



## Town of Kent Newsletter

### My How Time Flies!

As I pass my first 100 Days as First Selectman, people have asked me "So how do you like the job as First Selectman?" and, "Is it what you expected?" The answer is always a resounding "Yes!" to the first question and just as enthusiastically, "Sometimes, but actually better!" to the second question. It's been interesting and energizing to see where we started, what we've done, and where we are going together as a Town. I'm blessed to say I have been welcomed into Town Hall by this wonderful group of professionals, and into the Northwest Region by my fellow First Selectmen. Everyone has been helpful in providing answers to my many questions and have been quick to offer support and cooperation in sharing ideas and initiatives. The bottom line is that none of what we've done or what we want to do can be accomplished without the cooperation and collaboration from the people of Kent...I thank you!

### 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**

Marty Lindenmayer, [firstselectman@townofkentct.org](mailto:firstselectman@townofkentct.org)

Glenn Sanchez, [glennsanchez@townofkentct.org](mailto:glennsanchez@townofkentct.org)

Lynn Worthington, [lynnworthington@townofkentct.org](mailto:lynnworthington@townofkentct.org)  
Joyce Kearns, [adminassist@townofkentct.org](mailto:adminassist@townofkentct.org)  
Selectmen's Office phone: 860.927.4628  
First Selectman's Cell Phone: 860.488.6074

It was a busy month for the Board of Selectman and the entire Town Hall staff and I appreciate their patience and cooperation. I personally want to thank my fellow Selectmen, Glenn Sanchez and Lynn Worthington for their hard work and dedication in every task put before us. The teamwork that goes into every aspect of our job, even when we may have differences of opinion, is essential to achieve the best possible outcomes for the Town.

- The 2024-2025 Town of Kent Operating Budget has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen and will be presented to the Board of Finance on 20 March 2024. **Did you know that there are over 65 Departments, Boards, Commissions, Committees, Associations, Grantees, and Organizations from Kent and the surrounding area that submit budget requests to the Town of Kent?** From "Assessor to Zoning Board of Appeals" the Selectmen, working alongside Barbara Herbst, Town Treasurer, and Joyce Kearns, Board of Selectmen Admin Assistant, reviewed upwards of 380 individual line items along with dozens of pages of supporting documentation, sometimes more than once and across a dozen meetings. I firmly believe we have a fair and supportable budget to go before the Board of Finance and the townspeople and look forward to presenting this in the weeks to come. I hope you all get a chance to review the budget which can be found here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tRCpK3mSmghCydmoR4NbVIfpa7VRVOMI/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tRCpK3mSmghCydmoR4NbVIfpa7VRVOMI/view?usp=share_link)
- The proposed 2024-2025 Capital Plan can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I5wyOTAi9mmqXFajFogEMMIlnlI0pWB>

In my last newsletter I described where you can find information on key dates/times for events of the Town of Kent as well the many Boards, Commissions, and Committees that exist, and just as important, how you can sign up to follow there activities. In case you missed it, the Town of Kent website ([www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)) shows you how to subscribe by filling out a form on the website using the “**Subscribe**” button located on the bottom of the **Home** page. If you have any problems getting connected, please call the Selectman’s Office at 860.927.4628 or stop by and we’ll be happy to help you.

### **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 is due to be released "soon." We should get a more comprehensive idea of the scope of work and possibly an idea of the cost. In some potentially exciting news, the Task Force and the Board of Selectmen are exploring the possibility of getting the Swift House listed on the CT State Register of Historic Buildings and will host a representative of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on 15 March. A representative has been working with Selectman Glenn Sanchez in getting some preliminary photos and data to start the process and following this on-site visit, will review their findings and begin the process for consideration of listing the Swift House. Potential benefits are becoming qualified for grants and other support for renovations so we eagerly await our chance to show off the Swift House.

**Kent Broadband and Mobile Communications Working Group:** The Board of Selectmen has expanded the former Broadband Committee to more fully represent the communication issues we have here in Kent. While the initial focus will be to address broadband coverage, we all know that mobile phone coverage is also an area that needs attention. The Group's new charge is to: "explore options and costs to bring adequate and competitive broadband to all residents in town, take actions to apply for Broadband, Equity, Access, Deployment (BEAD) funding, and as a secondary priority explore options to improve reliability and access to cell service and make recommendations on these subjects to the Board of Selectmen." Selectman Lynn Worthington is our BOS representative and along with the other members of the Group, will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to this task. Follow this group by signing up on the Town of Kent website to receive information on their activities as well as to read minutes and follow the videos of the meetings.

