

MARCH 2026



# TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

## TOWN MANAGER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Welcome to March's Town Manager's Operational Report, providing an update on key projects, upcoming initiatives, and important community news. Inside, you'll find detailed progress on infrastructure improvements, budget highlights, and opportunities for resident engagement.



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# TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0919  
townmanager@bridgewaterma.org

## Message from the Town Manager

In March, the following are some of the community events that I attended during the month:

- Bridgewater Bagel Veteran's Event
- Community Budget Session at Senior Center
- Bridgewater Business Association Meet & Greet
- Civics Class Presentation at the Bridgewater Middle School

At Town Council meetings in March, staff addressed water quality and capacity concerns, discussed the Town's response to winter storms, which I will address further below, provided an update on the Town's transition to a new website and challenges related to the shift to the new platform, and shared grant updates, among other issues.

Furthermore, several budget meetings regarding the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District's preliminary budget presentation were held, during which Superintendent Powers and the School Committee outlined their preliminary budget. I look forward to the Town and school districts' collaboration in developing the FY27 budget. In April, we will continue to address water quality and capacity issues and spend a significant amount of time focusing on the challenges of the FY27 budget.

## Winter Storm Response

I want to take the opportunity to thank all of our staff, which includes our DPW staff, Fire Department, Police Department, and Inspectional Services staff, such as our Electrical Inspector. Every single one of these respective departments are integral parts of ensuring that we were able to respond to a historic winter storm, and winter season. I am very proud of the work that our team did during Manager Updates, I highlighted some of the exceptional work that was done by our team to keep our community safe. I also want to highlight the efforts of our community. I mentioned in one of my updates, that while traveling through the community to survey some of our roads with our Highway Superintendent, I was encouraged by what I saw. Community members helping one another, DPW staff and public safety officials assisting residents, and a shared understanding and appreciation of the effort involved all show how much we care about this community. Acts of kindness from many community members were noticed and appreciated.

Your support and understanding, along with the willingness to help one another strengthen our community, and I truly appreciate that, as does our team.

## BSU/Town Partnership

The Town has had regular meetings with Bridgewater State University regarding several opportunities to collaborate further. One such partnership includes an approximately \$30,000 investment in our library for enhanced technology that will further reinforce the Town and school's commitment for the Senior College programming that takes place in the library, but also will ensure that patrons of the library have enhanced technology options available to them as well. I want to thank President Clark and his team for continuing to work with us.

# TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

## **Grants**

The Town received another grant of almost \$85,000 from the Green Communities program. The funding will be utilized to replace windows at the library, help offset costs associated with vehicle replacement, and invest in professional development for our Facilities Manager.

The Town is still waiting for confirmation of our \$2M award related to water improvements from the EPA but has been receiving updates from MassDEP regarding our submission, and as soon as we are notified, we will ensure that we share with the Council and the community.

## **Water Infrastructure Update**

In early January, the Town completed its interconnection with the Town of Middleborough for additional water supply. Our water engineering team continues to work on an interim treatment trailer designed to use the water resources available at wells 10A/10B and ensure proper treatment before introducing it into our water system. The Town also submitted a grant application to MassDEP to provide up to \$2M in financial support for necessary water supply/capacity work.

Most importantly, while the team focuses on short- and intermediate-term solutions to address water quality and capacity issues in Town. We are simultaneously identifying opportunities to implement long-term solutions, such as PFAS remediation and enhanced water supply via alternative water sources. The Town met with the EPA to explore alternative funding sources to support necessary water infrastructure improvements to our distribution and treatment system. Town officials continue to engage with our water consultants and community partners to explore opportunities to increase our water capacity.

In addition, we are advocating for additional support and financial resources from all stakeholders to finance the work associated with those solutions. Our team met with Senator Markey's staff to discuss alternative federal support via the grant or earmark process to help mitigate costs associated with water system improvements. This has been a priority for me, and it will remain so until we address these issues.

