

**TOWN MANAGER'S
OPERATIONAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 7TH, 2025**





Succession Planning

The Town Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee met on January 28th to review applications from candidates that had been received by Community Paradigm, LLC, the recruiter retained to assist in this process. The Committee chose seven candidates to invite for a first round of interviews which will take place early in February. It is anticipated that a new Town Manager would be selected in March 2025.

Hanson's Farm

A purchase and sale agreement to acquire the development rights to this farm has been executed by the Town and the owners. The owners and the Town have also reached an agreement on the conservation restriction on the property which is a requirement of using community preservation act (CPA) funds for the acquisition. That has been sent to the State Department of Conservation Services for review and approval. Once we receive approval, the Town, and Wildlands Trust (who will co-hold the restriction), will recommend the acquisition to the CPA Committee, the Conservation Commission, and the Town Council for approval. The bulk of the cost of the acquisition will be paid by a \$3 million State Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant awarded to the Town for this purpose, to be matched with \$30,000 in CPA funds.

Library Building Assessment

The Town has awarded a contract to Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA) for this project. The work is designed to take a comprehensive look at the required upgrades and improvements to the library building, including site review, drainage, parking, building envelope, windows and doors, roofing, HVAC systems, electric and plumbing, water and sewer service, and energy. After years of appropriating funds for ascetic improvements while having a pay as you go approach to major repairs, the assessment will provide a comprehensive roadmap for a robust improvement plan. The Town Manager and Library Director have already worked with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to formulate a strategy for future grant funding, and the assessment will be the first step in a year's long effort to improve the Bridgewater Public Library.

Municipal Electricity Aggregation

The Town's application to the State to approve our plan to go out to bid on behalf of all electricity users in Bridgewater to obtain more competitive pricing for electricity was approved late last year. We have selected three different options for which we plan to go out to bid soon to offer both more competitive pricing than National Grid currently offers for its "basic service rate", as well as two other options that have a higher amount of energy derived from renewable sources so that residents have options should they wish to support them. Once bids are received and we determine that for at least the basic service rate, all rate payers would pay less than they are paying today, and we will contract with that new supplier. All electricity account holders will be automatically "opted in" to the program unless they have previously chosen another supplier on their own. If a user wants to opt into the options with more renewable energy, they will have the ability to do so. Once the program is ready to launch every account holder will receive a mailing about the options, and we will have public information sessions as well to



help answer questions. In all cases, National Grid will still be responsible for maintaining the distribution system, and in the event of a power outage, they will still be responsible for restoration, regardless of what company supplies the power. The goal is to save our residents money with no cost by the Town to do so.

Town River Landing

The Town has had as a goal the erection of a pavilion on this property to provide a space for various community events. The structure would be based on an existing bandstand structure in Abington. The Town had received a generous donation by MacDonald Industries of \$20,000 for which the design was completed and Conservation Commission approval secured. Town staff has been working to obtain quotes to have the concrete pad for the structure installed and a trench dug to bring electrical service to the site. Unfortunately, the cost of this work far exceeds available funds, and due to that we have decided to put this project on hold until we can determine a path forward. Fundraising and/or additional town funds will need to be identified to pay for the concrete pad and obtain the materials for the pavilion structure. Once we do the plan is to work with Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School to construct the multi-use pavilion structure on the concrete pad. B-P students will learn to read plans, how to plan a project, what the building process entails, and how to construct. They will have access to the BTV building for bathrooms and a place to have brief learning sessions while on site.

Parthenon Friezes

The focus of this project is to hang the restored friezes (plaster castings of Parthenon scenes) in the Academy building. The walls where the friezes are intended to be hung is not designed to hold the weight of the pieces and must be rebuilt to accommodate them safely. DPW and Engineering have worked with a consulting engineer to finalizing the contractor's work specifications and obtained a proposal for \$4,600 to make improvements to the structure of the wall. We are in the process of submitting an updated application to cover this cost to the CPC for their recommendation to the Town Council for funding. When this work is done, the restoration company can return to properly hang them in their new location.

