



COMMUNITY NEWS

June—July—August 2026



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Community News is also available on our website

RECREATION & SOCIAL COMMITTEE

During the past several months, the Kensington Recreation and Social Committee (KRSC) volunteers have been very busy working on various initiatives, including summer camp planning, monthly coffee chats, Lil Captains Fishing Trip, and preparations for Old Home Day.

We have had several “**Kindergarten Koffees**” this year and look forward to continuing them next year! This special time allows our youngest KES students opportunities to meet and learn from our more experienced community members. We welcome and **NEED YOU!** Look for times and dates as we get into the next school year.

Most Saturdays Kensingtonians of all ages gathered at the KES gym to play **pickleball** this winter. Wendy Larson and Marty Silvia ran the program offering instruction and tips to newer players and having some serious play with the more experienced players. We all need to get out of

the house and be active in the winter so this was a free and fun way to get moving and make some new friends too. Special thanks to Principal Ruel for loaning her net. Look for pickleball to be back at KES next winter.

We had our **eggstravaganza** again this year. It was a wonderful morning of finding eggs, seeing the Easter Bunny and visiting with neighbors.



Mark your calendars for **Old Home Day** on Saturday, September 12th. The day will start with a pancake breakfast at Sawyer Park. The full event schedule will be available on the town website and the KRSC Facebook page as soon as it is finalized. If you would like to participate in this event, please email us at kensingtonrec@kensingtonnh.gov or reach out to any committee member. This is a time for the neighbors to come together and enjoy the day.

We are also seeking new members for the committee. If you are creative, fun, and eager to contribute to the community, consider attending a meeting or contacting a current member. Joining the committee is a fantastic way to meet fellow residents and get involved.

The public is always welcome at KRSC meetings, held on the 2nd

Thursday of each month at the library. Agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the town website. For updates, please follow KRSC on Facebook.

KENSINGTON SUMMER CAMP 2026!!!

Introducing Emily Sirgel: Our New Summer Camp Coordinator

My name is Emily Siegel, and I’m thrilled to be returning to the Kensington Rec Summer Camp team as the camp coordinator. As a lifelong member of the Kensington community, this program holds a special place in my heart. I was born and raised here, and my first job was as a camp counselor for Kensington Rec when I was 16. Over the years, I continued working at camp and eventually stepped into leadership roles as director and coordinator. My experience at Kensington Rec Camp helped me discover my passion for working with children. I worked as a paraprofessional at Kensington Elementary from 2015–2020 while earning my teaching certifications in Special Education and Elementary Education. After teaching at a neighboring school



(Camp, cont’d. on p. 4)

NEXT DEADLINE

Our next issue is our September—October 2026 issue. Submissions are due to us by **Friday, August 14, 2026**. See the back cover for how to get your news to us.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Relationships are not easy...but neither is being alone. I don't believe we were created to walk through life alone, but together. But to exist in right relationship, we must be able to hear one another. As long as one person's (group's) voice is louder than another, relationship is resentful at best.

I was able to witness deep listening and respectful conversation at a town meeting a few weeks back. Conversation is more than exchanging words — it is how we carry one another's burdens, share wisdom, heal wounds, and remind each other that we belong to something greater than ourselves.

Scripture repeatedly calls people toward this sometimes difficult process. In Proverbs 27:17, we are told, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Honest conversation refines us. It challenges pride, deepens compassion, and strengthens truth.

The Bible also teaches the power of listening and speaking with grace: "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19). In a world filled with noise and division, truly

hearing one another becomes an act of love.

Jesus Himself emphasized connection and unity, saying, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20). Yes, when we make the choice to listen, we choose love. And it is here that we discover that which we all desire: community, encouragement, and shared understanding.

When people stop talking, fear and misunderstanding grow. But when we sit together, speak honestly, and listen with humility, we make room for peace, wisdom, and healing. Conversation is not just social — it is spiritual.

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

Albert Einstein

Blessings,
Pastor Sherry Stromski

UPCOMING KCC PROGRAMS

***June 10—10,000 Mothers** meets the second Wed. of every month. Contact Pastor Sherry for more information: pastor@kensingtoncc.org.

***June 19—Sound Bath** meditation and relaxation using sound waves from singing bowls, chimes, and gongs

June 20—Ham & Bean supper 4:30-6pm, \$12 pp.

July 5—As part of our 250th Birthday celebration Pastor Sherry Stromski will be speaking on the separation of church and state on July 5. When did it come into being, and why? What did it mean then, and now? All are invited to attend.

*** We share our Pastor with Newfields Community Church and this program takes place at the Newfields church, 71 Main St., Newfields.**

SCIENCE & RELIGION

JD Stillwater calls himself a Science Ambassador. He has moved and inspired thousands of people from all over North America and the globe with science-centered, multi-media messages of awe and deep kinship, from Chautauqua Institution to a Sinai and Synapses Fellowship to the Parliament of the World's Religions to academic conferences and civic clubs...JD asks and answers the questions: How are we connected to the living world around us?

