

# OUR TOWN

## BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

FEBRUARY, 2021

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Bridgewater Town  
Clean Up

### *Message from Our First Selectman*

As we move into 2021 I wish I could say we are suddenly "Post Pandemic", but there are still dark months to endure wearing masks, staying distant and missing loved ones. We have been remarkably patient putting up with so much of late, like: unprecedented political and social turmoil, increasing Covid cases and a botched mass vaccination roll out.


Add to that big picture five wind events causing power outages around town, holiday celebrations cancelled, Zoom sessions, rampant anxiety.....Do we really need reminding? I used to think and often say, "Stress builds character", but now I'm having second thoughts. Looking at recent events, it's been almost like surviving the Ten Plagues of Egypt.

The good news is that Bridgewater is rolling with the punches, not reeling, by turning difficult times into opportunities with the help of our hard working employees and many good hearted volunteers who live in our beautiful oasis. An example of this spirit was witnessed by many at the drive-thru Bethlehem Village before Christmas. The Hilltop Senior Center offers online exercise classes and is helping older citizens navigate vaccination appointments. Buildings are being repaired, and we have secured several grants to defray costs for capital improvements.

There is so much to do and problems to solve in Bridgewater, but we can take a moment to celebrate that our Burnham School and all Region 12 schools are thriving and rising in statewide recognition. In addition, our population and property values are going up with many new people and young families in town. We welcome all these changes and hope newcomers will volunteer and support our organizations in person or financially. The BVFD and ambulance, the Burnham Library, Community Caring Bridgewater, the Food Pantry and many other groups and town commissions count on our participation.

So please step up as the days get longer and warmer and also be ready for that day when Corona times are on the wane and the "New Normal" reveals itself.

Respectfully,

  
Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

## **LAND TRANSFERS**

### **Land Transfers: October 2020**

- Vladimir Slastushinskiy and Irina Guchkova of Cape Coral, FL to Robert E. and Necole M. Manna of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 45 Lillinonah Lake Road North, \$795,000
- G. Thomas Hargrove of New Canaan, CT to Paul A. and Donna Zaccaro Ullman of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 79 Second Hill Road, \$1,083,500
- Anthony Morello of Roxbury, CT to Thomas M. and Jennifer M. Manrique Bohn of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 30 Skyline Ridge Road, \$1,580,000
- Mary T. Wysocki of Malvern, PA to Andrew M. and Molly Smith of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 381 Second Hill Falls Lane, \$680,000
- Eric Brielmann, Trustee, of Los Angeles, CA to Johan Koserius and Monika Perlacki of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 81 Lake Lillinonah Road South, \$891,000

### **Land Transfers: November 2020**

- Brooke S. Southard of Bridgewater to Cecilia Stanley of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 31 Stuart Road East, \$1,200,000
- Laura C. Erhardt of Brookfield, CT to Nathaniel Hastings Cardonsky of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 41 Main Street South, \$423,000
- Michael G. and Helen Carroll Childs-Macdonald of Bridgewater to Matthew Runkle and Rebecca Koepnick of Brooklyn, NY, land and buildings, 144 Curtis Road, \$1,774,275
- Estate of Alison B. Wells to C. and Gena Smith of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 257 Christian Street, \$885,000
- Barbara Heilweil of Brookfield, CT to Martin A. Raffone and William D. McIntosh of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 118 Clapboard Road, \$591,500
- Darko and Debra A. Hrelac of Southport, NC to Paul and Iris Lima of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 60 Keeler Road, \$500,000

### **Land Transfers: November 2020**

- Alexis Gopal of Harrison, NY to Frank and Eva Malerba of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 16 Deer Pond Woods, \$495,000
- Janet Forde of Southbury, CT to Jackson and Shay McCormack of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 49 Warner Road, \$450,000

### **Land Transfers: December 2020**

- Nancy C. Goldsberry of Paradise Valley, AZ to Michael Buckley of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 24 Hut Hill Road, \$265,000
- John and Karen Tweedie of Boca Raton, FL to Maureen Hayes of New York, NY, land and buildings, 18 Northrup Street, \$729,000
- Estate of Alden T. Warner to Mark Anderson of Bethel, CT, land and buildings, 33 Sarah Sanford Road, \$279,000
- Linda King of Bridgewater to John and Buarian McDonough of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 79 Blueberry Hill Road, \$385,000
- Joseph and Susan Brielmann of Sarasota, FL to Campbell & O'Keefe, LLC of Roxbury, CT, land and buildings, 350 Northrup Street, \$875,000
- Cipolla Family Trust to LQH Sisters LLC of Pierre, South Dakota, land, 110 Lake Lillinonah Road North, \$1,700,000
- Larina L. Cipolla Trust to LQH Sisters LLC of Pierre, South Dakota, land, 110 Lake Lillinonah Road North, \$15,000
- Thomas M. and Lida Elizabeth Fitzgerald of New York, NY to 99 Town Line Road LLC of Washington Depot, CT, land, Town Line Road, \$2,000,000

ATTEST:  
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

## **Bridgewater Center Cemetery Association**

We would like the Winter cleanup at the Bridgewater Center Cemetery to start on March 23rd. 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 21st depending on grounds conditions.

Thank you.

Alan Michener - President

# Office of the Tax Collector

## LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Bridgewater that the second installment of property taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 is due and payable January 1, 2021. **Payments must be received or postmarked by February 1, 2021** to avoid an interest penalty.

