



## **"Raindrops keep falling on my head..."**

**"Rain, rain, go away, please come back...."** well, you go ahead and fill in the blank as you see fit! The unsettled weather of late Winter-early Spring is always a bit of a wildcard and this year has been no different. High winds, torrential downpours, flooding, power outages, road closures, etc. seem to be just as prevalent as the return of tulips and robins. Our KVFD responders and Emergency Management team have been kept busy with the ugly side of March and April storms, and even our retail and government functions were negatively affected with the loss of the internet. We also know that we will see some more moderate weather and even the first few really warm days as we proceed into April, so we have that to look forward to. We will see fields and forests reawakening, flower beds blooming, birds chirping, and folks walking around Kent without needing to bundle up in bulky coats. Just as Nature is bustling with activity, there is a lot of activity to report in and out of Town Hall. If you have any questions about what's going on with our government, call or stop by my office...or better yet, let's meet up outside!

## **News From Town Hall**

### **Department, Board and Commission Updates**

Below is contact information, status updates, and news on projects and policies as well as general information about the various components of Kent's Town Government. As always refer to the Town of Kent website ([www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)) for detailed information.

#### **Board of Selectmen Subcommittees:**


**Swift House Task Force (SHTF)** The architectural review of the Swift House to

support the RFP to do the ADA work on the entrance, bathroom, and kitchen upgrade has been completed. On **Thursday, 11 April at 3:00 PM**, the BOS will hold a joint meeting with the SHTF to review the specific architectural work and associated costs with the specifics of ADA compliance. More information to follow as to the next steps based on construction costs and scope of work. As a follow up....

The Task Force and Board of Selectmen will host a representative of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on **Friday, 12 April at 4:00 PM** (postponed from 15 March) to explore the possibility of getting the Swift House registered in order to protect the buildings associated with Connecticut's cultural heritage.

**Kent Broadband and Mobile Communications Working Group:** This reconstituted Committee has started out strong and has taken quick action to address this issue as well as organize efforts to better understand what are the "Underserved and Unserved" areas of Kent with regards to broadband access, both residential and commercial. I have sent letters to our State Representative Maria Horn and State Senator Steve Harding, as well as the Commissioner of Connecticut DEEP, Katherine Dykes, requesting an extension of the 30-day deadline for submission of the challenge process and grant application with all supporting materials; not doable for a small town such as Kent.


In support of that effort, the Committee has developed a Broadband Survey that they are asking everyone to take a few minutes to fill out. You can access the survey [HERE](#) or use the QR code. Printed copies of the survey are also available at the library and Selectmen's Office. Please be as cooperative as possible with the Committee's request for data, as it's the only way we're going to demonstrate our need for and achieve broadband equity for our Town and our people. If you struggle with taking a screenshot of your computer screen, please email [kent.broadband.committee@gmail.com](mailto:kent.broadband.committee@gmail.com) and the committee members will assist you.



## Broadband Survey

Take the survey before April 20 and help the Town of Kent learn about residents' and businesses' internet connections. This survey will only take 5-10 minutes.

If you're unable to go online, printed surveys are available at the Selectmen's Office in Kent Town Hall and at the Kent Memorial Library.



Scan this QR code by pointing your phone camera at it and opening the link in your browser.

## Notes From All Over

**Kent Cemetery Committee** I'm happy to report that the newest organization in the Town of Kent government, the Cemetery Committee, is up and running and held its first meeting Thursday, 03 April 2024. The Committee elected Lorry Schiesel as Chair and Bernadette Ellegard as Secretary and has Brent Kallstrom as our the new Town Sexton. For any questions regarding the services of the Town Cemeteries and Cemetery Committee, please contact [Lorry Schiesel](#) or [Brent Kallstrom](#).

### Kent Affordable Housing (KAH)

We continue to work with the folks from KAH to move the issue of transferring the 1.15 acre plot of Town property closer to a reality so that we can further expand our availability of affordable housing to those most in need. We will be taking this issue to a **Town Hearing**

on 12 April at 7:00pm in Town Hall, followed by a Town Meeting on 26 April where the residents will have an opportunity to vote on the resolution to transfer the property with some stipulations. Here is the **Kent Affordable Housing Resolution**.

**Workforce Housing:** The lack of affordable housing is a multi-layered issue and one that hits especially hard on the young workers and volunteers here in Kent. KAH is partnering with the Kent Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) to turn some office space in the former Kent Manufacturing building behind the firehouse into a series of apartments for firefighter and EMS personnel. The Board of Selectmen is fully behind this effort and I continue to work with KAH, KVFD, and others to see where how we can expand this program so it will benefit more of our young workers across all the businesses of Kent.