Kensington Community Church is pleased to host JD in our morning service on June 28 at 11:30 where he will be sharing his insights on how science works, how nature works, and why we should care. All are welcome to hear *One Song: the Science of Oneness*.



Science Ambassador JD Stillwater speaks and writes about profound insights from natural reality.



**What Do You Value About Our Community?
Please save the date – Saturday, June 27, 10:00-1:00
and join us for a town-wide conversation about our community.**

Whether you've lived here for 1 or 50 years, Kensington is our beloved home. Like any big family, we have our ups and downs and difference of opinion - but we're still a part of something larger than ourselves. Maybe lately you've noticed divides in town, some distrust, and difficult conversations. At times like these, it's good to be reminded of what we value in common, and how we can use our strengths to help understand and manage our differences.

NH Humanities is helping towns build community through a statewide, grant-funded program called "Community Conversations" and Kensington has won a grant to host one of these conversations! The program's goal is to support towns in bridging and even healing these divides - and to facilitate discussions that get us talking about who we are and what we value as a community.

We're forming a small committee of diverse voices to partner in supporting the program, and hope to include representatives from a range of interests. On June 27, all are invited to the conversation. We'll have the support of trained facilitators and artists to create a safe, inclusive discussion, and even enliven what we learn together. This is an opportunity to use creative ways to reinforce how we live well in community, and bring healing to divisions that affect us all. As part of the grant, we will design an event in the fall to continue our progress.

While hunting for a suitable space, the church generously offered its facility - big enough for a large crowd, good sound, kitchen, and breakout rooms. If you'd like to help us prepare for our Community Conversation, please contact the Community News for more information at kensingtoncommunitynews@gmail.com. We look forward to getting together with you!

LUNCH AND CHILDCARE AVAILABLE – FREE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.



KEY COLLECTIVE

Kim Irwin

Join The KEY Collective for our Annual Summer Benefit: Raise a Glass for Good June 25th from 6-8:30pm at the AC Hotel in Portsmouth. Enjoy a variety of street food, including a fresh oyster bar by Swell Oyster Co., and listen to the authentic sounds of local reggae band, RDMTION, during a night out to support NH Seacoast Youth!

The KEY Collective provides access to sports, arts, camps and other out-of-school activities for low-income K-12 youth on the Seacoast. By partnering with over 40 organizations on the Seacoast, including Kensington Recreation, kids in KEY Collective's #areuin? card program receive scholarships and discounts for out-of-school activities with no red tape and no social stigma.

To learn more or purchase tickets to the event, please visit: <https://www.keycollective.org/raise-a-glass-for-good>



KEY COLLECTIVE
EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

KENSINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Susan Gilbert, Director

SUMMER READING 2026

The KPL Children's Room is gearing up for this year's Summer Reading Program. The theme this year is *Unearth a Story*.

We have so many fun and engaging programs for our young Kensington patrons and their families this summer! We are planning an archeological dig, a *SubZero* Ice Cream presentation, a visit from *Wildlife Encounters*, and our annual ice cream social. Join us for the summer reading kick-off magic show with *Sages Entertainment*. The show will be held on Monday, June 8th at 2:00 in KES' multipurpose room. Registration for the SRP will begin on Tuesday, June 16th.

The first 50 kids who sign up will receive a FREE ice cream card, donated to us by Twin Lanterns! Raffle prizes will be awarded at the end of the Summer. The more you read, the better chance of winning a prize. The Summer Reading Program is open to children of all ages, including prereaders.

Teen & Adult Programs: Get one ticket for every book you check out from June 16th to August 15th. Turn tickets in for raffle entries for tons of great gift cards! Sign up at the library starting June 16th. More details to come.

For kids: Summer Storytime. Join Ms. Kristin and friends in the Children's room. Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM, for stories, songs, and crafts. Storytime will be held Tuesday mornings from July 7th - August 11th during the summer.

Mah Jongg will continue over the summer on Tuesdays at 1 PM here at the library.

The Friend's annual Book and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday August 8th from 9 – 3 PM at the Grange. Please call the library to arrange when to drop off books in July.

Hours:

Tuesday: 10-6

Wednesday: 10-5

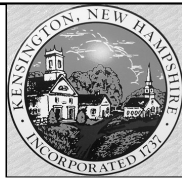
Thursday: 10-6

Friday: 10-5

Saturday: 9-1

kensingtonlibrary@comcast.net

603-772-5022



TOWN CLERK

Sarah Wiggins

Important Dates:

June 2 - LAST DAY to change your party affiliation before the September State Primary. This can be done with the Town Clerk or the Supervisors of the Checklist.

June 2 - Supervisors of the Checklist session 7:00 to 7:30pm Located at Town Hall.

June 3- June 12 - Open Filing period for State Declaration of Candidacy. Offices to file with the Town Clerk are:

- State Representative
- Delegate to the Republican State Convention

Other declarations are made with the Secretary of State Office

June 1-June 20 - Under RSA 466:13 unlicensed dogs are subject to the Dog Warrant and late fees and civil forfeitures will begin.

