



December 2023

The Monthly Hilltopper News & Happenings



City of Somersworth City Hall

One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

City Hall Hours

***Monday - Friday**
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

***Wednesday**
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Boards & Committee Meetings this Month

City Council Meeting

Monday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.

**Site Review Technical
Committee**

Wednesday, December 6 at 10:00
a.m.

Wednesday, December 13 at 10:00
a.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00
p.m.

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00
p.m.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00
p.m.

Planning Board

Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30
p.m.

Historic District Commission

Wednesday, December 27 at 7:00
p.m.

The Mayor's Corner

Journey, Ending, Journey

Ten years ago, our greatest challenge was ourselves. While the history of Somersworth is rooted in overcoming adversity, as a collective citizenry our history equally reflects an abandonment of continuing the final push each time, we almost reach the top of the summit. The spirits of our ancestors from the First Nations, English, French Canadian, Irish and Greeks, continue to guide, push, and encourage from the world of the spirits. Yet, it is we who map the course of our destiny.



Over the last decade, we found the courage to confront the inner demons which have sabotaged the advancement of our collective success. We obtained community enlightenment, when we realized that the ingredients to building a home, we could all be proud of is not becoming like someone else. Instead, it is holding steadfast to the values we know as the Hilltopper spirit. It is these values which have been the bedrock of our strength, our forward pathway and future success.

Each gain, each failure, they are ours to create and ours to own.

So, we went forward, not as individuals seeking accolades or self-proclamation but as a dedicated team willing to surrender the “I” in exchange for We. Ready to claim wins for the team rather than for one’s

personal score card. It was through this change in perspective and shift of paradigm that we discovered our potential while also discovering the determination we would harvest. The determination to overcome the obstacles and individuals who still see Somersworth as their personal playground. A playground of selfishness, egos, dishonesty, and self-motives. However, the strength of the flame of our determination to build a Somersworth for all would not fail victim to their tactics, instead we stepped forward.

With each step forward we strengthen, we created, we built.

We strengthened our local government by instating a team approach to governing. Through legislation we created the Joint Commission of the Council and School Board. Worked in sync with the City Manager and City employees and created a Mayor and Council built upon trust and collaboration.

We strengthened our greatest asset, our vast cultural diversity through celebrating each other and how our differences re-enforce the fabric which binds us all together. As a reflection of that strength, we saved a historical object rooted in the Hilltopper culture and history, the Ten Commandments monument. With the monument as its base, we created Citizens Place, the smallest section of land in the smallest City in the State. Since its creation Citizens Place has proudly waved and displayed flags of our differences. Differences which model the creed of our nation of how we can and must all co-exist.

We strengthened our commitment to the next generation of hilltoppers by investing in our schools, securing capital improvements, and making sure each of our students have the tools necessary to compete in a global economy.

We built investing in Somersworth and its future. With over 10 million dollars in roads and sidewalks, upgrades to the Wastewater treatment plant, revitalization of all city parks and the creation of a new Veterans memorial and Butterfly and pollinator garden.

We built a strong dedicated force of First Responders, giving them the 21st century equipment and pay they deserve. From fire apparatus, cruisers, a K9 unit, radios, and a new fire station. Our first responders are among some of the best equipped and trained, ensuring Somersworth remains safe.

We created a City, a Community, a Home, that all of us can be proud of. One that lives by the values of the Hilltopper spirit and reflects its motto of Proud Past, Bright Future. Leadership is not about self, it is about others, and over the last ten years we have proven that we understand and

are committed to instituting and protecting what makes Somersworth great.

Somersworth, my time as your Mayor is quickly ending. As you are aware, as a proponent of term limits I did not seek re-election. Instead, I modeled my values, the values that democracy is to be respected and that elective office is about service to others and not about self. I entered this office with the same level of commitment and belief in Somersworth that I will exit with. Somersworth, our future, and success will continue to be rooted with the belief in ourselves and the dedication to our community and each other.

While many of our citizens will never surrender these values, be wary of those who wish to use Somersworth for their own narcissistic purposes. From businesses not committed to our Community, to seeking and serving in office with a hidden agenda or a pathway to clear and destroy all that we hold sacred as part of our identity. Somersworth, hold strong to who you are, continue to step forward and climb. When we reach the summit, enjoy the view. Look out at the vast horizon and acknowledge all who have guided us and sacrificed so we can reach that peak.

