



THE CURRENT

Bridgewater's Monthly Newsletter

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Municipal Calendar

August 4

Large Item Pickup Begins

August 5

National Night Out

August 12, 7:00 pm

Town Council Meeting

September 1

Town Office Closed;
Weekly Trash Pickup Delayed
to Tuesday and Wednesday

B-Town Opportunities

Give the gift of life by donating blood on August 5. Register at bridgewater.town/blooddrive.

Improve your game during our September Baseline Tennis Clinics. Sign up today at bridgewater.town/tennisclinic.

Show off your talent at Open Mic Night at Sipe Center on September 5. Visit www.sipecenter.com/openmic.



Oakdale Park is the place to be on Labor Day as we celebrate Summer's End!

Summer's End Celebration Set for September 1

Summer's End is our annual celebration held on Labor Day and is a day full of activities. This year's event is September 1 and features a 5k, Mini-Golf tournament, rides, music, and fireworks!

The day begins bright and early at 8:00 am with our annual "Race to the Bottom" 5k at Sandy Bottom Park (see page 4 for details). Following the 5k, Mini-Golf will open early to the public at 9:00 am and remain open through 9:00 pm. Participants in the 5k play for free all day. At 11:00 am, this season's best mini-golfers will square off in our Leaderboard Tournament (see page 4 for more details).

Starting at 3:00 pm, Oakdale Park opens up for carnival rides and delicious food and beverages. To enjoy the rides, stop by the Town of Bridgewater tent for your free wristband – just show your B-Rec card!

Each person must present their B-Rec card to ride free. If you're not a Town resident or don't bring your B-Rec card, wristbands can be purchased for \$5 per person. Kids aged 3 and under are free.

Gone Country will perform on the Oakdale Stage at 6:30 pm, and the day concludes with fireworks at 8:30 pm!

Schedule of Events

Sandy Bottom Park

Race to the Bottom 5K	8 am
Mini-Golf Open	9 am-9 pm
Leaderboard Tournament	11 am

Oakdale Park

Summer's End Celebration	3 - 9 pm
Live Music: Gone Country	6:30-8:30 pm
Fireworks	8:30 pm



National Night Out

The Bridgewater Police Department is hosting a National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at Smiley's Ice Cream.

There will be lots of fun activities on-site including a bouncy house and dunk tank. The police will be handing out free kids ice cream coupons while supplies last. Local scout troops will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, and baked goods.

Come out to meet our police officers along with local fire and rescue crews as well as Department of Wildlife Resources officers!



Summer Cinema Series

Take a break from the heat and join us at Sipe Center for Free Kids Movies this summer!

Wednesdays 10:30 am & 1:00 pm	Thursdays 12:30 pm & 3:00 pm
The Garfield Movie August 6	Harold & the Purple Crayon August 7
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile August 13	Curious George August 14

Free popcorn coupons are not redeemable for these movies.

Tickets are available starting thirty minutes before showtime. Don't forget to pick up your Kid's Combo for just \$4.90 + tax on your way in.



After Dark at Gen Park

Free Summer Concert Series

Saturdays, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Generations Park

Join us as we continue our After Dark at Gen Park outdoor summer concert series this month!

Everyday People – August 2

An 8-piece band that plays '60s and '70s soul, funk, and R&B

Standing Room Only – August 9

One of the Valley's best classic rock and soul bands

The Hackens Boys – August 30

Award-winning Virginia country music band

Bring your lawn chair and blankets, or you can dance the night away! Outside food and non-alcoholic drinks permitted.

Mini-Golf and Par-3 Open Daily

Sandy Bottom Mini-Golf is now open 12:00-9:00 pm daily. Par-3 Golf is open every day from 6:00 am until dark. Both courses are, of course, free for all residents with a B-Rec card. Beginning September 2, Mini-Golf will only be open Friday through Sunday.

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

If we ever face emergencies here in Bridgewater—anything from a water main break to the North River flooding—we'll use Voyent Alerts to let you know what you need to know. Sign up at bridgewater.town/voyentsignup to receive electronic notification. If you do not have internet access or a smartphone, call us at (540) 908-4212 to sign up for alerts by phone.

Y: Jay's Column About Policy

On Hearing the Noise and Listening to the Person

As you can see from our lead story, we will hold our annual Summer's End celebration on September 1. The event is always great fun, with rides, food, music, and fireworks. These days, we're putting some thought into fireworks.

