



OUR TOWN

BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

NOVEMBER 2020

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Bridgewater Country
Fair Puzzle

Message from Our First Selectman

A Bridgewater resident walked into my office a few weeks ago and wanted to know what I thought about the upcoming election. I told him I wasn't running this year but soon realized he was really asking about the *Big One*.

I was hesitant to discuss this topic at first, as I have always believed that it doesn't matter or affect the local level, my mantra being: above all else, we are Bridgewaterites. However, our national perspectives have become so polarized of late to the point that political signs are being stolen locally while "stealing the election" is exclaimed on both sides nationally.

You have to ask yourself how or why it has become so toxic and polemic with Red vs. Blue. One theory with merit is that we all stay in our information silos where we get our TV and radio news, or which papers we read. Our media sourced truths are relative and self-reinforcing. It used to be patently untrue that the moon landing was faked or that Elvis was still alive somewhere. Nowadays, it seems incredible that more people believe in QAnon conspiracies hook, line and sinker.

The internet might really be the biggest culprit as the amplifier of misinformation. I recently did a search for a new pair of boots. Since then I can't access my "feeds" from social media without shoe, boot or slipper ads. The internet knows where we live and shop, who are friends, probably every little byte we take. We are just products or targets to be data mined. I guess I'm known as "that shoe guy" for a bit.

Time to come back to full circle. That walk-in resident and I differed in our political views but agreed to disagree with civility. We are still friends in masks who could bump elbows on the way out of Town Hall. He did say Center Street looks great and is ultimately thankful we live here in Bridgewater during Corona times.

As of this writing in mid-October, medical experts are predicting another wave of the virus that could put us back in isolation mode where normal holiday gatherings and traditional events are suspended. It could be a long hard winter waiting for promised safe vaccines. In the meantime, Bridgewater will function as best we can, and neighbors will surely support each other and those in need just like we always have in tough times.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis S. Read".
Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: July 2020

- Estate of Jane Holmes to Cesar & Elia Godoy, land and buildings, 28 Rock Cut Road, \$240,000
- Joseph S. & Amy Giordano to Kristen Chard & Kevin Rabsatt, land and buildings, 8 Round Hill Road, \$560,000

Land Transfers: August 2020

- Bridgewater, LLC to Brandon A. Seward, land and buildings, 10 Henry Sanford Road, \$802,800
- Sami & Meghan Boustany to Robert Eldridge & Gabriel Rojo, land and buildings, 9 Hut Hill Road, \$585,000
- Joseph Burcaw to Felix & Loretta Lechner, 12 Bridgewater Common Lane, \$227,000
- Thomas & Amy Allingham to Brandon A. Seward, land, Hemlock Road, \$312,200

Land Transfers: September 2020

- Jeffrey Leonard & Sofia Metaxas to Christian & Cynthia Feuer, land and buildings, 152 Wewaka Brook Road, \$1,050,000
- John Hicks to Colin Duguid, land and buildings, 209 Main Street South, \$415,000
- Vincent & Mary Ann Lacorazza to Jason & Erika Vass, land and buildings, 280 Skyline Ridge Road, \$585,000
- Richard Carlson to Sunny Meadow Farm LLC, land, Northrop Street/Benson Road, \$753,000
- Louise Laragh to David & Katheryn Burmon, land and buildings, 225 Skyline Ridge Road, \$1,585,000
- Harry Davies to Daniel Leheny, land, Lot 2, Turnpike Meadows, \$100,000
- Christopher & Iris Patrick to Louise Laragh, land and buildings, 188 Christian Street, \$585,000
- Est. of Mary F. Von Egidy to John D. Guinta, land and buildings, 48 Henry Sanford Road, \$310,000

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

Registrars of Voters

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 3rd

Polls open 6 AM - 8 PM

Hilltop Center

132 Hut Hill Road



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

Margaret Judith Sullivan, Democratic Registrar
Susan Patrick, Republican Registrar



Bridgewater has a new marker to commemorate our national historic designation called the Bridgewater Center Historic District.

Office of the Tax Collector

Taxes Due: The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes is due January 1, 2021. 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, 2019 and before September 30, 2020. The bills will be mailed in December and become due January 1, 2021.

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, 2021 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 through our website at www.bridgewater-ct.gov.

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 reminders of payments becoming due? Sign up through the link provided on the town website.

