



Kent Newsletter

Issue 4 | April 5, 2022

Friends and neighbors,

We're well into April and before we know it, the town will be adorned with daffodils! I'm looking forward to the 2nd annual Daffodil Days Festival, April 22-24, sponsored by the Chamber of commerce.

In more exciting news that indicates summer is just around the corner, the Chamber of Commerce announced that the Kent Farmers Market is moving to the Kent Land Trust fields, just south of town. This new location will provide better parking and an expanded area to bring more options, and some special activities during the season. The first market will be Friday, May 20th, 3:00-6:00p. Mark your calendar to stock up on fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, crafts, honey, maple syrup, beer, and other locally sourced treats!

Finally, please join me in welcoming, Samantha Hasenflue, the Town of Kent's new Director of Social Services, who starts tomorrow. Samantha brings with her a wealth of experience and is looking forward to getting to know our community. A big thanks goes out to Interim Director Judy Sheridan who has been making sure needs are filled and ensuring department continuity during this transitional time.

As always, remember,
...take a breath,
...give folks a minute,
...assume some positive intent.

Stay well,

Jean C. Speck
First Selectman
Town of Kent, Connecticut

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 numbers continue to decline. The state's average daily positivity rate is at 3.68% but we're keeping an eye on BA.2, a sub-variant of the highly infectious Omicron variant, which is now the dominant version of coronavirus in the United States. Mask requirements have, for the most part, been lifted. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on community levels through the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) and wear a mask if recommended, including people with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Home test kits and masks are available to Kent residents at the Town Hall. Masks are in the front lobby and kits can be picked up in the First Selectman's Office. Please

take advantage of drive-through testing at the Transfer Station and continue to stay smart when protecting your health and others.

COVID-19 Testing at the Kent Transfer Station Continues:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00p-6:00p
- Sundays 4:00p - 6:30p

COVID-19 Information:

[CDC COVID-19 website](#) | [CT Vaccine Portal](#) | [State of Connecticut Coronavirus Information](#) | [State of Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker](#) | [Town of Kent Testing Information](#)

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Wednesday, Apr 6 | KCS Board of Education Regular Meeting | 5:30p

Thursday, Apr 7 | Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting | 4:00p

Thursday, Apr 7 | Region One Board of Education Special Meeting | 7:00p

Saturday, Apr 9 | [Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Event](#) | Danbury Public Works | 9:00a-2:00p

Wednesday, Apr 13 | Conservation Commission Regular Meeting | 7:00p

Thursday, Apr 14 | Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting | 7:00p

Friday, Apr 15 | Town Hall Closed | Good Friday

Monday, Apr 18 | Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting | 7:00p

Wednesday, Apr 20 | Board of Finance Regular Meeting | 6:00p

Thursday, Apr 21 | Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting | 6:30p

Wednesday, Apr 27 | Region One ABC Committee Regular Meeting | 7:00p

Saturday, Apr 30 | [Shredding Event](#) | Town of Kent Transfer Station | 9:00a-noon

Visit the [Town website calendar](#) for details about Town of Kent events and a complete schedule of meetings and locations/Zoom links

Civic Engagement

Town of Kent Budget: The budget is now with the Board of Finance for their consideration. At the end of April, the treasurer will publish the proposed \$14 million town budget for the public to review ahead of the May 11th budget hearing.

Important dates for civic engagement in the Town Budget:

- **Wednesday, May 11:** Budget Hearing where residents have the opportunity to ask questions about the budget and learn about how their tax dollars are being spent.
- **Friday, May 20:** Town Meeting to vote to adopt the 2022-2023 municipal budget. Mark your calendars to attend!

2022 Legislative Session: The Connecticut General Assembly has begun what is referred to as a 'short session', running from February to May (even-numbered years are 'short sessions; odd-numbered years are 'long sessions,' running from January to June). Considering the short session, the legislature is considering a large number of bills. Here are a few I'm following:

[HB-5044:](#) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

REGARDING THE USE OF OPIOID LITIGATION PROCEEDS.

[HB-5116](#): AN ACT REQUIRING THE CREATION OF UTILITY COMPANY TREE-PLANTING FUNDS.

[HB-5139](#) - AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIRES.

[HB-5142](#): AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN GAS CYLINDERS.

[SB-88](#): AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.

[SB-117](#): AN ACT CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL ON PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

[SB-118](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS.

[SB-168](#): AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RIGHT TO HOUSING.

Your input is needed: Should the Transfer Station implement an organic food scraps drop-off program? We know sustainable materials management in CT is a hot topic. To plan for our community to continue to improve our management of our garbage and recycling, we want to hear from you on implementation of a food scrap drop-off program at the Transfer Station. Even if you don't currently use the Transfer Station, we could offer the service to all residents so please take the survey!

[Take the Organic Food Scrap Composting survey](#)

Job Opportunities: There are often opportunities for employment with Kent Town governments. All openings are posted to our [website: www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org). Currently accepting applications for: After School Program Director. [Click for more information.](#)

Park & Rec email list: Jared Kuzcenski, Kent's new Park & Recreation Director, has hit the ground running! As he works to build new programming and activities, he will be sending out Park & Rec News - if you would like to stay informed about Park & Rec, please click the button below to join the mailing list. And check out the new [Park and Rec page](#) on the Town of Kent website.

[Subscribe to the Kent Park & Rec email list](#)

Happenings Around Town

Baseball & Softball programs in Kent: Kent Park & Recreation is excited to be offering five baseball/softball programs for children in Pre-K through 6th grade. Complete information is on the [Park & Rec webpage](#).

