

OUR TOWN

BRIDGEWATER

Connecticut

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, CT

NOVEMBER 2023

INSIDE

Page

4



**Holiday Shop
& Tree Sales**

Page

7



**Town
Tree
Lighting**

Page

11

**O' Silent
Night**

Page

18



Message from Our First Selectman

The white-faced hornets built their elaborate nests higher up than usual this past summer. Was that to get away from the recent rains and high waters? Some old timers in Appalachia believed it was a sign or harbinger of heavy snows to come. Maybe it's inevitable. We live in New England after all. I wonder what the Farmer's Almanac has on tap for us?

Down near the Rt. 133 Bridge, the Red Mill barely survived the intense floods surging down Wewaka Brook four times since July. So far, the owner's persistent efforts at his own expense have enabled a true icon on Bridgewater's doorstep to survive yet another year. It's hard to deny that the weather trends seem to be taking a nasty turn. It will behoove us to take new preventative measures to seal basements and reroute drainage. The Town will be up to the task by replacing the Burnham Library roof with recently secured state grant funding.

Locally, some of our citizens are uncertain about what types of signs are allowed in Town. For instance, temporary contractor signs are not permitted by our Sign Ordinance and will be removed, or should not be allowed by property owners. All other permanent signs require an application for a permit. What a sign says or means may be interpreted differently by each viewer. It can cause unnecessary controversy.

The Selectmen sought a legal review concerning whether a sign's perceived message can be regulated under current laws in a commercial zone. The opinion informs us that Supreme Court decisions have granted significant latitude considering the relationship between signage and Second Amendment rights on private property in any town zone. My hope is for Bridgewater citizens to respectfully exercise self-restraint when considering the political tension that may be brewing nationally.

Meanwhile, all is well in town. Some exciting seasonal events are coming up: Trunk or Treat, O' Silent Night, the Tree Lighting ceremony and family holiday dinners. Some neighbors may need help with snow and ice removal or just some companionship with a home cooked meal. Bridgewater is a place where community values are alive and well.

One other caveat about traffic signs and neighborly respect: "take a chill pill" and please slow down when driving. Let's not underestimate the potential hazards especially when it's dark or slick on our back roads. Give a wave if you agree.

Lastly, don't forget to vote for our uncontested and cross-endorsed candidates on the November 7th ballot. It lets these willing volunteers know they are appreciated for their service to all of us.

Sincerely,

Curtis S. Read, First Selectman

LAND TRANSFERS

Land Transfers: July 2023

- Patrick Cleary to Higher Ground, LLC, land, 323 New Milford Road East, \$220,000
- Gary Pelletier to Betty Ries and Anthony Z. Thorne, Jr., land and buildings, 4 Skyline Ridge Road, \$525,000

Land Transfers: August 2023

- Ryan and Katie Morrow to Corey Purvis, Jr., land and buildings, 169 Keeler Road, \$280,000

Land Transfers: September 2023

- Christopher and Rebecca Langanke to Jackson and Allison Sansoucie, land and buildings, 57 Bilberry Lane, \$629,500
- Michael Lefferts and Yasmin Nozari to Karoline Westaway and Laura Tegelberg, land and buildings, 20 Hat Shop Hill Road, \$750,000
- Thomas and Lida Fitzgerald to Andrew and Allison Clapp, land and buildings, 125 Town Line Road, \$3,200,000
- Thomas and Jennifer Bohn to Douglas and Clare Preis, land and buildings, 30 Skyline Ridge Road, \$1,925,000

ATTEST:
Cheryl L. Pinkos, Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

TaxServ Debt Collection: Please be advised that Bridgewater is under contract with TaxServ Capital Services for the collection of the Town's delinquent motor vehicle taxes. If you receive a letter from TaxServ, you must call TaxServ to discuss your account and arrange payment. If you do call the Tax or Assessor's office, you will be directed to TaxServ. Payment for accounts in collection cannot be made in the Tax Office. All delinquent taxpayers have been sent warnings via US Mail about pending collection enforcement.

Taxes Due: The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes is due January 1, 2024. Bills were mailed in June; **NO BILLS WILL BE SENT FOR THIS INSTALLMENT.** For Real Estate bills, please notify our office if the payer has changed since July. If a different bank will be paying the installment or if you will be paying the installment instead of a bank, please call or send us a note with the new information. If you purchased property after June and did not receive the bill at the closing, please contact the office and we will send a copy.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills: These bills are for new or replacement vehicles registered after October 1, 2022. The bills will be mailed in December and become due January 1, 2024.

Online Services: You may now look up and pay your bills online and can complete your own tax payment history reports for any time period. Searches may be made by name, property location, or bill number.

Payment: Payments must be received or USPS postmarked no later than FEBRUARY 1, 2024 to avoid an interest penalty. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest.

PLEASE NOTE: If you use an online banking service, there is no actual postmark on the envelope and your payment may arrive after the due date. The effective date will be the date your payment is received in this office! Office postage meters are also not US Postmarks and will not be accepted as proof of on-time payment.

Pay Online: The Tax Department can receive payments made by e-check, credit, or debit cards. This service can be accessed at www.mytaxbill.net/bridgewater.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE: Real Estate at least 2 installments late OR \$5000 delinquent may be auctioned in a Tax Sale. This action may be avoided by bringing your account up to date immediately.

TAX ALERTS: Would you like to receive an email alert regarding local tax news and a reminder of payments becoming due? Sign up through the link provided on the town website.

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 8-12:30 PM and Tuesday 8-3:30 PM.

