



Town of Bristol Rhode Island 2023 Annual Report

Steven Contente, Town Administrator





- Safest College Town in America by SafeWise
- CALEA Accredited Police Department



- Tree City USA for conservation of our natural environments
- AARP Age-Friendly Community



TREE CITY USA

- Continuing to work with businesses and road engineers to ensure accessibility for all
- Among the highest collection rates of property taxes in the state



- Among the lowest property tax rates in the state
- AA+ Bond rating



- Rockwell Elementary School was one of 170 schools recognized as a 2023 i-Ready "Super Stretch School" for demonstrating remarkable growth in reading and mathematics this past school year.



To our respected Bristol residents ...

I am honored to share the Town of Bristol's successes and strategies from 2023 that played a role in achieving our mission of improving the community and positioning its success for future generations.

Like communities across the state and across the country, Bristol has been affected by the rising costs of living that impacts the Town's budget and the financial well-being of taxpayers. Through operational efficiencies, I, in cooperation with our respected department heads, have been able to maintain the high level of municipal services that residents expect without sacrificing quality, courtesy, or expediency you deserve.

Throughout the year, maintenance and improvement projects continue to support the infrastructure of our Town buildings, roads, and public spaces. To offset costs to taxpayers, many of these projects receive grant funding from a variety of sources with – and without – the need to match the dollar amount.

In the following pages, you will see some of the highlights and accomplishments we have achieved on behalf of Bristol taxpayers. As public servants, our goal is to make this community a pleasant place to live and work, and remain an attractive destination for others to come and enjoy. Thankfully, we have achieved our milestones.

As Bristol continues to grow and evolve, we encourage your input and constructive ideas. We look forward to hearing your perspectives at Town Council meetings and welcome your participation on any of our numerous Boards and Commissions that carry out due processes and weigh-in on competing priorities.

Your voice matters. We are here for you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Steven Contente".

Steven Contente
Town Administrator

**Town Administrator
Town Clerk
Town Council**



Pictured left to right: (standing) Town Administrator Steven Contente, Town Council Vice Chairwoman Mary Parella, Councilor Timothy Sweeney, Town Clerk Melissa Cordeiro. (seated) Councilor Antonio 'Tony' Teixeira, Chairman Nathan Calouro, Councilor Aaron Ley.

Town Council meetings are held every three weeks on Wednesdays at Bristol Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend in-person or view via Zoom.

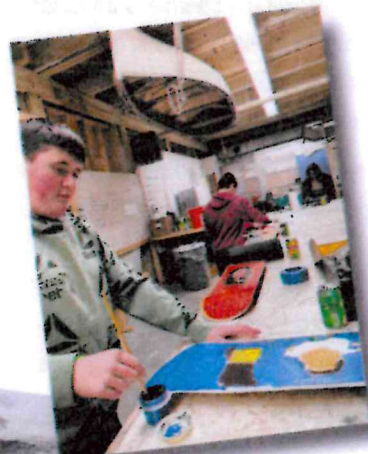
Visit the [Town Council page](#) at BristolRI.gov for streaming information.

The Town of Bristol is committed to being responsible stewards of community resources.

Optimizing the use of buildings, grounds, inventory, systems and other assets that contribute to the Town's infrastructure requires ongoing monitoring, maintenance, upgrades and re-evaluation. Making the right decisions at the right time for the right reasons has led to our Town's success.

Below are some of the significant areas of focus in 2023 that will bring years of return on their investment.

- Upgraded website - www.BristolRI.gov
- OSHEAN Fiber Network
- Learn 365RI – Bristol Technical Career Academy
- Golf Course Re-opening
- Renovations – Reynolds School HVAC
- Sold former Oliver School
- Tanyard Brook Culvert Upgrade and Replacement – Final Phase
- Stormwater Management and Abatement (Water Pollution Control)



BristolRI.gov



Bristol's virtual front door received a makeover as the Town migrated from a proprietary, plug-in based website to a platform specifically used by municipal governments country-wide.

