



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

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

Site Review Technical Committee

Wednesday, January 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

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

Conservation Commission

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

School Board Meeting

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

Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

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

Historic District Commission

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

The Mayor's Corner

I hope everyone has had a happy holiday season as well as a restful and peaceful beginning to the new year. Happy 2024 Somersworth!

I am so grateful to be able to serve as the new mayor this year, and hope to ring in 2024 with new energy, ideas, and initiatives. As we look forward to the new year, not only will our Community be led by a new mayor, but we also open a new chapter with the inauguration of a new city council and school board on **January 4, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the Black Box Theater at the Somersworth CTE Center**. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to serve, and many thanks to the dozens of public servants - former mayor Hilliard, City Councilors, School Board members, Land Use Board members, Committee members, and appointees - who dedicated years of their time and energy to our Community. Thank you to everyone who helped make our home just a little bit better; your actions and service to Somersworth do not go unnoticed and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



As the new incoming Mayor, I am so grateful to this Community for entrusting me with this responsibility. I hope to be both a stabilizing force for our Community - holding us steady when needed - as well as a driving force that pushes us forward to tackle the issues at hand, whether seen or unseen. I promise to always make decisions by putting the Community over self, and though I will not hide my positions and opinions, I believe that they are never more important than the Community's needs. I am thankful to have had a phenomenal education in the history, practices, and traditions of this Community and plan to value this history throughout my tenure in the Mayor's Office. Lastly, I believe that anyone

in a position of leadership guides their Community best through collaboration, Community input, and positive, solutions-oriented discussions. I aim to be transparent, communicative, and kind - with kindness being key. Please know that I am always available if you ever have questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share. Don't hesitate to reach out, take action, or make your voice heard.

Email: mgerding@somersworthnh.gov

Office Phone: (603) 692-9501

Office hours at City Hall:

Mondays 4PM - 6PM

Wednesdays 4PM - 6PM

As Mayor, I plan to live up to the promises I made during my campaign by working to build the future that many see for our Community. At the first meeting of the year, I plan to announce a number of Committees, Commissions, and initiatives that will jumpstart the hard work of building Somersworth's future, a few of which include...

Mayor's Quarterly Art Show

Four times throughout the year, the Mayor's Office will display new artwork submitted by residents of Somersworth. 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. The first round of work will go on display in the Mayor's Office April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

The Mayor's Task Force on Housing

Rents and home prices are unattainably high for many, making it increasingly more difficult for families and working people to live and work in New Hampshire. The Mayor's Task Force on Housing will examine a variety of ways that Somersworth can change its ordinances and regulations to incentivize smart housing solutions that match the needs of our Community, positively partner the city with developers, bolster economic growth, and lower the cost of living for working families.

Community Outreach and Communication Committee

The Community Outreach and Communication Committee will work to find new ways to facilitate better communication between city hall and the residents of Somersworth. Better communication between residents, elected officials, and city staff can help keep folks better informed, more engaged, and understanding of decisions being made within local government.

Youth Advisory Committee

After being directly contacted by a number of students this fall who were looking to be more involved with our community, I will be forming the Youth Advisory Committee. This Committee, composed of three student representatives, educators, and representatives from the City Council and School Board, will work to engage young residents in local government and provide an avenue for direct action on student, youth, and family-related projects.

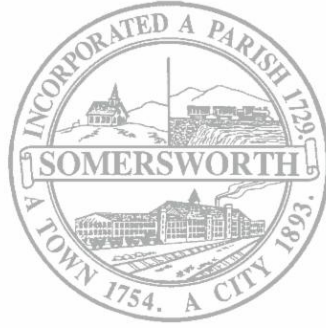
Historic District Advisory Committee

Jointly requested by members of the Somersworth City Council and Historic District Commission, this committee will work to identify solutions that will allow for the ease of development and growth within our downtown, while maintaining Somersworth historic character and charm.

Beyond the work of these Committees, there are many other exciting possibilities for our City within the new year. Whether it be the development of a robust master plan, joining the New Hampshire Community Power Coalition to reduce the cost of electricity for residents, or budgeting for more wayfinding signs within our downtown, Somersworth has a lot to be thankful for and excited about in 2024.