Water documents/presentations previously linked to in previous updates:

[Water Master Plan](#); [October Water Update](#); [Emergency Water Memo](#)

## **FY27 Budget**

In February, I submitted a preliminary budget forecast that provides the Town with preliminary financial information based on the Governor's cherry sheet figures and a preliminary look at revenue and expenses. This forecast showed a sizeable deficit, of more than \$2 million, which we will work to close as part of the budget process. In addition to our budget process, I, along with the Council, will work collaboratively with the Bridgewater Raynham School District to provide an educational appropriation that we can afford within our levy, unless alternative funding decisions are made. A copy of the preliminary budget forecast can be found [HERE](#).

# TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

In order to ensure that the finance team and I have the sufficient time we need to work on the budget, I requested that I be given an additional week to submit the budget, and the Council granted that request. Typically, the Town Manager submits the budget, the first Tuesday in April. This year, it will be submitted on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **Board/Committee Vacancies**

We want to remind residents that there are numerous vacancies across our 29 boards, commissions, and committees, to which the Town appoints volunteers to serve, contributing their time and expertise to various Town functions and priorities. More details regarding vacancies and the mission of each committee can be found on the Town's website at: <https://www.bridgewaterma.org/198/Boards-Committees-Commissions>

Residents who wish to apply for appointment consideration may complete the online application at: <https://www.bridgewaterma.org/FormCenter/Citizens-Advisory-Committee-9/BoardCommitteeCommission-Application-57>.

The committee we will highlight this month is the Town Manager's Water Advisory Committee, which has five vacancies. The Town Manager Water Advisory Committee was established by the Town Manager to solicit feedback on water conservation, water quality, and supply strategies to ensure the sustainability of the Town's future drinking water supply and quality. Volunteer today and make a meaningful impact!



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounting | Assessing | Revenue Collection | Treasury

66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0926 |

## Finance Departments Update – Laurie Guerrini/Finance Director

### Accounting Operational Update

March flew by and the Accounting Department kept pace every step of the way!

As we moved swiftly through the month, the Accounting Department remained actively engaged across several key initiatives, balancing day-to-day operations with forward-looking financial planning. The team continued its dedicated work on the FY27 budget development process. Including detailed communication with departments, reviewing current spending trends, refining financial forecasts, and evaluating both operational and capital needs. These collaborative efforts are helping to ensure a proactive and well-informed approach to the Town's financial future.

In addition, the Finance Director and Comptroller attended the MAAA 2026 Annual Education Training Program. This opportunity allowed them to refresh and expand their knowledge, stay current with industry best practices, and connect with fellow municipal finance professionals. The insights and relationships gained will continue to strengthen the department's work and support the Town's financial operations.

The Accounting Department remains committed to accuracy, transparency, and providing reliable financial support across all departments. With March financials now complete, the team has a clear understanding of the Town's financial position as we continue progressing through finalizing the budget season.

**FY2026 Financial Reporting for March can be found on the town website:**

**FY2026 Financial Reporting – March 2026**

### Assessing Operational Update

The assessor's office has now conducted most residential and commercial permits that were issued in calendar year 2025 and incomplete prior year permits to determine new growth for fiscal year 2026.

The assessor's department committed motor vehicle excise 2026 commitment #2 to the collector on March 20, 2026, in the amount of \$ 522,628.14. Commitment #2 has an issue date of April 3, 2026, and a due date of May 4, 2026.

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A quick reminder to please submit all real estate tax exemption applications by the due date of April 1, 2026. This deadline cannot be extended or waived by the assessors for any reason. If you have any questions, please contact us at 508-659-1272 or 1273.

Also, abatement applications were due February 3, 2026, to which the assessors have 3 months from the date your application is filed to act on it. The office will reach out if we need to inspect the property. You will be notified in writing whether an abatement has been granted or denied.

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

## Treasurer/Revenue Collecting Operational Update

Collections of the Fiscal Year 2026 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Commitment #1 continued through March.

Approximately 85% of this Commitment has been paid.

