

Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 9, October 2007

Hampden Citizens Work Toward Tree City USA Status

By Jim Feverston, Project Chair Hampden Tree City USA Project

Today as never before, many of us feel compelled to volunteer, to work together for the common good of the town. Such is the case with the Community Services Committee, Comprehensive Plan development, the Tree City USA project, and a group of thoughtful, committed citizens who want to make a difference for our town.

The Community Services Committee advises the council on matters that promote a family-oriented community environment and accomplishes this mission through the promotion of land use policies that provide for a balanced allocation of land resources among residential, business and natural resources. We were also given the charge by the Town Council to review and update the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hampden. As we formulate our collective visions for future public debate, one of the common threads echoed repeatedly by committee members is a critical need to preserve the rural character and ecological health of our community and to better manage our town's public trees and forested parcels.

After reviewing various options, the Committee chose the adoption of nationally recognized Tree City USA standards as one method to annually and systematically help us accomplish our goals. Importantly, our town can achieve Tree City USA status, even though we are by definition a town, with no aspiration of ever growing to become a city.

Due to broad based support and interest within the Community Services Committee, we sought Council's approval to "fast track" the project ahead of the Comprehensive Plan and the project began. Committee members also identified certain intangible benefits to the designation.

We feel The Town of Hampden's positive public image is a very real phenomenon within the region and the State, and is important to us economically and in many other ways. Being designated a Tree City USA community will help us further enhance and project the kind of positive image and pride that most of us have for the town we live and conduct business in.

We envision the Tree City USA project continuing to grow and blossom into multiple community projects, activities and annual events. As members of the Community Services Committee and Comprehensive Planning Committee, we can only achieve the full effects of our visions when implemented and carried forward by citizens who share the same love for



our community as we do. Indeed, your involvement in this project may be the key to its long-term success.

By volunteering to work on the Hampden Tree City USA Project, you will be making your own contribution to a greener, healthier town and planet.

You can take your place in the community of those who have exemplified the wisdom of Margaret Mead, who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Once required standards are met, the Tree City USA entrance signs along the highways and roads coming into Hampden, as well as the Tree City USA flag flying at the town office, will tell visitors that here is a town that cares about its environment. It is also an indication to prospective residents and businesses that the quality of life may be better here.

Beyond any recognition or financial gain it may bring to the town, addressing each of the standards will provide a framework for action. One of the required actions in becoming a Tree City USA community is the development of a tree ordinance.

With this goal in mind, a subcommittee of the Community Services Committee worked together with the Hampden Conservation Commission to develop a tree ordinance for the Town of Hampden. The ordinance progressed to the Charter and Ordinance Committee of the Town Council in September and is expected to be reported out of committee and ready for public hearing this month.

Why have an ordinance just for trees, shrubs and plants? Ordinances reflect the values of our town, the values we citizens believe are worth protecting to maintain our quality of life and an environment that is both safe and pleasing. Our town's public trees and forests are the kind of community asset that deserve to be protected and managed for the common good. The new tree ordinance will also establish the Hampden Tree Board and will give this body the authority and responsibility for writing and implementing an annual tree plan for the town.

Want to make a difference? If I've piqued your interest and you would like more information or want to become part of this effort, call Jim Feverston, Project Chair, at 862-4647, or Gretchen Heldmann at 862-4500, ext 142. Give a call. You'll be glad you did! ■

Your Candidates for Town Council

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Meet Andre E. Cushing, III



It would be an honor to again serve on the Town Council. This is an interesting and exciting time for our community, as I continue to learn through my time working on the Comprehensive Plan Review and the Communications Committee. My wife Gwen and I chose to move to Hampden with our three children because of the quality of life that we had observed and for the benefits of a respected school system. We also found a warm and friendly community, a great place to live, many activities for all ages, and people who look for positive solutions to the challenges facing them. I also have enjoyed working on our cable channel's new show Hampden Highlights News Magazine where I learn about those who live, work and volunteer their time to make Hampden the community of choice in central Maine. I want to continue making a contribution to our town and its future as a member of your town council.