### **Notes From All Over:**

**Kent Cemetery Committee:** The ordinance authorizing the establishment of the Cemetery Committee and the position of Sexton was passed at a Town Meeting on 27 February. The ordinance authorizes the responsibility for oversight for the all Kent community cemeteries (including Bulls Bridge Cemetery, Flanders Cemetery, Congregational Cemetery, Good Hill Cemetery, Skiff Mountain Cemetery, and St. Andrew's Cemetery) to be transferred from the Kent Cemetery Association to the domain of Town of Kent. We are actively looking for Town of Kent residents to serve on the Committee. There are five regular and two alternate position and their main function is to oversee the work of the Sexton and to manage the overall operations of the Cemeteries. The meeting schedule will be at the discretion of the Committee but is not expected to meet every month. This is a great opportunity to serve our community and to honor and support those who are part of our town forever.

**Now Hiring: Kent Cemetery Sexton Position:** looking for a part-time position that is critical to the Town? Then check out this job opening. The purpose of the Sexton position is to oversee the operation and maintenance of all Town-owned cemeteries. It's a part-time position that reports to the Cemetery Committee and requires good communication skills and a lot of patience and empathy! The job description and salary details are available [here](#).

### **Kent Affordable Housing (KAH):**

We continue to work with the folks from KAH, specifically President Justin Potter, 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 Meeting in the near future where any questions about what exactly this transfer means can be answered.

**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.

**Workforce Housing Survey:** In order to gain more data on the needs of the workforce and their employees, KAH has prepared the following survey. If you fall into one of the following categories, please participate:

### **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/MpuHyNpcQTubtresh9>**

**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)**

The Connecticut State Department of Education has amended the General Statutes to implement a new cutoff date for students entering Kindergarten. The legislature established September 1 as the new birthday cutoff date for students planning to enter Kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. Kent Center School understands that this decision may be a hardship for parents, and is committed to working with our local families to support students who miss the cutoff. For more information please read the letter from Michelle Mott, KCS Principal. [KCS Early Kindergarten](#)

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

<https://www.kentcenterschool.org>

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

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

BOF Chair| Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick

Like the proverbial "one-armed paperhanger," Barbara is busy getting the Board of Selectmen's operating budget up to speed while preparing to work with the Board of Finance on budget reviews. It is also moving quickly into grant writing season and her knowledge and experience will be huge assets as we navigate the ins and outs of identifying grants, preparing the supporting material, writing the actual proposal, and then conducting the follow up. Grants such as the CT Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) help towns like Kent with capital projects such as those used for new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement of existing facilities. Kent hasn't applied for a STEAP grant in quite a few years, so it is time we reach out and see where we can get financial assistance to augment our budget and get some projects going.

### **Town Clerk**

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

**News You Can Use for the Upcoming Primary Election:** Only registered voters of the major party holding a primary, Republican or Democrat, may vote in that party's primary. Members of minor parties (Independent, Working Family, Green Party and Libertarian) or unaffiliated voters (not a member of any party) are not eligible to vote in either primary. The deadline has passed for changing major parties or minor to major party to participate in the Primary.

**Voters who are registered Unaffiliated** (not a member of any party) may join a party up to noon the day before the primary (Monday, April 1) if opting to vote in person or by absentee ballot. If wishing to vote during the scheduled "early voting" period, a voter must enroll in a party up to noon on Monday, March 25th.

**New Voters:** If voting in person at the polls or by absentee ballot; you may register in person up until Monday, April 1 at 12:00 PM. Individuals who are not registered but want to vote during the early voting period may register by noon on the business day before the day they want to vote during such period.

For more information on voting, go to this website and if you have any questions, please stop by the Town Clerk's office and they'll be happy to help!

<https://www.townofkentct.org/home/news/kent-voter-information-presidential-preference-primary-tues-april-2-2024>

### **Registrars Of Voters**

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

**For Your Consideration:** There will be a special enrollment session for the purpose of hearing requests by persons removed from the voting roles and to request to add their names back on the registry list. In addition, any person who wishes to register in Kent may also do so at this time. Please note the deadline has passed for changing major parties or minor to major party to participate in the April 2 Presidential Primary Election. This session will be held **March 15, 2024 in Kent from 7pm -9pm in the office of the Registrar of Voters, second floor of the Town Hall, 41 Kent Green Blvd, Kent, CT.**

For more information please contact the Registrar's Office 860-927-1953 or by email [Registrar@townofkentct.org](mailto:Registrar@townofkentct.org)

**Heads Up:** The Presidential Preference Primary has been moved up to April 2, 2024 with Early Voting held March 26, March 27, March 28, and March 30 from 10am until 6pm in the office of the Kent Registrars, second floor of the Kent Town Hall. If you have any question, please phone the Registrar of Voters Office at 860-927-1953.

The Secretary of the State of CT has announced the candidates for the Primary.

The following Democratic candidates were selected to appear on the ballot (listed in alphabetical order):

Joe Biden

Dean Phillips

Cenk Uygur

Marianne Williamson

The following Republican candidates were selected to appear on the ballot (listed in alphabetical order):

Ryan Binkley

Ron DeSantis

Nikki Haley

Donald Trump



## **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 commission member and 1 alternate commission member to serve 1-year terms and join the team! 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 March Programs:**

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

### **Mindful Yoga with Dawn:**

Registration is limited to 16 participants. Register online [here](#)!

