

# Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 13, October 2008

## *Fun for All Ages: Hampden Children's Day*

*By: Deke Rhinehart*

As a so called newbie to Children's Day, I must say I quickly felt my inner child come exploding out with the very first bite of delectable blueberry pancake at the Hampden Kiwanis pancake breakfast. What a great start to a beautiful Maine August Saturday. My tummy was full with breakfast and some fun conversation with a cheery Hampden family. The next stop on my agenda was Reeds Brook Middle School. I arrived to a flurry of children decorating and riding their bicycles all around the group of parents who were trying to make some structure out of the excitement being released from the mobile children. Arriving on the other side of the bike lineup, amazingly without getting any toes run over, I had a great view of the floats beginning to lineup down in front of the middle school. Each float's uniqueness in concept made it obvious, and hard work by many local folks made these creations for the spectators' eyes a true visual treat.

Shortly after a quick sprinkle of rain, led by smiling children on wheels, the annual Children's Day parade started

its way up Main Road. Shining like the sun that beat away the clouds that had threatened earlier, fire trucks, floats displaying colorful ideas from local Hampden businesses, agencies and organizations, dancers, Shriners in funny cars, and Princesses in snazzy rides made for a very entertaining parade. Bright blue eyed, seven year old Lane Johnson said, "My favorite part was the horses...and yeah, catching some candy."

I glanced at my phone to check the time, and it was already noon, yet with my HCD Beach Day Festival program

*continued on page 12*

### ***Did You Wait Too Long to File Nomination Papers? Are You Still Interested in Running for Office?***

It is still not too late to be a candidate for the upcoming November 4th election. There is always the option of a Write In Candidacy...

Interested persons who wish to be considered as write-in Candidates for any of the Town Council, School Board, or Water District available seats must register their candidacy with the Town Clerk no later than three days before the election and then they may advertise their interest to the general public. For Council seats, it is important to remember that these are District Council vacancies and only people who live within a District may be elected to the Council from that district. To assist voters, we have posted a list of streets that comprise each voting District on the Town Website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.com>. We have also posted a 'how-to' note on casting a valid vote for a write-in candidate on our website. Write-in ballots will be counted only for declared write-in candidates for any office. Write-in votes for local elections require only that the name of the candidate be clear and that the ballot be completed by marking the appropriate line next to the name that you have written in for that particular candidate. ■



Enjoying the Bangor Symphony Orchestra's instrument petting zoo are: Ryan Collins, front left, joined by Nicholas Lorenzo while Andrew Gatlin hangs in the back.  
Photo by Amy Lorenzo

# Those Who Want to Serve

By: Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly



Janet Hughes

## DISTRICT I

Janet Hughes has lived in Hampden for seven years and wants to be more involved in the town's future. "There are a lot of important things right now like the comprehensive plan and the new school, and I think I would be a good addition to the group." Hughes says she has an analytical background and welcomes being part of the "thinking crew as we move forward." Hughes also wants to help with balancing business with residential development and the environment. "A balance is good," she says.



Thomas Brann

Thomas Brann has served on the Town Council for the past 15 years as a representative of **DISTRICT II**. Brann, who is running unopposed, is eager to

see the Mayo Road reconstruction project through. That calls for a wider road to make way for more school bus traffic without compromising too much personal property, and Brann also wants to see the Pine Tree Landfill through its closure. Once these projects are completed Brann suggests, "Someone should run next time because this is my last time serving on the Town Council."

**DISTRICT III** has no candidates that filed nomination papers. As a result, this seat will be filled either by a write-in candidate, or in the absence of that, a special election will be held to fill the vacancy sometime after January of 2009.

**DISTRICT IV** voters have a choice between incumbent Andrew Colford and a new candidate, William Shakespeare.



William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare has served on the town's Board of Assessment Review for about 12 years and that's the catalyst for his running. "I'm seeking a council seat because there needs to be some responsibility and accountability," says Shakespeare. He says people around town are basically very concerned about the possibility of a tax increase for a new school. He claims, "When you go into a showroom and can only afford a Chevrolet, you don't go buy a Mercedes, and that's why there needs to be a sensible voice on the Council."



