



THE CURRENT

Bridgewater's Monthly Newsletter

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November 1

2026 Shelter Reservations Open; Ice Rink tickets and party reservations available

November 3

Large Item Pickup Begins

November 4

Election Day; Office Open

November 10, 7:00 pm

Town Council Meeting
This month's meeting is on Monday due to Veterans Day.

November 26, 9-11 am

Coffee with a Cop at Bridgewater Foods

November 27

Town Office, Sipe Center, & Recycle Center Closed; Gen Park Ice Rink Opening Day

November 28

Town Office & Recycle Center Closed

November 30, 6:30 pm

Tree Lighting at Gen Park



One of the displays that will transform Oakdale Park into Winter WonderLane this season.

Oakdale Park to Become a Winter WonderLane

The Town of Bridgewater is excited to announce the first annual "Winter WonderLane" at Oakdale Park!

Beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving (November 30), Oakdale Park will be transformed into a twinkling winter wonderland. Visitors can enjoy a drive-through holiday lights display, featuring festive scenes and sparkling trees that capture the joy and warmth of the season.

Winter WonderLane will be open nightly from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm through early January. Admission is free.

The Town is also partnering with local nonprofit groups who will be on site on the weekends, selling hot chocolate and baked goods. Proceeds from these concessions will support community causes and organizations doing great work in Bridgewater.

The Town has been able to invest in the displays for Winter WonderLane through a generous Economic Development Tourism Grant from Rockingham County. We hope to add more displays in the coming years to make this a truly magical, new holiday tradition for families in Bridgewater and the Shenandoah Valley!

Election Day, November 4

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 6:00 am-7:00pm. Polling locations are the Bridgewater Community Center (201 Green Street) for citizens on the west side of Bridgewater and the Church of the Brethren (420 College View Drive) for those on the east side. Contact the County Registrar with any questions.

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 27 and will be open until early March for the operating hours shown below.

2025-26 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!

Register for the Christmas Parade

The annual Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 beginning at 4:30 pm. This year's theme is "Parade of Trees." A huge thanks goes to Dynamic Aviation for planning this festive event again this year!



To enter the parade, pre-registration will be available at www.dynamicaviation.com/community-engagement now through November 28. You can also pre-register in person at Dynamic Aviation (1402 Airport Road) December 1-5. All inquiries, questions, or concerns, can be directed to engagement@dynamicaviation.com.

Honoring Your Veteran

Honor the veteran in your life with a plaque at Veterans Park. Order your plaque at 201 Green Street, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. Documentation of service is required. Call (540) 908-4212 for more information. Plaques cost \$200, and proceeds benefit the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8644.

Generations Park Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 30
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!



Y: Jay's Column About Policy

The Pillars of Community – Part III: Trust

I'm not supposed to tell anyone this, so please keep my secret. To celebrate Arbor Day next April, we will be launching an audacious project. Bridgewater will plant a grove of trees in Whitelow Park. *[Insert sound of crickets chirping.]* I know you're wondering what's so audacious about just another landscaping project. But in this grove, tucked away in a corner of the Town, we will grow the tallest tree in Virginia, at least 192 feet above the park's verdant turf.



So on April 24, we will launch a 75-year plan to touch the sky. Of course we know that we might fail. We will have to be vigilant about deer, drought, and disease. And even then, to accomplish our goal, providence must be with us. Thus, we begin this project not for the record book, but because the work itself is worth doing.

It is, you see, an exercise in trust—in accepting that there are things that we can do as a community which are beyond our capabilities as individuals. This *Pillars* series grew out of my 65th birthday and out of a lifetime spent in this place. If I plant a tree, will you care for it when I'm gone? If we build a community, will our children nourish it? If a neighbor falls, will we catch him? Across the country and around the world, these answers are in doubt, but not in places like Bridgewater.

Proposed plaque to be placed at the tulip poplar grove: *In this grove stands Bridgewater's ambition, rooted in patience, reaching toward the stars. May we always nurture it, as we hope to grow the tallest tree in Virginia.*

Most of us genuinely care about this place and will gladly care *for* it. Nearly every resident I speak with mentions how much they love living here (though a few add, "except for the *management*"). It is this shared love which allows us to trust. I know that when I leave this place someday, there will be another who loves it as much as I do. We can grow the tree. And we can do many other things too.

-Jay Litten, Town Manager

This Month at Sipe Center

Movies Coming Soon...



Tron: Ares

Regretting You

Springsteen

Live Performances

Hannah Dasher

One of Nashville's
Best Kept Secrets

Saturday
November 15
7:30 pm
Tickets \$30



Erich Cawalla

The Music of Darin, Sinatra,
Bennett and More

Friday, November 21
7:30 pm – Tickets \$30

Sipe Center Box Office

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

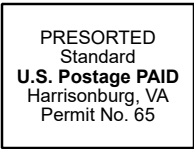


Coffee with a Cop

November 26, 9-11 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.



Local Postal Customer

Project Status Updates

Oakdale Depot

Exterior painting completed, deck replacement underway, and roof to be replaced in November.

Wellness Quarter

Sitework underway.

Fountainhead Subdivision

Received 50% plans from engineer; expect project design completed by end of November.

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

Reminder

Park shelter reservations for 2026 as well as ice skating tickets and party bookings will be available online at bridgewater.town/reservations beginning November 1. Staff-assisted reservations and ticket purchases can be made beginning November 3 at 8:30 am at (540) 908-4212.

Get in the Holiday Spirit at Sipe Center



Christmas Movie Series
Starting November 28
Free Admission

Our Christmas Movie Series returns with your holiday favorites beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving. The series kicks off with *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* on Friday (11/28) at 6:30 pm, Saturday

(11/29) at 4:00 and 7:00 pm, and Sunday (11/30) at 2:00 and 5:30 pm.

Following weekends will feature:

- *A Christmas Story* (12/4-12/7),
- *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch* (12/11-12/14),
- *It's a Wonderful Life* (12/18),
- *Elf* (12/20-12/21),
- *The Polar Express* (12/26-12/27),
- and *White Christmas* (12/28).

Admission is free, and tickets are available on the day of the showing. Check www.sipecenter.com/movies in the coming weeks for showtimes.



Learn to decorate holiday cookies like a professional!

Cookie Decorating Workshop
Monday, December 8, 6:00-8:00 pm
Sipe Center

The perfect class for beginner cookie decorators! You'll decorate six cookies with royal icing under the guidance of Cindy Lam of Decked Out Delights. All supplies and tools will be provided. Wine and soda will be available for purchase. The cost is \$30 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. Children are welcome. Visit bridgewater.town/workshop to register online.