

E. KINGSTON EDITION

The Voting Edition



IN THIS ISSUE

VOTING INFORMATION

**IMPORTANT TOWN
DATES AND CONTACT
INFORMATION**

**GROWING TOGETHER
BY EKES STUDENTS**

**MEET THE CANDIDATES
AND MORE...**

Voting in East Kingston

by Zoe Sucu, Library Staff

East Kingston will hold its voting on Tuesday, May 11, at the East Kingston Elementary School, from 8am to 7pm. You will be voting on the Town and School budget, a handful of warrant articles and candidates for town boards.

This year, our only contested race is for School Board. The two candidates have graciously written an introduction to themselves, as well as answered a few questions written by the newsletter committee. Their answers can be found in this edition.

Make your voice heard! Voting in a small town is a great way to have a say in how your town government functions.

Town Clerk Information

By Barbara Clark, Town Clerk

Voting Day: May 11 from 8am to 7pm at EKES

**Absentee Ballots are available for the May 11th voting.
Please contact the Town Clerk for more information.**

Absentee ballots can be given if the voter will not be in town on the day of election. To obtain an absentee ballot, call the Town Clerk's office; the ballots can be requested up until the day before voting. If done ahead of time, the ballot will be mailed to you. If done too close to day of voting, you have to go to the Town Offices and pick up the physical ballot. Please note that only the registered voter can pick up their absentee ballot, and an ID is required. Your ballot must be in the post office by or before the day of voting to be counted. It can also be returned to the Town Clerks office directly by 5pm on the Monday before voting day. If a child or spouse returns your ballot, they will be required to sign an affidavit form.

Waste Management Services - Bulk Trash May 17

Bulk Waste

The Bulk Waste pickup will be **May 17, 2021** and **September 20, 2021**, and follows the same sticker system that has been used in years past.

Each household can receive two free stickers. Any additional stickers are to be purchased for \$20 each at the Town Clerk's Office. Free stickers also have to be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office.

Bulk items are defined as: A large item or bundle other than commercial construction and demolition debris, hazardous waste, White Goods or CRTs, which cannot fit into a cart. **Items shall include, but not be limited to:** tables, chairs, couches, bed frames, mattresses, and bedsprings.

Information taken from the Town of East Kingston Waste Management Flyer

Please be aware that the pandemic may affect normal business hours. It may be best to call before attempting a visit.

East Kingston Edition

Town of East Kingston
www.eknh.org

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

(603) 642-8794
Monday: 8am - 5pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
8am - 2:30pm
Wednesday: 6pm - 8pm
By Appointment

Town Administration

(603) 642-8406
Monday: 8am - 4pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
8am - 2:30pm
Wednesday: 10am - 2pm

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 - 3pm
Tuesday & Thursday:
3pm - 7pm
Friday & Saturday:
9am - 1pm
By Appointment

E. Kingston Elementary School

(603) 642-3511
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

EKES School Board - School Deliberative Session Recap

by the East Kingston School Board

The School Deliberative Session was held on April 10. The town voted to move forward all six warrant articles proposed by the East Kingston School Board at its deliberative session at EKES on April 10. Residents will have a chance to vote on the articles at the polls on May 11.

The school warrant articles are:

- #1 – EKES annual operating budget
- #2 – Funding for the proposed (agreed-upon) teacher contract
- #3 – Special meeting allowance if above contract fails
- #4 – Discontinuing the School Building Expansion Fund and Elementary School Development Fund (returning fund to general fund)
- #5 – Using these funds from general fund to fund two current trusts (Special Education Fund and Maintenance Fund)
- #6 – Establish a new trust for contractual teacher retirement costs (and transfer funds from general fund to this new fund)

Articles 4, 5, and 6 are all-or-none pass/fail, meaning if one of these three articles fails they all fail. If 4, 5, and 6 all pass, more than \$220,000 will be returned to the town – as always, in the form of a tax offset on next year’s property tax bills. If any one of articles 4,5, or 6 fails, monies will remain in the current trust funds (and funds will remain untouchable for at least one year).

If all proposed warrant articles pass, less money will be raised by taxes than last year.

Thank you to everyone (over 100 EK voters) who attended the deliberative session!

Growing Together

by East Kingston Students, Reed and Vera



Hi, Reed and Vera here. We are the student representatives for our "Growing Together" project. The EKES community will be hosting "Grow Week," which is a week in May where EKES students, families, and teachers will get together to plant flowers all over East Kingston to beautify the town.

