

# Bridgewater News

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*Township Council*

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[www.bridgewaternj.gov](http://www.bridgewaternj.gov)

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT MESSAGE

This is the time of the year when we celebrate the coming spring and bid farewell to winter. The weatherman has been gentle with us this year as we continue to address the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The Township Public Works Department has been very busy, addressing the tons of downed trees and debris left in the wake of this once in a lifetime storm. Our thoughts and prayers are with our peers in the Jersey shore communities who are faced with years of difficult times as they rebuild the homes and businesses that were devastated by the storm.

We celebrate National Volunteer Week in April and we are reminded of the many hours of service given to our community by thousands of volunteers that include our emergency responders, coaches, Scout leaders, school volunteers, and others. Every hour they give in service to the community is valued at \$21.79. Their contribution to the quality of life that we enjoy is significant.

We do enjoy a quality of life that remains a priority for your elected officials. The Council is nearing the end of its work in adopting a spending plan, proposed by the Mayor, which allows us to provide the level of service expected by our residents without increasing costs to the taxpayer. We have dedicated Township employees who continue to partner with elected officials to ensure that our residents receive the services that they expect.

I believe that we have many things to celebrate as residents of Bridgewater Township. Through our many partnerships with business, government, taxpayers, volunteers, etc., we ensure the ongoing success and quality of life that we have come to expect.

Christine Henderson Rose  
Council President

## A Message From The Mayor



We welcome the coming of spring this year with a sense of renewal and the start of various improvement projects that will advance the quality of life in our town. Throughout this newsletter there are activities and accomplishments highlighted and I urge our residents to take advantage of the many community activities throughout the coming months.

The Township budget has been adopted for 2013 and our residents will see no tax increase for the municipal services this year. Although the municipal portion of your property taxes only represents about 12% of the overall amount, a significant amount of work went into keeping this portion of your taxes in check.

Several road improvement projects have already begun and there will be a number of significant projects beginning in the summer once school ends. The road projects are timed so that work can be completed without interfering with the busing of students throughout the Township. For the first time we had a citizen committee review the recommendations of the Engineering Department to add an independent perspective to our analysis. It is impossible to improve all of our roads at once given the limited resources available, but we have increased the amount of funds available for road projects for the second year in a row, and will continue with the improvement of our roads in all parts of the Township. For a full listing of the improvement projects, please see the Township website in the Municipal Services Engineering section. Please

pardon any road closures during the construction and travel safely through any work zone.

The recycling efforts have increased throughout the Township and this year's tonnage of recycled materials will increase yet again. To better serve our residents, we have added a free electronic recycling dumpster located at the Township Public Works facility on Chimney Rock Road.

On our website under recycling you will find what items can be recycled and the hours the dumpster is available for drop off. In addition, the Township, in conjunction with Somerset County, will hold a free Shred-It Day at the Municipal Building. Just bring any item you want shredded to the building on Saturday, June 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and we will help you safely get rid of your documents and papers.

The Township will hold the second annual Eco-Blast on Saturday, May 4 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the park next to Kidstreet. This event is sponsored by the Environmental Commission and many vendors will be there to celebrate sustainability in our community and offer many ways for our residents to help the environment. There will be food that has been graciously donated by local restaurants. Come out with your family and friends and share in the fun and excitement.

I would like to thank our many volunteers who give their time and talent to make our town special in many ways. Their continued efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life that is the exemplar of Somerset County. Lastly, our Fire and Rescue Services are in need of volunteers. Please see the link for Fire and Rescue and contact the organization near you to volunteer. There are many ways to serve so if you have an interest please give them a call to find out how you can help. Have a safe and healthy spring and I hope to see you around the community.

Dan Hayes  
Mayor

## TOWNSHIP CLERK

### Cat Licenses

All cats in the Township, seven months of age or older, are required to be licensed. A license for the current licensing year, 2013-2014, is obtained through the Municipal Clerk's Office. Licenses for 2013-2014 will be issued beginning June 1, 2013.



