The Hilltop City
SOMERSWORTH
Est. 1729

The Monthly Hilltopper News & Happenings

City of Somersworth
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.

Don't Forget! City Hall's Dropbox is located outside City Hall entrance on Government Way. Dropbox may

City Council Meetings

Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.
City Council Workshop at 6:30 p.m.
Superfund Legal Counsel, Mark Beliveau, Esquire and Gareth Orsmond, Esquire

Monday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.
City Council Workshop at 6:00 p.m.
National Guard Reuse Commission Report

City Manager's Report for the City Council Meetings available here

Missed the Meeting? Catch it again Online
Don't forget: If you missed the live City Council, School Board, Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting on Channel 22, you can catch them again, online and demand

Simply **watch Somersworth** to begin watching meetings on demand.

be used at any time for submitting property tax or utility payments or other drop off business. It is available and secure 24/7.If you have question please call the City Clerk's office at 692-9511 or 692-9512.

Save yourself time and a trip to City Hall by registering your vehicle online. Online vehicle registration is easy, safe and secure!

For your convenience, you can pay motor vehicle registration by credit cards. For more information on E-registration process click **here**

Board & Committee Meetings this Month

Site Review Technical Committee (SRTC) view agenda
Wednesday, May 4 at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment view agenda
Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission view agenda
Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.

School Board Meeting view agenda
Tuesday, May 10 at 700 p.m.
Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board view agenda
Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Historic District Commission view agenda
Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor's Corner

Renew

"Springing" ahead can be difficult. Let's face it, no member of the human species likes losing an hour of sleep. It always seems to sneak up upon us. For months we are buried into the vortexes of winter, the hardened earth, the darkness of night, the bone chilling cold, and the inability to gain any motivation. Then we rise one morning to the earth renewing itself. We bear witness to the promise in the circle of life, birth, death, and re-birth as the earth re-awakens once again surrounded by life extending itself towards the warmth of returning light and the sun.

Winter gives us the time to re-energize, its nature's way of reminding us that all living things must take care of themselves. It allows us to retreat and meditate on

reconnecting with ourselves, our brethren and the spirits which guide us through life's journey. Spring reminds us that we are alive, that despite the harshness and darkness of winter, life and light will return. It awakens our soul with the same force that pulls plants and animals from their deep winter slumber. The fresh spring air fills our lungs alerting our senses to the renewal of life. We are again given a chance. A chance to make good on our resolutions, a chance to enjoy the beauty which surrounds us, a chance to re-connect with each other and celebrate the bond with life.

Spring also reminds us through nature that life will continue, that despite the quest for understanding the mysteries of life, the answers lie within the returning of flowers, trees and the all things which come back to life. Take time this spring to pause, enjoying the returning sun, the warmth and the energy it brings. Take time to continue to reach your goals and your resolutions. Take time to connect with your friends, your family and each person that you love. Celebrate the return of spring, and the renewal of life.

May God continue to shine his grace upon each of us and our 10 square mile home known as Somersworth.

For Somersworth we are "On the Move!" and our "Future is Now!"
"We are a community"! "We are achieving progress and greatness"! "Let our Journey Continue" as we venture forward united as Hilltoppers!

WE ARE SOMERSWORTH!
Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

A Quick Note on Private Residential Dumpsters from our Property Maintenance Office

Many Somersworth residents opt to rent a private dumpster for their home out of a need for high-volume trash-removal, or simply for convenience. If you already have a dumpster on your property, or are considering one as an option for your home, please keep in mind the following dumpster regulations, City Ordinance, Ch. 11A:

- The dumpster needs to be placed on an impermeable surface, such as asphalt or concrete;
- The dumpster needs to be screened from public view;
- If visible from any public way, the screening shall be opaque, either by the use of trees/landscaping or man-made structures and maintained in an acceptable condition;
- The dumpster cannot be within any front yard setback area.

If you have any questions about a new or existing dumpster on your property, please give the Code Office a call at: (603) 692-9521.

Keeping you Connected with in

Transportation Services in Southern NH

TripLink https://communityrides.org/ is a regional transportation call center, serving 38 towns between Newton and Wakefield, NH. If you need help using this website, call TripLink from 8 a.m. - 5 p. PM to speak with a staff person.

