

Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 23, October 2011



Candidate Forum Set for Local Election Races

The Hampden Town Council Communications Committee is holding a candidate forum on Wednesday, October 19th at 6 p.m. The forum will be aired live on local Cable Channel 7 and taped for rebroadcast on that channel. We will also have copies of the Forum to borrow at the Edythe Dyer Library for those who cannot attend in person and do not have Time Warner Cable Channel 7.

There are contested races for Council Districts II, III, and IV as well as four candidates running for three seats on the RSU 22 School Board. We encourage you to attend this forum to learn more about the people seeking to represent you on the Town Council, the School Board, and the Water District. This forum will not be a debate between candidates, but instead an opportunity for candidates to state their views on a number of questions presented by a Moderator. ■



— VIDEO STREAMING —

The Town Council Communications Committee is working on a project that would allow for video streaming of Cable Channel 7 to persons in the community who have high speed internet access through a free video streaming application called UStream. The Town's video equipment that is used for broadcasting on Cable Channel 7 is also capable of allowing video streaming. However, at the present time, the bandwidth available from our current internet access provider is not sufficient to support the streaming effort. We are gathering information on the cost to increase that bandwidth and to upgrade internal network equipment at the municipal building. Once that information has been gathered, the Communications Committee will evaluate it and make a recommendation to the Town Council in regard to the feasibility of this project.

What do you think? Should the Town pursue video streaming to allow access to programming that is currently only available to Time Warner Cable viewers? Fill out our email feedback form on the town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov> and let us know what YOU think! ■

Sign Up Now! For Government On The Go...

Go to <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov> and register your email address so that you can receive the new bi-weekly update email from the Town of Hampden. Find out when Council and Committee meetings are, what is on the agendas, where there are Committee vacancies and much more about what is happening in YOUR local government. ■

<http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>



Have a Happy Retirement!

Finance/Human Resource officer Janie Pitcher retired on September 14th after more than nine years of employment with the Town of Hampden. She began working for the Town as a part-time assistant, but soon progressed to full time as personnel changes occurred. Thanks to her efforts, not only are the Town's financial records in exemplary order, the Town's auditors are highly complimentary of the quality of her work as well.

Janie was honored with a farewell reception in the Community Room of the Town Office on September 14th, and received a Legislative Sentiment from the 125th Legislature in Augusta on September 27th. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her much happiness in her retirement! ■



Tips for a healthy lawn

Brought to you by the Town of Hampden, Bangor Area Storm Water Group, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension

- **Set your mower blade to its highest setting, about three inches is ideal.**
- **Use your soil test recommendations to determine if your lawn even needs fertilizer, since now is the best time to apply. Most lawns over ten years old do not need fertilizing.**
- **Don't have a soil test? Apply no more than two pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn, and use phosphorus-free fertilizer.**
- **Remember to keep the ditch by the road free of leaves and debris ñ this will help water drain during the spring melt.**

FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGER



Susan Lessard, Town Manager

Did you remember? Tax due date for first half of 2011/2012 property taxes was Wednesday, October 5th.

- **Dog Licenses Coming Soon**... Dog licenses for the 2012 year may be purchased at the Town Office after October 15th.
- **Summer Meter Readings** – Those with summer water meters must call in their readings before October 20th in order to have credit on their next sewer bill.
- **Rain Garden Improvements** – The Public Works Department has been working on improvements to a portion of the rain garden in front of the Municipal Building

adjacent to Western Avenue. This garden serves as a passive method of treating large amounts of stormwater runoff from the municipal building parking lot. The improvements made include changes in the slope and depth of the garden as well as the placement of the base material. Thanks go to GIS/IT Specialist Gretchen Heldmann for coordinating the efforts as well as volunteering many hours in garden maintenance and to Maine Savings Volunteers for their work in improvements to the one side of the garden last Spring. Thanks also to Assessor Kelly Karter, UMaine Extension, and Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District who all have helped with either maintenance or planting selection and advice as well as to Hampden Academy students who volunteered to work in the garden. Installation of this garden helps the Town to meet its requirements under its Stormwater Management five year general permit. ■