As always, if you have any questions or if the Town Clerks Office can be of assistance, please call the office! 603-772-5423 x 1

(Camp, cont'd. from p.1)

for two years, I returned to Kensington Elementary in 2022, where I have since taught both third and fourth grade. Being able to continue serving this community has been a true joy, and I'm so excited to help bring another summer of fun, growth, and connection to Kensington!

Introducing Ally McDougal: Our New Summer Camp Director

Hello Kensington Community, my name is Ally MacDougall, and I'm thrilled

to be the 2026 Kensington Recreation Summer Camp Director! I am a lifelong Kensington



resident and attended the camp for many years when I was younger. My favorite memories from camp include performing in talent shows on the stage and doing arts and crafts. I have over nine years of experience working with children and studied education at Keene State College. I am also pursuing my Master's in curriculum leadership at the University of New Hampshire. I look forward to having a memorable summer!

We look forward to a fun filled summer camp program. Some favorites from past years and a few new ones. Alnoba has graciously offered their facility for camp use. We look forward to using their beautiful trails and structures.

e-Registration is now open on the town website. Resident registration is \$225/week.



Exciting News – Summer Camp Registration is OPEN! ... See more

Monday-Friday
8:15am-3:30pm

Cost:
Early Bird Pricing (Before May 1st):
Kensington Residents: \$205/week
Nonresidents: \$230/week

After May 1st:
Kensington Residents: \$225/week
Nonresidents: \$250/week

Community Partners

ALNOBA: We are thrilled to be partnering with Alnoba for weekly visits to explore all that the property has to offer!



The Kensington Recreation and Social



Summer Camp



Welcome to our 2026 Season!

Join us for fun camp activities, a daily themed activity and weekly in-house "field trips!"

Each week, we will also have a visit from the Kona Ice truck and a Friday pizza party for lunch!

Register by going to

<https://kensingtonnh.gov/> and clicking on the Recreation Department Tab.

kensingtonreccamp@gmail.com

Sawyer Park



Session Themes and Dates:

Sports Stars 6/15-6/19

Step into the spotlight and discover your inner athlete with friendly competition and all-star activities! An inflatable obstacle course will thrill our young athletes!

Sports 2.0 7/20-7/24

Round two of our all-star week—campers will jump back into

Stage and Screen 6/22-6/26

Campers will explore acting, storytelling, and creativity inspired by stage and screen. A visit by Magic Fred will end our week!

Water Week 7/27-7/31

Cool off with a week full of water games, splashy challenges.

Science and Nature: 7/6-7/10

Explore the wonders of science and the natural world through hands-on experiments and outdoor discovery.

Adventure Week 8/3-8/7

From scavenger hunts to bold challenges, this week is all about

Arts and Crafts 7/13-7/17

Get creative with hands-on projects that inspire imagination, self-expression, and a love for art.

Carnival 8/10-8/14

Step right up for a week of classic carnival games, colorful fun, and exciting

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Cindy Heal

Welcome to the beginning of summer! That means it is time for our annual book sale which will be held at the Grange on Aug. 8, 9a-3p. Book sales encourage people to read more by making books affordable and accessible to everyone. We hope to see you come in that day and browse. In the meantime, you can donate your used books by bringing them to the library beginning July 22. Check the library web site for hours.

Bringing used books to a library book sale is important because it helps both the library and the community, allowing more people to enjoy reading even if they choose not to buy new books. The money raised from the sale helps the library improve services and support educational programs. Used book sales also encourage recycling and reduce waste by giving books a second life instead of throwing them away. They create opportunities for readers to discover different authors, subjects, and stories at a low cost. In this way, donating used books supports learning, saves resources, and strengthens the community's love for reading.

June is Audiobook Appreciation month. Audiobooks are experiencing a massive, sustained surge in popularity today, growing for over a decade. As of 2026, 51% of Americans 18+ have listened to an audiobook, driven by convenience, multitasking, and high-quality production. It is now a \$2.2 billion+ industry, with sales frequently outpacing other publishing formats. There are numerous audiobooks at the library for loan. Stop in any time and see what's available.

Our next regular meeting is July 7, 11:00 am at the library. Anyone is welcome to attend.

ALNOBA EVENTS

Justin Scarelli

Summer at Alnoba is in full swing! Our Guided Art Tours, and Nature Therapy programs continue throughout the season, offering space to slow down and recharge.

In July, **Radical Raptors with Tailwinds Raptor Education & Conservation** brings live birds of prey to the property for an engaging, family-friendly program. Tickets are just \$5 for children under 10, with proceeds supporting Sawyer Park.



We're also offering a free community screening of *Daring Leaders to Change the World*, a new documentary about our founder, Alan Lewis. The film offers a behind-the-scenes look at the values that shaped Alnoba and the belief that daring leadership can create lasting change.



In August, we're excited to welcome back **Theater in the Open** for a stop on their summer Shakespeare tour. Last year's performance sold out, and we expect another memorable evening under the trees.

View the full schedule at www.alnoba.org/events.

Recent Highlights

This spring, Alnoba welcomed groups including **Greenstone Gives**, students from **Sanborn Regional High School**, and the **DREAM Program**, supporting youth leadership and community-building. We also hosted a **Non-profit Open House**, sharing how Alnoba and Pinnacle's Leadership programs help organizations strengthen their teams and impact.

