



OUR TOWN

BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

MAY 2020

TOWN OUTREACH PROGRAM: PAGE 8

Message from Our First Selectman

At a time when the whole world is experiencing extraordinary anxiety coping with the horrific consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic, Bridgewater is showing its resilience. We have done it before with blizzards and ravaging windstorms that disrupted our expected normalcy, but this time is different by orders of magnitude. When this crisis will end or how it will change our lives is an unknown as of this writing.

To assuage the health and economic uncertainties it is beneficial to have a sense of community purpose and give support to our families, neighbors and particularly to those in need. This can and does have a significant beneficial effect on our own wellbeing. Bridgewater residents have certainly done this both individually and as a community. I can cite lots of examples showing this spirit of giving.


The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance members are ready to protect us 24/7. On Sunday, March 29th they responded within minutes to stop a fire spreading from a garage into a home on Main Street. The BVFD has to keep the mechanical and protective equipment up to date as well as the training and certifications of the volunteers. They are so critical for our overall safety.

The Town government has made various adjustments to protect our own workers, but not at the expense of stopping all activities and access to services. We have moved quickly to enable remote meetings and follow all the state mandated changes to routine processes and timelines. All our boards, commissions and workers have responded without complaints to these disruptions.

Residents have certainly stepped up both when asked or on their own initiative. This is the proof of the resilient community spirit found in many rural towns. Some are making masks to distribute to their neighbors. Some have volunteered for the Town Outreach Program (TOP) serving over 125 homes with elderly residents. Our Food Pantry at the Congregational Church has been stocked by generous donors. The Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief has secured hard to find safety equipment and stayed current with state and federal directives. The Town Crew keeps our roads open and bridges repaired along with many other duties.

One last note on social distancing and where we can go to get a little sunshine and exercise. People are really appreciating our roads. Intrepid volunteers went out recently on a cold Saturday morning with garbage bags in hand to clean up the roadsides. It was amazing to find so many beer cans (esp. Bud Lite) and hundreds of mini liquor bottles with suggestive names like: Fireball or Yukon Jack. The depressing part of the roadside cleanup was that it only took a day to have the cans and bottles start to reappear. To those people responsible: please mend your ways and show bit more respect for our environment and the beauty of Bridgewater.

To the rest of our citizens: Thank You and Stay Safe!


Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: January 2020

- Richard and Faythe Valenzon of Bridgewater to George and Barbara Valzania of New Milford, land and buildings, 1 Bridgewater Commons, \$215,000

Land Transfers: February 2020

- Robert Gundel of Southbury, CT and Janine Gundel of Seattle, WA to Catherine Mulberry of Roxbury, land and buildings, 48 Keeler Road, \$390,000
- Albert and Shirley Gilbert of Englewood, FL to Joseph Godden of Weston, land and buildings, 279 New Milford Road West, \$416,330
- John Demchuk of Loris, SC to David and Samantha Flook of Southbury, land and buildings, 12 Hank Becker Lane, \$375,000

Land Transfers: March 2020

- Virginia Herron Hatcher Trustee of Bridgewater, CT to Bernard Wright Jr. of Bridgewater, land and buildings, 11 Warner Road, \$260,000

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk



Registrars of Voters

Register



VOTE

May

Tuesday 5-05-2020 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 5-19-2020 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

Mandatory Enrollment Session for Primary
Thursday 5-28-2020 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

Deadline for NEW voters and UNAFFILIATED voters enrolling in a party for voting in its PRIMARY. For NEW voters, mail-in applications must be POSTMARKED or RECEIVED by the Registrar of Voters by this DATE. For UNAFFILIATED voters, the mail-in applications must be RECEIVED (not merely postmarked) by the REGISTRAR of Voters by this deadline. (See exception below for in-person enrollment.)

June

Tuesday 6-01-2020 9:00A.M. to 12:00P.M.
IN-PERSON enrollment deadline for new voters and unaffiliated voters enrolling in a party in-person at Town Hall for voting in primary.

Tuesday 6-02-2020 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY. Polls open from 6:00A.M. to 8:00P.M.

