



February 2024

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, February 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m.

**Economic Development
Committee**

Monday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m.

**Site Review Technical
Committee**

Wednesday, February 7 at 10:00
a.m.

Wednesday, February 14 at 10:00
a.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

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

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, February 7 at 4:00
p.m.

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, February 14 at 6:00
p.m.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00
p.m.

Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00
p.m.

Planning Board

Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30
p.m.

Historic District Commission

Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00
p.m.



Somersworth Mayor's Quarterly Art Contest

**Submit your artwork for display in the
Somersworth Mayor's Office!**

All mediums & sizes accepted!



**Submit work to
MGerding@SomersworthNH.gov**

**Due by
March 1st**

The Mayor's Corner

We are still accepting submissions for the **Mayor's Quarterly Art Show**.

Four times throughout the year, the Mayor's Office will display new artwork submitted by residents of Somersworth in order to showcase the culture, talents, and creativity of our diverse community. Artwork can be any medium and size, as long as it will fit comfortably within the Mayor's Office. Please consider submitting your work for consideration. The deadline for submissions for 2024 will be March 1, 2024. Submit a picture of your artwork to **mgerding@somersworthnh.gov**, including the name of the artist, size of the work, medium, and artist's description of the work. Submitted artworks will be judged and chosen by the Mayor's Commission for Arts and Culture, and the first round of work will go on display in the Mayor's Office starting April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.



February is Black History Month, and this year I encourage everyone to celebrate our Black leaders, community members, and neighbors, both locally and nationally, that have helped to make our Country a more just and equitable place. Black History Month is not only a time to celebrate the culture and experiences of African Americans and BIPOC peoples, but it also serves as a time to reflect on the struggles and challenges that they have overcome and still face.

For those interested, please explore the resources below as we celebrate Black History Month this February:

- Learn more about New Hampshire's Black history at the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (**www.blackheritagetrailnh.org**). They offer tours and events that honor the stories and lives of New Hampshire's African American history.
- Learn more about art and its use as a platform for social justice from The National Museum of African American History and Culture from their

website at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/black-history-month-2024>. They have a number of fascinating initiatives and exhibits offered through their website.

- The University of New Hampshire is also providing a number of in-person and virtual events, lectures, and educational opportunities over the month of February in celebration of Black History Month. Please take a look at their website for a list of offerings: <https://www.unh.edu/diversity-inclusion/events/black-history-month-2024>

Mayor's Office Hours at City Hall

Mondays 4 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Wednesdays 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

I hope everyone has a warm and bright February. Stay safe and be well.

Best,

Matt Gerding

What Happening in Development Services

ERZ Tax Credit Program

Deadline:

February 10, 2024

ERZ stands for Economic Revitalization Zone. The ERZ tax credit program, which is detailed in RSA 162-N, offers a short-term business tax credit for projects that improve infrastructure and create jobs in designated areas of a municipality.



Somersworth Designated ERZ Area

- 1) Business and Historical Mill District
- 2) Route 108 Transportation Corridor

What does this mean for Somersworth Businesses?

Businesses located within Somersworth designated ERZ can apply for tax credit. Somersworth benefits from ERZs by the job growth of its businesses located in the community, and by potential growth of the local tax base due to expansion of the business's plant and equipment assets. For a business to qualify for an ERZ tax credit it must invest in plant or equipment and create a least one (1) new full-time job in the state, and meet the following criteria:

- The business must be physically located in an approved ERZ.

- Investment in plant or equipment must be made directly by the business applying for the ERZ tax credit.
- Jobs must be full time, direct employees, and not be contracted or “temp” jobs.
- The investment and the job creation must take place within one calendar year.

If you have any questions on whether something is considered capital investment, you can check with your accountant or the Tax Incentive Program Manager.

