



# Town of Kent Newsletter

Friends and neighbors,

Finally a newsletter – to say that the past 238 days have been filled with unexpected challenges is an understatement. I am relieved that my desk is finally clear enough to be able to restart this newsletter that Bruce Adams worked so diligently to share. These first few may be long as we get caught up on town news and issues, but as we go forward our aim will be to publish twice a month to keep you all informed.

Even though the Town Hall building is technically closed to public access, offices are functioning and the work of town government is continuing. Please do not hesitate to call any office or department with questions or requests - accommodations will be made while keeping the health of the public and our staff our priority.

The last nine months have been a whirlwind. After the election, we jumped right into budget season. We met with department heads and town entities to review their requests, and worked with the Board of Finance to create a sensible budget that kept the mil rate flat. We charged a new Streetscape sidewalk sub-committee, which will oversee the project from concept to construction. We have been monitoring the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation concerns, and are actively strategizing with Town Counsel regarding the current pending application before the CT Siting Council to construct a cell tower in the Bald Hill/Richards Road area.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has been front and center, we continue to work on the business of town. Below you will find information from departments, commissions, boards as well as sub committees. There will also be details on how the pandemic is affecting the upcoming election as well as other services in town, from access to open spaces and parks, and guidelines to public gatherings.

Social justice issues are being discussed in many of our communities throughout our nation. We strive to ensure safe and equitable treatment of all people regardless of race, gender, political views, occupation, sexual orientation or religion. Special Session legislation has just been drafted to address inconsistencies and imbalances, and can be found [here](#).

Finally, let's remember to take a breath, give folks a minute, and assume some positive intent. The sustained level of stress on every citizen is taking a toll on everyone. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place, with the support of a wonderful community. I find myself feeling grateful - I hope you do too.

Stay well,

**Jean**

## Important Dates

**July 23rd:** Connecticut Siting Council Hearing | 2:30 and 6:30 | via Zoom

The CT Siting Council will be conducting their public hearing via Zoom. There are very specific instructions for attending this hearing. Please click [here](#) for those instructions.

## News From Town Hall

### Department, Board and Commission Updates

Below are status updates, some current projects, and general information about the various components of Kent's Town Government. Where applicable, information about regular recurring meetings is included - always refer to the [Town website event calendar](#) for detailed information.

#### Board of Selectmen

**Jean Speck**, [firstselectman@townofkentct.org](mailto:firstselectman@townofkentct.org) | **Chris Garrity**, [cgarrity@townofkentct.org](mailto:cgarrity@townofkentct.org) | **Ed Matson**, [ematson@townofkentct.org](mailto:ematson@townofkentct.org)

- The Conservation Commission has approached the BOS with a possible project to install solar panels on many town buildings.
- We moved the speed enforcement signs to the town gateways and are collecting the data. We will be sharing this data with the public at BoS meetings.
- Work is continuing to improve pedestrian safety in the village center. We have recently received approval from CONNDOT to add no parking signs and zones to the 25-foot no parking zones on either side of the crosswalks on Main Street.
- We will be implementing web-based technology for issuing transfer station permits and are working towards including all standard permits and licensing (from burn permits to dog licenses) as well.
- We are finalizing a Social Media policy for all Town employees
- BoS Liaison assignments:
  - **Streetscape sidewalk committee:** Selectman Ed Matson
  - **Swift House committee:** Selectman Chris Garrity
  - **KVFD Financial Review Committee:** Selectman Chris Garrity

#### Treasurer/Board of Finance

**Barbara Herbst** | 860.927.0109 | [treasurer@townofkentct.org](mailto:treasurer@townofkentct.org) | 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00p

#### Town Clerk

**Darlene Brady** | 860.927.3433 | [townclerk@townofkentct.org](mailto:townclerk@townofkentct.org)

**Absentee Ballot information:** Recently, the Town Clerk sent out a detailed newsletter on the process for voting in the Primary on August 11th via absentee ballot - click [here](#) to view.

#### Emergency Management

**David Becker** | 860.927.5218 | [emdiretor@townofkentct.org](mailto:emdiretor@townofkentct.org)

#### COVID-19 Information and Resources

The State of Connecticut has compiled a comprehensive set of resources for individuals and businesses in need of information related to COVID-19. This site is packed with useful information, whether looking for business compliance information or the latest statistics or guidance. Click [here](#) to visit the site.

#### Travel Advisory

There is currently a travel advisory to self-quarantine if traveling to Connecticut from states with high COVID-19 positivity rates. Below is a link with information on the determination criteria and a list of states affected:

Visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Travel-In-or-Out-of-CT>

As always, if you have questions about any of this guidance or need further clarification.

#### Park and Recreation

**Lesly Ferris** | 860.927.1003 | [parkandrec@townofkentct.org](mailto:parkandrec@townofkentct.org) | 3rd Monday @ 7:00p

Detailed information about all Park and Recreation programs can be found on the [Park & Rec website](#).

#### Classes:

- **Tang Soo Do:** outdoor martial arts class for ages 4 and up in collaboration with Warren and Washington Wednesday evenings at Warren Woods. New session starts August 5; meanwhile try class at no cost starting July 15.
- **Regional Summer Little League:** pick-up games for ages 9-12, Monday and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Trotta Field, Salisbury. Bring own equipment. Free registration.
- **Adult Fitness in the Park:** Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Kent Common Park, 16 Swifts Lane; stretching, exercise, movement outdoors; \$40/four weeks; bring mat or towel, water bottle, mask, adhere to social distancing markers.