### **New Park and Recreation Director Meet and Greet**

Thursday March 14, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, Kent Center School Cafeteria

### **Spring Equinox Sunset Hike:**

Tues 3/19, 5pm, Emery Park Parking Lot

Register online for the hike [here](#)!

### **EGGStravagnza 2024:**

Sun 3/24, 1pm, Kent Commons Park (rain date of Sunday 3/30 at 1pm)

Register online [here](#)!

### **"NEW" Pickleball:**

We are finalizing plans for a pickleball program! Please keep an eye out for future program offerings and the announcement. It's going to be a blast!!

### **Park and Rec Survey**

Please keep an eye out for a park and recreation survey that will be sent out via our mailing list in the upcoming weeks!

### **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)

We made it through the recent tax season with the cooperation of all our taxpayers and Josie and I thank you! 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:**

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

### **Here's a Friendly Reminder Regarding Inland Wetlands Permits:**

When planning your spring projects, repairs or clean-up, please remember that any activity within 100 feet of wetlands or 200 feet of watercourses will require an inland wetlands permit. If you are uncertain if you need a permit or if you need guidance with the application process, please reach out to the Land Use Office at 860-927-4625 or [landuseadmin@townofkentct.org](mailto:landuseadmin@townofkentct.org).

*"Regulated activity" means any operation within, or use of, a wetland or watercourse involving removal or deposition of material, or an obstruction, construction, alteration or pollution of such wetlands or watercourses and any earth moving filling construction, or clear-cutting of trees within one hundred (100) feet of wetlands and within two hundred (200) feet of watercourses.*

qPublic on the Town's website is a tool that can be utilized by the public for guidance that provides mapping with overlays to assist in better understanding and evaluating properties with regard to wetlands and watercourses. <https://qpublic.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=998&LayerID=20374&PageTypeID=2&PageID=8864>

## **Social Services**

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

### **Here are some important dates to keep in mind:**

#### **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.

### **Renters' Rebate For Elderly/Disabled Renters Tax Relief Program**

#### **2024 APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS APRIL 1**

CT State Renters' Rebate Program provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room or living in cooperative housing, or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. Renters' rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single persons. The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. Applications will be accepted starting April 1, the application deadline is October 1.

**Transportation Survey:** We are asking for your assistance to help us better evaluate and understand transportation issues for Kent residents who are 60 years of age and older. We have created a short survey (only takes a couple of minutes) that you can complete by clicking the link below. Thank you in advance for your participation!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZTGJcQJr2e58zAvJT\\_U4isWEtwhCZdEePa0xZKlaZHYxHDA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZTGJcQJr2e58zAvJT_U4isWEtwhCZdEePa0xZKlaZHYxHDA/viewform)

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 just give us a call and we'll get back with you.

### **Public Safety:**

#### **Resident State Trooper**

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

Trooper Donohoe will be on vacation from 18-25 March, but don't get too comfortable as Trooper Andrew Orzech will be patrolling around Kent during her absence. We have every assurance that Trooper Orzech is up to the task since he was trained by Trooper Vicky Donohoe. No real updated information to pass about a permanent Resident Trooper as the interview process continues at Troop L. I don't think anyone would mind if we could just keep Trooper Donohoe here in Kent, would they?

**Update on Safety:** I am working 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**

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

**Streetscape II:** Rick Osborne and I continue to work closely with SLR, our design engineers for the next aspect of the sidewalk project. Recently we met with all the utility partners that will be affected by the sidewalk construction to address areas of individual and mutual concern. Representatives from Eversource, Housatonic Railroad, CTDOT, Frontier, and SLR met here in Kent to "kick-off" the utility coordination and review potential utility conflicts, facility relocations, and utility pole adjustments resulting from the design plans and to discuss future coordination efforts.

**Next...** We will continue to work 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.



Crocus are poking their green shoots up through the gardens and daffodils will soon be blooming all over our fields and roadsides so something good must be coming along. Get your kites, bicycles, hiking boots, fishing gear, baseball gear, and raincoats ready as Spring will be here soon (if not already!) However, it wouldn't surprise any of us who have lived here for a while if Mother Nature didn't have one more surprise snowstorm up her sleeve before the month is out. Still, before long I expect we'll see more friends and neighbors

working in their yards and getting back into enjoying the beautiful nature scene we have here in our town. I look forward to seeing you around town and until then, have a great month and keep on smiling....we live in Kent, CT!

**Warm Regards,  
Marty**

**Martin J. Lindenmayer  
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[firstselectman@townofkentct.org](mailto:firstselectman@townofkentct.org)**

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

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