



KENNEBUNKPORT Town Review

A newsletter for the residents of Kennebunkport

Number 28

Fall 2017

Housing needs analysis and assessment study seeking public feedback

By Laurie A. Smith, Town Manager

In June, the town approved funding for a housing needs analysis and assessment study, and awarded the contract to Camoin Associates in August. The proposal is to gather data on the housing needs in our community as well as to define desired outcomes for future implementation strategies, while also maintaining the quality of life and culture of Kennebunkport. The study will engage elected officials, committee members, and the public in the collection of data and the analysis necessary to create an implementation plan that will ensure the continued livability in Kennebunkport by families and future year-round residents.

In 2012, the Kennebunkport Comprehensive Plan identified that approximately two-thirds of year-round households were unable to afford the median home price in Kennebunkport. People who are unable to find affordable homes to

Housing - Unable to Afford Median Home Price, 2008	Kennebunkport	York County	Maine
Percentage of Households Unable to Afford Median Home Price	67.3%	70.2%	59.4%
Number of Households Unable to Afford Median Home Price	1,214	58,938	332,003

Source: Maine State Housing Authority

2016	Kennebunkport	York County	Maine
Median Home Price	\$446,950	\$228,900	\$184,000
Median Income	\$82,424	\$60,271	\$50,990
Home Price Affordable to Median Income	\$317,931	\$213,754	\$178,552

Source: Maine State Housing Authority

buy often consider renting in order to stay within the community, or they move to other communities.

Since that time, housing prices have continued to increase. On November 11, 2015, the *Portland Press Herald*

reported that a recent survey by Coldwell Banker revealed that the Kennebunks had the highest average home value in the state. "The highest average listing price was \$517,153 in Kennebunk/Kennebunkport, followed



by \$471,695 in York, \$436,653 in Wells, \$396,591 in Portland/South Portland/Falmouth, and \$299,542 in Gorham." The most current data from the The Maine State Housing Authority continues to show that Kennebunkport's median home price exceeds what those with the median income can afford.

As one strategy to combat the issue, the town of Kennebunkport partnered with the Seacoast Housing Coalition in 2016 and held a two-day charrette which focused on two parcels, one in the urban area and one in a rural setting. The results of

See *HOUSING* page 8

The 70th anniversary of the fire of '47

By Dick Stedman, Fire Administrator

Seventy years ago, on October 21, 1947, the worst disaster ever to befall Kennebunkport began. A small woods fire in Arundel, then called North Kennebunkport, was whipped up into a full-blown wildfire by unusually strong winds from the northwest. Feeding on very dry timber and forests laden with debris from prior storms, the fire "crowned," that is, it began to burn from treetop to treetop at great speed. Firefighters from sever-

al towns planned to stop it as it tried to cross Route 1, but it blew over them and in a few hours reached Goose Rocks Beach, stopped only by the Atlantic Ocean. There, surprised residents were forced to flee into the ocean for protection from the fire storm. Branches of the main fire burned to the edge of Cape Porpoise Village and over Crow Hill into woods in the Wildes District. Giant bulldozers, then being used in the construc-

tion of the Maine Turnpike, were brought in to create a wide "fire break" from School Street to Wildes District Road. This action, as well as the changing winds, allowed firefighters to stop the fire from spreading into Kennebunkport Village. However,

the fire continued on into Biddeford, eventually burning much of Fortunes Rocks Beach and the surrounding area. Before it was brought under control, an estimated 200 homes were destroyed, many of them at both ends

See *FIRE* page 8



A Maine National Guardsman patrols among burned homes at Goose Rocks Beach following reports of looting. (AP photojournalist Ted Dyer)

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– NOVEMBER BALLOT –

– Question 1 –

Prohibiting the sale and manufacturing of recreational marijuana

By Laurie A. Smith, Town Manager

The November ballot will include a question regulating recreational marijuana, it reads, “Shall an ordinance entitled Ordinance Prohibiting Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs in the Town of Kennebunkport be enacted?” Although the state of Maine is still developing the regulations and laws surrounding the sale of recreational marijuana, the ballot question will ensure that recreational marijuana production, testing, and sales won’t occur in Kennebunkport.

The recreational marijuana ballot issue was approved statewide by voters in November 2016; hence, the state of Maine will now allow the use of recreational marijuana to those age 21 or older. According to the law, “A municipality may regulate the number of retail marijuana stores and the location and operation of retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs and may prohibit the operation of retail marijuana establishments and retail marijuana social clubs within its jurisdiction.”

Since December of 2016, the Board of Selectmen have held discussions and presentations weighing the pros and cons of retail marijuana businesses in Kennebunkport. These presentations have included the legal implications of the new state law, the chemical effects of marijuana use, the impacts on local law enforcement, and the potential zones in which retail marijuana establishments or social clubs would be allowed. Much of this information is available on the town website (www.kennebunkportme.gov) under special topics. After weighing the information presented and the many comments that they received, the Board voted to bring forward a prohibition ordinance to the voters for the November 2017 ballot. Under this ordinance, retail marijuana establishments and retail social clubs would be prohibited townwide.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What does the ordinance do? The prohibition ordinance would prohibit the cultivation, manufacturing, and testing of retail (non-medical) marijuana, retail marijuana sales, and retail marijuana social clubs within the town of Kennebunkport.

