

Happy  
Valentines  
Days

# CHINA CONNECTED

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

*Where little villages come together*

February 2, 2024

Thirty years! Who would have thought I'd still be here smiling. In 1994, I was this extremely shy person who was hired as a municipal clerk, a profession I knew nothing about. I know many of you will find it very hard to believe that I was shy let alone that I'm still shy today. I am thankful and forever grateful for every minute here - approximately 3,744,000 minutes of my 15,768,000 minutes in existence if my China Grammer School math works out. There have been good times and bad within these walls, but without each type, I wouldn't be here serving you today with the compassion, perspective and understanding that runs deep within me. I am thankful for each person who has allowed me to assist them in some way, shape or form. I live for those moments. I am also very thankful for my coworkers, some of which aren't too far behind me in years and have the same level of dedication to the town and its residents.

I will continue to do my very best for the residents and taxpayers and openly accept thoughts, guidance and criticism along with a hearty laugh or hug when needed. This is the community I grew up in and would not want to be anywhere else unless a warm, sandy beach with tropical water was involved. All joking aside, an enormous thank you goes to each one of you who has helped make China an amazing place to live!

Becky Hapgood  
Town Manager  
becky@chinamaine.org



**All Municipal Services will be closed  
Monday, February 19, 2024 in  
observance of Presidents' Day**

The Town of China staff would like to thank you  
Becky for your support, smiles, kindness and  
can-do attitude you have every day. You make  
such a positive impact on so many people!

**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.

The Town of China is requesting bids for a 2012  
GMC Sierra 1500 with 188,649 miles. Truck is being  
sold as is, where is with no guarantees of any kind  
and must be trailered or towed from the property.  
Pictures can be viewed at [www.china.govoffice.com](http://www.china.govoffice.com)  
under bids. To arrange a viewing by appointment  
only, contact Shawn at 207-445-2014 ext. 4. All bids  
must be **sealed** and marked 2012 GMC bid and  
delivered or mailed to the Town of China, 571  
Lakeview Drive, China, ME 04358. All bids are due  
by Monday, February 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. The  
Town of China reserves the right to reject any and  
all bids.

### **Presidential Primary Election – March 5, 2024**

Vote at the China Town Office Portable Building  
571 Lakeview Drive, China  
Polls are open 7am-8pm

Absentee ballots are available Monday,  
February 5<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Last day to change party enrollment is Tuesday,  
February 20, 2024.

Advice From Deputy Stefanizzi...  
Always lock your home.  
Always lock your vehicles, even in your driveway.  
People are looking for money and change.

### **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](mailto:jen@chinamaine.org) by email or by text. Your question may help another China resident so don't be afraid to ask us!

## Code Guy Corner

Hello, and welcome to the Main Event! In this corner, sporting a healthy weight of actual factual tons and wanting nothing more than to go about their day is the nameless, faceless, & unwilling participant known only as Home.

And in this corner, weighing in at a meager 3 pounds, we have one of the most notorious arsonists of the last 3 decades. The Earl of Embers, The Duke of Displacement, The King of Conflagration; Mr. Space Heater!

This situation happens far too often and since it's begun to cool off, I thought it may be beneficial to go over some simple heat safety. Such a wonderful world that we live in that we can create warmth with the press of a button or by plugging a cord in. In all seriousness, though, do not neglect portable heaters, run them too long, or place them near any combustibles (give at least 3 feet around the device). What common items in your living room could ignite? A blanket. A pillow. Furniture. Curtains. Books. Paper. Paneling. A stuffed toy. Sometimes even the carpet itself. All I'm saying is plan accordingly and stay alert.

When it comes to electric appliances even the cord & plug assembly itself can get superheated, which is why they are designed to be plugged directly into the wall outlet. This goes for air & deep fryers, slow cookers, and toasters, too. Power strips (extension cords with multiple outlet slots) or surge protectors can be useful for getting all your devices powered simultaneously but most do not protect you from the effects of overheating. The easiest way to determine if your unit is equipped for the job is if it contains a replaceable fuse. The fuse is designed to burn out and cut the power supply if it gets too hot. That simple failsafe mechanism could be all that stands between a "normal" life or trying to piece it back together after losing everything. Yes, accidents happen every day, but if there's something so simple that you could do to minimize the possibility of catastrophe, would you?

As a community, we have witnessed too many times the horror, sadness, and tragedy of house fires. If this piece motivates even ONE of you into evaluating your own power strip tactics or making sure there are no combustibles around a space heater, then I will have considered this a complete success! In closing, I enjoy seeing each and every one of you in the office, but I would rather not meet anyone under the circumstances of rebuilding their home or their life. Please, stay safe out there.

Nick French

Code Enforcement

Get Fast Assistance

Text the Town of China, ME

TextMyGov



### 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 till anytime you need it.

Get updates delivered directly to your phone

Additional services below

### 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: <https://www.textmygov.com/terms-conditions>



## REMINDER:

YOU **MUST** BRING IN YOUR PREVIOUS REGISTRATION WHEN REGISTERING ATVS, SNOWMOBILES AND BOATS AT THE TOWN OFFICE.

### DID YOU KNOW? ANY VETERAN WHO:

- Has a permanent disability that is service-related;
- Presents paperwork indicating the veteran is either 100% disabled or being compensated at 100%;
- Is a titled owner or lessee of the vehicle;
- That disabled veteran is entitled to a free registration, title fee exemption and an **automatic excise exemption on one vehicle.**
- Sales tax and any vanity fees apply.
- Disabled Veteran plates are available at any BMV branch office.



Veterans who qualify are entitled to the excise exemption on any one license plate class if they do not choose to have a DV, VX or XV plate.

### 5th 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)

Derby tickets are available at the town office

### Small 'Backyard' Farm Workshop China Town Office Portable Building

March 13<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30 PM (with March 14<sup>th</sup> snow date)

This workshop is geared towards small scale, "backyard" farms in the China Lake region who are interested in improving the health and sustainability of their natural resources. The talk will focus on water quality issues commonly found on small farms, best management practices for managing these issues and programs that provide financial and technical assistance to implement these practices.

At the workshop, Jeff Dennis from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) will be speaking about common water quality issues arising from small farms and the best management practices to address these issues. Chuck Penny from Maine Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be showcasing NRCS programs that provide cost-share and technical assistance for the installation of these practices.

Interested participants can register for this free workshop via email [laura.lecker@me.nacdnet.net](mailto:laura.lecker@me.nacdnet.net) or by calling Dale at the Kennebec Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 480-3927.

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). Forms can be returned to the town office, mailed or emailed to [info@chinamaine.org](mailto: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.

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