

Bridgewater Current

Volume 46, Number 11 November 2024



Coming Soon to a Business Near You: River Roos!

What's a River Roo?

Support local businesses by participating in our brand-new hyperlocal currency, River Roos. Every dollar spent through the River Roos gift cards stays right here in town, strengthening the local economy and supporting our merchants. Invest in our community with River Roos!

November Steal of a Deal!

Beginning November 1, F&M Bank and the Town are offering a 50% match up to \$50 (while supplies last).

- Purchase a \$10 River Roos card, and you will get a \$5 Bonus Roos gift card!
- Purchase a \$50 card, get a \$25 Bonus Roos gift card!
- Purchase a \$100 card, get a \$50 Bonus Roos gift card!

Limit one bonus card per person.

How Does It Work?

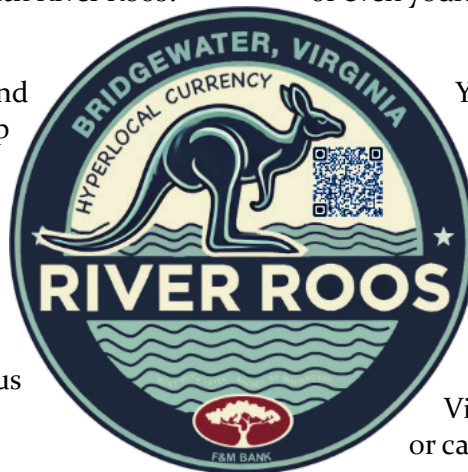
Purchase a River Roos gift card, and use it at any participating local business. You can find a list of businesses that accept River Roos on our website at bridgewater.town/roos. It's a great gift for friends, family, or even yourself!

How Do I Purchase River Roos?

You can purchase River Roos eGift Card using the link at bridgewater.town/roos starting November 1. Not big into eAnything? No problem! If you prefer a physical card, you can purchase it at the Town Office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Learn More

Visit our website at bridgewater.town/roos, or call B-Connected at (540) 908-4212.



2025 Park Shelter Reservations



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.

Sipe Center 2025!

We will publish the Sipe Center 2025 Live Performance Guide later this month, and tickets will go on sale for a full slate of great performances on November 25! We are looking forward to two awesome Signature Series acts, performances by Virginia-grown talent, and our inaugural a cappella series. Add to that animal antics, a family musical, an inspiring talk by a former player from the big leagues, and tons of fun shows, and we have a great year in store at Sipe Center.

This year, we are also introducing our Sipe Circle membership program for folks who want to help in growing the performing arts in Bridgewater. Your membership donation entitles you to a host of benefits such as exclusive swag, a 10% discount to live performances, early ticket access, and even a few River Roos! See www.sipecenter.com/member or stop by the Box Office for more details.

Bridgewater Holiday Classic



Businesses are gearing up to participate in our annual *Bridgewater Holiday Classic*, and the winner is up to you! Businesses will decorate for the holidays by December 1. Voting will begin on the Buzz following the tree lighting. Stay tuned to the Buzz for more details.

Generations Park Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 1
6:30 pm



Gather around the tree, and enjoy holiday music, ginger snaps, and hot cider. Spend the evening on the ice or at one of our fire tables. Join your neighbors as we kick off the holiday season together!

Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 pm



Dynamic Aviation is again hosting our annual Christmas Parade, so mark your calendars now!

Interested in entering the parade? Pre-register now at www.dynamicaviation.com/community-engagement to confirm your spot in this year's parade. You will then receive a welcome packet by email on Monday, December 2 with registration and line-up instructions.

What B-Towners Need to Know about the Ice Rink

When is ice skating season?

The rink at Generations Park opens on Thanksgiving Day, November 28 and will be open until early March for the operating hours shown below.

2024-25 Ice Rink Schedule

Monday	6:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Tuesday	4:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Wednesday	6:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Thursday	4:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Friday	4:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Saturday	12:00 noon - 9:30 pm
Sunday	12:00 noon - 9:30 pm



How do the ice skating sessions work?

Sessions begin on the even hours (12, 2, 4, 6, and 8 pm, depending on the daily hours of operation). Sessions last 90 minutes with a half hour designated between sessions for rink maintenance and welcoming guests for the next session. Each session is limited to 65 skaters, so advance tickets are highly recommended.

How do I get tickets?

Tickets and skate rentals are free for residents with a B-Rec card, but you must reserve them over the phone at (540) 908-3799 or in-person at the rink. Tickets are also available for purchase at bridgewater.town/skating. Sessions are \$6 per person, and skate rentals are available for \$4. Tickets are available for reservation and sale beginning November 1.

