



TOWN MANAGER'S OPERATIONAL REPORT MARCH 7TH, 2025



Succession Planning

The Town Manager Search Ad Hoc Committee met on February 8th and interviewed seven candidates for the Town Manager position. They chose four candidates to proceed to final interviews with the Town Council which are scheduled for March 11th. In the intervening period since the interviews, two of the candidates withdrew from the process. It is anticipated that a new Town Manager would be selected in March 2025.

Council on Aging

We are saddened to announce that Emily Williams, our fantastic Council on Aging Director has let us know that she'll be stepping down on March 19th to take a similar role with the Town of Brookline. Emily has brought so much to the COA in her 5 ½ years with the Town, expanding programs, finding grants to support our seniors and being a stalwart standard bearer for the Bridgewater senior community. We will miss her energy, compassion and great ideas, but we wish her well in her future endeavors. Congratulations Emily!!

ADA Plan

All communities are required to have an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-evaluation and transition plan. This plan reviews identifies all barriers to accessibility to public buildings for people with disabilities and identifies the changes that need to be made to eliminate these barriers. It is also a requirement to be in place to be eligible for various grant opportunities. The Town put out a request for proposals for this work to be done, and we received proposals from six firms. Town staff is in the process of reviewing those so a decision can be made and the work to begin this spring.

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 to offer 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, should residents opt to choose them. We have been tracking the market and thus far the rates have not been as competitive as we expected, likely due to the colder temperatures we have experienced, and uncertainty in the marketplace. 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 consider taking 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. We have executed the easement and are waiting for the State to do the same, after which it will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds and work can commence. 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), and then by the Town Council by adopting an ordinance in February. The Town can now erect the signage and begin enforcing this on March 20th.

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>.

Committee	Vacancies
Affordable Housing Trust	4
Agriculture Committee	2
Board of Health	1
Cable Advisory Committee	2
Conant Trust Fund Committee	1
D.E.I.B Committee	4
Elder Affairs Commission	1
Energy Commission	1
Finance Committee	1
Historical Commission	1
Housing Partnership	4
Open Space Committee	1
S.A.V.E Committee	1
Water and Sewer Board	2



As February comes to a close and we march into a new month, we're taking a moment to welcome a new team member, bid farewell to valued colleagues, and share some key updates. The HR team remains dedicated to ensuring smooth transitions, fostering a positive workspace, and keeping things running seamlessly. Here's to another month of growth, teamwork, and new opportunities ahead!

Welcoming New Team Members and Transfers:



Melissa (Missy) Suttie – Office Administrator Water and Sewer

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Missy, who is joining the Water & Sewer Department as the new Office Administrator! With her skills and experience, we know she will be a great addition to the team, helping to keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes. We're excited to have her on board and look forward to the contributions she'll make. Welcome to the team, Missy!

Farewells: We also want to extend our heartfelt farewells to an esteemed colleague:



Pamela Sproule: Pam retired this past month after over 20 years of dedicated service to the Town of Bridgewater. Pam began her career serving our residents in the Assessor's office as the Senior Clerk and most recently worked as the Town Collector. We wish her all the best as she embarks on this exiting new chapter in her life. Thank you, Pam, for your years of service!

Recruitment and Training:

We continue our recruitment efforts for two Firefighter/Paramedics, the Executive Assistant for the Town Manager's Office, and the Finance Specialist for Collections. These positions are critical in supporting our community and ensuring smooth operations across departments. We are also excited to welcome a new Human Resources Generalist starting in March, who will help enhance our HR Functions and support our team. We look forward to the contributions these new team members will bring!

Bridgewater Senior Associates Volunteer Experience Programs (S.A.V.E) and Veterans Volunteer Service

February marks the kickoff of the 2025 SAVE and Veteran's Volunteer Service program, which allows eligible seniors and veterans to reduce their tax bills in exchange for volunteer services to the Town of Bridgewater. This program benefits the Town by providing valuable volunteer labor while offering participants a meaningful tax reduction. Human resources has been working with Department Heads to match volunteers with appropriate role based on their skills. Applications are accepted year-round. For more information, email HRdepartment@bridgewaterma.org.



Celebrations and Appreciation:



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

Christopher D., Julianna C., Andres O., Dawson P., Melissa S., Sean P., Anthony C., Laurie M., Kelly C., Christopher R., James R., James D., Matthew M., Robert F., and Christopher C.