Catherine B. Vikstrom, Tax Collector CCMC CCMO
Ann Virbickas, Assistant to Tax Collector

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Personal Property

All individuals owning and operating a business in the Town of Bridgewater, including businesses that are being operated from home, are required by law to declare furniture, fixtures, tools, equipment, etc. for taxation purposes. Personal Property forms have been mailed out and **must be received in our office by Wednesday, November 1st**. If forms are not returned or returned late there will be a 25% penalty on the value of a business owner's personal property unless an application for extension is requested by November 1, 2023.

Farm Machinery, Horses or Ponies

The application for an exemption on Personal Property of up to \$100,000 on all farm machinery, (except motor vehicles as defined in Section 14-1) and the \$1,000 exemption on horses or ponies which are actually and exclusively used in farming, within the provisions of Section 12-91 of the General Statutes must be filed annually by November 1st. Applications to claim personal property and farm machinery, horses or ponies are available on the Town's website www.bridgewater townhall.org or in the Assessor's office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (860) 355-9379; we are here Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8am until 12:30pm and Tuesday 8am until 3:30pm.

Sincerely,
Denise C. Pinter, Assessor



The Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."
(F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby)

As the new academic year kicks off and New England gets ready to adorn itself in colorful fall attire, we are grateful for the refreshment of summer and welcome the coming of autumn. In this spirit, I would like to offer the sincere appreciation of the Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation to Joy Bollard for her years of commitment to serving the youth of our community. Joy has been an ardent advocate for our students and her contributions are immeasurable. We wish her well on her retirement.

The Foundation has always had the good fortune of having qualified dedicated Bridgewater people to fill important openings as they arise. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Michael Sinatra and Josh Francis to serve as members of the Foundation. Mike is currently an English teacher at Wilton High School where he has instructed for 22 years, following positions at New Fairfield and Torrington High Schools. Prior to teaching, Mike held executive positions in advertising and public relations in New York. Mike served as a member of the Region 12 Board of Education for twelve years as well as its Vice-Chairman. He and his wife, Roberta, raised two daughters who attended Region 12 schools. Josh joined the Bridgewater community over 20 years ago and attended Shepaug Middle and High Schools. An innate entrepreneur, Josh currently is CEO and Co-Founder of Momeez Choice, maker of organic remedy and supplement pops for kids. In the community, Josh coaches Little League Tee ball and holds board positions at Nuvance Health and Friends of the Lake, as well as serving on local scholarship committees. He and his wife, Kim, are the parents of two young boys. These newest members share an affinity for our special town and a desire to support our youth on their life journey.

For the past fifty years, the goal of the Bridgewater Scholarship Foundation has been to provide financial assistance for students pursuing higher education. With the rising cost of education, tuition and fees are far outpacing current rates of inflation. If you are interested in learning about tax-deductible donations or mentoring opportunities, please contact leneary1@gmail.com.

We wish all our students much success in their fall semesters.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Neary, Chairman

The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club



As we wind down our gardens at the end of the growing season we hope you have enjoyed the many gardens the club supports throughout town - from the large friendship garden which is behind the library and a special favorite of the school kids to the town green and also the little jewels of garden islands at road intersections all over Bridgewater. We work hard to make our lovely town even lovelier!

Even though the growing season is over we have many tasks ahead of us still. We will be making wreaths and swags for all the town buildings for the holidays. We will also be putting on a holiday centerpiece workshop at the senior center. We will be making plans for next year's programs, workshops, speakers, garden visits and education opportunities. We learn and teach!

We welcome new members at any time and usually meet at St. Mark's Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am on the second Thursday of every month. Details about events, programs, speakers, and field trips can be found at our website roxburybridgewatergardenclub.com.

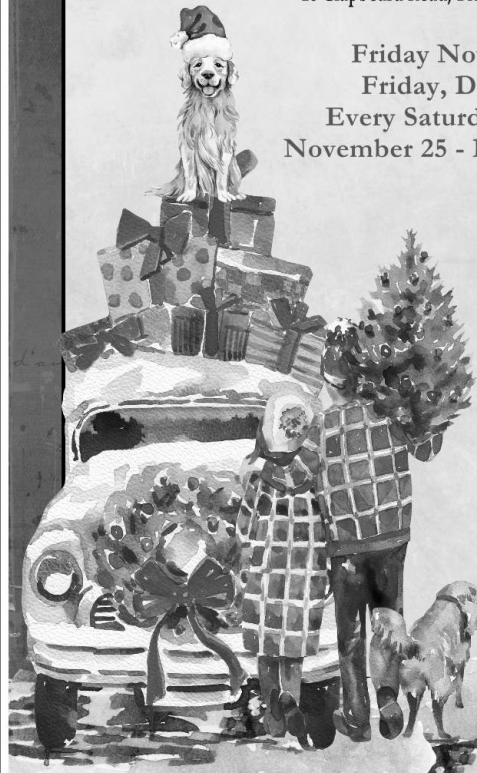
Christmas Shop & Tree Sales

at the Bridgewater Congregational Church
10 Clapboard Road, Bridgewater

Friday November 24th - 10-4

Friday, December 1st - 5-8

Every Saturday and Sunday from
November 25 - December 16 from 10-4.



Find your perfect long lasting, fragrant, Fraser Fir. Shop the store with a large assortment of unique gift items, knits, jewelry, baked goods, confections and a silent auction of selected items.

Cash or checks only.
Questions call the office:
860-354-8283

Register



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

AS OF NOW IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER A SHUTDOWN WOULD OCCUR, BUT IF IT DOES - THIS IS HOW IT WOULD AFFECT VA'S CUSTOMERS.

