Message from Our First Selectman

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance are currently working on the 2019-20 Town Budget. We don't know all the numbers yet, but it looks like certain costs that are out of our control are going up. This could force a property tax increase which would be the first such increase in six years.

The driving factor will be the shared Region 12 financial responsibility. The new Agriscience (formerly AgSTEM) construction is primarily funded by the state. The incoming 50+ students will arrive next Fall with tuition support from both their sending towns and the state. However, the region has to hire new teachers, make bond payments and only receive state reimbursements in arrears. Additionally, Bridgewater's percent of Region 12 student numbers has increased from 17.8% to 19.5% due to relatively lower enrollment in Washington and Roxbury. Bridgewater now has 117 students of the 600 three town total.

To put the numbers in historical perspective: Bridgewater will be sending approximately 61% of our budgeted dollars to Region 12 next year (up from last year’s 58%), whereas seven years ago, we sent almost 70%. We have known that school budget increases were coming with the Agriscience Academy. The next two years will be the biggest "hit" while construction is underway and classes are added.

The good news is from Bridgewater’s representative on the Shepaug building committee who reports that construction is on time and within budget. The Region 12 bond rating is also very favorable and Agriscience student numbers are on target. Chalk that up as good management by the Region 12 Board of Education in cooperation with the new Superintendent and new Finance Director. Establishing a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) focus in Shepaug’s curriculum is critical to its survival and will help prepare our graduates for a changing economy. I would also add that these changes will help attract young families to the three towns which can only help support local economies, volunteer organizations and home values.

Fellow selectman Alan Brown will be retiring from the Region 12 Board after 11 years of steadfast service. Therefore, we have one vacancy on the Board and another seat held by the incumbent, Julie Stuart, that are up for election this year. This is an important job with many hours of volunteer time, all for a great cause.

Bridgewater will be choosing two of our three representatives on the Region 12 Board of Education by a new and more transparent process. The Selectmen are asking that candidates submit a letter of intent to the Town Clerk’s office at least 30 days prior to the Annual Town Meeting (tentatively set for May 31st). This will give the candidates time to let citizens know their credentials and positions before voting at the Town Meeting.

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

Land Transfers: January 2019
- Gloria P. Sanchez-O’Connell and Edward J. O’Connell of NY, NY to Jason Lyder of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 108 Eabow Brook Road West, $285,000

Land Transfers: February 2019
There were no land transfers for the month of February.

Land Transfers: March 2019
- Sara L. Taylor of Bridgewater to Gabrielle Sindorf of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 52 Main Street North, $277,000
- Larry D. and Carol A. White of Danbury, CT to Robert and Janine Gundel of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 48 Keeler Road, $406,000
- Union Savings Bank to Brandy A. Granata of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 9 Round Hill Lane, $397,500

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

Registrars of Voters

May
- Tuesday 5-07-19 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
- Tuesday 5-28-19 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

June
- Tuesday 6-04-19 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
- Tuesday 6-21-19 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

July
- Tuesday 7-02-19 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
- Tuesday 7-23-19 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

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

Please note that second session has been changed from the fourth Tuesday to the third Tuesday.

Margaret Judith Sullivan, Democratic Registrar
Susan Patrick, Republican Registrar

MEMORY TO VOTE

Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade

Bridgewater Town Center
May 27, 2019

The Parade will assemble at the Firehouse at 8:10 am, and will step off at 8:20 am. Marchers will go to the Green where the Memorial Day Service will take place.

Decorated bikes and floats are welcome in the parade!

After the service, the Historical Society will offer coffee and donuts on the Peck House lawn as well as Peck House tours.

Rain or Shine! (In case of rain, the program will take place at the Fire Department.)
Office of the Tax Collector

DEMAND NOTICES for all overdue taxes were sent in April

INTENT TO LIEN NOTICES are sent in April for Real Estate taxes which are overdue.

JULY BILLING - Bills for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle taxes will be mailed in June and become due on July 1, 2019. These bills are for property assessed on the 2018 Grand List in October 2018. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 1st, 2019 to avoid an interest penalty. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest. Please notify the office of any changes to your mailing address.

If your Real Estate taxes are escrowed, the bank should request your Real Estate bill. If you change banks or pay off your mortgage, please contact the office to let us know where the bill should be sent.

LAST DAY FOR ON-TIME PAYMENT: AUGUST 1, 2019

TAX ALERT: You can receive a notification by email when taxes become due. Subscribe to TAX ALERT and other services from the "Subscribe to News" feature on the town website homepage.

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

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

What’s On Your Roadside?
Spring is the right time to make Bridgewater beautiful again!

BRIDGEWATER
FOOD PANTRY
items needed:
CEREAL: Fruit Loops, Apple Jacks, Special K, Fruit & Yogurt, Mini-Wheats
Foil, Plastic wrap
Baking supplies
Cleaning supplies
#7, #2, and #3 Diapers
Grocery store gift cards are also needed.

Items may be dropped off at Town Hall, Burnham Library, or Bridgewater Congregational Church. Thank you!
ASSESSOR’S OFFICE

Homeowners, who were 65 or older or totally disabled on or before December 31, 2018 and are full-time residents, may be eligible for tax relief. To qualify for the State benefit your income must be no more than $36,000 if unmarried and $43,900 if married including Social Security. For the Local benefit your income must be $16,000 or under not including Social Security. Applications must be received by May 15th, 2019.

