



The Monthly Hilltopper News & Happenings



City of Somersworth
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.

City Council Meetings

Monday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Workshop with School Board
regarding the Fiscal Year 2023
Budget Development.

7:00 pm: Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Workshop regarding Solar RFP

7:00 pm: Regular City Council Meeting

City Manager's Report for the City
Council Meeting available [here](#)



Missed the Meeting?
Catch it again Online
Don't forget: If you missed the live City Council, School Board, Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting on

Channel 22, you can catch them again, online and demand

Simply **[watch Somersworth](#)** to begin watching meetings on demand.

Board & Committee Meetings this Month

**Site Review Technical
Committee (SRTC) [view agenda](#)**

Wednesday, February 2 at 10:30
a.m.

Wednesday, February 9 at 10:30
a.m.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment
[view agenda](#)**

Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00
p.m.

**Conservation Commission [view
agenda](#)**

Wednesday, February 9 at 7:00
p.m.

**School Board Meetings [view
agenda](#)**

Saturday, February 5 at 8:00 a.m.
(Budget Workshop)

Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board [view agenda](#)

Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30
p.m.

**Historic District Commission
[view agenda](#)**

Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00
p.m.



The Mayor's Corner

Mental Health and Wellness, Continues to be a Widely Discussed Issue Within our Society and Hilltop Community

In August of 2021, I announced the creation of the Hilltop Mental Health and Recovery Commission, comprised of members from the Somersworth School Board, City Council, Superintendent Lori Lane and facilitators from the Strafford County Public Health Network, SOS Recovery the Dover Mental Health Alliance and me. Current School Board member and former City Councilor Todd Marsh has been appointed to Chair the Commission. The charge of the Commission is to examine, study and implement systems which foster, promote, and support mental health, wellness and recovery support to all City and School employees, students, and citizens of the Hilltop City and create a mental health, wellness, and substance recovery-friendly Somersworth.

Over the last several months, the commission has met monthly to:

- Better understand the mental health and substance misuse challenges in Somersworth.
- Review the local landscape with regard to available resources and services offered to help Somersworth residents experiencing mental health and substance misuse challenges.
- Identify risk and protective factors that exist for youth and adults as it pertains to mental health and substance use challenges in Somersworth.

The Commission's work to date has begun to lay the foundation for community-wide input and planning to address needs such as mental health

and substance misuse education, stigma elimination, understanding collective community responsibility, and to uncover and/or design new strategies which foster, promote, and support mental health, wellness and recovery for Somersworth residents (youth and adults) including those who work in the Hilltop community as well.

A series of public access programs will be aired this spring with more details of the Commission's work as it moves forward with plans to include Somersworth residents, including youth, and employers and employees for idea generation, design and implementation of new systems and unique initiatives to address these challenges.

I look forward to the commission developing a plan to make our great Hilltop City a mental health and recovery friendly community.

For Somersworth we are "On the Move!" and our "Future is Now!"
We are a community! We are achieving progress and greatness!
WE ARE SOMERSWORTH!
Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Mayor, City Council and School Board Sworn-in at January 10 Ceremony

An Inaugural Ceremony for the newly elected Mayor, City Council and School Board was held at the Somersworth Middle School Gymnasium on Monday, January 10, 2022.

The Ceremony was broadcast and streamed live on Channel 22 and online.

[**Watch the Inaugural Here**](#)

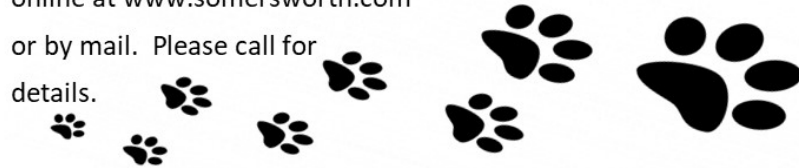
City of Somersworth 2022 Dog License Renewal Reminder

2021 Dog Licenses will Expire on April 30, 2022.

Please license your dog(s) by April 30th, 2021 to avoid late fees. Updated rabies information may be needed to renew.

You can renew your Dogs License in the City Clerk's office,
online at www.somersworth.com

or by mail. Please call for
details.



