



KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 24

Fall 2015

Subscribe to e-mail notifications to get the scoop

By Arlene McMurray

Are you always the last one to find out what is going on in the community? Well, here is an opportunity for you to get the latest scoop on meetings, events, traffic announcements and much more. You can subscribe to the town of Kennebunkport's new and improved website, which was updated on May 1, 2015.

To subscribe, go to the town website at www.kennebunkportme.gov. Just click on the "@Notify Me" button and check the items you would like to receive updates on. Your options are: urgent alerts; meeting agendas and minutes; and news or announcements. By subscribing, when information that you selected is posted on the town website, for example "announcements," that information is also e-mailed to you at the same time it is posted.

You will be able to recognize e-

mail from the town because it will have: Town of Kennebunkport, ME vtsdmailer@vt-s.net in the FROM box. In the SUBJECT box of your e-mail, you will see the topic as usual. Inside the text box of your e-mail, you will see the following: Read more: <http://www.kennebunkportme.gov/node/11186>. When you click on that link which is underlined, it will take you to the town website where you can view the information that was posted.

For those who are not tech savvy, no worries. Subscribing to the website is not like subscribing to a magazine. There is no fee involved. Yes, that's right, it's free!

And, most important, if you received postings from the old website and have not received any e-mails from the town in the last three months, resubscribe just to be safe. It will not send you duplicate e-mails.

So, be the first one in the know. Subscribe today!!

House numbers — are they important?

By Allan Moir, Fire Chief and
James Burrows, Addressing Officer/EMA Director

If you are having an emergency and need assistance from the Fire or Police Department, or need an ambulance (KEMS), we use your house number to locate you. When the dispatcher calls us out to help you, we get a house number and the street name. We generally do not get a name unless we ask for it, and most times we do not know you, so we don't know where you live.

It seems that most of the calls for service come on those dark moonless nights when we can't see much detail, so we need to be able to see your house numbers clearly from the road. If your home is not visible



Do you think you could find this house number with a flashlight, on a dark night from the street in a hurry?

from the street, you need to have
See HOUSE NUMBERS page 2



The Town's homepage. Click on "Notify Me" to subscribe to it.

Police response process

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

I was asked the other day, "Chief, what happens when a citizen calls in a complaint?" I asked if they could be more specific about the type of complaint. I was given a scenario where someone felt vehicles were speeding in a certain location.

The police department receives complaints similar to this on a regular basis usually when summer is in full swing. The complaints vary from the more common speeding vehicles, pedestrian issues, and bicycle operation to the more unique such as, can people take sea water, and what will the police do about seagulls relieving themselves on my car.

When we first receive one of the more common complaints about safety such as speeding vehicles, our first response is to assign manpower to go to the area and set up a detail to see if we can catch violators. In the first eight months of 2015, we have conducted 351 speed details on various roads throughout Kennebunk-

port. In most cases, the officer will log the speed of each passing vehicle and stop violators when appropriate. The officer will then average the speed on all cars that passed the location during the detail which gives us a better idea of the actual speed in the area. Now I know most of you will think of course people will not speed when they see a police car. Unfortunately, most drivers have the habit of flashing their lights to oncoming cars to warn of the patrol car. With this in mind, we have another tool to look at speed and vehicle volume complaints. We have equipment that is placed in an area of concern that collects data on vehicles speed and volume counts. The data can be used to validate that a problem does exist and indicates the best times to assign resources for specialized enforcement. So far in 2015, we have conducted traffic surveys on North Street, Main Street, Dyke Road, New Biddeford Road, Wildwood, and Pier Road. Some

See POLICE RESPONSE page 5

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Question 1 on November ballot

By Laurie A. Smith, Town Manager

In June of 2015, the voters adopted a new Animal Control Ordinance, replacing the 1976 version. Why then, are the voters being asked to adopt amendments in November? The large number of changes in the ordinance resulted in an issue with the definition of "restricted area." The definition included both an actual nesting site and a wider area including several nesting sites. For this reason, we have deleted the definition of "restricted areas" and replaced it with a definition of "limited dog access area" and "nesting area." The other amendments to the ordinance deal with reconfiguring the order of the rules for clarity.

The new definitions are below:

LIMITED DOG ACCESS AREA: Any beach area on Goose Rocks Beach, Colony Beach, or Cleaves Cove, that is designated by the Board of Selectmen or designee for special protection of piping plovers or other endangered species based upon scientific and historical data, where dogs may be either prohibited entirely or permitted only if on-leash based on time of day and/or date, as provided herein or pursuant to rules adopted hereunder. This designation may be seasonal or permanent.

NESTING AREA: Any beach area on Goose Rocks Beach, Colony Beach, or Cleaves Cove, that has been roped off, fenced off or otherwise demarcated, or posted by governmental officials or their agents to protect the nesting site of a piping plover or of any other endangered species protected under federal or state law.

TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

A public hearing will be held at the Village Fire Station, 32 North Street on Thursday, October 22, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. by the Kennebunkport Board of Selectmen to take public comment on the following topic to be voted on by Referendum Ballot at the November 3, 2015, Special Town Meeting:

Amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance

Copies of the proposed amendment are available for inspection at the office of the Town Clerk or on the town's website at www.kennebunkportme.gov.

April Dufoe, Town Clerk

Registrar of Voters holds evening hours for absentee voting

The Kennebunkport Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters will hold evening hours at the Kennebunkport Town Hall on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, from 4:30-6:30 P.M. to conduct absentee voting, to register any person eligible to vote, and to accept any enrollment/address changes.

REMINDER

The last day to request a "no excuse" absentee ballot for this election is Thursday, October 29, 2015, by 4:30 PM.

TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING November 3, 2015

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

To the voters of Kennebunkport: You are hereby notified that a **Special Town Meeting** of this municipality will be held at the **Village Fire Station, 32 North Street, in said Town on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, AD 2015, at 8:00 a.m.** for the purpose of acting on Articles 1 and 1a (Referendum Question 1) as set forth in the Town Warrant. The polls for voting on Questions 1 shall be opened immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. on November 3, 2015, and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

The Referendum question to be voted on relates to:

Amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance

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.

An attested copy of the Town Warrant is 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.

Complete ordinance amendment language is available from the Town Clerk or on the Town's website (www.kennebunkportme.gov).

April Dufoe, Town Clerk

Absentee ballots now available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming State Referendum and Special Municipal Election to be held Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 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 967-1610.

House numbers

from page 1

the end of your driveway marked with your house number.

When the Police and KEMS get a call for service, they need to find the house number to find you.

When the Fire Department gets a call for a fire at your home and we can't find your house number, all we have to do is wait. And, when the fire gets big enough, we will figure out where your home is located. Not exactly the outcome you had hoped for when you called.

Your home really needs to be properly numbered, using numbers at least 6-8 inches tall, that contrast with the colors of your home.

Thanks from all of us who serve you.

The Town of Kennebunkport is now on Facebook!

The Town is hoping to communicate more directly with citizens and visitors on Facebook.



Please like us at <https://www.facebook.com/townofkennebunkport>.



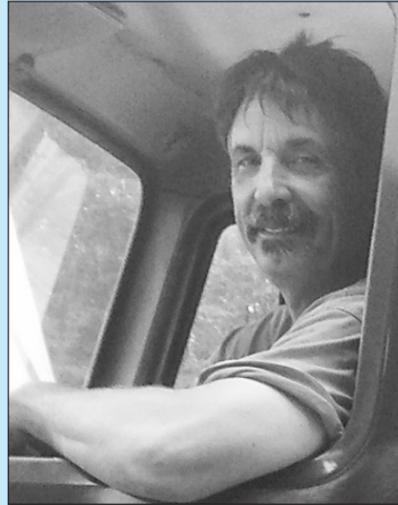
How about this home?

Town hires two new employees

By Laurie A. Smith, Town Manager



Alison Kenneway



Bob Pappas in his service truck "The Green Hornet."

We are pleased to announce the hiring of two new Kennebunkport team members. Alison Kenneway began her duties as Assistant Director of Public Health in August and lives in Kennebunkport with her husband and children. She received her degree from Northeastern and has over 25 years of nursing experience. She has spent much of this time in the emergency room and urgent care setting, but also served as the school nurse for Kennebunkport Consolidated School. She has extensive training in post disaster planning and even served as a flight nurse. Her varied background and nursing skills are a valuable addition to the Public Health Department.

Bob Pappas started as the town's new mechanic in July and lives in Kennebunkport with his wife. He has over 30 years of mechanical experience working with heavy equipment, trucks, and trailers. He even has municipal experience in Spring Lake, New Jersey where he maintained fire, police, ambulance, and sewer trucks. He has already contributed greatly to the Public Works team and his welding and fabrication skills have been put to the test.

Snowbird checklist

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

Just as a reminder for folks preparing to leave for the winter, to please come into the Police Station and fill out our Vacant Property Watch form. A communications specialist will assist you with filling out the form and answer any questions you may have. The information is then given to the patrol officers who will check on your property throughout the winter as calls for service and duties allow. If we discover something unusual during a property check, the Vacant Property Form will be used to contact the appropriate individual to resolve the issue.

Make sure all doors and windows are locked and the alarm set. Any appliances that are not needed should be unplugged and water sources shut off. Secure or remove valuables and dispose of unused medications. The police station has a drop box for proper disposal of unused medications and can be accessed 24 hours a day in the lobby.

When you return in the spring, stop at the PD and let us know you are back and show off your tan. We can then cancel the checks and avoid scaring someone as we walk the property at night with a flashlight. See you in the spring.