If you rent and are 65 or older a surviving spouse or totally disabled on or before December 31, 2018 and are full-time residents, you may be eligible for tax relief. To qualify for the State Renters program your income must be no more than $36,000 if unmarried and $43,900 if married including social security. The application period is April 1st to October 1st, 2019.

If you are a Veteran or surviving spouse of a Veteran and would like to apply for benefits you must file your proof of honorable discharge with the Town Clerk’s office by September 30, 2019.

If you are a Veteran or surviving spouse and your income is between $36,000 if single or $43,900 if married (not including your Veteran’s disability payments) you may qualify for an Additional Veteran’s Exemption.

If you are a V.A. designated Disabled Veteran you may qualify for other programs. Please speak to the Assessor about the various Veterans programs. We appreciate your service and want to make sure you are receiving the full benefit you are entitled to.

If you know of a resident of Bridgewater who is an Active-Duty Serviceman with a Motor vehicle please contact our office, as they may qualify for a total tax exemption of their vehicle.

Applications for the various programs listed above are available on line at our town website bridgewater-ct.gov or in our Assessor’s office.

If you have any questions, we can be reached Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8am to 12:30pm and Tuesday 8am to 3:30pm. Our phone number is (860) 355-9379 or e-mail me at dpinter@bridgewater-ct.gov.

Denise C. Pinter Assessor

SPRING BULKY DROP OFF/ PICK UP

Starts Monday, April 29th

BULKY ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE TOWN GARAGE

Large dumpsters will be at the town garage located at 324 Hut Hill Road, where residents may drop off bulky household items to be disposed of from Monday, April 29th through Saturday May 4th.

All articles that are too large to transport to the Town Garage in your own vehicle may be placed on the roadside for pick-up BY 7:30 A.M. MONDAY, MAY 6th. Roadside pick-up will be on MONDAY ONLY!!

If you put anything out after pickup is completed, it will be your responsibility to remove it.

Our Ash Trees

Ash trees in our region are rapidly falling victim to the Emerald Ash Borer that was first discovered in CT in 2012. The neon green beetle drills into the bark, lays its eggs, then the larvae (pictured) disrupt the flow of nutrients. This activity will kill a tree within 2-3 years. The only consolation is Ash hardwood is straight grained, easy to split and excellent firewood.
From the Veterans Administration (VA):

VA is promoting their help to Veterans with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans pension benefit. This is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to low-income wartime Veterans. Visit their website (www.va.gov) for information on eligibility, additional pension allowances, and how to apply.

If you are a Veteran eligible for Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) who missed the application deadline and can't find coverage from a private insurer due to your health, then Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI) may be just what you are looking for! S-DVI provides coverage to Veterans who have received a new service-connected rating in the last two years. View the VA website at www.va.gov for more information.

VA is looking for GI Bill Stories: Seventy-five years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the GI Bill into law, changing the lives of generations of American Veterans and their families. Since 1944, an estimated 25 million American Veterans have used the GI Bill to pay for education, buy a home, and pursue vocational training. As they celebrate this historic anniversary and recognize the important impact the GI Bill continues to have in Veterans' lives, they also want to HEAR FROM YOU! Create and share your personal video of how the GI Bill helped you get an education, buy a house, or impacted your life. Videos will be posted daily to VA's 75th Anniversary webpage. It's easy to provide a video. Just visit https://fs9.formsite.com/gibill75th/fizr1bbyvo/index.html and follow the simple instructions. We'll be featuring stories through June 22, 2019 as VA celebrates this important milestone.

Presidential Budget Proposal: Some good news in the budget proposal in that there will be no new changes to the existing TRICARE fee structure for retired military. There was no indication of any desire to lower the already steep fee increases of the previous year; any fee increases seem to be off the table, for now. Additionally, the proposed budget seems to provide adequate funds for health care requirements, the new electronic health record, medical research efforts, and health care requirements for contingency operations. However, the disturbing piece of the news is confirmation of a significant reduction in uniformed medical personnel. It is still unclear which medical specialties, nursing specialties, medic ratings, and other positions these will affect, or where these billets will go in support of military readiness. The bottom line: The order of magnitude these cuts represent certainly will be felt by the military medical community itself and a large percentage of beneficiaries. I will work to keep informed of these changes and continue to report on this in Our Town.

Joe Buchheit Bridgewater VA Liaison
Town of Bridgewater
VA@gmail.com
8603552433
Region District 12 Updates

It is a great time in education. Spring has sprung and our students are blooming! The Burnham gardens will highlight the end of the year with activities as students learn from planting, growing, and consuming products from the garden.

Spring also brings the opportunity for our students to showcase their learning such as the Senior Project presentations that will begin soon. Our students take the Smarter Balanced Assessment, SATs, Advanced Placement tests, and final exams. They take on each challenge presented with confidence. It is a credit to our staff that the students experience a positive, comfortable environment so they can showcase their learning. Our students continue to make us proud!

We want to share some of the accolades received by our staff and students this year. Shepaug is proud to announce senior Wilson King is a National Merit Scholar finalist as well as Allison Parker’s recognition as a Commended Scholar. Wilson shared that he was told during his interviews that his responses were indicative of his educational preparation. Our athletes have been identified by the Berkshire League and CIAC for their athleticism. Additionally, our sports teams have been recognized for their sportsmanship on the court by the CIAC coaches. Our film club went to NYC for their production of Alone. Shepaug students created this short film and it was honored at the 2018 All American High School Film Festival. The Region 12 students continue to be showcased on Fox 61 Student News. Our drama productions continue to exceed expectations and we look forward to the spring musical of Big Fish. The World Affairs Forum brought the topic of immigration to our towns. Kevin Jennings, the president of the Tenement Museum in Manhattan, was able to join our student panel to discuss the past and future effect of immigration on our population, economy, and society. Our small school is making a big difference.

