



# Kent Newsletter

Friends and Neighbors,

As I was writing this month's newsletter, a thought occurred to me.

A month is a long time.

So much happens over the course of a month; new issues arise, steps and actions need to be taken and information needs to be shared that's important to the people of Kent, but waiting to put it all in the newsletter sometimes just doesn't make sense. Because of their significance and, in some cases, urgency, many of these issues and actions call for clear, independent, and immediate communication to all members of our Kent community. To address this need, I will be introducing a series of regularly released communiques – *Community Conversations* - that I'll publish in between the monthly newsletters. Hopefully, these more focused, single-topic conversation starters will give a 'deeper dive' into topics that are new, timely, and relevant. I look forward to sharing with you and hearing from you.

I'm sure many of you are wondering about the impact the Delta variant of the coronavirus as cases in parts of the state increase. In town buildings, we have moved to requiring masks regardless of vaccination status, and we will continue to work with Torrington Area Health District and our partners at DPH and DEMHS to ensure our community stays safe.

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

Stay well,

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

**Tuesday, August 10 | Swift House Task Force Sp. Meeting | 9a | Zoom**

**Tuesday, August 10 | BOS Special Meeting | 10a | Zoom**

**Tuesday, August 10 | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting | 7p | TBA**

**Thursday, August 12 | Planning & Zoning Meeting | 7:00p | TBA**

**Monday, August 16 | Park & Rec Meeting | 7p | TBA**

**Wednesday, August 18 | ARPA Assessment Committee | 4:30p | zoom**

**Wednesday, August 18 | Board of Finance Meeting | 6:00p | TBA**

**Monday, August 23 | Inland Wetlands Commission Meeting | 7:00p | TBA**

*Always visit the [Town website calendar](#) for a complete schedule of meetings*

# Your Town Government

**Safety message from Trooper Fisher:** With summer in full swing, 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

**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)

**Park & Recreation:** Are you looking for a rewarding part-time job working with children? Join Kent Park and Rec's After-School Program where we provide enriching activities, study time and play time to children after school. We are currently looking for a Program Director and Counselors. For more information and to apply visit the [Town website](#).

## Civic Engagement

We are looking for a few good volunteers! We have a number of committees that will be exploring various issues that come before the Board of Selectmen, and we would love to have you volunteer. Please contact [First Selectman Jean Speck](#) if you are interested in joining these committees:

- **Broadband Working Group:** This committee will work with [Northwest Connect](#), in their regional next-generation initiative to make broadband for all a reality.
- **Traffic & Noise Committee:** This committee will explore concerns about traffic and noise in town and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.
- **Kent Sustainability Team:** The Town of Kent is enrolled in the Sustainable CT program, which will guide the work of the Team. In the coming months, the team will use the Sustainable CT framework to develop a plan for Kent.

**Are you an organization in Kent looking for volunteers?** We are working to compile a list to make available to the residents of the Town looking to get involved. Please email the [First Selectman](#) with the name of your organization, contact person, and a phone number and email where we can reach them.

**Blood Drives:** We are grateful to the Kent Lion's Club for coordinating with the American Red Cross to support bi-monthly blood drives at the Community House. The first drive will take place on Monday August 23rd. Visit the [Red Cross blood drive locator page](#) of their website and enter "06757" into the field on the page to find the drive in Kent to make an appointment to give blood.

You can also download the Blood Donor American Red Cross app for iPhone or Android and make an appointment through their app, or call 1.800.RED.CROSS.

## Happenings Around Town

**Kent Farmer's Market:** Fridays from 3:00p-6:00p just south of the Monument (in the same lot as the Fish truck and Chris the Hot Dog Guy). They offer everything from craft beers to fresh produce and honey. Visit the Kent Chamber of Commerce [website](#) for details and vendors.

**Second Saturdays At Kent Barns:** Next date is August 14th | Art exhibits, refreshments, live music and the famous Flower Market will continue the 2nd Saturday throughout the summer. 10:00a - 3:00p. Visit the [Kent Barns website](#) for details.

**Kent Volunteer Department Firemen's Ball:** Mark your calendars for June 11, 2022 for the return of the KVFD's largest, most iconic fundraiser! An evening of dinner and dancing, all for a good cause.

## Happening THIS WEEKEND!!

### Kent Sidewalk Sale Days are BACK!!

AMAZING sales under the merchant tents inside stores | special activities | the iconic KML outdoor book sale | the famous St. Andrews Tag Sale | great food and more |

Visit the [Chamber website](#) for more information.



## Did You Know?

**August is National Dog Month!** As you can see in the smile on Bouncer's face, Kent loves its canine companions, especially when they visit the Transfer Station! Here are some ways you can celebrate "All Things Dogs" during the month (or any month!):

- [Read about](#) how science supports the mental health benefits of human-animal interaction to alleviate symptoms of PTSD in veterans, reduce stress for college students, ease loneliness for seniors, and even encourage us to exercise.
- Post a picture on social media using the hashtag #NationalDogMonth
- Make a donation to a local animal rescue organization
- Make a batch of homemade special dog treats ([click this link for 25 easy recipes!](#))



## Town Updates

**Birch Hill:** There are 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:** Homeland Towers, LLC, the company constructing a cell tower on Richards Road, has received CT Siting Council approval of its Development & Management Plan. The plan documents are available on the [CT Siting Council website](#). Note: all documents are under the "Development & Management Plan (D&M Plan)" section at the bottom of the page.

**Primary Care in Kent:** We continue to have conversations with health care organizations across the state looking at options for solutions. There are trends to explore in rural healthcare that support implementing alternatives like telehealth and community paramedicine.

**Streetscape:** The final design documents are with the CT DOT for their review. This brings us closer to sending out the RFP bid packages. The committee will continue to meet as the summer progresses.

**Tribal Recognition:** Counsel to the Town of Kent continues to monitor the situation.

## 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](http://www.townofkentct.org)

