

November 2019

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



November City Council Meeting

Monday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.

City Manager Reports for the City Council Meetings available <u>here</u>

Committee Meetings this Month

Site Review Technical Committee

Wednesday, November 6 at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 13 at 10:30 a.m.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee

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



The Mayor's Corner "On the Move"

Remove the campaign signs, bumper stickers, flyers and phone calls and what you are left with during an election season is time to reflect. Elections are exciting, they represent foundational element the Democracy, individual suffrage to choose one's representation. Self determination is the soul which identifies us as Americans; our right to determine our direction, and to create communities which foster our creed, the power to ensure that all will be celebrated, honored and protected. As united committed citizenry, we must continue to build communities which are homes; homes which inspire, nature and grow each generation so they can reach their full potential. Elections also give us a chance to reflect, to reflect on how far we have journeyed, where we are

Planning Board

Wednesday, November 20 at 5:30 p.m. Planning Board Workshop Re: 2021- 2026 Capital Improvement Program

Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. Regular Planning Board Meeting

Historic District Commission

Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

going, and the miles left in our travels.

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



City of Somersworth Municipal Election Tuesday, November 5 City of Somersworth One Government Way Somersworth, NH 03878



City Hall 603.692.4262 www.somersworth.com

NOTICE TO VOTERS CITY OF SOMERSWORTH, NH MUNICIPAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5, 2019

The Somersworth Municipal Election will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 to bring in your votes for Mayor, Ward City Council and School Board Members (one from each of 5 Wards), At Large City Councilors (4), At Large School Board Members (4), and Election Officials (5 from each Ward). The polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

The polling locations are:

Ward 1 City Hall, One Government Way

Ward 2 Summersworth Historical Museum, 157 Main St.

Ward 3 Flanagan Community Center, 25B Bartlett Ave.

Ward 4 Charpentier Apartments, 28 Franklin St.

Ward 5 Romeo J. Messier Building, 218 Main St.

Residents may register to vote, or make changes to their voter registration in the City Clerk's Office on or before October 25, 2019. Residents may also register to vote at the polling locations on election day. In accordance with RSA 654:12, proof of identity, age, domicile and citizenship is required when registering to vote. If a resident does not have the correct information, they may complete a Qualified Voter Affidavit. A current State ID or Driver's License will suffice for proof of identity, age and domicile, and a birth certificate, US passport, or naturalization papers can be used for proof of citizenship.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Office of the City Clerk at 692-9511 or 692-9512.

Trish Harris City Clerk

Proud past, bright future

Do you Know Which Ward to Vote at?

Click here for List of Streets by Wards

Sample Ballots

Ward 1 - Sample Ballot

Ward 2 - Sample Ballot

Ward 3 - Sample Ballot

Ward 4 - Sample Ballot

Ward 4 - Sample Ballot



City of Somersworth Tax Rate

The City of Somersworth received official notification from the Department of Revenue Administration today on the City's 2019 tax rate. The State of New Hampshire has set the City's tax rate at \$27.28.

The comparison to the 2018 tax rate breaks down as follows:

	2019 Tax Rate	2018 Tax Rate	Increase/(Decrease)
City	8.48	10.62	(2.14)
Local School	14.42	17.59	(3.17)
State School	1.87	2.26	(0.39)
County	2.51	2.94	(0.43)
Totals	27.28	33.41	(6.13)

The main reason for the large decrease in this year's tax rate is the increase in Net Assessed Value (NAV) due to the recent revaluation. The 2019 NAV is \$1,067,431,454, an increase of \$212,468,180 compared to 2018.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Belmore City Manager



Do you want to drop off your Water Bill or Tax Bill or Register your car without parking and getting out of your car? Our drive up window is fully functional and most transactions can be completed there with the exception of issuing vehicle license plates, because they don't fit in the drawer.

Utility Billing (Water & Sewer)

The City of Somersworth offers you the chance to Go Paperless!

Sign up today and start receiving your Utility Bills right to your inbox instead of your mailbox.

Email billing gives you the convenience of receiving your utility bill the same day it is created and also helps to reduce the amount of mail coming to your home.



