

February 2021

City of Somersworth, NH

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

City Hall Hours

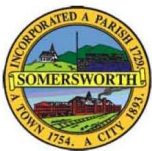
Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

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

[Visit our
website](#)



Scheduled February City Council Meetings

TONIGHT, February 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16 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. This meeting is open to the Public, though the Public is not encouraged to attend. The public is asked to submit comments via email

The Mayor's Corner



Peaceful Transition of Power

On April 30th 1789 on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City, then the nation's capital, George Washington was sworn in as the First President of the United States. The Ceremony began a 232 year tradition of the peaceful transition of power, the cornerstone of our democracy. The swearing in of the most powerful position and leader of the free world occurs in the open air at noon, the time of day with the most light. Its symbolism reinforces our values and expectations upon the government we created, upon the government we are part of and that we control.

The 232 year tradition, however, is not without its blemishes or immune from individuals who believed they are beyond the constraints and dignity of the office. When former President Donald Trump snubbed President Biden at the Inauguration, it broke the attendance record of 150 years and added him to the

jslaven@somersworth.com. Comments must be received no 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.

City Manager Reports for the City Council Meetings available [here](#)

Land Use Board Meetings – Planning, Zoning Board of Adjustment, etc.

These meetings will continue to be held in a ZOOM meeting format. Please check [City Website calendar](#) for Agendas.

Committee/Board Meetings this Month.

Site Review Technical Committee

Wednesday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Public Safety Committee via Zoom

Wednesday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

School Board Meeting via Zoom

Monday, February 15 at 7:00 pm

Minor Site Plan via Zoom

Wednesday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee via Zoom

Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board via Zoom

Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Historic District Commission via Zoom

Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

list of three predecessors who saw no need to honor or value the elements of what continues to keep our republic whole and strong. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to 8th Grader, Mia Westphal. Mia, has won the local, district, and state level competitions of the VFW's annual Patriot's Pen writing competition. Mia's essay is now moving on to the national level where she will represent our great Hilltop city and her school, Somersworth Middle School. Mia, Somersworth is VERY PROUD OF YOU!

**What is Patriotism
by Mia Westphal**

Merriam Webster dictionary defines patriotism as "love for or devotion to one's country". Patriotism is serving your country, whether it be by going out and serving in the military, or in current times, continuing to work on the front lines as a doctor or nurse. Patriotism is saluting the flag whenever you see it, because it's the symbol of our great and beautiful nation. Patriotism is following your duties as an American citizen, by voting and respecting others, and by representing our country with [Read more...](#)

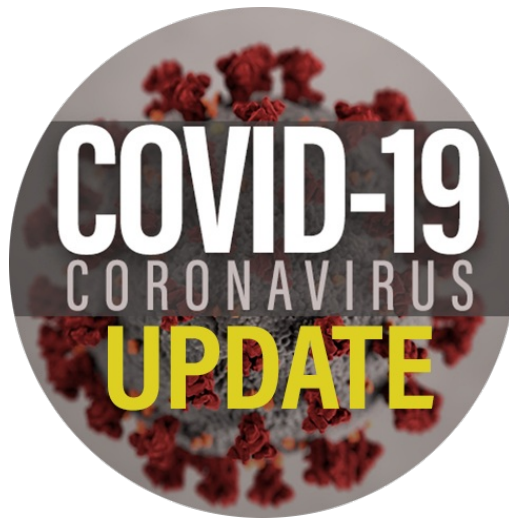
Mayor's Office Hours

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 this time. Or, if you prefer, you can make an appointment by calling Brenda at 692-9503 or email

bbreda@somersworth.com

Residents are encouraged to wear face coverings/masks and meetings will take place in the Council Chambers to adhere to CDC Guidelines of Social Distancing.