The benefits of moving away from a custom platform include:

- easy to navigate
- improved security
- eliminating third-party plug-ins
- functionality to alert residents of any important news and information that may effect their daily routines.

Internally, the user-friendly platform provides the ability for page managers to learn the module system relatively quickly, allowing a seamless transition for back-end users to make live edits, maintaining and modifying information and news items that are important to communicate to the public.

With this communications technology improvement, whenever you are looking for the most relevant Town of Bristol news, simply visit the homepage and click on the topics of interest that appear on the rotating banner, the news feed, or the spotlight stories – you'll find what you're looking for in two clicks or less.

Visit BristolRI.gov now!

Fiber Network for Speed and Security

Town Hall and Bristol's Municipal Offices, as well as several 'hotspots' throughout Bristol, have reliable, fast internet access thanks to a fiber optics connection that was installed in 2023.

OSHEAN (Ocean State Higher Education Economic Development and Administrative Network) was contracted by the Town, using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, to install a fiber optics network for its internet connection.

The benefits of fiber optics includes:

- faster speeds
- improved reliability
- added level of cybersecurity
- additional public access points

Safe, reliable, secure networks are critical to conducting business on behalf of taxpayers. OSHEAN has the expertise in this field and has provided their services to many municipalities within the state.

Public networks are accessible beyond Town buildings. Now, anyone who needs internet service can log in at public wifi hotspots in places such as:

- Town Common
- Maritime Center and Marina
- Town Beach
- Independence Park
- Police Department



Bristol Golf Park

Bristol's municipally-owned nine-hole golf course consists of 26+ acres of open space. Historically, it was part of a larger, private 18-hole course that was sold for development in the early 1980's.



Since that time, the course has been owned by the Town of Bristol and leased to a private operator.

In 2020, permits were secured from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Wetlands Section, and construction commenced that Fall.

In 2023, the Town sought interested parties to lease the property and assume Golf Course operations, entering into agreement with a partnership of Northeast Golf, Inc. and Vigilant Brewery.



Repurposing Walley School

What was once a cornerstone of education in Bristol, the Walley School Community Resource & Senior Center project continues at the former school building.

The multi-faceted project began in 2022, with structural, electrical and carpentry elements undertaken in 2023. This site was selected for the re-purposing plan due, in part, to its compatibility with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Once complete, the Center will benefit inter-generational groups with resources and amenities that improve their quality of life.

The project incorporates and retains a nine-hole golf course, although in a modified layout, and offers a multitude of value-added recreational opportunities for the Town of Bristol.



The vision of Bristol Golf Park is to create a community hub for golf-centric recreation, social gathering, fitness, and education integrated with visionary local enterprise, driven by the collaboration between NGC Golf Operations and Vigilant Brewing, in partnership with the Town of Bristol.

Bristol Golf Park

offers a 9-hole, par 3 golf course, where the environmental evolution and ongoing water management on the property can be observed and studied among walking trails to engage bird watchers and fitness seekers.



Former Oliver School - SOLD

In need of costly repairs and renovation, the former Oliver School building on State Street is now under new ownership and will soon become additional housing in Bristol.

The sale of the building places the property back on the tax rolls and, once renovations are complete, the new owner will rent up to 11 residential units, including three 'affordable' units in a highly desirable area.

Learn 365 RI | Bristol Career & Technical Academy

Prompted by Governor Dan McKee's Learn 365RI initiative to keep students active and engaged in learning beyond the 180-day academic year, Town Administrator Steven Contente signed the Learn 365 RI compact with Gov. McKee, and established the Bristol Career & Technical Academy.

Aided by an advisory board of volunteers from education, industry, local government, and other disciplines, a curriculum was developed that provided an experiential learning pathway where Bristol students in grades 6 through 12 could explore career and educational pursuits beyond the classroom.