Summertime help keeps mission on point

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

As summer comes to a close, I look back at our part-time help and consider them an important part of our team. Each year, the police department is required to manage the influx of visitors and guests that come when the weather is warm. The summertime help walks Dock Square and patrols the beach and neighborhoods at Goose Rocks. Many of these folks are young people out of school for the summer and need a part-time job or have a desire to work in the law enforcement field. Some come back for several years, and some are done after their first season.

These folks have a tough job. Most of the time, the summer help is brand new to the area and goes through a two-week training program to orient them to the town and their assigned duties. They represent the town and the police department and at times are unfairly expected to have the same knowledge as a full-time police officer with many years in the department. They must also endure the uncomfortable feeling brought on by issuing a parking ticket to an upset vehicle owner or a warning to an offending dog owner on the beach.

I appreciate them for the work they do each year and realize our mission would not be accomplished without them. I wish them success in the winter months and hope they return in June to help us again.



Mark Sutton, Joshua Moulton, Jacob Vestrand, Jared Guy, Nicolas Charles, Edward Turgeon, Steve Young, Jacob Moulton. Missing from the photograph are Adam LaPointe and Nathan Cook-Pier Parking.

Time to register your dog

By April Dufoe, Town Clerk

It's that time of year again! Time to renew your dog's license. According to the laws of the state of Maine, a dog may not be kept anywhere within the limits of the state unless the dog has been licensed. An owner of a dog that is 6 months of age or older and kept in town must obtain the license from the Town Clerk **between October 15 and December 31 each year**. The fee to license your dog is \$11.00 if the dog is capable of producing young, or \$6.00 if the dog has been spayed or neutered.



Xander Lord

When you come to the Town Office to license your dog, you must bring proof that a veterinarian has immunized the dog against rabies. Also, if you are licensing the dog for the first time and the dog has been spayed or neutered, you must bring with you the dog's Certificate of Neutering that was provided by the veterinarian after the surgery.

If you apply for the dog's license after January 31, a late fee of \$25.00, in addition to the annual license fee, will be charged.

So, don't wait until the last minute. Come early (**anytime after October 15**) and avoid waiting in line. The Town Clerk's hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. You can also license your dog by mail if that is more convenient for you. If you have any questions, please call April Dufoe, Town Clerk at 967-1610.

Public Works news

By Michael Claus, Director of Public Works

While the Dock Square parking lot saw the implementation of automated payment tickets this year, the public works department helped with the infrastructure portion of that project. The perimeter of the parking lot was trenched



The construction crew at Silas Perkins Park.

and a new conduit installed to allow installation of new electrical wiring and communication wiring for entrance and exit gates, and video cameras and Internet connectivity for credit card verification. Heavy lifting to move the attendant booth was done by our backhoe as well as foundation work for the new exit gate. The crew worked hard to coordinate activities with the parking equipment supplier, the police department that has been maintaining the equipment, and the electrician who found cost effective ways to keep everything powered off of our existing electrical supply. We made it a priority to accomplish new signage work, and painting and improvements in the entrance and exit access to help make the parking lot changes a success.

At Silas Perkins Park the public works crew coordinated with the parks and

recreation department to install new plantings around the perimeter of the park. The two departments worked together in clearing out overgrown vegetation, laying out the new planting beds, and installing new loam and bark mulch along with the new plantings. The public works crew worked to keep the new plantings watered to make sure they thrived through the hot summer days. Public works placed a new stone in the park and attached the original Silas Perkins Park brass plaque to the stone for public viewing. Look for additional park improvements this fall when new stonework from Swenson Granite arrives in town.

On Langsford Road the Water District has completed replacement of an old water line. This summer, improvements were made to the drainage at the Pier Road end of Langsford Road with the replacement of old rusted drain pipe with new plastic pipe. Also, new curb was installed on Langsford Road in areas that had seen erosion and washouts in most rainstorms. The sidewalk has been base paved in this area, and we look to repave the entire Langsford Road sidewalk next year along with repaving the road.

We are waiting on the paving to make sure that there are no settlement issues from the trenching work done by the Water District. The patience of the residents and businesses on Langsford Road during this work is appreciated.

Road paving work was done by the town paving contractor, Dayton Sand and Gravel, with the eastern half of Goose Rocks Road repaved. We also paved the neighborhood streets of Spruce Lane, Woodlawn Avenue, and Sherwood Drive.



Ducks enjoying Silas Perkins Park.



New bench, stone, and plaque at Parsons Way.

Grant improves access to tree data

By Michael Claus, Public Works Director

The town of Kennebunkport was awarded a 2014 Project Canopy Planning Grant of \$4,919. We used that grant funding to develop applications that work with Esri's ArcGIS Online service to merge our mapping and shade tree database for viewing and editing online. The edited database is then verified and published to the town's GIS public shade tree information.