Proof of a current rabies vaccination must be provided. The shot must be good for the duration of the license, not to expire before April 2014. The fee is \$3 if your cat is spayed/neutered (proof required); or \$5 if it is not spayed/neutered. Licenses may be obtained in person or by mail: Office of the Clerk, 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. If you are new to the Township, call the Municipal Clerk (908) 725-6300, ext. 5025 for an application.

### Community Shred-It Day

The Township of Bridgewater will be hosting a Community Shred-It Day on Saturday, June 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., sponsored by the Somerset County Consumer Protection Group and the County Records Management Group. Protect your identity! Have your confidential information professionally shredded on-site by a licensed and bonded shredding company. All residents are welcome to this event. Document Drop-off: Bridgewater Municipal Complex, 100 Commons Way, (parking lot) Bridgewater.



### Election Board Workers Needed

You can participate in the electoral process, not only by voting, but by serving as an Election Board Worker at the polling places.

The Somerset County Board of Elections is seeking qualified district board workers to staff the polls in Bridgewater Township and throughout the County during the primary and general elections. The hours on Election Day are from 5:15 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. The pay is \$200 for the day. A one-hour training class is required.

If you are interested, please contact the Somerset County Board of Elections at (908) 231-7084.

### Last Day to Register to Be Eligible To Vote

In Primary Election	May 14, 2013
In General Election	October 15, 2013



### Election Dates 2013

Primary Election	June 4, 2013
General Election	November 5, 2013

## TAX ASSESSOR

We are available Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to answer any assessment question, or to obtain a copy of your property record card. Please contact us at (908) 725-6300, ext. 5120, 5121, 5125 or via email at [taxassessor@bridgewaternj.gov](mailto:taxassessor@bridgewaternj.gov).

Keep in mind that the deadline to file an appeal on your assessment is **May 1, 2013**. To obtain County appeal forms, contact the Somerset County Tax Board at (908) 541-5701. As the result of enacted legislation, local property tax

appeals may be filed directly with the Tax Court if the original assessment exceeds \$1,000,000 at Tax Court Management Office, P.O. Box 972, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0972. Phone numbers: (609) 292-5082 or (609) 292-6989. If you are filing an appeal, the sales information used for supporting evidence is available at the Assessor's office.

2014 reassessment inspections will begin shortly; notifications will be sent out to those that will be inspected this year.

## TAX COLLECTOR

### **Tax Due Dates:**

*May 1, 2013*  
*August 1, 2013*  
*November 1, 2013*  
*February 1, 2014*



### **Sewer Due Date:**

*June 1, 2013*

### **PTR (Property Tax Reimbursement) Due Date:**

*June 3, 2013*

## NEW SENIOR RIDEWISE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Senior RideWise of Raritan Valley provides adults age 65 and older, and individuals with disabilities, with door-to-door transportation. For an annual membership and small cost per mile fee members can schedule rides with screened professional drivers that provide door-to-door service. For additional information

please contact RideWise of Raritan Valley by telephone at (908) 704-1011 or visit them on the web at [www.ridewise.org](http://www.ridewise.org). RideWise programs and services are funded through the support of NJDOT, NJ Transit and the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.



## BE CARPOOL COOL

RideWise of Raritan Valley can assist individuals that work in Somerset County find screened rideshare partners. In addition anyone that carpools two or more times per week may be eligible for the "Ticket Home" emergency ride service to

get home in the event of a family or personal medical emergency. Please contact RideWise of Raritan Valley by telephone at (908) 704-1011 for additional information or visit them on the web at [www.ridewise.org](http://www.ridewise.org). If your work location is

outside of Somerset County and you have an interest in carpooling please contact RideWise of Raritan Valley to find out which of the eight Transportation Management Association in New Jersey can assist.