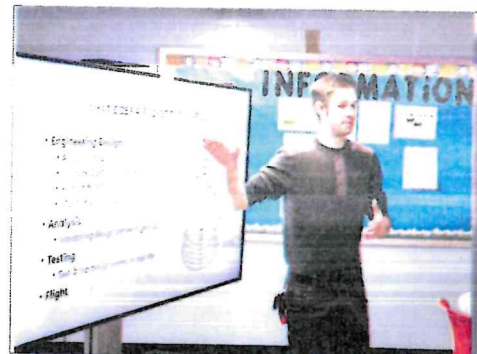
To date, approximately 20 students participated in career exploration experiences in topics such as:

- Composite manufacturing
- Applied engineering

The program received funds for providing extracurricula education opportunities for students, as well as grants to make facility improvements that support Learn 365 RI programming.



Town Administrator Steven Contente and Gov. Dan McKee sign the Learn 365RI compact.



Dan Brogan of RWU teaches applied engineering.



Students build skateboards in composite manufacturing class.



Learning drill press skills on composite material.



Students engaged in engineering topics.

Tanyard Brook Culvert Replacement - COMPLETE

A years-long project to reconstruct a 4,500 foot culvert that starts at the State Street Reservoir and ends at the outfall at Walker's Cove is complete.

The Tanyard Brook Project, as it is known, brings a sigh of relief to numerous residents whose property abuts the culvert and was subject to flooding during periods of high rainfall.

The project was complex, challenged by cost, as well as the project area - a meandering path that traversed through residential neighborhoods, across private property, between houses, and under garages and roadways.

The new box culvert consists of rectangular concrete structures that allow the free flow of water to an aqueduct that extends from Wood Street to Hope Street.

Because the outfall empties directly into Walker's Cove, during periods of high tides, water rushes into the culvert, preventing outflow and adding to the flooding problem.



To mitigate the tidal influence, a tidal gate was installed at the outfall, blocking sea water from entering the culvert, while allowing stormwater to exit into the bay.

BETA Engineering received the *2023 Engineering Excellence Award - Project of the Year* - by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Rhode Island for their project design.

Fox Hill Drainage Project



The Fox Hill Drainage project was completed in 2023 and funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The goal of this project was to alleviate flooding in the areas of Collins Street, Charles Street and Garfield Avenue, due, in part, to the high water table in that location.

The project scope installed drainage catch basins on Fox Hill Avenue, to intercept and capture water runoff and divert it from Cole Street to the Tanyard Brook culvert.

Central Street Improvements

Funded by the Town of Bristol, improvements to Central Street were made to make the area around Colt-Andrews Schools safer and more accessible.

The project resulted in new sidewalks with ADA compliant ramps and road resurfacing.





Bristol Fire Department

Headquarters

4 Annawamscutt Drive

P: 401-253-6912 (non-emergency)

Michael DeMello, Fire Chief/EMA Director

Stephen Knapman, Deputy Fire Chief - Administration

Fire Stations

- Hydraulion Engine & Hose Company No. 1
- Defiance Hose Company No. 1
- Dreadnaught Hook, Ladder & Hose Company No. 1
- Ever-Ready Engine & Hose Company No. 2
- Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Responses

In 2023, the Bristol Fire Department and EMS continued to provide unequalled service, responding to a total of 4,450 calls.

EMS responses	3,680
Fire responses	770



The Bristol Volunteer Fire Department continued to provide exceptional service to the Town of Bristol, providing 24/7/365 response to residents.

To ensure efficiency and effectiveness, the Department continued its maintenance and building improvements to all stations, addressing any issues to avoid their escalation to major problems.

The Department continued its successful fire inspection program, striving for periodic review of properties at least every three years in accordance with NFPA 1730 standards for fire prevention.

