

WELCOME Somersworth New Hampshire

One Government Way Somersworth, NH 03878 603-692-4262



For The Somersworth Community 2014/2015 Fall/Winter Newsletter

Municipal Election

A Special Municipal Election will be held on November 4, 2014 in conjunction with the State General Election, to fill the positions of Ward 3 School Board Member, and one At Large City Council position. The filing period for these two positions is closed. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk at 692-9511 or 692-9512. Sample ballots will be posted on our website www.somersworth.com on or about the middle of October.

Assistance Needed For November 4th General Election

Two of the polling places in the City of Somersworth are in need of assistance on Tuesday, November 4th.

The Ward 2 polling place is at the Somersworth Historical Museum, 157 Main Street. The Ward 4 polling place is at Charpentier Apts., 28 Franklin Street.

If you live in either of these wards and would like to help out for the upcoming election, please call the City Clerk at 692-9511.

Polling Places

Open 8 am to 7 pm

Ward 1 - City Hall, One Government Way
Ward 2 - Somersworth Historical Museum, 157 Main Street
Ward 3 - Flanagan Community Center, 9 Bartlett Avenue
Ward 4 - Charpentier Apartments, 28 Franklin Street
Ward 5 - Romeo J. Messier Building, 218 Main Street

City Hall Holiday Closings

2014

Veteran's Day, November 11
Thanksgiving Holidays, November 27 & 28
Christmas Holiday, December 25 & 26

2015

New Year's Day, January 1, 2015
Martin Luther King Day, January 19
President's Day, February 16
Memorial Day, May 25

Somersworth Striving to Serve you Better "Remember the Drive-Up Window for Payments"



The Drive-up window at Somersworth City Hall has been operational since the day the building became home to City Hall. Yet, many people think it is just a left-over from the banking days! We process many transactions including: Property Taxes; Water/Sewer Utility Bills; Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals (limit 2) and Dog Licenses; plus the Sale of Pay-per-Bags and Bulky Waste Stickers. The Drive-up is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, but on Wednesday we have extended hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. It is the perfect option for parents with small children and those having trouble getting around, especially in bad weather. If you have a NH Walking Disability Plate or Placecard, we will process your new vehicle registrations, transfers and title applications for you in the Drive-up. Just enter at the end of the parking lot and follow the wall around to the window.

Want to Be Involved in Your Community?

Are you a Somersworth resident that wants to be involved in important decision making ?

If so, joining a Land Use Board may be just right for you! The City of Somersworth has four Land Use Boards and they are: Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission and Historic District Commission. Each board has different responsibilities but all offer a way to be involved, have your voice heard and make important decisions in your community. If interested submit a letter to the City Clerk, which includes your name, address, contact information, which Board you want to be a part of and any information you have on what would make you a great Board member. Mail your letter to:

City Clerk
City Hall
One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Ends on **Sunday, Nov. 2** Turn your clock back and a reminder to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors. Test batteries monthly and replace annually.





The Mayor's Corner What Does the Mayor Do?

The duties of the office of Mayor vary throughout our state and nation. Generally the system in which the Mayor's office functions can be divided into two categories. Under these two systems the power and function of the Mayor's office is divided or consolidated. The two classifications of these systems have evolved to be known as a Mayor/City Manager system (also referred to as a weak Mayor system) or Mayor/Council system (also referred to as a strong Mayor system).

Within the state of New Hampshire out of the thirteen municipalities that exist two still operates under a "Strong Mayor" system while the rest, including Somersworth function under a "Weak Mayor" format. Under a Strong Mayor system which Manchester and Nashua still possess, the Mayor is the political head and the CEO of the city. The Mayor is not only responsible for setting the political agenda and vision but also manages the daily operations of the city. The creation and introduction of the city budgets fall upon the Mayor's office as well as the hiring or removal of all city employees. This structure requires the individual who is elected by the people for a certain term of office to work full time. Like all elected positions within the United States the only requirement to hold office is residency.