DMV News: Get out of line by going online! Visit the 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.

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
860-355-9220



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
Assessor's office
Legal Notice

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 Monday, November 2nd. 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 2nd.

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 (860) 355-9379; we are here Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8am until 12:30pm and Tuesday 8am until 3:30pm.

Sincerely,
Denise C. Pinter Assessor

Bridgewater Scholarship
Committee

As the year winds down, your Bridgewater Scholarship Committee asks that you consider including a tax-deductible donation to the Bridgewater Scholarship Fund in your year end planning.

Each year costs go up for our young and we see them go further and further in debt trying to meet these costs. Anyone wishing to see how much they appreciate your help is welcomed to view the scores of thank you notes we receive each year from them. We will personally share them with you.

Also, please imagine what a legacy it would be to establish a named scholarship for someone you love. We have 8 such scholarships. We would be happy to discuss the process with you.

For inquiries please email Larry Neary at leneary1@gmail.com. If you would like to make a donation please make your check out to the Bridgewater Scholarship Fund and send or drop off at the Bridgewater Town Hall.

Thank you,
Jeanne Papparazzo, Susan Niesobecki, Cheryl Pinkos, Joy Bollard, Russell Marcus, Paul Hines and Chairman, Larry Neary

Burnham School PTO

Despite starting our school year during a pandemic, our "tiny but mighty" school has proven to be resilient yet again! We are so grateful for the safe, full-time reopening of our region's schools. This was a huge accomplishment for our community. Thank you, Region 12!

The Burnham School, PTO has been busy planning creative ways to raise funds while still being cautious of the current COVID situation. Our teachers and staff rely on our fundraising efforts, now more than ever. The PTO provides a wide range of activities and support throughout each school year including teacher supplies, scholarships, enrichment, celebrations, etc. We are a small community but we can do amazing things when we all come together. Please come out to support our town's youth. Here are some upcoming fundraisers that we all can support!

Easy Ways You Can Help to Support Burnham PTO, Today:

- Save Your Bottles and Cans! The 5th Graders are holding a bottle/can drive to raise funds for their graduation (Aloha!) Day. First drop off is November 7th from 9-10am at Burnham School.
- Burnham Spirit wear is available for purchasing now! Order forms can be picked up at the school office or emailed to you. Please call ahead of time, (860)354-5559.
- Sign-Up for Amazon Smile: www.smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0011749
- Sign-Up for School Rewards at your local grocery store: Register your store cards (in store or using the links) www.StopandShop.com/aplus and www.shopriteformyschool.com
- YES, we are collecting BOX TOPS at our school!
- Monetary donations are always welcome and appreciated.

For more ways to help and download order forms, please visit our website, www.burnhamschoolpto.weebly.com or reach out to the PTO President, Diana Kelly.



VETERAN'S NEWS

Veterans Benefit Association (VBA) National News: Register for Our Webcast: Dive into all things benefits with the Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D. in the upcoming webcast on October 29. VBA's efforts and accomplishments have made this our #BestYearEver. In FY20, VBA met or exceeded its performance goals and objectives, despite a challenging year. Register online to receive a reminder about the webcast!

VA is inviting you to tell your Veteran Story: You're invited to share your story or the story of a Veteran close to you! We want to hear about your service in the military, achievements, families, the transition to civilian, and your life as a Veteran. Send us your stories and pictures to be featured as a daily Veteran tribute in November in celebration of Veterans Month!

FAST Assists Fiduciaries: VA's fiduciary program protects Veterans and other beneficiaries who, due to injury, disease, or age, are unable to manage their financial affairs. Learn how the Fiduciary Accounting Submission Tool (FAST) makes the accounting process easier for Fiduciaries.

Disability Claims for PTSD: Service-connected mental illnesses, like posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), qualify for VA disability. If you're a Veteran with a mental illness, you may be eligible for disability compensation benefits. Learn more about mental health claim exams.

Veteran Memorial Benefits: VA burial benefits can help Service members, Veterans, and their families plan and pay for a burial or memorial service in a VA national cemetery. Check out the VA Burial and Memorial Products Quick Start Guide to learn more.