This information is very helpful to the tree warden and town arborist. The tree warden gets calls on a regular basis regarding trees in town; she will be able to field review shade tree information on a mobile device and determine maintenance requirements for the tree based on its variety, current condition, and its history. Also, the town arborist is continually observing, noting changes, damage, and infections; he will be able to update the tree inventory in the field from a tablet or smartphone with our public shade tree application.

Having this information available on a mobile basis greatly enhances the town's ability to manage its community forest through its Shade Tree Program. It enables quick, informative responses to questions and concerns of residents and property owners. Over all, the community is better served; town trees are better tended, healthier, more beautiful; and the public access to the system allows residents and visitors to take a greater interest in our trees.

Project Canopy is a cooperative partnership between the Maine Forest Service and GrowSmart Maine. Project Canopy is funded by the USDA Forest Service Community Forestry Assistance Program.

Kennebunkport has over 1,200 "tagged trees," like this one on North Street. The Shade Tree Committee will be overseeing the replacement of worn out or dislodged tags on trees to ensure they are accurate on our Global Inventory Survey (GIS) system.



Kennebunkport Fire Department assists stranded mariners

By Dick Stedman, Fire Administrator

Folly Island is a barren pile of rocks that lies across from Goat Island at the entrance to Cape Porpoise harbor. Mostly submerged, rocky shoals extend outward from the island waiting to entrap unsuspecting mariners. Doubtless named long ago due to the "folly" of a close approach to the island, its name was reaffirmed on the evening of September 9, 2015. As darkness descended, a 27-foot pleasure craft departing the Cape bound for the Kennebunk River strayed onto the shoals and ran hard aground. Unable to free themselves, the US Coast Guard and Kennebunkport Fire Department were summoned to assess the situation and provide possible rescue assistance.

About 20 firefighters responded with the department's two 14-foot Zodiac rescue boats, while others headed out to the incident scene in three private vessels. It was quickly determined that the distress vessel and its three occupants were not in immediate danger due to an outgoing tide. However, it was also apparent that neither the private vessels nor the then-arriving Coast Guard,

47-foot, motor lifeboat would be able to safely approach the stranded vessel or remove those on board. Concerns for the occupants were raised over a line of thunderstorms approaching the area and sea conditions on the next incoming tide. Airlift by Coast Guard helicopter was determined to be a possible option, but delayed for several hours, possibly due to weather conditions locally or at their base on Cape Cod.

The fire department rescue boats were then launched to determine the feasibility of reaching the stranded vessel, either by landing on the island or using the smaller boats that could potentially make a closer approach. The small boat crews felt the latter method had the greater potential for reaching the victims and proceeded to attempt to do so. That plan ultimately proved successful, and the victims were eventually brought in to the Cape Porpoise pier in the fire



(Photo courtesy of the Goat Island Light Keeper)

department boats. Even Mother Nature provided an assist, as the thunderstorms dissipated as they approached the coast.

Thanks to KEMS for standing by with the ambulance and crew throughout the incident. Fortunately, their services were not needed, either for the three people now happy to be safely ashore, or for the firefighters who made that possible. Also, special thanks to Captain Jonathan Nunan of the fishing vessel Vengeance, who embarked firefighters and proceeded to the scene, using his boat's powerful deck lights to illuminate the area for us. Thank you to the Goat Island light keepers for making the initial report of a vessel in trouble and for fully illuminating their island during the rescue operation.

New change to carrying a concealed handgun in Maine

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

Starting October 15, 2015, persons not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a firearm will be allowed to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Maine without a concealed weapons permit. The change also authorizes a person to possess a loaded pistol or revolver while in a motor vehicle, trailer or other vehicle being hauled by a motor vehicle. The change also amends statutes in Maine Title 12 (Conservation) and Title 25 (Internal Security and Public Safety).

Carrying a concealed handgun without a permit is limited to people who are 21 years of age or older, with the following exception: if a person is 18 years of age or older and is on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, or is honorably discharged from the Armed Forces or the National Guard, and is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm, the person may carry a concealed handgun. A person who is 18-20 years of age and without any military qualifications is still required to have a permit to carry concealed. The law applies to both residents and nonresidents of Maine.

The law change does not alter where a person may carry or who may

possess a firearm. It will still be illegal to possess a firearm in the following places:

- Courthouses
- State Parks
- Acadia National Park
- Schools
- Federal Buildings
- State Capital area
- Private property when prohibited by the property owner
- Establishments licensed for on-premise consumption of liquor, if the premises are posted. It remains illegal to carry on these premises while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.

There will be some circumstances in which an optional handgun permit will authorize the permittee to carry in certain locations or during an activity when an unpermitted person could not:

- Acadia National Park (Permit required; 12 M.R.S. §756)
- State Parks (Permit required; open carry not permitted; 12 M.R.S. §1803(7))
- Regular archery hunting-deer only (Permit required; 12 MRS §11403)

See *HANDGUNS* page 8

Kennebunkport Village Station

Honor guards
Courtenay Kinney
and Bob Kember
stood by the
Village Fire Station
on September 11,
2015.



