
June 2020

**City Hall is closed to the Public, however City Hall
services continue to be provided:**

- **Drive-up Window**
- **USPS Mail**
- **On-line**

Please continue to check the [City Website](#) Calendar for
Updates to City Meetings

City of Somersworth, NH

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878
603-692-4262



City Council Meeting - Monday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order # 12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. This meeting will be held via Zoom online platform. The public is asked to submit comments via email to kgagne@somersworth.com or bblmore@somersworth.com. Comments must be received not later than 4:00 PM the day of the City Council meeting. The meeting can be viewed via the Local Government Cable Access Ch. 22 (Comcast) as well as via live stream at the City's website www.somersworth.com.

The public can access the meeting and listen live by telephoning any of the following numbers and then adding webinar I.D. #860 2691 0526:

1 (312) 626-6799 or, 1(646) 558-8656 or, 1 (301) 715-8592 or, 1 (346) 248-7799 or,
1 (669) 900-9128 or, 1 (253) 215-8782



A Message from Mayor Hilliard

As a community of united Hilltoppers we are continuing to bring our foundational elements of the Hilltopper spirit to life each day. Throughout this pandemic, citizens within our 10 square mile city have ensured the values we are known for, neighbor helping neighbor, looking out for each other, and treating each other as brethren illuminating within each of us and across our great city.

Since our founding in 1729, we have continued to overcome adversity by remaining united and never surrendering or easing the values which have made us strong and represent our motto of “Proud Past”, “Bright Future”. As united citizens, our entire community should be filled with pride on how we have successfully navigated and protected each other and our community during the pandemic. It has been our willingness to follow and implement each advisory, which has led to Somersworth not bearing witness to the distress which other cities, towns and neighboring states have experienced.

Each of us is excited as the signs of spring slowly eases us towards the returning light and warmth of summer. With equal anticipation, each of us yearns for a return to normalcy. We look forward to family and friends gathering in our backyards, exchanging food, drink and laughter. We look forward to the return of days at the beach and lake, virus free shopping at our favorite retail stores and dining at our favorite restaurant. We especially look forward to reuniting with love ones and cherishing our most precious gifts; time and life.

Despite our cabin fever and our need to return to human contact, now is the time we must continue to follow the guidelines which have kept us safe. It is imperative that until major guidelines have been eased that we continue the practices which have kept us safe with fidelity.

- Wash your hands regularly with soap & water.
- Wear a mask when shopping in grocery stores, retail or public places.
- Practice extreme social distancing, keep in groups under 10 and keep a safety buffer 6 feet apart.
- Stay at home when you can. Staying home now, means we can all come together later.

As Hilltoppers we have met each challenge of this pandemic united, protecting each other and the community we love. Now is the time to continue our path towards triumph by walking slowly, hand in hand to the moment when we can return to celebrating all of the things we love.

Together we will overcome this virus, why? Because we are Hilltoppers.

Stay safe, stay healthy, practice social distancing, and stay home when you can.

Take care of yourself, your family and neighbors. Together as a united community, we will prevail and keep Somersworth “On the Move!”



Mayor Hilliard's 2020 Memorial Day Speech

The graves of our American heroes stand with honor at eternal attention. With unbroken valor, they continue to guard from their final resting place the rights and values of a free nation. The silence of the cemeteries and moments which proclaim their bravery, their willingness to sacrifice for generations they will never meet, will not be unbroken this year.

This year, as a nation, as Hilltoppers we must stand from a distance to remember the men and women who surrendered their last breath, so that we may continue to breathe the sweet air of liberty.

The streets will be silent from the drums and sounds of the hero's parades. The echoing and smoke of the rifle of a hero's salute will awake to break the stillness of the air for another day. Yet our hearts, our prayers, our remembrances on Memorial Day will not be dissipated by the virus which halts us from gathering.

This Memorial Day, our strength in thought, our strength in our heart and soul will stand with the heroes who now rest in silence. From our homes, from a virtual spiritual gathering, from our own personal visits to their resting spots, we will remember, we will honor and we will say thank you.

