

OUR TOWN

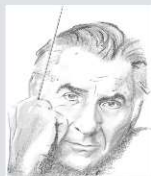
BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

FEBRUARY 2019

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Message from Our First Selectman

Like many places in our country, Bridgewater has experienced weather extremes in the past couple of years. In 2017 we had drought and cold temperatures, but 2018 proved to be the wettest and possibly warmest year in anyone's memory. This made life miserable for both farmers and outdoor workers. Oh, and let's not forget the tornados that tore up the south half of town last May. As Mark Twain once said, "If you don't like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes."

We just had a meeting with the Route 133 bridge contractors and learned about the schedule and construction details on major repairs slated to start in April. They described how the steel components that support the road bed over Lake Lillinonah have been corroded over the past ten years due to "magic salt". Needless to say, the bridge needs significant work and that is scheduled between April and October, 2019.

There will be alternating one lane traffic most of the time except for five weekend complete closures. These will occur roughly once every 4-5 weeks from Friday night at 10pm until Monday morning at 5am. A by-pass will be in effect through New Milford for those weekends. There will be lots of notice and the Bridgewater Fair weekend (please no rain) will not be impacted. One interesting feature will be the finish coat on the road surface which will be applied as liquid polymer that hardens within minutes to a corrosion resistant impermeable coating. Pretty high tech!

Everything is running smoothly around Town. Our new blinking Christmas Tree seemed festive especially with the luminaries on Christmas Eve. Thanks to all the volunteers who make events like these so special. In my position I realize how many citizens give so much time to the town, Burnham School, Burnham Library, the Fire Department, Senior Center and their neighbors. I would especially note our Bridgewater Ambulance crew who goes out at any hour and in any weather to deal with health traumas. Thank you all.

Bridgewater may be a historic town with an aging population, but we are updating our website this winter and with a new web address: www.bridgewater-ct.gov. It will be easier to navigate, especially on mobile devices, and hopefully have more content at your fingertips. Just don't look at it while you are driving.

Stay warm!

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

LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: October 2018

- Phyllis L. Schloendorn of Bridgewater, to BTW Bridgewater, LLC of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 3 Ridgewood Drive, \$1,237,500
- Evan and Carmen Abramson of Bridgewater, to Stockton and Catherine Atterbury of NY, NY, land and buildings, 164 Cedar Hill Road, \$650,250
- Robert M. Ponsky of Palm Beach Gardens, FL to Robert J. Hellman and Laurey G. Mogil of NY, NY, land and buildings, 36 Keeler Road, \$490,000
- George Albert of Norwalk, CT and Cheryl Albert of Newtown, CT to Michael Savoia of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 69 Lillinonah Lake Road South, \$420,000
- Paul and Molly Stratton of Bridgewater, to Thomas Messina and Katherine Sullivan of NY, NY, land and buildings, 4 Sunrise Lane \$1,100,000
- Craig M. Young of Warren, CT to Roger and Barbara Malumphy of New Milford, CT, Lot 3, Stuart Road East, \$125,000

Land Transfers: November 2018

- Stephen E. and Cathleen M. Goos of The Villages, FL to Salvatore A. Corbo of New Milford, CT, land, Lot 14-1, Parcel B Mine Hill Road, \$205,000

Land Transfers: December 2018

- Jonathan Lindblom of Bridgewater, and Anne Marie Wagner of Woodbury, CT to Little Swamp Ledge, LLC of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 679 Main Street South, \$450,000
- Richard J. Goccia of Mystic, CT to Stephen C. Doyle of NY, NY, land and buildings, 203 Main Street South, \$460,000
- Martin G. and Jeanne M. Banko of Canaan, CT to Woodrow M. Banko of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 70 Northrop Street, \$190,000
- Richard L. Feigen of NY, NY to Michael Steinhardt, Trustee of the Philippa Cornell Group Trust of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 95 Henry Sanford Road, \$800,000

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

Registrars of Voters

February

Tuesday	2-05-19	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday	2-19-19	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

March

Tuesday	3-05-19	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday	3-19-19	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

April

Tuesday	4-02-19	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday	4-23-19	9:00A.M. to 11:00A.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 last Tuesday of each month between 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

Margaret Judith Sullivan, Democratic Registrar
Susan Patrick, Republican Registrar

Bridgewater Center Cemetery Association

We would like the Winter cleanup at the Bridgewater Center Cemetery to start on March 18, 2019. If there is still ice or snow on the ground, the cleanup will start when the grounds are clear. Several winter arrangements have been placed at grave sites in late Fall and during the Christmas Season. Anyone wishing to keep any containers or any other items from the arrangements, are asked to remove them by Monday, March 18, 2019, depending on grounds conditions.

Thank you,
Alan Michener - President



Office of the Tax Collector

LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Payment must be RECEIVED or U.S. POSTMARKED by February 1, 2019 for the Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the second installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property taxes. If taxes are unpaid by that date, the interest penalty in February will be 3% with a \$2 minimum. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest.

PREVIOUSLY DELINQUENT bills accumulate additional interest when not paid by the last day of the month.

If you use online banking for your payments, please do not wait until the last minute. Checks processed in this manner often DO NOT have a US postmark and will be credited on the RECEIVED date.

DOING YOUR STATE/FEDERAL TAXES? Payment history reports can be generated via the town's website. Please visit the Tax Collector's page at www.bridgewaterhall.org and follow directions carefully.

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.

If the address on your motor vehicle bill is wrong, it is your responsibility to change it with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Our office cannot change the DMV record. A lot of effort is wasted on redirecting bills that are sent to the wrong town year after year.

Credit Cards: The Tax Department can receive payments made by credit or debit cards. There is an additional fee paid directly to the service provider to use this service. The amount of the fee is 2.75% of the amount of the payment subject to a \$2.00 minimum fee. This service can be accessed through our website at www.bridgewaterhall.org.