Call or email with questions:
Phone: 603-834-6010 | Email: TripLink@CommunityRides.org | TTY/Voice: 1-800-735-2964

Preserving Historic Homes in Somersworth

Last part of the lecture series:
Do's & Don'ts of Historic Homes

Workshop presented by the Historic District Commission on
Old House Do's & Don'ts
May 25, 2022 at 5:45pm

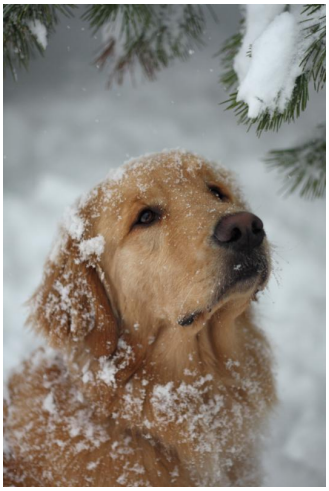
The City of Somersworth Historic District Commission received a Certified Local Government Grant through the NH Division of Historical Resources to hold a workshop series for Somersworth residents. This is the last part of the workshop series.

This Historic New England lecture will be presented by Jennifer Robinson. Jennifer Robinson, Preservation Services Manager at Historic New England, for an illustrated talk full of tips and ideas for approaching common projects and appropriately caring for your older home. Learn how to apply historic preservation best practices to adapt your home to suit your needs without losing its character and charm. Lecture will be followed by a Q&A.

This presentation will take place in Council Chambers at Somersworth City Hall, 1 Government Way, Somersworth, NH. They will be recorded on the Government Channel and will be available on the City of Somersworth website as well.

All events are free to the public but you must register to attend

Register here



REMINDER

2021 Dog License expires on April 30, 2022

As of May 1st, a fine of $1 will be incurred for every month the registration is late.

PLEASE register your dog before the $25.00 Civil Forfeiture process takes place in June.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the City Clerk's office at 603-692-9555 or aramsey@somersworth.com

*****SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION NEWS*****

PARTY AFFILIATION CHANGES

The DEADLINE to CHANGE your PARTY AFFILIATION before the STATE PRIMARY is MAY 31, 2022

RSA 654:34 refers to the statute that declares the last day already registered voters can change their party affiliation.

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be conducting a session for already registered voters to come in and change their party affiliation on May 31, 2022 6:00 p.m. till 7:30 p.m. at City Hall

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the City Clerk's office at 603-692-9555 or jslaven@somersworth.com or aramsey@somersworth.com

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What's Happening at Somersworth Library

Hello Everyone,

Bigger People Activities
May, the start of the growing season in Northern New England, brings a discussion on incorporating some of our favorite grains: barley, rice, corn, oats and rye. **Wednesday, May 25 at 5:30 pm, learn about the fascinating history of beer and ale brewing in NH from colonial times to present.** Author Glenn Knoblock will speak while showing unusual photos and advertisements documenting the changing industry and the State's earliest brewers.

Every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., speak with Eli about Health Insurance options. Funded by a Grant, he is here to help you unravel the choices and sign up.

Tuesday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m., discuss "My Life in France" by Julia Child In her words, "it's a book about some of the things I have loved most in life: my husband: La belle France; and the many pleasures of cooking and eating" Explore the markets with her and taste her first bite of Dover Sole. See France in the late 1940's through her eyes.

The Virus Heads North, by Stephen King, is the topic of the Friday, May 20 short story discussion at 2:00 p.m. It's available on the internet and there are copies in the Library. Short stories pack a punch in not many pages. Let's break it down!

Do you want to practice your **cornhole skills**? Just ask and we'll set it up outside for you. Bring a friends, make a wager.

If you're into more relaxing, **indoor activities**, we've got adult Coloring Books, Chess, trivial pursuit, backgammon Scrabble and more.

Littler People Activities

For the little ones, join Mary for **Family Story Time at Idlehurst Elementary School Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.** Register on Facebook, or just stop-in.