More than 19,500 Motor Vehicle tax payments were received totaling approximately \$3.3M in revenue.

- 52% of payments were made through the Town website.
- 26% of payments were mailed to the Collector's P.O. Box.
- 22% of payments were received at Town Hall.

**The Town offers in-person payment at the Collector office and online option for payment**

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/310/Online-Payment-Center>

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**THANK YOU to residents, staff, and the Council for staying engaged and supporting the Town's financial health.**

### Finance Contact Information

#### **Assessing**

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/161/Assessing>

Phone: 508-697-0928

#### **Accounting**

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/160/Accounting>

Phone: 508-697-0926

#### **Treasurer/Revenue Collecting**

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/1483/TreasurerRevenue-Collecting>

Phone: 508-697-0923



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1185 Pleasant St.  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0900  
bridgewaterfire.org

### Fire Department – Objectives and Updates

March 27, 2026

Open Burning Season – Open burning season runs from January 15th through May 1st each year. The hours for burning are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please contact 508-697-0900, press 2 to listen to the open burning regulations and then press 1 to here if burning is allowed for that day. For more information, visit our website: <https://bridgewaterfire.org/open-burning/>.

BFFA Local 2611 - Music Bingo Fundraiser for Mia (3/7/26) - The Bridgewater Firefighters Association is incredibly humbled and grateful for the overwhelming support shown at Mia's fundraiser.

The Bridgewater community came together, along with firefighters from many surrounding communities. Because of this incredible generosity, we were able to exceed our fundraising goal.

A special thank you to our generous sponsors: Black Hat Brew Works, South Shore Smoke House, Ace Hardware, Barrett's Alehouse Bridgewater, Beantown Home Improvement, Bridgewater Bagel, Bridgewater Fitness Center, Broadway Family Chiropractic, Champions Barbershop, Champions Indoor Golf, Crispi's Italian Cuisine, Cumberland Farms, Forni Bros Oil, Last Call at Hatchet in Hand, P & L Paintball, RSS Photography, Thrive Massage & Body Works, and Wareham Chiropractic & Wellness.

Thank you to everyone who attended, donated raffle prizes, purchased raffle tickets and t-shirts, sent Venmo donations, or dropped off checks.

We are truly grateful for the support shown to Mia & her family.

#### Training:

- SAFER & AFG Grant Workshop (3/5/26) - FF Matrisciano & FF Malone attended a SAFER & AFG Grant Workshop hosted by the IAFF & the Duxbury Firefighters IAFF Local 2167. The workshop focused on federal grant programs that support fire departments. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER) helps departments hire firefighters and improve staffing levels. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) provides funding for equipment, training, health and wellness programs. The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program helps fund fire prevention programs, public education, and safety initiatives that reduce fire risk in the community. Workshops like this help firefighters learn how to build stronger grant applications. The Bridgewater Fire Department applies for the AFG Grant each year and has been very successful over the years.
- Fit Test and Personal Protective Equipment Drill - The training division began the annual fit test and personal protective equipment (PPE) inspection. Each firefighter is issued a personal mask that attaches to the self-contained breathing apparatus, and they are tested to ensure a proper fit on an annual basis using a department owned testing machine. Following the fit test, all firefighters then performed a gear-donning drill where they are tasked with getting dressed into their PPE ensemble in less than one minute, this simulates the "Turn-out time" for when a call comes in, and they get geared up to respond. The Firefighter's times are recorded, and a friendly competition takes place for who can gear up the fastest.
- Air-Consumption Benchmark - In keeping with the theme of fit-testing, firefighters were also subjected to an air consumption drill. The drill consists of going up and down the stairs of the new training tower for four circuits. The firefighters starting and ending air pressure is recorded along with the time it took them to complete the exercise. A math equation is used to determine the air consumption rate in PSI per Minute, and this is used to give each firefighter an estimated "working time" for their SCBA bottle. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus cylinders, otherwise known as "bottles," are rated by the amount of air they hold, in minutes. The Bridgewater Fire Department uses "30-minute" bottles for the backpack style SCBAs and "60

