

Bridgewater Current

Volume 47, Number 1 January 2025



Bridgewater Snow Removal - Now with Less Salt

The winter months can bring dicey travel conditions. When the snow or ice hits, Bridgewater is known for clearing the roads quickly and efficiently. Our crew is well prepared to respond with a detailed snow plan. Heretofore, the plan has centered on using tons and tons of sodium chloride to burn away ice and snow, but the use of salt comes at a cost and not just a financial one.

Salt can cause concrete to deteriorate, especially in newer or poorly sealed portions. The freeze-thaw cycle, exacerbated by salt, leads to cracks and potholes. Salt is corrosive and can damage metal railings, doorways, and vehicles. Runoff from salted surfaces leads to elevated sodium and chloride levels in nearby water bodies, affecting aquatic life. Salt can also accumulate in the soil, affecting its fertility and harming plant life.

It remains a strong priority to clear the roads of Bridgewater to provide safe travel, but we are taking measures to minimize salt usage. In years past, our dump trucks circled the residential streets spreading layer after layer of salt until the asphalt was clear. This year, you might not hear the dump trucks traveling through your neighborhood every 30 minutes. This is no cause for

worry though! Our crew is still hard at work, but they will be spreading a single layer of salt and waiting for the chemicals to take effect. They will also be monitoring ground temperatures and weather conditions to better inform decisions about the need for additional salt. We might not get it right on the first try, but we are attempting to balance the need for safe roadways with the goal of protecting the environment, public health, and infrastructure by reducing the amount of salt used.



Our snowplows stand at the ready for this season's storms.

Open Mic Night

Friday, January 10, 7:00 pm

Singers, musicians, spoken word poets, dancers, and performers of all kinds are invited to show off their talent! Open mic sets are limited to 10-15 minutes maximum.

Bring your own instruments or whatever you need to perform. Instruments must be played acoustically. Full drum kits are discouraged. To pre-register, email info@sipecenter.com by Wednesday, January 8. Pre-registration is highly encouraged.



Reminders for Snow Days

Park off-street: Avoid parking on the street if you have an off-street option. Snowplows cannot fully clear the street otherwise.

Stay home if possible: Avoid unnecessary travel when crews are clearing snow and ice.

Give room for snowplows: Do not attempt to pass snowplows, and stay at least 100 feet behind them.

Snow day movies: If school is canceled due to snow, Sipe Center will announce a family Snow Day movie through the *Buzz*!



Shufflecurl Season Is Back!



It's finally Shufflecurl season again! Shufflecurl is a hybrid of curling and shuffleboard. The players enter the rink on a non-slip carpet and take turns using a game pole called a stymie to push curling stones toward the game board. Once players have shot all the stones and points have been tallied for the closest stone(s), staff retrieve the stones so that players don't have to risk slipping on the ice. This fun game is open to all ages and ability levels! Visit bridgewater.town/shufflecurl to find out more.

Beginning January 10, join us on Fridays at 1:00 pm during January and February to play a round! Sign up by emailing shufflecurl@bridgewater.town.

Learn to Skate!

Did you know that Generations Park offers ice skating lessons for kids and adults? If you want to improve your skating skills this winter, consider lessons with our excellent instructor, Ashleigh Welch. Generations Park Ice Academy offers quality group, private, and semi-private instructions for skaters. Learn more by visiting www.generationsparkiceacademy.com.

Generations Park Ice Rink Open Daily!

The Generations Park Ice Rink is open seven days a week through early March! Skating and skate rentals are free for all Town residents with a B-Rec card. Sessions are 90 minutes and begin on the even hours with a 30-minute setup time between sessions. Reservations are encouraged, but a limited number of tickets are available 15 minutes before the session starts. Call (540) 908-4212 to reserve your session now! See bridgewater.town/skating for more details.

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



Call B-Connected at (540) 908-4212 to schedule your free B-Rec skate session!

This Month's Movies at Sipe Center

Wicked - Part 1 (PG)

Thursday, January 2	6:30 pm
Friday, January 3	2:00 & 6:30 pm
Saturday, January 4	3:00 & 7:00 pm
Sunday, January 5	1:30 & 5:30 pm
Thursday, January 9	6:30 pm
Saturday, January 11	3:00 & 7:00 pm
Sunday, January 12	1:30 & 5:30 pm



Coming Soon...

The Lord of the Rings:
The War of the Rohirrim
&
Moana 2



Sipe Center Box Office

Open Thursday – Sunday, 3:00 – 8:00 pm
(540) 908-4208
www.sipecenter.com/movies

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day CELEBRATION



"Celebrating the
Dream, Continuing
the Journey"

January 20, 11:00 am

Community March

Oakdale Park to College Campus

Bridgewater College invites the community to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There will be speakers at Oakdale Park before a march to campus as well as other events on campus.

See bridgewater.edu/mlk for more details.

