

# TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

March / April 2024

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Edward B. Beattie, Chairman; Lou Gargiulo, Vice Chairman; Mark R. Lane, Selectman

### **2024 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session (Town Election) March 12<sup>th</sup> 2023, 8AM – 8PM; Lincoln Akerman School – 8 Exeter Road**

**2024 TOWN BUDGET & 2023 TOWN REPORT:** On January 03, 2024, a budget public hearing was held by the Board of Selectmen to review the proposed 2024 budget and to allow the public to voice opinions and ask questions. At the February 06, 2024, Town Deliberative Session, voters learned of the recommended budget as well as other warrant articles being presented on the 2024 Town ballot. The 2024 operating budget was amended to \$3,597,047 that is a variance from the 2023 budget of \$252,529. The 2024 default budget totals \$3,483,572. The increase is predominantly due to an increase in health insurance rates, IT Support services and the costs associated with three elections.

The 2023 Town and School Report is available at the Town Hall, and at the Library. In an effort to keep costs down, a limited number of reports were printed and made available for pick-up during regular business hours. It is requested that only one copy per household be obtained. An electronic copy can be viewed at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org). The Town Report provides information from departments to include statistical and financial reports. It also has handy reference information such as contact numbers and hours of Town departments and officials, schedules of fees, board and committee activity and includes similar information pertaining to the schools.

Come and attend an important meeting **Wednesday, April 03, 2024 at 6:00pm at Town Hall**, Selectmen's meeting to find out about a **new check-in process for elections, with Ballot Clerks using Poll Pads**. The Board of Selectmen are in the process of making a decision regarding the poll pad equipment (iPads, scanner, and mini-printer) and the Selectmen want to provide the opportunity to residents to learn more about this new procedure, and to ask questions. For people unable to attend this Public Information Meeting, the Selectmen's meetings are recorded on **Town Hall Streams** to watch either Live Stream (during the meeting) or On Demand (after the meeting) by going to: [www.townhallstreams.com](http://www.townhallstreams.com) and look under Hampton Falls, NH to find the meeting name and date to watch and listen.

## FROST BAN NOTICE

In order to prevent heavy vehicles from damaging town roads whenever the frost thaws within town roadways, the Board of Selectmen have enacted the annual Frost Ban Notice. The Road agent will determine when roads will need to be restricted for vehicles exceeding a gross vehicle weight of 10 tons on any town road. The Frost Ban Notice will be lifted typically in approximately 3-4 weeks, weather dependent, and at the recommendation of the Road Agent to the Board of Selectmen.

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**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Karen Anderson**  
[townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org) 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 103

**HOUSEHOLD BULKY WASTE DAYS:** Household bulky waste disposal is coming back! The disposal of bulky items can be done on the first Saturday of each month, beginning on May 4, 2024 through October 5, 2024. Residents **will need** a valid Brush Dump Sticker (\$30.00 for 3 years) and pre-pay for the disposal at the Town Clerk's Office.

The fees remain the same as last year, with a per trip \$20.00 and/or specific fees for items for which the town incurs additional costs. These fees **must be prepaid** at the Town Clerk's Office where a receipt will be provided to show the Brush Dump Attendant. If only bringing an item with a specific fee, such as electronics, tires, propane tanks or items containing freon – no trip fee is charged. Mixed loads require both the trip fee and the cost item fee. The price list is available on the town's website. Go to: [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org), Departments, Recycling & Solid Waste, for more detailed information.

**Scheduled 2024 Bulky Waste - First Saturdays:** May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 2, October 5  
Please feel free to reach out to Russ Hilliard or Karen Anderson with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have at [townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org).

## **TAX EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS - 2024**

The Hampton Falls voters, over the years, have recognized the importance of assisting its elderly and disabled residents with property tax exemptions and have honored their Veterans with a generous Veteran's credit. The cost of the exemptions and tax credits that are granted to qualified property owners is shared by all other property tax payers, which is why any changes to the State's minimum requirements must be voted at Town Meeting. Many property owners enjoy the benefits of these credits, exemptions and deferrals, while there may be other residents who are not aware of the options available. A tax credit is an amount of money deducted directly from the taxpayer's tax bill, and a tax exemption is the amount of money that is deducted from the assessed valuation of the real estate before the property tax is billed. The State of New Hampshire requires municipalities to provide some of these benefits, with the Town having the option to set the limits and establish requirements that are more favorable than the State's minimums and to offer additional exemptions that are not required. The Town Clerk can provide applications and instructions for filing for all exemptions and credits available.