Hope Everyone has a Great Start to the New Year. Stay Safe and Be Well.

Best, Matt Gerding



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
INAUGURATION AND
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF
MAYOR MATT GERDING
&
MEMBERS OF THE
CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024
SIX IN THE EVENING
SOMERSWORTH CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER
BLACK BOX THEATER • 18 CEMETERY ROAD
SOMERSWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 30, 2023 TO BRENDA BREDAS
(603) 692-9503 • BBREDA@SOMERSWORTHNH.GOV



City of Somersworth
2024 Presidential Primary is
Tuesday, January 23

Polls are open from
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registering to Vote in New Hampshire

You can register to vote at the City Clerk's office, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Voter registration must be done at least 7-10 days prior to any election to be on the election day checklist. These sessions are based on when the Supervisors of the Checklist need to meet prior to the election(s) or filing period(s). Please reference the website for when the sessions are posted. In addition, you may register to vote at the polls on election day.

A person must meet the following to register and vote in New Hampshire:

- 18 years of age or older on election day;
- A United States Citizen; and
- Domiciled in the City and/or ward where the person seeks to vote.

For additional information on registering to vote in New Hampshire please use the following link:

[Register to Vote | New Hampshire Secretary of State \(nh.gov\)](https://sos.nh.gov)

Absentee Ballot

Per State law, any person who will be absent on the day of any State election from the City, Town, or unincorporated place in which he or she is registered to vote or who cannot appear in public on any election day because of his or her observance of a religious commitment or who is unable to vote there in person by reason of physical disability may vote via absentee ballot. A person who is unable to appear at any time during polling hours at his or her polling place because of an employment obligation may vote via absentee ballot, including care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation. Forms can be downloaded from the Secretary of State's website: <http://sos.nh.gov> or by clicking [Absentee Ballot Application State Elections 2024](#).

City of Somersworth Polling Locations:

Ward 1 - City Hall, One Government Way

Ward 2 - Summersworth Historical Museum, 157 Main Street

Ward 3 - Somersworth High School Cafeteria, 11 Memorial Drive

Ward 4 - Idleshurst Elementary School Cafeteria, 45 Stackpole Road

Ward 5 - Romeo J. Messier Building, 218 Main Street

[Ward Map](#)

[City of Somersworth Interactive Map](#)

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR AN ELDERLY EXEMPTION?

Qualifications

1. The taxpayer must be a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3)

years and own the real estate individually or jointly or, if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married at least five (5) years.

EXEMPT

2. The taxpayer must have a net income of not more than Thirty-Five Thousand, (\$35,000) Dollars or, if married, a combined net income of less than Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars.
2. The taxpayer must not own assets in excess of One-Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars, excluding the value of the person's residence and up to 2 acres of land.
3. The property cannot have been transferred to the applicant, from a person under the age of 65, if they were related to the applicant by blood or marriage, within the past five (5) years, per RSA 72:40-a, or as subsequently amended.
4. The property must meet the definition of a residential real estate, per RSA 72:29-II, or as subsequently amended, which includes the housing unit which is the person's principal home and related structures. It does not include attached dwelling units and unattached structures used or intended for commercial or other non-residential purposes.

**PLEASE CALL THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS
603-692-9520**

What's Happening at Somersworth Library



As we head into 2024, we want to highlight what a great year 2023 was at the Somersworth Public Library! Over the course of the year, we:

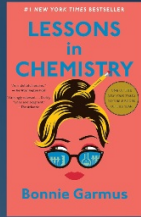
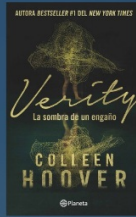
- Held 76 unique Library programs for over 4,000 total attendees
- Added over 1,600 new items to our physical Library collections
- Established Somersworth's first Seed Library and Plant Propagation Station
- Partnered with local schools for the All Together Now Summer Reading Program
- Added new technology to the Library's offerings, including a Meta Quest VR headset, loanable iPads, laptops, and a Wii gaming system provided the Community with over 37,000 physical and digital checkouts throughout the year!

