

THE BREWER CHRONICLE

APRIL 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

April Calendar

Monday, April 7

Planning Board Meeting,
6pm, City Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 8

City Council Workshop at
5pm and Regular meeting at
6pm, Council Chambers

Wednesday, April 9

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

Tuesday, April 15

City Council Budget
Workshop, 6pm, City Council
Chambers

Monday, April 21

Arts and Culture Committee,
6pm, 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!

FY26 City Budget Preparations are Well Underway

The Brewer City Council will host a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Brewer City Hall. This important public meeting will provide residents with an inside look at the City's budget planning process for the upcoming fiscal year.

City Manager Eric Glidden and Finance Director Karen Fussell will lead the presentation to the City Council, offering an update on the current status of budget preparations and outlining key priorities and challenges facing the City. Department Heads will be available to answer questions and provide additional context regarding department-specific requests and needs.

This is a valuable opportunity for residents to better understand how the City allocates resources, funds services, and plans for the future—all while balancing community needs with fiscal responsibility. We hope you will join us and learn more about the City's budget process!

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](#)

Sign up to Volunteer for the Annual Ken Locke Stream Cleanup!

The City of Brewer is seeking volunteers for the 21st Annual Ken Locke Stream Cleanup on **Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**

This event is coordinated by Members of the Brewer Stream Clean-Up Committee. All of the funds necessary to perform the event will be raised locally through Donations. The Ken Locke Stream Clean-Up raises awareness about storm water pollution and gives residents a chance to directly contribute to cleaner local waterways. There will be a volunteer recognition picnic at 11:00 a.m. at the Joe Ferris Community Center, sponsored by Jeff's Catering.

To volunteer, please **sign up by May 1** by contacting:

Lou Colburn: (207) 989-5417 / lcolburn@brewermaine.gov

or David Leonard: (207) 989-5417 / dleonard@brewermaine.gov

Volunteers should check in at the Joe Ferris Community Center between 7:00-8:00 AM.

Let's work together to make a difference in our community!

Upcoming Events at the Brewer Public Library

What Martha Wore – 18th Century Clothing in the Ballard Diary

The Brewer Public Library is pleased to host the one-woman presentation What Martha Wore – 18th Century Clothing in the Ballard Diary, by Kelli Burnham, Reference Librarian at the Maine State Library. Join her on Monday, **April 7th at 6pm in the Joseph L. Ferris Community Center** as she shares the life stories of 18th century Mainer, Martha Ballard, midwife, diarist, and subject of the recent bestseller Frozen River.

2025 Spring Cleanup Information

Each spring, the City offers free curbside collection of brush, bagged leaves, non-freon containing white goods, and metals to Brewer residents. This year the spring cleanup will take place in early May, which will also include extended transfer station hours (normal disposal fees will apply). More information about this program is [available here](#). This information will also be distributed via the City's new communication system, *Notify Brewer*.

Updated Brewer Landfill Hours

The Brewer Landfill is open to Brewer residents only and operates on a seasonal schedule. From April 1 through the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 25), the landfill is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. during which time residents may dispose of compost, brush, and clean metals. For the remainder of the year, the landfill is open on Tuesdays only from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. In addition, the landfill is open year-round on the first and third Saturday of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the disposal of all allowable items. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (207) 989-7800.

Crime Prevention Tips: Protect Your Vehicle From Break-Ins

With warmer weather on the way, the Brewer Police Department reminds residents that spring often brings an increase in motor vehicle burglaries. Thieves tend to target unlocked cars and visible valuables, especially in parking lots, along streets, and near roadways.

Help prevent theft with these simple tips:

- Always lock your doors, even for quick stops.
- Keep valuables out of sight—store items in the trunk or take them with you.
- Park in well-lit, visible areas when possible.
- Report suspicious activity to the Brewer Police Department at (207) 989-7001.

Small actions can make a big difference. Let's work together to keep Brewer safe this spring!

Spring Means Increased Bear Activity- Be Bear Aware!

With spring weather finally arriving, Maine's wildlife is quickly shaking off winter's grip—and that includes black bears. After emerging from their winter dens, black bears are on the move and actively searching for food. During the winter, bears enter a state called torpor, in which their metabolism and respiration slow significantly. They may breathe only once every 15 to 45 seconds, and their heart rate drops to as low as 8 beats per minute and they lose a substantial amount of bodyweight during this time.

As they begin to wake and regulate their bodily functions, bears look for early spring food sources like insects, grasses, sedges, and any leftover nuts from the fall. Because natural foods are scarce this time of year, bears are more likely to wander into backyards in search of easy meals. It's especially important to be proactive in securing and removing attractants to help prevent conflicts with black bears.

To reduce the likelihood of bear encounters, residents are encouraged to take the following steps:

Birdfeeders: Remove bird feeders between April 1 and November 1, rake up any spilled seed, and consider planting native vegetation to attract birds instead.