Equipment and Resources

- Received VFA 50 percent matching grant for purchase of a new brush fire skid unit (\$5,000)
- Received \$100,000 grant for townwide Camera/Security system upgrades
- Received \$35,000 grant for MCI Van supplies (Statewide initiative)
- Received Legislative grant of \$1,500 for purchase of radio equipment

Training

To ensure that volunteer members of the Bristol Fire Department are qualified to exceed the expectations of the Town and provide the same level of service as paid departments in other municipalities, firefighters and EMS professionals are required to successfully complete the appropriate trainings for their positions as listed below:

- Probationary firefighter training
- RI Fire Academy Firefighter 1 course
- RI Fire Academy company Officer 1021 course
- Computer based continuing education
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- Monthly Company drills
- EMS Continuing Education
- Live Fire Training in the department burn trailer
- Emergency Vehicle Operations
- Fire Inspections and Codes
- Hands-on evolutions at vacant properties
- Marine Operations

The Bristol Police Department is dedicated to the prevention of crime and disorder, reducing citizen fear of crime, providing for the safe and efficient flow of traffic, engaging the community in a variety of activities, and improving the quality of life of all members of the community.



Department Highlights

- CALEA re-accredited in 2023
- Safest City in Rhode Island (Safewise.com)
- School Resource Officer (SRO) Keith Medeiros (and K9 Brody) receive National Association of SRO honor

Accomplishments

- Implement a Body Worn Camera (BWC) Program
- Implement an Electric Bike Patrol Unit
- School Safety – Conduct Virtual Active Shooter Training
- Update and install video surveillance systems
- Create shift liaisons to facilitate transparency and cohesiveness across department to foster communication
- Develop a Retired Officer Program to utilize the knowledge, skills, and experience of former police officers to address public safety needs during large capacity events such as Fourth of July
- Mobile Command – upgrade communication and networking systems to enable use by other Town departments as needed

Community Engagement

- Kids Camp
- Toy Drive
- Trunk or Treat (in conjunction with Bristol Merchants Association Halloween Walkabout)
- Community Night Out
- Citizens Police Academy



Bristol Police Department

395 Metacom Avenue

P: 401-253-6900

Kevin Lynch, Chief of Police

Scott McNally, Major, Operations

- Branches:
- Patrol
 - Marine Unit
 - Detectives
 - Motorcycle Unit
 - Mobile Command
 - Drone Unit
 - K-9 Unit

The Bristol Police Department responded to or initiated 33,401 calls for service in 2023. This represents an increase of 8.58 percent from 2022 (30,762 calls).

Bristol PD conducted 4,349 traffic stops in 2023.

721 resulted in warnings

190 resulted in citations

Most Common Traffic Citations

Speeding	703
Using handheld devices	333
Stop Sign	173
Lights Required	117
No seatbelt	49
Traffic control devices	54
DUI	21
Suspended/Canceled Registration	13

Visit the Police Department page of the Town of Bristol website to view the [2023 Police Department Annual Report](#).



The Water Pollution Control Department is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the Town's sewer systems, wastewater treatment plant and compost facility

Water Pollution Control Department
2 Plant Avenue
P: 401-253-8877
Jose DaSilva, Water Pollution Control Superintendent

In 2023, the Water Pollution Control Department continued to make improvements, upgrades and repairs to its facility and to the miles of pipelines that run underground throughout Town.

Upgrades

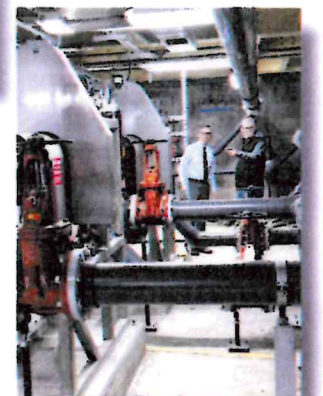
- Electrical upgrade that centralized the power to one transfer building, rather than requiring four separate switches
- Began upgrade of Solids Handling process, including the installation of two new screw pumps, a new septic mixer equipment, refurbishing thickener tank, new blending tank, new peroxide tank
- Odor control – replaced bio-filters at facility, compost and two pump stations
- Replaced carbon filter at main station
- Purchased a Global 8 portable pump using grant funding to be used for redundancy in the event of main pump failure or to support larger tanks undergoing maintenance

Environmental Protection

- Worked with the Harbormaster and Save Bristol Harbor to conduct periodic sampling of water in Bristol Harbor to ensure that stormwater pollutants do not contaminate the Town's waterways.
- Purchased anew Composting compactor truck to continue the Town's curbside collection program.