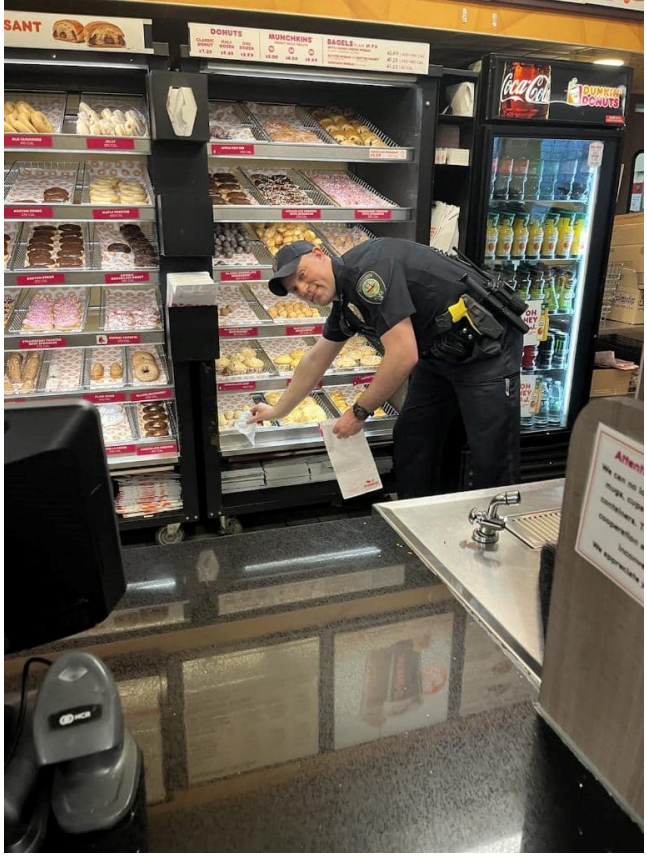
Lego Engineers will take place Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m. Sign up for this one, too.

The Library has distributed more than **20 Stem Kits** from the Children's Museum of NH with the theme **Engineer a Fairy Tale.** Pick one up while supplies last. Make a craft downstairs, color, play with blocks. Join the fun.

Somersworth Police Department

Somersworth PD and Mayor Hilliard at our Coffee with a Cop Event Held on April 19

We wish to thank everyone who came out for our Coffee With a Cop event on April 19th at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 108. We also must thank our very gracious hosts at Dunkin Donuts. They were fantastic!



Did you miss this Coffee with a Cop? We will be posting more Coffee with a Cop Events on our Facebook page. We would be happy to serve you coffee (or a donut) at the next one

Hilltopper Pride Patches and Stickers have arrived. These are customized Somersworth Police Patches and stickers emboldened with the Hilltopper Cat logo right from the wall of Somersworth High School gym. This is a collaborative effort between the Somersworth Police Department and the Somersworth Police Association and 100 percent of the profits will go directly to fund and foster positive community engagements between the agency and the school system.

The cost of a patch is $15.00 and a sticker is $5.00. To purchase them please send an email to either SRO Ashley Fuller at or email Chief McLin. You can also send a check payable to the Somersworth Police Association and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Somersworth Police Department, C/O Police Officer Ashley Fuller, 12 Lilac Lane, Somersworth, NH
03878

Mayor Hilliard proclaimed April 10 through 16 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week
Dispatcher Sarah Bailey and Mayor Hilliard

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

Somersworth Fire Department & Emergency Management

From Telegraph to Cell Phones – the Simplicity of 9-1-1
A safety message from the Fire Chief's Office
At 8:25 p.m. on April 29, 1852, history was made when a fire was reported to the

Boston Fire Department for the first time using a fire alarm box. Box 1212 is at the corner of Endicott and Cooper Streets in the area known today as the North End. When the fire alarm box lever is pulled, the unique number of the box (identifying the street corner) is sent to the fire department via an electrical signal. In the early days, the telegraph signal would also ring the "house gongs" in each fire station where firefighters would count the sequence of gong strikes and proceed to the designated location. The fire alarm box system was developed over two decades before the invention of the telephone and was a big improvement over yelling "fire" or ringing church bells. At one time, Somersworth had a robust municipal fire alarm box system with as many as 70 locations.

