

Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden - Issue 25 - July 2012

VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE

Election Season is Fast Approaching!

Do you have some free time and a desire to give back to your community? Have you ever thought of running for public office? Are you interested in the policies set for the Town, the School, or the Water District?

Nomination papers will be available at the beginning of August for the following local races to be held on Election Day in November 2012:

Hampden Town Council:

3 At-Large Council Seats, 3 year terms

RSU 22 School Board:

2 School Board Seats, 3 year terms

Water District Trustee:

1 Trustee, 5 year term

Nomination papers may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office beginning on Wednesday, August 8, 2012. They must be returned to the Town Clerk's office no later than 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012.

VOTE....VOTE....VOTE...VOTE....VOTE....VOTE....VOTE....VOTE....VOTE....VOTE....VOTE....



The Same Mil Rate... for the Sixth Year in a Row...

At its regular Council meeting on June 18th, the Hampden Town council adopted the 2012-2013 budget. Despite increases in the school and County portions of the budget, and pressures on the Town budget from reductions in State Revenue sharing, costs related to the acquisition of Hampden Academy, fuel prices, etc., it is estimated that the town's mil rate will remain stable at the same \$15.90 per thousand that it has been for the past 5 years.

Town services will remain at current levels for the coming year with no reductions in personnel or closure of facilities and/or programs. Tax bills will be mailed out in late August, with the first half of taxes due on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 and the second half due on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 to avoid interest..

HAVING TROUBLE BUDGETING FOR YOUR PROPERTY TAXES?

The Town offers a 'club' payment plan that allows you to make your tax payments in twelve equal monthly payments without interest. Persons who are current on taxes and who do not have their taxes escrowed for payment with their mortgage are eligible to participate. Call Cheryl at the Town Office at 862-3034 for details. July is sign up month!

SUSAN G. ABRAHAM MEMORIAL PLAQUE INSTALLED AT LURA HOIT POOL



The Susan G. Abraham memorial plaque is now on display at the Lura Hoit Pool. Susan was a young lifeguard and swim instructor at the Lura Hoit Pool who died in 2007. She had a dream and vision for all people to love and care for each other. The Susan G. Abraham scholarship keeps her dream alive by providing funding so that deserving people can enjoy the benefits of swim instruction and participation that were so important to her own life. We encourage you to stop by the Lura Hoit Pool to see the beautiful plaque that is located there in honor of Susan.

CHECK OUT THE TOWN WEBSITE AT

<http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>

Hampden Historical Society's Heritage Days

Hampden Historical Society Heritage Days will be held at the Kinsley House at 83 Main Road South in Hampden on Saturday, September 8, 2012 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The society provides this event for the community to remember how things were done in our past. We have exciting exhibitors and presenters lined up for this event – spinning, rug braiding, candle dipping, blacksmithing, outdoor cooking, butter churning, cider pressing and cedar shakes to name a few. Bring the children to help them realize how advanced we are today and to educate them on the past. The event is free but donations are greatly appreciated. We will be selling hot dogs, drinks, and homemade cookies.

FARMER'S MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN HAMPDEN.....



HAMPDEN GARDEN CLUB HOLDS FARMER'S MARKETS AT HARMONY HALL

The Hampden Garden Club will hold three Farmers Markets at Harmony Hall, 24 Kennebec Road, this summer: July 21, August 11, and September 8, from 9:00 AM until noon. Vendors will offer a large selection of fresh locally grown produce, herbs, eggs, and baked goods.

FARMER'S MARKETS HELD IN PLAZA BY SCHACHT'S HARWARE

Every Friday from 2-6 p.m. there is a farmer's market located in the parking lot adjacent to Schacht's Hardware store.



Emerald Ash Borer



Asian Longhorn Beetle

Anthracnose, ALB, EAB, Giant Hogweed – Oh My!

What do these things all have in common? They are all pests, diseases, and/or invasives – unwanted things in all regards. The latest you have probably heard about is Giant Hogweed – and the Town Office has detailed information on this invasive plant and a staff person to help answer your questions or direct you to the correct state contact for help. The town also has information on anthracnose, Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Anthracnose was that brown spot fungus that blighted maple trees a few years back when we had a pretty rainy spring and summer season. It is relatively harmless (you'll notice the maple trees survived), but it can cause a big mess of leaves to drop early and then require clean up. Since the spores can over-winter in compost piles, it is recommended to fully dispose of leaves in order to remove spore source and prevent it from returning the following year.