TAX ALERTS: Would you like to receive an email alert that an installment is due? Sign up through the link provided on the town website.

Collection Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 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

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 or are 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** to receive your benefit on the bill you receive in June, 2020.

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 Veteran's programs.

We appreciate your service and want to be sure you are receiving the full benefit to which you are entitled. If you know of a resident of Bridgewater who is an **Active-Duty Serviceman or woman** with a motor vehicle registered in Bridgewater, 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 web site bridgewatertownhall.org 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@bridgewatertownhall.org.

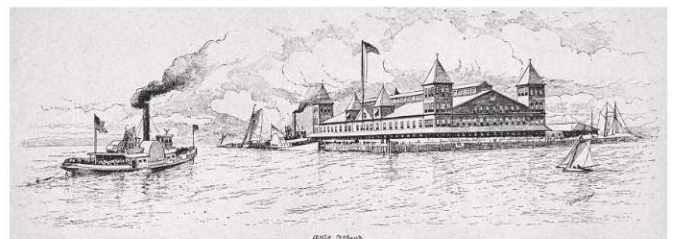
Denise C. Pinter Assessor

FROM THE TOWN HISTORIAN'S DESK

The holidays often bring family gatherings. Stories of past times are passed down to the next generations. Sometimes it makes people wonder about those ancestors from long ago. If you are one of the curious, there are resources here in town - and elsewhere - to help you find the answers. In our library, there are some special books that are kept off the stacks but are available by request. For those who have Bridgewater roots, these old, fragile books might offer you an insight to the events and people of the past. The Senior Center offers classes in computer literacy. If you already have those skills, they have Ancestry to give you access to thousands of records.

If you are more adventurous, a trip to the city's archives might help you find information on relatives who either arrived or stayed on in New York. Documents from all boroughs cover the history of the city and its people dating back to colonial times. Go early, as desks and readers are in short supply. If you work up an appetite, you will be within walking distance to both China Town and Little Italy! Happy hunting!

- Eileen Buchheit



Ellis Island in Upper New York Bay, the main U.S. immigrant station from 1891-1945. Drawing in 1891 by Granger



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.

One free pickup truck load or two carloads per household. Additional pickup loads will cost \$25 per load. 1-3 ton truckloads will cost \$50 per additional load, with a maximum of 3 total loads per household.

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.

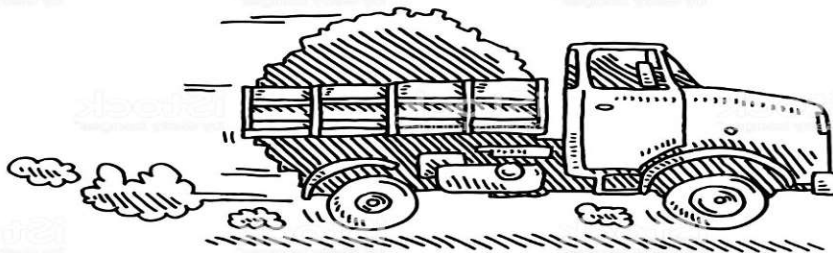
WHAT NOT TO BRING!!!

- HAZARDOUS WASTE (paint, solvents, pesticides, etc.)
- CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS
- HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE - State Law prohibits the town from accepting garbage at the Town Garage.

The following items are accepted year round at the Town Garage; please do not put these things out for pick-up, although you may bring them to the Garage.

- TIRES - accepted for a fee, payable by check
- SMALL APPLIANCES/ ELECTRONICS (TVs, computers, microwaves, etc.)
- BRUSH (3 inches in diameter or less)

We accept bulky waste from BRIDGEWATER RESIDENTS ONLY!!



SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL



Region District 12 Updates

The new year will be filled with new adventures and new opportunities. For Region 12, 2019 will mark a number of firsts. We have received recognition of student achievement for the school district and we will open our new agriscience program.

We are proud to announce we have received over seventy (70) applications for the 2019-2020 school year for the agriscience program. The realization of student numbers, as well as the build itself, are a testament to the work and support of our communities. Bridgewater has been a visionary in finding ways to support our small schools with dynamic ideas.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the agriscience program and science labs renovations was held on November 9th. There are parking limitations during the construction phase of Shepaug's new build and it will be important to plan extra time when coming to events for the remainder of the 2018-19 school year. In addition to the construction projects, we are also looking towards the maintenance of the Shepaug building which involves a renovation of the roof. The Board of Education will be working with the towns to make sure we are making the best choice for the school while still being fiscally responsible.

Burnham School continues to be a bright star in achievement measures. Our school was rated #3 in Niche's list of top elementary schools in Litchfield County as well as placing #7 in Best Elementary School Teachers in Connecticut. The Niche ratings are based on a number of variables: testing achievements, student to teacher ratio, and teacher attendance to name a few.

The Burnham students are looking forward to reopening their school garden during the spring. In the meantime, they will continue to care for their animals indoors. Responsibility for self and others is always a strong and powerful lesson for our students.

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 support!



Members of the Building Committee and the Region 12 Board of Education at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new AgriScience program at Shepaug



Burnham School PTO NEWS

We have been busy the past couple of months; planning and holding some fun and creative activities for the children of Burnham School. In November, Burnham students became global citizens setting the intention for peace to prevail in 193 countries during a World Peace Flag Ceremony. A World Peace Pole, an international symbol of peace akin to those at the U.N, the pyramids of Egypt, Mt. Everest, and even at the border of North and South Korea, will be set in solidarity at the school in the spring. The PTO also hosted our annual Harvest Gathering where community seniors and the children all had wonderful time together making crafts, singing songs and enjoying special treats.

