



# KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 10

Fall 2008

## Voters Will Consider School Consolidation Plan

### Retention of Consolidated School Supported by the Proposal

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

Kennebunkport voters will decide on Election Day whether to support a proposed consolidation between the Arundel School District and SAD 71 (Kennebunkport/Kennebunk). The proposed new Regional School Unit (RSU) is a result of a new state requirement that directs existing school districts to join together to create new school units with student populations totaling at least 2,500.

A Planning Committee was established last year to determine the framework of a new school district. Representatives from the three towns were appointed by each town's Board of Selectmen, the Arundel School Board and the SAD 71 Board of Directors. The Kennebunkport residents on the Committee

were Leo Martin, Stuart Barwise, Steve Kingston, and Maureen King.

A primary concern for the Kennebunkport representatives to the Planning Committee throughout the planning process was the future of the Consolidated School. In order to sustain the vitality and quality of life of the Town, Port representatives consistently advocated that the proposed new district include the retention of an active elementary school in each community as a founding principle. The final plan, as proposed to the State Department of Education, incorporates this principle and also provides the residents of Kennebunkport with the ultimate voice regarding the continued operation of Consolidated School. Section 13-B of the proposed plan states:

One of the most important principles

that came out of the Regional School Unit discussions was that each town should be able to retain an elementary school, as elementary schools are often the heart of a small town. Communities such as Arundel and Kennebunkport that are home to just one school are most deeply affected by the loss of their only school. The RSU Planning Committee consensus was that this principle of elementary school preservation was important enough to include as part of the over-EPs cost sharing agreement.

The proposed plan includes provisions to support the principle of elementary school preservation. For example, should

See CONSOLIDATION page 3

## New Fire Chief in Town

By Larry S. Mead, town manager



Welcome Paul Moshimer,  
Kennebunkport's new Fire Chief.

After a long process of sifting through 53 applications, paring down to eight finalists, followed by three rounds of interviews, a new Fire Chief was selected. On September 11, the Kennebunkport Board of Selectmen confirmed Paul Moshimer's appointment. Moshimer, a resident of the town, brings over 30 years of experience in firefighting and prevention and is not a new face to the Kennebunkport Fire Department. He has worn many hats, serving as Chief of the Wildwood Fire Company between 1983 and 1997 and remaining enrolled as a volunteer with the Fire Department, and

as an EMT with KEMS. Moshimer has also served with the Kennebunk Fire Rescue Service and Wells Emergency Medical Services, and is an experienced instructor with the Maine Fire Training and Education program at Southern Maine Community College.

Since he was appointed on the seventh anniversary of September 11, Moshimer said his confirmation has special meaning. He left his full-time, firefighter position at Alfred Fire and Rescue to report to work in Kennebunkport on October 6.

A note of appreciation to those who assisted in the hiring process: initial interview team-David Chisholm, Allen Daggett, Barry Jones, Mike McCarthy, Allan Moir, and retired Cape Elizabeth Fire Chief Phil McGouldrick. Follow-up interview team: Mike Weston and Fire Department Chaplain Rev. Ruth Merriam.

A special thanks to Dave Chisholm and Dick Sredman. Chisholm, who was previously serving as Kennebunkport assistant chief, willingly accepted the position of Acting Chief for the past six months. He has done an outstanding job keeping the department stable. His vast experience includes

See NEW CHIEF page 8

## Local Property Tax Assistance Program Proposed on November Ballot

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

Question 5 on the November ballot would establish a local program to provide property tax relief to residents of Kennebunkport who have lived in town for at least 10 years and who are of low or moderate income. The proposed program would be available to residents who have qualified for the state's property tax assistance program, sometimes called the "Circuit Breaker" program. The purpose of the proposed program is to help residents who have experienced rapid increases in the value of their home, and whose incomes struggle to keep pace with corresponding increases in property taxes. Several other Maine towns have adopted a similar local property tax relief program, including

York, Scarborough, Cumberland and St. Agate.

To qualify for the local program, a resident must have applied for relief through the state program and received a rebate. The state program is targeted to homeowners whose incomes are low or moderate relative to their property tax bill. Because the program is targeted to people who have found it increasingly difficult to keep up with increasing property tax values over time, only individuals who have resided in Kennebunkport for at least 10 years would be eligible for a local refund. Last year, 282 Kennebunkport residents qualified for the state program, receiving a total of \$204,000. The average

See TAX ASSISTANCE page 8

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# Voters to Consider Five Warrant Articles

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

Voters will be asked to consider five different warrant articles on the November 4 ballot.

**Question 1** makes a number of changes to the Land Use Ordinance designed to bring the Town's ordinances into compliance with the State Department of Environmental Protection's shoreland zoning requirements. The proposed revisions were developed by the Ad Hoc Shoreland Zoning Committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The proposed changes are described in an article on page three of this newsletter. The changes as proposed would streamline the Town's ordinance by eliminating redundancies.