For more than fifteen years, Alnoba has also continued its tradition of hanging American Flags in Kensington each Memorial Day in honor of those who have served our country. A visible symbol of remembrance, gratitude, and community connection through the season.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meghan Gross, President

It's that time again, Kensington! Our Annual Yard Sale will return on August 7, 8, and 9, and this year we're going *old school*—pun intended! Did you know this beloved tradition began as a food and rummage sale back in the 1970s? For more than 50 years, the Historical Society has looked forward to this special August tradition as a way to bring neighbors together and celebrate our shared history. We're so grateful for the generosity and support our community has shown over

(Historical, cont'd. on p. 7)

(Historical, cont'd. from p. 6)

the years, and we're excited to gather with you again this summer in a slightly different way.

To celebrate more than 50 years of this wonderful tradition, we're inviting community members to contribute delicious baked goods, homemade jams and jellies, baked beans, or extra fruits, vegetables, and flowers from your backyard garden for this year's sale. Long-time member Carl Rezendez used to make baked beans to sell each year, and we'd love to honor that tradition once again. If you'd like to contribute, please call, text, or email Meghan to sign up, let her know what you can bring, and learn more about dropping off your items during the week of the sale. Call or text 732-832-9902 or email kensingtonhxsociety@gmail.com

The Yard Sale itself will still take place, and we'll be welcoming residents to donate small items at the schoolhouse on two Saturdays only, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm: July 18 and July 25. Historical Society members will review all donated items and will accept only household goods and small non-upholstered furniture in good condition. We're not able to accept electronics of any kind, fabrics or clothing (including blankets, sheets, pillows, and similar items), books, DVDs or CDs, large furniture, or damaged and unusable items. If you have a quality furniture piece you'd like to donate, please send us a photo and we'll let you know whether we can accept it for drop-off during the week of the sale. Thank you for helping us make this event welcoming, useful, and enjoyable for everyone.

The North School will also be open throughout the weekend, and we'd love for you to stop in. Whether you visit before you shop or after, we'll be happy to share its history with you.

As always, please stay tuned for updates on our new website, kensingtonnhhistory.com, and on social media at @kensingtonhxsociety on Facebook and Instagram.

MORE ENERGY SAVINGS AT TOWN HALL!

Susan Varn, Kensington Energy Committee

On May 4, the town welcomed residents, our Select Board and administrators, clean energy partners, and other guests at a ceremony to flip the switch on its new geothermal HVAC system. This much needed upgrade is now bringing clean, earth-powered heating and cooling to the historic Town Hall housing Kensington's administrative offices, Police Department, and public meeting room.

As part of the festivities, Katrin Kasper from Clean Energy NH presented the town with a SolSmart Bronze award in recognition of its commitment to solar energy and its work to clear the path for continued clean energy growth. Kensington is a renewable energy leader among small towns in NH.



The geothermal system is the second energy efficient upgrade to the Town Hall, listed on the National

Register of Historic Places. Last year, the town installed solar panels on the building's roof, earning kudos for being the first NH town to complete a solar project under the Municipal Solar Grant Program --funded through the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and managed by the NH Clean Energy Fund. Our project also showcased how historic preservation and clean energy could complement one another. Over its lifespan, the solar system is projected to save Kensington more than \$400,000.

With the solar project completed, the Energy Committee turned its attention to another need - and opportunity - at the Town Hall. The HVAC system serving its Police Department failed, replacement components were no longer available, and installing a new outdoor system was not feasible. Working with town leadership, the committee conducted a comprehensive review of replacement options, lifecycle costs, operating performance, maintenance requirements, and occupant comfort. We all concluded that a geothermal HVAC system represented the most economically and operationally sound solution, with a payback period comparable to air-source heat pump alternatives but with approximately 50% lower operating costs. The project was financed through Federal Direct Pay investment tax credits, Federal domestic content bonus incentives, and special-use appropriations from the Town's reserve funds. The Kensington Energy Committee is committed to identifying, researching, and partnering with the town and others to

(Energy, cont'd. on p. 8)

(Energy, cont'd. from p. 7)

access affordable opportunities that save us all money and energy.

We welcome your questions, ideas, and participation at Kensington.town.energy@gmail.com.



A Walk on the Wild(life) Side

George W. Gavutis, Jr. Wildlife Biologist

NO MORE BALSAMS— THANK YOU!

Like most of our neighbors and possibly the rest of Southeast NH—the damage from deer this past winter was much worse than first expected. When the snow finally



melted it exposed the rest of the problem. The portion of the damaged plants below the top of the snow line were fine. This indicated that the damage occurred late in the winter—after most of the snowfall. That corroborates the fact that the deer waited unusually long to make the annual journey to their wintering “yards”

over near Kingston. This spared the part of our plants hidden by the snow. So, instead of eating everything green from the ground up to about 5’ or so—the maximum height the average deer can reach, the deer damage was limited to a 3’ band from the top of the snowline to 5’. This may be ok for people not growing Christmas trees—but for a person looking for the perfect tree, one with 3’ of dead or missing boughs in the middle of the tree is not what they are looking for.