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! *Karen U., Lisa B., Jonas K., Laurie G., Julie L., Mark K., and Steven S.*

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 has begun the FY26 Budget and Capital Planning process, preparing for the April 1, 2025 deadline for Town Manager's Recommended budget submission to Town Council. We are focused on detailed analysis of expenditures - meeting with department heads to assess each expense account individually. As we proceed, we will prioritize a conservative approach to ensure a balance and finalized budget.

Our team continues to work the regular operations of the Town and assist with the monthly financial reporting; with the latest available report for January can be accessed with the following link:

<https://www.bridgewaterma.org/DocumentCenter/View/6030/FY2025-FINANCIAL-REPORTING-JANUARY-2025?bidId=>)

Ongoing management of all the exciting Capital Projects; 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.

Assessing Operational Update

New growth is a dollar increase in the annual levy limit that reflects additions to the community's tax base since last fiscal year. Proposition 2½ annually increases the levy limit so that cities and towns can raise additional taxes to meet service demands due to new development.

Valuation increases come from three categories of growth in a community's tax base. The first category includes properties that have increased in assessed valuation since last fiscal year because of development and other construction activity on the site. The second category includes property not taxable the previous year and the third and final category includes real property that is subdivided or converted to condominiums and taxed as separate parcels for the first time.

Currently, we are in the process of inspecting all residential permits that were issued in the calendar year 2024 and any previous open permits to capture new growth. The process usually takes between 5-20 minutes depending on the complexity of the permit. We realize an inspection of your property may be an inconvenience; therefore, we thank you in advance for your cooperation as these inspections are necessary to assure complete fairness in the assessment process.

In other news, the "HERO" act, now entitles a veteran to qualify for a motor vehicle exemption if the VA determines they have a 100% disability rating or deems them unemployable due to their service-connected disability. This change under G.L. c. 60A, § 1 is effective for the calendar year 2024 excises, prompting this office to send MV applications and letters to all 100% disabled veterans that received real estate exemptions applications in fiscal year 2024. If you have not received an exemption and you are entitled, please contact us.



A quick reminder to please submit all real estate tax exemption applications by the due date of April 1, 2025. 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.

Abatement applications were due February 3, 2025, 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.

Treasurer/Revenue Collecting Operational Update

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

More than 8,600 Real Estate tax payments were received, totaling more than \$15.2M for the quarter.

- 56% of payments were received electronically via mortgage and escrow companies.
- 18% of payments were received at Town Hall.
- 14% of payments were mailed to the Collector's P.O. Box.
- 12% of payments were made through the Town website.

More than 250 Personal Property tax payments were received totaling more than \$617K for the quarter.

- 66% of payments were mailed to the Collector's P.O. Box.
- 20% of payments were made through the Town website.
- 14% of payments were received at Town Hall.

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

Training:

- Personal Protective Equipment and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Donning - Annually, the members of the Bridgewater Fire Department get back to basics and practice one of the very first skills a firefighter learns – Donning their PPE and SCBA for time. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy trains firefighters to the standard that they will have their gear on in under one minute and be “On-Air” with their air-pack in another minute.
- Thermal Imaging Camera - The Bridgewater Fire Department utilizes multiple Thermal Imaging Cameras or “TICs” on a day-to-day basis. These cameras convert the infrared spectrum of light into a viewable image on a screen allowing firefighters to see in the dark and through smoke. The TIC does have some limitations, as it will not see “through” glass, or water. The images displayed on the screen are a difference in temperature between items. The training division prepared a hands-on course for firefighters to go through with the TIC and refamiliarize themselves on its operation and limitations.

Community Engagement/Events:

- BFIT Challenge – Our Firefighters participated in the BFIT Challenge at TD Garden on February 2nd! The Bridgewater Fire Department Local 2611 Team raised over \$2,000 for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Way to go FF Bunker, FF Forant, FF Gunnarson, FF Hamilton, FF Reidy & FF Sproul!
- Junior Substance Free Athletics (1/29 & 1/31/25) – FF/Paramedic Billy Lieb spoke at the Bridging Lives Junior Substance Free Athletics training. This was their first training and was presented to the Bridgewater Youth Basketball athletes and their families. Thank you for inviting the Bridgewater Fire Department to be a part of this amazing program!

