

THE BREWER CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 2024
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

October Calendar

Monday, October 7

Planning Board Meeting,
6pm, City Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 8

City Council Meeting, 6pm,
City Council Chambers

Monday, October 14

City Hall Closed in
observance of Columbus Day

Monday, October 21

Arts and Culture Committee,
6pm, City Council Chambers

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 Officials and Business Owners Tour United Technologies Center

On September 17, officials from the City of Brewer and members of the Brewer Business Alliance had the opportunity to visit the United Technologies Center (UTC) in Bangor for an insightful tour of the state-of-the-art educational facility. The tour provided Brewer's city leaders and business owners with a firsthand look at how the center prepares students for careers in various technical and vocational fields.



United Technologies Center, which serves high school students from more than ten area schools, offers training in programs such as automotive technology, culinary arts, health occupations, information technology, and precision machining. The hands-on training students receive at UTC is designed to equip them with the necessary skills and certifications to enter the workforce immediately or pursue higher education in technical fields.



City officials were particularly interested in learning about how UTC collaborates with local industries to ensure students are receiving relevant, in-demand skills. With Brewer's ongoing efforts to bolster local economic development, the visit presented an opportunity to explore how Brewer's workforce could

benefit from a strengthened connection with vocational training centers like UTC.

The City of Brewer looks forward to continued collaboration with the United Technologies Center and other regional educational institutions to strengthen the area's workforce and support local industries.

For more information about the United Technologies Center, For more information, please visit the UTC website at: www.utc4me.org.



New License and Registration Rules from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

The Tax Office recently attended an Inland Fisheries & Wildlife training where they learned of some updated procedures that the City of Brewer will be implementing immediately:

- Every time residents come into the City of Brewer to obtain a hunting and/or fishing license, they must now provide their driver's license to prove Maine residency.
- The City of Brewer will no longer be looking-up ATV, boat, or snowmobile registrations by the owner's name. Residents must have the registration number, VIN number, or previous years sticker number for the Tax Office to process the re-registration.

IF&W UPDATES

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY



THE CITY OF BREWER IS NO LONGER ALLOWED TO LOOK UP REGISTRATIONS BY THE OWNERS' NAME.

RESIDENTS MUST PRESENT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

REGISTRATION NUMBER

VIN NUMBER

PREVIOUS STICKER
NUMBER

Outdoor Partners Program



Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Outdoor Partners Program provides funding to protect Maine's longstanding tradition of public access to privately owned land. Funds go towards:

- Enhanced law enforcement in areas where problems occur
- Landowner sign program
- Equipment to investigate and prosecute landowner abuse and trespass complaints
- Promotional and education programs to promote and maintain access



Become an Outdoor Partner for only \$15.00 when purchasing your hunting or fishing license!

Everyone who contributes and joins the program as an Outdoor Partner is entered into regular drawings for a variety of prizes from our following sponsors: LL Bean, Minus33, MyMedic, Nemo, North Maine Woods, Old Town Canoe, onX, Tactacam, ROGUE Industries, Johnson Woolen Mills, and Johnson Outdoors. Outdoor Partners also get 15% off purchases from Kittery Trading Post with proof of Outdoor Partner membership!

Brewer Arts and Culture Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting

The newly established Brewer Arts and Culture Committee held its first official meeting this September, marking a significant step forward in fostering the creative spirit of the community. The committee was formed to enhance and promote arts, culture, and heritage in the City of Brewer by organizing events, supporting local artists, and collaborating on public art initiatives. Moving forward, the committee will meet regularly on the third Monday of every month. All interested residents are encouraged to attend and contribute ideas on how to enrich Brewer's vibrant cultural scene.

Stay tuned for more updates and exciting developments from the Brewer Arts and Culture Committee. For more information about the Committee, please visit the [City of Brewer website](#).

Upcoming Important Dates and Reminders

Planning Board Meeting Scheduled for October 7

The Brewer Planning Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 7, 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 October 8

The City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 8 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.

City Hall Closed Monday, October 14

City Hall will be closed on Monday, October 14 in observance of Columbus Day. Residents are reminded that many services are available online, [including property tax, sewer, and water payments, vehicle and ATV re-registration, hunting and fishing licenses](#) and more.

REMINDER: Quarterly Water and Sewer Bills Were Due September 30

Quarterly water and sewer bills were due Monday, September 30. [Click here](#) to make a payment online. For more information, please visit the [City of Brewer Water District website](#).

Arts and Culture Meeting Scheduled for Monday, October 21

The Arts and Culture Committee will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 21 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The Committee meets on the third Monday of each month. The agenda will be posted on the [City website](#) and at City Hall.

Absentee Voting for November 5, 2024 General Election

Absentee ballot applications for the November 5, 2024 General Election are available at City Hall and on the [City's website](#). 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.

Resources for Seniors After The Maine Legislature's Repeal of the Property Tax Stabilization Program

In July 2023, the Maine legislature repealed the Property Tax Stabilization Program. While this program allowed certain residents over 65 to freeze their property taxes, the repeal of this legislation has left participating residents with higher tax bills than they anticipated. However, there are other State programs and exemptions that are available to qualifying applicants, which may help to mitigate the impact.

The Property Tax Fairness Credit, which currently allows eligible Mainers to take a \$1,500 credit, has increased to \$2,000; it also loosens limits on the program in a way that allows the benefits to remain constant for a Mainer whose spouse passes away. The income limit may also increase. Note: This program is not administered by the City of Brewer; to claim the credit, a resident must file Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC/STFC for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid. For help, call Maine Revenue Services at 207-624-9784.

The State Property Tax Deferral Program, a lifeline loan program that covers the annual property tax bills of Maine seniors age 65 and older who cannot afford to pay them on their own, has been expanded. It doubles the income limit on that program to \$80,000 and also raises asset limits. Taxes must be paid back when the home is sold or becomes part of an estate. Note: This is a State program and is not administered by the City of Brewer. Questions on this State managed program can be referred to Maine Revenue Services, Property Tax Division, at 207-624-5600 or prop.tax@maine.gov.

There are also other exemptions that residents may qualify for, including the Homestead Exemption, Veteran's Exemption, and Blind Exemption. For more information on these exemptions and programs, please contact the City of Brewer Assessing Office at 207-989-7560, or visit the [Assessing Department website](#).

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!

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!](#)

Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 14, 2024** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day

Help the City of Brewer honor our local heroes at the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center Veterans' Memorial on December 14!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December in one of Brewer's Cemeteries.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or volunteer for Wreaths Across America Day in Brewer, or visit www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/MEVMJF



#LiveWithPurpose

Volunteers and Support Needed for Wreaths Across America Event on Saturday, December 14!



WREATHS — *across* — AMERICA

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. The ceremony in Brewer will take place at

the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center just after 12pm on Saturday, December 14, where volunteers, veterans, and community members will gather to participate in this solemn yet uplifting event. After the ceremony, wreaths will be laid at the graves of veterans by volunteers, accompanied by heartfelt tributes and moments of reflection.

If you are interested in volunteering to lay wreaths, assisting with the Wreaths Across America ceremony, or are a local community group that would like to be involved, please contact Eric Glidden, Assistant City Manager at eglidden@brewermaine.gov or (207) 989-7500 or [sign up on the City of Brewer sponsorship page](#).

Wreaths may be sponsored to be laid on the graves of veterans buried in Brewer cemeteries at \$17 per wreath. Donations 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 City Council

Jenn Morin, Mayor

Soubanh Phanthay, Deputy Mayor

Michele Daniels, Councilor

Dani O'Halloran, Councilor

Bill Kimball, Councilor