It wasn’t just the Christmas trees. Everything green—including our rhododendrons, yews and white cedars—had a 3–4-foot band of bare branches in the middle. We’re hoping that the seemingly dead branches in the middle of the trees and shrubs will sprout new leaves or needles, but it is almost June now—so that hope is fading fast. Fortunately, in the 50 or so years I have been growing Christmas trees, I also planted species other than the balsams and frasers that the deer love to eat and polish their antlers on. Trouble is, the white spruce has an insect pest that makes a “gall” on the outside tip of the branches—that is not very attractive. The Douglas fir brings an insect pest to the spruces—especially the blue ones—so the Douglas firs can’t be grown anywhere near the blue spruce. The pines are fast growing but require a lot of pruning to make a good Christmas tree. They are also not very popular here in the northeast. The white fir (concolor) fir is a relatively new species here in the east and most people probably haven’t even heard of them.

Fred Winch, was a Cornell University professor and expert on Christmas trees—and maple syrup—as well as a relative of my wife Sandra. He was living in Warner NH at the time and we went to visit. He was also a Christmas tree grower and

had some white firs. They have a very different odor—that of “citrus” which we found extremely pleasant. So I contacted the NH Tree Nursery people in Boscawen where we get our nursery stock and they agreed to get some. We have been growing them here for about ten years and they are just reaching Christmas tree size. For some reason they do not appear to be palatable to the deer (yet?) -- unlike the rest of the balsam fir family. So balsam fir, fraser fir, etc., etc. are out for us here at Hemlock Hollow Tree Farm—and concolor fir and Colorado blue spruce are in. The concolor were not included in the Christmas tree “sampler” package of 25 trees we got this spring—but they are now getting very popular and may have had a tough growing season—like many species grown by the nursery of late. They probably didn’t have enough in stock to include them in the “sampler” package this year.

Canada Geese nesting

I wrote last year about a pair of geese finally nesting here. It had been a long time coming—only once in the last 50 years has a pair actually nested here. Almost every year a young pair that were not yet mature enough to have fertile eggs, would visit our ponds and “prospect”, but they never nested or came back the next year. Only once did an adult pair actually come here with a brood of young goslings and stay. They probably had been nesting up near Muddy Pond on Winkley Brook, on a muskrat house and for some reason sought greener pastures—and ended up here. We have lots of small fish, frog, turtle and salamander type ponds and vernal/ephemeral pools.

There are also a couple acres of mowed grass on dikes and lawn areas—so lots of gosling food. Goslings, unlike ducklings, thrive on grass. Ducklings require lots of

(Wildlife, cont'd. pn p. 9)

(Wildlife, cont'd. from p. 8)

protein like aquatic insects, for proper growth during their first few weeks. But of course, now there are bobcats, coyotes, and even bears—so without an island, there is no place for a goose to nest and safely rear their young. We have a couple of small islands—but they are too small or too close to shore for even a goose to successfully defend against coyotes, bobcats and especially bears. So last year I built a small floating “island” well away from shore—and lo and behold—we had nesting geese. They had 6 eggs and hatched 6 goslings—but only stayed a couple days after hatching. They seemed to get restless and just disappeared. I was curious and checked many local ponds—just to see where they went—but never found them. Then, later in the year, I happened to see a program called “Chronicle” on TV. They were highlighting local eateries and just before mentioning the Twin Lanterns Dairy Bar in Kensington, they showed a clip of a brood of Canada geese. They never mentioned the geese and went on to describe the Dairy Bar. Our geese would only have to get across busy Rte. 107 (South Road) and then walk down a drainage about a half mile to reach Twin Lanterns. A dangerous prospect—but I guess—possible. So I checked w/ the landowner and she said there were no islands in their pond—but they did have a pair of geese w/ a brood earlier in the spring. So I figured I would go there next spring if the geese decided to return and nest here at my place and repeat the disappearing act.

It was a long, cold and snowy winter, but as soon as the ice had gone from our ponds, a pair of geese arrived—but they had four others with them. They tolerated them at first—so I knew they were what was left of their brood of six from the

previous year. I also knew that those young birds would not be welcome for much longer—as their parents would soon be driving them off and starting a new family. That is what geese do. They might rejoin them—but for now, it is all about starting a new family. So it took them several weeks of chasing them off/leading them off—before they got the message—one by one. Things finally settled down and the parents mated and built a nest on the same island—and laid an egg a day until they had six again.

