

# TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

January / February 2023

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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



*Happy Holiday wishes are extended to all, as well as sincere thanks to the employees, board members, committee members, volunteers, and those residents who make a unique and positive difference, for their dedication throughout the year(s) to the Town of Hampton Falls.*

## 2023 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING DATES & DEADLINES:

EVENT	DATES & DEADLINES: Location
Public Hearing on 2023 Proposed Budget	January 04, 2023, at 6:00 pm; Town Hall
Citizen Petition deadline	January 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm Town Administrator, Town Hall
Continued Public Hearing from Jan 04 <sup>th</sup> on 2023 Proposed Budget (only if receive Citizen Petitioned Articles)	January 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm; Town Hall (only if needed)
Sign-up Filing Period for Elected Office Mon-Wed at 8:00 am-3:30 pm; Thursday at 8:00 am-6:00 pm; Fri Feb 3 at 3:00 pm-5:00 pm	January 25 – February 03, 2023 Town Clerk office; Town Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> Session Town Meeting (Deliberative Session)	February 4 (Snow Date February 11) at 9 am Lincoln Akerman School
Snow Date for Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> Deliberative Session (only if needed)	February 11 <sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am (only if needed) Lincoln Akerman School
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session – Town Meeting (Town Voting)	March 14, 2023, from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm Lincoln Akerman School

## PARKING BAN AND SNOW REMOVAL

Townpeople are reminded that effective December 15, no overnight parking (6 pm to 6 am) is allowed on any town roadway. This ban will be in effect until April 1. A Selectmen's ordinance prohibits the plowing of snow onto public roads. It includes a fine for any person causing snow or ice to be placed upon the surfaces of the traveled portion of the road.

## BRUSH DUMP / CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

The Town Brush Dump closed for the winter months effective November 26, 2022 and will remain closed until April 1, 2023. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm for Christmas trees only (no tinsel or ornaments).

## ROAD AGENT, Russ Hilliard ROADS

New *Scenic Road* signs have been installed on scenic roads in Hampton Falls. If you live on a Scenic Road permission is required from the Town prior to removal of any trees within the road right-of-way along the street. *Low Salt Area* signs have also been installed in some stream sensitive areas near culverts. Please use caution when driving in these areas.

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**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Karen Anderson**

[townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org) 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 103

## **Hampton Falls 2022 Tax Rate**

Nobody likes to pay property taxes. This article explains how the Department of Revenue established the tax rate for the Town of Hampton Falls. Revenue from the local property tax generates most of the dollars needed to fund municipal and county government, and to operate the public schools. The basic formula for the tax rate is Total Appropriations divided by the Total Assessed Value = Tax Rate.

Taxation is broken into several steps. The first step is the appraisal and assessment of the property to determine the true value in money of all real property within the town so that each property is assessed in a proportionate way. The total value of all property in Hampton Falls is now \$503,622,716, which is just over a \$5 million increase. The increase is the result of new construction and improvements to current properties. The second step involves removing the exemptions and credits. Credits are available for elderly, disabled and blind residents who qualify totaling \$4,072,500 and veteran's credits of \$67,500.

The total appropriations start with the budget amounts approved by the voters at the annual town and school district meetings, the town's share of the county operating budget and the state education tax. Subtracted from that grand total are all the non-tax revenues such as motor vehicle registrations, State Aid, and miscellaneous fees such as building permits. In addition, the Board of Selectmen decide on a specific amount of money (not to exceed 5%) to be set aside for abatements. This is known as the "Overlay" and Hampton Falls has maintained \$5,977 for that purpose in 2022.