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minute” bottles in our Rapid Intervention Kits, which are used to provide air to a downed firefighter in an emergency. Both sizes of bottles are pressurized to 4500 psi when full. While a typical bottle is rated for 30 minutes, the actual time is determined by how fast a firefighter is breathing, which is reliant on whatever task they are performing. The more strenuous the firefighter is working, the less breathing airtime they will realistically have. This drill is designed to give each firefighter a rough idea on their actual bottle time. This has also turned into friendly competition, both for how long a firefighter can make a bottle last, as well as how quickly they were able to go up and down the training tower's stairs four times.

## Community Engagement/Events:

- Strand Theatre Fire Remembrance Ceremony (3/10/26) – The Brockton Firefighters Local 144 held a remembrance ceremony to honor the 13 firefighters who died in the Strand Theatre fire on March 10, 1941. Lt. Sean Peters attended the ceremony.
- St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Senior Center (3/17/26) – Lt. Sean Peters had the honor of attending the St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Senior Center, where he welcomed guests by playing the bagpipes as they arrived. Thank you for the kind invitation—Lt. Peters truly enjoyed being part of such a wonderful event and helping celebrate with our seniors!
- Fire Truck Ride to School (3/19/26) – We had a fire truck ride to school with Josephine & Tanner on Thursday, 3/19/26. They were the lucky winners of the raffle prize at the Music Bingo Fundraiser for Mia. We hope they enjoyed it!!
- Kingston Police Hockey Classic (3/20-3/22/26) - Congratulations to our firefighters who participated in the Kingston Police Hockey Classic this past weekend at Lovell Arena in Rockland! Representing the Bridgewater Fire/Bridgewater Police combined hockey team were Lt. Jerry Wainio, FF Ryan Connolly, FF Chris Hamilton, FF Neil Harrington, FF Brian Lundstedt, and FF Josh Sproul. We are proud to share that the team brought home the Division D3 Championship! It is always great to see Fire and Police come together, strengthening teamwork and camaraderie both on and off the ice while proudly representing the Town of Bridgewater. Great job to all involved, and congratulations on an outstanding weekend!
- Brownie Troop Station Tour (3/25/26) – A Brownie Troop stopped by for a Station Tour. Firefighter Jason Akstin and Firefighter Sean Connolly showed them the engine, an ambulance, went over when to call 911 & demonstrated what a Firefighter looks like in full gear. We really enjoyed their visit!



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

Upcoming Events:

- BSU MEGA Job & Internship Fair (4/2/26)
- BRRHS College & Career Fair (4/9/26)
- Mass Maritime Career Fair (4/9/26)
- Williams Intermediate School Special Education Department Station Tour (4/10/26)
- Wellness Exams for our Firefighters (4/13-4/16/26)
- Town of Bridgewater Employee Benefits Fair (4/15/26)
- 4th Annual First Responders Day 2026, 80 Spring St (4/25/26)
- Girl Scout Troup Station Tour (4/9/26)
- EMS Week (5/17-5/23/26)



Calls for January & February 2026:

	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	YTD Totals
<b>Fire</b>	12	5	\$17.00
<b>EMS</b>	308	313	\$621.00
<b>False Alarm</b>	11	5	\$16.00
<b>Other</b>	131	111	\$242.00
<b>Totals:</b>	462	434	\$896.00



# PUBLIC WORKS

25 South St.  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0932

## Department of Public Works Operational Report Summary and Highlights for February 2026

*In addition to the reporting that follows, there are many ongoing projects at various stages that the Department of Public Works is involved with, which are too numerous to detail herein. We are happy to provide further information on request.*

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and its Divisions (Administration, Engineering, Highway, Sewer, Water, and Facilities) continue to deliver engineering, highway, sewer, water infrastructure development and management services, public buildings and facilities operations maintenance and management, **with the health, safety, and welfare of the public always held paramount above all else.**

