



**TOWN MANAGER'S
OPERATIONAL REPORT
AUGUST 8TH, 2025**



Message from the Town Manager

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge the work of Blythe Robinson as she transitioned from her role as Acting Town Manager. For over a year, Blythe has served in various capacities for the Town, and we thank her for her service.

This is my first operational update as Bridgewater's Town Manager. I'm excited to be here and look forward to working with residents as we move our community forward together.

During my first three weeks in Bridgewater, I have already witnessed the passion residents have for this community and the hard work and dedication of Bridgewater's exceptional employees. I already knew Bridgewater was an amazing community, but I'm starting to discover what makes this Town special.

Over the next several months, I will be reviewing the various mediums that we engage with the community. For starters, we will begin with a refresh of our operational updates in the coming months to ensure we are providing pertinent updates, while at the same time effectively communicating to the Council and the public about what the organization is actively engaged in doing.

Furthermore, I value your input. To that end, the Town will also launch a series of surveys aimed at better understanding the needs and wants of our community. We have posted our first survey regarding the Town website. A link to the survey can be found [here](#) and on the Town's website. We encourage you to provide feedback, as it will have an impact on the redesigned website that we will be launching this year.

Undoubtedly, I have heard residents' concerns regarding funding for our schools, our water infrastructure, and roadways. I plan on hosting several meetings to address these concerns directly, to outline what we are doing, and how we grapple with the challenges we face. That will include scheduled listening sessions on August 20th, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bridgewater Senior Center, and August 25th, at 5 p.m. at the Academy Building. More information regarding Town Manager office hours and listening sessions will be posted on our website and social media as we schedule more of them in the future.

I look forward to working with our employees, the Town Council, and residents to develop and accomplish a long-term vision for Bridgewater's future. Thank you.



Post Override Supplemental Budget

The voters did not approve the budget override on June 21st. Since that time, the Bridgewater-Raynham school committee has certified a new budget for FY26 that will require an additional \$849,529 from the Town, along with \$976,138 in capital expenditures that will be funded in the fall. The Town had 45 days from the date we received notice for the Town Manager to propose, and the Town Council to consider a supplemental appropriation to meet this budget. To meet the increased appropriation, I proposed utilizing \$450,000 from an employee liability stabilization fund, with the remaining amount to be realized through additional position reductions for this fiscal year. A memo outlining the proposed post override supplemental appropriation can be found [here](#).

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 competitive pricing than National Grid currently offers for its "basic service rate." We have sought pricing on several occasions, including late July; however, the pricing was not as competitive as we had hoped. Once bids are received and we determine that, for at least the basic service rate, all ratepayers would pay less than they are paying today, 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 outlining 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. In the event of a power outage, they will still be responsible for restoration, regardless of what company supplies the power. The goal of this program is to save our residents money at no cost to the Town, and to provide you with options to choose who your supplier is. We will provide an update regarding our aggregation program once we begin the process to launch this program.

Board/Committee Vacancies

We would like to remind residents that at present there are 19 Vacancies across 29 different boards and committees to which the Town appoints volunteers to serve to contribute their time and expertise to various functions and priorities of the Town. 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>

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 the summer season progresses, the HR team continues to focus on strengthening organizational support—welcoming new staff, completing training, and collaborating closely with departments across the Town. Here's a snapshot of our key initiatives and accomplishments this month.

Welcoming New Team Members:



Justin Casanova-Davis, Town Manager

We are pleased to welcome Justin Casanova-Davis as the Town Manager for the Town of Bridgewater. With a strong background in municipal leadership and a deep commitment to public service, Justin brings valuable experience and a fresh perspective to our community. We look forward to working collaboratively as we continue to strengthen and advance the Town of Bridgewater.



Christopher Caswell and Michael Rosa, Firefighters/Paramedics

We are excited to welcome our newest Firefighters/Paramedics to the Bridgewater Fire Department. Each of these individuals brings prior experience and a strong dedication to public safety and community service. Their training, professionalism, and commitment will be a valuable addition to our team as we continue to provide high-quality emergency response and care to our residents.



Promotions:



Michelle Burgess, Assistant Assessor

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Michelle Burgess to Assistant Assessor. Michelle has demonstrated strong knowledge of assessing practices, attention to detail, and a commitment to serving the community. We are confident that she will continue to make valuable contributions in this new role.