**Question 2** corrects an administrative oversight in Article 13 of the Land Use Ordinance. Article 13 is the section of the ordinance dealing with contract zoning. It was just amended by voters this past June. This question would replace an unintended reference to "Appendix A" with the correct language: "section 13.2(E)."

Appendix A does not actually exist in Article 13, and this amendment will rectify the error.

**Question 3** authorizes the addition of seven map appendices to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The maps were developed as part of the Growth Planning Committee's work on an update of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Question 4** allows two Town committees, the Lighting Committee (currently three members) and the Conservation Commission (currently seven members), to expand membership in order to encourage participation in town business. For example, the Lighting Committee would be allowed to have three "or more" members. The proposed language would make these two committees consistent with the current membership limitations for most other Town committees.

**Question 5** authorizes the Town to establish a local property tax relief program. The details of this question are outlined in an article on page one of this newsletter.

## Absentee Voting for November 4, 2008

By April Dufoe, town clerk

Absentee ballots are now available at the Kennebunkport Town Clerk's Office for the upcoming State Election, Special Town Meeting Election, and MSAD#71 Referendum Election to be held Tuesday, November 4, 2008, 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.

The Kennebunkport Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters will hold special hours to conduct absentee voting, to register any person eligible to vote and to accept any enrollment/address changes at the following times and locations:

### Saturday, October 25

from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Village Fire Station, 32 North Street

### Wednesday, October 29

from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Kennebunkport Town Hall

### Saturday, November 1

from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Village Fire Station, 32 North Street

## Town of Kennebunkport Notice of Public Hearings

### Please Take Notice

A public hearing will be held at the Village Fire Station, 32 North Street on Thursday, October 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. by the Kennebunkport Board of Selectmen to take public comment on each of the following topics to be voted on by Referendum Ballot at the November 4, 2008, Special Town Meeting:

1. Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance concerning Shoreland Zoning.
2. Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance concerning a correction to Contract Zoning.
3. Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.
4. Amendment to the Administrative Code to increase the number of members to the Lighting Committee and the Conservation Commission.
5. Create a Property Tax Assistance Ordinance.

The **Growth Planning Committee** shall also report its recommendation on both Land Use Ordinance amendments:

Copies of the proposed amendments are available for inspection at the office of the Town Clerk or on the Town's Website at [www.kennebunkportme.gov](http://www.kennebunkportme.gov)

### Further Take Notice

A separate public hearing will also be held immediately following the Board of Selectmen hearing at the Village Fire Station by the **Planning Board** to take public comment on the same proposed Land Use Ordinance amendments referenced above.

April Dufoe, town clerk

## Town of Kennebunkport Special Town Meeting November 4, 2008

### 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 4th day of November, AD 2008, at 8:00 a.m.** for the purpose of acting on Article 1 and Questions 1 through 5 (Referendum Questions) as set forth in the Town Warrant. The polls for voting on Questions 1 through 5 shall be opened immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. on November 4, 2008, and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

**The Referendum questions to be voted on relate to:**

1. Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance concerning Shoreland Zoning.
2. Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance concerning a correction to Contract Zoning.
3. Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.
4. Amendment to the Administrative Code to increase the number of members to the Lighting Committee and the Conservation Commission.
5. Create a Property Tax Assistance 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](http://www.kennebunkportme.gov)).

April Dufoe, town clerk

# Changes Proposed for Shoreland Zoning Ordinance

By Werner Gilliam, planner/assistant code enforcement officer

Over the course of the last year, there has been an Ad-Hoc Committee of volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen working diligently on reviewing the Land Use Ordinance (LUO) for compliance with the State mandated changes regarding Shoreland Zoning. The group consists of a diverse collection of town residents representing other town committees as well as those who are just interested in volunteering their time. The members are: Barbara Barwise, Deborah Bauman, John Hathaway, Jamie Houtz, David Kling, Pixie Lown, Sheila Matthews-Bull, Bob McCrillis, Chris Perry, and Barbara Rencurel. Technical assistance has come from Werner Gilliam, assistant code enforcement officer/town planner and JT Lockman from Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission.

What started out as a review for compliance has become a comprehensive rewrite of the regulations affecting Shoreland Zoning. This rewrite involves compliance updates with State Law along with

changes requested by residents regarding current regulations that many viewed as too restrictive. Proposed changes are being presented to voters in three installments. The goal is to have all of the updates completed by June 2009.

In addition to the mandatory revisions associated with the State's Shoreland Zoning requirements, the Board of Selectmen directed the Ad Hoc Committee to make changes to the LUO that would remove redundancies and inconsistencies within the ordinance and make it easier for residents to understand how the ordinance applies to their property. The proposed revisions significantly modify Articles 4 and 5 of the LUO, while making revisions to a lesser degree to other articles. Key changes include the following:

- Critical Edge was removed as a separate Zone. Many of the performance standards currently found in the Critical Edge Zone were incorporated into the Shoreland Zone standards in Article 5.
- Shoreland Zone was added to

Article 4 along with setback information and uses.

