

City Connection

Proud Past, Bright Future



January 2019

Happy New Year

January Meetings in Council Chambers

City Council Meeting

Monday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission

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

Veteran's Park Commission

Monday, January 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Planning Board

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

Historic District Commission

Wednesday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note meeting Calendar is subject to change.

To view Agendas of City Council meetings please visit City website

www.sommersworth.com/calendar/



The Mayor's Corner

Let's Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This month our nation will once again reflect upon our journey of ensuring Universal Inalienable Rights, as we honor the 90th birthday of the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With each pass of the holiday season, our nation continues to inch closer to the fulfillment of its creed, to stand by the values which we a-hold too, creating a society where the warmth of liberties light can be felt by all.

Since our founding as a nation, we have sought out to protect not only the freedom and liberty of each citizen, but the dignity and ability to set ones own destiny, free from the obstructions of intolerance and hate. We know that this journey has been filled with growing pains, as we try to gain a clearer understanding of the principals which identity us as a nation and people. The victims throughout our history has been our fellow citizens; from the chains of slavery to the genocide inflicted upon our native people, while the words we hold sacred were clearly imprinted; "That all men are created equal", our understanding of its application continues to grow.

This January we continue to come closer to the America that Dr. King "Dreamed" of. The America which would celebrate, stand by and protect all of its citizens. The America which would honor men and women, Catholics, Jews



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

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

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



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Happenings.

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

[Join our mailing list](#)

and Muslims, Straights and Gays, and the mosaic of languages and customs which continue to make this the greatest nation on Earth. We know our work towards equality is not over. We know the pain that we will continue to experience as we move closer towards living the words we enshrine will not dissipate anytime soon.

We are aware that as of January 2019; women have still not reached full equality. That in over 20 states gays and lesbians could be terminated from employment, denied benefits or lose their housing. That African Americans continue to experience high rates of poverty and violence within their communities. That American Muslims continue to be profiled and that immigrants continue to battle the injustice of being treated as second class citizens.

We know that in 2019 we are not innocent of the foul stench of intolerance and injustice, yet we refuse as a people, as a nation, to give up hope. For the words we strive to live by, are worth fighting and dying for. They identify more than the hope of the American people, they identify the hope of humanity. We know in 2019 we are closer to reaching our destination than on that hot July day in 1776 when we declared to the world the arduous journey we would be embarking on.

Our Hilltop City continues to be a reflection of the promise of America as we continue to live the "Dream" Dr. King guided us towards. Our great City represents the America we strive for, a community of men and women, Catholics, Protestants, Atheists, straights and gays. A community which continues to honor its "Proud Past" and "Bright Future" and realizes the foundation to the success is rooted in its rich cultural diversity and heritage. A community that understands that Somersworth greatest asset is the diversity of its people.

This January the Hilltop City will honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and its month long celebration of Diversity and Equality Month.

Throughout January and the year 2019, let the words and struggles of the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, reminder us of how far we have come as a nation, as we continue united in brotherly arms, the journey towards equality.

In honor of MLK day and Diversity and Equality month in Somersworth, through the end of January a painting of MLK will be on display in City Hall.



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

WE ARE SOMERSWORTH!

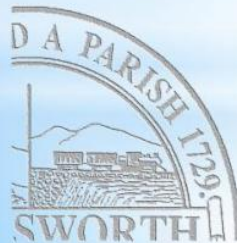


**Mayor's Community Forum
Saturday, January 12
9:00am – 10:30am
City Hall**

Included in this Forum will be the Mayor and the Director of Public Works & Utilities, Mike Bobinsky.

The purpose of these forums are to foster dialogue and ideas, in a non-formal setting to continue to move our Community forward.

All members of the Community are welcomed to attend



SAVE THE DATE!

Mayor's Community Forum Upcoming Dates

February 16 - Police Chief

March 16 - Fire Chief

Mayoral Winter Office Hours

Monday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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



Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) City of Somersworth Grant Partnership.

SRPC has received a \$30,000 - 2018 New Hampshire Children's Health Foundation (HNH) Grant. As part of the scope of work for this Grant, SRPC will compile a regional recreational facilities GIS map. SRPC will partner with our City specifically - to develop data and maps to create a customized recreation accessibility plan for the City.

More details about this 12-month project will be available on the SRPC website www.trafford.org after the project kick-off in January.