**Programs:** Sharon Audubon Scavenger Hunt in collaboration with the Regional Recreation Departments: weekly hunts posted online Mondays through July 27.

#### Parks:

- Kent Common Park, 16 Swifts Lane, open for tennis (permit required), walking path, playground.
- Emery Park, 42 Segar Mountain Road, open for picnic areas, playground, hiking trail.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The Commission has vacancy to fill an unexpired three-year seat and an unexpired one-year alternate seat. Join your fellow residents to contribute to your community. Interested community members must be electors of the Town.

### **Tax Collector**

**Debbie Devaux | 860.927.3269 | [taxcollector@townofkentct.org](mailto:taxcollector@townofkentct.org)**

Tax bills have been sent out. The last day to pay without penalty is Monday, August 3<sup>d</sup>. Please refer to the [Tax Collector's office page](#) on the Town website for further information.

### **Assessor**

**Patty Braislin | 860.927.3160 | [assessor@townofkentct.org](mailto:assessor@townofkentct.org)**

### **Planning and Zoning/Land Use**

**Donna Hayes | 860.927.4556 | [landuseadmin@townofkentct.org](mailto:landuseadmin@townofkentct.org) | 2nd Thursday @ 7:00p**

### **Building Official**

**Joe Manley | 860.927.4556 | [landuseclerk@townofkentct.org](mailto:landuseclerk@townofkentct.org)**

### **Social Services**

**Leah Pullaro | 860.927.1586 | [socialservices@townofkentct.org](mailto:socialservices@townofkentct.org)**

**Back to School Program:** We are now accepting applications and seeking sponsors. Region One students, grades K-12, receive a new backpack, a gift card for clothing and shoes, and a gift card for school supplies. If you would like to be accessed for participation in this program or sponsor a child, please contact Social Service before July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rental or mortgage assistance:** There is an opportunity to apply for rental or mortgage assistance opens July 15, 2020. This program has a short application window and limited funds. For Further information follow this link: <https://www.chfa.org/covid19-updates/>

### **Fire Marshal**

**Stan MacMillan | 860.927.4556 | [sharonlanduse@gmail.com](mailto:sharonlanduse@gmail.com)**

### **Resident State Trooper**

**Andrew Fisher | 860.626.7900 | [andrew.fisher@ct.gov](mailto:andrew.fisher@ct.gov)**

Our resident state trooper has two reminders for all citizens:

- **Security:** to continue to secure your vehicles and homes. There continues to be an increase in crimes of opportunity in surrounding areas.
- **Phone & in-person scams:** There are a number of scams that CT State Police are investigating, and Trooper Fisher recommends a good rule-of-thumb is to only answer a phonecall if you recognize the number, and never allow anyone to come to your house unless you initiate it. A legitimate business would not show up at your home unless you're conducting business with them.

### **Road Foreman**

**Rick Osborne | 860.927.3491 | [publicworks@townofkentct.org](mailto:publicworks@townofkentct.org)**

### **Conservation Commission**

**Connie Manes | [connie@manes-consulting.com](mailto:connie@manes-consulting.com) | 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00p**

### **Registrars Of Voters**

**Karen Chase (D) & Sal Lillienthal (R) | 860.927.1313 | [registrar@townofkentct.org](mailto:registrar@townofkentct.org)**

The Registrar's of Voters are working to ensure that you can register and vote safely in the upcoming Republican & Democratic Primaries. Click [here](#) for a details about precautions.

All questions about **Absentee Ballot** applications and ballots should be directed to the Town Clerks office. Please email Darlene Brady at: [townclerk@townofkentct.gov](mailto:townclerk@townofkentct.gov)

**To check your voting status:** click [here](#) to link to the SOTS Voter Look up Tool

**To register to vote online:** click [here](#) to link to the SOTS Online Voter Registration Portal

### **All In-person Voter Registration will be by appointment only**

To register on-line see above link. To register in-person or by mail, contact the Registrar's office by email, [registrar@townofkentct.org](mailto:registrar@townofkentct.org) or call 860-927-1953 to make an appointment or to have us send you a mail-in application.

# We're hiring at the Transfer Station!



The Town of Kent is seeking to fill a part-time position for a Transfer Station attendant. Hours would include Sundays from 8:00am-3:30pm, and occasional coverage on Saturdays from 8:00am – 3:30pm. General duties include Enforcement of the Kent Transfer Station guidelines and CT State Regulations, assisting permit holders with proper disposal of items.

If interested please complete a Town of Kent Employment Application, which can be downloaded from our website by clicking [here](#). Completed applications may be submitted either by email to [adminassist@townofkentct.org](mailto:adminassist@townofkentct.org) or mail to: Town of Kent, Attn: Joyce Kearns, P.O. Box 678, Kent, CT 06757

## In and About Town

[Kent Land Trust](#)

[Kent Memorial Library](#)

[Kent Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Kent Historical Society](#)

[Kent Community Fund](#)



## Did You Know?



**...it is illegal in Connecticut to park within 25 feet of a crosswalk (That's TWO car lengths).**

**If it was cool enough for The Beatles, it's cool enough for the rest of us.**

**Please use our crosswalks.**

coming in the next newsletter...

- Making the case for a pilot program recycling organic matter in Kent
- Comprehensive COVID19 update
- What will "Back-To-School" will look like in our community?

Join the Town of Kent's Newsletter list serv and stay informed. Click the image to join, or sign up via text by texting "KENT" to

42828.



visit our website: [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)