Over time, the widespread availability of telephones, increasing malicious false alarms, and scarce taxpayer dollars signaled the demise of the fire alarm box system in many cities.
Today, cell phones and the enhanced 9-1-1 system that provides caller location information makes reporting emergencies faster and more effective than at any point in history. In New Hampshire, all 9-1-1 calls are received by one of two State 9-1-1 call centers. The State passes Somersworth's 9-1-1 calls to the City's dispatch center operated around the clock by the Police Department. Under normal circumstances, the SFD duty crew – consisting of a lieutenant and three firefighters - are sent to any emergency requiring a fire department response. As a result, there are times when SFD personnel are not in the fire station. However, some citizens still call the fire station to report an emergency. If you need emergency services, please call 9-1-1 to ensure a timely and coordinated emergency response.

Please see the following safety messages and pictures of recent SFD activities.
Feel free to call the Fire Station regarding questions about
Feel free to call the Fire Station regarding questions about any emergency management, fire prevention, or life safety topic.
Please stay safe, be careful, and look out for each other.

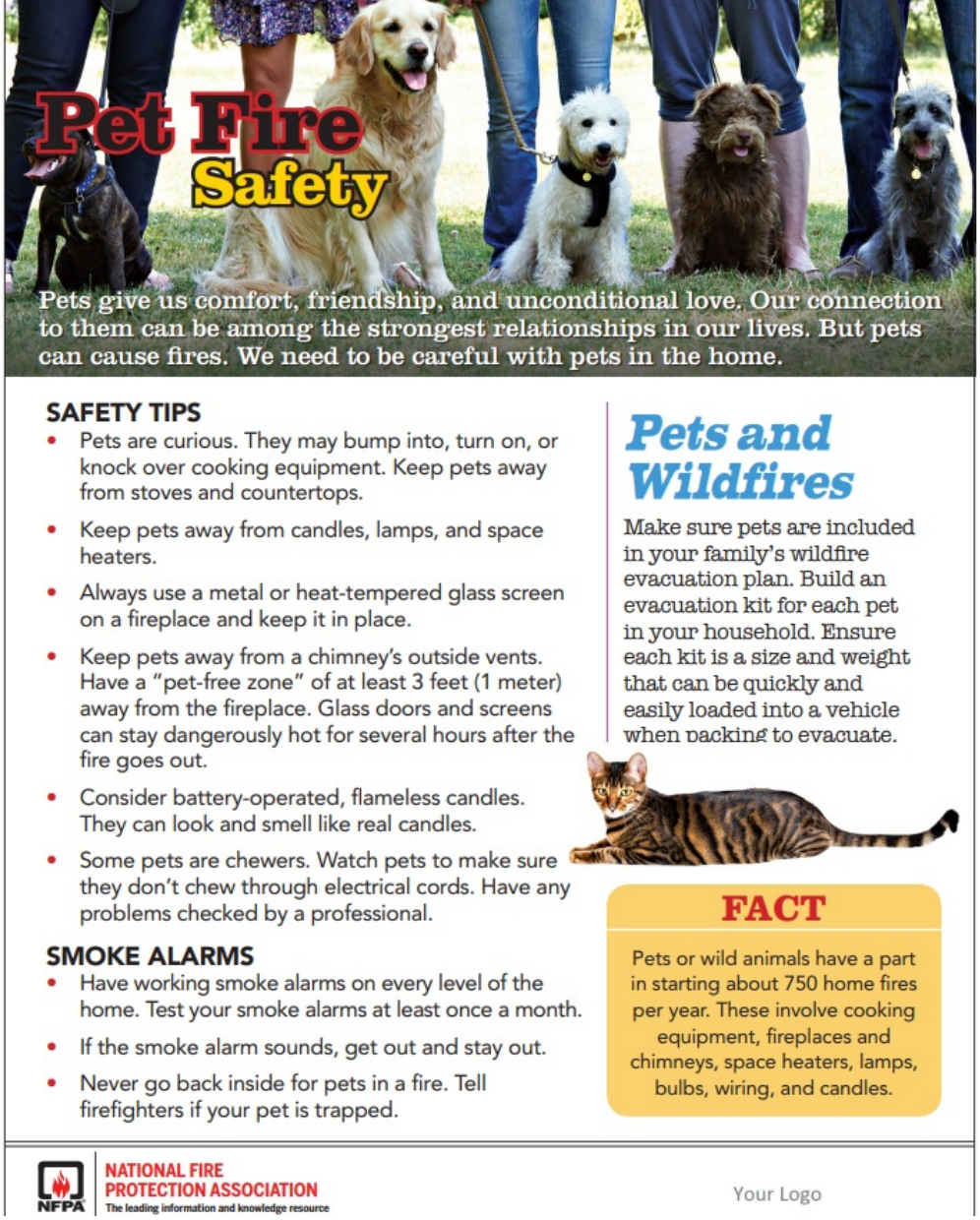
Yours in service,
George Kramlinger, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director