Service not impacted:

- Veteran health care is not impacted. VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open.
- VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.
- Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.
- The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.
- VA Contact Centers (1-800-MyVA411) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1) are open 24/7.

Services impacted:

- VA will not provide Veteran career counseling or transition assistance program activities.
- The GI Bill Hotline will be closed.
- VA benefits regional offices will be closed.
- VA will cease public affairs and outreach to Veterans.
- VA will not permanently place headstones or maintain the grounds at VA national cemeteries.
- VA will not process applications for pre-need burials.
- VA will not print new presidential memorial certificates.

CAREER FAIRS FOR VETERANS

To create more job opportunities for Veterans, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) partners with the group RecruitMilitary. DAV and RecruitMilitary have teamed up to offer 107 career fairs in 2023, both in-person and virtually.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE Has a new number. It's a lot shorter too. As of Saturday, July 16, anyone in need can call 988. The three-digit number still goes to the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, and the Veterans Crisis Line. Any veteran or current member of the military can dial 988 and then press 1 for the specialized service.

GRIEF AWARENESS DAY: HOW I LEARNED TO HONOR MY HUSBAND AND MYSELF

"If you are a surviving family member, my advice is to find a community that understands you and your journey. Surround yourself with people who motivate you to be a better version of yourself." Learn how one survivor found healing and voice from Travis Manion Foundation..

BLIND VETERANS CAN NOW READ DECISION LETTERS

For the first time ever, blind Veterans can now read their VA benefits decision letters inside the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. This new feature is part of VA's move to improve its accessibility and enable Veterans to view their decision letters immediately online.

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

All Are Welcome To Join Us!
Veterans Day Ceremony



Friday, Nov. 10th
10:45 AM
Hilltop Senior Center

**REGION 12**
SCHOOLS

Region 12 Schools

We enjoyed a fantastic start to the 2023-2024 school year here in Region 12. Smiles and joyful laughter filled Burnham School as students reconnected with friends and began a new year of learning, playing, and growing together.

Once again, Region 12's elementary schools received accolades from the State of Connecticut and beyond, a testament to our outstanding students and exceptional faculty. This year, educators and leaders throughout the district are focused on balancing rigorous academics with our children's holistic growth and development. Returning to single-age grade levels will allow Burnham School greater focus and coherence on grade-level content embedded in challenging academic standards.

Burnham School started the school year with its traditional ice cream social for families, community members, and staff. The energy and excitement were evident with lively conversation and smiling faces. Open House was well attended and offered parents an early opportunity to meet with their child's teachers and work together to support students for a successful year ahead. The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) also had its first meeting, and the group is excited to plan a year of fun events to bring the Burnham community together and enrich the lives of our young ones.

This year, Burnham School is excited about the launch of an elementary Spanish language program. We will welcome back recently retired Shepaug teacher Leslie Holst-Grubbe to build and implement our Spanish program. Teachers at Burnham are also piloting a new literacy program rooted in the science of reading. This approach to literacy development blends phonics and building fundamental reading skills with deepening comprehension to promote understanding.

Shepaug Valley School continues to prepare students for vibrant and exciting futures. The team at Shepaug is focusing on expanding our dual-enrollment offerings that allow high school students to simultaneously complete college credits, allowing them to enter college as sophomores or juniors. The school also ensures that all students feel a sense of belonging and connectedness. To accomplish this, newly introduced student leadership programs help peers navigate transitions, the staff is working to ensure that all students participate in an extracurricular activity, and we are partnering with the Anti-Defamation League to educate our students about the world of differences in schools.

Lastly, we thank the Bridgewater community members and town leaders for their unwavering support. The students, staff, and families of Burnham School appreciate everything you do to help meet the needs of our children and make their educational journey a success.

Dr. Marc J. Gosselin Jr.
Superintendent of Schools





Burnham School PTO NEWS

The school year is in full swing now, and The Burnham School is thriving! The school community showed great support during all of the events in the Fall. The Tractor Parade was a great time- thank you to our community members who assisted us!

The Burnham School is excited for all of our upcoming events for the winter. First there is the Lyman Orchard Pie Fundraiser that gets us into thinking of all the holiday treats that are to come. From pumpkin pie to chocolate chip cookies, there's something for every sweet tooth. Find a Burnham student to order yours if it's not too late! Following that is the Wreath and Wine. We always enjoy this community event to get us in the holiday spirit. Finally, we look forward to celebrating with the Harvest Gathering and holiday teacher lunch.

The Burnham School is always interested in hearing ways we can connect with the community. Please feel free to reach out to the PTO if you have an upcoming event or any thoughts on further collaborating the school with the community. You can reach us at BurnhamSchoolPTO@gmail.com

For more up-to-date information on any happenings, check us out on Facebook - "Burnham School PTO" or our website - burnhamschoolpto.weebly.com

Thanks for your continued support!

Kindly submitted by The Burnham School PTO



Tree Lighting Town Green

All are welcome!
Friday, December 1st
at 7 PM

Other Festivities on December 1st

- Holiday Dinner at St. Marks Church 5 PM - 7 PM
- Christmas Shop at Congregational Church 5 PM - 8 PM
- Bedtime Stories at the Burnham Library 7:30 PM



The Bridgewater Land Trust

The mission of the Bridgewater Land Trust has focused on preserving land, but we also recognize the importance of protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds. Over the past two years we have been fortunate to protect two pieces of land that have frontage on Lake Lillinonah: The Lamont Preserve which stretches 1/2 a mile along the shoreline near the Brookfield bridge and our leased Eversource land which is adjacent to the Bridgewater Town Park with lake frontage near Tappen Road and Lake Lillinonah Road South.