- Structure setbacks were reduced from 150 to 75 feet. This reduction is consistent with the State requirements in the Shoreland Zone. Dock Square structure setbacks were reduced to 25 feet from the water body. Flood plain restrictions still apply. Accessory structures of less than 80 square feet are allowed provided they meet lot coverage and property line setback requirements.
- Conversion of structures located over the river into residential dwelling units is prohibited. This is a state mandate.
- Lot coverage requirements in Dock Square were increased to 70 percent. In practice, this changes little since the majority of Dock Square is impervious.
- Minor filling and grading is allowed with a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer. Previously, in the Critical Edge, essentially all filling and grading required permits from the Planning Board or were prohibited.

- Vegetation cutting standards allow for some cutting within the 75 foot setback provided certain canopy requirements are met. Replanting guidelines are included.
- Docks and Piers standards were revised to allow for construction in areas not considered Velocity Zones. Performance standards were revised. The review process remains the same.

Looking ahead to the June 2009 warrant, voters can expect to see a revised Shoreland Zoning map that will show all of the areas of Kennebunkport effected by Shoreland Zoning, along with any final revisions that need to be addressed. All of the changes to Kennebunkport's ordinances receive comprehensive review by the DEP and the Town's legal counsel. Residents having any questions or concerns regarding the work of the Ad Hoc Shoreland Zoning Committee should feel free to contact Werner Gilliam at (207) 967-4243 ext 103 or via e-mail at: wgilliam@kennebunkportme.gov.

## Work Continues on the Comprehensive Plan

By Jamie Houtz, chair of the Growth Planning Committee

Since the last town warrant vote in June, the Growth Planning Committee (GPC) has concentrated upon the topic "Land Use." Our text for study are the "Land Use" chapters from the current Comprehensive Plan on file, along with the proposed plans of 2003 and 2005.

The Committee members believe

that the best way to succeed in passing a Comprehensive Plan at a town meeting is two fold: First, present warrant articles that are not lengthy in their language and submit the document a chapter or two at a time. Second, put the process into an educational format, review proposals from the past, verify the validity of the data

and language, and then introduce the proposed changes to residents via the Committee's televised meetings. In many cases, the Committee asks knowledgeable guests from the town and State to help inform the Committee and public on pertinent issues. The current "Land Use" chapter has what many believe to be "con-

tentious" content. Topics like "growth cap," zone boundaries, permitted uses, lot size, building design standards, land conservation, infrastructure expansion and growth direction. We are well on our way to the first draft of the new "Land Use" chapter and optimistic that the Committee

See COMP PLAN page 4

## Consolidation

from page 1

a future RSU Board recommend that Consolidated School be closed, the voters in Kennebunkport will have the choice of keeping the school open. If voters approve keeping the school open, the Town's taxpayers would then be assessed for all additional costs associated with keeping the school operating, costs that were identified as savings to the District if the school had been closed and students sent to other elementary schools.

A second provision would tie the Town's annual school district assessment to the viability of Consolidated School. The Kennebunkport representatives were concerned that future RSU Boards may focus exclusively on cost factors when looking at whether a school should remain open, and not give weight to the importance to the community of

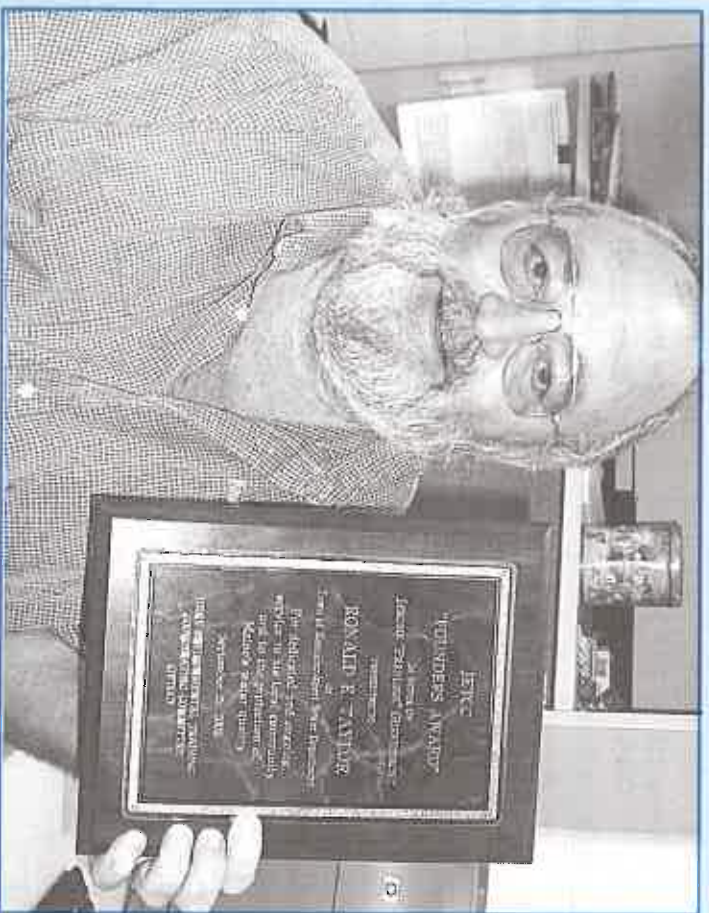
retaining a school. Both the Consolidated School and the Mildred Day School in Arundel are older buildings that will likely require capital improvements going forward. If cost is the overriding consideration or the only consideration, the additional costs of keeping older facilities up to date would potentially make their closing inevitable. For this reason, the Planning Committee included a provision that ensures that the RSU Board will give consideration to both cost and community impact when considering whether to keep a school open. This provision would reduce the school district's assessment to Kennebunkport should the school board vote to close Consolidated School and the Town vote to keep the school open. This reduction in assessment would offset, at least partially, the additional costs to the Town of keeping Consolidated School open.

