



THE CURRENT

Bridgewater's Monthly Newsletter

August 2026 • Volume 48, Number 8

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August 3

Large Item Pickup Begins

August 3 & 10, 7:00 pm

Called Town Council Meetings
to Address Council Vacancy

August 4

National Night Out

August 11, 7:00 pm

Regular Town Council Meeting

B-Town Opportunities

Sandy Bottom Mini-Golf is open daily, 12:00 - 9:00 pm, and **Par-3** is open daily 6:00 am - dusk. Both are free for residents with a B-Rec Card.

Give the gift of life by donating blood on August 11. Register at bridgewater.town/blooddrive.



The Rotary Club is active in community service projects—like cleaning up roadside trash—as a part of its commitment to make our community a better place to live.

Service Clubs Build a Better Life

One thing that makes Bridgewater great is how willing people are to help one another and to come together to make our town a better place to live. This spirit of community service is embodied by many, including our service organizations—the Rotary Club and the Ruritans.

The Rotary Club of Bridgewater, formed in 1938, is a group for “people meeting people helping people.” Many of its projects focus on local schools. The Club provides multiple scholarships at Bridgewater College and two college scholarships to seniors at Turner Ashby. In partnership with the Town, it presents the Carlyle Whitelow Award annually to a Bridgewater College student who demonstrates a commitment to

service. The club also recognizes outstanding vocational teachers at local schools and provides dictionaries for third graders. They have also partnered with the Town to provide trash cans for parks, to welcome guests for extended hours at Old Town Hall, and to usher at live performances at Sipe Center. Most recently, the Rotary Club has pledged two scoreboards for the new gym at Wellness Quarter. The club supports its projects through various fundraisers, including an election day pancake supper and the Howl & Meow Pet Costume Contest.

The Bridgewater Ruritan Club was first chartered in 1939 and has lived out its motto “Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service” ever since. The club supports the volunteer fire

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National Night Out

The Bridgewater Police Department is hosting a National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, 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 kid-friendly ax throwing. 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 & 1:30 pm	Thursdays 12:30 pm & 3:30 pm
The Lego Batman Movie August 5	Nanny McPhee August 6
The Muppet Movie August 12	Hop August 13

Free popcorn coupons are not redeemable for these movies.

Visit www.sipecenter.com/summermovies for the rest of the summer schedule.

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 for three great evenings in our After Dark at Gen Park outdoor summer concert series this month!

The Judy Chops – August 8

Americana fusing modern and vintage styles

Standing Room Only – August 22

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

Little Walter – August 29

The wonderful magic of '60s rock'n'roll

Visit bridgewater.town/afterdark for the rest of the summer schedule.

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

Summer's End: Mark Your Calendar

The weather may still be scorching, but Summer's End is coming up soon. We celebrate Labor Day (September 7) with a 5K, Mini-Golf tournament, and rides, music, and fireworks at Oakdale Park. Look for more details on the Buzz (bridgewater.buzz) this month!

5K Registration: Register for the Race to the Bottom 5K at bridgewater.town/5k by August 16 for early bird pricing and a guaranteed t-shirt.

Leaderboard Tournament: Submit your best Mini-Golf scorecard at the clubhouse by August 22 to qualify for the Leaderboard Tournament.

Y: Jay's Column About Policy

Extra Time

Every now and then, the most important part of a game comes after the clock says it should be over. That's the idea behind "Extra Time." I can't promise a golden goal, but I do hope you'll stop by the Town Office at 201 Green Street for a conversation on Saturday, August 8. From 9:00 am until noon, I'll simply be available to talk. No agenda. No presentation. No speeches. Just an opportunity to visit about whatever is on your mind. Hopes, fears, gripes—it's all fair game.

The idea for Extra Time came from a citizen who suggested that some people would like to share their thoughts but don't feel comfortable knocking on a Council member's door or even picking up the phone to call me. I thought that made good sense. Not everyone enjoys making an appointment or wondering whether they're bothering someone. Sometimes it's easier to know there's a time set aside just for conversation.

We already have Big Block of Cheese Day, and I enjoy it tremendously. But perhaps because it's such a quirky name, it can come across as something meant for insiders or people who already know the story behind it. Extra Time is different because it's simpler; it's just plain ol' me.

One of the best parts of this job is hearing from the people we serve. Local government works best when it isn't guessing. We make better decisions when we understand not only what people think, but why they think it. Even when we don't ultimately agree on every issue, hearing different perspectives almost always leads to better decisions.

Your hopes give us a star to shoot for. Your fears tell us what we need to guard against. Your gripes—well, those give us the chance to improve. And any day you learn how to do your job a little better is a good day.

So if you have something on your mind, I'd love to see you on August 8 between 9:00 am and noon. I can't guarantee a dramatic finish, but I can promise you'll have my full attention.

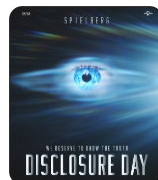
-Jay Litten, Town Manager



Construction on the new pedestrian crosswalk on Main Street at Generations Park is expected to begin August 3 and continue through much of the month. During this time there will be lane closures and possible detours. Stay tuned to the Buzz (subscribe at bridgewater.buzz) for the latest updates.

This Month at Sipe Center

Movies Coming Soon...



Disclosure Day



Toy Story 5



The Sheep Detectives



Masters of the Universe

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

Live Performances

We May Be Right
Saturday, August 1, 7:30 pm
Tickets \$35

Billy Joel Tribute Band
Sold out!



Visit www.sipecenter.com/liveperformances for tickets!

Harris Concert Series

Sundays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Isaac Stroupe – August 2
Country, oldies, and southern gospel

Faithful Men – August 9
Men's group singing sacred music

Rockingham Male Chorus – August 16
Men's choir singing religious music

Good Time Gospel – August 23
Quartet performing southern gospel and more

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



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



Local Postal Customer

Project Status Updates

Riverwalk III

Bids are due July 30; plan is to begin construction in September.

Crosswalk Improvements

Contract signed; work should begin the first week of August.

Wellness Quarter

Building is mostly enclosed; work underway on the interior. Another month of bricklaying on the exterior.

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

Drought Update

Despite recent rains, our region is still under a drought warning due to groundwater levels. As a result, the Town is still implementing conservation measures at parks and other facilities. You can read more at bridgewater.town/drought.

Service Clubs

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company and rescue squad annually along with 4H Clubs, the Salvation Army, local churches, and other non-profits. Its largest initiative is a scholarship program for local high school graduates. This past spring, the Ruritans awarded fifteen scholarships totaling over \$15,000. The club funds its outreach programs through its "Fry Shack" at the county fair and annual onion and peanut sales.

We are grateful for both of these service organizations and the work they do to create a better life for all of us in Bridgewater. The Rotary Club

meets on first, third, and fifth Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the Alexander Mack Room at the Houff Center at Bridgewater Retirement Community. The Ruritans meet on first Mondays at 6:30 pm at the Bridgewater United Methodist Social Hall. You can contact the Rotary Club at bridgewaterrotary@gmail.com and the Ruritans at bridgewateruritans@gmail.com for more information.

Some residents are also trying to re-establish a local Lions Club in town; contact lionclschwab@netscape.net if you are interested.



The Ruritan Club funds much of its work through its Fry Shack at the Rockingham County Fair. Drop by and support them while you are at the fair!