New Town Manager Hiring Process

The Town Council has engaged the services of the Maine Municipal Association to assist it with the hiring process for a Town Manager to replace Sue Lessard who will be leaving by the end of the year. An ad for the position has been placed and the deadline for applications for the position is October 17th. The advertisement is also located on the Town of Hampden website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>

Once applications have closed, the Council will begin the review process, and set up a series of interviews with prospective candidates. It is the hope of the Council to identify a new Manager by December of 2011, although it may be several months after that before a new manager comes on board if the selected candidate has to work a notice from a current job. ■

Hampden *Highlights* is published quarterly by the Town of Hampden, and its success depends upon a community-wide effort. We ask you to please forward news, notes and tips about friends, neighbors, colleagues — or yourselves — by emailing manager@hampdenmaine.gov, drop off at the Town Office, or mailing to *Hampden Highlights*, Town Office, 106 Western Avenue, Hampden, ME, 04444. You can find *Hampden Highlights* on the Web at www.hampdenmaine.gov. We welcome your feedback. Edited by Susan Lessard • Layout and design by Val Ireland

Meet the Candidates

The November 8th election is fast approaching and there are many contested local races for the Town Council and the RSU 22 School Board. In an effort to help residents 'get-to-know' those who wish to serve, this quarter's newsletter features a photo of each candidate and a brief 'in their own words' statement about themselves and their candidacy. The Council Communication Committee is also sponsoring a Candidate Forum on October 19th which is discussed in another article in this newsletter.

Candidates are presented in this article by the office for which they are running and in the order in which their names will appear on the ballot.

TOWN COUNCIL SEATS ONE SEAT PER DISTRICT AVAILABLE

Town Council – District I



JANET HUGHES – Town Council, District I

Janet works as an engineer with her husband Peter at Hughes Bros. in Hampden. She has served the last 3 year term as Town Council representing District 1, and is the current Mayor. "I believe in a BALANCE of good business, environmental protection, and community. I look forward to continuing the comprehensive planning process, working with RSU22 in redevelopment of the Old Hampden Academy site, and working hard to maintain the tax mil rate challenged by the current economic climate while maintaining Town services."



Town Council – District II



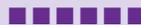
TOM BRANN – Town Council District II

I will continue to serve the Town as I have in the past. During my tenure I have supported, the Department of Public Safety, a properly equipped full time Police Department, a properly equipped full time Fire Department, full time Ambulance Service with full time paramedics, an expanding Recreation program, a grocery store, the Economic and Business Development office, Tree City status, Mayo Road rebuild, the need for a Comprehensive Plan, and the list goes on. The Tax rate has been reduced from over \$20/thousand to \$15.90/thousand establishing a sound, stable financial basis. The biggest challenge for the future is covering the cost of an expanding RSU22 while maintaining Town services at a reasonable cost.



MARK GRAY – Town Council District II

Native Mainer who graduated from Brewer High School in 1987, married to Kim Gray since 1995 and has two sons in the Hampden School system. He has been a Hampden resident since 2005 and is a small business owner. An Eagle Scout since 1987, he also served as a Scoutmaster for Troop 1 in Brewer from 1992-1995. He is a Maine Guide and a member of the NRA, Hampden Rifle & Pistol Club, Ruffled Grouse Society, and the Grand Lakes Stream Guides Assn.



Town Council – District III



SHELLEY BLOSSER – Town Council District III – Withdrawing Candidacy

My name is Michelle "Shelley" Blosser. As a teacher, Hampden landowner of 14 years, and a small business owner, I am very invested in the future of Hampden. It is with regret that I will not be able to run for the Town Council seat for District 3 this November. I am hoping that those of you who would have voted for me will consider the candidates for District 3 carefully and will vote for one who voices their convictions, and who views the Constitution as the standard by which legislative actions should be measured.