Example of a Fire Alarm Box first used in Boston in 1852, often found on a street corner, and used to summon firefighters before the widespread use of telephones. Today, anyone who needs emergency assistance is asked to call 9-1-1 rather than calling the business line at the Fire Station.

Progress continues on Phase I of the new Fire Station project with completion of exterior masonry work. Interior mechanical, electrical, and plumbing activity is on-going

April 25th, 5th grade staffers for the “The Monthly Maple" – the School Newspaper of Maplewood Elementary – visit the Fire Station as part of their article on the new Fire Station and receive a tour of Engine-4 from Firefighter/EMT Thomas DeVaney

Safety Considerations for Summer Rentals and Vacations.



Department of Public Works & Utilities

Next Metal Pick-up: 2nd Tuesday of each Month

When: Next Curbside Collection: Tuesday, May 10th
How: Call Public Works no later than 3:00 pm on Monday, March 7, place curbside with the proper number of tags on each item. 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.

Curbside MSW/Household Garbage & Recycling Collection
City trash bags and recycling containers must be at the curbside no later than

7:00 am & no sooner than the evening before your designated collection day.

Bagged Leaves and Brush Pickup

Brush will be picked up the third week in May. You must call 603-692-4266 by Friday, May 13 to be added to the brush collection pickup list. Please have your brush curbside no later than 7:00 am on Monday, May 16 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.

Bagged leaves will be picked up the fourth week in May . You do not have to call ahead for bagged leaves pickup. Please have leaves curbside no later than 7:00am on your trash pickup day the week May 23. Leaves and grass clippings must be in brown recyclable paper leaf bags, sold at many local stores.

Reporting Pot Holes - call (603) 692-4266

The Public Works Department assigns Highway crews daily to address potholes on primary streets that have been reported and/or observed by the Highway staff.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

(please note the change of date)

Saturday, May 21, 2022 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

At the Turnkey Landfill, 18 Isinglass Drive, Rochester NH (off from Rochester Neck Rd). Residents must bring a photo ID with proof of Somersworth residency.

Please Bring the Following:

· **House and Garden Products:**

o Weed killers and fertilizers, (move the no pest strips to the list of items you cannot bring…avoid confusion, ant spray and baits, bug and rodent sprays, poisons, flea repellents and shampoos, bug sprays houseplant insecticides, oven

cleaners, bleach, pool chemicals, tub, tile and shower cleaners, button cell and lithium batteries**.**

· **Garage Products:**

o Car wash and polish, fuel additives, carburetor / fuel injector cleaners, air conditioning, refrigerants, starter fluids, creosote, antifreeze, transmission and brake fluid.

· **Workshop / Painting Products:**

o Oil or enamel-based paint, stains and finishes, paint strippers and removers, photographic chemicals, fixatives, adhesives, glues and other solvents.

Not Hazardous - Please Do Not Bring:

· **Latex Paint**
· **Tires, Computers, Computer Monitors and Televisions**
· **Motor Oil**
· **Batteries & Fluorescent Bulbs**
· **Car Batteries**
· **Propane Tanks**
· **Pest Strips**

Please contact the Public Works Department at 603-692-4266 for more information.

The Community Garden at Malley Farm is GROWING!

