

KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 11

Spring 2009

Town May Acquire Five Acres Near School

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

The town has an opportunity to acquire five acres of land that is immediately adjacent to three existing municipal uses: the Consolidated School, the Parsons Athletic Field and the wastewater treatment facility. The vacant land is owned by Richard McCabe and is located just above the soccer field beyond the existing play equipment and the backstop. The town would also acquire a right of way from School Street and the right of first refusal on the remaining six acres of land owned by Mr. McCabe.

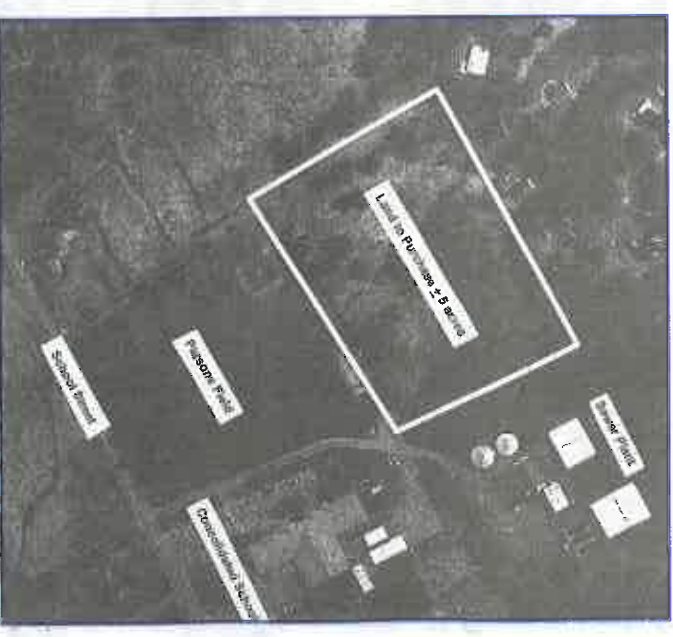
The Board of Selectmen and the town's Budget Board voted unanimously (Selectmen vote: 5-0 and Budget Board vote: 8-0) to acquire the land. The cost of the land is \$295,000. Two existing reserve accounts are the source of funding, one that was established for land acquisition and another reserve fund that is for unspecified cap-

ital projects. Among the reasons given by members of the two boards for supporting the acquisition were:

- The convenient location in the village center.
- The proximity to the Consolidated School and the two other existing municipal uses.
- The potential uses that would benefit the town, including future school needs, recreational uses, or future expansion of the wastewater facility.

Another reason to acquire the five acres is the potential for adding the remaining six acres to the town's property should it be offered for sale in the future. Were that to occur, the town would then have a consolidated parcel of land close to the village center that would offer even more opportunity to residents for future town needs.

The proposal to purchase this land is Question 6 on the Tuesday, June 9 ballot.



The proposed land purchase is adjacent to other town uses.

Kennebunkport Fire Department's Most Important Resource

By Paul Moshimer, fire chief



Saco Fire Department instructor with Kennebunkport Fire Department candidates Jenne James (foreground), Christophe Colinet and Adam Andrews.

We in Kennebunkport are fortunate to have a long history and tradition of volunteer fire protection for our property and the life safety of our inhabitants.

The Kennebunkport Fire Department (KFPD) operates out of four geographically dispersed fire houses: The Port Village Fire Company at 32 North Street; the Wildwood Fire Company on Wildes District Road and Turbat's Creek Road; the Atlantic Engine Company at Cape Porpoise Square; and the Goose Rocks Beach

Fire Company on Mills Road (Rt. 9).

Our apparatus is parked in each of these fire houses: a tanker, 4 engines, 3 ladder/engines, 3 brush trucks, a mini-pumper, 2 inflatable boats, a jet ski and assorted equipment.

So, is this our Fire Department? I say no. I submit that at the heart of our Kennebunkport Fire Department are the men and women of all ages, from all occupations, willing to train for long hours and short pay for the privilege of serving our town. This is

See RESOURCE page 8

Revaluation of Property Values Nearing Completion

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

The revaluation approved by voters in November 2007 is in its final stages. The new values will be in place for the next tax bills due this fall. Vision Appraisal was hired by the town to conduct the revaluation. Its field representatives have visited all properties in town and conducted interior inspections with the owner's permission. Vision will be using information from the sale of properties completed up to April 1 of this year as the basis for establishing new values. Vision will complete its review and analysis during May and June, and will mail a statement of new value to each property owner by the end of June.

Prior to mailing new values, Vision will conduct several meetings in June to provide information to residents regarding the process used to arrive at new values. These will be informational meetings about the process; they will not give information about the new value of individual properties.