How is the Credit Calculated? The credit is based on a percent of the salary for each new full-time job created and the lesser of: either a percent of the actual cost incurred for the project or a maximum credit for each new job created in the fiscal year

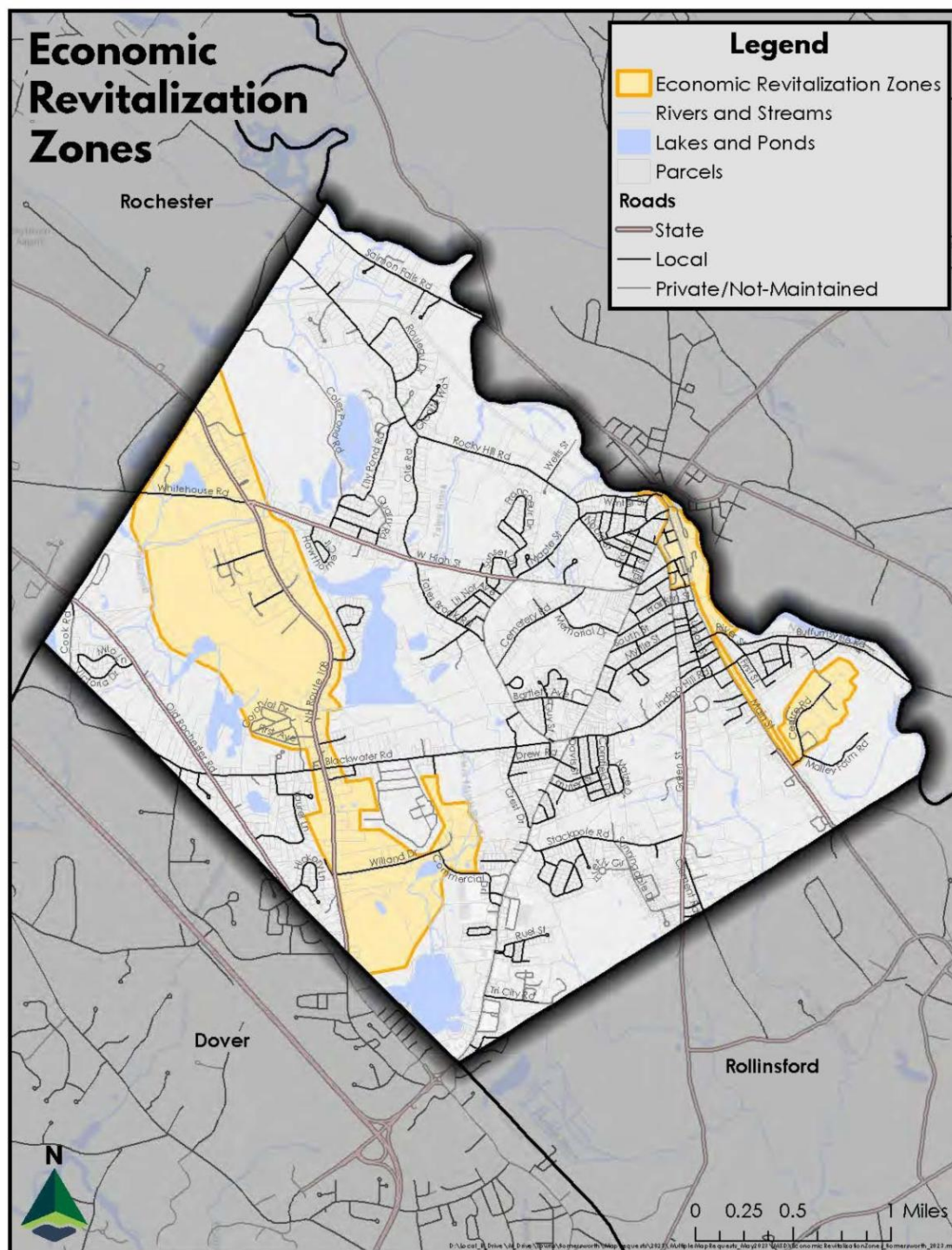
What is considered a full-time job? A full-time job is at least 35 hours per week and is a permanent, year-round position.