The EKES students would like to thank the community members of East Kingston for all of their support throughout the past year. As you drive around town this summer, we hope you like the flowers at the town library, the Town Hall, the Fire Station, the Police Station, the Pound School and even at EKES! Stay tuned for our next update on our "Growing Together" project.

Meet the Candidates:

Mandy Decew, and Andy Herum

Voting for East Kingston will be held on Tuesday, May 11th, from 8am to 7pm at the East Kingston Elementary School. The only contested race is for the School Board. The two candidates were invited to write an introduction about themselves and answer three questions:

1. Why do you want to be on the East Kingston School Board?
2. What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the school/school board?
3. How would you balance work life, home life, and school board responsibilities?

Meet Mandy

By Amanda Decew, 2021 School Board Candidate

Hi! My name is Mandy DeCew and I am running for a seat on the EKES school board. I have two daughters that currently attend EKES (second and fourth grader) and my son is a seventh grader at CMS. My family moved to East Kingston almost 6 years ago specifically for the school system. My children have experienced firsthand the individualized services and exemplary education that EKES has to offer due to their dedicated staff and supportive school board. I am a teacher in a neighboring school district, so I would contribute a complex perspective as a parent as well as an educator. As a parent of two children with disabilities, I bring an inclusive and open-minded lens.



1. Why do you want to be on the East Kingston school board?

I am running because I feel I am uniquely qualified due to my background and experiences and would like to give back to the community and school system that have supported my family over the past few years. My experience thus far with the school has been team oriented. They value my opinion as a parent and are open to feedback and suggestions. I think this same relationship is effective as a school board member as they are a liaison between the school and the community. I feel I can enhance the school board with the following attributes:

- I value inclusion for all students
- I am open minded
- I am knowledgeable about special education policy
- I bring relevant work experience/insight
- I am an invested parent
- I respect different opinions/views
- I am persistent
- Most importantly I am passionate about educating students

The East Kingston school and community have provided my kids with a safe, compassionate, and accepting environment. I am grateful for this service, and I want to pay that forward to future families.

2. What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the school/school board?

As an educator and a parent, I have witnessed the uneasiness and distrust that this school year has introduced. Educators have been put under a microscopic lens and for the first time the complexity of learning in public school has been showcased for all to see. This year has put so many families (mine included) in a stressful situation. This has caused distrust in our SAU and the people in charge of keeping our children safe and educated. I do believe the intimate education platform this year has created an opportunity for our tight knit community and beloved school to strengthen its relationship. I think our School Board needs to continue to be transparent to the people of our town and continue to build and maintain trust with its constituents so that the relationship can remain positive.

3. How would you balance work life, home life, and school board responsibilities?

I am an educator, so I am already living and breathing public school dynamics. I am very lucky to have a partner who grounds me, and supports our family with every passion, want or desire we may have. Throughout our partnership we have taken turns shifting our roles and responsibilities to encourage and enable each other to fulfill whatever goal we have had at that time. If I were to be elected the position of school board member, my family would embrace this new adventure and support my full participation.

If you have any questions please contact Mandy at adecew@gmail.com or 603-828-7071

Meet Andy

By Andrew Herum, 2021 School Board Candidate



My name is Andy Herum, and I am running for East Kingston School board in the upcoming May 11th election. First, I urge all residents to show up and vote on May 11th in favor of the budget, teacher contract and warrant articles that will be on the ballot. Specifically our teachers have worked with the existing Board on an extremely reasonable contract that is both good for the taxpayers and for the School. Hope to see everyone there! I've been a resident of East Kingston since 2016, my wife Ashley and I have 4 kids all in the SAU16 school system. We have 2 in High School, 1 at CMS and our youngest is in second grade at EKES. Through the years I have coached all of my children in one fashion or the other with Baseball, Soccer and Flag Football - and I play on a couple of softball teams as well. For work I co-own a manufacturers representative company that covers all of New England and specializes in Motion Control and Machine Automation. Through my coaching, work and personal life I have

been able to meet and make friends with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds, political views and economics. With few exceptions I am able to make connections and effectively relate and communicate to most people whether I agree with them or not on a particular topic. As a School Board member I would be pragmatic in my decision making, calm in demeanor and will always make a strong attempt to see all sides to a discussion. I know not everyone is going to agree with me on the decisions myself and the Board will make, but there is value to being able to relate and understand the positions that you do not agree with.