At the end of each year the town reviews the expenditures and revenues in compared with the appropriations and estimated revenues and determines what surplus remains from that year. That amount becomes known as the unassigned fund balance and is an area where judgment enters into the calculation of the tax rate. The Selectmen determine how much of that surplus is to be used to offset the tax rate. DRA recommends that towns retain between 5% and 17% of the town appropriations for cash flow and emergency purposes. The Board of Selectmen's Fund Balance Policy recommends the minimum 5%. This money may not be spent without town meeting approval, but does provide a mechanism for the town to recover from a disaster. At the end of 2021, Hampton Falls unassigned fund balance was \$582,525. This year \$175,000 was used to offset the tax rate and \$407,525 was retained. The school district has the same process and the surplus offsets the school rate – this year the school turned back \$248,241 to offset the tax rate. This process allows savings incurred in one year to be passed on to the taxpayers in the following year, while still leaving the town the ability to handle a disaster. As a result of the decrease in appropriations, increased assessed value and the use of fund balance by both the town and the school, the resulting tax rate decrease was thirteen-cents-per-thousand. The 2021 tax rate was \$21.12 and the 2022 tax rate is \$20.99. The 2022 Hampton Falls tax rate is based on the following calculations. The 2021 rate is shown for comparison.

<b><u>HAMPTON FALLS</u></b>	<b><u>2021- \$</u></b>	<b><u>2021 Rate</u></b>	<b><u>2022 - \$</u></b>	<b><u>2022 Rate</u></b>
Town Appropriation	\$1,841,088	\$ 3.70	\$1,936,239	\$ 3.85
County Appropriation	\$ 448,671	\$ 0.90	\$ 450,276	\$ 0.89
School Appropriation	\$7,221,977	\$14.50	\$7,483,094	\$14.86
State Education Tax	\$ 991,553	\$ 2.02	\$ 691,821	\$ 1.39
<b>TAX RATE</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21.12</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20.99</b>

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## **Great Changes Coming to Brush Dump**

As you may have realized, the Town was unable to hold the Fall 2022 “White Goods Day” due to permitting issues, of which the Town was not aware. The Town’s permit to operate has been approved by the State and after some specific documents are completed and approved, the Town will be ready to resume the bulky waste collections (aka “White Goods Day”). The Board has decided to try a new approach, opening the Brush Dump for bulky waste collections on one Saturday morning each month. Residents will need to pre-pay for their load (or specific items) at the Town Office and will receive a receipt that will allow you to bring materials to the brush Dump on the designated Saturday. It is believed that offering this service on a monthly basis will make it easier for residents by avoiding the necessity of storing items for several months prior to disposal.

The Town’s Road Agent has been certified by the State as the Town’s Principal Operator and will be overseeing the monthly bulky waste collection dates. Plans are underway for an area that will be used to put items that are re-useable and can be picked up by other residents – sort of a swap shop. The Town will be looking for volunteers to assist with that effort. Watch for more information about this on the Town’s website and the next newsletter covering March-April 2023, as details are finalized.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have at [townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townadministrator@hamptonfalls.org).

<b>TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – Stephanie Grant M-W 8 am – 3:30 pm, Th 8 am -6 pm</b> <a href="mailto:townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org">townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org</a> 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 or 106
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**Extended Office Hours:** The Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office is now open Mondays – Wednesdays 8 am to 3:30 pm and on Thursdays from 8 am to 6 pm. We remain open through the lunch hour. These updated hours have been in effect since September 6, 2022.

## **VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**The Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office is open to the public for walk-in service.**

**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 need 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 call into the office to process a renewal over the phone or come in and renew in person.

**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 we close).

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-A limit of 2 “regular” (renewals) vehicle transactions per person before close, please. Financial closeouts are required daily. Please call the Town Clerk’s office at 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 or email [townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org) with any questions or concerns.

## **INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS**

Click on the Town Clerk’s web page ([www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)), “Motor Vehicles Renewals,” then click on “Motor Vehicles Renew Online” and enter your information from your registration; you will receive your registration(s) and decal(s) through the mail. Renewals more than 3-months late and residents wanting to make changes will need to call the Town Clerk’s office for instructions.

## **FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE**

Please call ahead to schedule an appointment to apply for a new marriage license. Please note the appointment will take about 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. If filing for a subsequent marriage other than your first, you will also need to provide final divorce and/or death certificates.

## **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 Clerk’s web page, ([www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)); please 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 only; no longer required for household waste collection days) are available on-line or from the Town Clerk’s office at a cost of \$30-each, sticker is good for 3-years.

## **TOWN CLERK/TAX OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS**

A reminder that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s office is closed to the public on Fridays.