How can a Business in the Community Claim the Credit?

The deadline to apply must be post marked by **February 10** each year. To apply for the tax credits, an applicant must complete form **ERZ-2 available** from the Department of Business and Economic Affairs website.

Who do I call with additional questions?

For more information, please contact Bridgett Beckwith, Tax Incentive Program Manager, 603.271.2342 or email **Bridgett.E.Beckwith@livefree.nh.gov**. To learn more about local and state economic development resources and opportunities, visit the **Resources & Incentives** webpage located on the **City website**.



Bright Spots in Small Town New England: A Study of Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Equity, and Belonging

Community Survey – Open until Feb. 9th

A graduate student at UMass Amherst is conducting a research study of Somersworth, Great Barrington, MA and Hartford, VT titled “Bright Spots in Small Town New England: A Study of Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Equity, and Belonging.” In her initial research, Emily Hodos identified Somersworth as a community with an increasing population of color and with recent economic measures showing that people of color are living at relatively similar levels to the total population. To gain a deeper understanding of the community’s demographics, strengths, and challenges, Hodos has launched a community survey designed for anyone 18+ who lives, works, and/or

frequently visits Somersworth. Individuals who participate in the survey may enter a raffle to win one of six \$25 Visa gift cards. The survey closes on February 9.

Survey link: <http://tinyurl.com/somersworthsurvey>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BrightSpotsNewEngland (Note: accessible without a Facebook account)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/brightspotsne/

Natural Resources & Land Use Chapter

Master Plan Update

In the new year, Planning staff and partners from the [Strafford Regional Planning Commission](#) began kicking off updates to the City's Land Use and Natural Resource Master Plan chapters, through a project funded by a grant from the [Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership](#). Through March, the project team will work with the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to gain insight on implementation progress toward existing actions in the plan, generate new goals, and craft a vision for the future. The [current Master Plan](#) hasn't seen an update since 2010, and the last update to the city's [Natural Resource Inventory](#) occurred in 2016. This project seeks to generate an engaged planning process to identify and characterize critical natural resources, build consensus among community members around management approaches, and create an ambitious but achievable and measurable implementation plan that balances community interests, integrates local and regional goals, and is based on the most up to date and best available science. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in the project process and use your voice to create a sustainable future for Somersworth!

[Click Here](#) for an update on the **Housing Chapter: Living in Somersworth Project**

What's Happening at Somersworth Library



SOMERSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Somersworth Public Library Board of Trustees needs your help! The Board has Two openings in 2024 for new members to assist in advising the Library Director on policies, procedures and programs.

The Board is comprised of five members who must be Somersworth residents. The Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at the Library, with exception of July and December. The public is encouraged and welcome to attend meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees, please contact Donna Donovan, via [email](#).



Adult & Teen Winter Reading Challenge February 4 - March 10

Complete all 12 challenges to be entered
into a drawing for a grand prize!

Challenge yourself to begin meeting your 2024 activity and reading goals this winter! Adults and Teens are invited to join Somersworth Public Library 2024 Winter Reading Challenge from February 4 through March 10. Complete all 12 challenges and be entered to win our Grand Adult or Grand Teen Prize! Pick up your Challenge sheet at the front desk to get started

From February through June, the Library will be hosting a series of seven informative sessions involving important

topics of gardening - including how-tos, best practices and current trends. This program is presented by Somersworth Community Gardens in conjunction with the UNH Masters Gardeners Programs