VET TEC vs. GI Bill: VA's GI Bill benefits and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) can both help you gain valuable skills. VET TEC helps Veterans get short term technology training without using their GI Bill funding! The GI Bill program, on the other hand, provides funds for Veterans to get a traditional degree. Learn which program is right for you and your training needs!

Fighting the Flu Together: Getting your flu shot is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from the flu. Veterans enrolled in VA health care can receive a no-cost flu shot at over 60,000 community locations. Find the nearest location to get your flu shot today!

Flag Etiquette: It is the universal custom to display the American flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. Only the President or Governor of a state can order flags to half-staff.



When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the American flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. No other flag or pennant should be placed above, or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America. No person shall display the flag of the United Nations or any other national or international flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence.

VA Liaison, Joe Buchheit, LTC-USA (Ret.) 860-355-2433,
joebuchheit@icloud.com.

Van Wyck Brooks



Photo by Robert Gumpfer

Van Wyck Brooks was an American luminary who focused much of his life on the analysis of New England literature. Brooks was an academic, lover of books and Pulitzer Prize winning author. Despite this national notoriety, he and his wife Gladys were supporters of Burnham Library, with Gladys leading the charge for expansion in Brooks' name in the nineteen-seventies. With Brooks' almost mythic status in our town, it is sometimes easy to forget that there was a human being beneath that stern, mustachioed face.

Brooks was the father of two boys, Oliver and Charles. Oliver, named for Oliver Wendell Holmes the famous and long sitting Supreme Court justice, was born in 1916 in Westport, Connecticut, where Van Wyck spent some time

after starting his writing career. Like many children of affluence of the era, Oliver (or Kenyon, as his father called him) was sent away to boarding school. Loomis in Windsor, Connecticut was the choice for the young Brooks.

While portraits of Van Wyck seem to support his position as a man of intelligent and thoughtful analysis, personal letters reveal a caring, tender, loving father. One note to Oliver in October of 1932 plays on the formality of the day, saying "I am greatly honored to be included in the invitation to visit you next Sunday" Van Wyck teases Oliver, saying "Will I come? I'll give you three guesses - and I promise to behave with proper dignity when the time comes." An earlier letter from a twelve-year-old Oliver's trip to Utah begs the boy to bring home some buffalo and bear skins. The letter concludes with the comment that the "...house seems dreadfully empty without you, and how glad I will be to have you back, my darling boy."

Even as Oliver spent much of his twenties and early thirties exploring the world and his passions, Van Wyck continued to support him, and give him a place to stay when he returned from abroad. This generosity was extended to his professional career with Van Wyck Brooks most likely aiding Oliver in getting a job at E.P. Dutton, his publisher.

The collected letters of Van Wyck Brooks are available upon special request at Burnham Library. There are over seventy letters that range from 1920 to 1962 and largely examine the personal relationship between Van Wyck and his sons.

*Christopher B. Fisher Assistant Director Burnham
Library 62 Main Street South Bridgewater, CT 06752
(860)354-6937 www.burnhamlibrary.org*



2020 Persbacker Family Scholarships Awarded

The Persbacker Family Fund at Connecticut Community Foundation has awarded college scholarships of \$3,500 each to six Bridgewater residents for the 2020-21 academic year.

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

Former Bridgewater resident Victor L. Persbacker established the scholarship fund at the Foundation with the intention of making college more affordable for local students who are involved in volunteer work throughout the Bridgewater community.

The Persbacker Fund has awarded scholarships totaling over \$240,000 to 26 students since its inception in 2004. Congratulations to the following scholars for the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Taryn Crossley University of CT, Class of 2024 Field of Study: Law and Legal Studies
- Julia Sinatra Hamilton College, Class of 2024 Field of Study: Languages, Literature and Linguistics
- Kathleen Sinatra Union College, Class of 2021 Field of Study: Law and Legal Studies
- Lars Vikstrom Ithaca College, Class of 2021 Field of Study: Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Annika Vikstrom Colgate University, Class of 2024 Field of Study: International Relations
- Hunter Wilson University of Northwestern Ohio, Class of 2021 Field of Study: Agriculture and Related Sciences

Learn more about the scholarship program at Connecticut Community Foundation at conncf.org/scholarships.

Established in 1923, Connecticut Community Foundation fosters an equitable and inclusive community in Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills by inspiring generosity, supporting organizations and cultivating effective leaders. The Foundation provides leadership in addressing the region's critical issues, strengthens local nonprofit organizations through grants and technical assistance programs, and works with individuals, families and corporations to establish and steward scholarships and charitable funds. Learn more at www.conncf.org.