Andrew Colford

Andrew Colford has been serving as a Town Councilor for the past five years and most recently serves as the town's Deputy Mayor. "I want to continue to serve and perhaps be the Mayor because this is a really great town with great people." Colford says two of his initiatives have been accomplished. They are: paving of all the gravel roads in his district and 24/7 paramedic and fire service coverage. Lastly, Colford wants to serve through the closure of the landfill.



Mark Beauregard

Mark Beauregard, a 12 year resident of Hampden is interested in joining the Water District's Board of Directors. "I am interested in just giving back a bit to the community, and I thought this was a good place to start. I have an interest in learning more about the goings-on in town and I welcome the education."

Beauregard recognizes that there are a lot of regulations that are put on the Water District and believes it would be interesting to find out how all these rules and regulations come in to play. "I have a tendency to be conservative and have the consumers in mind."

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**MSAD #22 Board of Directors has four seats and four candidates. They are:**



Jonathan Henry

Jonathan Henry has been serving on the board for the past three years and has three reasons for seeking another term. "I feel an obligation to see the Academy building project through; it has been most enriching to be directly involved with this planning. Secondly, it's a privilege to give back to the community." Henry received a great deal of support from this community during his medical challenges this past year, plus he wants to share his experience working in higher education. The third reason is, "I have incredible respect for my colleagues and it is a very collegial working environment."



Christopher Cox

Christopher Cox has been serving on the board for the past six years and wants to continue because he says, "I think for continuity purposes with the new high school, which is the most definitive economic catalyst for this is community for many generations to come, it makes sense to see it through completion."

Cox also says a concern of his with

the K-12 experience is the kids in the middle. “I want to bring resources to the table to keep those students on the radar academically, and if I can do that, then I will feel like have contributed something.”



Tim Pease

Tim Pease has served on the school board for ten years now and is ready for three more years. The last four years Pease has served as its chairman.

“We have very good teachers and administrators and it’s a smooth running system.” Pease claims there are challenges with this job and the largest one is the budget. “All the time we want to make sure we are providing good programs and paying our teachers and staff well, yet balancing the burden on taxpayers.”



Richard Moore

Richard Moore joined the board in June to fill a vacancy. He was interviewed by a sub committee of the Town Council and selected, and now his

name goes before voters for the position through November of next year. Moore says it has been a great experience so far. “We have been working on the new school, which has been quite consuming, and I have learned a lot about focus for the next year.” He claims, “With three kids and being so active, I find things going by and not knowing what it’s all about sometimes, but being active on the board has given me a better understanding.” ■

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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### TAXES TAXES TAXES...

First half due date was October 1st before interest began.



### VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE...

Have you remembered to register to vote? November is coming soon – if you have not registered – stop by the Town Office and do so. Voting is not only your right – it is your responsibility.

### WELCOME BACK...

Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon is back to work after her surgery – thanks to all of those who have shown so much support for her during this difficult time. We are also happy to report that Bion Foster is back on his feet – literally! – after a very serious stroke. Many thanks to all of the townspeople who have stopped by to check on Bion as well.

### TIME FOR TRAINING...

The Town Office will be closed on Thursday, October 9th so that staff can attend training in Augusta. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. on October 10th.



### A CLOSE CALL...

Recognition goes to Public Works employees Denny Babcock and Donny McLain for their quick thinking and actions after co-worker Paul Weaver’s serious reaction to bee stings. Fortunately, Paul is now well and back to work. We learned a lot as a result of this accident. Paul had never had an allergy to bees or wasps and had been stung before. According to information provided by medical personnel – this could happen to anyone, whether they had ever exhibited an allergy before or not. Important things to remember if you get stung and experience any kind of unusual reaction such as excessive swelling, dizziness, or impaired breathing.

Stay calm – panic will just make the situation worse.

Call medical help IMMEDIATELY. It is always better to be safe than sorry.

Unless you have an allergy to antihistamines, take Benadryl to slow the reaction. It is suggested that people working outside regularly keep some on hand ‘just in case’ of a sting.