Retirements:



James Beatty, Firefighter/Paramedic

Please join us in congratulating James Beatty on an incredible 18 years of dedicated service to the Town of Bridgewater as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Throughout his career, James has exemplified professionalism, courage, and an unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. We thank him for his many years of service and wish him all the best in a well-earned and fulfilling retirement.



Farewells:



Karen Urbec, Librarian Digital Archivist

We want to extend our best wishes to Karen Urbec, Librarian Digital Archivist, who departed from the Town to advance her career. During her time with us, Karen has played a key role in preserving and enhancing access to the town's historical and digital records, contributing greatly to the enrichment of our community's knowledge and heritage. We are grateful for her dedication, expertise, and lasting contributions, and we wish her all the best in the next chapter of her career.

Staff Trainings:

The HR team remains committed to staying informed on current policies, compliance standards, and industry best practices through continuous professional development. This month, team members participated in several targeted training courses, including:



- Conducting Internal Investigations
- Understanding Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Services
- Managing Difficult Workplace Situations

These learning opportunities strengthen our ability to support departments and employees town-wide with knowledgeable and responsive HR practices.

S.A.V.E. & Veterans Volunteer Service Program Update:



Since February, the 2025 S.A.V.E. (Senior Associates Volunteer Experience) and Veterans Volunteer Service programs have brought **36** volunteers into Town departments, providing meaningful support where it's needed most.

In exchange for a reduction on their property tax bills, these volunteers have contributed their time, energy, and skills to departments including the Senior Center, Finance, Parks and Recreation, Veterans' Office, Town Clerk's Office, Facilities, and the Bridgewater Public Library. Their work has helped departments operate more efficiently and enhance services to the Bridgewater community.

We sincerely thank all of our volunteers for their commitment and the positive impact they continue to make across Town.



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Human Resources Department

66 Central Square
508-697-0971 / HR@bridgewaterma.org

Celebrations and Appreciation:



We're excited to celebrate our team members who marked another trip around the sun in July! Please join us in wishing a very **Happy Birthday** to: Matthew F., Michelle G., Jonas K., Spencer P., Jeffrey G., Steve S., Neil H., Debbie W., Dawn M., Raymond W., Ann H., Jason R., Carlos G., Josh M., Joseph P., and Theo B.

We'd also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to those celebrating work anniversaries this month. Thank you for your dedication, hard work, and continued commitment—your contributions are truly appreciated! David M., Teresa G., Carl N., Tara C., Peter B., Austin A., and Lawrence 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. Thank you for your continued dedication and support to this Town!



Finance Departments Update – Laurie Guerrini/Finance Director

Accounting Operational Update

As we turn the page on Fiscal Year 2025, the Accounting Department has successfully closed out the books and opened Fiscal Year 2026. Department budgets are now active and ready to support the work ahead across the Town.

In the coming weeks, we'll be focused on payroll preparing for the new fiscal year, reviewing financial entries, and laying the groundwork for audit season. These steps help ensure our records are accurate, our processes are sound, and that we continue to meet high standards for transparency and accountability.

We remain committed to providing clear, responsible financial oversight that supports the services and priorities important to Bridgewater residents.

Residents are always welcome to view financial reports and budget information on the Town's website <https://www.bridgewaterma.org/1434/Budget-and-Financial-Reporting> or attend public meetings to stay informed about how funds are managed.

Assessing Operational Update

Cities and towns that accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 57C may implement a quarterly tax payment system. The Town of Bridgewater accepted this law on May 3, 2010.

The purpose of the quarterly tax payment system is to provide taxpayers with greater certainty about payment due dates and communities with a more evenly distributed level of income throughout the fiscal year. Under a quarterly tax payment system, a city or town reduces if not eliminates costly short-term borrowing in anticipation of tax revenue and generally increases investment income.

If a city or town accepts G.L. c. 59, § 57C, and adopts a quarterly tax billing system, property tax payments for that community will be made on this schedule: August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1. The due date for tax payments is automatically extended to the next business day when it falls on (1) a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, or (2) a day when municipal offices are closed, as authorized by charter, by-law, ordinance or otherwise, for weather-related or other public safety emergency. Under the quarterly system:

- The assessors make a preliminary tax commitment each year in sufficient time for the collector to mail preliminary tax bills by July 1.
- The preliminary tax is based on the prior year's net tax on the property and may not exceed, with limited exceptions, 50 percent of that amount. The prior year's net tax may be adjusted by the assessors for individual parcels or accounts for property destruction, new construction, loss of personal exemption, parcel returned to tax rolls/new personal property account and parcel divisions and to reflect the annual



2.5 percent tax increase allowed under Proposition 2½ and any tax increase attributable to approved overrides or exclusions.

