

THE BREWER CHRONICLE

MAY 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF BREWER

May Calendar

Monday, May 5

Planning Board Meeting,
6pm, City Council Chambers

Tuesday, May 13

Regular meeting at 6pm,
Council Chambers

Wednesday, May 14

Coffee with the City Manager
and Mayor, 6pm, Brewer
Public Library

Monday, May 19

Arts and Culture Committee,
6pm, Council Chambers

Monday, May 26

City Hall and Administrative
Offices Closed in observance
of Memorial Day

Tuesday, June 3

FY26 Budget Public
Informational 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!

Gold Star Cleaners Marks 120 Years with Community BBQ Celebration

Gold Star Cleaners, a Brewer business since 1905, is celebrating an incredible 120 years of service—and you're invited to the party! On Friday, June 13, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the company will host a free community BBQ in the parking lot at 201 Wilson Street, right across from their main plant.

Everyone is welcome to stop by and enjoy grilled hot dogs, chips, cold beverages, and a chance to win fun prizes—all under the tent and all on the house! The afternoon will feature a live broadcast from Q106.5, adding lively music and energy to the celebration. Brewer's Mayor and City Councilors will also be on hand to offer official congratulations to Gold Star Cleaners on this historic achievement.

"We're incredibly proud to be celebrating 120 years in business," said Eric Pooler, Owner of Gold Star Cleaners. "This celebration is our way of saying thank you to the community that has supported us for over a century. We hope everyone will stop by, grab a bite, and help us mark this special occasion."

As part of their anniversary festivities, Gold Star Cleaners is also hosting the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours event on Thursday, May 15, from 5:00-7:00 PM. Bonus: wear your favorite "dry clean only" outfit for a chance to win an extra prize! With a legacy of quality service and strong community ties, the City of Brewer is proud to help celebrate 120 years with Gold Star Cleaners—and looks forward to many more.

Brewer City Council Explores Housing Innovation at UMaine Advanced Composite Center

In an effort to better understand innovative solutions to Maine's housing crisis, the Brewer City Council and City staff recently visited the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center in Orono. The visit provided a firsthand look at the cutting-edge research and development taking place just up the road, with particular focus on how new technologies can help address housing shortages in Brewer and across the state.

Leading the Way in Housing Innovation

The UMaine Composites Center is a nationally recognized research and development facility committed to advancing next-generation materials and structural systems. Among its most promising projects is the development of sustainable, affordable housing units built using advanced manufacturing techniques, including bio-based materials and large-scale 3D printing.

These initiatives are not just academic—they're designed to provide real-world, scalable housing solutions that can be implemented in rural, suburban, and urban communities across the country.

A Learning Opportunity for Brewer

During the visit, councilors and staff toured the facility, met with research leaders, and explored examples of modular, rapidly deployable housing prototypes currently under development. The group discussed the potential for partnerships, pilot projects, and future applications of this work in Brewer.

City leaders were particularly interested in the Composites Center's mission to design homes that are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and built with Maine-sourced materials—a vision that aligns closely with Brewer's own goals for housing growth, sustainability, and economic development.

Positioning Brewer for the Future

"This visit was an important opportunity to learn how groundbreaking work happening right here in Maine could shape the future of housing in our community," said Mayor Daniels. "The innovations being explored at UMaine could help us address critical housing needs while supporting Maine's economy and workforce."

As Brewer continues to focus on housing development and long-term community resilience, partnerships with forward-looking institutions like the UMaine Composites Center may play a valuable role in shaping the city's future.



Trash Talk: Brewer's Waste Now Flowing to Hampden Facility

After years of planning, partnership and persistence, Municipal WasteHub (formerly the Municipal Review Committee) announced that the first loads of trash crossed the scales at the Municipal Waste Solutions facility in Hampden on April 7. This marks a significant milestone toward the full re-opening of the recycling and waste processing plant.

The facility is operating Monday through Friday, handling around 75 tons of waste per day. It is taking loads from select communities—including Brewer—as it ramps up to accepting waste from all 115 member communities on a continuous basis by early summer. It is operating as a transfer station right now, but by the fall, the sorting equipment that will remove recyclables from the waste will be fully operational. And in 2026, the anaerobic digestion equipment that will convert food waste and other organic matter into natural gas will come online, increasing the plant's diversion of waste from landfill to over 50%.

"This reopening is more than just a restart of operations—it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to affordable, sustainable waste solutions for our member communities." Michael Carroll, Executive Director, Municipal WasteHub. "We look forward to returning to full operations this fall, with expanded capabilities and services that reflect our long-term vision for waste recovery and environmental responsibility."



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 the first full week of May, which will also include extended transfer station hours (normal disposal fees will apply). More information about this program is [available here](#).

New License Plates Have Arrived!