Stiles & Hart Renovation Project

The Stiles and Hart project is nearing completion. Two parking lots have been created, trails have been improved, wetland crossings constructed, and accessible fishing platforms installed. The Town Council appropriated \$1.3 million of CPA funds to complete the project, and that will be offset by a federal National Park Service grant of \$480,000. Some work remains to complete guard rail and sidewalk improvements along Broad Street. While the project was scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, the owner of a landlocked piece of property has balked at the town's use of the sewer easement over the property as a trail. The Town has obtained an appraisal of the value of this parcel and has offered to purchase the property at the assessed or appraised value or will take the property by eminent domain. Next steps include resolving the trail routing around the landlocked parcel to keep the project progressing, as well as finalizing a conservation restriction on the Broad Street parcel where one of the



parking lots is located. Our ability or inability to resolve that issue is in no way delaying completion of the project to meet our grant requirements.

Summer Street Park

The Town appropriated funds the eminent domain taking of the property at 46 Summer Street (aka the old Mobil Station, Summer Street Park) which was accomplished in February 2023, after which the town engaged a landscape architect, to develop a site plan sufficient to apply for state PARC grant funding. The town was awarded \$500,000 from this grant to fund the completion of design and renovation of the property into a park. We are in the process of retaining an architect to finalize a design and generate precise cost estimates. BSU's financial commitment also needs to be documented. Ideally, no additional funds will be needed from the town's capital plan or additional Community Preservation funds, and we will work to determine that in the coming months.

Old State Farm Trail

Both the Town and the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB) applied for and received funding last year to develop a 1.8-mile trail along the Taunton River on land currently owned by the State Dept. of Corrections. After a long process, we have reached agreement with the State on the easement to allow the trail and parking lots to be installed and was accepted by the Town Council. Unfortunately, there remains some issues with the ability of the Town to record the easement, because although it is understood that the State owns this land, there does not appear to be a recorded deed to that effect. Once that is cleared up, the easement will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds. While we are awaiting this, we have re-assessed the details for the construction of the parking lots and will be seeking new proposals for this work since the work involved is beyond the scope of our Highway division to complete. That will enable Town staff and the NRTB to move forward to finalize the plans for the trail, parking lots and the two kiosks that will be installed along the trail. The NRTB has already done excellent work to complete preliminary planning and involving BSU students in the process.

Truck Exclusion

The Town's application to MA Department of Transportation to restrict heavy vehicle traffic on High Street has been approved. It was previously approved by the Select Board in East Bridgewater (a required step under the DoT's truck restriction process). With State approval in hand the Town Council will need to approve an ordinance to enable the Police Department to enforce it. We are in the process of drafting this to introduce at an upcoming meeting.

High Street Dam & Bridge Project

This multi-year project to remove the dam and replace the Bridge on High Street is largely complete with a few minor tasks such as loam & seeding that will happen in the spring. The Town has identified some further drainage improvements adjacent to the project on High Street that became apparent when the initially planned work was taking place. One of the federal grants has been extended to cover the cost of that work which will be scheduled for the spring of 2025, well ahead of the grant deadline of February 2026.



Board/Committee Vacancies

At present the Town has 29 different boards and committees to which it appoints volunteers to serve to contribute their time and expertise to various functions and priorities of the Town. Included with this report is a list of all the committees which have openings, which at present number 28. More details on the mission of each committee can be found on the Town's website at:

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/198/Boards-Committees-Commissions>

and residents who would like to apply to be considered for appointment may fill out the online application at:

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/FormCenter/Citizens-Advisory-Committee-9/BoardCommitteeCommission-Application-57>.



As we begin the new year, the Human Resources team has been actively engaged in contract negotiations, along with several other confidential employee matters. In addition to these priorities, we have continued our efforts in recruitment, employee support, and policy development to ensure smooth operations across departments. Below is an update on our key activities and initiatives from the past month.

Promotions:



We are pleased to announce the well-deserved promotions of Marc Kilgour and Michael Clark to the rank of Sergeant in the Bridgewater Police Department. Their dedication, leadership, and commitment to serving our community have earned them this recognition. Please join us in congratulating them on this achievement!



Farewells:



We also want to extend our best wishes to Michaela Kennan, who has moved on to pursue a new opportunity in the private sector. During her time with us Michala has made many valuable contributions to the HR team, supporting our employees and operations with dedication and professionalism. While we will miss her as part of our team, we are excited for this next chapter and wish her all the best in her new role.

Recruitment:

This month, our recruitment efforts have been focused on Water and Sewer, and we're please to welcome a new Office Administrator who will be starting in February. Additionally, we are in the final stages of hiring for the HR Generalist position.