"I hope to have the opportunity to serve Hampden once again on the Town Council – continuing to develop Hampden as the 'Community of Choice in Central Maine.'"

andrec@adelphia.net

Meet Nancy Chaiyabhat



Since moving here three years ago, Nancy has been active in Hampden. "Our town is at a crossroads in its history. The potential for significant change is present in our schools, business base, public services, environment and housing. I'll represent all Hampden residents with energy and dedication as we move forward to a balanced future while honoring and preserving our past."

nancychaiyabhat@gmail.com

Orono native; UMassOrono (B.S. Biology; MEd. Environmental Sciences). Married for 32 years; two sons and two grandkids.

Experience: Science/Music & ESL educator, Performing artist & producer, Arts columnist, & Home-based business.

Board Officer: Civic, Homeowner & Teacher organizations.

Worked with government officials & civic leaders - local to international (embassies & NGO's).

Hampden Committees: Comprehensive Plan/Community Services, Communications, SAD #22 Building Visioning Subcommittee.

Meet James 'Jim' Feverston, PhD.



Hampden resident for 12 years, Comprehensive Plan/Community Services Committee; SAD 22 Building Visioning Committee; Trustee and Treasurer Lura Hoit Pool Board; Chair, Hampden Tree City USA Project; College Professor; Leadership Consultant; Former Vice President and Academic Dean, Eastern Maine Community College

Priorities & Vision

Maintaining Hampden's reputation as a great place to live and raise a family is my first priority. That requires that we continue to be a regional leader in quality education and effective leadership. It requires prudent fiscal management of tax dollars. It requires economic development be in harmony with goals of preserving the rural character and ecological health of our community. It requires fostering community spirit, open communications, a "can-do" attitude and a local government responsive to the needs of its citizens. *I advocate reducing the tax burden on homeowners* through continued prudent fiscal management of tax dollars. I promise to respond to your requests promptly and to represent you with vigor and enthusiasm. I respectfully request your support.

jfeverston@adelphia.net

Hampden's Young Leader



Heidi Harrison's reflection of her summer trip to Washington D.C.

I am writing this as I sit in an auditorium at George Washington University in Washington D.C. Around me a forest of ambassadors in green T-shirts are happy and twisting into creative positions so they can catch twenty minutes of shut eye during our first and last break. Beside me my new friend from Georgia is learning how to say "You are my friend. I will miss you" in Korean from another new friend, NaYeon from South Korea. A strong and overwhelming feeling of peace comes over me as I watch my 425 fellow World Congress Ambassadors from around the globe rest their heads on each other's shoulders-being vulnerable, and honest, and simply themselves in a room of people who reflect them in all the seven seas of the world.

In the past week I have been spoken to by the co-discoverer of AIDS, an important scientist from NASA, the director of UNICEF, the Secretary of Education, and many other successful, really inspiring people. I have hugged retired actor Hugh O'Brien, who started Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership, and so now I am part of an embracing chain with Hugh O'Brien, who hugged Albert Schweitzer who truly touched and healed parts and people of the world. I have met and started endless friendships with people who are from every corner and many cultures of the world. At the end of our United Nations session, we realized a beautiful and powerful idea. We, the ambassadors of the WLC, are from the country HOBY and are not part of only one country, but every country. During the past week I have learned about keeping, humanitarian aid, volunteerism, and many other universally important topics. I have also visited the national monuments, memorials, and historical places of Washington, D.C. Tomorrow morning I leave for home as a motivated, inspired, and transformed individual. I now have an obligation and desire to lead the world in any ways that I can, at the same time that I pursue my visions and help the world by doing the things I'm good at and I love to do, because having a passion, following it, and "carrying your own sunshine" ignites the passion in others. ■

Editor's note:

Heidi is a junior at Hampden Academy and participated in the HOBY annual World Leadership Congress in July. She was one of 425 ambassadors attending HOBY from the United States, joined with foreign students from countries totaling nearly 9,000 students. According to www.hoby.org HOBY was founded in 1958 and its mission is to provide lifelong leadership development opportunities that empower individuals to achieve their highest potential.

