

Happy
Mothers
Day

CHINA CONNECTED

China Branch Mills China Weeks Mills South China
Village Village Village Village

Where little villages come together

May 3, 2024

I am extremely concerned with the recent rain/snow event and the subsequent damage to the shoreline of China Lake and Three Mile Pond. Water quality is a contributing factor to property values and China's desirableness as a destination. I spoke with Vassalboro's Town Manager, the Outlet Stream dam operator for the Town of Vassalboro and Kennebec Water District to gauge Vassalboro's responsibility to adhere to the Department of Environmental Protection's lake level order for China Lake. The State of Maine's Hydropower Coordinator has been contacted regarding the violation for their response.

Much can be speculated about the potential damage to water quality due to the high water. I have gathered some information to share. For example, the length of time between ice in and ice out on China Lake during the 2023 -2024 winter was dramatically shorter than historical averages. This shorter "ice-in" time allows more light to enter the water column and extends the growing season for algae which may result in more algal blooms in the summer of 2024.

While we know soil erosion introduces nutrient pollution and sediment into the lake, it is difficult to predict the impact of a single event (even a destructive one like we just experienced) days, weeks, months, or even years later.

China Lake and the surrounding watershed are large and complex environmental systems impacted by numerous natural and man-made factors including:

- Water temperature
- Days between ice in and ice out
- Precipitation levels
- Intensity of storms
- Duration of frozen conditions within the watershed
- Percentage of the watershed covered in forest
- Land development activities
- Residential, commercial, and agricultural uses of fertilizers
- Lake level
- Invasive species
- Natural systems restoration (e.g. alewife restoration)
- And more

Fluctuations, sometimes significant, in the natural and manmade factors influencing lake water quality have continued to occur resulting in some years of water quality improvements and other years with water quality degradation. However, looking at the trends, water quality has improved over the past decade.

As we continue into the 2024 summer season, we must continue to be vigilant in our efforts to positively impact the factors we can control to protect this amazing natural resource. If you are considering undertaking any projects near the water, please be sure to reach out to Code Enforcement Officer, Nick French for the proper advice and permits required.

Becky Hapgood
Town Manager
becky@chinamaine.org

Notice of Public Hearing

The Municipal Officers of China will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 6, 2024, at 5:45 p.m.** to receive comments and answer questions on the Annual Town Business Meeting Warrant articles, proposed changes to Chapter 2, 3 & 11 of the Land Use Ordinance and the proposed Chapter 8 Solar Energy Systems Ordinance.

A zoom link to the public hearing is available and posted on the calendar on the town's website. The ATBM Warrant is posted at www.china.govoffice.com on the "Elections" tab. Any comments or questions prior to the meeting can be sent to info@chinamaine.org.

Those who join the meeting in person for the public hearing portion will partake in an ice cream social.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS will be available on Monday, May 13th through Thursday, June 6th, 2024.
RSU ballots will be available Friday, May 17th.

You may request a ballot online at [Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commissions \(maine.gov\)](http://Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commissions (maine.gov)), by phone 445-2014 X3 or in person at the Town Office.

The Annual Town Business Meeting will be held by written ballot on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 in the portable building at the Town Office complex.

CHINA COMMUNITY DAYS

Yard Sale Trail

Anyone wanting your yard sale location to be included on August 2nd, 3rd or 4th please contact the China Town Office with your location and times at 445-2014 extension 3 or info@chinamaine.org.

**Attention all China Residents!
Secure Paper Shredding Event
Saturday, May 4th 9am-1pm**

**China Public Works
211 Alder Park Rd**

REMINDER:

If you paid \$10 for a Transfer Station placard, the last day to return the placard for a refund is Friday, May 31st.

Ask Us Anything!

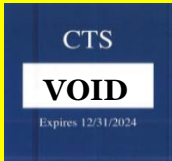
Have you ever had a question about our community you wanted to ask but were too shy? I bet others from town may have the same question. Readers may submit a question and we will publish the question and answer in a future issue of the CC. This will be totally anonymous! All questions may be sent to jen@chinamaine.org by email or by text. Your question may help another China resident so don't be afraid to ask us!

2024 ATV registrations and stickers are available May 1st



Have you purchased your new Transfer Station access permit??

Each vehicle entering the Transfer Station is required to have an access permit. Permits are \$2.00 each. Please return your placard(s) to the Town Office when obtaining the new permit. To view the TS Access Permit policy please visit www.china.govoffice.com under ordinances, policies & orders.



TRANSITIONAL TRANSPORTATION

Transitional Transportation (TT) can provide eligible families with help paying for work-related travel expenses. *You may qualify if:*

- You are currently working at paid employment; and
- You have a work-related travel expense; and
- You have a child under the age of 18 in your home; and
- Your income is below 200% FPL, before taxes and withholdings (Expanded TT); or
- You have recently closed TANF, and your income is below 250% FPL, before taxes and withholdings (TANF Related TT)

Work-related travel expenses are reimbursed based on the number of miles traveled for work each day. Reimbursement is .46¢ per mile, up to \$20 per day. You can receive TT for up to 18 months.

Expanded TT 200% FPL		TANF Related TT 250% FPL	
Household Size	Gross Monthly Income	Household Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$2,436	1	3,038
2	\$3,267	2	4,109
3	\$4,144	3	5,180
4	\$5,000	4	6,250
5	\$5,857	5	7,321
6	\$6,714	6	8,392
7	\$7,570	7	9,463
8	\$8,427	8	10,534

Applications are available online: www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms

Return applications:

Mail: Office for Family Independence | State of Maine-DHHS 114 Corn Shop Lane | Farmington, ME 04938

E: Farmington.DHHS@maine.gov
Fax: 1-207-778-8429

For assistance: 855-797-4357 or Maine Relay 711 (TTY)

When you pull into the Town Office on Wednesdays between 10am – 12pm and see all the cars, this is our amazing Golden Agers group. New members are always welcome. They have several trips planned for this summer. Stop by any Wednesday!!



All Municipal Services will be closed Monday, May 27th in honor of Memorial Day

**RSU 18
District Budget Meeting
Thursday, May 16 at 6:00PM
Messalonskee High School
Performing Arts Center
Oakland**

Have you ordered your E911 sign yet??



The Town of China is offering an E911 sign displaying your house number. Who is funding this, you ask? The project was approved by voters at the June 14, 2022 Election, Article 31, to use up to \$38,000 of ARPA funds to purchase the signs for China residents. Order forms are available at the town office and online at www.china.govoffice.com. Forms can be returned to the town office, mailed or emailed to info@chinamaine.org. One sign per residence. Once the funding is exhausted, the project ends so please order soon. Orders will be combined to create bulk orders for cost reduction therefore it may take several weeks to receive the sign. Installation of the sign is the property owner's responsibility. You will be notified when your sign is available to be picked up at the China Town Office during normal business hours. Any questions please contact the office at 207-445-2014 X3.