

TOWN NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2021

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Louis Gargiulo, Chairman; Mark Lane, Vice Chairman; Edward B. Beattie, 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.

CURTIS ROAD AND KING STREET CULVERT PROJECTS

Thank you for your cooperation and patience with the Curtis Road and King Street temporary road closures during the long-awaited culvert installations, road paving, and guard rail installations at both of those locations.

PARKING BAN AND SNOW REMOVAL

Townpeople are reminded that effective December 15, no overnight parking (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) 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 will close for the winter months effective November 27, 2021 and will remain closed until April 2, 2022. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for Christmas trees only.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR, Stephanie Grant

townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 101 or 106

LATE 2021 DOG LICENSES

ALL DOGS IN TOWN SHOULD HAVE BEEN LICENSED BY APRIL 30 as required by state RSA 466:1. If you no longer own a dog(s), call 1-603-926-4618, ext. 101, or e-mail us at townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org; and we will remove your name from the list. **Otherwise, please license your dog(s) ASAP either in person or on-line, please note the \$25 civil forfeiture fee has been now added on.** Rabies vaccination certificate(s) are only required if rabies expiration date has expired, please email, fax or drop off in the drop box an updated rabies certificate if needed.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We are back open to the public for walk in service but we are still offering the drop box service. Please see the below procedure if you wish to use the drop box:

If you have bought a new vehicle/trailer/motorcycle. Please provide the following:

- Copy of your driver's license
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk copy at the bottom)
- Contact information (name, phone number and email)
- Payment (check made out to Town of Hampton Falls and we will fill in amount or credit card over the phone once processed)

Please put this information in an envelope and utilize our drop box outside to the left of the Town Hall doors. We will process and call you to arrange a time to pick up the plates at our outside window.

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Any residents who wish to transfer their old plates to a new vehicle please provide the following:

- Copy of your driver's license
- Old registration (the plates you wish to transfer must be original not a copy)
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk Copy)
- Blank check (once filled in we will copy and send back to you)
- Contact information (email, phone # and address)

Please put this information in an envelope and utilize our drop box outside of the Town Hall door. We will process and mail back to you.

We ask you that you continue to renew your registrations online as well as licensing dogs. Please visit the Town Clerk's page on 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.

You **must show photo I.D.** for all motor vehicle transactions, per RSA 261:148.

Transfers require **the original, current registration** per RSA 261:168.

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).

Please call our office at 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 (we are returning voicemails as soon as possible) or email townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org (email is being monitored all week) with any questions or concerns.

If you are a new resident or have a unique registration, please contact the office and we will be able to assist you.

INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

Click on the Town Clerk's web page (www.hamptonfalls.org), motor vehicles FAQ, then click on motor vehicles renew online and enter your information from your registration, and you will receive your registration(s) and decal(s) through the mail. Renewals over 3-months late and residents wanting to make changes will need to call into the 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. 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. 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 office is closed to the public on Fridays.

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TAX INFORMATION

As of the writing of this newsletter, the tax rate has not been set yet for 2021. Tax bills will be mailed and will be due thirty-days from the date on which the bills are mailed. Please look for the due date on the bill. Please keep the top portion of the bill for your records and detach the bottom portion to return with your payment. Tax bills can also be viewed/printed and paid online at www.hamptonfalls.org, on the Tax Collector page. **Please be aware there is a 2.95% charge for credit/debit transactions and a \$0.95 for ACH transactions.** This is a bank processing fee and is not retained or charged by the Town of Hampton Falls. Please let us know if you have moved, changed your name, or are now using a PO Box so that we can get your tax bill to you in a timely fashion.

