

# Bridgewater Current

Volume 39, Number 2 February 2017



## Future Services

Here in Bridgewater, we pride ourselves on the services we can provide to our residents. As a staff, we often debate whether services we don't offer might be worthwhile for our residents. One such idea we had recently was this: Would Town residents be interested in applying for a passport right here at the Town offices? We would have passport application forms and possibly also offer the required photography services. Bridgewater could become a one-stop shop for all of your passport needs.



Interested? Have other ideas? Let us know what you think by e-mailing us at:

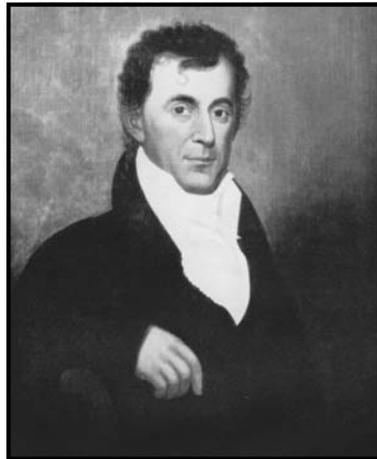
[ideas@bridgewater.town](mailto:ideas@bridgewater.town)

If we get strong support, we will pursue passport services in the very near future. (Or if not, we will pursue other ideas that can help us better serve you!)

## Charter Day Celebration - February 7

Bridgewater's Charter Day Celebration is set for February 7th starting at 5 pm with the following events:

- At 5 pm, bells across Town at Bridgewater Presbyterian Church, Bridgewater United Methodist Church, and Bridgewater College will ring for two minutes to gather townspeople at Generations Park;
- From 5-7 pm, refreshments and merriment at Generations Park. Hot chocolate, coffee and assorted desserts by Ella Cakes and Coffee will be available;



*Governor Littleton Waller Tazewell*

Charter Day commemorates the Town's establishment by the Virginia General Assembly and Governor Littleton Waller Tazewell on February 7, 1835. Please join us as we celebrate our Town's 182nd birthday!

- Ice skating sessions will continue as normal from 3-7 pm;
- At 7 pm, local figure skater Maeko Sotomil will perform an ice skating exhibition; and
- At 7:17 pm, 6 minutes of spectacular fireworks will be launched from Harrison Park behind the Bridgewater Community Center. (Per fire marshal regulations, we will close the Doug Will Tennis Center from 2-8 pm.)

## Traffic Alert

From 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. on **February 7th, Grove and Green Street** at the Bridgewater Community Center will be closed to traffic per fire marshal regulations.

## Sign Up for a Town License Plate Today!

Show off your Town pride amongst your friends and family with a Town license plate. Just visit [bridgewater.town](http://bridgewater.town), download our form, and once we receive 350 applications, we will submit our order! For more info call B-Connected at 908-4212.



## Looking Ahead...

**Par-3 and Mini-Golf reopens April 1**

**Farmers' Market - Saturday, May 13**

Our weekly farmers' market returns. We have some significant improvements planned for our third season. Interested in being a vendor at the Generations Park Farmers' Market? If so, please e-mail Megan Byler at [mbyler@bridgewater.town](mailto:mbyler@bridgewater.town) to learn more about setting up at our weekly market.

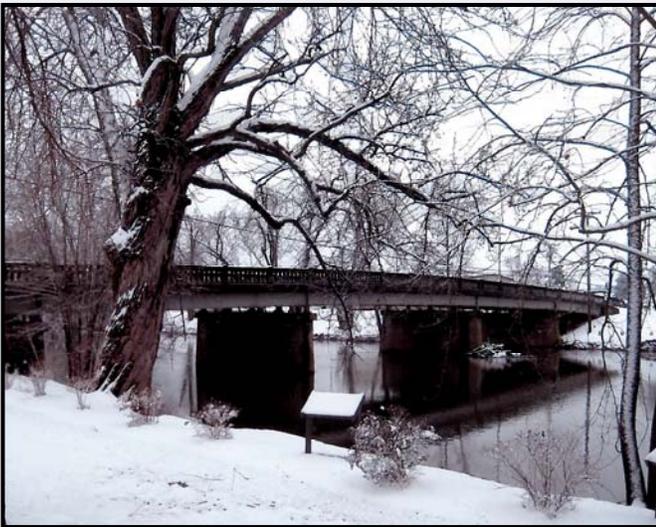


**Yard Sale Day - Saturday, June 3**

**Labor Day Celebration - September 4**

**Photography Contest - October**

Last year's photography competition was a huge success, so we are doing it again in 2017! We will have our 2nd annual photo competition this October, but as an early reminder, start saving your best photographs for this year's contest. More information about this year's contest will be released this summer.



"North River Bridge Snow" by Betty Coakley  
1st Place in 2016 Landscape Category

## Construction Projects Update

### *McDonalds Drainage Work Completed*

Over the past year, the Town has knocked out little drainage problems one by one. Now you can add McDonalds to the list. From the day McDonalds opened, water has collected near the entrances. Elevations in the area were so flat that typical drainage methods wouldn't work, but our staff came up with an innovative way to handle this rainy day nuisance.



The system our employees installed is not a typical drop inlet that channels stormwater to the river. It's an environmentally friendly technique that collects the stormwater and sends it underground where it will help replenish the water table. A similar method was used at Generations Park and at a problem area on East College Street. The new system will back up during a major thunderstorm, but most rains will readily disappear underground.

