

OUR TOWN

BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

MAY, 2021

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Message from Our First Selectman

This is the 30th quarterly letter I have written for Our Town. There is always more news to pass along to our Bridgewater residents and friends. Apart from many well-deserved thanks always due our employees and volunteers, especially during this Covid era, the most common topic over the past years has been the fate of the old Grange building.

On Thursday evening May 20th, we will arrive at a long awaited "tipping point." There will be a vote by our taxpayers at the Annual Town Meeting to decide if we want to sell the condemned Grange building to the newly formed BPA group for \$1. It will be a simple Yes or No checkbox on the ballots. I have recently heard: "Why not sell this headache so we don't have to worry about it anymore." That would vindicate the contention by the Grange members (BPA) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) that there is a majority of residents supporting a renovation process to be completed in several phases over several years.


Back more than twenty years ago when the State was applying to the National Registry on behalf of several CT towns, we were given a chance to say whether we supported the application. Mary Allen, the Town Historian and President of the Bridgewater Historical Society, reported at the April, 2001 Selectmen meeting that her board voted NOT to get involved in becoming a historic district "because there would be a lot of ramifications." The Selectmen agreed to write a letter of dissent. We should also remember that the Grange members had just sold the already distressed building to the Town because they were unable to maintain it. The Town then paid to paint, re-roof and invested in a new furnace.

Fast forward to 2013 when I assumed the First Selectman's position. Fellow Selectman, Leo Null, was still the principal Building Inspector for Danbury. We soon evaluated every town owned building and then embarked on a systematic process to address the most critical problems. I believe our residents will agree that after seven years of restorations and improvements, most town facilities are in tip-top shape, except for the old Grange.

There is no argument that this simple structure, now surrounded by chain link fence, has a long and varied history. Most folks also know that it is part of a "local historic district" on the National and CT Registers since 2001, and that the Town has complied with orders not to demolish it despite reports from a structural engineer, our insurance company and building inspector, all of whom felt it was in dangerous condition. The Town had plans to salvage old chestnut wood for re-use, clean up the oil contaminated soil under the Grange and then build a new Community Center on the same site.

Whatever happened to the New England tradition of "Home Rule?" I have never made it a secret of how I feel about this ongoing Grange conundrum. I would rather see a new building in our village center that can host town meetings, voting, receptions, historic displays, dances, lectures and activities by community groups like the Grange.

It could be a statement for our era. Can we just have one useful and handsome new building to echo the 61 "historic" others in the center of beautiful Bridgewater? I can almost see it.


Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

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LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: January 2021

- Barry L. Frandsen & Audrey J. Wilkiki to Hubert & Susan Van Asch Van Wyck, land and buildings, 1 Warner Road, \$365,000
- Holland Joint Venture LLC to Sunny Meadow Farm LLC, New Milford Road East, \$400,000
- Holland Joint Venture LLC to Sunny Meadow Farm LLC, New Milford Road East, \$300,000
- Muriel Grayson to Gary Pelletier, land and buildings, 4 Skyline Ridge Road, \$275,000
- Neck of the Woods LLC to Steve Batista, land, Old Town Highway, \$203,000
- Ronald J. & Deborah M. Emond to Christopher Rubini, land and buildings, 2 Beaver Pond Lane, \$1,200,000

Land Transfers: February 2021

No transfers for this month

Land Transfers: March 2021

- Fannie Mae to Kyle & Maggie R. Lucian, land and buildings, 92 Blueberry Hill Road, \$537,500
- K-Richard Realty LLC to The Philippa Cornell Group Trust, land, Henry Sanford Road, \$170,000
- Richard G. & Martha Z. Morley to Jin Fox & Gary Hoffman, land and buildings, 267 Main Street South, \$1,262,500
- David S. & Sylvia W. Berger to Lars Bolander & Nadege Kalachnikoff, land and buildings, 67 Botsford Hill Road, \$1,046,945.67
- Bridgewater Congregational Church to Town of Bridgewater, land, Clapboard Road, \$50,000
- Est. of Dennis A. Sega to Melvin McBreaity, land and buildings, 146 Clapboard Road, \$325,000
- Spencer Ridge LLC to Sebastien Thiebault, land and buildings, 245 Skyline Ridge Road, \$1,994,000

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

Office of the Tax Collector

Eighty six tax accounts were paid during Bridgewater's Low-Interest Tax Program, which ended on March 31, 2021. The program temporarily reduced interest rates to 3% from the statutory 18% rate.