COVID-19 vaccination registration remains open for New Hampshire residents in Phase 1B

COVID vaccination registration for NH residents in Phase 1B began on Jan. 22. Vaccinations began this week. Phase 1B includes:

- Persons who are 65 years of age or older
- Persons who are under 65 years old with defined medical conditions that put them at significantly higher risk
- A caregiver for a medically vulnerable family member under 16 years of age
- Staff member or resident of an institution for developmental disabilities
- A corrections officer or staff member working in a correctional facility
- First responders and health workers not already vaccinated

The registration and scheduling process for vaccination will vary depending on the person's prioritization criteria and location of vaccination clinic:

- Persons 65 years of age and older should register to be vaccinated at a fixed site by visiting <https://vaccines.nh.gov>. Persons without internet access should call 2-1-1 to get assistance with registration.
- Persons under 65 years of age who are prioritized due to medical conditions need to register through their healthcare provider to confirm eligibility and facilitate vaccination.
- Other Phase 1B individuals should register to be vaccinated at a fixed site by visiting <https://vaccines.nh.gov> (or call 2-1-1 if no internet access), through their organization (e.g. hospital employee), or through a vaccination clinic organized by a Regional Public Health Network (RPHN).

If you are unsure what Phase you fall under, use the COVID-19 Vaccine Phases Assessment Tool to help you determine your status: <https://www.vaccines.nh.gov/>.

After submitting your online registration form, you will receive an automated email from the CDC Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) to schedule your vaccine appointment. **[Guide to the VAMS registration and scheduling process.](#)**

For general questions on vaccination or to schedule vaccination if the online system cannot be used, call 211 or 1-866-444-4211.

When can I get a **COVID-19 VACCINE** in NH?

Updated: 1/14/2021



PHASE 1


PHASE 1A

- High-risk health workers
- First responders
- Older adults living in residential care settings

PHASE 1B

- People ≥ 65 years old
- Medically vulnerable at *significantly* higher risk with 2 or more conditions
 - Family caregivers of those medically vulnerable persons, ≤ 16 years old not eligible for vaccine
- Residents and staff of residential facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Corrections officers and staff working in correctional facilities
- First responders and health workers not already vaccinated

DECEMBER - MARCH*



PHASE 2


PHASE 2A

- K-12 school and childcare staff

PHASE 2B

- People 50 - 64 years old

MARCH - MAY*



PHASE 3

PHASE 3A


- Medically vulnerable < 50 years old at *moderately* higher risk with 1 or more conditions

PHASE 3B

- Everyone else not already vaccinated

MAY and BEYOND*

Additional details are coming soon.
Contact 2-1-1 for more information and visit nh.gov/covid19 for updates.



*Estimated time frame depends on vaccine doses allocated to NH from the federal government and vaccine uptake.

A Quick Note on Private Residential Dumpsters from our Code Office.

Many Somersworth residents opt to rent a private dumpster for their home out of a need for high-volume trash-removal, or simply for convenience. If you already have a dumpster on your property, or are considering one as an option for your home, please keep in mind the following dumpster regulations, City Ordinance, Ch. 11A:

- The dumpster needs to be placed on an impermeable surface, such as asphalt or concrete;
- The dumpster needs to be screened from public view;
- If visible from any public way, the screening shall be opaque, either by the use of trees/landscaping or man-made structures and maintained in an acceptable condition;
- The dumpster cannot be within any front yard setback area.

If you have any questions about a new or existing dumpster on your property, please give the Code Office a call at: (603) 692-9521.



Department of Public Works & Utilities

Solid Waste and Recycling Schedule News Updates

There will be **No Change** to the regular schedule residential trash and recycling collection for President's Day February 15.

As a reminder, please have your trash and recycling curbside **no later than 7:00am** on your collection day. This scheduled set out time, allows Waste Management operators to consistently begin operations at any location on City streets. Due to operations, arrangements cannot be easily made to pick up missed collections.