### **Kent Employers and Employees - Please Take the Workforce Housing Survey**

Kent Affordable Housing is trying to better understand the housing situations and needs of those who work in Kent. There is state funding available to create dedicated affordable housing that would be *restricted to people who work in Kent*. These surveys will help determine whether it is worthwhile to pursue that funding, and help strengthen an application for it.

**Survey for Kent Employees - <https://forms.gle/ZTU8jQUEmYmXQTSr7>**

**Survey for Kent Employers - <https://forms.gle/MpuHyNpcQTubtेश9>**

**You can learn more about the surveys here:**

**<https://www.kentaffordablehousing.org/workforce-housing-surveys>**

**Thank you for participating in this important effort.**

### **Kent Center School (KCS)**

Lots of April happenings at our Kent Center School:

Kindergarten registration is now open through 09 April 2024.

Spring Break is from 15-19 April 2024

Spring Sports, Baseball and Tennis have started practices with games scheduled for later this month. Check out the school website for dates/times and come out and enjoy an afternoon of great competition and sportsmanship!

For other information about what's happening at KCS, visit the website:

**<https://www.kentcenterschool.org>**

### **Spring Clean Up is More than One Day.....**

**Conservation Commission:** has moved beyond the typical one-day Spring Clean Up and instead is encouraging individuals and groups to take the entire month of April to conduct a clean up and beautification of our town roads, fields, and forests. If you're out for a walk, take a bag along with you (and maybe some disposable or gardening gloves as well) and see what kind of refuse you can collect along the way. [Sign up using the form](#) or contact the Chair of the Conservation Committee, [Connie Manes](#), and ask her about the reusable bags that the Commission has available for those doing the clean-up. This is a labor of love for all of us who care about keeping our environment and our Town as clean as possible.

### **Lake Waramaug Survey follow-up....**

When was the last time you actually got to see and hear the in-depth results of a survey you took the time to fill out? Well, if not the first time this will be one of the most in-depth and informative survey briefings you could ever want. Please join your fellow residents of Washington and Warren to hear about the survey results and the efforts of the Lake Waramaug Task Force as it relates to the survey conducted and analyzed by Terra Vigilis on the biology, ecology, and recreation of our precious lake. **The first in-person briefing will be held on Wednesday, 17 April 2024 at the Washington Town Hall at 7:00 PM** with a follow-on replay of the presentation to be held at a later date at Warren Town Hall. I encourage everyone who had a say in the survey, as well as anyone who wants to have a say in the survey results, to attend one of these meetings. Any questions please visit the Lake Waramaug Task Force [website](#).

### **Treasurer/Board of Finance**

Barbara Herbst | 860.927.0109 | [treasurer@townofkentct.org](mailto:treasurer@townofkentct.org) |

**Heads Up:** The BOF is working through the budget submitted by the BOS so that it is ready for the Town Meeting in May. Go here to see the [Fiscal Year '25 Town of Kent Proposed Budget and Capital](#)

The BOS is working with the BOF to review our Capital Plan spending and execution schedules for those projects approved and funded by the Town and still on the Capital Plan books as not completed. I'll be presenting an update to the BOF at their April 17th monthly meeting on each un-executed project's status This is meant to get a better idea as to any problems, issues, and other areas of concern on programs and projects, that might not be able to be completed as planned. Together the BOS and BOF will evaluate the Capital Plan investments and ensure we're putting our tax dollars to the best use possible.

## Town Clerk

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

As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, our Town Clerk's Office, led by Darlene Brady, serves an important function as our Town of Kent website administrator. If you've been on the website lately, you might have seen an addition to our banner labeled "Community Events" (seen below and at the [website](#).) Working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Kent News GTD, Darlene has set up a link to the Chamber's website where Kent residents can both access information on events happening in and around Kent, as well as be able to add events to the Chamber and eventually the GTD websites. This "cross-pollination" of events and activities from the business of Town Hall to the activities sponsored by some of the 38 different non-profit organizations in Kent and finally coupled with the numerous commercial interests in/and around our town has taken a great step towards ensuring as many people as possible are kept informed of the wonderful events happening in our town. Thanks to Darlene for making this happen!