Tuesday 6-16-2020 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

July

Tuesday 7-07-2020 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 7-21-2020 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

*THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY MUNICIPAL, STATE OR FEDERAL DIRECTIVES.

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 9:00A.M. and 11:00A.M.

Margaret Judith Sullivan, Democratic Registrar
Susan Patrick, Republican Registrar

Office of the Tax Collector

DEMAND NOTICES for all overdue taxes were sent in March.

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

JULY BILLING - Bills for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle taxes will be mailed in June and become due on July 1, 2020. These bills are for property assessed on the 2019 Grand List in October 2019. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 3rd 2020 to avoid an interest penalty. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest. Please notify the office of any changes to your mailing address.

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

LAST DAY FOR ON-TIME PAYMENT: AUGUST 3, 2020

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

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

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

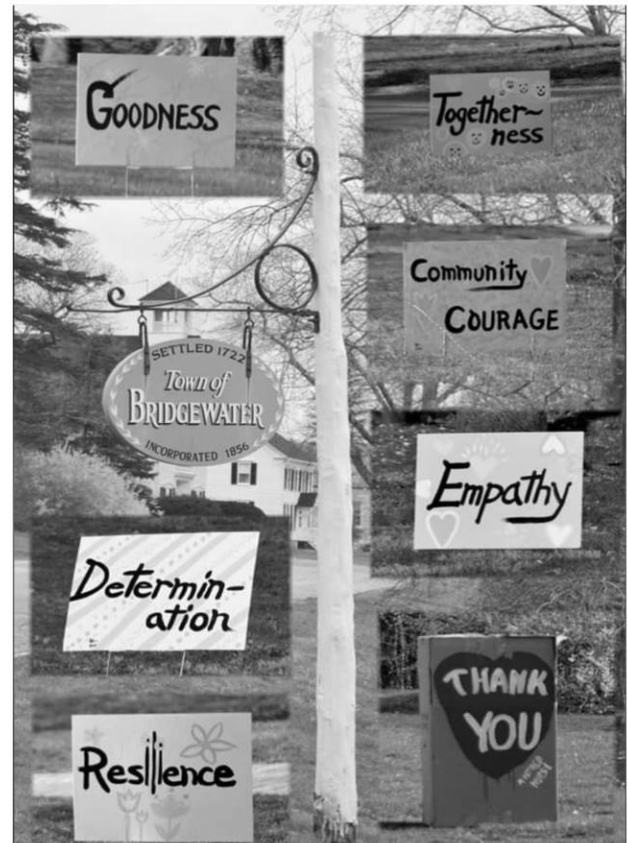


From The Desk of the Town Historian

Just saying the words "the Spanish Flu of 1918" was enough to bring looks of fear into my Grandparents' generation. It seemed as if almost every family, worldwide, lost someone to that pandemic, either a relative or a friend. Now, we are faced with another pandemic and it seems there is no safe place. Just buying groceries could put you in danger. Those "in charge" seem to be floundering for answers.

While we wait for this to pass, let's remember that, while countless are sickened, countless recover. I'll have the cleanest closets in Bridgewater by the time this nightmare ends. Sorting through boxes brings back memories and gives organization to my home. Try it. And, while you're sorting, keep in mind the Historical Society if you find anything town-related. The Bridgewater Historical Society is looking for folks interested in the history of the town to help out on the Board of Trustees. Give a call to 860-355-2433 if you think you'd like to join them. And stay away from germ people!

- Eileen Buchheit



"Spirit of Bridgewater" by Joe Dolen

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Homeowners, who were 65 or older or totally disabled on or before December 31, 2019 and are full-time residents, may be eligible for tax relief. To qualify for the State benefit your income must be no more than \$37,000 if unmarried and \$45,100 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, 2020** if you are applying for the first time.

If you are already receiving the benefit and it's your year to apply you DO NOT have to submit your forms because of the ongoing situation you will continue to receive the benefit.

If you rent and are 65 or older a surviving spouse or totally disabled on or before December 31, 2019 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 \$37,000 if unmarried and \$45,000 if married including social security. The application period is April 1st to October 1st, 2020.

