

OUR TOWN

BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

MAY 2024

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Plant
Sale

Message from Our First Selectman

Some infrastructure projects should be coming to fruition in our fair town over the next six months. A small sunken garden between St. Mark's and Bistro Bridgewater is slated for late season work. It will commemorate the Bridgewater Grange #153 structure.

You might not notice the garden, however, if you drive too fast through town, because our police vehicles will soon have two-way radar and automatic ticket printers in the cabs to catch more speeders. This will also be handy for a surprise crackdown at the 4-way stop in the heart of town. My advice is to please slow down all over town.

Our largest undertaking will be Burnham Library construction with the help of a \$232,000 reimbursement from CT Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). The building will be getting a new slate roof and a modern elevator. These jobs require complex structural upgrades to meet current codes. The total job should cost about \$500,000 to make this iconic landmark ready to celebrate its centennial in 2026.

Many people watched while the new Captain's House, also known as the "Burnham Cottage" on the National Registry, was going up contiguous to its third location since 1850. Captain Burnham's will directed funds to build both a library and a school along Main Street. His legacy is being recognized anew by replicating original design elements of his earliest home with historic and newly milled local woods. It's not a coincidence that both homes of W.D. Burnham's youth face each other directly across South Main Street.

Captain Burnham's gifts to Bridgewater were because of his idyllic and formative boyhood here. If you are curious about local history and believe in its significance for Bridgewater's present, please stop by and visit this new addition to our historic center after the town's Memorial Day parade and program on the Green.

Here is what was said at the July 14, 1919 meeting of the Marine Society of the City of New York:

"That in Capt. Burnham's passing there has departed one of the most remarkable men in our maritime affairs...of great executive ability, a true judge of human character, he built up under the American flag the largest freight line of the US. He was a strict disciplinarian, honorable in all his dealings; he despised all crooked ways, he was simple and democratic in his tastes, with no care for outside show; he was a true friend, a strong, honest, determined, and sturdy man, whose place it will be hard to fill among us."

Spring ahead,

Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: January 2024

- Arthur & Holly Azevedo to Michael Macko, land and buildings, 110 Stuart Road East, \$804,000
- Frank & Frances Kelly to Jeremy Lingenfelser & Sara Dever, land and buildings, 5 Round Hill Lane, \$950,000

Land Transfers: February 2024

- Jason Macri to Lauren Lee, land and buildings, 36 New Milford Road West, \$282,000
- Lars Bolander & Nadege Kalachnikoff to Russell Barton & Susan Stone, land and buildings, 67 Botsford Hill Road, \$1,450,000

Land Transfers: March 2024

No land transfers.

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk

OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

DEMAND NOTICES for all overdue taxes were sent in March.

INTENT TO LIEN NOTICES were sent in April for Real Estate taxes which were overdue. In May, liens will be placed on the Town's land records for all delinquent real estate accounts.

JULY BILLING - Bills for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle taxes will be mailed in June and become due on July 1, 2024. These bills are for property assessed on the 2023 Grand List in October 2023. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 1st 2024 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.

Taxpayers are encouraged to pay through the mail or online at www.mytaxbill.net/bridgewater

Come to the 71st Annual Bridgewater Country Fair



August 16,17,18

LAST DAY FOR ON-TIME PAYMENT:
AUGUST 1, 2024

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

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Tax bill season will be upon us shortly for real estate, motor vehicle, and business personal property.

In review of your motor vehicle tax bill, you may notice your assessment may be different from previous years. The Assessor's office is responsible for valuing motor vehicles, on an annual basis, in accordance with Connecticut General Statute Section 12-71d. All motor vehicles valued in Bridgewater have been valued as such for the 2023 Grand List. By following the state statutes, it ensures that all property is valued in a fair and equitable manner.

If you have questions about your tax bill, please feel free to contact us at 860-355-9379 or assessor@bridgewater-ct.gov.

Note our new office hours - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8:00 - 12:30pm by appointment only. Please contact us at 860-355-9379 or assessor@bridgewater-ct.gov to make an appointment to meet with staff.

Sincerely,
Cory Iacino Assessor

Veterans Update

Please stop by the library for a visit and to search the Bridgewater Veterans Memorial Kiosk for a name or relative you know. The inscription on the kiosk states: "Bridgewater Honors All of Our Veterans." This represents the digital 21st Century record of about 750 names and counting from the Revolutionary War to the present. The next phase is fundraising for a permanent marker along the walkway near the library flagpole. Our veterans' committee has agreed to the plan with a "ballpark" of \$35,000 - \$40,000. Contributions to support the symbolic capstone for our historic area are welcome. Contact the Selectman's office for information.



Veterans Joe Buccheit, Jaak Aulik and First Selectman Curtis Read, at the ceremony honoring the installation of the Veterans kiosk at the Burnham Library.



Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation News

For those engaged in academic pursuits, Spring signals the culmination of another semester, year, or an entire level of schooling. But, as in nature, it also indicates new beginnings and possibilities. With the 2024-2025 school year on the horizon, the Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation is looking forward to reviewing applications (which were due on May 1) and to meeting with applicants. Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 16, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., Saturday, May 18, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., and Thursday, May 23, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Interviews may be scheduled online or at the Town Hall.

The Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation has awarded financial assistance to hundreds of Bridgewater students in the past 50 years. In addition to monetary assistance from the Trust, the Foundation has provided students with emotional support and, for the past five years, the opportunity to be paired with a mentor in their field of endeavor.

We sincerely appreciate the donations received during this year's Give Local campaign. These contributions, or those made directly, will create a positive impact for our students. Only the income earned from the Trust on its investments is used for scholarships awarded. Therefore, all money donated will continue to grow and to provide future financial support for our youth.