Read your tax bill thoroughly as it contains important information, such as the hours that the tax office is open, the tax bill due date, the interest rate on late payments, your assessment, and exemption and/or tax credit information. **The tax office hours are Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please note that if you pay after 3 p.m. on the due date, your payment is considered late.**

When using on-line bill pay through your bank, please select a 'pay date' that is earlier than the due date. Some institutions do not cut the check until the 'pay date,' so if you use the due date as the 'pay date' we won't receive the payment on time and you will be charged interest. **Please make sure your payment is not post-dated, the Tax Office is not allowed, by law, to hold tax payments.** If you send in a post-dated check, it will be returned and could result in a late fee. Whether you pay your taxes by mail, or leave it in the drop box to the left of the outside door, and would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. *Thank you.*

BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark Sikorski

buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org 1-603-926-4618, Ext. 105; Mon, Tues & Thurs 8am to Noon

With winter upon us, it is time to get ready for the cold, snow and ice. Please consider the following suggestions. Some residents have issues with ice dams. Now is the time to address that issue before it gets too cold to attach heating cables to the roof safely. An electrical outlet needs to be installed close to the element as extension cords are only for limited temporary use. This outlet must be GFI protected. If the outlet is exposed to weather, it must also have a weatherproof in-use cover installed.

Does your home have a standby power generator? Check over your equipment for proper operation. Clear vegetation and mulch away from the unit. These items can impede ventilation and clog air filters. There is nothing worse than trying to start the generator after the power goes out without success. If using a portable generator, prior to shut down, shut the fuel supply off while the unit is running and allow it to run out of gas and stall. Then leave the fuel supply valve off until ready to start the unit in the future. This will avoid gelling of old fuel in the carburetor and allow for easier starting. Gasoline with Ethanol is the enemy of small engines. Treat Ethanol based gasoline with additives or consider non-ethanol gas available at some stations or private airports. It's more expensive but worth it for dependable operation. Review the area set aside for generator operation. Is it free of flammable debris? Is it far enough away from your home's windows and doors to allow fumes to safely dissipate?

Time to get your heating appliances serviced to avoid failure causing pipes to burst and expensive damage to your home. Make the appointment with your service company early to avoid a long wait for the visit. It is important to keep wood and pellet stoves clean. Good dry hardwood along with keeping creosote to a minimum is essential to a safe and warm, wood stove fire. Pellet stoves are easy to keep clean. One part that is critical to safe operation is the auger. It is important to clean out any stuck pellets and dust. If you have questions or concerns, you can check with stove dealers that can help answer questions or make repairs.

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Now that all of these winter appliances are ready to run, take a walk around the home and check out your smoke alarm system. Remove the detector from its mount and check the date code printed on the back. Detectors should be replaced after 10 years. If you don't already have one, make it a point to purchase and install a reliable carbon monoxide detector. If your home already contains interconnected smoke alarms you should update the system and add carbon monoxide units into the mix. The CO units should be located just outside the sleeping areas and on each level of the home to alert occupants of this odorless killer.

Gutters need to be cleaned. Please keep safety in mind when using ladders. Before the ground freezes, have your septic tank checked and pumped if needed.

There has been a recent uptick in residents occupying RV's and Camper style trailers. Please be aware that while these units may be stored on your property they cannot be occupied as living units. For information contact the office.

Summer and our beautiful autumn are behind us. Soon the flakes will fall. Winter Well!

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief
chief@hffd.org 1-603-926-5752

The Fire Department will conduct its annual fundraiser of selling Christmas trees on the Common. We will start the Friday after Thanksgiving and be there Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until the trees are gone. Remember to keep your trees/presents a good distance away from any heat source and water all live trees daily during the holidays.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – Lyn Stan, Chairwoman
Meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

Chair Lyn Stan, Treasurer Karen Sabatini, Secretary Beth Forgione and members Pam Fitzgerald, Phil Chura and Kathy Dittami. The Commission's Selectmen's Representative is Mark Lane and GWP liaison is Larry Smith. Hampton Falls Parks and Recreation traditionally brings fun to our community. The Commission makes every effort to offer quality programming and events for our residents and greater community.

We are pleased that Grant Winnes will continue to oversee our Ice Rink for this winter season. The Parks and Recreation Commission is looking into a new liner as the previous liner is showing signs of age.