## **VETERANS TAX CREDIT**

The State of New Hampshire, through RSA 72:28 requires towns to provide a minimum tax credit to qualifying veterans of \$50 with the option for Town Meeting to increase that up to \$750. Hampton Falls residents voted to increase the Veteran's Credit to \$600 in 2019. The requirements to qualify for a Veterans Credit are set by the State and require that the property must be the principal residence of the Veteran and the Veteran must have lived in New Hampshire for one year preceding the April 1<sup>st</sup> that the credit begins. The Veteran must have also served for not less than 90-days of active duty and have been honorably discharged.

The Veteran does not have to be the owner of the property; if the wife owns the property and the husband is the veteran, they qualify for the credit. If a son and his parents share a home and the son is the veteran, the parents do not qualify. If an un-married couple own a property together and only one of the owners qualifies for the credit, one-half of the credit can be applied. Widows of veterans continue to qualify for the credit and just need to re-file the application as a widow. There are additional credits available for veterans with service-related total disabilities.

# **TOWN & LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS**

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## **ELDERLY EXEMPTIONS**

All municipalities in New Hampshire are required to offer a tax exemption for elderly residents who are 65-years of age or older and who have lived in New Hampshire for three consecutive years. There are minimum financial requirements that are set by the State, and towns then have the ability to adjust those requirements through Town Meeting votes. The property must be owned by the resident, jointly with a spouse, or in trust with the qualifying person shown as a trustee to qualify. If the property is owned jointly with someone other than a spouse who does not meet the age requirement, the exemption is prorated based on the percentage of ownership. As voted in 2019, the financial requirements are that the tax payer must have a net income of not more than \$45,000 if single, or \$65,000 if married; and own assets not in excess of \$220,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. The exemption amount for residents who qualify between the ages of 65 and 74 is \$150,000; for residents between 75 – 79 the exemption amount is \$170,000 and for residents age 80 and over the exemption amount is \$190,000. The net income is defined as all moneys received from any source, including social security and pensions, and then deducting proceeds from the sale of assets such as stocks. The town is required to certify that residents receiving the elderly exemption continue to qualify and that is done periodically. During 2023, all recipients were required to recertify as part of the Town's State Certification process.

## **DISABLED EXEMPTION**

Residents who are 100% disabled and receiving Social Security disability payments are eligible for a property tax exemption of \$150,000. The income limits are \$45,000 for a single person and \$65,000 for a married person. The assets limit for this exemption is \$220,00.

## **TAX DEFERRALS**

Another option that is available to Hampton Falls' elderly residents is a tax deferral. This is very different from the tax exemption because the property taxes that are assessed are paid by the Town, and a tax deferral lien is placed on file at the Registry of Deeds. At the time the property is sold or deeded to someone else, the taxes are then paid, with a 5% interest rate. This deferral is available to elderly or disabled property owners if the tax liability causes an undue hardship or possible loss of the property. If there is a mortgage on the property, permission for this lien must be given by the mortgage company. There are other restrictions on this deferral and the Town Administrator will be happy to explain them to any resident interested, and can be reached at the town office 603-926-4618 x 103 or via email at [townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org).

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**TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – Stephanie Grant** Mon–Wed 8am–3:30pm; Thurs 8am–6pm  
[townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org) 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH 12<sup>th</sup> TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS:** Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may submit the signed application form(s) (available on-line) to the Town Clerk any time prior to the upcoming election. The ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to the election. Absentee ballots are subject to restrictions as to their proper distribution and return.

**VOTER REGISTRATION:** Residents who would like to register to vote in town may do so with the Town Clerk up until February 29, 2024 or with the Supervisors of the Checklist on election day (show proof of identity, age and domicile).



**TOWN ELECTION:** The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at **Lincoln Akerman School**. Hampton Falls' voters will vote on all articles and the annual budget by ballot. **I.D. IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION.**

**2024 DOG LICENSES:** The 2024 dog tags are available from the Town Clerk's office (in person or on-line). **ALL DOGS IN TOWN SHOULD BE LICENSED BY APRIL 30** each year as required by state RSA 466:1. Rabies vaccination certificate(s) are only required if rabies expiration date has expired. **Each dog not licensed by May 31 will automatically receive an additional \$25 civil forfeiture fine (RSA 466:13).** If you no longer own a dog(s), call 1-603-926-4618; Ext. 101 or 106, or e-mail us at [townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org); and we will remove your name from the list.

