SEPTEMBER 2026




TOWN OF

# BRIDGEWATER

## TOWN MANAGER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

Welcome to September'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.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Town Manager's Office** ..... Page 3

**Finance Department** ..... Page 5

**Fire Department** ..... Page 8

**Elder Affairs** ..... Page 10

**Human Resources** ..... Page 14

**Department of Public Works** ..... Page 17

**Parks and Recreation** ..... Page 19

**Bridgewater Public Library** ..... Page 20

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0919
townmanager@bridgewaterma.org

**Bridgewater Little League**

We, along with Bridgewater State University were thrilled to be able to recognize the Bridgewater Little League team for its outstanding achievement as Little League Regional Champions at the September 15th Town Council meeting!

This celebration was a wonderful opportunity to honor the players, coaches, and families whose hard work, sportsmanship, and community pride made this accomplishment possible.

Town Council presented the team with a Team Jersey to be signed by all members and coaches, and provided the team with various items donated by BSU. This framed jersey will be hung in the Council Chambers to note this historic event.

**Bridgewater State University**

We are very grateful for our continued partnership with Bridgewater State University. Through collaborations like this and a range of other community-focused initiatives, the Town and BSU are strengthening the connections that make Bridgewater such a special place to live, learn, work, and play.

On September 14th we were thrilled to celebrate a major technology upgrade in the Flora T. Little Room provided by BSU, at the Bridgewater Public Library. This investment will benefit both the Senior College and other patrons of the library. The new technology includes four display screens, a podium with a microphone and built-in speakers, making this space much more accessible and significantly enhances the digital capabilities of the room. A huge thank you to all that made this possible!

Thank you to Bridgewater State University for its generous $160,000 donation to support Town initiatives. This donation includes an increase in the annual appropriation given to the Town for Police, Fire and DPW departments, along with $100,000 to support roadway improvement work. We look forward to building on this partnership and continuing to create meaningful opportunities for our residents and community.

**Grant Funding**

Bridgewater was awarded $2,500,000 in HousingWorks Infrastructure Program grant funds to support the community's water capacity expansion projects, such as the development of the Vernon Street wells.

The Bridgewater Police Department was awarded $36,960 in National Highway Traffic Safety Administration funding as part of the FFY27 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research (OGR).

The Town has been incredibly successful over the course of the year to garner a variety of grants, earmarks or other alternative sources of funds to help fund some of the Town projects and initiatives that are currently underway.

# TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

With water projects alone now receiving $4.5 million in grant funding this year, an overall grants spreadsheet will be a part of an upcoming Town Manager's Update.

**Water Update**

The Town is undergoing extensive testing in preparation for going live at the Plymouth Street well site facility. Stay tuned as we finalize the roll out of this project within a couple of weeks. Barring anything unforeseen, we expect that this plant will receive MassDEP approval and the water at this site will be introduced to the distribution system in October. Water documents/presentations previously linked to previous updates:

Water Master Plan; October Water Update; Emergency Water Memo; Water Dashboard

**Animal Control**

Animal Control –The Town has finalized a regional approach to animal control with some of our neighboring communities, including East Bridgewater and Raynham. We expect personnel and services in place in the month of October.

**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 Community Preservation Committee, which has a recently established "at-large" vacancy. The Community Preservation Committee makes recommendations to the Town Council for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is reacquired or created as provided in MGL c.44B.

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounting | Assessing | Revenue Collection | Treasury

66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0926 1

**Finance Departments Update – Laurie Guerrini/Finance Director**

**Accounting Operational Update**

The Accounting Department completed the first quarter of FY2027 while continuing to finalize FY2026 year-end reporting and prepare for the Town's upcoming financial planning and reporting requirements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Finance team for their continued dedication and hard work. Fiscal and calendar year deadlines and reporting requirements are continuous, and the team consistently maintains an efficient pace while demonstrating attention to detail necessary to meet these demands. Their commitment and professionalism are greatly appreciated.