Starting May 1—and for the next 12 months—everyone with a Chickadee plate will receive a new Pine Tree (or No Tree) plate when they come in to renew their registration. You can find more information at: [Pine Tree Plate](#) | [Sos](#).



Your Tax Dollars at Work: A Peek Into FY26 Budget Development

The City of Brewer is well into its Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget process, laying the groundwork for a thoughtful, transparent, and balanced financial plan that will support city services, capital projects, and long-term priorities.

A Collaborative Approach to Planning

Each year, the development of the city's budget is a comprehensive effort involving coordination between City Staff, the City Council, the Superintendent of Schools, and community stakeholders. This collaborative process ensures that Brewer continues to deliver high-quality services while remaining fiscally responsible and responsive to community needs. As of April, city departments have submitted their preliminary budget requests. The Brewer School Department has also held its first reading of its budget, with the second reading taking place at the May School Committee meeting. The City Council has also held two budget workshops to discuss FY26 budgetary goals, priorities and challenges ([view the meetings here](#)).

Public Involvement and Next Steps

As always, Brewer residents are encouraged to participate in the budget process. **A public informational meeting will be held Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers.** The draft budget will be posted on the City of Brewer website and shared through social media and Brewer Chronicle Newsletter. The draft budget will also be available to view at both City Hall and at the Brewer Public Library. The City Council will then vote on the budget at its regularly schedule meeting on June 10.

City of Brewer Budget Process



Brewer Police and Firefighters Go Head-to-Head to Support Brewer Little League

What happens when a 12-year-old with a heart for baseball and a passion for giving back calls on the community's first responders? A hometown showdown like no other.

Dorian "D-Max" Pillsbury, a baseball player, entrepreneur, and the youngest community organizer in the area, is hosting the first-ever Badge vs. Badge Charity Softball Game, a friendly but fierce match-up between Brewer's police officers and firefighters—all to raise funds for Brewer Little League.

The event will be held on Sunday, May 4 at Brewer Little League Majors field, 397 N Main St., with the pregame fun starting at 10am and the first pitch at 11am. Admission is free, and the game promises big hits, even bigger heart, and plenty of fun for the whole family.

"Brewer Little League hasn't had a major upgrade in over a decade," said D-Max. "I wanted to do something big for my last year in the league—and what's bigger than getting our hometown heroes together to support the next generation of players?"

D-Max, founder of D-Max Merch, will also be selling limited-edition sweatshirts for \$45, with 10% of all proceeds going directly to the league to fund new bases, batting cages, and bullpen improvements.

In addition to the softball showdown, attendees can enjoy:

Darling's Ice Cream Truck

Brewer Little League Concessions

Giveaways, raffles, and more

The event is proudly presented by D-Max Merch, with support from generous community sponsors, including:

Title Sponsors: Eagles Nest, Maine Earth

Grand Slam Sponsors: C&C Lynch Excavation, First National Bank, Penobscot Ice Arena

Home Run Sponsors: Paradis Shop 'n Save, Kosta's, NextHome Experience, Agent Erika Largay

"This event is about more than just sports," said D-Max's mom, Lisa Liberatore. "It's about showing kids they can lead, organize, and make a real difference in their community."

About D-Max:

Dorian "D-Max" Pillsbury is a young entrepreneur and philanthropist based in Brewer, Maine. Through his brand, D-Max Merch, he has raised thousands of dollars for local causes and inspired others to give back through creativity and action.

To learn more, follow us on Facebook @207kids

Meet John Brewer: The Man Behind the Name

Ever wonder who put the “Brewer” in Brewer, Maine? Meet Colonel John Brewer—a bold visionary, mill builder, and Revolutionary War informant.

Born in 1743 in Weston, Massachusetts, Brewer first set foot on the banks of the Sedgeunkedunk Stream in 1770, where he saw more than just rushing water—he saw opportunity. With a sharp eye for natural resources and a good head for industry, he laid the foundation for a mill and returned the next year with his family and 21 other brave households to establish the village of New Worcester, now known as Brewer.

Brewer wasn't just a settler—he was a strategist. During the chaos of the American Revolution, he played both diplomat and informant, navigating tense relations with the British at Castine while supplying key intelligence to American commanders during the ill-fated Penobscot Expedition. (Spoiler alert: they didn't listen.)

After a temporary retreat to Massachusetts during the war, Brewer returned and helped the community grow. He served as postmaster, deputy sheriff, and militia colonel, and when the town split from Orrington in 1812, it was fittingly named after him.

John Brewer died in 1825 and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery—on land he generously deeded to the town just months earlier. Today, his marble headstone stands near the Sedgeunkedunk Stream, a quiet testament to a life that helped shape our city. So the next time you stroll the waterfront trail or pass by Oak Hill, tip your hat to the man who made it all happen—John Brewer, founder, fighter, and local legend.