During the incubation period (it takes 28 days) there were many days the male goose (the gander) had to chase off many young pairs that would have stayed if he had not been persistent and territorial during the nesting season. They mate for life unless something befalls one of the pair. They are also very dedicated parents, and will try to defend their young against predators. An island to sleep on at night is almost a necessity—but I noticed the male looking overhead a lot this year—whenever an eagle would appear. He would also head for the water, where he could dive under if necessary—to avoid becoming eagle food. Eagles can be very aggressive—like the one I observed repeatedly diving at a cormorant at Rye Harbor—until it could dive no more. It became eagle food and it was too big to fly off with so the male eagle (male eagles are much smaller than females) simply flew across the harbor, dragging the too big cormorant along the top all the way to shore, to share with his mate. I think a female goose on her nest out in the open would also be very vulnerable. Hmm! First coyotes, bobcats and now bears—and now even eagles—maybe I don't want to come back as a goose?? Things sure have changed a lot in fifty years. None of those predators were present here in southeastern NH. Even deer were hard to find here, back then. How times have

changed.

Well, back to the story. The goose hatched her eggs on May 10th. That was Mother's Day this year and both of our sons' birthdays, and we had relatives visiting too. I could go on about our sons' birthdays - but that will have to wait. Maybe my next article? You probably wouldn't believe it anyways. Needless to say, we were very busy and failed to notice that our geese were gone again. We hadn't heard any screeching brakes out on busy Rte. 107, and there weren't any piles of feathers and fluffy down on the pavement. So I waited five hours to give them time to make it down to Twin Lanterns and I met Arthur Wiggin out on his tractor grading some fill. There was no sign of the goose brood—so I returned there several days later just to make sure. There were eight geese there in a wet spot in his field this time—but they flew off,—and several pairs of killdeer—and a flock of turkeys—but still no goose brood. I will try extra hard to keep an eye on those geese next year. Let me know if you see them!!!

SCHOOL BOARD

Cheryl McDonough for the School Board, with Principal Ruel

It was a great spring at KES. The board would like to highlight the quality experience being provided to our students by our outstanding and committed staff! Thank you to Ms. Ruel for sharing the following:

***KES completed the 22nd year of celebrating Cultural Passport!** Students were so excited to share what they learned. This year we traveled to the beautiful island of Haiti as we honor the heritage of the Guillaume family. The Cultural Passport Program began years ago to help our students learn*

(School, cont'd. on p. 10)

(School, cont'd. from p. 9)

more about the world around them while at the same time celebrating the heritage of families right here in our local school community! The flags that hang in our multi-purpose room represent all the countries we have visited over the last 22 years. Students were immersed in their study of Haiti in all their special area classes of art, music, PE, and library. They learned some Creole, did some mask-making, read stories, and tried some new foods and drinks through our Taste-it Tuesdays and special snacks at lunch. Students were visited by a Haitian storyteller who shared several Haitian folktales and stories. We conclude the program each year with a celebration of learning where the students demonstrate some of the things they've learned with music and performances. Our goal for the Cultural Passport Program is to excite students and build curiosity and understanding about different cultures. We hope that they learn about how big our world is while at the same time discovering the many ways we are similar and different to those in other countries. We are grateful to the Guillaume family for sharing their culture and heritage with us this year!

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - The Chicks have arrived at KES!

The First Grade Celebration of Learning on April 24th was a huge success and our students were eager to share with their families all that they had learned about chicks! This interdisciplinary unit connected reading, writing, math, and science together as students focused on learning about life cycles, the inheritance of traits, and understanding the environmental needs for the chicks to survive.

The journey began 21 days earlier when the eggs went into the incubators in our first grade class-

rooms. Students patiently waited and carefully followed their growth and development while in the incubators. They were careful to check the heat and humidity in the incubators each day to ensure the eggs were getting what they needed. Candling the eggs was among students' favorite activity until, of course, the day the eggs started to pip! As students were reading, researching, and watching the embryos develop, they were also crafting their own informational writing with an "All about Chicks" book which were proudly on display during the Celebration.

Watch Out Laconia! The kids of KES recently had their own bike week and it was so fun to see the sea of bikes in the field! Next year, I need to get pictures – it was amazing.

Best of Luck to the 2026 KES graduates and remember, the KES light is always on for you.

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Pamela Schwotzer, Supervisor

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session **Tuesday, June 2, from 7pm-7:30pm at Kensington Town Hall** to update and correct the voter checklist. New voters who wish to register should bring with them proof of identity (photo ID), proof of age, proof of domicile (utility or tax bill, lease, etc.) and proof of citizenship (passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers). If a birth certificate is used and the voter's name is different from the name on the birth certificate, a legal form (marriage license, court document) verifying the name change should also be provided. This will be the last opportunity for already registered voters to change or declare a party affiliation until after Primary Election Day in September.

UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

Ben Cole

The Universalist Society completed interior plaster restoration and painting of the Union Meeting House in late 2025, effectively concluding the restoration project we began seven years ago. We are proud to open the building for use during spring, summer, and fall 2026, and to begin the next stage of our work: fundraising for stewardship, to build an endowment for the building's future maintenance needs. The newly painted exterior and new roof look great, but we are well aware that time will continue to pass, and we need to be ready for ongoing maintenance needs.

In the meantime, we are excited to add the Union Meeting House to the other beautiful spaces in town available for public use, and especially encourage consideration of the building for weddings and other ceremonies, as well as concerts, lectures, ministry, oratory, and other types of public uses. We hosted a regular meeting series for a local nonprofit in the late fall, and are scheduling a spring concert now. For a person looking to be married in a sacred space, but without any particular religious symbols on the walls, the Union Meeting House is a perfect location, and could be paired with Alnoba, Sawyer Park, or the Grange Hall for a Kensington reception. We're excited about the future, and getting this building to be loved and used!