Take a peek at some of our most checked-out items below:

BEST OF 2023

SOMERSWORTH'S MOST POPULAR BOOKS OF THE YEAR

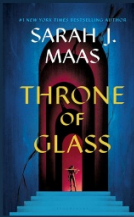
ADULT FICTION (TIE):



ADULT NON-FICTION:



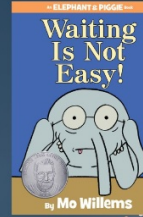
YOUNG ADULT:



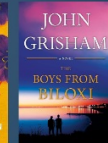
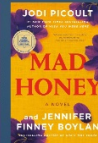
JUVENILE FICTION:



PICTURE BOOK:



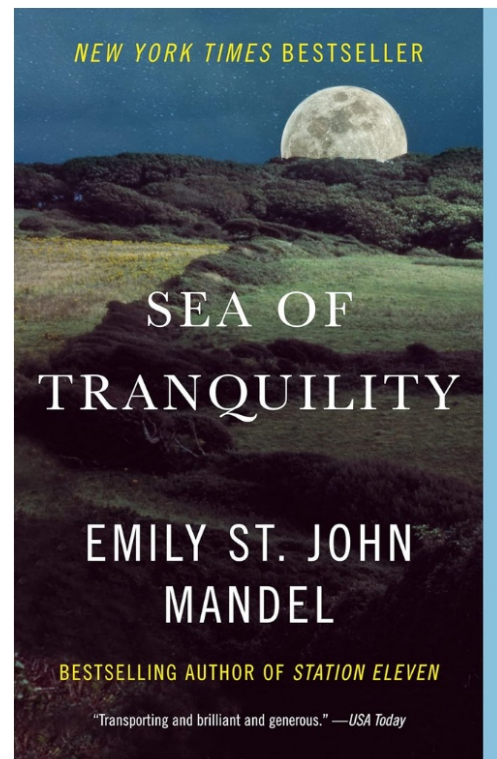
HONORABLE MENTIONS:




Book Discussion Group Tuesday, January 9 • 5:30pm

Book Group is open to all local residents who love to read. Join us on the second Tuesday of each month for a fun and lively discussion. Books vary in genre and theme to keep things interesting!

This month, we'll be discussing Emily St. John Mandel's *Sea of Tranquility*, a novel that transcends both centuries and space. Stop by the circulation desk to pick up a copy.






**Granite Gallows: The Origins of
New Hampshire's Debate
Over the Death Penalty**

Presented by Chris Benedetto

This program is
made possible by:



Wednesday, January 17th • 5:30 pm

Join us as presenter Chris Benedetto examines the history of the death penalty in New Hampshire and the major legal and social issues which challenged our

predecessors, revealing that many of these issues still haunt us today. This program is sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities.

(((👂)) **Hearing Loss Seminar** 👂))) Tuesday, January 23 • 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!

COOKBOOK CLUB
Saturday, January 27th at 11 am

*Barefoot
Contessa
At Home*
by Ina Garten

Copies available at front desk!

*barefoot
contessa
at home*
everyday recipes
you'll make over
and over again
ina garten

Movies at the Library

Free film showings every
Wednesday at 2pm!

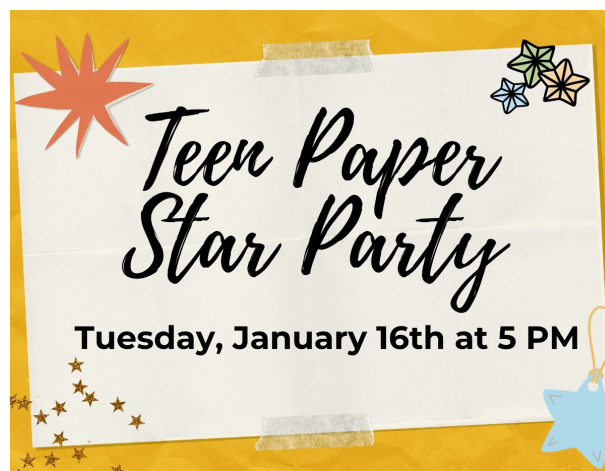


**Adults, join us on Wednesdays at 2pm for a viewing
of a great feature film!**

Upcoming titles include:

- January 3: An American in Paris
- January 10: A Man Called Otto
- January 17: Yesterday
- January 24: Grumpy Old Men
- January 31: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

Teens in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us for a fun evening crafting with friends! Attendees will enjoy making paper star crafts such as origami stars, constellation envelopes, and more. Light refreshments will be provided.