As part of the FY2026 year-end financial reporting process, the Accounting Department completed the preparation of the Department of Revenue (DOR) Combined Balance Sheet. Following the completion and submission of the required documentation, the Town received approval for its certified Free Cash, providing an important financial resource for the Town as it moves forward through FY2027. With the certified Free Cash now approved, the Accounting Department can incorporate these figures into financial planning and begin developing budget projections for FY2028.

In addition, Assistant Town Accountant Michelle Rota completed and submitted the required Schedule A to the DOR, another important component of the Town's annual financial reporting requirements. Finance Comptroller Ashley Pires submitted the required GASB reporting to Odyssey Advisors, supporting the Town's ongoing financial reporting and compliance requirements. The department also began compiling the Workers' Compensation Audit Wage Report for submission. This process involves gathering and reviewing the necessary wage information to ensure the report is complete and accurate for the annual audit. The Accounting and Assessor team has also been working closely to compile the information required for the Town's annual Tax Recap submission.

The Accounting Department continues to maintain organized, accurate, and accessible financial records in accordance with applicable records-retention requirements. Finance Technician Laurie Mahoney coordinated the records-management process for prior-year accounts payable documentation, including obtaining the necessary approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Laurie then organized and prepared the records in a timely manner, ensuring that the department's historical financial documentation is properly maintained and managed in accordance with established requirements.

In payroll, Julie Lavoie, the Payroll/Benefits Specialist, continues to manage the Town's weekly payroll processing with consistent attention to accuracy and timeliness, ensuring that employees are paid correctly and on schedule each week. In addition, Julie completed the retroactive payroll calculations for the Fire Union's newly ratified contract, which required reviewing and calculating adjustments dating back across two fiscal years. Her careful attention to detail and thorough review of historical payroll information helped ensure that the retroactive amounts were accurately calculated and processed in accordance with the new contract.

The implementation of the capital planning process for FY2027 has begun, working with Town departments to review anticipated capital needs and identify potential projects and priorities. Beginning this process early allows departments to evaluate their needs while providing Accounting with the information necessary to incorporate potential capital projects into the Town's broader financial planning and budget development process.

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Accounting Department continues to support ongoing procurement activities in collaboration with Town departments and committees. Current procurement efforts include the Cemetery Assessment Project, in coordination with the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), as well as the Fire Station #2 Roof Project. These efforts remain ongoing as the Town evaluates project needs, funding, and procurement requirements.

As the Town moves further into FY2027, the Accounting Department will continue to focus on maintaining accurate financial records, completing required state and regulatory reporting, supporting departmental budget and capital planning needs, and providing financial guidance throughout the fiscal year. With the completion of FY2026 year-end requirements and the first quarter of FY2027 now behind us, the department remains focused on establishing a strong financial foundation for the remainder of FY2027 and the FY2028 budget process.

**FY2027 Financial Reporting for September 2026 can be found on the town website:**
**FY2027 Financial Reporting – Q1 September 2026**

**Assessing Operational Update**

The assessor's office mailed out real estate tax exemption applications to all taxpayers that filed last year on September 30th. The applications are due by April 1, 2027, or three months after the mailing of the actual tax bills for the fiscal year, whichever is later, but we encourage taxpayers to submit their applications starting October 1 through the first week of December, so the exemption appears on their tax bill.

Any taxpayer that has not received an application and applied last year or any new taxpayer that would like to inquire about exemptions please contact the assessor's office at 508-659-1273.

**********

The assessor's department also committed motor vehicle commitment #5 to the collector on September 22, 2026, in the amount of $ 165,385.56. Commitment #5 has an issue date of September 29,2026 and a due date of October 29, 2026.

Treasurer/Revenue Collecting Operational Update
Fiscal Year 2027 Quarter 1 Water & Sewer Bills were due in early September.

More than 6,800 payments were received totaling more than $2M in revenue.

- 49% of these payments were made through the Town website.
- 31% of payments were mailed to the Collector's P.O. Box.
- 20% of payments were received at Town Hall.

Additionally, more than 800 Utility Billing Demand letters were issued as part of continuous collection efforts for FY26 past due Water & Sewer accounts.

