



THE CURRENT

Bridgewater's Monthly Newsletter

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Note from the Council

In a special session on August 10, the Council appointed Bill Kyger to temporarily fill the body's vacancy left by Dr. Miracle's resignation. Bill was sworn in at the regular meeting on August 11 and will serve until a permanent replacement is determined by special election on November 3. Read more at bridgewater.town/council_note.

Municipal Calendar

September 7

Summer's End Celebration
Town Office Closed

September 8

Large Item Pickup Begins
Council Meeting (7:00 pm)

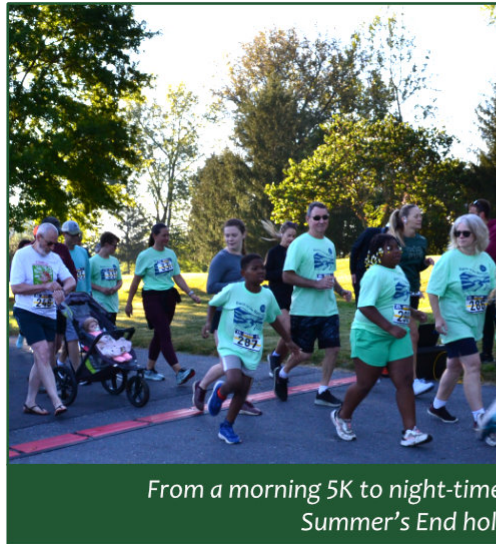
September 26

Yard Sale Day - email
yardsaleday@bridgewater.town
by September 23 to list
your sale.

B-Town Opportunities

Save a life by donating blood on
October 6. Register at
bridgewater.town/blooddrive.

**Register for our Mario Kart
Tournament** on October 24.
Find more information at
www.sipecenter.com/tournament.



From a morning 5K to night-time fireworks and all day in between,
Summer's End holds fun for everyone!

Summer's End Celebration Set for September 7

As summer comes to an end, we're getting ready to celebrate with our annual Summer's End Celebration on Labor Day, Monday, September 7! It's going to be a full day of fun, activities, live music, and fireworks.

We'll kick off the day at 8:00 am with our annual Race to the Bottom 5K at Sandy Bottom Park. Then Mini-Golf will open early at 9:00 am for the public. Show your race bib to play mini-golf for free all day. The fun continues at 11:00 am with our Mini-Golf Leaderboard Tournament. Come watch the area's top golfers compete for a spot on our Leaderboard plaque!

Starting at 3:00 pm, Oakdale Park opens up for carnival rides and delicious food and beverages. To enjoy the rides, show your B-Rec card at the Town of Bridgewater tent for your free ride stamp! 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, ride stamps can be purchased for \$5 per person. Kids aged 3 and under are free.

Low Water Bridge Band will perform on the Oakdale Stage at 6:30 pm, and the day concludes with fireworks at 8:30 pm!

Summer's End Celebration September 7

Sandy Bottom Park

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

Oakdale Park

Rides & Vendors	3-9 pm
Live Music: Low Water Bridge Band	6:30-8:30 pm
Fireworks	8:30 pm

What B-Towners Need to Know About... Flood Protection

Know Your Flood Hazard

High water often comes with little warning and can be very destructive. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew dumped more than a foot of rain 100 miles inland in the state of North Carolina. The flooding in North Carolina alone caused 26 deaths and an estimated \$1.5 billion in damages. This figure does not include economic losses to businesses. Dry River, North River, and Cooks Creek all contribute to flooding in Bridgewater. During heavy storms or soon after, floodwaters can overflow their banks and cover streets and yards causing damage to cars, garages, basements, and lower floors. Any property can experience flooding, but those within the floodplain are at greater risk.

Flood Insurance

Citizens living in the floodplain are encouraged to get a flood insurance policy—it will help pay for repairs after a flood. Because Bridgewater participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), citizens can purchase separate flood insurance that is backed by the federal government. The Town's Zoning Department can provide specific Flood Insurance Rate Map information such as flood zone designations, base flood elevations, and map and panel numbers. Visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information.