As Americans, as Hilltoppers, we will never forget the cost associated with freedom and liberty. Like those who have gone before us, we stand committed to protect the creed of our great nation and carry forth the determination that every man and woman is entitled to the freedom bestowed upon them by God.

This Memorial Day, from a distance we honor. While the flags will wave in the silence of the air, their stripes and stars will be carried in the wind by the prayers and gratitude of a grateful nation. We will never forget those who gave their all, and we will also remain committed to honoring not only you, but the promise this great nation beholds.

May the eternal light of God, forever be casted upon our Veterans and may
God forever bless these 50 United States.

Each year Mayor Hilliard honors those who serve the Somersworth Community. Among those are our Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

EMS Week

During the month of May we take time to thank the brave men and women who serve our community as EMS officers. In 1973, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate all the EMS



professionals and the role they play in protecting our communities. Here in the Hilltop City we continue to be blessed and served by the members of Stewart's Ambulance, who are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

Each year over 36 million people received treatment from EMS providers, our 10 square mile community is grateful for the contributions of Stewart's Ambulance in keeping each Hilltopper safe at some of their most critical moments.

Throughout EMS week, we say thank you to the members of the Stewart's Ambulance team, for your unweaving dedication to the Hilltop City and your commitment to continue your lifesaving practices. In honor of Stewart's Ambulance dedication, I have proclaimed May 17 -23rd as Stewart's Ambulance week in the City of Somersworth.



Law Enforcement Memorial Week 2020

During the month of May our nation pauses on the 15th to honor the brave men and women of the law enforcement community. Sacrifice is one of the foundational blocks of democracy. As free citizens, we know that the inalienable rights which define our society come at a cost. A cost, that each of us might someday be called upon to pay too ensure the values and rights which define us, we continue to be protected for all.

Serve and Protect is the universal motto which define the men and women who rise each day, reaffirming their oath of personal sacrifice for the greater good of the community. With a shield adorned upon their chest, without hesitation, they are willing to lay down their lives, extinguish their hopes and dreams for a citizen's name they will never know. Since the first recorded Police death in 1786, over 22,000 men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring our society remains safe and free. As a nation we are forever indebted to the sacrifices they made for the love of their communities and nation.

The Hilltop City is not immune to the pain experienced with the loss of one of their own. On September 4, 1979 at the young age of 24, Hilltopper Officer Donald Kowalski reported for his final roll call. His name is now etched in the wall of the eternal protectors of our republic. The fundamental foundation of our Hilltopper values our respect for all, service to community and willingness to sacrifice for the common good. Today, we say thank you to all of the members of our law enforcement community for your unwavering sacrifices. Today, we remember those souls who have departed in the line of duty who with honor carried out their mission of ***"Serve and Protect"***.

Each start of your shift, know that 10 square mile community you protect appreciates you, respects you, and loves you.

May the guiding hand of the supreme chief, God, protect you each day as you fulfill your mission. May those who have departed us forever be honored through your actions of ensuring freedom, liberty and justice for all. As a community let us continue, officers and citizens, to continue to bring our City motto to life each day "Proud Past", "Bright Future".



Stay at home 2.0. Click [here](#) to find out what is open

WHAT TYPE OF MASK SHOULD I USE?

HOMEMADE MASK or CLOTH FACE COVERING



WHO SHOULD WEAR:

General Public

WHEN TO WEAR:

When a person can't perform social distancing; scarves and bandanas can be used if necessary.

USE LIMITATIONS:

Cloth face covering should be washed after each use; don't wear damp or when wet from spit or mucus.

SURGICAL MASK



WHO SHOULD WEAR:

Health care workers and patients in health care settings

WHEN TO WEAR:

During single or multiple patient interactions or routine health procedures; recommended when N95s aren't available.

USE LIMITATIONS:

Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse.

N95 RESPIRATOR



WHO SHOULD WEAR:

Health care workers

WHEN TO WEAR:

Caring for patients with COVID-19 and performing procedures that put them at most risk for the virus exposure.

USE LIMITATIONS:

Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse.