The screenshot shows the Town of Kent Connecticut website. The header features the town's logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links to Home, About Kent, Departments, Boards & Commissions, Contact Us, Forms & Docs, and Town Bids. The main content area includes a large banner image of yellow daffodils and a wooden bench. Below the banner is a calendar for April 2024, showing the 5th as a Friday. To the right of the calendar are four buttons: News & Announcements, Legal Notice Announcements, Employment Opportunities, and Community Events. The Community Events section is expanded, showing a list of events for today, Friday, April 5th. The events listed are: First Friday Hike at Deer Pond Farm Nature Preserve (10:00am, 3 hours ago) and Miracle Island - Paintings by KK Kozik (11:00am, 2 hours ago). Each event has a small thumbnail image and a location pin icon.

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Northwest CT Transit District Regular Meeting  
April 8, 2024 - 10:00am
- Historic District Commission Regular Meeting  
April 8, 2024 - 5:00pm
- Architectural Review Board Regular Meeting

**Community Events**

**TODAY**  
Friday, April 5th

**First Friday Hike at Deer Pond Farm Nature Preserve**  
📍 Fri, Apr 5th @ 10:00am (3 hours ago) 📍 CT Audubon Society Deer Pond Farm Sherman, CT

**Miracle Island - Paintings by KK Kozik**  
📍 Fri, Apr 5th @ 11:00am (2 hours ago) 📍 Kenise Barnes Fine Art

## Registrars Of Voters

Therese Duncan (D) & Sal Lilienthal (R) | 860.927.1953 | [registrar@townofkentct.org](mailto:registrar@townofkentct.org)



A big "Shout-Out" and "Thank You" to our RoV Team (Therese Duncan and Sal Lilienthal) for all they've done to make the first-ever early voting process here in Kent a success. The total number of early voters may have been modest, but the time and training that went into preparing for early voting with no prior experience was commendable. I want to also thank the number of people from both the Republican and Democratic parties who spent numerous hours as poll workers and moderators to ensure our town had a fair and open primary voting process. This experience will be full of "lessons learned" for the next set of early voting days in August and the bigger, 14-day early voting period in support of the November general election.

## **Park and Recreation**

Mathew Busse | 860.927.1003 | [parkandrec@townofkentct.org](mailto:parkandrec@townofkentct.org) | 3rd Monday @ 7:00p

**Commission Members Wanted!** Are you a resident/elector of the Town of Kent and looking to make a difference in the community's park and recreation offerings? The Kent Park and Recreation Commission is currently seeking 1 alternate commission member to serve a 1-year term and join the team! In keeping with state law of equal representation, we're looking for an Unaffiliated or Republican candidate. This unique opportunity allows you to participate in commission meetings, gain insight and participate in ongoing discussions, and step up as a voting member (when needed as an alternate). If you're interested and want to contribute your ideas and skills, we encourage you to send an email highlighting your interest and any relevant experience to the Park and Recreation Director, [Matt Busse](#).

## **Upcoming April Programs:**

More information on these programs can be found on the Park & Rec website [here](#).

**EXTRAVAGANZA EGG HUNT RECAP:** We had a phenomenal turnout of over 100 kids for our annual EGGstravaganza Egg Hunt at Kent Commons Park! Thank you to all who came out! We hope you enjoyed the sun (and the cold!), the egg hunt, and spending time with others in the community.

**UPCOMING: SENIOR LUNCH:** Seniors, age 60+, are invited to join us on Friday April 12 at 12pm at the Senior Center for a free senior lunch! Reservations are preferred. Please call or email the Park&Rec office to reserve a spot.

**PICKLEBALL:** Pickleball will start on Wednesday April 24! Pickleball will be on Wednesdays from 6 pm-7 pm at the Kent Center School Gym. Pickleball will run until 6/5. No registration required, as this is a drop in program. Please come to the front door of the school and ring the bell to enter.

**LOGO COMPETITION:** Calling all high school students who reside in Kent or attend school in Kent! The Kent Park and Recreation Department is opening up a logo competition to design our new department! If you are interested, [click here](#) for more information. The submissions can be submitted starting on Wednesday, April 10. Submissions are due by May 10.

**BASEBALL:** Baseball season is BACK! We will be kicking this season of baseball off on Monday, April 29! Register for baseball through our online portal.

**CAMP KENT:** Are you ready for summer?! Camp Kent 2024 **registration will kick off on Monday April 12!** Registration for Camp Kent will be through our online portal.