Police response

from page 1

roads have had more than one traffic survey completed.

The department also uses a solar powered signboard which has the ability to be used as a speed measuring device to alert drivers of their speed. We frequently move the board around to our heavily used roads to assist drivers in monitoring their own speed.

In response to another type of complaint I received at the end of 2014, we conducted plain clothes details in Dock Square looking for vehicle operators not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. One officer in plain clothes would walk into the crosswalk and see if drivers would stop. Should a driver ignore the pedestrian (officer), a uniformed officer was notified by radio and the

violation cited.

We also participate in details that target driver safety. The department annually participates in federal grant programs that pay for added patrols looking for seatbelt violations and speed infractions.

I also take the time to look at our in house data to check for accidents or incidents that would indicate a problem road or intersection. If a problem were to be recognized, additional resources would be assigned to look at a possible cause as well as possible solutions to prevent future issues.

The Kennebunkport Police Department will always hear your concerns and act on them in an appropriate manner. Safety of our citizens is our priority. We, as the police, have to base our actions on factual information based on unbiased data so as to treat all fairly and impartially.

Kennebunkport Public Health

By Judy Barrett, R.N. B.S. and Alison Kenneway, RN, BSN

Public Health Department Changes: This is an interesting and exciting time in the rapidly expanding field of public health. Since our conception in 1943, the Kennebunkport Public Health Department's focus is to provide for the medical and social needs of our residents and guests. As we are working on restructuring our department to better serve you in the most efficient and cost effective manner, we need your assistance. Please share with us the direction that you, the residents of Kennebunkport, want us to head. Needless to say, traditional public health nursing will remain our major focus area.

We are updating the Public Health Department's responsibilities for the town of Kennebunkport's Disaster Plan. We are responsible for the in place and shelter facilities. A major concern in the event of a potential or actual disaster is to insure everyone's medical and basic needs are met. We are updating our emergency contact list. If you are on oxygen or any medical equipment requiring electricity or have difficulty getting out of your home, please contact the Public Health Department so we can add you to our call of concern list.

Please note that the Public Health hours have changed. The nurses will no longer be on call after noon on Saturdays or Sundays. Any messages will be returned Monday morning. Contact the Public Health Office at 967-4401 with any nursing, health officer complaints, or social service needs.

Flu Vaccine: It is not too late to have your flu shot. Visit the nurses during our office hours Monday-Friday 8:00-9:30 AM and 1:00-2:00 PM. We are following the most current flu immunization guidelines. For the best protection in the 2015-2016 flu season, those under 65 should receive the Quadrivalent (4 strain) vaccine. Those over 65 should receive the High Dose Trivalent (3 strain) vaccine. The reasoning is that the older population has built an immunity over the years. Records show that the younger population need is not being met with the traditional flu vaccine. Medicare covers the costs for flu vaccine.

Confused about the who, what, when, where, and why of the pneumonia vaccine??? We will try to help. Prevnar 13 vaccine is a new pneumonia prevention vaccine offered this year to infants, children and adults. Pediatrics from 6 months to 17 years of age should consult their pediatrician for more information as it requires more than one injection. If you are 50 years or older, it is approved to help with the prevention of pneumococcal pneumonia along with invasive disease caused by streptococcus pneumonia strains. Pneumococcal pneumonia is NOT a cold or the flu but an illness caused by streptococcus pneumonia bacteria. It is spread through airborne droplets from infected persons through coughing, sneezing, or exchange through close contact. Make sure to always cover your cough and wash your hands to help with the prevention of spreading disease. Signs and symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Chest pains
- Difficulty breathing
- High fever and chills
- Excessive sweating
- Fatigue
- A cough with phlegm that persists or gets worse



Pneumococcal pneumonia can be serious! Individual life styles and health related factors may increase your risk for developing pneumococcal pneumonia. Age increases the risk and if you are over 50 years of age, ask your doctor about Prevnar 13 vaccine! It will help protect you from pneumococcal pneumonia. It is not

100% effective. Ask your doctor if you are a good candidate!



Healthy Maine Beach Program:

The Kennebunkport Healthy Maine Beach team had a busy summer. This is the second year that a precautionary advisory has been posted for both Goose Rocks

and Colony Beach. An advisory is automatically posted after a heavy rainfall event of over one inch of rain in 24 hours. The advisory is lifted after 24 hours. At that time, it is felt that the two tidal cycles have cleared the river runoff of bacteria from inland. We had 4 precautionary advisories in place at both Goose Rocks and Colony beaches. Seven regular advisories were posted. The highest reading at Goose Rocks was June 3 with 1,391 at the mouth of the Little River. The highest reading at the Colony was 134 on August 25. EPA sets 104 enterococci bacteria in a teaspoon of water as the maximum limit for safe water contact. I would like to thank the dedicated volunteers: Linda and Steve Hanna, Paul Hogan, Dan Tarr, Alison and Seth Kenneway, and Lee McCurdy. Every Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM, the team collected the required data and water samples. If we had an elevated sample, a retest was conducted. Without the help of these volunteers, this program would not be in place.