Upcoming Events:

- 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.
- Be In the Know Conference (3/12/25)
- Mega Job & Internship Fair at Bridgewater State University, Tinsley Athletic Center Gym (4/3/25)





Bridgewater
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Bridgewater Police Department

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

Events and Public Outreach

- Sixteen members of the department participated in the 9th annual first responder BFIT Challenge at TD Garden on February 2, 2025. It was a great event hosted by the Boston Bruins to benefit first responder and military services.
- On Tuesday, February 11th, Ofcr. Ryan Coughlin and Cadet Cade Chiocca represented the department at the Criminal Justice Career Fair at Bridgewater State University.
- On Tuesday, February 11th, School Resource Officer John Pestana attended the monthly meeting of BRidgingLives at the high school. BRidgingLives is a substance prevention collaborative.
- On Thursday, February 13th, we attended the quarterly meeting of the Massachusetts State 911 Commission.
- On Thursday, February 13th, we held a department staff meeting for all supervisors and command staff officers.
- On Tuesday, February 18th, we attended a regional information session on the new civil service reform law at the Duxbury Police Department.
- On Tuesday, February 18th, we attended the department head budget preparation meeting with the Town Manager.
- On Monday, February 24th, we met with the Town Manager for our bi-monthly update.
- On Wednesday, February 26th, we attended a meeting of the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Policy Group. A collaboration of management and labor unions working to promote best practices in policing.
- On Friday, February 28th, we met with regional k9 handlers to discuss the future of police canine training on the south shore.





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.

The month of February represents an extension of the month of January 2025, as the DPW's Divisions continued with their engagement in several projects from January, which 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 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 continued with its maintenance work on roadways, winter preparation and management activities, including purchase of additional tonnage of deicing salt.

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.
- 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.



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o The contractor for the replacement of metering valves and the hydro-pneumatic tanks at Carver's Pond Treatment Plan has continued their 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 successfully.
- o Provided a response to water discoloration question from Bridgewater State University.

Facilities and Assets Division - The months of January and February has 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 antennas for the remaining doors to accommodate remote openers inside the fire trucks as they leave the station.



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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. Facility's site survey continues.



Town of Bridgewater Council on Aging February Report



Overview:

The Bridgewater Council on Aging continues to provide essential services and programs in the most limited capacity while supporting the well-being of our older adult and caregiver community in a short month.

This month, we have processed more deliverable fuel requests for oil and propane because of the high costs. We also experienced an increase in calls in utility heat assistance because of Self Help's ability to process applications in a timely fashion. We have put a pause on expanding engagement opportunities until we hire a new COA Director.

The highlight of the month, was Massachusetts Advocacy Day at the State House. The prevalence of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) has skyrocketed since the pandemic and thus put a reliance on elder services at the municipal level.

11.3% of Adults over 65 years of age live with ADRD. This number continues to increase as loneliness, depression, and isolation are also on the rise. The COA services are a direct support in the community and most of our options are offered at little or no cost to the community.



Programs and Services:

Social Day Program: Our hybrid social day program for individuals with dementia is thriving, providing vital support for both participants and their caregivers. We are actively marketing this program to Old Colony Elder Services and other regional partners to expand awareness and participation and possible sustainability. We are extremely proud to have created a turn-key social day program once the grant term ends March 31st of this year. To continue operations, we will be looking for permanent funding for staff salaries.

Tech Café Supper Club: The Tech Café, created in partnership with our BSU computer science intern and Wellspring Multiservice Inc., has been a great success in helping seniors navigate technology and learn new cooking techniques in our classroom kitchen. Sessions have been well-attended, with increasing demand for in-person classes support.

Emergency Warming/Cooling Center: Plans for the senior center emergency warming/cooling center are progressing. We are evaluating infrastructure needs and preparing for potential activations during extreme weather conditions.

Staffing & Succession Planning:

As part of our long-term succession planning, we will ensure smooth operations within the COA with our incredible existing staff until a new COA Director is hired.

Community Engagement & Outreach:

Our monthly newsletter, social media updates, and partnerships with local organizations have helped increase awareness of our services. Be sure to follow us!

We continue to collaborate with Old Colony Elder Services, local healthcare providers, and town departments to enhance support for Bridgewater's senior population.

Upcoming Initiatives:

Expanding intergenerational programming and volunteer opportunities to foster stronger connections between seniors and younger community members is a need. Continuing to address infrastructure and staffing needs for technology-based programs. Further developing our transportation services to better meet the needs of our growing aging population.

Conclusion:

The Bridgewater COA remains committed to serving our senior residents with quality innovative programs and essential services. We appreciate the continued support from the town and look forward to ongoing collaboration to enhance the lives of our residents across the lifespan.



Health Department: 2/3-2/28/25

Septic:

Bottom hole/final inspection- 590 Cross St.

Percolation test- 23 Magnolia

Percolation test- 60 Paddock Rd.

D-Box inspection- 386 East St.

