

THE BREWER CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 2024
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

November Calendar

Monday, November 4

Planning Board Meeting,
6pm, City Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 5

Election Day, Joseph L. Ferris
Community Center, Polls
open from 7am to 8pm

Monday, November 11

City Hall Closed in
observance of Veterans' Day

Monday, November 18

Arts and Culture Committee,
6pm, City Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 19

City Council Meeting and
Annual Meeting, 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

Honor and Remember: Join Us for the Wreaths Across America Ceremony!



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 **Veterans' Memorial (318 Wilson St.) at 12:15 p.m. 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 are \$17 each to sponsor. The deadline to sponsor wreaths is December 3, 2024. 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 seeing you there!

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

New Interactive Music Park Opens on the Brewer Riverwalk!

The City of Brewer is thrilled to announce the grand opening of Cool Tones on the Riverwalk, a unique, interactive music park along the scenic Brewer Riverwalk. Officially opened on October 31, this new addition invites people of all ages to explore music in the great outdoors, with professional instruments by Percussion Play designed for hands-on fun and creativity.

The grand opening ceremony, attended members of the Brewer City Council and Doug and Nichi Farnham, owner of Getchell Brothers Ice, included a ribbon-cutting and remarks that highlighted Brewer's dedication to creating vibrant community spaces. Thanks to a generous donation from Getchell Brothers, Cool Tones on the Riverwalk brings a new dimension to the Riverwalk experience.

Located on the historic former Getchell Ice property near the northern end of the trail—between the Penobscot Street trailhead parking lot and the tunnel under the Chamberlain Bridge—the music park honors Brewer's rich history. Getchell Brothers, a company founded in 1888, was once central to the local economy when South Brewer was a hub for ice harvested from the Penobscot River and shipped along the East Coast.

At Cool Tones on the Riverwalk, visitors can try their hand at various instruments, including tubular bells, a xylophone, and babel drums. This dynamic space is more than just a park; it's a celebration of art, nature, and community along the Penobscot River. Perfect for both casual visitors and music enthusiasts, it's designed to be a gathering spot for creativity and connection.

Visit Cool Tones on the Riverwalk today to enjoy a truly unique experience on the Brewer Riverwalk!



Join Us for Brewer's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting!

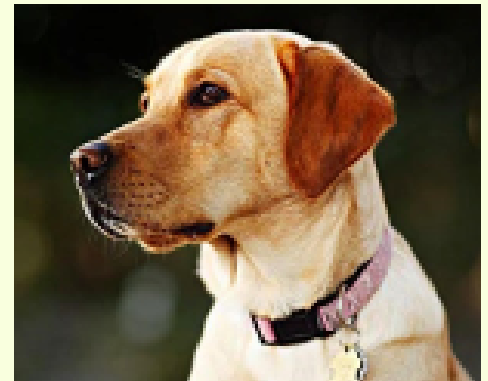
The City of Brewer Arts and Culture Committee invites the community to kick off the holiday season with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 30. The celebration will take place at the Children's Garden on the Brewer Waterfront, bringing holiday cheer to all ages.

Join us for festive music, warm refreshments, and the magical moment when the tree lights up the night. The event is free and open to the public, so bring family and friends to share in this beloved holiday tradition in Brewer. Be on the lookout for more information about this event on the City of Brewer website and *Notify Brewer!*

Don't miss this special evening to start the season off right—see you there!

2025 Dog Licenses Now Available

All dogs need to be licensed upon reaching the age of 6 months, or after the dog has been with the family for 10 days (if adopted and older than 6 months). As a reminder, dog licenses expire December 31 of each year, but may be licensed as early as October 15. Neutered/spayed dogs are \$6.00 and non-neutered/spayed dogs are \$11.00. You have until January 31 to license your dog before an additional \$25.00 late fee is imposed on February 1.



You may license your dog by visiting the Brewer Tax Office with a current rabies certificate, or online at the the following link: https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl. Online licensing is only available between October 15 and January 31.

Penobscot Theater Library Day Pass

Starting November 29th, the Brewer Public Library will offer two free tickets to every Penobscot Theater showing of A Christmas Carol, Dial M for Murder, Mother Russia, and The Rocky Horror Show. After the start date, simply call the library or drop by in person to request your tickets. The tickets will then be emailed directly to you. The tickets will be offered on a first come, first serve basis and must be placed, at the latest, by noon on the day of the show. To qualify, you must be a Brewer Public Library patron in good standing.

2025 Snowmobile Registration Stickers Now Available

Winter is around the corner and it's time to start thinking about getting your snowmobiles registered for the 2025 season! 2025 snowmobile stickers are now available at the Brewer Tax Office for \$60. As a reminder, the Brewer Tax Office cannot look snowmobiles up by the residents name. Residents must provide last years registration, sticker number, or the snowmobile's VIN. You may also register your snowmobile online through the [Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website](#).