DEMAND NOTICES for all overdue taxes were sent in April.

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

JULY BILLING - Bills for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle taxes will be mailed in June and become due on July 1, 2021. These bills are for property assessed on the 2020 Grand List in October 2020. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 2nd 2021 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 2, 2021

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. You can now change your address online, as well.

The Tax Collector's Office will conduct its Biannual Food Drive during the month of July. Nonperishable food, household products, and supermarket gift cards gratefully accepted.

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

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 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, 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**.

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 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

MEMORIAL Day

MEMORIAL DAY GATHERING

Monday, May 31st
Time TBD
Town Green



REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Office Hours for May, June and July

May Tuesday 5-04-21 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 5-18-21 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

June Tuesday 6-01-21 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 6-15-21 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

July Tuesday 7-06-21 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.
Tuesday 7-20-21 9:00A.M. to 11:00A.M.

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

Margaret Judith Sullivan
Democratic Registrar

Susan L. Patrick
Republican Registrar



VETERAN'S NEWS

VACCINES!!! SIGN UP AT VA TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE

VA is working to provide COVID-19 vaccines as quickly and safely as they can. They base their vaccine plans on CDC guidelines, federal law, and available supply. Sign up to tell us you'd like to get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA. Many times, spouses and eligible dependents can get the vaccine at the same place. CT VA recently reported that any veteran, even those not presently receiving VA benefits, can sign up.

But hurry, plans change based on vaccine availability.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) online vaccine finder tool can help you find COVID-19 vaccines near you.

Find COVID-19 vaccines near you with the CDC's vaccine finder.

VA CELEBRATING WOMEN WHO SERVED

In celebration of Women's History Month, we honor the women who have served our nation and encourage all women Veterans and service members to take advantage of the benefits available to them. We at the Veterans Benefits Administration are committed to providing you with the benefits and services you have earned and deserve.

VA INTRODUCES THE BEYOND MST MOBILE APP:

The Beyond MST app was created for survivors of military sexual trauma (MST). MST is VA's term for sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. Veterans of all genders and backgrounds have experienced MST. This free app offers information and resources to help survivors cope with challenges related to MST and improve their health, relationships and quality of life. You can email or subscribe at Email: ncptsd@va.gov | Visit our Website: www.ptsd.va.gov

GI BILL BENEFITS DURING COVID-19

Whether you are beginning your GI Bill journey, currently taking classes, or planning for your future, we understand the impact COVID-19 may have on your life. Learn about the resources and guidelines in place to protect your GI Bill benefits during this time.

PLANNING YOUR LEGACY

VA offers a Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit to assist Veterans and their families with pre-need planning. The kit includes a guide through possible end-of-life and survivors' benefits eligibility and makes it easy to keep your personal information all in one place for you and your loved ones. Learn what VA benefits are offered and how to apply for them.

HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

Did you know that Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) advocates exclusively for Vietnam-era Veterans and their families? With over 85,000 members, VVA provides a community of fellowship for people with shared experiences, needs, and hopes for the future. March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. To honor the men and women who served in Vietnam, you can join one of more than 650 chapters for fellowship, volunteer opportunities, and community service. You can also simply be a proud member of VVA, knowing that your membership helps VVA support programs and services for Veterans and their families.