The City of Somersworth does not operate under this system.

Our community and the other eleven municipalities in New Hampshire function under a Mayor/City Manager system. Under this system the Mayor is elected by the people to serve as the head of state. The Mayor welcomes all political visitors to the community and serves as the official ceremony leader at major gatherings. The Mayor also helps set the agenda and vision for the community. While this responsibility is shared by the Mayor and City Council the Mayor assists in setting the priority list and keeping the council focused on issues and moving the community forward. The Mayor also serves as the "Chair" of the council and is the parliamentarian for all meetings. Under the City Charter the Mayor can only vote to break a tie but does share the same privileges as other city councilors including the ability to introduce legislation and participate in debates. Under the Mayor/City Manager system or "Weak Mayor", the office of the Mayor is not a full time job. The full time daily responsibilities of running the city fall on the office of the City Manager. The City Manager serves as the CEO of the community. The office is responsible for managing the daily operations of our community including; drafting and proposing the city budget, hiring and removing staff and keeping the Mayor and Council abreast on information. Unlike the office of Mayor, the City Manager must possess a professional degree, MPA (Masters in Public Administration). This is a full time requirement and is compensated with a professional salary.



Mayor's Community Forum

Come discuss Community issues, voice your concerns and give ideas to help move Somersworth forward. Forums include Mayor, City Councilor member, and School Board member.

When: October 25
November 22
December 13

Time: Saturday's, 9:00 am -10:30 am

Place: City Council Chambers (use access door via High Street)
City Hall, Somersworth

Assessing Information-City-wide Revaluation

The City has completed the City-wide Revaluation of property values. These new finalized values will provide the basis for your 2014 property assessment for the upcoming December tax bill, less exemptions and credits if applicable. The City offers both a Veteran's Credit and an Elderly Exemption. Applications for Elderly Exemptions and Veteran's Credits are due no later than April 15th, 2015. The guidelines for the Elderly Exemption are as follows:

- The taxpayer must be 65 or over.
- The taxpayer must be a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) years as of April 1st 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 for at least five (5) years.
- The taxpayer must have gross income of not more than Thirty Thousand, (\$30,000) Dollars (single) or, if married a combined gross income of less than Forty-Five Thousand (\$45,000) Dollars.
- The taxpayer must not own assets in excess of Eighty Thousand (\$80,000) Dollars, excluding the value of the person's residence and up to 2 acres of land.

Further information, regarding the Revaluation and Credits or Exemptions are available in the Development Services Office in City Hall or on the Assessing portion of the City's website.

In addition, Tax Cards for the City are available online at www.patriotproperties.com and Tax Maps are available online at <http://www.somersworth.com/departments-services/development/development-services/assessing/tax-maps/>

Downtown Improvement News

Downtown Infrastructure Project

Everywhere you turn you see men in reflective gear and hard hats climbing in and out of holes that could swallow up a large car. These folks have been replacing the water, sewer and drainage systems from the intersection of High St./West High St. and the bridge as well as a portion of Main St. and Station St. The crews are also laying down a new roadway and sidewalks along with some decorative lighting. The final overlay will occur in the spring.

Transportation Enhancement Project Grant

This State/Federal/City funded project includes additional decorative street lighting, new sidewalks, a major landscaped focal point at the intersection of Main and Market Street, bicycle lanes and racks and a variety of landscaping throughout. The TE Project work is scheduled from October 13 to November 21, 2014. Some plantings and finish work will occur in the Spring of 2015.

Somersworth/Berwick Bridge

The complete rehabilitation of the bridge is scheduled to be finished in June of 2015. The greatly improved bridge will have sidewalks and decorative lighting to serve as a much more welcoming gateway to the City.