When I moved to East Kingston one of the main draws to the town was the Elementary School. It had recently been awarded the New Hampshire Elementary School of Excellence, and every review and comment we had read regarding the school had been glowing. Although we have since seen some declining numbers of attendance and there has been a fairly large rollover in staff, I believe the backbone for that great school still exists. I also believe that a majority of the residents of East Kingston want to be proud of the Elementary School. It is absolutely a selling point for new residents coming to the area, and we need to keep it that way. BUT we also need to keep in mind that us residents are directly funding the school, and that we need to be responsible with how the school spends the taxpayer money. We have the ability to do both here.

1 - Why do you want to be on the East Kingston school board?

There are a number of little reasons as to why I am running for School Board - I have a child at the school and I want to see it thrive, I am a taxpayer so I want to see my money spent wisely, I am proud to be a resident of East Kingston and I want to continue to be proud of the Elementary School etc. But the #1 reason I am running is that I feel I can be an asset to the school and the town in this role. I am pragmatic and open in my decision making, I can listen, understand and relate to most sides of an argument, and in this town we absolutely have multiple opinions on how the School should be run and how resources should be allocated. I plan on being a calm and steady voice on the School Board who can work with the residents of the town to do what's best for not only the school and teachers but for the taxpayers - and right now that is what is needed on the School Board.

2 - What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the school/school board?

The biggest short term issue is getting our children back up to speed after this pandemic. There are a few instances where children have thrived under these circumstances, but there are a large number that haven't. This is where supporting Brandon French's plan for the school is critical. He is setting in place a support system that will allow teachers and assistants to identify deficiencies in learning with individual students and to make a plan to get those students the help they need to succeed. The biggest long term issue facing the school is attendance and budget. Putting in place responsible and effective budgets is not just a technical issue of making sure all of the numbers align, it's an outreach issue as well. The current Board has laid some framework for community outreach, but it needs to be strengthened with someone that can effectively work with and communicate to a wide range of people, even when they disagree with them - this will help in not only crafting a budget, but being able to pass a budget.

Attendance will ebb and flow in any small town, but one thing that we can do to help attendance is to make East Kingston Elementary School a school to which parents want to send their kids.

3 - How would you balance work life, home life, and school board responsibilities?

Like everyone I struggle to juggle everything. I work hard, I spend time with my kids, I coach my kids and my wife and I work hard to spend quality time together in between our busy lives - it's not a unique situation. I have the advantage that I work from home and can generally set my own schedule, so I can build in flexibility when it is required for board meetings and other duties associated with this role. Adding additional responsibilities is not going to be seamless, but it's something that I feel is worth the time.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the EKES School Board, it's an important role for the the long term prosperity of this community. If you would like to ask me any questions directly, please feel free to email me at aherum@gmail.com.

Friends of EKPL News

By FoEKPL

Summer Book Sale

June 19 - Mark your calendar for our annual book sale.

Rain date June 26

Would you like to volunteer to work the book sale? Please email the Friends at friendsofekpl@gmail.com.

Cotton Tote Book Bags for Sale at the Library

Carry your library books home with our \$5 book bag. All proceeds go directly to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library.

Pound School Used Book Store

Visit us at the Used Book Store, located at 41 Depot Road, East Kingston, NH. We are staffed by local volunteers.

All proceeds go directly to the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library. Donate a book and get a free book.



Bookmark our website to stay informed of our activities, including our Used Book Store sales. eastkingstonlibrary.org/friends-of-ekpl

Library Update: Looking Ahead

By Tracy Waldron, Library Director

With COVID-19 variants and new cases rising, the world has not gotten safer. However, with protective measures in places and many people getting vaccines, we feel we can open in a safe manner. So....an appointment is no longer necessary to come to the library. You do however still have to ring the bell. We are allowing up to 5 people in at a time. We are still requiring that masks be worn, covering both nose and mouth, and you will be asked to sanitize your hands.

We are excited to start seeing library users again. We will continue to offer curbside pickup. Book clubs are back, but still virtual. Story Hour on Fridays is still on Zoom and we have now started a Monday Story hour outside every other week. Most programming will still be on Zoom. As it gets warmer we will try to do more programming outside. Zoe is hard at work on the Summer Reading Program (SRP) and it too will be a mix of virtual and outside programming. Sign up now to receive emails to keep you up to date on the SRP.

We are all getting to the end of our ropes with COVID-19, but we are focusing on the positives that have come out of the pandemic. Library users have gotten more comfortable with downloading ebooks, audios and magazines on Libby. They have learned how to stream movies through Kanopy. We added Brainfuse, a tutoring site to help kids who were struggling with remote school and adults who might need to update their resumes.