## **VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

**Documents needed if you have bought a new vehicle/trailer/motorcycle:**

- Your driver's license
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk copy at the bottom)

**Documents needed if you wish to transfer your old plates to a new vehicle:**

- Your driver's license
- Old registration -Transfers require the original, current registration(s) RSA 261:168
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk Copy)

**Please continue to renew your registrations online, as well as licensing dogs.** Please visit the Town Clerk's page on [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org) to renew online. You may also renew your vehicle by dropping off a copy of your previous registration, copy of your license and a payment (please see above) and drop into the outside mailbox. You can also come to the office to process a renewal.

**A government issued Photo I.D. is required for all motor vehicle transactions, per RSA 261:148.**

-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 as possible (at least 15 minutes before closing).



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Please call: 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 or email [townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org) with any questions or concerns.

**FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE:** Please call ahead to schedule an appointment to apply for a marriage license. Please note the appointment will take about 30-45 minutes. Any New Hampshire Town or City Clerk can do the filing for a marriage license. The cost is \$50 and requires both persons' I.D. and final divorce or death certificates if filing for a subsequent marriage other than your first.

**VITAL RECORDS AND 3-YEAR DUMP STICKERS ON-LINE:** You can request "certified" copies of NH Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce certificates on-line by choosing Vital Records on the town web page, please also email a picture of your driver's license when requesting any certified copy to [townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org). Requests for self-cling, 3-year brush dump stickers (required for brush disposal and household waste collection days) are available on-line or from the Town Clerk's office at a cost of \$30 each.



**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAYS:** A reminder that the Town Clerk's office is closed to the public on Fridays.

**TAX INFORMATION:** As of December 5, 2023, all unpaid property taxes are now delinquent and are accruing interest. Please call or check the website for the correct amount due before sending your payment. Any 2023 unpaid taxes will be lienied on April 11, 2024. You can also pay your taxes online at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org). Please be aware there is a 2.95% charge to use your debit/credit card and a \$0.95 charge to use an online check. This fee is charged by the credit card company and bank, not by the Town of Hampton Falls. The Tax Office is merged with the Town Clerk Office, so when coming to Town Hall to pay your taxes please go to the Town Clerk window. Anyone who wishes to apply for the Veteran's Tax Credit, or one of the exemption categories, should submit their application by April 15.



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**BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark Sikorski** Office hours: Mon, Tues 8am to Noon, Thurs. 2 to 6 PM  
[buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org) 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 105

**SPRING DRAINAGE ISSUES:** Not much snow or ice thaw to worry about this year but showers are inevitable. Pay attention to where the water from your driveway is going. If it is heading towards the road check to see if the roadway culvert is clear enough to accept the flow. Please remember that each homeowner is responsible for culverts that travel under their driveways at the road's edge. Cold nights can refreeze water on roads and if it's not making it into a drainage area, the town would like to know. Give us a call and it will be addressed. If you are using a sump pump for your basement avoid depositing the water directly onto a roadway. If the situation cannot be avoided contact the Road Agent for advice.

**A NUMBER CAN SAVE A LIFE:** Is your house number visible from the street? Is there a number on your mailbox? Make it easy to see and put a number on both sides. It could be as simple as the FEDEX driver being able to find your house, yet if a threatening situation occurred, it could mean the difference between life and death. Next time you are approaching your home, look at it through the eyes of a first responder. Can you clearly see your address from the street? Precious seconds save precious lives.

**SPRING AHEAD! CHANGE BATTERIES:** What condition are your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in? Is the power on to the units? Spring means change the batteries, yes, hard wired detectors also have backup batteries. Nothing worse than having a smoke alarm start chirping at 2 AM. Use good quality batteries not a discount store. Units older than 10-years need replacement (7 for CO alarms). If looking to change a unit consider types with both 120 volt and 10-year non replaceable worry-free batteries. These units will save a life.