## **ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH 7, 2023 ELECTION**

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 regarding their proper distribution and return.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

Residents who would like to register to vote in town may do so with the Town Clerk, or the Supervisors of the Checklist, up until a week before the election or on Election Day (show proof of identity, age and domicile).

## **I.D. IS NOW REQUESTED TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION**

(Or, complete a challenged voter affidavit form)

## **CITIZENS’ PETITIONS, DEADLINE IS JANUARY 10, 2023**

Citizen’s petitions for the 2023 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Petitions must have twenty-five (25) legal voters’ (Hampton Falls registered voters) legible signatures on each petition (RSA 39:3) to be valid.

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## **ELECTION FILING FOR OFFICE**

The Town Deliberative Session will be held on February 4, beginning at 9 am at the Lincoln Akerman School (LAS), 8 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls, NH (snow date is February 11, beginning at 9 am at LAS). The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 8 am to 8 pm, at Lincoln Akerman School. 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 in person with Town Clerk, Stephanie Grant (or school positions only with School Clerk) between January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 3, 2023. The Town Clerk is open Monday - Wednesday, 8 am- 3:30 pm, Thursday 8am – 6pm and Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm for filing.

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

## **TAX COLLECTION**

The tax rate for 2022 is \$20.99 and as of December 22, 2022, all unpaid property taxes are delinquent and accruing interest. Please call the Tax Collector's office (1-603-926-4618 x 101 or 106) or check the website for the correct amount due before sending your payment. You can also pay your taxes online at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org) on the "Tax Collector" page click on the "View/Pay Tax Bills Online." 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. These fees are charged by the credit card company and/or bank; these fees are not charged by the Town of Hampton Falls.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT – Ryan Veno, Police Chief**

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

Winter is here and the Police Department has a few friendly reminders:

- Make sure to give yourself a little extra time to get to your destination when winter roads are snowy, icy, and slippery.
- Please take the extra time necessary to completely clean off your vehicle before driving, as Jessica's Law requires; let's keep our roads safe.
- After clearing your driveway, remember to clean up any snow that you may have inadvertently put on the road.
- During large storms or if you lose power, please check on your elderly neighbors.



The Police Department will be holding a program: "Coffee with a Cop" at the Hampton Falls Free Library on Friday, January 20, 2023, at 10:00 am.

**Happy New Year from all of us at the Hampton Falls Police Department!**

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



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**BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark Sikorski**  
[buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org)

**Mon, Tues & Thurs 8am to Noon**  
**1-603-926-4618, Ext. 105**

**Your Health is Our Health:** This Flu season promises to be a pesky one. Our efforts to isolate and protect ourselves from COVID left us with weaker antibodies and greater chances of contracting something. The temperatures are dropping and we are sheltering inside without the benefit of fresh air exchanges. Be vigilant of illnesses and continue safe distancing and sanitation. When mild days appear, open a window or two and freshen the home. Colds and flu are common this time of year so please don't hesitate to seek advice and care if unsure of conditions. Better days are ahead. Hampton Falls Strong.

**A Number Can Save a Life:** Is your house number visible from the street? Is there a number on your mailbox? 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.

We are deep into winter. The weather is cold. The windows are shut. Take a walk around the homestead. In what condition are your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms? Check the date codes printed on the back of the units. If they are over 10 years old it's time to replace. Is the power on to the units? Are the batteries in good shape? Don't forget the heat alarm in the garage. These units can save a life.

Today more homes than ever are connecting backup generator units to survive the more frequent power outages. These units create dangerous carbon monoxide fumes which left unchecked can be deadly. Take a moment and take a walk around. It could save a life. While you're at it take a moment to look over your generator connection for safe installation. If you are unsure, contact the Building Inspector's office. The Building Inspector can give you a quick review of your generator connection to ensure a safe and comfortable evening when the lights go out. Planning to remodel or add on? Visit the town web site at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org) for links to frequently used permit applications. 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 any remodeling. Plan ahead and make the job easier for everyone involved. If you have questions or need help, contact the Building Inspector's office at 1-603-926-4618 ext. 105 or by e-mail at [buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org).

