friday, November 11, O Silent Night, Saturday, November 12, early Closing at 1:00 - Wednesday, November 23, Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 25, Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31

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

Did you know that your Burnham Library card grants you access to all libraries in Connecticut? With interlibrary loan, the Library doesn't stop here! We can request materials from libraries throughout CT with deliverIT, a statewide library delivery service funded by the State of CT and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In addition, borrowIT CT allows residents to use their hometown library card at any of the 191 participating public libraries. What does this mean for you? Your library card gives you access to 13 million items! Last year alone, libraries loaned 2,175,214 items to residents of other towns. Life isn't hard, when you have a library card!

Adult Programming

Visit Your Three Region 12 Libraries

Burnham Library, Minor Memorial Library, and Gunn Library -- for a variety of events, art shows, and collaborative programming. Visit www.burnhamlibrary.org/events for featured collaborative programs and the most update-to-date information on Burnham Library events and services. Register for Burnham events with cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Skills Café

Beat away the winter blues by learning a new skill!

Saturday, November 19 from 1:00 - 2:00 - Pom Pom Making with Jean Kallay

Saturday, December 3 & January 28 from 1:00 - 2:00 - Learn Mahjong with Susan Neisobecki

Virtual Book Discussions

New day, same time! All are welcome to join in the lively monthly discussion on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:00 via Zoom. Email Catherine Flynn at cwflynn60@gmail.com to register or further information.

November 30 - *The Nickle Boys* by Colson Whitehead

January 24 - *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier

Copies of each selection will be available at the library or request curbside pick-up.

Art @ the Burnham Library

Visit and view during library hours

November 12 - December 3 - Special O Silent Night Show featuring assorted local artists.

December 6 - January 28 - "Art in Pieces" by Joan P. Ivler of Merryall

Youth Programs in the Susie Beris MD Youth Learning Center

Join us in the SBYLC, we have something for every age! Advanced registration is required with lambruso@burnhamlibrary.org. Burnham School students will be escorted to the library by a member of the BL team for after school programs. Homeschoolers are welcome!

Grades K-2
Burnham LEGO
Builders K-2 Story Craft

Grades 3-5
Burnham Board Gamers
Tabletop RPG Club
Burnham LEGO Builders



Grades 6-8
Teen Craft
Mandala Coloring
Junior Friends of the Library

The Under 5 Crowd
Burnham Bunch Storytime - Thursday morning sessions from 10:30 - 11:00. Bubbles, books, and songs designed for the under 5 crowd.

Holidays at the Library

The Great Holiday Giveaway!

Beginning November 1, drop into the library and grab an amazing Home Alone AAAAdvent pop-up calendar. Each collectible ornament is inspired by an iconic moment from the film, from the McAllister's lawn jockey statue to Harry's gold tooth! Supplies are limited. Sponsored by an anonymous Friend.

Bedtime Stories with Carl Dill

Friday, December 2 at 7:30 at the Library

Head over to the library after the Town tree lighting and hear stories perfect for the holiday season.

Gingerbread House Workshop

Saturday, December 10 - Three sessions: 9:30 - 10:30, 10:45 - 11:45, 12:00 - 1:00

Join Nancy Stuart for our most-beloved annual event! Register for one of three sessions. As space is limited, we ask for one adult per child, please. This free program includes a freshly baked house, candy & decorating supplies. Please bring a donation for the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Registration is required by visiting the website. We apologize, we cannot accommodate any day-of requests or walk-ins.

Christmas Spirits in the Night

A holiday concert and tasting at Mine Hill Distillery

Saturday, December 10 ... more details to follow. Reserve your spot starting on November 1.



O Silent Night 2022

Saturday, November 12 from 5:00 - 7:00

The Friends of the Library invite you to ring in the holiday season with a festive fundraising soiree! Enjoy catered fare and holiday cheer. The evening will feature a silent auction, a Win-Win Ornament Grab, and wine basket door prize with all proceeds supporting library programs and Digital Branch services. Featured items include the ever-popular Year of Desserts and Bridgewater Chocolate as well as themed-baskets, a Solo Stove Bonfire, and LEGO Home Alone collector's set!

Visit the website for a complete listing of Holiday events ...

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Bridgewater EMS Update

The Holiday Season is once again upon us. Bridgewater is a wonderful place to enjoy the beauty and magic of this season. Each of us can contribute to making the magic happen if we maintain a grateful awareness of our shared good fortune to be living in this beautiful town. Please make an extra effort to be kind and thoughtful during these months. Peace on Earth can start right here.

If you have not already done so, please check the batteries in your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and other household safety devices. It is also important to make sure that your personal medical alert devices are working properly.