The process started with an anonymous letter. (To digress, regular readers know that unsigned letters frustrate us, because sometimes follow-up conversation is good for all concerned. And don't worry, if you signed your name to a critical letter, I would never call you just to argue. At worst, I would draw devil horns on your B-Rec picture.) Anyway, the anonymous writer expressed a concern about the noise caused by fireworks, especially its effects on pets.



We thought the writer made some fair points, and we thought the issue deserved some research. Two members of our staff evaluated the July 12 drone show in Waynesboro. Overall, they were impressed. We are also looking into more traditional fireworks, but without the audible report. Laser shows are another possibility, and there might be others also. So stay tuned; next year we *might* try something different for one of our shows.

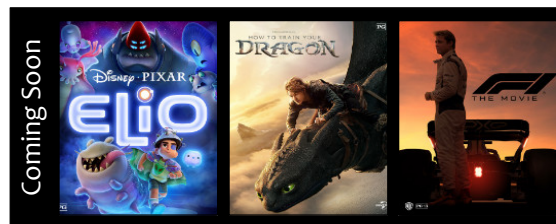
But the bigger point is that because the writer raised a fair (if perhaps unpopular) argument, we are doing our best to look into the matter. When people bring us ideas or complaints, our goal is to (i) understand, (ii) evaluate, and (iii) respond appropriately. Employing this three-step process means that even if Joe Schmoe calls us a "lousy so-and-so," we will try to unemotionally understand his concern and look into it. Likewise, if Joe asserts his rights as a taxpayer to "demand" that we do something, we will try to unemotionally understand his concern and look into it. And if Joe tells us how wonderful we are when making his zoning request, we will... try to unemotionally understand his concern and look into it.

So the bottom line is that we try to think in terms of issues, not the manner in which the issues were brought to us. We listened to the complaint about hearing the fireworks. In assessing future shows, we'll do our best thinking about the joy and awe felt by some and about the intrusion felt by others. And then we'll give our best advice to the Council—which may well be to stand pat—and then the Council will make the decision.

-Jay Litten, Town Manager

This Month at Sipe Center

Movies



Harris Concert Series

Sundays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Cantore - August 3

A cappella men's group

Faithful Men - August 10

Men's group focused on sacred music

Good Time Gospel - August 17

Southern gospel quartet

Free & open to the public. Seating is general admission on a first-come, first-served basis.



Live Performances



Low Water Bridge Band

"Paints a majestic portrait of small town mountain life"

Saturday, August 2, 7:30 pm – Tickets \$25



Stephen Bargatze The Magic of Stephen

Father of comedian
Nate Bargatze

Saturday, August 23, 7:30 pm
Tickets \$45

Sipe Center Box Office
Open Thursday – Sunday
3:00 – 8:00 pm
(540) 908-4208
www.sipecenter.com



Local Postal Customer

Project Status Updates

Breezewood Vault

Contractor hired to replace and repair equipment at the Breezewood pump station.

Wellness Quarter

Initial site plan submitted for review.

Fountainhead Subdivision

Engineer selected, with engineering and design work for water, sewer, and stormwater improvements underway.

Turner Ashby Drive

Scheduled to open on August 1.

For more information and a full description of these projects, visit bridgewater.town/projects.

Reminder

Trash carts should be removed from the curbside no later than 7:00 am the day after collection.

Qualify for the Leaderboard Tournament

The Mini-Golf Leaderboard Tournament will be held on September 1 at 11:00 am as a part of our Summer's End celebration. Play a round of mini-golf, and submit your scorecard at the clubhouse by August 22 for your chance to qualify. This season's top scorers will be invited to participate in the tournament for a chance to earn a cash prize and to be immortalized on the Tournament Champion plaque. The tournament is open to residents and non-residents.



Submit your scorecard at Sandy Bottom Mini-Golf for your chance to qualify for the Leaderboard Tournament on Labor Day.

Register for the Race to the Bottom 5K



Start your Labor Day celebration with the Race to the Bottom 5K!

Register now for the Race to the Bottom 5K on Labor Day, September 1 starting at 8:00 am. Sign up by August 17 for the reduced rates of \$25 for adults and \$15 for children, and your t-shirt will be guaranteed. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. We welcome participants of all ages and fitness levels. Walkers, strollers, and dogs are all welcome on the course.

Register at bridgewater.town/5k, and start preparing for the race!