We are ten square miles of a Proud Past
We are ten square miles of a Bright Future

We are ten square miles of diversity with a citizenry dedicated to each other.

Somersworth our demons have been conquered, we have re-strengthened ourselves with our belief in each other, and we will continue our path to success and greatness. Somersworth, we are more than a City, we are more than a Community, we are truly a **home**.

Thank you for ten years of your belief and commitment to me as I served
as your Mayor.

Together, guided by the Hilltopper spirit, **let us continue our climb.**

God bless each and every one of you.

And God bless these ten square miles we call Somersworth.

For Somersworth we are "On the Move"! and our "Future is Now"
" We are a Community" " We are Achieving Progress and Greatness" "Let our Journey
Continue" as we Venture Forward United as Hilltoppers!

WE ARE SOMERSWORTH!

Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

The Berwick/Somersworth parade committees present “Classic Cartoon Christmas”

A Holiday Parade Tradition



Saturday, December 2nd, at 1:30pm.

Rain Date Sunday, December 3rd at 11:00am



Route starts at Willson St
straight to Allen St right
onto Saw Mill Hill then
over the bridge onto
Market St with a left
onto Washington St



Looking for
youth groups,
school bands,
and local
companies to
join us for an
amazing
parade this
year.



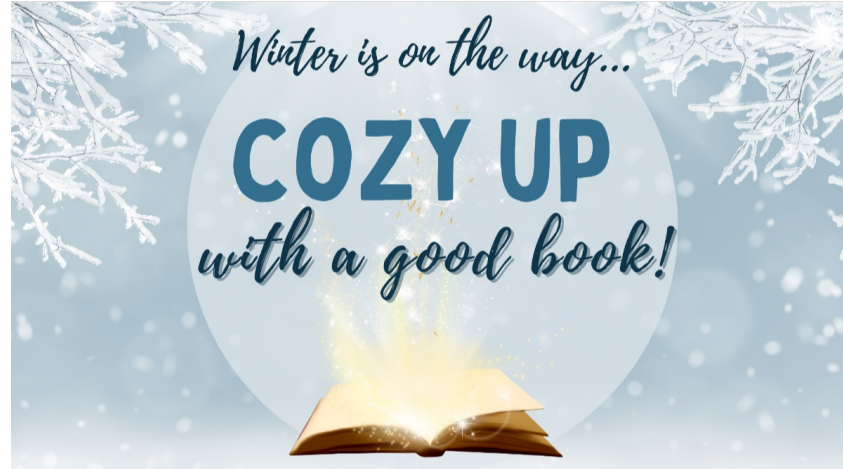
Questions? Please reach out to: Shannon @
srogers@berwickmaine.org OR
Beth at 603-534-3945

Register at

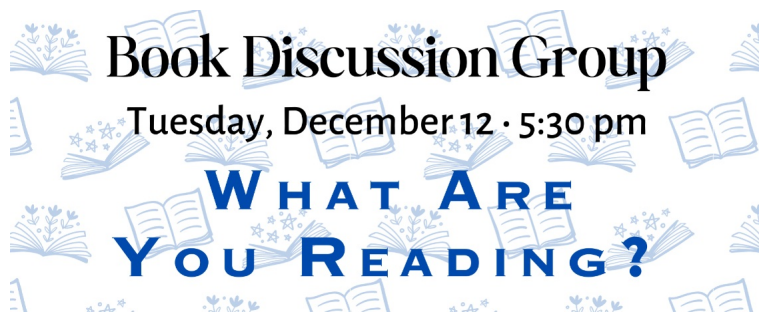
[https://berwickme.myrec.com/info/activities/
program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30936](https://berwickme.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30936)



What's Happening at Somersworth Library



Whether you're ready or not, winter is on its way - and what better time to cozy up with a good book? Stop by the library to browse our collection and pick up something new to enjoy. Looking for a book that gives off winter vibes? Check out our "Winter Vibes" book list [here](#).



We are taking a break from our usual format this month. Join us for a general book discussion about books you're reading, books you've read, and books

you want to read. Bring a snack to share with the group. Newcomers are always welcome, and December is a great month to join the group.

