

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE DRIVE

Annually, the Town asks our community to help its local fellow citizens during the Holiday Season. The response was incredible and many of our elderly and residents with special circumstances were given assorted gift cards and cash to provide some help. The community's response more importantly showed them how much the town appreciates all they have done over the years. The recipients were very, very appreciative. With the Board of Selectmen's support and knowledge that heating costs are going to be a particular impact to our residents on fixed incomes, we are going to make this opportunity available again this year.

We can all help by donating gift cards or cash of any denomination. Gift cards for food, gas, and Walmart were especially welcomed. No amount is too small. Please deliver your donations to Town Hall (1 Drinkwater Road, Hampton Falls) to the Town Clerk's Office, Town Administrator, or secure drop box (located to the Left of the Town Hall entrance door). We thank our wonderful residents in advance.

GLENWOOD ROAD AND WOODLAWN AVENUE PROJECTS

Thank you for your cooperation and patience with the Glenwood Road and Woodlawn Avenue temporary road closures during the long-awaited culvert installations and road paving at these 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 Brush Dump will close for the winter months effective October 28, 2023, and will remain closed until April 1, 2024. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Christmas trees only.

ROAD AGENT, Russ Hilliard ROADS

Many hazardous low shoulders were brought to grade as a result of the frequent rainstorms in 2023. 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 will also be installed in some stream sensitive areas near culverts. Please use caution when driving in these areas.

HAMPTON FALLS BRUSH DUMP

HOURS OF OPERATION

Bulky Waste Only 1ST SATURDAY OF MONTH MAY - OCTOBER 8AM - NOON
Brush Only APRIL - OCTOBER 8AM-NOON
(CHECK TOWN WEBSITE FOR UPDATES/HOLIDAY HOURS)

Please plan your arrival 15 minutes before closing

- Residents Only
- Stickers Required
- Please See Attendant Prior to Dumping
- PREPAY FEES AT TOWN HALL
- Facility: (603) 926-4618
- 11 Parsonage Rd.,
Hampton Falls, NH 03844

Solid Waste Facility NHDES Permit Information

Unlawful Dumping Will be Subject to Fine And Prosecution; Permit # DES-SW-PN-22-003 ; Permittee: Town of Hampton Falls, 1 Drinkwater Rd., Hampton Falls, NH 03844 ; (603) 926-4618 Material Accepted: C&D, Bulky Waste, Electronic Waste, Recyclable Materials, Universal Waste

NEW HAMPSHIRE *The Beautiful*

POLICE DEPARTMENT, Chief Ryan Veno

hfallspd@hamptonfallspd.com Non-emergency #:1-603-926-4619



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

Welcome new Police Officer Zachary Vatcher, who joined the Hampton Falls Police Department in August 2023. Officer Vatcher previously worked for the City of Rochester, NH Police Department, so when you see him in the community, please extend a warm welcome.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat will be on October 30th from 5:00-7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone dressed up for the occasion and as always, we will be out with candy to celebrate. Please be safe and drive slowly! Happy Haunting 😊 Happy Fall from the Hampton Falls Police Department!

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR, Stephanie Grant

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

The Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office is open Monday – Wednesday 8 am to 3:30 pm and on Thursday from 8 am to 6 pm. Closed on Fridays. Open Monday through Thursday through the lunch hour.



The Town Clerk's office staff would like to wish you and your families, a Happy and Healthy holiday season.



Emma Cullen and Stephanie Grant

The Town Clerk's office teamed up with the Library to host a pet drawing contest. We would like to congratulate, Emma Cullen, on her drawing of her dog, Milo. Emma came in and was able to pick the color and style for the 2024 dog tags. Stay tuned to see her choice! Below is Emma's drawing of her dog and an actual picture of Milo. We think Emma did a great job depicting Milo and we love his bow tie!