**CDC Continues to Urge use of Face Coverings
to Slow the Spread of COVID-19**

CDC continues to study the spread and effects of the novel coronavirus across the United States. According to the CDC, recent studies show that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms ("asymptomatic") and that even those who eventually develop symptoms ("pre-symptomatic") can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity-for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing-even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

It is critical to emphasize that maintaining 6-feet social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

For information about how to make a cloth face covering, visit the [CDC here](#) or [NHDHHS](#) here.



**Please help out your Local Eatery's.
Here is a [List of Establishments](#) who are offering
Take-out and Outside Dining.**

Department of Public Works & Utilities



Metal/Electronic Waste Collection

Metal and electronic waste will be collected on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Residents with items to be picked up should call Public Works at 692-4266 to be placed on the pick up list by Monday, June 8, 2020. The cost of disposing common bulky waste items (including metal and electronic items) can be found at www.somersworth.com by clicking on the “Trash and Recycling” heading under the “Our Community” tab.

City Street Resurfacing

Staff is working with the City Manager on finalizing a list of streets recommended for paving during FY2021. Data from an updated pavement management study is used to assist staff with prioritizing streets recommended for repairs. Ultimately the City Council will approve the list and staff will be soliciting pavement bids later this fall for work to commence in the spring of 2021.



Somersworth Fire Department & Emergency Management

Children in the Water, Grilling, and Hurricane Season A Summer Safety Message from the Fire Chief's Office

Water Fun – Be Careful

As the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions are lifted, the weather warms up, and virtual school finishes for the summer, more and more children will have the opportunity to play in the water. But did you know that the number one cause of unintentional death for children ages 1-4 is drowning? Drowning is also the second leading cause of unintentional death among children younger than 15.

Children can silently slip below the surface and drown in as little as 2 inches of water, which means it can happen anywhere – home or hotel pools, bathtubs, ponds and creeks on camping trips, or a day at the beach. However, make no mistake, drownings are preventable.

Don't assume someone else is watching your child – even for a second. Always take the role or designate someone else as the child's "water scout" to watch, monitor, and supervise kids in the water - even if a lifeguard is on duty. Be sure the "water scout" is free from all distractions such as cell phones, books, etc.

Secure your pool with an appropriately sized fence and locking gate. Don't leave toys floating in the pool as they attract unsupervised children. Always utilize a personnel floatation device - especially for children - when boating, and teach your child how to swim or enroll children in an age appropriate swimming lesson program.

Grill Master Safely

For safe grilling, always follow your owner's manual and practice the following safety tips:

- Always grill outdoors.
- Grills cannot be used on a porch, balcony or deck with a roof, overhang or wall.
- Grills can only be used on open first floor porches, decks or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or the porch is at ground level.
- Grills must be 10-feet from the side of a building unless the manufacturer's instructions say it can be closer. Make sure grills are not underneath overhanging branches.
- Grills cannot be used on fire escapes.
- Place grills away from the house and deck railings.
- Keep all matches, lighters and lighter fluid away from children.
- Keep children and pets three feet away from grills. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.
- Make sure that the lid of a gas grill is open when you light it. Propane can build up inside and when ignited, the lid may blow off.
- If you smell gas while cooking, turn off and get away from the grill. Call 911 from a safe location. Do not move the grill.
- Always turn off the burners and close the propane cylinder when done cooking.
- Never leave a burning grill unattended.
- Use only charcoal starter fluid. Gasoline and kerosene should not be used to start a fire in a grill. Never add lighter fluid to burning briquettes or hot coals. Doing so may cause a flash fire and result in serious burn injuries.
- Charcoal briquettes give off carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. Always use charcoal grills in a well-ventilated area. Never use charcoal grills indoors.
- For proper disposal of grill ashes, allow the coals to burn out completely and then cool for 48 hours before disposal.
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, thoroughly soak them in water before putting them in a metal container.

Hurricane Safety

The Atlantic Hurricane Season officially starts on June 1st and runs through November 30th.

Regardless of how many storms develop this year, it only takes one storm to severely impact our area. To learn more about personal hurricane preparedness including preparing an emergency plan and building an emergency supplies kit visit <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.

