

Town News

Board of Selectmen: Michael J. Farinola, Chairman; Richard P. McDermott, Maryann Kasprzak

TOWN OFFICE HOURS SURVEY RESULTS
through 12/15/10
950 mailed in October

Survey Participation			Rating of Services			
			Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Other	Totals
Current	105	56%	95	0	0	
Proposed	59	32%	45	4	1	
Other	22	12%	11	7	1	
TOTALS	186		151	11	2	164
			92%	7%	1%	

Sincere thanks to all who participated in this survey!



PARKING BAN & SNOW REMOVAL

Townspople are reminded that effective December 15, no overnight parking (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) is allowed on any town roadway per a Selectmen’s ordinance prohibiting the plowing of snow onto public roads. The ordinance provides for a fine for any person causing snow or ice to be placed upon the surface of the traveled portion of the road. This ban will be in effect until April 1.

RECYCLING



Residents are encouraged to continue recycling every other week. Recycling, as well as covering trash cans to keep out water, reduces the tonnage brought to the landfill thus reducing the cost (taxes to be raised) to dispose of trash. Please place your rubbish and recyclables at the curb on Thursday evening or by 6:00 a.m. Friday for collection and call Town Administrator Eric N. Small at 926-4618, extension 3, to report missed pick-ups. Handouts outlining

what is allowed to be disposed of at the curb as well as permitted Single Stream recyclable items are available from the Town Clerk or can be viewed on line at the Solid Waste link. Newspapers and magazines can be placed in the cardboard recycling containers located at the Brush Dump.

**TOWN BRUSH DUMP /
CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL**

The Town brush dump closed for the winter months effective November 27 and will remain closed until April 1. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of their Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LOST AND FOUND

An article of jewelry was found at the Town Hall on November 29, 2010. Please contact Town Clerk Holly Knowles at 926-4618, extension 1, if you feel this jewelry may belong to you.



Jay M. Lord, Fire Chief
FIRE DEPARTMENT /
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

Non-Emergency Telephone Contact
 926-5752 or email chief@hffd.org

After recent storm events, you probably made some plans to get through the next one better by tucking away some extra water or food. Maybe you purchased a generator or stacked up a little extra fire wood or pellets. If you did – good for you! Add to your plan that if you live alone or you’re getting to the ‘golden years’ and would like us to check in on you – drop me a line and I’ll add you to our list.

Town News

Board of Selectmen: Michael J. Farinola, Chairman; Richard P. McDermott, Maryann Kasprzak

The new engine is in service and has been used in response to a number of calls. Fire Department personnel love the new light tower! Please stop by the fire station to see the new engine any time.

If you have a seasonal burn permit, please contact the fire station to renew by calling 926-5752 and leaving a message.

HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING 2011

EVENTS	DATES
Budget Hearing	January 12, 7 pm
Filing for Office	Jan. 19 – Jan. 28
1 st Session – Town Meeting (Deliberative Session)	February 5 Snow Date (Feb. 12)
2 nd Session – Town Meeting (Town Election)	March 8

HOLLY E. KNOWLES, TOWN CLERK

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

-All transactions may be done through the mail if you can't get in to our office (Please call 926-4618, Extension 1 or E-mail us at townclerk@hamptonfalls.org for instructions).

-Renewals and transfers require the original, current registration(s) RSA 261:168 (copies are to be kept in your vehicle(s)).

-A notarized Power of Attorney is required when signing a title application for another person (even your spouse).

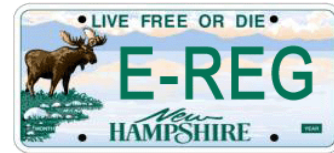
-Please allow time for processing your transactions by arriving as far in advance of our closing times of noon and 4 p.m. as possible.

NEW PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Only ONE check required payable to "Town of Hampton Falls" which now includes town and state fees.

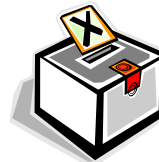
NEW! NOW ACCEPTING MAJOR CREDIT CARDS (not debit cards) with the exception of VISA which may be used for on-line renewals through E-reg but NOT for registrations at the window (a 2.75% convenience fee applies to credit card transactions).

Cash payments should be as close to the amount due as possible -- no large bills please (we keep limited cash).



INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

We recommend completing your vehicle renewal(s) over the internet (E-Reg). Click on the plate link on the Town Clerk's web page (www.hamptonfalls.org) for instructions, and you will receive your registration(s) and decal(s) through the mail. Renewals over 3 months late and residents wanting to complete transfers or obtain new plates will still need to come in to the office.



ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTION

Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may apply in writing or in person to the Town Clerk any time prior to the March 8th Town Election. The ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to the election. Distribution and return of absentee ballots must be done in person by the voter or sent through the mail.



VOTER REGISTRATION

Residents who would like to register to vote in town may do so with the Town Clerk or the Supervisors of

Town News

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the Checklist by Feb. 25th for the March 8th Town Election or on Election Day (proof of identity, age and domicile are required).

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Citizen's petitions for the 2011 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 11. Petitions must have twenty-five (25) legal voters' legible signatures on each petition (RSA 39:3) in order to be valid.