Protect Your Family

- Don't walk or drive through a flooded area. Just six inches of moving water can cause you to lose your balance. Two feet of water has been known to lift and move a car.
- Keep away from downed power lines and any other electrical wires.
- Elevate and anchor utilities, e.g., furnaces, air conditioning units, or propane tanks.

Protect Your Property

If you know your property is prone to flooding, you can take steps to protect your home from damage. These measures are called flood-proofing or retrofitting. One way to control flooding is by regrading your lot to create a small flood wall or earthen berm. (This works for larger lots when potential flooding is not too deep and if the property is not in the floodway.) Another approach is to waterproof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. (This is not recommended for homes with basements or if potential flood water is over two feet.)

Build Responsibly

The Town's major thrust has been to reduce residential

development in flood-prone areas along its waterways. Six of our thirteen parks have been developed along North River or Cooks Creek. This has changed residential land that is vulnerable to flooding into spacious and attractive park land that, while easily flooded, is comparatively simple and inexpensive to repair. The Town also has special zoning requirements that help manage private construction in these areas. If you are considering construction along either of these waterways, please contact us at (540) 908-4212.

Protecting Natural Floodplains

A floodplain provides a valuable buffer between waterways and residential development. They provide natural flood and erosion control. Grassy areas and trees absorb rainwater, allowing groundwater and aquifers to be replenished and at the same time filter nutrients and impurities before they reach main waterways. Maintaining attractive but natural landscapes along waterways allows for a variety of plant and wildlife. This helps promote a healthy ecosystem. Further, the aesthetic and social value of well-maintained areas along North River or Cooks Creek cannot be overlooked.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires us to keep citizens educated on flood protection issues annually. For more information, please contact us at (540) 908-4212.

Coming Soon: Wellness Quarter

Wellness Quarter is entering the last few months of construction, so over the next few months here in The Current, we will give you a glimpse at what you can expect when it opens.

Your B-Rec card will soon open the door to even more ways to stay active and have fun! Wellness Quarter courts and facilities will be free for residents with a B-Rec card. (You can get your B-Rec card at the Town Office Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.) You will enjoy access to pickleball, basketball, and volleyball courts as well as our elevated indoor walking and running track and, of course, the renovated tennis center. With open gym opportunities for pickleball, basketball, and volleyball rotating throughout the week, there will always be a chance to jump into your favorite sport—or to try something new!

Parents and toddlers will be able to enjoy a dedicated Parent-Toddler Open Play each week—a great opportunity for little ones to move, play, and explore while parents connect with other families.

Y: Jay's Column About Policy To Respectfully Disagree

It's easy to be proud of Bridgewater.

People compliment us all the time on our parks, our facilities, and our programs. People are amazed that the Town Council eliminated the real estate tax *and* still found a way to build a \$2 million reserve account *and* pay for the new Wellness Quarter. Others point to our police officers for keeping us safe or our maintenance crews for clearing the streets every winter.

Those are all good reasons to be proud of our town. But over the past few weeks, I've been reminded of another one. At Extra Time on August 8, and again at the Council meeting a few days later, many people came forward to talk about Flock cameras. Some strongly believe the cameras are a valuable public-safety tool. Others have grave concerns about privacy and the appropriate limits of government surveillance.

Those disagreements are real. Yet, almost without exception, the people who spoke treated one another, the Council, and the issue itself with respect. There was remarkably little grandstanding. People made arguments instead of speeches designed to provoke applause. They listened while people on the other side spoke. And they seemed to understand something that is too easily forgotten these days: agitation is no substitute for reason. Worse, agitation can drive a wedge between neighbors who still have to live together after the issue of the moment has passed.

I expect the Council to take action on the cameras at its September meeting. By then, Council members will have heard from people on all sides and will have had time to consider the competing arguments. Ultimately, Council will decide the issue, and inevitably some people will agree, and some will not. That is the way local government is supposed to work.

We spend a lot of time talking about the things that make Bridgewater a good place to live. We talk about parks and programs, public safety and snow removal, sound finances, and new facilities. Those things matter, and I am proud of all of them. But a town is more than the things its government builds and the services it provides. It is also a community of people who must figure out how to live together, including when they disagree. Over the past few weeks, Bridgewater has done that unusually well.

And that may be one of the best reasons of all to be proud of this town.