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

**The Town offers in-person payment at the Collector office and online option for payment**
**https://www.bridgewaterma.org/310/Online-Payment-Center**

**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**
**September 24, 2026**

**FY2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) -** We received notification from FEMA that we were awarded the FY2025 AFG Grant in the amount of $31,418.18. The grant award is for periodic physical exams and health screenings for our firefighters.

**Training:**

- Fire Prevention Association of MA Training (9/8/26) – Captain Crag Nedell attended the quarterly training and the main topic was commercial inspections.
- Pediatric Advanced Life Supports (PALS) Course - On September 10th and 29th, our paramedics took part in the department's first Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) course. PALS is a two-year certification course that focuses on recognizing and treating critically ill or injured children. The course was held in our Training Room and included a strong hands-on component. Paramedics worked through nine different stations where they had to demonstrate proficiency in pediatric skills before completing the testing portion of the course. So far, we have had a 100% pass rate. The feedback from those who attended has also been very positive, especially regarding the amount of hands-on training and how useful the material is for treating pediatric patients.
- MAIAAI Annual Training Conference (9/23-9/25/26) – The topic covered this year was Fatal Fires & How the Human Body Burns. Captain Craig Nedell, Fire Prevention Officer, attended the conference.

**Community Engagement/Events:**

- 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Ceremony (9/11/26) - The Bridgewater Fire Department held a ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of 9/11, in partnership with the Bridgewater Police Department and the Bridgewater Veterans' Office. We extend our sincere thanks to the BFD, BPD, and the James Oliver Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2125 Honor Guards for their participation and service. A special thank you to Gregory Martin, Veterans' Services Officer, for helping coordinate this meaningful event—and to everyone who joined us as we honored the 343 firefighters who gave their lives in the line of duty and remembered all 2,977 people killed on that tragic day. We will always remember.





# FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 2nd Annual Public Safety Mass (9/12/26) - Our Public Safety Mass was held on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Members of the Bridgewater Fire, Bridgewater Police and Bridgewater State University Honor Guard posted the colors. Members of the Brockton Firefighters Pipe and Drums participated. Thank you to Lt. Sean Peters for putting this together for the 3 public safety departments in our Town! Thank you to Father Bill Devine for the wonderful service!
- 31st Annual Fire & Life Safety Education Conference (9/16-9/17/26) – Firefighters Jason Anacki, Cori Handorff & Mike Murano attended the Annual Fire & Life Safety Education Conference. This year's theme was "Heating Up Safety: From Hot Topics to Cooler Solutions." Thank you to the Department of Fire Services for hosting this conference!
- BSU National Night Out 2026 (9/17/26) – FF Mike Farias & FF Ryan Malone were at the BSU National Night Out. Thank you to BSUPD for inviting us to participate in this event!
- BFFA Local 2611 Golf Tournament (9/21/26) - The Bridgewater Firefighters Local 2611 held their 5th annual golf tournament at Olde Scotland Links Golf Course. Thanks to all who participated and donated! It was a great day!




**Upcoming Events:**

- Autumn Fest (9/26/26)

**Calls for January – August 2026:**

| | Jan-26 | Feb-26 | Mar-26 | Apr-26 | May-26 | Jun-26 | Jul-26 | Aug-26 | YTD Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fire | 12 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 66 |
| EMS | 308 | 313 | 268 | 306 | 316 | 304 | 328 | 318 | 2461 |
| False Alarm | 11 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 69 | 75 | 99 | 83 | 364 |
| Other | 131 | 111 | 126 | 100 | 44 | 47 | 43 | 55 | 657 |
| **Totals:** | **462** | **434** | **416** | **425** | **433** | **438** | **477** | **463** | **3548** |

# ELDER AFFAIRS

10 Wally Krueger Way
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0929

**Bridgewater Council on Aging**
**Monthly Operational Report – September**

During the month of September, the Bridgewater Senior Center continued to provide meaningful opportunities for older adults to connect with others, participate in educational and social activities, engage with the community, and access valuable resources and support. In recognition of National Senior Center Month, the Center offered a variety of programs and activities throughout the month that encouraged participation, socialization, learning, and community involvement.

