

Bridgewater Current

Volume 46, Number 10 October 2024



2024 Photography Contest

Help us showcase the beauty and wonders of life found right here in Bridgewater and the surrounding region by submitting your best photos for our annual Photography Contest.

The contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages and includes five categories: Life in Bridgewater, Landscape, Animals, People, and Other. In addition, we have a special division of photographers 12 years old and younger. There is no charge for Town residents; non-residents must pay a \$5 entry fee for each photo submitted. Each participant is limited to five photo submissions.

All entries and registration forms need to be received by October 7. An online viewing of the Photography Contest will be held October 10-12, and winners will be announced at 5:00 pm on October 12.

The first-place entry in each category will be featured in our upcoming Activities Calendar and also be displayed at Sipe Center for the coming year.

This year, we are introducing an online submission option in addition to the printable form that is available for download. For more details on how to enter the contest, visit bridgewater.town/photocontest.



Photo by Harper DeBoer
2023 Young Photographer Winner

Mario Kart Tournament

Saturday, October 19, 12:00 pm

Bring family and friends to watch you play on the big screen for cash prizes! Popcorn, candy, and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the event. Registration cost is \$10.



Register at www.sipecenter.com/tournament or call (540) 908-4212 by October 16.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

The Rockingham County Landfill (813 Greendale Road, Harrisonburg) will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day from 8:00 am to noon on Saturday, October 12. It will accept up to five items per household of these materials:



- Solvents (mineral or petroleum spirits, paint thinner, turpentine, acetone, naphtha, methyl alcohol)
- Automotive fluids
- Paints (but not latex)
- Fuels (Gasoline, diesel fuel, chainsaw or motorboat fuel, #2 fuel oil, kerosene, and heating oil)
- Other items (syringes & needles, herbicides & pesticides, commercial grade fertilizer, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent lights, and antifreeze)

Waste must be in original container, no larger than 5 gallons. The landfill can accept hazardous items from households only – not from farms or businesses. See bridgewater.town/hazardouswaste for more information.



Coming Soon
to a Bridgewater business
near you!

What are River Roos?
Find out more at
bridgewater.town/roos.

Halloween at Oakdale Park October 26, 2:00 - 4:00 pm



Dress the kids in their costumes and bring them out to the track at Oakdale Park to trick-or-treat in a fun and safe environment. Local businesses and other groups will set up stations around the track, so kids are sure to get plenty of candy. Don't miss out on the Halloween fun!

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

When there is an interruption of water service, an unexpected road closure, a hazardous condition, or a potential danger that affects you, we need to be able to send time-critical information, and you need to see it. So we use an alert notification system called Voyent Alert! to send out important and urgent information in a timely manner by text message, e-mail, or recorded message.



Voyent Alert! allows us to target information for residents on a particular street, a neighborhood, or the entire town depending on who needs to know the information. We only send a few alerts over the course of a year (thankfully), but they are always important, time-sensitive messages. We currently have about 1,700 accounts signed up to receive alerts. If you're not one of them, please sign up now!

Download and install the Voyent Alert! App on your smartphone through the Apple App Store or Google Play. Or you can sign up at bridgewater.town/voyentsignup to receive alerts by text or email. If you do not have a smartphone or Internet access, call (540) 908-4212 during working hours to sign up for Voyent Alert! updates by cell phone or land line.

Closing Day for Sandy Bottom Par-3 & Mini-Golf Is October 27!

Make sure to get in your last round (or two) before the season ends.

Mini-Golf is open Friday - Sunday, 12:00 - 9:00 pm.
Par-3 is open daily 6:00 am until dusk.



The 2025 reservation calendar opens November 1 for park shelters at Oakdale, Wildwood, and Sandy Bottom. Log in to the reservation system on Community Pass at bridgewater.town/reservations or call (540) 908-4212 to make your reservation. Shelter reservations are free for Town residents; reservation fees apply to non-residents.

Election of Town Council

When you head to the polls this election season, your choice for president, senator, and representative will not be the only ones you will be casting your vote for. You will also be electing three members of our Town Council here in Bridgewater.

Our Town Council is comprised of six members and the mayor. Every two years, we elect a group of three council members who serve four-year terms. The mayor is elected every four years.



In this election, we have three incumbents who are listed on the ballot: Steven A. Schofield, Travis L. Bowman, and William D. Miracle.

There are two polling places here in the Town: Arey Assembly Hall at the Bridgewater Community Center and the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Your voting location depends on where your residence is, so confirm yours before voting!