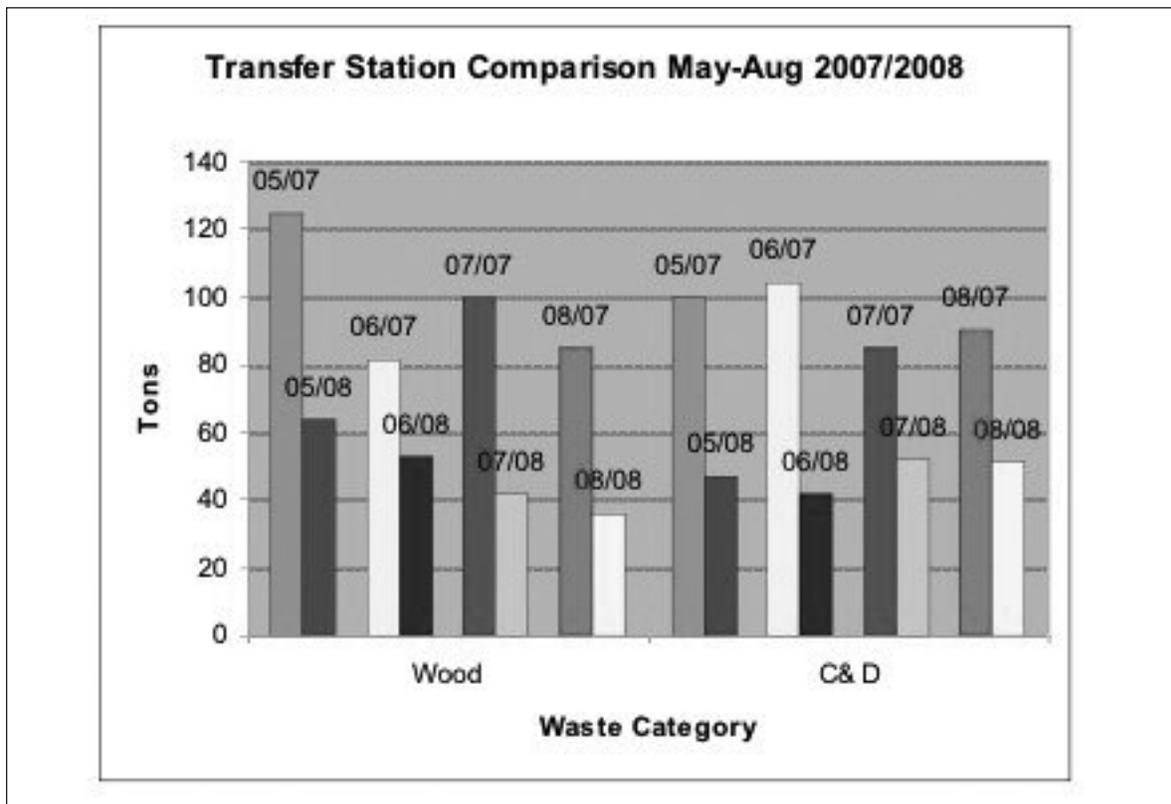
If you are allergic and know it – get a prescription from your doctor for an ‘Epi- Pen’ so that you can administer a shot in case of a sting – and CARRY IT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES! ■

**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 – to Anne Gabbianelli O’Reilly by emailing: Anne.OReilly@umit.maine.edu, 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.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com). We welcome your feedback. • Edited by: Anne Gabbianelli O’Reilly, Susan Lessard, and Mark Pierce • Layout and design by Val Williams

# So...have they made a difference? Are the transfer station changes working?

By: Susan Lessard

**B**ased on numbers – the answer to both questions is a resounding YES! When we instituted the new rules at the transfer station in May of 2008, we did so based on the belief that the transfer station was being used by contractors and non-residents for the disposal of wood and construction and demolition debris and that there was little abuse in the area of household waste disposal.