Also due on January 1 is the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax (vehicles newly registered after October 1, 2019 and before September 30, 2020). Supplemental tax bills were mailed in December.

**LOW INTEREST TAX RELIEF PROGRAM:** In response to the Governor's Executive Order 9R, Bridgewater is offering a low-interest tax relief program. The effect of this program is that any taxpayer who pays the January installment amount due after February 1, 2021 will be charged 0.25% per month interest from the original due date instead of the statutory 1.5% per month. The last day to take advantage of this lower rate of interest will be March 31, 2021. Any January installment amount due remaining unpaid as of March 31, 2021 will be charged interest back to January 01, 2021 at 1.5% per month. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00. The program only applies to the current installment due and not to previously delinquent tax accounts.

**Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest.**

**NEWS:** For the summer installment due July 1, 2020, 5.82% of Bridgewater tax bills on the 2019 Grand List were paid during the Low Interest Tax Relief Program period. Calculations were based on payments posted between 8/4/2020 and 9/30/2020. Overall, the collection rate is marginally ahead of pace as compared to previous years.

**PAYMENTS** may be mailed to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 171, Bridgewater, CT 06752. E-checks and credit card payments are also accepted but are subject to a processing fee, with a minimum fee of \$2. Online tax payments may be made at [www.bridgewater-ct.gov](http://www.bridgewater-ct.gov).

**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.bridgewater-ct.gov](http://www.bridgewater-ct.gov) and follow directions carefully.

**DMV NEWS:** Get out of line by going online! Visit the DMV website at [www.ct.gov/dmv](http://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.

**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.

In person Collection Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30 pm by appointment only

Catherine B Vikstrom,  
CCMC Tax Collector  
860-355-9220



## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Homeowners, who were 65 or older or totally disabled on or before December 31, 2020 and are full-time residents, may be eligible for tax relief. To qualify for the State benefit, your income must be no more than \$37,600 if unmarried and \$45,800 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, 2021.**

If you rent and are 65 or older or are a surviving spouse or totally disabled on or before December 31, 2020 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 \$37,600 if unmarried and \$45,800 if married, including social security. **The application period is April 1st to October 1st, 2021.**

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, 2021** to receive your benefit on the bill you receive in June, 2022.

If you are a Veteran or surviving spouse and your income is between \$37,600 if single or \$45,800 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: [bridgewater-ct.gov](http://bridgewater-ct.gov) or in our Assessor's office.

If you have any questions, we can be reached Monday thru Friday 8:30am to 12:30pm (our hours may change due to COVID). Our phone number is (860) 355-9379 or e-mail me at [dpinter@bridgewater-ct.gov](mailto:dpinter@bridgewater-ct.gov).

Sincerely,  
Denise C. Pinter Assessor

## Bridgewater Scholarship Committee

After a thorough review of our Scholarship Award Standards and Procedures portion of our By-laws, the Scholarship Committee has enacted several additions that should be noted as students apply for scholarships. These changes put us in line with most CT Scholarship Committees and allow for greater verification and fairness in awarding scholarships.

- The requirement of residency will make mandatory proof by way of a current Driver's License, Passport, Voter's Registration, or if none of those exist, two recent computerized envelopes with the student's name and address.
- Verification of need must be made by the presentation of SAR (Student Aid Report) Page 1 showing EFC (Expected Family Contribution).
- All Students will still be required to submit our standard application based on the school they are or will be attending. Students will be considered for an Associates, Bachelor, four-year degree or a degree in the Trades.

While we wish we could interview all students in person who apply, 2021 may be no different than 2020. We will review the safety of that process in February and make our decision known at that time. Please stay well and safe.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Neary, Chairman

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## REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Office Hours for February 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021

February	Tuesday	2-02-21	9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
	Tuesday	2-16-21	9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
March	Tuesday	3-02-21	9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
	Tuesday	3-16-21	9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
April	Tuesday	4-06-21	9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
	Tuesday	4-20-21	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.

Margaret Judith Sullivan  
Democratic Registrar

Susan L. Patrick  
Republican Registrar



## VETERAN'S NEWS

### VA CONTACT INFORMATION:

In an effort to provide the widest dissemination of information to our Veterans, the VA has provided the following:

- Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255
- Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat
- White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311
- DON'T KNOW WHICH TO CALL USE: 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is never the wrong number

**PODCASTING:** In another effort to keep Veterans apprised of what the VA offers, the VA has established a Podcasting service (Podcasts are streamable and downloadable audio entertainment, easy for on-the-go listening. Simply put, they are internet radio shows on demand. Podcasts include subjects such as Veterans' Job Highlights, Highlights on Veterans' Careers after the service, and Army National Guard Initiatives.

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE US ARMY** is now open! Located on the grounds of Fairfax County Virginia's Fort Belvoir, the National Museum of the United States Army sits on 84 acres of land that includes 184,00 square feet of exhibit and education space as well as an outdoor ceremonial parade field. The themes of the museum's seven permanent galleries reflect the manner in which the US Army Center of Military History organizes its approach to capturing, preserving, and presenting Army history. Each of the 7 galleries-Founding the Nation, Preserving the Nation, Nation Overseas, Global War, Cold War, Changing World, and Army & Society-tell the story of the US Army, and the nation it serves, as it has evolved through time. Additionally, there is the Medal of Honor Experience, the Nisei Soldier Experience, as well as dedicated space for special exhibit.