Does the ordinance prohibit an individual’s personal use of marijuana? No. The prohibition ordinance would not impact the personal use of marijuana by individuals. Under state law, individuals may possess and use up to 2 ½ ounces of prepared marijuana.

Marijuana is now legal, right? Although state law allows for personal use, please keep in mind that under federal law, marijuana possession and use is still considered a schedule 1 substance under the U.S. Controlled Substances Act.

What is the difference between the prohibition ordinance and a moratorium? A moratorium ordinance only prohibits marijuana establishments temporarily (generally for up to 180 days with a possible extension) while a municipality studies the impact of the uses and determines whether additional ordinances are necessary. This prohibition ordinance will take effect immediately and stay in effect until the town may vote to change it in the future.

Does this ordinance impact medical marijuana use or distribution? No, this ordinance only impacts recreational marijuana establishments and has no effect on medical marijuana.

– REMINDER –

The last day to request an absentee ballot
for the upcoming election is
Thursday, November 2, 2017.

The Town Clerk must receive requests by **4:30 p.m.**

– Question 2 –

Growth management permit update for accessory apartments

By Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Development

The Growth Planning Committee continues the steady task of reviewing and suggesting strategies of how to implement the voter approved Comprehensive Plan. One of the more recent and rather complex topics specifically surrounds the issue of providing for affordable housing needs in Kennebunkport. The Comprehensive Plan recognizes that, “Kennebunkport has a lack of affordable housing both in terms of homeownership and rental affordability. Affordability for people who work in the town is an issue.”

Providing affordable housing options in Kennebunkport is a complex issue that from a municipal ordinance perspective can be addressed in a multitude of ways. With that in mind, a number of years ago voters approved modifications to the accessory apartment regulations that provided greater opportunities for property owners to be a part of the housing solution. The town has issued permits for accessory apartments that have helped provide more diversity in the available housing stock.

One of the implementation strategies in the Comprehensive Plan specifically states: “Continue to allow for the approval and construction of accessory units to provide living units on existing housing sites. Consider exempting such units from the building permit cap.” Question 2: Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance Regarding Accessory Apartments on the November ballot implements that specific strategy, along with exempting any town funded housing for the elderly from the growth cap.

The Growth Planning Committee continues to work toward reviewing and implementing the goals set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. For those interested in the plan, a full copy is located on the town’s website at: www.kennebunkportme.gov under the “Ordinances” section.



Cape Porpoise to reorganize mooring field.

– Question 3 –

Changes to the Waterfront Ordinance and recovering the channel

By Lee McCurdy, Harbormaster

Changes to the Cape Porpoise waterfront are coming soon with dredging and the need to recover the channel in Cape Porpoise Harbor. With the harbor so congested, it is going to take patience and cooperation by all involved to achieve our goal. To assist with these changes, the needed adjustments to the Waterfront Ordinance are as follows:

2. Definitions. Vessel: This definition includes work floats and lobster cars. They will be added to the mooring permit system the same as a boat or fishing vessel.

3.2.2 Mooring Removal or Replacement. The changes in this section are intended to speed the process of cleaning up abandoned and unauthorized moorings from mooring fields.

4.3 Mooring Permit. 4.3.1 Application. Mooring owners and their boat registrations must have the same name to avoid confusion and misuse of moorings. Also, in this section, a mooring permit will not be processed if a person(s) owes outstanding fees to the Cape Porpoise Pier or to the town of Kennebunkport.

These changes to the Waterfront Ordinance have been presented to and accepted by the Cape Porpoise Pier Advisory Committee.

Town of Kennebunkport Special Town Meeting November 7, 2017

– 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 7th day of November, AD 2017, at 8:00 a.m.** for the purpose of acting on Articles 1 and 1a (Referendum Questions 1 through 3) as set forth in the Town Warrant. The polls for voting on Questions 1 through 3 shall be opened immediately after the election of the Moderator at 8:00 a.m. on November 7, 2017, and shall close at 8:00 p.m.

The Referendum questions to be voted on relate to:

1. Enactment of Ordinance Prohibiting Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs in the Town of Kennebunkport.
2. Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance regarding growth management permit required.
3. Amendment to the Waterfront 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.

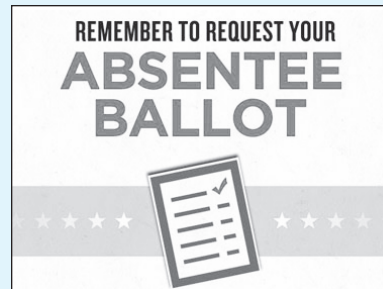
An attested copy of the Town Warrant is posted at the United States Post Office, Temple Street; Atlantic Hall, Main Street, Cape Porpoise; Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, Maine Street; Goose Rocks Beach Fire Company, Winter Harbor Road; and at the Town Offices, 6 Elm Street.