Friends of the Lake, a local non-profit organization, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. They work hard to clean, preserve and protect Lake Lillinonah. Many of their volunteers are Bridgewater residents who give time and energy to improve the water quality of the lake. We applaud what they do and hope to enhance their efforts. At our Annual Meeting in November (see details below) we will present: "The Shores of Lake Lillinonah: Then and Now." We will share Bridgewater history from the days before the lake existed to ongoing protection efforts today.

Thanks to many hikers who braved the dreary weather to walk our new trails and celebrate at the Bridgewater Town Park last weekend (see photos on opposite page). While the trails were a bit waterlogged, everyone made it back to enjoy delicious food from Twins BBQ, play games and relax by the fire. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors: Eversource Energy, Bridgewater's Recreation Commission, and Union Savings Bank for their support.

Thanks to many of you for your amazing support during our springtime Give Local campaign with special thanks to resident Chris Amorossi for her generous match. We continue to promote giving at that time as matching funds and bonuses enhance your donation. If you didn't give then, but would like to, please consider a year-end donation. Your continued support is critical to the work BWLT does in Bridgewater.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Julie Stuart, *Executive Director*
The Bridgewater Land Trust

Please Join Us

Annual Meeting

Featuring

"The Shores of Lake Lillinonah Then and Now"

Wednesday, November 15th at 5:30 PM

The Burnham Library

Followed by

A Celebratory Dinner

7 PM at The Bridgewater Bistro

Tickets: \$50

Includes program and

farm-to-table dinner

Drinks are not included

Seats are limited

R.S.V.P

Julie Stuart

julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org



The BWLT hosted 5th Grade Burnham School students for a hike at Tappen Brook Trails in October.

Tappen Brook Trails Grand Opening Sept. 30 2023



Tappen Brook Trails is open daily until sunset. Maps and details can be found at www.bridgewaterlandtrust.org

KEEP UP WITH ALL THINGS BURNHAM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR HAVE NEWS DROPPED INTO YOUR INBOX



www.burnhamlibrary.org

Burnham Library

Where Community Connects

November, December, January 2024

Executive Director: Jean Kallay

jkallay@burnhamlibrary.org

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

Visit us Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 5:00 and Saturday 9:00 - 1:00

We will be closed on the following dates:

Early Closing at 1:00 - Friday, November 17 & O Silent Night, Saturday, November 18

Early Closing at 1:00 - Wednesday, November 22 and through Friday, November 24

Christmas Observed, Tuesday, December 26

New Year Observed, Tuesday, January 2

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!

Did you know?

The Burnham Library offers a range of exciting sponsorship opportunities that allow you or your company to make a meaningful impact. Are you passionate about education and community engagement? Contact our Executive Director, Jean Kallay, to explore sponsorship opportunities and help us continue to provide valuable educational resources and programs. Visit our website for more information.

Adult Events, Speakers, & Workshops

If registration is required, reserve your space by visiting our website Events Calendar or as listed.

Workshops

Beat away the winter blues by learning a new skill!

Skills Café with Jean: Thursday, November 9 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm - **Paperbag Stars**

Cozy Crafts with Katie: Friday, December 7 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm - **Create Mini Winter Rooms**

Virtual Book Discussions -All are welcome to join in the lively monthly discussion on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:00. Email Catherine Flynn at cwflynn60@gmail.com with any questions.

November 29 - The Sentence by Louise Erdrich

January 24 - Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi

Copies of each selection will be available at the library or request curbside pick-up.

Quinnetukut: Stories of Survival and Hands-on History with IAIS

ALL AGES on Saturday, November 4 from 10:00 - 11:00 am

Darlene Kascak (Schaghticoke Tribal Nation), from The Institute for American Indian Studies, will give an interactive presentation on the 12,000-year history of Life in the Eastern Woodlands. Immerse yourself in the lifeways of Native Americans in the past and present day. Registration required with Miss Lianne at lambruso@burnhamlibrary.org

Knit So as to Turn Water

Thursday, January 25 from 6:00 - 7:00

Rich with origin mythology and salty with sailors' yarns, garments like nippers, half-handers, and the infamous fisherman's sweater each hold a romantic yet real place in our coastal history. Explore knitting a WWI submariner's outfit with the Navy League! Join Rebecca Bayreuther Donohue, historian & knitter, for an ode to wool and marvel once again at how the sea connects us all. Reserve your seat by visiting our Events calendar.

Burnham Library, cont.

Art @ Burnham Library

Visit and view during library hours

November 18 - November 30 - **O Silent Night Show** Pop-Up Art Show featuring local artists. Opening at our 25th Annual O Silent Night fundraising event.

December 5 - December 30 - Two Afghan artists, Alibaba Awrang, who seamlessly blends lines and colors in contemporary Persian Calligraphy, and Mati Malikzada, a seventh-generation master potter renowned for his elegant designs. A public opening reception and short presentation will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

January 2 - February 17 - "The Pencil" showcases a collection of artwork from Liotta Studios. Clayton Liotta, a seasoned artist with decades of experience, has explored various mediums throughout his career. This exhibition spotlights some of his favorite pieces crafted using pastel, oil, and graphite pencils.

Holiday Spirits in the Night

Saturday, December 16 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Celebrate the season with cocktails and an evening of performance by violinist Jane Chung & friends, including holiday carols with our own inimitable Jim Moker! Reserve your seat by visiting our website Events Calendar.