The Bridgewater Land Trust Winter 2020

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Volksmarsch Walk" on October 3rd. Approximately 75 people came out to enjoy a 6 mile walk on what turned out to be a spectacular fall day. We appreciate all of the support!

This winter we will continue to welcome the public to enjoy our public trail located on the Town Line Preserve and the Ketchum Children's Trail (updated maps are now on our website). As always, we ask that you help take care of our trails and open space by removing any waste that you bring. We also hope that all visitors to our Town Line and Jane Pratt Preserve parking area help to keep it looking as they found it, respect all the neighbors and remember that the area is closed at dusk.

Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2020. Those membership dollars are crucial to the operation of the trust and preservation of our beautiful town. The Bridgewater Land Trust is an approved 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Visit us at our website: www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org or our Facebook page.

Thank you
Bridgewater Land Trust

SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL



Region District 12 Updates

Region 12 schools opened its doors to all students on August 31, 2020. Our schools are fortunate to have the school environments necessary to support healthy distances for our students and staff. The students' return to the school buildings was met with a mix of anxiety and excitement. Moments after walking through the doors and into the hallways, the students' anxiety was overcome by excitement. Burnham and Shepaug staff members created joyful learning experiences that included cardboard hands for high fives, hula hoops for social distance recess time, outdoor learning, and smizing (smiling with your eyes).

The school year may look different but some traditions have not changed. Shepaug Valley School still rolled out the red carpet for the students on the first day of school. Burnham School still did team building to support a classroom community while laughter could be heard throughout the building. In addition to our traditions, students introduced new elements to the school year. Shepaug students created videos to ask all students to honor their "call to citizenship" by supporting community safety with the use of masks and social distancing. All classrooms have web cameras to support learning in all environments. Our goal is to fuse the learning experience for our students within and beyond our school walls. Additionally, Shepaug is thrilled to introduce new technology that bridges the distance for learners choosing to learn from home. Select classrooms are equipped with 360-degree cameras and microphones for a full view of learning demonstrations. We continue to push learning forward for our students in tough times. Our students are taking extra effort to make sure they are protecting themselves, friends, and our community by wearing their masks, honoring the six feet of distance, and frequently washing their hands. The additional efforts have allowed us to remain in-person learning for six weeks and counting! Region 12 schools are deeply appreciative of the Bridgewater community and their support for our students' return to school.

Megan Bennett, Superintendent
Region 12 Schools



Historical Society News

Recently, a very old ledger came into the Historical Society. The first entries dated back to 1788, listing costs for the running of a farm in Bridgewater. The ink had faded badly and the writing was spidery, but I got through to the end of the book. On the last page, there were listed entries for births, deaths and marriages. A treasure trove of information for Bridgewater, only it was for Bridgewater, Pennsylvania. Was it a waste of time? Maybe - but not a complete waste.

The entries showed both income and outgo. On the income side, it showed costs, initially, in shillings and pence. Some entries listed debts repaid. All were signed by the parties, often ending with, ...
“...balanced all book accounts with him from the beginning of the world to this day. “



And, the costs? Half a bushel of “wrye” was 16 cents in 1791. It cost 30 cents to use a man’s oxen for half a day in 1793. To have a prize bull “go to” four cows was \$1.90 in 1803. A day of splitting wood cost 20 cents in 1815. One bushel of corn cost 66 cents in 1808. The last entry was on October 26, 1822, listing three bushels of apples valued at \$1.12 .

It was a window onto the world of colonial times. Daily expenses repeated themselves with, as you might have guessed, the prices going up. Some things never change. The owner- or owners- of the book never identified themselves. Why should they? They’d sit down after a long day and list their costs, and, sometimes, profits, for their own records. Much as we do when we balance a checking account or pay a credit card bill. And life went on - in Bridgewater, Pennsylvania.



From The Desk of the Town Historian

When we first moved into our house some 28 years ago, I was curious about what we called “the stairs to nowhere”. They were a set of stone and concrete stairs which led from the side garden up to the kitchen wall... and then stopped.

