

THE BREWER CHRONICLE

AUGUST 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

August Calendar

Monday, August 5

Planning Board Meeting,
6pm, City Council Chambers

Tuesday, August 13

City Council Meeting, 6pm,
City Council Chambers

Monday, September 2

City Hall Closed in
observance of Labor 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

Brewer City Council Tours Penobscot County Jail, Discusses Need for New Facility

In an effort to better understand the current conditions and challenges faced by the Penobscot County Jail, members of the Brewer City Council toured the facility with Sheriff Troy Morton last month. The visit was part of an ongoing discussion about the pressing need for a new jail to address overcrowding, aging infrastructure, and improve overall safety and efficiency.

Overcrowding Concerns

One of the most significant issues highlighted during the tour was the severe overcrowding within the jail. Originally built to house a much smaller population, the Penobscot County Jail has been operating well beyond its capacity for years. Currently, the facility is designed to hold 143 inmates but regularly accommodates more. This overcrowding not only poses risks to inmate safety but also creates a challenging environment for staff to maintain order and provide necessary services.

Aging Infrastructure

The jail's aging infrastructure is another critical concern. Built in 1869, many parts of the facility are outdated, with some areas showing significant wear and tear. The mechanical systems, including plumbing and heating, are frequently in need of repair, leading to increased maintenance costs and disruptions. Additionally, the outdated design of the facility does not meet modern standards for security and rehabilitation, making it difficult to implement effective inmate programs and services.

Safety and Security Issues

Safety and security are paramount in any correctional facility, and the Penobscot County Jail is no exception. However, the current layout and condition of the jail present numerous challenges in this regard. The design does not allow for optimal monitoring of inmates. Moreover, the lack of adequate space means that inmates with behavioral issues or those who pose a higher risk cannot be properly isolated, endangering both staff and other inmates. Moreover, a new facility would better facilitate mental health and substance use care.

Financial Implications

While building a new jail would require a significant initial investment, the long-term financial benefits cannot be ignored. The current facility's high maintenance costs and inefficiencies are a drain on county resources. A new, modern jail would be more cost-effective to operate, with lower maintenance requirements and improved energy efficiency. Additionally, a facility designed to meet current standards would be better equipped to support rehabilitation programs, potentially reducing recidivism rates and associated costs in the long run.

Next Steps

Following the tour, the Brewer City Council went away with a heightened awareness of the urgent need for a new jail. Discussions are expected to continue as council members, county officials, and the community explore potential funding options and design plans for a new facility. Public input will be a crucial part of this process, ensuring that if a new jail is built, it meets the needs of all stakeholders while addressing the current facility's shortcomings.

As the conversation progresses, the Brewer City Council remains committed to finding a solution that enhances safety, efficiency, and the overall effectiveness of the county's correctional system. The tour of the Penobscot County Jail has undoubtedly provided valuable insights that will inform future decisions and actions in this critical endeavor.

For more information on this topic and to stay updated on the latest developments, please visit the [City of Brewer's official website](#) or follow our [new Facebook page](#), where we will be sharing timely updates and opportunities for community involvement.

Getchell Ice Property Redevelopment

In 2023, the Economic Development office applied for and received a grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) to conduct an environmental assessment of the former Getchell Ice site prior to a potential city purchase. This grant does not provide direct funding to the city but instead offers assessment services funded and overseen by the MDEP. As a result of this grant, MDEP hired Beacon Environmental Consultants to perform a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and to develop an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA).

As a requirement of this grant, the city has made the ABCA, the Phase II ESA, and the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) available to the public. These documents are available for download and review on the [City website](#). They can also be reviewed in person at City Hall during regular business hours. The final requirement of this grant program is a public hearing at the upcoming City Council meeting scheduled for August 13 at 6 pm. Any person may attend this public meeting, and written comments may also be submitted. Comments on the ABCA and the proposed cleanup and remediation can be submitted in writing to: Beacon Environmental Consultants, LLC, PO Box 2154, Windham, Maine 04062; Attention John Cressey, 207-376-5001 or jcressey@beaconmaine.com.