Once a property owner receives the notice of new assessment, they will have an opportunity to discuss their values with the appraisal staff at an informal hearing. The property owner can voice concerns and discuss inaccuracies or discrepancies with an appraiser. The appraiser will determine whether

See PROPERTY VALUES page 8

TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT
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Six Warrant Articles to Be Voted at Town Meeting

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

Voters will decide whether to approve six warrant articles on the June 9 ballot. The full text of ordinance amendments and of the proposed revision to the Comprehensive Plan is available at Town Hall or on the town's website: www.kennebunkportme.gov.

Question 1: Amendment to the False Alarm Ordinance

The proposed amendments to the False Alarm Ordinance clarifies that while false alarms caused by events outside the control of owners are not a violation, false alarms that are caused by events within the control of owners are a violation of the ordinance.

Question 2: Amendment to the Fire Code Ordinance

The proposed changes to the Fire Code Ordinance clarify that the town utilizes the state's uniform fire code as the basis for fire safety regulations. In addition, the language of the ordinance is changed to reflect the single chief system that is now in place for the Kennebunkport Fire Department.

Question 3: Amendments to the Land Use Ordinance related to Shoreland Zoning

The shoreland zoning changes proposed reflect the completion of the work of the ad hoc committee charged with bringing the town's ordinance into compliance with state law and regulations. Voters approved last November the initial ordinance changes recommended by the committee. The changes proposed this June completes the work of the committee. It includes numerous house-keeping language changes to the many sections of the ordinance where shoreland zoning is referenced.

A summary of the proposed changes is provided in this newsletter.

Question 4: Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan

The Growth Planning Committee continues its work on updating the town's Comprehensive Plan. Question 4 asks voters to approve revisions to the Land Use chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. An outline of the proposed Land Use chapter is given in this newsletter.

Question 5: Amendments to the Shellfish Ordinance

The proposed amendments make several modifications. It clarifies that the Shellfish Warden may not possess a commercial license. It authorizes the Board of Selectmen to adjust the harvesting limits for commercial shellfishing upon the recommendation of the Shellfish Committee. Finally, it prohibits the issuance of a commercial license to an individual who has been convicted of violation of state wildlife statutes.

Question 6: Proposed land purchase adjacent to Parson's Field

The town has an opportunity to acquire a five acre parcel of land immediately adjacent to the Parson's Field and Consolidated School. The land is located just beyond the end of the soccer field furthest from School Street. The parcel is uniquely situated in that it is adjacent to three key municipal functions; in addition to the playing field and the school, the wastewater treatment plant also immediately abuts the land to be acquired. The cost of the five acres is \$295,000. The town would also gain right-of-way access from School Street and a right of first refusal on the adjacent six acres just east of the playing field.

Town of Kennebunkport Annual Town Meeting June 9 and 13, 2009

Please Take Notice

To the voters of Kennebunkport: You are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting of this municipality will be held at the Village Fire Station, 32 North Street, in said Town on **Tuesday, the 9th day of June AD 2009**, at 8:00 a.m. for the purpose of acting on Articles numbered 1 and 1a and Questions 1 through 6 (Election of Officers and Referendum Questions) as set forth in the Town Warrant.

The polls for voting shall be opened immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. on June 9, 2009, and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

The continuation of said meeting will be held in the **auditorium of the Consolidated School, 25 School Street**, in said Town on **Saturday, the 13th day of June AD 2009**, at 9:00 a.m. for the purposes of acting on Articles numbered 2 through 54 (Funding and Non-Funding Articles), as set out in the Warrant.

The Registrar of Voters will hold office hours while the polls are open to correct any error in or change a name or address on the voting list, to accept the registration of any person eligible to vote, and to accept new enrollments.

Attested copies of the Town Warrant as well as Sample Ballots are posted at the United States Post Office, Temple Street; Atlantic Hall, Main Street; Cape Porpoise; Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, Maine Street; Goose Rocks Beach Fire Company, Winter Harbor Road; and at the Town Offices, 6 Elm Street.

A copy of the Town Report can be picked up at the Town Offices, 6 Elm Street, Bradbury Brothers Market, Main Street, Cape Porpoise and Graves Memorial Library, 18 Maine Street.

April Dufoe
Town Clerk

Trash and Recycling Collection Schedule

In Kennebunkport, trash is picked up weekly and recycling is picked up every other week.

Trash and recycling containers may be put out no earlier than 4 p.m. the day prior to scheduled collection and should be removed within 24 hours of pick up.

Hours of trash and recycling collection:
No earlier than 6:30 a.m. and completed no later than 6:00 p.m.

Non-collection holidays:
Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.
Alternate collection days will be advertised on the town government cable channels 2/16 and the town website at <http://www.kennebunkportme.gov>.