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

Region 12 welcomed new Director of Finance, Nicole Grant, in January 2019. Nicole worked closely with the superintendent, Board, and towns to prepare the budget request for the upcoming school year. The superintendent’s budget presentation occurred at the March 11th Board of Education Meeting. The Board of Education’s budget is going to a referendum on May 7th.

Many from the Bridgewater community came out to be part of the various community conversations regarding Shepaug’s updates. We are proud of the educational evolution occurring in our schools. To learn more, we welcome you to visit our updated website at www.region-12.org and follow us on social media: Twitter@ShepaugRSD12, FaceBook Shepaug Regional School District 12, or our YouTube channel Region 12 Schools. We want our school system to reflect the needs and vision of the towns we serve. Your feedback is always welcomed.

Thank you to our Bridgewater community for the care and support you give all of our students. Region 12 schools recognize that our towns make us stronger. We have some wonderful opportunities ahead of us which are only possible with your continued unwavering support of the schools.

Megan Bennett
Superintendent
Region 12 Schools

Burnham PTO brought our students the Wonder of Science!
Happy spring from the The Burnham School PTO! We are excited to share that our winter Read-A-Thon proved a success! For four weeks in February students enthusiastically read to raise money for our major PTO fundraiser. Students collected pledges and read and read and read; they exceeded both their reading goals and our fundraising goals for the year! Burnham staff organized weekly celebrations for the students’ achievements; the kids enjoyed themed parties, had fun playing board games, and made memories reading to therapy dogs. Weekly raffles were drawn as incentives-like Book-Nook gift cards and being Principal For The Day-and the grand finale, a movie night in March at the school for 100% participation! The readers chose "Night at the Museum", came in their PJs, and dined on popcorn and clementines in their sleeping bags. Check out our Facebook page for photos!

The students are also anticipating a number of our upcoming PTO-sponsored events. We look forward to sharing news of field trips, grades 3-5 Fun Night, and our 5th grade Aloha celebration, among others. Your continued support translates in to meaningful events for the Burnham School community.

Other things to keep in mind:
The Burnham School PTO is always in need of volunteers, If you would like to volunteer please reach out to us by emailing: burnhamschoolpto@gmail.com.

Help support our school by using Amazon Smile: www.smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0011749
Sign up for School Rewards at your local grocery store, register your store cards on store or using the links: www.stopandshop.com/aplus and www.shopriteformyschool.com

Yes, we are still collecting BOX TOPS at our school. We couldn’t do it without you! Thank you!

Kindly Submitted by,
Burnham School PTO

Bridgewater Scholarship Committee

Reminder- All applications and interview signups must be in by May 15 to qualify for a 2019 Scholarship.

Respectfully, Larry Neary - Chairman

Last day of school:
Monday, June 17th

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for Regional School District 12 children turning five years of age before January 1, 2020, are eligible to be registered. A kindergarten orientation and visitation program will be scheduled in the spring 2019.
A Brief History of the Brown Church

The two churches that stand at the center of town were not always both white. The "Brown Church", so-called because of its brown exterior, was the original color of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, founded in 1810. The first meeting of the St. Mark's Episcopal Society was held at the home of Jonas Sanford and services were held in parishioners' homes for twenty more years. All that time, they made plans and saved money for the Church's future.

The original site for the Church was near the "Old South Burying Ground" (near Northrop and Christian Streets). Timbers were collected and building was begun, but differences of opinion as to the best location for the church caused the work to stop. Finally, an agreement was made to erect the building in a field one-half mile south of the present village and just north of the home of J. Lester Randall (today that is south of Sarah Sanford Road on Main Street). It was a barn-style structure with a bell and a steeple. That structure was used until 1859 and remained on the Randall property until it was torn down in 1948.

As the town grew in population due to hat manufacturing, this location proved to be inconvenient and a new location was chosen in what is now the center of town. The land for the new church was donated by Glover Sanford and his four sons. St. Mark's architecture and design were inspired by Richard Upjohn. He was an English architect who immigrated to the United States in 1829. Upjohn was a skilled draftsman who founded an architectural firm and started designing churches, especially Episcopalian. His architectural style was Gothic Revival and his most famous endeavor was Trinity Church on Wall Street in New York City. He designed and constructed some 150 churches throughout his career. Upjohn even published a book, Upjohn's Rural Architecture, to serve as a guide to the many small church communities that sought his expertise in church construction. St. Mark's appears to be constructed from plans in this book. We don't know the exact time of ground breaking, but the cornerstone was laid in 1859. Upjohn wanted his churches to blend into the landscape. That's why stone was used in England for Gothic style churches. In America, Upjohn used wood and specified brown paint to better blend into the colonial landscape, which explains the origin color of St. Mark's. The structure was built by church member Monroe Frost and featured a ninety-foot spire with a sixty-five foot chestnut log for the finishing point. Moving that log required the work of several yokes of oxen to haul it from the land of Hiram Keeler to the new Church location. That was quite a feat!

On March 14, 1860 this second Church was consecrated in its present location in Bridgewater center. The church members extended an offer to Rev. James Morton to become rector. Under his leadership improvements were made, including an organ valued at $600 - quite a sum in 1860 dollars. In the early years, a stagecoach passed the church twice a day - hard to imagine in the 21st century!