Darkness, fallen leaves, ice and snow increase the risk of accidents this time of year. Walkers, joggers, bicyclers, etc. would be wise to make sure they wear reflective clothing and use safety lights when they are travelling on our roads. This is especially important after sundown. Also, please remember that bicycle riders are to ride on the right side of the road with traffic. Walkers and joggers are to travel on the left side of the road facing traffic. Please be aware of the importance of making sure you are visible to drivers when you are on the roads. Drivers, please remain alert and do not allow yourself to be distracted while operating your vehicle. One of the best gifts each of us can give and receive during the holidays is good health. That gift can slip away from us in an instant of distracted driving.

Both Flu and Covid are making plans to spend the holidays in our neighborhood. If you have not already done so, please give serious consideration to getting your Flu vaccination and the Covid 19 Booster. It seems that the health benefits of each of these vaccinations is only fully appreciated by those who fail to receive them and then get sick. Please do not place yourself in that group unnecessarily.

The Bridgewater Emergency Medical Services team is excited to announce that 3 new young EMTs have successfully completed their training and certification. They have joined our team and are already responding to emergency calls to provide you with assistance in the event of a medical emergency. Brendan Kelly completed his certification process right after his high school graduation in June. Brendan Sartori and Henry Gsell are still in High School. At the end of the last academic year they each took on the challenge of completing the study and work required to become a Connecticut Certified

Emergency Medical Technician. These impressive young people are great examples of the strong, committed, generous spirit that best represents our young Americans. We are both proud and grateful to have them as members of Bridgewater EMS.

During the past year the minimum age required to become a certified EMT has been reduced to 16. This was done in recognition of the capabilities of our young people and the need for more EMTs to serve the needs of our community. The Bridgewater Fire Department has been offering training classes for new EMTs each spring and fall. Our training officer, Pete Johnson, is an excellent teacher and a dedicated provider of Emergency Medical Services. The class that began in September will be coming to a close soon. This is a great time to consider enrolling in the next class. If you have any interest in serving your community as an EMT or if you have an interest in a future career in the medical profession please contact me to discuss the possibilities.

As always, on behalf of the Bridgewater Emergency Medical Services team I want to assure you that we greatly appreciate the privilege and trust that is implicit in your willingness to call us when you have a medical emergency. You can be sure that we will always do our utmost to deliver you the very best care possible.

Sincerely, Jim McNulty, NREMT EMS Coordinator
The Bridgewater Fire Department Inc



BFD Women's Auxiliary

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

The Auxiliary would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the Cake Wheel and Waterhole during the fair. Our wonderful community came through when we needed their support.

Our Beer & Wine Tasting was also extremely successful through the help of John Nejaime's Wine & Sprits and the New Milford Spirt Shoppe arranging the vendors and ticket sales. We had over 500 attendees. Thanks again to our community and neighboring town fire departments!! The Tag Sale could have had better weather but all in all, we believe we offered some support to our townspeople. November 21st will be our last scheduled meeting of the year, 7:30 pm at the firehouse.

We would like to congratulate Joe Buchheit, who was nominated by the auxiliary, on receiving the Quilt of Valor at the State Meeting on November 5th!!

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous Holiday Season!!

Ann Frattalone
President

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department

Welcome to fall Bridgewater, we had a beautiful summer this year!

On behalf of the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department, I thank all of our residents, fair goers & volunteers for a successful 2022 Bridgewater Country Fair! Countless hours, effort and patience on all parts were greatly noted. The weather was perfect and without all of your help it would not be the great event that it is. We are an all-volunteer department that does not use tax dollars for our operations & maintenance. We own & maintain all of our apparatus, property & buildings.

A big shout out out to the Ladies Auxiliary for hosting the Beer and Wine Tasting. A great time was had by all and it was a beautiful night. Well Done, Ladies!

We are keeping busy at the fire house maintaining the trucks & grounds, finishing some projects and starting some new ones. Over the past few months, we had a couple new EMT's take and pass the State certification training. Please see Jim McNulty's article. Congratulations to all of them and thanks to our instructor and Bridgewater native, Pete Johnson. Recently we held a pump operators' class in town and sent a couple of our members to one of our neighboring towns for the same class. The BVFD appreciates and needs all of these members dedication.

As we head into fall and winter you should be prepared for our next round of weather. October 9th -15th is fire prevention week, a good reminder to make sure you are checking your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. You should have a CO detector on every floor, smoke detectors on every level of the home (including basements), in every bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. These will save your life and your family's lives. Everyone should have a fire escape plan and meeting place outside your home in the event there is a fire in your home. You, your children, and the elderly should review it at least every season.