We are settling on August Universalist service dates soon, but expect to be open the second and third Sundays in August at a minimum – look for updates on Facebook and on the sign in front of the Meeting House.

Please consider a donation to the

(Universalist, cont'd. on p. 11)

(Universalist, cont'd. from p. 10)

Universalist Society to fund future work and ongoing maintenance, and we hope you will consider us if you are engaged in estate planning. We are all volunteers concerned for the building's future, and have not asked for any Kensington tax funds for the building's restoration or maintenance - we are entirely funded by your donations and grants. Every dollar contributes to the building's long-term stewardship. Thank you for your support, dear neighbors!



HERITAGE COMMISSION

Lynne Monroe

Walking Tours of the Town Center.

There are self-guided walking tours of the National Register Historic District available in the Library, but it's even more fun to do it with friends. So once the weather gets beautiful again, why not ask some friends to join you and a guide (s) from the Heritage Commission for an informative stroll. We can even explore the interiors of many of the sites. Call Lynne Monroe to arrange your excursion, 603-867-5255 or email lemonroe@comcast.net, and she with other members of the commission will take you on an adventure!



FIRE & RESCUE NEWS

Ben Cole

It was a busy quarter for KFR, with brush fires in town, mutual aid structure fires, and multiple motor vehicle collisions and medical calls. Our ambulance has been increasingly busy over the last couple years, and our members have responded by seeking additional certifications this quarter. Capt. John Lebel recently certified as a Paramedic (the highest level of pre-hospital emergency certification offered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians) and FF Jason Pool is in the final stages of certifying as an EMT-A, the second highest level of certification. Nearly all of our members are at least EMT-B, which is the minimum level of certification needed to staff our ambulance for medical transports. Even maintaining EMT-B status requires 40 hours of continuing education every recertification cycle, in addition to NH state requirements (e.g. training and testing on state EMS protocols). Higher levels of certification (e.g. EMT-A, Paramedic) allow our members to conduct additional interventions, such as acquiring IV access, and provide additional medications, improving patient outcomes and patient experience in an emergency.

We are also proud to congratulate FF Tim Estey on completing his Firefighter 1 class, and he is expected to certify at the FF-1 level in the coming weeks. Being a Proboard-certified firefighter requires over two hundred hours of training, but allows members to enter interior conditions immediately dangerous to life and health, otherwise off-limits to first responders, to extinguish fires, conduct hazmat operations, or effect a rescue.

Summers in Kensington tend to see

a reduced call volume, but the calls we get tend to be more life-threatening: motorcycle accidents, vehicle roll-overs, vehicle-on-pedestrian collisions, and wild fires represent a higher proportion of calls and pose deadly risks to both patients and responders. Wild fires are an increasingly large threat to our community, due to chronic drought conditions and proximity of homes to wooded areas. Please get your fire permit and check conditions before you burn, and never burn on a red flag day or when prohibited by the state. Please note that we are trying to move exclusively to the online permitting system, to make it faster and easier for you to get a permit. This places more responsibility on you, however, to follow the law and burn safely. Remember all fires should be attended at all times, and should be thoroughly extinguished before being left.

As always, we are looking to expand our ranks with good people who care about their community, enjoy team-based community service, and are willing to respond to assist their neighbors in emergencies. No experience needed, and we give you all the training you need. Drop by the station any Tuesday night or contact any member to learn more.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Memorial Day celebration at KES, and thank you for your support!



Month	Wednesdays Pickup	Month	Wednesday Pickup
	Trash & Recycling Calendar	August 2026	
		•	August 5 – Trash & Recycling
	April–December 2026	•	August 12 – Trash
April 2026		•	August 19 – Trash & Recycling
•	April 8 – Trash	•	August 26 – Trash
•	April 15 – Trash & Recycling	September 2026	
•	April 22 – Trash	•	September 2 – Trash & Recycling
•	April 29 – Trash & Recycling	THURSDAY	September 10 – Trash
		•	September 16 – Trash & Recycling
May 2026		•	September 23 – Trash
•	May 6 – Trash	•	September 30 – Trash & Recycling
•	May 13 – Trash & Recycling	October 2026	
•	May 20 – Trash	•	October 7 – Trash
THURSDAY	May 28 – Trash & Recycling	•	October 14 – Trash & Recycling
		•	October 21 – Trash
June 2026		•	October 28 – Trash & Recycling
•	June 3 – Trash	November 2026	
•	June 10 – Trash & Recycling	•	November 4 – Trash
•	June 17 – Trash	•	November 11 – Trash & Recycling
•	June 24 – Trash & Recycling	•	November 18 – Trash
		•	November 25 – Trash & Recycling
July		December 2026	
•	July 1 – Trash	•	December 2 – Trash
•	July 8 – Trash & Recycling	•	December 9 – Trash & Recycling
•	July 15 – Trash	•	December 16 – Trash
•	July 22 – Trash & Recycling	•	December 23 – Trash & Recycling
	July 29 – Trash	•	December 30 – Trash

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are usually held at Town Hall but confirm with Board Chair.