Development Services/The Office of Economic Development is here to help both emerging and established businesses. Call us for information on starting a new business, expanding your current business, staffing needs, resource assistance, etc. You can stay informed on local and regional business news by signing up for our monthly e-newsletter at www.somersworth.com

*Quality Education, Quality Community
Quality Somersworth
Vision 2020*

Fire Department



Somersworth Professional Firefighters 2014 Toy Drive

The holiday season will be arriving soon, and the Somersworth Professional Firefighters are planning our annual toy drive. Together with local merchants and community members, we have made the holiday season brighter for many families. This year, we are once again asking for your help to make the toy drive successful! You and your organization can help by donating

New, unwrapped toys, clothes, and gift cards for children ages newborn to 14 years-old. Monetary contributions for the purchase of gifts are accepted. Please make checks payable to the Somersworth Firefighters Toy Bank. Donations can be mailed or delivered to the Somersworth Fire Station, 195 Maple Street, Somersworth, NH 03878. Or contact the Somersworth Professional Firefighters at 603-692-3456 to arrange for us to pick up your donations at your location. Contact Matthew or Jessica at 603-692-3456 for further information.

Applications can be filled out at the Fire Station on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, November 25th 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 1st 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 3rd 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 6th 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Friday, December 12th is the Wrapping Party 5:00 p.m. - Till Finished
Saturday, December 13th is Pick-up 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Santa's Workshop Will Be Opened Soon....



Winter Fire Safety Tips

- Homeowners who burn wood are encouraged to have their chimneys cleaned before the winter season begins. Creosote builds up with the chimney wall and could cause a chimney fire—threatening to burn your residence.
- Those heating with Oil have your furnace cleaned once a year by a licensed professional. It will increase the efficiency of your burner and save energy costs in the long run.
- Residents are asked to clear Fire Hydrants in or adjacent to their yards,. Firefighters attempt to clear hydrants of snow after storms but sometimes there can be a period of time lapsed before hydrants are cleared. In a fire emergency, water from the hydrants is critical to extinguishment.

Police Department



CVS Pharmacy Drug Turn in Box

CVS has graciously awarded the City of Somersworth a "drug turn in box". It has been installed in the **Lobby of the Police Department**. This will allow citizens to turn in unwanted prescriptions and over the counter medicines year round without having to wait for a drug take back day.

Going South for the Winter

House checks are available if you are a snowbird traveling south for the winter. Stop by the Police Dept and let us know. We will patrol your home while you are away. Call 692-3131 to find out more information.



Fire Alarms/Police Alarms

Per Somersworth ordinances, all residences and businesses with fire alarms and/or police alarms must register their alarm with the City. Alarm Permits are due by January 31, 2015. Reminder letters should be received in early December. Renewal permits are \$10 if received by Jan. 31 or \$20 if received after.

Residents 65+ are free for renewal. Initial alarm permit fee: \$25.00. Somersworth Police Department, 12 Lilac Lane. Phone: 692-3131



What Somersworth is reading in November

“Canada” by Richard Ford

The only writer ever to win both the Pulitzer Prize and Pen/Faulkner Award for a single novel (*Independence Day*) Richard Ford follows the completion of his acclaimed Bascombe trilogy with *Canada*. After a five-year hiatus, an undisputed American master delivers a haunting and elemental novel about the cataclysm that undoes one teenage boy’s family, and the stark and unforgiving landscape in which he attempts to find grace.

A powerful and unforgettable tale of the violence lurking at the heart of the world, Richard Ford’s *Canada* will resonate long and loud for readers of stark and sweeping novels of American life, from the novels of Cheever and Carver to the works of Philip Roth, Charles Frazier, Richard Russo, and Jonathan Franzen.

There will not be a book of the month in December. The December book group meeting will be a “Year End Book Recommendation” with an open discussion of attendee’s favorite books. The November meeting will be November 19th at 7:00 pm and the December meeting will be December 17th at 7:00 pm.