Well Water Testing Program:

On May 16, the Public Health Department sponsored our fifth TEST YOUR WELL WATER DAY. Nelson Analytical Laboratory, Route One, Kennebunk provided the test kits for free as well as offered reduced rates for Kennebunkport residents. Over 1,000 households in Kennebunkport have well water. We will be offering the next Test Your Well Water Day in the spring. Dug wells should be tested yearly and artesian wells every three years. We have water, radon, and soil testing kits in the Public Health Office. The reduced rate for testing is only offered on our Well Water Test Day in the spring. Before you randomly treat your lawn and gardens for winter, have your soil checked for what nutrients are actually needed. These chemicals leach into our watershed. All Kennebunkport residents are encouraged to participate in the Lawns for Lobster Program. See the town's webpage for more information.



Septic Tanks: Do you know when your septic tank was last pumped? As part of your fall winter preparations, have your septic system checked. This is an easy, quick preventative task which can save you money and protect our watershed. A failed septic system is not something a household wants to face much less then when it is buried under four feet of snow. Rumor has it that this winter will be similar to last years.

Healthy Heart Community: Kennebunkport is one of the few communities in Maine that has earned the Healthy Heart Community distinction. As part of this nationwide program the Public Health Department has joined with KEMS to offer numerous cardiac prevention programs. CPR is offered at no charge twice yearly. If you are interested in learning this lifesaving skill, contact the Public Health Department. We are also encouraging Kennebunkport residents to join the Million Hearts Campaign. The goal is to prevent one million



heart attacks and strokes by 2016. Check the Million Hearts homepage for more information on joining, cardiac guidelines and recipes.

Stuff the Backpack: A special thank you to the Kennebunkport Health Council, Portside Rotary, and to all the residents who helped us reach our goal of purchasing and filling backpacks for all our Secret Santa children.



Stuff the Bus: Requests for food assistance from the Community Outreach Food Pantry continue to be high. As the weather gets colder, the number of requests will increase. On November 10, Election Day, the Kennebunkport Health Council will again sponsor Stuff the Bus. Please bring nonperishable food or household/personal care items with you to the polls. Help us fill the food pantry shelves. Yes, we do accept cash donations. All checks are to be made out to Community Outreach Services. Cash donations are used to purchase food from the Good Shepherd Food Pantry. Anyone in need of food assistance is encouraged to contact the Public Health Department at 967-4401.

Fuel Assistance: Have you signed up for the LOW INCOME FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM yet? If you are in need of help to meet your winter heating expenses, please contact York County Community Action at 1-800-965-5762 today for an appointment. Kennebunkport residents are fortunate to have the Kennebunkport Emergency Fuel Program. Remember, this is an emergency only program. This program is not intended to cover your entire winter heating needs. Residents are responsible for monitoring the level of fuel in their tanks and notifying the General Assistance Administrator in a timely manner. It is not automatically an emergency if you run out. Now is the time to have your heating source cleaned and serviced. Please have your technician check the status of your oil tank. It is much less expensive to replace a tank than to cover the EPA approved cost of site cleanup from a leak.

Secret Santa: The holidays are coming up. Please contact the Public Health Department for a Secret Santa application if you are in need of some help meeting your child's special wish list. Applications are to be completed by parents or legal guardians only. The child must reside in Arundel, Kennebunk, or Kennebunkport in order to qualify for this program. The number of requests continues to increase. Secret Santa's goal is that every child in our tri-town area has a special holiday.



Holiday Dinners: And speaking of the holidays, Community Harvest volunteers are again providing holiday food baskets. They are also offering a free community dinner on Thanksgiving and Christmas at Saint

Martha's Church, Route One, in Kennebunk. Please contact the Public Health Department if you wish to sign up for these programs or to volunteer.

Home Medical Equipment Loan Closet: Are you in need of a walker, wheelchair, cane or commode? Visit our FREE durable medical equipment closet.



Conservation Commission news

By Sarah Lachance, Conservation Commission Chair

The Kennebunkport Conservation Commission continues to be busy with its two primary focuses of building awareness around the unintended consequences of fertilizer/pesticide/herbicide use on residents' lawns as well as increasing renewable energy use on public properties.

Over the past few months, the group has met with the Ogunquit Conservation Commission to learn more about their policy around pesticide use and also attended a workshop in York that shared ideas on how to achieve a healthy, green lawn with little to no chemicals.