This spring, instead of planning a big fundraising event, we have chosen to organize a different type of fundraiser that will include the children of our school and encourage community spirit and reading. From January 21st to February 15th, the PTO has planned a Read-A-Thon. We are asking people in our community to sponsor Burnham students by making a donation to the PTO. In return, the students will read to meet personal reading goals. If you would like to sponsor a child for the Read-A-Thon, please stop by the Burnham School, or send a check to the school attn: Read-A-Thon, or check out our webpage <https://burnhamschoolpto.weebly.com/events.html> to find out more information or make an electronic contribution.

Other things to keep in mind:

We are always looking for people to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering please email us: burnhamschoolpto@gmail.com.

Help support us by using Amazon Smile: www.smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0011749. For every purchase made, Amazon Smile makes a donation to the PTO.

You can also sign up for School Rewards at your local grocery store: Register your store card in store or by using the links: www.stopandshop.com/aplus
www.shopriteformyschool.com

Drop off your BOX TOPS at our school, Burnham Library or the senior center. Money received for the BOX TOP collections go to support the programs at our school.

Kindly Submitted by,
Burnham School PTO

Bridgewater Scholarship Committee

Applications for the 2019-2020 Bridgewater Scholarship will be available at Town Hall, The Burnham Library and at Shepaug Regional High School as of March 15 and due May 15. ALL students must sign up for an interview at Town Hall by May 15. No applications or interviews will be entertained after that date.

The Bridgewater Scholarship is available to all full time residents. The process is easy and open to all students of higher education, including the trades; no matter what grade you are about to enter.

We would like to thank Annie Mariano for her many years of work on the committee. For almost two decades Annie graced us with her kindness, dedication and insight. She will be greatly missed. To that end, we would like to welcome Paul Hines to the Committee. Paul has been a long time resident of Bridgewater and will be a very welcomed and valuable member.

Please remember, The Bridgewater Scholarship exists because of the kind donations of Bridgewater people. These are private funds given with the understanding that only earnings will be used. Consider including us on your estate and tax planning. For answers to any financial questions please contact Susan Wilcox. Any scholarship questions can be direct to me at leneary1@gmail.com.

Respectfully, Larry Neary - Chairman



An Old Fashioned Snowstorm

As I write this in January, looking out on a rainy day, I think about how this could be snow. So far, no major snowstorms or blizzards this season, but that could all change. I was thinking back to the storms I remember as a child, the blizzard of 1978 comes to mind, and I wonder how they compare to the storms of our grandparents and great grandparents age.

One such momentous storm occurred in the winter of 1888. In January of that year an epic blizzard hit the Mid West where my father-in-law tells stories about the farmers stringing a line from the house to the barn so they wouldn't get lost in the blinding snow. Unfortunately, some did get lost and froze to death, not to be found until spring.

That storm was followed by another momentous event that extended from New England, New York and Pennsylvania to New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Washington DC, beginning on March 11 and lasting for 3 days. The Blizzard of 1888 in New York City was so devastating that every horse car and elevated train had stopped running. Roads were impassable, mail stopped, electric wires for telegraph and telephone were broken and the great city was practically at a standstill and cut off from the rest of the country.

In Hartford, the storm wrecked havoc leaving drifts of 4 to 6 feet on the sidewalks and elsewhere as high as 12 feet. The trains and telegraphs there had the same troubles as their New York counterparts. When the March storm reached Bridgewater in the Litchfield Hills, it started out as a typical snowstorm in the afternoon, but quickly took a turn for the worst. The next morning, local residents awoke to snow so deep that they couldn't open their outside doors. Hopefully, you remembered to keep a shovel indoors. There were no snow plow trucks, snow blowers or paved roads in the rural areas to aid in snow removal. Instead, all snow removal had to be done by hand or with farm equipment.

The main concerns of the rural farmers in Litchfield County were feeding their animals, having enough wood to keep the home fires burning and of course having food for the family. Farmers were self-sufficient and usually had enough food stored in the cellar and with any luck, a recent purchase of flour to get them through a tough storm. Some did run out of food and had to trek to a neighbor's house for the proverbial cup of sugar. Some Bridgewater residents recalled hearing the moans and cries of the cows in the barn stuck there without hay to eat. The drifts were to the eaves and it is said that the hens could step off their perches and into the snow. Few dared go out during the storm for fear of not finding their way back home. Everything was entombed in a coat of white. Many had no way of knowing how their relatives were doing on the other side of town, much less another part of the state. Without the benefit of modern technology - radio, television, cell phones or internet - people had to wait weeks to hear from their relatives.

After the storm passed, the Keelers, who owned a large farm in Bridgewater, dug a tunnel from the horse barn to the water trough. The snow was so deep; the horse's ears didn't even show over the snow cover! They had to use oxen and sleds to break the roads and only then could people start to dig out.

In New Milford, bobsleds drawn by horses were used to clear the road. As of Friday, March 16th, there were still no trains into New Milford from Bridgeport, no papers or letters and no news from points north by telephone or telegraph since Monday. Roxbury was especially hard hit with outlying districts still cut off from the center of town and roads impassable until March 23rd.

Those who did venture out had tales to tell. One man apparently pulled a board off the peak of his barn roof to get in and feed his animals. Those animals were very grateful I'm sure. Henry and Horace Sanford could only get out of their house through the woodhouse attached to their house down on Wolf Pit Mountain. The Bridgewater correspondent for the Gazette, who lived on the main road from Bridgewater to New Milford, commented in the paper on March 30th that "not a horse, wagon or sleigh passed our house from the 11th to the 24th". Those who perished in the storm had to be kept in freezing parlors until conditions improved enough to allow for burials. According to locals, there was snow on the ground that year until June 27th, just short of the July 4th holiday.

According to NOAA, the Blizzard of 1888 dumped 50 inches of snow over Connecticut in the three day storm and 40 inches over New York. Of course that doesn't include the drifting of 40 to 50 feet that occurred with the wind. Now that's one for the record books!