- The collector mails the preliminary tax bills each year by July 1.
- The preliminary tax is payable in two equal installments. The first installment is due on August 1. The second installment is due on November 1. See above for exceptions.

The assessors' department made the FY 2026 preliminary tax commitment by June 11, 2025, in sufficient time for the collector to mail preliminary tax bills by July 1, 2025.

Treasurer/Revenue Collecting Operational Update

Fiscal Year 2026 Q1 Utility bills were issued during the month of July.

7942 bills totaling \$2,043,536.22.

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

This dedicated group of professionals remains highly motivated and committed to continually enhancing their skills and expanding their knowledge in municipal finance. Their efforts go far beyond spreadsheets and budgets—they interact daily with residents, vendors, banks, agencies, volunteers, and anyone who walks through the doors of our Town Municipal Offices.

Their dedication ensures the financial stability and operational efficiency of our town, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and sincerely thank them for their unwavering hard work, professionalism, and service to our community.



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Bridgewater Fire Department

22 School Street

508-697-0900 www.bridgewaterfire.org

Fire Department – Objectives and Updates

July 25, 2025

Retirement – Firefighter James “Jimmy” Beatty retired on July 4, 2025. FF Beatty retired after 18 years of dedicated service to the Town of Bridgewater.

Firefighter/Paramedic Beatty has been an informal leader in his duty group for several years. His coworkers would confide in him for guidance and advice when needed. His personality and positive attitude were contagious within his group, keeping morale high.

Firefighter/Paramedic Beatty was honored as Firefighter of the Year in 2020.

Jimmy, we all want to congratulate you and wish you a long & healthy retirement with your family!

New Firefighter/Paramedics (7/7/25) – We would like to welcome Firefighter/Paramedics Christopher Caswell & Michael Rosa! FF Caswell & FF Rosa have already attended the MA Firefighting Academy. Welcome to the best job in the world!



Training:

New Firefighter Orientation: Deputy Chief Grafton and Lieutenant Luckman oversaw the orientation of our two new firefighters. Both Firefighter Rosa and Firefighter Caswell have prior experience with other fire departments, but they still participated in a two-week orientation to get used to how our department operates within the town. The firefighters practiced throwing ladders, pumping, flowing water, drafting, driving all apparatus and getting used to the day-to-day routine at the Bridgewater Fire Department. Both firefighters performed exceptionally well and will be great additions to the department.

Forestry Truck Drafting: Group 2 and the Training division took Forestry 1 to a local pond to practice a low frequency skill – drafting with the forestry truck. Drafting is when you use a static water source in place of a hydrant, and it is sometimes referred to as an “art”. The forestry truck is also unique to our fleet in that it uses the truck’s exhaust to create negative pressure inside of the hard suction hose to pull water up into the truck like a giant straw.



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Bridgewater Fire Department

22 School Street

508-697-0900 www.bridgewaterfire.org

Community Engagement/Events:

- Fourth of July Parade/Fireworks (7/4/25) - The Bridgewater Fire Department Honor Guard marched in the parade. We also had Firefighter/Paramedics that worked details during the parade and fireworks. Thank you to our CERT Team for volunteering their time to help during the parade and fireworks! Thank you to the Fourth of July Committee for putting together these amazing community events!
- BRRHS Extended Year Outreach (7/17/25) – FF Farias and FF Lundstedt provided fire safety review and a fire apparatus overview to over 60 staff and students.



Upcoming Events:

- 30th Anniversary SAFE Conference (9/17-9/18/25)
- Autumn Fest (9/27/25)

Calls for January - June 2025:

	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	YTD Totals
Fire	7	6	14	13	6	8	54
EMS	314	299	291	278	346	316	1844
False Alarm	46	45	46	55	63	80	335
Other	54	41	72	57	45	52	321
Totals:	421	391	423	403	460	456	2554



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Bridgewater Police Department

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

Events and Public Outreach

1. On July 3, we attended a department meeting with the new Town Manager.
2. On Friday, July 4th we provided security and traffic control for the parade, carnival, and fireworks. This is our largest public safety event of the year which brings thousands of people out to enjoy the festivities. Most of our personnel work the events and we employ officers from many neighboring agencies. Lt. Scott Hile prepared our operations plans for the day, coordinated personnel, and served as our point-of-contact for all safety-related issues leading up to and including the day's events.
3. On Wednesday, July 16 we hosted the Mandela Washington Fellows for Young African Leaders (YALI) to our station for a tour and conversation about constitutional policing. The fellows are government and private sector professionals from many African nations selected to annually attend BSU for the 6-week leadership development and community engagement program.
4. On Monday, July 21, we attended a planning meeting for the National Faith & Blue weekend scheduled for October 11 & 12, 2025.
5. On Wednesday, July 23, we attended the graduation ceremony for the Mandela Washington Fellows.
6. Applications are now open for our 28th annual Citizens Police Academy. This is a 10-week program instructed by Bridgewater police officers to give residents a better understanding of our operations. The program will meet on Tuesday nights from 6 pm – 10 pm.