Looking ahead to next month, our focus will shift to recruiting for two Firefighter/Paramedics and the Executive Assistant for the Town Manager's Office.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to grow our team!



Celebrations and Appreciation:



We would like to extend our warmest birthday wishes to team members celebrating their special day in January. Happy Birthday to:

Caleb T., Pamela S., Thomas L., Andrea B., Christine S., David D., Andrew R., Clint A., Katelyn P., James B., Daniel N., Judith L., Ryan C., Robert C., Nancy W., Edward D., Amy G., Nicholas M., Cecelia C., and John F.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to those marking work anniversaries this month. Thank you for your dedication and hard work, your commitment is truly appreciated! *Shelley M., Joshua A., David B., Andrew D., Cori H., Thomas N., James R., David D., Andrew P., James B., Anthony C., Glen G., James M., Craig N., Donald S., Robert R., James S., Patrick R., Ryan C., Ryan F., Kathleen H., Andrew R., John P., Michelle R., Paul D., and Dawn M.*

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. Thank you for your continued dedication and support.



Finance Departments Update – Laurie Guerrini/Finance Director

Accounting Operational Update

The Accounting team continues to be busy with the regular operations of the Town and continues to assist with the financial planning, budgeting, and management of all the exciting Capital Projects ongoing, including the High St Dam, CH90, Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants, Water Well planning and engineering, New Fire Station project, Complete Street project on Main St, Stiles & Hart, DCR Mass Trails project, as well as assisting with all the grant and contract management. We continue to assist all departments. Since we are midpoint through Fiscal 2025, our projections and trend analysis are ongoing as we begin our preparation for Fiscal 2026 Budget and Capital Planning. Providing key financial information to the stakeholders in the organization for decision making is our focus, and our excellent staff works hard to deliver. We would like to recognize our phenomenal team member, Laurie Mahoney, for 15 years of service this month to the Town. She keeps our team running smoothly and continues to set the bar high, and we truly appreciate her.

Assessing Operational Update

Another year of assessments has come and gone. In Massachusetts property is assessed for local tax purposes at its full and fair cash value as of January 1 of each year. The Commissioner of Revenue must review and certify a community's assessments every five years, or every other year as he may schedule, as meeting legal standards. Adjustments to assessments made in years between this certification to reflect changes in market conditions must also meet legal standards, although the Commissioner does not certify them. Fiscal Year 2025 was Bridgewater's interim year.

The Board of Assessors determined the assessed value of all taxable real and personal property as of January 1, 2024, as required by G.L. c. 59, § 38 and was certified on November 21, 2024. Once a community is certified as assessing property at full and fair cash value, local officials are required to determine for the fiscal year of certification, and the fiscal years that follow until the next scheduled certification, the percentages of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real property: residential, open space, commercial and industrial, and by personal property for that year. This decision is to be made after holding a public hearing. Bridgewater's classification hearing was held on December 3, 2024.

At the public hearing, the assessors provided all information and data relevant to decide on adopting a residential factor and determining the percentages of local tax levy to be borne by each class of real property, including the fiscal effect of the available alternatives. Since the assessors received the Commissioner's certifications before the public hearing was held and all



applicable Open Meeting Law and local requirements had been met, the Town Council was able to vote on allocating the tax levy or adopting any other options under property tax classification. For the Town Council to decide the percentages of the tax levy each class of real property and personal property will bear each year, a residential factor is adopted. The Town Council voted to adopt a residential factor of “1” which resulted in the taxation of all property at the same rate for all classes of \$11.83. This rate is determined by dividing the tax levy by the total value of all taxable property in Bridgewater and then multiplying that result by one thousand.

Levy: \$60,884.681/Value: \$5,146,634,110= (0.01183) x 1000 = Tax Rate \$11.83

The average single-family home value for fiscal year 2025 is \$593,992 which yields a tax bill of \$7,027. This value increased \$33,166 from fiscal year 2024 which yielded a tax bill of \$6,808, for a total tax increase of \$219.00 over last fiscal year. The total number of single-family dwellings increased by thirty-six from the previous year. The new growth attributed from single-family property class is \$414,980 and for the total residential class is \$604,990. Total commercial new growth value of \$17,439,084 contributed \$211,710, industrial new growth value of \$910,100 contributed \$11,049. The personal property class value of \$11,169,680 contributed \$135,600 for a total new growth amount for fiscal year 2025 of \$963,349.