Selectmen: 1st & 3rd Monday, 6:30pm

Recreation: 2nd Thursday, 5pm

Conservation: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm

Planning: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm

Planning Bd. Workshop: 1st Wednesday, 6:30pm

Zoning Board of Adjustment: 1st Tuesday, as needed, 7:30pm

Heritage Commission: 4th Wednesday, 7pm

School Board: 1st Monday, 6pm

Community News Publishing Schedule

Community News is published 5 times a year. 2025 issues are:

February-March
(Deadline Jan. 10)

April-May
(Deadline March 14)

June-July-August
(Deadline May 16)

September-October
(Deadline August 14)

November- December-
January
(Deadline October 10)

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER

Community News is a labor of love in so many ways, published by the Kensington Congregational Church to both reach out into our community and to bring the community together. Although we have a great deal of volunteer help with layout, folding, stickering and labeling it for mailing – THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS! – other costs are beyond our control.

Printing 5 issues a year costs us \$4087. We mail some 700 copies to every Kensington household (and to some who live away but still want to keep in touch with Kensington).

We appreciate those who have subscribed in the past to help us cover some of these costs. We are asking again, if you look forward to reading the newsletter, if you appreciate getting news of town committees and groups and happenings, please consider a donation for 2026 to help us continue publishing this newsletter. Your support, both through your comments and through your donations, means a great deal to us!

I wish to support *Community News* at the following level:

Friend (up to \$25) \$ _____ **Neighbor** (up to \$75) \$ _____
Community (up to \$150) \$ _____ **Kensington** (over \$150) \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

We love hearing from you: _____

**Checks should be payable to: Kensington Congregational Church
108 Amesbury Rd.
Kensington, NH 03833**

Or you can pay online at kensingtoncc.org/support-us/



Kensington Old Home Day.
Saturday, September 12, 2026
See you there!



Worship
Sundays
11:30 am

JUNE 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 School Bd 6pm Selectmen 6:30pm	2 Mah Jongg 1pm Supervisors 7pm ZBA 7:30	3 Filing opens for state offices Planning Wkshp 6:30	4	5	6
7 Worship 11:30	8 KPL pro- gram 2pm	9 Mah Jongg 1pm Conservation 7:30	10 10K Mothers	11 Rec 5pm	12 Church Cabinet	13
14 Worship 11:30	15 Selectmen Meet 6:30pm	16 Mah Jongg 1pm KPL Sum- mer Reading starts	17 Planning 7pm	18	19 Juneteenth Sound Bath	20 Ham & Bean supper
21 Worship 11:30	22	23 Mah Jongg 1pm	24 Heritage 7pm	25 KEY Collec- tive Benefit	26	27 Community Conversation
28 Worship 11:30 "One Song"	29	30  Mah Jongg 1pm				



Worship
Sundays
11:30 am

JULY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Planning Wkshp 6:30	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 Worship 11:30	6 School Bd 6pm Selectmen Meet 6:30pm	7 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm ZBA 7:30	8	9 Rec 5pm	10 Church Cabinet	11
12 Worship 11:30	13	14 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm Conservation 7:30	15 Planning 7pm	16	17	18 Donations accepted for Yard Sale
19 Worship 11:30	20 Selectmen Meet 6:30pm	21 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm	22 KPL accepts sale books Heritage 7pm	23	24	25 Donations accepted for Yard Sale
26 Worship 11:30	27	28 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm	29	30 	31	



Worship
Sundays
11:30am

AUGUST 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 11:30	3 School Bd 6pm Selectmen Meet 6:30pm	4 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm ZBA 7:30	5 Planning Wkshp 6:30	6	7 Historical Society Yard Sale	8 Book & Bake Sale Yard Sale 9-3
9 Worship 11:30 Yard Sale	10	11 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm Conservation 7:30	12	13 Rec 5pm	14 Church Cabinet	15 Summer Reading ends
16 Worship 11:30	17 Selectmen Meet 6:30pm	18 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm	19 Planning 7pm	20	21	22
23 Worship 11:30	24	25 Story Time 10:30am Mah Jongg 1pm	26 Heritage 7pm	27	28 	29
30 Worship 11:30	31					



Community
News
Deadline

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Kensington Congregational Church
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Kensington, NH 03833

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Exeter, NH
Permit 106

COMMUNITY NEWS is published by the Kensington Congregational Church and mailed to all houses in Kensington.

If you or anyone you know has been overlooked, or if your address is incorrect, call 603-772-5821 and tell us all about it.

The next issue will cover September & October, 2026

Submissions due Friday, August 14, 2026.

THE DEADLINE IS FIRM.

(Earlier submissions gratefully accepted!)

Call Pam at 603-490-8359 with ideas, information, suggestions or news. Articles, stories, pictures can be dropped off at Kensington UCC Church, or emailed to kensingtoncommunitynews@gmail.com.