The seas saw their fair share of treachery as well with 200 ships sunk and 400 lives lost from the Chesapeake Bay to Nantucket Island. Everyone was more than happy to see spring that year and finally get out and about. At that time, no one could remember a snow quite like it.

But some of the elders may have recalled an earlier snow known as the "Christmas storm" 70 to 80 years before that dumped snow as high as second story windows. Or they may have remembered the storm of Jan. 4, 1859. It was called an "old fashioned" storm with snow falling faster than it could be shoveled away. Reports were that some three feet of snow fell with no strong wind for additional drifting. They might also recall how the whole town turned out when the storm ended to take their teams of oxen and break the roads. Once that effort was complete the next country effort was to get the children to school. That would have sounded mighty familiar to the folks in 1888. Farm life had not changed that much in that time span.

Yes, times have changed. Never mind that we now have cars to dig out, but we also have the added pressure of constant contact through the internet and other technological capabilities. We still rush to the store before a big storm to stock up on food even though most of us have plenty of food in our cupboards and freezers. We worry about power outages that will affect our home, businesses and slow us down. Maybe it's that fear of being cut off from others and truly alone, or just being stuck in the house for an extended period. This is something our ancestors thought about too. While there major innovations were the railroad, telephone, telegraph and daily papers, they still had that feeling of deprivation for not having those conveniences available that they were accustomed to. When the trains starting running again they were as excited as we are when the power finally comes back on and we can use our wi-fi and computers.

Whatever our concerns or fears, we can hope it's a bit longer until the next "storm of a lifetime". May spring be early this year!



Image of blizzard of 1888,
14th St. between 5th and
6th Avenues looking West,
New York City
March, 1888

Endnotes:

- Proquest New York Times, March 13, 1888 pg 1
- Proquest Hartford Courant, March 13, 1888 pg 1
- New Milford Gazette, March 16, 1888 pg 1
- Biggest Snow Storms in the United States: From 1888 to Present. NWS Milwaukee/Sullivan WI
- Ibid.
- New Milford Gazette, March 16, 1888 pg 1
- Proquest Hartford Courant, Jan. 5, 1859 pg 2
- Proquest Hartford Courant, March 16, 1888 pg 1
- Other Sources: Bridgewater Historical Society oral histories and first hand accounts, This Old House - Nellie Beardsley Holt

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 Wilkicki 860-354-7827 or Eileen Buchheit 860-355-2433



**BURNHAM
LIBRARY**

Where Community Connects

Library Hours:

Tuesday 1-5
Wednesday 9-5
Thursday 9-7
Friday 1-5
Saturday 9-1

Inclement Weather Reminder - If Region 12 schools are closed, the Library may have a delayed opening and all Library programs for children are cancelled. It is always recommended that you call ahead to see if we are open. Closings will be reported on Facebook as well as Channel 3 (WFSB) and Channel 8 (WTNH).

Cookie Bookie Book and Bake Sale - Saturday, February 16th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Show the Library some love this February by purchasing books and delicious bakes from the Friends of the Library. All proceeds help to sponsor library programs and digital services.

Herbs for the Aging Mind - Saturday, February 23rd at 11:00 am. Herbs have a long history of use as potent medicines for enhancing brain health and cognitive function. Join Clinical Herbalist and Nutritionist Alison Birks, MS, AGH, CNS, for a lively discussion of our most important 'saging herbs' - those tonics which enable us to age gracefully and how to use them as part of a healthy lifestyle. Space is limited, registration recommended. *In collaboration with Community Caring in Bridgewater*

Art Exhibits

February - March: Fine Art Photography by Judith Secco of Bantam.

March - May: Walter Von Egidy of Bridgewater with Oil Enamels. Reception date to be announced.

Book Discussions - Join in the lively discussion. Copies of the book are generally available at the Circulation Desk. Thursdays, February 28, March 28, April 25 at 5:00

Two Town Tabletop Club @ New Milford Library

2nd Saturday from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Teen and adult gamers join The Burnham Library on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the New Milford Library, test your gaming skills and meet new gamers along the way! Registration is not required. Questions? Email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Trivia Night is Back! - Saturday, March 9th at 6:00 pm. Join us at the library for another Trivia Night! Bring your A game and get your trivia on! This event features a professional trivia master, PRIZES, and is open to anyone 21 and over. BYOB and BYOS (snacks). Team or individual registration is required in advance via our Facebook page or email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org. *In collaboration with Bridgewater Recreation Commission*

A Benefic Spirit: A Year of Bridgewater and Bridgewater History

Beer Snob - Saturday, February 2nd at 6:00 pm Let's open Benefic Spirit with a celebration of oceanic travel (Captain Burnham was a sea captain after all!) Nothing speaks to this better than IPA's and their long oceanic journeys from England to India that contributed to their name and their unique character. Will Sis, Connecticut's own Bear Snob will lead a conversation on beer and the history of Connecticut brewing, followed by a tasting. Check him out at beersnobwrites.com. Space is limited, registration recommended.

Leonard Bernstein an American Treasure

Thursday, April 25th at 6:30 pm

2019 is the centenary of Bernstein's birth and it is a good time to celebrate this American treasure. Bernstein was the most gifted, famous, popular and successful musician produced by America. He was a virtuoso pianist and conductor, a composer of music ranging from Broadway musicals to the classical repertory, an educator, a lecturer, an author and a TV personality. There was very little he couldn't do extremely well. This program is presented in memoriam of our Library friend Burton Bernstein whose investigation explained the Piggott bequest that made the 1979 expansion of the Library possible. Space is limited, registration is recommended.

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.



Pancakes and Pajamas

Saturday, February 2nd from 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Join us for the 8th annual Take Your Child to the Library Day - a nationwide celebration of children and libraries. Wear your cozy winter jammies and enjoy some delicious pancakes, a reading of If You Give a Pig a Pancake and search for Pig and friends in a family scavenger hunt! Space is limited, registration is required.