By October of 1860, the first Confirmation class was presented. There were three marriages that year with some familiar sounding names - Keeler, Randall, and Cole. The same was true of the families having baptisms and burials that year - Minor, Morris, Randall, Sanford, Mallett, Phipenny, Bennett and Youngs. Now we think of these names as only streets or landmarks, but two hundred years ago, they were real people - people who founded St. Mark's Church and set down, deep roots into Bridgewater.

Unfortunately, the spire was found to be unsound and it was removed and replaced with a Latin trefoil cross in 1929. During these early years, St. Mark's often shared a Priest with Christ Church in Roxbury or St. Paul's Church in Brookfield. It wasn't until 1957 that there was a full time resident rector. Over two hundred years of history has marched on while the good people of St. Mark's have observed Sunday services, holy days and many other community activities. May St. Mark's history continue to enrich Bridgewater for another two hundred years.

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

In some forgotten corner of Burnham Library sits an assuming brown book. In worn gold letters on its cover is "Burnham Library, Bridgewater, SCRAPBOOK" and further down the page, it is embossed with the name "Andrew W. Gillette, 1876-1882." The book is filled with random scraps of newspaper and scrawling quotations from classical philosophers and poets. There are a few letters, pictures and some blank pages. Very common to the era, Mr. Gillette, whomever he was, took an architectural book or catalogue and pasted his ephemera over it.

While the scrapbook, as an object, doesn't seem to tell a story of anything, a little research paints a much more interesting picture. In Landmarks of Bridgewater one of the authors, discusses how Austin and Emily Gillette purchased a home from Stephen B. Keeler a year after they were married. The chapter also names their children; three brothers: Frank A. Gillette, Fred C. Gillette and the eldest, Andrew Weller Gillette.

Andrew was 17 when he started the scrapbook. These early clippings are filled with anecdotes underlined in pencil, stories, histories, local news, and random bits of information about the West. Andrew was obviously an avid reader. The clippings came from a number of sources and his sprawling quotations are varied and intellectual. The keen eye will also find his personal poems and quotations intermingled with that of Pope and Scott.

At twenty, Andrew was still living at his family home and teaching in a local school. All of the Gillette brothers had bigger dreams than tiny Bridgewater could fulfill. Frank went off to become a machinist in Philadelphia and Fred, a piano tuner in Boston. Andrew would be no different. While teaching, he wrote for local newspaper, reporting on local happenings and events under the name Veritas.

Like many young men of the time, the lure of the west seemed to call to him. The newspaper noted many of Gillette's contemporaries going West. Other clippings have the populations of western cities highlighted or the story of yet another native son making the trek across the country. The provincial attitudes of Bridgewater seemed to frustrate Gillette. He was fascinated by growth and industry, and frustrated by the community's resistance to the census and improper pronunciation of words. Finally, in 1882 an article noted that Andrew was heading westward to Colorado. Underlined in this clipping is "Everything being agreeable he will remain there for some time..." The line under "some time" is drawn with extra emphasis.

In Colorado, Gillette made a name for himself, graduating from law school in 1895, getting married, starting his own firm, living a comfortable existence in the city, and traveling the world. Of course, part of him always longed for his family and his boyhood home. One later article celebrated the marriage of one of his brothers. Underlined in pencil, is the comment "It was a matter of universal regret that the eldest scion of the house of Gillette was not present at the occasion." So, who was Andrew Gillette and why is his scrapbook important? Andrew was like any of us. He had hopes and dreams. He had flaws and strengths. He was also an amazing collector. Because of him, we have this manic mix of information about Bridgewater and society in the 1800's. The scrapbook is a distillation of a perspective, albeit, a curated perspective that reveal so much to those who are interested. Any patron who wants to see Bridgewater and the west through the eyes of Andrew Weller Gillette can view the scrapbook by request at Burnham Library.

Submitted by Chris Fisher
Library Hours:
Tuesday 1-5
Wednesday 9-5
Thursday 9-7
Friday 1-5
Saturday 9-1

It is with a heavy heart that we, at Burnham Library, let the community know of the passing of Jean Walsh. Jean was a much loved and respected part of Burnham Library and the community. She came to work at the Library more than 25 years ago. Jean retired in April of 2018 and was looking forward to spending time in her new home and starting this next, exciting phase of life. Her quick wit, friendly smile, love of cats and crosswords as well as her amazing sense of humor will be missed by many who thought so highly of her. A gathering to celebrate her life will be announced for late Spring.

The Burnham Library is excited to welcome our newest team member and Youth Services Programmer, Amber Del Vento. Amber is a recent graduate of the University of Dayton and has a background in planning and instructing STEM related lessons as well as library experience volunteering at the Woodbury and Southbury Public Libraries.

Our Digital Branch is always open! There is something for everyone!
Your library card grants you access to instantly stream eBooks or eAudio, comics or music, movies, television and concerts via Hoopla and rbDigital. Anglophiles try Acorn TV from rbDigital! Love music? Check out Qello Concerts. Want to be a smarty pants? Try The Great Courses and Method Test Prep. Health conscious? LearnITlife offers wellness and personal development classes. Are comics and graphic novels your thing? Hoopla has an amazing selection including The Walking Dead. All sponsored by The Friends of the Library.

Please register for all programming with cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Tech Tutoring with Chris - Chris is happy to assist you with tech questions and needs you might have. He can also sign you up for Hoopla and rbDigital so that you can use our 24/7 digital branch! By chance or by appointment.
FREE WiFi! You can now connect and communicate on us with FREE downtown Wi-Fi!
The Burnham Library’s website is getting a new look! After a hack left our website looking and acting less than patron-friendly, we are making a change. Keep a watch for the launch!