**MINDFUL YOGA WITH DAWN:** Dawn is excited to host a second spring session of Mindful Yoga! This session will run 5/2 - 6/6. Registration will take place on our online portal.

## **Join the Park and Rec Email List**

Are you up to date on EVERYTHING Park and Rec related? Join our mailing list [here](#) to be up to date on our latest news!

## **Tax Collector**

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

Our next tax bills will go out later this Spring with due dates in July! We're here to help on

any tax question, including your sewer bills, so stop by the office and say "Hi!" We're open Monday-Wednesday, 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00, closed Thursday and Friday. Remember, if you want to access your tax files, go online here: <https://www.townofkentct.org/tax-collector>

## **Assessor**

Jen Dubray | 860.927.3160 | [assessor@townofkentct.org](mailto:assessor@townofkentct.org)

### **Information on Tax Credits for Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowners and Veterans: (Still time to file if you're eligible!)**

Every year the State of Connecticut offers a program for elderly homeowners and the totally disabled. The filing period starts February 1 and runs until May 15. Qualifying Income limits cannot exceed \$43,800 for unmarried individuals or \$53,400 for married couples. If interested please contact the assessor's office for an application.

To qualify proof of all income needs to accompany an application. Income includes a copy of your 2023 Income Tax Return; (if you file one); Social Security, wages, bonuses, taxable portion of annuities and pensions, interest dividends, net rent or proceeds from a sale of property, etc.

Veterans who are receiving an exemption under section 12-81 of the CT General Statutes may also be eligible for an additional exemption providing the same income requirements are met as outlined above.

If you have any questions contact the Assessor's Office at (860) 927-3160 or stop by, we're open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm.

## **Land Use/Building Official/Fire Marshal/Health Department**

Land Use Administrator Tai Kern | 860.927.4625 | [landuseadmin@townofkentct.org](mailto:landuseadmin@townofkentct.org)

Assistant Land Use Administrator Donna Hayes | 860.927.4873

Building Official Joe Manley | 860.927.4872 | [buildingdepartment@townofkentct.org](mailto:buildingdepartment@townofkentct.org)

Fire Marshal Stan MacMillan | 860.927.4557 | [sharonlanduse@gmail.com](mailto:sharonlanduse@gmail.com)

Sanitarian Cathy Weber | 860.927.4626 | [cweber@tahd.org](mailto:cweber@tahd.org)

You can also contact us here: ( <https://www.townofkentct.org/departments>)

Regular Meetings:

- Architectural Review Board meets 2nd Monday at 5:30pm
- Zoning Board of Appeals meets 2nd Tuesdays at 7pm
- Planning and Zoning Commission meets 2nd Thursday at 7pm
- Inland Wetlands Commission meets 4th Monday at 7pm

**Did you know?** That first cuts and lot line revisions must be approved by the Land Use Department? To ensure that all new or reconfigured lots conform to the Zoning Regulations, any proposed changes in the boundaries of any lot, including any lot line revision, merger or other act that results in an alteration of any existing lot boundary or lot line shall be reviewed by the Zoning Enforcement Officer for compliance with those regulations. A full set of the Zoning Regulations can be found online at:

[https://www.townofkentct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3311/f/uploads/kent\\_zoning\\_regulations\\_-\\_effective\\_february\\_10\\_2024.pdf](https://www.townofkentct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3311/f/uploads/kent_zoning_regulations_-_effective_february_10_2024.pdf)

## **Social Services**

Samantha Hasenflue | 860.927.1586 | [socialservices@townofkentct.org](mailto:socialservices@townofkentct.org)

Here are some important dates to keep in mind as well as some details on the many different activities we have planned in the coming days/weeks. The best way to keep up to date on what is happening is to check out our **newsletter**:

## **CEAP/ Energy Assistance**

**November 1, 2023:** First day for fuel deliveries that can be paid by the program.

**April 1, 2024;** Deadline for fuel authorizations for deliveries.

**May 31, 2024:** The last day that a household can apply to establish its eligibility for benefits.

**June 17, 2024:** Last day to submit deliverable fuel bills.

## Renter's Rebate Program

State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are elderly (65+), or totally disabled (18+ as defined by Social Security) whose incomes do not exceed certain limits.

Kent Social Services will be accepting documents for the Renter's Rebate program between April 15 and September 30 by appointment only. Please call our office at (860)-927-1586 to make an appointment.