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief**  
[chief@hffd.org](mailto:chief@hffd.org) Non-Emergency calls: **1-603-926-5752**

As we get deep snow, remember to clear all vents (dryer, water heaters, pellet stoves, etc.) around your house to prevent carbon monoxide from building up in your home; also, if you don't have a CO detector, go get one, they are inexpensive and worth the investment - you can also get CO/Smoke combination units.

If you have an LP propane tank also clear snow from the regulator where it enters the house.

Prior to the power going out, see the Town website/Fire Department page for generator safety tips.

Space heaters need a three-foot clearance to all combustibles.

If pipes freeze, use a hair dryer or hot water to thaw them out. .... don't use a flame torch.

Check your emergency kit supplies (for both your home and cars) – more information is available at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or [www.ReadyNH.gov](http://www.ReadyNH.gov).

You can also sign up for NH Alerts to notify you (text and/or call) if there is an emergency in your area (includes storm warnings, road closures, police action, and others). at the [www.ReadyNH.gov](http://www.ReadyNH.gov) page.

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## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – Lyn Stan, Chairwoman**

Meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

The Recreation Commission continues to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Chair Lyn Stan, Treasurer Karen Sabatini, Secretary Beth Forgione and members Pam Fitzgerald, Phil Chura, Kathy Dittami, and we welcomed new members Colleen Farias, Linda Savoy and Gisella Manna. The commission's Selectmen's Representative is Mark Lane and Governor Weare Park (GWP) Liaison is Larry Smith. Hampton Falls Recreation Commission traditionally brings fun to the Hampton Falls' community. The Recreation Commission makes every effort to offer quality programming and events for residents and the greater community.

The Recreation Commission is pleased that a dedicated team of volunteers continues to oversee the Governor Weare Park Ice Rink for this winter season. Special thanks to Doug, Wojo, Chris, Mark, John, Brad, and Dave along with Colleen and Jason, and many others who bring Ice Skating to Hampton Falls. THANK YOU!!! The Recreation Commission is excited this year to be offering night skating!!! The Open and Closed Ice Rink signs identify the times available for safe skating.

This year's Christmas Tree event, was at the Bandstand on the Town Common. Children adorned the tree with decorated wooden ornaments, by their own artful creations, which were provided by the Recreation Commission. At the official Tree Lighting ceremony, a guest appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Claus was enjoyed by all. The Claus' trip from the North Pole included the last leg of their journey by Hampton Falls Fire Truck.

After Santa lit the holiday tree, Mrs. Claus read the story, "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and sugar cookies by the fire as TJ Wheeler led everyone singing Christmas Carols. The Historical Society table was available for last minute holiday shopping. Many thanks to Pastor Ken Lawrence for his blessing. The Recreation Commission thanks Abby Tonry and Tonry Tree Farm for donating this year's Holiday tree for all to enjoy.



Hampton Falls is one of many towns participating in the Wreaths Across America Program this year, coordinated locally by Linda Savoy and Pam Fitzgerald. This year's ceremony was held at the Town Common on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm.

The Recreation Commission is always looking for people to complement their team. Do you have a passion to build community spirit or have creative ideas and want to help encourage social bonds? If you can answer YES, please consider joining the Recreation Commission.

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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Mary Ann Hill, Chair

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

Visitors to the Raspberry Farm will be happy to discover that the parking area has had gravel added to cover up protruding tree roots and to fill in pot holes near the street. Thank you, Russ Hilliard, for the nice job improving the parking area. Visitors will also see many (thirteen) burned areas.

Thank you, Jay Lord and Alexis Garrant for the Fire Department's burning of the invasive plant cutting piles generated by the Summer 2022 Interns at the Raspberry Farm



Conservation Coordinator, Brianna O'Brien, has completed an updated version of the *Citizen's Guide to Understanding Hampton Falls' Land Use Regulations that Protect Critical Water Resources*. It is full of useful and important information about Town wetland ordinances, vernal pools, prime wetlands, the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection

Act, and stewardship tips. It also contains a QR code that can be scanned for more detailed information and additional maps. This guide will be available in hard copy and on the Conservation

Commission's webpage on the Town's website. In addition to the Guide, the Conservation Commission will be doing an inventory of vernal pools for the NH Natural Resources Inventory in the coming year.

