

Happy St. Patrick's Day



# CHINA CONNECTED

March 1, 2024

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

*Where little villages come together*

It's all about PICKLEBALL! If you have not tried the sport, you are missing out. I have been holding out from picking up a paddle for a couple of years, but since we now have courts in China (located at the north end of China School), I figured there was no time like the present to learn. What pleases me the most about the game is that anyone can play. You do not need to be athletic or quick or young. This game can be played by all ages and abilities.

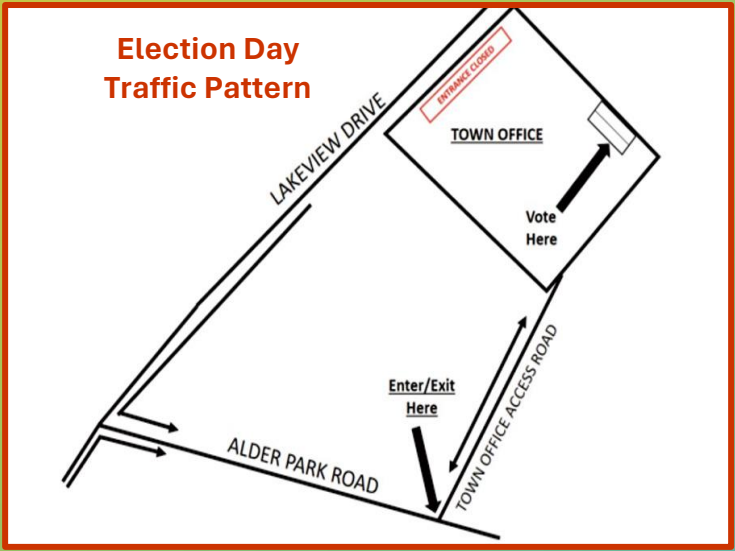
For six weeks, we have been taking introductory training at China Middle School and our group has greatly improved! A big thank you goes out to China Rec for sponsoring the program and to the organizers Martha Wentworth and Kevin and Leann Freeman. Kevin and Leann's love of the game is very evident as they have dedicated every Sunday to setting up courts with painters' tape in the China Middle School gym and teaching "the rookies" the skills needed to understand pickleball. While it will take me forever to play like they do, I just enjoy getting a point or two when facing either of them on the court. I expect more to happen with the Rec Committee and pickleball this Spring. Watch the China Connected and Facebook for updates. Don't be afraid to come out and learn!

Becky Hapgood  
Town Manager  
becky@chinamaine.org



Town of China

**Presidential Primary Election – March 5, 2024**  
**Vote at the China Town Office Portable Building**  
571 Lakeview Drive, China  
Polls are open 7am-8pm  
The Town Office will be **CLOSED** for regular business on Election Day.



**FEMA** **Hey Mainers!**

**Did the storms damage your property from Dec. 17-21, 2023? Did you have expenses?**

You may be eligible for FEMA assistance, including reimbursement

How to Apply:

- Visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Call 1 (800) 621-3362 (FEMA)
- Visit an in-person Disaster Recovery Center
- Find one by visiting [fema.gov/drc](http://fema.gov/drc)
- Scan the QR Code to get started

 Eligibility may include homeowners and renters!



**Cardboard Recycling Fun Fact:**  
22.83 tons of OCC sent out brings in revenue of \$2,283. If thrown away this would **COST** \$1,946.94.



**TextMyGov**

February's winner of the Hannaford gift card for signing up for all four notifications is Kim McClellan. Congratulations!



For Town Notifications  
Text "CHINANOTIFYME" to 91896

For Emergency Notifications  
Text "CHINAEMERGENCY" to 91896

For Event Notifications  
Text "CHINAFUN" to 91896

For Board Meetings  
Text CHINAMEETINGS to 91896

**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](http://www.china.govoffice.com) under ordinances, policies & orders.

**CTS**  
**VOID**  
Expires 12/31/2024

## 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 exemption 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.**

### If you're not recycling, you're throwing it away.

Recycling is one area YOU can directly impact your town taxes. The town receives money for many of the items that are recycled such as cardboard and metal. Trash dumped into our main hopper costs over \$85 per ton to dispose of. China sends over 30 tons of trash out per week! That is almost \$3,000 every week for trash alone. By directing material into the recycling bins, you can save some of that cost, reduce your tax bill, and help the environment. People have been recycling for hundreds of years. The earliest recorded recycling dates back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century in paper mills. During World War II, Americans recycled many things to help spending. Many people saw it as a way to help the war and defend our country. Trash has begun to pose serious threats to the health of the environment and people leading to pollution and health issues like respiratory problems when trash is burned improperly. Recycling is an important part of maintaining the environment we all live in and enjoy.



**PLEASE DO YOUR PART!**

The Town of China is seeking a Community Program Director. Candidates must be motivated to promote and oversee community events and recreation programs. Duties include overseeing adult and youth programs as well as promoting new events, overseeing field use and maintenance at an average of 10 hours per week. The Program Director will also work with the Recreation Committee. Applicants should submit a handwritten job application to Town of China, Human Resources, 571 Lakeview Drive, China, ME 04358 or by email to [jen@chinamaine.org](mailto:jen@chinamaine.org). Application and job description can be found at [www.china.govoffice.com](http://www.china.govoffice.com) under employment. The position will remain open until filled. The Town of China is an equal employment opportunity employer.

THE SECOND HALF OF REAL ESTATE  
AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES  
IS DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024.




On Display  
March 2nd - March 30th

### ARTIST RETROSPECTIVE: WITH ANN RHINEHARDT

You are  
invited to

Artist Reception  
Saturday March 09  
2-3 pm

 Albert Church Brown  
Memorial Library  
35 Main Street  
China, ME



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](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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### Apple Tree Pruning Workshop

Saturday, March 9, 2024  
9:30 AM 12:00 PM

167 Tabor Hill Road; Vassalboro

**Cost:** \$10 per person

**Registration Deadline:** March 4

Registration by Monday, March 5 is required. The cost is \$10 per person, payable by cash or check on the day of the event. Please note, enrollment will be limited to 24 individuals to ensure a safe and productive event for all participants.

To register or for more information, contact Dale Finseth at Kennebec SWCD 207-622-7847 x3 or

[Dale@kcswd.org](mailto:Dale@kcswd.org).

Did you  
know?



It is free to drop off CLEAN used waste oil in proper containers at the Transfer Station. NO antifreeze, gasoline or any other chemical mixed with oil or alone is accepted. The clean waste oil is used to heat the hopper building. Please always see an attendant BEFORE leaving any oil.