Repairs

- A break in force main at Tupelo Street occurred as a result of utility work in the area. RI Energy covered the cost to repair/replace.
- Kickemuit pump station – replaced pump that failed due to critical alarm. The replacement equipment was paid for by the alarm company.
- Leila Jean Pump Station – installed three-float system after experiencing a control panel failure.



The Department of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of public facilities in Town as well as an array of services to taxpayers. Essential functions provided by the Department of Public Works include road cleaning and maintenance, snow removal, public property maintenance, and the collection and disposal of residential trash and recyclables.

Road maintenance and improvements

- 15,030 linear feet of resurfacing/paving
- 90 tons of asphalt for pothole and street repair
- 793 miles of street sweeping
- 28,500 linear feet of roadway striping

Trash & Recycling Collection

- Disposed of 6,349 tons of mixed solid waste
- Recycled 2,251 tons of material

Due to recycling efforts, the Town of Bristol earned its first ever credit of \$6,341 from RIRRC for meeting our recycling goals relative to the total disposal amount of mixed solid waste.

Storm drain maintenance

- replaced 300 linear feet of drain lines
- cleaned/repairs approximately 2,589 storm drains and basins

Tree maintenance

- Planted over 67 trees and engaged in full-scale tree maintenance and removal



Department of Public Works
111 Mt. Hope Avenue
P: 401-253-4100
Christopher Parella, Director

In 2023, the Department of Public Works was honored to have taken its usual role in the preparation and implementation of all community events.

The department also assisted in the preparation of the new Bristol Golf Park, helping to make it an environmental and recreational centerpiece for the Town.





The Department of Parks and Recreation oversees all the functions related to recreation/leisure planning, park development, and care, management of all recreation buildings, and the protection or development of the town's natural environment.

Parks & Recreation Department
 101 Asylum Road
 P: 401-253-1611
 Warren Rensehausen, CPRP, Director
 Tim Shaw, Assistant Director

Recreation programs

- 2,040 Classes held
- 26,341 total participants
- Yoga accounted for 27 percent of programming

Summer Camp

- 434 summer camp registrations
- 275 campers/day (average attendance)

Bus trips

925 'Road Trip' participants

- A Christmas Carol
- Haunted Happenings (Salem, MA)
- Tanger Outlets (Foxwoods)

Facility Permits

- 160 issued for special events and tournaments

Pickleball Courts

- Indoor Pickleball offers four time slots during the winter months at Quinta-Gamelin
- Eight outdoor Pickleball courts were resurfaced and installed on Town Common to accommodate the growing demand in the sport

Concert Series

- 9 weeks of Concerts on the Common

Older Adult Programs

Bristol's older adults kept active and engaged with a variety of fun and healthful activities:

- Walking sessions - indoor and outdoor
- Bowling at Dudek's
- Mahjong
- Cribbage - *NEW*
- High, Low, Jack - *NEW*

Coffee Hours were offered once each month with an average attendance of 10 to 14 people per session.

With the assistance of HEZ, a monthly Tech Talk provides seniors with the resources needed for them to understand and operate a variety of electronic devices.

Initiated a relationship with AARP to offer sessions on safe driving, caregiving and other topics geared toward an aging population.