Adults, join us on Wednesdays at 2pm for a viewing of a great feature film! Upcoming titles includes:



12/6: The Mountain

Between Us

12/13: Little Woman (2019)

12/20: Last Holiday

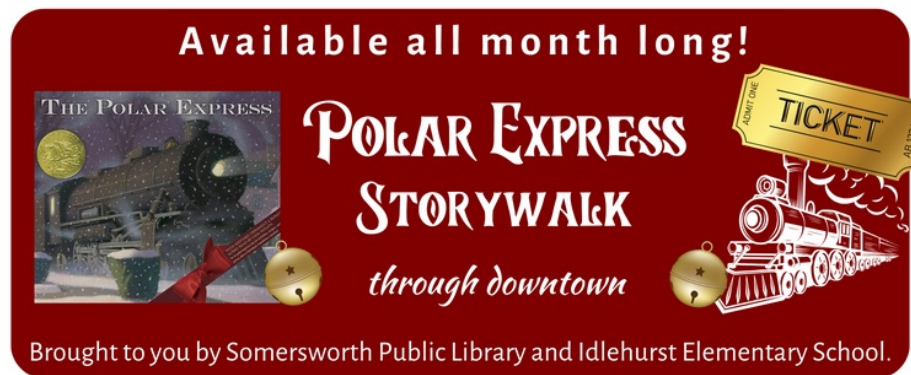
12/27: Last Holiday



The Library will be hosting a fun event for kids in grades 6 through 12 this December. Teens

who enjoy video games are encouraged to sign up for our Teen Mario Kart Tournament on December 5 at 5pm. Participants will enjoy pizza while battling each other for first place on the racetrack. Sign up online [Here!](#)

Bring the whole family for a showing of Disney's Prep & Landing and have fun decorating gingerbread cookies. This holiday short film is sure to get you in the Holiday Spirit!



All aboard! Get in the Holiday Spirit by following the Storywalk through downtown Somersworth and back to the Library, where we'll have a special prize for those who are able to decode the secret message on their ticket! Stop by the circulation desk during our open hours for a ticket and a map to get started.

Story Time Tuesdays • 10:30am

Our weekly Story Time is geared towards children ages 2-5, and features songs, movement, and of course, wonderful stories. Story time teaches children important pre-literacy skills, while encouraging a natural and organic love for reading.

It also creates an opportunity for children to learn valuable life and social skills by participating in a group story time. No registration is required, and all are welcome!



Baby Play Group
Thursdays at 10:30am

Baby Play Group is an informal program to encourage play and social interaction between parents, care givers, and babies. Little ones can enjoy age appropriate toys such as a ball pit, crawling tunnel, infant climber and activity table. Recommended for ages 2 and under.

Weekend Builders
Saturdays at 11 am

Children are invited to build and create together every Saturday in the Children's Room. Various materials such as Legos, blocks, dominoes, and Magformers will be available to use. Recommended for ages 12 and under.






STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM



Discounted Museum Passes

Did you know we have discounted museum passes available for our patrons? We offer passes to Strawberry Banke Museum, Seacoast Science Center, the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, and starting this month, we offer a discounted Zoo New England pass. You can reserve the passes ahead of time so that you're well prepared for your excursion. Ask us for more details at the circulation desk!


SOMERSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY



1000


BOOKS

BEFORE KINDERGARTEN




Help your child develop strong literacy skills at an early age! One thousand books may seem like a lot, but if you read just one book a day, you'll reach your goal in less than three years.

Each child who meets their goal before Kindergarten earns a free book from the library!



25 Main Street, Somersworth, NH | (603) 692-4587 | somersworthnh.gov/library

If you have a young child at home, be sure to take advantage of the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program at the Library. Reading aloud to your child will help strengthen their language skills, build vocabulary and foster a lifelong love of reading. Children who participate in the program receive milestone stickers as well as free book upon completion of their goal. Stop by the Library to sign your child up today. Recommended for ages 0-5



<https://nhais.agshareit.com/>

To Login:

Select Somersworth Public Library, then enter your library card number and your password (if you haven't selected a password, "greatfalls" is your initial password).

NH libraries and authorized library patrons can log in to request items and manage accounts and lists.

