

City Connection

Proud Past, Bright Future



December 2018

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

December Meetings in Council Chambers

City Council Meeting
Monday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Site Review Technical Committee
Wednesday, December 5 at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 12 at 10:30 a.m.

School Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission
Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board
Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Historic District Commission
Wednesday, December 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note meeting Calendar is subject to change.

To view Agendas of City Council meetings please visit

Christmas Parade & Gala

**Berwick/Somersworth
Christmas Parade & Gala**
Saturday, December 1 at 2:30pm



ROUTE: The parade route will start in Berwick from Wilson St. then straight across to Allen St. (RT. 236), turn right onto Sawmill Hill Rd. down to the bridge crossing into Somersworth on Market St, onto High St, turn left onto Constitutional Way, left onto Washington St, and disbanding to the right on Green St, Elm St. and Main St.

The Winter Gala will take place downtown by the Somersworth Library and will begin at 8:30pm. The Winter Gala will include: an ice sculpting demonstration, dancing performances, and singing by local school children. Wrapping up the evening will include spectacular fireworks, sponsored by the City of Somersworth 125th Commission and Hilltop Fireworks, going off at about 5:00pm. The annual lighting of the City of Somersworth Christmas Tree with caroling for all to join in will take place at about 5:30pm! The tree is located near the old police station.

Seek alternate routes through the downtown area between 2:30 pm. and 4:00pm due to the Christmas Parade.

City website

www.somersworth.com/calendar/



City of Somersworth
City Hall
One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878
(603) 692-9555

City Hall Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday
City Hall is open until
6:00 p.m.



Stay in touch with City
Happenings.

- Business Email List
- City e-Newsletter
- Recreation Department

[Join our mailing list](#)

- Travel to Maine via Buffumsville Rd.
- Travel to points North use West High St to Route 108

*Thank you to the Christmas Parade Sponsors...
you are the Best!!!*

Gold Sponsor

SOMERSWORTH
STORAGE
SOMERSWORTHSTORAGE.COM
749.9728

Silver Sponsors



SERVICE
CREDIT UNION
★★★★★



Bronze Sponsors

 STEWART'S AMBULANCE SERVICE

COAST

COAST Needs you Input!

Have a say in what Public Transit could look like in your
Community!

COAST is taking a fresh look at the best way to meet the region's changing transportation needs, and **every voice is needed at the table**. Public transit design impacts businesses, employers, workers, agencies, educators, students, visitors, and more.

We welcome you to participate in this process by taking a few minutes to complete an online survey available at www.publicinput.com/coastcoa. You can also access the survey through COAST's website at www.coastbus.org/OurFuture. We encourage you to do this as soon as possible sometime over the next two weeks.

COAST hopes to collect significant public input through this survey by mid-December, and hopes to better understand the region's wants, needs and expectations as a result. COAST will be reporting out on the initial public input gathered through public forums and this online survey in late January or early February.

We thank you for helping us generate a broad-based response to this survey and encourage you to forward this email to your personal and professional contacts in the Greater Seacoast Region.

Contact: Rad Nichols, Executive Director
COAST 603-743-5777



The Mayor's Corner

Honoring my Father through a Plastic Santa

The importance of traditions are lost to us when we are young. They were often dreaded, and looked upon as a burden that prevented us from partaking in the activities we really wanted to be engaging in like riding our bikes, spending time with friends, and during the winter, building snow forts or having neighborhood snowball fights. I have very little to complain in terms of the inconveniences of family traditions as had very few in my youth. Like most families, we would gather at the table during Thanksgiving, and count our blessings through our indulgence of food. During the holiday season, we would celebrate Christmas by putting up an artificial tree, until my teenage years when my parents switched back to a real one. Apparently, my younger sister and I were to blame for the original switch to an artificial tree, due to our preemie and adolescent childhood asthma. As we aged, the asthma cleared and the return of a live tree made its way back to the Hilliard's house on Indigo Hill Road.