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



Spotlight: Spring Ephemerals

By: Sophie Duncan



Change and transformation define spring. The processes of freeze and thaw create a dramatic unveiling of the world, reminding us that in a few months the world will be so leafy, green, and warm we will hardly even remember winter is possible. Much of spring is loud and hard to miss, piles of plowed snow suddenly vanish and the cardinal's song is louder than ever. However, if you so much as blink, or glance away, one of the best parts of spring might begin and end without you noticing.

The spring ephemeral flowers, as their name suggests, are transient in nature. Like fireworks they bloom with urgency, quickly returning to a dormant state. Often found on the forest floor, peaking out from the litter, moss, and detritus collected from years past, these flowers are the first to bloom. Their early-to-rise strategy, emerging before other herbaceous plants, ensures that they can absorb as much light as possible before other plants have a chance to grow leaves and cast shade over them. Between mid-March and mid-May, you can find Connecticut's native spring ephemerals scattered throughout woodlands. While this article only features 3 species, there are many more to find. The emergence of these flowers invite you to walk with intention and care, to look carefully at the ground—something we often forget to do. Just remember, take the memory of the flower with you when you leave, but leave the flowers for others to enjoy.

(1) Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

Photo Credit: James L. Reveal

Like that first day above freezing, when the sun comes out and people, birds, insects, and other critters run outside to stand and soak up the sun, trout lilies bring a brilliant shock of yellows and mottled green to the spring party on the forest floor. We are not the only species that enjoy what trout lilies have to offer. These lilies have a mutually beneficial, symbiotic relationship with ants who eat parts of the plant that carry the seed before dispersing the seed far and wide. This form of speed dispersal by ants is called myrmecochory (from the ancient Greek for ants and circular distance).

(2) Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Photo Credit: Sally and Andy Wasowski

These flowers almost make the forest floor look like an illustration from a fairy tale. The perfectly symmetrical white-pink flowers emerging from lobed leaves form fantastical clusters of delicate flowers. The red sap within the stem and roots gives bloodroot its dramatic name. These flowers are truly ephemeral, and once they bloom last only a couple of days. While fleeting, the horizontal underground stem of bloodroot plants beneath the forest floor spreads outward shooting up new plants in every direction. This underground network creates a dramatic aboveground effect by forming an entire colony of flowers overtime.

(3) Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)

Photo Credit: Doug Sherman

They say good things come in threes, and trillium is no exception to this (dubious) rule. Three diamond shaped leaves, followed by three sepals (leaf like structures protecting the flower), and topped with three petals, pungently red, form quite the geometric spectacle. Do not let its beauty fool you however. The common names for red trillium, Wet Dog Wakerobin or Stinking Benjamin, prepare you for its less savory scent. In the case of enjoying trilliums, masks serve an additional purpose.



Red Trillium



Trout Lily



Bloodroot



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 last year impacted our tutor/student learning teams with in-person tutoring suspended from March 2020 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.

With vaccines readily available in Connecticut and state mandated restrictions easing, LVG is planning to safely and cautiously re-opening for in person tutoring as local sites allow us to meet indoors. In the meantime, warmer weather and tutoring outside in a public location, adds an alternative to meeting across a computer screen! One again, thank you to our dedicated Bridgewater tutors who so give so freely of their time!

New tutor training is planned for September as we anticipate a full offering of fall literacy programs. Please consider impacting the lives of adult learners and their families by revitalizing the working lives of adults seeking English language proficiency. For further information, please contact Lynn@lvg-ct.org to learn of ways to support English language literacy in northwestern Connecticut.

Lynn Davies Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers on the Green

Mindful Moves Yoga

Returns to Friendship
Hall at Bridgewater
Congregational Church
In May!

For more information on
classes
email Tanya at:
yoga.mindfulmoves@gmail.com



Happy Father's Day





The Bridgewater Land Trust Spring 2021

Thank you to everyone who participated in 2021 Give Local. All the Money donated will help us secure bonus dollars which will also be donated to The Bridgewater Land Trust.