Another project one of the Conservation Commission members has been exploring is Living Shorelines. Living Shorelines are a way of creating a site that can be friendly to both boaters and the environment. The Depot Road Landing is a prime candidate for a Living Shoreline project. If there is a natural, and well-engineered site, then perhaps visitors will be less likely to use the Depot as a garbage dump.

The Conservation Commission has been getting more involved with other Conservation-minded groups in the Seacoast area since all share similar problems and goals. SHEA, Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Association is concerned primarily with the Salt Marsh and the estuary shared by the three Towns. PREP is the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership and covers the entire NH Seacoast estuary area from Great Bay to Seabrook. Connect the Coast Wildlife Corridors at UNH is working to identify conservation targets to protect a connected network of habitats so that wildlife can persist, thrive and move between extensive undeveloped areas. Then there is the HSE Collaborative consisting of all the Conservation Commissions on the NH Seacoast, representatives from SHEA, PREP, UNH, FB Environmental, NRCS, NOAA and other conservation consultants. The Collaborative is especially useful because the members aren't just spouting rhetoric, they have measurements of tides, water volumes, numbers of fish, distribution of indicator species over several years, etc. It is very interesting to see how things taken for granted are changing over time.

The number of fish in the Taylor River is drastically low. NH Fish and Game has tried to restock the river several times but the water is so toxic from lawn chemical runoff that the fish all die off. The Conservation Commission urges any resident whose property drains into the Taylor River or Hampton Falls River, or any of our brooks and streams, to please not put any chemicals on your lawn. Your lawn will grow fine without chemicals and can be healthier as a result. When you mow, leave the clippings on the lawn, and the clippings



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will breakdown and act like fertilizer. And don't water your lawn frequently, so the grass will develop deeper roots and will be healthier and more resilient.

Dog owners take note. The Conservation Commission has received several inquiries about dogs and leashes on Town properties; enough so that the Town Administrator and Police Chief have been working on a new Animal Control Ordinance to clarify matters. There is a current law in town that dogs must be on a leash on Town property, except for specific training or hunting. Please contact the Conservation Commission with your questions.

**HAMPTON FALLS FREE LIBRARY** - Joanna Meighan, Director

[director.hamptonfalls.library@comcast.net](mailto:director.hamptonfalls.library@comcast.net)



## Warm Winter Greetings from Your Library!

As the weather settles in, come down to the library for light and warmth in the form of great books, conversations, and programs. The following are some of the events coming in January and February 2023:

- **Friday, January 20, 2023, at 10am: "Coffee with a Cop"**

Stop by the library for coffee, doughnuts, and conversation with a Hampton Falls Police Officer. No sign up necessary.

- **Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 10-2: "Bring your Child to the Library Day":** Drop in and sign up for a library card, do a craft, play a game, and listen to a story. There will be drinks and refreshments. All family members welcome. No sign up necessary.

- **Wed., February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm: "Journey to Ethiopia" with Hampton Falls Resident, Scott Faiia**

Scott joined the Peace Corps in 1973. Since then, he has lived and worked in Asia for 26 years, in East Africa for nine years, in Haiti for three years and in Egypt for three years. His serious interest in photography developed as a means to interact with the diverse people and cultures he encountered in his work. Scott will introduce you to Ethiopia's natural beauty and fascinating culture. He will take you on a photographic journey through his images from Ethiopia and share his experiences living there in the 1980s. This was a time when Ethiopia faced its most devastating famine, when the country's people demonstrated that they could face their challenges with dignity and grace. This will be a thought-provoking and inspiring look into a culturally and geographically rich and diverse country. Join us at the library for this in-person event! (Snow Date February 15). Sign up for an email reminder on the Library's [website](#).

- **January and February: "Winter Reading Challenge":** Kids and Adults! Can't wait for summer reading? Join the Library's Winter Reading Challenge during all of January and February. Read a book to "float" your inner tube down the paper river for a chance to win a gift certificate to float the Saco River this summer, or win movie tickets! Come into the library starting December 27 to pick up your game sheet. (All reading counts, from fiction to non-fiction, picture books to novels, magazines to graphic novels, eBooks, and audiobooks.) All ages are welcome to participate. Prizes furnished by The Friends of the Hampton Falls Free Library. Completed sheets must be returned to the library by noon on Friday, March 3, 2023.