Registrar of Voters Hours

By April Dufoe, town clerk

The Kennebunkport Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters will hold evening hours at the Kennebunkport Town Hall on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to conduct absentee voting, to register any person eligible to vote, and to accept any enrollment/address changes.

Single-Stream Recycling

The Town of Kennebunkport uses the "single-stream" recycling process. This process means that all recycling (paper and commingled containers) can be put into one recycling bin. Outside then brings the combined recyclables to a facility where they are sorted on a system of conveyor belts. Sorting the recyclables is not needed. Please continue to put all trash in trash bins, and all recycling in recycling bins.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole, at the Highway Dept. at 967-5728.

Absentee Voting

By April Dufoe, town clerk

Absentee ballots are now available at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Election to be held Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at the Village Fire Station, on 32 North Street in Kennebunkport. If you have any questions about absentee voting or about this election, please call the Town Clerk at 967-4243 ext. 110.

Shoreland Zoning Changes Proposed

By **Werner Gilliam, planner/assistant code enforcement officer**

The proposed changes to the Land Use Ordinance (LUO) represent the completion of work by the ad hoc committee charged with bringing the town's LUO into compliance with state law and regulations. The vast majority of the changes within the proposed ordinance amendments are in response to a review of the *State of Maine Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning*. Kennebunkport does not have a stand-alone Shoreland Zoning Ordinance; therefore, all relevant shoreland definitions, nonconformance sections and other references are all integrated within the LUO. For this reason, changes are proposed throughout most of the LUO articles, although many of them are

housekeeping in nature. Many changes here are final wrap-up items that either were not addressed in previous warrants, or are being done to provide further clarification on previously approved changes. It is essential to understand that many of these changes do not only affect the coastal area of town, but those properties inland as well, due to the proximity to rivers, streams and ponds. Significant ordinance changes include:

- Dock Square and Riverfront have been designated as Shoreland General Development Districts. This recognizes the existing commercial development there and allows these areas to be treated as such.

- Within the Shoreland Zone, multiple seasonal and year round units that contain all elements of a dwelling are now considered dwelling units for the purposes of requiring minimum lot sizes, frontage, etc. This is a state mandated change that will render multi-unit buildings nonconforming unless they are on large lots or completely outside of the Shoreland Zone.
- Lots are required to meet multiple minimum lot size requirements for multiple uses within the Shoreland Zone.
- Zoning District charts are included in this revision due to the need to update a number of

- references that are part of their footnotes.
- The revised Shoreland Zoning Map is included in this warrant. The biggest change is the removal of the Critical Edge from the map. The Critical Edge was removed from the LUO by voters in the November 2008 warrant. Other map changes include revised and updated roads, as well as minor color and text changes. Beyond these changes, the map is relatively unchanged.

The complete text of proposed Shoreland Zoning changes is available at Town Hall or on the town's website: www.kennebunkportme.gov.

Structural Outline of the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Chapter

By **Werner Gilliam, planner/assistant code enforcement officer**

The Growth Planning Committee has concluded its work on modifications to the Land Use chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The complete text of the proposed changes is available at Town Hall or online at www.kennebunkportme.gov. The chapter consists of the following elements:

- I. **Inventory**
 - A. **Existing Land Use**
Provides a list of zones, base lot sizes, approximate acreage and percentage of total land area.
 - B. **Analysis of Existing growth and development**
Description of town characteristics with acreage description of land held in conservation and tax growth programs.
 - C. **Recent Commercial Growth**
Description and analysis of recent commercial growth in the form of seasonal rental units.
 - D. **Analysis of Growth Cap**
Review of Growth Cap with 8 years of data and analysis of effectiveness.

- II. **Analysis and Conclusions**
 - A. **Future Land Use Considerations**
Describes the use of a developable land analysis to understand growth potential within various zoning districts. Includes a chart of potential build-out by zoning designation.

- III. **Future Land Use Plan**
 - A. **Town Wide Strategies**
Summary of chapter with emphasis on planned growth, open space preservation, and increased affordability.
- IV. **Implementation**
Includes strategies to encourage small town character, coastline access, land preservation, and organization of all ordinances regarding land use.

Grease Problems at the Sewer Department

By **Allan Moir, sewer superintendent**

The Sewer Department is experiencing a problem with grease building up in the sewer pipes and in the wet wells at the pump stations. Most of the grease that is in the collection system gets there from the byproducts of cooking. Grease can be found in such things as meat fats, cooking oils, butter and margarine, dairy products, and sauces. The grease gets into the collection system when these items are put down the sink drains or when dishes, pots, and pans are cleaned.

When the sewer bills go out this

year, we will insert a flyer with the bill explaining the problems with disposing of greases and fats into the collection system. The best way to handle grease and fats is to scrape them off or pour them into containers and dispose of them through the trash disposal. Never put fats or grease down the sink drains or into the toilet.