Fiscal Year, 3rd & 4th quarter tax bills were issued on schedule with due dates of February 3 and May 1, respectively. Preparation for FY2026 assessments is already under way with PK Valuation Group inspecting properties with building permits prior to January 1, 2025.

The assessor’s department also committed Motor Vehicle Excise (MVE) 2024 commitment #7 to the collector on January 17, 2025, in the amount of \$34,250.57. Commitment #7 has an issue date of January 21, 2025 and a due date of February 20, 2025.

Commitment #1 for MVE 2025 was issued to the collector on January 17, 2025, in the amount of \$3,603,43.69. Commitment #1 has an issue date of January 28, 2025, and a due date of February 27, 2025.

The assessor’s office mailed out State Tax Form 2, Fiscal Year 2026, FORM of LIST, Return of personal property subject to taxation General Law Chapter 59, § 29 on January 23, 2025.

This form is to be filed by all individuals, partnerships, associations or trusts, corporations, limited liability companies and other legal entities subject to taxation in Bridgewater. The form is to be returned to the Board of Assessors and must be filed by March 1, unless an extension is granted by the board of assessors.



Any taxpayer that has not received the form and paid a personal property tax last year or any new personal property taxpayer that needs to fill out the application please contact the Assessor's office on 508-659-1273 or email assessors@bridgewaterma.org

Treasurer/Revenue Collecting Operational Update

Fiscal Year 2025 Quarter 3 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Bills are Due 2/3/25.

Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due February 3rd.

Water/Sewer Utility Bills are due February 25th and March 4th.

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Commitment #7 (2024) are due February 20th.

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Commitment#1 (2025) are due February 27th.

Also, Congratulations to Teresa Gillis, for completing her Certified Massachusetts Municipal Collectors (CMMC) certification, and is also Certified Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer (CMMT). We are truly fortunate to have such educated, and experienced team members in all our Finance Departments.

Our Finance team operates smoothly and professionally behind the scenes daily, often without recognition. I am especially proud of the work ethic and team-oriented environment that exists in our Finance departments. Our staff is highly motivated, as well as constantly striving to improve their skills, and municipal work education. They interact daily with residents, vendors, banks, agencies, volunteers, and whomever may enter the Town Municipal Offices. I would like to recognize and thank them for all their hard work.

The Town continues to offer in-person payment and an online option for payment which can be accessed with the following link: <https://www.bridgewaterma.org/310/Online-Payment-Center>



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Bridgewater Fire Department

22 School Street

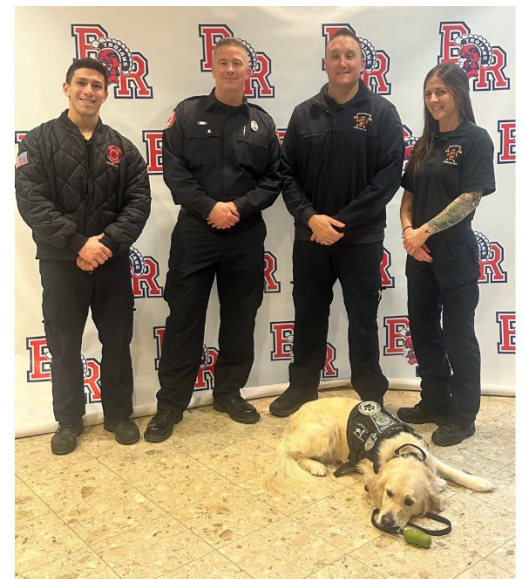
508-697-0900 www.bridgewaterfire.org



Chief Officer Management Training Program – Deputy Chief Glen Grafton graduated from the 30th class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program on January 22, 2025. The four-month program is delivered jointly by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the University of Massachusetts Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management. Deputy Chief Grafton was one of 37 fire service leaders across Massachusetts who completed the program. We are very proud of his hard work and commitment to our community!

Junior Firefighter Club – The Bridgewater Fire Department has teamed up with the Raynham Fire Department to meet with the Junior Firefighter Club at BRRHS on a weekly basis. The firefighters are reviewing First Responder basics, career paths and other topics with the students.