The Community Gardens at Malley Farm is expanding thanks in part to a Grant received from Home Depot. City crews and garden volunteers worked with officials of the Somersworth Home Depot Store on implementing the Grant. The Garden Stewards were established in 2017 to assist with managing the program. Representatives of the Stewards led an informational and sign- up meeting for Spring 2022 participants on March 23. Participants that did not attend the recent informational meeting are asked to obtain a copy of the Community Garden Participation Application and send to the Department of Public Works. All new and returning garden volunteers must complete the application form in order to participate and assigned a garden plot in the Community Garden

The Grant received from Home Depot included a new tool shed, fencing, raised bed material for new and existing garden plots, path way improvements, and

garden tools to be used by the gardeners. Somersworth and Rochester Home Depot employees volunteered to construct the improvements. In addition, Highway personnel provided the site work to accommodate the expansion and Home Depot employees were on site for a work/service day on April 20 and 21 at the Community Garden at the Malley Farm.

New Garden Plots available.
There are still a few 10'x10' garden plots available to the public to sign up for and use to grow vegetables. Application packets are available at the Department of Public Works office or online at www.somersworth.com

Please call Keri Gordon at the Department of Public Works at (603) 692-4266 if you have questions.

Forest Glade Cemetery Spring Clean Up

The Cemetery Trustees remind families of relatives buried at Forest Glade to remove all flowers, baskets and personalized items from grave spaces placed during the past winter by Sunday, May 15. The City's mowing contractor will be starting mowing services soon and removal of these items will improve access and avoid equipment damage.

Recreation Office News & Updates

All Parks are Open for the Season
Take advantage of the nice weather and the walking trails at Mast Point Dam and Willand Pond. The Dog Park is open and waiting for your furry friends.

For more info on our parks visit our website: https://www.somersworth.com/parks-recreation/pages/city-parks

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Our Easter Egg Hunt was a success! Thank you to all our Volunteers from Girl Scouts and Interact Club. We had great weather for the event and the turnout was awesome!

What's Happening at Somersworth Farm to School

5th Graders joining Mr. Gerding's 7th Grade Tree Tapping Activity

Students are Back in the Garden. The arrival of spring has been long awaited, especially in the Farm to School World! Ms. Ficco's kindergarteners at Idlehurst have started seeds in the classroom in preparation for planting in the school garden beds, learning about what plants need to grow, and what food sources in nature animals depend on.

Meanwhile at Maple Wood, Ms. Wilson has spearheaded NH Harvest of the Month lessons for students in all grades, while also planning for the planting of their school gardens. Fifth graders from Ms. Weinberg's class also participated in the SMS maple tree tapping that Mr. Gerding incorporates into his 7th grade science curriculum. Nice way to prime 5th graders for entering middle school next fall!

Community partnerships are extremely helpful in integrating Farm to School into students lives. Our elementary students were invited to a seed starting activity at the Somersworth Public Library over April break, where they planted their own take-home garden kit, complete with care instructions. Thank you to our Librarians Mary and Rebecca for providing the space, and to Strafford County Mater Gardener, Judy Goodnow and Food to School Coordinator Wendy Berkeley for their time and knowledge shared with future gardeners and their families.

Our partnership with Somersworth Recreation Office and the Somersworth Youth Connection (SYC) is another boon to our gardens. This summer, the Recreation Program Kids Cap will pitch in to water, weed and care for the school gardens at Maple Wood and Malley Farm Community Garden plots, and SYC Summer Program will do the same for the Somersworth Middle School and Idelhurst gardens. This will be a huge help to our school staff who have invested much time and energy into the success of our school gardens. It will also keep our kids who planted the gardens in spring invested and involved with their care, and create a more complete and seamless gardening experience when they return to school next fall.

Gardening teaches us patience and how to care for other living thins, a lesson we all can benefit from. Remember to get outdoors, and have a safe, happy and healthy spring season.

Spring Craft Fair

May 14th
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Somersworth High School
11 Memorial Drive, Somersworth, NH

Wide variety of talented crafters!
Food! Great raffles!
Free parking Free entry

S·O·M·E·R·S·W·O·R·T·H·
FESTIVAL
ASSOCIATION

This craft fair is being hosted by the Somersworth Festival Association. Proceeds from the craft fair help support all of the children's events hosted by the SFA.