Midtown Connector Meeting – January 15, 4-6 pm

The Town is hosting a public information meeting on Wednesday, January 15 from 4 to 6 pm at Arey Assembly Hall (201 Green Street). The topic will be the proposed Midtown Connector; the Town is exploring a potential grant that could fund the project and other improvements in Midtown. This will be an informal—and hopefully informative—meeting where we discuss the proposed Midtown Connector and listen to your specific concerns about the project.

Y: Jay's Column About Policy

To Chicken or Not to Chicken?

Part of me has always dreaded discussing backyard chickens in Bridgewater. The topic always seems to lead to cringeworthy headlines: "Discussion Turns Fowl in Meeting," "Citizens Crow Over Rooster Exclusion," or "Town Council Lays Egg." Goofy headlines are not part of a better life, but maybe chickens are. Last month, a group of citizens appeared at our meeting asking that the Council make a provision for backyard chickens in our Town Code. Staff will be studying the issue for the next



few weeks before we make a presentation to Council in March. We expect the Council to act—if at all—later in the spring.

Contrary to popular belief, Bridgewater does not currently ban chickens.

Instead, staff has just applied a simple syllogism: (1) egg production is an agricultural use, and (2) agricultural uses must be confined to agricultural zones. Therefore, keeping chickens for egg production may only take place in such zones. (Even if you don't like the rule, you have to admit that the logic is sound.) Emotional support chickens, for lack of a better term, are unregulated.

Council members must consider many factors beyond popular opinion, but their analysis always starts with their constituents' viewpoints.

Accordingly, we start with a clean slate as we consider the proper place of chickens in Town. We will consider what other jurisdictions have done without relying solely on their decisions. What is good for somebody else isn't necessarily good for Bridgewater. Plus, experience has taught us that there is no substitute for applying our own thinking to a problem. Still if you have ideas for us, let us know. I promise that we will consider them.

You should also drop us a line even if you just want to register support or opposition. Understandably, the Council will want to know what townspeople think about the issue, and, right now, we don't know. Council members must consider many factors beyond popular opinion, but their analysis always starts with their constituents' viewpoints.

Gwen Gottfried (ggottfried@bridgewater.town) is taking the lead on our analysis, and she will be cooped up at 201 Green until she finishes. (Sorry—I just couldn't resist.) Let her know what you think!



Baseline Tennis Clinics

Online registration for Winter Baseline Tennis Clinics is now available at bridgewater.town/tennisclinic. Karen Clark, varsity girls' tennis coach at Turner Ashby High School, directs the clinic. All clinics are held at the Doug Will Tennis Center in Bridgewater. Cost is \$60 for B-Rec members and \$65 for non-B-Rec members.

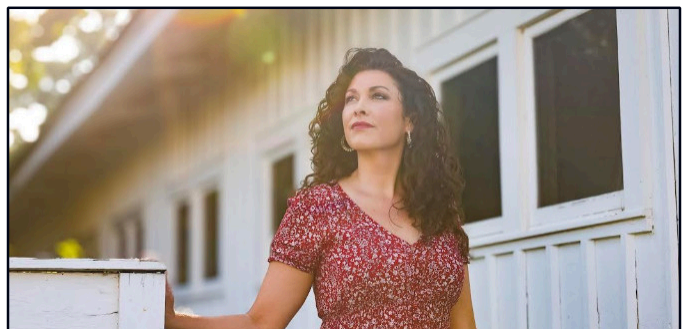
Cocoa & Cookies with a Cop

January 25, 3 - 6 pm
Generations Park



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

Upcoming Live Performances at Sipe



Jessica Crawford DiPuma

Saturday, January 18, 7:30 pm
Tickets \$20

Bridgewater native and Nashville recording artist Jessica DiPuma returns to the Sipe Center stage, bringing family stories and songs rooted in her Valley upbringing for an evening of Sentimental Americana music.

Johnny Peers & the Muttville Comix

in association with DCA Productions

Friday, January 31
7:30 pm



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

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

Bridgewater Current

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Project Status Updates

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



Project	Status
Gen Oak Connector II	Engineering and design work underway.
Crosswalk Signals	Kickoff meeting in January for installation of flashing pedestrian crossings near Generations Park, Oakdale Park, and Blue Ridge Christian School.
Bridgewater Website	New website launched on December 27.
Traffic Signal Work	Cabinets upgraded at College and Dinkel. Signal coordination work underway.

Municipal Calendar & Events

- January 1 – Town Office & Recycle Center Closed
- January 6 – Large Item/Christmas Tree Pickup begins
- January 14 – Town Council Meeting
- January 15 – Midtown Connector Meeting



Christmas trees will be picked up this month as a part of our Large Item Pickup. Please have trees curbside by January 6 at 7:00 am.

*Tuesday,
 February 11
 Arey Assembly Hall*

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

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

Sign up here:

