BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Edward Beattie, Chairman, Louis 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, and volunteers, and those residents who make a unique and positive difference, for their dedication throughout the year(s).

PARKING BAN AND SNOW REMOVAL
Townspeople 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.

JAY M. LORD, FIRE CHIEF
FIRE DEPT. CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
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.

BRUSH DUMP / CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL
The Town Brush Dump will close for the winter months effective November 28th and will remain closed until April 3rd. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 9th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for trees only.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION
We have now implemented a new process to help residents who 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 outside at our window.

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](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 dropbox. You can also call into the office to process a renewal over the phone. While our doors are closed to the public, we are still working in the office to process transactions to the best of our abilities at this time. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented and challenging time.

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

Please call our office at 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.

**INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS**

We recommend completing your vehicle renewal(s) over the internet. Click on the Town Clerk’s web page ([www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)), motor vehicles, 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**

**DUE TO TOWN HALL BEING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT OFFERING FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE.** Any New Hampshire Town or City Clerk can do the filing for a marriage license. The cost is $50 and requires both persons’ I.Ds 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. Limited staff prevents us from being able to produce certified copies “on the spot.” 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.

**TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS**

A reminder that the Town Clerk’s office is closed on Fridays.
TAX COLLECTION

TAX INFORMATION

As of the writing of this newsletter, the tax rate has not been set yet for 2020. 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 postdated 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. Checks cannot be post-dated or they will be returned. Thank you.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER – MARK SIKORSKI
926-4618 ext. 105 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 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 outdoors 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 shutdown, 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. 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 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 of these winter appliances are ready to run, take a walk around the home and check out your smoke alarm system. 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 may update the system and add carbon monoxide units into the mix. The units should be located just outside the sleeping areas to alert occupants of this odorless killer. Additional CO detectors on all levels will increase your protection.

Gutters need to be cleaned. Please keep safety in mind when using ladders. Another item to keep in mind before the ground freezes is to have your septic tank pumped and checked. Reminder: Hampton Falls has adopted a Historic Demolition Delay ordinance that affects any structure 75 years and older. The ordinance can be viewed in its entirety online at hamptonfalls.org. It is in the Building Code, page 2, Section 4.

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 is behind us. Soon the flakes will fall. Winter Well!

| PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION -- LYN STAN, CHAIR |

The Parks and Recreation Commission continues to meet on the third Monday of each month. 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.

**GOVERNOR WEARE PARK:** We are giving consideration to an agreement with local group NEB (North East Baseball). This partnership will bring first class championship leagues using the field and NEB will maintain the fields. Governor Weare Park will continue to be used by our community residents to have a fun pick-up game with their families. Look for a new refurbished Governor Weare Park Sign in the Spring.

We are pleased to announce that once again Grant Winnes has offered to oversee our ice-skating Rink for this winter season. The Parks and Recreation Commission is looking into lighting the rink to extend the daytime skating.

The Bandstand roof needs to be replaced this fall. The decision was made between Parks & Recreation and our Selectmen to replace with cedar shakes maintaining the New England rural charm. We continue to raise donations to pay for the bandstand roof. The Bandstand Memorial Brick Pavers have been installed. We thank Pam and Paul Fitzgerald, Karen Sabatini and Lyn Stan for helping with the installation.

Castleberry Fair reached out to us for an additional weekend this year which was on Columbus Day Weekend. It was a big draw and successful event.

This year’s Christmas Tree lighting event will be held on Friday, December 4th at 5:30pm. Tuesday Orluk and Stacie Ohsberg will oversee the event and a special thanks to Liz Webster for once again donating the tree.

We thank the Rye Garden Club for the $250 grant to help with the monument project, the dead plants were pulled out by many supporters and the site is now ready to accept plantings from the Rye Garden Club.
The Seniors Organizing for Seniors, a group of longtime residents who are working to be a hub for the seniors, intend to resume meetings in the spring 2021.

The Parks and Recreation Commission are 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 YES, please consider joining our team.

**HERITAGE COMMISSION – Beverly Mutrie**

The Commission members, Beverly Mutrie, Mary Ann Hill, Phil Chura and Louis Gargiulo, have been meeting fairly regularly throughout the summer. We have several ongoing projects that need extra attention and time from our Commissioners.

