

Kennebunk welcomes new Fire Rescue Chief

Mr. Justin Cooper began his duties as Kennebunk's Fire Rescue Chief on July 5, replacing Chief Jeff Rowe who retired on June 24.

Justin offers our community a vast amount of firefighting, EMS and leadership experience. He has worked for the City of Biddeford for the past 18 years, most recently serving as a Fire Captain/Shift Commander. He also served as a Deputy Fire Chief for the Town of Arundel where he has worked since 2003 and as a per diem Deputy Chief of the Kennebunk Fire Rescue Department, having been employed by the Town since 1998. His educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology-Exercise Physiology from UMASS, Amherst. He and his family reside in Kennebunk. Welcome Chief Cooper!



Farewell to Chief Rowe

We celebrated Chief Jeff Rowe's retirement with friends, family and co-workers at Garden Street Bowl on June 23rd. Chief Rowe was a huge asset to the Town and the Fire Department and will be greatly missed.



Charter Commission creation to go to voters

Nomination papers will be available for six elected Charter Commission members on August 1, 2022. Voters will have an opportunity to approve the creation of a Charter Commission at the November 8, 2022 election. If the formation of the Charter Commission is approved, the six nominated candidates with the most votes will be on the Charter Commission. The Select Board has the authority to appoint

three residents to the Commission once it is approved by the voters.

The Charter Commission will review the current Charter and discuss possible changes. Those changes will be brought to the voters for adoption. More information is available by calling the Town Clerk at 604-1326.

Behavioral Health Liaison provides much needed support

The Kennebunk Police Department has been fortunate to have Rachel Schlein, LCSW, LADC as our department's part-time behavioral health liaison since September 2021, contracted through Sweetser. The role of the behavioral health liaison is to co-respond with our police officers on calls for service that involve those suffering from behavioral health and/or substance use disorders and provide assistance in areas that fall outside of an officer's expertise. Our behavioral health liaison assists officers in de-escalating those that are in crisis and connecting them to available treatment and support resources.

department a total of 40 hours of coverage per week of behavioral health co-response. When not available to co-respond, the liaisons will provide follow up. The Police Department is certain that these services will save lives and reduce repeated calls for police services.

An added benefit with onsite behavioral health liaisons will be the ability to assist all of our first responders. Our behavioral health liaisons will be proactive in conducting routine check-ins with our first responders, assist in collaborating with peer-led critical incident stress debriefings, and connect staff with additional service as needed.

This position will soon transition from a contracted position to a part-time employee of the Town resulting in a significant savings which will allow for the creation of a second part-time behavioral health liaison. This will give the

If you are in need of behavioral health/substance use resources, please reach out to Rachel at 604-1352 or by email at rschlein@kennebunkmaine.us. If you are in crisis, please call 911.

Town officials hold a community conversation on housing

Town officials held a "Community Conversation on Housing" at the Waterhouse Center on June 29, 2022. Attendees participated in three breakout group discussions on Short-term Rentals, ADU'S (Accessory Dwelling Units), and AAA Housing (Affordable, Attainable, Available Housing). These discussions served as a starting point in understanding the housing issues our community faces. For more information or to share your thoughts on the issue, contact the Community Development Department at commdevemails@kennebunkmaine.us.

Kennebunk Free Library happenings

On June 29, through a generous donation by Geroge Hermans, we hosted the dedication of the Merry Hermans' Poetry Corner. Laura Dauphinais was voted in as a new library trustee beginning July 1. Our Annual Appeal concluded on June 30. We thank the community for a successful fundraiser!

WORK ZONE Kennebunk Skatepark nearing completion

Artisan Skateparks of Kitty Hawk, NC began construction on the concrete portion of the skatepark in April. Their work wrapped up in May, and the remainder of the park awaits a new coat of asphalt. A landscaping plan is in the works to further develop the park and to complement the improvements. Visit www.kennebunkmaine.us/skatepark for a more complete history of the project.



Community Outreach Services (COS) offers a free supplemental food program, Food4Kids, to the children of RSU 21. This program is available to qualified children from preschool through Grade 12.

To participate visit <https://coskennebunks.org/food4thought/> Kennebunk residents can contact Kennebunk's General Assistance Admin Tabettha Barden at 207-604-1394 or tbarden@kennebunkmaine.us for more information.

CONNECT WITH US!

- Website:** www.kennebunkmaine.us
- Facebook:** www.facebook.com/townofkennebunk
- Instagram:** www.instagram.com/townofkennebunk
- Twitter:** @townofkennebunk
- Subscribe to receive Email or Text Notifications:** www.kennebunkmaine.us/notifyme
- Watch:** Spectrum cable channel 5 or online at Town Hall Streams www.townhallstreams.com
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Call Ride Coordinator
Tabetha Barden
(207) 604-1366

COMING SOON! VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

The Kennector provides an affordable transportation option for older people and adults with vision impairments or other disabilities.

- Arm-through-Arm & Door-to-Door Service
- Friendly & Familiar Faces
- Assistance for those with mobility challenges
- Rides in private vehicles by trained and vetted drivers
- Affordable rates \$2.00 base fee + \$.50 per mile with \$5.00 minimum

Email thekennector@kennebunkmaine.us for more information or to become a driver. Paper applications are also available in the General Assistance office.



Artisans Marketplace
9 AM - 2 PM



Farmers' Market
8 AM - 1 PM

SATURDAYS
in Downtown Kennebunk



Flowers

Beach Days

With several beautiful and warm weekends, our lifeguards had an uptick in rescues and assists. We ask that people watch the conditions of the waves and the ocean and be prudent when swimming. The water temperatures remain cold despite the warm weather. Additionally, there have been days with small craft advisories which means that the sea conditions are rougher than normal and larger waves and rip currents may occur. Watch and observe the lifeguard flags. Green = OK, Yellow = Use caution, Red = Not recommended to swim due to rough seas and or rip currents.



A Kennebunk guard practices rescue techniques during weekly training.

Mini-stands have been deployed at Kennebunk beaches to bring guards closer to the water. They are typically utilized for a two-hour window before and after high tide. Any guard is capable of moving them up and down the beach, and the mobility is much appreciated by the guards.



Mini-stands bring guards closer to the water.

Three guards are certified for water testing and have been working with Maine Healthy Beaches on monitoring the water quality levels.

Red means STOP!

The Police Department will be conducting additional traffic enforcement details specifically directed toward red light violations. We have seen an increase in these type of violations and will be utilizing marked and unmarked cruisers for our enforcement efforts throughout town. Please help us spread the word as we desire voluntary compliance in lieu of issuing a \$146.00 ticket.



Upcoming Events

Concerts in the Park

Wednesdays through August 17, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park

Artisans Marketplace

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. from May 28 through October 1 at the Waterhouse Center

Farmers' Market

Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from May 7 to November 19 at the Garden Street Municipal Lot

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 2, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Waterhouse Center

Meetings

Select Board

Tuesday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Visit www.kennebunkmaine.us/calendars for determination of in-person or remote meeting.

Planning Board

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.



Kitchen Composting by Agri-Cycle at Transfer Station

Residents can bring their kitchen compost to the Transfer Station at 36 Sea Road. At this site, simply empty your five-gallon bucket into one of the 36-gallon totes provided by Agri-Cycle. The cost to dispose is \$1.00 per bucket. You can also take processed compost for \$2 per 5-gallon bucket. See the attendant on duty for disposing and picking up of kitchen compost. Visit www.kennebunkmaine.us/kitchencomposting for more information.