

THE BREWER CHRONICLE

MARCH 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

March Calendar

Monday, March 3

Planning Board Meeting,
6pm, City Council Chambers

Wednesday, March 5

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

Tuesday, March 11

Second installment of real
estate and property taxes due

Monday, March 17

Arts and Culture Committee
Meeting, 6pm, Council
Chambers

Tuesday, March 18

City Council Workshop at
5pm followed by the regularly
scheduled meeting at 6pm

Tuesday, March 25

City Council Budget
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 Welcomes Chris Martin as Public Safety Director



The City of Brewer is pleased to announce that Deputy Chief Christopher Martin has been appointed as the city's next Public Safety Director. With a distinguished career spanning three decades in law enforcement, Martin brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and dedication to this new role.

He was born in Houlton, Maine and attended high school in Madawaska. Martin began his

law enforcement career with the Old Orchard Beach Police Department before joining the Brewer Police Department in 1994. Over the years, he worked his way through the ranks, becoming an expert in drug investigations and interdiction. While focusing on enforcement, he also became a strong advocate for drug treatment and recovery, recognizing the importance of a balanced approach to addressing substance use issues.

Martin has instructed drug investigation courses nationwide through Operation RUSH and the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training (MCTFT), training law enforcement officers on best practices in criminal interdiction. His expertise in street-level drug investigations, search warrants, and crime prevention has made a lasting impact in training the next generation of officers at Brewer PD.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Martin has been deeply committed to community efforts supporting substance use recovery. He served on the Board of Directors for the Bangor Area Recovery Network (BARN), including time as the organization's Chair.

His leadership in BARN highlights his dedication to helping individuals and families affected by substance use disorder, bridging the gap between enforcement and treatment.

Martin also played a key role in strengthening public safety in schools. He was instrumental in establishing Maine's first full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) position at Brewer High School, working closely with the late Jerry Goss, then the school's principal, to enhance security and build positive relationships between law enforcement and students.

As he steps into the role of Public Safety Director, Martin will oversee the city's police, fire, and emergency medical services, continuing Brewer's commitment to public safety. His leadership, expertise, and dedication to both enforcement and prevention will ensure that Brewer remains a safe and supportive community for all.

Please join us in congratulating Public Safety Director Christopher Martin on this well-deserved appointment!

Season Road Posting Information

Posted roads may be traveled on by vehicles over 23,000 registered GVW by obtaining a permit signed by the City Engineer or his/her designee (\$50 permit fee required). The frozen road exemption does not apply in the City of Brewer, Maine. 29MRSA Section 902 gives the City the authority to adapt rules to protect the roads at any time of year. Seasonal postings usually run from February 15 to April 30 every year unless unseasonable weather occurs before or after these dates.

The roads to be posted are:

DAY ROAD (Also posted year round for 34,000 registered GVW)

LAMBERT ROAD (Also posted year round for 34,000 registered GVW)

EASTERN AVE. – From Chamberlain Street to the Holden line (Pierce Road to the Holden town line is also posted year round for 34,000 registered GVW)

PIERCE ROAD

PARKWAY NORTH

CHAPMAN STREET

SILK STREET – From Washington Street to east end beyond Parkway No.

WASHINGTON ST. – From Silk Street to Longmeadow Drive.

BROADLAWN DR.

HILLCREST DR.

ARLINGTON AVE.

WISWELL ROAD (Also posted year round for 34,000 registered GVW)

GREENWOOD DR.

ROBIN HOOD DR.

EDGEWOOD DR.

SUNSET STRIP

COVE STREET

Brewer City Council Backs a new Jail for Penobscot County

At its February 11, 2025, meeting, the Brewer City Council unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the construction of a new jail for Penobscot County. Recognizing the longstanding concerns about the current Penobscot County Jail's capacity and condition, the Council emphasized the need for a modern facility to ensure the safety of both inmates and staff while improving rehabilitation services.

The existing jail, originally built in the 19th century, has struggled to meet the growing demands of the region. Overcrowding has led to costly out-of-county housing arrangements for inmates, placing a financial burden on taxpayers. Additionally, outdated infrastructure has made it increasingly difficult to maintain adequate security and provide essential mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

"This is a critical issue not just for Bangor, but for the entire region, including Brewer," said Mayor Michele LaBree Daniels. "A new jail will alleviate overcrowding, improve public safety, and provide better resources for rehabilitation. Our community benefits when we support solutions that enhance the criminal justice system."

The resolution signals Brewer's commitment to working collaboratively with county officials and other municipalities to advocate for state and federal funding for the project. While the exact timeline and location for the new facility are still under discussion, the Council's endorsement underscores the importance of moving forward with a solution that meets modern correctional standards.