Hatchlings: Ready to Hatch

Tuesday, January 30 • 6pm



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.

One of the library's most popular children's programs is Kids Club. The January session of Kids Club allows children to enjoy hands-on crafts such as button-making, printmaking, and metal art. Although this session of Kids Club is full, we are still accepting sign-ups for February's session, where kids will enjoy cooking fun and simple recipes together. To register your child for an upcoming session of Kids Club, stop by the circulation desk.



Story Time **Tuesdays • 10:30am**

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 • 10:30am**

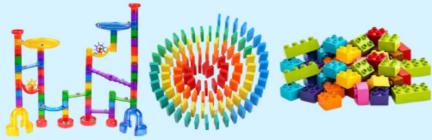
Baby Play Group is an informal program to encourage play and social interaction between parents, care givers, and babies. Little ones can enjoy age-appropriate toys such as a ball pit, crawling tunnel, infant climber and activity table. Recommended for ages 2 and under.



Weekend Builders **Saturdays • 11am**

Children are invited to build and create together every Saturday in the

WEEKEND BUILDERS



Children's Room. Various materials such as Legos, blocks, dominoes, and Magformers will be available to use. Recommended for ages 12 and under.



FRANKLIN PARK ZOO

STONE ZOO



STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM




SEACOAST
SCIENCE CENTER



CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM
of NEW HAMPSHIRE

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 | sommersworthnh.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





Shop with a Cop

December 6th was a special day for some lucky Somersworth children. Thirty Five (35) children were paired up with an Officer to shop for their families' Christmas presents. We had police officers from: Somersworth, State Police, Seabrook, UNH Police, Durham, Strafford County Sheriff's, Strafford County DOC, Strafford, Portsmouth and Berwick, Me. There was a stop at Aroma Joe's for hot cocoa and then off to Wal-Mart to shop, shop, shop. There was a wrapping/pizza party afterwards at the Flanagan Center where Santa and the Ginger Bread Man helped us out.

Members of the Somersworth Police Association have been coordinating these efforts. Thanks to the generosity of the City and our local Somersworth Wal-Mart. Pizza was provided by Somersworth House of Pizza (Hot and Fast), Villa Pizza, Pizza Hut in Dover and Stripe Nine Brewery. Aroma Joe's provided hot chocolate for the event. Stewart's Ambulance and Somersworth Schools provided volunteers to help at the wrapping/pizza party. This very important event would not be possible without this community support. The smiles were

many on both the officers' faces and the children's faces.

Santa Sits in Dispatch

It seems Santa bit off more than he could chew when he attempted to sit in for our Communication Specialist here at SPD. He says he is going to stick to delivering toys to every child in the world in one night. It seems a lot easier by comparison. Thanks for making time to come to Shop with a Cop Santa.



2024 Alarm Permit Renewal Notices will 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

Somersworth Fire Department & Emergency Management



The promise of the New Year brings optimism and renewal. However, this special time of year requires extra vigilance. Consider the following tips to help keep you safe:

The leading cause of fire in the kitchen is unattended cooking with cooking

fires the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. Maintain a presence during your cooking project. Have a lid handy when working on the stovetop. If a fire occurs in the pan and you feel safe doing so, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed. Do not hesitate to evacuate and call 9-1-1 when outside.

Heating systems are the second leading cause of fires. Consequently, it is imperative that you use your home heating systems – including space heaters – safely. 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.

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. 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.

The foundation of home fire and life safety is functioning 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 (EDITH) 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.

If using a portable generator – especially during a prolonged electrical outage – run it at least 20 feet away from the house – never inside the house, in the garage, in a breezeway, or on a deck. The same goes for a gas or charcoal grill. Point the exhaust of the generator away from the house or garage. As indicated above, carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless killer. Allow your generator to cool before refueling to avoid a flash fire.

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. We ask that parents and responsible adults 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. Prepare a winter emergency kit for both your home and car.

