2026 CHINA CONNECTED

January 9, 2026

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

Where little villages come together

We live in a world that worships speed. Efficiency is praised everywhere — even in small towns like ours. But China, Maine has always been different.

Here, people still recognize each other at the post office. We wave on back roads. We know last names, family stories, who plows whose driveway in winter. And yet, even here, it is easy to rush past one another.

We scan, swipe, check off errands, and head home. We assume someone else will notice if something feels off. But sometimes the most important thing you can do is stop.

The most expensive thing you can give isn't money. It's your time. A conversation. A knock on a door. A simple, "Are you okay?"

In communities like China, presence matters. Checking on a neighbor is not small-town nostalgia — it's a lifeline. China Connected exists because connection doesn't happen automatically. It happens when we choose it. When we slow down enough to see one another.

Because even in a place where many of us know each other, what keeps a community strong is our willingness to stay present.

Wishing everyone a healthy, connected, and compassionate 2026 — may we keep showing up for one another.

Becky Hapgood
Town Manager
becky@chinamaine.org

LAST CHANCE TO LICENSE YOUR DOG!

A late fee of $25.00 per dog begins FEBRUARY 1st.

Spayed/Neutered - $6
Male/Female - $11

All Municipal Services will be closed Monday, January 19, 2026, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Reminder: Residents may obtain sand at the Transfer Station. The sand box is located to the right as you enter. A valid access pass is required, and there is a limit of two five-gallon buckets per storm.

**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Warden's Report discontinued its online service at the end of 2025. All burn permits should now be obtained through **maine.gov.**

Code Guy Corner

While it may seem like a stroke of genius to use a space heater of some kind to thaw out pipes under a mobile home, I am strongly urging anyone to reconsider that action. Each year, across the state, people do it anyway to find themselves not only without water, but without a home itself. I'm here to tell you there are simpler and safer ways to remedy the situation should you ever be unfortunate enough to find yourself in such a predicament.

The most cost-effective method in the long term would be insulating and air sealing the skirting around the mobile home. However, for those that can't quite afford the front-loaded cost of foam board insulation or insulated skirting, or require more immediate action, there are lengths of electric heat cable that can be affixed to the water supply lines. These systems can be purchased at most building supply stores and, unless they say otherwise, are not intended for outdoor use.

Most of these cables also implement a built-in thermostat that only initiates when the pipe temp drops below a certain threshold, so be sure to keep a solid connection between the thermostat and the pipe. All of this can be further enhanced by wrapping pipe insulation over the cable. Until next time, stay safe out there!

-Nick
ceo@chinamaine.org

7th Annual China Lake Ice Fishing Derby

Sunday, February 15, 2026!

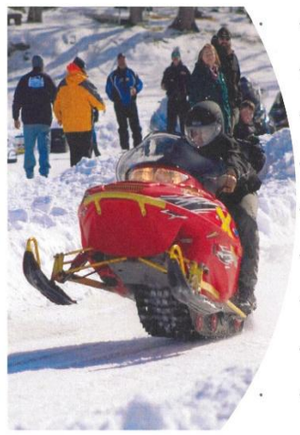
Presented by
The China Four Seasons Club and
The China Village Volunteer Fire Department

FIREWORKS February 14th 6:15pm at the north end of the lake. For more info visit www.chinafourseasons.org

King of the Lake

Point Series

Radar Runs

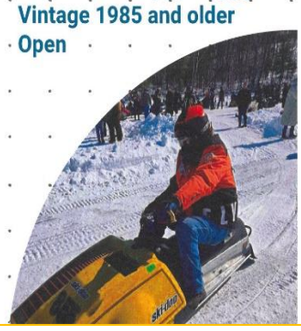


Race Dates:
February 1
February 14
March 7

Classes: Stock & Improved

0 - 550	551 - 650
651 - 750	751 - 850
851 - 950	951 - 1050

Vintage 1985 and older
Open



Trophies to 1st and 2nd place winners
Must be 3 sleds per class to run.
$20 for 2 runs
We take fasted speed

Registration starts at 8AM
China Four Seasons Club
570 Lakeview Drive
Questions? Contact Darrell
Darrellw1975@gmail.com
207-649-7432

PASTA BAR

COMMUNITY DINNER

1/24/2026 @
CHINA CHURCH OF NAZARENE
898 ME-3 CHINA, ME
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

PICK YOUR PASTA, PICK YOUR SAUCE. EAT & ENJOY

Suggested donation of $10 adults, $5 kids 3-12.
Kids under 3 free.

ROLLS, DESSERT, COFFEE & WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH THE MEAL.

✨ New Year, New You! ✨

Chair Exercise Class

🗓 **When:** Fridays, 10:00–10:45 AM
📍 **Where:** Town Office Meeting Room
571 Lakeview Drive, China

Stay active, build strength, and enjoy gentle movement in a supportive, fun environment—no floor work required!

📞 **Questions?** Contact Janet at **207-861-1163**

👜 **Please bring (not required):**
- A water bottle
- Two tennis balls
- One hand weight of your choice

All fitness levels welcome! Come move, stretch, and feel great together 💪🪑

INDOOR WALKING
FOR THE COMMUNITY

China Lake Conference Center
5 Dillon Drive (just off the Neck Road)
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 8:30-10:30
For more information (207) 358-9594

Sand for Seniors

If you are a senior and in need of sand this winter but are unable to get to the Transfer Station, there are volunteers who will deliver it to you. This is for delivery only; Sand must be spread by the recipient. Please call the Transfer Station at 445-2014 X2 to sign up.

Ask Us Anything!

Have you ever had a question about our community you wanted to ask but were too shy? I bet others from town may have the same question. Readers may submit a question and we will publish the question and answer in a future issue of the CC. This will be totally anonymous! All questions may be sent to jen@chinamaine.org by email or by text. Your question may help another China resident, so don't be afraid to ask us!