Select your library:

NHHSC9 : Somersworth - Somersworth Public

Username/Barcode

Password:

☐ Remember Me?

Submit

Cancel

Interlibrary Loan Program

If you're looking to read, listen to, or watch something that we don't have available on our shelves here, we can request it from another New Hampshire Library through NHAIS, our interlibrary lending program. You can also request items yourself by logging into [NHAIS](#). If you have any questions about accessing NHAIS, feel free to ask us at the circulation desk and we'll walk you through the process.

Simple login instructions:

1. Visit nhais.agshareit.com
2. Select "Somersworth Public Library" as your library.
3. Enter your library card number, followed by your password (your default password is greatfalls).
4. Click submit! Then search for and request any available items you would like.



Hoopla & Libby

Did you know that your Library card gives you access to thousands of books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, and music items? Simply download the Hoopla or Libby app and you'll be amazed at the materials that are available to you at no cost. If you need help setting these apps up on your device, stop by the Library. We are happy to help with any technology questions you might have.

Upcoming Library Holiday Closures

Days Closed:





Somersworth Police Department



Police Officer Aidan MacDougall graduated from the 194 Police Academy on Friday, 11/17/23. Aidan is currently in field training with an experienced officer. We are glad to have him back after 16 weeks at the academy.



Shop with a Cop

December 6 will be a special day for some lucky Somersworth children. Officers from Somersworth and other area departments will be pairing up with an a child to shop for their families' Christmas presents. There will be a wrapping and pizza party afterwards for these children. Santa and his elves (community, school employees and PD employee volunteers).



Members of the Somersworth Police Department and Police Association have been coordinating these efforts. Pizza is being provided by Somersworth House of Pizza (Hot and Fast), Villa Pizza, and Stripe Nine. Aroma Joe's on High Street is providing hot chocolate for the event. We especially want to thank Walmart for their continued generosity to our event every year and how special they make it for these children.



Surprise Gift of Warmth: Creative Needles of Lady Lake Florida sent a surprise package for our School Crossing Guard, Joanne Demers. These ladies hand crafted 30 warm winter hats for Jo to hand out to children who needed them. We thank you Creative Needles for your generosity and your support for our children.

2023 Alarm Permit Renewal Notices will be be mailed soon. 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, 2024 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@Somersworthnh.gov.

If you own an alarm system (including those self installed) and have never obtained a permit, you can simply go to:

<https://www.somersworthnh.gov/police/pages/forms-applications> The fee is \$25.00 for your first alarm permit. Alarm permits for residence alarms that are 65 or older are free until February 1.



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. To receive news of parking bans via email, go to www.Somersworthnh.gov and click "Subscribe-City Email".

Somersworth Police Department also uses our Facebook page 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.

SNOW EMERGENCY PARKING PERMITS

Permits for Noble Street and River Street parking during snow emergency parking bans are available.

Somersworth allows permit parking during snow emergency parking bans on Noble Street adjacent to the Noble Pines Park, and on River Street adjacent to Jules Bisson Park.

Permits to park there during parking bans resulting from a snow emergency are available from November 1st thru March 31st at a rate of \$20.00 per month, and are available at the Police Department.

There are 17 spaces available on Noble Street and 5 spaces available on River Street. Permits will be issued on a first come, first served basis. The permits are only valid during the dates listed when there is a snow emergency parking ban in effect.

Vehicles parked in this area with a valid permit must be moved by 8 am on the day following the completion of the parking ban to allow for snow removal from

the designated area.

Vehicles not moved will be subject to being towed at the owner's expense.

**For more Information on Permits Please Call the Police Department at (603)
692-3131**

PROTECT YOUR EVERY DAY

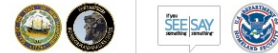
If you **see** something,
say something®

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Call 9-1-1

Somersworth Police Dispatch
Somersworth Police Crime Line

603-692-3131
603-692-9111



"If You See Something, Say Something" used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.



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 Police Facebook Page

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/>



Somersworth Crime Line: You can leave crime tips or anonymous information at 603-692-9111

**Somersworth Fire Department &
Emergency Management**





TOYS for TOTS DRIVE

Time certainly passes quickly! Once again the holiday season is upon us, and the Somersworth Professional Firefighters are busy planning our annual toy drive. For more than 38 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 mailed or delivered to the Somersworth Fire Station, 195 Maple Street, Somersworth, NH 03878. Or, contact the Somersworth Professional Firefighters at 603-692-3456 to arrange for us pick up your donations at your location.