Our weekly Wednesday Bistro lunches continued to be a popular opportunity for community members to gather, enjoy a home-cooked meal, and socialize with friends and neighbors. Our dedicated volunteers prepare and serve a full meal and dessert for just $5.00. All meals are made to order, ensuring that anyone who calls ahead will have a meal prepared for them. This approach helps ensure that no one is left without a meal and that every participant can enjoy a fresh, home-cooked lunch.

The Center celebrated National Senior Center Month with Spirit Week, held September 14–18. Each day featured a different theme designed to encourage participation and celebrate the diverse interests, experiences, and backgrounds of our members. Activities included a Sports-themed Day, Bridgewater Day, Tie-Dye Day, and "Rock Your Roots," which encouraged participants to celebrate their heritage, individuality, and personal stories. Spirit Week provided a fun and welcoming way for members to participate in the Center community, build friendships, and strengthen connections with one another.

The LGBTQ+ Senior Lunch also returned from its summer break on September 3. The gathering featured Mighty Music Bingo and provided LGBTQ+ seniors, friends, and community members with an opportunity to enjoy lunch, music, conversation, and social connection in a welcoming and inclusive environment. This lunch will continue to be help the first Thursday of every month until June.

On September 15, the Center hosted an educational TRIAD presentation with Register of Deeds Buckley from the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds. The presentation addressed several topics of particular importance to older homeowners, including the Homestead Act, the Registry's Property Fraud Alert program, and common recording issues. An on-site workstation was available for participants to check the status of a mortgage discharge, print a copy of their deed, and learn more about the technology and services available through the Registry. The presentation concluded with a question-and-answer session, and informational materials were provided to attendees for future reference.

The month also included a community outing to C.N. Smith Farm on September 21. Participants joined Scott for a van trip to the farm, with transportation provided at no cost. The outing offered participants an opportunity to get out into the community, spend time together, and purchase fresh local produce. Advance registration helped ensure that transportation could be coordinated effectively and that all registered participants could be accommodated.

# ELDER AFFAIRS

The month also included a community outing to C.N. Smith Farm on September 21. Participants joined Scott for a van trip to the farm, with transportation provided at no cost. The outing offered participants an opportunity to get out into the community, spend time together, and purchase fresh local produce. Advance registration helped ensure that transportation could be coordinated effectively and that all registered participants could be accommodated.

The Center concluded the month by participating in two Good Neighbor Day events. Good Neighbor Day is an opportunity to promote kindness, connection, respect, and positive relationships within our communities—both in person and online. The first event was held at the Senior Center, where representatives from Wat Nawamintararachutis visited the Center to lead a meditation program. Participants were introduced to mindfulness and loving-kindness practices designed to encourage greater self-awareness, connection with others, and a sense of well-being. The program provided a peaceful opportunity for participants to learn, reflect, and connect with one another.




The second event took place at Bridgewater State University, where Center staff and seniors participated in "Digital Goodness: Being a Good Neighbor Online." The program focused on kindness, civility, and compassion in our digital interactions. Participants explored topics including navigating online communication, reducing conflict, responding to microaggressions, and building healthier digital relationships. The program served as a valuable reminder that being a good neighbor does not stop at our front door—it extends to how we communicate with and treat one another online.

Overall, September was an active, engaging, and meaningful month at the Bridgewater Senior Center. Through social programs, educational opportunities, community partnerships, volunteer-supported activities, and community outings, the Center continued to provide older adults with opportunities to remain connected, informed, active, and engaged. The continued participation of our members, volunteers, community partners, and staff reflects the important role the Senior Center plays in fostering connection and strengthening the Bridgewater community.





# ELDER AFFAIRS

**October 2026:**

The Bridgewater Senior Center has a busy and exciting schedule planned for the coming months. Our October events with some special save the date through December calendar includes health and wellness opportunities, educational programs, community partnerships, seasonal celebrations, veterans' recognition, and a special holiday trip. Many of these events also give our seniors an opportunity to connect with Town departments, local organizations, and one another.

October will begin with **Coffee with a Cop on Wednesday, October 7 at 9:30 a.m.** Police Chief Chris Delmonte will join us for coffee and conversation, giving seniors an opportunity to learn more about the Bridgewater Police Department and ask questions in a relaxed setting. We are looking forward to continuing this type of community connection with our older residents.

