

# Bridgewater Current

Volume 39, Number 1 January 2017



## Charter Day:

### February 7, 2017

Everyone has a birthday, even our Town. By act of the Virginia General Assembly, the Town of Bridgewater was established on February 7, 1835. As a community we've celebrated notable "birthdays" like the Sesquicentennial in 1985 and our 175th in 2010.

This year, we thought it would be appropriate (and fun) to start recognizing the day itself. So, on February 7, 2017, we will have a Charter Day Celebration at Generations Park with the following events:

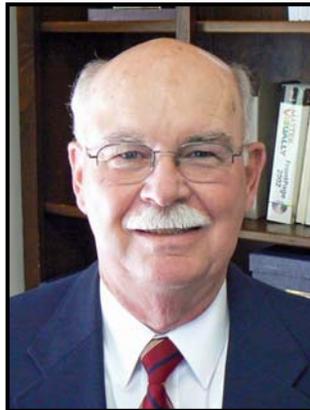
- At 5 pm, church bells across Town will ring for two minutes to gather townspeople at Generations Park;
- From 5-7 pm, refreshments and merriment at Generations Park;
- At 7 pm, Maeko Sotomil will perform an ice skating exhibition; and
- At 7:17 pm, 6 minutes of intense fireworks will be launched from behind the Bridgewater Community Center.

**What better way to say  
Happy Birthday Bridgewater!**

## Dinkel & Harris Retire from Council

The New Year always brings change and this will be especially true for Bridgewater because 2017 is the year Mayor Hallie Dinkel and Vice Mayor Rosetta Harris will retire from Town Council. You have to go back to 1986 to find a time that didn't have one or both of them serving our community. Hallie and Rosetta were each recognized for their service at their final town council meeting on December 13, 2016.

Rosetta was elected in 1986, becoming the first woman ever elected to Bridgewater's Council. Over the past thirty years in office she has seen much of the growth and improvements that have occurred in Bridgewater. Rosetta started our Yard Sale Days, the Summer Concert Series, Labor Day Celebration and many more community relations events.



Hallie Dinkel was appointed to the Town Council on December 12, 1989, but it was his election as mayor in 1996 that had the greatest impact on our community. The last twenty years have been good ones for Bridgewater and our mayor deserves a great deal of the credit. He has developed a reputation throughout our state as an effective, common sense type leader who always put his community first.

In recognition of Hallie and Rosetta's service to our community, a set of three flags and a plaque will be installed at Warm Springs Turnpike Park located at N. Main Street and Oakwood Drive. We will greatly miss the wisdom these long-time community leaders offered us.

## 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.



## Projects & Paving Update

As the weather gets colder, decisions have to be made about projects that are still underway. As usual, some work will continue through the winter, while other tasks must be delayed. Here's an update on the major projects not yet completed:

**Oakwood Drive.** We had our December progress meeting with the contractor - it was agreed that concrete work will continue as weather permits, but that paving will be delayed until April. There are two good reasons for making this decision. One, the asphalt plants close Christmas Eve and, two, laying asphalt in colder weather doesn't seem to produce the same results as a warmer temperature does. We would have been uncomfortable laying asphalt in mid-December even if the contractor was ready to do so.



**Mt. View Drive.** Work on the wall and sidewalk will continue as weather permits, but as with Oakwood Drive, paving will be delayed until spring. There's a possibility that we can get everything completed on the east side of the road over the next month. Once that work is out of the way we will evaluate the drainage before determining the needs on the west side. It is currently believed that only a few houses to the west need curbing, but no decision will be made until a heavy rain or two allows us to make that determination.

**West Bank Street and Ashby Drive.** Earlier in the year we replaced sewer lines in both streets and the water line on West Bank. Due to the depth of excavation and the amount of soil disturbed we decided to delay paving until we were assured that the fill material had stabilized. One way to do this is to let it go through the freeze/thaw cycle. Because of this, paving will not take place until next spring.

## Bridgewater Health Center



Officials from Sentara RMH Medical Center, Carilion Clinic, and the Town celebrated on December 1, 2016, the groundbreaking of the new Bridgewater Health Center at their site on the corner of Dinkel Avenue and Don Litten Parkway. The new 10,800 square-foot facility will house Sentara

laboratory, therapy, and imaging services along with Carilion Clinic Family Medicine.



The Bridgewater Health Center is anticipated to open in Fall 2017.

## Winter Weather Tips

The winter season can bring frigid temperatures and icy precipitation into our region. Some of our coldest and snowiest days are in January and February, so here are some tips to keep in mind.