Storytimes In The Children’s Room

Visit the library for a complete schedule and contents of each story time and the craft offered. Story times began September 9th, and will be weekly until December 10th. Story time for 2-6 year olds is on Wednesday at 11:15 a.m. and for all ages Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m.. The story times are free to residents. Come join in the fun as your child learns of all the knowledge and fun just waiting for them to enjoy in the Children’s Room of the Somersworth Public Library!

Got a new Kindle or Nook for Christmas

If you have a new reading device, stop by the library to either get a library card or get your password to access the NH Downloadable Books Consortium for free e-books. The Consortium has over 7,000 audiobooks and 9,000 e-books for both adults and kids, and their site has a link to a blog to help you with issues you might have getting started. The library can get provide you with computer time if need a high-speed connection to download your books!

Fall & Winter Hours at the Library

Tuesday through Thursday
11:00am to 7:00pm.

Friday and Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the Library at 692-4587.

Holiday Wish Tree

During the December holidays, when you’re looking for that perfect gift for someone who has everything, the library’s wish tree will be up and decorated with all the books we would like to have for our shelves for both adults and children. You may donate the book in honor of someone special. You may purchase the book, read it first, and then donate it to the library or donate its cost and we will be sure you are the first to read it.



**2014 Somersworth Christmas Parade
“Believe”**

**Saturday, December 6th at
2:00 p.m.**

Starts at Somersworth Plaza on Main Street follows to Market Street and left onto High Street. Left on Constitutional Way cross Washington onto Green end at Langelier.

Gala Events 1:00—4:00 p.m.

- Children Activities
- Music
- Stage Performances

Parade Participant or Sponsorship or questions please call:

Beth Poulin 692-6310 or
Elizabeth Miller 692-3029



**Free Concert
by Langley Winds
of the
United States Air
Force Heritage of
America Band**

At the Rochester Opera House on November 10 at 7:00 p.m. This concert is free BUT tickets are required to attend due to space limitations. Ticket can be picked up at Foster’s Daily Democrat, 150 Venture Dr., Dover during business hours

Mon-Fri 8:00 am—5:00 pm.

Activated in 1941, the USAF Heritage of America has a rich history of inspiring public patriotism. These world class musicians are stationed at Joint Base Langley in Virginia. They travel throughout the Mid-Atlantic presenting over 300 events annually for the public and in support of Airman morale and protocol events.

For more information visit the bands website:

www.heritageofamericaband.af.mil



Somersworth School District would like to welcome "YOU" to our new Education Channel 95. We will be broadcasting our School Board meetings from this channel. We hope to do Public Service Announcements from this Channel as well. Our future hopes are also to include live broadcasting of sporting events, concerts and graduation.

Please tune in and watch all that the School District has to offer!
Jeni Mosca, Superintendent of Schools

SAU56 Holiday School Closings

October 13, 2014

Columbus Day

November 11, 2014

Veteran's Day

November 26, 27, 28 2014

Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24, 25, 26—January 2, 2015

Holiday Break

January 19, 2015

Martin Luther King Day

February 23—27, 2015

Winter Break

Please visit SAU56 website at
www.sau56.org for further information.



Harvest Craft Fair
Saturday, October 25th
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Somersworth High School
11 Memorial Drive
Somersworth, NH

Christmas Tree Disposal



Christmas Tree Pickup will be the first week in January. Please have your tree curbside no sooner than the evening before and no later than 7:00 a.m on your trash pickup the week of January 5th. Put out time is specified due to the possibility of inclement weather this time of year. If your tree is snowed or iced into the curb or snow bank it will not be picked up. A drop off location will also be designated. Call Public Works Dept. at 692-4266 for the location and hours of operation.

Public Works Department

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 an alternative parking plan 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 click the "parking Bans" tab at www.somersworth.com. To receive news of parking bans via email, go to www.somersworth.com and click "Subscribe-City E-mail".