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

Tracey O'Roak
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 on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at the Village Fire Station, 21 North Street, in Kennebunkport. If you have any questions about absentee voting or about this election, please call the Town Clerk at 967-1610.



Town of Kennebunkport Registrar of Voters holds Saturday and evening hours for absentee voting

The Kennebunkport Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters will hold extra hours at the Kennebunkport town hall on **Saturday, October 28, 2017, and Wednesday, November 1, 2017, from 4:30–7:00 p.m.** to conduct absentee voting, to register any person eligible to vote, and to accept any enrollment/address changes.



Time to register your dog

By Tracey O'Roak, Town Clerk

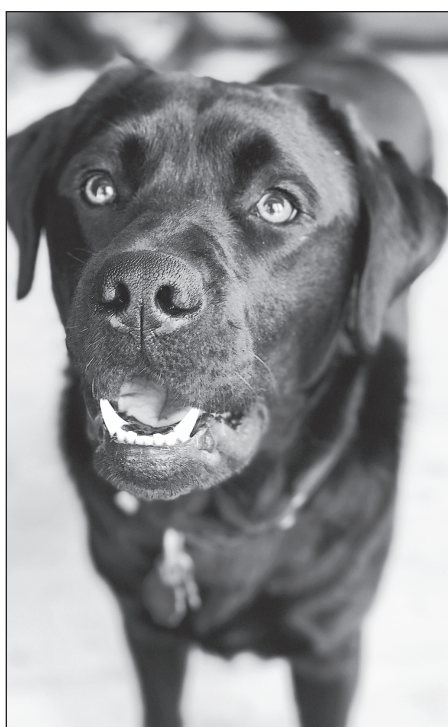
The state law requires all dogs kept within the state of Maine for more than 10 days to be licensed. An owner of a dog that is 6 months of age or older and kept in Kennebunkport must obtain a license from the Town Clerk between **October 15 and December 31 each year.** The fee to license your dog is \$11.00 if capable of producing young or \$6.00 if the dog has been spayed or neutered.

Stop by the town office with your dog's most recent rabies certificate to obtain a new license and tag. If you are licensing the dog for the first time and the dog has been spayed or neutered, please bring proof from your vet.

If you apply for a dog license after January 31, a late fee of \$25.00 (in addition to the annual license fee) will be charged per dog. This is state law and the fee cannot be waived for any reason.

There are three convenient options for registering your dog(s):

1. Come into the Town Clerk's office Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM–4:30 PM.
2. Mail your current rabies certificate and check to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 566, Kennebunkport, ME 04046.
3. Our newest option—online registration! Go to www.maine.gov/dog_license and follow the prompts. You will receive your license and tags through the mail.



Gus O'Roak

Online dog registration is now available

By Tracey O'Roak, Town Clerk

Dog registration just became even more convenient in Kennebunkport! As much as we enjoy having you come to town hall to register your dogs, we understand that it's not always easy to get here during our regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Therefore, we are now offering online dog registration. You can register 24/7 from the convenience of your own home! Your new license and tag will be mailed directly to you.

Please visit www.maine.gov/dog_license. It's quick and easy! All you will need is:

- Credit card
- Rabies certificate
- Veterinarian's info
- Tag number (if a renewal)
- Spay or neuter certification (for new registrations, if applicable)



CC Wills

Kennebunkport's dynamic dogs contest

By Tracey O’Roak, Town Clerk

Do you have an adorable dog? Would you like your dog to have the honor of being one of the Kennebunkport's Dynamic Dogs? All you have to do is submit a photo (no larger than 4" x 6") of your pup when you license your dog for 2018. Please put the dog's name, your name/email address, and the category on the back of the photo. Email submissions may also be sent to toroak@kennebunkportme.gov.

There will be four categories:

1. Best dressed
2. Fuzziest dog
3. Best smile
4. Golden oldies
(over 7 years old for small dogs; over 5 years old for large dogs)

The winner of each category will have bragging rights and recognition on the Town's Facebook page.



Henry Williamson

The deadline for submissions will be December 31 (which coincides with the date your dog's 2017 license expires). Winners will be announced January 5.

* Please note that photos will not be returned; they will be displayed in the Town Clerk's office after judging is complete.

Photos will be judged by an independent panel of judges.

Have your head in the game when driving

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

I was asked, not too long ago, to describe a few of the most frequent motor vehicle violations the police department deals with in Kennebunkport. It was an easy question to answer as I see the violations anytime I sit to monitor traffic. The first violation that comes to mind is the failure of occupants to wear seatbelts. The easiest of safety measures that you can engage is your vehicle's seatbelt. I have handled hundreds of accidents during my career, and the most serious of injuries are sustained by occupants when they fail to wear their seatbelt. No matter the cause of the accident, simply wearing the seatbelt will prevent you from being thrown about the interior of the vehicle.