Health Department Operational Report: 7/1/25- 7/31/25

Septic:

Percolation test- Winter Street
Percolation test- 10 Lilac Lane
Percolation test- 29 Saddle Dr.
Percolation test- 250 Boxwood
Percolation test- 477 Cherry St.
Bottom hole/final inspection- 18 Aldrich
Bottom hole/final inspection- 140 Grange Park
Bottom hole/final inspection- 60 Lyman
Bottom hole/final inspection- 115 Bayberry
Well Review- 1155 Plymouth St.

Housing:

Gloria Drive- neighborhood complaint of pests. Investigation completed.
Mt. Prospect- Complaint of trash causing nuisance. Ongoing investigation.

Food inspections:

Honey Dew Donuts
Edi's Pizza
Dunkin Donuts rte24N
Dunkin Donuts rte24S
Bridgewater Liquors
Cumberland Farms (Main St.)
Mee King (Complaint)



The Building Department
Monthly Statistics
June 27, 2025, through July 24, 2025

From June 27, 2025, through July 24, 2025, the Building Department saw a total of **\$66,793.62** in revenue associated with the following:

Building Permits reviewed and issued – 80

Building Inspections performed – 82

Electrical Permits reviewed and issued – 47

Electrical Inspections performed – 184

Gas Permits reviewed and issued – 12

Gas Inspections performed – 19

Plumbing Permits reviewed and issued – 24

Plumbing Inspections performed – 38

	Permits	Inspections	Fees
Building	80	82	\$42,221.62
Electrical	47	184	\$20,262.00
Gas	12	19	\$1,020.00
Plumbing	24	38	\$3,290.00



Bridgewater Senior Center Monthly Report July Highlights & August Preview

JULY IN REVIEW

The month of July was filled with fun, celebration, and community spirit at the Center!

We kicked off the month with a festive Independence Day celebration, where close to 100 people joined us for a day full of patriotic pride. The event featured delicious samples from Tropical Smoothie, lively entertainment by an Elvis impersonator, and a mouthwatering barbecue prepared by our amazing volunteers, who cooked over 76 pounds of pulled pork!

It was a fantastic gathering that brought joy, laughter, and plenty of great memories. A big thank you to all who participated, especially our volunteers who made the event possible.



LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST

August promises to be a month full of health resources, entertainment, and community connection. Mark your calendars for these exciting events:



Health & Wellness Programs

- The Carroll Center for the Blind
Wednesday, August 6th at 10:30am
Join Isabel Rosario for an informative talk on adapting to vision changes. Learn about common eye conditions and the tools and resources available to help maintain your independence.
- Caregiver Support Group
Every 2nd and last Thursday at 10am
A drop-in group offering support, advice, and resources for those caring for loved ones. Reach out to the Senior Center for more information.
- At Home Hearing Healthcare: Hearing Clinic
Thursday, August 21st, 10am–12pm
Free hearing screenings, hearing aid cleanings, and video ear exams. Call to schedule—space is limited!
- Attorney Thomas Clougherty – United Senior Advisors
Thursday, August 28th, 2pm–3pm
One-on-one consultations on long-term care costs, Medicaid, Veterans Benefits, and protecting your assets. Appointments required. No drop-ins.

Special Events & Entertainment

- Kevin Richman: Game Show Entertainment
Tuesday, August 13th at 10:30am
Be a contestant in your favorite game shows! Enjoy word games, prizes, and lots of laughs in this fun, interactive program.
- Town Manager Meet & Greet
Wednesday, August 20th at 10:30am
Come meet Bridgewater's new Town Manager, Justin Casanova-Davis, and welcome him to the Senior Center community.
- End of Summer Bash
Wednesday, August 27th at 11:30am
Celebrate the end of summer with food, entertainment, prizes, and more! Sign-ups open until August 22nd.
- Senior Center Spirit Week
August 25th–29th
Let your personality shine each day with fun dress-up themes and activities throughout the week. Join the festivities and help us make it unforgettable!