The Bridgewater Land Trust with your help and support is continuing with a productive 2021 spring/summertime season.

We welcome you to enjoy our public trails located on the Town Line Preserve and Ketchum Children's trail. We also hope that all visitors to our trails will help to keep it looking as they found it. On May 1st, BWLT will co-sponsor with our neighbor the Southbury Land Trust, a Tree ID Workshop at the Earth Day Event in Woodbury, CT. This workshop will be hosted by Alex Alferi of A&A Tree Service. We also look forward to our Annual Volksmarsch in the Fall 2021. More details to come.

Please consider joining our Land Trust in 2021. 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 Bridgewater Land Trust Facebook page.

Thank you,
The Bridgewater Land Trust



Thank you to Rebecca Mayerson (pictured above) and so many others who supported our Keep Bridgewater Green Day on April 3rd. Our streets look great!

Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club The Plant Mart is Back!

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club will hold its annual Plant Mart on the lawn of the Bridgewater Firehouse on May 22nd from 8:30-12:00. Featured at the sale will be member dug and divided perennials, herbs, organic tomatoes and vegetables, and garden boutique items. Members will be available for advice on and recommendations for your spring planting. Proceeds from this major fundraiser will benefit the annual scholarship, senior and youth programs, and the planting and maintenance of your community gardens.

Wearing masks and social distancing, we are looking forward to seeing you all at this energizing outdoor event!



Legal Notice of Annual Meeting of BCCA

The Annual Meeting of the Bridgewater Center Cemetery Association will be held at the Peck House in Bridgewater, CT., Tuesday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. The reports of the Officers will be presented, elections of officers for the coming year, and any other business to come before the meeting. All plot Owners, or their legal representatives, and other interested persons are invited to attend.

Per order of Alan Michener, President and Emily Armstrong, Secretary

Dated at Bridgewater, Connecticut

April 3, 2021

SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL

Region District 12 Updates



Region 12 Schools have defied all odds this year. The community's commitment to public health and support of in-person education has allowed our students to have opportunities unseen by other districts. We continue to utilize health and safety practices to mitigate the spread of COVID while still promoting the joys of school.

Our Burnham School students are now able to begin the day by raising the American flag and making the morning announcements. Students are enjoying new playground equipment and creating musical classroom performances. It won't be long now until our students and staff can once again hold classes outdoors. Burnham staff and fifth graders are particularly excited with the anticipation of an in-person ALOHA celebration scheduled for June.

Shepaug Valley School is proud to share the achievements our students have made this year. The winter athletic season concluded with our swim team and basketball teams competing in the Berkshire League Championships. Shepaug dramatics production of "Edges" incorporated Hollywood meet Broadway style show. The production is designed to allow our students to safely perform. There are some traditions that we continue, such as the World Affairs Forum, and some with a new twist, such as the outdoor senior prom courtesy of the three towns.

The Agriscience Academy of Shepaug Valley School welcomes new students and new animals. Our students were able to support the birth of seven lambs. Sadly, two of the lambs did not survive but our staff and students used the experience as a learning moment. The agriscience program is excited to share that the town of Bethel will send their agriscience students to Shepaug beginning Fall 2021. Our schools continue to draw attention from surrounding towns because of the academic excellence and extracurricular activities offered in our schools.

Region 12 Schools want to thank Bridgewater once again for supporting our senior graduation at the Bridgewater Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 12th. The success of last year's graduation has led to new traditions for our graduating seniors including the car parade through the three towns and the drive-in style ceremony.

We appreciate the support Bridgewater provides our students. Our small schools are making a big impact because of our communities.

Megan Bennett, Superintendent
Region 12 Schools



Historical Society News

This last winter was a rough one. Both snow and strong winds did damage, particularly to old homes. Driving down Rt. 133, fallen trees were visible on both sides of the street. One garage was hit full on, reducing the roof to kindling. Eventually, the debris was removed, leaving the large white two-story structure as it was when first built. That house has a history.