**PLANNING TO REMODEL OR ADD ON?:** Time for a new deck or pool? A pool is considered a structure. If a pool project is on the list remember that patios constructed as part of a pool count towards structure setback calculations while required fence surrounds do not. Visit the town web site for links to frequently used permit applications. Consult with the Building Office for buildable areas of your property. There are required setbacks from property lines and wetland areas. Applications can take time to approve if certain conditions exist. Please remember that Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms are required to be brought up to current standards as part of most remodeling. Plan ahead and make the job easier for everyone involved. Accessory dwelling units need special attention. Sizing, septic support and locations are important. Please ask if you're unsure. Permits are an easy way to keep a contractor honest. Check references! The building office was tasked with two projects last year involving dishonest tradesmen. One project left the homeowners out over \$100,000.00! Don't be a victim of anxious completion. *NEVER* write a check without specific contract verbiage. *NEVER* pay ahead for unaccomplished work. Make an inspection a *REQUIREMENT* to the contractor before issuing a progress payment. *NEVER* make a final payment without a final inspection from the building office or Certificate of Occupancy in hand. If you have questions or need help contact the Building Inspector's office at: 603-926-4618 ext. 105 or by e-mail at [buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org)  
Now....Uncover the toys and enjoy the warm weather!

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## POLICE DEPARTMENT, Chief Ryan Venio

[hfallspd@hamptonfallspd.com](mailto:hfallspd@hamptonfallspd.com) Non-emergency #:1-603-926-4619



Punxsutawney Phil let everyone know that it will be an early Spring. Just in case Phil was wrong remember that with wet roads and cold nights, black ice can form and be very dangerous.

There have been many calls received by the Police Department about people out on the ice on the Taylor River. As winter winds down, please be especially careful if you're out on the ice.

With the nicer weather coming and more people out and about, please remember to slow down and share the road with walkers, runners, bicyclists, and equestrians.

**Happy Spring from all of the Hampton Falls Police Department!**

And as always...See Something? Say Something!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief

[chief@hffd.org](mailto:chief@hffd.org) non-Emergency calls: 1-603-926-5752

- With the lack of snow this year (but not lack of precipitation) the ground water level is up, so is your sump pump working?
- Even though Winter didn't leave a lot of snow, it can still snow before Spring. So, with the crazy weather while heating systems are still in use - make sure to clean wood stoves or pellet stoves to keep them functioning properly.
- If you have had a Seasonal Burn Permits within the last 2-years, and haven't changed the location, you can renew with a simple phone call to the Fire Station 603-926-5752. If it's a new request please call for an inspection, to obtain a permit for the rest of the year.
- Sign up for NH Alerts at the ReadyNH.gov page. NH Alerts will notify you (text and/or call) if there is an emergency in your area (includes storm warnings, road closures, police action, and others.)
- Have you developed a fire escape plan and practiced a family fire drill? Good to practice both in the daylight and in the dark.
- Fun outside event on **April 8<sup>th</sup> at about 1:30 pm** is the Solar eclipse - it will be a partial eclipse in Hampton Falls. To see the total eclipse you'll have to go north of Lake Winnepesaukee – and make sure to use proper safety glasses for viewing.
- From the medical side of the house - a few things to write down and have ready if you call for an ambulance: List of medications (name/dose/frequency), any allergies (drug or environmental), brief recent medical history (diabetic, high BP, COPD, etc.)
- **March 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8 pm** at the Hampton Beach Seashell Complex 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will be a Flood & Emergency Preparedness discussion. Topics include: Emergency supply kits and plans (presented by Chief Lord), Protecting your property and family during severe weather, Evacuation and sheltering decisions and other topics - hope to see you there.

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HAMPTON FALLS FREE LIBRARY, Joanna Meighan; Tu/Th/Fri 10-5, Wed 1-8, Sat 10-2  
7 Drinkwater Road, [www.hamptonfallslibrary.org](http://www.hamptonfallslibrary.org) 1-603-926-3682



**Greetings from Your Library!:** Visit the Hampton Falls Library for great books, conversations, and programs. The following are just some of the events coming in March and April, 2023:

## *History and Mystery: A Genealogy Starter Guide*

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

Do you spend a lot of time in graveyards wondering about the names behind the stones? Then you just might be a genealogy enthusiast! Join genealogist and researcher Erin E. Moulton to explore useful methods for research planning through the case study of Elsie Gaskin. Sponsored by NH Humanities.

## *Strategic Planning Kickoff Party*

**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm**

The Library is planning for its future. Mark your calendars to join the planned kickoff party.

