

Bridgewater Current

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Mini-Golf, Par-3 Reopen April 1

As we wrap up our ice skating season, we are pleased to announce the reopening of Sandy Bottom Mini-Golf and Par-3 on Saturday, April 1. While the Par-3 will be open from 6 am to dark daily, Mini-Golf will be open for limited hours during the spring:

Mini-Golf Hours

Friday, Saturday, & Sundays
Noon to 10 pm

Non-Town residents: \$5

Par-3 Hours

6 am to Dark daily

Non-Town residents

Monday-Thursday: \$4

Friday-Sunday: \$5

Town residents play Par-3 and Mini-Golf for **free** with a B-Rec card. Residents may obtain a free B-Rec card at the Bridgewater Community Center Monday-Friday.

Mini-Golf will open 7 days a week beginning on Memorial Day weekend.

Public Hearing for Old River Road Project

Finally! Our long-awaited design public hearing for the North Main Street-Old River Road corridor improvements project has been scheduled for

Tuesday, April 4 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Arey Assembly Hall. There, you will be able to review the proposed project plans, project schedule, and funding information.

Proposed improvements include a new traffic signal for the North Main Street/Old River Road/Dylan Circle intersection and building a new right turn lane from southbound North Main Street (Route 42) to Old River Road. Also proposed are new sidewalks and curb and gutter in various locations, drainage improvements, entrance closures, utility relocations, new signs, and pavement markings. The purpose of the project is to improve traffic operations in the corridor and enhance driver and pedestrian safety.

You can submit your written or oral comments at the hearing or you can send them to the Town by Monday, April 17. Please send your comments to Bob Holton, Town of Bridgewater, Post Office Box 72, Bridgewater, Virginia 22812, or by e-mail to bholton@bridgewater.town.



Public Hearing

April 4, 2017 from 5-7 p.m.
Arey Assembly Hall
201 Green Street
Bridgewater, Virginia 22812

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, download our form, and once we receive 350 applications, we will submit our order! For more info call B-Connected at 908-4212.



Pay Online Bills with eChecks

You can now pay your Town utility or tax bill using an electronic check. Just click on our "Online Bill Payment" link on our website,



bridgewater.town, to create your account. You will need your bank's routing number and checking account number. There is a flat fee of \$1.50 for using the eCheck payment method. You also have the option of paying with a credit card or PayPal

To have your utility bill sent electronically, please e-mail utilities@bridgewater.town with your request. Please include your name, account number, preferred e-mail address, and whether or not you would like to continue to receive a postcard bill as well as the electronic copy.

Improved Accessibility at the Town Hall

The Bridgewater Community Center is our "command center" for much of what we do here in Bridgewater. It's home to our Treasurer's Office, Police Department, and Superintendent's Office. It's also where we have our monthly Town Council meetings. Simply put, the BCC is where we do our work for the citizens of Bridgewater, and it's where our Townspeople come for answers to questions.

As the focal point of our community, we want to ensure that the BCC is accessible to all. To that end, we recently installed an electronic door at the entrance of Arey Assembly Hall. This entrance provides access to the elevator, providing access to Council Chambers and each department housed at the BCC. Further, we have installed improved signage both inside and outside the BCC to make it easier for people to find their way around the building.

This door will be open during regular business hours, for Town council and public hearings, and for use with events and meetings held within Arey Assembly Hall.



Farmers' Market Returns on May 13



Our farmers' market returns for a third season beginning on Saturday, May 13 at Generations Park. This year, we will have a weekly market on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. We are excited to bring a unique variety of vendors and experiences to this year's farmers' market. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for more details.

Interested in being a vendor at the Generations Park Farmers' Market? If so, please contact Megan Byler at 908-4212 or by e-mail at mbyler@bridgewater.town to learn more about setting up at our weekly market.

What to do: Emergency Water & Sewer Problems

It is important to report all water and sewer issues as soon as possible. Should an issue arise on a weekday between 8:30 am and 5 pm, please report it by calling B-Connected at 908-4212. If a situation happens after 5 pm or on weekends and holidays, please contact the **Rockingham County Police Dispatch** at 434-4436. Provide them with the nature of the issue, your name and phone number and request a Bridgewater officer to return your call.