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

The Great Holiday Giveaway!

Beginning November 1, drop into the library and grab an amazing Night Before Christmas advent calendar and pop-up book. Open the frighteningly delightful pop-up advent calendar to find a beautiful foot tall pop-up tree, ornaments, and a booklet with fascinating facts about Halloween Town.

Join us for **Bedtime Stories** after the Town Tree Lighting Friday, December 1, at 7:30 at the Library

Burnham Library • Bridgewater, CT

MAKING *spirits* BRIGHT

The Friends of the Library invite you to a Fundraising Soiree

O SILENT NIGHT

NOVEMBER
18
5:00 - 7:00 pm

*Silent Auction
Wine Basket
Win-Win Ornament Grab and more!*

Tickets \$40 on sale October 17
At the door \$45
Includes Lite Bites & Libations

Proceeds to support Burnham Library programs and services



Gingerbread House Workshop

Saturday, December 2 - Three sessions: 9:30 - 10:30, 10:45 - 11:45, 12:00 - 1:00 Join Nancy Stuart for our most-beloved annual event!

Register for one of three sessions. This free program includes a freshly baked house, candy & decorating supplies. Please bring a donation for the Bridgewater Food Pantry. Reserve your spot by visiting the website. We apologize, we cannot accommodate any day-of requests or walk-ins.

Join us in the SBYLC and embark on a journey of learning, discovery, and fun! A new season of activities begin in the new year. Visit our website for dates and times or email Miss Lianne at lambruso@burnhamlibrary.org

Burnham LEGO
Young Artists
Teen Crafternoon
Dinosaur Club
Burnham Bunch Storytime
Café Play



We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of our community who pitched in at the Bridgewater Fair this year. Despite the rain that poured down in the lead-up to the weekend, our dedicated crews persevered through the mud and muck to deliver an outstanding weekend filled with delectable food, awesome entertainment, and wholesome family fun. None of this would have been possible without the invaluable contributions from volunteers from both our town and the neighboring communities. The Fair of 2023 was one for the record books!

Turning the clock back to 1922, the National Fire Prevention Association embarked on a mission to educate families and communities about essential safety practices to prevent fires. This effort led to the establishment of Fire Prevention Week, observed in the second week of October, in remembrance of the devastating Great Chicago Fire of 1871. As I write this, we're planning a special demonstration for the students at Burnham School. It provides us with an excellent opportunity to connect with the students and impart vital knowledge. We emphasize the significance of having operational fire alarms, explain the role of CO alarms, and stress the importance of having a well-thought-out fire escape plan in place at home. I urge each of you to take a few moments to ensure your fire alarms are working properly. Please conduct a brief test to verify that they can detect smoke or heat effectively and emit a loud, audible alert. If you encounter any issues, promptly replace batteries or seek professional assistance.

Speaking of assistance, we could use your help with ensuring that your driveways and homes are adequately marked. This small act can make a world of difference in our ability to reach your home swiftly in case of an emergency. I recently responded to a call where two houses sharing a common driveway were not adequately marked. As a result, I ended up at the wrong house, costing precious time. Every minute counts in such situations, so we ask you to assist us by making your home easily identifiable.

As we ease into the chilly winter months, it's crucial to prioritize cold weather safety. With the mercury dropping, our cozy abodes will rely more on the warmth of space heaters and crackling fireplaces. Take a moment to review the safety protocols for your trusty auxiliary heaters. And remember, the roar of a chimney fire is entirely avoidable with proper flue maintenance and a good cleaning.

Here's to a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year!

Sincerely,

Julie Ann Ledbetter, First Assistant Chief



Bridgewater EMS Update

Fall has arrived and Winter will be with us before we know it. Now is the time to get your FLU and Pneumonia vaccinations, as well as a Covid booster if advised by your physician. Covid numbers are slowly ticking upward so please remain vigilant with basic health and hygiene practices like frequent handwashing and staying home when you are feeling ill. There are many ways your actions can help protect you, your household, and your community from illness from COVID-19.

I would like to thank all those that volunteered at the EMS tent during the Bridgewater Fair this year. We had numerous EMS volunteers from area towns, as well as our own EMS volunteers, that took time out of their weekend to fill shifts during the fair and provide immediate emergency care when needed. Special thanks to Matt Cassavechia, of Nuvance Health, for arranging extra EMS coverage with a Medic/ EMT crew, as well as a fully equipped mobile unit, to help with on-ground emergency care. We are truly fortunate to always have such professional and dedicated volunteers, not only during this very busy event, but year-round in our small community as well.

Congratulations to our newest certified EMR member, Joe Masso, on his completion of the EMR practical and written test. Joe has already been responding to calls in town and will add further depth to our small list of EMTs/EMRs. We have several more EMR students who will soon be scheduling their certification testing.

If anyone is interested in becoming part of our EMS team, please reach out, there are always new classes being held, either in Bridgewater with our training officer, Pete Johnson, or with other area towns. We would love to have you join our team!

Sincerely, Diana Haskell Ambulance Coordinator
bvfdems7@gmail.com



BFD Women's Auxiliary

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

The Auxiliary extends it's heart felt thanks to all our wonderful fair volunteers who worked our Cake Wheel, The Art Exhibit and the Watering Hole. We could not have been so successful without you! The Beer & Wine tasting was another extremely successful repeat event. We need to thank John NeJaime for organizing our vendors and terrific firemen for setup and supervising the event. Hopefully you all had a chance to check out the Town Wide Tag Sale, our last event for the year.