Restaurants and other commercial kitchens are required to have grease traps installed and to clean them regularly, and the department will do inspections this spring. The Sewer Department does have a

minimum sizing requirement for grease traps. Please contact us for more information.

If the grease builds up to the point that it causes a blockage, this build up can cause the raw sewage to overflow from the collection system. When this overflow happens, it can result in raw sewage flowing into the street or your yard—or worse yet—into your home. Regardless of where the overflow occurs, it will have to be cleaned up, and the sewer users will have to pay for it. So please, do not dispose of any fats or greases in the collection system!

For more information, please call the Sewer Department at 967-2245.

2008 Annual Town Reports Now Available

Be an informed resident and voter. Come and pick up your Annual Town Report at one of the following locations:

Town Office on 6 Elm Street
Bradbury's Market
Police Department
Public Health Office
Cape Porpoise Library
Louis T. Graves Memorial Library

Besides voting information for the annual town meeting in June, this report also contains other essential items such as town department phone numbers, the recycling reference chart and calendar, along with an account of the activities of the various town departments and boards/committees.

Property Tax and Registration

By Anita Troegner, tax collector

We feel privileged in providing a service to a small and caring community. It does not get much better than that. Our goal is to provide our residents with the best customer service we can offer. We want you to know you are valued, and if you happen to get our voice mail, we are currently assisting someone at the counter. We ask that you please leave us a voice message, and we will be sure to get right back to you.

Vehicle Registration: Our tax department offers most state forms and brochures. If you are seeking a particular form, please call us to see if we have it available. We prepare and organize motor vehicle documentation for our residents to complete the

Bureau of Motor Vehicle's process.

We encourage you to call our department with registration questions to make your process an easy one. All questions are always welcome and who better to explain the process than us directly.

To assist our residents, we offer the following:

Rapid Renewal Program: Our tax department went on-line in 2006 for auto registration renewals through the State's Rapid Renewal program. This renewal process is available to our residents who conduct business on-line.

Renewal By Mail: This process is available to our residents who are unable to make it into the town office during normal business hours.

Reminder Notices: Our tax department has recently been mailing customer friendly reminders for expired registrations. This new process not only alerts the resident to renew his/her registration but could also eliminate costly fines.

Inland Fisheries Registrations: Although we ask, if possible, for you to provide us with your prior year registration when coming in to process, we do receive preprints from Inland Fisheries. This helps us complete the registration process just in case you were missed.

Documented Boats: The Maine Revenue Services Property Tax Division provides our department with Coast Guard vessel reports.

These reports show us who owns a documented boat in our community. We have improved our documented boat process by providing the resident with a reminder letter to come in and register their vessel. This process is required annually in the State of Maine on your documented vessels. We thank you for your support.

Real Estate and Personal Property Tax: We are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to answer any tax related questions or concerns.

Anita Troegner and Rose Wills, would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience and support, and we look forward to serving your future needs.

Where Do Your Vehicle Excise Taxes Go???

To Pave, Plow and Maintain Town Roads!

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

We are all too familiar with having to pay an excise tax when we register a vehicle at Town Hall. It is never easy to write that check out! So where does that money go? The answer is that most of the money stays right here in Kennebunkport. The cost of registering your vehicle is divided between the registration fee and the excise tax. The registration fee goes to the state and is usually the lesser amount. The remainder of the cost is the excise tax which is retained by the town and is used to fund the cost of municipal government. In essence, *every dollar collected in excise tax is a dollar that is not added to the property tax.*

Here in Kennebunkport, the town spends more annually on costs related to highway maintenance and support than is collected in excise taxes. Highway expenses include the cost of the Highway and Mechanic Departments, capital costs for road maintenance, capital costs for trucks and heavy equipment, and any related debt costs.

Four Year Average

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2006 – 2009: \$998,275

Four Year Average

Excise Tax Revenues:

Fiscal Year 2006 – 2009: \$856,134

In November of this year, there will be a referendum question on the ballot statewide asking voters to approve a significant reduction in excise tax rates for cars five years old or newer. If passed, this proposal would reduce the local excise tax collections in Kennebunkport by an estimated 40 percent, or over \$340,000 per year based on the four year average. Please consider your vote carefully when the time comes. The proposal provides no reduction in excise taxes for older vehicles, which are driven by a majority of Kennebunkport residents. Approximately 68 percent of all registered vehicles in the state of Maine are five years or older. Any reduction in excise tax revenues will need to be balanced either by reducing the road maintenance budget, reducing another town service, or increasing property taxes.

Salvation Army Pickup



Sandra Googins, York County Chair of the Salvation Army Auxiliary, and Bill Leffler stand by Sandra's completely stuffed, craft donation, car trunk and all available seats—while Bill holds ties he wasn't sorry to part with. This was the second load—the first was a pickup truck full.