A third element of the proposed plan further supports the continuing viability of the Consolidated School. The provisions related to retention of elementary schools are placed in the section of the plan related to local cost sharing. This process will ensure that the elements of the plan intended to promote the continuation of elementary schools in each community can be changed only after an open and thorough debate that garners support in all three towns. The proposed consolidation plan developed by the RSU Planning Committee incorporates several elements that support the principle of retaining elementary schools in each member town and contains provisions that balance cost considerations with those related to the importance of schools as centers of community life. These elements will support the future sustainability of

the Consolidated School in Kennebunkport. There are numerous other issues to consider in evaluating the proposal to create a new consolidated school district that includes Kennebunkport, Kennebunk and Arundel. The SAD 71 school board will mail to each household in Kennebunkport a newsletter providing information on the entire plan, including a section that provides answers to frequently asked questions, including costs. In addition, there will be informational meetings held in each town prior to the November vote. The meeting in Kennebunkport will be held at the Consolidated School on Saturday, October 25, from 9-11 a.m. The RSU Planning Committee will also hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 21, at Kennebunk Elementary School, from 7-9 p.m. Both of these meetings will be taped and played at a later date.

# Ron Taylor Receives Founders Award

By Allan Moir, sewer superintendent



Ron Taylor receives well deserved award.

On Thursday, September 25, 2008, our own Ronald Taylor, chief operator of the Kennebunkport Sewer Department, was recognized for outstanding service to his community and to the profession of wastewater treatment plant operation for the last 23 years. Taylor was announced as the third recipient of the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) Founders Award during the Maine Wastewater Control Association's annual convention at Sunday River in Bethel, Maine.

The JETCC Founders Award is given annually to an operator, maintenance worker or laboratory personnel working in a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment system in Maine. The JETCC Founders Award is intended to recognize a staff member working in a plant or wastewater system.

When Taylor was hired in February 1985, he took over the

day-to-day operations of the treatment plant, operation of the collection system, and managing the crew. When he was hired, there were three people working for the Sewer Department, today there are five people who answer to him. With the crew, he operates the treatment plant, compost operation and the collection system. The Department had done a number of upgrades and projects at the treatment plant and out on the collection system. He has been very involved in every part of the projects from reviewing the plans and specifications, to keeping an eye on the construction.

Taylor has a Maine Grade 5 Wastewater Operator's license and a Grade 4 Collection System license. He also encourages the other operators to get their licenses for the treatment plant and the collection system.

## Comp Plan

from page 3

will be able to present this chapter to voters in the June 2009 warrant. You, the residents of Kennebunkport, our selectmen, and town employees have been pivotal in our past success and will continue to be pivotal in our future endeavors.

Currently, the GPC is not operating in full capacity. There is one position available for a three-year-

term, serving as a full-time member on the Committee. Interested volunteers may contact the Town Office to fill out an application, or download an application from the Town Website at: <http://www.kennebunkportme.gov>, select **FAQs** tab on the left side of the page, then select **How do I apply for a committee/board**. Current members consist of: Jamie Houz, chair; Bob Almeder, vice-chair; Charles Reid, Sr.; Dan Saunders; Anita Carroll and Wanda Daggett.

# Kennebunkport Public Health

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

**FLU CLINIC:** It's that time of year again. The 2008 Flu and Pneumonia Clinic will be held on October 15, 9-10:30 AM, at 32 North Street. These immunizations are covered under Medicare. Please bring your Medicare card. For those not covered under Medicare the costs are:

Flu	\$15.00
Pneumonia	\$45.00

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE:** If the predictions of colder than normal temperatures and the steady rise in the price for food, fuel and gas for the winter of 2008-2009 come true, this should be a very difficult year for our residents. There are several programs available to help relieve the strain on your budgets. Be warned, these programs will not eliminate the problem but may help decrease it somewhat.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE:** The Church Community Food program, available to residents of Arundel, Kennebunk and "the Port" provides three meals a day for three days. To access this program, residents are to contact the Public Health Department (967-4401) before noon time. Monday through Friday. This program also offers a free produce distribution, 9 AM, every Friday, at Saint Martha's Church, Route 1, Kennebunk.