The Burnham Bunch Storytime

Storytime fun for the under 5 crowd with bubbles, books, parachutes and songs. We meet Thursday mornings from 10:30 am - 11:00 am. Winter/Spring session: January 17th - May 23rd. Registration is ongoing. Storytime will not be held if school is delayed or cancelled due to inclement weather.



LEGO Brick Builders - Grades K-5

Use your imagination and build with us! This program is so popular that we doubled the fun! Wednesday 2/7 and 2/21, 3/7 and 3/21, 4/4 and 4/25 and 5/2 and 5/16 from 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm.

Burnham Book Worms - Grade 3-5

Enjoy books, snacks, and activities with our Junior Friend, Julia Sinatra. Copies of the book are available at the Junior Library Circulation Desk. Wednesdays 2/27, 3/27, 4/24 and 5/22 from 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm



Monthly programs for Grades 1 -5



- **Stop-motion Animation** - Wednesday, January 30th from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Use LEGO Bricks to create your own stop-motion video!
- **Spiral Galaxies** - Wednesday, February 20th from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Explore and paint the exiting world of spiral galaxies with special guests Bob Lambert of McCarthy Observatory and artist Adrian Caruso.
- **DIY Keepsake Boxes with Mr. Immohr** - Saturday, March 30th from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm Bring your adult and build a beautiful wooden box to store your treasures. Adult participation required.

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.

Visit our Digital Branch open 24/7 with your Library card



Watch 1,000's of award winning independent films right NOW!



NEWS FROM HILLTOP CENTER

A BIG THANK YOU to all our friends in Bridgewater and surrounding towns who donated so generously to our annual fund appeal. Our building fund is still active and we are hoping to bring in some more programs to accommodate those of you who would like to see exercise classes on weekends. More information on this to follow.

We are pleased to announce that Pilobolus will be returning in the spring (date to be announced) for a six week program. "Connecting with balance is a 6 week program for adults focusing on using movement and dance to maintain and improve dynamic balance. Participants will work with a Pilobolus teaching artist on creating connections with their bodies, connections with other and connections with their own creativity this class is open to all levels of ability. Just bring your body and an open mind."

COIN COLLECTING

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH 10:00 am, Blair Soucy, professional coin dealer will be at Hilltop. He is the past president of the Bristol, Ct Coin Club, and Vice-President of the Litchfield County Coin Club. His program talks about the state of the hobby today, the U.S. Mint and its products, the gold and silver bullion market and provides a general overview of coins and currency collecting. People are encouraged to bring in any coins or currency for Blair to look at and give you an idea of value and rarity. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers. The program is designed for everyone whether you are an experienced collector or just want to know what some old coins lying around the house are worth. Please call or stop by to sign up. Everyone is invited. This is a free program.

EXERCISE PROGRAMS

Join us for the exercise of your choice:

Monday - 11 - 12 Line dancing

Wednesday - 10:30 - 11:30 Tai Chi

Friday - 10:30 - 11:30 Chair Yoga

First class is free, so come and try one or all three.



TOWN VAN

The van is available weekdays for doctor appointments, grocery shopping and special activities. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis but every effort is made to meet your needs. There is a limited destination distance of no more than 20 miles. Please contact the van director, Ann Frattalone, 860-350-3042 at least two weeks in advance for your appointments.

BREAKFAST CLUB: Meets first Thursday of the month 9:00am. Menu includes one "special" plus Belgian waffles with strawberries and cream, pancakes, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, orange juice, toast, jelly, coffee and tea. Suggested donation \$5.00. Reservations definitely required so stop by or call to sign up.

DINNER CONCERT PROGRAM: Second Sunday of the month 4 - 6. Suggested donation varies between \$5 and \$10 depending on menu. Stop by or call for a reservation (a must).

BINGO: join us for a fun few hours once a month and see how lucky you are! Thursday, February 21, 1:00pm. Thursday, March 21, 1:00pm and Thursday April 11, 1:00pm. Prizes to be won. Refreshments will be served.

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

Emergency/Winter Chores Assistance

We are in the unpredictable time of the year. Please let us know if you are a senior who needs help with electricity/energy/heating bills and food purchases or who needs help with snow or ice removal and winter weather indoor/outdoor assistance. Our contact information is below.

Library Program

CCB is sponsoring "Herbs for the Aging Brain" on Saturday, February 23rd at 11:00 am at the Library. Herbs have a long history of use as potent medicines for enhancing brain health and cognitive function. Join Clinical Herbalist and Nutritionist Alison Birks, MS, AGH, CNS, for a lively discussion of our most important "senior" herbs - those tonics which enable us to age gracefully and how to use them as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Board Members

We are pleased to announce that Elizabeth MacDonald has joined our Board as of January 1, 2019. She will be a wonderful addition to the organization. Our current board members are Joe Buchheit, John Flaxman, Cheryl Johnson, Elizabeth MacDonald, Alex McNaughton, and Andrea Wilson. Our coordinator is Ashli Feather.

Contact Us

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



The New Milford VNA is a non-profit health care agency dedicated to providing quality home care. It only takes one call. Services include: hospice and palliative care, rehabilitation therapies, elder care management, support groups, wellness programs, private pay home care, lifeline medical alert and nurturing families. Call (860) 354-2216 or go to www.newmilfordvna.org

Daylight Savings Time
is March 10th, 2109



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Bridgewater Emergency Medical Services

One of the benefits of living in Bridgewater is that we enjoy the services of well-trained, competent Emergency Medical Professionals. Our Emergency Medical Services are provided by members of the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department. Unlike many of our neighboring towns, the Emergency Medical Responders in Bridgewater are all volunteers. These dedicated people donate their time, energy and professional skills to assist you and your loved ones when you need help. They spend many hours obtaining continuing medical education and practicing their skills so that they can provide you effective care 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Their generosity is a good example of the many reasons we all love our town.