Creating an emergency plan with the members of your household prepares you for what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in a tropical storm or hurricane. Points to consider include:

- Meeting Locations
- Emergency Contact Plan
- Evacuation Plans
- Shelter in Place Plans

- Consideration for Family Members with Access and Functional Needs, and Pets

Build an emergency kit of items that will sustain you and your family in the event you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store. Emergency kits are particularly important during hurricane season, as there is the threat of extended power outages, flooding, and impassable debris-covered roads. While it is important to customize your kit to meet the unique needs of you and your family, every emergency kit should include bottled water, food, a flashlight, a radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit, sanitation items, and clothing. Depending on your family's needs, emergency kits should also include medications, extra eyeglasses, medical equipment and supplies, children's items such as diapers and formula, food and supplies for pets and service animals, and other items you or your family members might need during a disaster.

Please be careful and look out for each other.
George Kramlinger, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director

Call the Fire Station at 692-3467 if you have any questions about these topics or any other safety related questions.



The best defense is a good offense. All shifts conducted training drills to rapidly deploy traditionally defensive techniques in an offensive attack. Members used pit crew like coordination to simultaneously accomplish many tasks.



C-Shifts demonstrates the coordination and athleticism necessary to quickly reposition a very heavy hose line and how important full staffing is to conducting an offensive attack.



Firefighter Kevin Craft practices the coordination necessary to maximize

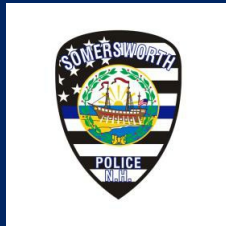
water flow from the Department's ladder truck.



New Cribbing

In the Fire service, cribbing is small pieces of lumber used to stabilize or lift heavy objects. The Department recently placed new cribbing in service. As pictured here, each crib stack can support 20,000 pounds and each air bag has the capacity to lift nearly 27 tons.

Somersworth Police & Friends



Somersworth Patrolman Donald Kowalski (age 25) was killed in the line of duty when his patrol car was struck by a stolen car being driven by a juvenile on September 4, 1979. Each year the Somersworth Police Association has flowers placed on his grave in Salem, Massachusetts in remembrance of his ultimate sacrifice.

A Message from Chief Kretschmar

Every year on Friday of Police Memorial week there is a ceremony at the New Hampshire Police Memorial in Concord to remember all NH officers that have died in the line of duty. Since the loss of Officer Donald Kowalski, each year that ceremony has been held there has been representation from the Somersworth Police Department at the ceremony. Sadly, this year, due to COVID-19 there was no ceremony. That stated, two of Somersworth's finest, Sgt. Anthony McKnight and Officer Michael Sloane, made the trip to Concord off duty to honor Officer Kowalski and all officers that have given their lives in NH. I can't be prouder of their deed, it speaks volumes about members of New Hampshire Law Enforcement and the Somersworth Police Department. Thank you both for your passion to serve and dedication to honor others who have served.



Welcome Newly Sworn Somersworth Officers Officer Jesse Wentworth (left) and Officer John Singletary (right).

Officer Jesse Wentworth recently completed the New Hampshire Police Academy on April 22nd and was certified as a full-time police officer by the State after completing the 16-week police academy.

Officer Singletary, a former Moultonborough Police Officer and former Corrections Officer, was sworn in by the Chief on April 6th. We know both officers will serve the City well and we wish them both a successful and safe journey as they serve and protect our Community.



Somersworth Crime Line:

You can leave anonymous information at
692-9111 - 24 hours a day/7 days a week.



Check out Somersworth Police Department's Facebook page. We use it to let you know about important community information including crime information, road closures, snow emergencies/ parking bans, and community events. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/SomersworthPoliceDepartment/>

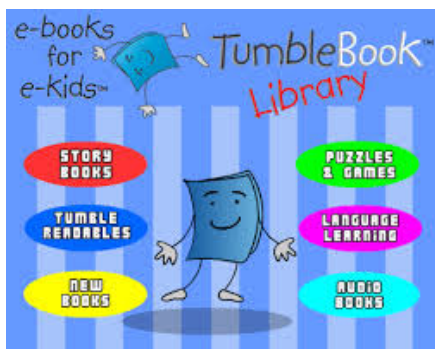


NH Downloadable Books

Anyone with a library card may borrow digital ebooks and audiobooks from the NH Downloadable Books OverDrive website! Ebooks and audiobooks can be used with most smartphones, tablets, e-readers, and computers. New releases tend to have long waiting lists, but there are thousands of books available at any time. Take a look here: <https://nh.overdrive.com/>. Please contact the library if you need assistance using this service. Due to limited staffing during the COVID-19 emergency, our response time may be longer than usual, but we will get back to you!