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

*Happy New Year
from the Development Services Department*

The Development Services Department staff (the Offices of Planning & Economic Development, Code Enforcement and Recreation), are writing to let

you know that 2019 will be an exciting year for Somersworth!

We are working on several revitalization projects that will brighten and enhance our charming historic downtown and more. Infrastructure will continue with High Street sidewalk upgrades. Jules Bisson Park will undergo a complete renovation. In addition, intersection upgrades are planned throughout the High Street corridor and we are preparing for complete streets projects on several streets across the City.

Most notable, we plan to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP), for the Somersworth Plaza parking lot redevelopment project in the Fall of 2019. This is one of our most significant endeavors of the last several years. The Plaza parking lot is a City owned property that has significant potential for redevelopment to benefit both the City's economy and the walkability of Downtown. The Plaza report from the Community Design Charrette can be found on our web-site: www.somersworth.com under the "Doing Business" tab.

And if all of that were not enough, we are welcoming new businesses, supporting new jobs, and aggressively pursuing other revitalization opportunities so that we are a community that is "On the Move", attractive and desirable and serving you, our residents and businesses, and creating both personal and professional opportunities for you .

Please know that my door is always open to you, your ideas, comments and opinions are highly valuable to each of us in the Development Services office; so call any time. Also, check out our current activities on our web site : www.somersworth.com

Happy New Year to you!

Shanna B. Saunders, Director of Planning & Community Development



Shop with a Cop



Target donated \$1,000 as part of their "Heros and Helpers" Awards for our Shop with a Cop. Somersworth Youth Connection nominated 20 children who needed assistance in purchasing gifts for their families. The children arrived at the PD with bright shiny faces and were taken to Target to purchase their gifts with the help of their "Cop Partner".



Gift wrapping occurred at the Flanagan Center, where teachers and staff from Somersworth Schools and Target Elves helped with the wrapping. Pizza was generously donated by the Somersworth House of Pizza, aka "Hot n Fast".



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

Live Scan

Somersworth PD is now collecting fingerprints with Live Scan, an Automated Fingerprint Indexing System, (AFIS). The system collects and electronically submits fingerprints to an FBI database, which in turn sends identification and criminal record information back to the Police Department in minutes instead of hours or days. AFIS is a welcome addition to the Department that aids in investigations while making an Officer's job safer and more efficient.



Snow Emergencies Winter Parking Ban

Snow Emergencies can be called at any time, day or night. During Snow Emergencies, a Parking Ban is in effect. Always be aware of overnight weather forecasts and have alternative parking plans when snow is predicted. Your vehicle can be towed during a Snow Emergency and

you will have to pay the tow charge to get it back. The purpose of the parking ban is to enable Public Works to safely maintain the roads. This means sometimes there will be a Snow Emergency declared even when it is no longer snowing. Snow emergencies are announced on the following stations: WTSN, WOKQ, WERZ, WSHK, WHEB, WMUR Channel 9 and Local Cable Station Channel 22. You may also call the **Winter Ban Hot Line at 692-9131** or go to www.Somersworth.com. To receive news of parking bans via email, go to www.Somersworth.com and click "Subscribe-City Email."

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

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

Somersworth Police Facebook Page

Check out Somersworth Police Department's Facebook page. We use this to inform you about important community information including crime information, road closures, snow emergencies/ parking bans, and community events. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/SomersworthPoliceDepartment/>

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



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



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

Be prepared for winter storms. The New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency has a lot of good information at www.readynh.gov so pay it a visit!

- Colder weather means that heating appliances will be working longer and harder. Furnaces should be serviced once a year to insure that optimal performance is being generated. In this light, those who have power venters attached to their oil or gas furnaces that exit through the basement wall to the outside should be sure that they are NOT blocked by snow and ice. If they are, carbon monoxide poisoning within the structure is a real possibility.
- Chimneys also should be cleaned out to prevent creosote build-up in the flue which can cause a chimney fire. Fires in older un-lined flues can cause serious house fires as the flames are able to penetrate into the wood framing of the home. It is wise to burn the initial fire each day very hot and not to use soft woods if possible.
- Homeowners who have fire hydrants adjacent to their property are asked to help the City and shovel out in front of them after snow storms. The Fire Department and the DPW appreciate your assistance.