Our next project is to install drop inlets in the area near Carter Bank and United Bank on North Main Street. The solution at this location is the more typical drop inlet into an underground pipe. Work is expected to begin this spring.

## Real Estate Tax Relief

Real Estate tax relief is available for the elderly (65 and older) as well as the permanently and totally disabled. To qualify for relief, the applicant's yearly income must not exceed \$11,000 and their net worth not exceed \$30,000, excluding their primary dwelling.

If you meet these monetary requirements and would like to see if you qualify, an application may be obtained from the Treasurer's Office at 201 Green Street. All applications must be filed by April 1st of the taxable year.

## Y: Jay's Column About Policy FY2018 Budget

I have now served here for slightly more than a year, and I have observed two distinct phases in the Town's calendar: budget season and July 2. And because July's warmth is still months away, we must be in some part of budget season.

Last week, the staff presented the Finance Committee with a set of preliminary projections and assumptions, and the Committee instructed us on the preparation of the proposed FY2018 budget. There are still dozens of holes in the current edition of our FY2018 budget, so it is too soon to describe it in much detail. That said, I feel confident in making five not-so-bold predictions.

First, there will be no tax increase. Because we are learning how to build self-sustaining projects which require little ongoing tax support, we are confident that there will be no tax increase proposed for FY2018.

Second, there will be no tax increase. (There is always somebody who doesn't get the message the first time.)

Third, expect overall spending to be somewhat less than this year. We are catching up on our backlog of large projects, and at least for FY2018, we have nothing enormous in the works. (Never fear, we are planning some very cool, if economical, projects.)

Fourth, most utility fees will rise in accord with the Consumer Price Index. These inflationary increases simply help us keep things running smoothly. Right now, we estimate inflation to be around 2.4%, although that figure will need adjustment in coming months.

Finally, the bad (but expected) news in the budget is that Stormwater Utility fees will increase by 30% again. Our TMDL regulations will require enormous investments in the next dozen years, as we change the way we collect and discharge stormwater. The 30% increase will cost the average homeowner about 39 cents per month.

Stay tuned. Our annual budget publication will be mailed in early April, and the budget public hearing will be on April 25 at 7:00 pm. I hope to see you there.

## Ice Skating Schedule

Hours	Rates:
<b>Monday*</b> 7:00 pm-9:00 pm	\$4.00
<b>Tuesday</b> 3:00 pm-9:00 pm	
<b>Wednesday*</b> 7:00 pm-9:00 pm	
<b>Thursday</b> 3:00 pm-9:00 pm	
<b>Friday</b> 3:00 pm-10:00 pm	\$5.00
<b>Saturday</b> 12:00 pm-10:00 pm	
<b>Sunday</b> 12:00 pm-9:00 pm	

**\*Town residents with a B-Rec card can skate from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.**

Skating & skate rental is always **FREE** with your B-Rec Card. Skate rental is \$2.00 for non-Town residents.



**The final day of ice skating is Sunday, March 5**

## Valentine's Day Performance

Local ice skater Maeko Sotomil will appear at Generations Park with two performances on Valentine's Day. She will perform at 5:30 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. Each routine will be approximately 5 minutes.

Miss Sotomil is very talented - she earned her first competitive gold medal for ice skating at age 5, and has competed in the Desert Open Championship, U.S. Figure Skating Theater on Ice National Competition, and many other regional and national skating competitions. She practices at Generations Park regularly to polish her skills for future competitions. Miss Sotomil performed for us last Valentine's Day, and we appreciate her willingness to share her unique talents with us!



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# Bridgewater Current



## February Events Around Town

**Bridgewater Rotary Club** - Dinner/meeting 6:00 PM Tuesdays at Maple Terrace, Bridgewater Retirement Community.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) - Bridgewater Presbyterian Church** - Tuesdays 6:15-7:30 PM. For info, call Vickie Bland at 568-6539.

**Bridgewater Historical Museum - 109 S. Main St.** Museum reopens February 2. Regular hours are Thursday, Friday, & Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM. In honor of Charter Day on February 7, the museum will be open from 10 AM to 3 PM. For more info, please call 237-4017 or visit [www.bridgewatervahistmuseum.org](http://www.bridgewatervahistmuseum.org).

**February 6 - Bridgewater Ruritan Club - 6:30 PM** Meeting at Bridgewater United Methodist Church.

**February 7 - Charter Day—Generations Park 5 PM.** See inside article for details.

**February 7 - Congressman Goodlatte – Open Door Meeting - 11:30 AM** (First Tuesday of every month.) A representative will appear at the Bridgewater Community Center. For more info call 885-3861.

## Municipal Calendar

**February 14..... Town Council Meeting 7:00 pm**

**February 13 - Bridgewater Family & Community Educators - 7:30 PM** Bridgewater Community Center. For info, call Betsy Glendye at 820-6971. (Second Monday of every month.)

**February 15 - V.F.W. Post 8644 - 7:30 PM** Meeting at the Post home on Dry River Road. (Third Wed. of every month.) Contact [cdrpost8644@va.vswwebmail.com](mailto:cdrpost8644@va.vswwebmail.com) for more info.

**February 21 - Parkinson's Support Group - 2-3 PM** (Third Tuesday of every month). Bridgewater Retirement Community, 210 Virginia Avenue, Houff Community Center, Smith Room.

## Submit an Event

If you'd like to submit an "Event Around Town," please e-mail your event to [events@bridgewater.town](mailto:events@bridgewater.town) no later than the 15th of the month.