Diana Haskell is one of our EMTs. She has been providing Emergency Medical Services to the citizens of Bridgewater for more than 25 years. She responds to calls for help regardless of the time of day or night, no matter the inconvenience or disruption of her personal plans. When she arrives to help one of our neighbors she is totally focused on trying to help the person in need. In addition to being a very competent provider of emergency medical services, Diana is kind and compassionate. She always makes an extra effort to bring a calm and friendly demeanor to the people she is assisting.

The next time you see Diana at the Post Office, the Bistro, Church or anywhere please take a moment to thank her for the important contributions she has made and continues to make to our wonderful town.



Dan and Diana Haskell

Please remember that our Emergency Medical Services are provided by volunteers. Without people continuing to volunteer we would not have the benefits of this important service in Bridgewater. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS.** Training will be provided to help you learn the necessary skills and use them with competence and confidence. If you would like to consider doing your part to continue to help your Bridgewater neighbors as part of our Emergency Medical Services team please contact me. I will be very happy to help you determine how you can help. **See newsletter insert for new classes offered!**

On behalf of the members of the Bridgewater Ambulance team and the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department, I wish you all a very happy, healthy New Year.

Jim McNulty, EMT Ambulance Co-Ordinator
Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department
Email: jamesmcnultyremt@gmail.com

Bridgewater Fire Department Women's Auxiliary



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

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

The Auxiliary will meet on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 in the Bridgewater Fire House unless otherwise noted. We are always looking for new members so please come and join us at any time.

The calendar for the next coming months are:
February 18th - Installation dinner at The Hilltop Center at 6:30
March 18th - Meeting at Firehouse
April 15th - Meeting at Firehouse

Carol Wilbur, President

OUR CHURCHES

St. Marks Episcopal Church



Most Sundays 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist.
(see note below)

Coffee hour follows the service every Sunday.
Pancake Breakfast February 1st & March 1st
Vestry meets on third Sunday of every month.

March 6th

Ash Wednesday - Episcopal Services will be available at St. John's in New Milford

March 9th 5-7 PM

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner
Adults \$15, 12 & under \$8, Family Limit \$45

April 13th

6th Annual Penny Auction
Doors open at 11 AM Lunch from 11:30 AM
Numbers called at 1 PM

April 14th

PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM Service

April 18th

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6 PM - Supper and Eucharist

April 19th

GOOD FRIDAY 12 Noon - Community service at Congregational Church

April 20th

EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 AM FESTIVAL
EUCARIST with enhanced coffee hour

(Note: We will have a service every Sunday, but since we do not have a priest for a time, some of the services will be Morning Prayer instead of Holy Eucharist. Call us at 860-354-8269 for information on a specific date.)

The Bridgewater Congregational Church

For information call the Church Office: 860-354-8283
or email us at: office@bwucc.org
www.bwucc.org

Coming up at the Bridgewater Congregational Church

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

MARDI GRAS PARTY - SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH - 5:00

This party is one of our most fun gatherings of the year! With great food (chili, corn bread, salads and dessert), good music, our Mardi Gras parade, and the crowd always in high spirits, this is a dreary-February cloud-buster and a party you don't want to miss! Bring your friends... the more the merrier!

The children will collect loose change in tin pails (making a Joyful Noise!) during the Mardi Gras parade, so remember to bring your piggy banks. The Joyful Noise offering from the party and the morning's church service will benefit Renewal House in Danbury, serving the elderly homeless. BYO Beverages.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND AUCTION - April 14th 8:00 - 9:30

Join us for a sumptuous breakfast! The Board of Mission and Outreach will be cooking up a feast to raise funds to support our mission at Loaves & Fishes in New Milford. Breakfast will be served from 8:00-9:30. The menu will include egg casseroles, bacon, sausage, French toast, fresh fruit salad and assorted sweet breads and muffins. We will also have our usual offering of wonderful spring items for auction. Your free-will donations help us buy groceries for the monthly dinners we prepare at Loaves & Fishes. Please come and enjoy breakfast!

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2019

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 14TH

Breakfast and Auction from 8:00 - 9:30 (Details above) Sunday Service at 10:00 with the Blessing of the Palms and Reading of the Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF TENEBRAE AND HOLY COMMUNION

APRIL 18TH AT 7:30 P.M. preceded by a candlelight supper of soup and bread at 6:00

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 19TH AT 12:00 P.M.

at either the Bridgewater Congregational Church or St. Mark's

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE - APRIL 21ST - 5:45 A.M. behind the Senior Center, 132 Hut Hill Road

EASTER SERVICE - APRIL 21ST AT 10:00 A.M.



The Bridgewater Land Trust Welcomes Spring 2019!

The Bridgewater Land Trust, with your help and support, is gearing up for a productive and exciting 2019. This spring we will continue work on our new public trail located on the Town Line Preserve. We hope to extend the length of the trail this year, with help and collaboration from our land trust neighbors.

We continue to work with Weantinoge Land Trust on digitizing our properties and easements for easy access to all this information in the future. We will also finish the Bridgewater Land Trust map of all our owned and eased properties. Our properties look great and we will continue to make improvements on our farm barns and houses this year.

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



Town Line Preserve, Town Line Road



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 visit our website www.lvg-ct.org. Literacy Volunteers on the Green, 7 Whittlesey Avenue, New Milford CT 06776.

Jacqueline Farrell, Executive Director



Billboard Contest

HRRA's 12th Annual Recycling Billboard Contest for students K-12th grade. WIN up to \$500. The complete list of rules and dates of the contest are posted at www.hrra.org. 2019 Contest Theme: Recycle Right Create a billboard for the region that will inspire people to "recycle right".

Top 10 RECYCLING MYTHS AND HOW TO AVOID THEIR TRAP

MYTH #1: Recycling is hard. No, it isn't! Recycling is as easy as throwing something in the trash. Arm yourself with the list of what is accepted in your program and pair your trash cans with recycling containers. Place them side by side for success!