Register for Instructional Basketball at Brewer Parks and Recreation

The City of Brewer Recreation Department is thrilled to offer a range of youth basketball programs designed to introduce and develop fundamental basketball skills while fostering teamwork and sportsmanship. Registration is open now, so don't miss this opportunity for your child to join in the fun! Each age group program is tailored to fit the developmental needs of the participants, ensuring a supportive environment for learning. These programs are designed to encourage sportsmanship, teamwork, and a love for the game. Register soon as spots are limited!

How to Register: Visit www.brewerrec.com or call 207-989-5199.

Program Offerings

Pre-K Instructional Basketball

4-5 year olds (not in K) Thursdays, Jan 2 - Jan 23 4:30 - 5:15 pm Ferris Community Center Gymnasium. Cost: Residents: \$30 Non-Residents: \$35.

An introduction to basic basketball skills through fun games and small skill drills. Perfect for children who are not yet in kindergarten.

K-1 Instructional Basketball

Kindergarten and 1st graders Thursdays, Dec 5 - Jan 30 5:30 - 6:15 pm Ferris Community Center Gymnasium Residents. Cost: \$40 Non-Residents: \$45.

This league teaches fundamentals such as passing, shooting, and dribbling with plenty of drills and games to keep young players engaged.

2-3 Instructional Basketball League

2nd and 3rd graders Wednesdays, Dec 4 - Jan 29 5:30 - 6:30 pm Ferris Community Center Gymnasium, Cost: Residents: \$50 Non-Residents: \$55.

Building on basketball basics, this league also introduces scrimmages, helping players develop both offense and defense skills.

4-5 & 6-8 Youth Basketball Leagues

Both groups practice Dec 2- Jan 27. Cost: Residents: \$60, Non-Residents: \$65

4-5 Grade Practices: Mondays, 5:15-6:15 pm. 4-5 Grade Games: Fridays at 5:15 pm or 6:30 pm

6-8 Grade Practices: Mondays, 6:15-7:15 pm. 6-8 Grade Games: Saturdays at 8:30 am or 9:45 am

These leagues are our competitive teams who compete every Friday or Saturday depending on what your grade your child is in. This league focuses on continuing to develop basketball skills in these young athletes.

Upcoming Important Dates and Reminders

Planning Board Meeting Scheduled for November 4

The Brewer Planning Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 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.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 5

Voting in Brewer is held at the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center, located at 318 Wilson Street. Polling hours are 7:00am to 8:00pm. For more information about the November 5 Election, please visit the [City website](#).

City Hall Closed, November 11

Brewer City Hall and all administrative offices will be closed Monday, November 11 in observance of Veterans' Day.

Arts and Culture Meeting Scheduled for November 18

The Brewer Arts and Culture Committee will meet on Monday, November 18 at 6pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#). The Committee meets on the third Monday of each month.

City Council Meeting and Annual Meeting Scheduled for November 19

The Brewer City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting and Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#).

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony November 30

Saturday, November 30 at the Children's Garden on the Brewer Waterfront. More details on this event will be forthcoming from the Brewer Arts and Culture Committee!

2024 Leaf Collection to Begin Monday, November 18

The City of Brewer will be collecting bagged leaves this fall starting Monday, November 18, 2024. Only leaves in biodegradable bags will be collected curbside. Leaves in non-biodegradable bags or piled loose will not be picked up during the curbside leaf pickup. Large twigs, branches, dirt, rocks or trash mixed in with the bagged leaves will not be accepted; however, other small plants and garden waste may be mixed in with the leaves.

Program requirements and information:

Leaves set out for collection must be in biodegradable bags and set curbside by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024. Leaves in non-biodegradable plastic bags or piled loose WILL NOT be picked up curbside. While supplies last, biodegradable paper bags will be available for purchase (50¢ each) at the Brewer Landfill on Elm St., Tuesday mornings 7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and the first and third Saturday of the month between 7:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Typically, biodegradable paper bags are also available at the local hardware stores.

Brewer residents may take their leaves to the Brewer Landfill located at 403 Elm Street, at no cost, any time of the year during normal operating hours. The Brewer Landfill is open every Tuesday morning from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. along with the first and third Saturdays of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Residents may transport leaves to the landfill loose or in plastic or biodegradable paper bags but plastic bags must be torn open with just the leaves added to the compost pile.

For further information, please contact the Brewer Public Works Department at 989-7800 (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday.

Brewer Has a New Facebook Page!