I contacted my realtor and asked if she knew anything. She passed me on to a longtime resident, the late Dorothy Gustaffson, who was the Secretary of the Bridgewater Historical Society. She told me about an older couple back in the 1940s who needed someone to live in and take care of their daily needs. The First Selectman at the time found a young couple who would live upstairs and help out.

The problem was that the old lady was a bit passive/aggressive and didn’t trust this young woman to wash the dishes. That was HER job. Water for washing came from the pump at the top of the stairs. There was a door back then between the kitchen and the stairs. After washing the dishes, the old woman threw the water out from the top stair.

Time went by and the old woman decided the helper was a thief. Her dishes were being stolen. The helper denied the charge and quit. Time marched on through winter into spring. When the snows melted, the garden revealed a crop of... broken dishes.

We still find shards of china in that garden, right next to the stairs to nowhere.

- Eileen Buchheit



BURNHAM LIBRARY NEWS NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY

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.

Library Hours:

Visit us on Tuesday 1-5, Wednesday 9-6, Thursday 9-6, Friday 1-5, and Saturday 9-1.

Thanksgiving Closings:

Early Closing at Noon - Wednesday, November 25

Closed - Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 27

Curbside Pick-up is available Tuesday - Saturday by appointment. Simply email, call, or place a request through the catalog and we will notify you when your pick-up is ready! Parents and caregivers, our staff would love to help you select books for your child(ren)! Contact us and we will curate a bag full of reading fun! For Curbside Pick-up and Curated Bookbag requests email staff@burnhamlibrary.org.

LIVE Virtual Programs:

The Burnham Library has teamed up with the Minor Memorial Library in Roxbury and the Gunn Memorial Library in Washington to provide all three communities with a wide range of virtual events this fall and winter. Visit www.burnhamlibrary.org/events for a listing of these exciting collaborative Shepaug Library Programs as well as the most update-to-date information for Burnham Library events.

Slavery in Litchfield County - Thursday, November 19 from 6:00 - 7:00 By looking at the experiences of a few individuals, this lecture will examine the origin and nature of slavery in Litchfield County and the county's complicated history with abolitionism. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Off the Rails: CT's Transportation Future Post COVID - Thursday, December 3 from 6:00 - 7:00 Long-time commuter advocate and newspaper commentator Jim Cameron offers a lively presentation and Q&A on Connecticut's transportation crisis. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Virtual Book Discussions - Our monthly discussions will continue to take place via Zoom. All are welcome! Copies of the monthly selection will be available at the library or request curbside pick-up. Thursdays at 5:00 on December 3 - *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michelle Richardson and January 28 - *The Island at the Center of the World* by Russell Shorto Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Please email jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org to register or for further information.



The Great Giveaway!
It can't get any easier than this! Stop into the library ever month and grab the newest item in Burnham Library's The Great Giveaway! Supplies are limited!

Burnham Library, cont.

Live Virtual Youth Programs

Virtual Burnham Bunch Storytime

Bubbles, books, and songs designed for the under 5 crowd. Thursday morning sessions from 10:30 - 11:00. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Please email jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org or register via Facebook!

Join us for our monthly **Virtual Tabletop Role-Playing Game Club!** Systems and settings will change as players bring their journeys to an end, so that they can be exposed to a variety of games. There is so much more out there than Dungeons and Dragons! We will begin with the critically acclaimed Mouse Guard Tabletop Role-Playing Game. All experience levels are welcome to come, from seasoned veterans to those just starting to dabble in the vast world of tabletop role-playing games. Advanced registration is required to receive Zoom event link. Seating is limited.

Grades 3-6

Thursdays, 11/19 and 12/16 from 4:00 - 5:00

Grades 8-12 - in collaboration with the Gunn Memorial Library

The Second Thursday of every month from 4:00 - 5:00

News from the Friends of the Burnham Library

Due to COVID-19 we must cancel our annual fundraising event, O Silent Night this year. Like so many we are disappointed. However, we look forward to seeing many of your friendly faces at the event next November 2021. In the meantime, we wish all our friends and neighbors a safe and happy holiday season.