Another preventable vehicle violation we see daily is distracted driving. It just isn't the cell phone we see causing operators to weave in their lane, not see pedestrians, or follow the vehicle in front of them too close. We see operators reading, eating, applying makeup, or brushing hair on a regular basis. Maine has specific violations for distracted driving as well as texting (MRSA 29-A subsections 2116, 2118, and 2119). When you read these specific laws, you get an idea of the challenges faced by law enforcement to cite a violator for distracted driving. So, it is important for each vehicle operator to ensure they are using sound judgement and not occupying their attention with nondriving activities.

In 2017, the police department tried to ensure that repeat violators of motor vehicle laws are issued a citation instead of the continued warnings that seem to have no effect of deterrence for some drivers. We continue to see growth in vehicular traffic during the summer months. With the continued growth, we see an increase in poor decision making while operating a motor vehicle. I believe the summer of 2017 was one of the busiest as far as vehicle volume in my six years as Chief. As an example, the department did a traffic survey in August on North Street. In a one-week period, our equipment recorded over 100,000 cars moving on North Street! That is correct—100,000. So, as you can see, we find it challenging to find time to deal with calls for service and ensure the motoring public is safe. It takes each of us to be responsible when operating a motor vehicle. Be patient, wear your seatbelt, and focus on driving.

Take time now to prepare for when cold weather shows itself

By Craig Sanford, Police Chief

It is already time to think of winter preparations for you, your family, and your property. No matter if you stay here and enjoy winter's splendor or fly south and enjoy the sun's heat, there are steps you should take to ensure winter does not surprise you.

For those folks that stay here, it is important to think about being able to sustain you and your family (including pets) for three to four days even if the power is out. Think of additional long-term storage food and water as well as extra medications that are essential to wellbeing. I will list below some areas to consider when preparing for the snow. The list is not complete and, as always, refer to the manufacturer's recommendations on all items you use.

Items to consider

- Food and water
- Medications and first aid supplies
- Pet supplies
- Warm clothing
- Alternate heat source

- Alternate power source
- Flashlights with batteries
- Alternate communications
- Radio

It is important to have transportation plans as well. Have your car checked out by a certified mechanic before winter. Ensure proper tires are used and that your vehicle always has gas. It is smart to put an extra blanket, food, and shovel in the vehicle in case you are stuck roadside for an extended period. Always allow time for poor travel conditions and let people know where you are going and when you may return.

It is very important that people pay attention to the weather and its ever-changing conditions. In today's world, there are several sources of information to keep you up to date on the weather. If you hear about a pending storm ask yourself, "Am I ready? Can I make it here in my home, or do I need to move inland to a friend's house or a hotel until it

is safe?" Kennebunkport is a great community with great services, but we reach our limits quickly and may not be able to assist everyone in a timely manner. Ensure elderly relatives and neighbors are ready as well. FEMA has a great website for additional information and guides to help plan for an emergency <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>. Remember folks, it is your responsibility to plan accordingly to help you and your family members in any rough weather that may come. We will help when called, but we must prioritize each call and it could take us a significant amount of time to respond.

If you are one of the lucky folks that fly to warmer parts of the country during winter, there are a few things you can do to help make winter pass by quickly without incurring any problems:

- Ensure All doors and windows are locked.



- Remove and secure valuables.
- Shut off water.
- Unplug all electrical devices.
- Stop the mail.
- Stop deliveries.
- Ask someone local to check on property.
- Store extra food properly.

You are also able to come into the police station and fill out a residence check request form. We will get all your contact information then periodically check on your home when calls for service and the weather allow.

Please take the time now to prepare for the snow. We would be more than happy to help anyone that might want to talk to us about preparing, so feel free to call the station on the non-emergency line 207-967-2454.

Public works news

By Michael Claus, Public Works Director

The public works department utilized our new, Tymco, cabover sweeper to get a jump start on spring cleanup despite a significant April snowstorm this year. We worked with MaineDOT and T Buck Construction to keep the Mat Lanigan/Dock Square Bridge Project on time for a spring opening. We completed tree trimming work on Old Cape Road and were able to prep the final section of old sidewalk on North Street near Meserve Lane for reconstruction.

Our early summer paving included Ocean Avenue from Walkers Point to Turbats Creek Road. The center section of North Street near the Olde Port Village Project was reconstructed after underground utilities were installed in the North Street right of way for the new subdivision. North Street has now been base paved from Maine Street to River Road and is scheduled for top coat paving in September. Public works crews reconstructed the shoulders and installed new drainage structures on Mills Road between Goosefair and Beachwood Avenue. That section of Mills Road will be reconstructed and base paved in October.

Public works has continued to maintain public spaces throughout town, and we have received compliments for the flower work done by Bob Pappas at Mills Road and New Biddeford/Dyke Road intersections along with our upkeep of Silas Perkins Park. We worked with the parks and recreation department on the installation of new playgrounds at Rotary Park at Beachwood Avenue and at Parsons Field. Also, look for a new incinerating toilet and trail improvements in conjunction with work done by the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust at Rotary Park at Beachwood Avenue. This fall, we will be demolishing the Government Wharf bait storage building as the start of the Government Wharf renovation project.