Phil Chura was taking drone and still photographs of historic buildings (with owner’s permission) until the leaves popped this spring and will resume again after leaf drop this fall. We are still in search of the Warren Brown boulder at the corner of Old Stage and Brown Roads (south side) and will continue the hunt this fall. We are jointly working on getting all historic resources inventoried, surveyed and the data put into a survey booklet to hopefully be published in 2022.

We approved using the ARC-GIS software, the same utilized by the Conservation Commission, to map historic houses using GPS coordinates, and the data will be uploaded to the web. We will use Phil’s photos with the pertinent GPS coordinates to add to our Historic Resource Survey booklet. That data will then be transferred to the ARC GIS program. When finished, all of the information will be available online along with descriptive text about each house or resource, making it accessible to all.

The other issue completed was the survey (photos and measurements) of the Pelton Farm buildings on Route 1, built by Ken Pelton about 1946. He was a true Yankee farmer; he grew blueberries, rhubarb, strawberries and sold the produce to the public at his farm stand. The demolition permit was granted, as the buildings were not uniquely constructed or sufficiently historic for preservation. This was the second demolition permit of an historic building granted this year.

We are in need of a fifth commissioner to serve with us. Please fill out a Volunteer Application or come to one of our public meetings, usually on the first Tuesday of the month at Town Hall. We welcome interested historians or those with restoration experience to lend their expertise.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Anne Coombs, Secretary**

This year of the 2020 pandemic has certainly been a challenge to the whole world. The Historical Society has upheld their responsibility by not opening the Museum or the Old Schoolhouse during the summer season. Instead, we have used the closed time, as stated in previous Newsletters, to reorganize the interior of the Museum. The Museum Restoration Committee has created a new office area and created smaller individual displays of interest. More individual displays are being planned and will be created through the winter season. With the hopes that next spring will bring a revitalized world for all, we are looking forward to a grand reopening for all to enjoy the displays of the different aspects of “The History of Hampton Falls and its People.”
The Heritage Company, selected by the Board of Selectmen to repair the slate roof on the Museum, is scheduled to start work in October. This is important work to be done to preserve the interior of the Museum. We appreciate the Town’s interest in the preservation of this historic building.

Fall is definitely here and gardens are dying back. Winter is rapidly approaching. Dana Doyle and her husband have volunteered their efforts and expertise to improve and maintain our gardens along with the ongoing efforts of our Treasurer Becky Dean, Vice President Bev Mutrie and trustee Hunter Stetz who have put in their time with that maintenance.

Our Annual Appeal Letter has been mailed. Please consider making a donation to help in the support and operation of the Hampton Falls Historical Society. We receive no tax-based dollars from the town and are a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity. Donations and Membership dues help defray the costs involved. Our mission is to “…..investigate, collect, preserve, illuminate & communicate whatsoever might relate to the history of Hampton Falls and its people.” Please like us on Facebook.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

The Cemetery Trustees would like to thank three young volunteers, along with resident Scott Harrington, for repairs to the white fence at Westview Cemetery on Nason Road. During the past winter a fallen tree had damaged sections of the fence at the back of the cemetery. After checking and securing the entire length of fence, posts were straightened and new rails installed by Landon Harrington and Jonah Kirby. Six-year old Zeke Harrington kept a close eye on the job.

The Westview Cemetery was established in 1867 and run by a private Association until the town of Hampton Falls assumed ownership in 2008. On the other side of Nason Road, behind an antique gate, is another historic cemetery, Old Westview, where graves date back to the late 1700s. Also called the “Revolutionary Cemetery”, our town’s veterans of the War for Independence lie in Old Westview. Harvard University’s 13th president, Reverend Samuel Langdon, is also buried here. Cemetery Trustees always appreciate your respectful visits to our historic cemeteries.

TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – Judy Haskell, Secretary

Tricentennial merchandise has been refreshed and replenished! Holiday medallions, ball caps, long-sleeve tee shirts, and knit caps are available in a variety of sizes. Please contact committee member Weezie Vance at weezievance@gmail.com to purchase items and make arrangements for delivery.

We wish you a healthy and peaceful holiday season!