BRIAN DUPREY – Town Council – District III

Political Experience: Hampden Town Council 2001-2003
Maine House of Representatives representing Hampden 2000-2008
Bio: U.S. Navy 1985-1993 Anti-Submarine Warfare Specialist
Hampden Resident since 1995
Happily Married to Carol Duprey for over 20 years, 5 children, 1 grandchild
Business owner employing over 30 people in the Bangor area

After 8 years of public service I have taken the last 3 years away from politics to regain a fresh perspective. I absolutely love our community and want to ensure that it remains well managed and taxes kept at a reasonable level. I would appreciate your vote on November 8th.

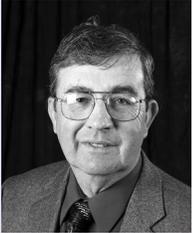


JEAN LAWLIS – Town Council – District III

A member of town council since 2009, Jean Lawlis supports town services as Chair of the Services Committee which oversees the library, recreation facilities and parks and trails. She is an active participant in other town committees including Planning and Development and Finance. Jean believes in fiscal prudence, the protection of private property rights, and in the value of the efforts of citizens groups like the Garden Club, the Friends of Dorothea Dix, the Historical Society, and Goodwill Riders. A proud mother, wife and retired engineer/business manager, she's currently a high school Math teacher.



Town Council – District IV



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE – Town Council District IV

"I have enjoyed serving and representing the citizens of District 4 on the Town Council for the past 3 years. Although I believe in keeping our mill rate as low as possible, I also believe in maintaining the excellent services of the Town. Public safety, ambulance, fire, Public works, the pool, library, recreation, and the school system are, in my opinion, the best in the area. I look forward to continuing to serve you, and ask for your vote again in November."



JEREMY WILLIAMS – Town Council District IV

I was raised in Hampden, in fact right in the farmhouse where I live now. I attended Schools here, and after serving in the Marine Corps, attended the University of Maine at Orono. Other than my military service and overseas employment, I have pretty much called Hampden my home over the years. My wife Sheila and I have restored the old farmhouse and operate a recreational airstrip on the property. I have 4 children, Blake, Blaine, Jerel, and Darci. The two youngest, Jerel and Darci are attending the University of Maine. I am employed by Bangor Hydro.



RSU 22 School Board – 3 Seats Available



AMY FAIRCLOTH – Candidate for MSAD #22 School Board

"As a school board member, my goal would be that the children of SAD 22 continue to enjoy the same benefits of the district which attracted me to Hampden in the first place. This can be accomplished with wise and collaborative planning and focus, and continued respect for the taxpayers' hard earned money.

My oldest son is a 2011 graduate of Hampden Academy and my youngest son will graduate in 2012. I am a self-employed lawyer at Pelletier & Faircloth. I have experience in family and education law. I am on the Board of Directors of the Bangor Humane Society."



JENAN JONDY – Candidate for MSAD #22 School Board

My seventeen years of experience in education, organizational skills, and training have been with diverse populations. Maine’s demographics are changing and my work in business and education overseas has allowed a greater perspective on our educational system in our global village today. Having four children in the school system, my commitment to our schools is not only personal; but, I believe providing our children with new and innovative ways will give them the confidence to advance with their interests. Currently, I work as an Outreach Coordinator and have volunteered within our school system and with UMaine College of Education and Human Development.



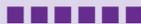
NILES PARKER – Candidate for MSAD #22 School Board

I have worked in education and museums for the past twenty years. Currently I am the Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor. My experience in non-profit management coupled with my interest in creating non-traditional, innovative life-long learning opportunities is a combination that I feel can be helpful to the continued development of the local schools. I believe strongly in the importance of education to our communities, our children, and the development of the Maine economy. I feel strongly that MSAD #22 has a remarkable chance to make a significant impact in that regard, especially with the new high school and innovative new curriculum concepts. My wife is a graduate of Hampden Academy, and we have three children in the Weatherbee, Reeds Brook, and Hampden Academy schools. Thank you.



NICK WINCHESTER – Candidate for RSU 22 School Board

One of the biggest challenges for communities like ours is ensuring our children have access to the best education possible without causing uncontrollable increases in local taxes. With 15 years of experience leading and managing a Maine based business, I know I can help find and implement solutions to the challenges facing our community that will create excellent education opportunities for our youth in a fiscally responsible manner. As a resident of Hampden with two girls in the district, this is my opportunity to serve my community. I would appreciate your vote November 8.



Hampden Water District – 1 Trustee Position

DANA SKINNER – Candidate for Hampden Water District

Hampden Public Safety



Police - Fire - EMS
106 Western Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
Phone 207-862-4000 • Fax: 207-862-4588



PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEY

Sgt. Christian Bailey

Hampden Public Safety is requesting your feedback. An online survey is now available and is designed to rate the overall performance of the police, fire and ambulance services. It will also assist in determining what services are important to the citizens of Hampden. The information provided by the survey will be carefully evaluated and used to improve the quality of public safety services to the citizens of this community.

The survey will be available for several months and can be accessed by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hampdenps>. Hard copies will be available at Hampden Public Safety, Hampden Town Office, Lura Hoit Pool and the Edythe Dyer Library. A link to the survey is available on the Town of Hampden website, the Hampden Public Safety website and Facebook page.

If you have any questions, please call 862-4000. ■

HAMPDEN PUBLIC SAFETY SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN ITS CHAPLAIN SERVICE

Hampden Public Safety is seeking members of the clergy, active or retired, to join us as a Public Safety Chaplain. Our Chaplain ranks have diminished in the last few years and we are looking to strengthen our Chaplain Corps. Chaplains are call members of our department. They assist us in providing guidance and counseling in matters of spiritual, personal, family, job, or other natures, to our full-time and call/reserve staff. We hope to establish a core group so the time constraints are less on each individual. Chaplains also assist us in high stress situations or where the possibility of injury to personnel is high, such as structure fires, natural disasters, attempted suicides, riots, demonstrations, or mass casualty incidents.

At a minimum we are looking for persons with the following qualifications:

- a. An ordained member of the Clergy
- b. In good physical health
- c. Interested in Public Safety
- d. Prepared to serve in a crisis zone
- e. Willing to commit the time necessary to effectively relate to and minister to police officers, fire fighters, and EMS personnel

Chaplain training is involved for this position; Hampden Public Safety will make this training available to appointed Chaplains.

If you are interested in this position, know anyone who may be interested, would like to see the full position description, or have any questions on this position, please contact Firefighter/Paramedic Miles Block at 862-3210 or mblock@hampdenmaine.gov. The full position description is also available on the Public Safety webpage at www.hampdenmaine.gov. ■



Aquazumba at the Lura Holt Pool

Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Instructor: Jodi Veneziano

Known as the “zumba pool party”, Aqua Zumba gives new meaning to the idea of an invigorating workout. Splashing, stretching, twisting, and even shouting, laughing, hooting and hollering are often heard during an Aqua Zumba class. Integrating the Zumba formula and philosophy with traditional aqua fitness disciplines, Aqua Zumba blends it all together into a safe, challenging, water-based workout that is cardio-conditioning, body toning, and most of all – exhilarating beyond belief!

Contact the pool at 862-4305 for more information or visit our website at hampdenmaine.gov ■

HARMONY HALL RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

By Pat Kerfoot

Hampden Garden Club members are happy to report that after almost four years of planning, meetings, and fundraising, the first phase of the Harmony Hall restoration project has begun. Foundation work, repair of an exterior wall defect, and complete restoration of the Gothic style windows are the first items to be addressed. Next on the list are the exterior doors and the porch area, which are presently in very poor condition.

This is only the beginning of the ongoing project to preserve and protect the historic building. Future plans include building a ramp to make the building handicapped accessible, painting the exterior, and making the small kitchen safer and more user-friendly. All this, of course, means that more funds must be raised, and the Club will once more be seeking community support

The Question of the Quarter...

A new feature of the Hampden Highlights Newsletter is the Question of the Quarter. Each newsletter will have a question seeking feedback on some area of your local government. To answer – simply email info@hampdenmaine.gov or manager@hampdenmaine.gov and put “Question” in the subject box or drop off a response in the Question of the Quarter Box at the Town Office. Responses will be reported in the next edition of the newsletter as well as an upcoming edition of *Government on the Go*.

And the Question of the Quarter for October 2011 is...

What do you think should happen to the old Hampden Academy property when the high school moves to its new location in 2012?

Thank you, in advance, for your response! ■

Looking for Free Downloadable Books?

The following is a short list of good sources for free eBook content. Sites have been marked with “ePub” if they will play on Nook, Kobo and other non-Amazon eReaders and “Kindle” if they will play on the Kindle. Ebooks available from these sites will also play on most computers and are available in other formats like pdf and html. Most titles will also play on iPhone, Blackberry, or Android smart phones eReader apps.

Maine InfoNet Download Library

<http://download.maineinfonet.org/>

Nearly 2,500 ebooks spanning best-selling Fiction, Non-Fiction, YA and Children’s content are available as downloadable eBooks. This is in addition to the ever-growing collection of downloadable audiobooks. Both the eBooks and audio books can be checked out and downloaded by library card holders of participating libraries across Maine, which includes Maine State Library Public. You will need to enter your active library card to use this site. ePub;

Public Domain Books

Books in the public domain are those titles for which copyright has expired or been forfeited. These are generally widely available. Many of the ebook services listed below offer free access to public domain titles, some in addition to fee-based titles. This is a short list of some of the best known services.

- Project Gutenberg - www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page

Over 36,000 free public domain ebooks available to download to PC, Kindle, iPad, iPhone, Android, or other portable device. ePub, Kindle

- ManyBooks - www.manybooks.net

Over 29,000 free public domain titles; 35 languages represented. ePub, Kindle

Mobile version: mnybks.net ePub, Kindle

- Open Library - www.openlibrary.org

A project of the non-profit Internet Archive. Claims over 1 million titles. Search for eBook specifically by checking the box that says "show only eBooks" under the main search box. ePub, Kindle

Original Works

- Smashwords - www.smashwords.com/

Many free ebooks from independent authors and publishers. ePub, Kindle

- FeedBooks - www.feedbooks.com/publicdomain

Includes free original books in addition to thousands of previously published public domain books. Not all books are free, but many are and fees are low for those that are for sale. ePub, Kindle

- Scribd - www.scribd.com

Scribd calls itself the world’s largest social reading and publishing company, making it easy to share and discover entertaining, informative and original written content across the web and mobile devices. All html

Online Book Stores and Device/Format-Specific Services

Web-based bookstores offer a variety of options for acquiring ebooks, from bestsellers to purchase to free ebooks made available as marketing promotions, public domain offerings, or samples from independent authors and publishers. You will have to sign up for accounts with these services in order to access. Among the best sources for free content are:

- Amazon Kindle Store - www.amazon.com/kindle

Amazon offers free titles for promotions each week. To see what’s available, go to the Kindle Store on the Amazon.com web site, select the ‘Discussions’ tab at the top of the page, and look for “Free Books” in the Forums discussions list. A regular poster named Happy Reader “Joyce” posts a daily list of free Kindle books. Kindle www.ereaderiq.com/free/ is an Amazon Affiliate Program member that offers a list (updated hourly!) of free titles for the Kindle. There were 825 titles recently listed on one day! Users can sign up to receive an email notification of new titles as they are added (see box at top right of web page). You can actually view this list on your kindle at m.eReaderIQ.com

Prefer to have free Kindle books announcements delivered as RSS feeds to your online news reader? Add the following feed URL to your RSS reader: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/addallamazon>

- Barnes & Noble Nook Books - www.barnesandnoble.com/ebooks/index.asp

Look for ‘Free Nook Books’ under ‘Customer Favorites’ tab on left side of page. ePub

Prefer to have free Nook books announcements delivered as RSS feeds to your online news reader? Add the following feed URL to your RSS reader: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/addallbn> ■

STORY SLAM SERIES

Katahdin Trust Company is partnering with the Edythe Dyer Community Library to fund the first Story Slam series for teenagers north of Boston!