Receiving a scholarship is recognition of achievement and potential as well as a motivation to work hard, setting students on a path in life with a pay-it-forward attitude. Please consider becoming a positive force in supporting our youth for the next 50 years, either by sharing your expertise as a mentor or by donating to the Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation.

We wish all the best to students as the spring semester comes to a close and as their future plans are formed. Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

For information on becoming a mentor or one-time advisor to a college-aged student, please contact leneary1@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Neary, Chairman

Bridgewater Dog Owners Must License Their Dogs in June

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

Licenses also may be obtained through the mail by sending a **self-addressed, stamped envelope** with a check or money order and the following information: owner's name, phone number, address, dog's name, breed, age, color markings, and sex. The address of the Town Clerk's Office is **P.O. Box 216, Bridgewater, Connecticut 06752**.

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

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

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

Bridgewater Dog License Form

Owner Name : _____
Address: _____
Phone : _____
Alt Phone: _____

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



Register

★ ★ ★ **to** ★ ★ ★
VOTE

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Our office in Town Hall is open
the first and third Tuesday
of every month
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Theresa Angell, Republican Registrar
Denise Valeri, Democratic Registrar



VETERANS' NEWS

Travel with Military Discounts: Traveling this summer to Disney Resorts, Hershey Park and similar destinations could be less expensive by visiting Military.com and taking advantage of the discount programs offered by private industry to honor our veterans.

VA Aims to Emphasize Free Burial Benefits for Veterans at National Cemeteries: Log on to VA.GOV and download the many free benefits for military veterans. Veterans can also file a "pre-need application" for free burial and save their loved ones the sometimes challenging process of determining their rights as a veteran for free burial, head markers, etc. Planning ahead is really helpful since many families don't worry about required documents until there is an event.

Lawsuit Settlement: A \$6 billion settlement in a series of lawsuits over allegations that earplugs sold to the military by manufacturing giant 3M during the height of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars caused hearing damage will move forward after nearly 250,000 veterans and service members agreed to accept the deal, the company announced this week. The settlement agreement is being managed by litigation management firm BrownGreer, which has set up a website for claimants to track the settlement at www.combatarmssettlement.com.

TRICARE Users Can Refill Prescriptions With MHS Genesis Health Record System: A great benefit to retirees as TRICARE moves to modernize its prescriptions pharmacy benefit. Log in to VA.GOV and see how to take advantage of this new items.

Tricare for Life (TFL): If you receive the benefits of healthcare retirement through TFL, please keep in touch with what DOD and Congress will be looking at to increase costs. Please join a military retirement program like Disabled Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), America Legion or the like to keep in touch. If you don't use it, you'll lose it!

Stay Tuned!: A bipartisan Senate bill introduced March 6 would strengthen employment and health care benefits offered to eligible caregivers, and could make it easier for these providers to save for retirement and better prepare for their financial future. If you qualify as a caregiver of a seriously wounded, ill, and injured veterans, Congress may direct the VA to pay the stipend, which was



considered "unearned income," directly to the caregiver rather than the veteran. This act is called the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act, and may have significant impact on how caregivers are paid and how it impacts taxes. More to come!

Note: Tip of the hat to Lou Conter, Last Survivor of USS Arizona From Pearl Harbor Attack, who died at 102 years of age. Thanks for your service!

Joe Buchheit, LTC-USA (Ret), VA Liaison,
860-355-2433
or email: townofbridgewaterva@gmail.com



The solar eclipse brought science and astronomy to life for students, and encouraged teachers and administrators to make use of what educators often refer to as a "teachable moment." The eclipse inspired teachers from across our district to focus on the celestial phenomenon with their students. We provided every student with ISO approved solar eclipse glasses so they could view the experience safely, both at school and home. Although a few districts decided to enact an early-dismissal schedule, we believed that the experience was an important one and something teachers and students could enjoy witnessing collectively.

Students at Burnham School, accompanied their teachers outside to view the eclipse ahead of their normal bus pick up time. Prior to the eclipse, staff and administration shared relevant resources that highlighted information, as well as important safety tips. Friso Hermans, physics and astronomy teacher at Shepaug Valley School, prepared relevant online videos and resources for students and staff across the district, highlighting the science of an eclipse and precautionary measures to follow.

The last month has also been busy as students have demonstrated their knowledge and skill through project-based learning. On March 13th, students at Burnham held their annual Invention Convention. This event was truly inspiring as students displayed inventions they designed to solve problems faced by everyday people. One student created a quick and efficient pizza wrapper for single slices to stay fresh. Another Burnham student designed homemade organic makeup. The products demonstrated students' creativity, critical thinking and ingenuity!

At Shepaug Valley School, the play Matilda, which was held from April 5-7, was a resounding success. Community feedback was extremely positive, and many comments praised the production for its "stand out" performances. Just prior to the opening of the production, elementary students at Burnham School and from across the district traveled to Shepaug as a field trip to view a condensed version of the play. Needless to say, students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing a famous children's book by Roald Dahl come to life on stage.