BRRSD Staff Health & Wellness Fair (1/29/25) – Our Firefighters offered Stop the Bleed Training at the BRRSD Staff Health & Wellness Fair. Thank you to FF Jason Anacki, FF Handorff, FF Lieb & FF Murano for providing this training opportunity! Thank you to the BRRSD for letting us be a part of this amazing event!





Bridgewater
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Bridgewater Fire Department

22 School Street

508-697-0900 www.bridgewaterfire.org

Training:

- Ice Rescue Suit Familiarization - All groups practiced donning and doffing the Mustang Ice Commander rescue suits. The department has a cache of these suits distributed among our apparatus to facilitate rescuing a victim who has fallen through the ice. Firefighters practiced the procedure for donning the suit, and reviewed procedures for ice rescue following the “Reach, Throw, Row, Go” algorithm. Meaning that before we attempt to enter the ice/water ourselves, we first try to reach for the victim from solid ground, if we can’t reach then we would throw a rope bag or life ring. If we cannot throw anything to the victim, we attempt to reach them by using a boat or other floatation device, and finally, if necessary, we will make entry in the ice rescue suit itself.
- Sims-u-Share: 360° Size Up - Utilizing the department’s simulator training, all groups participated in four different scenarios to discuss strategy and tactics of firefighting. This iteration of the training was designed to simulate the first arriving officer’s task of “completing a 360”. This is when the Captain or Lieutenant who first shows up on scene, gets eyes-on all four sides of the building to paint a picture of what is going on at the scene and drive tactical decision making. This is the second training using the simulator. The first session just showed the front of the building, this one shows four sides and eventually we will be able to simulate an entire fire from the initial response to demobilization.

Community Engagement/Events:

- BRRHS Alumni Hockey Game (12/30/24) – Some of our Firefighters participated in the BRRHS Alumni vs Bridgewater Police & Fire Hockey Game. Lt. Casey Florence, FF Ryan Connolly, FF Brian Lundstedt & FF Neil Harrington hit the ice for this fundraising event. The BRRHS Alumni came out with the win 6-2.

Upcoming Events:

- BFIT Challenge – First Responder Support Climb at TD Garden (2/2/25)
- CERT Basic Training – Beginning in March, a new CERT Training class will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 9:00 pm. Contact Dennise at dennise@7372.org for more information and to register.



Bridgewater
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Bridgewater Police Department

220 Pleasant Street
508-697-6118 www.bridgewaterpolice.org

Events and Public Outreach

- On Tuesday, January 7, we presented an update to the Town Council on the current state of the department, current challenges, and future needs.
- On January 9, State Representative Dennis Gallagher delivered special recognition for National Law Enforcement Day and was escorted for a tour of the station facility.
- On January 10, we met with the Producer for the Discovery Channel program *Expedition X* to review filming locations in town for the coming week and discuss security concerns.
- On January 15, we participated in a town Traffic Committee meeting.
- On January 16, we attended the Governor's State of the Commonwealth address at the State House in Boston.
- On January 17, we met with BPD 5K Race Director Rebekah Caylor to select a community charity beneficiary for the 2025 race. This year's beneficiary will be BRidging L.I.V.E.S.: a local substance abuse prevention coalition serving the Towns of Bridgewater and Raynham through increased awareness, providing education, and offering support within the community.
- On January 17, we attended the swearing-in for Glen Anderson as the new Police Chief for the Bridgewater State University Police Department. Chief Anderson is a long-time BSUPD leader committed to our community and friend to the department.
- During the week of January 20, we conducted interviews for the promotion of two Sergeants. Officer Michael E. Clark and Officer Mark A. Kilgour were promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective on January 31, 2025. Both are outstanding officers and will prove to be effective leaders as well.
- On January 27, we met with the Acting Town Manager for our regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting on department operations.
- On January 30, we attended the FY26 budget preparation meeting with other department heads.





Public Works

Engineering | Roadways 151 High Street
Water | Sewer 25 South Street
Transfer Station 1200 Bedford Street

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.