The monthly surplus food distribution is held on the "teen" Tuesday of the month, from 12:30 PM-1:30 PM, at the Dorothy Stevens Community Center, Thompson Road, West Kennebunk. This program is sponsored by the General Assistance Departments of our three towns.

Food pantries across the state are finding it difficult to keep their shelves filled. The number of residents requesting assistance has more than tripled in the past year. Kennebunkport is no exception. The Kennebunkport Health Council has joined with the Parks and Recreation Department to sponsor a **FILL OUR BUS** project. We are requesting that on Election Day, residents bring nonperishable as well as paper, hygiene and cleaning products to the Parks and Recreation bus that will be located in the parking lot. Every can of soup, veggie, tuna, or box of cereal will help our neighbors. Please do not sit in your comfy chair and think that we have no one in Kennebunkport who is having a difficult time meeting their basic needs. Several of your neighbors are. Help us keep the pantry shelves filled all winter, not just for the holidays. Please put a reminder on

your calendar now.

**FUEL ASSISTANCE:** The focus this year has been on meeting the cost for heating needs. Residents are encouraged to contact York County Community Action: at 1-800-965-5762 to apply for the federal Low income Home Energy Heating Assistance Program. We have all seen Joe Kennedy's program, Citizens Energy Corporation ads. Residents may call 1-617-338-6300 to apply for this program.

There are a number of smaller fuel assistance programs such as the Kennebunkport Emergency Fuel Program that are available to residents. These are dependant on donations. Residents access these programs through the General Assistance Administrator-967-4401. Given the increase in the number of requests and the decrease in donations, this year, a General Assistance application will need to be completed for determination of need.

On September 15, the three towns and State Representative Gary Connors sponsored an Energy Forum. Guest speakers for this two hour program included representatives from York County Community Action, Maine State Housing, Keeping Neighbors Warm, Kennebunk Fire Department and General Assistance. In addition to information on assistance program, other topics for discussion were home energy audits, weatherization, alternative energy options and safety tips. If you should have missed this program, copies of the handout information are available at the Public Health Department.

**SECRET SANTA:** The holidays are quickly approaching. Secret Santa is a program that provides holiday gifts of clothing and toys for Arundel, Kennebunk and "the Ports" children. Starting around Thanksgiving, you will see our trees with the tags in the local banks and town offices. Parents or legal guardians are encouraged to contact the General Assistance Administrator in November to complete a needs form. This program is sponsored by volunteers and funded by donations. If you are able, please take a tag or make a monetary donation to help us provide a happy holiday for our children.

**HOLIDAY NEEDS:** If you are in need of a holiday food basket, would like to donate to, or volunteer for any of the holiday dinner programs, please call 967-4401.

**COATS FOR KIDS:** Again this See **PUBLIC HEALTH** page 5

# Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation

Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation has programs for people of all ages. Here, 11-14 year olds in our Outdoor Adventure Program enjoy a day at a local pond.



Call 967-4304 or  
check the  
Town's Website at  
[kennebunkport.me.gov](http://kennebunkport.me.gov)  
for program offerings.



## Public Health

from page 4

year, the Public Health Office is a collection site for the Coats for Kids program. Dave Billings and the Arundel Masonic Lodge members are the Kennebunkport sponsors. We will be collecting new and used coats until December 28.

**COLLECTION SITES:** Speaking of collection sites, the Public Health Office collects: Shaws grocery slips and any used ink cartridges for York County Food Rescue. Used cell phones are collected for Shelter Alliance to assist Caring Unlimited. Please just leave them at our door, and we will make sure the proper agency receives them.

**"CIRCUIT BREAKER" PROGRAM:** Residents are encouraged to file for the 2007 Tax and Rent Refund Program. Applications are located at the libraries, Town Offices and the Public Health Department. If you need assistance with completing this application, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Office (967-4243) or the Public Health Department (967-4401).

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:** Please watch out for your neighbors especially during the winter months. Should you notice that a daily pattern has changed, call or visit with them. If you do not feel comfortable doing so, contact the Public Health Department or the Kennebunkport Police, and we will check in on them. We are here to help.

**MAINE HEALTHY BEACH PROGRAM:** The summer of 2008 was pretty quiet at both of our watersheds. We had one reportable illness

from a Goose Rocks Beach visitor which coincided with an elevated bacteria count on the day that he visited. An advisory is posted when the enterococci level is over 104 colonies of bacteria. Advisories were posted for Goose Rocks Beach on:

Date	Colonies of Bacteria
July 1, 2008	146
August 19, 2008	213

All sample information for every Maine beach participating in the Maine Healthy Beach Program is available at: [www.MaineHealthyBeaches.org](http://www.MaineHealthyBeaches.org).