Information from Public Works 692-4266



Road repair upgrades to continue into the Spring

The City will continue its FY2019 road repairs program this upcoming spring, starting in mid-April and continuing through the end of May. There are several upcoming streets that will experience a mill and overlay treatment, including

High St. (from Blackwater Rd. to South St.), Bates Brook Road, and Garden Street, as well as a final overlay on Horne St. and the new shoulder on High St. between Verona St. and Bartlett St. Please note that a five-year excavation moratorium will be placed on each street as soon as it has been paved. If you have any need to install a new or replacement utility connection on these streets, please arrange for a contractor to complete any work prior to the road repairs and unless an emergency, after the winter moratorium is lifted on April 15, 2019. Contact the Department of Public Works and Utilities at 692-4266 for scheduling details and to apply for a City trench permit.

New Year Day Holiday Collection Notice

Reminder that Residential curbside collection of trash and recycling will run on its normal schedule on, Monday, December 31, New Year's Eve. However residential curbside collection of trash and recycling will not occur on New Year's Day, Tuesday January 1; a one-day delay for the balance of the service week will take effect. Tuesday's collection will be on Wednesday, and Wednesday's collection will be on Thursday.

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Winter Driving Alerts

Reminder to continue to monitor weather conditions for impacts on City streets and sidewalks. Stay connected to City news alerts on parking bans, trash and recycling delays and or public meeting cancellations due to weather by signing up for the City Manager's news and alerts e blasts. Residents can access this service by supplying your email address on the City of Somersworth website at <https://www.somersworth.com/city-newsletter>. You may also sign up for Nixle

alerts to receive a text of an emergency announcement, parking ban, road closures, etc. by contacting the Somersworth Police Department non-emergency number at 692-3131.

Malley Farm - Open temporarily as conditions allow

The Department of Public Works has reopened the Malley Farm for the disposal of leafs, brush and Christmas Trees as conditions allow. The current weather pattern has allowed the Department to return to standard service hours which is:

Monday -Friday- 7:30am-2:30pm

Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Winter storm emergency responses will impact this access and likely will be closed after the next plowable snow event. Check with Public Works officials at 603-692-4266 for access updates.

Christmas Tree Drop off locations

Public Works will be picking up Christmas trees the week of January 7 and 14, 2019 subject to any weather delays. Please make sure the tree is accessible and free of all ornaments and garland, and also free of ice and snow.



Somersworth residents may dispose of their Christmas Trees by dropping off the trees at the Department of Public Works and Utilities Facility located at 18 Lilac Lane; a drop off location has been set up to the left of the main entrance in front of the Facility. This service will be made available during the month of January.

Residents may also transport Christmas Trees to the Malley Farm brush and yard waste site to the extent the Malley Farm is opened.



Residents reminded to NOT have direct sump pump discharges into City sanitary sewer manholes, stormwater catch basins, sidewalks or streets.

Public Works Highway crews have noticed some properties have roof downspouts, foundation drains, and area drains that discharge ground water directly into nearby catch basins, sanitary sewer manholes or streets and sidewalks. This is in violation of the City's Sewer Use Ordinance (8A.21 section 10) and can contribute to overcharging the basin or sewer manhole and or hazardous streets or sidewalk conditions.



This creates ice and freeze conditions that are hazardous to pedestrians and motorists, and may carry pollutants into the City's storm sewer system. This has been particularly noticeable during cold weather conditions where the discharge flow will freeze on streets and sidewalks. Please contact the Department of Public Works Highway Division at 692-4266 if you have questions or need additional information on how to redirect this runoff from your property.

What's Happening at the Library?

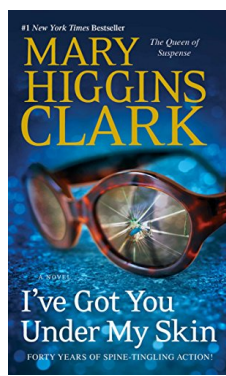


Want to add something new to your 2019 Resolutions? Plan to join the Somersworth Library Book Club...

The Library book discussion group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. We read a variety of book selections throughout the year.

Each month we get together to have a fun and interesting discussion on that book.

What Somersworth is Reading in January (Wednesday January 23)



"I've Got You Under my Skin" by Mary Higgins Clark.

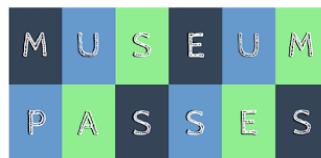
In this gripping #1 *New York Times* bestseller from Queen of Suspense Mary Higgins Clark, a Manhattan ER doctor is brazenly murdered in front of his young son in a city playground. Five years later, his killer is still at large.