**NEW COMPENSATION RATES:** Starting Dec. 1, all compensation benefit rates will increase by 1.3%. VA is required by law to match the percentage of cost-of-living adjustments made to Social Security benefits. These adjustments help to make sure that the purchasing power of your benefits keeps up with inflation. If you receive VA compensation benefits, learn your new rates today!

**APPEALS MODERNIZATION ACT** provides Veterans, their families, and their survivors with more choices to appeal VA decisions. Learn about the three review lane options: supplemental claim, higher-level review, or direct appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

**ACCESS ALL YOUR BENEFITS (ALL YOUR ANSWERS IN ONE PLACE!!!)** From employment to education benefits and beyond, you can count on VA to provide you with the benefits you've earned. You may also be eligible for VA health care. Just type in ChooseVA on your search browser for easy access to the health care you deserve. **ENROLL TODAY!**



VA Liaison: Joe Buchheit,  
townofbridgewaterva@gmail.com, 8603552433



**2nd Annual Green Bridgewater Day** is scheduled for Saturday, April 3rd 8am-1pm. Stop by the Bridgewater Green between 8am-11am to pick up supplies to clean-up litter along the roads of Bridgewater. The HRRA in partnership with the Bridgewater Land Trust will provide, bags, gloves and safety vest for volunteers. JBM Carting from New Milford is donating their services and will be onsite to accept litter until 1pm. Learn more about this event either at [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org) or [www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org](http://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org)



**Please recycle your glass separately at the Bridgewater Town Garage**

While it's convenient for residents to mix recyclables in the same bin, the sorting process for mixed recycling isn't perfect. Machines and employees at the MRF cannot remove all the contamination. One of the biggest contaminants is broken glass particles. The pieces of glass attach themselves to paper, cardboard, and other recyclables contaminating the bails and reducing their market value. The glass itself that is sorted is contaminated with bits and pieces of other items such as small pieces of paper, bottle caps, metal, and straws reducing its value. Most MRF glass is sent to landfills as Alternate Daily Cover (ADC) and is never recycled into a new product. Please take the time to read about the glass recycling program at [www.hrra.org/glass-recycling](http://www.hrra.org/glass-recycling).

***IMPORTANT:** Glass is a designated recyclable by state law. Glass should not be disposed of in the trash. Learn more about the State of Connecticut's recycling laws by visiting [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)*



Do you have questions about what can and cannot be recycled? What's the big deal about glass? Did you know there is a waste crisis in the State of Connecticut? Did you know that your unclaimed bottle deposits go to state campaign funding? What is the big deal about plastic bags? The HRRA is holding "Recycle Right" virtual presentations and Q&A's this spring. A schedule is posted at [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org) website.

**Save money with food waste recycling at the Town Garage**

Are you interested in separating your food scraps from your trash so it can be made into compost, but don't want to do it in your back yard? We have a solution for you. The Town of Bridgewater has a collection container at the Town Garage for food scraps. By removing your food waste from your household trash, you can reduce curbside pickup to twice or once a month. To learn more about the Bridgewater food waste recycling program, visit [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org)



Questions on waste, recycling, household hazardous material, composting, textiles, medical waste etc. Email the HRRA Executive Director, Jennifer Heaton-Jones at [Info@hrra.org](mailto:Info@hrra.org) or call 203.775.4539

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## Burnham Library Seeks Board Members

The Burnham Library Association is currently seeking Bridgewater residents or residents of neighboring towns to join our Board of Directors. The Association is responsible for the operations and finances of the library, such as staffing, budget, endowment, and special projects.

Meetings are held approximately eight months of the year. All board members are expected to take an active part in the organization by attending at least 6 meetings per year and serving on one or more committees such as personnel, finance, maintenance, etc. Terms are for three years, with a total of three terms of service possible.

If you share our love of the Burnham Library, please consider joining this truly worthwhile association. For more information, please call or email Catherine Flynn at 860-355-9276 or [cwflynn60@gmail.com](mailto:cwflynn60@gmail.com)





## The Bridgewater Land Trust Winter 2021

Many thanks to our neighbors and friends who have supported us over the past year. We move into 2021 with lots to share and much more to do in support of our land conservation initiatives.

We would like to recognize Steve Shabet for his service as President where his energetic leadership brought actionable goals and results, especially in providing new trails for our community as well as preserving more land. His generous hosting of events on his Sunny Meadow Farm were memorable and delightful. Thank you Steve! We also welcome our new President, a long time Bridgewater resident, Edward Franklin.

On April 3rd we are partnering with HERRA to hold another Green Bridgewater Day (see insert of this newsletter for details). This event was very successful last year and we hope residents will consider coming back out this spring to clean up our streets. We will also be participating in the 2021 Give Local Campaign on April 20-21.

We will continue to welcome the public to enjoy our public trail located on the Town Line Preserve and the Ketchum Children's Trail (updated maps are now on our Website).

BWLT is continuously updating our website, [www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org](http://www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org), and we believe you will find it informative and easy to navigate. We use our website, email news and our Facebook page (don't forget to Like Us!) to keep our members and supporters informed about our progress and upcoming activities.

Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2021. Membership dollars are crucial to the operation of the trust and preservation of our beautiful town. The Bridgewater Land Trust is an approved 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Thank you,  
The Bridgewater Land Trust

## The Bridgewater Food Pantry

The Bridgewater Food Pantry is an all volunteer run organization for the purpose of providing food and other household items to Bridgewater residents who are in need of supplemental assistance.