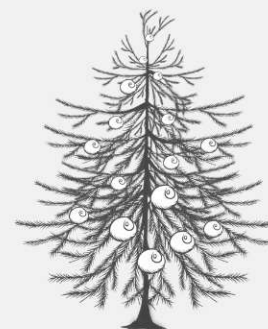
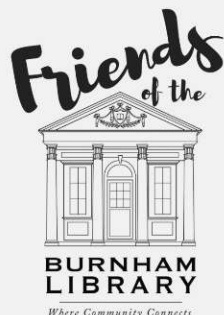
The Friends membership letter will be in your mailboxes shortly and we hope that you choose to renew or become a Friend of the Burnham Library this year. Our funding for the Burnham Library will now solely rely on this fundraising effort and we hope that you consider this when making year-end tax decisions. Membership dues paid to the Friends are distinct from contributions to the Library's Annual Appeal. Friends' dues provide funding for programs, museum passes, equipment, and services that would not be available through the library's operational budget.



The Friends of the Burnham Library is a non-profit, volunteer community group dedicated to supporting the Burnham Library by providing funding for programs, museum passes, equipment, and services that would not be available through the library's operational budget.

Gingerbread House Workshops - We are researching alternative options in order to offer this most beloved annual event! Stay posted by visiting the website and/or follow us on social media.

Happy Holidays to all our friends and neighbors!





BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

Even though indoor programs at the center have been suspended since March, during the warmer months we took advantage of our patio with its beautiful awning and amazing views. This setting gave the seniors the opportunity to socialize with friends, play games, celebrate birthdays and use our minds and bodies. Now as the weather turns colder we will transition some limited programs indoors while adhering to the guidelines set by the Governor and our Local Health District. Some programs will be offered in a hybrid fashion of in-house and online for those who don't feel comfortable coming inside the center. Take a look at our website for our calendar of programs or call us and we will be happy to send you a newsletter.

We want to thank all those who have donated to The Friends of the Bridgewater Senior Center especially during this difficult time of our lives. We continue to comfort, encourage and engage the seniors in our community who feel isolated. We want all the seniors in our community to know that we are available to help you, so don't hesitate to contact us. 860-355-3090 or email bwscseniorcenter@gmail.com. The Municipal Agent, Dawn MacNutt, is also available at the Hilltop Center on Tuesdays, 9:00 - 1:00. Please call to make an appointment.

SENIOR VAN

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

We wish you and your family a safe and peaceful holiday season. Appreciate yourself, find gratitude in your challenges, and look for a bit of joy in every day!

Patricia Babbage, Director



Enjoying the back patio at the Hilltop Center



Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc. (CCB)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

Our Mission

Founded in 2007, CCB's mission is to provide a coordinated referral system of services and support for Bridgewater households with at least one resident who is age 50 or over. Our goal is to make it possible for seniors and their families to stay in their homes and fully enjoy life here while having access to the care and resources needed as they grow older.

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.

Present Needs

This year, not surprisingly, providing financial assistance has been one of our key services. While our organization focuses our efforts on seniors, please remember that our definition of a senior is anyone 50 years of age or older. Thus, CCB may be able to provide resources when other organizations having a higher age threshold cannot.

There is no membership fee required for our services.

Senior Financial Assistance

If you are in need of financial assistance to get you over job loss, 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

Holiday Happenings in Bridgewater

November 14th: **Holiday Bazaar** St. Marks Church 9 AM - 1 PM

November 28th - December 13th: **Christmas Shoppe and Tree Sale**
Congregational Church weekends 11 AM - 2 PM

December 4th: **Drive-by Tree Lighting** Town Green 7 PM - 8 PM

December 24th: **Luminaries lit** along Main Street for Christmas Eve

December TBD: **Living Christmas Story** drive-by event Congregational
Church parking area



EMERGENCY SERVICES



Bridgewater EMS Update November, December, January

The Holiday Season is upon us! All of us at the Bridgewater Fire Department hope that you enjoy peaceful, happy and healthy holidays. Enjoy your time with family and friends, but remember that both the Flu and the Covid 19 virus are with us. Please make sure that all the gatherings you attend and/or host follow the guidance from our Public Health Officials intended to avoid spreading illness. Your adherence to these guidelines is the best way to keep yourself and your family safe and healthy. It is also the best way for you to demonstrate your care and respect for all of us who live here in Bridgewater.