- 130 participants at Senior Picnic
- 140 participants at Senior Christmas Dinner
- 70 senior participants in 'Silver and Fit' and 'Silver Sneakers' fitness programs
- Chair Yoga program increased to five times per week
- Gentle Fitness increased to two sessions per week

Bristol's Harbormaster office oversees the operations and safety of boating activity in and around the town's waterways, the maritime center, public boat ramps, docks and moorings, public rights-of-way to the waterfront, and motor vehicle parking along the Thames Street waterfront.

The Bristol Harbor and Maritime Center enjoyed a successful year of boating-related activities. Some of the highlights include:

- The Bristol Harbor Management Plan received Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) approval for the Town's Harbor Management Plan, commensurate with minimal revisions for clarification (2022).

The Plan outlines processes, procedures, and allowable uses of the harbor and waterway in Bristol.

Slips & Moorings Use

- 1,410 Reservations April through October
- 752 Dock (including hourly, daily, and overnight stays)
- 658 Moorings (includes half-day and overnight stays)
- Approximately 28% Rhode Island Residents
- 72% out-of-state or International visitors

State Street Fuel Dock

74,150 gallons of gas and diesel sold

- 36,125 gallons of diesel
- 38,025 gallons of gas

Emergency responses

- 22 urgent distressed boaters
- 65 distress boaters

Enforcement (Harbor/Traffic)

- Parking Tickets: 270
- Boating Violations: 22 Summons
- Boating Warnings: 50



Bristol Harbormaster's Office & Maritime Center
127 Thames Street
P: 401-253-1700
Gregg Marsili, Harbormaster

Quality & Safety

Held Two Boater Safety Classes

- 35 Students Total
- Boaters Choice Award Winner (Marina.com) 6th consecutive year

Maritime Center

The Maritime Center is actively used by Transient Boaters and Visitors to Bristol.

During the high season (April through October) an estimated 250 boaters utilize the facility Monday through Thursday with an increase to 550 to 600 on weekends and holidays.



The Town of Bristol may be synonymous with the Fourth of July, being home to the oldest, continuous Independence Day celebration in America, but Bristol is known for more than its patriotic mindset, and continues to attract visitors from across the state, country and globe who appreciate the community characteristics that define the Town.

Two grassroots organizations that play a key role in promoting the Town of Bristol as a destination are the Bristol Merchants Association and Explore Bristol.

These groups, made up of residents who have business interests in Town, understand the unique characteristics that make Bristol an attractive destination and work to host events and activities that draw people to our Town.

In addition, organizations such as the Bristol Fourth of July and the Bristol Christmas Festival committees meet throughout the year to plan, coordinate and execute monumental and multi-day festivities that celebrate some of the most festive holidays.

With 60 or more eateries in town, Bristol is a foodie paradise and has a significant number of small shops and stores, salons, places of worship and unique and one-of-a-kind experiences you can only find in 02809.



Explore Bristol

Explore Bristol oversees the activities associated with promoting the Town and attracting visitors to support the local economy. The group plans and executes outreach efforts using tactics such as:

- Earned media pitches to gain a presence in local and national media outlets
- ExploreBristolRI.com, a robust website that showcases the vast array of amenities and activities in Bristol that attract thousands of tourists each year
- Bristol's Points of Interest, a print format map of Bristol that pinpoints many of the local businesses. These maps are available free of charge throughout Town at many businesses, public buildings and kiosks.



Bristol Merchants Association

The [Bristol Merchants Association](#) is a growing group of business professionals who understand the benefits of working together to the benefit of the entire business landscape.

Each month, the organization meets as a group to discuss the state of the business climate on a local and state level. As a group, the BMA identifies challenges and works together to create opportunities that drives success.

For a list of upcoming BMA events, please refer to the Upcoming Events Listing on the back page of this report.



The Community Development Department manages functions of the Town related to Planning, Zoning, Code Compliance, Building Inspection, Historic District, Redevelopment, as well as land use, housing, air pollution, and the protection of the natural environment within the town.

Buildings & Properties

Walley School Building – High Street

Work continues on the restoration and rehabilitation of the former Walley School to be used as a Community Resource & Senior Center. Once complete, the Center will retain some of its original characteristics as a school.