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

Public Works Brush & Bagged Leaves Pickup

Brush will be picked up the weeks of Oct. 20th and Nov. 17th. You must call 692-4266 by Friday, Oct. 17th and/or Friday, Nov. 14th to be added to the pickup list. Please have your brush curbside no later than 7 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 20th and/or Monday, Nov. 17th for pickup. Brush can be up to five (5) inches in diameter and ten (10) feet long. **PLEASE NOTE:** Brush pickup is limited to 20 minutes per stop. Any remaining brush and cleanup of debris is the responsibility of the property owner. Call Public Works for more information at 692-4266



Malley Farm is open to disposal of brush and leaves until frost sets in.

Fall & Winter Recreational Activities



Somersworth Recreation Youth Basketball

This 8-week program focuses on fundamentals, skill development, sportsmanship, fun, and a better understanding of basketball for boys and girls in 1st grade through 6th grade.

Who: Children in grades 1-6

When: Saturdays, November 15—January 10

Time: 8:00—12:00 p.m.

Where: Idlehurst and SMS Gymnasiums

Early Bird Fee: \$45 resident/\$55 non-residents

(register by Friday, October 31st to receive early bird fee)

After October 31st (deadline Wednesday, November 12th)

\$60 residents/\$70 non-residents

3 & 4 Year Old Biddy Basketball

This exciting beginner program is for boys and girls ages 3-4. This instructional program focuses on introducing basketball fundamentals through stations, basic drills, and fun games.

Who: Children ages 3-4

When: January 24—February 28

Time: 9:00—10:00 a.m.

Where: Idlehurst Gymnasium

Early Bird Fee: \$45 resident/\$55 non-residents

(register by Monday, January 5th to receive early bird fee)

After January 5th (deadline Thursday, January 22nd)

\$60 residents/\$70 non-residents



5 & 6 Year Old Bigger Biddy Basketball

This program is designed for boys and girls ages 5-6. This instructional program focuses on introducing basketball fundamentals through stations, basic drill, and games.

Who: Children ages 5-6

When: January 24—February 28

Time: 10:00—11:00 a.m.

Where: Idlehurst Gymnasium

Early Bird Fee: \$45 resident/\$55 non-residents

(register by Monday, January 5th to receive early bird fee)

After January 5th (deadline Thursday, January 22nd)

\$60 residents/\$70 non-residents

Father/Daughter Valentine's Day Dance

Daughters in grades K-8 and their dads (or uncles, brothers, grandfathers, etc.) can dance the night away as well as take part in dance contests, games, raffles, Valentine desserts and goodies. Families are asked to donate some goodies, either finger sandwiches or desserts..

When: Thursday, February 12

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Where: Idlehurst Elementary Café

Cost: \$25/Couple no extra charge for additional daughters



Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt

For anyone who still believes! Bring your flashlight and a bag to help collect the candy canes nestled throughout Millennium Park. Afterwards we will enjoy cocoa and cookies while awaiting Santa Clause to arrive upon a fire truck.

Who: 3 +

When: Friday, December 12th

Where: Millennium Park

Time: Hunt begins at 6:30 p.m. Sharp! **Cost:** Free



Somersworth Hilltopper Basketball Camp Boys ages 8—12

Join Coach Hebert and the Somersworth High Varsity Players for a fun 2-day Basketball Camp for boys ages 8-12. Fundamentals will be stressed throughout the Camp with an emphasis on shooting, ball handling, passing, footwork, and team play.

When: November 1 & 2 **Where:** Somersworth Middle School **Time:** 9:00 am—Noon **Cost:** \$40

Please contact Brian Hebert, Head Coach at coach-hebert1414@gmail.com

Registration forms can be found at the Somersworth Recreation Office and the Maplewood & Idlehurst School Offices.