We have 5 new members who will be voted in at our October Meeting!! November is the last meeting for the year, a very successful one I must say.

Remember the Auxiliary meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30pm. in the firehouse. Our first meeting Of 2024 will be in March with the Installation of Officers.

Please join us as we support our wonderful Fire Department.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Wonderful Holiday Season!!

Ann Frattalone, President BVFD Womens Auxiliary



Literacy Volunteers On The Green

A drive through Bridgewater, Connecticut, in the fall is quintessential New England!

The fall semester is well underway as we welcome new adult learners, train new tutors, and support tutor/student learning teams as they meet weekly throughout northwestern Connecticut. In early November, we'll be launching Dishes from Around the World, a student recipe/reflection cookbook written by our students and representing 20 countries! Our mission remains steadfast - to offer free English language literacy to adult learners in northern Fairfield and Litchfield counties, as they strive to become independent readers, writers, listeners, and speakers of English, enabling their full participation in the communities we share.

Literacy programs include English language learning, basic skills remediation in reading and writing, U.S. citizen preparation, family literacy, and offering English tutoring for families from Afghanistan and the Ukraine, settled by Refugee Resettlement Groups in New Milford, Washington and Brookfield.

Please consider impacting the lives of adult learners and their families by revitalizing the working lives of adults seeking English language proficiency. Our next new tutor training will be held early in 2024! Please contact Lynn@lv-g-ct.org to learn of ways to support English language literacy in northwestern Connecticut.

Lynn Davies, Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers on the Green



Historical Society News

The Bridgewater Historical Society has been busy these past few months. We held several open houses at our wonderful Peck House along with a Patio Party that featured delicious snacks and beverages to celebrate the arrival of Fall. We also had a very successful tag sale, which featured many antiques and “treasures” that a lot of folks were happy to find. A big thank you to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it all happen!

We are looking forward to partnering with the Bridgewater Land Trust for our Halloween happenings on the porch. This winter we will also collaborate with the Burnham Library to present a program in the early part of the year. Please stay tuned for details! We welcome our newest members, Louise Marble, Julie Stuart and Susan Wilcox to our committee. We are happy to see many more people enjoying the Peck House and look forward to welcoming more of you to learn about our area’s rich and vibrant history.



Tag Sale volunteers pictured from left to right: Marla Blumenstock, Joanna Stuart, Noreen Michener and Rudy Simari



From The Desk of the Town Historian

Does your family have a special dish that is served on birthdays or holidays? If so, it may be a clue to your ancestors’ point of origin. In my family, Thanksgiving was always held at my Grandmother’s house. She was the daughter of German immigrants. She and her four sisters were fabulous cooks who owned a restaurant and deli in Brooklyn for many years. Cooking skills were not passed down to her daughter, my mother. Mom had an extensive collection of cook books. We used to say that, to her they were fiction. When my future husband would come to our house for dinner, he would eat a bologna sandwich before coming to hold him over until he could get some edible food later.

For Grandma, cooking was an art. No written recipes for her - just good tasting food coming from her kitchen. Watching her cook was the source of information because asking questions about the cooking process gave little information. She would tell you to stir the contents of the pot until it looked “nice” or to add butter to the sauce. How much? About the size of a nice walnut. It didn’t help. The signature dish she made for Thanksgiving was kale with pinkle. Back then, nobody ate kale. The cooking process involved the use of a pressure cooker, a dangerous piece of kitchen equipment. The “pinkle” was a German sausage with a thin skin. The contents were spices, ground pork and a large dose of cereal. The skin was pierced before placing it in the pressure cooker. As the steam built up, the skin ruptured spreading the cereal through the kale mixture.

So how did kale with pinkle become a genealogical clue? It turns out that this dish is a favorite among the residents of Oldenburg and the small island off the coast of Germany. That was the birth town of my ancestors. So, if you’re not sure about your ancestors’ birth place, think about their favorite dish. It might be your clue to their ancestry. Happy eating!



BRIDGEWATER HILLTOP CENTER NEWS



As we near the holiday season, it is important to think of our own wellness needs, as well as the needs of others. Those of us who are caregivers may need to be particularly attentive to ourselves because the nature of the role we are in puts our personal needs in second place. Be sure to take time from the hustle and bustle each of these upcoming weeks and go for a walk; call a friend or family member you haven't reached out to recently; relax with a book or with music; meditate or take that yoga class you have always wanted to; and follow up on your spiritual needs. Be aware of the time you should take for yourself, which will put you in a better position to take on all the other responsibilities of the holiday season. And know that the Hilltop Center can address most of your wellness needs. Please review our programming options and pick out a couple events that let you take care of you.

UPCOMING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Flu Clinic - Newtown Health District - Monday, November 11 at 9:00-1:00
Thanksgiving Lunch - Including old-time favorites - November 16 at 12:00
Christmas Lunch - Thursday, December 21 at 12:00
Lunch & Learn - Hearing Loss & Dementia Lecture - November 20 at 12:00
Lunch & Learn - Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's - December 11 at 12:30
Bridgewater/Roxbury Garden Club - December 14 at 1:00
YMCA Wellness Lectures - November 17, December 22, January 19 at 1:00
Birthday Social - Thursday, December 28 at 1:00
Bingo - Thursday, November 9, December 7, January 18 at 1:00

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Body Conditioning Exercise: Monday 10:30 and Wednesday 11:30
- Social Services: Tuesday 9:00-12:00
- Corn Hole Games: Tuesday 10:00
- Silver Needles: Tuesday 1:00
- Tai Chi: Wednesday 10:00
- Mahjong: Wednesday 1:00
- Rummikub: Friday 10:00
- Chair Yoga: Friday 10:30
- Canasta: Friday 1:00
- Breakfast Group: 1st Thursday of each month - reservation needed.
- Sunday Concert Club: One Sunday a month - check with center for dates
- Hilltop Book Group: Last Monday of each month at 2:00
- Blood Pressure Clinic: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:00
- Burnham Library Program: 4th Tuesday of each month at 12:30
- Massage: Twice a month, Wednesday at 1:00 - appointment needed.