Art Exhibits
April 1 - May 31 - Walter Von Egidy of Bridgewater with Oil Enamel paintings
June 1 - June 30 - Burnham School students with botanicals
July 1 - August 31 - Bridgewater residents Cathy Barlow and Jan Lewin

Book Discussions - Join in the lively discussion. All welcome. Copies of the book are generally available at the Circulation Desk. Thursdays at 5:00. May 23 - Educated by Tara Westover and June 27 - Becoming by Michelle Obama.

May the 4th be with YOU! Friday, May 4 promptly at 5:30 Solo: A Star Wars Story movie night! Registration required.

Soldiers of a Fallen War Thursday, May 9 at 6:30
Dr. Charles McNair will discuss his book, Soldiers of a Foreign War. Registration suggested.

The Great Bridgewater Bake Off: Chocolate Chip Cookies -- Saturday, May 18 from 10:00 - 12:00
The Great Bridgewater Bake Off is the ultimate baking battle! Are you famous for your chocolate chip cookies? Think you could be crowned Bridgewater's Best Baker? Cookies will be judged by the community and a special Guest Judge (TBA)! Register today and/or to receive more information email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

The Connecticut 169 Club: Your Passport and Guide to Exploring Connecticut with author Marty Podskoch o Saturday, June 8 from 11:00 - 12:00. Registration required.
Junior Library and Family Programs

Registration: In order for Burnham students to be escorted from school for after school library activities, a written permission note must be submitted to the Burnham School office. All programs require advance registration with the library.

The Burnham Bunch Storytime
Bubbles, books, parachutes and songs designed for the under 5 crowd. Thursday morning sessions from 10:30 - 11:00 until May 23. Registration is ongoing.

Our final sessions of the school year:
LEGO Brick Builders for Grades K-5 - Thursday, May 2 and 16 from 3:30 - 4:00
Burnham Book Worms for Grades 3-5 - Wednesday, May 22 from 3:30 - 4:00
HUB: Mother’s Day Craft for Grades 1-5 - Wednesday, May 8 from 3:30 - 4:30

Project Summer @ The Burnham Library
Sponsored by The Friends of the Library
June 15 - July 27

The library is offering an exciting calendar of activities for all ages. Why should the kids have all the fun and prizes?

Project Summer Kick-off Day with Mr. Magic
Saturday, June 15 from 10:00 - 12:00
Summer Reading registration kick-off event. Register for summer events and/or one of our four summer reading challenges for preschool age to adult! Stick around and enjoy a magic show with Mr. Magic where music and audience participation combine to create a dazzling, family-friendly show from veteran magician Richard Rothstein. All welcome!

Junior Library Programming to include:
- Summer Bunch Explorers storytime with a twist for the under 5 crowd
- 4-H of Litchfield County Summer Fun for Grades 1-5
- Burnham Midday Matinee for Grades 1-5
- Baby Boomers with Edward Leonard for ages 2 - Kindergarten

Adult and family programs to include:
- Music on Main in Collaboration with the Bridgewater Rec Department o Friday, June 28 from 5:30 - 8:30. Bring the family and rock out with LIVE music! More details to come.
- Boards and Booze o Friday, June 19 at 6:00
- Digitization Day o Saturday, June 20 from 9:30 - 12:30
- Story Walk© featuring Gossie by Olivia Dunrea

Did you know that you can use your library card to borrow materials from other Connecticut libraries? That's right, one card for ALL Connecticut libraries. If we don't have a book you are looking for, we can get it for you through the state's borrowCT service. Over 3 million titles were delivered around CT last year. We also offer access to researchIT which provides free Ebsco and ProQuest databases.
NEWS FROM HILLTOP CENTER

CURRENT PROGRAMS
LINE DANCING Monday, 11 - 12
THE COMPUTER GROUP Tuesday, 10 - 12
SILVER NEEDLES Tuesday, 1 - 4
TAI CHI Wednesday, 10:30 - 11:30
MAHJONG Wednesday 1 - 4
POKER Friday, 10 - 12
CHAIR YOGA Friday, 10:30 - 11:30
CANASTA Friday, 12:30 - 4

On Thursdays we have a variety of programs including birthday socials, lunches and bingo. Please call if you have any questions.

BRIDGEWATER SENIOR VAN The van is available weekdays for doctor’s appointments, grocery shopping and special activities. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis although we make every effort to meet your needs. Our drivers are Michele King, Matt DeVito and Ann Frattalone. The van has a limited destination distance of no more than 20 miles. THE VAN IS AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE SENIOR CENTER AT ANY TIME. Please contact the Van Director - Ann Frattalone, 860-350-3042 at least two weeks in advance for appointments.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE MONDAY MAY 20TH, 12:30 - 4:30 Cost is $15 for members and $20 for non-members. Remember participating in a senior driving course could qualify you for a car insurance discount.

MOTHER’S DAY LUNCH Our Mother’s Day Lunch will be held on Thursday, May 9th at noon. Remember this celebration is not just for those of us who are mothers, it is a celebration of all mothers, your mother, your grand- mother, your great-grandmother etc. so please come and join us. Sorry guys this is a ladies only event! Sign up is required.

ANNUAL BARBECUE Please join us Thursday, July 25, 12:15 for a delicious barbeque of hamburger, hotdogs and all the trimmings. Music will be by our friends "Connecticut's Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers." Sign up is required, suggested donation $10.

