City Connection

Proud Past, Bright Future

March 2019



March Meetings in Council Chambers

City Council Meetings

State of the City Address Monday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Regular City Council Monthly Meetings

Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Prior to City Council Meeting on March 18 there will be a Workshop at 6:00 p.m. with Historic District Commission

Joint City Council & School Board Workshop

Monday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. **Please note:** This is at the Somersworth High School at the Career Technical Center.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Historic District Commission Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.



The Mayor's Corner

Transforming a Community

Change is never easy, it disrupts our routines, makes us uneasy and sometime tests the values embedded within us. Yet we are surrounded by change, and experience it each and every day. Nature constantly reminders us through the life cycle of birth, growth and death, that change is always in motion. It guides us as we adapt to change with the seasons; Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer. And reminds us that change can occur slowly or abruptly, as we observe all too often, in our weather patterns.

Throughout our lives our bodies are in a constant state of change. From moment to moment we are evolving and physical different then we were before. Yet, it is the free will that we have been gifted that helps us determine what changes are positive and move us in a direction of improvement and what changes can be detrimental to our welfare. During the last 6 years, our 10 square mile community of Somersworth has been in a forward motion; "On the Move". We have experienced a re-awakening of our destiny towards greatness and have embraced the Hilltopper values which have identified us as a true New England community. Some of these changes can be physical witnessed; the improvements to our infrastructure, renovations of our schools, and improvements to our parks

Other changes are witnessed through the adoption of commitments to our community; Vision 20/20's commitment to making Somersworth one of the most

Please note meeting Calendar is subject to change.

To view Agendas of City Council meetings please visit City website www.somersworth.com/calendar/

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

<u>City Hall Hours:</u> Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

Stay in touch with City Happenings.

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

Join our mailing list

desirable communities on the seacoast by the year 2020. The Mayor's drug task force's adoption of a master plan to address the opioid crisis. The Plaza commission's vision to bring new life to the Somersworth plaza. The veteran's park commission dedication to creating a living tribute to all of our veterans. And the Cultural Commission dedicated to celebrating who we were and who we are.

All of these successes can be rooted in the most important change, the change that once again WE believe in ourselves. For decades our community has been wandering through the darkness searching for its identity. We were overshadowed by the giants which surrounded us and their transformations. "If only we could be like Dover, Rochester, or Portsmouth" was once common vocabulary heard throughout the Hilltop City. Yet with each step we took on the journey towards discovery, we traveled further away from the foundational blocks of our success, the citizens who comprise the home we call Somersworth.

Our strength is not national hotel chains, high priced restaurants, or six dollar coffee lattes. Our downtown is not filled with busting youth emptying out of bars at 1am and Uber drivers circling the square for their next fare. Instead we are a community that celebrates each other at the \$7.00 church breakfasts, where neighbors will walk over with their snow blowers and help you clear your driveway and where friends who know your parents will drop off meals while they are battling illness. We are a community that does not simply tolerate each other, but instead celebrates one other. Not only through our deeds and actions but by giving each group who believes and embraces differences and democracy "Their turn at the pole" at citizens place.

Our local government has become a model of how democracy was intended to function. By respecting differences, with civility and statesmanship while agreeing to disagree and working towards consensus for the progression of the community as a whole. While we lack the assessment of million dollar homes, our properties are rich with the love, warmth and commitment to building a community which believes in honoring the previous generations. The generations that created our "Proud Past" while we will continue to institute personal sacrifices as we build towards a "Bright Future". Our changes can be seen and unseen. Seen, in some of the recent positive developments which continue to move our community forward. Unseen in the values which identify us as Hilltoppers.

We will continue our commitment towards ourselves and each other, we will continue "On the Move!" towards reaching our Vision 20/20 goals and continuing to celebrate our rich cultural diversity. Most importantly we will continue to embrace the changes needed while holding onto the values which have made our 10 square miles City called Somersworth, a welcoming Community and home for all.

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

WE ARE SOMERSWORTH!

Mayor Dana Hilliard

For a complete list of all upcoming meetings visit the <u>City calendar</u>



Mayor's Community Forum Saturday, March 16 9:00am – 10:30am City Hall

Included in this Forum will be the Mayor and Somersworth Fire Chief, Keith Hoyle.

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

All members of the Community are welcomed to attend.