The two beetles ALB and EAB are invasive pests that the State of Maine Forest Service is monitoring for – they are NOT yet in Maine, and for the past couple summers the state has set traps to monitor for the beetles. ALB has some native look-alikes, meaning there are beetles native to Maine that look similarly to ALB, such as the Whitespotted Sawyer beetle. ALB has antennae that are banded white and black and longer than the beetle's own body, which is about an inch to an inch and a half long, and is black all over with white spots. ALB attacks maple trees primarily, though other trees can be hosts. They leave sawdust-like shavings in the crooks of branches where they meet the trunk, and leave dime-sized round exit holes in the bark. Check <http://www.beetlebusters.info/> for more info, or come visit the town office. EAB is the other beetle to watch out for, it is bright metallic green, very

slender, and about a half an inch long. EAB attacks ash trees and leaves D-shaped exit holes. Check <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/> for more info, or again, come visit the town office. Also, you should know that transporting firewood into the state of Maine, from somewhere outside the state, has been BANNED. It is best to buy firewood where you will be burning it, even if moving within the state, in order to prevent inadvertently transporting these bugs.

Giant Hogweed is a nasty invasive plant that looks like something out of the Jurassic era! It grows six to fifteen feet tall with purple blotches on a green stem that is an inch or two in diameter, and flowers that are about two feet in diameter. The sap can cause burning, blistering, and if it gets in the eyes it can cause blindness. If you think you have seen this plant, stay away from it and call the town office. There are a couple of look-alikes you should be aware of, including Cow Parsnip, Angelica, and Queen-Anne's Lace. Each have features that distinguish them from Giant Hogweed. Check out pictures and descriptions here:

<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/pestsurvey/pestinfo/GiantHogweedLookalikes.htm>

If you think you have seen ALB, EAB, or Giant Hogweed, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can help determine what you have seen and point you to the correct state contact!

We have had a number of calls from people reporting that Giant Hogweed was growing on Old County Road from Perry Road to the Bangor line. We have checked out those reports and verified with the state that the plants in question are NOT Giant Hogweed - they are garden valerian which is a much smaller look-alike plant.

Questions? Contact Gretchen at the Town Office at 862-4500 We are open Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 6 pm.



Giant Hogweed



Action in the Rain Garden!

Well, they say the third time is the charm, and we certainly hope that is the case with the rain garden. The rain garden in front of the town office is one of the largest in the state and has been quite a learning experience since the idea was first suggested several years ago. With a lot of help from the local Girl Scout Junior Troop, CES Inc., Laura Wilson of UMaine Extension, Chris Brewer of Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District, and our own Public Works department, the rain garden has been redesigned, re-contoured, erosion-controlled, replanted, landscape fabric pinned down, and re-mulched. Despite being severely tested by the extremely heavy rains that fell after its most recent improvements, the rain garden has been functioning now as intended, draining and filtering storm water runoff from the town office parking lot.

Installation of the rain garden helps the Town to meet its obligation to not only responsibly manage storm water as required by the State MS4 Stormwater license held by the Town, but to promote and advance local education efforts in storm water management that are also required by our license.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROGRESS

The draft 2010 Comprehensive Plan, revised through a Citizen's Comprehensive Planning Committee in 2011, has been reviewed by the Maine State Planning Office and found to be consistent with the goals of the Maine Growth Management Act. The next step in the process is for the Planning Board to review the draft and make recommendations to the Town Council. The Planning Board review of the plan was scheduled at press time to occur on 7/11/2012.

Following that review, the Town Council will hold a final public hearing on the draft plan for consideration of adoption. It is likely that Public Hearing will occur during the month of August as part of a regular Town Council meeting.

MEET THE TOWN COUNCIL

Check out the new page on the Town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov> that features photographs of and an introduction to your town councilors. You can reach this page by logging on to the website and clicking on the Town Officials tab, then Town Councilors, then Meet the Councilors.

The Council's Communication Committee is working on ways to improve the communication between the Town Council and residents. This web page addition is a first step in this process. Stay tuned for additional website changes and opportunities to get to know your public officials.

What do you like? What don't you like? The Hampden Town Council Wants to Hear from YOU!

As part of its planning efforts this year, the Town Council determined that one of the priorities it wished to accomplish was a community survey. The purpose of the survey is to gain input from the residents of the community on subjects ranging from the budget to town services. Each subcommittee of the Council has discussed what topics should be covered in the survey, and at a Council meeting in August, the list will be refined. The survey will be distributed as part of the Hampden Highlight's newsletter in October. Your participation is important!

QUESTION OF THE QUARTER

What type of additional programs would you like to see on local government Cable Channel 7?

Send your response to the Town on the feedback form located on the front page of the town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>

Hampden Children's Day – Year 33!