Y: Jay's Column About Policy

Happiness Dollars™

As you may know, I'm just a country lawyer, so when someone mentioned to me that we should minimize citizens' "disutility," I thought he was talking about "Miss Utility"! I didn't want folks cutting into electric lines, so I didn't pay much attention. Eventually, though, I realized that disutility doesn't have anything to do with 8-1-1, and it became one of our central concerns.

We have come to see inconvenience as a tax which you pay in Happiness Dollars.

Think of disutility as dissatisfaction. We want to minimize citizen dissatisfaction, because it amounts to a hidden cost paid for with a hidden tax. For example, some of you may remember when we installed a water line on West Bank Street a few years ago. The engineers advised us to backfill the trench with gravel but to leave it unpaved until it had wintered over. That way, when we paved the following spring, the trench would be perfectly compacted and the pavement would last longer. We left the street unpaved, but that \$%#& trench was inconvenient as heck all winter.

We have come to see that inconvenience as a tax which you pay in Happiness Dollars. (I just made that up. To the committee: Please send my Nobel Prize in Economics to 201 Green Street, Bridgewater, Virginia.) Essentially you paid for the long-term stability of our Bank Street pavement in Happiness Dollars every time you drove over the trench. Now, we take a different view. We see your Happiness Dollars as being just as important

as your real tax dollars (though it's obviously hard to quantify them).

So, when we installed a new water line in Barbee Street a year or two after the West Bank Street installation, we paved the trench without waiting for it to winter over. We compacted it as best we could, but at the end of the day, we may have to repave sooner than if we had let it winter over.

Offsetting the shorter lifespan is the fact that there was less disutility. Residents got to keep more of their



This trench along Barbee Street was quickly repaved in 2022.

Happiness Dollars in their pockets. That seemed like a good deal to us.

Hopefully, most of you are filthy rich in Happiness Dollars™, but if you're not please stay tuned. We're going to try to take as few as possible and give back many more.

Upcoming Live Performances at Sipe

Richmond Symphony Presents
A String Quartet Evening
of Classical Music
 October 5, 7:30 pm



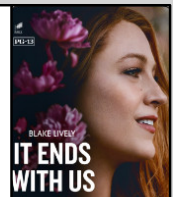
Lovesick Blues
 October 12, 7:30pm
Sold Out!
 A tribute to Hank Williams and Patsy Cline

Learn more and buy tickets at www.sipecenter.com/liveperformances.

Movies at Sipe Center

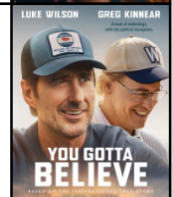
It Ends With Us (PG-13)

Thursday, October 3 6:30 pm
 Friday, October 4 6:30 pm
 Sunday, October 6 2:00 & 5:30 pm



You Gotta Believe (PG)

Thursday, October 10 6:30 pm
 Friday, October 11 6:30 pm
 Sunday, October 13 2:00 & 5:30 pm



The Forge (PG)

Thursday, October 17 6:30 pm
 Friday, October 18 6:30 pm
 Saturday, October 19 4:00 & 7:00 pm
 Sunday, October 20 2:00 & 5:30 pm



Coming Soon...

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice
 and
Reagan



Please visit www.sipecenter.com/movies or check the Buzz for the latest schedule.

Sipe Center Box Office
 Open Thursday-Sunday, 3:00-8:00 pm
 (540) 908-4208

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Got a Question? Call B-Connected at (540) 908-4212

Bridgewater Current

In this issue:

- Photography Contest
- Halloween at Oakdale
- Happiness Dollars™
- And more!



Project Status Updates

For more information and a full description of these projects, follow this QR code.



Project	Status
Riverwalk, Phase III	Archaeological survey completed; awaiting VDOT authorization.
Gen-Oak Connector, Phase II	Received VDOT authorization to begin engineering and design work.
Bridgewater Website	Creating a business directory and updating information on the site; updated site launching early fall.
Traffic Signal Work	Awaiting delivery and installation of new traffic cabinets in October, followed by signal timing work.
Shiverwood Park	Land being cleared beside Smiley's; play equipment and shelters to be installed this winter.

Municipal Calendar & Events

- October 7 – Photography Contest Entries Due**
- October 7 – Large Item Pickup Begins**
- October 8, 7 pm – Town Council Meeting**
- October 26, 2-4 pm – Halloween at Oakdale**
- October 27 – Sandy Bottom Closing Day**
- November 1 – 2025 Shelter Reservations Open**

Tuesday, October 1

Arey Assembly Hall

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

When you sign up, join the group "Bridgewater Gives"

Sign up here!

Articles in this publication are compiled and edited by Town staff. For information, please call B-Connected at (540) 908-4212.