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, 2020.

If you are a **Veteran** or surviving spouse and your income is between \$37,000 if single or \$45,000 if married (not including your Veteran's disability payments) you may qualify for an Additional Veteran's Exemption.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Denise C. Pinter Assessor

Bridgewater Scholarship Committee



The Coronavirus epidemic has changed the way we need to conduct scholarship business. While the Scholarship Committee will complete the process for our students for the 2020-2021 academic year, several important changes need to be noted.

- THERE WILL BE NO PERSONAL INTERVIEWS. Therefore adding your name to the signup sheet is unnecessary.
- APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY MAIL. Use the portal that can be accessed through the Town Website.

The Committee was reluctant to make these changes as we feel the personal interview is very helpful to us as well as the students. And frankly we love seeing all of you. But for the safety of our students and ourselves, we needed to make these changes. **NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS STILL MAY 15.**

Hopefully, we can return to our regular procedure next year. If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached by email: Leneary1@gmail.com.

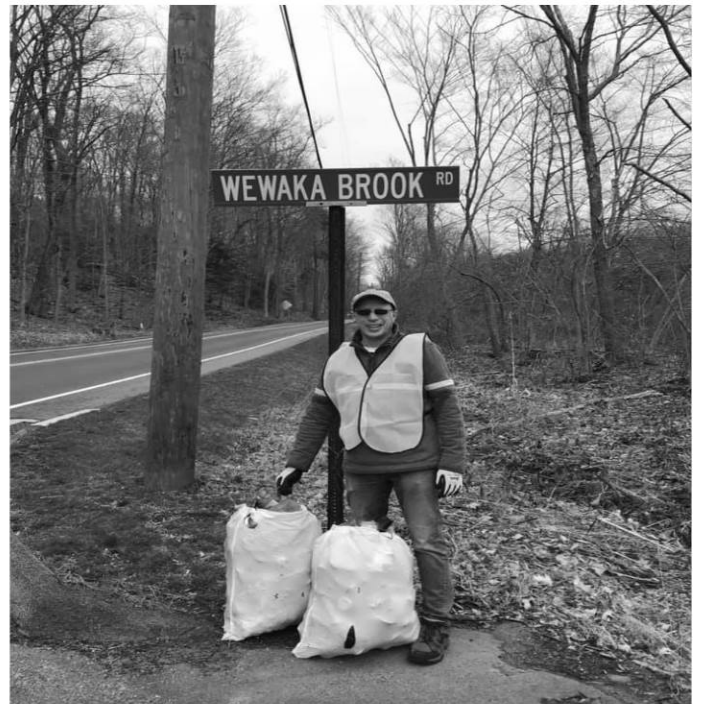
Stay well. Stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Neary, Chairman



Making Bridgewater Green and Clean!

Bridgewater celebrated the 50th Annual Earth Day by cleaning our streets. Thanks to Jennifer Heaton-Jones and HRRA for organizing with help from The Bridgewater Land Trust and JBM Carting for donating their assistance and disposal truck. Also many thanks to the volunteers who worked hard to make Bridgewater so beautiful!



SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL



Region District 12 Updates

Region 12 schools are proving that learning is boundless. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the guidance of public health experts, the state department of education, and state leaders with regard to the closure of our buildings. This closure has led to the introduction of distance learning for our school system. We recognize that the virtual learning environment is not a replacement for the classroom, but our talented staff members have found ways to reach beyond the computer screen and engage students in meaningful experiences that promote learning and connections.

Our students are participating in daily lessons with their teachers to continue their education from home. Essential learning resources and supplies have been available for pickups at Learning Supply Stations located outside of each school. Families have 24-hour access to paper, pencils, markers, crayons, and other learning essentials located in the cabinet in front of the schools. Region 12 has risen up to the challenge of distance learning and is proud to be a leader in effective teaching practices through the virtual learning platform.