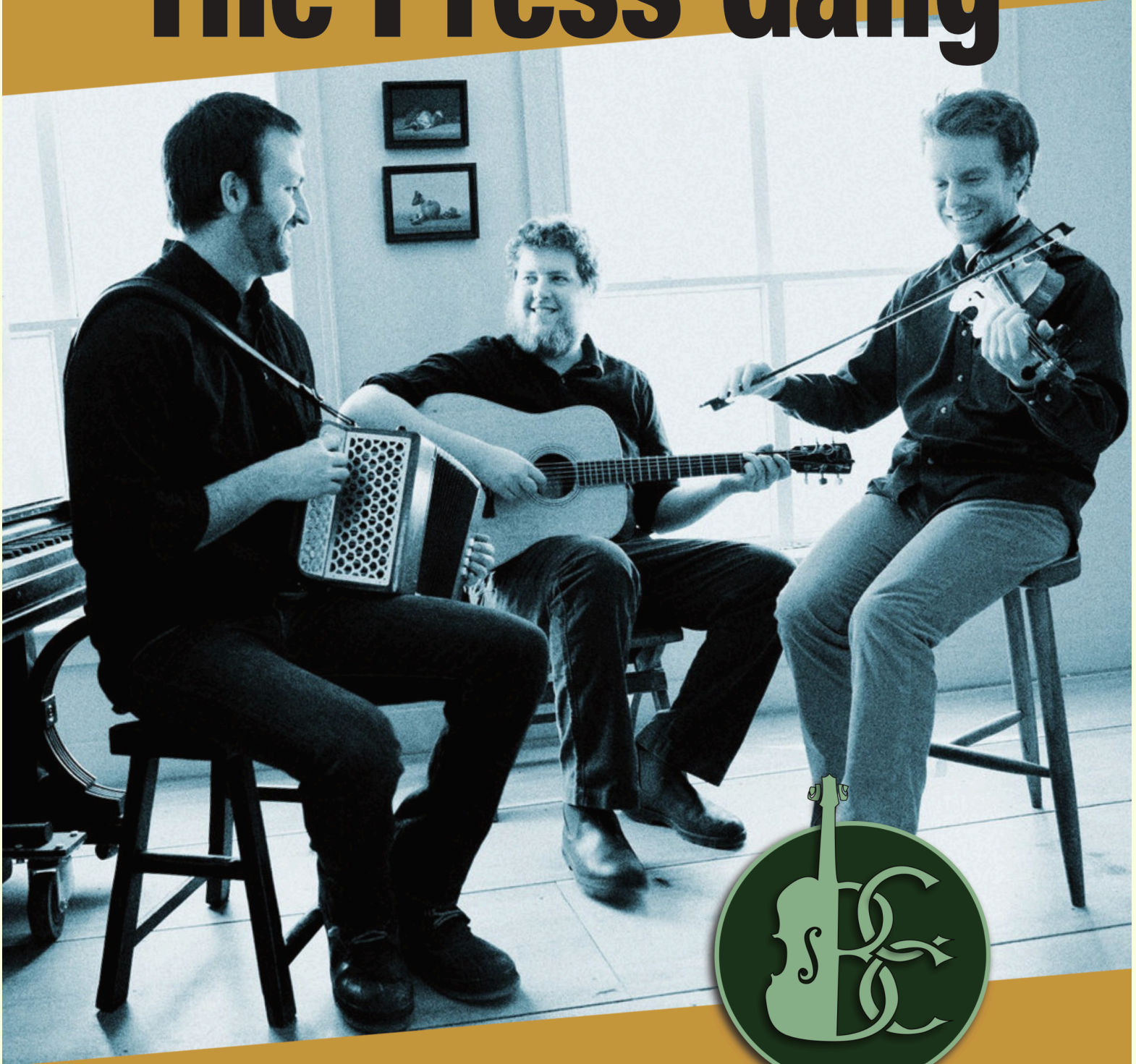
The City of Brewer is excited to announce the launch of its [official Facebook page](#), a new digital platform designed to provide timely and important information to residents and those who work in Brewer. Follow the City of Brewer to stay up to date on all that is happening in Brewer!

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](#)!

Bangor Celtic Crossroads presents

The Press Gang



Friday, November 22nd, 7 PM

Next Generation Theatre, Brewer Maine

Tickets: bangorceltic.org

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Getchell Ice: A Legacy on the Penobscot River

Founded in 1888, Getchell Brothers Ice has been a key part of Brewer's history, dating back to when the Penobscot River was a major hub for New England's ice industry. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, South Brewer's cold winters made it ideal for ice harvesting. Workers cut large blocks of ice from the river, storing them in icehouses to keep them through summer. Getchell Brothers became a leading supplier, shipping ice down the East Coast and transforming food preservation before modern refrigeration.

As mechanical refrigeration grew, many ice-harvesting businesses folded, but Getchell Brothers adapted, shifting to manufactured ice production. This flexibility allowed the family-owned business to thrive, even as the need for natural ice faded.

Today, Getchell Brothers Ice continues to serve Maine, producing ice for commercial and industrial needs. The City of Brewer recently honored this legacy with Cool Tones on the Riverwalk, an interactive music park located on the former Getchell Ice property. This park connects the community with Brewer's rich history along the Penobscot River, celebrating both art and heritage in a unique way.

From its roots in ice harvesting to its enduring community presence, Getchell Brothers stands as a testament to Brewer's industrious spirit and lasting legacy.



Brewer City Council

Jenn Morin, Mayor

Soubanh Phanthay, Deputy Mayor

Michele Daniels, Councilor

Dani O'Halloran, Councilor

Bill Kimball, Councilor