



Kent Newsletter

Issue 8 | July 2022

Friends and Neighbors,
I'll be short and sweet...lets all get out and support our businesses and organizations this weekend!



And 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

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Thursday, Aug 4 | Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting | 4:00p | zoom
Tuesday, Aug 9 | Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Meeting | 7:00p | zoom
Thursday, Aug 11 | Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting | 7:00p | zoom
Monday, Aug 15 | Park & Recreation Regular Meeting | 7:00p | zoom
Wednesday, Aug 17 | Board of Finance Regular Meeting | 6:00p
Thursday, Aug 18 | Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting | 7:00p | zoom

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

Civic Engagement

Election Primary Tuesday, August 9th: The Democratic and Republican parties will hold separate primaries at Town Hall. Polls will be open from 6:00a - 8:00p. Absentee ballots are available for the primary. Please contact the Town Clerk's office 860-927-3433 or email townclerk@townofkentct.org to request an absentee ballot.

Sharon Hospital update: Sharon Hospital, part of Nuvance Health, will host an online community update on **August 8th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** via [Zoom](#). We encourage you to join the virtual webinar to hear from newly appointed hospital President Christina McCulloch discuss the latest hospital developments and provide updates on the affiliation in 2019 that created Nuvance Health. The Independent Monitor, engaged by Nuvance Health, will report on its review of compliance with the affiliation agreement issued by Connecticut's Office of Health Care Strategy. A Q&A period will follow the presentation. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance and details, including how to submit questions, can be found on their [website](#). The recorded session and a copy of the digital presentation will be accessible on the website following the event.

Broadband Connectivity Survey: We are excited to partner with the [Connecticut Conference of Municipalities](#) (CCM) to promote the 2022 CCM Broadband Connectivity Survey! Your input will help guide federal investments (each state will receive a minimum of \$100 million!) in more reliable internet access for Connecticut's residents. Please complete this very brief survey from your home network today!

CCM supports member towns like Kent with advocacy, education, guidance and support for initiatives and legislation that small towns would not have the resources to provide on their own.

Broadband Survey

Eversource First Thursdays: Through the end of this calendar year, join Eversource on the first Thursday of each month to learn about their energy efficiency programs and offerings in Connecticut. Today's webinar: *Heat Pumps 101 for Residents*.

Register for 1st Thursdays

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.

Happenings Around Town

Kent Sidewalk Sale Days! The Annual Kent Sidewalk Sale Days is Thursday through Sunday (August 4-7). The Town of Kent will be bustling with sales, food, and entertainment during the week. Sponsored by the Kent Chamber of Commerce, St. Andrew's Parish Tag Sale, Shops at 31 North Main Street, Kent Greenhouse & Gardens, Scribble Art Workshop, and Sundog Shoe & Leather. A complete schedule of events can be found on the [Kent Chamber website](#).

2022 Summer Concert Series: Through a partnership with Kent Land Trust and Kent Park & Recreation, experience live music every Thursday through August 11th at the Land Trust field just south of the village. More information is on the [Town of Kent website](#)



2nd Saturdays at the Kent Barns: May thru October on the 2nd Saturday of each month, the Kent Barns is bustling with seasonal markets, unique events, and fun activities. More information is on their [website](#).

Outdoor Movie Nights: August 25, 8:30p: Stand By Me. Behind the library. Registration is required. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. Sponsored by the Kent Memorial Library and House of Books

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](#) is open and runs through October 23rd; Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00a-5:00p / holiday Mondays and Fridays, noon-5:00p.

Kent Farmer's Market is bustling at their 2022 location at the Kent Land Trust Field! On Fridays from 3:00-6:00p, look for a myriad of local farm and maker offerings. Visit their [website](#) for a complete list of vendors.

High Watch Recovery Center's Sprint for Sobriety 5K Run/ Walk is August 28th from 8:00a-noon. [Click here](#) for more information and to register. The event is in collaboration with the Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club.

Town Updates



Social Services: Each school year, Social Services runs their Back To School program, which helps families purchase needed school supplies, backpacks, clothes and shoes to start the new school year with everything they need. Our community is always so incredibly generous and our new Social Services Director Samantha Hasenflue is making it easy to help: she's teamed up with website [SignUp Genius](#), for donations. Just choose from the list of items you'd like to support - from pencils to post-its to personal items - and click through to submit what you'd like to support.

Monetary donations are also needed and greatly appreciated. Checks may be mailed to:
Social Services Back To School Program, PO Box 678, Kent, CT 06757

Park & Recreation will no longer be charged a fee for using the Town's parks! The Park and Recreation Commission voted recently to suspend the park pass program.

COMING SOON: Park & Rec will be launching a new online registration portal on September 1!

Camp options for the waning weeks of summer:

- **Code Wiz Coding Camp:** Park & Rec is partnering with Code Wiz for a virtual coding camp. Visit the [Park & Rec page](#) for details.
- **Summer Mountain Bike Camp:** 3-day mini camps packed with plenty of mountain biking fun! Final session is August 8-10. Visit the [Park & Rec page](#) for details.

Land Use Administrator: With election season in full swing, residents should be aware of Planning and Zoning regulations regarding temporary signage:

- **pursuant section 8130.18 - Signs Allowed Without a Permit:** "Temporary signs for public, political or charitable purposes provided such signs shall not be located in the road right-of-way, shall be in place for no more than 30 days and shall be removed within 3 days after the event."

Tax Collector: A reminder from the Tax Collector - tax bills were due in the month of July. NEW as of

July 1, The Tax Collector's office can now accept and process credit card payments in the office.

Planning & Zoning: Plan of Conservation and Development: the Planning and Zoning Commission and the POCD subcommittee held an informational forum June 30th via zoom to hear comments from the public on the draft Plan of Conservation and Development. Details and the draft document can be found on the [town website](#).

Affordable Housing Plan: The steering committee has published a draft plan for public comment. The public comment period is open. To view the recording and presentations, visit the [Steering Committee page](#) on the Town website.

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 Town has submitted comments on [Petition #401 Schaghticoke Indian Tribe \(SIT, CT\)](#).

Streetscape Village Improvements Phase I: The Mather Corporation has begun construction on Phase I of the Streetscape project. They are beginning on Bridge Street to take advantage of decreased foot traffic due to schools being out for the summer months, and increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic on North Main Street during the busier summer shopping season. Once Bridge Street is completed, they will begin the North Main Street section, starting at the northern end of the village working south. We will share information - and any changes - as the work plan details are finalized.

Did You Know?



988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), and is now active across the United States. When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. Visit the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline website](#) for more information. The previous Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.

COVID-19 Updates

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available for children 6 months & older. The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccines for everyone 6 months and older and boosters for everyone 5 years and older, if eligible. Use [CDC's COVID-19 booster tool](#) to learn if and when children and teens can get boosters to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

Free Walk-Up Vaccination Clinic at the Cornwall Library: Friday, August 5th, 11a-2p, for ages 6 months and up. Please bring health insurance card and photo ID if you have them, but neither are necessary to receive the vaccine. 30 Pine Street, Cornwall, CT.

The COVID-19 Community Level in Litchfield County continues to be MEDIUM. 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 continue to be 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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**Join the Park & Recreation
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You can also join the Town of Kent's Newsletter listserv via text by simply texting
"KENT" to 42828.

visit our website: www.townofkentct.org



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