Questions?? Contact Karla Baxter at 603-692-9523.

Go to **www.somersworth.com** to download the email sign up form or contact Karla for assistance.

Sign up for **EZ Pay** and stop worrying about whether you paid your bill or not. **EZ Pay** takes the hassle out of paying your water and sewer utility bill and there is NO added fee to use it.



E-Z PAY is a fast, reliable and convenient way to pay your monthly utility bill. Your bill will be debited directly

from your checking or statement savings account without any further action required by you.

Save time and money. No checks to write, no stamps to buy, no worrying about whether or not the bank sent the payment on time or about incurring late fees.

More Questions?? Contact Karla Baxter at 603-692-9523.

To sign up - download the EZ Pay form at **Somersworth.com** or contact Karla for assistance.

Navy Flag Raising - Citizen's Park

Resident Bill Connor wrote a few words regarding this Honorable Presentation.



On October 9, 2019, City Officials held a Flag Raising ceremony for the USA's "Navy Flag" at City Hall / Citizen's Place.

At this event in attendance were the Honorable Mayor Dana S. Hilliard, City Councilors Martin Pepin, Nancie Cameron, David Witham, Martin Dumont, City Manager Robert Belmore, Jenne Holmes and invited guests. Pictured are these individuals holding the "Navy Flag", standing in front of the City's Seal.

Mayor Hilliard then provided a salutation to all Veterans and expressed the importance of the freedom we enjoy due to their service and sacrifices. He then acknowledged Councilor Martin P. Dumont for his service to the nation as 10-year Veteran of the Navy and his dedication to local Veterans affairs within our community while declaring values that exemplify the "Hilltop Spirit."

Councilor Martin P. Dumont is the Chair of, "Somerworth Veterans Park/Memorial Commission" and has overseen and directed thru its Committee membership a successful agenda, including all of the elements of the Memorial's design and culminating to its final component of a funding campaign.



As shown pictured, Left to Right Bill Connor presented to Councilor Martin P. Dumont a portrait of a Naval Flotilla at Sea, that signifies his tradition to serving his Community thru honesty, strength and fortitude, through rough waters, keeping the ship afloat and maintaining a true course.

Save the Date

Friday November 8 at 5:00 p.m. we will be raising the **Marine** Flag and the **POW Flag** at Citizen's Place.

Department of Public Works & Utilities

Solid Waste, Recycling, Bulky Waste & Brush Collection

Reminder that Residential curbside collection of trash and recycling will run its normal schedule during the Month of November.

Metal/Electronics: Reminder the next curbside collection by Public Works crews will occur on Tuesday, November 12. Residents should call by Friday, November 8 to be placed on the pick-up



list. Use of bulky waste stickers is required and can be purchased at City Hall, City Clerk's office and at the Somersworth Public Library (cash or check) and at the DPW building at 18 Lilac Lane (check only).

Brush Pick-up: Public Works Highway crews will start collecting residential brush during the week of November 18 through 22. Residents need to call by Friday, November 15 to be placed on the pick-up list.

Bagged Leaves: Department Highway crews will also be collecting **bagged leaves** the week of **November 25 through November 27**. Residents should place their bagged leaves curbside on their regular trash pick-up day and no phone calls to request collection is needed for this specific service. The paper leaf bags can be purchased at grocery store chains, and hardware stores, including Home Depot.

Refer to the City website and FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) about additional solid waste, recycling, bulky waste and electronic waste information. www.somersworth.com

City Road Repair Work is Underway

The City is continuing with road improvements on several City streets and Roads. Pike Industries has crews replacing older utility manhole covers and frames prior to paving the streets. Pike Industries will be completing the overlays on 23 City streets and roads before the season is completed. All streets being resurfaced will have a 3 year excavation moratorium, meaning utility cuts in the newly resurfaced streets are prohibited.



Several streets have been placed in a daytime parking ban to allow the work to progress. **Any cars parked in violation of this ban will be subject to towing at the owner's expense.** Please stay alert for any posted no parking signage along roads being worked on, and look for updates on the City website at **www.somersworth.com**. Please track the website for changes, as the parking ban will be extended for some streets and will be removed on others where work is complete.