If you no longer have your dog, please contact us so we can update our records. Thank you, City Clerk's Office.

Call with questions 603-692-7555

New Hampshire Adopts Revised CDC Guidance on Shorter Quarantine and Isolation Periods

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services announced Thursday New Hampshire will adopt recently revised quarantine and isolation guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

UPDATED Isolation & Quarantine Recommendations



The new guidance shortens the amount of time people who are exposed to COVID-19 should quarantine from 10 days to five. In New Hampshire, this change only applies to household contacts who are unvaccinated or who have not received a booster vaccination shot, according to NHDHHS. NHDHHS recommends that a person exposed to COVID-19 quarantine at home for at least five days, wear a well-fitting face mask for 10 days after exposure and avoid travel and contact with people who are at high risk.

According to NHDHHS, anyone with known exposure to COVID-19 should continue to take additional precautions, including wearing a mask in public and monitoring for symptoms, even if they're not required to quarantine.

People who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for COVID-19 five days after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

People with COVID-19 should isolate for five days if they are asymptomatic or

their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), followed by five days of wearing a mask when around others, according to the updated guidance.

The complete, updated guidance can be viewed here: [Updated quarantine and isolation guidelines for New Hampshire](#).

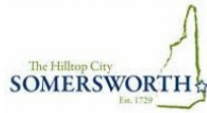
Have COVID symptoms or need to confirm you aren't infected? Get tested

Many health insurance plans cover COVID-19 tests without a copay, coinsurance, or deductible for persons with symptoms of COVID-19. Locations throughout the state offer COVID-19 tests, including hospitals, pharmacies, primary care offices, urgent care centers.

Tests for active COVID-19 disease are available in locations across New Hampshire and include both the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and the rapid antigen test. The PCR test is for persons with or without symptoms of COVID-19. The rapid antigen test is for persons with symptoms and within a specific time frame after onset of symptoms.

The federal government has contracted with Walgreens and Rite Aid pharmacies to offer COVID-19 tests at no additional costs for persons without insurance with symptoms of COVID-19. Visit the website of these pharmacies or contact your local Walgreens or Rite Aid pharmacy to learn more about their free testing program.

Persons who do not have insurance or have a health insurance plan that does not fully cover the cost of tests may also have testing paid for by a New Hampshire Limited COVID-19 Testing Benefit. To apply online for the Testing Benefit, please visit NH EASY at <https://nheasy.nh.gov> and click on “COVID-19 Testing”. Additional information about other DHHS programs and benefits, including different Medicaid plans that cover more than COVID-19 testing services, are on the NH EASY website.



City of Somersworth Historic District Commission Presents:
A Three-Part Workshop Series for Somersworth Residents!

Part 1:

***Energy Conservation
Retrofitting Old Homes***
Presented by Elizabeth Paliga

February 23, 2022 | 6pm | Council Chamber

**This event is free to the public
Advance registration is required**

Stay tuned for our upcoming workshops:

Part 2: *March 23, 2022 - Exterior Historic Paint Colors*

Presented by Leigh Schoberth

Part 3: *April 27 or May 25 2022 - Old House Do's and Don'ts*

Presented by Jennifer Robinson

WWW.SOMERSWORTH.COM

The City of Somersworth Historic District Commission has received a Certified Local Government Grant through the NH Division of Historical Resources to hold a workshop series for Somersworth residents. This three-part workshop series will help residents understand the value and benefit of historic resources and support citizens and property owners who are interested in preserving these resources. These workshops will provide an opportunity for residents to learn ways to conduct research and rehabilitate historic homes.

Energy Conservation Retrofitting Old Homes
February 23, 2022, 5:45pm

This Historic New England lecture will be presented by Elizabeth Paglia. One of the most challenging issues facing homeowners is how to make older or historic homes more energy efficient without sacrificing character and charm. This lecture presents a historic preservation perspective on insulation, air sealing, mechanical upgrades, and other energy retrofit opportunities in your older home. Come away with a framework for making an old house more energy efficient, and hear about how Historic New England has made significant energy improvements to its properties without damaging historic fabric.

All events will take place in Council Chambers at Somersworth City Hall, 1 Government Way, Somersworth, NH. They will be recorded on the Government Channel and will be available on the City of Somersworth website as well.

