

# THE BREWER CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 2025  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

## February Calendar

### Monday, February 3

Planning Board Meeting,  
CANCELLED

### Tuesday, February 11

City Council Meeting, 6 pm,  
City Council Chambers

### Wednesday, February 12

Coffee with the Manager and  
Mayor, 9am, City Council  
Chambers

### Monday, February 17

Presidents' Day, City Hall and  
Administrative Offices Closed

### Monday, February 24

Arts and Culture Committee,  
6pm, City Council Chambers

### Tuesday, February 25

City Council Workshop, 2pm,  
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!

## City of Brewer Partners with CivicPlus to Develop New Website

The City of Brewer is excited to announce that it is in the process of developing a brand-new website in partnership with CivicPlus, a leading provider of municipal website solutions. This initiative is aimed at enhancing the online experience for residents, businesses, and visitors by making it easier than ever to access important city information and services.

The new website will feature a user-friendly design with improved navigation, ensuring that residents can quickly find the information they need. One of the key enhancements will be a centralized location for all City Council, board and committee agendas and minutes, making it more convenient for the public to stay informed and engaged with local government.

Additionally, the Municode module will be fully digitized and easily accessible online, streamlining the process for residents and businesses to reference municipal ordinances. This digital transformation will provide a more transparent and efficient way to access important information.

One of the most exciting elements of the new website will be the integration of innovative technology designed to enhance search functionality and user experience. This feature will make it easier than ever for users to find the information they need by offering smart search capabilities and intuitive navigation.

As the City of Brewer continues to modernize its digital presence, this new website represents a significant step forward in improving communication and accessibility for all. Stay tuned for updates as the project progresses, and get ready for a more seamless and efficient way to connect with the City of Brewer online.

# Jason Moffitt Hired as Brewer's Next Assistant City Manager

I am pleased to announce some exciting news regarding the search for Brewer's next Assistant City Manager. Public Safety Director Jason Moffitt has been selected to fill this role.

Jason has been an integral part of our city leadership, bringing a wealth of experience, dedication, and collaboration to his role as Public Safety Director. His deep understanding of our community, coupled with his proven leadership skills, make him an excellent fit for this new role.

As Assistant City Manager, Jason will be working closely with all departments to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations, foster collaboration, and continue advancing initiatives that serve the Brewer community. I have no doubt his transition into this position will be seamless and beneficial for our entire organization.

Please join City staff in congratulating Jason on his new role. Jason is eager to get started, and is excited to continue Brewer's efforts to make Brewer a great place to live, work and call home. Jason will officially transition to this new role on April 1.

Respectfully,  
Eric Glidden  
City Manager

## Gold Star Cleaners Celebrates 120 Years of Service

This year, Gold Star Cleaners is celebrating an incredible milestone: 120 years of serving the greater Bangor and Brewer communities! Established in 1905 by the Pooler family's forebears, this family-owned business has become a trusted name in garment care, holding all three certifications from the Drycleaning and Laundry Institute for professional dry cleaning, wet cleaning, and environmental cleaning—a rare achievement nationwide.

In addition to their professional services, Gold Star Cleaners operates seven coin-operated laundromats across Central and Mid-Coast Maine, offering convenient and modern facilities for laundry needs. A dedicated partner to the community, they also support initiatives like Penquis's "Coats of Kindness" program, helping neighbors in need during the cold winter months.

Brewer congratulates Gold Star Cleaners on this remarkable anniversary and thanks them for their continued commitment to quality and service! Here's to many more years of excellence.

# Hannaford Supports Brewer Public Library Through Bloomin' for Good Program

The Brewer Public Library is delighted to share the impact of Hannaford's Bloomin' for Good program on our community. So far this year, Hannaford has generously donated \$375 to the library through this initiative.

For every Bloomin' for Good bouquet purchased at the 383 Wilson Street location, \$1 is contributed to the library. These funds directly support library services, programs, and resources that benefit Brewer residents of all ages.

This partnership highlights how small acts of kindness, like purchasing a bouquet, can blossom into meaningful community support. The Brewer Public Library extends its heartfelt thanks to Hannaford and to everyone who participated in the program. Together, we're growing stronger as a community!

## Interested in Volunteering to Serve on a Brewer Board or Committee?

The City of Brewer has several vacancies on various Boards and Committees. If you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer, please review the list of vacancies below and submit a completed [committee application](#) to the City Clerk for City Council consideration.

Current vacancies are as follows:

- Board of Appeals (1 vacancy)
- Planning Board (1 vacancy)
- Board of Assessment Review (1 vacancy)
- Library Board of Trustees (1 vacancy)
- Brewer Housing Authority (1 resident member vacancy)
- Ethics Board (1 vacancy)

If you would like more information about any of these Boards or Committees, please contact City Clerk Vincent Migliore at [vmigliore@brewermaine.gov](mailto:vmigliore@brewermaine.gov) or 207-989-7050. A complete list of Boards and Committees, as well as their members, is [available here](#).