Housed in The Friendship Hall of the Bridgewater Congregational Church, the Pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30 to 2:00 or by appointment by calling the Church Office 860 354-8283.

Many have found the Pantry to be a good stopgap method of shoring up budgets brought about by insufficient funds.

No Bridgewater resident should be deprived of basic food items. We encourage anyone in need to visit and rest assured all activities and inquiries are performed in an anonymous and courteous fashion.



## SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL



## Region District 12 Updates

Region 12 schools have safely kept their doors open to all students since August 31, 2020. The ability to keep our schools open is a testament to our community and the efforts of our residents. The sacrifices that are being made are making a difference. Our communities have invested in our children's education. Our staff, students, and families are eternally grateful for the gift of education.

Burnham School continues to be a warm and close-knit community of learners. The students recently showcased its acceptance of all during Unity Day. Additionally, Mrs. Colella and the staff are working to create the Ben's Bells Be Kind mural for display at Burnham. As they prepare for the mural to be safely erected, the students are learning the lessons of kindness in the classroom and throughout the school. Our students are resilient to the shifts and changes in the learning environment. We continue to enjoy annual events such as pajama days, celebrating holidays with crafts and decorations, and children laughing and playing. Our children are learning, growing, and happy.

Shepaug Valley School has also been busy transforming annual events into outdoor or virtual experiences. COVID-19 may change the look of our schools, it has not changed the momentum. Our students are inspired to keep school traditionals alive, including the recent outdoor monologue drama production. The Model United Nations, Debate Team, Mathletes, World Affairs Forum, and many other opportunities have been given life this year through technological connections. There are some compromises that had to be made for safety including short or eliminated sports seasons. Shepaug continues to grow in academics and opportunities. We are excited to welcome Bethel students to The Agriscience Academy at Shepaug Valley School starting in the fall. Our Shepaug campus is busy with the addition of two horses that joined our other large animals in the state-of-the-art barn. We welcome visitors to take a socially distanced stroll on our campus during the weekends to see the animals grazing in the pastures.



The safety efforts taken by Bridgewater allowed us to remain in-person learning throughout the fall. Region 12 schools are deeply appreciative of the Bridgewater community and their support for keeping our school doors open.

Megan Bennett, Superintendent  
Region 12 Schools

## Burnham School News

Despite all the challenges we have faced this year with a global pandemic, the Burnham School community has had a successful first half of the year!

We have had a few fundraisers this year including, Lyman Orchards Pie fundraiser, 5th grade "Bottle and Can Drive"; as well as and our annual Spirit Wear fundraiser. Thank you to all parents and community members who had turned out to help in these successes!

For those who have not had a chance to participate yet, we have some options for you to safely lend a helping hand to the PTO as we continue working together to support Burnham School. Easy Ways You Can Help to Support Burnham PTO, Today:

- Sign-Up for Amazon Smile: [www.smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0011749](http://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0011749)
- Spring Read-A-Thon: The students will be reading for sponsorships and donations all through March! Donations for our readers will be accepted throughout the remainder of the school year. Please send checks to the school made out to the Burnham School PTO, Read-A-Thon in the memo.
- BOX TOPS are still being collected and returned to the school!