If you call the public works or the wastewater departments, you will talk to April Jones, our new administrative assistant. She has extensive customer service experience and lives in Arundel. She has been well received by residents calling with questions as she knows our local roads and is a quick learner of our departmental operations. For general questions on recycling, solid waste, or road issues in town, please call April at (207) 967-5728. Welcome aboard April!

If you would like to meet the public works director to discuss concerns or have questions on town projects, please call Mike Claus at (207) 391-3239.



Kevin Paradis of public works excavates a trench on Mills Road for installation of a new drainage culvert.



Many residents and visitors enjoy the grounds and river views at Silas Perkins Park.

Moving forward at Kport Rec

By Carol Cook, Director of Parks and Recreation

In recent months, we have installed new playgrounds at Rotary Park and at Parson's Field; worked with the Portside Rotary to develop a new trail and restroom facility at Rotary Park; begun the Planning Board process for the new recreation building in hopes of breaking ground in the spring; assisted in the development of KPORT CHALK FEST and the CAPE PORPOISE MUSIC FESTIVAL; and hired temporary staff to fill the void left by Bill Junker's retirement. It was also our first summer day camp at Consolidated School after three years on the road; what a treat to be back home!

With Junker's retirement comes an opportunity to examine the direction of the department and to hire a replacement based upon the evolving needs of the community. He had multiple strengths and a unique set of abilities, but the task of maintaining parks and open spaces has been moving toward public works over the past two years. The retitled position of assistant director of parks and recreation will focus less on maintenance and more on the development of new programs and adding fresh ideas for people of all ages to our current offerings.

Our future looks bright!



The new playground at Rotary Park.



The new playground at Parson's Field.



Bill Junker has retired after 18 years with the parks and recreation department. He was honored for his many years of service at a gathering on August 8. Chase Graves and Jeremiah Cook have been hired to temporarily fill the void until a new full-time employee can be brought on board.

– KENNEBUNKPORT PUBLIC HEALTH –

By Alison Kenneway R.N., B.S.N. and Angela Jenks, R.N.

Kennebunkport Public Health is a department of the town of Kennebunkport. Since our inception in 1943, our focus has been to provide for the medical and social needs of our residents and guests. Our services are covered under your town taxes and donations. We have been active in updating our website to include educational information, resources available in our community, snippets of information we find interesting, disaster tips and planning, and projects we are working on. Contact the public health office at 967-4401 with any nursing, health officer complaints, or social service needs. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00-9:30 AM, and 1:00-2:00 PM. At this time, I would like to acknowledge Judy Barrett's retirement and wish her well, and at the same time welcome Angela Jenks as our new nurse. Welcome Angela!

Be prepared: In the event of a potential or actual disaster, the public health department is responsible for the sheltering needs of Kennebunkport residents and guests. Please visit our public health department's website for up-to-date information on disaster tips and planning. If you or a loved one are medically fragile, on home oxygen, live alone, etc. and would like to be on our "call of concern" list, please contact our office and let us know. We want all of our community members safe and sound.

Healthy Maine Beach Program: The Kennebunkport Healthy Maine Beach team has been out to Colony and Goose Rocks Beach weekly, testing the waters for bacteria. You can visit www.theswimguide.org for the beach status of our beaches or any other beach along the coast of Maine that participates. A rainfall advisory is automatically posted after heavy rainfall of over one inch of rain in 24 hours. The advisory is lifted after 24 hours when it is felt that the two tidal cycles have cleared the river runoff of bacteria from inland. The EPA sets 104 enterococci in 100 milliliters of water as the maximum limit for safe water contact. We had two contamination advisories this summer at Goose Rocks Beach, and one at Colony Beach. All advisories were lifted after retesting within 24 hours when they came back within the acceptable range for safe water contact as determined by the EPA. We would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who have tested every Tuesday morning throughout the summer. If we had an elevated sample, a retest was conducted.

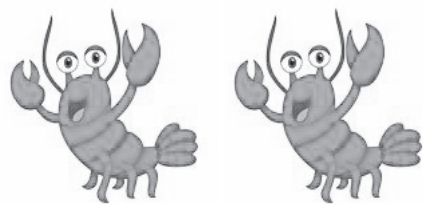


Without the help of these volunteers, this program would not be in place!! THANK YOU Linda and Steve Hanna, Paul Hogan, Judy Barrett, Don Tarr, Barbara Emmons, Alison and Seth Kenneway, Bill Nixon, Harvey Flashen, Pete Bennett, John Barbour, and Kendra O'Roak. Thanks again for your help this season! See you next year!!!

WATER TESTING

Well Water Testing Program: On June 10, the public health department sponsored our seventh well water test 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 well water test day in the spring so stay tuned.

Dug wells should be tested yearly, artesian wells every three years. The reduced rate for testing is only offered on our well water test day in the spring; however, you can test your water at any time during the year! Stop by our office for a collection kit. We also have radon and soil testing kits in the public health office so give us a call.