Questions on the City's road improvements and schedule may be directed to the City Manager's office at 692-9503 or the Department of Public Works at 692-4266.

Winter is nearly upon us!

Public Works crews have been working behind the scenes in preparation for the 2019-2020 winter season. Highway personnel have been preparing equipment, lining up salt and sand supplies and conducting snow plow route reviews with Department operators in preparation for the upcoming winter season. In preparation for this upcoming winter season, residents and contractors are reminded to not plow or place snow from private driveways or parking lots onto City streets, sidewalks or public places. Look for future updates on the Department's winter response plans on the City's website.

The approaching 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.

Somersworth Fire

Winter is Approaching

- The Winter season is upon us. Your furnaces will be working hard again so be certain that they are operating efficiently by scheduling an annual cleaning and service.
- For those who heat by wood your chimney should be cleaned annually as well. It is better to burn hot initially to burn off creosote that has accumulated in your chimney or stovepipe. But, sometimes this thickness is too much to effectively burn off and this could cause a chimney fire. In older unlined chimneys this is dangerous as the fire can spread to the inner walls of your home.
- Non-vented space or kerosene heaters are sometimes used inside to provide limited are heating. These devices can produce carbon monoxide gas. DO NOT use unvented kerosene or propane space heaters in side your home.



For questions regarding permits please call the Fire Department at 692-3457

Somersworth Police & Friends





Somersworth Seniors were celebrated on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Flanagan Center Gym – Bartlett Avenue. A BBQ lunch was prepared by the Police Department and Fire Department. Serving the Seniors were employees from Somersworth Housing, Somersworth Meals on Wheels, Somersworth Senior Center and the Recreation Department. Stewart's Ambulance was there doing free blood pressure checks and answering health questions. Chief Kretschmar was our emcee for the event and prizes were awarded by Mayor Dana Hilliard.



Officer Ashley Fuller is the full-time School Resource Officer in Somersworth

In the month of October Officer Fuller read a Halloween story to children and talked about Halloween Safety to all the children at Idlehurst Elementary School. She also gave a presenation to students at Somersworth Middle School on the dangers of Vaping and Internet Safety.

FREE A.L.I.C.E. Training for Businesses

We are offering FREE Active Shooter Training for any business in Somersworth. ALICE stands for Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate.

Somersworth Detective Rick Campbell gave active Shooter Training to almost 400 employees at Contitech Thermopool in October. If your Business / Company is interested contact Chief Kretschmar at <u>dkretschmar@somersworth.com</u> for more information.

Did you miss Drug Take Back Day?

We have a locked medication drop box in our station lobby that you can put your unused or expired prescription medications in at any time of the day or night.

See Something - Say Something

Just like the title says, if you see something that looks suspicious or looks out of place, SAY SOMETHING! You are our eyes and ears. Please call us at 692-3131 when something looks wrong.



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.

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

A Message from the Economic Development Manager

Dear Somersworth Businesses,

As a way to incentivize its economic development goals, Somersworth participates in the state Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) program. I am writing today to let you know that if your business is located in an ERZ, you may qualify for tax credits that would offset your Business Profits Tax and Business Enterprise Tax. The Somersworth Economic Revitalization zones include: Parts of Downtown, Malley Farm and Route 108

If your business is located in one of these zones, you may qualify to receive credits. If you are planning any investment in your business, and / or can hire one or more new full-time employee(s), we encourage you to consider applying for this program. The 2019 application deadline is: February 10, 2020. Please contact your Economic Development Manager for more information.

Robin Comstock, City of Somersworth
Economic Development Manager
rcomstock@somersworth.com
603-692-9516
www.Somersworth.com

FAQs for Economic Revitalization Zone Tax Credits

How do I qualify for a tax credit?

Create one or more new full-time incremental job(s) and have capital investment in your business during a calendar year.

The capital investment is also referred to as a project and every project is unique. Typical projects or capital investment consist of new construction, renovation, expansion or new equipment.