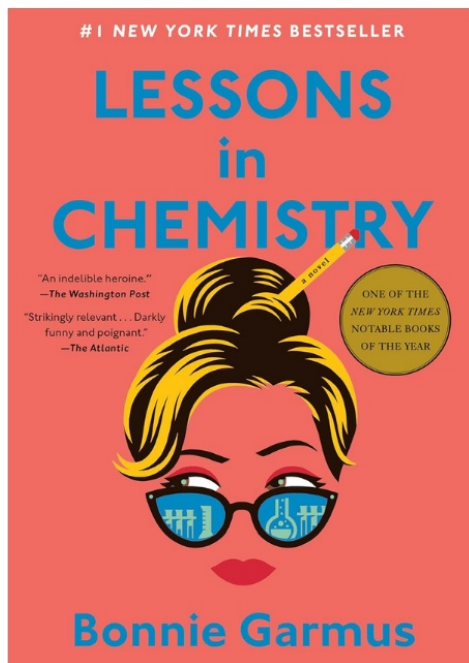
Vegetable Gardening Workshop

Tuesday, February 13 • 6pm

presented by
Somersworth Community Gardens
in conjunction with
UNH Master Gardeners Program



February's program will focus on vegetable gardens. Learn about best practices to ensure a successful bountiful garden. Topics discussed include where to put your garden, ways of growing, soil amending, weeds and irrigation. For full details on our Master Gardener Series, visit our [website](#).



Book Discussion Group "NEW DATE"

Tuesday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Book Group is open to all local residents who love to read. Join us for a fun and lively discussion. Book vary in genre and theme to keep things interesting.

This month, we'll be discussing Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. This powerhouse novel has been on the New York Times Best Seller List for nearly 90 weeks straight, so it's due time that we discuss it during book group.

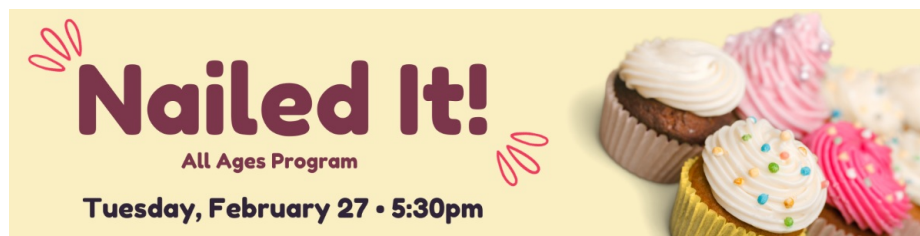
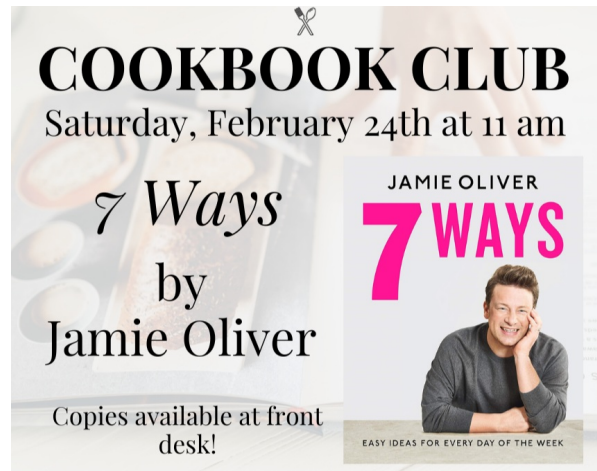


Hearing Loss Seminar

Wednesday, February 21 • 10:30am

April Torreiro from True North Hearing will be covering the topic of hearing loss and its connection to health issues such as dementia, Alzheimer's, incidents of falling and injury, fatigue, and depression. April will also go over preventative measures for hearing loss. Light refreshments will be provided.

Join us for the first installment of our Adult Cookbook Club! To join, simply pick up a copy of this month's cookbook at the circulation desk. Then, make and bring a dish to share with others and let us know which recipe you used! This month's featured cookbook is 7 Ways by Jamie Oliver. Jamie shares various ways to reinvent your favorite ingredients using simple and tasty techniques.



Join us for a friendly cupcake decorating competition for all ages! Registrants will have 30 minutes to replicate designs using frosting and small treats as their materials. Each age category will have their own design challenges to master! Registration is required.