Kindly submitted by,  
Burnham School PTO

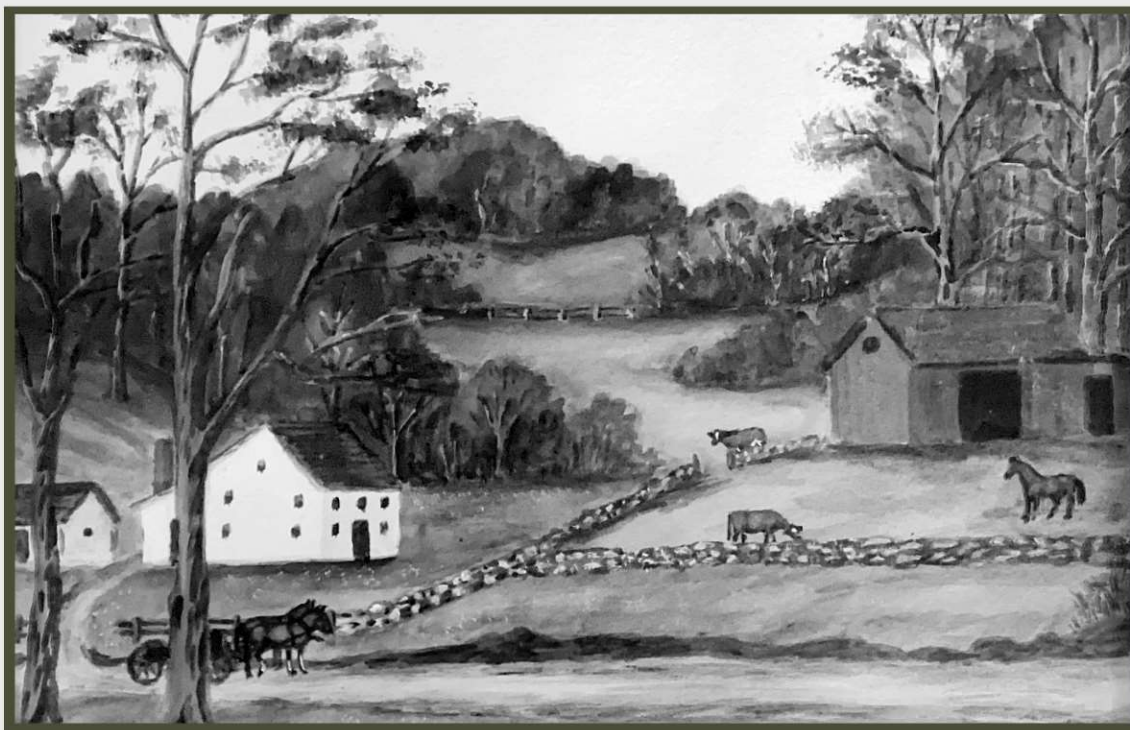


## Historical Society News

As you may have guessed, the Bridgewater Historical Society has been on a hiatus during the Covid crisis. Our meetings are on hold for now, but the work continues in terms of research. The latest request is on information about a Town resident who was an artist in the 1950's. The search is on!

If anyone has a personal search for us to follow, please contact us. I guarantee our attention, if not results! If it can be done online or on the phone, we're on it! Happy hunting!

- Eileen Buchheit 860-355-2433



Bridgewater Artist Lina Hartwell

Lina Hartwell (1894-1968) was known as a Grandma Moses folk art style artist, who lived her entire life in Bridgewater. Her early years were spent assisting on the family farm on Old Turnpike Road. In the evening, she would create with pen and ink or water color, images that reflected her love for the farm animals and the country life that surrounded her. Her collection was donated by her sister Bessie in 1987 to the Bridgewater Historical Society.



### From The Desk of the Town Historian

We've finally said goodbye to 2020, although "good" and 2020 shouldn't go together. Have you made any New Year's Resolutions? I don't do that usually, but this year has made me dig deeper into what I want to happen. If it happens, it is due in most part to my level of energy which is at an all time low right now. How can doing so little be so fatiguing? My hope for this coming year is to regain my energy-energy to do all the things I thought I'd do during this plague, like cleaning closets and catching up on piles of papers that seem to grow on my desk. "If wishes were horses" comes to mind.

Here's wishing you all the best in this new year - and that you make the most of all your resolutions!

- Eileen Buchheit



## BURNHAM LIBRARY NEWS

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL

Keep up-to-date with all the Burnham Buzz at [www.burnhamlibrary.org](http://www.burnhamlibrary.org) via Facebook OR have news dropped into your inbox by emailing [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org).

Library services and restriction are subject to change and are based on the State of Connecticut's reopening plan and the latest guidance from the State.

### Library Hours:

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

### Featured Services!

Curbside Pick-up is available Tuesday - Saturday by appointment. Simply email, call, or place a request through the catalog and we will notify you when your pick-up is ready!

Parents and caregivers, our staff would love to help you select books for your kiddos! Contact us and we will supply a curated Book Bag Bundle full of reading fun! Or try-out our themed Discovery Bags chock-full with books, toys, games, and more. Email [staff@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:staff@burnhamlibrary.org) with your requests.

Puzzles, chess sets, and binge-boxes ... oh, my! There are lots to keep you busy this winter!

Our Digital Branch is open 24/7 ... your library card grants you access to instantly stream eBooks or audiobooks, comics or music, movies, television. Visit the Digital Branch on our website to access AcornTV, Great Courses, Hoopla and more!

As of December 30, RBDigital was acquired by Overdrive. To access our digital ebook and audiobook collection, download the SimplyE app, an app developed by the New York Public Library which offers you an additional 300,000 titles! Need help or have questions about using SimplyE or do you want to connect your Kindle Fire? Email [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org)



**The Great Giveaway** It can't get any easier than this! Stop into the library every month and grab the newest item in Burnham Library's The Great Giveaway! Supplies are limited! Sponsored by a generous Friend.

**Burnham Library Reading Lover's Challenge 2021** - New year, new challenge! Beginning February 1, 2021 and ending January 31, 2022. This is a year-long opportunity for adult book lovers to explore new authors and genres while having fun with your reading list. We have chosen the prompts and we challenge you to read 14 books within those categories (or read more! who is stopping you!) Upon completion you will receive a BL drink koozie to brag about your accomplishments AND one lucky reader will receive a BL hoodie! More details available at the library or email [jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org). Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Blind Date with a Book** It's matchmaking time at the library! For the month of February, help yourself to a specially wrapped book from our display at the library. Take a chance! Unwrap! Read! Enjoy! Not your dream date? Return it and pick another - its feelings won't be hurt!

### **Art Shows are BACK!**

January 5 - February 27 Mary Jane Magoon of Sherman with watercolors.

March 1 - March 31 Annie McAward of Litchfield "People, Places and Things" works in oil.

April 1 - May 29 Thomas Douglas Rodda of Portland, Maine with oils.



# Burnham Library, cont.

## LIVE Virtual Programs:

The Burnham Library has teamed up with the Minor Memorial Library in Roxbury, the Gunn Memorial Library in Washington, and the New Milford Library to provide all four communities with a wide range of virtual events this winter and spring.

Visit [www.burnhamlibrary/events](http://www.burnhamlibrary/events) for featured collaborative programs and the most update-to-date information on Burnham Library events and services.