For this year's Christmas Tree event, we are asking the children in our community to adorn the tree with homemade ornaments and to help in decorating the tree; please spread the word. The official Tree Lighting ceremony will be Friday, December 10th beginning at 5:45pm with a special guest appearance by The New Hampshire State Bell Ringers at 6:00pm. We are grateful to Abby Tonry and family for donating this year's tree for all of the Hampton Falls' community to enjoy.

Castleberry Craft Fair continues to be a big draw and a successful event.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is always looking for people to complement our 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 Parks and Recreation Commission. A Volunteer application can be found on the Town website at: [VOLUNTEER APPLICATION \(hamptonfalls.org\)](https://www.hamptonfalls.org/volunteer-application)

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Mary Ann Hill, Chair
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall.

In answer to some questions recently posed, the Conservation Commission has been working with a licensed Forester, who has developed a **Forest Management Plan for the Town Forest**. The Forester recommended a cut but said that since the Town Forest is a “Forested Wetland”, it could only be logged if the ground was completely frozen, which it hasn’t been for the last five years.

The Conservation Commission has been hearing many complaints about **Poison Ivy** along the roads in Hampton Falls. In fact, it is everywhere: along the roads, in the field at the Raspberry Farm, climbing trees, and in just about every row of shrubbery throughout the town. Residents can poison it on their own property, but it is illegal to poison any plants on your neighbor’s property or Town Property unless you are a licensed herbicide applicator. If you use herbicides, you **MUST READ THE LABEL**. Fall is a good time to spray a systemic herbicide as the plants are drawing nutrients down into their roots in the Fall. (Quick-kill herbicides work quicker but do not translocate to the roots before the top of the plant dies.) Also, if a portion of your property is designated as a “wetland” or “wetland buffer” certain herbicides cannot be used because the surfactants are injurious to creatures that live in wetlands. This information is on the label. The Conservation Commission is hopeful that it will be able to utilize the RCCD’s licensed pesticide applicator to do some selective spraying at the Raspberry Farm and Marsh Lane to supplement recent mechanical efforts in those locations.

It should be noted that Poison Ivy and **Bittersweet** in particular have many different appearances. The description of Poison Ivy one always hears is that it has leaves in clusters of three that are red and shiny. In the early Spring this description works well; however, later in the year those leaves can be large and a deep matte green. Bittersweet also has a lot of variations in how the leaves look. To make matters more complicated a plant called Virginia Creeper is another common vine which will sometimes inhabit the same tree as Poison Ivy and Bittersweet.

Another invasive plant that is epidemic in town is **Japanese Knotweed**. Knotweed forms dense colonies primarily along roads and field edges. Mowing of Knotweed is **NOT RECOMMENDED** because it simply spreads the Knotweed as little chunks of the stems can sprout roots and grow quickly. Poison works but covering a clump with heavy black plastic for at least five years can work. The edges of the plastic have to be firmly anchored with soil and heavy weights or the Knotweed will find its way beyond the plastic.

The Conservation Commission is hoping to have a **public information meeting on invasive plants sometime in the future**. If you have specific questions about invasive plants on your property, please contact the Conservation Commission at mash@1835@comcast.net.

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Conservation Commission documented “Invasive Plant Species”:



Japanese Knotweed, above



Bittersweet, above



Summer Intern, Taylor Foley, with Bittersweet root



Huge Poison Ivy in front of Mary Ann Hill at Raspberry Farm

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TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – Judy Haskell, Secretary