On **Wednesday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m.**, we will host a **Vaccine Clinic with Osco Pharmacy.** Pharmacy Manager Todd and Pharmacist Taylor will be at the Center offering a wide range of vaccines, including COVID-19, flu, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal B, pneumococcal, RSV, shingles, and Tdap. The clinic is by appointment only and space is limited, so seniors will need to call the Senior Center to reserve a time. Staff will be working closely with the pharmacy to keep appointments organized and ensure the clinic runs smoothly.

Our TRIAD programming continues on **Tuesday, October 20 at 12:30 p.m.** with a presentation on **compulsive gambling.** This will be an informative and judgment-free conversation focusing on warning signs, the potential emotional and financial effects on older adults and their families, prevention, and available resources. There will also be time for questions and discussion. Participants are asked to call the Senior Center to register.

We will finish October with our **Halloween Party on Wednesday, October 28 at 11:30 a.m.** Seniors are invited to participate in a costume contest and enjoy our weekly Bistro with a spooky Halloween theme. Registration is required by October 23 so that we can plan appropriately for meals and attendance. Additional information will be available through the Café.

November will bring one of our most meaningful annual events, the **Veterans Day Luncheon on Wednesday, November 4 at 11:30 a.m.** This luncheon gives us an opportunity to recognize and thank the veterans in our community. We are especially pleased to have a performance by the Singing State Trooper as part of this year's program. Sign-ups will begin October 5, with Bridgewater residents receiving priority. The cost is $5 per person.

We will also be working with the **Bridgewater Police Department on their annual Thanksgiving Dinner for seniors on Wednesday, November 18.** The dinner will be free for Bridgewater seniors, although an RSVP will be required. Transportation will be available as well. Sign-ups begin October 28. In preparation, staff will be coordinating registrations, transportation needs, and meal counts to make sure our seniors have everything they need to enjoy the event.

# ELDER AFFAIRS

Looking ahead to December, we are once again planning our annual **Boston Pops Holiday Trip on Friday, December 11.** Bridgewater seniors will have the opportunity to enter the drawing for this year's trip to the Boston Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops. After the performance, the group will enjoy dinner at the Fireside Restaurant. The cost is $25 per person, including dinner. Sign-ups will take place from November 16 through December 3, with Bridgewater residents receiving priority.

As we move through the fall, our focus will be on making sure each of these programs is well organized while keeping the process as easy as possible for our seniors. Registration, meal counts, transportation, space, and communication with our community partners will all be coordinated in advance. For events with limited space or advance deadlines, staff will closely monitor registration and communicate important information to participants.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-0971
HR@bridgewaterma.org



Every day, Town employees work behind the scenes and in our community to provide the services residents rely on. We're taking a moment to recognize the people behind that work by welcoming new team members, celebrating promotions, saying farewell to valued colleagues, and highlighting some of our recent employee engagement activities.

**Carolyn Wood, Human Resources Director**
**Marisa Kurey, Human Resources Generalist**

**Welcoming New Team Members:**

**John Glynn – Light Equipment Operator**

Please join us in welcoming John to his new role as Light Equipment Operator with the DPW Water Division!

John brings valuable hands-on skills to the team, where he'll be responsible for essential water system labor and operations.

We're excited to have John stepping into this vital role for the Town of Bridgewater. Welcome aboard, John!

**Promotions:**

**Ed DeMolles – Roadways Foreman**

Please join us in congratulating Ed on his promotion to Working Foreman with the DPW Highway Division!

Stepping up from his role as Heavy Equipment Operator, Ed brings extensive hands-on experience to his new position. As Working Foreman, he'll be leading work crews, directing daily assignments, operating departmental equipment, and coordinating essential services like snow emergency responses to keep Town infrastructure safe and running smoothly.

We're excited to see Ed take this next step with the Town of Bridgewater. Congratulations and best of luck in your new role, Ed!