During the month of January 2025, the DPW's Divisions were engaged in several projects that are aimed at advancing the welfare of the residents of Bridgewater and improving the quality of life. On an on-going basis, the Engineering Division continued with its technical reviews of site plans and subdivision plans for the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. The staff continues to develop digital record as-built plans for the town's infrastructure, including stormwater conduits, sanitary sewer, and water conduits with their appurtenant structures; continues to participate in the OCPC water infrastructure meetings, as well as the transit and bike path discussion meetings; continues to coordinate the compilation of drainage infrastructure for digital as-built data that would augment the requisite GIS database for EPA's MS4 compliance submission and monitoring; reviewing and coordinating dam safety inspections for compliance with the requirements of the DCR Office of Dam Safety; and completed several surveys and engineering design for the reconstruction of roadways and drainage culverts on town roads. Currently, in conjunction with the Highway Division, the staff is overseeing the replacement of the deteriorated drainage pipes and catch basins and manholes that are in disrepair on Flagg Street, which is aimed at addressing several sinkhole outbreaks on the road over the past year or so. Participation in technical training, which allows the staff to sharpen their skills and stay current with advancements in application software for the design of public infrastructure works has been and continues to be a hallmark of the professional development activities of the DPW staff. The Engineering Division is overseeing the construction rehabilitation work on the concrete collar for the Great Hill water tower. The staff is in the process of conducting survey work which would aid the town's engineering design consultants to provide additional drainage system improvement work on High Street, outside the limits of the work associated with the bridge replacement and dam removal work. In collaboration with the Highway Division, the staff continue their work with the Town Manager's office to develop construction documents and specifications for a trail/parking project by the state lands off Conant Street and Summer Street. The staff is also assisting the Town Manager's office and the project architect on the Town River landing pavilion



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development project. The DPW continues to highlight the importance of safety and wellness to its staff, by focusing this month on OSHA's training regarding proper awareness of solar glare and its effect on equipment and vehicle operation; daylight savings time; and impact of public holiday celebration on emergency preparedness and responsiveness, as well as maintaining vehicles in good operating conditions; and work in confined spaces and air quality and circulation. The DPW personnel are working on budget matters and planning in consultation with the Finance Department. Several of the DPW staff successfully completed their cyber security training and the conflict of interest training.

The Highway Division

The Highway Division completed its preparatory work for the winter season in getting snow plowing and removal equipment serviced and ready, stockpiled deicing material, and continued to effectively manage snow removal and deicing of roads as the need arose. The staff have been active in removing falling trees and vegetation from the roads and trimming and cutting back bushes and tree limbs that pose hazard threat to the public along several roads. The Division continued its maintenance work on public lands, including cemeteries and parks. The Division continues its installation of new signs at all town cemeteries. The Division is working on hiring new personnel to fill two vacant positions, which would enhance its preparedness for emergency response actions. The Division staff met with the Town's Conservation agent, Katelyn Putt and a member of the Commission, Marilyn MacDonald to discuss trimming down some overgrowth at the Lake Nip near the boat ramp. Subsequently to the meeting, the staff addressed the trimming issue. The Division congratulates its newest staff member, John Bolio who successfully completed his probation.

The Sewer Division

The Sewer Division continues its coordination, management, and oversight of the phase 1 redevelopment work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, with all the parties involved receiving the weekly updates from Environmental Partners, the OPM for the project. The Division, aided by its OPM, is in the process of reviewing qualification statements of prospective engineering consultants for the Phase II phosphorous removal design work at the treatment plant.

The Water Division – Treatment Works

- o Work on the replacement of well #9 and well #5 continues.



Public Works

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- o Waterline Industries is still working on condensation issues and punch list items at the High Street Water Treatment Facility.
- o Water levels at Great Hill Tower and Sprague Hill Tower continue to trend in the right direction and remain stable, albeit the water levels experienced some unsteady fluctuations.
- o The contractor for the replacement of metering valves and the hydro-pneumatic tanks at Carver's Pond Treatment Plan has begun work.

Distribution

- o Hydrant maintenance program continues.
- o Repairs and Replacements of water service lines and other system wide maintenance work continues.
- o Flagg St – cleaned and exercised water gates to prepare for drainage replacement.
- o Pleasant St. – Fire Station construction, the staff witnessed pressure test and extracted water samples for bacteria testing.
- o 46 Main St. – repaired service line.
- o 264 Flagg St. – replaced meter in meter pit. Also, a leak was detected on the homeowner's line. He is having his line leak detected and will have it repaired.
- o 62 Harvard St. – service line was repaired.
- o Provided a response to water discoloration question from Bridgewater State University.