# FY26 Budget Preparations Are Underway

## Did You Know?

The City of Brewer's annual budget is the financial plan that funds essential city services, infrastructure maintenance, and community programs. It is divided into two main parts: the General Fund, which supports core services such as education, police and fire protection, public works, parks and recreation, and general government operations; and its Enterprise Funds, which cover the rate-supported services of our water and sewer utilities, meaning they are funded through user fees rather than property taxes.

Each year, the budget process begins with departments submitting funding requests based on projected needs. The School budget is prepared by the Superintendent and reviewed and approved by the Brewer School Committee before it is sent to City Hall for inclusion in the comprehensive City of Brewer budget. The municipal side of the budget is developed by the City Manager and, together with the School budget, presented to the City Council for discussion, public input, and approval. The final budget reflects a balance between maintaining high-quality services and being fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Want to learn more or have input? Brewer residents are encouraged to follow the budget process, attend public meetings, and share their thoughts with city and school officials. Transparent budgeting ensures that community needs are met while keeping Brewer a great place to live and work!

## City of Brewer Budget Process

### DECEMBER

- City Assessor provides first valuation estimate
- City Council holds workshop to establish goals and priorities for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

### JANUARY

- Initial Budget meeting between the City and School.
- Budget outlook and guidelines set.

### FEBRUARY

- State education subsidy projection released.
- City and School develop initial draft budget requests.
- City Assessor provides second valuation estimate.

### MARCH

- State municipal revenue sharing projection released.
- City Council holds a budget workshop.

### APRIL

- School Committee holds its first reading of the draft School budget.
- City Assessor provides third valuation estimate.
- City Council budget workshop.

### MAY

- School Committee conducts the second reading and votes to approve the school budget.
- Draft City, School, Sewer and Water budgets are released to the public.

### JUNE

- City Assessor provides the final valuation estimate.
- Joint City/School public information meeting on the budget.

City Council votes to approve the budget

# FAQs about the new Pine Tree/No Tree License Plates

Starting May 1, 2025, chickadee license plates will no longer be issued and will be replaced for those who currently hold them, including those that are considered vanity and low digit. You may see the new Pine Tree and No Tree plate options at the bottom of this article.

**Why are the plates changing?** In 2023, State Legislature gave the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicle until May 1, 2025 to design and issue a new plate to replace all current chickadee plates. The last reissuance was in 1999 and many chickadee plates are old, in disrepair, or have lost their reflectivity.

**Which plates are changing?** Any plates that currently have a chickadee on them will be changing. This includes: passenger, commercial, antique, disability, combination, motor home, custom vehicle, bus, farm, commercial tractor, tractor, special equipment, hire, low-speed, horseless carriage, and street rod. The City of Brewer will temporarily be carrying plates which we don't normally carry in order to replace the plates at time of renewal (i.e. disability plates).

**What if I don't want either the Pine Tree or No Tree Plate?** If you don't want either the Pine Tree or No Tree plate, you may choose to upgrade your plates to a specialty plate for the specialty plate fee of \$20.00. Examples of the specialty plates are Sportsman, Animal Welfare, Black Bear, Lighthouse, Conservation, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Agriculture.

**What if I want to keep the same number/saying that I have on my plate?** If you have a vanity plate, low digit plate, or simply want to keep the same plate number, you may reserve the number for a one-time fee of \$25.00. To reserve your number on one of the new style plates, you can either obtain a paper form at the Brewer Tax Office, visit a nearby Branch Office (i.e. Bangor DMV), or go online <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/reservation/start> . You will receive your plates in the mail approximately one month before they are due to be renewed. You MUST bring your reserved plates into City Hall at time of renewal to be able to use them.

**What if I don't care what number plate I receive?** If you don't care about keeping your same plate number, the City of Brewer will give you a new plate from our inventory at time of renewal.

**Do I have to wait for time of renewal to get the new plate?** Yes and no. You may visit the Brewer Tax Office and receive a new plate before your time of renewal, but you will have to pay an \$11.00 plate change fee. There is no fee if you wait to change the plate at time of renewal. This is due to us only being provided inventory to cover 2 months' worth of plate change renewals.

We thank you in advance for all of your patience! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Brewer Tax Office at (207) 989-7060.

**Pine Tree**



**No Tree**



# Upcoming Important Dates and Reminders

## City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 11 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#).

## Coffee With the Manager and Mayor

Wednesday, February 12 at 9am in the City Council Chambers at 80 North Main Street

## City Hall Closed, Monday, February 17

Brewer City Hall and all administrative offices will be closed Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents' Day.

## Arts and Culture Committee

Monday, February 24 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [available here](#).

## City Council Workshop

Tuesday, February 25 at 2pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#).

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## *New to the City of Brewer?*

Use the links below to learn about the many services that the City of Brewer offers to residents:

- [Household Curbside Trash Collection](#)
- [Brewer Landfill](#)
- [Brewer Public Library](#)
- [The Brewer Riverwalk](#)
- [Brewer Parks & Recreation](#)
- [Online Payments and Services](#)
- [Starting a Business](#)

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## Brewer City Council

Michele LaBree Daniels, Mayor

Jenn Morin, Deputy Mayor

Soubanh Phanthay, Councilor

Dani O'Halloran, Councilor

Bill Kimball, Councilor