These are the last donations the generous people in Kennebunkport donated to the Fabric Fair put on by the Salvation Army Auxiliary. All the donations are estimated to have weighed 300 pounds. Thanks to all who donated.

Your Help Wanted! Openings on Boards and Commissions

If you are interested in serving on one of the Town's Boards or Commissions, please contact Arlene McMurray @ the Town Office: 967-4243, ext 107, or arlemcmurray@kennebunkportme.gov.

Growth Planning Committee: Completing revisions to the town's Comprehensive Plan.

Board of Assessment Review: Newly established this year to consider appeals of property valuations.

Sidewalk Committee: Assists Town Manager with development of plan for improved bicycle and pedestrian connections in and between town neighborhoods.

Solid Waste Committee: Advise the Board of Selectmen on Recycling and solid waste collection within the town.

Kennebunkport Public Health

By Judy Barrett, R.N., B.S.

kennebunkport Public Health Department provides skilled nursing care in the home as well as at our office. Physical and occupational therapy services are also offered. Our free durable equipment loan closet consists of walkers, commodes, shower chairs, and crutches. Yes, we do work on weekends and holidays. To reach us call 967-4401.

The Kennebunkport Health Council is offering two **Free Hearing Clinics** conducted by Marti Andrews, registered audiologist. These will be held on May 16 and June 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please schedule an appointment at 967-4401.

Residents are encouraged to bring their expired and unused medications and sharps to the Public Health Department for proper disposal. Help us prevent accidental poisonings and puncture wounds. Remember, do NOT flush your medications into your household sewer/septic system. These chemicals filter out into our streams, rivers, and ocean.

Did you miss the **Tour the Port** walk sponsored by your Be Well Kennebunkport Team (Portside Rotary, Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation, and Public Health Departments) held on April 18? Contact the Public Health Office for Parks and Recreation for the maps and a historic homes information packet. We encourage everyone to take some time out of their busy lives everyday to take a short walk and enjoy all our community has to offer. If you would be interested in joining the Be

Well Team or have ideas that you would like us to pursue, please contact either the Parks and Recreation or the Public Health Departments.

Once again, the Kennebunkport Health Council/Public Health Department, Parks and Recreation, and the Portside Rotary are joining forces to sponsor a **STUFF THE BUS** event. On June 9, Election Day, residents are encouraged to help us fill the Parks and Recreation bus with nonperishable food as well as cleaning/personal care needs. Donations will be delivered to the Church Community Food Pantry, which services the residents of Arundel, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. The requests for food assistance continue to rise. School will be out in a few weeks. We have a number of students who receive free or reduced costs breakfast and lunch services. The Food Pantry helps fill that need when school is not in session. Please help us fill the pantry shelves.

Ever wonder what to do with all the zucchini and tomatoes that your garden produced? Please donate your extra produce to the **Plant-a-Row Program** sponsored by the University of Maine Extension Service. Your gift of fresh produce will be shared with our food pantry recipients. It is not too late to plant an extra row or two dedicated towards feeding those less fortunate. For more information on this program please contact the Public Health Department at 967-4401.

Residents are encouraged to con-



By Carol Cook, parks and recreation department director

BWK-Be Well Kennebunkport is a cooperative effort between the Kennebunk Portside Rotary, Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation, and Kennebunkport Public Health. I would like to share a short story that a neighbor shared with me about our previous BWK efforts, the moral of which is "You never know where you might find information that could one day save your life." She had found a few of our weekly columns interesting enough to post on her refrigerator. When her husband was complaining of not feeling well but refusing to see a doctor, she reminded him of an article stating that not all heart attacks present themselves with the same symptoms. He finally agreed to go to the emergency room only to find that he was suffering a major heart attack. I had said from the start that writing the column was worth the effort if only one person benefited. I had others thank me for the information presented, so thank you far validating what we do.



Barbara Barwise leads a group for a "Walk the Port" tour on Saturday, April 18, sponsored by Be Well Kennebunkport. Be Well Kennebunkport is a community organization sponsored by Kennebunk Portside Rotary, Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation Department and Kennebunkport Public Health Department.

tact the Public Health Department with any General Assistance/social service needs.

This summer you will again see Kennebunkport's **Healthy Maine Beach Program** team members at both Colony and Goose Rocks Beaches. We will be conducting the weekly enterococci status, salinity, temperature, and beach visual observations at our swimming beaches. Look for current and past beach reports at the town of Kennebunkport's webpage under Water Quality. Please contact the Public Health Office at 967-4401 if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact the Office if you wish to become a trained volunteer for this program.