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

Hampton Falls is having a special 300th Celebration of the founding of Hampton Falls scheduled for July 31 - August 6, 2022! Planning fun and interesting events for the Tricentennial Celebration is well underway, including a variety of historical tours, lectures, musical acts and kids' activities to celebrate the Town's unique qualities and special founding. The Tricentennial Committee is inviting other Town committees and groups to join the creativity. Be sure to check out the commemorative caps and clothing for sale at the Town Hall and Library! And did you know there is a Time Capsule ready to be displayed? What's next? The Tricentennial Committee is looking for Event Planning volunteers to get involved! This is a great opportunity for newcomers or longtime residents to learn more about Hampton Falls and to meet your neighbors. Please contact Susan at toiIntrouble21@gmail.com to find out how to help. And as a reminder, Tricentennial Merchandise is perfect for holiday giving – long sleeve T shirts in a variety of sizes, knit hats, ball caps and holiday medallions are available for purchase from Committee member Weezie Vance at weezievance@gmail.com. Email her to make arrangements for purchase and delivery. See photo below or Tricentennial Merchandise. The Tricentennial Committee wishes you a healthy, holiday season and are looking forward to an exciting and event-filled 2022!



If you'd like to get involved in the planning, or, participate in the success of the Tricentennial Celebration, volunteers are welcome to join the Tricentennial Committee. If you'd like to join, please fill out a volunteer application form that can be found on the Town of Hampton Falls web site [VOLUNTEER APPLICATION \(hamptonfalls.org\)](http://www.hamptonfalls.org) and submit it to Interim Town Administrator, Karen Anderson at TownAdministrator@Hamptonfalls.org.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Healey-Beattie, President

“Your Future Is a Present from The Past”

With an eye to Hampton Falls’ Tricentennial in 2022, the Historical Society Trustees continue to develop new ideas on how best to celebrate this momentous occasion. The Historical Society’s Collections Committee, under the direction of trustee Linda Hladik and her team, have designed and begun to assemble three new exhibits: The Salt Marsh, the Warren Brown Family and the John Starvish Sr pewter exhibit. Very exciting stories of Hampton Falls’ history and its people await your future visit!

All of this industry requires money to continue these projects and to successfully care for the Historical Society’s fragile archives. Toward this end, the Historical Society has applied to the Selectmen, for funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), to be considered for a new HVAC System. The Museum furnace is literally on its last legs and there is a great need for air conditioning to preserve the Museum archives against mold, etc.

Another initiative is a TIME CAPSULE project, explained on a colorful postcard recently mailed to the community by Historical Society trustees Ward Dilmore and Karen Sabatini. Residents can win a stainless-steel TIME CAPSULE by entering <http://eepurl.com/hGKc31>. Preserve your family history—Forever!

Wednesday mornings you will find Historical Society members working at the Museum and they would welcome you stopping in to see their progress and to share ideas or even an hour of your time. As is said, “It Takes a Village.....”

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Greg Parish, Chair, gparish@sau21.org; Jason Farias, Vice-Chair, jfarias@sau21.org; Barbara Goodman, bgoodman@sau21.org; Anthony Lang, alang@sau21.org; Jill Swasey, jswasey@sau21.org

For a complete update, please be on the lookout for the Fall 2021 Hampton Falls School Board Newsletter.

- The HFSB welcomes Meredith Nadeau as the new SAU21 superintendent. Meredith brings considerable experience as an educator and administrator, and is a NH native.
- Upcoming school board meetings will feature content presentations on Competency Based Education, please refer to the following site to learn more: sau21.org/curriculum/professional-development
- The HFSB will be returning an unreserved fund balance of \$164,747 to Hampton Falls; and the Winnacunnet SB will be returning an unreserved fund balance of \$131,138.
- The Lincoln Akerman school will be receiving an updated HVAC system in the gymnasium and upgrading to LED lighting throughout the building; bringing critical energy and operation improvements to the school.
- The LAS COVID-19 operating plan follows the community transmission indicators developed by the NH Department of Health and Human Services to guide safety protocols in our school. When the Seacoast Region is experiencing substantial transmission rates, masks are required indoors. These indicators are closely monitored and updated daily. More information is available at <https://www.sau21.org/covid19>
- Finally, we are happy to welcome six new teachers to LAS, bringing experience, new ideas and enthusiasm to our community!