- Rent payment record for the entire 2023 year. Ask your landlord for a letter stating your name, address, and payment record for 2023.
- Electric/gas/water/fuel payment record for entire 2023 year. Call each of your utility companies and ask for a letter stating payment record for 2023.
- Social Security benefits statement for 2023 (SSA 1099).
- Bank interest statement and dividends for 2023 (1099s).
- Pension statement for 2023 (1099s).
- Copy of 2023 Federal income tax return (1040), if filed.

You must apply for your rebate in the town you currently live in, even if you rented in 2023 in another Connecticut town. If you rented for less than 1 year, the rebate is prorated for the time that you rented. More info: <https://www.townofkentct.org/social-services/pages/renters-rebate-program>

If you have any questions regarding these programs or any others, appointments can be made by calling the Social Services office at 860-927-1586 or leave a message and we'll get back with you.

## Public Safety:

### **Resident State Trooper**

Vicky Donohoe | 860.626.7900 | [residenttrooper@townofkentct.org](mailto:residenttrooper@townofkentct.org)

**Resident Trooper Search:** I had the privilege of meeting with the leadership of Connecticut State Police Troop L Barracks on 04 April and sitting in on the final interviews of the candidates for our Resident Trooper. I met some outstanding candidates and am very happy to relay that we will be well served with whatever final candidate is recommended to serve as our Resident Trooper. We should be hearing very soon and welcoming our new Resident Trooper.

**Update on Safety:** I continue to meet with our Resident Trooper and the State Police leadership to find ways to deal with the annoying and dangerous issue of speeding on our State and local roads. As most of you have noticed, we are seeing more road patrols and State Trooper presence besides our Resident Trooper, which has helped at times, but still isn't enough. We know it's not limited to our town, so I've been meeting with the First Selectmen of Warren and Washington to see what innovative technologies we can bring to bear to address this speeding problem. We believe we have some solid solutions and will be bringing these ideas to a public forum in the near future. Stay tuned....

## Road Foreman/Public Works/Transfer Station

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

**Streetscape II:** Rick Osborne and I are working with our real estate attorneys at Cramer and Anderson to obtain the various easements so that we can continue to hit the milestones that will get us closer to the start of construction. Completion of securing the easements is a major step towards getting the project off the drawing board and into action.

**Transfer Station News:** as we come into the last quarter of this fiscal year, the Town of Kent is faced, along with just about every other town in Connecticut, with decisions to make regarding the increased cost of dealing with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). As part of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) we band together with 13 other towns to manage our solid waste and most recently our composting of organic food waste. The previous method of buying a yearly Transfer Station pass has not kept up with the changes to our MSW and recycling costs and processes and therefore changes are required in how we manage our trash and recycling. At our 27 March Board of Selectmen's meeting, the

Director of the HRRRA presented several options that both Rick Osborne and I had worked with the HRRRA staff on developing and will now be examining these options and making a decision so that we can plan to implement these new procedures before we run into the deadline the state has for making our decision, which is 15 May 2024. These options will be placed online within the next week so that you may look at the data and then ask any questions you may have at our April 24th Regular BOS meeting.

**Composting Update:** Good news and a job well done to those Kent residents who have participated in collecting and composting the food waste this past year. Kent is 3rd out of the 15 towns signed up for the pilot program in actual tonnage/volume of food waste collected. We have asked for an extension of the grant for this next year, and in support of the changes to the MSW program will look to make it mandatory for all transfer station users regardless of whatever MSW plan is adopted for next year. As for the arrival in Kent of the mulch that is derived from the composting, we will have two dates in April (yet TBD) where the Town will transport the mulch from Ridgefield to Kent and then distribute to those who have participated in the program. Stay tuned for more news on dates/times.



As I sat in my office Friday putting the final touches on the newsletter, I felt the building shake and the windows rattle much more intensely than if the train was rumbling through town with a heavier than normal load. The 4.8 earthquake that shook the town was quite unexpected and the source of some speculation, bewilderment, and to some, bemusement. Having been a veteran of some serious 7-8 scale earthquakes while stationed in California, Alaska and Turkey, I looked at our quake as more of Mother Nature shaking off the last vestiges of Winter and firmly moving toward Spring. I'm ready and I bet you are as well! Be well, be safe, and see you around Town!

**Warm Regards,  
Marty**

**Martin J. Lindenmayer**  
**First Selectman, Town of Kent**  
**Office: 860.927.4627 | Cell: 860.488.6074**  
**[firstselectman@townofkentct.org](mailto:firstselectman@townofkentct.org)**

**See you at our site: [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)**

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