Thank you in advance for your support.
Santa's workshop will be opening soon...

Somersworth Fire Department & Emergency Management **A Safety Message from the Fire Department**

Safety Tips

Candles, other heat sources, and electrical shorts near Christmas trees are particularly dangerous during the holiday season. On average across the USA, Christmas trees account for over 200 fires, 10 deaths, and more than \$15 million in property damage. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters, or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not usually a problem, but dry and neglected Christmas trees can be a significant fire hazard. Even trees that have been well watered and cared for will eventually stop absorbing water and start to dry out. Artificial trees may

not dry out, but keep in mind most are made from synthetic materials that can easily catch fire and burn almost as rapidly as a real tree. All trees, real or artificial, should be kept well away from direct heating sources such as fireplaces, wood stoves, or space heaters as well as open flames such as candles, lighters, and matches. Candles should also be placed away from Christmas trees, and out of the path of travel of children and pets that may knock it into a tree.

Check all lights before putting them on the tree for any cracks in the insulation. If they are cracked or fraying, dispose of them and replace them with a fresh set that bear the UL seal of approval.

The tragic fire in Keokuk started with unattended cooking. Cooking related fires – especially those resulting from unattended cooking – are the number one cause of fires in the home. Please work with your Somersworth Fire Department so that we collectively don't become a December statistic. Enjoy the holidays and practice cooking, candle, and Christmas tree safety. Working smoke alarms save lives.

Feel free to call the Fire Station regarding questions about any emergency management, fire prevention, or life safety topic.

Be Safe, Well & Happy During the Holidays!

Department of Public Works & Utilities



Solid Waste, Recycling, Bulky Waste Tips and Highlights:

Solid Waste and Recycling News Holiday Update: There will be a **one-day delay** to the regular schedule for residential trash and recycling collection as Christmas Day (December 25) is on Monday. Monday's collection will be on Tuesday, Tuesday's

collection will be on Wednesday, Wednesday's collection will be on Thursday.

Reminder the next Metal/Electronics curbside collection by Public Works crews will occur on **Tuesday, December 12**. Residents should call by **Monday, December 11** to be placed on the pick-up list. Bulky waste stickers are required and can be purchased at City Hall, City Clerk office (cash, check or credit card) or at the DPW building at 18 Lilac Lane by **check only**. The number to call at Public Works is 692-4266.

Bagged Leaves and Brush Collection:

The City of Somersworth has completed the scheduled Bagged Leaves and Brush pick up for 2022. *Please note that Malley Farm will remain open to the public for leaf and brush drop off Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 2:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm until the first substantial snow fall of the season and will not reopen until the spring. Sign up for the City's

Newsletter and receive an email alert when the City closes Malley Farm for the season. <https://www.somersworthnh.gov/city-newsletter>.

Christmas Tree Drop Off Program- Drop off & Curbside:

The Department of Public Works will provide Christmas Tree Drop off and limited collection services during the month of January. Somersworth residents may drop off their Christmas trees at the Department of Public Works Facility located at 18 Lilac Lane. All ornaments and decorations must be removed as Highway personnel grind up the trees for future composting. A designated location within the main parking lot at the Facility will be provided for the drop off.

Public Works Highway crews will also collect residential Christmas Trees without ornaments and decorations, during the 2 and 4 weeks in January following the standard trash and recycling collection services. Set out your tree by 7am which is the same time as you set out your trash and recyclables during this week and Highway personnel will collect and remove. As a reminder those dates are Monday, January 8, Tuesday, January 9, and Wednesday January 10 for the first week; the second week is: Monday January 22, Tuesday January 23, and Wednesday January 24. Please note while these set out dates are firm; delays may occur should our Highway personnel need to respond to a weather emergency.



Fleet Mechanic Roy Remick and Somersworth High School Art Classes completed painting on a wing of the City's snow plows. Thanks to the Somersworth High School Art Class instructor and students and Principal Chris Tebo for arranging the painting with a holiday theme. This Truck will be in this years December 2, Somersworth/Berwick Christmas Parade. Last years wing plow painted by Art Students from Maplewood Elementary School will also be seen in this years Parade.