For more information, please contact mmears@somersworth.com. These events may be subject to change.

All events are free to the public but you must register to attend.

Register here

What's Happening at Somersworth Library



Hello All -

February brings live music in celebration of President's Day. You may ask, what does live music have to do with President's Day? Please welcome Long Journey playing the greatest hits of the 1800s with special focus on the Civil War era. This event, in conjunction with the Somersworth

Historical Society, will take place at the library on Wednesday, February 16 at 5:30 p.m.. Rumor is, some may break out their best 1800s attire. Feel free to dress up. Gingerbread will be served. You can bring your own hot drink or use our coffee machine (suggested donation \$1.00). Registration required.

The book for discussion Tuesday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m. is "We Were the Lucky Ones" by Georgia Hunter. There are audio copies available through Libby and one e-copy. Unfortunately, it's late to acquire through interlibrary loan, but please join us if you can.

Starting Tuesday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m. is Storytime at Idlehurst School. Our own Children's Library Assistant Extraordinaire, Mary, will read and engage your young ones. You must be registered to join so either call, stop in or reserve your place via Facebook.

Saturday, February 12 at 11:00 a.m. at the Library, is Lego Engineers for children ages 5 and up. There will be a challenge and time for free play. You'll need to register. Please call the Library at (603) 692-4587.

We have games available all the time. We have comfortable seating and a kind and helpful staff. Friday is adult coloring day. Sound odd? It's relaxing and fun. Choose from nature, medieval, steampunk, automobile themes and more.

Join us on Facebook or Instagram, see our latest acquisitions from the catalog page <https://somersworth.nhais.bywatersolutions.com/>. Get more information on programs and events <https://www.somersworth.com/somersworth-public-library/pages/library-services-programs>. Come see us soon.

Somersworth Police Department



Retirement of Captain Russell Timmons

After 40 years of service, Captain Russell Timmons retired on January 21, 2022. He began his career serving the citizens of Somersworth on 11/9/81 as a patrolman. He rose through the ranks and was promoted to Sergeant in 1998, Lieutenant in 2001 and Patrol Captain in 2005. He was an important member of our police family and we wish him many years of happiness in his well deserved retirement.

Officer of the Year
John Sunderland

Civilian of the Year
Karen Cantrell



Awards Ceremony

On January 14, 2022 an awards ceremony was held to recognize members' service to the City and the Department. Special recognition was given for outstanding service to members of the Department. Captain Duval was given the Meritorious Service Award, Detective Sergeant John Sunderland was given the Officer of the Year award and Karen Cantrell was given the Civilian of the Year Award. Distinguished Service Awards were given to Dispatcher Abby Davis, Detective Anthony DeFrancesco, School Resource Officer Ashley Fuller and Officer Nicole Lefebvre. Sergeant Joe Geary and Officer Scott South were awarded the lifesaving award. Distinguished Unit Awards were issued to various members of the Department for special team work that led to arrests or special assignments that were well deserved and too numerous to mention.

Josiah Clark was also sworn in as our Police Chaplain following his father, Tom Clark's legacy. We are very happy he has agreed to join us in this very special position.

We wish to extend a special thank you to Greg Kretschmar and his photography skills, and Tri-City Christian Academy for allowing us to use their facilities.



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

Hope is Not a Strategy

A Safety Message from the Fire Chief's Office

As I write this column, we are digging out from a major nor'easter and dealing with very cold temperatures. Many hope that there is no more snow, and the warmth of spring comes early. Unfortunately, hope is not strategy, and the likely reality is that we will have more snow, cold temperatures, and high winds that can cause power failures. Sadly, winter weather presents many fire and life safety challenges that require extra vigilance. Just last month, a malfunctioning electric space heater in a bedroom was identified as the source of an apartment building fire in the Bronx that killed 17 people, including 8 children. Every year, people die because they run a generator inside or too close to the house during a power failure.

Please see the following safety messages related to winter weather as well as pictures of recent Somersworth Fire Department activities.

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


Please be safe, happy, and well as the days get longer but old man winter has a few more things to say.