**Farewells:**

**Teddy Small – Mechanic II**

Please join us in wishing a fond farewell to Teddy, who is moving on from their role as a Sewer Mechanic with the Town of Bridgewater.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and the important work you've done to help keep our community running smoothly. Your contributions have made a difference, and you will certainly be missed by your coworkers and the Town. We wish you all the best in your next chapter and continued success in everything ahead!

# HUMAN RESOURCES

**Jim Costello – Water Distribution Supervisor**

Join us in celebrating Jim as he retires from his role as Water Distribution Supervisor with the Town of Bridgewater!

Throughout his years of service, Jim has shared his knowledge, dedication, and commitment to keeping our community's water system running smoothly. His hard work and leadership have made a lasting impact on both his coworkers and the residents we serve. Thank you, Jim, for everything you've done for the Town and for the many years of service you've given to our community. You will certainly be missed!

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and well-deserved retirement! Enjoy this next chapter!

**Nicole Salvo – Assistant Town Planner**

Join us in wishing Nicole all the best as she moves on from her role as Assistant Town Planner with the Town of Bridgewater.

Thank you, Nicole, for the contributions you've made during your time with the Town. Your efforts have helped support the community and the work of the Planning Department.

Wishing you continued success and happiness in your next chapter!

**Employee Engagement:**




The Town of Bridgewater continues to prioritize the health, wellness, and wellbeing of its employees through programs and activities designed to support a positive and healthy workplace.

Recently, we hosted "Unplug & Unwind," a Digital Wellness initiative encouraging employees to take a break from their screens, slow down, and recharge.

The event provided an opportunity to step away from the demands of the workday and take a few moments for themselves. Employees participated in guided meditation sessions and a Digital Wellness Word Search, with opportunities to win fun prizes.

Digital wellness is an important part of overall well-being. Taking intentional breaks from technology can help reduce stress, improve focus, and encourage a healthier balance throughout the workday.

The Town is proud to offer programs that support its employees and recognize the important work they do each day serving the residents of Bridgewater. By investing in employee wellness and engagement, the Town continues to foster a workplace where employees feel supported, appreciated, and ready to serve our community.

A healthy workplace helps build a stronger community. 💛

# HUMAN RESOURCES

**Recruiting:**

The Town of Bridgewater continues to actively recruit for a variety of positions across Town departments. We're always looking for talented, dedicated individuals who are interested in serving their community and becoming part of the Town team.




Over the past several months, we've welcomed new employees into a number of roles while continuing to recruit for additional positions. Each new team member brings valuable skills and experience that help support the services our residents rely on every day.

Interested in joining the Town of Bridgewater? Keep an eye on our job postings for current opportunities!

**Birthdays & Milestones: Celebrating Our Team**




Sending our warmest birthday wishes to all of our employees celebrating this month! We hope your birthday brings you plenty of happiness, fun, and special moments with family and friends. We're so glad to celebrate another year with you! Austin A., Yamaris T.-M., Mark T., Andrew D., James L., Kevin K., Ryan B., Kajelyn B., Brian M., Alexander M., Greg T., Jesse A., Gary B., Taylor S., Jeffrey G., Jeffrey D., Rick C., Gerald W., David F., Chris C., Lisa M., Michael R., and Peter B.

This month, we're proud to recognize the employees celebrating significant milestones with the Town of Bridgewater! Each year of service represents countless contributions, dedication, and commitment to our community. Thank you for the time, talent, and hard work you've shared throughout the years. We appreciate everything you do and are excited to celebrate this achievement with you! Andrew F., Christine S., Gary S., Jolie S.M., Andre O., Christopher P., Kevin K., Ryan O., Kajelyn B., Jane B., Christopher C., Caleb T.-S., Michael C., Jesse A., Troy A., Joseph M., and Ryan B.




**Should you have any questions or require assistance with any HR-related matters, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at HR@bridgewaterma.org.**

# PUBLIC WORKS

25 South St.
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0932

## Department of Public Works Operational Report
## Summary and Highlights for May 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.*

**Executive Summary - Azu Etoniru, P.E., P.L.S., Director**

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.