<u>WHAT WILL BE DONE?</u>	<u>HOW WILL THE PLAN BE ACCOMPLISHED?</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listen to the public's thoughts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitated public focus groups</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define the Library's role</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One-on-one interviews</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn best practices</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public survey</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Researching leading library practices</li></ul>	
<u>WHY?</u>	<u>WHY NOW?</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update programs and services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address changing needs and trends</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enable focused budgeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enable long term planning for improvements</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan for the future</li></ul>		

## *TechConnect with Wendy Harrington*

**Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-11am**

Want to be more comfortable in today's digital world? The Tech Connect series of workshops aim to provide confidence in using everyday technology in a stress-free learning atmosphere. Wendy Harrington, Library staff and an educational technologist of 25+ years, will lead each workshop. Whether you are a technophobe or a technowiz, all are welcome. Mutual sharing and learning are guaranteed! See Library website for sign up.

## *Cookbook Club: Mushrooms!*

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

The theme for this meeting is mushrooms. Come by the library to check out a cookbook to find inspiration, then prepare the recipe and bring the completed product along with a copy of the recipe to share with other members. New members always welcome. Sign up on the Library website to participate.



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## *Vernal Pools*

**Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

Vernal Pools are small, temporary woodland ponds that serve both as critical breeding habitat for frogs and salamanders, and as important feeding grounds for many reptiles, birds, and mammals. Join UNH Extension Wildlife Conservation State Specialist, Haley Andreozzi, to learn about Vernal Pool ecology, the wildlife that rely on them, threats facing Vernal Pools, and conservation actions that can benefit these important habitats. Participants will learn about the steps involved to document a Vernal Pool and useful available resources. The program is co-hosted with the Hampton Falls Conservation Commission.

**YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Visit the Library's [website](#) for information to sign up for programs.

## *Home School Meet-up:*

Stop in to collaborate on art; play chess; work on a project; or work on a puzzle; meant to encourage collaboration and socialization.

## *Story Times:*

**Birth to Pre-K Story Time:** Story times for birth to pre-k will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. No sign up necessary.



**Evening Story Time:** Evening story times for all ages will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Signup is not required.

**After School Story Time\*:** After school story times will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Grades 1-4.

**Kindergarten Club\*:** Kindergarten Club will be held on Wednesdays.

\*All after-school story time attendees take the school bus to the library; pickup is at 3:45. Snacks and drinks will be served; please let us know if your child has any allergies we should be aware of. Sign up is required.

## *For School-Aged Kids:*

**Art Club:** Watercolors with Let's Make Art, held once monthly on a Wednesday from 4:15 - 4:45: Grades 1-5. Sign up is required.



**LEGO Club:** Build and design with LEGO, Keva Blocks, Plus Plus Blocks, and Snap Circuits! held once monthly on a Wednesday from 4:00 - 5:00. Grades K-5; Sign up will be required.

## *Activities for the Littlest Library Friends:*

**Messy Play:** Designed for children in pre-K and younger, messy play sessions are the third Friday monthly, including: sensory bins, blocks, water play, paint, and more. Please dress your child in clothes that can get wet or dirty. Drop-in; sign up not required.

**1,000 Books Before Kindergarten:** This program is a national program that encourages early literacy and fosters a love for reading. Open for enrollment for children from birth to age 5.

[Sign up here](#) for the Library's monthly newsletter and announcements.



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## ENERGY COMMITTEE – Carol Schutte, Chair

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall

The Hampton Falls Energy Committee is grateful to the Kensington Energy Committee for sharing their home energy saving video series. The initial video is now posted and future deep dives into specific areas will be posted here in the future. <https://www.youtube.com/@KensingtonEnergyCommittee/videos>

**Hold the date: May 22, 2024 at 6 PM.** The Energy Committee and the Library will host a speaker from the NH Saves Button Up New Hampshire program. The **NH Saves Button Up Workshop** is a 1.5-hour presentation about how to improve the energy efficiency of your home. It is conducted by a certified energy auditor and covers



basic building science principles as well as examples of whole house weatherization measures that will button up your home for the heating and cooling seasons. It also covers details about the energy efficiency programs offered by NH utilities (for existing homes and new construction) that provide energy audits, weatherization measures such as air sealing and insulating and rebates on new technologies and products such as electric and gas appliances and high efficiency electric heating/cooling equipment. More details will be provided as the date approaches.

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Jason Farias, Chair, [jfarias@sau21.org](mailto:jfarias@sau21.org); Barbara Goodman, Vice-Chair, [bgoodman@sau21.org](mailto:bgoodman@sau21.org); Anthony Lang, [alang@sau21.org](mailto:alang@sau21.org); Renee Palm, [rpalm@sau21.org](mailto:rpalm@sau21.org); and Jill Swasey, [jswasey@sau21.org](mailto:jswasey@sau21.org)

**Arts at LAS:** LAS enjoyed a successful Winter Concert in February with all students participating in Chorus, Band, or Guitar. Huge thanks to Shannon Lundin and Robert McClung for all their incredible work!