- Look for signs of water line breaks. As temperatures plunge below freezing, ground shifts create stress that can result in line ruptures. If you notice a puddle of water along the road in an unusual spot, or even water bubbling above the ground, these can be signs of a water line break. For water line breaks please call B-Connected at 908-4212 during business hours, or call the dispatch line at 434-4436 during the evening or on weekends.
- Keep vehicles off the road when snow is anticipated. Our crews do a great job keeping the roads clear, but it's very hard to do when vehicles are parked along the street. Please move your vehicles off the street if a significant snow event is anticipated.

## Y: Jay's Column About Policy

### *A Paradigm for Annexation*

In January, the Council will consider a very small annexation. The proposal is quite simple, and as far as I know, there is no controversy surrounding it. Still, it offers a good opportunity to present the Town's position on annexation. Before agreeing to annex land, the staff and Council ask four questions.

The first question is basic: Has a landowner requested annexation? It is very unlikely that we would annex land without someone making a request. We don't start the process on our own volition.

Secondly, we ask whether annexing the land would create an unfair burden for existing taxpayers. We adopt the Hippocratic notion that we should "first, do no harm." If infrastructure must be built or improved for the annexed land, we ensure that existing taxpayers are shielded from the expense.



*"The bottom line in all of this is that our model of annexation is just like our model for everything else. If something will benefit our citizens, we will move heaven and earth to make it happen. If not, we will pass."*



The third question is whether our own facilities could handle the annexed land. Would an industry strain our water system? Might a development create too much traffic for Main Street? We don't want to create more problems than we solve.

Finally, and most importantly, we ask how an annexation will improve the lives of those who live in Bridgewater. There is no particular honor in just being bigger. An annexation must make the town **better**. It could bring a business which would serve our residents' daily needs, or it might bring parkland or compelling architecture. The principle here is that we annex for the benefit of our citizens, not outside landowners (although we don't begrudge outside landowners their own benefit).

In sum, our model of annexation is just like our model for everything else. If something will benefit our citizens, we will move heaven and earth to make it happen. If not, we will pass. (And if you're wondering about how the pending request fits into our model, stay tuned. It would be wrong for me to pre-judge an issue before Council, but I guarantee that the Town will make explicit findings on all the questions raised above.)

## Ice Skating Schedule

Hours	Rates:
<b>Monday</b> 5:00 pm-9:00 pm	\$4.00
<b>Tuesday</b> 3:00 pm-9:00 pm	
<b>Wednesday</b> 5:00 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	

Skating and skate rental is **FREE** with your B-Rec Pass.  
 Skate rental is **\$2.00** for non-residents.  
 Our phone number at the rink is 908-3799



## Tennis Court Temperatures

As the weather gets cooler, questions invariably arise about the temperature of the Doug Will Tennis Center. Using data from the American Sports Builders Association, our policy is to maintain the wintertime temperature at the DWTC between 55° and 62°. In response to comments from patrons, we target a temperature of 59°, slightly above the midpoint. Any number of environmental and mechanical factors might push us away from the target, but we will always endeavor to stay in the acceptable zone.

## Ice Skating Academy

Here's a great way to start 2017: learn to ice skate! Our first "Ice Academy" session began in November; two more sessions are left this season. **Session 2 begins January 2nd; Session 3 on February 4th.** Sessions are available for children and adults. Each 4-week session will cost \$36 for Bridgewater residents or \$48 for non-Town residents.



For more information, please contact Terri McIntyre at 405-2063 or 555tmc@gmail.com

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# Bridgewater Current



## 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** - The museum will be closed for the month of January, 2017. For more information visit [www.bridgewaterhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.bridgewaterhistoricalmuseum.org) or call 237-4017.

**January 9 - Bridgewater Ruritan Club - 6:30 PM** Meeting at Bridgewater United Methodist Church.

**January 3 - 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.

**January 9 - Bridgewater Family & Community Educators - 7:30 PM** Bridgewater Community Center. For info, call Betsy Glendye at 820-6971. (Second Monday of every month.)

## Municipal Calendar

**January 10 .....Town Council Meeting 7:00 pm**

**January 17 - Parkinson's Support Group - 2-3 PM** (Third Tuesday of every month). Bridgewater Retirement Community, 210 Virginia Avenue, Houff Community Center, Smith Room.

**January 18 - 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.

***There are no changes in the trash collection schedule during the holidays. Christmas Tree pickup will be from January 2-13, 2017.***

***Looking Ahead...***

**February 7 - Charter Day - Generations Park - 5 PM.**

## 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.

*Articles in this publication are compiled and edited by Town staff. For information, please call 908-4212.*