When Laurie Moran's husband was brutally murdered, only three-year-old Timmy saw the face of his father's killer. Five years later his piercing blue eyes still haunt Timmy's dreams. Laurie is haunted by more-the killer's threat to her son as he fled the scene: "Tell your mother she's next, then it's your turn..."

Now Laurie is dealing with murder again, this time as the producer of a true-crime, cold-case television show. The series will launch with the twenty-year-old unsolved murder of Betsy Powell. Betsy, a socialite, was found suffocated in her bed after a gala celebrating the graduation of her daughter and three friends. The sensational murder was news nationwide. Reopening the case in its lavish setting and with the cooperation of the surviving guests that night, Laurie is sure to have a hit on her hands. But when the estranged friends begin filming, it becomes clear each is hiding secrets...small and large.

And a pair of blue eyes is watching events unfold, too...

Story Times will resume Thursday January 10. Story Times are offered Thursdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m.



Enjoy our Free or Reduced Admission Museum Passes! Call us today to reserve a date for any of the following museums - available to any Somersworth Residents:

Children's Museum of Dover
Strawbery Banke - Portsmouth
Seacoast Science Center - Rye
Museum of Science - Boston
New England Aquarium - Boston
Museum of Fine Arts - Boston

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



The Library will be closed on Monday, December 31 (normal closing day) and it will also be closed on Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year Holiday.

The Somersworth Historic District Commission is now featuring a different building every few months.

The HDC is looking for the next featured building, any building in Somersworth over 50 years old will be considered. If you are interested in displaying your house, please contact Tracy at tgora@somersworth.com

Historic District Commission's Featured House



This featured house is a mix of two building styles both common in the late 1800's - Italianate and Gothic Revival. The wide eaves, tall narrow windows with crown molding, and arched windows are all common Italianate characteristics

The Gothic Revival details are much rarer, found on maybe three other buildings, within the Historic District. These include the steep roof and pointed arches as seen in the corner trim and front door details.

The HDC is looking for the next featured building in Somersworth over 50 years old. If you are interested in displaying your house, please contact Tracy at tgora@somersworth.com

Recreation Office

Somersworth Recreation Presents...

Biddy Basketball



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

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



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

Join us for this exciting 6-week beginner basketball program designed to teach players the basic fundamentals of basketball through fun games and age appropriate skills. Players will learn how to dribble, pass, shoot, and more! Please note parent participation is required at this age level. Volunteer coaches are needed to help run this program, please reach out if you can coach!



Early Bird Fee:

Register & pay in full by Dec. 7th

\$45 residents / \$55 non-residents

Fee:

After Dec. 7th / Deadline is Jan. 11th

\$60 residents / \$70 non-residents



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

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

Save the Date!

UPCOMING 2019 Events

Volunteers needed!

- Father/Daughters Valentine Dance - Thursday, February 7
- Somersworth Frosty Basketball Tournament
Wednesday, February 13- Sunday, February 17
- Easter Egg-Strvaganza Egg Hunt - Friday, April 19

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



Ready Set Grow!

A nice little grant from Strafford County Master Gardeners will be in Farm to School's holiday gift basket this season. Middle School teacher Daryl Dunbar will be reimbursed by this grant for two Honey Crisp apple trees he purchased and planted on SMS property; Chris Asbell will as well, for the final touches needed to put the school gardens to bed this winter.

Harvest of the Month tastings continue at our schools, with roasted winter squash on tap this month. A fine group of parent volunteers served up samples to all willing students, and there were many. CTC Video Production teacher Bill Rogers filmed and talked to some not-so-camera-shy High Schoolers, and we may soon see their reactions to on the High School SWEN broadcast.

Composting at Maple Wood and SMS continue to divert waste from landfills, and all students and staff there are to thank for a very successful first two years. Our custodians are on the front lines of a more Sustainable Somersworth, and we sure are fortunate for their commitment.

Visit Somersworth Farm to School on Facebook at Somersworth Farm to School, or on Instagram at Farm to Somersworth Schools, to keep up to date on events, activities, and ways to get involved. Happy New Year Somersworth!

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

Planning a Holiday Event?

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

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



Visit www.somersworthcoalition.org for more!



**City Hall be closed on Tuesday
January 1 for the New Year
Holiday.**

**City Hall will also be closed on
Monday, January 21 for Martin
Luther King Day.**



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

"We Believe in Somersworth"



Proud Past, Bright Future