

E. KINGSTON EDITION

“While it is February, one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.” — Patience Strong



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Deliberative Session

by Zoe Sucu, Library Director

On Saturday, February 3, the town will hold the Deliberative Sessions.

8am - East Kingston Elementary School

10am - East Kingston Town

The Deliberative Session is where changes can be made to wordings, numbers adjusted and more by general vote. These changes will be on the ballot in March. If you want to discuss and have some input as to what goes on the official ballot at the Voting Session, you have to be at the Deliberative Session.

February 3

**East Kingston Elementary School
5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston NH**

Public Notice

The Town of East Kingston hereby gives notice of the filing period for the 2024 Election of Town Officers (Declaration of Candidacy). The filing period begins **Wednesday, January 24, 2024, and ends Friday, February 2, 2024.**

The following elected positions in the Town of East Kingston are open:

- (1) Selectman – 3 yr. term, ending in 2027
- (1) Moderator – 2 yr. term, ending 2026
- (1) Road Agent, 3 yr. term, ending 2027
- (1) Trustee of the Public Library – 2 yr. term, ending in 2026
- (2) Trustee of the Public Library – 3 yr. term, ending in 2027
- (1) Trustee of the Cemetery – 3 yr. term, ending in 2027
- (1) Trustee of the Trust Fund – 3 yr. term, ending in 2027 (1)
- Supervisor of the Checklist, 6 yr. term, ending in 2030

Election day is Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Declaration of candidacy requests must be filed with the Town Clerk’s Office. Filings made on the last day must be done in person. The Town Clerk’s Office will be open Friday, February 2, 2024, from 8:00am to 5:00pm to accommodate final day filings.

Please note: You must be a registered voter to run for elective office.

24 Depot Road
 PO Box 249
 (603) 642-8406, x 2 bclark@eastkingstonnh.gov
 Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office Hours:
 Monday, 8-5pm
 Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 8-2:30pm
 Wednesday (evening) 5-7pm

East Kingston Edition

Town of East Kingston
www.eknh.org

Town Clerk & Tax Collector
 (603) 642-8406 x2
 Monday: 8am - 5pm
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
 8am - 2:30pm
 Wednesday: 5pm - 7pm

Town Administration
 (603) 642-8406 x1
 Monday: 8am - 4pm
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
 8am - 2:30pm
 Wednesday: 11am - 7pm

East Kingston Police
 Emergency: 911
 Non-Emergency: (603) 642-5427

East Kingston Fire
ekfd.org
 Emergency: 911
 Non-Emergency: (603) 642-3141

East Kingston Public Library
eastkingstonlibrary.org
 (603) 642-8333
ekpublib@comcast.net
 Monday & Wednesday:
 9am - 5pm
 Tuesday & Thursday:
 11am - 7pm
 Friday & Saturday:
 9am - 1pm

E. Kingston Elementary School
 (603) 642-3611
 EKES on the web: eks.sau16.org
 SAU16 on the web: sau16.org

Newsletter Deadlines
 Submissions for the following month must be submitted by the 17th of each month. Send submissions to newsletter@eastkingstonnh.gov

****Please Note: Date, time and location are subject to change. Please visit eknh.org or sau16.org for up to date information.****

East Kingston Names New Police Chief: Clayton A. Jervis

By Robert Minicucci, Library Board of Trustees

Surrounded by his family and colleagues in January, Clayton Jervis was sworn in as East Kingston's fourth full-time Police Chief.

He has served in town for 16 years, starting in a part-time officer in 2007. He became full time in 2010; he was promoted to Corporal in 2014 and to Sergeant in 2020. He made Lieutenant in 2022, serving as the second-in-command of the department, handling administrative and operational duties.



According to a press release from the Board of Selectmen, East Kingston "... is fortunate to have him as the next Chief of Police." Clayton has the full support of the former Chief Michael LePage, as well as the entire department and Town staff.

"Over my time in East Kingston I have gotten to know a lot of people in town and look forward to meeting new faces in my new role," said Clayton. "I'm a strong supporter of community policing and officers regularly interacting with the public. I anticipate helping the department maintain strong relations with our 2,400+ residents for many years to come."