BRIDGEWATER SENIOR VAN - The van is available weekdays for MD appointments, grocery shopping, senior center programs and special activities. The van has a limited destination distance of no more than 20 miles. Contact Ann Frattalone at 860-350-3042 at least 2 weeks in advance for an appointment. We transport people that are well on a first come first serve basis.

Kathy Creighton, Director



Community Caring in Bridgewater, Inc. (CCB)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Staying Healthy and Happy at Home

Autumn and Winter Projects

Now is the time to check gutters, doors, windows and waterlines and to make sure walks are clear. Generally, prepare for whatever winter may bring. Let us know if we can assist with your Winter preparations.

Library Programs

CCB and the Library enjoy putting on programs for seniors. We are planning a program on technology and gadgets that are unique to senior needs. Technology and Artificial Intelligence are doing remarkable things to advance a senior's ability to stay at home independently. Please let us know if there are additional topics you would like covered and we will work with the Library to arrange.

Community Interaction

We enjoy interacting with all members of the Bridgewater community. Please reach out if there are matters that you think we should address, specific areas or ideas that we should pursue, or groups with whom we should collaborate.

Senior Financial Assistance

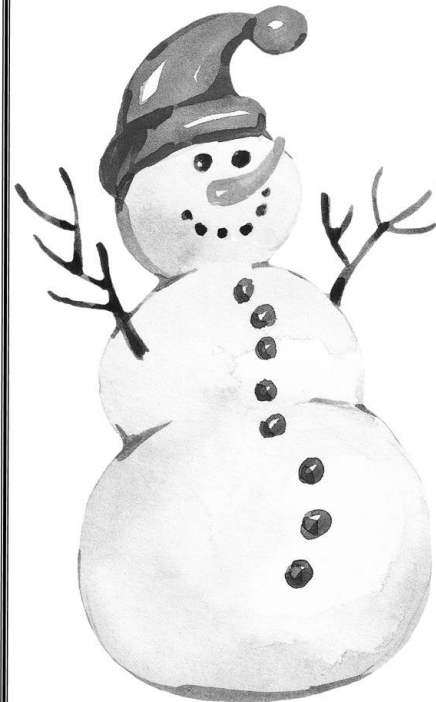
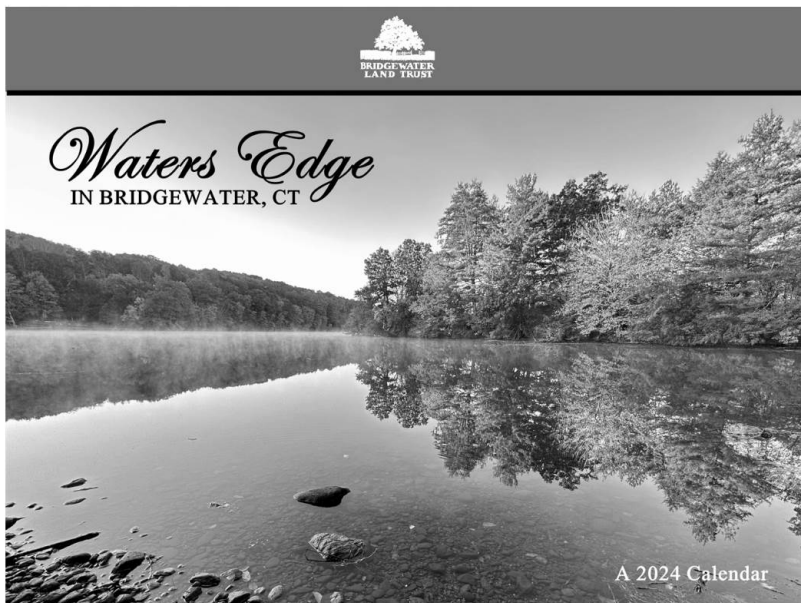
If you are in need of financial assistance to get you over surprise expenses or extraordinary circumstances, reach out to us. All requests for help are handled in confidence.

By Phone: 860-350-2194.

By Email: info@ccbridgewater.org

2024 Bridgewater Calendars Available

The Bridgewater Land Trust is offering a 8 1/2 x 11 inch wall calendar called "Waters Edge". The calendar features seasonal pictures and descriptions of Bridgewater ponds, brooks, streams and the lake. Anyone who would like to reserve a calendar (\$20) please email: julie@bridgewaterlandtrust.org. Calendars will be mailed in early December.



Welcome Winter!

OUR CHURCHES

St. Marks Episcopal Church



NOVEMBER, DECEMBER,
JANUARY 2024

At this time we are expecting to continue having a service at the church every Sunday at a new time - 10:00am. The service currently will be a Eucharist three times a month and a Morning Prayer service with no Eucharist once a month. We are offering the service on ZOOM at the same time. All are welcome at any service or activity.