The Public Health Department distributed over 250 *Maine Healthy Beach Swimming Guide* pamphlets and 175 *Healthy Boating* pamphlets this summer.

I want to thank the dedicated sample testing team: Raven Dufee, Linda Hanna, Bob Oshues and Lee McCurdy.

**KENNEBUNKPORT WATERSHED PROGRAM:** And what is next on the watershed activity list you are asking? Early this spring, the Girl Scouts will be joining the Public Health Department and the Conservation Commission with stenciling storm drains that run into the Kennebunk River with the Duck logo and "Do not Drain into our Ocean." We are continuing to join efforts with the Conservation Commission to offer information and resources focusing on simple changes to our everyday habits that will help prevent or decrease pollution sources in our watersheds.

To quote Porky Pig—  
"That's all folks!"

## Revaluation Underway

By Larry S. Mead, town manager

The Town's revaluation effort is well underway. Over the summer, representatives of Vision Appraisal, the company hired to carry out the work, have performed on-site inspections of homes and businesses throughout Kennebunkport.

During this phase of the process, properties are visited by qualified personnel who carefully record the quality and characteristics of each location and compare it with existing data. As of the end of September, the property listers had attempted to visit every property in Town. They will send notices in early October to owners of properties who were not at home during the initial visit in order to arrange for a follow-up appointment for an interior inspection. If access is still not gained to the property after this second attempt, the property is valued on the basis of an external inspection.

The next phase of the revaluation is the analysis of data collected through property inspections and an evaluation of real estate market activity and sales data. Preliminary values are assigned to each property and a notice of proposed value mailed to property owners in June of next year. Property owners will have an opportunity to ask for a hearing with representatives from Vision Appraisal if they have questions or concerns with the proposed

value. They will hold these hearings in June and July in order to accommodate as many property owners as possible.

Following the hearing phase, a final value is established and property tax bills for the first half of fiscal year 2010 are mailed some time in September of 2009. Homeowners should be aware that although property values will increase for almost everyone, the tax rate will be dramatically reduced. This tax reduction is because a revaluation does not change the amount of taxes the Town collects. Therefore, an increase in the assessed value of a property does not automatically result in an increased tax bill. In fact, many property owners will see a reduction in their property tax, some will have little change to their property tax, while others will experience an increase.

Next spring, the Town and Vision Appraisal will hold informational meetings in order to further explain the process and schedule, and to answer any general questions that people may have regarding revaluation. There will be no specific information available regarding the proposed value of properties until the mailing by Vision next June. If you have questions regarding revaluation, you may call the Assessor's Office at 967-4243, extension 102.