Yours in service,

George Kramlinger, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director



Phase I construction of Somersworth's New Fire Station continues with building of the load bearing masonry walls as pictured on January 27, 2022




Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!


- » Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- » Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- » Never use your oven to heat your home.
- » Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- » Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- » Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- » Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- » Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- » Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.




FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**

Saint Paul Fire Department

www.stpaul.gov/fire



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02369



Department of Public Works & Utilities

Solid Waste & Recycling Holiday Update There will be **No Change** to the regular schedule for residential trash and recycling collection for President's Day, Monday, February 21, 2022.

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 and schedules, arrangements cannot be easily made to pick up missed collections.



Winter Parking Bans Alert

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's monthly newsletter.

Private Snow in Public Ways?

NOT ALLOWED!

Residents and commercial property owners are reminded that the City Ordinance (Chapter 12, Streets and Sidewalks) 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. Public Works staff will be monitoring compliance throughout the City and will be paying particularly close attention to businesses and retail properties along the High Street corridor.



Recreation Office News & Updates

Valentine's Dance: Tickets are sold out for the dance at Idlehurst on Wednesday, February 9th. **Please Note:** There will be no tickets sold at the door this year. Please call the Recreation Office at (603) 692-9507 if you would like to get on the waitlist.

Biddy Basketball: Program is almost full. Please call the Recreation Office at (603) 692-9507 to inquire if space is available or to get on a waitlist.

Friends of Forest Glade Cemetery

The Cemetery is closed for the winter but the Cemetery Trustees are busy working on a number of projects and grant finding. One project will be getting all the street signs in place to make it easier when folks are looking up graves in the Cemetery Great Eagle Scout Project. It was done by a Scout 30 years ago so it's time to refresh; this will be a Spring Project.

We are also looking for a Eagle Scout to help with a bigger project We hope to redo the surrounding building/open gazebo of the well house at the Tates Brook end of the Cemetery. We have enjoyed working with Scouts on projects, it's a win win for us all.

Please contact Maggie at maggiein03878@comcast.net if you're interested and would like more information.

Family Morning Out

Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m.

Idlehurst School Playground | Free

Family Morning Out is for children ages birth to six with their parents, grandparents or caregivers. Children engage in positive, open-ended play that supports their social skills, language development, problem-solving and creativity... and we all enjoy crafts, conversation, songs and story time together. No sign-up necessary and the program is free. Join us!

We meet on the playground in front of the Idlehurst School at 46 Stackpole Road in Somersworth. You can park in the main lot in front of the school. We will meet inside as the weather changes, and you can enter through the main entrance of the school. There is no playgroup during school vacations and if school is cancelled or delayed due to weather.

Grandparents Connect

Tuesdays, 9:30-11 a.m.

Idlehurst Elementary School | Free

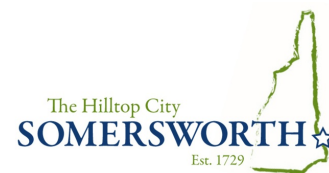
Are you a grandparent or Kinship caregiver who is raising children? If so, you are not alone! Please join us to connect with other grandparents and kinship caregivers. This group is a friendly, welcoming, informal opportunity to talk about experiences, celebrate successes, share challenges, and learn about resources.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Idlehurst Elementary School at 46 Stackpole Road in Somersworth. Park in front of the school and enter through the main entrance. Masks are required and social distancing rules are followed.

Please contact Patrice if you want to learn more about this group. (617) 285-5509 Also: If you are a grandparent or kinship caregiver and you need information about resources available to you, please call JoAnn, Kinship Navigator, at (603) 422-8209 or email: jclement@familiesfirstseacoast.org

Events for February

City of Somersworth Employment Opportunities



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Position Title:	Code Enforcement Officer
Starting Pay:	\$56,288.93-\$71,691.37 DOQ
Closing Date:	First Review February 1 st , Open Until Filled

POLICE

Position Title:	Dispatcher
Starting Pay:	\$18.74-\$24.57

Closing Date:

Reviewed as received, Open Until Filled

Finalist 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 692-9529 or email Linda

City of Somersworth, New Hampshire



City of Somersworth | One Government Way, Somersworth, NH 03878

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