Registration Forms

Forms to register for Recreation activities can be found at the Public Library, Recreation Office or City Clerk office at City Hall. They are also available online on the Recreation portion of our website, www.somersworth.com. If you would like to be included in our e-mail list to receive occasional updates on programs, trips and activities being offered by the Recreation Office, please email:

Kristen Ducharme at

kducharme@somersworth.com

**2014 Upcoming Meetings in the Council Chambers
Government Access Channel 22 and School Channel 95**

City Council Meetings

The City Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Public Hearings may be scheduled for an earlier start time.

Oct. 20, Nov. 10 & Dec. 8

Channel 22 replays City Council meetings:

Thursday at 3 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Friday at 12 a.m. & 12 p.m.,
Saturday at 9 a.m. & 9 p.m.,
and Sunday at 6 a.m. & 6 p.m.

School Board Meeting

The School Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall

Oct. 14 & 28

Nov. 18, Dec. 9

Channel 95 replays School Board meetings:

Thursday—Sunday
12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board Meeting

The Planning Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Oct. 15, Nov. 19 & Dec. 17

Channel 22 replays Planning Board meetings:

Thursday at 12 a.m. & 12 p.m.,
Friday 9 a.m. & 9 p.m.,
Saturday 6 a.m. & 6 p.m., and
Sunday at 3 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Zoning Board

The Zoning Board meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Nov. 5, Dec. 3

Channel 22 replays Zoning Board meetings:

Thursday at 6 a.m. & 6 p.m.,
Friday at 3 a.m. & 3 p.m.,
Saturday at 12 a.m. & 12 p.m. and
Sunday 9 a.m. & 9 p.m.

Meetings are available online for live internet viewing from the link at www.somersworth.com

Check website for 2015 meeting dates, agendas and locations.

City Hall Numbers

City Hall/Voice Directory

692-4262

City Manager's Office

692-9503

HR-Personnel

692-9529

City Clerk

692-9511, 692-9512

Development Services

(Assessing, Planning

Building & Code)

692-9519, 692-9520

Finance & Administration

692-9505

Recreation

692-9508

Tax Collector/

MV Registration

692-9555

Water/Sewer Clerk

692-9523

Human Services (Welfare)

692-9509

City Department Numbers

Fire Department

692-3457

Police Department

(non-emergency)

692-3131

Public Works

692-4266

Somersworth Public Library

692-4587

City Officials

Mayor Dana Hilliard

Email:

dhilliard@somersworth.com

Mayor's Office: 692-9501

City Council

Martin Pepin, Ward 1

Email:

mpepin@comcast.net

Phone: 692-4436

Jennifer Soldati, Ward 2

Email:

councilorsoldati@me.com

Phone: 498-8086

Marcel Hebert, Ward 3

Phone: 692-2150

Jonathan McCallion, Ward 4

Email:

jmccallion@somersworth.com

Phone: 817-0044

Denis Messier, Ward 5

Messier3@comcast.net

Phone: 692-2955

David Witham, At-Large

Email: dwitham@somersworth.com

Phone: 692-4086

Sean Collins, At-Large

Email:

c0ll1nss@yahoo.com

Phone: 692-3511

Brian Tapscott, At-Large

Email:

btapscott@somersworth.com

Phone: 692-3897

Dale R. Sprague, At-Large

Email:

dsprague@somersworth.com

City Hall
One Government Way
Somersworth
New Hampshire
03878
(603) 692-4262
www.somersworth.com

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesdays

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

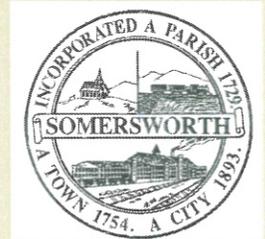
Tax, City Clerk &
Development Services
(Planning, Building/Code &
Assessing)

City Manager
Robert M. Belmore

Email:

bbelmore@somersworth.com

Phone: 692-9503



**Be Sure To
Sign Up For City
Electronic E-newsletter Emails At
www.somersworth.com
For The
Latest Information On
Trash Delays, Weather & City
Events!**