Christmas morning was spent opening presents which then cleared the afternoon for me to touch base with my friends and talk about "what we got". This of course pre-dated cells phones, and calling on a land line was really not our style, so instead all of us would grab one toy and converge on the predetermined house to gather and share. It seemed for hours that we would run through the list and compare "how we made out," while starting to make plans for the remainder of the school break. There are many similarities between the characters in the movie, "A Christmas Story" and the guys I hung out with during my youth. It was a different time period, but the same childhood innocence and mischief.

During my late teens, new holiday traditions would emerge. We would begin by gathering at my sister and brother in-laws house for Christmas Eve, to celebrate the holiday together, as new families began to form and expand. Again, we would overindulge in eating, and a Christmas card game with gifts would be introduced. The main goal of the game was to insure that my father received no gifts, and this tradition is still honored to this day. I'm not sure of the exact date (although a member of the Summersworth Historical Society might have it) but

around the same year we began this Christmas Eve gathering at my sisters, the Christmas Blow Mold Santa appeared in the garage window at Indigo Hill Rd. Somewhere during my father's travels he had acquired it, although to this day none of us are really sure how it arrived. This plastic light up Santa, as I like to call it, became my father's prized possession. He would talk about it throughout the year, and would view its re-emergence and lighting of equal importance to that of the lighting of the National Christmas tree, or of the tree at Rockefeller plaza. I am convinced, if given the choice that he could only maintain one earthly possession in life, the plastic light up Santa would win every time.

As the holiday season arrived, from the top corner in the garage, the plastic light up Santa would make its way to the window. For decades, my father would brag to me how everyone in Somersworth loved it, and how "they expect" for him to put it in the window each year and light it up. His obsession, and ego related to the plastic light up Santa, drove me insane. I could not comprehend why he loved the darn thing so much, or how he really thought that everyone in Somersworth marked their holiday calendar around the re-appearance of "Gordie's light up Santa". For some reason, just looking at the Santa often angered me. I remember walking in on the biggest argument I ever witnessed between my parents. They had contracted to have the garage re-sided, and have all new windows put in. My mother had picked a design she had fallen in love with, to include the round window which is at the top of the garage. My father, however, was not convinced that the Santa could be seen with the new design and window, so therefore canceled that design and instead ordered a larger traditional style window so the Santa could be seen by all. My mother discovered what had occurred and the Santa war began. Luckily, my role as a member of the United Nations prevailed that day and I was able to convince my father that the plastic Santa could be seen and enjoyed by the round window design my mother had chosen.

As we move through life, we become more awakened. We gain insight and understanding of the things that are important: life, family, friends and traditions. We experience the aging of our parents, their "slowing down", their passing, and we experience the reversal of roles as we become their caretakers. My father's energy is not the same as it was when the plastic Santa first arrived. Battles with cancer and Alzheimer's have begun his final process in the circle of life. Along with his battles, an outdated electrical system in the garage has led to a few years of darkness with the plastic Santa. It is with that darkness, that I realized its importance, and what my father saw in it. I have lost track of the amount of people who have stopped me, and asked why my father no longer lights up the Santa, and when will it be returning. Each time I had to explain the reasoning behind its absence, it became more important to me. The object, which I use to loathe, became the object that I most desired to possess.

We are the guardians of memories; we are the guardians of traditions. Each generation will be given the choice to keep memories alive, or to let them fade, to

continue traditions or to have them halt. This is an incredible responsibility inherited by each of us, and one of the greatest we will have during our life time: the choice to continue the family history and traditions, or to have them end and create new ones.

I have willingly, with honor and pride, become the guardian of the light up plastic Santa. To my surprise, when the torch was passed, I discovered there were actually two Santas. They now illuminate that dark dead end street that I live upon. Each night I throw the switch to power them up, I feel as if I am restoring my father's energy, and spreading the love and happiness he had for every holiday season. It brings me joy to carry on the tradition of "Gordie's plastic Santa," and while its location has temporarily moved, I have also inherited my father's insanity associated with it. I have had conversations with my mother on why getting the electrical system in the garage updated is important to ensure that Santa can be re-lit in the window at Indigo Hill Road, and that the tradition of "Gordie's plastic Santa" can live on.