In May, after receiving the results of these assessments, the City of Brewer purchased the former Getchell Building at 1 and 11 Union Street. Our intent is to address the remaining environmental issues that were not already resolved by Getchell Bros. and then sell the property for redevelopment, aiming to benefit the city and complement the waterfront area. Since purchasing the site, the Economic Development office has successfully applied for a second grant from the MDEP, this time for remediation. Like the previous grant, this one will again provide services, rather than direct funding, for the work. According to the MDEP Brownfields manager, "Some of the other cost estimates in the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) were for doing cleanup of soil such that the site could be used for residential use, so those numbers were much higher. We aren't doing that soil removal since property use will be restricted to commercial use, and because of the high cost (to remediate to the standard for residential sites)." MDEP anticipates the cost of asbestos abatement and the removal of universal/hazardous waste (such as fluorescent lights and small containers of paint) to be between \$35,000 and \$50,000 and has agreed to provide this service through the grant, provided that actual bids align with the estimated costs. This means there will be no cost to the city for this work.

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Brewer Public Library Events

Murder She Told, with Kristen Seavey
Monday, August 5th, 7pm
Joseph L. Ferris Community Center

The Brewer Public Library invites all true crime enthusiasts, podcast aficionados, and community members to join Kristen Seavey, host of the popular podcast Murder She Told, on August 5th at 7pm at the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center for an evening of intrigue and insight into the crimes of Maine.

Murder, She Told, a Top 10 True Crime Podcasts on both Apple Podcasts and Spotify, was created out of a desire to dig deeper into true crime cases from New England that weren't being told on other podcasts in hopes of giving families a platform to have their voice heard, and heighten public awareness of unsolved cases. Kristen is a credentialed victim's advocate, and a professional actor who has worked in film, tv, and theater across the country.



Absentee Voting for November 5, 2024 General Election

Absentee ballot applications for the November 5, 2024 General Election will be available at City Hall and on the [City's website](#) on Wednesday, August 7. Absentee ballots may also be requested electronically through the [State of Maine Absentee Ballot Request system](#). Please note, absentee ballots will not be available at City Hall or mailed to voters who submitted absentee ballot requests until early October, 2024. Questions may be directed to the City Clerk's office at (207) 989-7050 or city-clerk-office@brewermaine.gov.

Brewer Has a New Facebook Page!

The City of Brewer is excited to announce the launch of its [official Facebook page](#), a new digital platform designed to provide timely and important information to residents and those who work in Brewer. Follow the City of Brewer to stay up to date on all that is happening in Brewer!

Brewer Water Department Conducting Service Line Inventory

In response to a Federal mandate, the Brewer Water Department is conducting a Service Line Inventory to ensure the safety and quality of Brewer's drinking water. This means that the Water Department will be identifying and documenting the materials of water service lines connecting homes and businesses to the public water system. There are a variety of ways to submit this information, which are listed on the [City of Brewer website](#). This effort is to ensure safe, clean and reliable water for everyone. If you have any questions, please contact the Brewer Water Department at (207) 989-4214 or water-dept@brewermaine.gov. Thank you for your cooperation!

Upcoming Important Dates and Reminders

Planning Board Meeting Scheduled for August 5, 2024

The Brewer Planning Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 6pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 80 North Main Street. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Johns, City Planner at (207) 989-8431.

City Council Meeting Scheduled for August 13, 2024

The City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 13 at 6pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be posted on the City website and at City Hall. [Click here](#) to view the Council meeting schedule, or to review past agendas and minutes. City Council meetings may be viewed live on the [City website](#). Meetings are also recorded and posted on the City's website and may be viewed at any time.

Sign Up for Notify Brewer!

Want to know what's happening in Brewer? Join Notify Brewer, the City's new alert system that sends important and timely information directly to you through your preferred communication methods, whether email, text or phone. Visit the [Notify Brewer signup page to join!](#)

Overgrown Vegetation

Residents are asked to keep all streets and sidewalks clear of overgrown vegetation. Please prune vegetation to ensure unobstructed pathways and sight lines for pedestrians and motorists. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep City streets and sidewalks safe.

Wreaths Across America is Coming to Brewer

We are proud to announce that the City of Brewer will host a special Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Saturday, December 14, sponsored by the new Arts and Culture Commission. This poignant event will bring together our community to honor and remember the brave men and women who have served our nation.

Wreaths Across America is a nationwide initiative that aims to honor fallen veterans by placing remembrance wreaths on their graves during the holiday season. This annual tradition not only pays tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice but also serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of honoring our heroes' memories.