After four months – it appears that our beliefs were correct. In the period between May and August we received 383 TONS LESS of wood and construction & demolition debris than we did for the same period of 2007, and required 81 fewer truck trips to dispose of this material. That reduction SAVED the Town \$32,700. We also received only 34 tons less municipal solid waste for the same period, which indicates that solid waste disposal was not a large source of abuse.

Our additional cost for personnel at the gate for that period was \$2,048. However, the reduction in tonnage reduced the number of days per month that members of the Public Works crew was required to load and clean up wood and construction and demolition debris by a minimum of 3 – a savings of 12 days for two public works employees that allowed us to complete other projects such as the expansion of the Lakeview Cemetery using Town personnel rather than a contractor.

We appreciate your cooperation with these changes and your patience as we continue working the kinks out of the process. ■

## Gretchen Heldmann GIS/IT Specialist

By: *Melissa Antononi*



Gretchen Heldmann

Photo by Melissa Antononi

Originally from Coventry, CT, Gretchen Heldmann found her way to the town of Hampden sharing her education as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Information Technology Specialist for the Town. Gretchen joined the ranks full time this past summer following part time employment since May of 2005.

She started at the University of Connecticut and then transferred to the University of Maine in Orono studying with the School of Forest Resources. There, she studied GIS as it can be used in a natural resource setting.

Gretchen and the town discovered each other thanks to Tom Brann, a councilor and a professor the University of Forest Resources. "I had to sit through a lengthy interview and show that I understood the software that demonstrated Hampden's data that I would be working with," she says. After the application process, Gretchen was selected to work part-time. Gretchen performs a number of tasks for the Town. As a

GIS Specialist, her day is immersed in interesting material. "I display all forms of geographical information by capturing and analyzing the data with specialized software and then I store all that in an information database." And as an IT Specialist, Gretchen makes sure all of the computers and software remain functional and that the staff is happy with their computers.

While away from the office, Gretchen is in the process of working on her first house in Eddington, ME. She spends time with family, friends, and her two cats. She enjoys hiking, fishing, and being outdoors. She is working towards her Master's degree in the Social Science aspects of Forest Resources. When asked if she saw herself in Hampden ten years from now, she replied, "Yes, I like Maine." She said if she could go anywhere in the world, she would go to New Zealand she says with a smile claiming, "it's so interesting and unique, and every type of habitat is on this island. It is diverse and beautiful." ■

## TEAM DENISE

By: *Susan Lessard*

The recent diagnosis of Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon with breast cancer has brought home once again the fact that this disease is a respecter of no one. Every day we hear of one more individual whose life is touched by this disease. To support Denise through this fight, the Town Office started a group called Team Denise. It was a 'support group' of town employees, friends, and family who know and love Denise – but it has grown to be more than that. It has grown to be a support group for the *research* that will one day eradicate this killer.

Spearheaded by Finance & Human Resource Officer Janie Pitcher, Team Denise set a goal of fundraising \$2,500 for the Komen Race for the Cure which was held on September 21, 2008, with the hope that 75 people would walk in that Race for the Cure. Team Denise raised more than \$7,000 for this worthy cause and had more than 120 people registered as part of the team. The Team won the award for the largest Family Team in the race for 2008. Thank you to all who participated in Team Denise and any other Team in not only the Race for the Cure but other fundraising groups for cancer research. Working collectively to continue to raise money for research while offering encouragement for everyone who has a family member, friend, or other loved ones touched by this dread disease is a way in which we can all be part of the solution. ■



# Talking with Our Kids

By: Cpl. Chris Bailey

This fall the discussion will continue about how to best help our kids as a follow up to a meeting in May. That's when the Hampden Public Safety Department, Bangor Region Public Health and Wellness, and the Maine Office of Substance Abuse sponsored a town hall meeting entitled, "Start Talking Before They Start Drinking."

The purpose was to explain the problem of underage drinking and to elicit input from parents and community members on possible solutions. Attorney General Steven Rowe was the keynote speaker. Several students from the Hampden Academy Drug and Alcohol Task Force (DATF) were present to offer a teen perspective on the problem. The DATF consists of approximately 20 students from grades 9-12 who advocate for and promote drug free initiatives at Hampden Academy.