SAVE THE DATE! Mayor's Community Forum Upcoming Dates

April 13 - Mayor & School Representatives

Mayoral Winter Office Hours

Monday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Wednesday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Friday: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

From the City Manager's Office



<u>City Manager Reports - Click here to view</u>

Time to Renew Dog Licenses

Dog licenses for 2019 are now available. All dogs must be licensed by April 30 to avoid a late fee.

2019 DOG TAGS are available!

Puppy: \$7.50 Adult Male/Female: \$10.00 Adult Spayed/Neutured: \$7.50

First Dog owned by

Senior Citizen (over 65) \$2.00

Late fee after May 31 \$1.00 (per-month)

Civil forfeiture \$25.00

(for unlicensed dogs)

The City Clerk's office requires up-to-date information from the rabies certificate which is provided by your veterinarian.

To register by mail:

Check or money order payable to: City of Somersworth

Mail to: One Government Way, Somersworth, NH 03878

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope

To renew on:line:

https://www.somersworth.com/home/pages/online-services

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

Questions....call the City Clerks office at (603) 692-9511



Somersworth Police Coffee with a Cop



Coffee with a Cop was held on February 26 at Teatotaller on High Street where Officers and Residents mingled to have a cup of coffee.

Thank you Teatotaller for graciously hosting our event and to everyone who stopped by to say hello.

New Intoxilyzer 9000

We were very happy to receive a new Intoxilyzer 9000 unit from the State of New Hampshire. All of our officers are now certified to use to report alcohol levels for possible impaired drivers.



Snow Emergencies Winter Parking Ban

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

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

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

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

Somersworth Police Facebook Page

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

the link:

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

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





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



From your Local Fire Department 692-3457

has a lot of good information at www.readynh.gov so pay it a visit!

- Permits are required by the state to burn tree branches that have fallen over the winter or to prepare garden areas. These Permits can be obtained free of charge from the Fire Department. They outline safety for burning these materials.
- While snow accumulations are lessening, it still is possible that we could
 get some storms which may result in fire hydrants outside your property
 being buried. As always, we solicit your help in keeping fire hydrants clear
 of snow after storms.
- As the month progresses, increased temperatures will melt ice on ponds and streams. Take care when walking on these surfaces as ice can way with little warning at this time of year.

Information from Public Works 692-4266



Solid Waste Updates

The Department of Public Works reminds residents that metal pick up occurs on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The March collection will occur on Tuesday, March 12 and participants are asked to call Public Works not later than 3:00 pm on Monday, March 11 to be placed on the pickup schedule for March 12.

- Participants are reminded to place the proper number of tags on the item when setting the item out on the street for collection. Typical TV's require three (3) stickers \$12.00 and PC's require one (1) sticker \$4.00.
- Residents may also opt to drop off metal and electronic items with proper bulky waste stickers at the Public Works Facility located at 18 Lilac Lane from 7:30 am-2:30 pm Monday -Friday.

Reminder - Blue Trash Bags & Recycling Bins

Residents are reminded that City trash bags and recycling containers must be at the curbside no later than 7:00 am curbside no sooner than the evening before your designated collection day.

Highway Work Activity

Winter is not over, the warmer temperatures will help with faster melting action on City streets and sidewalks during snow events in March. Motorists and pedestrians are continued to use caution and be alert during inclement weather and be mindful of Public Works snow plow equipment clearing roads and sidewalks and please use caution when traveling near these large pieces of equipment. Be safe. Drive careful, use proper distance and be aware of road conditions. Residents are also reminded to refer to social media updates (email blasts, website updates) when inclement weather is forecasted for parking ban updates.

Preventative Reminder to Avoid Freezing Pipes

With the recent stretch of cold weather we have had reports of frozen pipes bursting and causing extensive water damage during this winter.

- 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.
- Never use torches or devices with open flames to thaw frozen pipes.

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.

Grant Funded - Emergency Preparedness-Water Interconnection with the City of Dover

The City Council recently approved an Inter-municipal Emergency Water Use Agreement between the City of Somersworth and the City of Dover. The agreement outlines the terms and conditions by which a new interconnection water main would be constructed connected to a City of Somersworth water transmission line and operate in the event of a water emergency affecting either community. The new interconnect water line will be installed adjacent to Willand Pond and involves the construction of a 2,600 LF interconnection main between Somersworth and Dover. Work is anticipated to begin late this winter -early spring and completed by December 2019. The contractor selected to construct the improvements is Sherbon Consolidated.