**Plays are back!** Both K-4 and 5-8 students will perform in Spring plays. More information on dates to follow.

**2024-2025 school registration:** LAS is accepting applications for the Tiger Cub Preschool Program. The 3-yr-old program is Mon to Thurs from 8:30 am to 11:00 am, and the 4-yr-old program is Mon to Fri from 12:15 to 2:45pm. Eligible children must be 3 or 4 yrs old by Sept. 30, 2024. Kindergarten Registration is now open.

**Portrait of a Learner:** For the past two years, the Portrait of a Learner (POL) Plan has played a pivotal role in shaping the vision and guiding actions within SAU 21. At the January Joint SAU 21 School Board meeting goals were approved for the POL 2024-2029 Strategic Plan so the curricula across districts will continue to align with tracking performance and developing opportunities to meet shared goals. More information available at: <https://www.sau21.org/portrait-of-a-learner/index>

**Continued importance of Wellness:** The NH Department of Education recently shared an open letter to parents written by John T. Broderick, Jr., former Senior Director of External Affairs at Dartmouth-Hitchcock and former Chief Justice of the NH Supreme Court. Chief Justice Broderick traversed New England for seven yrs speaking to middle and high school kids across 360 schools (including Winnacunnet last January) about mental health awareness. His message was that, "our kids are not ok". [Read that full letter here.](#)

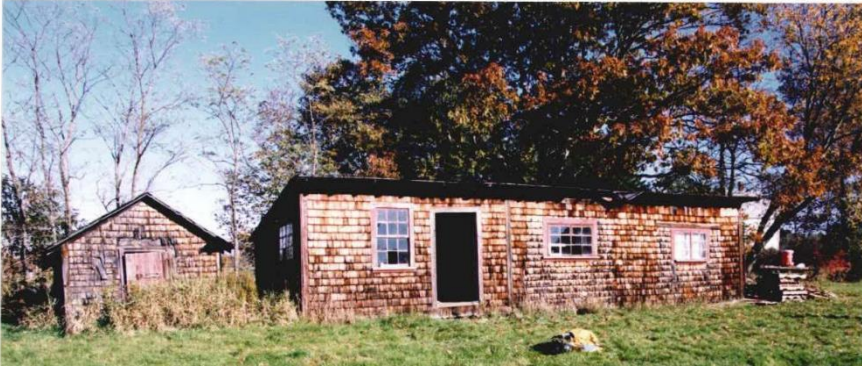
**Upcoming Dates:** March 19: HFSB Meeting @ 6:30pm; March 20: WHSB Meeting @ 6pm.

Thank you to the Hampton Falls community for continued support of LAS and Winnacunnet schools!

## HERITAGE COMMISSION - Beverly Mutrie, Chair

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am at Town Hall

### Barns, Woodsheds, Chicken Houses, Outhouses, OH MY!



Hampton Falls was originally settled in the 1640s by land grants, all south of the Taylor's River. Rev. Stephen Bachiler received 300 acres; another 300 acres given to Rev. Timothy Dalton; 250 acres granted to Christopher Hussey, John Crosse and John Brown. Early settlers needed a farm with enough acreage and a salt marsh parcel to support various animals and crops. Consequently, most early barns were primarily built to house equipment, dried hay and shelter for their animals. They were built of heavy

hand-hewn post and beams, about 30'x40', with the main door on the side, now called an English Barn. Later farmers gradually expanded their dairy herds to sell milk to the Boston market and thus had to build bigger barns. Because of snow, the double doors were moved to the gable end and thus a Yankee Barn. The original settlement pattern resulted in a large house next to the road, connected to a smaller woodshed connected to a large barn with surrounding open fields. This is what many residents and visitors now treasure about Hampton Falls.

As farms grew, barns and outbuildings such as chicken houses, carriage barns, stables and even ice houses became more important to farmers. Eventually, construction methodology and materials also changed from the large overbuilt post and beam structures with wooden pegs and hand-hewn boards to modern circular sawn beams and iron spikes. Barn experts can look at the joinery and tell approximately when an historic outbuilding was constructed. Barn restoration firms can provide barn assessments (with grants from the NH Preservation Alliance) to determine age and recommend the proper steps for repair. It is well worth the small cost. You can apply at [www.nhpreservation.org/nhpa-old-house-and-barn-resources](http://www.nhpreservation.org/nhpa-old-house-and-barn-resources).