Holiday Bazaar

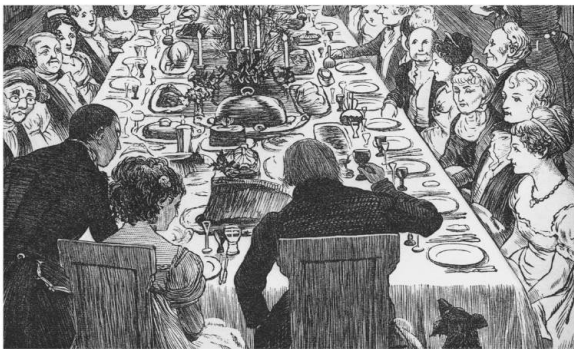
November 11, 2023 9 AM - 2 PM



We will have tag sale items, Jam and baked goods. We will have a luncheon with soup, chips, sandwiches, dessert and a beverage.

Holiday Dinner

December 1, 2023 - 5 PM - 7 PM



Spiral sliced ham, glazed carrots, salad, dinner rolls and dessert \$20 per person

December 24, 2022 4:30 Choral singing
5:00 Eucharist. January event to be planned. Since both our clergy availability and Covid restrictions are always changing, please check the church phone or the town calendar for current information.



The Bridgewater Congregational Church

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

Christmas Shop and Tree Sales Christmas Trees will be for sale starting on November 18th. We will have volunteers available every weekend during the Christmas Shop hours. As in past years, we will be selling fragrant Fraser Firs, between 6 and 8 feet tall. Delivery available upon request. Christmas Shop will open Friday, November 24th. Please see our flier for dates, times, and more!

Bridgewater Congregational Church Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sunday, November 26th ~ Hanging of the Greens Service @ 10am

Sunday, December 17th ~ Christmas Pageant @ 10am

Thursday, December 21st ~ Longest Night: Blue Christmas Service @ 6:30pm

Sunday, December 24th ~ Musical Prelude @ 6:30;
Christmas Eve Services @ 7pm

Hybrid Sunday Service and Sunday School @ 10 a.m. (virtual worship www.bwucc.org and click "Join Now"). Worship is followed by fellowship and coffee hour in the Friendship Hall. All Are Welcome!

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!!

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

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



Friends Of The Lake ANNUAL LAKE DRAWDOWN

FirstLight Power has announced the dates of their annual drawdown of Lake Lillinonah to perform their maintenance and inspection of the Shepaug Dam.

This year the drawdown will begin on October 30, ending November 8, 2023. The drawdown will be approximately 5' below the normal low operating level of 195.5'. Please be aware that any alterations to your waterfront must be approved in advance by FirstLight Power, and by your town's Inland Wetlands Commission as well.

Please email info@friendsofthelake.org with any questions, and cheers to a beautiful Fall!



Sustainable Tips for the Holidays

As we move into the holiday season, we wanted to remind you of a few tips to have a more sustainable holiday!

Separate Your Food Scraps

The Town of Bridgewater Transfer Station has a food scrap drop off program. As you prep holidays meals, collect your food scraps turn them into compost to feed the earth. Learn more at www.hrra.org

Lights and Electronics

Remember that broken holiday lights and unwanted electronics can go to our Electronic Waste Collection at the Transfer Station for recycling.

REMEMBER: LITHIUM BATTERIES are DANGEROUS.

They cause significant fires on waste collection trucks and at recycling facilities. NEVER place these items in your trash or recycling. Bring these items to the E-Waste Collection at the Transfer Station.

Recycle Right

Gift giving is wonderful, but many of our traditional gift wrapping is NOT acceptable in our recycling. Wrapping paper, tissue paper, decorative wraps/ribbons belong in the trash.

Choose to Reuse

If you are hosting a gathering with friends and family, opt to use reusable dishes, cups and utensils. Reusable items make for a nicer presentation, and they don't add to your overall trash. Single-use paper plates, cups and plastic utensils are NOT acceptable in our recycling.

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

Pickleball



Pickleball Monday Night 6:00pm Burnham Gym
PTO Group begins September 11, 2023 Contact
Rebecca Alferi 203-788-2929.

Pickleball Tuesday and Friday Nights 6:30pm
Burnham Gym Contact Jean Robinson.
jeanr2758@gmail.com or 917-887-2455.

Daylight Savings Time Turn Back Clocks On November 5th



Pavilion Rentals



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

Snow Shoe Hike

(weather permitting, details to come
thru town email/facebook)



Christmas House Decorating Contest



(Details to come thru
town email/facebook)

The Bridgewater Recreation Commission

Dawn MacNutt- *Chairman*
Lynn Kubisek - *Secretary*
Josh Murphy
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.



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

BRIDGEWATER RESIDENT

Bridgewater, CT 06752

Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

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

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 7 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 7 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 14 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 14 Zoning Board of Appeals 7 PM, Town Hall
- 15 Board of Finance 4:30 PM, Town Hall
- 16 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 16 Recreation Commission 5:00 PM, Town Hall
- 23-24 Thanksgiving *****Town Hall Closed*****

DECEMBER

- 1 Tree Lighting 7:00 PM Town Green
- 5 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 5 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 12 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 12 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 21 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 25 Christmas *****Town Hall Closed*****
- 28 Recreation Commission 5:00 PM, Town Hall

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day *****Town Hall Closed*****
- 2 Inland Wetlands Comm. 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- 2 Lake Authority 7:30 PM, Zoom
- 9 Board of Selectmen 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day *****Town Hall Closed*****
- 17 Board of Finance 4:30 PM, Town Hall
- 18 Planning & Zoning 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 23 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 25 Recreation Commission 5:00 PM, Town Hall

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