Recreation Office Upcoming Programs & Events

Volunteers Needed - We rely on volunteers to run most of our programs and events. We're currently seeking volunteers to help run the Rec Basketball program and we have special events coming up in December. Please contact the Rec Office if you can help us out this year!
603-692-9508.

Somersworth Recreation



BIDDY BASKETBALL



IDLEHURST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM
SATURDAY MORNINGS- 5 SESSIONS
MARCH 2ND-30TH 2024
AGES 3-4: 8:00-8:45AM
AGES 5-6: 9:00-9:45AM

THIS IS AN EXCITING BEGINNER BASKETBALL PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TEACH CHILDREN THE BASIC FUNDAMENTALS OF BASKETBALL THROUGH FUN GAMES AND AGE-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES. CHILDREN WILL LEARN HOW TO DRIBBLE, PASS, SHOOT, & MORE! PLEASE NOTE, PARENT PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS AGE GROUP.



EARLY BIRD FEE

REGISTER & PAY BY DEC. 31ST
RESIDENTS- \$40 / NON-RES- \$50

FEE (AFTER 12/31)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JAN. 20TH
RESIDENTS- \$55 / NON-RES- \$65



TO REGISTER VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
SOMERSWORTH.RECDESK.COM/COMMUNITY/HOME
OR SCAN OUR QR CODE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! PLEASE CONTACT THE REC OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP- 603-692-9508

Somersworth Recreation

Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt

*Free for
ages 3-12*

!!UPDATE!!

**DUE TO POSSIBLE RAIN THIS EVENT HAS BEEN
RESCHEDULED TO FRIDAY DECEMBER 15th 6PM!**

Join Somersworth Recreation as we kick off the holiday season! Bring your flashlight & a bag/bucket to help collect all the candy canes nestled throughout the field.

Families will have the chance to get a photo with Santa. Hot cocoa and cookies will be provided. Supplies are limited. Please note, **all children** must be accompanied by adult during the event.

For more information contact
603-692-9508 or visit our website
www.somersworthnh.gov/parks-recreation

SOMERSWORTH HOUSING AUTHORITY
CITY RECREATION & LIBRARY
THE GATHERING PLACE STUDIO



Hilltoppers 50+ Holiday Create & Take

Dec 6th 10 AM - 11 AM

AT THE FILION TERRACE CENTER
75 WASHINGTON STREET, SOMERSWORTH

We invite you to celebrate the most beautiful and festive time of the year with us! Come enjoy some holiday tunes & refreshments while crafting!

Registration required:

Sign up online at www.somersworthnh.gov/parks-recreation/pages/programs
or stop by the Rec Office

BRING A
CANNED GOOD
ITEM TO BE
ENTERED FOR
A RAFFLE

THIS EVENT
IS FREE FOR
RESIDENTS
AGES 50+

COME DECORATE
AN ORNAMENT &
MAKE A
SNOWMAN CRAFT



For further questions or information
contact Kristen Davenport
kdavenport@somersworthnh.gov or call 603-692-9508



Somersworth Recreation Ornament Exchange

Bring an ornament to exchange one



Where: Somersworth Recreation office

When: Every Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday starting December 5th
from 11am - 4pm

For more information contact the
office at 603-692-9507



**For more information about any of the Recreation Department
Programs please call (603) 692-9507 or (603) 692-9508.**



Somersworth School Sports Something to Cheer About November 27, 2023

Ask any adult about their most memorable childhood experiences, and you'll likely find out if they played a sport. They'll tell you about that monster block at the boards, that interception when the score was close, or the time their team had triple the kills as their rivals. And if you live in Somersworth, you might hear how it felt to be a spectator and know *that, too*, mattered.

Steve Hodsdon, the newly named athletic director of Somersworth School District, says that sports in smaller high schools depend on the number of kids who come out to play. Somersworth High School (SHS) has about 400 students and is one of New Hampshire's smaller schools. "When the rosters are small, a team won't have the subs it needs to post wins. Getting kids excited about sports at an earlier age will be my primary focus over the next couple of years," says Hodsdon. He believes this will translate into a stronger athletic program across the district.