Lawns for Lobster: Do you know about the Lawns for Lobster Program? Check out the town of Kennebunkport's website for more information. And, before you randomly treat your lawn and gardens for winter, have your soil checked for what nutrients are needed. These chemicals leach into our water shed. All Kennebunkport residents are encouraged to participate in the Lawns for Lobster Program.

Septic Tanks: Do you know when your septic tank was last pumped? As part of your fall preparations, have your septic system pumped and inspected. This is an important preventative task which could protect our watershed and save you money in the long run.



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 cardiac prevention programs. Community CPR and first aid courses are being offered this fall. **Save the date:** November 2, 6:30-8:30 PM for CPR, and November 6, 6:30-8:30 PM for first aid. Classes will be held at Graves Library. If you are interested in learning these lifesaving skills, contact the public health department for more information on upcoming classes. Space is limited so call to reserve your spot!



We are also supporting the "Little Hats, Big Hearts" program through the American Heart Association. If you knit or crochet and want to participate in making RED preemie/newborn baby hats, call our office or check out our website for more information! All hats need to be back to our office by December 1! Supporters are knitting and crocheting red hats to be given out to babies during February, American Heart Month to empower moms to live heart healthy lives and to help their children do the same.



Stuff the Backpack: A special **THANK YOU** to the Portside Rotary, South Congregational Church, Kennebunkport Village Fire Department, Health Council, and all the residents who helped us reach our goal of purchasing and filling backpacks for our local children in need. It was a huge success. We could not have done it without your generosity! Thank you!!!



Stuff the Bus: Help us fill the shelves of the local food pantry. On November 7, 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. 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.

Fuel Assistance: Have you signed up for the LOW-INCOME FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM yet? If you need help to meet your winter heating expenses, please contact York County Community Action at 1-800-965-5762 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 if fuel is needed. It is not automatically an emergency if you run out.



Secret Santa: The holidays are coming up. Please contact the public health department for a Secret Santa application if you need 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 to qualify for this program. 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 dinner baskets. The volunteers are also offering a free community dinner on Thanksgiving and Christmas at Saint Martha's Church, Route One, Kennebunk. Please contact the public health department if you wish to sign up for these programs.



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

Kennebunkport elm watch

By John Ripton

On Pearl Street in Kennebunkport, a majestic American elm holds up the sky. Its strong graceful limbs pirouette upward. Beneath its soaring canopy is a magical place of filtered green and yellow light, a place where the child in each of us catches its breath. “They speak to our soul,” says Bob Palmer, the arborist who has cared for the elms since the 1970s.

This summer, from June into late August, a dozen Kennebunkport residents watched over the town’s elms. Called together by long-time elm caretakers Suzanne Stohlman and Palmer, each volunteer selected a set of elms to visit two or three times a week. They looked for evidence of Dutch elm disease, and after each observation sent their reports on the health of the trees to Stohlman and Palmer.

Native to Asia, Dutch elm disease is caused by a fungus that is carried from tree to tree by the elm bark beetle and can also be transmitted through the merged roots systems of adjacent elms. The fungus spores choke off the trees’ vascular system, interrupting photosynthesis and transpiration. The first signs of infection are wilting, browning and curling of leaves, usually somewhere in the upper crown of the tree. The infection can reach deep enough into an elm’s vascular system, or xylem, to threaten the tree’s life within a week, but fortunately, not always.

Dutch biologists first isolated and identified the pathogen in elms in the Netherlands in 1921. Dutch elm disease then spread across the European continent and crossed the Alps to the Mediterranean. The first case appeared in the U.S. in 1930, apparently arriving with a shipment of elm logs imported from the Netherlands destined for a furniture maker in Ohio. The blight reached New England in 1931. By the 1980s, according to the USDA, 77 million

elms across the United States had succumbed to the disease.

Kennebunkport had 2,000 elm trees lining its streets in the 1950s. Several volunteers, most notably Carter Harris, Ralph Smith, and Jim Steele were determined to do everything they could to save as many elms as possible. Their valiant work established one of the most important legacies in the town’s history: approximately 75 American elms still arch over several streets in the more densely settled parts of Kennebunkport including Cape Porpoise and Goose Rocks Beach.

About 40 years ago, Palmer joined the effort to preserve the town’s elms. As the three men before him, he slowed the rapid decline of the elms by annually inoculating all of them with fungicide. By spotting disease early, pruning infected limbs, and reinoculating infected trees, many of these elms have been saved. Over the years, various volunteers, including Stohlman, joined Palmer in this heroic campaign.

Last spring, Stohlman and Palmer decided to invite Kennebunkport residents to form the Elm Watch Team. The dozen volunteers who responded to their announcement in a local newspaper received instruction and began their weekly observations of the elms. “The volunteer elm watchers did a spectacular job,” according to Palmer. Two of the volunteers, Nina Pearlmutter and Steve Powell, deserve particular credit for spotting early signs of disease in one of the trees each of them followed. Palmer pruned the diseased limbs of the two trees, one of them on Beachwood and the other on Maine Street at the corner of School Street. Another elm at St. Ann’s on Ocean Avenue was also pruned and treated.