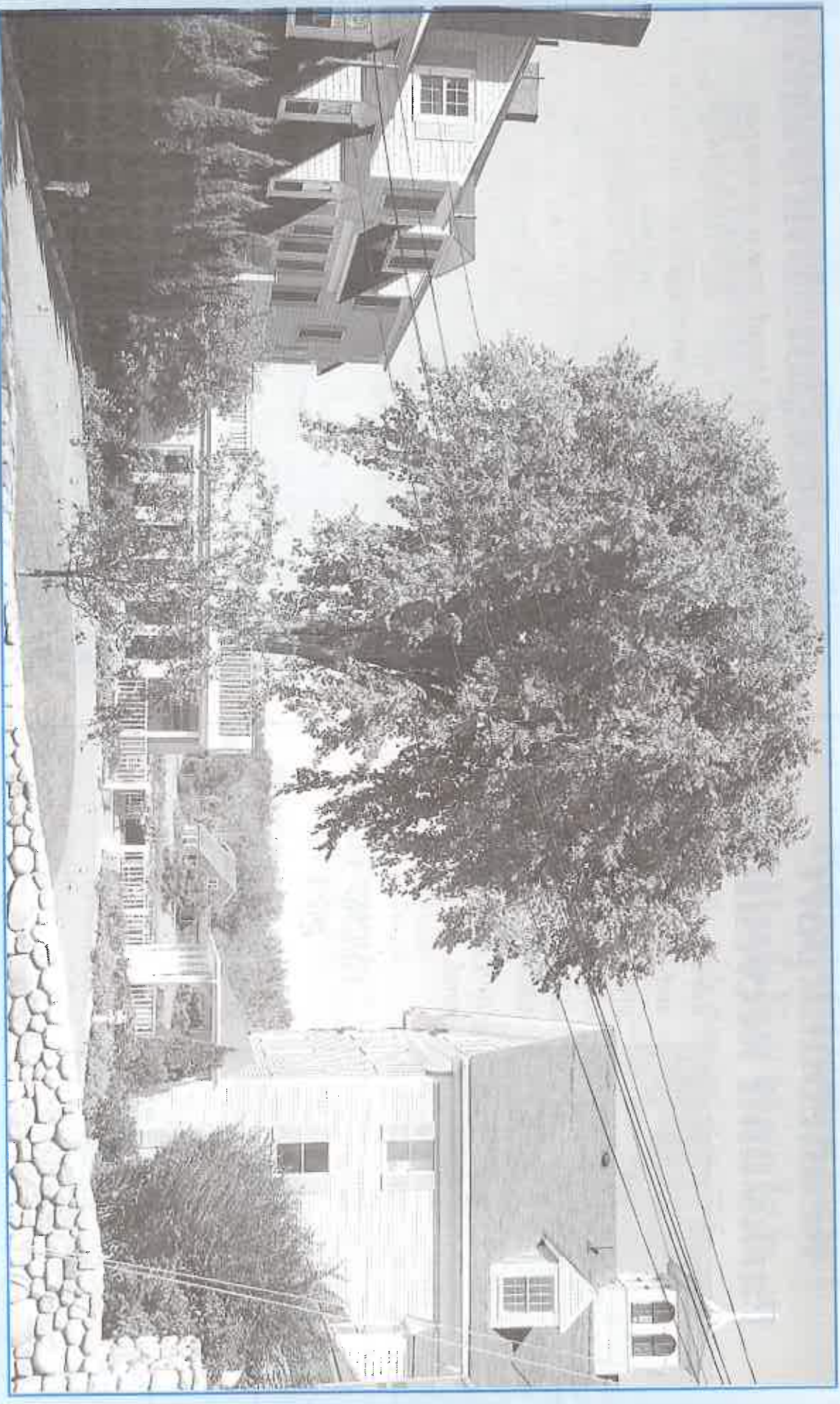
## Fuel Assistance Programs

If you are concerned about heating costs this winter, you may be eligible for assistance from one of these programs:

**Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP),** a Federal program, provides money to help low-income homeowners and renters pay for heating costs. York County Community Action handles these applications. FMI-call 207-324-5762.

**Citizens Energy Oil Heat Program,** Joe Kennedy's program, in partnership with CITGO, works with oil heat dealers and local fuel assistance agencies to provide deliveries of home heating oil to struggling families. FMI-call 617-338-6300.

**Town of Kennebunkport Emergency Fuel Program,** provides fuel assistance to Kennebunkport residents in need. Money for this program is funded through donations. The General Assistance Administrator, Judy Barrett, handles these applications. FMI- on the numerous fuel/weatherization programs available, contact Ms. Barrett at 207-967-4401.



## Still Standing Tall

By the Shade Tree Committee

A grand Elm is still standing at the Breakwater Inn & Spa on Ocean Avenue due to the extra care its owner gave it during renovations. The Shade Tree Committee sends a big "Thank you."

## Clean and Green Focus of the Conservation Commission

By the Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission focused this year on keeping our waterways clean. We met with lobstermen and heard their concerns about the impact of water quality on their catch. We also met with lawn care providers and talked about the use of organics and less environmentally harmful methods and practices.

Since studies confirm that run off of pesticide and fertilizer from

lawns harm aquatic life, we are

recommending that our selectmen adopt the Maine Board of Pesticide Control's Best Management Practices. Homeowners and lawn care professionals would be asked to test their soil, add products only when necessary, apply slow release fertilizers, and apply necessary products only on days when rain is not predicted and soil is not saturated. By following the Best Management Practices, run off of products that threaten fish and

lobster can be minimized.

Last year, our Board of Selectmen signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, an initiative to decrease pollution and limit environmentally damaging activities by cities and towns. We would like to commend the town for beginning various measures toward this end. We are pleased to report that they have changed out a furnace for a more efficient

model, have installed on-demand hot water systems, and are changing to compact fluorescent bulbs. The Conservation Commission urges everyone in our town to take steps to protect and preserve the beautiful environment of Kennebunkport. Remember, what is good for the environment is also in the long run good for people and protects traditional and local industries.

## Town of Kennebunkport

### Tax Maps Now Available on the Town Website

To view Kennebunkport tax maps, please visit the Town Website at:

<http://www.kennebunkportme.gov>

Click on the Departments tab on the left.

Then, click on Assessing Department and select map.



From all reports, the new public restrooms at Dock Square are well received by residents and visitors alike.

## Relief at Last!

## 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.

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 \$15.00, in addition to the annual license fee, will be charged. The late fee increases to \$25.00 after the municipal warrant for unlicensed dogs is issued.

Another State rule is that the municipal tag and the rabies tag obtained from your veterinarian must be securely attached to the dog's collar and that collar must

be worn at all times by the dog.

So don't wait until the last minute. Come early and avoid waiting in line. The Town Clerk's hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



## Assessing Information is Online

Assessing information for the Town of Kennebunkport is available online at:

<http://www.kennebunkportme.gov>

Select the yellow button "Assessor's Database." Then, select ONLINE DATABASE ACCESS. Continue following the instructions.

## TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT

### Board of Selectmen

Mathew J. Lanigan, chair  
Allen A. Daggett, vice-chair  
Kristi Bryant  
Sheila Mathews-Bull  
D. Michael Weston

### Town Manager

Larry S. Mead

## Schedule of Town Hall Hours

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Schedule Changes

Wednesdays, October 29, 2008, and December 3, 2008, open one hour later, at 9 a.m. for staff training.

Tuesday, December 16, 2008, closed for two hours, from 12 to 2 p.m., for staff holiday party.

### Town Holidays Observed

(Town Offices Closed)

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Columbus Day
Washington's Birthday/President's Day	Veterans Day
Patriot's Day	Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Friday
Independence Day	Christmas

# New Approach to Parking at the Pier

By **Larry S. Mead, town manager**

If you drove to Cape Porpoise Pier over the summer, you may have been greeted by one of the Town's parking attendants. This past summer, the Town began a new program of managing parking at the pier. Parking attendants were employed weekends in June and September, and daily during the busy months of July and August. The cost of the attendants was accounted for by an increase in the lease payments the Town receives from the Chowder House Restaurant.

The reason for the new program is to make more efficient use of all of the parking spaces at the pier, whether public or private. The sys-

tem in place for the past two to three years has not worked efficiently. There are multiple demands on parking at the pier, including two restaurants, a pub, commercial fishing, recreational users, and tourists taking in the sights. The parking lots at the pier are separately owned by the Town and the Pier 77 Restaurant. Once the spaces in the Town-owned lot are filled, no parking is available even when there are available spaces in the Pier 77 lot for people who want to go to the Chowder House restaurant; fishing, boating or kayaking; or just take in the sites. This is because the private lot is open only to the patrons of

Pier 77 and the Ramp.

The program works as follows: As vehicles approach the pier, the Town's attendant asks the driver the purpose of their visit. As long as there is space available in the private lots, the patrons of the Ramp and Pier 77 are directed to park in the Pier 77 lot. Once the Pier 77 lot is full, those patrons are directed to on-street parking or to spaces in the Town lot, if available. The Town is not denying parking to patrons of the Ramp or Pier 77. Rather, the Town is managing the parking so that all of the available spaces are being used to the fullest extent possible.

By and large, the parking program

was very successful. The use of the two lots was better balanced than in previous years and, as a result, more people were able to successfully find parking spaces and get to their destination. According to the owners, business was up at all of the restaurants on the pier when compared to last year. Out of the thousands of vehicles that parked in the Town lots over the summer, just 42 parking violations were issued by the Police Department, a tiny fraction of those who visited the Pier. With one year of experience in hand, next year's parking program will almost certainly be an even greater success.

## Trash and Recycling Collection Schedule

In Kennebunkport, trash is picked up weekly. 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>.

## New Chief

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Fire Chief in Dedham and Hyannis, Massachusetts, and for two years in Goose Rocks Beach until the companies merged in 2005. Szedman, as interim fire administrator for the past six months, has used his talents not only in assisting the Fire Department but also in writing and obtaining grants for the Police Department. He has served in numerous positions with the town such as firefighter since 2000, Fire Administrator in 2005, Deputy EMA Director, and EMT with KEMS.

## Tax Assistance

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refund from the state was \$767. The proposed local program would provide a payment equal to 50 percent of the refund received from the state program, up to a maximum of \$500 per household. Passage of Question 5 will authorize the establishment of the local property tax assistance program to begin in July. Passage does not, however, provide any funding. The funding of the program would be subject to annual appropriations as approved by voters at Town Meeting, beginning in June 2009.

## Attention: Kennebunkport Recyclers

### Miss your recycling pickup?

Another option you have is to bring all of your recyclables to the Sea Road Transfer Station in Kennebunk. The facility has a new two-sort recycling program. This innovative two-sort system allows residents and businesses to combine all recyclables into just two categories: **mixed paper** (anything that tears) and **commingled containers** (plastics, bottles, cans).

The Transfer Station is closed Mondays to all business and open and staffed with knowledgeable personnel.

Tuesday - Saturday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Transfer Station will reopen Mondays for *recyclable drop-off only* during the months of:

**April, May, October, and November** from 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

**FMI, please call: 985-6778.**

### Mixed Paper:

- Corrugated cardboard
- Mixed paper
- Junk mail
- Pressboard
- Newspapers
- Magazines

### Commingled Containers:

- All returnables - plastics, aluminum cans, and glass bottles #1 - #7 plastics
- Glass - clear, brown, orange
- Steel and tin containers
- Aluminum cans and foil

## New Specialty License Plates Now Available

The breast cancer awareness license plate and Maine sportsmen license plates are now available at the State of Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), 63 Portland Road, Kennebunk.

For more information, please contact the BMV at 207-985-4890

or see all of the specialty plates online at [www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/registration/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/registration/index.html).