If you have any questions on whether something is considered capital investment you can check with your accountant or call the tax incentive program manager listed below.

The calendar year eligible will always be the most recent January-December time period. For example, if you are submitting in February 2020, all submitted materials should be for calendar year 2019.

What if my project happened over more than one year?

You could be eligible to apply for a credit more than one year. You need capital investment and new incremental jobs in any calendar year to qualify. Look to see if the project will allow you to align any new hired employees to match up with the capital investment in each year the project took place.

When must I submit my application?

All submissions must be postmarked on or before February 10 each year, with no exceptions. There are no retroactive credits for prior years.

What do I need to provide?

A completed application. Please fill out all three pages completely:

Section A: business information including the business EIN # and brief description of project. Invoices are required as verification of the project. A spreadsheet or documents summarizing total costs to correspond with project invoices is recommended.

Remember eligible invoices are only those dated within the calendar year being considered. Prior year invoices will not be eligible. The only exception is equipment that must be ordered in advance and not placed in service until it will be delivered within the eligible calendar year. Verification must be provided.

Section B: New full-time job creation. These are annualized wages. Even if you hire employees in December, please calculate and submit what the employee wages would be for a full year.

Section C: Initial and sign.

For more information, please contact the New Hampshire Program Manager Bridgett Beckwith.

Bridgett Beckwith, New Hampshire Division of Economic Development

Tax Incentive Program Manager

bridgettebeckwith.livefree.nh.gov

603-271-2342

Nheconomy.com
Visitnh.gov
Choosenh.com

What Somersworth is Reading in November

"Heaven is for Real" by Todd Burpo

A young boy emerges from life-saving surgery with remarkable stories of his visit to heaven.

Heaven Is for Real is the true story of the four-year old son of a small town Nebraska pastor who during emergency

surgery slips from consciousness and enters heaven. He survives and begins talking about being able to look down and see the doctor operating and his dad praying in the waiting room. The family didn't know what to believe but soon the evidence was clear.

Colton said he met his miscarried sister, whom no one had told him about, and his great grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was born, then shared impossible-to-know details about each. He describes the horse that only Jesus could ride, about how "reaaally big" God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from heaven to help us.



Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle.

Book Club meets at 6pm on Wednesday November 20

FINEFREE

Bring Back Those Overdue Items on Fine Free Friday! Next one is November 1

Every month we have "Fine Free Friday" on the first Friday of the Month. Return any overdue items on that day and you won't owe a thing, no matter how long you have had the item.



Library Thanksgiving Closing Times

The Library will be closing at 5pm on Wednesday November 27 the day before Thanksgiving and will remain closed for the Holiday weekend. The Library will re-open on Tuesday, December 3rd at 11:00am.

Somersworth Recreation Presents...

Rec Youth Basketball

Children in grades 1-6

Saturday mornings (8- sessions)

November 16th – January 18th

(No Bball 11/30 or 12/28)

Join us for this 8-week instructional Rec Basketball program designed to teach players the fundamentals of basketball. This program emphasizes skill development and sportsmanship through age appropriate drills and fun games. All playing abilities are welcome!



Register & pay in full by Oct. 1st

\$45 Residents / \$55 Non-Residents



Register & pay in full by Nov. 1st

\$60 Residents / \$70 Non-Residents

*Please return completed forms and program fees to the Rec Office at City Hall. We accept cash and checks only. Checks should be made out to the City of Somersworth.

Contact the Rec Office with any questions- 603-692-9507.

Idlehurst Elementary School Gym:

8:00-8:50 a.m. 1st/2nd Grade Coed

9:00-10:20 a.m. 3rd/4th Grade Girls

10:30-11:50 a.m. 5th/6th Grade Girls

Middle School Gym:

8:30-9:50 a.m. 3rd/4th Grade Boys

10:00-11:30 a.m. 5th/6th Grade Boys

*Please note dates, times, and age groups are subject to change based on participation.

Volunteer coaches needed!

**Now seeking volunteer coaches to run the program! We can't run this program without the help of several volunteers. Please reach out to the Rec Office if you can coach this season. 603-692-9508





Somersworth Recreation Presents...