Wreaths may be sponsored to be laid on the graves of veterans buried in Brewer cemeteries at \$17 per wreath. Sponsorships may be made online through the [Wreaths Across America sponsorship page for the City of Brewer](#) or by check made payable to Wreaths Across America, which can be dropped off or mailed to the City Hall Tax Office at 80 North Main Street, Brewer, ME 04412. We look forward to bringing this meaningful event to Brewer and honoring all who have served in America's Armed Forces.

Brewer Parks and Recreation

Brewer Parks & Recreation: Limited Openings for the After School Program

The Brewer Parks & Recreation Department has a limited number of opening in their After School Program, serving youngsters in grades k- 6. The program is open until 6:00 pm daily and for extended time during school breaks. In addition to supervised care, students will participate in active games, crafts and social activities. During the winter months students will even be able to use the hill and ice rink for sledding and ice skating. For more information contact After School program Coordinator Lauren Moffitt at lmoffitt@brewermaine.gov.

Brewer Parks & Recreation Department Fall Program Dates

Youth Soccer	September 7th	Grades PreK – 5
Youth Cheering	September 8th	Grades K - 8
Pound Fitness	September 4th	Adult Monthly Classes
Adaptive Yoga	September 5th	Adult Monthly Classes
Karate	September 10	Youth & Adult Monthly Classes
Senior Fitness	September 30	Adult Mon/Wed/Fri

To register or for more information, please visit the [Brewer Parks and Recreation webpage](#).

Brewer City Council

Jenn Morin, Mayor

Soubanh Phanthay, Deputy Mayor

Michele Daniels, Councilor

Dani O'Halloran, Councilor

Bill Kimball, Councilor

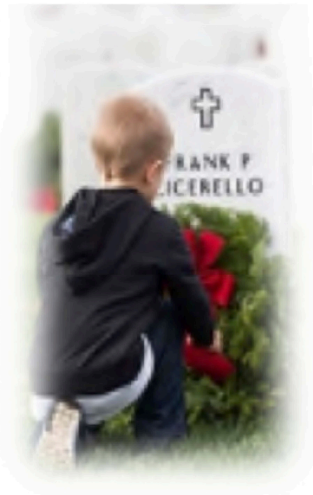
Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 14, 2024** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



Help Veterans' Memorial at the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at a Brewer Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MEVMJF



#LiveWithPurpose



NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 20 Godfrey Dr., Ste 300 | Orono, ME 04473 | www.MRCMaine.org

ISSUE 31.3 | July 2024

Facility Design Update

Last month, MWS conducted an onsite meeting with our key technology suppliers and design engineers to advance engineering activities kicked off in May. A team of over ten people flew in from locations both domestically and in Canada and Europe. The objective of the two-day meeting was to review progress to date, agree upon key design aspects, and refine the near- and medium-term project engineering schedule and deliverables. This was an important step toward reopening the facility. We then provided the DEP an up-to-date overview of our project to facility dialogue around key design considerations needed to be addressed during the permit revision application process. This will help make for a smoother permitting process to facility proven technological advances in waste processing and recycling.

Materials Management & Maine Climate Council

The Climate Council of which MRC's Executive Director served on the Materials Management Task Force held an event in Augusta drawing a crowd of over 150 attendees. The meeting provided a comprehensive overview of the strategies developed by the various working groups over the past six months. Each group, comprising an average of thirty to forty experts in their respective fields, presented their findings. The groups were as follows.

- Resilience
- Coastal & Marine
- Natural & Working Lands
- Materials Management
- Transportation
- Buildings
- Energy
- Land Use

There was also some time allotted at the meeting to move around and have small group discussions. It was amazing to see the work that each group accomplished. To view the Climate Council slides presentation please [click here](#) and visit the Maine Climate Council's website. Starting on page 38 is the Materials Management update.

The Task Force Recommendations are:

<p>1 </p> <p>Measure and reduce consumption-based emissions.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Advance policies and deploy funding resources to grow Maine's circular economy.</p>	<p>3 </p> <p>Reduce food loss and waste 50% by 2030. <small>(base year 2016)</small></p>
<p>Regionalize and scale-up access to waste prevention and diversion services.</p> <p>4 </p>	<p>5 </p> <p>Foster resilience in the built environment through materials collection and reuse.</p>	<p>6 </p> <p>Reduce and capture methane emissions from Maine's waste sector.</p>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 24

Finance Committee: 9:30 AM
Quarterly Board of Directors: 10:00 AM
In person at Town of Orono (59 Main Street, Orono) or virtually over Zoom.