Boaters note that the Kennebunk River is included in the **No Discharge Zone**. Please utilize the pump-out stations at the local marinas or the new **FREE** pump-out station provided by the Kennebunk River Committee. The Kennebunk River Committee

members are to be congratulated for getting this unit up and running. Hundreds of volunteer man hours were dedicated to this project. The completion of this project is a large step in decreasing the incidents of pollution along our river and beaches.

This past winter, Kennebunkport Board of Selectmen adopted a **Best Management Lawn Care Practices policy**. Save and adopt these practices provided by the Conservation Commission found in this newsletter. The ultimate health of our watershed and community depends on us, the residents, and guests of Kennebunkport. Adopt these guidelines, have your septic systems pumped and maintained on schedule, utilize our medication and sharps disposal programs, and boaters use the boat pump-out station. Remember, storm drains are not liquid and chemical disposals. Most lead directly into our streams and rivers.

Smiles, Sun, and Swimming

By Carol Cook, parks and recreation department director

Summer is right around the corner, and Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce that the information about its summer programs has been posted on our webpage. Join us for fun and excitement for one day or for the entire summer. We offer quality programs and flexible schedules at a reasonable price. Most of our summer programs are open to children entering kindergarten through those leaving eighth grade. Our activities are age appropriate, focusing on the unique needs of each age group. Click on the yellow button "Recreation News" on the Town's homepage at www.kennebunkportme.gov or call 967-4304 for further information.



Goose Rocks Beach Parking and Traffic Update



A public safety committee made up of town residents has been meeting to review traffic and beach issues. The intent of this ad hoc committee has been to review parking, signage, traffic speeds, and beach usage, with an eye toward planning for the future. This committee is an advisory group only – all and any changes need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

This committee has a wealth of knowledge and history of the beach. Members include: Joe Bruni, Wayne Fessenden, Debbie Kinney, Parker Dwellley, Karen Schlegel, Henry Schlegel, Peter Gray, Norm Merrill and Bob Almeder.

A public informational and input meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station**, open to all for suggestions, comments and ideas on how we can all keep Goose Rocks a safe, family beach.

The public safety committee will meet to review the proposed changes on an ongoing basis and to gather more feedback from the town residents this summer.

Highlighted below are reminders for the summer months:

**** Effective Friday, May 22, Memorial Day weekend through Monday, September 7, Labor Day weekend ****

- ❖ Parking permits are available at the Town Office, Police Station and GRB General Store.
- ❖ Parking by permit ONLY.
- ❖ Parking fines: \$50; \$60; and \$200 for handicap violations.
- ❖ Public restrooms located behind GRB General Store and at sewer pumping station.
- ❖ Speed limits reduced during the summer months.
- ❖ Bike racks at main beach, Tides Inn area.
- ❖ Beach fires by permit only – fire permit obtained at Police Station.
- ❖ June 15 thru Sept 15, your leashed dog is allowed on the beach before 8:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. Dogs must be leashed at all times, all year long.

We have posted these reminders on channel 2/16 and through the Chamber of Commerce newsletter for public viewing and notification.



Goose Rocks Beach Piping Plover Report

By David Conway, animal control officer

According to the Maine Audubon Society, in 2008 Goose Rocks

Beach had the highest success rate in the state for plover chicks fledging, namely 15 for Goose Rocks Beach compared to only 42 for the entire state. Seven pairs made 10 nesting attempts. Of those nests, three were disturbed by predators (two by foxes, one by a weasel) and three were abandoned, possibly by a dog, cat, or human presence.

As of May 7, 2009, there are three nests at the beach with seven

adults, and one or two new nests are expected.

It is not easy being an endangered Piping Plover. Please cooperate by keeping yourselves, your dogs, and your horses away from the nesting end of the beach. Nesting areas on the beach are clearly marked with signs.

From June 15 to September 15, dogs are only allowed on Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. All dogs must be leashed while on the beach.

Goose Rocks Beach Summer Trash and Recycling Collection Schedule

Trash and recycling collection occurs on Fridays in the Goose Rocks Beach area in the spring, fall and winter. Trash is picked up weekly and recycling is picked up every other week.

In the summer, the collection schedule changes to the Saturday, immediately following Memorial Day to the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Recycling will still continue to be every other week, but on Saturdays during that period.

SUMMER OF 2009 COLLECTION DAYS

Saturdays, May 30, 2009
through
September 5, 2009

After Labor Day weekend, the schedule returns to Friday pick up starting September 11, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole,
at the Highway Department at 967-5728.



Great American Backyard Campout On June 27, Sleep Outside the Box!