As we turn on our heat (wood, oil, gas, pellet, electric) make sure you have done your yearly maintenance. Have your furnace, boiler, insert, stove etc. serviced, get the chimney inspected, (it will save you money in fuel and keep you safe). If you have a generator, have it serviced. Keep your fuel stored outside & don't run the generator inside (including the garage). When burning wood make sure it is dried and seasoned, keep your ashes in a covered metal bucket outside and away from the home until totally cooled. It can take days for ashes to cool.

As we approach the holidays, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. I heard from up north the Santa Express will be happening again this year around December 11th. Keep an eye out for details or email jscott.bvfd@gmail.com.

If you are interested in becoming a fire fighter or EMT please reach out. There is fire fighter class beginning in January if interested.

Thanks to all. We all make Bridgewater a great place to live!

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



Historical Society News

BIG PICTURE HAT

BIG BEAUTY DOLL

AND HER **FUR SET**

GIVEN AWAY



AUTOMATIC MOVING EYES WITH REAL EYE LASHES

FOR DISPOSING OF ONLY TWELVE BOXES

THOMPSON'S TOILET PREPARATIONS

AT 25 CENTS A BOX

We are a reliable concern and have been in the Mail Order business for forty years, and we guarantee as we agree, and refer you to any commercial agency as to our standing and reliability.

This Handsome Doll is a Big Beauty nearly two feet tall. Latest creation of the doll maker's art. They have a beautiful face, with automatic moving or sleeping eyes and real eyelashes, lovely curly hair, pearly teeth, fancy lace trimmed dress, underwear, fur muff, fur cap and fur scarf, doll's chataisine watch, big picture hat, slippers, stockings, etc. Sweet and pretty as a real baby. The picture does not do justice to this elegant doll, and we feel safe in stating that she is much larger and more beautiful than any other premium doll you have ever received. It will be admired not only by your own self but by every little girl who sees it.

Please remember that this lovely Big Beauty Doll will please you in every way, and must not be compared with the little cheap dolls that are usually offered as a premium. Girls if you desire to own this beautiful doll and outfit, just send us your name and address, **plainly written**, and we will at once forward you by return mail, postpaid, **one dozen boxes of our household toilet preparations of standard merit, consisting of complexion creams, etc., to sell among friends at 25 cents each. When sold retail at three dollars and we will forward, carefully packed, this big beauty dressed doll with three piece fur set, doll's chataisine watch, etc., complete. Girls, now is your chance to obtain this big beauty doll and her outfit before any other girl in your neighborhood gets ahead of you.**

CHAS. B. THOMPSON, DOLL IMPORTER
500 THOMPSON'S BUILDING, BRIDGEWATER, CONN.

FUR CAP FUR SCARF AND FUR MUFF GIVEN WITH EVERY DOLL

TWO STYLE DOLLS IN ONE

NEARLY TWO FEET TALL

Gifts From The Mail Order King

Charles B. Thompson, whose name is still inscribed on the building now known as The Bridgewater Bistro, ran a nationally known mail order business from this building in the late 1800's to early 1900's. His sales technique was unique at the time as he offered enticing gifts to his sales force of ladies for "disposing" of his chemicals and potions. The advertisement to the left shows the very popular "Big Beauty Doll" which was given for selling twelve boxes of Thompson's Toilet Preparations at 25 cents per box. The image below is what the building looked like at that time.



From The Desk of the Town Historian

Military mail has come a long way, baby. This was brought back to me when I came across a "V-Mail" sent by my father to my grandparents during World War II. He was stationed in the Pacific, in New Guinea and the Philippines. V-Mail was used by the military to send one page letters to family and friends in the States. There was a place for the military member to print all the pertinent army information and the name and address of the person stateside.

There in my Dad's carefully written script was his thank you note for their generous Christmas presents. He also remember happier days they spent together before the war. It was a voice from the past and it reminded me of the letters between my husband and I during his time in Viet Nam. The Army Post Office (APO) had taken the place of V-Mail. The APO was famous for its poor delivery system. Often five or more letters would come in a bunch. This was long before e-mail or I-Phones, so it was the life line to the person you most cared about - and it wasn't regular!

Now, modern systems make it possible to keep in touch with loved ones who are serving overseas. It doesn't mean you don't worry, but you can get answers to your questions on a far more frequent basis. Still, V-Mail is a window into the way things were - and it kept the censors busy!

- Eileen Buchheit



BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

Did you know? U.S. Life expectancy rose from around age 53 in 1921 to just over 78 in 2021. Between 1980 and 2019, the centenarian population experienced a larger percentage increase than did the total population. Studies also found that an ability to handle stress well was a common trait among centenarians.