For more information on the resolution or future meetings on the topic, please visit the City of Brewer's website or contact the City Manager's office.

Second Half of Taxes Due March 11

The second half of Fiscal Year 2025 taxes for both Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due Tuesday March 11, 2025. Payment may be made using one of the following methods:

- Pay online anytime, from the comfort of your own home, with an E-Check, Debit, or Credit Card. [Click here to get started](#). MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express are accepted, though a convenience fee will apply.
- Pay in person at the Tax Office at Brewer City Hall (lower level), Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00p.m. We take cash and checks. We also accept credit and debit cards, though a convenience fee will apply.
- Mail a check or money order made payable to "City of Brewer" to: Tax Office, 80 North Main Street, Brewer, ME 04412 (please do not mail cash. Including the remit slip and/or the bill number will help ensure that we post your payment to the appropriate account.

Join Us for Coffee with the City Manager and Mayor on March 5

The City of Brewer invites residents to the next "Coffee with the City Manager and Mayor" event on Wednesday, March 5, at 9:00 AM in the City Council Chambers. This monthly gathering provides an opportunity for residents to engage in meaningful discussions about city initiatives, ask questions, and share their thoughts on local matters.

This month, we are pleased to welcome officers from the Brewer Police Department as our special guests. They will be available to answer questions and address public safety concerns that matter most to our community. Whether you have questions about crime prevention, traffic enforcement, or neighborhood safety, this is a great chance to connect directly with those who serve and protect Brewer.

"Open dialogue between residents and city leadership is essential for a strong community," said City Manager Eric Glidden. "We encourage everyone to attend, enjoy a cup of coffee, and be part of the conversation."

We hope you'll join us for this informative and casual discussion. No RSVP is required—just bring your questions and a willingness to engage with city leadership and law enforcement.

For more information, please contact the City Manager Eric Glidden at 207-989-7500 or eglidden@brewermaine.gov.

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)
- 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 or 207-989-7050. A complete list of Boards and Committees, as well as their members, is [available here](#).

City Council Budget Workshop Scheduled for March 25

The City of Brewer will hold a City Council Budget Workshop on Tuesday, March 25, at 2:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, located at 80 North Main Street. This workshop is an important step in the budget preparation process for Fiscal Year 2026.

During the meeting, City Manager Eric Glidden and Finance Director Karen Fussell will provide an update on the current status of budget preparations. This session will also serve as an opportunity for City Council members to ask questions and engage in discussions regarding the upcoming fiscal year's financial planning.

In addition to this workshop, another budget workshop will be held in April. In addition, a public information meeting will take place in early June, providing residents with further opportunities to engage in the budget process and share their feedback.

Residents are encouraged to attend and stay informed about the city's budgetary process. While this is a workshop and not a formal public hearing, community members can gain insight into how the city is working to allocate resources efficiently and responsibly.

For more information, please contact the City Manager's Office at 207-989-7500.

Brewer Public Library Presents: To My Dearest- The Civil War Letters of George and Emily Ward

On March 31st at 6pm in the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center's upstairs conference room, the Brewer Public Library will proudly present the moving and historically rich performance, To My Dearest - The Civil War Letters of George and Emily Ward, featuring local actors Lynne McKenney Lydick and Thomas R. Lydick.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, George Ward was called to raise the 15th Massachusetts Regiment, leaving behind his wife, Emily, and their two young children. Over the course of the war, they exchanged 116 letters, which survive today in the collection of the Worcester Historical Museum. Their correspondence reveals the pain of separation, the struggles of single parenting, and the brutal realities of war.

In this live performance, Lynne and Tom Lydick bring George and Emily's voices to life, sharing their deeply personal and poignant words. The Lydicks, who first met at Brewer High School in 1969, have been performing together for over 30 years in musicals, dramas, mystery dinner theaters, and historical reenactments. They are known for their passion for social justice, human rights, and historical storytelling.

Join us for an evening of history, emotion, and connection as we experience the real-life love and sacrifice of a couple separated by war. This event is free and open to the public.

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

Planning Board Meeting

Monday, March 3 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street.

Coffee With the Manager and Mayor

Wednesday, March 5 at 9am in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street.

City Council Workshop and Regular Meeting

Workshop at 5pm and Regular Meeting at 6pm, Tuesday, March 18 in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#).

Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

Monday, March 17 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [available here](#).

City Council Budget Workshop

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

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](#)

Brewer City Council

Michele LaBree Daniels, Mayor

Jenn Morin, Deputy Mayor

Soubanh Phanthay, Councilor

Dani O'Halloran, Councilor

Bill Kimball, Councilor