One of the goals of the Heritage Commission is to create a photographic survey of a few barns in town to show the different construction styles and ages. As part of the Heritage Commission's purpose under the state RSAs to educate residents, a barn photographic survey will help owners learn about their outbuilding(s). The Heritage Commission can provide information and resources on repairs or historical information and ways to reduce repair expense. There are many ways to preserve or repair an older structure that has partially succumbed to neglect or time.

Another goal of the Heritage Commission is to make corrections to the 2022 Historic Resources Booklet and to add additional houses that are at least 75-years-old, and to eventually put the information online with an interactive map. Any information is welcomed regarding Hampton Falls' old houses and the families who lived in them, especially any photographs.

The Heritage Commission is also charged with adjudicating the Demolition Delay Ordinance, which thankfully has only been a few times in the past ten years. Since Hampton Falls does not have a Local Historic District, historic houses and barns can be drastically changed or even torn down. This process begins when an owner applies for a Demolition Permit with the Building Inspector. The Heritage Commission, however, must visit,



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survey, and research the importance of each building for our records so at least we can preserve the structure in pictures.

The Heritage Commission currently consists of four hard-working, knowledgeable members and there is a vacancy for someone interested in preserving and educating the public about the importance of historic buildings and streetscapes to enhance the 'look' of Hampton Falls. Monthly meetings are typically on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 9 am to learn what is happening with real estate, historic farms, and downtown. The Heritage Commission is happy to consult with residents of older homes to answer questions about the history of their property and how to repair and maintain it.



Anyone with an interest in preserving their 'Old House or Barn' should attend the NH Preservation Alliance's Old House and Barn EXPO at St. Anslem's College in Goffstown March 16 and 17. It is two days of show and tell from experts on the repair of historic properties. Learning why historic buildings are so special is well worth the time!

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Mary Ann Hill, Chair

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall.

Spring activities are in the air - weather permitting. **April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day.** The Conservation Commission will be hosting the annual **Roadside Cleanup on Saturday April 20th.** Rain/snow date will be Saturday April 27th. On Wednesday **April 24th** the Conservation Commission is co-hosting a **program on Vernal Pools** at the Library. See the Library Newsletter for details. There will be a follow-up tour of a few select Vernal Pools in Hampton Falls so nature lovers can see the interesting details of Vernal Pools for themselves.

There was a presentation by NH Fish and Game, with an impassioned plea for turtle protection. There are seven (7) turtle species native to NH and the following four (4) are in serious danger of extinction, namely, Blandings, Spotted, Eastern Box, and Wood turtles. Blandings, Spotted, and Wood turtles live in several types of wetlands, including Vernal Pools, which some use for hatchlings and for mating. The Eastern Box is completely terrestrial, living in power line rights-of-way and fields. Most turtles travel for miles during a year, that helps them find mates from a different genetic pool. Turtles that are restricted to a small geographic area by highways and dense development are called the 'walking dead' by researchers because such populations are doomed to die out completely.



The NH Association of Conservation Commissions offered a series of "Lunch and Learn" zoom seminars for the winter months. The first program was about the Natural Resource Conservation Service and how it supports local conservation commissions in planning, stewardship, incentives, work with disadvantaged people, and conservation easement programs. The second program was on land use planning for wildlife, that offered case studies of zoning to protect wildlife and their habitats, and other opportunities for wildlife-related protection. Many people love wild life in the wild, but how do you keep them out of the garbage cans and the attic? The next two webinars will be on the topics of *Wetlands for Wildlife* and *Town Lands for Wildlife*.

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The Conservation Commission has not given up on its intention to extend the trail at the Raspberry Farm into the Town Forest and is working on an easily maintained plan. Ideally part of the trail will consist of boardwalks so hikers can explore more of the site with minimal impact to the plants and soils. The Conservation Commission is looking for new members. Please contact the Chair at: [conservationchair@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:conservationchair@hamptonfalls.org).

## RECREATION COMMISSION – Gisela Manna, Chairwoman

Meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

The mission of the Recreation Commission is to provide programs and events that develop the physical condition and wellness of residents, young and old, to benefit their quality of life. The Recreation Commission encourages volunteerism to promote unity within the community. The Hampton Falls Recreation Commission's current members are Gisela Manna – Chair, Colleen Farias – Vice Chair and Communications, Linda Savoy – Treasurer, Kara Dumont – Secretary, and Members – Pam Fitzgerald, DeDe Kouloheras, Karla Donatelli and new members Janice Troisi and Silvia Archer. Mark Lane advises as the Selectmen's Representative. Larry Smith is the Governor Weare Park Liaison.