There are many celebrations and events that have been postponed due to the COVID-19 situation. Region 12 is committed to rescheduling rather than canceling events for our students. Once we are able to safely hold events, we will look to schedule missed opportunities to celebrate achievements. The graduation ceremony for our Class of 2020, will be held at a date yet to be determined.



The entire Region 12 community has always appreciated the support of Bridgewater's leaders. The partnership of Curtis Read and all of the town leaders has been exceptional throughout these unprecedented times. We thank Bridgewater residents for their continued support of our schools. We are stronger together!

Megan Bennett, Superintendent Region 12 Schools

Shepaug Class of 2020

The coronavirus has had a profound impact on our community in many ways. Perhaps the Shepaug Class of 2020 has been affected in one of the most dramatic ways. Our seniors, like all of our students, are adjusting to the reality of distance learning. Despite many traditions such as painting the rock, the Senior Class trip, the Prom, and perhaps even graduation in danger of postponement or cancellation, our seniors continue to shine. We are so impressed with the energy and positivity of this group of young people. Perhaps this is why they will be attending some of the top colleges and universities around the country this fall!

We applaud their spirit!

Dr. Michael R. Sinatra, Alex McNaughton, Julie Stuart
Bridgewater Board of Education Representatives

Inspirational Signs!



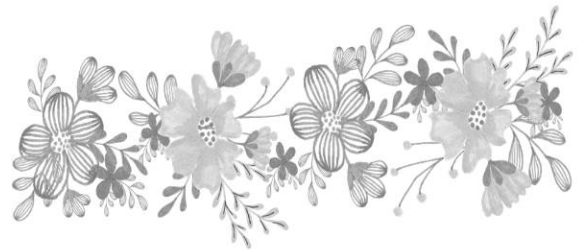
Thank you to Pamela and Glen Hochstetter for creating these signs of inspiration during this difficult time.



Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club is postponing our annual Plant Mart until further notice. Our original date was set for Saturday, May 16, 2020. We hope to be able to issue a new date for some time in the future. We thank our community for all of your support in the past and we ask that you check the town website for updated information as circumstances continue to change. We hope that all of you and your loved ones stay safe and stay well!

Sincerely, Estelle Mackenzie, President RBGC



Save the Date

Fireman's Beer & Wine Tasting

Sponsored by:

The Bridgewater Women's Auxiliary
The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department
New Milford Spirit Shoppe & NeJaime's Fine
Wine & Spirits

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

Saturday, September 19, 2020

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Pratt Pavilion

2 Sarah Sanford Rd, Bridgewater, Connecticut

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



TOWN OUTREACH PROGRAM

Residents who need help please call 860-354-2731 or email awagner@bridgewater-ct.gov

In response to the current health emergency, Bridgewater formed the Town Outreach Program (TOP), which assists the town's older or vulnerable residents who are more susceptible to contracting a serious case of Covid-19.

We are asking residents to call 860-354-2731 or email awagner@bridgewater-ct.gov if they are interested in registering to help. There will be either a person or an answering machine on the line. The town has created a database with a participant's name, address, phone numbers and current emergency contact person or family member. Possible requests could include assistance with food, supplies, transportation or other situations.

The TOP program has volunteers in place to help those in need. The team includes town officials, the emergency management director, a registered nurse and a physician.

The town continues to encourage residents to practice social distancing especially of those older than age 60 or who have serious health issues. Covid-19 symptoms include dry cough, fever and difficulty breathing.

Residents who suspect they may have Covid-19 should call their healthcare provider first and self-quarantine to avoid contact with others. Reliable resources include the Center of Disease Control website, www.cdc.gov, or the World Health Organization at www.who.org.



Quick Tips to Stay Safe



1

Wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water.

2

Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces such as your phone, keypad, etc.



3

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; avoid handshakes and/or hugs.

Save the Date

Annual Town Wide Tag Sale

Sponsored by the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire
Department's Women's Auxiliary

Will be held
Saturday and Sunday, October 3-4, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
rain or shine



A Poem About The Coronavirus

Kitty O'Meara seems to be the poet laureate of the pandemic. The untitled poem below has become shorthand for a silver-linings perspective during the coronavirus outbreak—the hope that something good can come out of this collective state of "together, apart."