As the new guardian of "Gordie's plastic Santa", the tradition will continue with me. I look forward to Christmas in the future when both Santas will shine their light, one from the window of the garage at Indigo Hill Road, and one from my own porch. It is my duty now to continue the tradition, to continue to shine its Christmas light, and to remind all of the nature of the holiday: honoring each other, carrying on traditions, and celebrating the universal bond we all share. Its light will continue to shine long after my father's is extinguished, and with each lighting, I know it will remind me of him. Like my father, I now look forward to its relighting each year, and look forward to the day when I will pass on the tradition of "Gordie's plastic Santa" to another to honor and continue.

We are a community! We are achieving progress and greatness!

WE ARE SOMERSWORTH!

Mayor Dana Hilliard



**Mayor's Community Forum
Saturday, December 1
9:00 – 10:30am
City Hall**

Included in this Forum Mayor Hilliard, Ward 2 City Councilor Ken Vincent, and Ward 2 School Board Matthew Hanlon. The purpose of the forums are to foster dialog and ideas, in a non-formal setting to continue to move our Community forward.

All Members of the Community are welcomed to attend.



SAVE THE DATE!

Mayor's Community Forum 2019 Saturday Dates

January 12 - Public Works

February 16 - Police

March 16 - Fire

April 13 - School System

May 11 - State Representatives

June 8 - City Manager, Bob Belmore

**Mayoral Winter
Office Hours**

Monday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

People are welcomed to stop by during these times. Or, if you prefer, you can make an appointment by calling Brenda at 692-9503 or email [Brenda](#).

From the City Manager's Office



[City Manager Reports - Click here to view](#)

**From the Desk of the
Economic Development Manager**

We are thrilled to let you know that the City of Somersworth has hired a marketing firm to promote Somersworth's growth and prosperity to targeted audiences, as well as to develop a couple of marketing pieces that can easily be used to promote Somersworth as a place to bring new business, grow existing business, and provide great jobs to its residents of today and in the future.

The City hired a firm called "Open the Door- Access the World" www.openthedoor.biz. This is a firm with thirty years of experience, and a rich international client base, coupled with many customers in the Greater Boston area, as well as numerous communities in Northern New England. In addition, the CEO of the firm is Christina Pappas, an invested Somersworth native, who has a sincere love for Somersworth, as well as a deep understanding of the City's inner-workings, it's history, and the possibilities for it's future.

Open the Door will bring a consistent and professional look to the City print and electronic material, and the firm will develop marketing pieces that are informational and vibrant. As a part of this plan, Open the Door outlined in their proposal that they "will define the Economic Development brand identity of

Somersworth. The brand will position the City as a vibrant community suitable to diverse audiences, and will complement the City's current brand of *the Hilltop City* and *Proud Past -Bright Future*. The brand will be integrated throughout all marketing and communications channels, and be consistent within all marketing material developed for this plan, including a brochure, website content and a communications plan"

Open the Door told us that their "approach to campaign development is holistic and consistent. "We develop brand identity by looking at the impact that graphics and imagery have on all aspects of the brand - from the website, email and social media, to internal and external communications, as well as print and physical spaces. We believe in direct and concise copy that is easy to comprehend. We believe that marketing communications should be integrated across all platforms to insure consistent messaging across all mediums, and that partnerships play an important role leveraging resources and extending brand awareness. Our integrated campaigns help to extend reach and build better awareness for our clients".

WE NEED YOU! We want to hear from you, we want to know your thoughts, your concerns and pleasures about Somersworth, as well as your history and vision for the future. We've developed a very short and to the point survey, and if you click this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N5GPWS8> , you will be able to provide your feedback, which will inform the directions we take, and ultimately the way we represent the City. Please don't miss this important opportunity ...WE NEED YOU NOW!

Robin A. Comstock
Economic Development Manager
One Government Way
Somersworth, New Hampshire 03878
rcomstock@somersworth.com
603-692-9516



Meet Bravo!