Former Oliver School Building – State Street

Successfully completed the sale of the former Oliver School. The new owner plans to convert the former school to residential apartments.

Robin Rug Mill Building | Bristol Yarn Mill

In June 2023, the Planning Board reviewed and granted preliminary approval for the conversion of the former Robin Rug Mill Complex on Thames Street to be converted into 127 apartments and 6,300 square feet of commercial space, including a public boardwalk along the Bristol Harbor. The rehabilitation and reuse of the buildings will be in accordance with the guidelines of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission and the Bristol Historic District Commission.

Former Reynolds School Building – 235 High Street

Work continued in the former Reynolds School, using ARPA funds to upgrade the HVAC system. The building currently houses administrative offices used by Community Development and the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

Solar Energy Project - Minturn Farm Road

The 'capped' landfill on Minturn Farm Road was re-purposed to create clean energy in the form of a solar farm.

NuGen Capital Management, LLC installed solar arrays on the Town's unused areas at the former landfill.

Once the system becomes energy-producing, the Town will receive \$110,000 per year as part of the lease agreement.



Community Development
235 High Street
P: 401-253-7000
Diane Williamson, Director

- Planning
- Zoning
- Historic District
- Building Official
- Code Compliance
- Conservation & Open Space

Grant-assisted projects

- A consultant was hired to update the National Waterfront Historic District survey.
- Held a public workshop with the residents of the Annawamscutt and Sowams neighborhoods to get input on a water quality project. This grant funded project will provide the Town with 10 percent concept plans for water quality improvements in this neighborhood, including the area around Leahy Pond and Sowams Park.

Community improvements

- Created an on-line application through the Open Gov permitting portal for the Historic District Commission (HDC) applications.
- Partnered with Barrington, Warren and RI Statewide Planning on a Resilience Plan for Route 114



The Finance Department is responsible for the Town's fiscal activities and transactions, including budget preparation and administration, tax assessment and collection, disbursement, and purchasing.

Finance & Tax Collection
 Bristol Town Hall
 10 Court Street
 P: 401-253-7000
 Sara Hassell, Treasurer
 Carl Carulli, Deputy Treasurer
 Michelle DiMeo, Tax Collector

Total Operating Budget FY 2024:		
\$67,308,961		
Department	Budget	% of Total
Education	\$29,285,376	44%
Police	\$ 8,287,556	12%
Sewer & Compost	\$ 6,848,203	10%
Public Works	\$ 5,052,487	8%
Fire	\$ 2,252,848	3%
Library	\$ 1,103,613	2%
Parks & Recreation	\$ 968,784	1%
Harbor	\$ 465,880	<1%

The Town of Bristol continues to operate with a financially robust reserve, maintaining an unassigned fund balance of \$7,135,862 and a general fund surplus of \$850,036. This, along with the Town's collection rate of 100 percent plays a role in the Town's favorable standing with a Bond Rating of AA+ as determined by S&P Global Ratings.

Adding to the Town's positive returns on investments, the Finance team leveraged the Federal Reserves' efforts to stimulate the economy and negotiated higher-than-usual rates on investable assets such as Certificates of Deposits.

Net assessed values of Bristol properties:

Residential: \$3,240,575,674
 Commercial: 320,490,768

Businesses registered with the Bristol Tax Office:

No. of New businesses: 23
 No of Total businesses: 731

Tax Collection

Bristol's residential real estate (RRE) and commercial tax rate is \$13.36 per \$1,000. This RRE rate ranks among the lowest in the state while continuing to provide residents with a full array of services such as curbside trash and recycling pick-up, sidewalk snow removal in certain areas of Town, and maintains its public safety reputation as the safest community in Rhode Island.