*And the people stayed home. And read books,
and listened, and rested, and exercised, and
made art, and played games, and learned
new ways of being, and were still. And
listened more deeply. Some meditated, some
prayed, some danced. Some met their
shadows. And the people began to think
differently.*

*And the people healed. And, in the absence of
people living in ignorant, dangerous,
mindless, and heartless ways, the earth
began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people
joined together again, they grieved their
losses, and made new choices, and dreamed
new images, and created new ways to live
and heal the earth fully, as they had been
healed.*



Literacy Volunteers on the Green

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

Once face to face tutoring resumes, LVG will be offering new tutor trainings - a perfect opportunity for interested residents from Bridgewater to support adult literacy and revitalize the working lives of adults seeking English language proficiency. The LVG staff is actively working remotely. For further information, please contact Lynn@lv-g-ct.org to learn of ways to support English language literacy in northwestern Connecticut.

Lynn Davies
Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers on the Green

The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

Dear Bridgewater Residents:

On behalf of the Bridgewater Recreation Association we sincerely hope all is well. With these uncertain times we are doing our best to continue to serve you in the best way possible. With that being said, we hope to serve the community during these trying times. We will continue to update you as time goes on to let you know our plans with community activities. Please continue to respect social distancing. We will have updates regarding pavilion rentals, summer camp and other activities in the near future.

Thank you,
Bridgewater Recreation Committee

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





BURNHAM LIBRARY NEWS

MAY, JUNE, JULY 2020

A Note from the Director

Back in March it was impossible to imagine that our library would be closed and all of us would be in isolation from our friends, families, and neighbors. In such an uncertain time, our goal was to make certain we kept in touch with our community as well as continue to provide as much service as possible despite our physical space being unavailable.

With a quickly changing environment, The Burnham Library staff sprang into action and organized a curbside pick-up program. Patrons could request books and videos, by email or phone, for pick-up by appointment. We also extended expiring library cards and provided new cards to patrons from our new home offices (and sometimes while wearing our pajamas!)

More than ever, our patrons were seeking eBooks, eAudio, and streaming videos. Our Digital Branch already provided all of these services and more! In response, we increased purchases of digital items for RBDigital and curated links to free resources and interesting at-home field trips. Many of our vendors also rose to the occasion, providing additional access to eBooks and research materials.

Although our March and April programs were canceled or postponed, we took to Facebook to provide weekly virtual bedtime and Thursday storytime, a daily Quarantine Quiz, and interactive posts to keep us all in touch. Our staff used Hangouts for meetings and Zoom provided the perfect platform for our monthly book group discussion.

In addition, Chris prepared a series of tech tutoring videos, weekly 3D printer projects, and continued to provide one-on-one tech tutoring via phone and email.

As I write this, I don't know what the upcoming months will hold for us all. However, we have scheduled some great events to bring the community back together once it is safe to do so, and we look forward to connecting with you again then.

Jean Kallay, Library Director

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. email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Contact Us: www.burnhamlibrary.org
Library Director: jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org
Assistant Director and Programming:
cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org
860-354-6937

Art Exhibits

May - June: TBD
July 1 - August 31: Kathy L'Hommedieu

Book Discussions

Join in the lively discussion. All welcome. Copies of the book are generally available at the Circulation Desk. Thursday, May 28 and June 25 at 5:00.

All program dates are subject to change ... To stay up-to-date, visit our website or register for our weekly newsletter, visit us on Facebook, Instagram, or email us.



Burnham Library, cont.

Burnham Library Reading Lover's Challenge The BL Reading Lover's Challenge 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. The challenge began on February 1st and ends January 31, 2020. Upon completion you will receive a BL coffee mug to brag about your accomplishments and you will also be entered for a final raffle prize! More details available at the library or email jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Burnham Board of Trustees.

Bites to Bytes: Hoopla and RBDigital Saturday, May 16 from 11:00 - 12:00.

Wondering "what the heck is hoopla?" In the dark about RBDigital? This program will focus on the free streaming services and options which the library offers to our patrons. We'll provide some light bites and you provide the questions! Bring your device! Registration required.