During the **month of March**, the DPW staff focused on numerous roads and public lands cleanup and maintenance work, following the harsh winter storms, primarily on repairing of potholes and sinkholes; removal of fallen trees and tree branches that pose public hazard; repairing damaged mailboxes, curbs, lawns, and signs; equipment maintenance and repairs by the fleet maintenance group; Central Square traffic light repair; replacement of flooring and wall painting at the Roadways Division building. The DPW's Water Division continued with the effort to stabilize the town's water supply and treatment – the inter-municipal agreement for temporary water supply by the Town of Middleborough has been extended to July; procurement of a contractor for the installation of treatment vessels for wells 10A and 10B was started and advanced during the month of March. Several damaged hydrants from accidents and plowing during the blizzard were replaced. Water line break on Main Street was repaired. Continued with the sewer plant upgrade work; repaired a sewer force main break on Elm Street; continued work on the SCADA integration for the wastewater treatment plant; continued to address facilities maintenance work; continued with efforts to secure vendors and contractors for planned spring and summer projects. The Engineering Division continued with their review and inspections of several projects at 167 Oak Street, Moxie Way Subdivision, 90 Main Street, Soriedem Way Subdivision, and survey of the municipal parking lot behind the fire station building on School St.



# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0921

## Health Department Operational Report: 3/2-3/27/2026

### Septic:

- Plan review- 459 High Street
- Plan review- 543 Coss Street
- Bottom hole inspection- 829 Auburn Street
- D-Box inspection- 28 Beninati Farm
- Plan review- 19 Cherry Street
- D-Box inspection- Beech Street
- Final inspection- 829 Auburn Street
- Bottom hole inspection- 543 Cross Street
- Bottom hole inspection- 35 Nelson Drive
- Final inspection- 543 Cross Street
- Percolation test- 579 Walnut Street
- Plan review- 170 Boxwood
- Bottom hole inspection- 80 Laurie Lane
- Final inspection- 80 Laurie Lane
- Percolation test- 857 South Street

### Housing:

- Trash complaint – Keith Place
- Viva at Axis Lakeshore- Housing Inspection
- Trash complaint- Spring Street

### Food inspections:

- Cousins Miane Lobster (Mobile)
- Advanced Auto Parts
- Island Hut Vibes (Mobile)
- GNC
- Get In My Belly (Mobile)
- Boundless Bean
- Dunkin Donuts (BSU,ECC)
- Kneady Mama (Residential Kitchen)
- Dipped Delish (Residential Kitchen)
- Bernier’s Grocery
- Circle K
- 106 Mini-Mart
- Dairy Maid Jr. (Mobile)
- Mee-King
- Sugar Cane
- Cumberland Farms (Main St.)
- King Garden
- Edi Pizza



# BUILDING DEPARTMENT

66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0904

The Building Department  
Monthly Statistics  
March 1, 2026 through March 26, 2026

From March 1, 2026, through March 26, 2026, the Building Department saw a total of \$57,519.85 in revenue associated with the following:

Building Permits reviewed and issued – 94  
Building Inspections performed – 85

Electrical Permits reviewed and issued – 67  
Electrical Inspections performed – 161

Gas Permits reviewed and issued – 18  
Gas Inspections performed – 22

Plumbing Permits reviewed and issued – 40  
Plumbing Inspections performed – 60

	<b>Permits</b>	<b>Inspections</b>	<b>Fees</b>
<b>Building</b>	94	74	\$39,905.85
<b>Electrical</b>	67	162	\$10,569.00
<b>Gas</b>	18	19	\$1,315.00
<b>Plumbing</b>	40	58	\$5,730.00



# PARKS & RECREATION

90 Cottage St.  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-8020

## Parks and Recreation Department – March 2026

Well, we were busy in March making up for lost time in February. Once the snow melted, we got to work getting the playgrounds, parks, and ballfields ready for our busy spring season!

### **Field Maintenance**

We started installing the safety covers for the fences at Legion field. We aren't done yet, but we should be ready for the games starting in April.