- **Story Times:** Signups for all story times will begin on January 3rd at 10:00 AM. Baby/Toddler and Preschool Story Times will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>. After School Story Times will resume on January 17th. See the Library's [website](#) for full schedule and signup details.

[Sign up here](#) for the Library's monthly newsletter, to get all the latest information.

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## HERITAGE COMMISSION - Beverly Mutrie, Chair

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am at Town Hall

The Heritage Commission recently published the booklet, *"Hampton Falls' Historical Resources Guidebook"* in recognition of the Town's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Guidebook surveys structures that are older than 75-years old, and includes modern-day, color photos of locations, provided by a local photographer, some comparison historic photos, and information about Hampton Falls' houses, barns, bridges, schools, and windmills etc. It also includes a copy of the 1892 map of residences/owners in Hampton Falls and a chronological list of historic properties. It is hoped that the *"Hampton Falls' Historical Resources Guidebook"* is useful and informative. The booklet is available for sale at the Library, Town Hall and the Historical Society. You can also contact the Heritage Commission at [hfnhheritage@gmail.com](mailto:hfnhheritage@gmail.com) to request a copy. If you have any corrections, questions, or additional information, please get in touch.

Part of the mission of a Heritage Commission, according to NH RSA 674, is to recognize and protect man-made historic, cultural, aesthetic, or other community resources. In the future, the Heritage Commission is very interested in helping residents with their antique barns to maintain the barn's structure. Barns were important structures to the community's heritage and streetscape. Barns were built or added onto during the last-300 years and were a necessary part of early residents' farm life. NH RSA 79-D has been locally approved by the Hampton Falls Board of Selectmen for residents requesting a **10-year discretionary preservation easement** (barn improvement tax forgiveness) for barn repairs. If you are contemplating a major repair of your antique, publicly visible barn, check out the RSA. Applications to the Board of Selectmen are accepted at any time. The Heritage Commission could really use a fifth member who has an interest in historic buildings and their conservation. Please complete and submit the Volunteer Application (found on the town's website at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)) or come to a Heritage Commission meeting, which is usually held monthly on the second Tuesday, at 9:00 AM at Town Hall. Our current Heritage Commissioners are Beverly Mutrie, Phil Chura, Mary Ann Hill and Lou Gargiulo, Selectman. The Heritage Commission looks forward to having you contact them to both request and to share information.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Healey-Beattie, President

"Your Future Is A Present From The Past"

From Warren Brown's History of Hampton Falls 1640-1900, in light of the Holiday cards that keep our Post Office busy, not to mention our efforts to write holiday cards, the following: *"Our first Postmaster, in 1814 was Edward Langmaid, who kept the stage tavern and mail in his home. In 1844, William Hills was appointed, and the Post Office was moved to the store occupied by C. K. Dodge. First mail was brought by the mail stages and later by train. A mail pouch was filled from Boston, delivered, and sorted in Hampton. A messenger with a horse and driver delivered and returned mail going to and back from Boston. Rural Free Delivery began in 1904 with Charles I. Ackerman receiving the highest test score. On pamphlets over 100 miles, the cost was 2-cents".* Such a study in contrast when the holiday card is mailed today!

The last two months at the Historical Society have found the Board members full of energy, as developing ideas are realized at the Museum. It is a volunteer effort and community participation is welcomed and encouraged at all levels. To name a few, the Millbury School House clock, once located in the Old North School, has been repaired and restored by Steve Szydlo. The clock belonged to Gail Szydlo's brother and was generously given to the Museum. Ward Dilmore and son Dominique keep this comforting piece of history ticking and giving exact time!

## TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

*Hampton Falls, NH*

*January / February 2023*

Another fascinating addition to the Historical Society's artifacts is photos of salt marsh haying from the Richard B. Sanborn Collection. The Historical Society's invaluable Collections Committee Chairperson, Linda Hiladik, has had the photos enlarged to canvas where the images will join the Salt Marsh exhibit.