On October 5th the first in a series of five Story Slams will be held at the Edythe Dyer Library. Up to ten participants of high school age and residing in the SAD #22 footprint are invited to tell their stories. The grand

prize will be \$1,000, with four preliminary prizes of \$500 awarded. Themes are “Friends” on Oct. 5; “Oops” on Oct. 19; “Stormy” on Nov. 2; “Vacation” on Nov. 16; with the Grand Slam theme of “Gifts” on Nov. 30. A panel of three judges will determine the preliminary and grand-prize winners. Judges include professional storytellers, Jennifer Armstrong, Hope Lewis and Jackson Gillman; assistant professor, Adam Crowley of Husson University; local actor and director Dominick

Varney and young adult author and librarian, John Clark.

“This is a unique and fun-filled concept,” said Hampden branch manager Sunny Somers. “We hope that area high school students will eagerly participate in the program.” Each session also will feature refreshments, with friends and family members of participants encouraged to attend.

“A vibrant public library is an essential element in the

quality of life of a community,” said Katahdin Trust Co. President and CEO Jon Prescott. “The Edythe Dyer Community Library, we hope, will benefit from our donations. At the same time, our new customers will benefit from discovering a unique and responsive brand of banking.”

“On behalf of everyone who is affiliated with or is a patron of the Edythe Dyer Community Library, we thank Katahdin Trust Co. for their active participation in support of our work,” said Debbie Lozito, library director. “It’s refreshing to see a new corporate citizen in Hampden step forward with a willingness to enhance the lives of everyone in our area. Working with the team from Katahdin Trust Co. has made planning for this complicated event unbelievable easy. We appreciate each of them.”

The sponsorship reflects the bank’s legacy of commitment to investing in

the communities it serves, according to Prescott. The bank will donate \$25 for each new account opened at its new office in Hampden, up to a total of \$10,000.

Somers said, “We are proud to announce our working relationship with the library, as the Story Slam program is one which can be entertaining to virtually everyone in the community.” ■

On October 5th the first in a series of five Story Slams will be held at the Edythe Dyer Library. Up to ten participants of high school age and residing in the SAD #22 footprint are invited to tell their stories. The grand prize will be \$1,000, with four preliminary prizes of \$500 awarded.



The 2nd Annual Hampden Chili Cook-off

Sponsored By The Hampden Children’s Day Committee

The Hampden Children’s Day Committee will be kicking off their fund raising efforts for next year’s Hampden Children’s Day with just that... a kick! Everyone is invited to the 2nd Annual Hampden Chili Cook-off which will be held on November 11th at the Weatherbee School gymnasium at 6:00pm. Taste a sampling of Hampden’s best chili recipes and vote for your favorite homemade and restaurant chili. The fee to get in is \$5.00

The cook-off will be followed by a silent and live auction. Bid on items from local restaurants and businesses, gift baskets and an authentic Red Sox autographed item. All the proceeds will benefit the 2012 Children’s Day which will be held on August 18. Any businesses who would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact the Hampden Recreation Department. All help for this event is greatly appreciated.

Now, you can’t have a chili cook-off with out the chili! Do you think you make the best chili? Maybe have an old family

recipe? How about your restaurant holding the bragging rights for best chili in Hampden? Then this event is for you. We will be having two divisions, a homemade family recipe and one for restaurants. Winners of the homemade division will receive a gift certificate and trophy. The winning entry from area restaurants will receive a plaque proclaiming them the reigning chili champion in the Hampden area which they can proudly display for this year. It is free to enter and all who wish to enter need to contact the Hampden Recreation Department at 862-6451 November 8th.

Anyone wishing to help with the Hampden Children’s Day Committee can also contact Kurt at Hampden Recreation. The committee is made up of area citizens and involvement could be as simple as just helping with one of the annual fundraisers, planning for the event or just helping on the day of the event. Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 6:00pm in the Hampden Municipal Building. Anyone is welcome and help is needed. ■

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
106 WESTERN AVENUE
HAMPDEN, ME 04444

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
HAMPDEN, ME
PERMIT NO. 201

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER
HAMPDEN, ME 04444