What's Happening in Recreation?



Somersworth Recreation Presents...

Kids Campa Summer Program

Registration opens March 4 for residents / April 4 non-residents

Children going into grades K-5 (Kindergarten is Half Day only)
Monday— Friday; 8:30-4:00p.m.

Noble Pines Park

Session 1: June 24- July 19 No Camp 7/4 Session 2: July 22- August 16

Join Somersworth Recreation for this active, outdoor, and exciting summer camp filled with fun activities.

Activities include arts & crafts, games, swimming, special events, athletics, and more. Field trips are on
Tuesdays and Thursdays to various NH State parks. The cost of camp includes breakfast, lunch, 2 weekly
State Park trips, arts & crafts materials, & a camp T-Shirt. Registration packets are located in the Rec
Office at City Hall or on our website. Contact the Rec Office with any questions—603-692-9507

SPACE IS LIMITED, DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER!!

EARLY BIRD FEE:

Must Register & Pay by April 30th Cost per session—4 weeks \$350 residents / \$450 non-residents

FULL 8-WEEK OPTION:

Must Register & Pay in Full by April 30th
*Non-refundable
\$600 / Residents only

HALF DAY CAMP:

Register by May 31st / Limited Spots M,W,F; 8:30-12:00 p.m. \$150 residents / \$200 non-residents *Children going into Kindergarten are Half Day Camp only

FEE:

After April 30th – register & pay by May 31st Cost per session – 4 weeks \$400 residents/\$500 non-residents

WEEKLY RATE:

Register by May 31st
No daily rate available
\$125 residents / \$150 non-residents

EXTENDED CARE OPTION:

\$100 per session / \$30 per week Before Care Hours: 7:00-8:30 a.m. After Care Hours: 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline is May 31st"

Somersworth Recreation presents...

Granite State Track & Field

Children ages 9-14

Practices: May 13-June 12

Mondays & Wednesdays; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Idlehurst School Track

*Registration opens March 4th for residents / March 18th non-residents

Early Bird Fee:

*Register & Pay by March 29th \$25 Residents/ \$35 Non-residents

Fee:

Deadline to register is April 19th \$40 Residents / \$50 Non-residents **Regional Meet:**

Saturday, June 15th (All day, Location TBD)

State Meet:

Friday, June 28th @ Winnisquam High School Track *For qualifying athletes only

Join Somersworth Recreation for this beginner Track and Field program designed to teach children the basic fundamentals of running, throwing, and jumping. Children will work on both short and long distance runs as well as the long jump and softball throw. This program is a great way for young athletes to stay in shape, develop new running skills, have fun outdoors, and have a chance to compete against athletes from other NH towns at the Regional Meet in June. The Meet is not required but we encourage athletes to sign-up as the meet offers a wonderful competitive experience. Those who qualify at the Regional Meet will be invited to participate in the State Meet. All athletic abilities are welcome in this program! Please contact the Rec Office for more information. 603-692-9508

Space is limited, don't wait to register!

2019 Somersworth Youth Athletics:

(

Soccer Programs:

Pee Wee Soccer-Ages 3-4 www.somersworth.com

Somersworth Recreation Kristen Davenport, Rec Supervisor 603-692-9508 kdavenport@somersworth.com

ROSO Rec Soccer - Ages 5+ Rec & Travel

www rososoccerclub com Matt Caffelle, President rososoccerclub@gmail.com



Football / Chearleading Programs: 👺

Pee Wee Football- Ages 7-11 & SORO Flag Football- Ages 5-13

Jeremy Lambert, Coach 603-781-2716 calvin04@comcast.net

Somersworth Youth Football- Grades 7-8 John O'Brien-SYFLtoppers@yahoo.com

Pee Wee Cheerleading-Melissa Lambert- calvin04@comcast.net

Basketball Programs:

Somersworth Recreation Basketball Youth Recreation Basketball - Grades

Biddy Basketball- Ages 3-6

www.somersworth.com Somersworth Recreation Kristen Davenport, Rec Supervisor 603-692-9508 kdavenport@somersworth.com

Granite State Track & Field Program:

Granite State Track and Field- Ages 9-14

Somersworth Recreation Kristen Davenport, Rec Supervisor kdavenport@somersworth.com

www.somersworth.com

Somersworth Recreation

Kristen Davenport, Rec Supervisor 603-692-9508 kdavenport@somersworth.com Youth programs, special events, field use, parks, & volunteer opportunities