Meet Bravo our New Police K-9: Bravo was introduced to the Council in November with his handler, Officer Colton Deschenes. Bravo is a year and a half old Dutch Shepherd. Both Officer Deschenes and Bravo are in special training and we look forward to the benefits of having our own K-9. Bravo was purchased through a grant through the Working Dog Foundation.



2019 Alarm Permit Renewal Notices will be mailed out in December. If you own a fire alarm or security system alarm, ordinances require you to obtain a permit. To renew your permit the fee is \$10.00 if paid before the end of January, 2019 or \$20.00 after. If the alarm is for a residence and you are 65 or older, your permit is free. If you have questions, please call Karen at the Somersworth PD at 603-841-2917 or email: Kcantrell@Somersworth.com.

Live Scan

Somersworth PD is now collecting fingerprints with LiveScan. This equipment electronically submits fingerprints to the FBI using automated fingerprint indexing.



Snow Emergencies Winter Parking Ban

Snow Emergencies can be called at any time, day or night. During Snow Emergencies, a Parking Ban is in effect. Always be aware of overnight weather forecasts and have alternative parking plans when snow is predicted. Your vehicle can be towed during a Snow Emergency and you will have to pay the tow charge to get it back. The purpose of the parking ban is to enable Public Works to safely maintain the roads. This means sometimes there will be a Snow Emergency declared even when it is no longer snowing. Snow emergencies are announced on the following stations: WTSN, WOKQ, WERZ, WSHK, WHEB, WMUR Channel 9 and Local Cable Station Channel 22. You may also call the **Winter Ban Hot Line at 692-9131** or go to www.Somersworth.com. To receive news of parking bans via email, go to www.Somersworth.com and click "Subscribe-City Email."

Somersworth Police Department also uses Facebook to give important community information and we send out Nixle alerts for parking bans and other important information to cell phones and emails. You can sign up for Nixle at www.Nixle.com.

Avoid the parking ticket and the tow (at your expense) by paying attention to snow emergency information.

Somersworth Police Facebook Page

Check out Somersworth Police Department's Facebook page. We use this to inform you 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/>

We send out Nixle alerts for parking bans and other important information to cell phones and emails. You can sign up for free Nixle at www.Nixle.com





**Somersworth Crime Line:
You can leave anonymous information at 692-9111**



**From your Local Fire Department
692-3457**



Somersworth Professional Firefighters 2018 Toy Drive

Once again the holiday season is upon us, and the Somersworth Professional Firefighters are busy planning our annual toy drive. For more than 30 years, we have coordinated this tremendous effort to provide gifts to underprivileged children in the City of Somersworth. Together with local merchants and community members, we have made the holiday season brighter for many families. The enormous generosity of businesses, school organizations, civic groups, and other community members has enabled us to help others in their time of need. This year, we are once again asking for your help to make the toy drive successful! You and your organization can help by donating

- New, unwrapped toys, clothes, and gift cards for children ages newborn to 14 years-old.
- Monetary contributions for the purchase of gifts. Please make

checks payable to the Somersworth Firefighters Toy Bank.

Donations can be delivered to the Somersworth Fire Station, 195 Maple Street, Somersworth, NH 03878. Or contact us at 603-692-3456 to arrange for pick-up of your donations at your location.

2018 Toy Bank Sign-up Date

Tuesday, December 4 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your support

Winter Safety Tips

- The holiday season is a festive time for most of us, but remember that this time of year also yields many fires due to unattended candles, overloaded electrical circuits and natural Christmas trees that dry out and become fire hazards.
- The winter heating season is upon us. Furnaces and boilers will be working hard to keep buildings warm. Inefficient heating appliances may cause carbon monoxide so be certain to keep furnaces serviced annually. Also be sure to have a carbon monoxide detector on every level of your home.
- The winter season also has its share of power outages due to stormy conditions. Those who have generators are cautioned to locate them away from homes and air intakes. Also, be sure to shut off normal electrical power at the main fuse panel so generator power does not backtrack into the street and cause possible electrocution hazards.

