

Town Tidbits

March 1, 2013



1 Summer Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043
Tel: (207) 985-2102
Fax: (207) 985-4609

Town Office Hours

Mon. through Fri.
8 am-4:30 pm



Board of Selectmen

Albert J. Searles, Chairman
David H. Spofford
John H. Kotsonis
Deborah A. Beal
Kevin P. Donovan
Richard A. Morin
William A. Ward, Jr.

Town Manager

Barry A. Tibbetts

Selectmen Meeting Schedule

2nd & 4th Tues. monthly,
6:30 pm, at Town Hall.

Meetings are also televised live
on Cable Channel 5 and
streamed live on
www.townhallstreams.com

Remaining 2013 Holidays

(Town Offices Closed)

Mon., April 15 (Patriots' Day)
Mon., May 27 (Memorial Day)
Thurs., July 4 (Independence Day)
Mon., Sept. 2 (Labor Day)
Mon., Oct. 14 (Columbus Day)
Mon., Nov. 11 (Veterans' Day)
Thurs., Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving)
Fri., Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving)
Wed., Dec. 25 (Christmas)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

BEGINS - *Sunday, March 10th*
Turn you clocks ahead 1 hour

TOWN OF KENNEBUNK, MAINE

www.kennebunkmaine.us

THE KENNEBUNK BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND THE KENNEBUNK RSU COST SHARING COMMITTEE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON MARCH 26TH:

- **Voting yes will reduce your upcoming tax bills.** Based on current projections, a YES vote will drop the Town's tax rate by about 20 cents this coming year. For the average home owner with a house valued at \$250,000, this is a savings of \$50 on your annual tax bill.
- This ballot question is *not a vote for or against repairing our schools*—it is simply a vote to adjust the cost sharing formula used to allocate the school system's cost assessment between the three towns of Kennebunk, Arundel and Kennebunkport.
- The Board of Selectmen all agreed that, "voting YES is good for Kennebunk and it's good for all the children in the RSU. It helps reduce your property tax bill, while helping our kids continue to get a great education in our schools."

For more information, visit the Town's website at www.kennebunkmaine.us under News & Announcements. This is where you will find detailed information, and links to RSU 21's website (www.rsu21.net) where you'll find a Cost Sharing calculator to see how much you can SAVE by voting YES.

According to Kennebunk's RSU Cost Sharing Committee member Richard Smith, "Jeff Cole, Kevin Knight and I feel we negotiated the best possible deal, equitable for all three towns. Please help 'seal the deal' by voting YES on Cost Sharing. This vote requires a 2/3 majority of ALL ballots cast in the school district in order to change the cost sharing formula. We need your YES vote."



NEW SOLID WASTE HANDLING AGREEMENT MUNICIPAL REFERENDUM QUESTION

The Town is also asking residents to vote on the new Solid Waste Handling Agreement that was negotiated and entered into as a result of the MERC facility closing, saving the Town \$689,000 over the term of the agreement.

The Board of Selectmen recommend a YES vote

ELECTION INFORMATION

WHEN: Tuesday, March 26th
TIMES: 8 am – 8 pm
LOCATION: Kennebunk Town Hall
Auditorium

Voters can cast their ballots absentee now through Thursday, March 21st without having a qualifying special circumstance. For more information or to request a ballot, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 985-2102 ext. 1326.

PAY-AS-YOU-THROW TRASH PROGRAM BAGS PRICE INCREASE/TAGS ELIMINATED

As of *February 27th*, the price for blue 15 gallon trash bags is now \$7.25 per package of five, and the price for purple 33 gallon trash bags is \$15 per package of five.

Also, the sale of YELLOW and ORANGE trash tags was eliminated. Residents who have already purchased tags may continue to use them through *Friday, March 29th*. Beginning *Monday, April 1st* any trash left curbside for collection with a tag will not be accepted. Residents may bring any unused authentic tags into the Town Offices to get an exchange for bags **OR** a refund of \$2.90 per yellow tag (\$14.50/package) and \$5.40 per orange tag (\$27/package).

During the past several years, the costs to collect our residential trash (by our contractor Oceanside Rubbish), and the costs to dispose of the trash (by MERC and now Pine Tree Waste/Casella) have increased, while the price of the bags and tags has not increased

since 2007 (six years). The Town has been losing money, and without increasing bag prices, the PAYT system would continue to lose money.

The tags have been eliminated for two reasons:

First, we discovered that people were counterfeiting the tags; and *second*, people were routinely overfilling their trash cans (orange tags), and their own bags (yellow tags), which caused the system to lose money.

We understand that any cost increase to our Kennebunk residents and taxpayers is an additional burden during these challenging economic times. *The decision made by the Town's Board of Selectmen was not an easy one.* In fact, the Board deferred a proposed increase back in 2010. However, the losses were growing and could no longer be absorbed. In addition, the Selectmen have pledged to adjust pricing annually to reduce major price-spikes.

Placing your bags in trash barrels will keep animals from breaking into the bags.



**ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING BUDGET**
BY
**REFERENDUM ELECTION
Candidate & Budget
Ballots**

Date: Tuesday, June 11th
Times: 8 am—8 pm
Location: Town Hall
Auditorium

Nomination Papers available Monday, March 18th and are due back in the Town Clerk's Office by Friday, April 26th.

Seats up for Election:

3 year term(s):

- 2 Selectmen
- 2 RSU 21 Board of Dir.
- 2 Trustee Sewer District

5 year term

- 1 Trustee KL&P District



**KENNEBUNK
FREE LIBRARY**

On *Sunday, April 7th*, the First Annual Trustee's Mini-Golf Tournament will be held from 11 am to 5 pm. An 18-hole mini-golf course complete with course obstacles will be set up throughout the library. Tasty food and raffle tickets will be available for purchase.

Spring programming includes opera, genealogy group discussions, adult and youth book discussion groups, as well as special programs for children and teens. Don't miss out on Trivia Night, which is held at the library on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Sweet 16th Edition Road Race! The 5K run/walk race will be held on *Friday, July 12th* starting at 6 pm. Online registration is now open and the first 250 registrants will receive t-shirts and our fabulous goodie bags! Visit their website for all activities/events: www.kennebunklibrary.org



GROW WITH US!
KENNEBUNK COMMUNITY GARDEN
**Now Accepting Applications for
Plot Rentals**

Have you always longed for your own garden, but lacked the space? Have you tried to grow your own vegetables, but never had much luck? Are you looking for opportunities to meet your neighbors and spend more time outside, enjoying the sun and sounds of summertime?

The Kennebunk Community Garden Committee, which operates the garden, is now accepting application for Summer 2013 seasonal plot rentals. A 10'x10' plot is just \$25 for the full season—\$50 for a 10'x20' plot. Maximum plot size available for rent is 10'x20'.

Your garden will be ready for planting—fully composted with organic material and tilled. All we ask in return is six (6) hours of volunteer time for each 10' x 10' plot you rent in support of our Maine Harvest for the Hungry community garden. Over the past four (4) summers, we have donated more than 5,000 pounds of produce to local food banks.

The Kennebunk Community Garden is a fully organic garden created in cooperation with the Animal Wel-

THE CHIEF OF POLICE would like you to make you aware if your business and/or residence is equipped with a security alarm there is a specific ordinance directly related to business and residential security alarm procedures, as well as possible penalty fees for false police and fire alarms.

While the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen are in the process of amending this ordinance through required procedures, the police department would like to remind you that three (3) false alarms per unit, per year will be allowed without penalty. Any false alarms after three are subject to penalty fees.

To insure the police department's computer system is accurate with the most recent property/site caretaker information for alarm calls should police and/or fire

fare Society (AWS). The garden is located between AWS and the tennis courts at the West Kennebunk Recreational Area off Holland Road.

For an application, visit www.kennebunkmaine.us. All available documents and additional information are found in the Kennebunk Community Garden section of the Town of Kennebunk's website, under Government, Committees. Or stop by the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall on Summer Street.

15TH ANNUAL MAY DAY FESTIVAL



Saturday, May 4th downtown Kennebunk once again will be bustling with fun, family-friendly activities! The Downtown Committee has been planning since soon after last year's event but there is always time for residents to be a part of the planning! Contact Linda Johnson at magicj@gwi.net for meeting dates and times.

Volunteers Urgently Needed! Volunteers will march in the parade assisting the "Shoestring Puppet Theater". Join in the fun by contacting Linda Johnson at magicj@gwi.net!

need to respond, we respectfully request your completion of a Site Information Form which can be downloaded from the Town of Kennebunk website. Under Departments, go to Police, Information and Downloads, then Property and Business Checks. From there a Site Information Form can be printed. Completed forms can be mailed to the police department (4 Summer St., Kennebunk, Maine 04043) Attn: Dennis Vincent; dropped off in person during business hours at the police station lobby; or scanned and emailed to: dvincent@kennebunkmaine.us. Once received, business, residence, caretaker and contact information will be updated accordingly. Should you have questions, please contact Dennis Vincent Wednesday through Saturday between 8 am and 4:30 pm at the above listed email address or at (207)604-1345.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & CODES OFFICE....



We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following businesses that have either re-located or expanded within Kennebunk.....

- Cut N Edge ♦ Habitat for Humanity
- Norway Saving Bank ♦ Owen's Farmhouse Pizza
- Pawfections Pet Salon ♦ Plixer International
- Northeast Coating ♦ Village Tavern Restaurant
- Kennebunk Toy Company

Welcome Back! The Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Arundel Chamber of Commerce relocates back to downtown! Groundbreaking and construction have begun on their new home on Water Street. The Chamber also welcomes Executive Director Suzanne McKechnie who began work earlier this year. The new facility expects to be up and running later this spring.

Maine Downtown Network.... Earlier this year the Town was invited to participate in the Maine Downtown Network. Representatives from MDN visited the Town and were able to see the Route One Corridor as well as the Downtown, Lower Village and West Kennebunk Village. This visit generated a Maine Downtown Center report which can be read under the News and Announcement section of the Town's website.