

---

**January 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 January  
City Council Meetings**

Monday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 17 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. The public is asked to submit comments via email [jslaven@somersworth.com](mailto:jslaven@somersworth.com). Comments

**The Mayor's Corner**



**Electoral College**

Last month, I had the pride and honor of representing not only the City of Somersworth and the citizens throughout our great state, but once again moving our great nation closer to the fulfillment of its creed as the first member of the LGBTQ community to serve as a New Hampshire Member of the Electoral College. The four members of New Hampshire's Electoral College gathered with unwavering commitment to finalize the voice of New Hampshire citizens by casting our states votes for President Elect- Joe Biden. Regardless of your party affiliation or who you voted for in November, the assembling of the Electoral College is a testament to the continual fortitude of our democracy. Despite the unwarranted attacks on the outcomes of the election, despite the current administration calling into question the legitimacy of the pillars of our free society, the people's voice has

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](http://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.

#### **Committee/Board Meetings this Month.**

##### **Site Review Technical Committee via Zoom**

Wednesday, January 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 13 at 10:30 a.m.

##### **Fire Station Building Committee via Zoom**

Wednesday, January 6 at 3:30 p.m.

##### **Zoning Board of Adjustment via Zoom**

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

##### **School Board Meeting- please check website to see if this is Zoom**

Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm

##### **Minor Site Plan via Zoom**

Wednesday, January 13 at 2:00 p.m.

##### **Conservation Committee via Zoom**

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

##### **Planning Board via Zoom**

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

##### **Historic District Commission via Zoom**

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

once again held strong.

[Read More](#)

### **Farewell to 2020**

As we cast farewell to 2020, ending this year brings relief to just about every citizen in our City. While this year has been filled with discomfort and pain, it has also been a testament to the Hilltopper Spirit and how despite challenges, we hold on to our values of caring and supporting each other.

Our great City, also did not stop with continuing to ensure that our 10 square mile City remained “On the Move”. In 2020, our City Councils accomplishments once again reflected our dedication to preserving our “Proud Past” while letting our “Bright Future shine.” [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](mailto: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.

---

### **Missed the Meeting? Catch it Again Online**

Don't forget: If you missed the live City Council, or Planning Board on Channels 22, you can catch it again, online and on demand. Simply visit

<https://www.somersworth.com/home/pages/watch-somersworth-city-hall-online>

to begin watching meetings on demand. Online meetings are organized by agenda item for convenience.

---



## It's Time to License your Dog for 2021

2020 Dog Licenses will expire on April 30, 2021. Please license your dog(s) by April 30 to avoid late fees.

Dogs 4 months or older are required to be licensed by April 30th each year.

- Puppy \$7.50
- Adult male /female \$10.00
- Adult spayed/neutered \$7.50
- First dog owned by Senior Citizen \$2.00

Late fee after May 31st \$1.00 per month

Civil forfeiture for unlicensed dog \$25.00

Register on-line at [somersworth.com](http://somersworth.com)

You will need your dog's previous tag number to renew on-line.

For more information please call the City Clerk's office at 692-9511 or 692-9512



## Department of Public Works & Utilities

### Solid Waste and Recycling News Updates

**Solid Waste and Recycling News Holiday Update:** There will be No Change to the regular schedule for residential trash and recycling collection. Reminder the next Metal/Electronics curbside collection by Public Works crews will occur on **Tuesday, January 12**. Residents should call the Public Works office at 603-692-4266 by **Friday, January 8** to be placed on the pick-up list. Use of bulky waste/metal waste stickers is required and can be purchased at City Hall, City Clerk office, or at the DPW building at 18 Lilac Lane( by **check only**).

**Christmas Tree Drop off and Collection Services :** The Department of Public Works will provide Christmas Tree Drop off and limited collection services during the month of January. Somersworth residents may drop off their Christmas trees at the Department of Public Works Facility located at 18 Lilac Lane. All ornaments and decorations must be removed as Highway personnel grind up the trees for future composting.

- A designated location within the main parking lot at the Facility will be provided for the drop off. Public Works Highway crews will also collect residential Christmas Trees on City streets, without ornaments and decorations, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks in January following the standard trash and recycling collection services.
- Place your tree, curbside by 7am and Highway personnel will collect and remove. As a reminder those dates are Monday, January 11, Tuesday, January 12, and Wednesday January 13 for the first week; the second week is: Monday, January 25, Tuesday, January

**The collection dates are subject to weather related, or other emergencies.**

## **Protect your Household Water Lines**

The colder weather can put your water pipes at risk of freezing and bursting which could cause extensive water damage.

Here are a few things you can do to protect your water lines:

- Keep building temperatures as consistent as possible, never less than 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Insulate areas where water supply lines are located and eliminate drafts.
- If you have water pipes in basements, crawl spaces, or outside walls, insulate the pipes, using **pipe-sleeves** or other insulating material.
- Allow warm air to circulate by opening up doors to closets and cabinets where pipe chases are located.