From Whaling to War Thursday, May 21 from 6:30 - 7:30

Roxbury resident Vail Barrett will share the life story of his great-grandfather, George Washington Barret who sailed as a Whaler, enlisted as Union Civil Navy gun boat Captain, and lastly as an East Coast Schooner Captain. Vail will share his story through eye-witness accounts, family letters, and Capt. Barrett's naval action reports. Reserve your seat, as space is limited.

Plug-in Cars The models, the tech, and the myths behind plug-in hybrids and electric cars

Thursday, June 11 from 6:30 - 7:30

Ever wonder how those "plug-in" cars drive with an extension cord running all the way back to the house? Wonder if you need some special type of electricity to charge an electric car at home? Can you really save money-and the environment-with a "clean" car? Tech consultant Michael Jay will share recent insights, and examine some myths and common misunderstands. Bring LOTS of questions. Reserve your seat, as space is limited.

Music on Main Friday, June 26 from 5:30 - 8:30

Kick-off the summer with our 3rd annual Music on Main event! More details forthcoming ...

Project Summer @ The Burnham Library Sponsored by The Friends of the Library

Saturday, June 13 - Saturday, August 1

Due to the evolving nature of the situation, our 2020 Summer Reading is still going on as planned, however this may change. Please visit our website and follow us on social media to find out more.

Project Summer Kick-off Saturday, June 13 from 10:00 - 12:00

Join us on for our Summer Reading Kick-Off Party! Get first dibs on programs before they fill up, have some tasty snacks and listen to professional storyteller Darlene Kascak from The Institute of American Indian Studies (IAIS) weave some tall tales.

More This Summer...

We have some great events planned for this summer, including nature based programs in collaboration with Bridgewater Land Trust, HRRA and HVRA. We have planned dragon parties, unicorn headbands, cookie decorating, and of course: PRIZES! The kick-off party is free without registration, but all other Summer Reading programs require you to sign-up. We look forward to seeing you this summer!





BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

During this unprecedented time we have had to reschedule all our events. We will keep you posted as soon as the new dates are confirmed so please check your email and our website often or call the Center at 860-355-3090.

Take care of yourselves and reach out to each other by phone or computer. Nobody is in this alone. Isolation can lead to loneliness which can affect your well being. Social distancing or physical distancing simultaneously with everyone around us can give you feel a sense of solidarity. We're in a massive social experiment to some extent.

Know that your community is here for you. Call the Center or the Town Hall to ask for help. There are ways to stay connected even as we isolate ourselves from each other. Most importantly, we want you to know that we are in this with you and together, we will get through this. The Hilltop Center will be hopping again with activities for everyone.

Senior Van

The Senior Van is available weekdays for doctor appointments, and grocery shopping with a limited destination distance of 20 miles. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis, but every effort will be made to meet your needs. Our drivers are MICHELE KING, ALAN DINHO, MATT DEVITO & ANN FRATTALONE. Please contact the senior van director, ANN FRATTALONE AT 860-350-3042 at least two weeks in advance for your appointments.

Remote classes through Zoom

Although at this time all the programs at the senior center have been suspended our volunteer Jerry Ronan has been very busy setting up classes and meetings on the ZOOM group meeting platform. He has been working from his home with people by phone to set up their computers and have the capability to join in a ZOOM meeting. If anyone would like to join us please let me know. We need your email and your permission to share it with the host of the meeting,

Patricia Babbage, Director

WE ARE HERE TO HELP



Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc. (CCB)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

Connecticut Community Foundation Give Local Event.

Thanks to all who participated in supporting CCB in Connecticut Community Foundation's Give Local Event. Especially in this year when times are difficult for all businesses and nonprofits, we greatly appreciate the support.

Safety Reminders

Keep a telephone landline and spare "old fashion" phone on hand since if internet and power go out, that is often the only means of communication. Check your batteries regularly to make sure you have an adequate supply. If you have a generator, make sure it runs periodically and make sure the battery is charged. Always keep at least a month of staples on hand.