Her trip was made possible by the generosity of many including: FA Peabody, Kiwanis, Casella Waste, and the Harris Family

FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN MANAGER

DOG LICENSE REMINDER

The Town Office will begin issuing 2008 dog licenses on October 15th. The current license fees are \$6.00 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$11.00 for male or female dogs. We urge you to license your dog before January 31, 2008 in order to avoid the \$15.00 late fee (in addition to the license fee) that will be imposed upon all licenses renewed after that date. To license your pet, you will need to bring your dog's current Maine Certificate of Rabies Vaccination. Please feel free to contact the Clerk's office at 862-3034 if you have any questions.

DID YOU MISS TAX DUE

DATE? First half of property taxes were due on Wednesday, October 3. Interest started accruing on the 4th.

COMP PLAN WORK ONGOING

The Town Services Committee continues to work on the update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan and always welcomes more input from the public. Check the calendar on our web page at <http://www.hampdenmaine.com> for meeting times.

STORMWATER GROUP EFFORTS

Hampden continues to work as part of the Bangor Area Stormwater Group to reduce stormwater pollution in the community. Our current focus is lawn maintenance. We encourage you to reduce the amount of pesticides and poisons used - not only for the health of your pets and children - but for the health of area streams and the river as well. ■

THE EDYTHE DYER LIBRARY STAFF

Where can you search the Internet, take a writing class, find a book, play & learn, see a magician perform, watch a juggler, visit with Strawberry Shortcake, participate in a book discussion, watch a movie while sipping tea, bring your laptop and surf the web with a free wireless connection, watch a movie with your family while eating pizza and even find a cribbage partner? Simply by visiting the Edythe Dyer Community Library! Let's meet the library staff members who make all these activities possible.



DEBBIE LOZITO, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Debbie Lozito is the library director. Her first library job was in her hometown of Somesville during the summer of 1968. Twenty years later she began working at the Edythe Dyer Library for all of three hours a week. She has actually held every job the library has to offer—including janitor. During the early 1990s she took over as the children's librarian and began working on her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. Upon completion of her degree the library trustees recommended that the town manager hire her as the library director.

When you ask Debbie what she likes most about her job, she answers without pause, everything! But, the most satisfaction comes when she can give someone a book that they will love. Most of her time however, is spent in her office on the second floor, rather than at the circulation desk recommending books to people. The library director oversees all aspects of running the library. She reads reviews of many, many books and with the help of the circulation staff decides what to purchase. The library's mission is to buy "current, high-demand, high-interest materials in a variety of formats for persons of all ages" so she is very upset if she misses a popular author's newest book. That does happen on occasion, but fortunately the library is part of an eighty library consortium, so any book can be effortlessly borrowed from another library. The library also belongs to a statewide delivery service so books, CDs and movies are moved around the state very quickly, economically and efficiently.

Working with the fifteen library trustees is another part of the director's job. They set policies for the library and manage the library's endowment fund as well as raising funds annually for that fund. The endowment fund pays for nearly all of the library's large print books, books on CD, films on DVD and the subscription for downloadable eAudiobooks. ■

MEET THE LIBRARY STAFF



Donna Beck, Children's Librarian

DONNA BECK, CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Donna Beck is the children's librarian. Donna grew up in New York City and remembers fondly that her local library was a wonderful place to stay cool in the hot summers. The Becks moved to Hampden when their children were small and, of course, sought the library. The Weatherbee School library was very fortunate to have Donna as a volunteer every week for more than eight years. In 1998 she was hired at the Edythe Dyer Library to fill the children's librarian position.

Donna is in charge of everything that children need at the library. At the library the word "children" means babies through high school. As you can imagine she is very busy. She plans, prepares and presents four story programs each week as well as a Monday morning "Play and Learn" hour and many special programs throughout the year including the library Summer Reading Program. She reads reviews of children's books and after they come in she reads most, if not all of them. Fortunately, she loves to read and loves children's literature! She is great at helping children find the book they want to read. Many children's books are written in series and Donna knows or can quickly find out the order of those series books. She constantly buys new children's books, movies, books on CD and tape, magazines, beginner reader books and books with cassettes and very rarely discards anything. One of her biggest challenges is to fit an ever-growing collection into an ever-shrinking children's room.

Some of Donna's other duties include publishing the monthly library newsletter; taking minutes at the monthly library trustees' meetings; working at the circulation desk as needed; cataloging and covering all the children's materials; and packing up materials that are being borrowed by other libraries so the delivery driver can pick them up during the day. ■

MEET THE LIBRARY STAFF



SUSAN TAYLOR, CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Susan Taylor is in charge of the circulation department. Susan grew up in Winterport and graduated from Hampden Academy—Stephen King was one of her English teachers. She lived in several different states and even in Germany while her husband was in the military. They moved back to Hampden when their children were young, and in 1988 Susan was hired to work at the circulation desk. When she started the library didn't have computers and each night before closing Susan had to actually count the cards that came out of the backs of books to know how many books were checked out during the day. Every night the cards had to be alphabetized and put into order by the date the book was due. Now the library has computers to check materials in and out and Susan has learned more and more as they became an integral part of library service. Only occasionally does she threaten to toss her computer into the river!

Susan is in charge of everything that circulates, in other words everything that goes out of the library and comes back in. If people could find what they want when they first visit the library and return it when it was due, then Susan's job would be simple. However, many times the exact book or movie someone wants isn't in or perhaps the library doesn't own it. Then Susan searches other library's on-line card catalogs and usually finds what is needed. Sometimes the search is more difficult and she emails a library for the item. People are always happy when she calls, or emails to say their book is ready to be picked up. The library can send an email to remind people when their items are due, but inevitably books get misplaced or just forgotten about, then Susan sends an overdue letter. She makes a list of everything that is overdue and searches the library shelves. If she doesn't find the overdue material, she sends a letter and many times people are pleased for the reminder and return the items. ■

You may see other library staff members, Elizabeth, Ariel and Ellen. They work part-time shelving books, movies and books on CD and tape and generally keeping everything in order so that it can easily be found. They all advise readers about the perfect book to read next.

The Edythe Dyer Library is located at 269 Main Road North and on the web at www.edl.lib.me.us and opens each day at 9 am. Mondays and Wednesdays closing is at 8 pm. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays closing is at 5 pm. Saturday hours are from 9 until 2.

Lura Hoit Memorial Pool Board Established Susan G. Abraham Memorial Endowed Scholarship

By
Jim Feverston, Chair
Scholarship Committee & Treasurer; Board of Trustees

Following the tragic death of Hampden teenager Susan Abraham last spring, many people expressed a strong desire to do something in addition to sending birthday cards to a child suffering with cancer as Susan's family had requested. The Board of Trustees of the Lura Hoit Memorial Pool has developed just such an opportunity. The Susan G. Abraham Memorial Endowed Scholarship.



Susan, 17, died from injuries suffered in a collision between her car and a tractor-trailer truck on Western Avenue. A junior at Hampden Academy, Susan also worked at the Lura Hoit Memorial Pool as a lifeguard and swimming lesson instructor. She was the daughter of Stan and Carole Abraham of Hampden.

All those who knew her, particularly her students, loved the vivacious girl with an infectious smile, and a heart of gold. She had an incredible way with kids and was often able to help young children in her class feel comfortable in the water by establishing special bonds and encouraging them with hugs and words of praise and motivation.

The clipboard Susan used in class still bears her name with the attached 6'x8' miniature poster of "101 Ways to Praise a Child." She loved to laugh and spend time with her students. They seemed to open up to her and thrive as she touched their lives.

The Trustees of the Lura Hoit Memorial Pool wish to pay tribute to and keep the vivacious spirit and loving memory of Susan Abraham alive by establishing the Susan G. Abraham Memorial Endowed Scholarship as a permanent legacy. The Board seeks to raise \$10,000.00 from contributors to form the corpus, or principal amount, to be held intact by the Trustees in an endowed investment account.

Once fully endowed, the fund will generate a minimum of \$500.00 per year to provide swimming lessons for children residing in SAD 22 who would otherwise not be able to afford them. The current tuition for swimming lessons is \$35.00 per course, per child.

Endowment contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent the law allows. The Board will automatically provide a written acknowledgement receipt, and the Board CPA can provide a written statement, if requested. Gifts of cash, securities, real estate or saleable personal property will be accepted and the Board can assist with all necessary transfer arrangements.

If you cherish someone or have lost someone special in your life, why not pay tribute to him or her with an honorarium or memorial contribution to the endowment fund. A plaque identifying the endowed scholarship and bearing the names of all contributors, together with all honorariums and memorials will be permanently mounted in the pool lobby and visible for all to see.

A contribution to the Susan G. Abraham Endowed Scholarship is a gift that will truly endure the test of time. When you choose to support this project, you demonstrate your commitment to a community that believes in and helps young people develop not only their love for water, but also the vision, ability, character and courage to make the world a better place to live by helping others succeed.

In the coming weeks and months, you will hear more about this effort and additional ways you and your family can be involved to help endow this lasting and fitting memorial in Susan's honor. If you or your organization would like to make a contribution or help with the fundraising effort, please contact Jim Feverston, Scholarship Committee Chair at 862-4647, or committee members Kim McNutt at 862-5166, Garry Greene at 862-4539 or Darcey Peakall, Pool Director at 862-4305. ■

Thank You Jane

In September, Hampden lost a true friend to our community. We all knew her because she was the “French Fries and Dough Boy Lady” at the Hampden Children’s Day, year ...after year... after year.

Jane Alley and her husband, John would have their goodie wagon backed up at the McGraw School, plugged in, and ready to make the best fries and dough boys. It was the home town style with which these goods were prepared that made them taste so superb. Jane’s home town style was full of laughter as she challenged John to see how big he really could make a dough boy. If Jane wasn’t cooking for all to enjoy, or making lemonade, she was keeping the finances in order for Children’s Day. Even when her children were all grown, that didn’t stop her from still bringing smiles to little one’s faces and filling big kids’ bellies.

John and family, thank you for sharing Jane with us.

Those who wish to remember Jane in a special way may make gifts in her memory to Hampden Children’s Day, 12 Ruth Ave., Hampden, ME 04444



Jane Alley

A SAFE HAUNTING

By Hayley Cox



This upcoming Halloween will be even spookier than the last if your group or organization wants to lend a haunting hand. It will be the third year that many different sponsors in town have helped out with the haunting aspect of Hampden’s Halloween night event, and the call is out there for help again this year. The Halloween alternative began as a Safe House to give the kids a place to go, have fun, and take part in activities without being on the streets Halloween night. It’s blossomed now to being a ghostly good time for all.

I personally, was on the first year committee as a Hampden Academy high school student and a dedicated Key Club member. I absolutely loved spending time with everyone there. It was a wonderful, safe environment for kids of all ages. It gives them a place to be warm, safe, and to have fun! Police Sgt. Stewart concurs, “This all takes place in a well lit place with adult supervision.”

The haunted house aspect of the “safe house” is a great treat as well. It gives everyone a little jump, even the adults! When children come in, they have many different choices as to what they can do. There are costume contests that the little girls just love! There are many different types of candy for the kids to choose from. In addition, there are many different fun activities related to Halloween for the kids to play. So it is always an entertaining environment for everyone!

The Key Club, under the direction of Joe Dowling, is extremely dedicated to helping out with running the event, year after year. Many of the members will camp out at the public safety building to take the children through the haunted house, help with games, or hand out candy. Even those of us high-schoolers who have participated find this a lot of fun. “We seem to be getting a lot of adults coming in too,” says Sgt Stewart. “I’m not sure who likes it more, the kids or the parents!”



Last year Hampden Public Safety, the Key Club, Edwards’ Shop n’ Save, Rite Aid, TDS and the town’s Recreation Department all sponsored some portion of the event. “This year we are again looking for ‘sponsors’ to haunt the rooms,” says Sgt. Stewart. If your business would like to decorate and haunt a room please call Kandy McCullough or Dan Stewart at Hampden Public Safety. The number there is 862-4000. Have fun, stay warm, and most importantly be safe! ■