From the Stacks: Events at the Brewer Public Library

Tech Thursdays, May 1, 10am-1pm: Got tech problems? Don't stress, we've got you covered! Join us at the Brewer Library on the first Thursday of each month for Tech Thursdays. From 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM get one-on-one tech help with Ben Bussiere of Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC)!

Whether you're having issues with software, devices, or anything tech-related, Ben is here to help! Call 989-7943 or drop by the library to register for a FREE 30-minute, one-on-one session to get personalized support and troubleshooting.

Don't let tech troubles slow you down – take advantage of this awesome opportunity! See you there!

Knitting Social, Fridays, 9am-11am: Whether you're an experienced knitter, just beginning, or would like to begin, join the Brewer Public Library's Knitting Social every Friday at 9am!

Story time, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:30am-11:15am: Newborns to five-year-olds will enjoy stories, a snack, and a craft.

Dog Ears, Wednesdays, 3:30pm-5pm: Does your child love to read, need help with their reading, or simply love dogs? Come to the Brewer Public Library on Wednesdays at 3:30 to read to one of our Tail Waggin' Tutors! Jade and Andie are kind, patient, and great listeners! Please call to reserve a fifteen minute slot. Kids who come for at least 10 visits, get a free book!

In the Spotlight: Brewer Land Trust

The Brewer Land Trust is a non-profit committed to preserving natural beauty and green spaces in the city and surrounding region. Established in 2006 by passionate residents and local leaders, the trust works to protect vital natural resources, promote conservation, and foster public access to outdoor areas. As an independent 501(c)(3) entity governed by a small but mighty Board of Directors, the Brewer Land Trust collaborates with the City of Brewer, the Maine Land Trust Network, and neighboring organizations to ensure that Brewer's scenic and environmental heritage remains intact for generations to come.

Over the years, the trust has secured ownership of and conservation easements to a total of 179 acres of land, including areas surrounding Felts Brook, with the vision of preserving green space and creating accessible public trails. One of its proud achievements is the Sherwood Forest Park Trail, an easy loop trail enjoyed by the community and local students for environmental education. Currently, Brewer Land Trust is leading the advocacy for a rail trail on the 2.5 mile stretch of discontinued railbed through the industrial park and along I-395.

Want to learn more? Check out our website brewerlandtrust.org. And visit us at our table at the Riverwalk Festival on June 7!



Want to support BLT? During the month of May, \$1.00 of every reusable Community Bag sold at Brewer Hannaford will be donated to the trust. We are also always looking for volunteers. Email BrewerLandTrust@gmail.com for more information.



Big Changes Are Coming to Brewer's Website!

Exciting improvements are on the way! By the end of the summer, the City of Brewer plans to launch a brand-new website designed to make it easier than ever for residents, businesses, and visitors to find the information they need.

Along with the website redesign, we are introducing online digital permitting — allowing users to apply for and track permits from the convenience of home — and we are digitizing the Municipal Code, making city ordinances fully searchable and accessible online.

These efforts reflect Brewer's commitment to modernizing city services and improving access for the entire community. Stay tuned for updates, and get ready for a more user-friendly and connected Brewer!

A Relic Once Used in Brewer to be Featured at the Logger's Expo

The Maine Forest and Logging Museum's 1907 steam-powered Lombard Log Hauler will be featured at the Northeastern Loggers Association's "Loggers's Expo" on May 16th and 17th at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

Purchased brand-new in December of 1907 by the Eastern Manufacturing Company (of Brewer, Maine), it is one of four Lombard Log Haulers owned by the company between 1907 and 1913. This Lombard is one of only 83 steam-powered vehicles built by the Lombard Traction Engine Company of Waterville, Maine, between 1901 and 1917. Developed and patented by Alvin Orlando Lombard in 1900, the steam-powered Lombard Log Hauler is recognized as the first practical crawler track vehicle in the world!

Weighing 19 tons and rated at 90 horsepower, it could pull long trains of giant sleds loaded with up to 300 tons of logs! Its top speed is five miles per hour, and it required a crew of three to operate it: an engineer, a fireman and a steersman.

A thirty-year effort to restore it to operation was realized in 2014. The Maine Forest and Logging Museum's Lombard is one of only two in the world in working condition, and it can be seen in operation during museum events.



Upcoming Important Dates and Reminders

Planning Board Meeting

Monday, May 5 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street.

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 13 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [posted here](#).

Special Evening Edition: Coffee With the City Manager and Mayor

Wednesday, May 14 at 6pm at the Brewer Public Library

Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

Monday, May 19 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers located at 80 North Main Street. The agenda will be [available here](#).

Memorial Day: City Hall Closed

City Hall and all administrative offices will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

FY26 Budget Public Informational Meeting

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

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