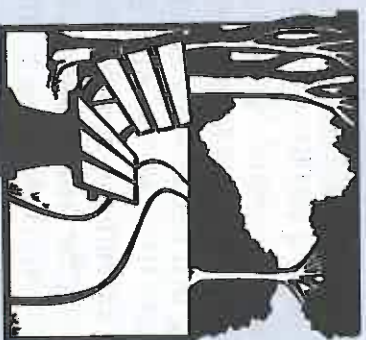
Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation is pleased to partner with the National Wildlife Federation for this great opportunity. It's a night to turn off the computer and the TV, and spend the night outside with friends and family. Put up a tent, count the stars, and realize that sometimes by doing nothing at all, you're doing more than you can imagine, TOGETHER!

Contact Angela at 967-4304 FMI

Saturday, June 6 is National Trails Day

Visit the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust headquarters on Gravelly Brook Road to learn about area trails.

See plans for future trails on Trust property.
Maps are available.



FMI- 967-3465

www.kporttrust.org

May 2009

Dear Kennebunkport Homeowner:

In an effort to encourage the safest and most environmentally friendly methods for caring for our lawns and gardens, the Town of Kennebunkport recently adopted, as recommended policy, the Best Management Practices (BMP) for the Application of Turf Pesticides and Fertilizers.

Following these practices can go a long way towards ensuring the health of our watershed, of your family and pets, and of the lobster and fishing industries that are so important to our town.

The way each of us cares for our lawn can have an impact on us all. Many of the BMP recommendations apply to individual lawns, and we are hoping that you will join the movement to minimize reliance on weed and insect controls and to take a healthier approach to lawn care. We are including a list of 10 simple steps that you can follow as a start in that direction. And if you use a lawn care service, we've enclosed a list of 7 questions you should ask your lawn care company.



You can also visit the Conservation Commission page at www.kennebunkportme.gov to find the following: (Select the link for "Appointed Boards")

- A complete copy of the Best Management Practices for the Application of Turf Pesticides and Fertilizer.
- A list of healthy lawn care products.
- A list of grass seed mixes that are drought, insect and weed resistant and hardy for our climate.
- A list of lawn care companies that are willing to use a sustainable approach if asked to do so by the homeowner.

You can find more information on healthy laws on the following websites:

www.yardscaping.org

www.thinkfirstspraylast.org

Also, feel free to contact any member of the Conservation Commission. We will be happy to give you (or find for you) answers to any questions that you may have. (Board member Sarah Lachance can be e-mailed at sarah@campaignearth.org)

It takes time for a lawn to transition from a chemically treated one to a naturally healthy one, but it's worth the effort. The goal is a lawn that takes less time to maintain, uses less water, demands less fertilizer and pest control, and is safer for our surroundings.

We hope you will join in the challenge to make Kennebunkport beautiful and healthy!

Sincerely,

The Kennebunkport Conservation Commission



Seven Questions to Ask Your Lawn Care Company

By the Conservation Commission

If you use a lawn care service and would like to have your lawn cared for in a healthy way, you can ask the following questions:

1. Will you do a soil test before applying any fertilizers? Find a company that applies fertilizer only when test results show that it is needed.
2. Are insect and weed control products applied on a fixed schedule? If so, this is not the company to hire, since weather conditions and the extent of the problem should be considered in any application program.
3. Do you use non-chemical controls where possible? Use spot treatments instead of broadcast applications? Use watering, mowing and aeration methods that improve grass plant health?
4. Are you licensed by the Board of Pesticides Control? An applicator must be licensed in order to apply pesticides on a "for-hire" basis. (Pesticides include insecticides, herbicides, "weed and feed" products, fungicides and others)
5. Are you willing to mow higher and be flexible

when you mow? Water only when needed?

6. Can you make suggestions for a more sustainable or ecological lawn? For reducing lawn size? For planting native species?
 7. Are you aware of Kennebunkport's recommended Best Management Practices, and are you willing to follow them?
- Above all, avoid the "one size fits all" approach to lawn care. Not every lawn is the same, and a reliable contractor should be able to tailor a program to fit your requirements.
- Visit the Conservation Commission's page at www.kennebunkportme.gov (select the link for "Appointed Boards") to find a list of lawn care companies that are willing to use sustainable approach if asked to do so by the homeowner.