According to a June 2021 town newsletter piece, Clayton grew up in Danville and graduated from Timberlane High School in Plaistow. After high school, he continued his education at Hesser College in Manchester, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Clayton started his law enforcement career in 2007 with the New Hampshire Marine Patrol where he served as a part-time patrol officer. He is also a graduate of the FBI-LEEDA leadership trilogy program, and he holds many certifications and instructorships.

Clayton is an avid outdoorsman who spends a lot of his time hiking in the north country of New Hampshire. He currently lives in Kingston with his adorable black lab hiking partner.

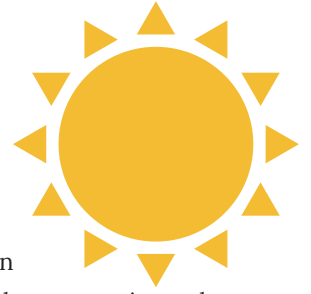


On January 3, 2024, Clayton Jervis was sworn in as East Kingston's Police Chief. His new chief's badge was pinned on for the first time by his girlfriend Kirsten Hollis.

A Solar Powered Library

by Sarah Courchesne, Library Board of Trustees

Sometimes, looking up at the resplendent and stoic turkey weathervane on top of the library, I wonder what he's thinking about. Though I will never know, I do know that, when the wind is right, and faces him east, he's able to gaze down on a smooth lawn of solar panels covering that entire side of the library's roof. As of this week, thanks to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library, the library owns those panels outright, contributing a clean stream of renewable energy into the grid, and dropping our electricity bills down to almost zero.



The library's solar panel project has been several years in the making, and none of it would have been possible without the effort and commitment of the Friends. Back in 2016, the Friends donated \$18,000 to buy an 18 panel array that would meet about 20% of the building's overall energy needs. Those panels have been quietly sopping up sunlight since then, with no issues, problems, or need for any repairs. It was always our goal to eventually install enough panels to meet the library's entire electricity demand, but we lacked the funds to purchase any additional panels and thought we'd just have to wait several years to raise more money. Then, at a conference of the NH Library Trustees Association, we learned about an option called a Power Purchase Agreement, or PPA. Under a PPA, a solar installer builds an array on a public or private property, and then retains ownership of the array. The property owner agrees to buy all the electricity the array produces for a set period of years, at which point, the property owner can either continue buying the power, or can elect to buy the array itself from the installer, and thus own both the panels and all the power they produce.

The Library Trustees signed a PPA with ReVision energy in 2018, and we became eligible to buy the array from them this January. The Friends of the Library have again stepped up with phenomenal fundraising, and donated \$40,000 for the purchase. We have now signed the agreement, sent in the check, and taken ownership of the ReVision installed panels on the roof. The existing smaller array is still merrily producing, and their combined power generation should now meet the Library's full electricity needs. We still will be paying a small utility bill to remain connected to the grid, and we also have an annual maintenance contract with ReVision to have the array inspected and serviced, but our bills for kilowatt hours drawn from Unitil should drop almost to nothing.

Knowing that we would be going fully solar, we have been shifting the Library away from propane and toward electricity wherever possible. We have replaced two of our three propane furnaces with electric heat pumps, and we are in the process of replacing our broken propane fireplace with a new electric one. Eventually, we plan to replace the final furnace with a heat pump, and also switch over our small water heater from propane to solar/electric.



The Trustees of the Library want to thank both our former Director, Tracy Waldron, and our current Director, Zoe Sucu, for helping shepherd this project along. We give massive thanks to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library and the people of our town who support the Friends. Thanks to you, we are finally seeing this multi-year, multi-phase adventure in clean, green energy come to fruition!