As we open back up and get closer to business as usual, we will continue to offer these virtual services. We will continue curbside pick up for anyone who wants to continue to use the library in that way. We are flexible and always looking for ways to expand and improve our service to the town of East Kingston. Please let us know how we can help you.

Invasive Plants are Everyone's Problem

by East Kingston Conservation Commission

An invasive plant is defined as non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Invasive plants limit other species and outcompete native plants successfully for a number of reasons:

1. are often better adapted to local physical conditions than native plants
2. are better at colonizing disturbed areas (disturbances include windstorms, ice storms, floods, fire and human disturbances such as logging or new development/construction)
3. have fewer enemies: fewer herbivores and pathogens than native plants in the new range.

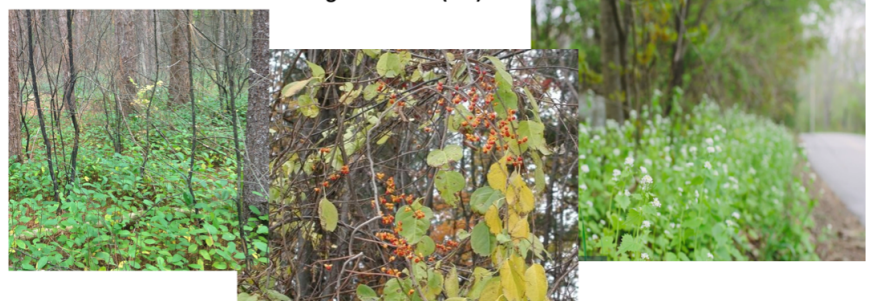
Why Should We Care?

A recent UNH Extension Invasive Plant Academy lecture they discussed how these plants can impact wildlife by choking out natural habitats such as freshwater wetlands, causing loss of available food. They have a significant harmful economic impact on our farm and timber industries. Here are just a few examples of invasive plants common to our area:

- Glossy buckthorn outcompetes native plants, including the economically important eastern white pine
- Garlic mustard produces compounds that seep into the soil and actively prevent other plants from growing
- Oriental bittersweet is a woody perennial vine that can surround a tree and physically bring it to the ground
- Purple loosestrife inhabits wetlands and may grow so densely it physically blocks the passage of turtles and fish
- Black swallowwort is causing a reduction in the number of monarch butterflies
- Japanese Barberry can have higher densities of deer ticks which can lead to Lyme disease

How do invasive plants disperse? They can spread vegetatively; that means that the plant grows horizontally by producing rhizomes which are underground. Plants with rhizomes, such as Japanese knotweed, are often very difficult to control. Seeds can be dispersed by wind. For example, Norway Maple is wind dispersed. Plants that have fleshy and brightly colored fruits, such as Asian bittersweet and Glossy Buckthorn are bird dispersed.

Glossy Buckthorn invading forest floor, Oriental Bittersweet surrounding trees and Garlic Mustard along a roadside (L-R)



What Can You Do?

Because of their easy and rapid spread, there are strict laws in NH regarding invasive plants:

“No person shall collect, transport, import, export, move, buy, sell, distribute, propagate or transplant any living and viable portion of any plant species, which includes all of their cultivars and varieties, listed in Table 3800.1, New Hampshire prohibited invasive species list”.

The NH state list has the “prohibited” invasive plants currently (this represents less than 2% of our NH plant species) at www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/prohibited-invasive-species.pdf. You may also find information on the East Kingston Conservation Commission (EKCC) webpage in the “Invasive Plants” section.

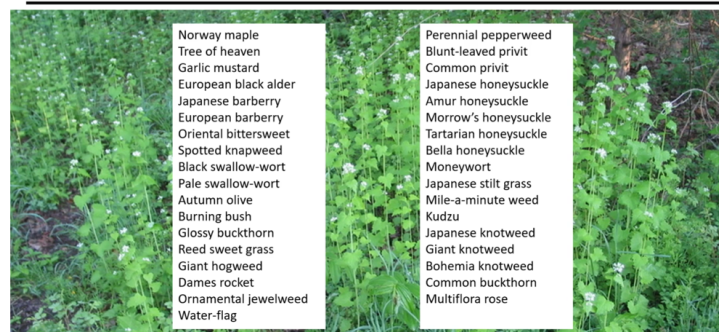
Since prevention is the best strategy for dealing with invasive plants:

- One way to prevent the spread of invasive plants is to avoid disturbing soil and existing plant communities, or if disturbance is required use on-site materials (fill, etc.) when possible
- When landscaping, ask your local garden center or contact your County Extension Service (UNH) about alternative planting
- After working in an area with invasive species remove any soil, or propagules that may have adhered to clothing, shoes, vehicle tires, and more.
- Do not pick the flowers of noxious weeds or wild flowers that you can't identify
- Become active in local or regional initiatives to control invasive plants

Parts of this article have been adapted from the UNH Cooperative Extension

Fact Sheet: Prohibited Invasive Plant Species Rules, Agr 3800

New Hampshire
Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food



- Norway maple
- Tree of heaven
- Garlic mustard
- European black alder
- Japanese barberry
- European barberry
- Oriental bittersweet
- Spotted knapweed
- Black swallow-wort
- Pale swallow-wort
- Autumn olive
- Burning bush
- Glossy buckthorn
- Reed sweet grass
- Giant hogweed
- Dames rocket
- Ornamental jewelweed
- Water-flag

- Perennial pepperweed
- Blunt-leaved privet
- Common privet
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Amur honeysuckle
- Morrow's honeysuckle
- Tartarian honeysuckle
- Bella honeysuckle
- Moneywort
- Japanese stilt grass
- Mile-a-minute weed
- Kudzu
- Japanese knotweed
- Giant knotweed
- Bohemia knotweed
- Common buckthorn
- Multiflora rose

PTO Golfing Tournament

7th Annual East Kingston Elementary School
PTO Golf Tournament – Player / Team Signup



Apple Hill Golf Course
Route 107, East Kingston, NH
Friday, June 4, 2021 (Rain or Shine)
Check In 8:30 a.m.
Tee Off 9:00 a.m.
Shotgun/Scramble

Prizes...

Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, & Best Team

**\$100.00 includes golf, cart and lunch.
Proper dress required.**

No personal coolers or alcohol permitted.

I would like to enter a team/individual

Player #1 _____	Email address: _____
Player #2 _____	Email address: _____
Player #3 _____	Email address: _____
Player #4 _____	Email address: _____

Team Contact Name and contact information: _____

Please add \$5 per person if you would like to buy a "bag of tricks" Amount _____

Total \$ _____

Mail this form with checks payable to: EKES PTO 5 Andrews Lane, East Kingston, NH 03827 or to ekespto@gmail.com by Friday, May 28th to guarantee your spot.

7th Annual East Kingston Elementary School PTO Golf Tournament
Apple Hill Golf Course, East Kingston
Friday, June 4, 2021

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and as such, we will send you a donation letter for your records.

\$2000- up Gold Sponsorship

- Your name on the largest sign at tournament and thanks in press releases
- Your name on a golf cart
- Your name at a hole

\$1000-\$2000 Silver Sponsorship

- Your name on a sign at tournament and thanks in press releases
- Your name on a golf cart
- Your name at a hole

\$200-\$1000 Hole sponsor

- Your name on sign at tournament and thanks in press releases
- Your name at a hole

\$100-\$200 Cart sponsor

- Your name on a golf cart and thanks in press releases
- Your name on a sign at tournament

Any \$ amount Family sponsor

- Your name on sign at tournament and thanks in press releases

**Please refer questions to: ekespto@gmail.com
Sponsorship Form**

Company Name: _____
Company Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact Email: _____

_____ Gold _____ Silver _____ Hole _____ Cart _____ Other (donations in ANY amount are appreciated and helpful)

Return by 5/21/21 Please make checks payable to: EKES PTO 5 Andrews Lane East Kingston, NH 03827

Important Dates

- **May 3rd @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - Via Zoom. The agenda and Zoom link can be found on eknh.org/selectmen.
- **May 10th @ 5pm - East Kingston Conservation Commission**
 - Via Zoom. Zoom link can be found at eknh.org/conservation-commission
- **May 11th from 8am to 7pm - TOWN VOTING**
 - In person at the East Kingston Elementary School.
- **May 12th @ 5:30pm - School Board Meeting**
 - Via Zoom. Zoom link can be found at eastkingstonschoolboard.org.
- **May 17th @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - Via Zoom. The agenda and Zoom link can be found on eknh.org/selectmen.
- **May 20th @ 7pm - Planning Board Meeting**
 - Via Zoom. Zoom link can be found at eknh.org/planning-board.
- **May 24th @ 7pm - EKPL Board of Trustees Meeting**
 - Via Zoom. Link can be found at eastkingstonlibrary.org.