

KENNEBUNK CURRENTS

Town of Kennebunk, 1 Summer Street, Kennebunk, Maine 04043 207-985-2102 www.kennebunkmaine.us

Our Next Election - March 5, 2024

The Presidential Preference Primary/Special Town Meeting Secret Ballot Referendum Election will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Edward C. Winston Town Hall Auditorium. Your political party enrollment is important for this election. If you are enrolled as a Democrat or Republican, you will receive that corresponding Candidate Party Ballot. If you are an Unenrolled Voter, you can choose either the Democratic or Republican ballot. If you are enrolled in any other party, you will not receive a Candidate Party Ballot, but all voters will receive the Town Referendum Ballot. If you have questions about your party enrollment, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 207-604-1326.



Absentee Ballots

We always encourage absentee/early voting. Absentee ballots will be available the week of **February 5th through February 29th** without a special circumstance. You can request a ballot/vote early in one of the following ways:

- Complete an online request at www.kennebunkmaine.us/election. Your ballots for the March 5th election will be mailed to you.
- Call 207-604-1326 and request be sent to your mailing address.
- Come in to the Town Clerk's Office once ballots are available and either vote in person or take ballots home to all in your household.



Additional Hours for Registering to Vote and Voting Absentee

In addition to regular office hours Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., the Town Clerk's Office will also be open for Early Absentee Voting on:

- Saturday February 24, 2024 from 10am – 1pm
- Sunday February 25, 2024 from 10am – 1pm
- Thursday February 29, 2024 until 7:30pm



Adopt a hydrant!

Clear the way for your hydrant! Ensure quick access during emergencies by shoveling a path to and around it. Your help makes a difference when seconds matter.



Attention: Homeowners in the beach area

Homes in the beach area need to follow NFPA 58 Section 6.8.1.6 and have their propane tanks properly secured to prevent flotation in high flood waters.



6.8.1.6: Where necessary to prevent flotation due to possible high flood waters around aboveground or mounded containers, or high water table for those underground and partially underground, containers shall be securely anchored. For more information visit www.kennebunkmaine.us/stormrecovery

Winter Fire Safety Tips

Heating, cooking, decorations and candles all contribute to an increased risk of fire in your home during the winter months. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), home fires occur more in the winter than in any other season. Follow these winter fire safety tips and take the proper steps to help make sure your family and home are protected from fire hazards.

Be cautious of space heaters. December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires, and space heaters account for 43% of U.S. home heating fires, according to the NFPA. Space heaters should be placed a minimum of three feet away from anything flammable, such as upholstered furniture, tapestries, mattresses or bedding, and must be turned off when you leave the room or go to sleep to help prevent a fire. Never store clothing on or around the unit, and never cover the cord or put anything on top of it. Keep a three-foot kid-free zone around space heaters.

Practice candle safety. Keep candles at least a foot from anything flammable, never leave them unattended and place them out of reach of children. Make a routine to check that all flames are extinguished before you go to bed or leave the room.

Play it safe in the kitchen. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home injuries. The primary cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended stovetops and ovens. If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen and use a timer for reminders.

Have a fire extinguisher on hand. When seconds count, having a fire extinguisher nearby is crucial for rapid response. Fire extinguishers should be stored where they are easily reachable and where there is a higher risk of fires such as the kitchen and garage. Select a multi-rated fire extinguisher such as the First Alert Rechargeable Home Fire Extinguisher, which is capable of handling most household fires.

Kennebunk Free Library Happenings

Kennebunk Free Library Needs Your Feedback. Please Complete Our Survey.

We invite each one of you to actively participate in our strategic planning process. This survey will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Scan the QR code, request a paper version, or visit this link <https://forms.gle/d46gdT8K3HW6xZHG6>



For more information, email us at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org, call us at 985-2173, or visit us at kennebunklibrary.org



Manager's Corner

Heather Balsler, Town Manager

In the wake of two impactful storms that rendered historic coastal damage to Kennebunk, our community is confronting numerous challenges. As we navigate the aftermath of these storms, we are actively assessing the extent of damage to our infrastructure and determining the best path forward.



I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated individuals in our Public Services, Fire Rescue, and Police Departments, who have tirelessly worked around the clock to ensure our safety, clear debris, and restore our roads. I urge you to remain vigilant in the affected areas and follow the safety guidelines issued by local authorities.

To stay informed about our recovery efforts, please visit our website and follow our social media pages. We have compiled a list of helpful resources for residents and businesses on our website at www.kennebunkmaine.us/stormrecovery.

I also want to take a moment to express my gratitude to our community members for your continued patience, cooperation, and support during this period of recovery. Your resilience is a testament to the strength of our town, and together, we will overcome these challenges.

Assessing Division – Assessment Update

The Assessing Division is in the process of finalizing a plan to update assessments for the 4/1/2025 assessment date. This will include analysis of current market conditions in order to equalize property values. Please frequent our web page at www.kennebunkmaine.us/assessing for future updates and look for information included in future editions of Kennebunk Currents.

Kennebunk has an immediate need for members on the following Boards:

- Budget Board
- Community Garden Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Economic Development Committee
- Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Committee
- Fair Hearing Authority
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Planning Board
- Site Plan Review Board
- Tree Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Visit www.kennebunkmaine.us/committees for more information.

Staff Updates

Departing Staff:

- Nikki Billingslea, Child Care Program Coordinator, resigned effective 12/8/2023
- Shaun Barrett, Equipment Operator, resigned effective 12/15/2023
- Brittany Howard, Town Planner, resigned effective 12/29/2023

Welcome New Staff:

- Matthew Beck, new Facilities Supervisor, started on 11/27/2023
- Abigail Duncan, new Program Coordinator, started on 1/2/2024
- Alexander Whitney, new Child Care Program Coordinator, starts on 1/22/2024

Open Positions:

- Full-time Police Officer
- Part-time After School Counselors
- Per Diem Firefighter/EMT, Advanced and Paramedics

Come work with us!
www.kennebunkmaine.us/jobs

Do you need help heating your home this winter?

The Town of Kennebunk has a heating assistance fund to help those with all sources of heat. This program can assist while you wait for federal fuel assistance or in times of an emergency. If you or someone you know is in need of help, please contact us at (207) 604-1394.



Upcoming Events

Select Board Outreach Session

Saturday, February 17, 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. 3rd Floor of Town Hall

The Presidential Preference Primary/Special Town Meeting Secret Ballot Referendum Election

Tuesday, March 5, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Town Hall Auditorium

Meeting on Community and Business Trends

Wednesday, March 6, 6:00 p.m. Location TBD
FMI email Economic.Vitality@kennebunkmaine.us

Meetings

Select Board

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Room 301

Planning Board

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Room 301

Charter Commission

The Charter Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Room 301