

THE BREWER CHRONICLE

APRIL 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

April Calendar

Wednesday, April 3

City Council Workshop, 10am,
City Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 9

City Council Meeting, 6pm,
City Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 9

Dangerous Building Hearing
on 499 Wilson Street, 6pm,
City Council Chambers

Monday, April 15

City Hall Closed in
observance of Patriots' Day

The Brewer Public Library, located at 100 South Main Street, holds a wide variety of ongoing events throughout the year. [Click here](#) to learn more about what the Brewer Public Library has to offer!

Please visit the City website calendar for more information on these events and meetings at www.brewermaine.gov

Welcome Message from Mayor Jenn Morin



I am thrilled to introduce to you the *Brewer Chronicle*, a brand-new monthly newsletter that aims to connect and engage with our great community of Brewer. As Mayor, one of my top priorities this year has been to enhance our communication channels and foster a stronger bond with our constituency, the heart and soul of our city.

I firmly believe that the strength of our community lies in the collective voices and ideas of its members. By shining a spotlight on the incredible initiatives and events happening

within our city and by encouraging collaboration and input from each of you, we can truly make the *Brewer Chronicle* a reflection of our vibrant community spirit.

One of our key initiatives is to improve our communication systems, we recently launching "*Notify Brewer*" a notification system that will keep you informed about important updates, both planned and unforeseen. Whether it's a scheduled road closure, a water system maintenance alert, or any other crucial information, we want to ensure that you are always in the loop. To sign-up, navigate to www.brewermaine.gov and click "Join Notify Brewer" on the top banner and follow the sign-up instructions.

I invite you all to actively participate in this journey with us. Your feedback, suggestions, and ideas are invaluable in shaping the future of our city and making our communication efforts more effective. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any thoughts or recommendations you may have. Together, we can work towards enhancing communication and building an even stronger community in our great City of Brewer.

Warm regards,
Mayor Jenn Morin

Bill Kimball Elected to City Council



At the Special Municipal Election held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, William Kimball was elected to the City Council. Kimball fills the seat held by the late Jerry Goss who passed away unexpectedly on December 7, 2023. Councilor Kimball was sworn in at the March 19 City Council Meeting. The term for this seat will expire in November of 2024.

Kimball is a lifelong resident of Brewer and local business owner. A more detailed biography is available on the [City website](#). Please join us in congratulating Councilor Kimball and welcoming him to the City Council.

City of Brewer 20th Annual Ken Locke Stream Clean-Up

This year marks a significant milestone—the 20th Annual Ken Locke Stream Clean-Up, happening on Saturday, May 18. It's not just an event; it's a crucial mission to keep our waterways clean and our community proud. The dedication of volunteers like you over the years has turned this initiative into a powerful movement for environmental stewardship in Brewer.

We're calling on all residents to step up and join us in making a substantial difference. Whether you've been with us in the past or this is your first time considering volunteering, your participation would be much appreciated. Together, we can continue Ken Locke's legacy of clean water and community service.

Don't miss out on the chance to be part of this meaningful event. Please contact Lou Colburn at (207) 989-5417 or email lcolburn@brewermaine.gov by April 26th to sign up. A volunteer recognition picnic will be held at 12pm at the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center at 12pm on the day of the event. Let's make this year's clean-up the most impactful yet!

2024 Spring Cleanup

Each spring, the City offers free curbside collection of brush, bagged leaves, non-freon containing white goods, and metals to Brewer residents. This year the spring cleanup will take place in early May, which will also include extended transfer station hours (normal disposal fees will apply). More information about this program will be posted under "Brewer News" on the City of Brewer website, will be distributed via the City's new communication system, *Notify Brewer*, and will be included in the May edition of the *Brewer Chronicle*.

Upcoming Important Dates and Reminders

City Council Meeting Scheduled for April 9

The City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at 6pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be posted on the City website no later than Thursday, April 4 in City Hall and on the City website, www.brewermaine.gov. [Click here](#) to view the Council meeting schedule, or to review past agendas and minutes.

Dangerous Building Public Hearing Scheduled for April 9

A dangerous building hearing will be held at the beginning of the April 9 City Council Meeting at 6pm in the Council Chambers to determine if the house located at 499 Wilson Street may be structurally unsafe, unstable, constitutes a fire hazard, is unsuitable or improper for use or occupancy, or constitutes a hazard to health or safety because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment or is otherwise dangerous to life or property pursuant to Title 17 M.R.S.A. §2851. Any person may attend this public hearing and speak on this matter. The deadline for submission of written comments is 4pm on the date of the hearing. Written comments should be addressed to Brewer City Council, c/o City Clerk, 80 North Main Street, Brewer, ME 04412 or emailed to city-clerk-office@brewermaine.gov.

FY25 Budget Development and Adoption

City staff and the City Council have been busy preparing the draft FY25 City Budget. A public information session about the proposed budget will be held in late May and will be announced in the coming weeks. A copy of the proposed budget will be available for viewing at the City Clerk's Office and the Library.