ELECTION FILING

The Town Deliberative Session will be held on February 5 beginning at 9 a.m. at the LAS gymnasium (snow date is February 12). The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Town Hall. Hampton Falls' voters vote all money articles and the annual budget by ballot. Town residents who are registered voters may file for any of the following offices with Town Clerk, Holly Knowles (or school positions only with School Clerk, Maureen Hastings) between Jan. 19 and Jan. 28, 2011. There's a \$1 filing fee for paid positions. The Town Hall is equipped with a handicap access ramp and voting booth.

The Town Clerk is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. for filing.

<u>Officials</u>	<u># Positions</u>	<u>Term</u>
Cemetery Trustee	1	3 years
Library Trustee	2	3 years
Town Clerk		3 years
Planning Board	2	3 years
Selectman	1	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	1	3 years

TAX COLLECTOR Mary Ann Hill

Abby and I extend our sympathy to Roberta Milliken and her family on the passing of her husband and former Tax Collector, **Russell Milliken**. Russ passed away on December 2, 2010, which ironically was the due date for the last 2010 tax bill.

2011 Inventory of Taxable Property forms will be mailed to all property owners by February 24, 2011. Instructions for filling out the form are printed on the back. The completed forms must be returned by **April 15**. Failure to return a completed form by April 15 may result in the loss of the right to appeal the property tax assessment. Please note that **Step 5** on the form is asking for a list of the people residing on the property as of April 1, and is required by RSA 74:4, IIIc.

All unpaid property taxes are now delinquent and are accruing interest. Please call for the amount due before sending your payment.

Anyone who qualifies for the veteran's tax credit or one of the exemption categories should submit their application by April 15th.

HERITAGE COMMISSION

We continue to build up the content on our website (hamptonfallsheritage.org), and invite you to have a look. You might find it interesting to review the series of schematic maps showing the progression of home building in four 50 year snapshots. We have a long way to go, and if your own historic home is not already indicated on the map, please let us know and we'll add it in. You can also find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hamptonfallsheritage. Please "friend" us if you find the site to your liking.

We also have more detailed information posted on the site about the history of some of the older homes in town. Our goal is simply to provide information to the public about the wonderful heritage we have as witnessed by the classic colonial era and more recent structures that residents have taken pains to preserve over the years. There is absolutely NO INTENTION

Town News

Board of Selectmen: Michael J. Farinola, Chairman; Richard P. McDermott, Maryann Kasprzak

to convert this program into any form of historic district association. We feel it is most worthwhile to preserve information about our past, and the visible structures are given more “flesh” when some of their history is revealed.

The attractive Historic Homes markers are still for sale through the Heritage Commission for \$75. Send us an application form obtainable at the Town Hall and we'll take care of ordering one and delivering it to you. You can also contact us through the link on the website, or more directly by email to Commission Chair David French at frenchmannh@yahoo.com, for more information.

As always, we are in need of volunteers willing to help us in this work. It offers the opportunity to meet like-minded residents and learn about architecture and heritage of our town in some detail. Please contact any Commission member (David French, Wendy Harrington, Georgiana Swain, Beverly Mutrie or Maryann Kasprzak) to find out more about activities and determine if you would like to join the Commission. We have room for more members and welcome inquiries.

I would also like to reproduce part of former member Dean Glover's letter of resignation as follows, for it helps provide additional insight into the joys of participating in preserving our town's rich heritage...
(from Dean Glover)

“Throughout our time in New Hampshire, from 1974 to this past spring, I enjoyed learning the history of the area, and particularly appreciated the heritage an established nature of Hampton Falls. I have always been interested in historical artifacts, early architecture, objects of value and traditional New England customs. Serving on the Heritage Commission furthered my appreciation of such things, important to me in my life. I only hope my brief time on the committee assisted the town in moving farther toward a sense of preservation and appreciation of what great assets they possess. Certainly your work in the present will be noted by residents far into the future.”

Dean is now a full-time minister at a small church in Port Orange, Florida. As for his statement above, the only thing I have to say is – AMEN! That, and,

THANKS, Dean, for all you have done for Hampton Falls.

David French, Chairman

ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Town of Hampton Falls has not yet adopted property tax exemptions for certain renewable energy systems that homeowners could consider for installation. A warrant article will be on the ballot this coming winter for town vote.

What is a Renewable Energy Property Tax Exemption? NH RSA [72:61-72](#) permits cities and towns to offer exemptions from local property taxes for certain renewable energy installations. These include solar thermal (for example, to heat water), solar photovoltaic (to generate electricity), wind (to generate electricity) and **central** wood-fired heating systems (not stoves or fireplaces).

Currently in Hampton Falls, homeowners can be assessed additional property value and taxed based upon the additional assessed value of these systems, which can reduce or eliminate the financial benefit of owning one of these systems. These exemptions are intended to eliminate this disincentive by exempting the value of the system from property tax assessment. As reported by the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), [84 cities and towns](#) throughout NH have adopted one or more renewable energy property tax exemptions. Seacoast area towns that have adopted these provisions include Hampton, North Hampton, South Hampton, Rye, Stratham, Newmarket and Portsmouth.

For further information, please go to the OEP's website:

<http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/energy/RenewableEnergyIncentives.htm> for additional information on [procedures for adopting local property tax exemptions](#) and [sample warrant articles](#) for adopting the renewable energy property tax exemptions.