Have a Fire Safe and Prosperous Holiday Season.

Information from Public Works

692-4266

**Solid Waste,
Recycling, Bulky**



Waste and Brush Collection

Christmas Holiday Schedule

Reminder that Residential curbside collection of Trash and Recycling will run on **its normal schedule on Monday, December 24.**

However, Tuesday December 25 a one-day delay will occur.

Tuesday's collection will be on Wednesday and Wednesday's collection will be on Thursday.

Trash and Recycling Reminders

Reminder that use of trash barrels for storing the blue trash bags or recyclables is acceptable only if there is no cover/lid on top. Also, the contents must be clearly and easily noticed that it is a blue bag or acceptable recyclables, otherwise the contents will not be collected. These requirements are necessary as the solid waste operator does not have time to remove the lid, or conduct inspections of the contents. In addition, this is a reminder to not use plastic bags to hold the recyclable material in the container and to ensure that the recyclables are free of food waste.

Metal/Electronics Collections

Reminder the next Metal/Electronics curbside collection by Public Works crews will occur on Tuesday December 11, 2018. Residents should call by Monday December 10, 2018 to be placed on the pick-up list. Use of bulky waste stickers is required and can be purchased at City Hall, City Clerk/Treasurer office and at the Somersworth Public Library (cash or check) and at the DPW building at 18 Lilac Lane (check only).

Residential Brush pick up and Bagged leaf collection services suspended until Spring 2019.

Residential Brush pick up and Bagged Leaf collection suspended until spring 2019. Unfortunately, the early winter snow conditions have impacted planned collection operations. To the extent conditions allow, Highway crews will collect what material is already set out, but limited to the extent material is accessible and safe to collect. Look for future announcements during later winter 2019, on the spring collection schedule.

Update on City Road Repair Work

The City's paving contractor Brox Industries made strong progress on addressing several roads scheduled for repair and resurfacing. A rainy fall combined with early-onset winter conditions caused paving and road repair work to be suspended. Several road improvements were completed before operations ended.

Additional Road improvement work will return as soon as conditions allow in Spring 2019



All questions on the City's Road improvements schedule may be directed to the City Manager's office at 603-692-9503 and or the Department of Public Works at (603) 692-4266 or email jnalley@somersworth.com

Residents reminded to "NOT" have Direct Sump Pump discharges into City sanitary sewer manholes or stormwater catch basins.

Public Works Highway crews have noticed some properties have roof downspouts, foundation drains, and area drains that discharge ground water directly into nearby catch basins or sanitary sewer manholes. This is in violation of the City's Sewer Use Ordinance (8A.21 section 10) and can contribute to overcharging the basin or sewer manhole. This creates ice and freeze conditions that are hazardous to pedestrians and motorists, and may carry pollutants into the City's storm sewer system. This has been particularly noticeable during cold weather conditions where the discharge flow will freeze on streets and sidewalks.

Please contact the Department of Public Works Highway Division at 692-4266 if you have questions or need additional information on how to redirect this runoff from your property.

Winter Season has started early!

Residents are reminded to use caution when driving in inclement weather, snow and ice conditions warrant traveling at lower speeds, do not tailgate and give extra space to City Highway Plow operators who are salting/sanding or plowing streets. Residential sand is available at the DPW Facility located at 18 Lilac Lane and next to the main parking area. Residents are limited to two (2) buckets of sand per visit.

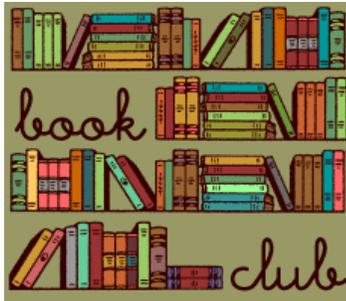
Parking Bans

The City will typically implement a City-wide parking ban during most plowing and downtown snow removal operations to ensure safety and efficient clearing of snow from streets and designated sidewalks. Parking ban announcements are made via social media updates on a routine basis (email blasts, web site notices and Nixle alerts) and when possible in traditional print media. Residents and businesses are encouraged to sign up for the City Managers Newsletter which will automatically result in receiving other emergency alerts and updates on such key topics as parking bans to keep you informed and avoid a ticket or a tow if in violation.