As with the prior months, during the month of September, the DPW staff focused on numerous roads and public lands cleanup and maintenance work, remnants of the harsh winter storms, primarily on repairing of potholes and sinkholes as we look towards the fall season; 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; repair and replacement of roof gutters at the Roadways Division building; and responding to emergency road calls during the recent nor'easter storm event – with one day closure of Water Street implemented to safeguard vehicular road users – the street was reopened the next day; the "Opticon" traffic control device for emergency vehicles use and override at the Prospect Street/Pleasant Street intersection was malfunctioning and was promptly addressed by the Highway Division personnel.

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 October 2026; work on the installation of treatment vessels for wells 10A and 10B continues and nearing finalization and completion for activation. Water line breaks were repaired – two major breaks, one at the Roche Brothers Plaza, and the other at the corner of Broad Street and Stetson Street were superbly managed and contained by our Water Division Superintendent, William (Bill) Young and the Water Distribution Lead Person, Casey Randall.

Maintenance work on Carver's Pond Treatment Plant raw water main(s) and treated water main(s) and several wells were performed. The replacement of a control valve and a section of treated water distribution main at the Carver's Pond Treatment Plant engendered an immediate positive impact – increase in the daily output in the distribution system, and replenishment of the water towers, thereby allowing the Division to achieve redundancies (resting of wells and rotating the activation of wells) and reducing our daily water intake from the Town of Middleboro by almost fifty (50) percent.

# PUBLIC WORKS

Work has continued with the sewer plant upgrade work; continued work on the SCADA integration for the wastewater treatment plant and continued to address facilities maintenance work. Work on the reconstruction of Winter Street (from Bedford Street to Conant Street) is progressing very well – a water service line had to be replaced and a section of the water main damaged by the contractor was promptly replaced.

The Engineering Division continued with their review and inspections of several projects under construction, as well as performing several surveying and engineering design work for town-initiated projects, and stormwater compliance work under Federal MS4 mandate. The Engineering Division is also preparing survey plans for roadway taking at the intersection of Elm Street and Pleasant Street, as well as preparing site plans for the reconstruction of the public park at the intersection of Plymouth Street and Summer Street.

The Highway Division oversaw the maintenance and cleaning of the remainder of 1,976 catch basins throughout the town. The installation of a new roof at the Police Station has been completed, and masonry repair work at the Station has also been completed. The repair work on the library columns was superbly done, and we thank our facilities coordinator, Chris Hartman for ably spearheading the effort. Work on verifying compliance with ADA regulations for access ramps continues. The Academy building generator was power washed and repairs were made on the roof downspouts/gutters. Effort continues towards addressing drainage issues at the library.

Kudos to the Highway Division personnel who worked very diligently to keep the roads clean and safe during the recent nor'easter! The Highway Superintendent who has served the DPW exceptionally as the lead person for the Highway Division has assumed the role of Assistant DPW Director and we are already seeing the fruits of his devotion to duty – we take this opportunity to acknowledge Paul DeCosta.

Finally, we welcome new additions to the Water Division staff: Jake Carrol, who has joined the team as a water handler, and John Flynn, who has joined the team as a light equipment operator. Congratulations to Casey Randall who was promoted to the position of Water Distribution Supervisor. Casey has consistently demonstrated an incredible commitment to the DPW's Water Division's mission.

# PARKS & RECREATION

90 Cottage St.
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-8020

September was a busy month getting our baseball and softball fields back in shape after a busy spring and summer season. Our baseball fields serve as practice grounds for our football teams in both August and September. We were also busy getting the football field ready for the 2026 season.

And of course, we were so excited about our Bridgewater 12 American team.




The 12 American Team from Bridgewater Little League had a summer of a lifetime and were affectionately nick named the "Boys of Bridgewater" A team full of 12 amazing boys, coaches who sacrificed more than we will ever know and families who supported this amazing crew have made us a league, town, state and region proud beyond words.
Team Accomplishments

- District 7 Champs
- Section 2 Champs
- MA State Champs
- New England Regional Champs
- 2026 LLWS New England Region Representatives

Bridgewater 12 American. One of the best 20 teams in the WORLD. Beyond Amazing.