If you suspect that a pipe is particularly susceptible to freezing, as an emergency measure, leave water running at a trickle to prevent freezing. This is never recommended as a permanent measure and should be monitored frequently. **Never** use torches or devices with open flames to thaw frozen pipes.



### **Private Snow in Public Ways? NO!**

Residents and commercial property owners are reminded that the City Ordinance (Chapter 12, Streets and Sidewalks, Section 12.5 - Snow and Ice) 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 City sidewalks while forcing them to walk in the streets. 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. Violators will be subject to a fine.

---

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

**Out of the Ashes ...** December is a month of terrible tragedies in the history of the Fire Service. On a cold Monday afternoon on December 1st, 1958, 92 children and four teachers perished at the Our Lady of Angels school fire in Chicago. In the early evening on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, two Worcester firefighters became lost in a large abandoned cold storage warehouse filled with dense smoke and heat searching for homeless squatters who had started a



fire to keep warm. Four additional Worcester firefighters also became lost in the smoke and heat searching for their colleagues who were running out of air. All six perished and many more would have met the same fate had WFD District Chief Mike McNamee not made the courageous decision to end search operations for the missing firefighters by literally standing in front of the door with arms and legs stretched out in the form of an X. Shortly after shift change on the morning of Wednesday, December 22, 1999, three Keokuk, IA firefighters were caught in a flashover searching for three missing children. All six perished. These are just three examples – there are many more tragic Fire Service anniversaries in December.

George Santayana famously said: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”. With that sentiment in mind, the Somersworth Fire Department spent much of December conducting fire drills and inspections in all City schools. We worked closely with the State Fire Marshal’s Office and City of Dover to ensure their conversion of a previous fitness business into a new overnight homeless warming shelter is compliant with all applicable fire and life safety codes. The focus of our annual training plan for the next three months is firefighter survival, air management, and firefighter assist and search team (FAST) procedures. We have already used the Keokuk incident as a case study in our officer professional development and tactics training to include analyzing a computer simulation of the fire and flashover that provides many lessons regarding modern fire behavior and transitional fire attack. The history of December in the Fire Service and the sacrifice of so many are not in vain as we use what we have learned to always be ready, constantly improving, and ever vigilant.

### **Stay warm but keep safe during this winter heating season**

Heating systems are the second leading cause of fires in the home after cooking. Consequently, it is imperative that you use your home heating systems – including space heaters – safely. Before discussing home heating systems, let’s review the foundation of home fire safety – namely smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, at the bottom of every stairwell, and outside each sleeping area. Replace smoke alarms every ten years. Test alarms regularly and change alkaline batteries when changing the clocks. Consider installing alarms with sealed, 10-year batteries. In addition, practice "Exit drills in the Home" to include establishing a meeting place outside and reminding everyone to get out and stay out.

**Carbon Monoxide** is a silent killer with heating equipment as the leading source of carbon monoxide (CO) in the home. Don’t use your gas stove or oven for heat. Have furnaces and chimneys checked annually by a professional. Keep appliance vents and exhaust pipes clear of drifting snow, bushes, and animal nests. Install carbon monoxide alarms on every habitable level, no more than 10 feet from every bedroom door, and replace every 5-7 years in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Fireplaces and solid fuel stoves require special precautions. Have your chimney professionally cleaned every year. Do not use flammable liquids to start the fire. Never leave children unattended near fireplaces and stoves. Check that the damper is open before lighting the fire and do not close the damper until the fire is out and the embers are cold. Failure to do so can result in an accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide within the home. Keep any combustibles at least three feet away from the fireplace or stove. Use a fireplace screen to prevent embers from falling onto the floor. Without fail, ashes cleaned from the stove or fireplace must be shoveled into a metal bucket with a tight-fitting metal lid and placed outside, on the ground, well away from the house, garage, porch, or deck. Do not place ashes in a paper bag or cardboard box. Ashes and embers can stay hot for days and start a fire.

**Space heaters** can cause fires when combustible materials such as bedding, mattresses, pillows, clothing, or furniture are too close to the heater. When buying a space heater, look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company and one that will automatically turn off if knocked over. Keep the heater 3-feet away from drapes, furniture, or

other flammable materials. Place the heater on a level surface away from areas where someone might knock it over or bump into it. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy-duty cord marked with a power rating at least as high as that on the label of the heater itself. Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep. Supervise children and pets when a space heater is in use. Keep electric heaters away from water. Never use them near a sink or in the bathroom.

Have your natural gas furnace and hot water heater professionally checked every year. Do not use or store gasoline or painting supplies inside where they can be ignited by the natural gas pilot light. Gas leaks can be deadly. If you smell something like rotten eggs or think there might be a leak, immediately move outdoors, do not smoke or turn on or off electrical switches (sparks can cause an explosion), and use a cell phone outside or a neighbor's phone to call 911.