What if I don't have advance tickets for a session?

We hold 20 tickets that are made available at the skate window 15 minutes before the start of the session.

Will Icy the Elf be returning this year?

Yes! Icy plans to come keep an eye on the rink this season through December 23. Spot Icy to receive a free treat at the skate window!



Can I hold a party at the rink?

You can reserve a Gen Park ice skating party for \$225. Parties are available Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 am. To reserve an ice skating party, call B-Connected at (540) 908-4212 beginning November 1. These always go fast, so don't wait to reserve yours!

Y: Jay's Column About Policy More Than an Hour a Month

I clipped an article for the Council last week from the Newport News newspaper. It seems that the city has passed some provocative revisions to its parking laws. In passing the article along, I wasn't advocating for change; I was beginning an iterative thought process which could lead to a new way of thinking about parking. Or it might lead us to stay exactly where we are, if the council members don't see a need for a new parking framework.


Some folks assume that the Council works about one hour per month and always goes along with staff recommendations. That assumption, akin to the notion that pastors work one hour per week, is very wrong. Council members spend countless hours reading staff reports and proposals. They (gently) kill my dumbest ideas before they ever become legislative proposals. (So yes—believe it or not, what you see in public is actually my *best* work!) They also help shape the ideas that do have some merit.

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Make no mistake. There are no secret meetings where proposals are vetted. Instead, individual members just share their thoughts about whether an idea is worth considering. Either way, we may refine the idea over time and ask again. We may also request a legal opinion on the idea. (I still know a pretty fair amount of law, but I don't pretend to have the objectiveness of an outside attorney.)

If the idea becomes actual legislation, we go gangbusters to involve the public. By that point, council members have spent hours wrestling with the idea behind the legislation. They know it well, but they still want to hear from you. Maybe they missed something. Maybe the legislation hits citizens unexpectedly hard. Without question, council members make mistakes, but you would be dead wrong to assume they haven't thought long and hard about their actions.

If our process is working well, a briefed and knowledgeable Council will consider legislation before an inquiring but respectful public. It allows meaningful public consideration of important matters without wasting time on things like my anaerobic-digester proposal for grass clippings. (But mark my words: Technology *will* soon allow our grass clippings to generate electricity! I'm just saying.)




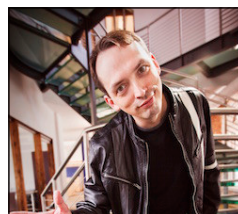
Coffee with a Cop

November 27, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Bridgewater Foods

Join your Bridgewater police officers for coffee and conversations! Talk with officers, ask questions, and let them know what's on your mind.

Upcoming Live Performances at Sipe

Twitty & Lynn:
A Salute to Conway & Loretta
November 2, 3:00 & 7:30 pm 
Sold Out!



**Comedy Night with Daren
Streblov & Clint Hall**
November 15, 7:30pm

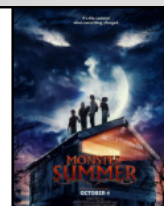
*A night of laughs with two
hilarious comics!*

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

Movies at Sipe Center

Monster Summer (PG-13)

Thursday, October 31 6:30 pm
Friday, November 1 6:30 pm
Sunday, November 3 2:00 & 5:30 pm



Reagan (PG-13)

Thursday, November 7 6:30 pm
Friday, November 8 6:30 pm
Saturday, November 9 3:30 & 7:00 pm
Sunday, November 10 2:00 & 5:30 pm



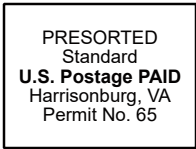
Coming Soon...

Transformers One
and
Faith of Angels



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



**Local
 Postal Customer**

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

Bridgewater Current


In this issue:

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- Ice Rink Opening
- Holiday Events
- And more!



Project Status Updates

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



Project	Status
Midtown Signage	New signs installed in Midtown at Creative Art Studio and Coffee Room. Awaiting other Midtown requests.
Gen-Oak Connector, Phase II	Kickoff meeting held with VDOT; engineering & design work underway.
Bridgewater Website	Finalizing redesign and preparing to publish this fall.
Traffic Signal Work	Delivered October 29, awaiting installation and timing work in November.

Municipal Calendar & Events

November 1 – 2025 Shelter Reservations Open
 November 4 – Large Item Pickup Begins
 November 5 – Town Office Closed
 November 12 – Town Council, 7 pm
 Nov. 28 & 29 – Town Office & Recycle Center Closed
 (Sipe Center closed Nov. 28)



**Tuesday,
 December 17
 Arey Assembly Hall**

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

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

Sign up here!