**2026 Roster:**

Players: Jackson Morin, Luke Schlatz, Dom Mombeleur, Callan Goodwin, Jude DeSimone, Cameron Hutchinson, RJ Zackrison, Anthony Sullivan, Tristyn Lee, JJ Gaff, Calvin McGough and Eamon Hynes

Hats off to Bridgewater 12 American! They gave Bridgewater a summer that will never be forgotten!

# BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

115 South St.
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-3331
bridgewaterpubliclibrary.org

**Operational Update - September 2026**

September brought continued use of the Bridgewater Public Library's collections, public spaces, and programs as families returned to school-year routines. The library recorded 5,827 visits and 9,869 combined physical and digital checkouts. With limited staffing and funding, maintaining core access and a varied program calendar remained the central service priority.

**Library Operations & Public Use**

Physical circulation totaled 6,905 items, an increase of approximately 4.4% over September 2025. Reported digital circulation added 2,964 checkouts. Museum passes circulated 38 times, extending residents' access to cultural and educational attractions.

September brought the return to six day per week operation and reopening of the library on Fridays and Saturdays. The library registered 65 new patrons and reported 9,022 total registered patrons. Adult collection development added 431 items during the month. These measures reflect the library's continuing role as a shared resource for reading, learning, and everyday enrichment.

**Programs & Community Engagement**

September's program offerings supported early literacy and social connection across age groups. Preschool Storytime paired reading with crafts and activities, while Read & Draw with Triumph combined stories and art exploration for children ages 3–6. Triumph's program is supported by a Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care grant, bringing additional learning opportunities to local families. Teen Anime Club and Pokémon Club offered recurring opportunities to connect around shared interests.

Adult offerings included the September 15 Book Club discussion of The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese; Level Up Your Photography: Mastering Manual Mode, a two-part workshop on September 22 and 29; and Your Next Adventure with Therapy Gardens on September 30. Events also included An Evening with Medium Sandy Waters, Tarot Exploration with Celestial B, mindfulness meditation with Wat Nawamintararachutis Meditation Center, and a September 28 sound bath with Claudia D'Emilia Iafrate. A pop-up book and puzzle sale was listed for September 14–26. Bridgewater State University's Senior Learning Program fall semester began this month and the library hosts four classes a week in the library's large Flora T. Little Meeting Room that BSU generously outfitted with major technology upgrades over the summer months.

Over the course of the month the library offered 32 public programs for patrons of all ages and 105 events/meetings in our meeting rooms and pods.

# BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Reference, Technology & Special Services**

Digital borrowing continued to extend access beyond the building: Libby accounted for 2,599 e-book, audiobook, and magazine checkouts, and Hoopla accounted for 365 checkouts across its formats. Patrons placed 691 holds through the SAILS app. ComCat activity connected residents with materials beyond the local collection.

The Flora T. Little Art Gallery featured HENRICUS VIII ReDux by Bridgewater resident and Bridgewater State University professor emeritus Stephen Smalley from September 8–29, with an artist meet-and-greet on September 23. The exhibit brought local creative work into an accessible community setting.

**Looking Ahead**

As fall programming continues, the library's focus remains on dependable core services, early literacy, and opportunities for residents to learn and connect. Community partnerships and thoughtful use of available resources will remain important to sustaining that service within current staffing capacity.

# BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

**September 2026 Quick Reference Statistics***

| Metric | Sep 2026 |
|---|---|
| Service Hours per Week | 55.5 |
| Door Count | 5,827 |
| Total Physical Circulation | 6,905 |
| Total Digital Circulation | 2,964 |
| Total Combined Circulation | 9,869 |
| Museum Pass Circulation | 38 |
| New Patron Registrations | 65 |
| Bridgewater Resident Patrons | 7,674 |
| Total Registered Patrons | 9,022 |
| Adult Items Added | 431 |
| Adult Collection Item Count | 35,683 |
| Libby Checkouts | 2,599 |
| Hoopla Checkouts | 365 |
| SAILS App Holds Placed | 691 |
| ComCat Borrowing / Lending | 38 / 13 |

***Please note that not all library use statistics for the month of September were available at the time of this report.**