Participants can register in advance to attend the meeting via Zoom through this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yTrY0YQ6T06Qcm2kbeyntA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yTrY0YQ6T06Qcm2kbeyntA)

and can ask questions through Q&A. If you miss the meeting, you can watch the recording over our YouTube channel later.

EPR UPDATE

The MRC is still monitoring the DEP's implementation of the EPR rule. The DEP EPR team recently presented to the Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) and it was noted that there will be one more draft of the EPR rules will be distributed with minor revisions, including allowing for public comment one more time. DEP hopes to have EPR passed in the fall.

[Chapter 428 handouts.pdf \(maine.gov\)](#)



Maine Climate Council

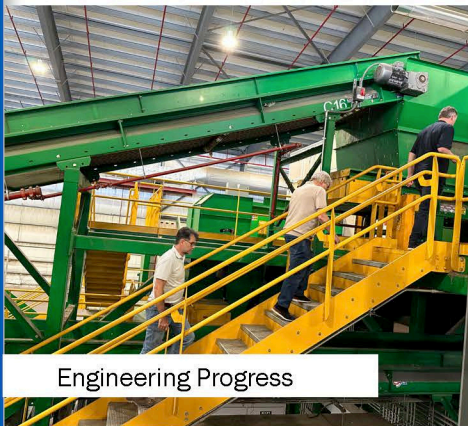
Air Emission License Update

The Municipal Review Committee, Inc. and Municipal Waste Solutions' air emission license has been finalized by the DEP Bureau of Air Quality. This is a significant milestone that ensures our project's compliance and environmental responsibility. The processing has been completed, and this license is now in effect. The DEP has a link of the license available on its website:

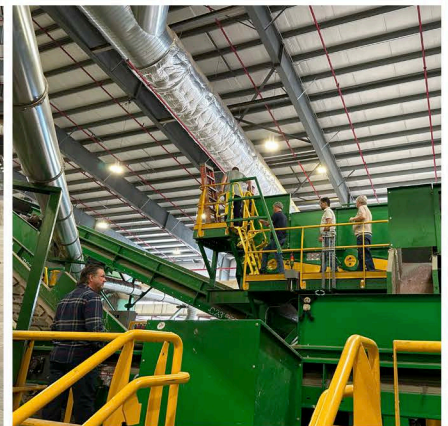
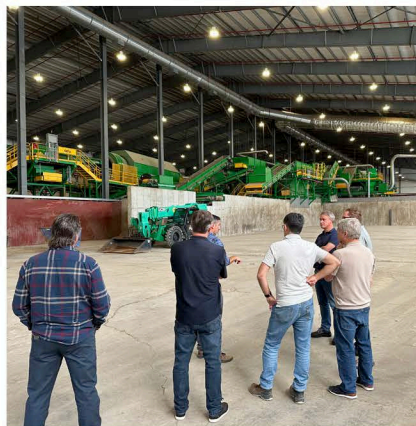
<https://www.maine.gov/dep/ftp/AIR/licenses/ch115/A1111EM.pdf>

Partnering with Design Lab

We are moving forward with [Design Lab](#) for communication services. Design Lab will be working with the MRC on community outreach, press releases, educational material, video marketing, and branding. MRC felt it is essential, moving forward toward the facility reopening, that we provide consistent communication and education to our members while upholding the MRC transparency we hold true to.



Engineering Progress



Insights from Toronto Waste Facility Tour

The Innovative team and MRC's Executive Director had a unique and exciting opportunity to tour a waste facility in Toronto, CA, in late May. This state-of-the-art Green Bin Processing Facility has design features similar to those Innovative envisions for Hampden's, including additional digester design and capacity expansions. The tour, led by Toronto city representatives and technical engineers, gave us valuable insights. The facility and the equipment we observed have been in operation for over ten years, maintaining fantastic condition. This facility processes approximately 80,000 tons of organics for Toronto residents, making our visit a truly inspiring experience.