## POLICE AGENCY ACCREDITATION



On Thursday, February 14, 2013, the Bridgewater Township Police Department achieved "Police Agency Accreditation" through the

New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and CALEA (The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). This achievement culminates three years of preparation by Bridgewater Police Department personnel, specifically the designated Accreditation Manager, Sergeant Stephen Jurczak. Accreditation requires compliance with the 112 professional standards mandated by the Accreditation Board of Review. The review also includes an assessment of the Police Department's physical facility, which includes detention holding areas, arrest processing facilities, interview rooms and the evidence storage vault. The final on-site evaluation for the Police Department was conducted on November 18 and 19 of 2012. During the final review, two trained assessors appointed by the Accreditation Commission remain at the Police Department and conduct the assessment for two full days. The assessors interview officers and supervisors,

inspect the facility and review numerous policies to verify that applicable standards have been successfully implemented.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven method of assisting law enforcement agencies in assessing and improving their overall performances. The foundation of Accreditation lies in the adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are supportive of these objectives, conceptually sound and operationally effective.

Accreditation can also limit an agency's liability and risk exposure by demonstrating internationally recognized standards for law enforcement have been met, as verified by a team of independent outside CALEA-trained assessors. Accreditation strengthens an agency's accountability, both within the agency and the community, through a continuum of standards that clearly define authority, performance and responsibilities.

"Chief Richard Borden and the entire Police Department are to be congratulated for their comprehensive effort in achieving accreditation," stated Mayor Dan Hayes. "This accomplishment is representative of the professionalism and dedication demonstrated by the entire police force on a daily basis and the recognition by the Accreditation Commission is a milestone in the history of the department," added Mayor Hayes.

\* The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations which include:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)

## SCAMS

There has been an increase in recent reports of "scams" occurring throughout the Township, some of which directly target older members of the community. In one such incident a resident received a telephone call from an agency of authority from a foreign country advising that he was the victim's grandson and that he was arrested following a DWI related accident while on vacation. The grandson said he was too embarrassed to contact his parents, and asked the victim (grandfather) to provide his bail money without notifying his parents. The victim subsequently wired a large sum of money through Western Union. Follow up investigation found that his grandson was not away on vacation, and the Western Union transfer was outside the U.S.

Another "scam" reported to police is the lottery winning scam. The caller advises the victim that they

were randomly selected to receive a grand prize. The only thing the victim needs to do is pay the tax on the winnings before the prize could be released. Although the victim did not recall purchasing a lottery or raffle they subsequently paid the tax.

Yet another "scam" is diversionary in nature. Suspects posing as contractors/utility workers would approach residences with deep yards and limited vehicles in the driveway. The phony contractor/utility worker would lure a resident out of the house and to the rear of the property noting some type of damage to the property. Another accomplice would enter the residence and proceed to master bedrooms looking for jewelry and cash. In some instances the accomplice inside the residence would remove purses, if present and easily accessible. Once the accomplice was finished or a problem developed, a phone call or

portable radio transmission would occur and the contractor/utility worker would abruptly end the conversation and leave the area.

Residents are encouraged to call the Bridgewater Police Department at (908) 722-4111 if they believe they are being scammed by these cagey criminals.

## E-NEWS

A limited number of paper copies of this newsletter have been made available at locations throughout the Township. To receive future copies and other relevant news items by email, please forward your name, address, and email address to:

[newsletter@bridgewaternj.gov](mailto:newsletter@bridgewaternj.gov)



# Bridgewater News



The Department of **RECREATION** has begun registration for our Spring and Summer programs, including our popular Summer Playgrounds program. For the Summer of 2013, all children entering Grades 1-3 in September will be together at our Van Holten site. Children entering Grade 4 may also choose to attend at Van Holten, or they may choose to attend between Eisenhower, Hillside, or Bradley

Gardens School. 5th through 8th graders may also attend at Eisenhower, Hillside, or Bradley Gardens. Children entering Kindergarten in the Fall may register for our Pee Wee Playground program at Milltown School. The deadline to register for Summer Playgrounds is June 17, 2013. Registration forms are available at the Recreation Department at 100 Commons Way or on our website at [www.bridgewaternj.gov](http://www.bridgewaternj.gov). You can also visit our website for information on our other

Spring and Summer programs, including our Post Season Basketball Clinics with BRHS Varsity Coaches McAteer and Miller, Girls on the Run and Girls on Track, Youth Volleyball, Fencing, Martial Arts, Tumbling at Evolution, and more. If you have any questions or need additional information please call the Recreation Department at (908) 725-6373.