Winter Parking Ban Alerts

During the winter, parking bans are put in place to allow the City plow equipment to clear roads and sidewalks. **Call the recorded Snow Emergency Hotline for parking ban information at 603-692-9131.** In addition, Check the City website for current postings on winter emergency parking bans and email alert at www.somersworth.com or to sign up to receive regular email updates on a range of City informational topics, including parking bans and the City Manager's monthly newsletter.

Somersworth Fire Department & Emergency Management A Message from the Fire Chief's Office

Spring is Around the Corner but Old Man Winter has a Few Curve Balls.

A Safety Message from the Fire Chief's Office

By the time you read this, Red Sox pitchers and catchers will be less than two weeks from reporting for spring training – a sure sign that spring is around the corner. Unfortunately, old man winter is slow to let go and has a few nasty pitches including a mean hanging curve and a wicked knuckle ball that we have to guard against before we can enjoy the new grass on the field.

Please see the following important late winter safety messages and some pictures of recent Fire Department activities.

Feel free to call the Fire Station if you have questions about any emergency management, fire prevention, or life safety topics.

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

Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

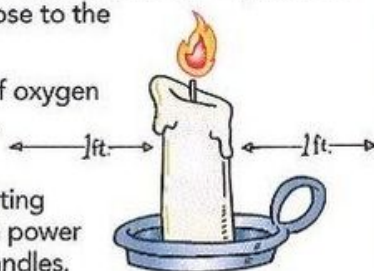
"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- » Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- » Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- » Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- » Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- » Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- » Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- » Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- » Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

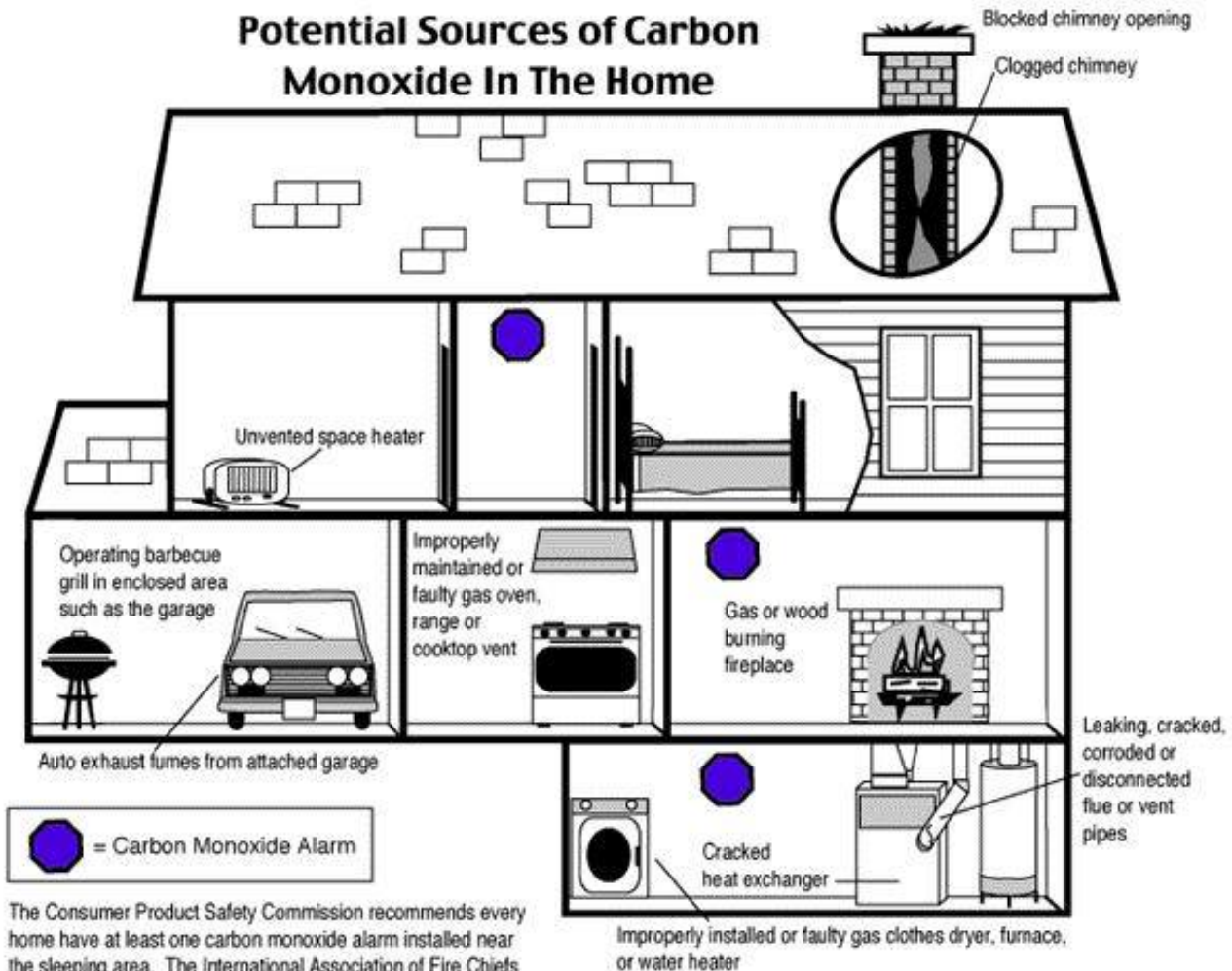
- ❗ On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 40 minutes.
- ❗ More than **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ❗ More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