### Women in Money Series Wednesday, February 17 & March 17 at 1:00 pm

A monthly financial literacy program designed to educate women of any age about the financial matters that affect their lives. The program provides information, resources, learning activities, and moderators to educate and create a safe and welcoming place for women to learn, share their experiences, and ask questions. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org)

### Connecticut Landmarks Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 pm

Connecticut's legendary history has imprinted the state with a unique landscape of physical landmarks. Join John Cilio as he discusses these unique sites, some that never became landmarks and some that almost didn't survive as we highlight how they became part of our heritage. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org)

### Designing Outdoor Rooms Thursday, March 25 at 6:00 pm

Join Bridgewater resident Cheryl Johnson, an advanced master gardener, to learn how to design outdoor rooms that extend living, playing, gardening, and create safe socially-distanced spaces. We will examine both small and easy to construct rooms as well as those that are more elaborate. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org)

Virtual Book Discussions All are welcome to join in on the lively discussion. Copies of the monthly selection will be available at the library or request curbside pick-up.

Thursdays at 5:00 via Zoom

February 25 Fingersmith by Sarah Waters

March 25 An Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff

April 22 Pale Horse, Pale Rider by Katherine Anne Porter.

Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Please email [cwflynn60@gmail.com](mailto:cwflynn60@gmail.com) to register or for further information.

## Live Virtual Youth Programs

### Take Your Child to the Library Day Month!

Join us for the 10th annual nationwide celebration of children and libraries! This year we decided to extend the fun for an entire month! Join us starting on February 2nd for giveaways, raffles, free stuff and more! No sign-up needed. Just drop in and see what each week will offer!

### Virtual Burnham Bunch Storytime

Bubbles, books, and songs designed for the under 5 crowd. Thursday morning sessions from 10:30 - 11:00 from January 14 - May 27. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Please email [jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org) or register via Facebook!

Join us for our bi-monthly Virtual Tabletop RPG Club! There is so much more out there than Dungeons and Dragons! All experience levels are welcome. Advanced registration is required to receive Zoom event link. Seating is limited. Email [cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org](mailto:cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org)  
Grades 3-6 on Thursdays, 1/14, 1/28, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/25, 4/8, 4/29, 5/6, 5/27 from 4:00 - 5:00

### Crafts to Go!

Grab and go kits for kids of all ages! Released the first Friday Tuesday of each month. Two options to choose from! Quantities are limited.



# EMERGENCY SERVICES



## Bridgewater EMS Update

Welcome to February, 2021! This is a hopeful time. In spite of the trials and tribulations that tested us in 2020 we are now facing a future that is getting brighter each week. Our hours of daylight are increasing and there is a rumor that Spring will be arriving in a month or two. Although we still have Covid 19 in our lives, we are also on the path toward widespread availability of effective vaccinations. Life is good. Especially in Bridgewater!

The much publicized spike in Covid infections associated with holiday gatherings and travel has not ignored Bridgewater. At the start of November 2020 Bridgewater had 19 recorded cases of the virus. Our town was one of only a few that was not designated a "red zone" by the State. At the beginning of January 2021 we have recorded 49 cumulative Covid cases. Bridgewater is now designated a "red zone" town. Hopefully these numbers emphasize the importance of observing the safety protocols we all hear daily. We should assume that we all have the capacity to spread the virus without our knowledge. No one should excuse themselves from properly wearing a mask, maintaining social distance and practicing proper hygiene. Even though the vaccination is becoming available the protection it promises does not include permission to disregard the safety protocols. We can all, in effect, be asymptomatic spreaders of this virus.

The distribution of the vaccination in CT has begun. Priority is being given to vaccinating those most at risk. There is also an impressive effort being made to maintain a brisk, efficient pace. You can aid in this process by staying in touch with your primary care provider to identify when and how you can register to receive your injections.

I would like to take this opportunity to sing the praises of the Bridgewater volunteers who give enormous amounts of time and effort to provide excellent Emergency Medical Services to our residents. A group of students hoping to become EMTs just completed a 150+ hour training course led by our excellent training officer, Peter Johnson. In addition to the classroom hours, these students spent many hours learning and practicing the skills required to qualify for certification as an EMT. Five Bridgewater residents generously engaged in this process and successfully passed this class. But they will not become certified EMTs until they also pass the National Registry Written Exam and the State Skills Test. I am happy and honored to

announce that Dan Haskell has completed all of this challenging work and is now our newest Certified Emergency Medical Technician in Bridgewater. Please make sure you congratulate Dan. He is a very welcomed addition to our EMS team. His classmates are diligently engaged in completing their certification process and I hope to be able to announce their success in the next newsletter.

In order to maintain State Certification as an EMT we are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education every 24 months. The courses must be approved by the State. They include instruction in areas such as airway, respiration, ventilation, cardiovascular, trauma, medical and mass casualty. Recertification requires a specific number of hours in each required subject. In addition to the class instructions and tests required EMTs must also demonstrate their continued competence to perform skills needed to be an effective EMT. During the last quarter of 2020 Greg Bollard, Dave Ledbetter, Jim Donaghy and I completed the recertification process and renewed our CT EMT Certifications. In addition, each of our other EMTs is engaged in the ongoing process of continued education and recertification.

We have a very good team of volunteers who provide Emergency Medical Services to our neighbors in Bridgewater. We are always in need of additional volunteers. If you have an interest in joining us I would like to speak with you. Please contact me using the email address below.

The members of the Bridgewater Emergency Services team want you to know that we appreciate the trust you give us when you and your loved ones are most in need. We will always do our best to provide the very best care possible.

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



## BFD Women's Auxiliary

The Auxiliary year opens with our annual installation of officers which would be held on Monday, March 15th.