Register [here](#)

Adults, join us on Wednesdays at 2pm for a viewing of a great film! Upcoming titles comin up are:

- Feb. 7 - Hidden Figures
- Feb. 14 - Respect
- Feb. 21 - Black Panther
- Feb. 28 - Great Debaters



Reading Buddy Adoption Day

Saturday, February 3 • 10am - 11am

Take Your
Child to the
Library Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024



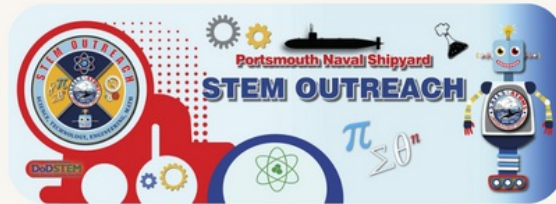
***Hatchlings
Ready to Hatch***
is an interactive
early literacy
program for
expectant
parents. Learn
more about

your baby-to-be through songs and fun activities. Set your baby up for success from the start! Registration is required and limited to expectant parents only. Sign up at the circulation desk during the library's open hours.

Join us for a guided
STEM activity with
Portsmouth Naval
Shipyard.
Recommended ages 5-
12 No registration
required.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard STEM Activity

Wednesday, February 28 • 10am



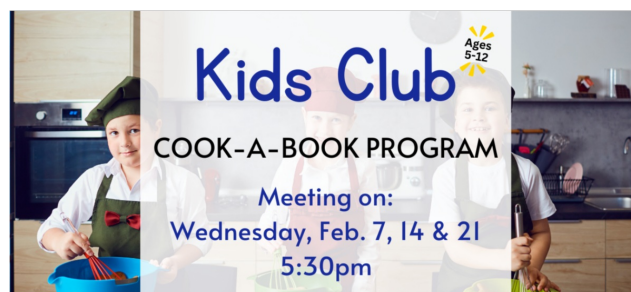
Quality Time is a new
initiative offered by
local seasoned teacher,
Diana Metreud. This
program offers a
unique approach to
exploring social-

emotional concepts. Each session is designed to encourage children to develop positive character traits and promote strong family bonds. Quality Time will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm. Upcoming sessions include:

- February 6: Positive Communication
- March 5: Unconditional Love
- April 2: Superhero Helping Qualities
- May 7: Making Choices

Registration for this program is required and limited to 10 families per session. Sign your family up for one or more sessions at the circulation desk today!

One of the library's most popular children's programs is Kids Club. The February session of Kids Club allows children to enjoy using a portable kitchen to make delicious pizzas, tacos and pancakes. Although this session of Kids Club



is full, we are still accepting sign-ups for the March session, where kids will enjoy creating various animal crafts with magnets, beads and other materials. To register your child for an upcoming session of Kids Club, stop by the circulation desk.



Story Time **Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

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 10:30 a.m.**

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!



Weekend Builders **Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.**

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

POPULAR SERVICES



The Library offers its patrons many services that you may not be aware of. Some of these include:


- Access to Libby, a free app where you can enjoy e-books, digital audiobooks, and magazines using your library card
 - Access to Hoopla, a free media streaming platform for audiobooks, comics, e-books, movies, music, and TV
 - Access to NHAIS, the library's interlibrary lending system which allows patrons to borrow materials from all over the state
 - Access to ABCmouse, a digital education program for children ages 2–8, which can be used on any computer within the library
 - Laptops for in-library use
 - 4 iPads available for checkout by any Somersworth Public Library patron
 - Wii gaming system, which is always available for use in our Young Adult section
 - Seed Library and Plant Propagation station, giving patrons access to a living library of items at no cost
-




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.

Somersworth Police Department





Congratulations to Cheryl Robinson on her Retirement

January 16 was extremely bittersweet as we said a fond farewell and goodbye to one of the originals here at SPD. Cheryl Robinson who has been the Criminal Investigations Division Secretary for the past 24 years retired. Cheryl started her career out in City Hall and then after a year transferred to the Police Department. She has pretty much been the glue that holds the Investigations Division together and she will be so very much missed.