Hilltop 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

AWAKENING THE POET WITHIN - Author Terri Sorrentino - Monday, November 7 at 1:00

VETERANS DAY - Friday, November 11. Regular programs are suspended, but join us for our Veterans Day Ceremony at 11:00 am.

MOVIE MATINEE - Monday, January 23 at 1:00

WINE GLASS PAINTING CLASS - Monday, November 14 at 1:00

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON with HARPISIT REBECCA SWETT - Thursday, Nov. 17 at 12:00

FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM - Monday, December 5 at 1:00

PEARL HARBOR presented by historian, Art Gottlieb - Thursday, December 8 at 11:00

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - Thursday, December 15 at 12:00

HOLIDAY BINGO - Thursday, December 22 at 1:00

CHRISTMAS BASKETS - At this time of year we like to spread some extra cheer by giving out Christmas Baskets to those who are unable to be out and about during the holiday season. If you would like to contribute with a donation of goods or help to deliver these baskets, call the senior center. We like to bring a little sunshine to brighten someone's day!

FLANNEL AND FROST LUNCHEON - Thursday, January 12 at 12:00

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Body Conditioning Exercise: Monday 10:30 and Wednesday 11:30
- Social Services: Tuesday 9:00-12:00
- Computer Group: 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. Transporting 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

Our Services

Our principal services are to (a) coordinate chores/household services referrals that are requested by seniors and provide, to the extent possible, volunteers to perform basic household services; (b) act as a repository for community information and services for seniors, and (c) provide financial assistance when need is apparent.

Shredding Day

Thanks to all who came out and took advantage of the Shredding Truck when it was here on October 22nd. We enjoyed spending time and chatting with all who came and are so glad that we can provide this benefit to the Town. Thanks also to Stericycle LLC dba Shred-it for its professionalism and assistance.

Colder Weather Needs/Wants

As the colder weather moves in, providing financial assistance for heating, electricity and other utility need are some of our key winter services. Also once again all should be mindful of slips and falls as they are one of the primary causes of long-term physical decline.

Senior Financial Assistance

If you are in need of financial assistance to get you over seasonal issues, surprise expenses or extraordinary circumstances, reach out to us. All requests for help are handled in confidence.

By Phone: 860-350-2194.

By Email: info@ccbridgewater.org

By email: cheryl@westernviewfarms.com

Literacy Volunteers On The Green

Bridgewater must be one of Connecticut's most beautiful towns in October!

The fall semester is underway with renewed enthusiasm adult literacy! Our 80 tutors are actively engaged with 175 adult students. LVG welcomed 12 new tutors to our fall training session and 20+ new students have registered for classes. 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, Citizen Preparation, Family Literacy, Basic Skills remediation, and offering English tutoring for families settled by Refugee Resettlement Groups in New Milford, Washington, and now Brookfield.

Literacy Volunteers hosted a September tutor breakfast, with 35 in attendance enjoying the chance to gather in person and hear of LVG's fall plans. Each month tutors meet via Zoom, connecting to share effective strategies for meaningful and relevant tutoring sessions for our adult learners. 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 will be held in January of 2023. 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

OUR CHURCHES



St. Marks Episcopal Church

November, December, January 2023

At this time we are expecting to continue having a service at the church every Sunday at 9:30 am. The service currently may be a Eucharist at which communion will be modified probably to only Bread. It may also be a Morning Prayer service with no Eucharist. We are, at the same time, offering the service on ZOOM. All are welcome at any service or activity.

November 12, 2022

Holiday Bazaar - 9 AM - 2 PM

We will have tag sale items, Jam, Baked goods, and bagged luncheons with soup, chips, sandwiches, dessert and a beverage.

December 2, 2022

Victorian Christmas Dinner - 5:30 PM

Ham, carrots, scalloped potatoes and dessert
\$20 adults, \$10 children

December 24, 2022

4:30 PM Choral singing

5 PM Eucharist

January Event to be planned

Since both our clergy availability and Covid restrictions are very changeable, for current info please do check our website at <https://stmarksbridgewater.weebly.com>

Coming Up At The Bridgewater Congregational Church

Christmas Shop and Tree Sales

Will be opening at the Bridgewater Congregational Church on Friday, November 25th from 10am - 4pm and every weekend from November 26th - December 18th. Hours are Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 11-4. Purchase a fragrant Douglas Fir and shop for items in the store where you will find a variety of fair-trade global gifts, locally made items including knit goods, pressed flower notecards, glass pieces and many one of a kind items as well as fudge, beautiful baked goodies and a silent auction.