-Jay Litten, Town Manager

This Month at Sipe Center

Movies Coming Soon...



Toy Story 5



Minions & Monsters



Supergirl



Young Washington

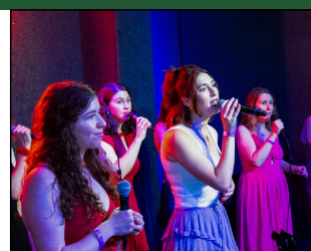
See www.sipecenter.com/movies for showtimes and tickets!

Live Performances

Capital Blend

Saturday, September 12, 7:30 pm
Tickets \$20

*Award-winning a cappella group
from DC*



Jason Jenkins Trio

Friday, September 18, 7:30 pm
Tickets \$20

Jazz trio from Richmond

Visit www.sipecenter.com/liveperformances for tickets!

Open Mic Night

Friday, September 25, 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. Pre-registration is highly encouraged; to pre-register, email info@sipecenter.com by Wednesday, September 23.



Sipe Center Box Office

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



Sandy Bottom Mini-Golf will be open 12:00-9:00 pm on Fridays-Sundays only beginning after Labor Day. The course remains open through October 31.

**Local
Postal Customer**

Project Status Updates

Riverwalk III

VDOT approved Partners Excavating Company's bid for Riverwalk III, and the Town awarded the project on August 24. Work slated to begin by late September.

Crosswalk Improvements

Sidewalk accessibility improvements installed at Main Street, and the concrete foundations for the rapid flash pedestrian signs nearing installation. The crosswalk should be painted and signage installed by mid-September.

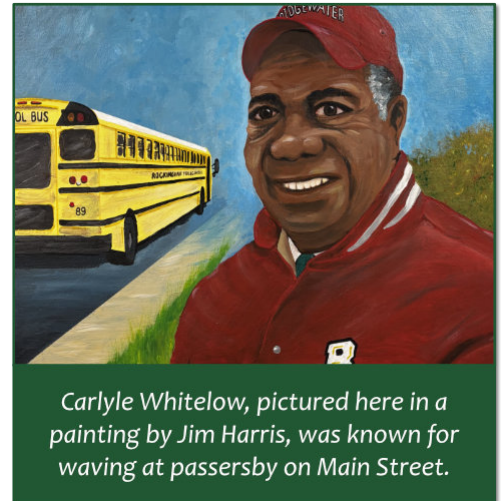
Wellness Quarter

Bricklaying is mostly complete except for the clocktower. Clocks should be installed soon. Site work continues for the new parking lot and connector to Bridgewater Community Center. Interior work underway. For more information and a full description of these projects, visit bridgewater.town/projects.

BPD To Host Two Events in September

Community Wave: In memory of Carlyle Whitelow, BPD will be at Dairy Queen (506 North Main Street) on Friday, September 4, 7:30-8:15 am for a Community Wave. Residents are invited to join them and share joy with their neighbors who pass by. More details at bridgewater.town/wave.

Coffee with a Cop: Enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation with our officers on Saturday, September 5, 9:00-11:00 am, at Magdalena's (429 North Main Street).



Carlyle Whitelow, pictured here in a painting by Jim Harris, was known for waving at passersby on Main Street.

Show Off Your Best Pictures in Photo Contest

Help us showcase all the beauty our hometown and surrounding areas offer by submitting your best pictures for our annual Photography Contest. Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to participate.

The top three entries are selected in each of five categories: Life in Bridgewater, Landscape, Animals, People, and Other. There is also a special award given to the best entries by Young Photographers aged 12 and under. The first place winners in each category are displayed at Sipe Center

for the coming year and included in the Town's Spring Activities Calendar.

All entries and registration forms must be submitted by October 5. The display of all entries will be hosted online October 7-9. Winners will be announced on October 9 at 5:00 pm.

There is no charge for Town residents; non-residents must include a \$5 entry fee for each photo submitted. Each participant is limited to five entries.

Visit bridgewater.town/photocontest for registration information and to view past winners.



CVS will hold a vaccination clinic at Arey Hall on Thursday, October 1, 2:00 - 6:00 pm. The clinic will be open to everyone, and appointments will become available in September. Look for more details in the Buzz later this month.