**Please check out Tumblebooks Resource below to
Continue your Reading Enjoyment**

Tumblebooks Resource Available until 8/31/20



TumbleBooks, a world leader in online books, has announced it will make its family of online libraries available for free until at least August 31. This is available to all Somersworth residents – no library card is required. Its flagship product, TumbleBooklibrary is a collection of animated talking picture books, read-alongs, books, quizzes, lesson plans, and educational games. Books for teens, adults and teaching math are also available! TumbleBooks are easy to use, and feature

unlimited access from home! You can read as many books as you want, when you want, and on any device. There are no check-outs, holds, or downloads. Books are available instantly. You can get access on the library webpage under the database tab, or at this link <https://www.somersworth.com/library/pages/library-databases>

No Fines During Library Closure

While the Library is closed, no fines will be charged for overdue materials. If you log into

your online Library Account, you may see overdue fines, but these will be removed after the Library re-opens and materials are returned. Any Book, CD's or Movies that are currently checked-out may be kept until the Library re-opens, or may be returned at any time in the outdoor Library Book Drop



Free WiFi Still Available 24/7

Free Wireless Internet is still available at the Library while the Library is closed. It can be accessed from the outside the Library, and its strongest signal is near Station Street. Connect your device to the wireless networks named "Library" or "Wireless" - no password required.

Recreation Staff Message to the Community

Dear Somersworth Camp & Program Participants,

Due to the many safety challenges resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City has made the difficult decision to cancel our Kids Camp and Trends Camp Summer Programs for this summer, 2020. Please know this decision was not made lightly as we recognize the important role our Summer Programs have in our community.

We understand this is an incredibly difficult time for our families and we want you to know Somersworth Recreation will be launching some virtual resources and ideas to help families stay active, be creative, and have fun this summer. Please stay connected with us this summer as we'll be providing these fun activity ideas to try at home in our weekly [RECspiration Newsletter](#) available on our website and Facebook page. We encourage you to follow "Somersworth Recreation" on Facebook this summer as we'll be posting RECspiration weekly as well as additional ideas and resources.

We are in the process of submitting refunds for all families who have registered and paid for our summer programs. Refund checks will be mailed directly to your address indicated on your registration form. Please contact us as soon as possible if your address has changed or if you have any questions at 603-692-9508.

We miss you all! We look forward to seeing you all out in the community when it is safe for us to do so. Be well, take care of each other; and get outside and have some fun!

Sincerely,

Kristen Davenport, Recreation Supervisor

City Parks - Regulations & Use

City of Somersworth parks and trails are open for public use; all City Park Regulations are still in place, additionally -

Please follow the **Governor's Emergency Orders** and please follow **CDC Guidelines** to ensure the safe use of our facilities & to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

- **Only gatherings of groups of 10 people or less are allowed**
- **Practice social distancing and maintain at least 6 feet between individuals in all areas of the park and trails**
- **Wearing of facial cloth covers is recommended**
- **Stay home if you are sick**

Hilltopper Strong – Stay Healthy, Stay Safe



Greetings from the Trustees of the Forest Glade Cemetery

We are very sad to announce that our Sunday's Series at the Furber Chapel won't be happening this year. The good news is you can watch last year's events on Channel 22. The photo of our community garden is just beautiful, thank you to all who donated from their gardens to make this a really great community project. Councilor David Witham always gets a laugh when I say

the Cemetery is alive and well, however I'll have to say it again! I have seen many folks walking along the garden paths in the Cemetery as this is a great place to enjoy the fresh air and if you walk your dogs thank you for carrying a poop bag.