The Recreation Commission extends a warm welcome to its two newest members: Janice Troisi and Silvia Archer and look forward to all their ideas and help with coming events. The Recreation Commission is always looking for people to volunteer. If you have a passion for building community spirit and/or have creative ideas and want to help encourage social bonds, please consider joining the Hampton Falls Recreation Commission and start by attending a meeting or watching a meeting on [www.townhallstreams.com](http://www.townhallstreams.com).



Enjoy a relaxing night with Lyndsay learning to paint a seasonal canvas. No experience is needed as she walks attendees through the process step by step. Next session will be held Wednesday March 27, 2024 at 6:30pm at Town Hall. Cost is \$30 a person and includes light snack and drink.

The Recreation Commission is excited to offer a beginning Yoga Class for teens. Come with an open heart and mind to experience the connection to the body on a mat and leave your expectations at the door. Please bring a mat and water bottle. Cost is \$10 per session or \$30 for all 4 sessions. Upcoming sessions: Mon Mar 11, Mon Mar 18, Mon Mar 25 and Mon Apr 1, all held at Town Hall from 3:30-4:30pm.

Consider joining the Chair Yoga Class, a welcoming and inclusive environment perfect for beginners and those looking to deepen their practice. Chair Yoga enhances flexibility and strength, calms the mind, and improves posture and balance. Cost is \$6 a session. Upcoming sessions: Wed Mar 13, Wed Mar 20, Wed Mar 27, Wed Apr 3 and Wed Apr 10, all held at 27 Brown Rd, Hampton Falls in Building Two, Community Room at the Meadows from 9-10am. Reserve your spot at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/1OCO54EABAA28A2FDo-47611699-adult>

Cribbage Workshops are held on Tuesdays at the Community Room at The Meadows, for those residents who want to learn how to play cribbage. A group has been playing regularly and more are welcome to join.

The Recreation Commission has been hard at work to plan some new events for the coming months. Stay tuned for more details.



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Healey-Beattie, President

“Your Future Is A Present From The Past”

Spring perennials are boasting a four-inch growth and soon there will be a plethora of yellow daffodils to welcome you to the Museum! Stepping inside, Hampton Falls' history is being studied through the efforts of Curator Linda Hladik, as well as Anne Coombs and Beverly Mutrie. Historic Town papers, as well as artifacts received from residents, are carefully accessioned for future generations. Trustees are researching houses and buildings that existed along Lafayette Road around 1824, in conjunction with the Bicentennial Celebration of General Lafayette planned for September 01, 2024. On September 1, 1824, sixteen (16) citizens waited expectantly in their carriages in Hampton Falls to welcome to New Hampshire one of the most celebrated Revolutionary War veterans, General Lafayette. Trustees Wendy Harrington and Karen Sabatini have immersed themselves in planning for the September event, marking a reincarnation of this significant dedication. Work is happening behind the scenes to present some proposed plans to the Selectmen. The Historical Society hopes to have a tea party on the Common. If you have those china cups and saucers that your dear Aunt Mary gifted you annually and want to part with them, the Historical Society would be most grateful!



ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100th birthday in 1961, Helen French Batchelder was honored with a corsage from the then governor of New Hampshire, Wesley Powell, and the founding of a scholarship fund in her name. Mrs. Batchelder lived to be 104 years old, and personally gave out scholarship awards to Hampton Falls residents at two annual suppers arranged for the event.

An interesting exhibit on the Batchelder family is in its formative stages. Helen F. Batchelder and generations of her family lived next door to the Library, the building that is now the Museum. Helen Brown Batchelder lived to be 104 and, before her death, she was a living memorial. On her 100th birthday, a scholarship fund was founded in her name. Each year, scholarships are awarded to worthy Hampton Falls students who plan to attend college or technical schools. In 2024, the trustees of the Historical Society gifted the Helen F. Batchelder Scholarship Fund twelve-thousand-dollars (\$12,000) in support of this significant cause. Using various forms of research, the Historical Society anticipates an in-depth study of this remarkable woman and her ancestors.

The Historical Society plans to increase the days and hours open for the public to visit the Museum. There is much information to share and a comfortable chair for you to go back in time..... From all the Historical Society trustees, looking forward to seeing you at the Museum!