Wanting to learn more about the local impacts and what Maine scientists are studying regarding the issue, we also co-sponsored an event in

July with Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and the Goose Rocks Beach Association where the executive director from Friends of Casco Bay shared scientific research on the health of Casco Bay. This well attended event informed us of how even the smallest changes in chemical balances in the water can have devastating effects on aquatic life. Maine lobsters, clams, and other shellfish are directly impacted by changes in pH level. This shift is happening from both global stressors, like ocean acidification from climate change, as well as local stressors from runoff of lawn chemicals into the watershed. Our group looks forward to further collaborating with local groups on how best to protect our local economy that relies so heavily on healthy waters.

We also worked with the nonprofit, reVOLTer, to do educational outreach and fundraise for a solar powered electric vehicle (EV) charging station here in Kennebunkport. After the effort raised half of the cost for the project, the Selectmen voted in support of the project. This public solar powered EV charging station in our town sends a powerful message to our community and beyond that we actively participate in positive change for our children's future. Installation will take place this fall at the North Street Fire Station.

We are always looking for new members. Please contact Sarah Lachance, chair, at sarah@350maine.org, if you are interested in joining us.

Promoting stewardship of Goose Rocks Beach

By the Beach Advisory Committee

As the Beach Advisory Committee (BAC) completes its second year addressing issues that concern beachgoers, we find that what we are really trying to do is promote stewardship of this beach we all love. Though many people know that over the past year we spent much of our time researching and advising about a new Dog Ordinance (passed by a town vote in June), we have also engaged in a wide variety of activities centered around caring for the beach in other ways.

We created a Natural Resources Subcommittee that has worked on environmental and conservation themes, we created a new FaceBook page [please go to Friends of Goose Rocks Beach and "like" us], we continued to support and communicate the plover reports and beach profiling and used the FaceBook page to report weekly water quality testing as a part of Maine Healthy Beaches.

Working with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust on beach properties owned by the KCT and the town, we organized a group of 30 volunteers who worked on Saturday, May 16 to remove invasive plant species from the dune areas (primarily oriental bittersweet). Invasive non-native plants threaten wildlife habitats and displace native plants that are important to Maine's ecology. Invasives can out compete most native plants because they grow quickly and are not easily affected by native pests and diseases. As they spread, they become more and more difficult and expensive to remove, and their presence diminishes the diversity of wildlife.

While the nature of the beach changes each year due to storms and currents, the area near the Tides has become increasingly and more permanently covered with invasives. We plan to continue with our removal efforts next year as invasive management must be ongoing to be effective, and are hopeful that we can work with other oceanfront owners to halt the spread of the invasives—Japanese knotweed marching from the west and bittersweet from the east! We are going to be planting native grasses and other species in the space left by our clean up efforts. Since the heavy foliage

from bitter-sweet has been removed, a recent inspection of the seawall where we worked showed that many native species are now flourishing.

All of these activities were possible because of many volunteers who participated with their time and talents.

On July 23, we also cosponsored, along with the Kennebunkport Conservation Commission and the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, an educational program featuring a speaker from the Friends of Casco Bay (FCB). FCB has been measuring and testing water quality and marine life for over 20 years. The group studies levels of nitrogen and pesticides in the water, and study results show higher levels of these chemicals closer to the shoreline. Therefore, results suggest a connection to runoff from land.

High levels of nitrogen promote algae blooms; when these green plants die and decompose they suck the oxygen from the water. This decomposition process also releases carbon dioxide that creates acidic conditions making it harder for clams and mussels to build and maintain their shells. While 2/3 of the carbon dioxide pollution comes from the atmosphere and sewage treatment plants, studies show that 1/3 is runoff from farms and lawns—and can therefore be prevented or reduced with plan-



Thirty volunteers gathered to attack invasive plants, like bittersweet, on the beach near the Tides.

ning and better management.

We learned that growing our lawns taller promotes better root growth, which in turn brings more natural nutrients to the grass and reduces the need for added nitrogen. Even sharpening lawn mower blades means healthier grass! The speaker, Mary Cerullo, urged attendees to do a soil test before concluding a lawn needs chemical additives. Our town nurse has soil test kits at her office (next to police station). Your soil sample can be mailed to the University of Maine Extension Service for testing (\$15 per sample).

As always, the BAC welcomes comments and suggestions as we promote stewardship of Goose Rocks Beach. Please go to our FaceBook page, *Friends of Goose Rocks Beach*, and "like" us to follow updates. If you would like to communicate with the committee, please email us at grbadvisory@gmail.com.

New Rec Bus



Carol Cook, director, and Bill Junker, program assistant for Kennebunkport Parks & Recreation are shown here in the doorway of their new bus, put into service just in time for the summer season. The larger windows and door provide greater visibility, and interior racks will allow better storage opportunities, suggesting a safer, more comfortable ride. Won't you join them?