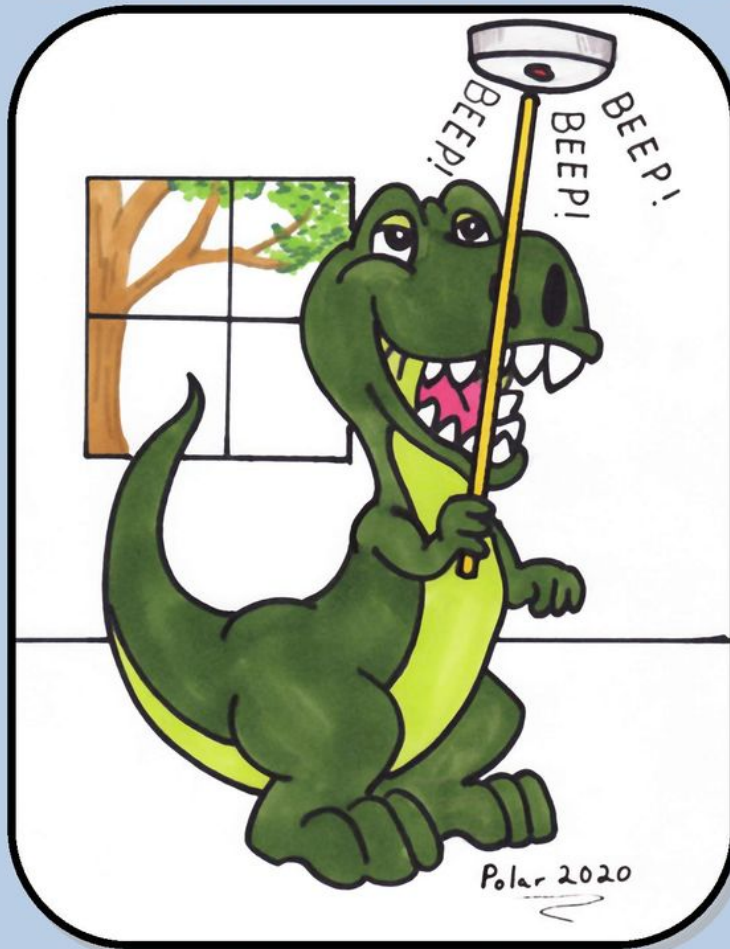
www.nfpa.org/education

Potential Sources of Carbon Monoxide In The Home



Information provided by **First Alert**

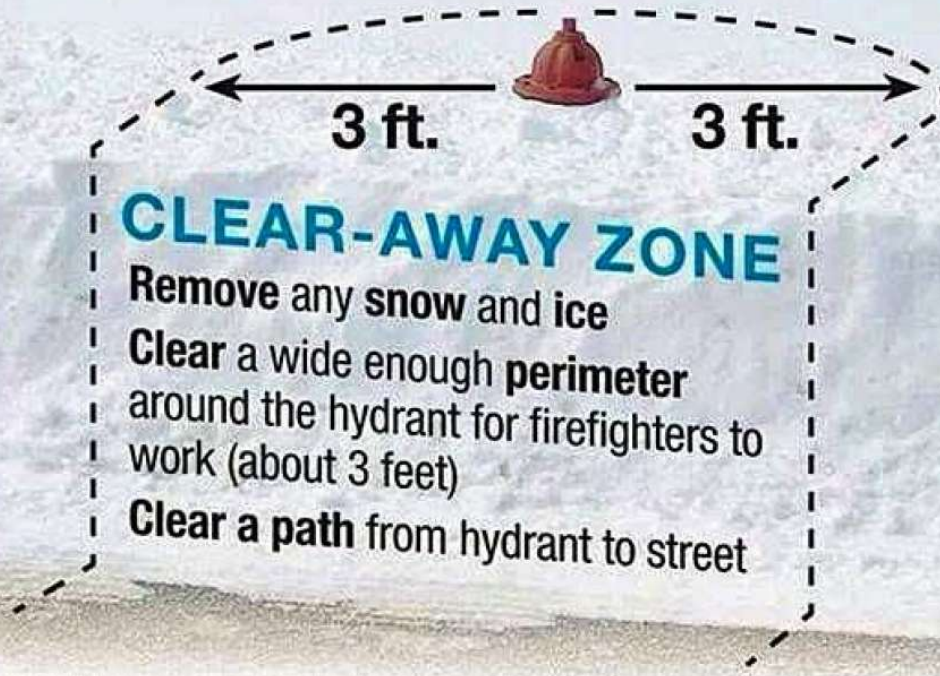
**If you can not reach your smoke alarms,
use a broom handle or dowel.**



Test Your Smoke Alarms Monthly!

KEEP THEM CLEAR

If there's a **fire hydrant** near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter:



The SFD assists Somersworth Department of Public Works in assessing a malfunction of the POW-MIA flagpole at Veterans Park. Firefighter Brian Flood is shown



The SFD pays respect at the funeral mass for retired SFD captain Donald McCabe at Holy Trinity Church.

inspecting the internal pully system from the Department's 105' aerial ladder.



SFD operates at a basement fire on Bates Brook Rd. Full staffing and aggressive action prevented significant damage. The SFD was assisted by mutual aid from Rochester and Dover, Stewart's Ambulance, and the SPD. Recalled personnel spent most of the night assisting the State Fire Marshal's Office and other agencies with the investigation.



Firefighter Michael Calabrese practices starting an IV using a simulator during emergency medical technician (EMT) refresher training. Firefighter Calabrese is one of three Department members certified as an Advanced EMT (A-EMT) who can provide life saving fluids, medications, and other interventions under hazardous conditions such as in building collapse, confined space, or construction trench.

Somersworth Police & Friends



PERMIT PARKING FOR SNOW EMERGENCIES NOBLE STREET AND RIVER STREET

Somersworth City Council passed an ordinance to allow 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 a.m. on the day following the completion of the parking ban to allow for snow removal from the designated area. Vehicles not moved per the Ordinance will be subject to being towed at the owner's expense.



2021 Alarm Permit Renewal Notices have been mailed out. 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, 2021 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.