Winner of pet-drawing contest



Emma's dog, Milo

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), please call 1-603-926-4618, ext. 101, or e-mail townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org; to have your name removed 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 to your bill.** Rabies vaccination certificate(s) are only required if rabies expiration date has expired; please email, fax, or deliver an updated rabies certificate if needed, to the secure drop box located to the left of the main door at Town Hall.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Town Clerk'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 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)

You are able to renew your registrations and to license your dog(s) online. Please visit the Town Clerk's page on www.hamptonfalls.org to renew online. If you renew online, it is processed next business day and then

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

mailed. You may call to request that your renewal be held for pick up instead of mailing. You can also call the office to process a renewal by phone or come in and renew in person.

Please note, 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).

Please call 1-603-926-4618 ext. 101 or email townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org with any questions or concerns.

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 30 minutes. To obtain a Marriage License, you must be getting married in the State of New Hampshire. You can apply for a license at any New Hampshire Town or City Clerk's office. The cost is \$50 and requires both persons' I.D., birth certificate and a 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 online by choosing Vital Records on the town web page. Please, also, make sure to email a picture of your driver's license when requesting any certified copy to townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org. Please note, the birth, death or marriage must have taken place in the State of NH.

Requests for self-cling, 3-year brush dump stickers (required for brush disposal and for household waste collection days) are available on-line or from the Town Clerk's office at a cost of \$30 each.

TAX INFORMATION

As of the writing of this newsletter, the tax rate has not yet been set for 2023. Tax bills will be mailed and 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. You can either pay your taxes in-person, by mail, on-line, or you can hand-deliver to the secure drop box located to the left of the main door at Town Hall.

Please notify the Town Clerk asap, 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. Please 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. **Please note that if you pay after the office closes on the due date, your payment is considered late.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Jay Lord, Fire Chief

chief@hffd.org 1-603-926-5752

The Fire Department Association will conduct its Annual Fundraiser of selling Christmas trees on the Town Common, starting November 24, 2023 (the Friday after Thanksgiving). The Christmas Tree Fundraiser will occur on Fridays 12 noon to 7pm; Saturdays, and Sundays both 10am to 7pm thereafter until the trees are gone.

Remember to keep your Christmas trees and holiday presents a good distance away from any heat source and water all live trees daily during the holidays.

Heating season is upon us – remember to give 3’ clearance from anything that will burn to wood & pellet stove, and space heaters. CO detectors do save lives, check the batteries and clear outside vents if we get some snowstorms.

Stay in the kitchen when cooking those big meals to keep an eye on things and keep kids away from those hot stoves. If you’re doing a deep fried turkey make sure to watch all the YouTube videos on what NOT to do (frozen, on a deck, too small a pot, etc.).

RECREATION COMMISSION – Gisela Manna, Chairwoman

Meets the third Monday of each 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 Kathy Dittami, Pam Fitzgerald, DeDe Kouloheras, and Karla Donatelli. Mark Lane is the Selectmen's

Representative and Larry Smith is the Governor Weare Park Liaison.

The Hampton Falls Recreation Commission thanks both the Hampton Falls Police Dept and Fire Dept for their help during the **Family Field Day**. Thanks to the families who came out to join the festivities, and plans are being made for next year's event.

Chair Yoga is back by popular demand with Tuesday Sellards-Orluk on Wednesdays starting on Oct 18, 2023 from 9am-10am for 6 weeks (Oct 25, Nov 1, Nov 8, Nov 15, Nov 22). Enjoy an **Adult Yoga Class** instructed by Tuesday Sellards-Orluk who has a Master of Science degree in Human Development, and Certifications in: Holistic Health, Hypnosis, Nutrition, Board certified in Aromatherapy, Board Certified Drugless Practitioner, Reiki Master, Shaman, Flower Essence Practitioner and a 200-hr Yoga instructor. Class is held at The Meadows, Community Room, 27 Brown Rd, Hampton Falls, NH 03844. Cost: \$5 per class (pay at door). Signup at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABAA28A2FD0-44515733-adult>

Get in the spirit of Halloween by **decorating the Town Common with Spooky Scarecrows**. Scarecrows can be decorated in any way! Be creative. Be spooky. Most importantly, have fun with it. Bring your scarecrow to the Town Common and tie it around any of the trees on the exterior.



TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023



Registration is OPEN for the **2023 Hampton Falls Tiger Trot!** The Lincoln Akerman School PTO invites you to participate in the Tiger Trot race on November 18, 2023! Come for the race, but stay for the raffles, food trucks and friends! Register before October 20, 2023 – to be sure to get your Tiger Trot T-shirt! [Hampton Falls Tiger Trot \(runsignup.com\)](https://runsignup.com)

On Saturday
December 2,
2023, at
6pm the



Hampton Falls Recreation Commission will be hosting the **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** event at the Town Common. Enjoy some hot cocoa, cookies, and music while awaiting the visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

The Recreation Commission has been planning some new events for the coming months. Stay tuned for more details. The Recreation Commission is always looking for people to volunteer. Do you have a passion for building community spirit or have creative ideas and want to help encourage social bonds? If you can answer YES, please consider joining the Hampton Falls Recreation Commission.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA program, in Hampton Falls, NH

Contact lcsavoy@hotmail.com

Wreath Day is: December 16, 2023 @ noon, Hampton Falls Town Common



★ **December 16, 2023** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



Help Hampton Falls Recreation Commission honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Hampton Falls, NH.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NH0041P



#ServeAndSucceed

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . **HONOR** those who Serve. . . **TEACH** children the value of Freedom.

"Tis the season" to get involved with, and to attend the Hampton Falls Recreation Commission's Wreaths Across America effort. On **December 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm** (Wreath Placement Immediately Following Ceremony). The Hampton Falls Recreation Commission will be helping the community of Hampton Falls, NH to *Remember and Honor* veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of this country's fallen heroes. Please help to honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreath Day, and/or inviting your family and friends to attend this event with you.

Attention: Families of interred Hampton Falls Veterans, A wreath will be placed in honor of all Veterans buried in the Hampton Falls Cemeteries (Dodge, East Brookside, New/Old Brookside, Westview, Old Westview, Oaklawn and Hawes, as well as the 2 private cemeteries) on December 16th 2023. If

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

this is undesirable by the family, please contact Linda Savoy at lcsavoy@hotmail.com (Please write WAA in the subject).

Anyone wishing to **volunteer their time on Dec 16th, 2023 to help lay wreaths**, Please email lcsavoy@hotmail.com and write "WAA" in the subject.

Anyone wishing to donate to Wreaths Across America for Hampton Falls, can follow the link below, or mail/deliver a check :

Payable to: Hampton Falls Recreation Commission, (put **WAA** in memo)

Mailing address: Hampton Falls Town Hall; 1 Drinkwater Rd.; Hampton Falls, NH 03844

Or donate directly at the Wreaths Across America/ Hampton Falls NH website:

www.wreathsassamerica.org/NH0041P

**BUILDING INSPECTION, Mark Sikorski; buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org
1-603-926-4618, Ext. 105; Mon & Tues 8AM to Noon, & Thurs 2PM to 6PM**

The Building Office has fielded many questions recently regarding the installation of sheds on properties. Sheds are considered structures and are subject to both property and wetland setbacks. A building permit is required prior to construction. Property setbacks for parcels less than two acres is 25 feet on all sides and 50 feet on parcels two acres or more. Wetland setbacks vary based on the type of wetlands. An accurate drawing of the property with the shed located on it and setback distances identified is required to accompany the application. Please call the office if you have any questions.



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.

Check your roadside mail box for current conditions. Steady the pole if wobbly to withstand possible snow banking during inclement weather. USPS recommends that posts not exceed 4"x 4" and not be made of stone or concrete to allow break off in case of collision. Make sure the house number is visible for locating in case of emergency response.

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.