On April 10th, I had an opportunity to answer questions about the budget during Burnham's PTO meeting. We discussed details relevant to budget requests, including new security measures (e.g., armed security



Burnham students checking out the eclipse

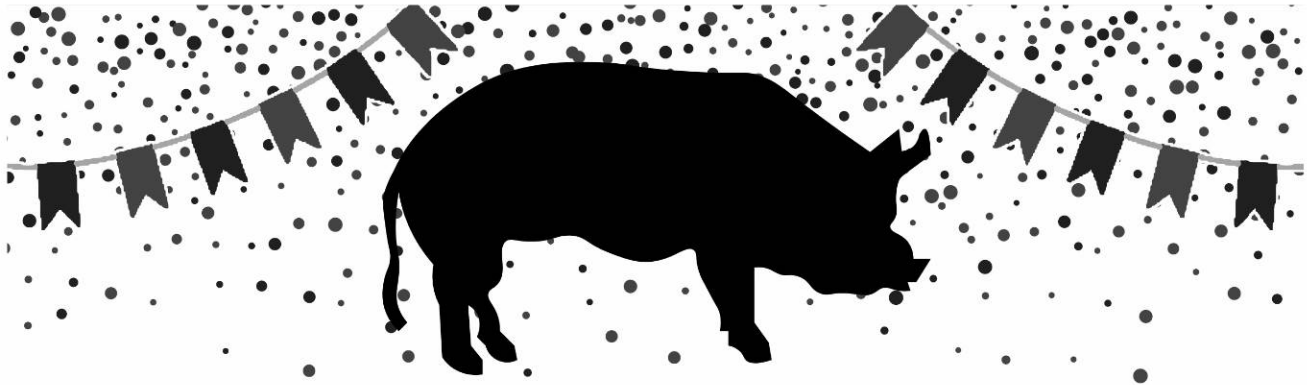
and shatterproof window film), the repair of an elevator seal, as well as a State mandated reading program that will help to build students' literacy skills. Additionally, the PTO discussed the annual pig roast on June 1st as a fundraiser to support the students and staff.

The week of April 15th is spring break, which often symbolizes the last months of school drawing near. We are so proud of the academic, artistic, and athletic successes of our students this year. We also want to thank the parents and community members of Bridgewater for their ongoing support of our district.

Respectfully,
Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue,
Interim Superintendent Regional School District #12



Burnham School PTO NEWS



Please join us for
The Burnham School

PIG ROAST

Fundraiser

Live Music, Raffle, Prizes, Silent Auction & More!

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

at the Bridgewater Firehouse
5:00 pm to 11:00 pm


**TICKET INCLUDES:
1 MEAL TICKET
& 1 DRINK TICKET**

TICKETS: \$50

tinyurl.com/Burnham2024



All Proceeds Benefit The Burnham School

ADULTS ONLY PLEASE

Questions? Please email BurnhamSchoolPTO@gmail.com



The Bridgewater Land Trust

With spring in full swing, the Bridgewater Land Trust is busy with property improvements, trail clearing and opportunities for residents to enjoy the great outdoors. We are so thankful to all of you who support us in all of these endeavors. A special shout out to those who donated during the Give Local campaign! This online fundraiser has become our biggest of the year and it allows us to accomplish so much to protect the land we all love. Thank you! Take a look at our upcoming events on the opposite page. All are welcome.

Grant Received for The Lamont Preserve

The Bridgewater Land Trust was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,250 by the Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation based in New Milford. This grant will be dedicated to improvements at the Land Trust's newly acquired Lamont Preserve which is located along Northrup Street with additional frontage along Lake Lillinonah. The targeted improvements include a preserve sign, property clean up and clearing, and the creation of a new trail for the public to enjoy. The Bridgewater Land Trust received the 45 acre Preserve thanks to the generosity of Governor Ned Lamont and his wife Annie Lamont who owned the property since 2005. Support from the Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation and other generous donors will allow us to move forward with needed improvements.



We Are Here Because of You!



We are also in the process of finalizing a permanent conservation easement on a 28 acre parcel with very high conservation value. More details coming soon. Our new 5K course will be finalized this summer. We are looking forward to hosting walkers, hikers, joggers and trail runners on this exciting and challenging off road course.

Thanks to all volunteers who helped us clean the roadsides of Bridgewater during the town wide cleanup day. Our volunteers are critical and we deeply appreciate the skills and energy that are so frequently offered.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Julie Stuart, *Executive Director*
The Bridgewater Land Trust

thank
you



Upcoming Events

- Plant Exploration Hike (see details below) on Saturday, May 18th
- CT Trails Day Hike (see details below) Saturday, June 1st
- Party On The Ridge Benefit on Friday, June 14th (see details to the right)
- Full Moon Viewing (Sturgeon and Blue) Monday, August 19th
- Come see us at the Bridgewater Tractor Parade Sunday, September 1st
- Save the date for our Tappen Brook Trails 5K Opening on Sunday, September 8th



Party On The Ridge Benefit

Tickets on sale now at www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org

This popular event is back! Scenic views, fantastic food, specialty drinks, fun hayrides and new this year: live music by The RivaJean band!



Join hosts Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman

On The Ridge

Friday, June 14th 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

79 Second Hill Road, Bridgewater, CT

Featuring live music by RivaJean, wood-fired pizza, cocktails & scenic hayrides!



A Benefit For The Bridgewater Land Trust

Suggested donation per person-Benefactor:\$500 Friend:\$250 Guest:\$150

Table sponsor: \$1,200 (includes 8 tickets)

Tickets: www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org/events Checks: BWLT PO Box 8 Bridgewater, CT 06752

Special Thanks To: Donna Zaccaro & Paul Ullman; Peter & Leni May, Katherine Burke & Ted Alt, Cynthia & Christian Feuer, Annie & Rich Kaplan, Mae & Tom Orkisz, Monsie & Kevin Hobbs, Kent Falls Brewing Company, The Litchfield Distillery, Molly & Andrew Smith, Stuart Family Farm, Shallow Brook Farm

Take A Hike



Join Us! CT Trails DAY HIKE

Sat., June 1st
9 AM - 11 AM

The Bridgewater Land Trust & the Bridgewater Recreation Commission invite you to hike with us! We are offering a guided, 3.0 mile moderate hike on some new trails.

