



THE CURRENT

Bridgewater's Monthly Newsletter

December 2025 • Volume 47, Number 12

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Municipal Calendar

- December 1**
Large Item Pickup Begins
- December 5**
Personal Property Taxes Due
- December 6, 4:30 pm**
Christmas Parade
- December 9, 7:00 pm**
Town Council Meeting
- December 24 & 25**
Town Office, Ice Rink, Sipe Center, & Recycle Center Closed
- December 26 & January 1**
Town Office & Recycle Center Closed

B-Town Opportunities

Give the gift of life by donating blood on December 9.
Register at bridgewater.town/blooddrive.



The depot at Oakdale Park boasts a fresh coat of paint and a new metal roof.

The Depot at Oakdale Park Receives a Refresh

You may have recently noticed some work going on at the old building at the center of Oakdale Park. You may remember that this building is a historic one, having served as the Town's railroad depot for almost a century.

Originally located at Depot Street, the building sat on the railway that connected to Stokesville in the west and Harrisonburg and Elkton in the east. The Chesapeake & Western first arrived in Bridgewater in 1895 to much fanfare, and our research shows that the depot was built soon after in 1896. For years to come, the depot was Bridgewater's connection to the world. After rail service ended in the late 1980s, the Town secured rights to the building and moved it to Oakdale Park in 1992 for preservation. It is currently used as storage by Parks & Recreation.

Our maintenance crew has been hard at work giving the exterior of the building some needed care. The depot now has a fresh coat of paint. The new red color is one that was historically used for depots, and its darker tone will be easier to maintain. Our crew also replaced the decking that surrounds the building. New yet antique-looking exterior lighting as well as a new metal roof have been installed. We are still in the process of preserving the original depot sign which will be put back in place soon. We will also be adding new signage telling the story of the depot.

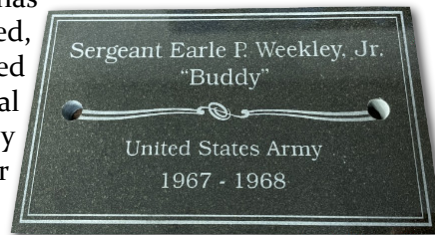
Community groups will be set up with refreshments for sale at the depot on weekends during our Winter WonderLane light display (see page 3), so make sure to stop by and see the work that has been done on the depot.

The Current's Annual Holiday Gift Guide

All Things Bridgewater for Under the Tree

Plaques at Veterans Park – \$200

Honor the veterans in your life with a permanent plaque at Veterans Park. Plaques are available for a veteran of any of the six branches of the United States military who has retired, been honorably discharged, or died while in service to the United States. Net proceeds benefit the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. Come by the Bridgewater Community Center at 201 Green Street to order.



Ice Skating Lessons



This year, give the gift of learning to ice skate. You can schedule lessons from local ice skating instructor Ashleigh Welch. At Generations Park Ice Academy, she offers instruction for kids and adults in group classes and private lessons. Visit generationsparkiceacademy.com for more details.

Seat Sponsorship at Sipe – \$500

Create a legacy and support the arts as you honor someone special with a personalized plaque mounted on a seat at Sipe Center. Drop by 201 Green Street for more information.



Live Performance Tickets – \$15-\$40

Sipe Center tickets are a great gift to share with family and friends! From the amazing dog circus to outstanding a cappella, from the best '90s country to hilarious comedians, Sipe has it all! To purchase tickets, call (540) 908-4208, visit the Box Office at 100 North Main Street, or visit the website www.sipecenter.com/liveperformances.



Commemorative Bricks at Gen Park – \$100/\$200

Remember a loved one or celebrate a life event with a commemorative brick installed at Generations Park! We offer two sizes able to hold three or six lines of text for \$100 or \$200, respectively. Call (540) 908-4212, go to bridgewater.town/brick for more information, or visit the BCC to order one today.



Historic Street Signs – \$100

Give the gift of a bit of Bridgewater history with one of our old street signs! This is the perfect gift for history buffs and town residents who take pride in their neighborhood alike. The complete list of our limited inventory is available at bridgewater.town/streetsign. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!