The architect was a man named Benjamin Beach. Built in 1812, Beach was a young man of twenty seven when he designed the building, using unorthodox styles and new ideas not held by town elders. According to Landmarks of Bridgewater, "...straightest trees available were cut and hauled to be hand-hewn for the frame of the house... one beam measured 42 feet. The foundation is built of large stones with an outer parallel wall making a double enclosure around the cellar." This same technique would be used on other projects. Bricks were made and fired on site.

Not everyone was sure of the construction techniques. A small crowd gathered when time came for the walls to be raised. There were many grey haired heads ready to shake negatively when, they were sure, the structure would fail. It didn't. "... finally, every mortise and tenon slid into place, and the wooden pegs pinned the great beams." The crowd cheered, "Hurrah for Benjamin Beach", securing his future as a master builder in Bridgewater for many years. Maybe not everyone cheered, but it was enough.

The next time you travel down 133 on your way to Brookfield, slow down and look to the left. Benjamin Beach's house still stands proudly. Hurrah!

- Eileen Buchheit 860-355-2433



From The Desk of the Town Historian

As we see Covid 19 slowly but surely abate and spring begins to burst through, more of us are out and about. Thanks to the vaccine, we're experiencing freedom on a modest scale. We're still masked and social distancing, but we're out! Many of us are checking our gardens for signs of damage and regrowth. Bulbs are slowly breaking through the ground. Many of those bulbs are a legacy from past home owners. Many are the fruit of stolen treats, taken by squirrels and voles and dropped in the theft. They make a spot of color mid the trees: the squirrels' loss, our gain. For many years, planting bulbs was a sign of affluence. Now, Walmart satisfies our need for color at affordable prices. Enjoy this early stage of spring and look forward to the show of flowers to come.

- Eileen Buchheit



Captain Ralph Barnaby, who grew up in Bridgewater, made aviation history by flying a glider for 15 minutes and 6 seconds, beating Orville Wrights existing record.



BURNHAM LIBRARY NEWS MAY, JUNE, JULY

Keep up-to-date with all the Burnham Buzz at www.burnhamlibrary.org via Facebook OR have news dropped into your inbox by emailing cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org.

Library Hours:

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

What's new at the Library?

Have you seen the library's latest transformation? Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we now have a newly renovated lobby featuring an impressive custom-built Welcome Wall, new lighting, and signage. In addition, The Friends have purchased two rocking chairs for the front porch. It is now the perfect spot to sit a spell and connect to our public WiFi. To learn more about the Friends, visit burnhamlibrary.org/friends

In April, we welcomed our new Public Service Assistant, Andrea! Andrea has volunteered at the NM Library, is an avid reader, a lifelong patron of libraries, an active volunteer in her community ... and a pastry chef!

Although the governor has eased restrictions on select businesses and venues beginning March 19, modified library services, established guidelines, and protocols will remain in effect for the time being. Please visit burnhamlibrary.org/covid19-2 for an updated listing of modified services and restrictions.

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!

Bored? Looking for something to while away the weekend? Try our Burnham Binge Boxes! Each themed-box is good for a week (or weekend or night!?) worth of movie watching. Each box is available for 1-week checkout. Watch one or watch them all! We won't tell anyone. Popcorn included!!

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, Overdrive's Libby app, and more!



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
May 27 - Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman
June 24 - Homeland Elegies by Ayad Akhtar
Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Please email cwflynn60@gmail.com to register or for further information.



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.



Project Summer will kick-off in

June! We have plenty of programs planned for ALL AGES! LIVE and virtual events, storytime, reading challenges, giveaways and prizes! A full event listing will be available mid-May.

Art Shows are BACK!

April 6 - May 28: "Where They Meet" paintings
by Thomas Douglas Rodda of Portland, ME
June 1 - June 30: Kimberly Dana Ryan
July 1 - August 30: Peter Wiehl

Burnham Library, cont.