By Don Darling

August 18, 2012 is the date for the 33rd annual Hampden Children's Day event. This is the day we do for the kids in our community to help end the summer on a high note. The 2012 Hampden Children's Day Committee members have met to lay the ground work for this year's event, conducted a couple fundraisers, and is busy lining up entertainment and activities for the day. This small but determined group has some pretty good ideas about how our August 18, 2012 event should go, but could really use your help to make it all happen.

Before you avert your eyes elsewhere on this newsletter, please give the following list a look-over. We have a bunch of stuff that doesn't take much time or effort, but will go a long way towards easing the burden on our small organizing committee.

First, would you consider joining the committee or at least attend a couple of meetings to see what's going on? By the way, the Children's Day Committee does have a pretty good time at our meetings. Remember, we are talking "positive stuff" about the good things we will do on the day. This event is a fun event, and our meetings are frequently lively, and always warm hearted. So, please give participating in the planning process some thought.

So, here is our task list. Please look it over. If you see something you would be willing to do, we'd appreciate hearing from you.

Would you help us find judges for the parade? Do you know someone who'd be willing to perform this function? We are in need of 3-5 judges for the floats.

Would you help us find local organizations to participate in the parade? Hampden and beyond! We are always looking for folks to be a part of our parade. Can you help us contact these folks and get them to participate?

Would you help us manage the parade reviewing stand by setting up chairs and returning them to Weatherbee School after the parade? This sounds like such a minor thing, but it almost

always ends up being a frantic rush to fetch, set up, and return six chairs (judges and announcer).

Would you help with the parade line up? If you are well organized and like a challenge then, this hectic, but **fun** event was made for you! We really need folks who can help getting the parade units in a reasonable order, hand out participant ribbons, and make sure everybody gets going on time!

Can you help us set up on the morning of Children's Day? We always have tables, chairs, barricades and safety cones that need to be setup. You could join us at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, which is delicious, and then afterward, head out to do these things. It may only take an hour of your time that morning!



How about helping our entertainers set up and break down? The folks we hire to entertain can always use a hand moving props.

Would you mind spending some time at the information booth to answer questions, hand out programs and assist with announcements?

Can you work at our French fry/dough-boy stand or at the lemonade stand? This is fun and fast paced!

Could you help out by setting up the public address system and loudspeakers Friday afternoon August 17?

Could you tear down the public address system and loudspeakers on Monday August 20?

(continued on page 6)

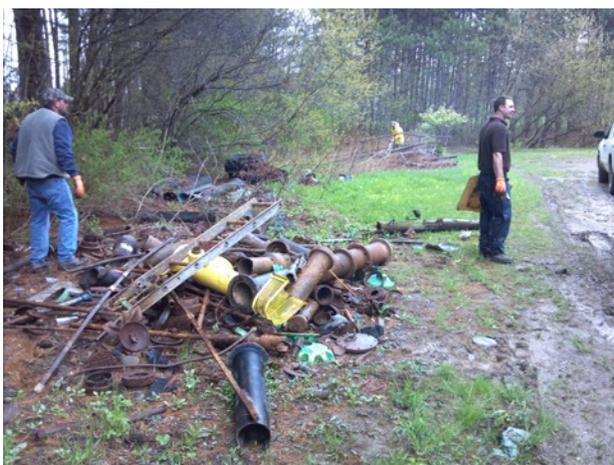
(Children's Day continued from page 5)

Cleanup! I know this is seriously unpleasant, but very necessary. Can we count on you to help? This is a great opportunity to get community service hours for High School students and Youth and Civic Organizations.

Most of all, it would be great if you would join the Hampden Children's Day Committee. This event is OUR community's signature event. Thirty-three years is a pretty fine accomplishment! None of it would have come about without some good people getting together and making it all work. We'd be delighted to have you join us!

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from January to August. We also meet on the fourth Tuesday of June and July. The meetings are held at the town office starting at 6:00 p.m.

Feel free to call Don at 947-2866 or drop a note to recreation@hampdenmaine.gov.



Town of Hampden & Hampden Water District Working Together on Projects

The Town of Hampden (Town) and Hampden Water District (HWD) have been working together recently on a few projects, some short-term and some on-going. It all started over this past winter, when the HWD approached the Town about using the Town's GPS unit to collect GPS point data for water infrastructure, which they needed to compile and submit to the state. They also inquired about help and assistance from the Town's GIS/IT Specialist for compiling the GPS data into a GIS to produce any needed maps or reports. The Town and the HWD worked up a joint agreement regarding GPS usage, staff time, and compensation, and once the weather warmed up, the project began. To date, most of the GPS data has been collected and compiled in the GIS and the project continues to go well.