Do you know how to contact Bridgewater Emergency Medical Services if you need our help? Call 911! Do not delay. When you have a medical emergency time is of the essence. There have been instances during the past few months when people in need of EMS called the Fire House or individual members of the Fire Department for help. This can cause unnecessary delays. When you call 911 the call is routed to a centralized Dispatcher that maintains trained staff 24 hours a day. The dispatcher contacts our members by activating a pager system and providing us with information we need to respond to you. This dispatch procedure is designed to provide alerts to our members no matter where they happen to be located when they are needed. When the pagers are activated all our volunteers are notified at once that we need them to respond to the call. This procedure is very efficient and provides you with a safe and reliable way to obtain Emergency Medical Services. Please do not feel reluctant to call 911 if you need us.

After you call 911 there are a number of steps you can take to help us provide you with the best possible care:

- 1.) If the call is at night, turn on your exterior lights. Make sure your address number is visible from both directions of the street.
- 2.) If you have gates on your driveway make sure to fully open them. The ambulance will need to drive through them to bring EMTs to your home. We have had calls in which one of both of the gate panels are closed. This delays the ambulance while responders figure out how to gain access to the residence.
- 3.) Make sure the driveway is cleared of vehicles and that there is a clear area near the home available for parking the ambulance. This area should be one that provides an unobstructed path for moving the patient from the residence to the ambulance. Have someone stand ready to greet the ambulance, direct it to the best parking position and lead the EMTs to the patient. If this is not possible, make sure there is an unlocked door to provide access to the home.

Make sure both the exterior and interior of your home are well lighted. You are familiar with your residence but the EMTs are not. It is easy for them to miss a step or slip on a rug due to insufficient lighting.

4.) Clear a path to the patient. If there are obstacles preventing patient access the responders will need to move them. This delays providing care the patient requires.

5.) If you have dogs or other pets place them somewhere that prevents them from having access to the EMTs and the patient during the call. We all appreciate how pets support and comfort their owners. But during an emergency medical call pets can interfere with attempts to provide care. They can also endanger emergency responders by attempting to protect their owner from the "strangers" who have arrived to help the patient. " Have an up-to-date written list of the medications the patient takes and a list of the patient's medical conditions. Give this list to the EMT when requested. Asking emergency responders to sort through prescription bottles to obtain this information causes delays that can be harmful to the patient.

6.) Give the EMTs your attention when they arrive. They will need to ask you questions about the patient and the nature of the patient's injuries and symptoms. If you are on the phone talking to relatives, friends, or others while the EMTs are attempting to communicate with you it can cause confusion and delay patient care.

Thank you for reading this and appreciating that the list is intended to help make sure that the best possible Emergency Medical assistance is provided to you when you or your loved one need help. The members of the Bridgewater Emergency Services team want you to know that we appreciate the trust you give us when you and your loved ones are most in need. We will always do our best to provide the very best care possible.

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



Bridgewater Fire Department Women's Auxiliary

The women's auxiliary will have their end of the year meeting on Monday, November 16th at 7:30 pm. Meetings will resume on the third Monday of the month in March 15, 2021 with our annual installation of officers. The Auxiliary will meet on the third Monday of every month at 7:30pm in the Bridgewater Fire House unless otherwise noted. We are always looking for new members, so please contact a member and join us.



Ann Frattalone, President



St. Marks Episcopal Church

November, December
January 2021

At this time we are expecting to continue having a service at the church every Sunday at 9:30 am. The service currently is a Eucharist at which communion will be modified probably to only Bread. We are, at the same time, offering the service on ZOOM. All are welcome at any service or activity.

November 14, 2020

Holiday Bazaar - 9 AM - 1 PM

We will be keeping the protocols of masks and distance keeping. We will have tag sale items, jam, baked goods, and bagged luncheons with chips, sandwiches, dessert and a beverage.

For information about December & January, please check our website at <https://stmarksbridgewater.weebly.com>



The Bridgewater Congregational Church Christmas Shoppe

Our annual Christmas Shoppe, reimagined this year but full of comfort and joy, expects to be open on weekends beginning November 28 through December 13th. We will be open from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm each day. Items this year will include handmade in Bridgewater, gifts of assorted hand knit items, beautiful pressed flower cards, whimsical folk art, handmade glass pieces, individual baked goodies and items for a silent auction. The most perfect Fraser Fir trees will be on sale at the Bridgewater Congregational Church again this year. No need to drive around, face jostling crowds or hike into the woods with a saw . . . YOUR TREE is right here in Bridgewater waiting for you. Fraser Fir trees hold their needles longer than other species, are fragrant, and fun for the family to trim. Friendly volunteers will help you load and tie down your tree . . . or deliver it locally at no charge. No charge for a fresh cut of the tree base either. We will follow Covid 19 protocols and therefore masks are required. Please visit our website www.bwucc.org for the latest information and watch for outdoor signage. Cash or checks only please. After all we've been through this year, let's make this Christmas THE Christmas to remember!