Reading Lover's Challenge 2021 - 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?). Visit our website for more information.

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.org/events for featured collaborative programs and the most update-to-date information on Burnham Library events and services.

Women in Money Series - Wednesday, May 19 and June 16 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

Safety and Civility in the Digital Age - Thursday, May 6 at 6:00 pm

This talk will focus on what we learned about online civility and risks in 2020 and how COVID-19 affected perceptions of civility or incivility online. What role do social media, video calling, and other forms of online communications play in our online - and offline - lives? And how can we support a more informed, more respectful, and more welcoming community of users in the digital age? Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Why Nature School? - Thursday, May 20 at 6:00 pm

Everyone benefits socially, emotionally, physically and academically from time spent in nature. We will introduce you to the important benefits of outdoor, nature play. You will leave with ideas on how to bring nature into your family life or classroom, better yet, you will leave knowing why it is so important that you do. Bring along your favorite childhood memories. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Researching your Italian Roots with Valentino Genealogy - Thursday, June 3 at 6:00 pm

Interested in researching your Italian-American roots? Then this workshop is for you. Mark D'Ambrosi, founder/owner of Valentino Genealogy, is a 2nd generation Italian-American who began researching his own Italian heritage and family history in the mid-1970s. For more information visit his <https://www.valentinogenealogy.com>. Advance registration is required to receive the Zoom event link. Email cfisher@burnhamlibrary.org

Live Virtual Youth Programs

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

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
Grades 3-6 on Thursdays, 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 Tuesday of each month. Two options to choose from! Quantities are limited.

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Bridgewater EMS Update

Spring has arrived in Bridgewater! Although each season in our Town has its own special gifts, the additional hours of light, the flowers, return of the migratory birds, greening of the fields and the excitement of the coming Summer help to make this a special time of year.

Many of us take extra pleasure from spending time outdoors during this time of year. The milder temperatures and the beauty of our scenery invite us to come out and play. This year it feels like we deserve the reward a bit more than usual. We can enhance our enjoyment by keeping in mind that the increased volume of people taking advantage of the seasonal pleasures is frequently accompanied by an increase in accidents involving motorists, bicyclists, hikers, boaters, and pedestrians. Our Fire Department and EMTs have already been called to assist with two water rescues. As the end of the academic year approaches and a class of newly licensed drivers sets out to enjoy their freedom, we can also anticipate that there will be occasions when they will require assistance. We can all help minimize accidents and the injuries that accompany them by observing safety precautions and remaining alert when we are "out and about". Here are some simple, but important traffic rules and points to remember:

- Motorized vehicles are to be operated on the right side of the road
- Bicyclists are also to be operated on the right side of the road
- Pedestrians on the road should walk or jog facing oncoming traffic
- Appropriate clothing and safety gear should worn at all times
- Be conscious of the time of day and your visibility. Wear bright, reflective clothes. Pay attention to traffic.
- Drive, ride and boat defensively
- Always anticipate conditions and events that can result in an accident.

If you attend a party, graduation, or other celebration please keep in mind that you will want to get home safely. You will also want to avoid causing an accident that will injure someone else.

Let's all do our part to enjoy this beautiful time of year in good health.

Covid 19 is still a serious threat to us. Last November there were 19 recorded cases in Bridgewater. In December there were 49. As of April 2 we have 75 cases. The number of cases in our state is trending up and we are being told that health officials fear we are

about to experience another surge. On the other hand, many of us have been vaccinated. This is great news. But it is not a total relief from danger. When we are fully vaccinated we have significant protection from becoming sick from the virus. We are, however, still capable of spreading it. We can become asymptomatic spreaders of the virus. It should be noted that the virus is continuing to mutate in infected people. These mutations, or variants, are evolving in ways that could result in an ability to defeat the protection we have by virtue of our vaccination. It is very important that we continue to wear masks, practice social distancing and good hand hygiene. When we are in the company of fully vaccinated people it reasonable to relax the mask and distancing precautions. But please observe and follow the mask and distancing guidance being provided by our health officials. We have traveled a long road to get to this point. Let's not give up before we have won the prize. Finally, please make sure you get vaccinated as soon as possible unless your physician advises you otherwise.