We're looking forward to another month of fun, connection, and community support. As always, please call the Senior Center for event details or to register. The Center is always kept at a **comfortable temperature**, so if it's hot outside, come cool off with us! Enjoy the **air conditioning**, great **company**, and a **cup of coffee**. We're always happy to see you!



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

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

July Operational Update

Work on the new Fire Headquarters continues to proceed ahead of schedule and within the approved budget, substantial completion of the project is expected in the 4th Quarter of 2025.

The Town of Bridgewater was one of 43 cities and towns across Massachusetts who have earned the 2025 Housing Choice Community designation, gaining access to exclusive state funding opportunities and technical assistance that support housing growth and local planning. The award designation was announced on July 29th by the Healey-Driscoll Administration. Congratulations to Town Planner Shane O'Brien for preparing the Town's submission.

Further Congratulations to Shane and his wife who welcomed their second child, another boy earlier this month.



Bridgewater Public Library

15 South Street

508-697-3331 www.bridgewaterpubliclibrary.org

**BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONTHLY STATISTICS SUMARY
June 2025**

New Library Card Registrations: 86

New items added to the collection & available to borrow: 418

Physical Item Check-Outs: 6942

Digital Item Check-Outs: 3738

Museum Passes Borrowed: 101

Visitors: 5502

Website Visitors: 9398

Computer Users: 423 sessions/299 hours

Library Programs/Attendance

Adult Programs: 24

Adult Attendance: 653

Youth Programs: 19

Youth Attendance: 269

Total Programs: 43

Total Attendance: 922



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

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

Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department has been busy throughout July as the Little League and Nokona Giants Baseball teams were making up rain dates and had several playoff games. Bridgewater Little League also had their All-Star Games and conducted a weeklong baseball clinic for various age groups. The Girls Softball League has been busy with games and a couple tournaments. The Basketball League will end this month after another successful season. We also have a Men's Senior Baseball League using the Big Diamond field. Their league will continue through September. This is their second year playing at our field.

The Fourth of July Fireworks celebration at Legion field was a success. Volunteers worked diligently on July 5th to clean up the field.

The Bridgewater Pickleball Association continues in its second year. We look forward to another successful season.

Thanks to everyone for all your efforts in keeping our fields and courts in good shape and free from debris and litter.



Bridgewater
Massachusetts

Veteran's Services

66 Central Square | 508-697-0908

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.

4th of July Celebration – The Bridgewater Veteran's Agent, along with the Bridgewater Veteran's Council proudly participated in the 4th of July parade. This year's events were a tremendous success and the Veteran's Office was proud to have participated. Promoting patriotism in our community is amongst our top objectives.



Veteran's Council Members at the Bridgewater 4th of July Parade 2025. From left to right: David Siden, Greg Martin, Lisa Buzzell-Curley, Tim Trocchio and Mary Bogle

Senior Veteran Outreach – The veteran's office has begun reaching out to our eldest veterans and their surviving spouses by way of old-fashioned snail mail. Social media is a great source of outreach, but it does not reach all age demographics. We are sending brief, handwritten letters to let them know that there are resources and benefits available that they have earned. We've sorted our veteran community by age and have sent over 30 letters to date. The veteran's agent was delighted to hear back from Mrs. Annie Voyer, a surviving spouse of a WW2 veteran and a Bridgewater centurion! It was an absolute pleasure to meet with Mrs. Voyer at her home. She

shared an epic love story of how she met her late husband, Mr. Jack Voyer in Paris, France at the conclusion of the war. She was from Paris. He was from Brockton, Massachusetts. After his discharge from the Army in 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Voyer were reunited and married in 1947. It was such a heart-warming story and was only brought to light because of our latest outreach campaign. I greatly look forward to meeting with the rest of our veterans from the Greatest Generation.



Bridgewater centurion, Mrs. Annie Voyer proudly displaying the medals and photo of her late husband, Mr. Jack Voyer

Veteran's Tax Work-Off Program – In July, we onboarded 2 more veterans, bringing our total up to 8. July hours logged were a bit lower than June due to the heat and summer vacations. Our veterans logged 24 hours in the month of July. Some of the activities included office coverage, outreach to our eldest veterans and surviving spouses, tending to the flags on the common and other general administrative and miscellaneous tasks. The program, so far, has been a tremendous help to the veteran's office.

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 July.

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.