Due to Covid the officers for 2020 have agreed to remain in their positions for the 2021 year. They are as follows:

- President - Ann Frattalone
- Vice President - Courtney Wilson
- Secretary -- Michelle Stietzel
- Treasurer - Carol Wilbur
- Membership - Laura Abbott
- Correspondence - Michele King

The Auxiliary usually meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the Bridgewater Fire House, meetings are suspended at this time due to Covid-19 guidelines. We are always welcoming new members, please contact a member to join us.

Wishing us all a new outlook in 2021!

Ann Frattalone, President

# Bridgewater Fire Department

I hope everyone has had a safe and healthy start to 2021.

I would like to thank Ron Rotter for the past 4 years as Chief. Each year seemed to get tougher and tougher to deal with, finishing with a pandemic. Ron has been a dedicated member of the Fire Department for over 10 years. His dedication to our Fire Department and the Town of Bridgewater has not gone without notice. If you see Ron around town, help the fire department in saying Thank you! Ron is still an active member as well as Emergency Management Director for the town.

We have seen our first significant snow storm already this winter. It is critical for our responders to have access to houses. During the storm, Department of Public Works is typically on the road already, and they are great about getting to the address before responders to make sure the driveway is clear. Please make sure your driveway gets cleared after storms have passed. Along with that, it is important for responders to identify house numbers easily. Reflective numbers on mailboxes is the easiest and most effective way to help us out.

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the BVFD this year. We are an all-volunteer department that does not use tax dollars for our operations & maintenance. Without the Fair in 2020 we had a significant adjustment to our 2021 budget. As you will see below, we have added a few new EMT's. Each EMT cost us about \$5,000.00 to onboard (classes, training, radios, pagers, jump bags, gear etc....) Without your donations we could not do what we do.

I would like to congratulate the 5 EMT students that passed the most recent EMT class we hosted at the Fire House. Dan Haskell, Julie Scott, Connor Schur, Spencer Herron and Sierra Wilson are on the road to becoming certified EMTs. Dan has already passed all testing required and is just waiting on his certificate to arrive to be our newest EMT, Congratulations Dan!

Sincerely,  
Josh Murphy



## Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc. (CCB)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

### Annual Fund Raising Letter Response

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to CCB in response to our annual fundraising letter. The generosity of those in Town is truly gratifying and much appreciated especially in these troubling times.

### Emergency Assistance

As the cold weather has set in, various home costs can rise and tax an already stretched budget. CCB has funds available to assist Bridgewater seniors who need immediate help with electricity/energy/heating bills and food purchases. Requests for help are handled with the highest degree of confidentiality.

### Volunteers

We are always looking for people who would like to volunteer with CCB. Contact us and tell us how you would like to help.

### Spring

We hope that this Spring we will be able to meet and greet all seniors and people in Town in person and that 2021 will be a great year.

### Contact Us

(All requests for help are handled in confidence.)

By Phone: 860-350-2194.

By Email: [info@ccbrigewater.org](mailto:info@ccbrigewater.org)



# BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

Due to the sharp increase of positivity rates of COVID-19 in our communities the senior center had to once again suspend indoor classes and activities until it is deemed safe again. We take this new increase in cases very seriously and want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe. Even though the senior center is closed for in-house programs, the staff is available to help you through this crisis. Be aware that as the COVID-19 situation continues to change, our services may also change. Please contact us if you need help. We are continuing to offer Grab-n-Go Meals and activities bags, virtual activities such as chair yoga and body conditioning exercise classes, computer group, bingo and book group. Newsletters are available on our website or at the center for dates and times.

We are available by phone 860-355-3090 or email [bwscseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bwscseniorcenter@gmail.com) to assist you with information on issues that matter to you. If you have questions or need assistance with social service or Medicare issues our Municipal Agent, Dawn MacNutt, is just a phone call away, 917-685-9899. We can help with a phone-call check in, a friendly chat via phone or zoom, or assistance with shopping and urgent errands. Our senior van is available for residents for medical appointments and shopping within a 20 mile radius. All riders will be screened prior to boarding. Call Ann Frattalone at 860-350-3042 to schedule your ride at least two weeks in advance. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis but we make every effort to meet your needs. This is not an emergency service.

There is light at the end of the tunnel with the availability of a vaccine, but we must keep up our vigilance, as tiring as that is, to protect each other. Please take care of yourself and reach out to others when you can. If you know someone who could use help, please let us know. If you want more local information visit our health district website: [newtown-health-district.com](http://newtown-health-district.com).

Knowing that Nature's source of renewal is endless; we look forward to welcoming the joy of Spring blossoms and feeling the warmth of the sun on our skin. A sense of renewal will be in the air and life will get warmer.

Patricia Babbage, Director



## Remembering Bill Holland

In 2008, Bill Holland made a donation to the town of Bridgewater of \$150,000 to help fund the building of the Bridgewater Hilltop Center. This donation made the building of the Center possible.

Sadly, on April 24th, 2020 at the age of 91, Mr Holland passed away. In addition to his well-known philanthropy, he was a U.S. Air Force veteran and founder of Parker Medical Inc., Holland Joint Venture, Holland Family Foundation and Holland Property Holdings.

He is remembered by many of us who crossed his path as a very generous man, who supported many local causes both in Bridgewater and in neighboring towns.



# OUR CHURCHES



## St. Marks Episcopal Church

February, March  
and April 2021

Sundays 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist.(see note below)  
Vestry meets on third Sunday of every month.

