



# CHINA CONNECTED

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

*Where little villages come together*

January 12, 2024

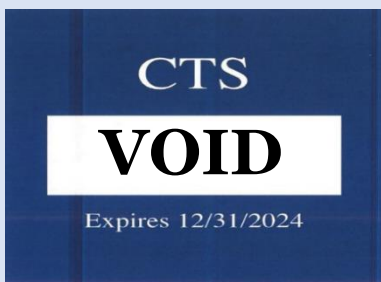
While the Friends of China, Maine Facebook page can be a resource for China information, the town office is always here to expertly answer your questions. I encourage you to join our interactive communications system TextMyGov. You can ask questions and report issues. To join Text "Hi" to 207-489-8383. Another fantastic aspect of TextMyGov is the alert system. If you want emergency, event, meeting and general town notifications, text **CHINAEMERGENCY** to 91896, **CHINAFUN** to 91896, **CHINAMEETINGS** to 91896 and **CHINANOTIFYME** to 91896 to receive important China alerts. If you need help setting these notifications up, please stop by the town office and the clerks will help you. If you sign up for **all four** notifications, you will be entered into a drawing for a Hannaford gift card. Drawings will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> for qualified entries.

China's public works employees are amazing. They are extremely thoughtful, considerate, and dedicated to ensuring the safety of the traveling public year-round. I'm not sure how many residents realize the long days and nights these employees put in each week. This time of year, they spend countless additional hours away from their family and friends and basically give up their lives during the winter to be available at a moment's notice. They often get paid overtime for long storms, but I know all would rather be home if they could. They rarely get a full night's sleep because even if we don't have weather, the roads still may have icy conditions from runoff which need to be treated. We have 4 plow routes for our municipal roads. Each route takes about 3 1/2 hours to complete one pass. If you see Shawn, Rick, Marty, Keith or Tim, please give them a thank you for a job well done!

Becky Hapgood  
Town Manager  
becky@chinimaine.org

**\*\*Mark Your Calendars\*\***  
**21<sup>st</sup> Annual China Community Days**  
**August 2,3 & 4, 2024**

**Beginning January 1, 2024, access permits are required to enter the Transfer Station.** The cost is \$2.00 per permit. Each vehicle entering the Transfer Station will require an access permit. 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](http://www.china.govoffice.com) under ordinances, policies & orders.



**All Municipal Services will be closed Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Get Fast Assistance TextMyGov  
**Text the Town of China, ME**



**Find Information & Report Issues**  
Skip a phone call and use your mobile phone's text messaging service to quickly access information and report issues.

Simply text the word HI to the town's smart texting number or send a message containing keywords relevant to your request, such as: CLERK, TOWN HALL, HELPFUL LINKS, TRANSFER STATION, DOG, UNPERMITTED, POT HOLE, TREE DOWN, or FLOODING.

**24/7 Texting Service**  
Smart texting technology identifies keywords that are texted in to provide immediate assistance. It can relay information back to you or guide you through a few steps to submit a report.

**Get Started**  
Text **Hi** to the Town of China at:  
**207.489.8383**  
Save our number to your phone and text HI anytime you need it.

Get updates delivered directly to your phone. Additional service option

**Sign up to receive town-wide text alerts!**

- > For Town notifications, text "CHINANOTIFYME" to 91896
- > For Event notifications, text "CHINAFUN" to 91896
- > For Board Meeting notifications, text "CHINAMEETINGS" to 91896
- > For Emergency notifications, text "CHINAEMERGENCY" to 91896

**What to Expect:**

- After the initial keyword is sent to join the text message notification list, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply YES to verify opt-in.
- You may receive multiple text message notifications for each alert category opted-in to.
- You can text STOP at any time to remove yourself from the notification list.