Ten Simple Steps Toward a Safe and Healthy Lawn

By the Conservation Commission

1. Do a soil test to determine whether or not any supplements (potassium, phosphorus, etc.) are needed. Free soil test kits are available at Port Hardware, Ace Hardware, Town Hall, and the Police Department. (There is a small fee when you send in your sample to be analyzed.) If you must fertilize, use slow or time-release fertilizer products if at all possible, and only in the fall on established lawns.
2. Avoid the use of phosphorus unless indicated by the soil test, or when establishing a new lawn from seed. Lawns rarely need anything more than nitrogen, if that.
3. Check weather conditions before applying any fertilizer, and do not fertilize if rain is predicted (or if the ground is saturated). Use only slow or timed release nitrogen (10-0-0 on the bag). Water lightly - no more than 1/4 to 1/2 inch.
4. Contrary to popular belief, spring is not the best time to fertilize. At that time, nitrogen will encourage top growth at the expense of root growth, and will also encourage germination of weed seeds. If fertilizer is applied, it is best done between late August and Columbus Day. Instead, rake, de-thatch or aerate your lawn in the spring to help stimulate healthy growth and then overseed with a tall or fine fescue mix.
5. Mow your lawn in the spring when it reaches 3" or more and leave the clippings on the lawn. Clippings are a great source of nitrogen rich free fertilizer. Cutting higher reduces weed invasion (especially crabgrass), creates a deeper root system and helps the lawn recover faster from drought, so make 3" the norm.
6. Leave at least a 25' buffer zone of untreated grass or other vegetation around any wells, wetlands, streams, coastal areas or other water bodies.
7. Know the size of your lawn. Strictly follow package directions and never exceed the maximum amount to be applied. Over-application of any fertilizer or pesticide, even organic products, can have a negative impact on the watershed, causing algae blooms that deplete oxygen and suffocate marine life. Never leave fertilizer, weed or insect controls on asphalt, concrete or other impervious surfaces.
8. Sweep them back into the lawn, or dispose of them according to label directions.
9. To minimize weeds, regularly overseed your lawn with fine or tall fescues, white clover and other grasses appropriate for this climate. Maximum density minimizes weeds.
10. Manage pest problems with spot applications. Do not broadcast pesticides like grub and crabgrass control or weed and feed. Pesticides can be toxic if overused or carelessly applied, and long-term effects on health are unknown. Look for biological, mechanical or physical ways to control pests instead of pesticides. Grass grown on healthy soils which is properly mown will seldom have pest problems.

Resource

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probably our most enduring and endearing quality... our people. Until recently, we have been concerned about our dwindling personnel resources and the increasing average age of our "volunteers" (We actually pay our folks an hourly wage). Demographically, the face of our population has changed over the years. Kennebunkport is an expensive place to live, especially for younger folks. Much of our housing has been converted to seasonal use. The use of automatic alarm systems has increased the number of "nuisance alarms." These factors coupled with the acceptance of more stringent nationally recognized training and physical standards for firefighters has meant that to become a firefighter today is a huge commitment. That is why we are particu-

larly proud that over the last year we have increased our roster by over 33 percent. We have a young lobsterman, a student, several artists, a stone mason, several carpenters, and several retired folks. Next month, five of our KPFD members will graduate from the York County Chief's Association Firefighter I and II Academy; a rigorous 220 hour academy for professional and volunteer firefighter candidates, taught by experienced local instructors using a nationally recognized curriculum and tested to high standards. Not all will become interior qualified firefighters, some will be assigned to equally important support functions. KPFD can find an important role for you too. All are welcomed to our ranks and to the challenges and rewards of joining a team which prides itself on hands-on community service. Please call Chief Paul Moshimer for more information: 967-2114.

Property Values

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an inspection or revaluation needs to be done. The schedule of these meetings and other key steps is as follows:
 June 11: Regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 p.m., held at the Village Fire Station. Update given by Vision Appraisal representatives.
 June 16: Informational meeting, 6:30 p.m., held at the Goose Rocks Fire Station.
 June 18: Informational meeting, 6:30 p.m., held at the Atlantic Hall, Cape Porpoise.
 June 24: Informational meeting, 7:00 p.m., held at the Village Fire Station.
 By June 30: Notices of proposed new values mailed to property owners.

Town of Kennebunkport

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Village Fire Station
32 North Street

Tuesday,
June 9, 2009,
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Election of Officers and
Referendum Questions

and

Consolidated School
Auditorium
25 School Street

Saturday,
June 13, 2009,
at 9:00 a.m.

Funding and
Non-Funding Articles

Kennebunkport Public Officials

Board of Selectmen
 Mathew J. Lanigan, chair
 Allen A. Daggett, vice-chair
 Kristi Bryant
 Sheila Matthews-Bull
 D. Michael Weston
Town Manager
 Larry S. Mead

Weeks of July 12 and July 19: Hearings conducted by Vision for property owners who wish to discuss the new values; by appointment only.

By August 14: Final notice of new values mailed to property owners. A revaluation does not change the total amount of taxes collected by the town, it redistributes the payment of property taxes town-wide. That is why after the revaluation some property owners will pay more taxes, some less, and some about the same. While the value of almost all properties will increase as a result of the revaluation, that does not mean everyone's taxes will increase. The tax rate will go down significantly. An estimate of the new tax rate will be provided in the notice of new value mailed to each property owner so that owners can estimate what their new tax bill will be.