Now that all 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. Don't forget the heat alarm in the garage!

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.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Tracy Healey-Beattie, President

“Your Future is a Present from the Past.”

From iced tea to hot toddies, we New Englanders transition from Summer heat (or rain!!) to the crisp days of Fall. Regardless of the outdoor elements, the Historical Society Trustees remain busy inside the Museum tackling numerous projects. The Collections Committee, under the direction of Linda Hladik, have accomplished hours of work accessioning historical artifacts that are stored in the new Archival Room. Do you have such an item of Hampton Falls history that you would like to share with the Museum?

The Olde East Schoolhouse, located next to the Library and owned by the Historical Society, has been a mecca of activity in recent months. Trustee Hunter Stetz, an accomplished graduate of Boston University and Archaeologist, has taken the lead on developing a dedicated area for the Native American artifacts from the Edgerly Farm. This former farm (at the location of Shoppers Village at the traffic light) was once active agricultural land from Lafayette Road east down to the Marsh.

The officers and Trustees of the Historical Society have addressed several concerns to improve the Schoolhouse and its environs. An attractive black, metal fence was developed by Trustees Stetz and Beattie to keep children safely away from the farm equipment. Recently the Historical Society Board voted to install mini-splits at the Schoolhouse, which allow for heat and air conditioning. Not only do mini-splits provide greater comfort but they address mold and moisture issues on valuable artifacts. The Schoolhouse will be open Saturday mornings for visitors to enjoy going back in time.

The Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the history of Hampton Falls. To maintain Museum events and exhibits, the Historical Society depends on memberships and involvement by residents. Soon the Historical Society will send an “out of the ordinary” membership letter which will explain what is in store for 2024. Visit the Historical Society's website at www.hfhistoricalsociety.org or Facebook or Instagram. Special thanks to Trustees Harrington and Sabatini on that project.



TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

On a sad note, former Historical Society Trustee Robert Perkins passed away at the age of 95. An intelligent, well-read and gentle person who shared so much of his lifelong history of Hampton Falls, will be sorely missed. John Parker, another avid supporter of the Historical Society, passed away at the age of 92. John was a voracious reader and donated the antique conference table used at the Historical Society for meetings.

The Historical Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Ted Brooks as Trustee. Ted and his wife Julie own the Raspberry Farm on Kensington Road. In such a short time Ted has offered great ideas to the Historical Society Board.

Holiday Open House will be held at the Museum on Sunday December 10th at 4:00 PM. John Starvish Jr., a former resident and pewter craftsman, will speak on his family's journey to Hampton Falls and share the art of producing pewter. Enjoy the Historical Society's exhibits and meet neighbors and friends. Refreshments? Absolutely!

Can you identify this item pictured in the photo, which was significant in the history of Hampton Falls? Come to the Museum for the answer!

TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Welcome new residents to Hampton Falls. The Tricentennial Committee would like to extend a warm welcome by offering you a free, commemorative Tricentennial coffee mug, available at the Town Clerk's office. Hampton Falls enjoyed its 300th Birthday last summer and the Tricentennial Committee wants you to celebrate with us by considering purchasing pewter holiday ornaments as gifts for this holiday season. There are the following two designs: one of the Hampton Falls waterfalls, and one of The Covered Bridge, and both have the Town Common on the reverse side. These are **on sale for the price of ten-dollars (\$10.00) each**. Cash or check only. Buy extras for your neighbors, teachers, and extended family as great Holiday gifts. Available for purchase at the Town Hall Town Clerk's office at townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org during regular business hours, or call 603-926-4618 x 101 or 106 with questions. Happy Holidays from The Tricentennial Committee!!!!