Msg & data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for details. View terms and privacy policy info at: [textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions](http://textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions)

**Don't forget to license your dog!!**  
**A late fee of \$25.00 per dog begins February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Male/Female - \$11**  
**Spayed/Neutered - \$6**

**Deputy Stefanizzi wants to remind residents to not leave mail in your mailbox. There have been many instances in the county of mail being removed and checks forged. Also, credit card offers and other mail can be used in not so appropriate ways. Also, instead of placing outgoing mail in your mailbox with your flag up which easily catches the attention of criminals, it is suggested to take your mail to the secure mailbox at the post office.**

## Property owners, do you want to save some money on your tax bill?

If you are a long-time resident you probably already have your exemptions, but it doesn't hurt to double check by reviewing your tax bill. The applications are available on our website, at our office or at [Maine.gov](http://Maine.gov). The filing deadline for the upcoming tax year is **April 1, 2024**.

Some of the exemptions (and a summary of qualifications) that may be available to you:

- ✿ **Homestead Exemption** – You must have owned a home in Maine for the past 12 continuous months as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, it must be your primary place of residence and you must be a Maine resident.
- ✿ **Veteran/Veteran Widow Exemption** – You must be at least 62 and have served during an accepted war period or be 100% disabled or be the widow of a qualifying Veteran.
- ✿ **Blind Exemption** – You must have been determined to be blind by a doctor.
- ✿ **Renewable Energy Equipment Exemption** – Solar installation.

**Once you have applied you do not need to reapply.**

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. Residents must complete an order form. Forms are available at the town office and online at [www.china.govoffice.com](http://www.china.govoffice.com). 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.



### Transfer Station Reminder

**Do not place hot ashes in with your trash! We cannot take wood ashes. They are a safety and fire hazard.**

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual China Lake Ice Fishing Derby

February 18, 2023  
(Free Fishing Weekend in Maine)

For more info visit  
[www.chinafourseasons.org](http://www.chinafourseasons.org)

### Want to get involved?

The Town of China has open positions for:  
Planning Board – District 4, At large  
Appeals Board  
Comprehensive Plan Committee  
Board of Assessment Review – Alternate  
Transfer Station Committee

If you are interested in more information, please contact the Town Office at [info@chinamaine.org](mailto:info@chinamaine.org) or 445-2014 X3

## Code Guy Corner

Welcome back to the latest (& greatest) installment of Code Guy Corner! Thank you for your continued patience during these trying times. That was quite the commercial break, wasn't it? Sorry, for those not familiar with commercials, imagine unskippable ads 6-10 times an hour and always starting at a cliffhanger during the show you've waited sometimes all week to watch. Oh, the frustration!

Lesson time! Can you name a sneaky destroyer of buildings? Moisture. Water always wins. Whether through frost (expansion), mold (frequent, trapped condensation), flooding, erosion, or leaks (deterioration of wood, drywall, and insulation), water is the enemy. For something so integral to life, it certainly can ruin everything we have built in little-to-no time. Things quickly go from H<sub>2</sub>O to H<sub>2</sub>-OH-NO!

So please keep an eye (or sometimes even an ear) out for drips, spots, bubbles, and dampness. All lead to much bigger problems if not investigated and treated. We employ many preventive measures to keep those dastardly droplets of doom at bay, such as vapor barriers, dripline filters, gutters, foundation insulation, and even ventilation fans. So, the next time you notice a leaky toilet, a spongy wall, or a musty smell exhibit no hesitation or procrastination into the investigation of the state of contamination before the disintegration of your habitation from condensation becomes a realization.

Nick French  
Code Enforcement

Effective October 1, 2023, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services has expanded eligibility for MaineCare for children and young adults under 21 in Maine to include family incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level. That translates to an annual salary of about \$59,000 for a family of two and \$90,000 for a family of four. Additionally, the Department eliminated most premiums for children's coverage, effective March 1, 2023.

Please help us reach children, young adults, and families in your community who are newly eligible for free, high quality MaineCare coverage! We are pleased to share the MaineCare for Kids Communications Toolkit, that you may access at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/providers/>. This toolkit provides materials that you can download and print or include in your digital and social media channels. Additionally, you may request printed materials be sent to you free of charge at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/providers/order-materials>.