Towns with a lower residential real estate tax rate include:

	(per 000)
Portsmouth	\$12.78
Cumberland	\$11.62
South Kingstown	\$11.05
Newport	\$10.93
Westerly	\$ 9.62
Narragansett	\$ 9.31
Jamestown	\$ 6.98
New Shoreham	\$ 6.02
Charlestown	\$ 5.74
Little Compton	\$ 4.96

Rogers Free Library enjoyed a successful year of programs, activities and user groups, providing access to ideas, information and essential resources to the community.

In 2023, the Rogers Free Library Board of Directors hired a new library director, Eileen Dyer, who began as interim director in May and became full time director in July.

New at the RFL

- Hoopla (book borrowing, film streaming online)
- ComicsPlus (comic books online)
- New public document station, including a fax and scanning capabilities
- New AV technology
- New slate roof on the historic wing

Programming Highlights

Frederick Douglass multi-part event

Partnered with Linden Place to offer experiences linked by history and current events focusing on one of our country's most famous anti-slavery and social justice activists, Frederick Douglass.

Bristol BookFest: Homer's Odyssey translated by Emily Wilson

A collaboration with Bristol BookFest and Roger Williams University, the 2023 selection looked at Emily Wilson's modern translation of Homer's Odyssey, the first woman to translate the epic novel.

Civil Discourse

A workshop on building bridges and effective civil discourse led by educator and social activist Ron Jones.



Rogers Free Library
525 Hope Street
P: 401-253-6948
Eileen Dyer, Director

Snapshot

99,460 circulated items

- print
- video
- audio
- equipment

1,024 new library card holders.

1,480 reservations for:

- quiet study spaces
- large conference room
- community event space





Upcoming Events



APRIL

State Street Spring Festival
Saturday, April 13 | 10 am - 4 pm

MAY

State Street Art Festival
Saturday, May 11 | 10 am - 4 pm

JUNE

Visit the [Bristol Fourth of July website](#) for a complete listing of events, activities and background on America's oldest, continuous Fourth of July Celebration in America!

British Motorcar Festival
Friday, June 7 | 5:30 - 9 pm
Parade to Independence Park
Saturday, June 8 | 8 am - 5 pm
Auto Show at Colt State Park

Flag Day Ceremony
June 14 | 6 pm
Town Common

4th of July Summer Concert Series
Friday, June 21 - Tuesday, July 2
Come enjoy a variety of FREE concerts on the lawn at Independence Park!

Rockwell Carnival
Sunday, June 23 - Wednesday, July 3
Town Common

JULY

Fireworks
Wednesday, July 3 | 9:30 pm

239th Patriotic Exercises
Thursday, July 4 | 8:30 am
Colt School Lawn

239th Military, Civic and Fireman's Parade
Thursday, July 4 | 10:30 am
2.5 mile route starts at Hope and Chestnut Streets, ending at High and Court Streets.

AUGUST

3rd Annual Community Night Out
Wednesday, August 14 | 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Town Common

Black Ships Festival
Friday, August 16
Opening Ceremony at Rockwell Park
Saturday, August 17
Festival and Drum Performance
Independence Park

Harbor Festival
Saturday, August 17
Rockwell Park



SEPTEMBER

Porchfest | Arts in Common
TBD
High Street

State Street Art Festival
September 14 | 10 am - 4 pm
Lower State Street

OCTOBER

State Street Harvest Festival
October 5 | 10 am - 4 pm
Lower State Street

Halloween Walk-a-bout & Trunk-or-Treat
Sunday, October 27 | Time: TBD
Downtown Business District

NOVEMBER

Holiday Preview
Friday-Saturday, November 15-15 | Time: TBD
Downtown

DECEMBER

Visit the [Bristol Christmas Festival website](#) for more information on events and activities.

Snowflake Raffle
Sunday, December 15 | Time: TBD
Lower State Street

Grand Illumination
TBD

Christmas Festival and European Market
TBD

Visit www.BristolRI.gov or ExploreBristolRI.com for more information on events, activities and amenities available in Bristol!