*The Covered Bridge, pewter ornament
(size = 2-3/4" x 2-3/4")*



*The Waterfalls of Hampton Falls, pewter ornament
(size = 2-3/4" x 2-3/4")*

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Mary Ann Hill, Chair

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

Have you seen the latest Geico Insurance ad about the invasive plants taking over the house? Well, it stars one of Hampton Falls' favorite invasive plant species: Bittersweet. And if you think that the idea of a wimpy vine wrecking your house is silly, and if you wonder why the Conservation Commission harps on removing it, take a look at the Bittersweet vine that grew right here in Hampton Falls.



Imagine what this plant could do to your house, siding, or gutters....or that tree that hangs over your house. The owner of the specimen in the photo was reluctant to cut it down because she used it as a demonstration of how bad Bittersweet could be. But when it ripped a twelve-inch diameter branch off the 50-foot tree it was intertwined in and held said branch suspended vertically about three feet above the ground, the chain saw came out.

This Bittersweet cutting was on display at the Library's recent program on pollinator gardens. Pollinators love many invasive plant species, notably Japanese Knotweed and Purple Loosestrife, and some, such as Black

Swallowwort, are harmful to Monarch Butterflies. The Conservation Commission gave a brief talk about the importance of keeping these invasive plants out of pollinator gardens.

The Conservation Commission continued its efforts to control and map invasive plant species on Town conservation properties with help from three (3) conservation studies students from UNH hired Summer 2023. The Interns learned how to use a chain saw and how to dismantle it when it got stuck in a large tree which had fallen across the trail from Winter storms. The Interns top-seeded bare spots in the Raspberry Farm field, where the Fire Department had burned stacked invasive plant piles Summer 2022. Additionally, the Interns planted some Spruce tree seedlings that the Conservation Commission received at no cost. The Interns removed invasive plants at various town-owned conservation lands in Hampton Falls. RCCD applied herbicides on behalf of the Conservation Commission at the Raspberry Farm. Good headway was made this Summer 2023 on the invasive plant problem and invasive plant mapping.

The Conservation Commission updated technology and obtained a hand-held GPS unit to improve mapping accuracy and speed. The Interns used the GPS to record a track around the field and to identify where there were invasive plant species remaining after the RCCD herbicide treatment. The data collected was downloaded directly into ARC GIS. While the Interns had previously all had some GIS classes at UNH, this was a new application for them, and they really had fun with it.

There is a lot of current interest in the health of the Salt Marsh because it is a protective buffer between the ocean and upland. The Salt Marsh is very important for Hampton Falls because as sea level rises the threat of flooding to Hampton Falls becomes severe, with the potential for the water table also rising and brackish water infiltrating under properties close to the Marsh. Residents on Depot Road, Coach Lane, and Brimmer Lane may already experience wetter basements or increased sump pump activity where it used to be only during major storms. One topic of study involves ditching: is it helpful or harmful; should ditches be filled or not; are the ditches collapsing; is the Marsh eroding because of the ditches? All these questions cannot be addressed until there is a baseline established of existing conditions upon which the effects of Sea Level Rise can be measured and evaluated. Towards that end, the Interns mapped the ditches on Marsh properties owned by the Town and

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

downloaded the ditch data into an interactive map on ARCGIS, which enabled selection of a ditch to obtain a photo and its dimensions. The Interns also made a rough map of where prominent plant species clustered. There are at least forty-five (45) different plant species disbursed unevenly throughout the Marsh. The Interns presented their combined marsh project and presented it at the HSE, Hampton-Seabrook Estuary, Collaborative Zoom Meeting on September 27. The Conservation Commission has received several requests from other collaborative participants for the interactive maps. Summer 2024 comparisons can be made to evaluate and assess if anything has changed. It's a start.

Thank you RCCD, Rockingham County Conservation District, for their support in the battle against invasive plants, and the Girl Scouts for their handling of the Green Head fly traps on the Salt Marsh. And a big thank you to the Conservation Commission Summer 2023 Interns: Erin Finken, Jayden Mowry, and Katelyn Ryan.

If this sounds like fun, (and it is fun), feel free to contact the Chair, Mary Ann Hill, at conservationchair@hamptonfalls.org and/or attend a Conservation Commission meeting.