Biddy Basketball

Children ages 3-6
February 1st- March 7th
Idlehurst Elementary School Gym



Ages 3/4-8:00-8:50 a.m.



Ages 5/6-9:00-9:50 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.

Early Bird Fee-

Register & pay in full by Dec. 5th \$45 Residents / \$55 Non-Residents

Fee-

Register & pay in full by Jan. 6th \$60 Residents / \$70 Non-Residents

Volunteer coaches needed!

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

For more information or if you can help coach please contact the Rec. Office-603-692-9508 / 692-9507

Sips & Sentiments

A holiday ornament & card making workshop!



For all Somersworth Seniors

Freel

Thursday, November 21st 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Gathering Place Studio & Shop-

156 High Street Somersworth, NH 03878

Join us for an afternoon of creative holiday ornament and card making! Supplies will be provided by the Gathering Place Studio & Shop to make the holiday cards of your choice or you can bring your own cards to write sentiments to your loved ones. We'll also have supplies to create your own ornaments! This is a great opportunity to get a jumpstart on your holiday while meeting new friends and sharing creative ideas. Light refreshments will be available.



For more information contact:

Somersworth Recreation (603) 692-9507 The Gathering Place Studio & Shop (603) 841-5722



Transportation provided for all Somersworth Housing Residents!

*Please use the sign-up sheet at your Somersworth Housing Authority complex location to register for transportation. For more information contact:

Somersworth Housing Authority: (603) 692-2864



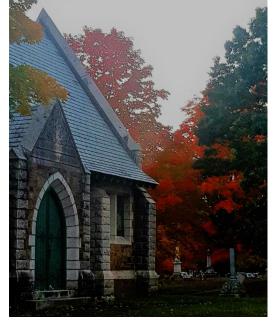
Friday, December 6th
Hunt begins at 6:00 p.m. sharp!
High School Football Field
Free!

Bring your flashlight and a bag to help collect the candy canes nestled throughout the High School football field. Once Santa arrives upon the fire truck he will start the candy cane hunt. Light refreshments will be available. Supplies are limited. There will be an opportunity to visit with Santa so remember to bring your camera! Please note children must be accompanied by an adult for this event.

For more information contact the Recreation Office-

603-692-9507 / 692-9508

The **Cemetery Trustees** would like to thank all the folks this year who helped with making our Concert Series on Sundays at the Furber Chapel another success!



You can see 2 of the programs that are presently streaming on Channel 22. As the winter approaches we are now working on projects for the spring.

We have applied for a LCIP (NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) and a Moose Plate Grant to continue with our work at the Forrest Glade Cemetery.

The Cemetery Trustees are looking forward continued Community support.

Welcome Back Farm to School



In late September, Northeast Resource Recovery Association(NRRA) conducted school waste audits known as Trash On the Lawn Day (TOLD) at both SMS and Maple Wood Elementary School. At Maple Wood, 125 third graders and staff were trained how to identify and sort recyclables from school trash collected the prior day. Another 247 students from the fourth and fifth grades joined in ten-minute intervals to witness the progress at the start of the



School Board Chair
Mark Richardson again helped
coach the students with the sorting
process at SMS.Many thanks to
Maple Wood teachers Emily
Wilson and Jen Landry for
organizing the Maple Wood event,
and all the classroom teachers who

event and the end of the event. Each group of third grade students was given several bags of trash which were weighed, sorted into bins, then weighed again.

When sorting was complete the students had a visible and quantifiable record of how much of their "trash" could have been diverted from the landfill. While the school has a successful food waste and recycling program, the students still saw opportunities to improve their efforts, and were surprised by the amount of food waste. The students asked lots of questions and learned that diverting recyclables and reducing food waste saves energy, natural resources and landfill space.

This event was also held at SMS in September, where 6th and 7th grade staff and students were the primary participants.

While there was not a lot of waste (an indicator of good recycling and composting), they found five pounds of recyclable paper in several spiral bound notebooks, as well as a broken thermometer and a partially full aerosol can, leading to a discussion of hazardous waste management.