The Town and HWD also worked together for the Town's annual Street and Stream Cleanup event, which it has held every year for a number of years, usually in early May. The Town holds this event to pick up garbage in town to keep our watersheds and waterways clean, and also as a requirement under the Town's state stormwater permit. This year, the HWD cleaned up some piles of debris on their property, which is adjacent to the Souadabscook Stream. Cleanup resulted in a total of seven tons of debris hauled off, and a large pile of metal taken away for recycling. While the Town was working with the HWD, various past discussions were brought up, including the removal of the red pine trees from the front of the HWD building on Rt. 1A. The Town has an active Tree City USA program and suggested replanting some trees. The HWD was receptive to the idea, and decided to plant two edible apple fruit trees out front, with two more out back to aid in cross-pollination in the area and to add some diversity to the red pine stand out back. The Town's official Arbor Day Celebration took place at the HWD on Arbor Day (May 24th this year), with the planting of those trees.



HAMPDEN PUBLIC SAFETY

Police - Fire - EMS
106 Western Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444

Phone 207-862-4000
Fax: 207-862-4588

PUBLIC SAFETY CORNER **Summer Safety Tips**

Don't forget the helmet!

One of the best ways to stay safe this summer is to wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, skating and skateboarding, and when riding scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and horses. Studies on bicycle helmets have shown they can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.

Pool Safety

Place barriers completely around your pool to prevent access, use door and pool alarms, closely supervise your children and be prepared in case of an emergency.

Install a fence at least four feet high around all four sides of the pool. The fence should not have openings or protrusions that a young child could use to get over, under, or through. Make sure pool gates open out from the pool, and self-close and self-latch at a height children can't reach. Never leave children alone in or near the pool or spa, even for a moment.

Outdoor Cooking Safety

Never bring gas or charcoal grills indoors. Burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide. Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers. If you ever detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.

Trampoline Safety

To prevent serious injuries while using a trampoline, allow only one person on at a time, and do not allow somersaults.

Use a shock-absorbing pad that completely covers the springs and place the trampoline away from structures and other play areas. Kids under 6-years-old should not use full-size trampolines. Improper use can cause head, neck and back injuries and result in permanent disability.

Hide-N-Seek Safety

Don't allow a game of hide-n-seek to become deadly.

There have been reports of numerous suffocation deaths involving children who crawled inside old cedar chests, latch-type freezers and refrigerators, iceboxes in campers, clothes dryers and picnic coolers. Childproof old appliances and warn children not to play inside them.

Window Safety

Install window guards to prevent children from falling out of open windows.

Guards should be installed in children's bedrooms, parents' bedrooms, and other rooms where young children spend time. Install window stops that permit windows to open no more than 4 inches. Whenever possible, open windows from the top - not the bottom. Keep furniture away from windows to discourage children from climbing near windows.

Mowing Safety

When mowing, keep small children out of the yard, and turn the mower off if children enter the area.

If the lawn slopes, mow across the slope with the walk-behind rotary mower, never up and down. With a riding mower, drive up and down the slope, not across it. Never carry children on a riding mower.

Campfire Safety

Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves.

Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand. Keep plenty of water and a shovel around to douse the fire when you're done. Stir it and douse it again with water. Never leave campfires unattended. Small backyard cooking and warming campfires and fire pits do not require a permit, in most cases. Burning brush, leaves, and other open burning do require a permit. Call the Fire Dept. at 862-4586 with questions or for more information.

Sources: AAP, USFA, CPSC

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
106 WESTERN AVENUE
HAMPDEN, ME 04444**

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ECRWSS**

**POSTAL CUSTOMER
HAMPDEN, ME 04444**

ORGANIZATION OF THE QUARTER

AMERICAN LEGION POST 213

American Legion Post 213 is looking for members. Meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m at Whitcomb-Baker VFW Hall, located on Canoe Club Road.

All honorably discharged veterans are welcome. Come and visit a meeting soon!

Call Joe at 469-8044 for more information



FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGER

- Tax bills will be mailed out during August. The first half is due by October 3rd to avoid interest.

- The next Hampden Highlights newsletter will contain a Community Survey - please take the time to fill it out and return it - YOUR voice matters.

- 30 day notices for unpaid 2011-2012 property taxes will be in the mail this month.

- Sewer Bills for the second quarter of 2012 will be mailed out at the end of July.

- The Town is working on improvements to programming on Cable Channel 7 - stay tuned for shows on Hampden History and a tour of the new High School!

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 Susan Lessard, Town Manager (this quarter).