Home heating with fuel oil is safe and efficient but also requires special precautions. Have your furnace professionally cleaned and checked every year. Don't let the tank get completely empty. Call for service if the oil burner releases smoke or soot in the house.

**Ice Safety:** During the winter months, residents may be eager to skate, play hockey, fish, or enjoy other winter activities as lakes, ponds, and streams freeze. However, frozen bodies of water are extremely dangerous. Public safety agencies such as the Somersworth Fire Department often receive calls from the public asking if the ice is "safe". Even during the coldest winter weather, ice conditions can vary greatly on the same body of water making the safety of the ice very unpredictable.

Especially with mild day-time temperatures, ice freezes and thaws at different rates and the thickness of ice on ponds and lakes can vary depending on water currents, springs, and depth. The ice can be a foot thick in one area and just inches thick a few feet away and it is impossible to know the thickness just by visual observation. Objects protruding from the water such as tree stumps, rocks, vegetation, or pylons transfer the sun's thermal energy to the water weakening the surrounding ice. Ice that forms on top of moving water such as streams, and brooks is never safe. Consequently, no ice is 100 percent safe. In fact, the only safe ice is at an indoor skating rink.

Please consider keeping your dog on a leash when walking them near bodies of water so that they don't run onto the ice. Do not go onto the ice to help a person or pet that has fallen through. The very fact that a person or pet has fallen through the ice is a clear indicator that the ice is not safe. Instead, immediately call 911 or go for help. The Somersworth Fire Department is equipped with cold water rescue suits and the training to conduct ice rescue operations.

If a person has fallen through the ice and it is safe to do so, try to reach the victim from shore. Extend a strong branch, oar, pole, or ladder to try to pull the victim to safety. If unable to reach the victim, throw them something to hold onto such as a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or life preserver. Do not become an additional victim trying to rescue a person who has fallen through the ice. If there is any doubt, wait for the Fire Department.

If you fall in, try not to panic. Turn toward the direction you came from and place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface of the ice. Move forward by kicking your feet. Once back onto unbroken ice, remain lying down and roll away from the hole. Crawl back toward land to keep your weight evenly distributed. If you can't get out of the water and back onto the ice, continue to hold onto the ice shelf. If stranded in open cold water with no ice shelf to hang onto, use the Heat Escape Lessening Position (HELP) - bring your knees up toward your chest, cross your arms and hold them close to your body, and Keep your legs together while trying to keep your head out of the water. Do not try to swim unless a boat, floating object, ice shelf, or shore is close by. Swimming in cold water cools your body and reduces survival time.

We ask that parents take an active role in ice safety by talking with their children and teenagers about the hazards of ice. Children and teenagers can be adventurous and fearless. They often do

not fully understand the deadly consequences of playing on the ice or taking a shortcut over what appears to be frozen water. In the end, the best way to stay safe is to stay off the ice.

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



The Falls Chamber of Commerce presents Somersworth Fire Department A-Shift with a “Community Champion Team” award for their assistance to an elderly City resident who had a problem with her smoke alarm. Pictured L -R: Allison St. Laurent (Falls Chamber of Commerce), FF Kevin Craft, Lt. James Drakopoulos, FF John Dann, and FF Spenser Barnes.



The Somersworth Fire Department operates at a chimney fire on Lincoln street in the early evening of 12 December 2020. Note the two firefighters operating at the tip of the aerial ladder and how the ladder truck’s front wheels are raised off the hill to provide a level operating platform.



Fire Department personnel complete operations at the chimney fire on Lincoln Street.

---

**Somersworth Police & Friends**







### Shop with a Cop

Santa's elves were hard at work delivering gifts to local children on 12/16/20. The yearly event, known as Shop With A Cop, is sponsored by Target. Typically, other police departments in the area assist us in bringing (20) children to Target for their family shopping. After the shopping is completed, the children and officers spend time wrapping the gifts while enjoying pizza.

Although this year's event was altered due to the pandemic, School Resource Officer Ashley Fuller, pictured on the right, came up with some creative ideas and the children were able to let her know what they would like to buy and she and Captain Tim McLin, pictured on the left, went to Target, shopped and wrapped the gifts for the children's families, and then made arrangements to deliver the gifts to the children to their homes.

None of this would have been possible without Target's generous donation of \$1,000.00 as part of their "Heros and Helpers" Awards for our Shop with a Cop. Check out our [Facebook Page](#) to see more pictures of this adventure!