CPR and Safety Class

We will be scheduling a CPR training and safety class once the Library reopens and life is back to "normal." This will focus on basic techniques and for some, a refresher course. We will let you know the new date once it has been set.

Financial Back-up

Let us know if you are having trouble from the COVID-19 fall out. Hopefully we may be able to provide some financial support and assistance.

Contact Us

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

By Phone: 860-350-2194.

By Mail: CCB, P.O. Box 338, Bridgewater, CT 06752

By Email: info@ccbridgewater.org



The Bridgewater Land Trust Spring/Summer 2020

Welcome Summer and Brighter Days from the Bridgewater Land Trust!

The Bridgewater Land Trust, with your help and support, is gearing up for a productive 2020. This summer we will continue to repair our farmhouse on the Jane Pratt Preserve. We will be working to keep our trails in good shape for all to enjoy. Through this difficult time, many town folks can go outdoors and enjoy our beautiful landscapes and public spaces here in Bridgewater.

We thank all of you for your support & donations for 2020 Give Local.

Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2020. 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.

Thank you.

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Bridgewater EMS Update May, June, July 2020

Spring has arrived again! In addition to a change in the weather, this year we are all adapting to new requirements for healthy living. All of us have been made well-aware of the presence and danger of the Covid 19 Virus. It is here and we need to overcome its dangerous impact on our lives. For the sake of our families, our neighbors and ourselves we need to heed the guidance being provided by our leaders to limit the spread of this nasty virus. Practice social distancing. Stay away from crowded locations. If you cough and/or sneeze cover it with the crook of your arm. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently. Regularly clean all surfaces you expect to touch and/or on which you prepare your food.

Our volunteer EMTs are continuing to respond when you need help. Everyone should enjoy knowing that our well trained, dedicated and generous volunteers stand ready to help when you need us. You can count on us.

Please help us to help you. If you have access to ***N95 Masks, Surgical Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Disinfectant Spray or Nitrile Gloves*** please consider donating them to us. This equipment is essential to assist us in avoiding infection as we respond to help our residents. Some in our town have already generously given us supplies they had available. We are grateful for that. Our stock of this Personal Protective Gear is still very limited. Each time we respond to an ambulance call our supply of PPE is diminished due to our need to discard contaminated gear. The commercial suppliers of this equipment have repeatedly advised us that the worldwide equipment shortage leaves them unable to replenish our supplies.

Due to the virus pandemic both New Milford Hospital and Danbury Hospital have enacted new visitation and screening protocols. As of this time, no visitors will be permitted to enter either hospital until further notice. Patients that we transport by ambulance to the hospital are being screened to identify those most likely to require placement inside an isolation ward in the hospital. But, until the policy changes, all patients admitted will be prohibited from having visitors during their stay in the hospital.

As we approach the peak impact of this event in Bridgewater, it is important to realize that the Hospital resources are being strained. People with the most severe symptoms are being treated there. The CDC has a well-designed webpage that is intended to provide guidance for identification of Covid symptoms and the best treatment options. Here is the web address of the CDC webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

This pandemic is very serious. We all need to be focused on taking proper precautions. But we would also be well advised to remember that if we follow the guidance being provided, we will get through it successfully. Please try to maintain a positive outlook. This is a great time to look for opportunities to assist neighbors who are in need. A friendly conversation, from a safe distance, can go a long way toward helping relieve the stress many are feeling from social distancing.

Remember, if you need us, your Emergency Medical Services volunteers at the Bridgewater Fire Department will respond for you.

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

Bridgewater Fire Department Women's Auxiliary

The Bridgewater Women's Auxiliary is happy to announce the officers for 2020:

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

Just a reminder that the auxiliary meets every third Monday of the month from March thru November at 7:30 PM at the Bridgewater Firehouse. Please come and join us anytime!

Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic we have not had the opportunity to welcome our new officers but wanted to make the announcement and to congratulate everyone in their new positions. I also wanted to say thank you to this wonderful group of women for these last four years as President - you are truly an amazing group of giving and caring ladies that are always there to help our firemen and community. Blessings to you all.