Facilities and Assets Division - The month of January featured several maintenance and repair work, as well as systems upgrade evaluations and assessments associated with heating systems and other building/facility infrastructure at the Academy Building, the Police Station, the Fire Station (Station 2), the Memorial Building, the library, and the Senior Center. The following provide highlights of the work accomplished by the Division:

State boiler inspections were conducted at several buildings identified for annual certification; of the six locations inspected, one mechanical deficiency was noted and it is scheduled for part replacement.

FIRE Station 2

An apparatus bay door at Fire Station 2 was successfully replaced after being damaged beyond repair recently. In conjunction with a bay door replacement, the Division identified new radio



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antennas for the remaining doors to accommodate remote openers inside the fire trucks as they leave the station.

Senior Center

The Senior Center began scheduled interior upgrades with new divider walls being installed to help facilitate upcoming programs planned by the Center's Director. New lighting fixtures and ceiling tiles are to follow and are scheduled to be completed during the month of February. The engineering site survey of the Senior Center continues as part of a Phase I Capital Improvement Plan. A completed site survey will provide the framework for follow-up of amenities improvement, including reconfigured parking, a walking path and other outdoor amenities.



Community and Economic Development - November Summary

On January 16th the Town held a public meeting to present proposed traffic design alternatives in and around the Central Square area. The initiative branded as “Pathways to Progress” is a critical element of Vision to Reality. Like other elements of V2R it builds on the Town’s 2022 Comprehensive Master Plan which identified the need to improve both traffic and pedestrian improvements. Bridgewater State University once again was generous in providing both the auditorium at the Moakley Center, as well as staff and refreshments. The conceptual design work is being performed by a highly respected team of professionals led by Nitsch Engineering and including nationally recognized Urban Planner Jeff Speck, members of the design team from Utile, and Copley-Wolff landscape architects. This initial design work is funded entirely with funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The team presented two proposed alternatives; one focused on improved signalization at each of the intersections in the Central Square area; the second alternative proposed the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Broad, Main and Summer Streets. Both plans also included having two-way traffic on both sides of the Town Common and the elimination of angled parking and transitioning to parallel parking, as well as returning School Street to two-way traffic. Additionally, both concepts included numerous pedestrian improvements. The team acknowledged concerns from some in attendance regarding the loss of parking by transitioning to parallel parking. The Town and the design team will continue to address concerns regarding parking and the need to develop a parking management plan.

At the conclusion of the presentation an in-person survey was conducted electronically to gauge support for the alternatives presented. 84% of the respondents to the survey indicated that they preferred to continue to investigate the feasibility of constructing a roundabout. Additional funding to move to Phase II design was secured in December when the Massachusetts State Legislature approved Governor Healey’s Economic Development legislation.

Thank you to BTV who provided staff to record the meeting.



The Building Department
Monthly Statistics
December 27, 2024, through January 30, 2025

From December 27, 2024, through January 30, 2025, the Building Department saw a total of \$51,209.00 in revenue associated with the following:

Building Permits reviewed and issued – 115
Building Inspections performed – 80

Electrical Permits reviewed and issued – 64
Electrical Inspections performed – 187

Gas Permits reviewed and issued – 19
Gas Inspections performed – 33

Plumbing Permits reviewed and issued – 24
Plumbing Inspections performed – 64

	Permits	Inspections	Fees
Building	115	80	\$30,749.00
Electrical	64	187	\$14,930.00
Gas	19	33	\$1,775.00
Plumbing	24	64	\$3,755.00



Health Department: 1/2-1/31/2025

Septic:

Bottom hole/final inspection- 1157 Pleasant St.

D-Box inspection- 114 Plain St.

Bottom hole/final inspection- 1397 Vernon St.

Bottom hole/final inspection- Lots 5/1,2 & 6/2 Oak Meadow

Bottom hole/final inspection- 54 Prospect St.

D-Box inspection- 95 Three Rivers Dr.

Percolation test- 1706 South St.

Percolation test- 680 Vernon St.

Septic Plan reviews:

1157 Pleasant St.

54 Prospect St.

1397 Vernon St.

Completed Food Inspections:

Crispi's

Papa Gino's

J'S Flying Pizza

Prisco's Market & Deli

Juice Mill



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Parks and Recreation 90 Cottage Street | 508-697-8020

The Parks and Recreation department continues to work on field and equipment maintenance in preparation for our busy spring season. We received our "Lift" in early January which assists our groundskeeper in safely performing maintenance on our heavy equipment. (mowers, utility vehicles etc.)