The impetus for the event was threefold:

- Alcohol is the #1 drug problem for teens in the State of Maine.
- The results of the 2006 MYDAUS (Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey) showed students in SAD#22 grades 10-12 drink at a higher rate than their state peers. They also binge drink (five or more drinks) more than their state peers.
- The Hampden Police Department and other area law enforcement agencies were seeing an increase in the number of alcohol violations involving teens.

The breakout sessions provided a forum for parents and community members to discuss the issues in small groups and offer solutions. The sessions were broken down into four categories:

**Norms:** What is considered normal and acceptable in our community when it comes to youth and alcohol? Who is promoting those messages? What role does the media and advertising play in promoting those messages?

**Availability:** How easy is it for teens to get alcohol? Where do they get it?

**Policy:** What are the laws, rules, and policies in the community that might encourage or discourage underage drinking?

**Public Safety:** Are the laws, rules and policies being enforced?

After the breakout sessions, parents and

community members prioritized strategies and formulated an action plan. Some examples of high priority strategies were: Educating parents about the liabilities associated with teen drinking, focusing more alcohol education in grades 6-8, empowering parents to communicate with other parents and utilizing contracts with student athletes as well as participants in co-curricular activities.

At the next meeting (yet to be announced), the 2008 MYDAUS information will be provided along with more discussion and the development of an action plan.

You may contact Cpl. Chris Bailey of the Hampden Police Department at 862-4000 with any questions. ■



# MEET THE NEW KID IN THE HALL

By: Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

With the start of school, come a lot of new faces roaming the hallways, and at Hampden Academy one of those will be John Peterson, the new school resource officer. "It's great to see what Cpl. Chris Bailey has done with this job for the past eight years, and I look forward to the challenge to add to that." Peterson has been a member of the Hampden Police Department for the past year and a half bringing with him a great deal of experience working with kids.

"When I was employed with the Pleasant Point Tribal Police for four and half years, I worked with boys and girls' clubs and taught bike safety courses while working with many ages," says Peterson. Bailey knows Peterson will enjoy all that the job has to offer as it was rewarding for him. "I found it professionally a fantastic experience because you really get an insight as to what goes on in schools and you work closely with some families."

While Bailey admits he will miss the kids, faculty and staff, he will continue his work on the SAD 22's drug and alcohol task force and work with the department's grant for underage drinking initiatives. Academy Principal, Ruey Yhele says, "Chris Bailey created a culture that the teachers now expect and want of ongoing safety and resources." As for the new face in the hallways, Yehle says, "We are very excited to have a young, energetic person looking at us with a fresh set of eyes." ■



John Peterson chatting with students while on his new beat at Hampden Academy Photo by Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly



Madyson Gray  
Photo by Tracy Gray

## CORRECTION

In the last issue of *Hampden Highlights*, about the therapeutic uses of our pool, we were mistaken about a few facts regarding Madyson Gray (not Graves) who is seven years old (not five). We were incorrect in stating that Madyson is unable to speak. Madyson speaks slowly and deliberately, and it's not always clear to people she does not know, but she is understood by everyone who knows her. She is cognitively perfect and understands everything she hears. She is just unable to get her speech out the way other seven year olds do. We think Madyson is a bright and shining star with strength and spirit beyond her years, and we are deeply sorry if we implied anything less. ■

# 4-H CLUB IS A WINNER

By: Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

Congratulations to Hampden's 4-H Club, The Cyberhounds, for receiving two first place ribbons and a second place ribbon at the Bangor, Blue Hill and Skowhegan State Fairs for its exhibit "4-H is a Sweet Part of Life."