This is a free event, no registration is required.



Hike begins at 9 AM
Bridgewater Town Park
221 Tappen Road
Bridgewater, CT 06752

Heavy rain cancels. Questions email: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



Join Us! Plant Exploration HIKE

All are welcome to this free event.

Learn about the edible and medicinal uses of common weeds, trees and native plants of Bridgewater with seasoned forager and expert herbalist Alison Birks, MS, RH (AHG), CNS. We will nibble, touch, smell and engage our senses in the plant world around us as we wander. Topics to be covered include: sustainable foraging, plant identification, folklore and more!



Sat., May 18th
11 AM - 12:30 PM
Hike begins at 11 AM
Bridgewater Town Park
221 Tappen Road

Heavy rain cancels. Space is limited RSVP is required:
julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org

Burnham Library

Where Community Connects

May, June, July 2024

KEEP UP WITH ALL THINGS BURNHAM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR HAVE NEWS DROPPED INTO YOUR INBOX



www.burnhamlibrary.org

HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 – 5:00
Thursday 10:00 – 6:00 and Saturday 9:00 – 1:00

NEW extended hours every Thursdays beginning in January 2024

Short on time? Schedule a **Curbside Pick-up**

Available Tuesday – Saturday and includes after-hour pick-up!
Simply email, call, or place a request through the catalog and
we will notify you when your pick-up is ready

Jean Kallay, Executive Director • jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org

Something for Everyone!

As the days grow warmer and the flowers bloom, the library springs to life with a mix of exciting events for all ages. In May, dust off your baking skills for the Great Burnham Bake-Off - could you be Bridgewater's next top baker? Then, as summer rolls in, Music on Main brings lively tunes and a sense of togetherness. Embark on a thrilling journey with the summer reading theme, "Around the World Adventure," for readers of all ages. Planning a getaway? Don't miss out on the Digital Branch, offering ebooks and audiobooks for those on the go. And for some outdoor fun, explore our Library of Things, stocked with lawn games and more. With something for everyone, the library is the perfect spot to chill out and enjoy the best of spring and summer.

Jean Kallay, Executive Director

Featured Events!

A full list of events can be found at www.burnhamlibrary.org/events

Out of This World Trivia - Friday, May 3 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

The Great Burnham Bake-Off: Sweet Quickbread Loaves - Saturday, May 4, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

CT Wineries with "The Nutmeg Nose" - Thursday, June 7 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Book Discussions: All are welcome to join in the lively monthly discussion on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm. Copies will be available at the library or request curbside pick-up. Questions? Email Catherine Flynn at cwflynn60@gmail.com. The group will meet on May 22nd and June 26th titles to be determined.

Art @ Burnham Library

Visit and view during library hours

May - Sue Melzmuf of Middlefield with works in oil.

June - Ann Harriet Carew of Washington Depot with "Here and There, Then and Now" works in oils and oil pastels.

July - Maralyn Adlin of Washington with works of oil on canvas. An artist reception TBD

Tri-Town Summer Events and Challenge

Three towns, one summer! Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington libraries join forces to offer something for everyone! Grab your passport for an amazing Around the World Adventure.

Featured events: Gunn Memorial Library, Washington: Saturday, July 13 - MadScience o Burnham Library, Bridgewater: Saturday, July 20 - Magical Beasts & Where to Find Them with the Stamford Nature Center o Minor Memorial Library, Roxbury: Saturday, July 27 - Casey Carle's BubbleMania.

Details will be included in each library's summer flyer and website. All special events are free, open to all, and registration is required with the hosting library.

Burnham Library, cont.

Featured events!

Music on Main

Friday, June 21 from 5:30 - 8:30

Kick-off the summer with our 6th annual Music on Main event featuring music from the Overdue Band. Bring your own snacks or grab dinner from Rice to Meat You, and then enjoy an ice cream on us!

Burnham Beer Garden

Fridays July 12 & 26, August 2 & 9 from 5:30 - 7:30

Get ready for the return of Burnham Beer Garden! Join us for four weeks of craft beers from local breweries, along with wine -- and soft drinks. Each week may include live music, lawn games, food trucks, and more! It's fun for the entire family!

Youth Programs in the Susie Beris, M.D. Youth Learning Center

Youth Programs in the Susie Beris, M.D. Youth Learning Center

Our school year programs are winding down, but we still have some fun up our sleeves! Don't miss our upcoming May & June after school events: Mythical Makers, Camp Half-blood, and a Mermaid Party! Visit our website for dates and times or contact Ms Lianne at lambruso@burnhamlibrary.org.

Bring the Hoopla - Saturday, May 11 from 11:00 - 12:00 pm

Bring the Hoopla brings the fun back into fitness with their high energy, unique program using Hoopla Hoops as the main tool and encouraging self-expression through the journey of positive movement. Ages 6+ Outdoor as weather permits. Registration required.



Your Summer @ Burnham Launch Day - Saturday, June 22 from 11:00 - 12:00

Drop-in to register for adult & youth reading challenges and youth summer programs. Stick around and check-out summer reading raffle prizes and enjoy a snack. Your summer adventure awaits!

Create A Castle Master Builder Class - Saturday, June 22 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm Registration required. Learn how to make the best sandcastles using the one-of-kind Create A Castle molds (as seen on Shark Tank) created by New Milford residents Kevin and Laurie Lane. This program is great for ages 6+.