Sign up for the City Managers newsletter on the City's website at

www.somersworth.com . You may sign up for Nixle alerts to receive a text of an emergency announcement, parking ban, road closures, etc. by contacting the Somersworth Police Department non-emergency number at 692-3131.

What's Happening at the Library?



Want to add something new to your 2019 Resolutions? Plan to join the Somersworth Library Book Club...

We meet for an hour at 6:00 p.m. the 4th Wednesday of each month (that may vary depending on holidays). We read a variety of book selections throughout the year. Each month we get together to have a fun and interesting discussion on that book. Stop in the Library at the end of December when our January selection is released and plan to join us for the New Year!



It's that time of Year for our Library Wish List Tree

We have requests for Kids Creative Maker Toys to start up our Tinker Table Programs, as well as Early Reader Books to enhance the collection for our youngest readers, We hope you pick an item off the tree and help support your Library

Gift Ideas Cookbook Sale Going on Now!

We have some excellent condition Cookbooks that would make great gifts, available for sale by cash donation to the Library...Stop in today and finish up your shopping early.

The Library now has a Facebook page! We will gradually be adding news, programs and photos, so 'Like' and follow "Somersworth Library" today so you're one of the first to know about all the new things that will be going on!





The Library will be closed on Monday, December 24 (normal closing day) and it will also be closed on Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday.

26th Annual Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, December 1



The Somersworth Festival Association will be sponsoring the 26th Holiday Craft Fair at Somersworth High School on December 1, from 9am to 3pm. It is one of the largest craft fairs in the area. The craft fair will feature over 150 + of the best crafters in New England. Lots of free parking where you will be able to shop from our talented crafters to your heart's content. Delicious food will be served by the Festival Association volunteers offering both breakfast and lunch at reasonable prices. Come and spend the day with us and do all of your Christmas decorating and gift giving ideas.

For more information call 692-5869 or go to our website nhfestivals.org

Somersworth Recreation Presents...

Biddy Basketball



**Children ages 3-6
January 26-March 9
Idlehurst Elementary School Gym**

Ages 3/4: 8:00-8:45 a.m.



Ages 5/6: 9:00-9:45 a.m.

Join us for this exciting 6-week beginner basketball program designed to teach players the basic fundamentals of basketball through fun games and age appropriate skills. Players will learn how to dribble, pass, shoot, and more! Please note parent participation is required at this age level.

Volunteer coaches are needed to help run this program, please reach out if you can coach!



Early Bird Fee:

Register & pay in full by Dec. 7th
\$45 residents / \$55 non-residents

Fee:

After Dec. 7th / Deadline is Jan. 11th
\$60 residents / \$70 non-residents



Return completed forms & payment to the Rec. Office at City Hall
(cash or checks only)

**For more information please contact the Rec. Office--
603-692-9508**



Somersworth Recreation Presents...

Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt

Friday, December 7th

High School Football Field

Hunt begins at 6:30 p.m. sharp!

Free!

Bring your flashlight and a bag to help collect the candy canes nestled throughout the High School football field. Once Santa arrives upon the fire truck he will start the candy cane hunt. Light refreshments will be available. There will be an opportunity to visit with Santa so remember to bring your camera! Supplies are limited. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult for this event.

For more info contact the Recreation office-

603-692-9507 / 692-9508





Senior Holiday Tea

Come join the students of SYC for tea, snacks, and games including bingo and prizes!