Softball Programs:

SBR Girls Softball League- Ages 4-16

www.sbrfastptch.com Charlene DiBenedetto, Acting President SBRFastPitch@gmail.com

Baseball Programs:

Somersworth Little League-Ages 4-12

Michael Boehm, President 515-450-7360 michael.boehm42@gmail.com

Somersworth Babe Ruth- Ages 13-15 Dave Witham, President 603-496-0444 onmax2@comcast net

Somersworth Lions Youth Hockey

Ages 5+ (boys & girls) somersworth nhlions.org Peter Houde, President 603-834-3420 SomersworthLionsClub@gmail.com/

Somersworth Athletic Association: (Please contact the Somersworth Athletic Association for questions regarding youth sports financial assistance or to learn how your organization can

Somersworth Athletic Association- All ages Dave Nagy, President 978-302-9093 somersworthathleticassociation@comcast.net

fundraise for upcoming events.

Middle School Athletic Programs:

Middle School Athletics- Grades 6-8 Kaley Waterman, Athletic Director 603-692-2126 kkwaterman@SAU56.org

Athletic Programs offered: Fall- Soccer, Volleyball / Winter-Basketball/ Spring-Track & Field, Baseball

High School Athletic Programs:

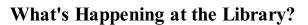
High School Athletics- Grades 9-12 Steve Hodsdon, Athletic Director 603-692-2431 shodsdon@SAU56.org

Athletic Programs offered: Fall- Soccer, Football, Volleyball, Field Hockey/ Winter- Basketball, Ice Hockey /

Spring- Track & Field, Baseball, Softball
*Please check with the A.D. about Varsity, JV, Freshman teams (all programs are based on participation #'s)









Ask a Muslim Anything: A Conversation with Robert Azzi Thursday March 7th, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Somersworth Public Library

"Nothing is off the table..."

Learn more about the Muslim Culture through audience questions about Robert's experiences.

Robert Azzi is an Arab-American Muslim who grew up in Manchester, NH. After college, he embarked on a career as a photo journalist, traveling extensively throughout the Middle East and beyond.

Today, Robert speaks about his life, what it's like to be Muslim in America, how he came to convert to Islam, about the religion of Islam and its history, especially in America - and about the Middle East, terrorism and associated political and social issues.

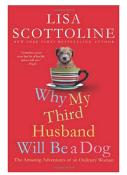


Want to add something new to your 2019 Resolutions? Plan to join the Somersworth Library Book Club...

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

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

What Somersworth is Reading in March (Wednesday March 27)



"Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog" by Lisa Scottoline

Hilarious collection of stories from the life of the New York Times bestselling author

At last, together in one collection, are Lisa Scottoline's wildly popular *Philadelphia Inquirer* columns. In her column, Lisa lets her hair down, roots and all, to show the humorous side of life from a woman's perspective. The Sunday column debuted in 2007 and on the day it started, Lisa wrote, "I write novels, so I usually have 100,000 words to tell a story. In a column there's only 700 words. I can barely say hello in 700 words. I'm Italian." The column gained momentum and popularity. Word of mouth spread, and readers demanded a collection. *Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog* is that collection. Seventy vignettes. Vintage Scottoline.

In this collection, you'll laugh about:

- * Being caught braless in the emergency room
- * Betty and Veronica's Life Lessons for Girls
- * A man's most important body part
- * Interrupting as an art form
- * A religion men and women can worship
- * Real estate ads as porn
- * Spanx are public enemy number one
- * And so much more about life, love, family, pets, and the pursuit of jeans that actually fit!

Story Times are offered on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. All ages are welcomed for Stories and Crafts.





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

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

The Library now has a Facebook page! We will gradually be adding news, programs and photos, so 'Like' and follow "Somersworth Library"



today so you're one of the first to know about all the new things that will be going on!



Ready Set Grow!