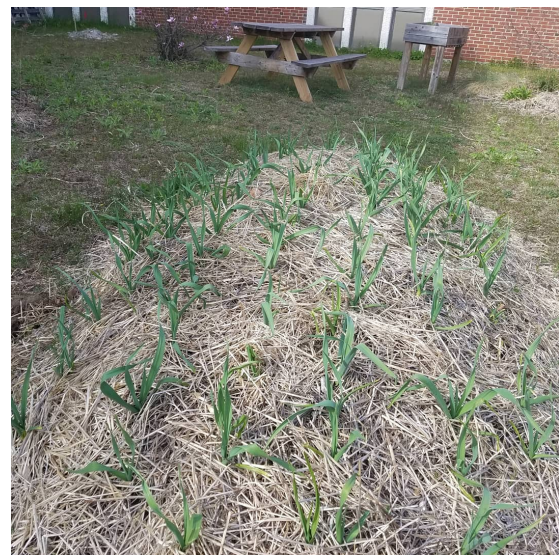


Still Growing in a Quiet Spring

A normally buzzing-with-activity time of year for Farm to School, the 2020 spring season is strangely quiet. But visiting the school gardens is a reminder of the progress that's been made in Somersworth's Farm to School programming. The pollinator and garlic gardens at SMS continue to grow, and the baton will be passed from the dedicated 7th grade teacher who started them, Chris Asbell, to others. The teepee and picnic tables built by the HS/CTC Building Trades students for Idlehurst's outdoor classroom may sit empty much of this year, but the Idlehurst FTS team is practicing social-distance gardening in order to keep things growing and hopeful. The Maple Wood gardens, ready as ever, have been fairy-dusted with a few seeds, and a pray-for-rain approach may yield some edible rewards in a few months.



Teepee and Picnic Tables built by the HS/CTC Building Trades Students .



Somersworth Middle School Garlic Gardens

Our friends at the Vermont Community Garden Network have compiled a set of guidelines and resources to steer school and community garden projects through safe, social distancing measures <https://vcgn.org/covid-19-guidelines/>. We don't know how or when, but there will be a day when students can grow food together at school, eat lunch together, and play together again in a safe way. Until then, make home a fun and safe place, and try growing something at home-- it's easier than you think. For more fun

Happy Summer to All!

Summer Meals Available to Students

Starting Monday, June 1st Student Summer Meals will be delivered Monday, Wednesday & Fridays to the following locations:

Idlehurst distribution time: 9:45am - 11:45am

Somersworth Housing (25 Bartlett Ave.) distribution time : 9:45am - 10:45 am

Noble Pines Park distribution time: 11:00 am - 12:00

The Plaza distribution time: 12:15pm - 1:15pm

For more information please call the SAU Office at 692-4450



The Community Food Pantry
176 West High Street
Somersworth, NH 03878
Phone: 692-2907
Hours: Mon. 10am-12pm, Wed. 6pm-8pm,
Thurs. 3pm-5pm

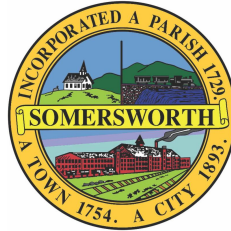
The Community Food Pantry will continue to serve families from any community over the summer during the COVID 19 crisis, and no id or proof of residence is needed. When clients arrive please stay in your vehicle and volunteers will provide you with a sanitized clip board that includes a grocery list, which will be picked by pantry volunteers. The groceries will be placed in new unused bags and put in a sanitized grocery carts. The cart will be brought to the clients vehicle and the client will put the groceries in their own car. Individuals from one car may go into a segregated area to pick out bread and/or produce and that person will be the only one in the area to comply with social distancing.

New clients please register by phone calling the number above and if you can't register prior to arriving, you can fill out paperwork there in your vehicle. All clients can visit the pantry as often as needed during the pandemic. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to pantry director Patricia Vachon either by email at communityfoodpantry@comcast.net or by leaving a message on the pantry phone at 603-692-2907.

Please note: Currently the Food Pantry is in need of cake mixes and canned pasta, such as canned spaghetti and canned raviolis.

Quality Service, Quality Schools, Quality Somersworth
Vision 2020

"We Believe in Somersworth"



Proud Past, Bright Future