Percolation test- 2 Plumfield Lane

Septic Plan Reviews:

0 Pine Street

Completed Food Inspections:

Nick & Angelos

Bridge Mart

Café Madeline

Housing inspection:

Viva Lakeshore, unit habitability inspection

24 Bolton Place, unit habitability inspection



The Building Department
Monthly Statistics
January 31, 2025, through February 28, 2025

From January 31, 2025, through February 28, 2025, the Building Department saw a total of \$44,206.00 in revenue associated with the following:

Building Permits reviewed and issued – 74
Building Inspections performed – 46

Electrical Permits reviewed and issued – 64
Electrical Inspections performed – 193

Gas Permits reviewed and issued – 11
Gas Inspections performed – 20

Plumbing Permits reviewed and issued – 22
Plumbing Inspections performed – 49

	Permits	Inspections	Fees
Building	74	46	\$ 30,057
Electrical	43	193	\$ 10,641.00
Gas	11	20	\$ 1,060.00
Plumbing	22	49	\$ 3,035.00



Bridgewater Public Library

15 South Street

508-697-3331 www.bridgewaterpubliclibrary.org

**BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONTHLY STATISTICS SUMMARY
January 2025**

New Library Card Registrations: 112

New items added to the collection & available to borrow: 416

Physical Item Check-Outs: 6964

Digital Item Check-Outs: 3710

Museum Passes Borrowed: 15

Visitors: 5233

Website Visitors: 9241

Computer Users: 372 sessions/212 hours

Library Programs/Attendance

Adult Programs: 29

Adult Attendance: 652

Youth Programs: 15

Youth Attendance: 617



Community & Economic Development

Town Planner

- Attended Old Colony Planning Council EDC Meeting
- Held Preconstruction meetings for Subdivision "Hampden Ave" on Winter St and Duplex at 580 Broad St
- Provided updated Subsidized Housing Inventory information to the State for Affordable Housing in Town
- Held interviews for vacant Planning Board member position
- In the process of reviewing proposals for ADA Transition Plan

Conservation Agent

- Conducted a site visit with property owner and MassDEP for 0 Bedford Enforcement regarding tree cutting and
- fill dumping
- Attended MassDEP site visit for superseding orders for 0 Lakeshore Center
- Conducted site visits for NOI applications at 1968 South Street and Forest Street (Map 99, Lots 24, 25, & 74)
- Conducted a site visit to inspect erosion control prior to construction for Hampden Ave
- Attended Spring MACC Conference in Worcester MA

Assistant Town Planner/Community Development

- Organized Leadership Metro South Economic Development Day visit to Bridgewater on March 19th.
- Continued discussion and planning for the Summer St Gas Station site.
- Created a master list of downtown businesses
- Processed payment requisitions for Fire Station project



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Community & Economic Development
Conservation | Planning | Zoning | Stormwater | Health |
Municipal Office Building – 66 Central Square
508-697-0950

CED Director

- Participated in twice weekly fire station project meetings, participated in OCPC Board Meeting, participated in
- MBTA Advisory Board Meeting
- Two Planning Board interviews, meeting with residents, Town Council members; meeting with AIMCO
- (Waterford Village 40R), Central Square Phase II meeting, BSU leadership meeting, meeting with DCAMM (Hale
- & Plymouth St. property), meeting with Regional School District Board Chair, TIF Meeting (70-86 Broad Street),
- Summer Street Park Grant meeting



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

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

The Parks and Recreation Department has been busy preparing for the spring season. We received a new lift which allows us to do maintenance on our field equipment. We are preparing our mowers and other grounds equipment and inspecting our fields so that we can address any safety issues ahead of the spring season. We are finalizing our Field Request Applications and will be sending them out to all our sports contacts so they can schedule the fields for their games and practices.

We submitted several Capital Project requests for 2025. We hope to be able to purchase some new equipment as well as repave some of our parking lots at our sports fields as well as parks.



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.



Mr. Leo Tuite, Korean War era veteran tells his story about being drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers then serving in the US Army.

Veteran's Coffee Hour & Future Events – Our monthly events for 2025 kicked off in February with our second coffee hour at Café Madeleine's. This was made possible by the Bridgewater Veteran's Council and generous sponsorship from the Law Offices of Murphy and Murphy. We hosted over 20 Bridgewater veterans of all ages. It was great to see the intergenerational interaction and we were blessed with a great story from Mr. Leo Tuite, a Korean War era veteran who was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers! Please stay tuned for our next event in March which will take place at the Riviera Café the evening of March 18th.

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.

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 February.

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.