Julie Scott is now a certified EMT! She has successfully completed her EMT training and passed the tests required to become certified by both the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and by the State of Connecticut. Please join me and the other members of the BVFD Emergency Medical Services team in congratulating Julie. We are grateful to Julie for her dedication and hard work.

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 scholarship application for senior students who have a relative in the fire department is due May 1st.

PLEASE STAND BY...

The auxiliary is following the State of Connecticut Health Department guidelines, therefore we do not have any confirmed dates for our fall events.

Meetings take place at 7:30 pm the third Monday of each month, those dates are as follows:

May 24th, June 21st, July 19th

The auxiliary always welcomes new members please contact any of the auxiliary members to join us.

Be healthy, stay safe,
Ann Frattalone President



HRRA Waste & Recycling News!

Glass Recycling

Please do not add your glass bottles and containers to your mixed recycling. To ensure it gets recycled take it to the Town Garage and recycle it separately. To understand why, visit our website. Use the QR code to the right. It's simple. Open your camera on your smart phone, hover over the code and it will take you to www.hrra.org



IMPORTANT: *Glass is a designated recyclable by state law and should never be disposed of in the trash. Learn more about Connecticut's recycling laws by visiting www.ct.gov/deep*

Food Scrap Recycling:

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 or use this QR Code.



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



Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc. (CCB)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

Thank you

As a result of our donors' generosity, we were able to provide various economic assistance to a number of Bridgewater seniors this past winter. We are grateful that CCB is in a position to do this and for those in need it helps relieve a huge burden. Remember that for CCB's purposes a senior is defined as someone age 50 or older.

Chimney Cleaning

CCB has periodically helped seniors by organizing chimney cleaning, septic cleaning and similar services. Recently there have been a number of chimney fires and so we are planning on arranging for chimney cleaning in late summer. Please let us know if you are interested.

Board Service

We are looking for one or two interested individuals to serve on our Board. If interested please contact Cheryl Johnson either at the number below or 860-355-5758.

Give Local

Last, but certainly not least, thank you for all those who supported CCB (as well as all other Town organization) during the Connecticut Community Foundation's Give Local Campaign.

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 or by mail - P.O. Box 338, Bridgewater, CT 06752



BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

We Have Good News!

The Senior Center is now open! We are excited about welcoming people back into the building and we will reopen with caution for the safety of our members and staff. It is our responsibility to reopen following the state guidelines. You are asked to call or email us with reservations for classes and programs, sign in when you come to the center, wear your mask while in the center, and to social distance. Please make sure that you are wearing your mask correctly, covering the nose and the mouth completely. Hand sanitizer is available at several locations within the center, but please also wash your hands frequently. Please no congregating in the entrance way. Indoor activities will begin as follows:

Exercise Classes: As exercise classes resume we will still need to have at least 6 ft of distance between participants, so pre-registration is important since this will limit the size of the class. Masks should be worn during class unless the class is held outside.

Canasta/Mahjong: Unfortunately, state guidelines do not permit games with materials that cannot be thoroughly cleaned after each use or disposed of (cards, tiles, game pieces) and cannot accommodate a social distance of 6 ft. Canasta players will meet to socialize and personal puzzles will be available to work on.

Silver Needles: Members will meet inside the center beginning April 20 at 1:00. Masks and distancing will be required.

Meals/Eating/Drinking: Per state guidelines, congregate meals should not resume at this time. Self-serve beverage stations are allowed while adhering to the guidelines. All cups, lids, sweeteners, etc. will be in individual disposal containers.