MYTH #2: Recyclables need to be washed, which wastes water. Don't waste water! Recyclables only need to be emptied. Rinse quickly only if soiled. Use the dishwater after washing your dishes.

MYTH #3: OK - but what about the transportation. Doesn't it take more energy to drive recyclables around? Even with transportation, recycling saves energy! But there's more - recycling also reduces the creation of greenhouse gases, generates US jobs, and saves natural resources. When shopping, look for items made with recycled content to make the biggest energy-saving impacts!

MYTH #4: Recycling is so 1990. You might be surprised... Only half of Americans can recycle at home as easily as they can throw something away. The Recycling Partnership and HRRA are working hard to make recycling a reality for all.

MYTH #5: Pizza boxes are not recyclable. Pizza boxes are recyclable, crusts are not! Make sure to remove crusts and scrape cheese off the inside of the box before recycling.

MYTH #6: If something has the recycling arrows on it, it's recyclable, right? No - not always. Those little arrows refer to the type of plastic the items were made from, not how recyclable they are. But most communities can recycle plastic bottles and containers. You just need to check with HRRA. Please recycle plastic bags at your local retailer - not in your recycling bin.

MYTH #7: If you put the cap on a bottle it isn't recyclable. Keep that cap on to recycle both the bottle and the cap. Loose caps are trash. The cap alone is too small to make it through a Material Recovery Facility. Keep the cap on to recycle it otherwise put loose caps in the trash.

MYTH #8: Compostable items can be recycled, right? No! Composting and recycling happen in different ways. Food waste and compostable serviceware CANNOT be recycled. Visit HRRRA.org to learn more about composting.

MYTH #9: Bag Your Recyclables. Leave your recycling loose and free! Unless you are instructed to by your hauler, never place bagged recyclables inside your cart or bins. If you collect your recyclables in a plastic bag, remove them from the bag before placing them in your bin. Return all plastic bags and film to retail stores only.

MYTH #10: I thought I saw the garbage truck pick up my recycling. Maybe. Sometimes haulers use the same trucks for all collection, which can be confusing to residents. Or they have a split body truck. Don't worry, your recyclables are taken to a sorting facility where they are separated and baled to sell back to manufacturers.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS from the Health District

The New Year is an ideal time to reflect and review our accomplishments and our goals, which should include goals for our health.

February is Heart Health Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Fortunately, it is largely preventable and there are many things people can do to reduce their risk, such as being more active. There are great opportunities to look at the health of our heart and cardiovascular system - what we learn we can put in place to carry us to better health. **Your heart health matters all year long.**

A good way to understand and improve your heart health is to "know your numbers". During a heart check up, your doctor takes a careful look at your "numbers," including your cholesterol and triglyceride levels, your blood pressure, your height/weight/waist and BMI (body mass index) and more. Knowing your numbers can help you and your doctor identify your risks and mark the progress you are making toward a healthier you.

There is great information available at the American Heart Association website, www.americanheart.org. Risk factors are the circumstances that make a person more likely to develop a disease. Having these conditions may also increase the chances that an existing disease will get worse. Some risk factors for heart disease, such as age and family history of early heart disease, can't be changed. But there are many risk factors for heart disease that you can do something about, such as:

- Controlling high blood pressure
- Lowering high blood cholesterol
- Diabetes Control
- Stop Smoking
- Lose weight if you are overweight
- Being more physically active

As you take the time to examine your heart health and address the risk factors that you can control, keep in mind that if you haven't had a recent physical exam and you are at risk for heart disease you should call your physician for an appointment.



Your Health Department: Health District office hours in the Bridgewater Town Hall are Monday and Wednesday from 10am - 12noon. The Bridgewater office telephone number is (860) 355-4467. Property files for Bridgewater are in the Bridgewater Town Hall. The main Health District office is at 3 Primrose Street (at Fairfield Hills) in Newtown, and is open 8:00am - 4:30pm. The Newtown office telephone number is (203) 270-4291 - even though it's a different area code, it's still a local call. Please feel free to call us any time if you have questions or concerns.

Reminder: Tag Sales

Tag Sales in the Town of Bridgewater are now by permit only.

Please be aware of the following information:

1. Only 6 official TAG SALE SIGNS (furnished by the Sign Officer) may be posted. All others will be removed.
2. No signs may be posted on Trees, Poles, Traffic Islands or the Town Green. Signs posted in these locations will be removed.
3. Only articles from the owner's premises may be sold.
4. If traffic hazards are created, the Police Department may revoke your permit.
5. Only 2 tag sales may be held in one year and they may be no longer than 3 days in duration.
6. A Tag Sale Permit Fee of \$3.00 is required and permits may be obtained in the Town Hall.
7. A Sign Deposit of \$9.00 is required. Signs may go up the day before the sale and must be removed immediately following the sale. If signs are returned within 7 days of sale, this fee will be refunded. However, if the signs are left up and removed by town employees you lose your sign deposit.

Some reminders are needed for those of you holding tag sales. Our Zoning Regulations allow only 2 tag sales a year. Signs are to be put up on the day of the tag sale and taken down immediately after. Any signs left after the tag sale will be removed by the Zoning Enforcement Officer and fines will be imposed. Connecticut General Statute 14-310 prohibits placing signs on highway and traffic signs. Also Connecticut General Statute 23-65 prohibits affixing signs to a "telegraph, telephone, electric light, or power pole in any public way or grounds." Section 3.4 of our Sign Ordinance prohibits placing a sign on a "tree, shrub, rock or other natural object" as well. Violations of these regulations carries a fine of up to \$100 per sign and signs placed in such a manner will be removed. Please be considerate of your neighbors. It's a good idea to ask permission before you put a sign on someone else's property. The property owner has a right to remove the sign.