Surrounded by friends, family, and past and present coworkers she was presented with a plaque for her years of service to the agency from Chief McLin. We wish Cheryl the best of luck and hope she enjoys retirement. Thank you for everything Cheryl and a very big congratulations on your retirement.



Villa Pizza



Walmart-Somersworth



Somersworth House of Pizza – Hot N Fast



Somersworth Housing Authority



Aroma Joe's – High Street



Stripe Nine Brewing

Thanking our Community Businesses for their Help for Shop with a Cop

Today we were able to thank some of our community partners in the City for their overwhelming assistance and support with our annual Shop with a Cop event. This year was the largest that we have ever held and we are so incredibly humbled and grateful for everything our local businesses do to support the Somersworth Police Department's Community Policing outreach.

SPD continues to strive to foster stronger relationships with our community. This month we were able to show a small token of our appreciation to Somersworth Walmart, Somersworth House of Pizza, Villa Pizza, the Somersworth Housing Authority, Aroma Joe's and Stripe Nine Brewing Co.

2024 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 1 thru March 31 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

Department of Public Works & Utilities



Solid Waste & Recycling

Solid Waste and Recycling News Holiday Update: There will be No Change to the regular schedule for residential trash and recycling collection for President's Day, Monday, February 19, 2024.

Also be mindful of setting out trash and recycling containers the night before a snow storm event as they may get plowed in. Consider set out day of

trash collection by 7am.

Reminder the next Metal/Electronics curbside collection by Public Works crews will occur on Tuesday, February 13. Residents should call by Monday, February 12 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.

High Street Traffic Signal Upgrade Project

The City has recently completed an improvements to the High Street corridor traffic signals. The following traffic signals were upgraded and improved recently using a federal CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) Grant:

- Blackwater Road at High Street
- Stackpole Road at High Street
- Waltons Way at High Street
- Andrews Road at High Street
- Tri City Plaza at High Street
- Kelwyn Drive

The traffic signal upgrade includes new electronic traffic controller cabinets, GridSmart cameras to allow traffic to have reduce idle times, pedestrian countdown signals and push buttons, crosswalk safety signage , ADA compliant tip downs and remote access for adjusting traffic cycle times.

Private Snow in Public Ways? **NOT ALLOWED!**

Residents and commercial property owners are reminded that the City Ordinance prohibits anyone from depositing ice or snow from private property onto the City streets or sidewalks. Residents and commercial property owners are asked to remind their private snow plow operators that the snow from their driveways or parking lots may not be pushed into the City streets or sidewalks. This activity inhibits pedestrians from safely accessing those City sidewalks, forcing them to walk in the streets, which is an unsafe situation.

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.

Upcoming Programs

Valentines Dance:

This program filled very quick! We can't wait to spend the evening dancing with Tunes from DJ Langlois and capture this beautiful night with "Picture This Wedding" photo booth!

Biddy Ball

this program is currently full. We are looking forward to see our little friends on the court beginning March 2.

St. Patrick's Day Social

Easter Egg-Stravaganza Egg Hunt

Park Updates:

Here are some pictures of the infield laser grading that was done by Hillside Landscaping this past fall at Noble Pines Park. This work ensures a well playing surface come springtime for the High school & Babe Ruth programs that utilize the Noble Pines ballfield.

Noble Pines pictures courtesy of Dave Witham





SOMERSWORTH LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

2024 Season Registration Is Open!

We are excited to announce that online registration for the 2024 Little League season is now open! Go to our website to register: <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/somersworthlittleleague>

And be sure to check the website and our Facebook page for more information on upcoming events:

February, date TBD – Informational Session / Meet The Board

Saturday, March 9th – Tryouts for players new to the Majors

Registration is open to surrounding towns (Rollinsford, Dover, Rochester, Gonic). Proof of residency and child age must be provided at time of registration (birth certificate + 3 documents proving residency OR one school enrollment document).