Y: Jay's Column About Policy

Economic Development

One of our main emphases over the last few years has been economic development. Every week, our collective to-do list includes various tasks geared toward bringing businesses to Bridgewater. Moreover, we are thrilled that the Council has now formed an Economic Development Committee under the leadership of Councilman Jim Tongue to guide us and help us set priorities.

Our focus on economic development isn't really about money. A successful economic development endeavor might yield only a little revenue. We hope, however, that a successful endeavor would provide some convenience for our citizens. We try to attract businesses which add some element we don't already have in Town, because we want there to be less need to drive to Harrisonburg.

“Economic development is hard, painstaking work that borders on quixotic. For every success such as the new Sentara-Carilion clinic, there are dozens of failures that you never hear about.”

But economic development is hard, painstaking work that borders on quixotic. For every success such as the new Sentara-Carilion clinic, there are dozens of failures that you never hear about. For many prospective businesses, we just seem too small. For others, we are too close to Harrisonburg. We try to respond creatively—for example Generations Park was designed as a “demand multiplier”—but there is only so much we can do. I don't foresee us ever providing tax incentives, a frequently used tool elsewhere.

Among towns in Virginia, ours is a middle-of-the-road approach. Some towns do nothing, which we see as a path to irrelevance. Others hire economic development coordinators, but we think that would be wasteful. We think the Town's best value is for us to work hard and be persistent. I have been surprised by the lack of interaction with the county's economic development team and the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, but I suppose their objectives are grander than ours. All we want is to make one small town a better place to live.

Golf Lessons at Sandy Bottom

Golf can be a challenging, often frustrating game, but a good teacher can simplify the mechanics of each stroke to make our swings more efficient and

effective. By honing the various strokes – putts, chips, pitches, full swings – to their essentials, we enhance the possibilities for solid ball striking and consistency, pleasure, and satisfaction. We will begin with the shortest and simplest stroke, the putt, and move progressively to the chip, pitch, and full swing. You will need a putter, a short iron (wedge, 9 or 8 iron) of any type or vintage and a few golf balls. We will begin our adventure into the amazing game of golf at Bridgewater's Par-3 golf course and practice green at Sandy Bottom Park.



Dates & Times:

Morning Session: Tuesdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Evening Session: Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm on May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Cost:

Town Residents: \$40 per session (5 lessons)

Non-Town Residents: \$50 per session (5 lessons)

Sessions will be taught in groups of approximately 6 to 8 people.

Registration: To sign up, please contact **Bob Bersson** at rdbersson@gmail.com or (540) 282-9951.

Ice Skating Ends on March 5

Our 2016-2017 ice skating season comes to an end with our final skating sessions on **Sunday, March 5**. We appreciate everyone's support this year as we conclude our second season on ice at Generations Park.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on the ice in November 2017!



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Bridgewater Current



March 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 hours are Thursday, Friday, & Saturday from 10
AM to 3 PM. For more info, please call 237-4017 or visit
www.bridgewatervahistmuseum.org.

**March 3 & 4 - Bridgewater Retirement Community
Yard Sale.** 200 Virginia Avenue (Old Emergency Squad
Building). Friday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sat. 8 AM to Noon. All
the things you have come to expect from a BRC Yard
Sale, including lots of Easter items.

March 6 - Bridgewater Ruritan Club - 6:30 PM
Meeting at Bridgewater United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall. The scheduled program will be "Scams
and Rip-offs", presented by the Rockingham County
Sheriff's Department.

**March 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

March 14..... Town Council Meeting 7:00 pm

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

**March 14 - The Greater Ashby Business Council -
Noon** - Bridgewater Fire Hall. Sheriff Bryan Hutcheson
will be the guest speaker. All are welcome. Contact
Larry Elkins (540) 641-2668 for more information.

March 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 for
more info.

March 21 - Parkinson's Support Group - 2 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 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.