We are also in the process of applying infield mix to Hayes field. We still have some field maintenance to do on all the baseball fields at Legion Park, but we are making progress preparing for Opening Day.

### **Parks**

We have been conducting clean-up activities on the various trails. A couple signs have been added for the Old State Farm Trail. We will be adding some information kiosks at the Old State Farm trail in April.

### **Buildings**

The Hayes building received a much-needed upgrade this month. The siding was replaced and the building looks great. We will be painting the foundation in April (weather permitting).



# PARKS & RECREATION

The new restroom doors at the Snack Shack have been installed. We are in the process of having the locks installed and finish work completed.

## **Miscellaneous**

The Bridgewater Pickleball Association will be active again this year. We replaced the winter nets with the spring nets. The portable restroom for the Pickleball courts was delivered in late March in anticipation of the spring season starting April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The spring leagues have been submitting their field reservation applications. We are in the process of scheduling all the practice sessions and games for the season. We look forward to another successful spring season.

**We are excited for our 2026 sports season.**



# ELDER AFFAIRS

10 Wally Krueger Way  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0929

## Bridgewater Council on Aging Monthly Operational Report – March

March was an active and engaging month at the Bridgewater Council on Aging, marked by a strong emphasis on community involvement, education, and celebration.

A key event this month was the Town Manager's Community Budget Meeting, which provided valuable insight into the town's financial planning process and offered residents an opportunity to stay informed and engaged. In addition, several programs originally scheduled for February were successfully rescheduled following the snowstorm. These included a presentation on heart health by BSU intern Daniel Yost, as well as Voices of Impact: Celebrating African American Contributions, presented by Raymond Ajemian. We were also pleased to welcome Tara from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA), who delivered an informative and engaging session on nutrition and common food myths. Her presentation was well received and provided practical guidance to participants on making healthier, more informed dietary choices.

The highlight of the month was our St. Patrick's Day celebration, which drew over 100 attendees and truly captured the spirit of our community. The event was a tremendous success, made possible by the dedication and collaboration of many. We extend our sincere thanks to our kitchen volunteers for cooking over 100 pounds of corn beef, the CERT Team for their support, and our set-up crew for creating a festive and welcoming environment. Special recognition goes to Sean Peters for his wonderful bagpiping as guests arrived, and to Dave Hoffman for providing lively entertainment that kept spirits high throughout the celebration.

Overall, March was a month filled with meaningful programming, strong community connections, and joyful celebrations. We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the spring season.



# ELDER AFFAIRS

## April Outlook



As we move into April, the Bridgewater Council on Aging is excited to offer a variety of engaging and educational programs designed to support the health, wellness, and preparedness of our community members.

On Monday, April 13th at 11:30 AM, we will host “Are You Prepared for an Emergency?” presented by Daniel Yost, a Bridgewater State University intern. This informative session will walk participants through the essential steps of emergency preparedness, from planning ahead to safely navigating unexpected situations. Attendees will gain practical tools and knowledge to help them remain calm, prepared, and comfortable in the event of an emergency. Pre-registration is required, and participants are encouraged to call the COA to reserve their spot.

Following this, on Tuesday, April 14th at 10:00 AM, we are proud to present “Live Your Life Well,” a 2-hour interactive workshop. This dynamic event will feature expert speakers covering a range of important topics, including mental health and digital literacy. Participants will rotate between tables, allowing for a more personalized and engaging learning experience. Space is limited for this event, so advanced registration by phone is required.

Looking ahead, we are also excited to share a special upcoming event in May. Please save the date for our Mother’s Day Breakfast on Tuesday, May 5th at 9:00 AM. This celebratory morning will honor all the wonderful mothers in our community with a delicious breakfast, raffles, and live entertainment by Bill Reidy. Doors will open at 9:00 AM. Reservations are required, and tickets will be available at the door for \$5 per person.

We look forward to another month of meaningful programming and continued community engagement this April.

Respectfully submitted,  
Courtney Riley