**2021 Alarm Permit Renewal Notices** will be mailed out 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, 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](mailto: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](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](http://www.Somersworth.com). To receive news of parking bans via email, go to [www.Somersworth.com](http://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](http://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

### Holiday Home Decorating Contest

**Congratulations to the Following Winners of the Holiday Home Decorating Contest!!**



**1st Place- Anna Runions**



**2nd Place- Chris Hutchins**



**3rd Place- Michelle Launsby**

### Holiday Youth Coloring Contest

**Congratulations to the Following Winners of the Holiday Youth Coloring Contest!!**



**Isha Anness- age 5**



**Ben Drapeau- age 7**



**Chasity Legault- age 10**

## What's Happening at Somersworth Library



Hello Friends,

The library posts the NY Times fiction and nonfiction bestseller lists weekly so you can see what's new and owned. Many of the items are available in overdrive (Libby), too. Always, if there's something you want that we don't have, just ask. Also, you can always click New Fiction or New Nonfiction on the catalog webpage

<https://somersworth.nhais.bywatersolutions.com/>. If you need any assistance placing holds or renewing materials, just give us a call. We are happy to help you!

Miss Tasha has been busy preparing crafts for you to take and make at home. Last month included friendship bracelets and gingerbread houses with all the fixings. Give us a call to find out about new crafts, contests, and other happenings or check our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SomersworthLibrary/>. You don't need to be on Facebook to take a look.

The Library is doubling down on ordering with the "2020 Best Of" lists released. Get ready for new authors, and in the children's collection, a multitude of graphic novels.

Although fewer movies are being released, we order the popular movies we can and well-received ones often made on a smaller budget. Have you seen *A White, White Day*? It takes place in Iceland and is described as "eerily gripping." The Chinese movie *Wild Goose Lake* is a "spellbinding pulp noir." You can see what's recently acquired by clicking New Movies on the catalog page <https://somersworth.nhais.bywatersolutions.com/>.

A big thanks to everyone who bought staff-requested books for our library! We are excited to put these in our collection.

**Here's to a Peaceful New Year to All!**

### **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.

---

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.](#))



## Connect with a Home Visitor

This pandemic is making all of us feel more disconnected and isolated, which is not good for us or our kids. Our home visitors are available to connect with you (virtually, or outside if possible) to help you identify resources, set goals, and tackle the challenges you are facing. You do not have to manage these difficult times alone!

Here is what one parent had to say about our home visiting program: *Having a home visitor was the best decision I could have made for me and my daughter. They are helpful and very kind. They look for the best in people and they are great with your kids. They care about you! I couldn't have found a better person to talk to and get help from than my home visitor.*

There is no cost for Home Visiting. Learn more [here](#), or contact Jo Ann by **email** or at **(603) 422-8209**.

## Active Parenting

Tuesdays, 6-7:30 PM  
Jan 12 - Feb 9



Active Parenting is a 5-week series for parents of kids ages 5-12. It will help you understand how brain development affects

children's behavior and decision-making, and you will expand your toolbox of strategies for:

- Reducing power struggles
- Gaining cooperation
- Teaching responsibility
- Building courage, character and self esteem

## Positive Solutions

Wednesdays, 9:30-11 AM  
Jan 13 - Feb 17



This 6-week series offers simple tools and clear solutions for parents of children ages 1-8.

It will help you understand children's challenging behaviors and promote social and emotional skills. Sessions focus on:

- Encouragement and praise
- Rules, expectations and mis-behaviors
- Controlling anger and handling disappointment
- Logical consequences

Problem behaviors and everyday routines

## Active Parenting Signup

## Positive Solutions Signup

These groups meet **virtually** and are open to parents, grandparents and caregivers. The Zoom app is required. The meeting link will be emailed before the first class.

Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions of the programs.



## Screen Time in a Pandemic: The Kids (& You) Will Be Alright

Both adults and children are spending more time looking at screens, but **experts are saying it's going to be OK**. What really creates problems is when screen time replaces activities like exercise, socializing, and sleep. Here are two simple tips to manage screen time in a healthy way:



1. **One media-free meal per day.** Try to have at least one meal per day without screens. Screen time, even background television during meals, has been linked to eating junk food and increased weight in children. Conversations during mealtime can help to support a child's social and emotional health and ease stress for the whole family.
2. **Two screen-free hours before bed.** Setting screens aside for two hours before bedtime makes it easier to fall asleep and wake up on time. The "blue light" from TVs and other screens disrupts the natural sleep cycle. For younger children, save the screens for *after* nap time. For older kids, try keeping the phone out of the bedroom.

The Boston Children's Hospital's **Center on Media and Child Health** has a lot of great resources to help parents and children live and be well in a digital world, including the guide below.

### Family Digital Wellness Guide

---



**City Hall will also be Closed on Friday,  
January 1 for the New Year Holiday.**

**City Hall will also be Closed on  
Monday, January 18 for Martin Luther  
King Day**

---

**Quality Service, Quality Schools, Quality Somersworth**

**Vision 2020**

***"We Believe in Somersworth"***