HAMPDEN CHILDREN'S DAY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

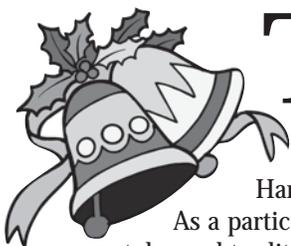
The Hampden Children's Day Committee is looking for your help. We need people who like to work with kids, enjoy working on fun projects, and have an interest in being involved with their community. The third Saturday in August is the traditional Hampden Children's Day. Planning for this event starts in January. We can use help with the following areas:

- Someone who can be a point of contact for our entertainers. In other words, be the person who books them for the day, confirms their participation prior to the event, and meets them on the grounds to help set them up.
- Someone to help collect business card ads. This is easier than it sounds because Hampden area businesses anticipate our calling. We just need someone to make the call and collect, and get the business card to the person who will put our program together. This task takes place in April and May each year. All you need is a telephone and some time.
- Someone to help distribute programs to area businesses and keep an eye on the locations where we distribute our programs. This task takes place in July and August.
- Someone to make contact with television and radio stations to publicize Children's Day and, in the event of rain, contact these stations to announce postponements and cancellations.
- Someone to help out with our bowling tournament. We could use someone to help recruit teams and solicit prizes for the fundraiser. This task starts in January. The tournament takes place in March.
- Someone to help with our parade. We have two persons who will work on the 2008 parade, but one or two more would be very helpful. If you have ideas for what you would like to see in our parade, we have a job for you!
- Someone to help make and distribute posters to publicize our bowling tournament, golf tournament, and auction. If you like computer graphics or have an artistic eye, we need you!
- Most importantly, folks to help plan Children's Day. If you have ideas about what would be a good children's activity and would be willing to work on your idea, we have a place for you on our committee. If you like Children's Day we have a place for you too! ■

If any of these things appeal to you, please contact Don at penobdon28@aol.com, or 947-2866.

Hampden Historical Society Christmas Bazaar

By Chip Mattson



The Hampden Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 17, 2007 at Kinsley House, 83 Main Road South in Hampden from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The group will offer Hampden residents an early opportunity to holiday shop from a variety of homemade crafts such as fancywork, mittens, scarves, hats, dishcloths, Christmas decorations, holiday placemats, and other handmade items. Cakes, cookies, pies and other seasonal food may be purchased.

Hampden memorabilia will also be on sale. A white elephant sale will be stocked with Christmas specials.

As a particular attraction, the Kinsley House will be decorated in an angel motif highlighting various holiday styles and traditions used during past years.

A raffle drawing for several prizes will be featured. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and may be purchased from Hampden Historical Society members.

For further information, contact Gerry Stanhope at 862-3463 or Paula Newcomb at 862-3118. ■



Getting Out the Word

HELP SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!

By Andre Cushing

Hampden has a lot happening and this new addition to cable channel 7 will focus on the people and events that make Hampden the community of choice in central Maine. Begun in July by the Communications Committee it has produced shows featuring the Hampden Garden Tour, a look at the Recreation Department offerings during Kid's Kamp and the family campout, the Children's Day parade and Public Works Director Greg Nash's retirement party. We hope to offer new shows each month to bring you interesting programming on events in our community. Shows air weekly - check the link for channel 7 on www.hampdenmaine.com.

If you do not currently get cable service in your area and would like to view the shows we will offer copies for residents to view. You can stop by the Town Office or the Edythe Dyer Community Library and check out a copy. ■

Here's How You Can Help!

By Andre Cushing

Hampden's Communications Committee has openings for folks who wish to assist with the newsletter, website development and local government channel 7 programming.

Lots of exciting things are happening in Hampden, and it is clear to those who serve our community why we are becoming "THE community of choice in central Maine". One important factor we must not overlook is that you the residents deserve to know what is occurring in your community; with its town government, its business community and through our variety of civic and non profit organizations.

The Town Council has charged its communications subcommittee with enhancing the tools of communications. We revamped the newsletter and currently publish and mail it to residents on a quarterly basis, the town website (www.hampdenmaine.com) has a completely new look and level of information since its launch in early August. Time Warner Cable channel 7 (local government access) is adding new programs monthly (see the article on Hampden Highlights News Magazine in this issue) and thanks to the generosity of the Edwards family, we have installed a new public information board at Edwards Family Shop n' Save.