Project Summer: Around the World Adventure! In the Susan Beris, MD Youth Learning Center A full list of youth summer activities will be available mid-May. We have some great events planned for this summer including weekly Summer Bunch storytime, afternoon crafts and activities, special events, PRIZES, and more!



Bridgewater, grab a paddle! Winter of 23-24 sure has been wet. As I write this section of Our Town, we are getting dumped on with rain and cold temps, and the threat of snow in the beginning of April, yuck! It is what it is, New England is great!

We have been busy around the firehouse with maintenance on trucks and buildings. There's always something to do or some training and refresher courses to attend. In January four of our members started their FF1 course in Brookfield. By the end of May, they will be tested and certified for structure firefighting and other various emergencies. A big shout out goes to these men and women. It takes a lot of time and dedication to help protect our community. We are very excited to have four young members from Bridgewater take this course. Good job folks!

Who's next to join the BVFD? We are always welcoming new members. Just living in town doesn't make you a member of the community. Helping in one way or another makes a big difference. Whether it's the Senior Center, Recreation Commission, or any other group in town, we all make a difference.

As we turn the corner to 2024, our fair preparation has begun. The entertainment is booked, the tent is ordered, food orders are being made; sweet buttery corn, fried dough, pork sundaes, chicken, and roast beef, whatever your favorite may be. Sounds really good after a long winter. Can't wait till August! The raffle truck has made its appearance at the Mobil. Thanks to the Bridgewater Convenience Store for all you do, letting us park the truck there and selling raffle tickets.

Bridgewater Raffle 2024 first prize is a brand new 2024 Toyota Tundra HV4X4 Limited Crew MAX V6 Hybrid. 2nd prize is a STIHL battery powered yard & garden system, including a mower, blower, trimmer, hedge trimmer, pole saw, sweeper, edger, brush cutter, sprayer and more. 3rd prize is \$5000. Tickets are \$20 each. Stop by the firehouse, any member would love to sell you a ticket or three. The drawing will be held on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 6:00pm.

Spring and Summer activities are starting. Take some care to notice bike riders, Harley Davidsons and Schwinn. Please look twice and give them space when passing. Watch for joggers and walkers. Slow down and enjoy the ride! We all want to enjoy the beautiful landscape. Lastly, as we start up our mowers, pool heaters, summer sports cars, etc., make sure those pesky mice haven't taken up residency. Their nest makes a great fire starter. Make sure the wires aren't chewed up, and that pool covers and fences are in place. Pool chemicals, gas cans, and bbq propane tanks need to be stored properly, not in your garage! Safety is everyone's responsibility.

John Stietzel Chief Bridgewater Fire
Chief@bvfd.org



Bridgewater EMS Update

Someone asked me the other day, "What does it take to become an EMT" (Emergency Medical Technician)? After I had explained to them, I thought, I should explain the requirements to whomever else may not know what it takes.

For starters, you must be at least 16 years old. You will need to complete an OEMS approved EMT training program in Connecticut with a minimum of 150 hours of class time, which includes written and practical examinations. Once your 150 hours is complete, you then need to successfully pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician cognitive exam as well as successfully pass the Connecticut OEMS approved psychomotor exam.

Once you become a certified EMT, you will need to complete 40 hours of continuing education plus a skills verification every two years to maintain your EMT certification.

Knowing these requirements, one might ask, "Why should I become an EMT?" Well, I can't answer for everyone, for everyone has their own story, their own ambitions, but I can tell you what being a volunteer EMT means to me.

You Can Make a Difference!

Every single day you may have an opportunity to help people, change lives and often, save lives.

Whether you bandage up someone after a car accident or help pick someone up from the floor that has fallen, you're in the center of people's life-changing moments. Your presence, skills, and knowledge directly bring positive change.



Bridgewater EMS Update, *cont.*

Work with a Team!

When you're volunteering on the ambulance, you'll never be lonely. Your EMT teammates are like a family. You don't just work with them, you change the world together, and can create strong bonds with each other.

Community Involvement!

Volunteering as an EMT is a rewarding way to give back to your community, get involved in your local community and meet people who share your passion for helping others. You'll be working with other volunteers who are committed to making a difference, which can create a sense of camaraderie and belonging.

Develop Empathy and Compassion!

As an EMT, you'll encounter people from all walks of life who are experiencing medical emergencies. Through your interactions with these individuals and their families, you'll develop a greater sense of empathy and compassion for others. You'll gain a sense of purpose, knowing that you're helping others in their time of need can give you a great sense of purpose and fulfillment. As a volunteer EMT, you'll be providing a critical service to your community that can make a real difference in people's lives.

In summary, if you want to do something truly meaningful, becoming a volunteer EMT is the right choice for you! Contact us at bvfdems7@gmail.com and we can hook you up with the next class schedule. We look forward to hearing from you.

Diana Haskell, Ambulance Coordinator



BFD Women's Auxiliary

The Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Dept. Women's Auxiliary meets the third (3rd) Monday of each month from March through November. We are active year round to support the fire department even when there is no meeting scheduled.

Hopefully qualified applicants have gotten their scholarship applications in as a selection will be made early May.

Fair meetings are happening and preparations are being made for the 71st Fair. You will find auxiliary members in many of the food tents besides our annual Cake Wheel, the Art Show in the firehouse and at the Waterhole Saloon where we will be pouring Draft beers and wine. Please be on the lookout for a postcard in July asking our wonderful baking residents to donate a cake to the Cake Wheel, can you imagine a homemade baked goodie for 50 cents! Volunteers are always welcome! Come join the fun!!!