UPCOMING TRIPS
THE MUSIC MAN Goodspeed Opera House. If anyone is interested in going - (actual date to be announced) please call us or stop in and sign up. We have 8 seats left. Cost per ticket will depend on the date and time of our visit.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF MODERN ART We are planning a trip to the Metropolitan on Thursday May 16. The cost would be $50 per person for bus transportation. Lunch and ticket for entry would be up to the individual. Sign up and payment are required by Thursday, April 25. This trip is being sponsored by the Washington CT Art Association. As Call or stop by to sign up. Tickets are limited.

MILFORD AND MYSTIC DAY TRIPS We are in the process of planning day trips to both Milford (to visit the Pez Factory) and have lunch at the Cheesecake Factory. The trip to Mystic would include a visit to the Mystic Aquarium with lunch and shopping in the beautiful Town of Mystic. All details for these two great summer trips will be posted as soon as they are finalized.

HILLTOP CENTER is available for rental for weddings and parties. Call or stop by for information.

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

Paper Shredding Day

CCB is sponsoring a shredding truck on May 4, 2018 to provide Bridgewater residents with secure paper shredding. The service is free to Town seniors and we request a $5 per box contribution for non-seniors. The shredding truck will be at the Town garage from 9AM-1PM. We hope to see you there.

Chore Services for Seniors

CCB’s Chore Service can help with spring and summer repair and maintenance items like:
- Installing your window air conditioners
- Repairing unsafe wooden porch steps or railings
- Making sure indoor/outdoor lightening is functioning and located properly
- Fixing leaky faucets
- Tightening up or replacing door knobs
- Safety assessment
- And more...ask us!

Contact Us:
If you need assistance please do not hesitate to contact us (all requests are confidential). We can be reached:

By Phone: 860-350-2194.
By Mail: CCB, P.O. Box 338, Bridgewater, CT 06752
By Email: info@ccbridgewater.org

Friends of the Lake

Become a member! Friends of the Lake is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2003 and has spent the last 13 years preserving and protecting Lake Lillinonah for our community to enjoy! Each member who joins Friends of the Lake is another voice. The more voices we have, the stronger we are! All memberships include email alerts on lake activity, invitations to FOTL events, newsletters providing water quality updates & upcoming meetings, and much more.

Please visit our website for more information: www.Friendsofthelake.org

Save the Lake Day
Saturday, June 15th 9am-12pm
(*TWO LOCATIONS - please read below*)

Volunteers, Pontoon Boats & Kayaks Needed!

Location 1: Rt 133 Boat Launch. Here will be our standard set up, where pontoon boats & volunteers will meet at 9am and head out together to gather debris.

Location 2: Addis Park (220 Grove St, New Milford) This will be a new, secondary location where volunteers & kayaks will meet to remove Water Chestnuts. ***Please note that this location is for Kayaker’s only, and all Kayaks should go to this location only***

For any/all questions, call/text Josh @ (203) 648 0265 (for location 1) and Rebekah @ (203) 200 9118 (for location 2)
If you would like to have a printed form designed to record the information you are recommended to keep on hand for medical emergencies please feel free to contact me at the email address below.

We are blessed to live in Bridgewater. We live in a community with people who genuinely care about the well-being of their neighbors and are willing to extend themselves to help others in need. One way to experience this blessing in person is to get involved with our Ambulance Service as a volunteer. We are always in need of additional people to help us. If you think you would like to know more about how you can lend us a hand please contact me.

Thank you.

Jim McNulty, EMT Ambulance Coordinator
Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department
Email: jamesmcnultynremlt@gmail.com

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**Bridgewater Fire Department Women's Auxiliary**

The Bridgewater Women's Auxiliary are happy to announce the officers for 2019

President - Carol Wilbur
Vice-President - Ann Frattalone
Secretary - Lois Gilmore
Treasurer - Courtney Wilson
Membership - Laura Abbott
Hospitality - Michele King

Just a reminder that the auxiliary meets every third Monday of the month from March thru November at 7:00 PM at the Bridgewater Firehouse. Please come and join us anytime! In March we had our Installation dinner of the officers, thank you all for coming and bringing wonderful treats.

Upcoming meetings will be on May 20th, June 17th, and July 15th. See you all soon!

Carol Wilbur, President

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Picture of Officers from left to right - Michele King, Laura Abbott, Lois, Gilmore, Ann Frattalone, Carol Wilbur - (Absent Courtney Wilson)
St. Marks Episcopal Church

Celebrating 200 Years of Faith
1810 - Bridgewater, Connecticut - 2010

MAY, JUNE, JULY

Most Sundays 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist.
All other Sundays - Morning Prayer - see note
Pancake breakfast after service on first Sunday.
On other Sundays coffee hour follows the service
Vestry meets on the third Sunday.
All are welcome at any service or activity.

(Note: Since we do not have a priest for a time,
some of the services will be Morning Prayer
instead of Eucharist. Call us at 860-354-8269
for more information)

WATCH ST. MARK'S FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
UPCOMING EVENTS!

An old postcard of the St. Marks Church. See
Page 8 for a "Brief History of the Brown Church"

The Bridgewater
Congregational Church

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

Coming up at the Bridgewater
Congregational Church

Annual Spring Tag Sale
Saturday, May 4th
9:00 - 2:00
Rain or Shine!