Date: December 19th

Time: 4pm-5pm

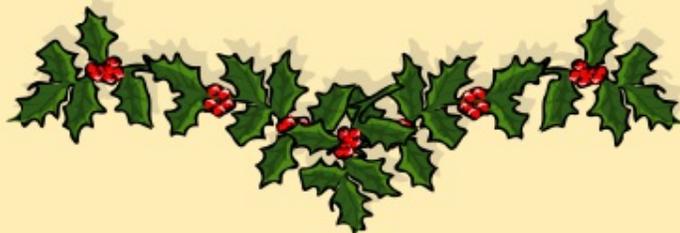
Location: The Flanagan Center

Open to ALL Somersworth seniors!



Refreshments: Tea, cookies, cocoa, and assorted snacks will be served

All seniors will go home with a Christmas treat made by SYC students!



Sponsored by: SYC and Somersworth Recreation Department

Save the Date!

UPCOMING 2019 Events

Volunteers needed!

- Father/Daughters Valentine Dance - Thursday, February 8
- Somersworth Frosty Basketball Tournament
Wednesday, February 14- Sunday, February 18
- Easter Egg-Strvaganza Egg Hunt - Friday, March 30

Please reach out to Kristen Davenport in the Recreation Office to obtain more information and learn how you can get involved. 603-692-9508 or email kdavenport@somersworth.com



Ready Set Grow!



October may have been National Farm to School Month, but November in Somersworth was busier than ever. Mr. Chris Asbell's Garlic Project at Somersworth Middle School reached a milestone-- every single clove planted for next year's harvest was grown in the middle school's own garlic beds, making this the first year that the Garlic Project is completely self-sustaining. Despite the monsoon-style conditions on the day of planting, every middle school student got outside to plant garlic for another robust harvest next year.

Mr. Daryl Dunbar is the apple of Somersworth Middle School's eye these days, and it shows. The removal of a dead tree in front of SMS inspired him to start planting apple trees with his Wood Skills class. Together they removed the stump with chains and the horsepower of his truck, and planted a healthy Honeycrisp apple tree in its place, plus one more for good measure. It may take a couple years, but those apples will taste amazing accompanied with the maple syrup that Mr. Dunbar produces at SMS with his students in spring.

The November 7 Farm to School Community Dinner was a great success. Over

150 people turned out for a delicious meal of chicken pot pie, steamed broccoli, and fresh biscuits with maple butter; the majority of the vegetables came from Somersworth's school gardens and donations from NH Gleans.

Local apples were featured in the apple crisp dessert, and a creamy sweet potato pudding with local cream was another treat. In addition to being a mostly locally sourced meal, all plates, cups and flatware were compostable, with Toby from Mr. Fox donating the composting totes that are now on their way to becoming soil for our gardens. Funds from our USDA Farm to School grant paid for most of the food, and donations of labor and product from local businesses such as Ovington's, Smoke and Cream, 45 Market St Cafe, Cafe Services and Mr. Fox made the night a true community event. Big thanks to all the families who turned out to volunteer; it takes a village, and wow what a village we have here.

If you'd like to learn more about Farm to School projects happening in Somersworth, and ways to get involved, contact Wendy at wberkeley@sau56.org.

The Falls Annual Chamber Meeting & Breakfast

Please join The Falls Chamber of Commerce on December 7th for our Annual Chamber Meeting & Breakfast! Doors open at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast to start no later than 8:00 a.m. and is held at Kelley's Row Restaurant. Presentations to follow breakfast including a guest speaker and announcement of the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors. Register today, \$10 per person, guests and not-yet members are welcome!

We look forward to seeing you.

RSVP: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=o4wi9ucab&oeidk=a07eftdhuga9ccbd59d>

Online Payment Option: <https://quickclick.com/r/gtnby>

Planning a Holiday Event?

If youth will be present, consider going alcohol-free. It's a great way to show that adults can have fun without alcohol, too!

If you are serving alcohol, make sure it's not accessible to youth.



Visit www.somersworthcoalition.org for more!



**City Hall be close on Monday
December 24 and Tuesday
December 25 for the Christmas
Holiday.**

**Quality Service, Quality Schools
Quality Somersworth
Vision 2020**

"We Believe in Somersworth"



Proud Past, Bright Future