We have updated the information on our Annual Beer & Wine tasting. In trying to keep with tradition of the 3rd weekend in September this year's event will be held on Saturday, September 21st from 4pm to 7pm. There will be 40 vendors, food trucks and music at the beautiful Pratt pavilion. Plan on having a terrific time!!!

The first weekend in October we have our Annual Town Wide tag sale. Maps of the homes that participate will be available at the firehouse which will have rentals only Saturday.

The Auxiliary always welcomes new members, as we are quite busy during August, September and October. Please contact any member to join us in supporting our wonderful Volunteer Fire Department.

Ann Frattalone, President BVFD Womens Auxiliary

Historical Society News

The Bridgewater Historical Society held our annual meeting at Italia Mia this month, where we celebrated a year of renewed activity and community outreach!

Many local folks and visitors were able to visit The Peck House over the course of the year for educational activities, self guided tours, and delicious refreshments at a number of open houses. This spring and summer, the fun will continue at The Peck House with upcoming open house dates as well as our now annual visit from the Burnham school fifth graders at the end of the school year! We look forward to showing the students some of the fun items and customs that were part of Bridgewater and its culture in days gone by.

Get ready for our famous coffee and donuts after the Memorial Day Service as well as penny candy that will be for sale that day. Children should bring a quarter or other change to buy up to 25 pieces of candy for one cent each. We look forward to seeing everyone at that time.

Scheduled open house dates for The Peck House are Saturday, April 27, Memorial Day (Monday) May 27, and Saturday, June 29. Open houses take place from 10 AM until noon and complimentary refreshments are always served. We hope to see you at the Peck House this season!

Join Us!

After The Memorial Day Parade

OPEN HOUSE



Coffee & Donuts

Penny Candy at
the Captain's House and
Tours of the Peck House



From The Desk of the Town Historian

In 2011, I was privileged to write a book with the late Jeannine Green. It was the story of the towns of Roxbury and Bridgewater told through photography. We were given access to the Historical Societies from both towns and saw some amazing pictures. It was fascinating to see how much the towns had changed and yet remained the same. One of my favorites showed a large group of people assembled on the grass in front of now vintage cars attending the annual Grange picnic. Sitting front and center was Mary Allen as a child of 6 or so, alongside her brother. The Grange was a very important part of the town's social life and this event was well attended. Mary led a life devoted to service to the town and is fondly remembered by many. The spirit of service lives on. On April 6th, the town dedicated a kiosk in the entrance of the library to house the data on veterans who have lived in Bridgewater. This task took years to complete and many volunteers spent long hours in compiling the information. Eventually, there will be a stone memorial to accompany this kiosk. Stop in at the library to learn more about those who served in the military since the Revolutionary War. Service comes in many forms. Find yours.

- Eileen Buchheit



Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc. (CCB)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

Chore Service for Seniors

CCB's Chore Service can help with spring and summer repair and maintenance items like:

- Installing your window air conditioners
- Repairing unsafe wooden porch steps or railings
- Fixing leaky faucets
- Tightening up or replacing door knobs
- And more...ask us!

Connecticut Community Foundation Give Local Event.

Thanks to all who participated in supporting CCB (and the other Town organizations that participated) in Connecticut Community Foundation's Give Local Event. We greatly appreciate the support. The event grows larger every year greatly benefiting charitable organizations and allowing them to continue to provide services effectively.

Flags

Joe Buchheit can properly dispose of old or damaged American Flags. According to the American Flag Code, worn out flags should be burned. However, depending upon the material, the flag is made of, that may not be the best alternative. Joe will be happy to assist anyone deal with proper disposal.

Contact Us

If you need assistance please do not hesitate to contact us (all requests are confidential). We can be reached: at 860-350-2194 or info@ccbridgewater.org or cheryl@westernviewfarms.com

Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

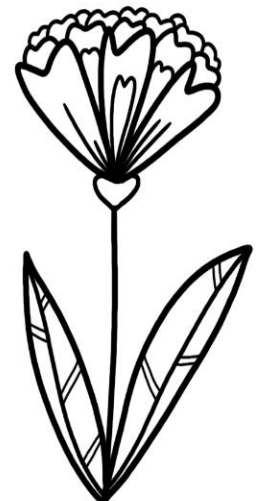
The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club will hold its ever-popular annual Plant Mart on the lawn of the Bridgewater Firehouse on May 18th from 8:30-12:00. Featured at the sale will be member grown and divided perennials, organic heirloom tomatoes, native pollinator plants, boutique items and more! Members will be happy to make recommendations for your spring planting needs. Proceeds from this major fundraiser will benefit the holiday wreaths that decorate the town buildings, annual scholarship, community, senior and youth programs and the planting and maintaining of twelve community gardens. Once again the Grange will join us with a bake sale

We are looking for donations from your crowded perennial beds. Members will be happy to come to your house to divide the plants and keep the extras for our sale. Please call Wendy at 860-354-2070 or Marilyn at 860- 354-7069 to schedule a dig. Thanks!

We invite those interested to come and join the fun! The club meets on the second Thursday of the month at St. Marks community room. We have trips, speakers and workshops planned as well as community engagement. Details on our website at roxburybridgewatergardenclub.com. For more information leave a message at 203-405-1185. We look forward to meeting you!

Annual Plant Mart

May 18th
8:30 AM - 12 Noon
Bridgewater
Firehouse



OUR CHURCHES

St. Marks Episcopal Church



5 Main Street, Bridgewater

Established 1810

Celebrating 214 Years of Faith All are invited!

Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 AM

Mother's Day Diaper & Wipes Drive

We are collecting disposable diapers of all sizes and baby wipes through Mother's Day. Donations may be brought to services on Sundays or dropped off during office hours or by appointment. Donations will benefit the Department of Children and Families.



Want to know the secret to our signature jam? A loving community that gathers each week to create the jars of sweet, fruity goodness! Would you consider spending an hour or two with growing group of friends? Email for details.

Year-round community events and fun for all!

These past months have seen St. Mark's alive with community events. From our annual Holiday Bazaar to the St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner and Halloween Bell-Ringing to Easter Egg Dyeing. It has been such a joy to be in the company of so many friends and neighbors! Now begins our season of preparation for the Bridgewater Fair. We are seeking friends to help us prepare and staff our booth. Have you always wanted to learn how to perfectly slice delicious cheddar cheese and sell iconic pickles on a stick? Would you be willing to lend a hand or a truck bed for set up? Volunteers appreciated!

For event information and to volunteer:

saintmarksbridgewaterevents@gmail.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/stmarksbridgewater](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbridgewater)

| Web: www.stmarksbridgewater.org

Office Hours: Wednesday 9am-4pm, Phone (860) 354-8269,

Email smbbridgewater@gmail.com

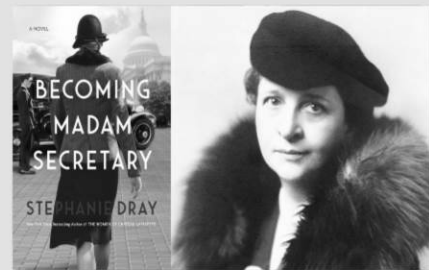


The Bridgewater Congregational Church

We welcome you any time... "Come make a home with us."

All are invited to our hybrid Sunday Worship Services @ 10 a.m. Sunday School for all children and youth begins around 10:15am. Communion is the first Sunday of the month. Worship is followed by fellowship and coffee hour in the Friendship Hall. All Are Welcome! Subscribe to our YouTube Channel @ Bridgewater Congregational Church.

Community Book Club invitation: The Bridgewater Community Book Club hosted by the BWUCC will be reading *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray. It's the story of Frances Perkins, the first woman to be a member of the President's cabinet. A riveting account of her time serving as Secretary of Labor under FDR. The pot luck dinner and discussion (live Zoom with the author) is Tuesday, June 25th at 5:30pm in the Friendship Hall. Call the church office to register at 860-354-8283, or email office. bwucc@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES AT BCC

Come walk our Labyrinth or drop a prayer in our Prayer Box.

Bridgewater Food Pantry - Available to Bridgewater residents. The Bridgewater Food Pantry is located in the Friendship Hall of BCC. The pantry is open during the office hours of the church, or by appointment. As always, thank you for your donations of gift cards (Aldi's, Stop N Shop, Big Y).

Alcoholics Anonymous - AA meets in the Friendship Hall every Friday night at 7 p.m.

Friendship Hall Facility Rental - Available for parties, meetings, family gatherings, social clubs, and more. Full Kitchen, air conditioned, handicap accessible. Call 860-354-8283 to book your event.



BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS

Close your tax folders, put away your snow shovels and holler halleluiah to welcome spring and summer. If you need any motivation, just listen to the birds and absorb the energy of the warming days and glorious flowers.

On Friday July 19th we will hold our annual fundraiser Hoe Down. Featuring a live auction, silent auction and raffle items; Twins BBQ full dinner; and music with the Mike Walsh Band. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Bridgewater Senior Center, a 501(c)3, who donate proceeds to the Senior Center to offer social, educational, health and nutritional programs. We help meet the needs of Bridgewater residents, and neighboring town adults 60 years and older. Tickets for sale at Senior Center (\$30 or \$35 at the door). Stop by, have some fun, get your BBQ on and place your bids!

For the latest updates and news you will want to be on our email list - call us at 860-355-3090 or email your request to bwscseniorcenter@gmail.com. You can also visit our website for current programming options: bridgewater-ct.gov/hilltop-senior-center

UPCOMING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Luncheon to celebrate Mothers - May 9 at 12:00 + Lecture with Lauren Henriques on Stroke Prevention
 Luncheon to celebrate Fathers - June 13 at 12:00
 Breakfast Club - May 2, June 6, July 11 at 9:00
 Smoothie Bar with Ellen Woolwich - May 16 at 1:00
 How to Improve Your Posture - May 20 at 1:00 Lecture by Ivy Rehab's Matt Petrovich
 Lecture: New paradigm for Mental Development - May 30 at 12:00 offered by Dr. Rudy Magnan
 Bingo - June 20 at 1:00
 American Coin Picker: Blair Soucy - June 10 at 1:00 Bring coins/currency for Blair to value for you
 Create a Terrarium with MossLife - June 17 at 11:30
 Birthday Social Celebration - June 27 at 1:00 with Kay Schrieber of Synergy Homecare
 Brain Games with Danielle Ramos of Village Crest Rehab - May 29, June 26 and July 31 at 1:00