### March 13th 5-7 PM - St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner

(see note below)

Adults \$15, 12 & under \$8, Family Limit \$45

### March 17th - ASH WEDNESDAY

(see note below)

### March 28th - PALM SUNDAY

9:30 Eucharist

(see note below)

### April 1st - MAUNDY THURSDAY

6 PM - Supper and Eucharist

(See note below)

### April 2nd - GOOD FRIDAY

(See note below)

### April 4th - EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 EUCHARIST

(see note below)

### April 30th - 6th Annual Penny Auction

Doors open at 11 AM

Lunch from 11:30

Numbers called at 1 PM

(Note: Because of the pandemic, we have no idea when - or even if- any of these events will take place. We are certain that the services will happen on ZOOM if not in the church but the dinner and penny auction may be cancelled. To check the status, please go to our website: <https://stmarksbridgewater.weebly.com>)



## The Bridgewater Congregational Church

On December 19th, 2020 the Bridgewater Congregational Church held a drive thru live Nativity. Thanks to all who attended.



## Church Information

Daniel England, Minister  
Ashli Feather, Secretary

### Church Office

Tuesday-Thursday, 9-2

and by appointment

Telephone: 860-354-8283

Email: [office.bwucc@gmail.com](mailto:office.bwucc@gmail.com)

The Bridgewater Friendship Hall

[www.bridgewaterfriendshiphall.com](http://www.bridgewaterfriendshiphall.com)



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## BRIDGEWATER RESIDENT

### Bridgewater, CT 06752

#### Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official town newsletter to communicate current issues, services and activities in Bridgewater to the residents of the town. The newsletter is published quarterly. *Deadline for the next issue is April 5th, 2021.*

#### About *Our Town*

Our Town is published with the assistance of town officials, employees and volunteers from boards, commissions, groups and organizations. The Town of Bridgewater reserves the right to edit submissions. Articles, input or ideas can be sent to Julie Stuart at [juliestuartct@gmail.com](mailto:juliestuartct@gmail.com)

#### Bridgewater Board of Selectmen

Curtis Read, *First Selectman*  
Alan Brown  
Laz Pinter  
Administrative Assistant  
Anne Marie Wagner

# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 2 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 9 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 PRESIDENT'S DAY \*\*\*Town Hall Closed\*\*\*
- 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

## MARCH

- 2 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 2 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 9 Board of Selectman 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

## APRIL

- 2 GOOD FRIDAY \*\*\*Town Hall Closed\*\*\*
- 6 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 6 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 13 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 22 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 22 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 27 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall

## SPRING BULKY DROP OFF

**Starts Monday, April 26th**

**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 26th through Friday April 30th from 7:30am-3:00pm. And on Saturday May 1st from 9am-12:30pm.

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.



For additional information and updates, please visit our website at [www.bridgewater-ct.gov](http://www.bridgewater-ct.gov)

# Bridgewater Recreation News

## Recreation News

Have questions about Bridgewater Recreation?  
Contact Allison Gsell Bridgewater Recreation  
Coordinator [www.bridgewater-ct.gov](http://www.bridgewater-ct.gov)  
Email - [bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com)  
Cell - 203-417-0744 Office - 860-355-9133

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## Bridgewater Recreation Summer Camp

Summer camp planning is in full swing! We are hoping to be able to once again fill the Recreation center with lots of children this summer! Stay tuned for more details.



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Sunday, March 14th



## Pavilion Rentals



Pavilion rentals are filling up fast for this Spring and Summer. If you are interested in renting the Pratt Pavilion please contact [Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com).



## The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

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

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





## Literacy Volunteers on the Green

Beginning our 16th year of offering free English literacy instruction to adults in northern Fairfield and Litchfield counties, the LVG community embraces 2021 with renewed enthusiasm for advocacy and literacy for adult learners and their families. LVG's mission remains steadfast - to support adult students as they strive to become independent readers, writers, listeners and speakers of English, enabling their full participation in the communities we share.

The challenges of 2020 impacted our tutor/student learning teams with in-person tutoring suspended from March onwards. But, LVG tutors and students adapted remarkably well to distance learning using video platforms to connect - volunteer tutors and adult learners have an irreplaceable bond! Our adult students continually look for ways to balance family and job responsibilities, while attempting to improve their English language skills and hone basic reading and math skills. Our tutors remain closely connected, continually adapting to new resources suited for remote learning. Planning for a hybrid of tutoring options once local venues open to LVG's learning teams remains a priority. Thank you to our dedicated Bridgewater tutors who so freely gave of their time this past year!

New tutors are typically trained in February and early October - a perfect opportunity for interested residents from Bridgewater to support adult literacy and revitalize the working lives of adults seeking English language proficiency. **A new tutor training is planned, via Zoom, the week of February 8th!** For further information, please contact [Lynn@lvg-ct.org](mailto:Lynn@lvg-ct.org) to learn of ways to support English language literacy in northwestern Connecticut.

Lynn Davies, Executive Director  
Literacy Volunteers on the Green

Help CLEAN and GREEN our town!

# BRIDGEWATER TOWN CLEANUP

**Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**  
**8 AM to 1:00 PM**



Questions?  
Contact: Jen Heaton-Jones at [Jennifer@HRRR.org](mailto:Jennifer@HRRR.org)  
or Julie Stuart at [JulieStuartCT@gmail.com](mailto:JulieStuartCT@gmail.com)