Shelley Parish has completed the timeline of her ancestors, Warren and Sarah Brown; and she authored the historical information into an oral history audio recording. Shelly, together with Dominique Dilmore, provided the voiceovers on the audio that was technically arranged by Wendy Harrington. Come to the Museum to listen to the historical audio recording to learn about a significant family's heritage in Hampton Falls.

During the Tricentennial week, a Batchelder relative through marriage visited Hampton Falls from Michigan, hand carrying photos and historic memorabilia for the Museum. Shirley came with five other relatives and, already, the Historical Society's Collections' Committee is hard at work preparing the memorabilia for study.

The room that was once the kitchen for the former Library is now "history!" The Historical Society is in desperate need of an area to store archival material hence the former kitchen area will be known as the Archival Room. Scott Harrington designed a potential plan, and a builder will begin work on this project in January. Is anyone interested in purchasing a gas stove in mint condition, that the Historical Society is no longer using?

Trustee Ward Dilmore initiated the concept of stained-glass windows depicting the salt marsh and the Falls. Mark and Kathy Franks from Renaissance Glassworks created the amazing detailed stained-glass windows. Mike Gibbons, an established cabinet maker, built the wooden frames that hold the interior windows in place. On December 4th, a Dedication and Holiday Celebration was held at the Museum where the ribbon was cut by Robert Perkins, former Trustee, and long-time member, at the age of 93, unveiling the installed stained-glass windows.



*Mary Ann Esposito and Karen Sabatini at Historical Society*

Mary Ann Esposito was the guest of honor, and the event was well attended. This well-known culinary artist inspired the gathering with the release of her newest garden book, "*Ciao Italia, Plant, Harvest, Cook!*" It was a memorable celebration on all levels! The Historical Society's Museum is YOUR MUSEUM and programs are being planned for all ages of residents and visitors.

In closing, the first Historical Society President, Honorable Roberta Pevear, recently visited the Museum and remarked on everything with great enthusiasm. What she experienced could not have been created without the dedication and effort of the Trustees of the Historical Society, who are appreciated beyond words!

# TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

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## CEMETERY TRUSTEES – Jonathan Bohm, Trustee Chair

Meets the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm at Town Hall.

The Cemetery Trustees wish to thank the Wreaths Across America team in Hampton Falls for their work to honor veterans in Hampton Falls' cemeteries this holiday.

The upcoming quiet months mean no gravestones to clean, no headstones to repair, and no tidying up to do at the seven town cemeteries! While the Cemetery Trustees think ahead to spring cleaning, we will also enjoy some winter reading at the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association website. If you have an interest in how this organization works to preserve and educate, check out their newsletters at [nhoga.com/newsletter.htm](http://nhoga.com/newsletter.htm). Their informational publication contains articles on preservation, genealogy, and local history as it pertains to New Hampshire's historic graveyards.

**The Cemetery Trustees wish everyone in Hampton Falls a safe and wonderful holiday season!**

## SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

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

- The grounds around LAS have received some much-needed love this fall and the property is looking great!
- The HFSB has been busy planning for the upcoming March 2023 elections and will bring three (3) Warrant Articles to the ballot.
- The HFSB proposed budget. Despite rising costs across all sectors, the SB with support of the SAU was able to develop a budget lower than the default budget for the 2023-2024 school year while maintaining educational goals and expanding curriculum.
- The results of our recent Homeland Security Assessment identified the need for improved intra school communication to further enhance security measures at LAS, the HFSB will present a warrant article to raise and appropriate funds to meet the identified needs.
- The Collective Bargaining Agreement recommended by all school boards in the SAU21 will ensure a fair and reasonable contract for all certified teachers. The agreement is critical to our ability to continue to maintain and attract the highest quality educators in the area. The agreement must be approved across all towns in SAU21 in order to be adopted.
- Important upcoming dates:
  - Jan 10: HFSB Meeting @ 6:30
  - Jan 12: HFSB Public Hearing on budget @ 6pm
  - Feb 8: HFSB Meeting & Deliberative Session @ 6:30
  - March 14: Voting Day at LAS

Best wishes to all for a safe, healthy, and joyful Holiday Season!