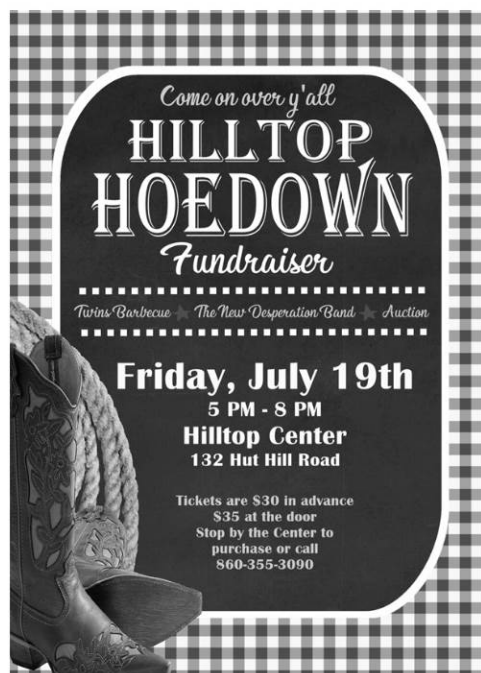
EXERCISE PROGRAMS

We offer a full array of weekly exercise classes:

Body Conditioning with Jess Dart - Monday's
 10:30-11:15
 Tai Chi with Dee Calvey - Wednesday's 10:00 -
 11:00
 Functional Strength & Balance with Cassie
 Dunn - Wednesday's 11:30-12:20
 Low Impact Aerobics with Lisa Liotta - Friday's
 9:30-10:15
 Chair Yoga with Elaine Donahue - Friday's
 10:30-11:30

And weekly: Cornhole, Mahjong, Canasta, Rummikub, Silver Needles, and Bridge Please check our Newsletter for complete details.

Kathy Creighton, Director





Friends Of The Lake

Friendly reminder to renew your 2024 membership.

Not a member? Become a member! Friends of the Lake is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2003 and has spent the last 20 years preserving and protecting Lake Lillinonah for our community to enjoy! Each member who joins Friends of the Lake is another voice. The more voices we have, the stronger we are! All memberships include email alerts on lake activity, invitations to FOTL events, newsletters providing water quality updates & upcoming meetings, and much more.

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



The Bridgewater Food Pantry is available to Bridgewater residents. The Bridgewater Food Pantry is located in the Friendship Hall of BCC. The pantry is open during the office hours of the church, or by appointment. As always, thank you for your donations of gift cards (Aldi's, Stop N Shop, Big Y). Pantry donations can be made at the Town Hall and Burnham Library.

THANK YOU



Spring Household Hazardous Waste Events

Do you have unwanted paint, old gasoline, or household chemicals you need to dispose of?

The next two spring HHW events for the region are scheduled as follows:

- May 11, 2024 9am to 2pm Public Works Facility, Newtown
- June 22, 2024 9am to 1pm Bethel High School, Bethel



A list of acceptable items and details about the event can be found on www.hrra.org. Our next three events will occur in the fall. For questions on all things waste, recycling, household hazardous waste, composting, textiles, medical waste etc. Email us at Info@hrra.org or call 203.775.4539

Backyard Composting

Composting at home reduces the amount of material you need to put out at the curb and can reduce curbside pickup to twice or once a month. It enables you to turn vegetables and yard waste into a valuable soil amendment for use in your backyard. For more information, HRRRA provides backyard composting resources on our website.

Not able to backyard compost? Take advantage of our Food Scrap Recycling Program at the Bridgewater Town Garage. Participation in the program is FREE to Bridgewater residents. To learn more about the Bridgewater program, visit www.hrra.org.

203.775.4539

www.HRRRA.org

info@hrra.org

Bridgewater Recreation News

Recreation News

Have questions about Bridgewater Recreation?
Contact Dawn MacNutt at MacNuttD@yahoo.com. For Pavilion Rentals and Summer Camp contact Allison Gsell, Bridgewater Recreation Coordinator at bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com
Cell - 203-417-0744 Office - 860-355-9133

Pickleball



Pickleball is currently on Tuesdays and Fridays 6:30 PM at the Burnham School gym. Weather permitting, Saturdays at 10:00 AM outdoors at the Recreation Center. By June, play will be outdoors on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM.

Table Tennis



Table Tennis 6:30pm
at the Hilltop Center
on Mondays.

Mindful Moves Yoga

Held at the Friendship
Hall at Bridgewater
Congregational Church.



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

Pavilion Rentals



Book your gathering today! Please contact
Bridgewaterpavilion@gmail.com.

Fishing Derby

May 4th



**BRIDGEWATER
FISHING DERBY**

Summer Camp Dates

July 1st - July 26th



The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

Dawn MacNutt- *Chairman*
Lynn Kubisek - *Secretary*
Mike Dubos
Julie Scott
Charlene Sullivan
Nicole Tenreiro
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.



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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, 2024.*

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

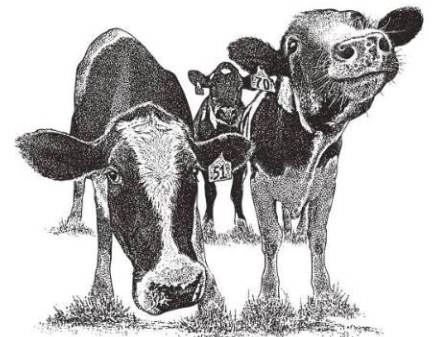
- 7 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 7 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 7 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 14 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 Board of Finance 4:00 PM, Town Hall
- 23 Recreation Commission 5:00 PM, Town Hall
- 27 Memorial Day *****Town Hall Closed*****
- 27 Memorial Day Parade 8:20 AM, Town Green
- 28 Zoning Board of Appeals 7 PM, Town Hall

JUNE

- 4 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 4 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 11 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 19 Juneteenth *****Town Hall Closed*****
- 20 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 25 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 27 Recreation Commission 5:00 PM, Town Hall

JULY

- 2 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 2 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 4 Independence Day *****Town Hall Closed*****
- 9 Board of Selectmen 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 5:00 PM, Town Hall



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