We will begin the Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance (TIQ:MBB) on April 19, Regular Tai Chi begins Wed. May 5 at 10:00 *Note new time*; Chair Yoga begins Fri. May 14 at 10:30; Computer Group Tues. April 20 at 10:00; Book Group Thurs. April 22 at 11:30. Body Conditioning will remain on Zoom for now.

We all want to resume our activities at the senior center, and we want everyone to feel safe. If we follow the recommended Best Practices and respect each other's individual space we will be able to see each other and have fun!

Patricia Babbage, Director



Happy 4th of July!



OUR CHURCHES



St. Marks Episcopal Church

May, June, July 2021

We are having a service at 9:30 every Sunday morning both in church and on Zoom which is available to all 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.

We are also having a Bible study program which started in April, and will continue weekly on Wednesdays both in the Parish Hall and on Zoom through the 19th of May.

Other events are still dependent on Covid related decisions. Check the website for details.



Bridgewater Congregational Church



Join us Sunday
mornings
on ZOOM
10:15

Find Link at:
www.bwucc.org

The Bridgewater Congregational 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
The Bridgewater Friendship Hall 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 July 5th, 2021.*

About *Our Town*

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

Bridgewater Board of Selectmen

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

MAY

- 4 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 4 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 4 School Budget Vote 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM, Hilltop Center
- 6 BOF Public Hearing, 7:00 PM Hilltop Center
- 11 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 Informational Meeting on The Grange 10:00 AM - 12 Noon, Hilltop Center
- 19 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 20 TOWN MEETING 5:00 PM, Pratt Pavilion
- 27 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 31 MEMORIAL DAY ***Town Hall Closed***

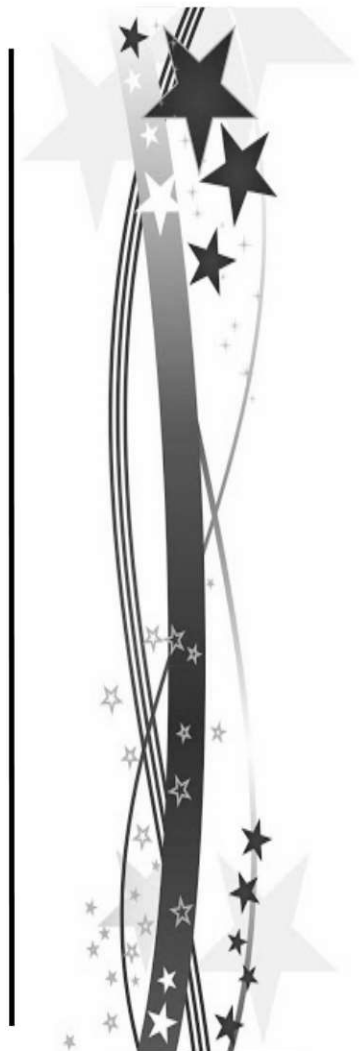
JUNE

- 1 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Brookfield Town Hall
- 1 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 8 Board of Selectman 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 17 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 24 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall

JULY

- 5 INDEPENDENCE DAY (observed) ***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
- 21 Board of Finance 5:30 PM, Town Hall
- 22 Recreation Commission 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 22 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM, Town Hall

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



Bridgewater Recreation News

Recreation News

Have questions about Bridgewater Recreation?
Contact Allison Gsell Bridgewater Recreation
Coordinator www.bridgewater-ct.gov
Email - bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com
Cell - 203-417-0744 Office - 860-355-9133

Bridgewater Recreation Summer Camp

Summer camp will be from Monday July 5th till Friday July 30th. More info to come.

Looking for Camp counselors and Counselors In Training. Counselors must be 16 years old and CIT need to be entering 8th grade. Applications available on line.



CT Trails Days

June 5th @ 9 am
Location TBD
Stay tuned for details



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.



Kid's Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 1st
at the Recreation Center Pond

Bait supplied.
Please bring your own poles

The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

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

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

Bridgewater Dog Owners Must License Their Dogs in June

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

****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