



Kent Newsletter

Issue 5 | May 11, 2022

Friends and neighbors,

I have some great news to report to you this month. After 14 years, three grants and multiple town meetings, our community is closer than ever to beginning the much-needed and long-awaited Village Streetscape Project.

Last month, The Board of Selectmen awarded the bid for Phase I of the Village Streetscape project, which will be concrete with granite curbing, to the The Mather Corporation. Earlier this week, I met with the team from Mather Corp. for a kickoff meeting and to sign the contract.

This project has come together after many years of discussion, design and decision-making. Over a dozen residents have volunteered their time serving on the multiple committees that have assisted the Board of Selectmen and the community get to this point. There is much more to come and we will update the community as Phase I gets underway.

Last Thursday evening, the Board of Finance held their annual public hearing on the budget for the public to have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment. I presented major drivers for the BoS budget of \$13.6 million; the BoE presented highlights of their \$7.2 million budget. On May 20th, the budget will be voted on during the Annual Town Budget Meeting, which will be over Zoom due to rising COVID infection rates.

Lastly, you will notice the COVID-19 section in the newsletter has moved to the bottom; with the increase in cases across the state, it's important to stay informed so we will continue to include that section.

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

A Post Script - I was honored to be a judge for the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority Annual Recycling Poster contest at Kent Center School and, as is every year, there were so many wonderful works of art.



At the regional awards ceremony, there were 1300 entries from the 14 HRRRA towns, and Gabriela Garcia-Pedrosa, a 4th grader at Kent Center School was awarded Honorable Mention.

Brava Gabriela!

Here is her poster - I especially liked her 'composting super-hero' with the yellow cape.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Wednesday, May 11 | **Conservation Commission Regular Meeting** | 7:00p | zoom
 Thursday, May 12 | **Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting** | 7:00p zoom
 Monday, May 16 | **Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting** | 7:00p
 Thursday, May 19 | **Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting** | 6:30p | zoom
 Friday, May 20 | **Annual Budget Meeting** | 7:00p
 Wednesday, May 25 | **Region One ABC Committee Regular Meeting** | 7:00p
 Monday, May 23 | **Inland Wetlands Regular Meeting** | 7:00p zoom
 Monday, May 30 | **Town Hall Closed** | Memorial Day

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 Board of Finance held the annual Budget Hearing last Thursday evening. The Town Meeting to a vote to adopt the 2022-2023 municipal budget is May 20th. Mark your calendars to attend via Zoom. The Zoom link will be published on the [Town of Kent website](#). The budget is also available on the [Town of Kent website](#).

2022 Legislative Session: Now that the 2022 session is over, we'll be speaking with legislators, colleagues and stakeholders to bring a wrap-up of bills that may be affecting our community.

Job Opportunities: There are often opportunities for employment with Kent Town governments. We now have a tab on our homepage called "[Employment Opportunities](#)" where you will find all of our job postings.

Additionally, we've been asked to share the following opportunities:

- [The Housatonic Valley Association](#) has openings for their River Information & Outreach (RIO) program, which is a summer program where teams travel to the Housatonic River areas along Route 7 to answer questions and promote sustainable site use to visitors. Click this [link](#) for more information.
- There are opportunities at Macedonia Brook State Park and Lake Waramaug State Park for seasonal park staff. Visit the [State employment website](#), and in the filter tool choose "Kent."

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.

Happenings Around Town

Kent Park & Recreation programs: Check out the [Park & Rec webpage](#) for information on summer campus and other programs.

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. The [Annual Kent Memorial Library Book Sale](#) kicks off May 27th and runs through October 23rd; Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00a-5:00p / holiday Mondays and Fridays, noon-5:00p.

Annual Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 30th. The parade steps off from Kent Center School at 9:00a. The parade route is along Main Street to the Congregational Church cemetery.

Kent Land Trust Memorial Day Picnic is also Monday, May 30th, from 11:00 - 1:00 at the Kent Land Trust Field just south of town. There will be music by The Joint Chiefs, and delicious lunch from the Kent IGA!

Kent Farmer's Market returns Friday May 20th at their new location at the Kent Land Trust Field. Open Fridays from 3:00-6:00 with a myriad of local farm and maker offerings, visit their [website](#) for a complete list of vendors.

KVFD Annual Firemen's Ball is Saturday, June 11th. It's a fun evening and a wonderful way to support the Fire Department! Tickets and complete information are on the [KVFD website](#).

Town Updates

Safety message from Trooper Fisher: With the busy summer season approaching, please keep these safety messages in mind:

- always lock your vehicle, even in your driveway
- if you see something, say something
- stay alert to increased pedestrian traffic on all roads, especially Main Street

Primary Care: We continue to work with Community Health & Wellness Center "B.E.T.T.Y." (Bringing Exceptional Treatment To You) medical unit to town.

Affordable Housing Plan: The steering committee will hold their next community forum in the next few weeks - date and time will be published in a News Worth Sharing.

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: The tower has gone up, and Homeland Towers anticipates completion 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 \(SIT, CT\)](#), including instructions on how to submit comments, can be viewed on the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs website.

Streetscape: The Mather Corporation is due to begin construction on Phase I of the Streetscape project this summer. Once we have more timeline information, we will share information here and on our website.

Did You Know?

It's NO MOW MAY! 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. By leaving your property unmowed for the month of May, you're helping to create habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Learn how you can participate in the [Pollinator Pathway program!](#)



COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Community Level in Litchfield County is MEDIUM. We have seen a rise in cases of the last three weeks. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on community levels through the [CDC website](#), both locally and in areas you may be traveling to. 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

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](#)

Quick Links

[Town Of Kent](#) | [Discover Litchfield Hills](#) | [Housatonic Valley Association](#) | [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



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