Division Ages

Tee Ball 4-6 years | Minor League 7-9 years | Little League 9-12 years

Registration Fees

Tee Ball \$55 | Minor League \$80 | Major League \$105

If cost is a concern, please reach out to the Little League Board at SomersworthLLBoard@gmail.com

Register [here](https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/somersworthlittleleague) for Somersworth Little League

SOMERSWORTH
RECREATION

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA EGG HUNT



FRIDAY MARCH 29TH
EGG HUNT KICKS OFF AT
4.30PM AT JULES BISSON PARK

JOIN SOMERSWORTH RECREATION
FOR OUR ANNUAL EGG HUNT &
POP-UP STORYWALK PRESENTED
BY SOMERSWORTH LIBRARY

**Free event for Somersworth
children ages 3-12.
Bring a bag or bucket to help collect candy
filled eggs. There will be a photo
opportunity with the Easter Bunny. All
children must be accompanied by an adult**

WWW.SOMERSWORTH.GOV/PARKS-RECREATION/PAGES/SPECIAL-EVENTS

Got Plastic Easter Eggs?!
We can reuse them! A collection
box will be at the event & in the
Rec office April 1 - 5.



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

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



The Somersworth Music Program Gets Energized

Devin DiBernardo came to Somersworth School District to lead its music program at about the same time COVID-19 was loosening its grip on schools nationwide. Like so many districts, Somersworth's band suffered a

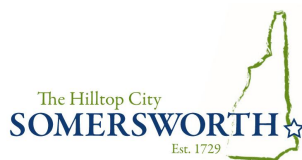
drop in enrollment. Limited practice sessions and a shift toward core academics

left enrichment programs wanting.

Originally a saxophone player who moved to French horn, Devin studied music education at UNH. He came to Somersworth after teaching at Merrimack Valley High School, up for the challenge of working with kids from a nearby community similar to his upbringing in neighboring Rochester, NH. With his move to Somersworth Schools, DiBernardo came with a growing list of priorities focused on breathing new life into the music program.

To rebuild low music program enrollment across Somersworth, DiBernardo was seeking to create a more cohesive music program from grades K through 12. He focused on exposing kids to music at an early age. Working with music teachers Mark DeTurk and Brenda LaForce and Marshwood High School band director David Graichen, he brought middle and high school musicians to Idlehurst and Maple Wood elementary schools to play and demonstrate musical instruments. He remembered how much these visits meant to him as a child. “There’s nothing cooler than having the *big kids* stop by to show you their instruments. This is when you start thinking about which instruments you’d like to play someday.”

[Read More...](#)



Job Openings

POLICE

Position: Part-time Custodian, 12 hours

Pay Range: \$15.13 to \$19.91

Position: Police Officers

Pay Range: \$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>

PUBLIC WORKS

Position: Winter Seasonal – Plow Operator

Pay Range: \$18.50 hr. without CDL/\$20.50 hr. with CDL

Call Human Resources at 603-692-9529
Or Visit **[City Website](#)** to View Openings

GREATER SEACOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH

Goodwin
Community Health

Families
First

Lilac City
Pediatrics

2024 Family Programs

Family Morning Out Playgroups

Portsmouth Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., Families First

Babytime Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Idlehurst School,
Somersworth

Exeter Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Parks and Rec
Building

Epping Fridays at 9:30 a.m., SAU Building

Somersworth Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Idlehurst School



For more about these programs, scroll down to see the Family Center calendar.

With snow days and holidays approaching, please be sure to check our Family Center calendar for cancellations before attending a program.

Family Center Calendar

Babytime Playgroup

Ongoing | Weekly

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

- 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 School.



Signup not required. Drop-in's welcome!

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

[Learn More About Babytime](#)



**City Hall will be Closed on Monday
February 19 for the President's Holiday.**



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