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

https://www.somersworth.com/sites/somersworthnh/files/uploads/alarm_permit_application1.pdf. The fee is \$25.00 for your first alarm permit.

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 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.

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.



Somersworth Crime Line:

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



Somersworth Police Department also uses our Facebook page to give
important community information.



What's Happening in Recreation

All Activities are listed on Winter Activities Tab of the City's website)

<https://www.somersworth.com/parks-recreation/pages/winter-activities-2021>

- **Snow-mation Contest**

Attached flyer & link to register: <https://forms.gle/hDbMnJCFwLzyQKfK9>

- **Fit February Community Fitness Challenge**

Attached flyer ([log sheet on our website](#))

- **Family Photo Bingo**

Attached flyer & link to register: <https://forms.gle/g6YGFxTZC9vur46t9>

- **RECspiration-**

Did you know we have 43 weeks of RECspiration activity newsletters?!! That's over 200 activity ideas! You can find them all on our [Recreation section of the Website](#) as well as our [Somersworth Recreation Facebook Page](#). Check it out for fun and creative ideas to keep your family busy!!

What's Happening at Somersworth Library



Hello Everyone,

In January, we added many new graphic novels to the juvenile and young adult collections. Also, new fiction and nonfiction on “best of 2020” lists are here. We continue beefing up the nonfiction and striving towards a diverse collection of well-known and new authors. Our children’s librarian, Tasha,

continues to prepare craft materials for all ages to take home and assemble. Often there are video instructions for those who aren’t expert macrameyers, or if you’re like me, need help with gluing and pasting. In January, there were penguins and key chains to make and animals to color and track.

This Librarian continues reading first chapters of books live on Facebook. Do you have any suggestions?

Although visits are limited to thirty minutes, there’s a quiet and peaceful area to sit on the upper level. Add to our white board, read a chapter, use our Wi-Fi. We’d love to have you stay longer, and hopefully later in the year, you will.

Check our Facebook page to see what we’re up to
<https://www.facebook.com/SomersworthLibrary/>.

Our catalog page lists all our new materials <https://somersworth.nhais.bywatersolutions.com/>.
For information about services, borrowing, etc., go here
<https://www.somersworth.com/somersworth-public-library>.

Come visit us. See you soon.

The Hours of the Library are:

Tuesday & Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday & Monday: Closed



Have you seen our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SomersworthLibrary/> It's updated at least once a week and usually more. You don't have to be on Facebook to find links to author-related videos, new books and virtual events.



Somersworth Festival Association Hosts a Sweet **Valentine Fundraiser**

The Somersworth Festival Association (SFA) is partnering with Fantastic Fortunes to host a virtual Valentine Fundraiser to help support the SFA's many events and programs, such as the Somersworth International Children's Festival, free children's concert series, the Pumpkin Festival, arts in the schools, and more.

Surprise your loved ones with the gift of a Giant Fortune Cookie from Fantastic Fortunes! When you order online using a special code from now until February 10th, Fantastic Fortunes will donate a portion of the sale of their Giant Fortune Cookie to the SFA.

Made from a secret twist on a French butter cookie recipe, these delicious cookies are not your typical Chinese restaurant fortune cookies. The Giant Fortune Cookie is the size of a large cantaloupe! Fantastic Fortunes hand dips each fortune cookie with your choice of milk, dark or white chocolate, then they decorate it with your selection of a variety of decadent toppings that might include a second contrasting chocolate, sprinkles, sugar flowers, or toffee crunch, etc.! The thing that makes it even more special is that you have the option to personalize the fortune and even include a small picture! What a great way to let someone know how you feel!

Each cookie has a 90-day shelf life and is baked fresh for each order. It is heat sealed in a clear cello wrapper and then tied with your choice of a brightly colored ribbon to complete the presentation.