Kennebunkport Parks & Recreation

Online Registration Software

Check out our online registration program at www.kennebunkportrec.com. Establishing your family account, and registering for programs is as easy as a few clicks of your mouse. Current offerings include: youth basketball through 6th grade for boys and girls, family ski programs at Shawnee Peak and Sunday River, adult trips, Kennebunkport After-School Adventure, and special trips/activities for Early Release Wednesdays.

FMI: call 967-4304 or 710-7060

Handguns

from page 5

- Employees' vehicles on work premises (Permit required; vehicle must be locked and firearm must not be visible; 26 M.R.S. §600)

The new law also requires an individual carrying a concealed handgun without a permit to immediately inform the law enforcement officer that the individual is carrying a concealed handgun when coming into contact with any law enforcement officer during a routine stop, detention, or arrest. This is an important requirement each citizen must be specifically familiar with to avoid an unnecessary escalation of an otherwise peaceful interaction. For safety purposes, I will be posting the police department property off limits to any type of weapon.

The law pertains only to handguns, not all weapons. This means it is still illegal to carry concealed weapons such as a bowie knife or brass knuckles. It is important to remember that this law does NOT authorize persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms to carry them. If a person is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm, this law does nothing to change that prohibition.

A person may be prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition under state law, federal law, or both. Prohibitions include convictions (felony and qualifying misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence); some juvenile adjudications; many protection from abuse orders, dishonorable discharge from the military; immigration status; deferred disposition status; certain mental health adjudications (civil involuntary commitment; finding of not guilty by reason of insanity; finding of not competent to stand trial) and certain probate adjudications. Prohibitions may also be imposed by conditions of bail, probation, and deferred disposition agreements.

The law does not stop folks from continuing to obtain a permit as they would prior to the new law's enactment (See our webpage: <http://www.kennebunkportme.gov/police-department>). I actually encourage it. The permitting process ensures you have the knowledge and abilities to safely carry something that commands great respect but also burdens one with huge responsibilities. I urge anyone that chooses to carry any type of weapon for protection to become very familiar with deadly force and situations where it may be used. As always, please call the police department with questions about this or any other topic.

News from the superintendent's desk

By Dr. Katie Hawes, RSU 21

A Change in Leadership at KCS

On September 1, Dave Crandall notified me that he had accepted a position in northern Maine serving as Principal of Indian Township School. Situated near Calais, Indian Township School serves students in grades Pre-K through 8. An additional infant/toddler program is attached to the school. Dave spent September 2 and 3 saying his farewells to the Consolidated School community. We wish him well.

Given the timing of this news, I appointed Wayne Dorr as Interim Principal while we conduct a full search for the next leader of Kennebunkport Consolidated School. Spanning a long career in education in Maine, Mr. Dorr has been a Principal at all levels, a Director of Special Education, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent. Many of you will remember him from the 2009-2010 school year when he served as Interim Assistant Superintendent in Kennebunk and Kennebunkport (MSAD 71). To date, students, families and community members have embraced Mr. Dorr. Community members interested in meeting him can contact the school at 967-5998 to schedule a time or simply attend a Friday Morning Meeting at 8:30 a.m.

The position has been posted both in Maine and nationally. A search committee has been formed and a timeline proposed. A Community Survey will be available on our website www.rsu21.net from September 21 through 30 to elicit input about the most important attributes of our next leader. It will also be sent to all families and staff at KCS. Paper copies will be available in the Main Office for those unable to access the web. Finalists will visit KCS in late October to meet with focus groups. We anticipate the nomination of the next leader of KCS during the November 2 School Board meeting with a projected transition date of January 4, 2016.

A Building Project Update

Over the summer, even more work was completed on Consolidated School to increase efficiency and accessibility while providing a jumpstart on our renovation project. This work was funded through State Revolving Renovation Funds. This work includes installation of the boiler room fire stopping, a sprinkler system, exterior and interior door replacement, and bathroom renovations. The State Revolving Renovation Funds for RSU 21 total approximately \$1.8 million and must be targeted toward ADA and safety upgrades in these three buildings. Of this, 30% of the total is free money and 70% is to be paid back at 0% interest over the next 10 years. This money and work will reduce the larger building project. One of our 5th grade students exited the bathroom on the first day of school and announced, "Wow! It looks like a hotel in there!"

Local circuit breaker program reminder

The Kennebunkport Property Tax and Rent Refund Program will be accepting applications in January of 2016. Applicants will need to have filed tax returns to apply.

FMI: See <http://goo.gl/6lRzMI> or call Jen Lord at 967-1608.



Dr. Katie Hawes,
Superintendent, RSU 21



Wayne Dorr,
Interim Principal

Harriman Associates and PC Construction are on schedule. We plan to issue the bond for the first \$45 million on October 6 and receive the money on October 22. Construction on Consolidated School will begin in March 2016 and be complete in September 2016. This will be the first school to be finished.