You can't ignore the benefits of playing sports. "Kids who participate in athletics experience mental health benefits like lower anxiety. They are more conscientious students and have higher levels of academic achievement. They are less likely to get in trouble in school," says Hodsdon. "My goal is to bring that mindset to the middle school and lower grades across the entire district."

Plus, strong athletics are valuable for the city. “I’m from Somersworth, where we have always had a proud athletic tradition. Win or lose, teams get a lot of fans. This is a town that appreciates athletics.” As an athlete graduating from SHS in 1992, Hodsdon would know.

Somersworth High School’s football and volleyball teams dominated their divisions this Fall. The football team, under the leadership of head coach Jeremy Lambert, won its third straight Division III title. The volleyball team was 17-0 during its regular season and, until the semifinals, was never behind during a game all season. As the Division IV runner-ups, they, too, have good reason to be proud. Hodsdon, the team's coach, boasts, “Ten of the volleyball team's 15 players are members of the National Honor Society, and three weren’t yet eligible.” The link between performance on the court and performance in the classroom is strong in Somersworth.

Next year, SHS’s football and volleyball teams will move up to Division III and II, respectively. Somersworth is one of the few High Schools in the State with a growing student population. It’ll mean competing at a higher level. If visits to the weight room and passion for your sport are an indication, both teams will rise to the challenge.

Cheerleading roster numbers are also predicted to rise. The cheer team graduated a big class in 2023, and this is a rebuilding year. With half a dozen freshmen going out for cheer in the fall, the squad stayed on the sidelines during the fall but is looking at three or four competitions this winter. They’ll be back strong soon enough. Still, cheerleaders and the band members were partially responsible for the crackle of energy experienced during fall home football games.

Hodsdon says the same unifying approach to increased participation holds true for soccer. ROSO Soccer Club, a local organization serving Somersworth, Rollinsford, and other surrounding towns, is seeing strong numbers. While they are teaching young athletes to learn and play, Hodsdon will build relationships with Somersworth children and help the group grow its numbers. They’ll be a great feeder for future teams in the Somersworth School District.

Parents and Somersworth community members looking to get involved in Somersworth’s athletic programs can email Steve Hodsdon at shodsdon@sau56.org or visit SAU56’s athletics website at <https://somersworthhilltoppers.com/> for team schedules and team stores.

Somersworth Festival Associations Upcoming Festivities!



30th Annual Holiday Craft Fair

**Saturday, December 2nd
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Somersworth High School
11 Memorial Drive, Somersworth**

Over 175 talented crafters!

**Food! Great raffles!
Free parking Free entry**



Phone: 603-692-5869 • Email: sfachild.festival@gmail.com
www.nhfestivals.org

GREATER SEACOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH

Goodwin
Community Health

**Families
First**

**Lilac City
Pediatrics**

2023 Family Programs

Babytime Playgroup
Ongoing / Weekly/ Wednesdays
10:am - 11:30 am

- A free weekly playgroup in Somersworth for babies 0-1 year and their caregivers
- Join us for a fun morning out while socializing your little ones and chatting with other adults.



- Held in the Families First classroom at Idlehurst Elementary

Signup not required. Drop-in's welcome!

Question? Call our Family Center at (603) 422-8209

City of Somersworth Employment Opportunities

Finalists must complete pre-employment screening to include: physical, drug test &

background check. Detailed postings available online at:

<https://www.somersworth.com/human-resources/page/employment-opportunities>

A completed City of Somersworth Employment Application is required for all job openings. For more information please call Linda Corriveau at (603) 692-9529 or email Linda

POLICE

Investigations Secretary

Pay Range: \$44,844.80 to \$61,360.00 (\$21.56 - \$29.50)

Date Posted: November 30, 2023

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Patrol Officers

\$54,329.60 (\$26.12 hr.) to \$74,339.20 (\$35.74 hr.)

More Information: [Somersworth Police Department Job Opportunities](https://www.somersworthnh.gov/police/pages/job-opportunities)

<https://www.somersworthnh.gov/police/pages/job-opportunities>



**City Hall will be Closed on Monday,
December 25 and Tuesday, December 26
for the Christmas Holiday.**



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