HERITAGE COMMISSION - Beverly Mutrie, Chair

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

The Hampton Falls Heritage Commission (HC) meets Wednesdays at 9:00 AM, the second week of the month. The NH RSAs and local ordinances prescribe the Hampton Falls HCs to have five (5) voting members, with three (3) alternates, appointed by the Selectmen. Currently, there are four (4) commissioners, Beverly Mutrie, Chair, Mary Ann Hill, Phil Chura, and one Selectman, Lou Gargiulo. The HC is a small group with a mighty mission.

The HC advises and makes recommendations to the Planning Board, adjudicates the Demolition Delay Ordinance for historic buildings, completes historic resource inventories, and recommends buildings for inclusion in New Hampshire's or the National Historic Register. Additionally, the HC advises historic property owners with concerns about rehabilitation. The HC accepts resources and expends funds in a non-lapsing Heritage Fund and can accept and manage property. Last year the HC published the *Guidebook to Hampton Falls' Historic Resources* that is available for purchase at the Library and the Town Clerk's office. A current concern of the HC is the potential impact of future development in the Town Common district along Lafayette Road. The Chair, Beverly Mutrie, raised that concern at the August Planning Board's Ordinance and Regulations Committee meeting. The Hampton Falls' building code and zoning regulations only allow developers of new buildings to consider Design Review Guidelines in their proposals to the Planning Board. The Design Review Guidelines are an aid to maintain a cohesive streetscape along Lafayette Road throughout the district. There is nothing in the regulations that require that an addition or exterior alteration utilize the Design Review Guidelines, in terms of the current architecture or streetscape.

The many users of Lafayette Road view a quintessential, historic tree-lined Town Common with a steeped church, several historic cannons and cannon balls, the Governor Weare monument, stone memorials to the fallen and several historic residences and businesses. What is now the Town Common District has not significantly changed since the Harbor Lights retail/office condominiums were built at the traffic light in the mid 1980's. The Lafayette Road streetscape should remain cohesive to epitomize how Hampton Falls values its past. Current workforce housing needs and possible infrastructure improvements may position Lafayette Road to change its future appearance. If you have interest or concerns about maintaining Hampton Falls' historic character, please contact the HC Chair and/or attend one of the monthly HC meetings.

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

HAMPTON FALLS LIBRARY - Joanna Meigan, Director director.hamptonfalls.library@comcast.net



7 Drinkwater Rd; Hampton Falls, NH 03844 www.HamptonFallsLibrary.org

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE HAMPTON FALLS LIBRARY!

Book Sale Wrap-Up: Thank you to all the people who helped make the Library's community book sale a success again this year. Many thanks to the donors, sorters, organizers, bakers, the sign makers, the word spreaders, and those who helped sell and restock on the big day. The book sale is an annual event that everyone looks forward to and which also takes many hands to get to the finish line.

Fabergé Imperial Eggs With Marina Forbes: Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30pm

This unique and beautifully illustrated presentation focuses on the life and remarkable work of master jeweler and artist, Peter Carl Fabergé. The program features a spectacular photo-tour of Fabergé collections at world-famous museums and from private collectors around the world. Emphasis is on the important role of egg painting in Slavic culture and on the unique development of this major art form from a traditional craft to the level of exquisite fine art under the patronage of the tsars. Sponsored by NH Humanities. Free and open to the public, however limited to 50 attendees. [Sign up here](#) or visit the Library's website.



Adult Crafting: Making Fabergé Eggs: Saturday, November 18th at 10:30am: Let's try our hand at making our own Faberge egg. Using real goose eggs; we can paint, decoupage; add beading to create our own work to rival that of the Jewelry House of Faberge. This event has a limited capacity. [Sign up here](#) and see the Library's website for more information.