The direct link to the Giant Fortune Cookie is:

At checkout there will be a box stating, "Discount Code." That is where you will enter the code SFACHILD, which will reduce each Giant Fortune Cookie you purchase from \$24.95 to \$19.25 and signal the owners to give a portion of the sale to the SFA. The discount does not include shipping. You can place the order now and ask that the order be shipped closer to Valentine's Day, if you wish.

Troy and Cam Brisard, owners of Fantastic Fortunes, are pleased to be able to help the SFA raise funds through the sale of their Giant Fortune Cookie. Troy was born and raised in Somersworth and attended Somersworth High School, where he met Cam Jankowski, who is originally from Rollinsford. Fantastic Fortunes is truly a family business, with all five of their children helping out in some way.

You may visit their website at www.fantasticfortunecookies.net call them at (603) 617-3810, or email them at info@fantasticfortunecookies.com

For further information about the Somersworth Festival Association, you may visit their website at www.nhfestivals.org, call them at (603) 692-5869, or email them at sfachild.festival@gmail.com.

GREATER SEACOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH

Goodwin
Community Health

**Families
First**

Lilac City
Pediatrics

To stay on top of what's going on at Families First, please sign up for their [newsletters](#).

Family Focus: Info on each month's parent and family programs, monthly parenting tips and ideas, useful links and more. Sent monthly. ([Read issues.](#))



Parenting Journey **Parents Say this is a Life-changing Program!** **Wednesdays, 6-7:30 PM** **Feb 17- May 5 (12 weeks)**

In a friendly, supportive environment, Parenting Journey encourages parents to care for themselves and each other as they discover how past experiences can influence their parenting style.

Activities and guided discussions will help you:

- Identify your strengths
- Clarify parenting values and goals
- Gain respect and build trust with your children
- Become more confident and optimistic
- Learn to nurture yourself and your children
- Build a network of support

Join us to learn more about yourself, your relationships, and resources that can help you in parenting. Open to parents, grandparents and kinship caregivers of children of any age. This program is **virtual**, and the Zoom app is required. Sign up here [**Parenting Journey**](#). Or email **Patrice** if you want to learn more about Parenting Journey.

A Parent Cafe for Valentine's Day Thursday February 11 from 10-11:30am



Join us for a virtual parent café about trusting relationships. This café offers a friendly, safe

place for parents to meet together to exchange ideas and stories that help build stronger, healthier families for all of us.

Families are full of imperfect people and relationships. Yet they are also a place to learn, grow, and develop. Family is where we learn how to love and trust people, including imperfect people. Loving our imperfect families develops love for ourselves and others outside our family. What does trust mean to you? How do you develop trusting relationships with your children and others in your life?

Join us for this inspiring conversation. All parents and grandparents are welcome!

[**Parenting Cafe Sign-up**](#)



Gratitude

Did you know that helping **children feel gratitude** from the time they are

young could make them happier people as they grow up? A recent study published in the *Journal of Happiness Studies* found that gratitude is linked to **happiness in children** by age 5!

Make it a habit to talk about gratitude in your family ... in ways that go beyond saying "thank you." Here are examples of rituals you might establish:

- Everyone takes turns during dinner sharing one thing they're grateful for from their day
- During the car ride to school, everyone thanks someone else in the car for something.
- At bedtime, ask each child to say three things they feel grateful for.
- Keep a family journal. Once a week record a list of things you are grateful for from the week

Read more about creating an attitude of gratitude in your family!



Family Fun

Fluff up your couch cushions, grab some snacks, and make sure you have good Internet connection, because the **Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour** is going virtual this year! Travel to breathtaking destinations, embark on daring expeditions, and celebrate the most remarkable outdoor achievements – all from the comfort of your living room. As one of our largest fundraisers, the Banff Film Festival helps us provide the free family programming you know and love. **Click here to rent the films.**



**City Hall will be Closed on Monday,
February 15 for President's Day**

Quality Service, Quality Schools, Quality Somersworth

Vision 2020

"We Believe in Somersworth"



Proud Past, Bright Future