We are seeking additional volunteers to assist with preparing articles for the newsletter, to help update information on the website and to add more programming for channel 7.

We can use folks with talent in writing, proofreading, website design, video production and event planning. Currently the communications committee has a part time intern, Brandon Gassett who has done great work on both the website and our local programming. We need Hampden residents who will offer their time, talent and experiences to help our committee improve the communications we offer to our town. You can call the town office 862-3034 or contact Councilor Matt Arnett at 862-5382 for more information. ■

AHAH!

At Home Around Hampden Facts and History of Life in Hampden

By: Nancy Chaiyabhat

DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS GRAVESTONE?

As we honor all our veterans on this Veteran's Day 2007, the Newsletter set out to find the oldest gravesite of a Hampden veteran. After researching and visiting Hampden's cemeteries, one revered veteran emerged before all others – **Captain Andrew Grant, Sr.** His hallowed resting place can be found in Hampden's oldest cemetery, the Old Burying Grounds behind the Masonic Lodge on Route 1A across from the Hampden Academy.

Captain Grant's grave is marked with the Revolutionary War emblem that is placed next to the headstone of many of the country's Revolutionary War soldiers. Historical records reveal that he was born in Berwick, Maine on May 30, 1730 and died on October 12, 1809 at the age of 79 years. His was a long life, full of numerous and notable accomplishments.

Prior to 1794, the Town of Hampden was called Wheelersborough, after one of the prominent early settlement families. Andrew Grant Sr. is found in the earliest town records verifying his residence and documenting his role as a leader in the community. His name first appears in lot purchase records from 1772 when he acquired Lot #20. Fourteen years later on December 16, 1786, Jonathan Stone references Grant's river property in his report to Surveyor, General Knox. A deed dated 1806 documented purchase of the 100 acre - Lot #108 for a total sum of \$81.75!

Committee assignments listed on the public record include: keeper of the keys, frame builder and citizen responsible to regulate business of the Meeting House (1796 – 1797); manager of business and layout of pew



ground in the Meeting House (1798); investigator of town landings and lanes to the landings (1800). Captain Grant also served as Assessor, Surveyor of Roads & Lumber, Culler of Hoops & Staves, member of the Town School Committee and Trustee to Hampden Academy; each considered high positions in post-colonial life.

The Meeting House was the center of local government where community meetings were held. Ownership of a pew in the Meeting House was an indication of status in society and allowed its owner a voice in community affairs and gatherings held at the Meeting House. Meeting House records indicate that Andrew Grant

purchased Pew #19 in the year 1797/98 for the sum of sixty-two dollars (\$62), a goodly amount for that time.

Reports of Grant's death were minimal, at best. This report of his passing appeared in a newspaper announcement: "Andrew Grant. Died. At Hampden, ME. Thursday night, it is supposed from the effects of Paris green, which he had been putting on potato vines." (Definition: Paris green – A green powder used for coloring and as an insect poison.) So, it seems that Captain Andrew Grant, Sr. died of lawn & garden chemical poisoning.

As a man of great stature and influence during Hampden's early years, Captain Andrew Grant, Sr. supported our emerging community in many ways, in addition to his military service. His 198-year-old grave stands as a testament to his dedication to Hampden and our country. On this Veteran's Day 2007, we honor our oldest buried veteran and all those who have gone before and after. ■

Note: Many thanks to the members of the Hampden Historical Society who provided invaluable research assistance and materials.

Hampden Website Gets a Facelift

By Matt Arnett



The Internet offers a terrific opportunity to promote our community and all it has to offer. More and more people are using this medium to learn about areas to which they may want to travel, locate a business or even live. We are pleased to offer a new look that more effectively represents the community of which we are proud. New links offer a crisper and more attractive presence; you could even say Hampden now has great curb appeal on the World Wide Web! Links for business, residents and visitors offer a more flexible means of access. We have added a calendar which highlights important events and activities and a variety of photos which will give those visiting our site a feel for what a great community Hampden can be in which to live or work.

www.hampdenmaine.com is our address. The new site launched in August and the Communications Committee will continue to upgrade and add to our format over the coming months. ■

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