The Bridgewater Congregational Church

"Operation Comfort and Joy"

The congregation of the Bridgewater Church, no less than the rest of you, has been trying to figure out how to have a wonderful Christmastime during the pandemic. The answer has to involve safety, a reminder of the Christmas story as recorded in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, a bit of whimsy and something that could potentially involve the entire community of the church and Bridgewater. We figured people would need a metaphorical hug and a smile or two - and something that could definitely involve children.

What emerged is "Operation Comfort and Joy," a living nativity scene presented in several vignettes around the church property that could be enjoyed and seen by families driving slowly through the church's driveway off Clapboard Road. Families can load up the SUV with various relatives of many configurations and pass by a living Christmas story presented by costumed members of the church. They'll be Christmas music and decorations as well - even a gift or two! It won't take much time and it would be a good excuse to get out of the house together. The date and time of such an event, in bleak midwinter, must be subject to the weather so we'll announce the final schedule as soon as it can be set.

The very first Christmas took place during hard times, too, and for that reason has brought joy and peace during challenging periods throughout history. We hope that this small gift of our congregation to you will indeed bring "Comfort and Joy" to your family this Christmas.

In the meantime, we invite you to join our congregation virtually - and if you like anonymously - on Zoom every Sunday morning at 10:15. You can access the service by going to our website bwucc.org and logging in by using the clicking code in the Zoom service box.

We hope you'll join us for any of these events, but especially "Operation Comfort and Joy" at Christmas. No reservation needed. If you'd like more information, please call the church (860-354-8283) and leave a message and someone will get back to you promptly.

Rev. Daniel England
Interim Senior Minister



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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 January 5th, 2021.*

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

- 3 ELECTION DAY
- 3 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 3 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 10 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 18 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
- 19 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 19 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 24 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 26-27 THANKSGIVING ***Town Hall Closed***

DECEMBER

- 1 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 1 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 8 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 17 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 17 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 22 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 24-25 CHRISTMAS ***Town Hall Closed***

JANUARY

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY ***Town Hall Closed***
- 5 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 5 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 12 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 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
- 28 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM, Town Hall

Drive-by Tree
Lighting
December 4th
Town Green
7 PM - 8 PM



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

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

Pickleball



Wednesdays at 12 Noon/
Saturdays at 10 AM

Recreation Center courts
Drop-ins Welcome

Bridgewater Is Becoming "Bike Friendly"



The handmade kiosk next to Town Hall is the center of our new status as a "Bike Friendly Community".

Soon there will be a 3'X4' GIS map showing four specific bike routes on town roads. In early 2021 the bike parking hoops will also be installed. Most of the expense to construct this area and Center Street with new sidewalks was subsidized by two state grants totaling \$109,000.

Pavilion Rentals



If you are interested in renting the Pratt Pavilion please contact bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com.



Luminaries will be lit along Main Street on Christmas Eve



Sunday, November 1st

The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

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

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



Literacy Volunteers on the Green

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

The fall sees LVG tutors and students embrace distance learning using video platforms to connect - volunteer tutors and adult learners have an irreplaceable bond! Adult students face the challenges of balancing family and job responsibilities while attempting to continue learning English, their commitment is remarkable. The LVG community remains closely connected and looks forward to offering a hybrid of tutoring options once local venues are open to LVG's learning teams.

New tutors will be trained in early October and again in January - a perfect opportunity for interested residents from Bridgewater to support adult literacy and revitalize the working lives of adults seeking English language proficiency. For further information, please contact Lynn@lvg-ct.org to learn of ways to support English language literacy in northwestern Connecticut.

Lynn Davies, Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers on the Green

**BRIDGEWATER
COUNTRY FAIR**

This year's fair may have been canceled :(*BUT...* you can still re-live your fond memories of those *pre-COVID* fair days with a...

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500-piece
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2020