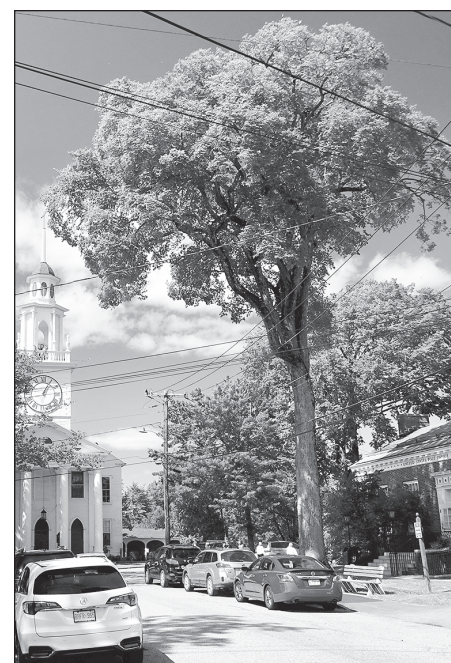
In pruning the trees, Palmer first cuts an incision into the xylem just below



John Ripton’s grandchildren playing under the elm on Pleasant Street.



American elm planted for the 350th anniversary of Kennebunkport in 2003.



Elm in front of the Post Office and South Congregational Church.

the infected limb’s bark to determine where the infection has progressed toward the elm’s trunk. He then saws off the infected limb(s) at the point where the good or uninfected wood is found, usually taking a few extra feet of good wood to increase the chances that the disease has been completely arrested. He also administers an extra inoculation of fungicide to boost the trees’ resistance to the blight.

Of the three infected elms identified and pruned this summer, two are considered to have a very good chance of survival. Though the third elm (at the corner of Maine and School Streets) will likely survive as well, it is slightly more problematic since the disease manifested itself in an unusual manner in this tree. Two elms that have been diseased for two years will be cut down this winter.

Primary among other factors that affect the health of Kennebunkport’s elms (and all species of trees) is road and sidewalk repair, expansion, and construction. Paving over the ground surrounding the trees disturbs the permeability of the soil and thus limits available water to the root systems. While much of this disturbance is unavoidable, it is important to be aware of how this roadwork impacts the health and longevity of the elms bordering the town’s streets.

Unlike many Maine towns and cities that have lost nearly all of their American elms, Kennebunkport is fortunate to have a significant population of these magnificent trees still arching over several of its streets. Only Castine has more elms than Kennebunkport. As the science and practice of silviculture progresses, moreover, it is possible that varieties of elms with greater resistance to Dutch elm disease may enable Kennebunkport and other communities to revive elm populations. To this end, the town has already planted three varieties of elms.

It may be possible that our children, grandchildren, and their friends in Kennebunkport will experience the grandeur of many more soaring elms. They too may encounter the “awesome presence. . . [and]. . . pleasure of living with. . . very old huge elm trees,” as volunteer Beverley Soule says of the two elms in her backyard. There is indeed something that speaks to our souls in great elms. The broad space beneath an old elm’s stately trunk, our eyes climbing the graceful turns of its towering branches and tracing its arc of emerald leaves is an enchanting world. Saving old elms and cultivating younger, stronger ones surely invigorates the spirit of this historic and beautiful port.



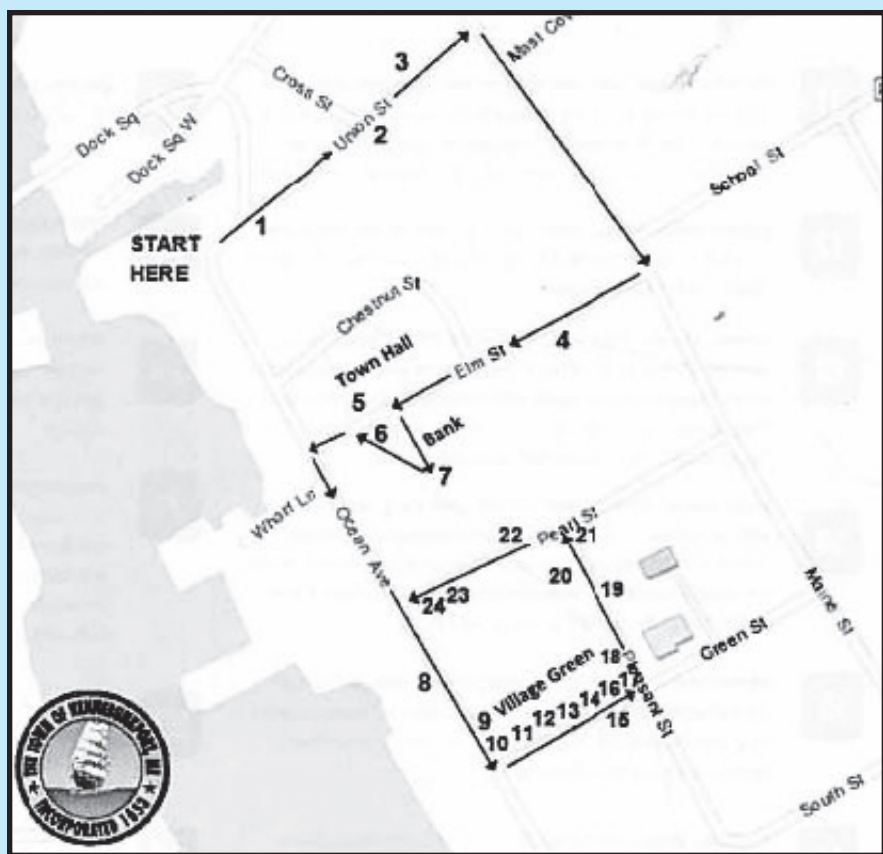
Elm tree watch volunteers.