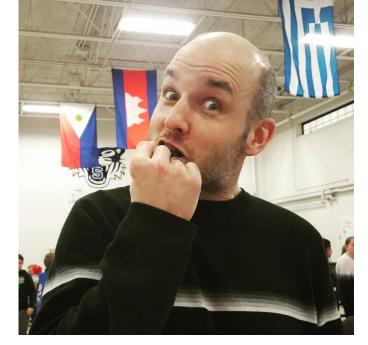
It's not farming or gardening season in the most recognizable sense, but at Somersworth Middle School, harvesting is happening. Daryl Dunbar and his 8th graders have begun their annual quest for local maple syrup. On SMS property and on a supportive and willing abutter's property, several students have ventured out in February to tap maple trees, fill buckets, and begin boiling down to use in the SMS Family and Consumer Science Program as well as at district events and

meals.



The maple sugaring activity has been going on for 3 years, with a few gallons produced each year. Last year Mr. Dunbar received a NH Ag in the Classroom Grant and built a small wood fired evaporator. It is a year round activity, as the students collect wood for the evaporator in fall, and identify and maintain trees suitable for tapping. John Doyle from Foster's Daily Democrat caught up with Mr. Dunbar and crew, highlighting one of the many local foods we have access to, when we support those who wish to share their knowledge and expertise with students, and with community.

https://www.fosters.com/news/20190215/somersworth-middle-schoolers-tap-trees-get-big-results



7th Grade Teacher Chris Asbell, clearly enjoying some of their purple cabbage during this months's "Harvest of the Month"

Harvest of the Month tastings continue, and purple cabbage had its moment to shine in February. Kudos to Cafe Services for hosting these events every month, to the stellar and reliable volunteers who chat with kids while encouraging them to try a bite, and to the kids who adventurously try something they may never have tried before. In March, all Somersworth students will have a chance to try a bite of local beets. We can't wait to see what Tracey comes up with, because everything she touches turns to gold! And another thank you to John Doyle, for more coverage of the wonderful Farm to School initiatives in Somersworth. https://www.fosters.com/news/20190217/farm-to-school-promotes-local-agriculture

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

Family Programs and Events

Somersworth Family Morning Out

For children ages birth to 6, with parents or other caregivers. January 4 - March 29 at the Flanagan Center, 25 Bartlett Ave. Fridays Mornings: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

This is FREE and includes creative activities, songs, snacks, storytime and the chance to make new friends young and old. **Contact:**

Allison Dillon 422-8208 x332

Patrice Baker 422-8208 x315

Somersworth Home Visiting

Open to: Somersworth Parents and Pregnant Women
Home vistors provide information and support to parents and pregnant women
who want or need help meeting basic needs such as food, housing, transportation
and more....

Contact:

Beth Searle-Spratt 422-8208 X115



Falls Chamber Seeks Awards Nominees

The Falls Chamber is seeking nominations for its Annual Gala in May. Members of the public are invited to vote on Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Non-Profit of the Year and Educator of the Year.

- **Business of the Year** will be awarded to a company or professional firm that best demonstrates leadership within the general and business community, generosity relative to community relations and corporate giving, and sound business ethics.
- Citizen of the Year will be awarded to one who best contributes to the general benefit of the community as a whole in civic affairs, church, education, youth sports and activities, or any other non-profit involvement that affects the community.
- **Non-Profit of the Year** will be awarded to an organization that best demonstrates leadership within the community and generosity relative to community relations.
- Educator of the Year will recognize a full-time educator in grades K-12 in the public school systems of Somersworth, Rollinsford or Maine communities of Berwick, South Berwick and North Berwick, who has daily contact with students and inspires them to learn and achieve.

<u>Click here</u> for for Nominations Forms. Or, more information contact the Falls Chamber at 692-4501.



WENTWORTH GREENHOUSES WINTER FARMERS' MARKETS

141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford

Each year, Wentworth Greenhouses offers a series of indoor Winter Farmers' Markets, which we host and sponsor in collaboration with Seacoast Eat Local.

Come, shop local on Saturday March 23 from 10:00am - 2:00 pm



HELLO 2019 INDONESIAN BAZAAR

Idlehurst Elementary Cafeteria Saturday, March 2 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Food, Arts & Crafts, Fashion, Traditional Dances and Live Music.

SAVE THE DATE!





NEW THIS YEAR: FREE ADMISSION BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

What do you get when you pair food trucks with craft beer? A perfect day! The Falls Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the Seacoast Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival is coming back to downtown Somersworth on **Saturday**, **June 8th**, **2019 from 1pm to 7pm**. Live music ALL day!

Quality Service, Quality Schools Quality Somersworth Vision 2020

"We Believe in Somersworth"



Proud Past, Bright Future