Christmas Trees will be for sale starting on November 19th. We will have volunteers available every weekend during the Christmas Shop hours. All trees are Douglas Fir, between 6 and 8 feet tall, and all are selling for \$79. If folks need them delivered we will be happy to do that.

Bridgewater Food Pantry Many are struggling with the rise in the cost of food and other necessities, please know that the Food Pantry is available to any individual or family in Bridgewater who needs it. Contributions of non-perishable food items and grocery store gift cards are always welcome and needed. 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. Please call the church office with any questions.

ONGOING

Alcoholics Anonymous - currently meeting online. When in-person, AA meets in the Friendship Hall every Friday night at 7 p.m.

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!

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.

Bridgewater Congregational Church Advent and Christmas Season

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



HANGING OF THE GREENS 11/27
10AM, SANCTUARY



LONGEST NIGHT: BLUE CHRISTMAS 12/21
TIME:TBA, SANCTUARY



LESSONS AND CAROLS: CHRISTMAS EVE 12/24
6:30PM MUSIC PRELUDE; 7PM SERVICE, SANCTUARY



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES 12/25
10AM, SANCTUARY

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

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

HAPPY
Hanukkah

Daylight Saving Time
starts on November 6th



The Bridgewater Friendship Hall
A Community Asset for All



Available for parties, meetings,
family gatherings, social clubs.

Full Kitchen, Air Conditioned,
Handicap accessible

Call 860-354-8283 to book your event



**Bridgewater Volunteer
Fire Department
Santa Express**



SANTA WILL VISIT YOUR HOME ON A FIRE TRUCK!

Don't miss the chance for Santa to come to your house,
deliver a gift to your child, and pose for photos on the
fire truck with your family!

Sunday, December 11th
Deliveries made
throughout the day

All Proceeds Benefit BVFD

STOPS WILL BE AWARDED ON A 1ST COME 1ST SERVE BASIS:
Santa Can Only Make a Limited Number of Stops, SO REGISTER EARLY!

Please Make Checks Payable to: BVFD

For more information or
questions email: jscott.bvfd@gmail.com

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events
for Bridgewater Residents

November 12th 9 AM - 2PM
Brookfield High School, Brookfield

EVENT PROTOCOL

- YOU MUST REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES.
- Place items at the back of your vehicle.
- Workers will remove contents for you.
- Wait times vary from 5-30 minutes depending on volume of cars. Please plan accordingly.
- Contact the HRRRA if you have more than 20 gallons of waste fuel or large quantities of other items.
- No smoking on site.
- No medical waste.
- Fuel containers will not be returned at this event.



**Visit www.HRRRA.org for a list of
what you can and can not bring.**

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



Bridgewater Recreation sponsored the 3rd Annual Volksmarsch Walk and a break station (above) at the walk on October 2nd.



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



Pavilion rentals are underway for the 2023 season.
Book your gathering today! Please contact
Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com.

Trunk or Treat

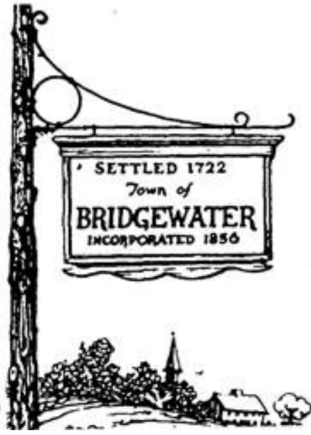
Thank you to all that participated in Trunk or Treat this year. A big shout out to The Bridgewater Mobil for the candy donation, Sandy and Larry Neary for judging, The Bridgewater Congregational Church, St. Marks Church, Bridgewater Fire Department, Burnham Library and the Town Hall for opening their doors and handing out candy.



The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

Dawn MacNutt- *Chairman*
Lynn Kubisek - *Secretary*
Josh Murphy
Christian Stuart
Mike Dubos
Julie Scott
Colin Brown
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.



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 January 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

NOVEMBER

- 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
- 11 Veterans Day ***Town Hall Closed***
Veterans Day Ceremony 10:45 AM, Senior Center
- 16 Board of Finance 4:30 PM, Town Hall
- 17 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 17 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 24-25 Thanksgiving ***Town Hall Closed***

DECEMBER

- 2 Tree Lighting 7:00 PM, Town Green
- 6 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 6 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 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
- 26 Christmas (observed) ***Town Hall Closed***

JANUARY

- 2 New Year's Day (observed) ***Town Hall Closed***
- 3 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 3 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 10 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 19 Planning & Zoning 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



Town Tree Lighting

7 PM December 2nd Town Green