Cookbook Sale: Starting Tuesday, November 21st: The Library is pleased to offer a Cookbook Sale beginning Tuesday, November 21st. The items for sale are new cookbooks, travel books, journals, and gift books. The pre-inflation price is \$5 per book. Come shop for thoughtful and beautiful gifts for everyone on your holiday list. While supplies last.



Cookbook Club – Cookie Exchange: Saturday, December 9th at noon:



Join the cookbook club this holiday season for a cookie exchange. Make one type of cookie then bring 2-3 dozen, along with a copy of the recipe, to share. Spend an enjoyable hour with friends and neighbors while tasting and sharing cookies and recipes. Stop by or see the Library's website for more details.

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

Adult Crafting: Holiday Greens: Saturday, December 16th at 10:30 am Come work with fresh greens to create a holiday arrangement. See the Library's website for more information and to sign up.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING:

Book, Art, and Lego Clubs; Story Times and More!

There are still opportunities to join clubs this November and December. Check the Library's website for current information.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING- December 2023:



Letters to Santa: Starting Tuesday, November 7th, the Library's Santa mailbox will be available, as Santa may need extra lead time preparing gifts this year. Letters received by Saturday, December 9th will receive a personalized reply from Mr. Claus himself. To make it easy on the elves, please include your name and address when dropping off letters.

Decorate an Ornament: On Friday, December 1st, stop by the Library all day to decorate ornaments for the holiday tree on the Town Common. Co-sponsored with the Recreation Commission.

Visit From Santa: on Saturday, December 2nd promptly at 10 am. The Santa Party will take place on Saturday 12/02 at 10 AM when Santa will be delivered by fire truck to the Library. Come to the Library for photos, snacks, and Christmas cheer.

Holiday Pajama Story Time: Wednesday, December 13th at 5:00 and 6:30 pm Miss Leah will be reading holiday stories at one of two small sessions. Signup is required. See the Library website to sign-up starting November 6th.



Teen Vacation Book Boxes: starting Friday, December 15: Back by popular demand! During the school break, teens (12+) can sign-up to receive 1-2 library books chosen just for them, along with some extra treats to enjoy along with their books! Available for pick-up starting Friday, December 15. Please [sign up](#) as soon as possible so that there are enough supplies for everyone!

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

www.HamptonFallsLibrary.org hamptonfalls.library@comcast.net

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

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

- **Back to School!** Our building is alive with the start of the new school year and we welcome our youngest members in LAS' first Tiger Club Preschool.
- **Financial year end summary:** The HFSB will be returning an unreserved fund balance of \$147,657 to the Town to offset the 2022-23 assessment. This amount results from unexpended funds and revenues. The Board voted to retain \$50,000 to be utilized in the event of unanticipated expenses, as per approval of the Fund Retention Warrant Article approved by the Town in the 2022 election. The School Board must hold a public hearing prior to utilizing any retained funds. Every September the Board is required to vote to retain funds (including those previously retained if not spent), or be returned to the Town.

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

- **New phone system installed!** Thank you to the generosity of the Hampton Falls community for supporting this important update enhancing safety in our school.
- **Presentations on student support services:** Each month at the HFSB meeting, Dr. Mary Toomey, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, delivers presentations to provide a deeper dive into the services provided to our SAU21 student body and the laws and regulations that govern the delivery of these services. Presentations are available through school board meeting materials.
- **Falls sports are back!** The LAS athletic program is in full swing with girls' field hockey, cross country and co-ed soccer teams. Stop by Governor Weare fields to catch a home game and help cheer on our Tigers.
- **Thank you to our dedicated staff!** We extend our gratitude and congratulations to members of our staff who celebrate 25+ years with LAS: Michelle Casey, Alan Lajoie, Cheryl Graham, Pamela Huebner, and Kelli Maynard. Thank you for helping shape our school community!
- **Collaborating with the BOS:** HFSB members commit to joining BOS meetings monthly to provide updates across our work and seek new ways to work together.
- **Tiger Trot is back!** 1-mile fun run and 5k will be held on November 18th! [Tiger Trot](#) sign ups are underway and the committee is seeking sponsors to help support this wonderful community event. Contact hftigertrot@gmail.com for sponsorship tiers and other creative ways to support the LAS community!