Yard Sales in Brewer

As warmer weather approaches, many residents will look to hold yard sales. As a reminder, a permit is required to hold a yard, law, garage or moving sale, with a limit of three per year at a cost of \$3.00. Each sale may last for up to three consecutive days. Residents may obtain a permit in a variety of ways. More information on holding a yard sale in Brewer is [available here](#).

Reminder: ATV Trails are Closed

ATV trails throughout Maine are currently closed and will reopen in late April or early May. As a reminder, all ATV registrations expire on June 30. For more information about ATV use in Maine, please visit the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W) [webpage on ATVs](#).

Motorcycle Renewal Reminder

As a reminder, all motorcycle registrations expire on March 31 each year. Motor vehicle registration renewals may be completed at City Hall in the Tax Office or online using the Maine Rapid Renewal Service. Questions pertaining to motor vehicle registrations may be directed to the Tax Office at 207-989-8440.

Sign Up for *Notify Brewer*

The City of Brewer has partnered with CivicPlus to implement its community notification software, which the City has named "*Notify Brewer*." This new system will allow the City of Brewer to issue urgent notifications, emergency instructions, warnings, and routine communications to subscribed residents via email, text message, and voicemail to keep people safe and informed. Notify Brewer is available for sign-up on the City of Brewer homepage at www.brewermaine.gov by clicking on "Join Notify Brewer" on the top homepage banner ([click here to sign up](#)).

The Brewer Riverwalk Festival is Coming!

Get ready for an unforgettable day of fun, food, and festivity at the Brewer Riverwalk Festival! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 1, 2024, as we bring the magic back for its spectacular 4th year. From the kick-off at 11:00am to the awe-inspiring fireworks finale at 9:00PM, the Riverwalk and Center Street will be bustling with excitement. Dive into a world of delicious food trucks, explore a treasure trove of crafts at the fair, groove to the music, and discover the heart of our local businesses and non-profits. And there's a whirlwind of activities planned for the kids too!

But wait, there's more! We're on the hunt for heroes to sponsor this amazing event and talented crafters to fill our fair with unique, must-have creations. Want to be part of the magic? Join us as a sponsor, a crafter, or a volunteer and help weave this community tapestry even tighter. For the scoop on sponsorships, crafting spots, or volunteering opportunities, reach out to Renee Doble at rdoble@brewermaine.gov or call us at 989-7500. Don't miss your chance to shine at the Brewer Riverwalk Festival. Check our Facebook page for the latest updates and let's make this year's festival the most memorable yet!

Unveiling Brewer's Brick-Making Heritage

The City of Brewer holds a hidden gem within its historical narrative—the brick-making industry. Emerging in the mid-19th century, Brewer's strategic location, abundant clay deposits, and access to transportation via waterways, especially the Penobscot River, laid the foundation for a thriving brick-making hub.

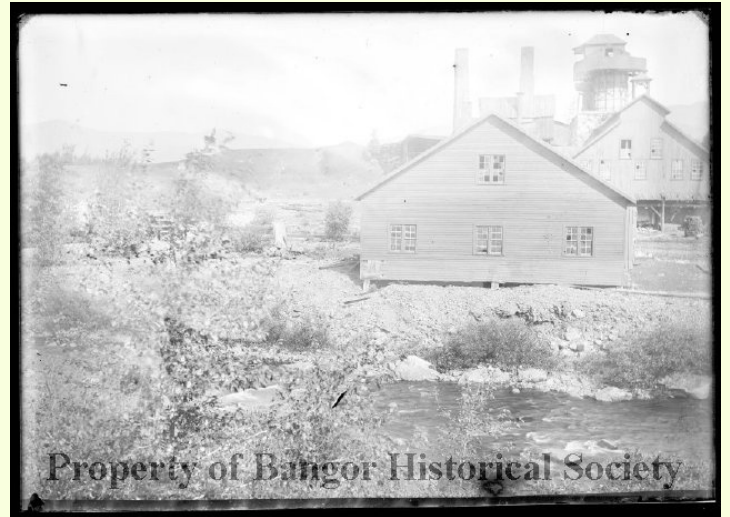
As urbanization swept New England, Brewer became a focal point for brick production.

By the late 1800s, several brick yards operated in the city, like Brooks Bricks Company pictured above, harnessing steam-powered machinery to shape clay into durable building blocks. This industry not only provided employment but also fueled Brewer's economic growth.

Brewer bricks adorned structures throughout the region, leaving an indelible mark on the architectural landscape. From grand mansions to modest homes, these bricks symbolized craftsmanship and durability, standing as a testament to Brewer's industrial prowess.

In the 20th century, the brick-making industry encountered challenges with changing construction trends. Despite some closures, Brewer adapted, diversifying its industrial base while preserving its manufacturing heritage.

Today, Brewer honors its brick-making legacy through initiatives like the Brewer River Walk, preserving historical sites and commemorating the city's contributions to regional history. Brewer's brick-making heritage serves as a reminder of its ingenuity and resilience. As the city embraces new opportunities for growth, it remains rooted in its industrial past, shaping its identity for generations to come.



Brewer City Council

Jenn Morin, Mayor

Soubanh Phanthay, Deputy Mayor

Michele Daniels, Councilor

Dani O'Halloran, Councilor

Bill Kimball, Councilor