The BCC Tag Sale will be on May 4th this year.
We're looking forward to a warm, sunny day and
lots of great treasures! Please keep us in mind
when you're tackling your Spring cleaning. We're
just sure you have something you're done with
that's exactly what someone else is looking for!

All household and outdoor items, furniture and
everything else are welcome and gratefully
accepted. Kitchen and other appliances (working,
please) are fine - also clothing and accessories in
excellent condition, but no shoes please. Sorry, but
we're not taking electronics (TVs, computers and
peripherals, etc). They just don't sell.

We're collecting donations through May 2nd.
Bring your contributions by anytime. Please leave
them inside the door of the Friendship Hall. If the
door's locked, leave them on the porch and we'll
get them in.

If you have furniture or something large and
heavy, we can pick it up Thursday and Friday
before the tag sale (May 2nd and 3rd).

Questions? Call Kim in the office at 860-
354-8283

Alcoholics Anonymous
AA meets in the Friendship Hall every Friday night
at 7:00 PM

The Bridgewater Food Pantry
Located in our Friendship Hall, the Bridgewater
Food Pantry is available to any individual or family
in Bridgewater who needs it. Contributions of non-
perishable food items and grocery store gift cards
are always welcome and needed.

We welcome you any time... Sunday Service and
Sunday School at 10:00 AM Followed by fellowship
and coffee hour in the Friendship Hall

For more information about any of these events
please call the Church Office: 860-354-8283, visit
us at www.bwucc.org, or email us at: office.
bwucc@gmail.com
The Bridgewater Land Trust Spring/Summer 2019!

Thank you to everyone who participated in 2019 Give Local. Your support is very appreciated!

The Bridgewater Land Trust is planning a productive summer. We welcome the public to enjoy our new public trail located on the Town Line Preserve. We are working on expanding the length of the trail, with the support of our land trust neighbors. We have completed a project with Weantinoge Land Trust on digitizing our properties and easements. We are also in the homestretch to finish our Bridgewater Land Trust map of all our owned and eased properties.

Our properties looks great and we will continue to make improvements on our farm barns and houses this year. We also hope that all visitors to our Town Line and Jane Pratt Preserve help to keep it looking as they found it and respect all the neighbors and wildlife we share the space with.

Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2019. Those membership dollars are crucial to the operation of the trust and preservation of our beautiful Bridgewater. The Bridgewater Land Trust is an approved 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Visit us at our website bridgewaterlandtrust.org or our Facebook page.

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

Literacy Volunteers on the Green

Literacy Volunteers on the Green provides a variety of literacy services to residents of 16 towns in Northern Fairfield and Litchfield counties. Programs include English as a second language, basic reading and writing, Family Literacy, and Preparation for the United States Citizenship Test. LVG provides relevant, individualized instruction in small groups of fewer than five learners. Its volunteer tutors are trained by the organization and provided with instructional materials. Class schedules are flexible to accommodate the work and family responsibilities of both tutors and students. For further information about tutoring, or to refer someone for our services, please call us at (860) 355-0830, or email us at info@lvg-ct.org. Literacy Volunteers on the Green, 7 Whittlesey Avenue, New Milford, CT 06776.

Lynn Davies, Executive Director

Save The Date

Fireman’s Beer & Wine Tasting

Sponsored by:
The Bridgewater Women’s Auxiliary
The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department
New Milford Spirit Shoppe &
NeJaime’s Fine Wine & Spirits

There will be over 30 beer and wine vendors as well as food trucks

Saturday, September 21, 2019
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Pratt Pavilion
2 Sarah Sanford Rd, Bridgewater, CT

$25.00 per ticket advanced sale/
$30.00 per ticket at the door

PROMISEK CONCERTS

Sunday, May 12th: An ensemble of clarinet, cello, violin will play Messiaen’s famous Quartet for the End of Time. There will also be solo works by Brahms, Rachmaninoff and Ravel for each of the instruments, accompanied by Vivian Choi


Join us for both in the
Music Room at Promisek
694 Skyline Ridge Road
overlooking the Garden
3:00 PM
Champagne reception following

For more info, reservations etc. call 860-488-0556

16 Our Town | May 2019
Join us this summer for the Summer Soiree, the annual fundraiser that benefits the Hilltop Senior Center. It will be a wonderful Friday night out featuring fabulous food, beer and wine, and hometown music by Kevin Hobbs, Michelle Brown and their team of talented musicians. We will have a silent auction focused on food, outings, drink and fun! Plus a short but exciting live auction. Tickets are available now at the Center or reserve by calling the Center at 860-355-3090.

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club
JOIN US AT
THE PLANT MART

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club will hold its annual Plant Mart on the lawn of the Bridgewater Firehouse on Rt. 133 Saturday May 18th from 8:30 to 12:30. Featured at the sale will be member dug and divided perennials, herbs, organic tomatoes and vegetables, garden boutique items, and a display on attracting butterflies to your garden. If you are overwhelmed by those crowded perennial beds, club members will be happy to come to your house to divide the plants and keep the extras for our sale. Call Wendy at 355-0167 or Marilyn at 354-7069 to schedule a dig.

Proceeds from this major fundraiser will benefit the annual scholarships, senior and youth programs, and the planting and maintenance of community gardens.

Recycle Right!

Go to www.hrra.org for recycling tips!

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority 162 Whisconier Road, Brookfield CT 06804 Call: 203.775.4539
Email: info@hrra.org www.hrra.org Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director
In 2016, at our Sunny Valley Preserve we began expanding the "early successional" natural habitat in which threatened species like the New England Cottontail thrive. It's been a long process. Despite the success we've seen to date in rebounding local populations, elsewhere in Connecticut and Southern New England, numbers of the New England Cottontail remain sparse.