Bridgewater Congregational Church Hosts Spring Tag Sale



SPRING SALE

**SPRING TAG SALE COLLECTION
BEGINS APRIL 22ND**

The Congregational Church Spring Tag Sale will be Saturday, May 4th. Are you thinking of Spring-cleaning? Your relics from the attic, discards from the cabinets, what's left from the garage, and furniture you're just plain tired of... you name it... we need it... and so does someone else! Call the Church Office (860-354-8283) in April for information about dropping off donations.



The Food Pantry, which made its home in the parish house in January 2010, is available to all residents of Bridgewater. Reverend Peter Hammond and his wife, Kimberly Gellatly, direct operations for the Food Pantry on a volunteer basis. "No proof of need is required. We're open weekday mornings and often into the afternoon," explains Ms. Gellatly. "If a resident is unable to come in the mornings, we will also be happy to open up at a time more convenient for them. We believe there are more people in town that might need a little help and we welcome them. Confidentiality is guaranteed. If someone isn't able to drive to the church office, we will deliver. Donors and shoppers alike can call us at 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)

Inclement Weather Policy for Town Hall

Town Hall Offices will close or delay opening on the Region 12 Schools Schedule.

When Region 12 delays opening due to inclement weather, Town Hall will open at 9 AM. When schools are closed, Town Hall will open at 10 AM or close at the discretion of the First Selectman.



Happy
Spring





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

BRIDGEWATER RESIDENT

Bridgewater, CT 06752

Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official town newsletter to communicate current issues, services and activities in Bridgewater to the residents of the town. The newsletter is published quarterly. *Deadline for the next issue is April 5th, 2019.*

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 Lindblom

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 5 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 5 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 12 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 18 PRESIDENT'S DAY ***Town Hall Closed***
- 21 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 26 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 28 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

MARCH

- 5 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 5 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 12 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 20 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
- 21 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 26 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 28 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

APRIL

- 2 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 2 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 9 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 18 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 19 GOOD FRIDAY ***Town Hall Closed***
- 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



LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY FEBRUARY 1, 2019



Bridgewater Recreation News WINTER/SPRING

Luminaries



Photo credit: Alan Woolwich

Thanks to the "Elves" who set up and took down the luminaries so that Bridgewater looked beautiful on Christmas Eve!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20th,
10:00 am

Bridgewater Recreation Center

Sponsored by the Grange



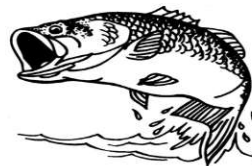
Pavilion Rentals

Thanks to all who rented the Pratt Pavilion last season. If you are interested in renting the Pratt Pavilion this year, please make your reservations early. Requests can be sent to: bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com



Coming In May...

Annual Fishing Derby
at the Recreation Pond



Pickle Ball

Pickleball will be held during the cold weather months on Tuesday and Friday at the Burnham School Gym from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. All are welcome.

Men's Drop In Basketball
Wednesday evenings, 7 PM
Burnham School

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.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Stepping through the front portico of Burnham Library, it's easy to feel that you are being transported into the early twentieth-century study of some gentleman scholar. Artifacts are carefully placed on high shelves, acting as guardians to the history that grounds the institution. Looking up, you may notice a mustachioed man keeping watch over the library. This bust of Van Wyck Brooks, a resident of the town, has a particular story that few know of.

While many will return a puzzled look at the mention of his name now, Van Wyck Brooks was a literary critic and historian who won both the Pulitzer Prize, and National Book Award for his work *The Flowering of New England*. Following his death, the library and his wife spearheaded efforts to build a wing dedicated to Brooks and during this process Mrs. William K. Dupree came across the bust in the clearing of the estate of sculptor Jo Davidson. The piece was located at his studio in Paris. Davidson was well-known at the time, and even now many of his works are on display at prominent institutions such as the National Gallery and the Met. Both Brooks and Davidson were part of the Independent Voters Committee of the Arts and Sciences for Roosevelt, an organization of noted members of the artistic community who lobbied for the election of FDR. Davidson may have used Brooks' likeness as a study since he was known for ability to sculpt the face of individuals without the use of photographs.



Van Wyck Brooks on the cover of time Magazine on Oct. 2, 1944

Mrs. Dupree sent word back to Bridgewater, where a committee was formed to purchase the bust. A price of \$1200.00 was put on the piece and Eleanor Gowan, owner of the Bridgewater Store, came forward as treasurer to the committee. The word was put out in town with the hope of raising the sum. Mrs. Gowan noted, "[s]ince this is a town project honoring Mr. Brooks... it is hoped that many small contributions will come in so that everyone in Bridgewater may have the opportunity to be part of this worthwhile project." Indeed, reflecting the philanthropic and generous spirit that pervades this town (emphasized by instances like the gift of William Dickson Burnham), the bust was purchased and found its place in town officially on December 19th, 1963. While wandering through our stacks, enjoying a cup of coffee, or the ambience of the little library, make sure to say "hi" to Mr. Brooks. Hopefully this gesture will remind you of this special community that you belong to, one that worked so hard to honor his memory in that fall of 1963.

Submitted by Christopher B. Fisher
Assistant Director, Burnham Library

Have Your Next Event At The 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 or visit us on the web www.bridgewaterfriendshiphall.com for more information and a tour of the buildings or to book your event.

EMR INITIAL COURSE & EMT COURSE ANNOUNCED

FEBRUARY 19th through APRIL 23rd. 18:00-22:00. Class will be held at Water Witch Hose Company #2 in New Milford. Cost is \$700. Register via email at: parapete@comcast.net

There's still time for a New Year's Resolution! NMCAC will be hosting an EMT Course beginning on Feb 7 and ending on April 27th. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-10 and Saturdays from 9-12. Please email Training. nmambulance@gmail.com for all registration information. A full schedule, syllabus, and course description will be sent to you.