Front row from L-R: Nina Pearlmutter, Lisanne James, Suzanne Stohlman, Steve Powell, Mary McLaughlin, Betsy Stevens, Bob Palmer

Back row from L-R: Bob Gordon, Jim McMahon, Barbara Emmons, Norma and Allyn Lamb, John Ripton, David Doubleday

Missing from the photo is Beverly Soule.

The Kennebunkport tree tour



The Shade Tree Committee has developed a walking tour of some of the significant trees in the village area. You can either pick up a hard copy at town hall or find it online at goo.gl/vnkHUU.

There's a new nurse in town

By Alison Kenneway R.N., B.S.N.,
Director of Public Health



Angela Jenks

We are pleased to announce the hiring of a new, part-time nurse to the Kennebunkport Public Health Department. Angela Jenks started working here at the end of June. She lives in Saco, Maine with her four children, and comes to us with 17 years of experience as a nurse, most of which she spent in the emergency department and urgent care setting. She has also been a floor nurse, post-op nurse, special procedures, and worked for Visiting Nurses in the past. Her varied background and nursing skills are a valuable addition to the public health department! Please welcome Angela!

Housing

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the charrette were mixed, but it clarified the need for additional data, public engagement, and the need for implementation strategies. The report can be viewed at www.kennebunkportme.gov/code-enforcement-planning/pages/charretteinformation.

The goal of the current study is to engage stakeholders and the public in the discussion of community housing needs. The analysis will determine the actual need for housing, both now and over the next 10 years, the types of housing needed, and recommendations for proven methods and strategies that will meet the needs identified.

The Growth Planning Committee will be holding meetings with the consultants and the public regarding this important subject. You can sign up to receive agendas by visiting the town website at www.kennebunkportme.gov and clicking on @ E-Alerts at the bottom of the homepage, and checking the box in front of the Growth Planning Committee Agendas. As this study develops, you can view the data collected by visiting the Code/Planning Department webpage under Workforce Housing Study.

We invite everyone to participate, give us your thoughts and feedback, and be a part of planning Kennebunkport's future.



Waterfront homes along the East end of Kings Highway at Goose Rocks Beach are consumed by flames in the forest fire of 1947. (AP photojournalist Ted Dyer)

Fire

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of Goose Rocks and in the Cape Porpoise area.

Despite their massive efforts, firefighters of that era could do little to stop a fire of this nature. Their equipment was mostly outmoded, dating back to the 1920s. Most fire trucks carried little or no water and only small, often portable pumps. In addition, their efforts were not coordinated by any central authority and became haphazard as the fire spread out of control.

Contributing to the magnitude of this conflagration was the state's lack of regulation governing outdoor burning as well as logging operations. In addition, the Kennebunkport fire was only one of many major forest fires throughout the state occurring simultaneously. Scarce resources and manpower were nearly depleted. A



The out of control forest fire crosses Route 1 in Arundel on its way to becoming an unwelcome visitor to Kennebunkport. (AP photojournalist Ted Dyer)

very serious fire consumed much of Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park. Closer to home, the towns of Brownfield, Hiram, Lyman, Shapleigh, and Waterboro were nearly destroyed by separate fires.

Could it happen again?

Discussion of the fire often causes debate about whether such an event could reoccur. Many things have changed in 70 years. As a result of the great 1947 fires, the state implemented strict regulations concerning outdoor burning, requiring permits for all fires and allowing no burning at times of high fire danger. Maine State Forestry rangers now take the lead in coordinating the response of firefighters to any major woods fire. The Kennebunkport Fire Department, like most local fire departments, maintains specialized brush fire apparatus and a large capacity water tanker. Many firefighters have received

advanced training in wildland fire-fighting, and all carry two-way radios to facilitate a coordinated attack on a fire. If a small brush fire begins to expand into a major wildfire, the state can quickly bring in additional assets, including helicopters and heavy equipment. The goal is to keep any woods fire from developing into a rapidly spreading crown type of blaze.

The unusual weather conditions experienced in 1947 could certainly happen again. After all, New England is not known for its consistencies in that regard. However, Mother Nature has provided us with some assistance as well. The pine forests destroyed in 1947 have largely been replaced by hardwood trees which do not burn with the ferocity of evergreens. Hopefully, the lessons learned 70 years ago and the resulting changes make such an event most unlikely.