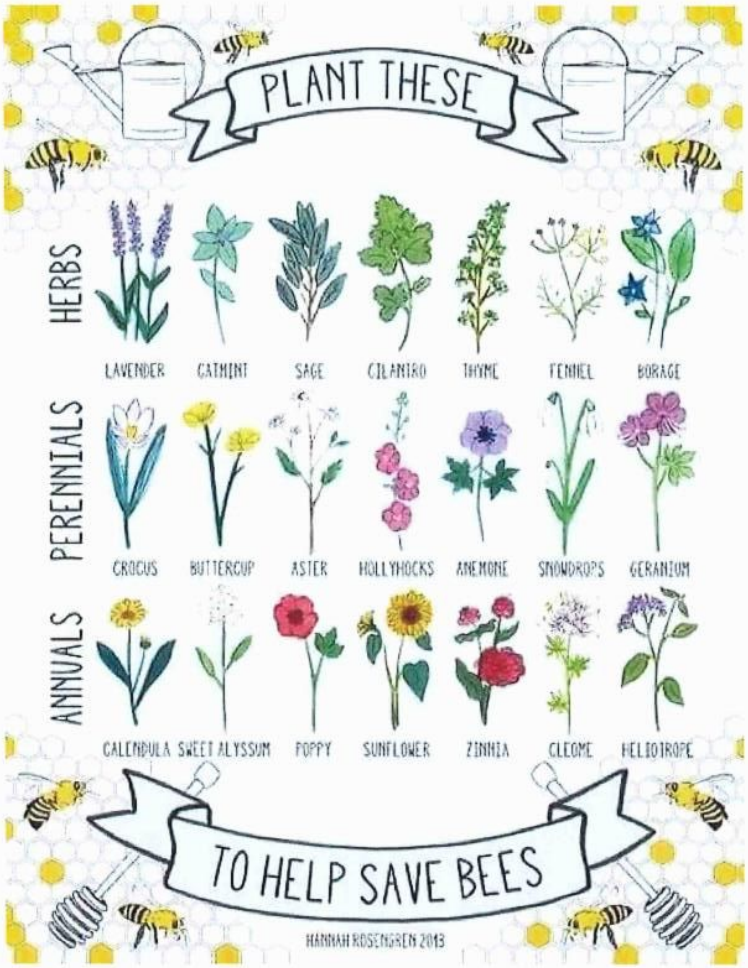
Phone: 603-692-5869 • Email: sfachild.festival@gmail.com

Make new friends, learn new skills, and help kids have fun! Become a volunteer!

If you can spare a few hours on June 18th, the Somersworth Festival Association can use your help. We need help with children's activities, as well as event set up. We are also seeking more people who would like to teach children about other countries. Please contact Pat Soucy at 603-692-5869 or email her at sfachild.festival@gmail.com for further information. We hope you will join us!

It's no secret these days that bees are extremely important. In addition to being everyone's favorite picnic guests, bees function as some of the great pollinators in the world! According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, they feed 80 percent of the crops that we eat including broccoli, apples, asparagus, blueberries and coffee to name a few. They also pollinate alfalfa, a grass that feeds beef and dairy cows. Because of their importance to our food crops it is more crucial than ever to support these little buzzing beauties!

Help by Planing These



City of Somersworth
Employment Opportunities

The Hilltop City
SOMERSWORTH
Est. 1729

POLICE

Position Title: Patrol Officer
Starting Pay: $49,524 - $66,518
Closing Date: Somersworth Police Department Job Opportunities

RECREATION

Position Title: Camp Counselors
Starting Pay: $12.00
Closing Date: Reviewed as received, Open Until Filled

Finalist must complete pre-employment screening to include: physical, drug test
&
background check. Detailed postings available online at:
https://www.somersworth.com/human-resources/page/employment-opportunities

A completed City of Somersworth Employment Application is required for all job openings.
For more information please call Linda Corriveau at 692-9529 or email Linda

City of Somersworth, New Hampshire

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