Garbage: Store trash in a secure building or behind electric fencing. Set it out the morning of pickup, not the night before. Always keep dumpster lids closed and latched, and consider using bear-resistant containers.

Grills: Clean grills thoroughly after each use and store them inside when not in use. If a bear is active in your area, pause grilling until it has moved on.

Pets and Livestock: Feed pets indoors and store all animal food securely inside. Keep livestock in buildings at night and maintain effective fencing.

Being mindful and taking preventive steps now will go a long way toward keeping both bears and people safe this season. If you experience bear activity on your property, you can report it to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for guidance. [Click here for more information from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.](#)

Join Us for Coffee with the City Manager and Mayor on Wednesday, April 9

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 City Assessor Valerie Moon. She will join the conversation to share insights about the property assessment process, answer questions from residents, and discuss how assessments impact local taxes and city services. This is a great opportunity for residents to learn more about the work of the Assessor's Office and engage in an informal, informative discussion.

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 the City Assessor.

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 Assessment Review (1 vacancy)
Planning Board (1 vacancy)
Library Board of Trustees (2 vacancies)
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](#).

What is Revenue Sharing- and Why Does It Matter to Brewer?

If you’ve ever wondered how state tax dollars make their way back to local communities like Brewer, the answer lies in something called Municipal Revenue Sharing. It’s a behind-the-scenes piece of Maine’s budget process, but it plays a big role in helping cities and towns provide essential services without putting the entire burden on local property taxpayers.

So, what exactly is Revenue Sharing?

Each month, the State of Maine sets aside 5% of its sales, corporate, and personal income tax revenues into a fund specifically for municipalities. This pool of money is then distributed to cities and towns across the state to help support local budgets.

How is it divided?

Revenue sharing isn’t a flat amount given to every community. Instead, the state uses a formula that considers two main things:

- Population – Larger communities typically receive a bigger share.
- Ability to raise money locally – This is based on a town or city’s property valuation. If your community has higher property values, the state sees it as having a stronger “capacity to pay” and may reduce its share of revenue sharing accordingly.

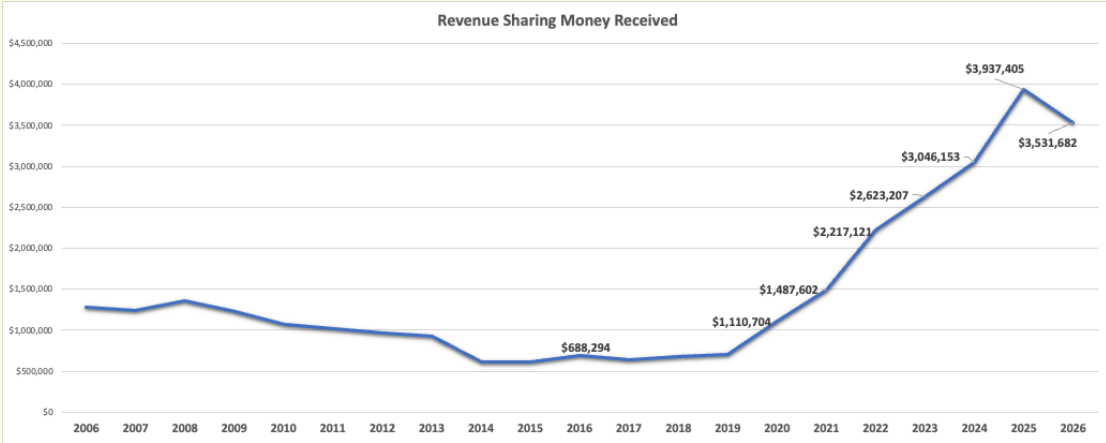
Why doesn’t it always go up when property values rise?

It’s a common assumption that if property values are going up, revenue sharing must go up too—but that’s not always the case. The formula is relative, meaning it compares Brewer’s values and growth to other towns throughout Maine. If other communities across the state are seeing faster growth in property values, Brewer’s share of the pie could actually shrink, even if our values are increasing.

Why does this matter?

Revenue sharing is an important source of funding for Brewer. In fact, it is Brewer’s largest source of municipal non-property tax revenue. It helps support city services like police, fire, road maintenance, and more—services that residents rely on every day. Without this support, the City would need to look for other funding sources, which could include raising property taxes.

In short, municipal revenue sharing helps strike a balance between state and local responsibility, easing the pressure on local budgets and ensuring that communities like Brewer can continue to deliver quality services to residents.



City of Brewer Revenue Sharing History FY06-FY26

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, April 7 at 6pm 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, April 8 in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#).

Coffee With the Manager and Mayor

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

City Council Budget Workshop

Tuesday, April 15 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#).

Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

Monday, April 21 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [available 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