Special guest Pete Lachapelle of Waste Management advised the students about what items belong in their single stream recycling bins, and the students witnessed a Waste Management pickup that day.

maintained order and reinforced recycling lessons. Thanks also to SMS Math and Science Teacher Chris Asbell for his tremendous support in organizing this event at the Middle School. He will incorporate the results of this activity into his graph and charting curricula.

Special thanks to the last group of the day for their help with final weighing and cleanup, and a shout out to Mark Richardson's granddaughter for manning the hose for the tarp cleanup! Special thanks to Facilities Director Karl Ingoldsby, and custodians Gloria Morin and Michael Nichols, who provided invaluable assistance with logistics. This event would not have been possible without the support of Principals Devin McNelly and Dana Hilliard, who authorized this all-day educational event.

Lastly, this event was free to the school district, thanks to Somersworth Farm to School Coordinator Wendy Berkeley, who helped secure funding, along with a generous matching grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful.

For more information on Somersworth Farm to School email Wendy Berkeley wberkeley@sau56.org

PENNY SALE

Sunday, Nov. 17th Somersworth High School

Doors open 11 am - Hourly Series Raffles
We have 2 rooms and plenty of seating!
Drawings start at 3 pm
Food is available for purchase



Help support our family-oriented activities, such as the International Children's Festival, Kids' Koncerts, Pumpkin Festival, and Winterfest, and win great items!



Sign Up Dates

Saturday November 16: 10am - Noon Thursday November 21: 5pm - 8pm Friday November 29: 5pm - 8pm Monday December 2: 5pm - 8pm

Applicants must bring a valid ID, and proof of residency.

Toy Wrapping Party

Friday December 13th 5PM at the Somersworth Fire Department 195 Maple St

Toy Pickup Date

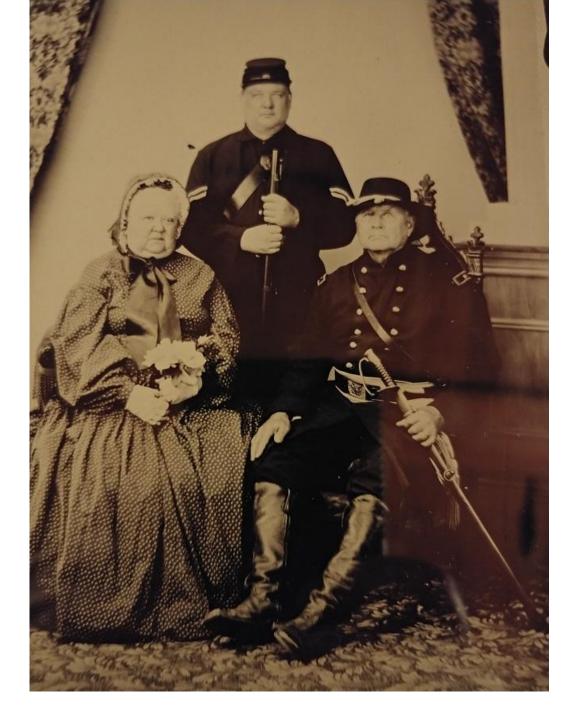
Saturday December 14th 9AM at the Somersworth Fire Department 195 Maple St

If applicants come to wrap toys they will be able to bring them home that night when we are done wrapping.

Toy Drop off Locations will begin Friday November 1 at

Somersworth City Hall
Somersworth Fire Department
Somersworth Public Library
Hilltop Chevy
The Works
Somersworth Storage
Walmart
Service Credit Union
Seacoast Redicare
Kelly's Row

^{*}All applications must be in by the last sign up date above (Mon: December 2nd).*



Guess Who Went Back in Time?

City Hall will be Closed on Monday, November 11 for Veteran's Day.

City Hall will also be Closed on Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.





Don't Forget to Turn your Clocks Back on Sunday November 3

Quality Service, Quality Schools, Quality Somersworth Vision 2020

"We Believe in Somersworth"



Proud Past, Bright Future