Friends of EKPL News

By Nikki Cutler, Board of the Friends of EKPL

♥ Happy February! Happy Valentine's Day! ♥

We, the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library, would like to start off this newsletter by thanking Cara Gray for all that she has done as a member of our board over the past several years. Most recently she took on the responsibility of Treasurer and has done an amazing job staying on top of our budget, paying attention to detail, and handling our reporting to name just a few things. She also did a wonderful job helping me (Nikki Cutler) transition into the role of Communications director last spring and I will forever be grateful to her for that. We will miss her positive attitude and hard work ethic, but wish her the best of luck settling into her new town and being closer to family.

Cara - thank you and we wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life!



Don't forget to stop by at the Water Street Bookstore on Feb 1st to support your local bookstore as well as the Friends! And if you can't make it in person then you can always shop online too!



♥ February Specials at the Used Book Store (UBS) ♥
Open Fridays from 10-5 and Saturday 10-1

♥ Great selection of romance novels to celebrate Valentine's Day

♥ Jigsaw puzzles

♥ Junior classics - beautiful sets!

♥ Exploring - land and sea!

♥ Photography - great collection of books covering all DVDs

♥ Historical Fiction



Please follow our FaceBook Page "Friends of East Kingston Public Library," visit our [webpage](#) or email us at friendsofekpl@gmail.com for information in 2024.

Chadd Cook Earns Top Cider Honors

by Vicki J. Brown

Craft Beer and Brewing magazine named East Kingston resident Chadd Cook one of the top five cidemakers in the United States, calling him and the other four winners the "faces of American ciders' future."

The magazine said "rather than experiment with lots of flavors

and approaches, founder and cidemaker Chadd Cook creates one cider per season, emulating the essence of the season within each bottle.

"Spring" is bone-dry, effervescent, and mildly tannic, while "Autumn" is semidry, with soft tannins and a fruit-forward finish. Cider Hill sprinkles some seasonal specialties into the mix—such as the Sour Cherry winter dessert cider.

Commenting on the announcement, Cider Hill Farm said "Thank you Craft Beer and Brewing and Beth Demmon for seeing and recognizing the talents of our one and only Chadd Cook. What a way to kick-off 2024! Chadd, we are so proud of you today and ALWAYS! To our entire team who grows beautiful food and cares for our land, we couldn't do it without you. The cider produced here on the farm is a true reflection of your expert work. Bravo!"

Read the article:

<https://beerandbrewing.com/best-in-beer-five-cidemakers-to-know-in-2024/>



EKES School Board

by Kirsten Soroko, EKES School Board

February School Board date is Tuesday, February 13 at 4:30 PM.

The EKES Budget and Teacher Contract will be on the ballot this March. The Deliberative Session will be Saturday Feb. 3rd at 8:00 AM at EKES.

Voting Day is Tuesday March 12th

Important Dates

- **February 3rd @ 8:00am - School Deliberative Session**
- **February 3rd @ 10:00am - Town Deliberative Session**
 - Held at the East Kingston Elementary School, 5 Andrews Lane. Discussion of warrant articles, budgets, and more. Please check www.eknh.org for the most up to date information
- **February 5th @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - **IF NEEDED**. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on eknh.org/selectmen.
- **February 8th @ 7:00pm - Exeter Regional Cooperative (SAU16) Deliberative Session**
 - Held at the Exeter High School, 1 Bluehawk Drive, Exeter NH. More information can be found at www.sau16.org.
- **February 12th @ 5:30pm - East Kingston Conservation**
 - In-Person. Meetings will be held at the Town Offices. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/conservation-commission.
- **February 13th @ 4:30pm - East Kingston School Board**
 - In-Person. Meetings are held at the East Kingston Elementary School, in the library. More information can be found at www.eks.sau16.org.
- **February 15th @ 6:30pm - Planning Board Meeting**
 - In Person. Meeting will be held at the Pound School. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/planning-board.
- **TUESDAY February 20th @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found at eknh.org/selectmen.
- **February 22nd @ 6:30pm - Zoning Board Meeting**
 - In Person. Meeting will be held at the Pound School. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/zoning-board-adjustment.
- **February 26th @ 5:00pm - East Kingston Public Library**
 - In Person with Zoom Option. Meeting will be held at the East Kingston Public Library. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found at www.eastkingstonlibrary.org.