Our Bridgewater United Travel Soccer Club will be holding tryouts in May for the Fall 2013 – Spring 2014 seasons. All residents born between July 2000 and August 2006 are eligible to try out for BUSC travel. To register for tryouts, please go to our travel soccer site, [www.bridgewaterunited.com](http://www.bridgewaterunited.com).

There you will also find the tryout schedule as well as the age calculation grid to determine which level your child should try out for. For those players interested in participating in our In-Town Soccer program, registration will open in early June for the Fall 2013 season. The website to register for

In-Town Soccer is [www.bridgewaterrec.com](http://www.bridgewaterrec.com). The Bridgewater Recreation staff can be reached at (908) 725-6373 for any questions you may have regarding our soccer programs. Recreation office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

## CHILD HEALTH CLINIC PROGRAM

The Bridgewater Health Department provides child health clinic sessions through an agreement with the Community Visiting Nurses Association. These services are available for residents of the community that have limited or no health insurance coverage for their children. To be eligible, you must be a resident of the Township.

These clinics provide free well baby check-ups and immunizations for newborns, toddlers, and pre-school children. Immunizations may also be available for school age children. A licensed physician, public health nurse and nutritionist are available to provide this free or reduced cost community program. Children are seen by

appointment only. All services are confidential. To schedule an appointment, please call the Community Visiting Nurses Association at (908) 725-9355.

For further information about child health conferences and other health programs, visit the Township website at [www.bridgewaternj.gov](http://www.bridgewaternj.gov) or call the Health Department at (908) 725-5750.

## SHADE TREE BOARD NEWS

The mission of the Township Shade Tree Board is to create, promote and provide an example for sustainable, healthy and safe community forests throughout the Township. The Board is dedicated to the preservation of a productive green canopy with a goal to influence tree care and stewardship throughout the community. With this mission in mind the Board would like to remind all residents of the importance to plant and maintain trees throughout the Township.

- ✓ **Trees** store carbon and clean the atmosphere. In 50 years, one tree generates \$30,000 in oxygen, recycles \$35,000 of water and removes \$60,000 in air pollution.
- ✓ **Trees** provide natural privacy buffers, wind breaks and snow screens for homeowners.
- ✓ **Research** shows that trees help reduce stress and speed illness recovery.

- ✓ **Properly** placed and maintained trees and shrubs increase residential and commercial property values throughout the community.
- ✓ **Trees** provide a habitat for a large variety of wildlife.

Stay tuned for more information from the Shade Tree Board on the proper care and maintenance of our tree canopy throughout the year.



## WELL WATER TESTING AVAILABLE

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has reported that approximately one in eight private wells tested through the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act exhibit some form of contamination. The presence of coliform bacteria is the most common contaminant found in a residential well water system. Left unchecked, bacterial contamination may cause gastrointestinal illness.

The test costs \$10.00 for Bridgewater residents and \$15.00 for businesses and non-residents. Accurate results can be provided within 24 hours of sample collection. The NJDEP recommends that homeowners that use individual wells as a drinking water source check the bacteriological quality of the water at least once a year.

contaminants. The cost of the chemical scan is \$100.00. Samples can also be collected for the detection of lead, arsenic and nitrates, as well as other naturally occurring contaminants of concern. These samples are tested by arrangement through a New Jersey certified laboratory.



The Bridgewater Health Department is equipped to provide New Jersey certified bacteriological water testing services. Sterile containers for the test are available at the Health Department Office.

Additional water quality tests are also available for township residents upon request. The volatile organic chemical scan is suggested for residents that may have concerns about chemicals in their well water. The test can detect 60 different chemical

To request further information on water quality issues, or to arrange for testing, feel free to contact the Health Department by telephone at (908) 725-5750 or by email at [health@bridgewaternj.gov](mailto:health@bridgewaternj.gov).