Daffodil Days: April 22nd- 24th. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Daffodil Days Weekend featuring sales by participating merchants, Earth Day events by the Kent Land Trust on April 22nd, a Daffodil Days Floral Pop-Up with flowers available for purchase on April 23rd, and an 'Anything on Wheels' Parade on April 24. Complete information is on the [Chamber of Commerce website](#).

EGGstravaganza is back! Saturday, April 9th. Sponsored by the Kent Park & Rec, the annual Egg Hunt is for toddlers through 10 year olds. [Registration](#) is encouraged.

Kent Memorial Library has programs throughout the

month for all ages, including a weekly Music and Rhyme program for children age birth to three. Check their [website](#) [calendar](#) for complete event information.

Spring Juried Art Show at the [Kent Art Association](#). Weekends through April 24th.

Shredding Event on Saturday, April 30th, 9:00am-noon, at the Transfer Station. This your opportunity to dispose of sensitive documents and other paper materials. You do not need a Transfer Station permit to participate.



Town Updates

2022 Voter Canvass: The Registrars of Voters continue to conduct their annual voter canvass. Please read the [attached memo](#) regarding details.

Primary Care: Joanne Borduas from Community Health & Wellness Center presented to the Board of Selectmen at a recent meeting on their "B.E.T.T.Y." (Bringing Exceptional Treatment To You) unit which is equipped to provide a wide variety of services including medical screenings, lab tests and vaccinations, screening for social determinants of health, education, and referrals. Discussions continue about bringing this program, which will begin to address the lack of primary care in our community, to Kent in the near future,

Affordable Housing Plan: The steering committee has begun drafting the Town's municipal affordable housing plan which is due to State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management this summer.

Birch Hill: There continues to be no updates regarding the proposed 85-bed substance use disorder treatment facility on the property at 46 Maple Street. The Town of Kent continues to monitor developments.

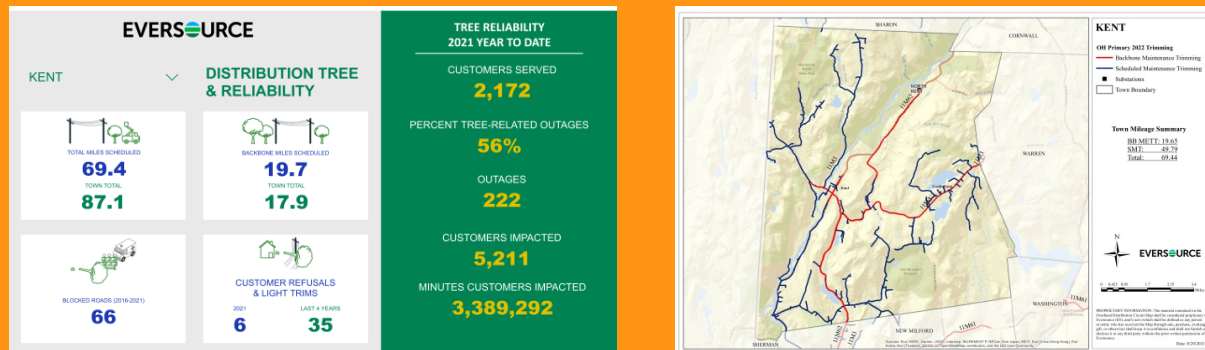
Cell Tower Construction: Construction has begun at the cell tower site on Richards Road. Homeland Towers anticipates having the towers complete and operational within the next few months. Plan documents can be found on the [Docket 488 page](#) on the Connecticut Siting Council website.

Federal Tribal Recognition: The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, March 29th to receive a report from special council on the status of the Schaghticoke Indian Tribe petition for federal acknowledgement. Minutes and a recording of the meeting can be found on the [Town of Kent website](#) under 'Minutes and Agendas'.

All supporting information for [Petition #401 Schaghticoke Indian Tribe \(SIT, CT\)](#) can be viewed on the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs website.

Streetscape: Thank you to everyone who filled out the *Town of Kent Sidewalk Materials Survey*. When the survey closed at midnight on March 31st, 726 people had responded. The results of the survey will be discussed at the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Thursday, April 7th at 4:00p. As with all Board of Selectmen meetings, the public is invited to attend via Zoom. Links for town meetings can be found on the [Town of Kent website calendar](#).

Eversource Vegetation Management: As was reported in last month's newsletter, Eversource is working to trim and remove limbs that threaten the electric system. Below is a reference map they provide to show where they will be working, as well as a new *Eversource Vegetation Management Town Scorecard* which provides a visual, at-a-glance overview of planned trimming and some interesting town-level data.



Did You Know?



NO MOW MAY: Leave the mower in the shed for an extra month! By leaving your property un-mowed for the month of May, you're helping to create habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. No Mow May is part of Pollinator Pathway, an initiative to create corridors of pesticide-free habitat and safe food sources for pollinating insects, birds, and other wildlife. The Board of Selectmen recently joined the Kent Conservation Commission, Kent Garden Club, Kent Land Trust, and Kent Sustainability Team in passing a Pollinator Pathway resolution. Learn how you can participate in the [Pollinator Pathway program](#)!

Quick Links

[Town Of Kent](#) | [Discover Litchfield Hills](#) | [Kent Affordable Housing](#) | [Kent Chamber of Commerce](#) | [Kent Center School](#) | [Kent Community Fund](#) | [Kent Emergency Management](#) | [Kent Historical Society](#) | [Kent Land Trust](#) | [Kent Memorial Library](#) | [Kent Park & Rec](#) | [Kent Volunteer Fire Dept](#) | [Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy](#) | [NW Hills Council of Governments](#) | [Region 1 Schools](#)

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visit our website: www.townofkentct.org