Upcoming dates: + SAU Joint Board: October 25 @ 6pm; and
+ SAU Joint Board public hearing and meeting: Nov 6 @ 6pm

HAMPTON FALLS ENERGY COMMITTEE - Carol Schutte, Chair

Meets the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at Town Hall

What the Hampton Falls' Energy Committee has been up to this season.

In accordance with the mission of the Hampton Falls Energy Committee to save energy and costs for Hampton Falls municipal buildings and facilities, Carol Schutte, Scott Bieber, Justin Braley, Beverly Mutrie, and Shawn Hanson have focused on evaluating the Public Safety Building for energy and cost savings recommendations. An energy efficient and well-functioning building is a priority for the Town's First Responders. Several walkthroughs were conducted of the Public Safety Building, including those with controls and HVAC experts. Shortly recommendations will be presented to the Selectmen regarding proposed improvements for the heating system and energy efficiency of the Public Safety Building.

The Energy Committee is also collecting and analyzing municipal energy data (including heating fuels and electricity) to baseline and monitor energy use in municipal buildings and facilities. The results of the data collection will be included in the Town's annual report.

Please consider joining the Energy Committee to support its mission.

Contact: hamptonfallsenergy@gmail.com and/or attend a meeting, 4th Monday at 6:30PM at Town Hall.

FARMERS MARKET – Karen Sabatini; Farmers Market Coordinator

Wednesdays 2-6PM; June 7-Oct 4, 2023; at the Town Common, Hampton Falls, NH

The second season of the Hampton Falls Farmers Market (in 2023) marked a year of remarkable growth, that evolved into a vibrant community hub. The Farmers Market boasted a diverse array of vendors who offered succulent beef, poultry, dairy, artisanal bread, jams, jellies, and fresh seafood. New vendors were welcomed throughout the season. The Farmers Market fostered a sense of community and connection for shoppers and vacationers.

TOWN/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NEWS

Hampton Falls, NH

November / December 2023

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the Hampton Falls Recreation Commission for their generous donation, which allowed the Farmers Market to feature three (3) exceptional musicians throughout the season, that enhanced the market experience with live music.

Looking forward to 2024, the Farmers Market is committed to making positive changes. Sponsorships will actively be sought, additional live entertainment will be introduced, contests, and further promotion of sustainability are planned for next year. Community members are encouraged to volunteer and to become part of the growing Farmers Market. To volunteer or share suggestions, please email HFFarmersmarket@gmail.com. The Hampton Falls Farmers Market has become a cherished gathering place, celebrating local produce, crafts, and traditions. The Farmers Market participants and vendors appreciate the community's ongoing support, and an exciting 2024 season is anticipated. Stay tuned for updates and announcements as work towards next year's Farmers Market progresses to make the best one yet!

CEMETERY TRUSTEES – Jonathan Bohn, Chairman

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

The Hampton Falls Cemetery Trustees honor Georgianna Swain who has retired from her long-time position as Sexton for the Cemetery Trustees. Georgi has had a lifelong interest in cemeteries, growing up across the street from the oldest cemetery in Hampton Falls – Old Brookside. As soon as she could read, she was across the street reading the stones! She loved the history and the inscriptions she found, and asked to be appointed Sexton for the town cemeteries in 2005, to oversee the conditions and burials. Since then, Georgianna has walked every cemetery in town, created the cemetery maps and lot numbers used today, and recorded dates from every gravestone in Hampton Falls. She has cleared brush, clipped weeds, and lovingly kept an eye on all of Hampton Falls' historic cemeteries. The Cemetery Trustees speak for the entire town when we say "Thank you, Georgianna Swain, for your years of service and dedication to honoring and preserving the cemeteries of Hampton Falls."