Because of our local success, we have an opportunity to lead the way in repopulating the iconic species. Six New England cottontail from Bridgewater will be included in a breeding program designed to help augment the species' recovery.

The Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI has been breeding New England Cottontail since 2010 in close collaboration with state agencies. In 2016, the Queens Zoo in New York joined the effort. Together, they've bred and released into the wild 289 verified New England cottontail.

"It's a good example of partnerships in action", Lou Perotti director of conservation for the Roger Williams Park Zoo, said. "This species was a candidate for federal listing but because of the on the ground conservation work and what we've already demonstrated, we've been able to keep it off the endangered species list, which is fantastic."

Once the cottontail are old enough to be released, they're re-introduced into a semi-controlled environment which allows them to adapt to life in the wild. One of the more prominent sites for re-introduction is Patience Island in the Narragansett bay. The goal is to develop a large and stable enough population on the island to re-populate the mainland.

Similar breeding programs have been recognized for their success in stimulating the rebound of species like the karner blue butterfly, black-footed ferret, and California condor. We're hoping for similar success here for an iconic New England species.

Sunny Valley Preserve
8 Sunny Valley Lane
New Milford, Connecticut
(860)355-3716
Save the Date
Annual Town Wide Tag Sale
Sponsored by the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary

Saturday and Sunday
October 5 - 6, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
rain or shine

Food Pantry
The Food Pantry is available at the Congregational Church Parish House. All are welcome and confidentiality is guaranteed. If someone isn't able to drive to the church office, delivery is available. Donors and shoppers alike can call the church office with questions or to make arrangements to visit. Questions about the Food Pantry should be directed to Kim Gellatly (860-354-8283)

Save the Date
Bridgewater Country Fair
August 16-18, 2019

The Bridgewater Fair returns and will be EVEN BETTER! We have an ENTIRE NEW Entertainment/Events/Shows and Exhibitions setup this year. NEW Vendors! NEW Food! NEW Contests! And of course many of our favorites still returning...

Have Your Next Event At Friendship Hall!
The beautifully renovated Friendship Hall at the Bridgewater Congregational Church and the Church are available to rent for special occasions like birthday and anniversary celebrations, bridal and baby showers, in addition to meetings, dinners and luncheons, and more.

The Friendship Hall is now air-conditioned and has a large Health Department-approved kitchen. Church membership and town residency are not required.

Call the office Monday - Friday, 10:00-12:00, at 860-354-8283 or email office.bwucc@gmail.com for more information and a tour of the buildings or to book your event.
MAY
7 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
7 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
14 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
15 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
16 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
23 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
27 MEMORIAL DAY ***Town Hall Closed***
27 Memorial Day Parade 8:20 AM Town Green
28 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall

JUNE
4 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
4 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
11 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
20 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
25 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
27 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

JULY
2 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
2 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY ***Town Hall Closed***
9 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
17 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
18 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
23 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
25 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
25 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM, Town Hall

For additional information and updates, please visit our website at www.bridgewatertownhall.org
CT Trails Day Hike
Saturday, June 1
9:00 am - 11:00 am
Rain date is June 2nd
This hike will begin at Ketchum Trailhead, Yellow Marker #220 to Marker #74 to White trail Marker #69 and back. Wear appropriate trail shoes, bring bug repellent. This trail has several up and down hills. Meet at Ketchum Trailhead across the road from 280 Christian Street

Kid's Fishing Derby
Saturday, May 4th 8:30 - 10:30 AM
at the Recreation Pond
Equipment and Bait provided.
Refreshments at the Pratt Pavilion
Open to all area children 16 years old and younger

Pavilion Rentals
If you are interested in renting the Pratt Pavilion this summer, please make your reservations early. Requests can be sent to: bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com

Bridgewater Summer Camp
July 8th - August 2nd
Children up to age 12

Take Note: CITs will be needed for camp. Applications are available on line.

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.
**Bridgewater Dog Owners Must License Their Dogs in June**

Dog owners must license their dogs 6 months and older at the Town Clerk's office beginning June 1st.

Licenses also may be obtained through the mail by sending a **self-addressed, stamped envelope** with a check or money order and the following information: 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 spayed or neutered certificate to qualify for a lower license fee.**

Dog owners have until the end of June to license their dog without penalty. There is a $1.00 per month penalty for dogs not licensed in June. See form below. Please detach form and mail in with all required documentation.

**This year our office is collecting food and supply donations for the local Animal Shelter. Please call our office at 860-354-5102 for more information, if you are interested. We appreciate your generosity!**

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### Bridgewater Dog License Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner Name:</th>
<th>Dog Name:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>Breed:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>Color:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alt Phone:</td>
<td>Age:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sex:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**License Fee**

Spayed/Neutered - $8.00  
Non-spayed/Non-neutered - $19.00

In order to issue a license, this form must be completed. The following items are also required: **Valid rabies certificate, spay/neuter certificate (for first time licenses to receive discounted fee), Self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to the Bridgewater Town Clerk**

All dogs over the age of 6 months are required per State Statute to have a current rabies vaccination and be licensed by June 30th every year. Beginning July 1st, a penalty of $1.00 is charged for each month the dog is unlicensed.

Bridgewater LOVES Dogs!

Please mail to: Bridgewater Town Clerk  
P.O. Box 216  
Bridgewater, CT 06752