Upcoming meetings will be on May 18th, June 15th, and July 20th. See you all soon!

Carol Wilbur, Past President

St. Marks Episcopal Church



MAY, JUNE, JULY 2020

Because of the COVID pandemic, we have had to close our doors for the time being, and no opening date is set. However, we are having virtual service using ZOOM at 9:30 every Sunday morning. This service is available from our new website: <https://stmarksbridgewater.weebly.com>. Father David has put the ID for the Zoom meeting on it, and there are other interesting sermons, pictures, events and so forth. When the church reopens you will find that information there also. Our annual Penny Auction will be scheduled at some point as well.

The Bridgewater Congregational Church

ONGOING

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meeting have been suspended for the time being. Pause a While will be hosting free conference call meetings. 2pm every day call 425-436-6360 access code 422932#. You can also email pauldart@pauseawhile.org to volunteer to chair a meeting.

The Bridgewater Food Pantry

located in our Parish House, is available to any individual or family in Bridgewater who needs it. Contributions of non-perishable food items and grocery store gift cards are always welcome. Please Call the church office at 860-354-8283 and leave a message if you need to access the pantry.

The Bridgewater Congregational Church

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

I am a relative newcomer to Bridgewater, having arrived last October, as the Interim Senior Minister of the Congregational Church here. I've met with the First Selectman, who has included our church into the town's humanitarian outreach (the church hosts the town's food pantry, for example, which through this current crisis has been filled generously through donations). And I've discovered dedication of the wholly volunteer fire department and ambulance corps, which the former pastor here was a part. But I have also come to understand more fully how much the character of a community influences the character of the people who live in it. I have worked in many churches over the years all over Connecticut and I have never encountered before such a kind, unified and willing-to-help group of people as I have here in Bridgewater. There is a shared fellow-feeling here that seems to come forth especially in a crisis, such as we're going through now. What I am saying is this: what a remarkable find Bridgewater has been to me and I hope you will not take it for granted by reaching out to a neighbor and making sure they're okay. And also, since we will not emerge unscathed by changes that will come because of this recent pandemic, may I commend the wise, ageless words of Psalm 91 to your attention. No need to rummage around for that family Bible. Just look it up on your phone! I hope that the ancient words will bring you some comfort and peace.

For the time being we welcome you any time for Sunday Service via Zoom at 10:15. Go to www.bwucc.org for the link.

Reverend Daniel England

For more information call the Church Office: 860-354-8283 or email us at: office.bwucc@gmail.com or visit us on the web: www.bwucc.org

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



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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 July 5th, 2020.*

About *Our Town*

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

Bridgewater Board of Selectmen

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

CALENDAR

MAY

- 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
- 21 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 21 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
- 25 Memorial Day ***Town Hall Closed***
- 26 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 28 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

JUNE

- 2 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 2 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 9 Board of Selectman 7:00 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

JULY

- 3 Independence Day Observed ***Town Hall Closed***
- 7 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 7 Inland Wetlands Commission 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 14 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
- 16 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 23 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 23 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 28 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall

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



Bridgewater Dog Owners Must License Their Dogs in June

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

****PLEASE NOTE THIS YEAR WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO LICENSE YOUR DOG THROUGH THE MAIL ONLY!**

Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check or money order and the following information: Updated rabies vaccination certificate, owner's name, phone number, address, dog's name, breed, age, color markings, and sex. The address of the Town Clerk's Office is **P.O. Box 216, Bridgewater, Connecticut 06752.**

The state requires all dogs to have rabies vaccinations, so a certificate of the current shot is required. If licensing a dog for the first time, bring the spayed or neutered certificate to qualify for a lower license fee.

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

Bridgewater Dog License Form

Owner Name : _____

Address: _____

Phone : _____

Alt Phone: _____

****Updated Rabies Vaccination Certificate****

Dog Name : _____

Breed: _____

Color : _____

Age: _____

Sex: _____

License Fee

Spayed/Neutered - \$8.00

Non-spayed/Non-neutered - \$19.00

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



Bridgewater LOVES Dogs!

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

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