Our Park Steward John Hart assisted a production crew in filming at Camp Titicut. The show is "Expedition X with Josh Gates" and is on the Discovery Channel. John spent several hours with the team as this was a late-night filming assignment. The Discovery Channel was kind enough to donate to the Parks and Recreation department for our assistance in this project

We submitted our Capital Requests for FY2026. We have several projects involving paving/repaving parking lots at Legion Field, Marathon Park, The Men's and Women's Softball fields as well as Carvers Pond. We have identified several projects for the Legion Field Complex (Remove Tufts Building, Upgrade Hayes Building, Trim Trees and improve landscaping). We have also requested funds for playground equipment, inspections and woodchips.



Current Operations & Highlights

Hybrid Supper Club and Social Day Program: We are successfully providing flexible in-person and virtual engagement and caregiver respite, with ongoing outreach to expand remote participation. We continue facing building infrastructure challenges but hybrid programming remains a promising initiative to bridge the digital divide and increase program accessibility.

Vision for 2025

In the New Year, we envision strengthened partnerships to expand transportation services and increase ridership.

We hope to also address infrastructure and staffing gaps to support an increased need for senior center services such as supporting the needs of people with mental health, grief, and access to social services.

As a W.H.O. designated Dementia Friendly Community, we hope to enhance dementia-friendly initiatives, ensuring greater access to social and respite care.

Secure funding with future budget cuts in aging services to improve resources at the senior center.

Continue leveraging technology to reduce isolation and support independent living.

Overall, the Department of Elder Affairs for the Town of Bridgewater remains deeply committed to enhancing services that promote independence, social connection, and well-being for our senior population in the coming year.



Bridgewater Public Library

15 South Street

508-697-3331 www.bridgewaterpubliclibrary.org

Monthly Summary

Circulation

New Library Card Registrations: 57

New Items Added to the Collection and available to borrow: 368

Physical Item Check-Outs: 6033

Digital Item Check-Outs: 3350

Museum Passes Borrowed: 64

Visitors: 4298

Computer Users: 395 sessions/208 Hours

Website Visitors: 7570

Patronage

Adult Programs: 49 Adult Attendance: 1331

Youth Programs: 15 Youth Attendance: 291

Total Programs: 64

Total Attendance: 1622



Attention Bridgewater veterans, if you are facing financial difficulties, the Bridgewater Office of Veteran's Services may be able to help. Please call 508-697-0908 to discuss your circumstances and to get you aligned with the benefits and services you have earned.

Veteran's Tax Work-Off Program – The Veteran's Office is excited to report that our Town Council has passed legislation by adopting Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5N which will allow our qualified veterans of any age to volunteer their time in exchange for up to \$1,500 off on their property taxes. This was the result of a coordinated effort between the Veteran's Office, the Assessor's Office, Human Resources, the Town Manager and, of course, the Town Council. We've already begun rolling out the program with an information session at the town library and we are currently accepting applications for work to commence in March. Please reach out to the Veteran's Office for more information.

Veteran's Coffee Hour & Future Events – Our veteran's coffee hour back in October has created a lot of buzz, with a strong desire to keep this going on a monthly basis. The Veteran's Agent is working with the Veteran's Council to establish a monthly cadence of events in order to reach more veterans of all ages in our community. Stay tuned for the 2025 schedule of events beginning in February.

Chapter 115 Benefits – Chapter 115 under Mass General Law ensures that veterans across the commonwealth shall never be without basic life necessities. The role of the town's Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) is to ensure these benefits are processed in accordance with the law. All honorably discharged veterans and their surviving spouses and dependents are eligible for these benefits based on an asset and income test. The Bridgewater Veteran's Office successfully processed all Chapter 115 cases in the month of January.

Senior Center Hours – The Bridgewater VSO has office hours at the Senior Center from 9am to 11am every other Monday. Please feel free to make an appointment or just drop in if you would prefer to meet at the Senior Center. The VSO can extend hours there on other days as needed.

Caseload – Beyond Chapter 115 the Bridgewater VSO manages a very diverse and complex caseload. The complexity of these cases ranges from a missing or unserviceable flag on a veteran's grave to assistance with VA disability claims for complicated and nuanced service-connected disabilities. In January the Bridgewater VSO logged 14 new cases and closed out 12. There are currently 66 open cases.