Dedicate a Tree – \$200

Honor a friend or loved one by dedicating a tree. Your donation will include a 6" x 8" plaque to be posted at the tree of your choosing in one of our parks. Come to the BCC or visit bridgewater.town/dedicatetree to begin the process.



Gift Certificates

Surprise someone with the gift of an experience this holiday season with a gift certificate to one (or all) of our wonderful facilities!

Gen Park Ice Skating
Sipe Center Live Performances
Sipe Center Movie Tickets
Sandy Bottom Mini-Golf

Gift certificates make perfect stocking stuffers! Call (540) 908-4212 or visit the BCC to order yours today.

Drive through Winter WonderLane

As we announced last month, we are excited to announce the first annual “Winter WonderLane” at Oakdale Park!



Beginning November 30 at 6:30 pm, 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.

Local community groups will be selling hot chocolate and possibly other goodies to keep you warm as you enjoy the lights on the weekends. All proceeds benefit the host group, so make sure to support them as you are able.

Christmas Parade Coming to Town

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!

If you are planning to watch this year’s parade, please note that the route has been changed to limit road closures through the Retirement Community. This year’s route will follow the same one used for the lawn party parade, entering Main Street at Depot Street and turning on High Street to McGuffin Avenue before ending at the Lawn Party Grounds. Look for more information on parking and detour routes to come in the *Buzz*.



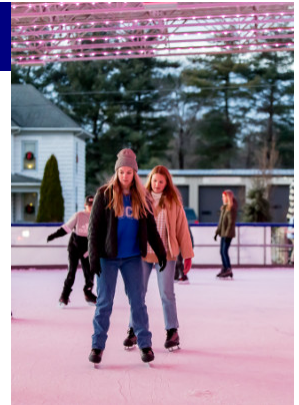
You can still register to enter the parade in person at Dynamic Aviation (1402 Airport Road) December 1-5. All inquiries, questions, or concerns, can be directed to engagement@dynamicaviation.com.

Ice Skating Is Back!

The ice skating rink at Generations Park opens Thanksgiving Day and will operate according to schedule below through early March.

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



Holiday Schedule



Dec. 23	12:00 noon - 9:30 pm
Dec. 24-25	Closed
Dec. 26-Jan. 3	12:00 noon - 9:30 pm

Find icy the Elf hiding at Gen Park through 12/23 and claim a treat!

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.

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.

Send Your Letter to Santa

The magic of the holiday season is here, and Santa is ready to hear from you! Starting December 4, stop by Sipe Center during business hours to write your letter to Santa and drop it into our special mailbox that delivers straight to the North Pole! Letters to Santa will be available through December 13, as Santa will be visiting Sipe Center on the 14—so be sure to get your letters in early so Santa and his elves have plenty of time to prepare before Christmas!

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Project Status Updates

Crosswalk Signals

Awaiting VDOT authorization to bid projects. These are crosswalks and rapid flash beacons at Generations Park, Oakdale Park, and Blue Ridge Christian School.

Wellness Quarter

Sitework continues; footings to be poured in early December. Doug Will Tennis Center roof replacement is completed.

It Works: Buzz Updates

November saw the launch of a new video series on the Buzz. Each episode of the new *It Works!* series contains a short, informative video highlighting a project recently completed by our Public Works Department. Catch up on the series at bridgewater.town/it-works and make sure to subscribe to the Buzz at bridgewater.buzz to see future episodes.

Get in the Holiday Spirit at Sipe Center

Live Performances



The Suits
Saturday, December 6
3:00 & 7:30 pm
Tickets \$35

The Sugarplums
Saturday, December 13
7:30 pm
Tickets \$35



I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas
Friday, December 19
7:30 pm
Tickets \$25
\$15 - Kids 12 & under

Santa at Sipe



Sunday, December 14
2:00-5:00 pm
Bring your camera to snap a picture with Mr. Claus.

Free Christmas Movies



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)

White Christmas
(12/28)