Feel free to call the Fire Station at 603-692-3457 regarding questions about any emergency management, fire prevention, or life safety topic.

Department of Public Works & Utilities



Solid Waste, Recycling, Bulky Waste Tips and Highlights

There **will** be a Change to the regular schedule for residential trash and recycling collection for the New Year's Holiday. Reminder the next Metal/Electronics curbside collection by Public Works crews will occur on **Tuesday, January 9**. Residents should call the Public Works office at 603-692-4266 by **Friday, January 5** 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; bulky tags can also be purchased at the DPW building at 18 Lilac Lane by **check only**.

Christmas Tree Drop Off Program- Drop off & Curbside:

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 without ornaments and decorations, during the 2 and 4 weeks in January following the standard trash and recycling collection services. Set out your tree by 7am which is the same time as you set out your trash and recyclables during this week and Highway personnel will collect and remove. As a reminder those dates are Monday, January 8, Tuesday, January 9, and Wednesday January 10 for the first week; the second week is: Monday January 22, Tuesday January 23, and Wednesday January 24. Please note while these set out dates are firm; delays may occur should our Highway personnel need to respond to a weather emergency.

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.



City of Somersworth is working to reduce the potential for contamination of local waterways by minimizing chloride (salt) exposure.

Why is salt reduction important?

As of 2021, 50 waterbodies in New Hampshire are polluted with chloride due to road salt application. In several watersheds analyzed in the southern I-93 corridor, more than 50% of the salt load comes from private roads and parking lots.

What can you do?

- Cover salt piles and place them on an impervious pad.
- Limit the amount of salt applied to parking lots and driveways.
- Take consideration of where you dispose of your snow.
- Do not dispose of snow in waterbodies.
- Hire a New Hampshire Certified Green SnowPro Contractor for your winter maintenance, or ask your current contractor to become certified.

How can your property benefit from hiring a commercial Green SnowPro certified contractor?

Certified Green SnowPros

NH Certified Green SnowPros are leaders in the snow removal industry who are trained in the most up to date technologies and snow management practices to ensure a high level of service and safety to their customers.

Reduce Impacts to Local Waterbodies

Once in our water supplies, there is no practical way to remove salt. Certified Green SnowPros are trained in salt reduction practices to help ensure clean water for future generations.

Reduce Your Liability

Under RSA 508:22, certified applicators and those who hire them are granted liability protection from claims arising from snow and ice conditions (slip and fall claims).

For more information:

For more information on the New Hampshire Green SnowPro Program visit www.des.nh.gov/land/roads/road-salt-reduction

As part of the USEPA's 2017 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) general Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in New Hampshire, City of Somersworth is required to educate facilities on pollution prevention. This fact sheet is intended to fulfill permit requirements.

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.

Somersworth Recreation



Thursday, February 8th
Idlehurst Elementary School Cafe
6:30pm - 8:30pm

\$25 per Couple (1 Adult/Children)

No charge for additional children in the family

\$35 per family (2 adults/Children)

Children in Grades K-6 & their special adult date (Dad, Mom, Step-parent, Grandparent) are invited to a fun filled evening with music, light refreshments, raffle prizes, and a photo booth to capture your special memories. Families are asked to donate a dessert/goodies if you can.

Tickets will be on sale Jan. 8th @ 8am

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Guests must show email confirmation at the door or provide the name of person who purchased tickets.

Scan the QR code/visit website to create your account & purchase tickets or stop by the Rec Office at City Hall.

somersworth.recdesk.com/Community/Home

Tickets are limited. Please call 603-692-9507 to ensure tickets are still available prior to coming in.



Upcoming Events

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



Rec Basketball

Our friends in grades 1-6 are enjoying the basketball season and having fun in our amazing program! Thank you to all of our program volunteers!

Hilltoppers 50+

The new Holiday Create and Take event was a big success. We enjoyed spending time with our



friends, creating ornaments and enjoying delicious refreshments.

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



2024 Family Programs

Babytime Playgroup
Ongoing / Weekly/ Wednesdays
10:am - 11:30 am

- 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



Signup not required. Drop-in's welcome!
Question? Call our Family Center at (603) 422-8209



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



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