Photo by Dianna Porter

The club was scored on the following:

**Club name must not be part of the title.**

Exhibit theme (Does exhibit express ONE idea and carry it out?) .....	20
Exhibit title (A good catchy title helps. It should be prominently placed with the largest lettering of the entire exhibit. ....)	10
Lettering (Quality and size of all lettering).....	10
Color, motion or lights appropriately used .....	10
Arrangement (Are objects well displayed or crowded?) .....	10
Originality (Was imagination used?) .....	25
Size of articles on display (Are they too small to be recognizable at a distance of 10 feet?) .....	10
Does it explain 4-H philosophy to the public? (May use single or multiple projects to accomplish this.) .....	15
Use of exhibit space—does it utilize all the available space .....	10
Does it include information on the following areas:	
Community Service .....	10
Field Trips the Club has taken .....	10
Health & Safety issues .....	10
Demonstrations .....	10
Environmental Awareness .....	10
Media Coverage by Club .....	10

**Total Points** .....180

*Each club must supply a neatly printed 8 1/2 x 11 inch card with the club name, town and county on it. This card will be placed on the exhibit after judging*

The exhibit has also been on display at Macy's in the Bangor Mall.

The purpose of the 4-H Club Exhibit is to educate the public about the work and goals of 4-H Clubs. The club created a "bakery" that showcased individual projects such as, woodworking, tractor safety, cooking, photography, and canine care. Field trips and community service projects were also included.

Cyberhounds members are:

John Rocker  
Ben Nelson  
Colin Reeve  
Tyler Field  
Michael Allison  
Jake Maltz  
Michelle Rocker  
Leah Steltzer  
Courtney Smith  
Katelyn Porter

For more information on 4-H, contact the University of Maine Penobscot County Extension Office at 942-7396. ■



Matt Thomas joins the ranks of rescue and fire.

Photo by Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly

## *He's a Paramedic... Plus More*

*By: Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly*

When Matt Thomas moved to Hampden in April, he never expected he'd be recruited to host one of Hampden's cable channel 7 TV programs, nor did he expect to be hired as a paramedic with the town's public safety department. That's not all though, "I've been a paramedic and now I'm acquiring firefighter skills, and that's a real draw," says Thomas with much enthusiasm about working with a team of "dedicated people, with skills that are top notch."

Even though Thomas has only been on the job for a couple of months, he knows his co-workers from being on the Capital ambulance crew. "I was always impressed with the knowledge and capability of these people." Now he gets to work with them everyday.

But Thomas' passion for helping people in need began when he was 15. "I started volunteering in Orono, and soon after I knew it's what I wanted for a career. Ten years later things changed for Thomas because his hobby of creating web sites actually blossomed into a web-based self-employment allowing him a chance to stay home with his young family.

"My wife Heidi and I wanted to live in Hampden because it's a great place to raise our kids who are two and six years old. Then one day, I saw the job posting on the town's web site and applied." The job has been more than Thomas could have ever expected especially now that his kids are getting closer to school age. This fall has Thomas taking on an additional assignment teaching fire prevention and safety in the elementary schools. "This complements all the work Sgt. Stewart has already done in the schools and it's exciting." ■

## *Historical Society Bazaar Offers Plenty for Christmas Shopping*

*By: Chip Mattson*



The Hampden Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 15, 2008, at the Kinsley House, 83 Main Road South from 8AM to 2PM. There will be plenty to shop from including a variety of home made crafts such as fancy work, mittens, scarves, hats, Christmas decorations, and other handmade items. Cakes, cookies, pies, and other seasonal goods may be purchased. A white elephant sale will be stocked with Christmas specials.

A raffle drawing for several prizes will be featured. Prizes include a silver tea set, a blue antique Wedgewood Willow platter and gift cards from local businesses. Raffle tickets may be purchased now through the event from Hampden Historical Society members.

For further information contact Jerry Stanhope @ 862-3463 or Paula Newcomb @ 862-3118. ■

# Cemetery Expansion Project Nearing Completion

By: Matt Arnett



There are five cemeteries in Hampden: Locust Grove (across from Reeds Brook School), Riverview (East Hampden), Neally's Corner (Kennebec Road), the Civil War cemetery behind the Masonic Hall, and Lakeview (Western Avenue across from Canaan Road). There are no available burial lots in the first four cemeteries and less than 50 remained available in Lakeview Cemetery before an expansion to Lakeview was authorized by the Hampden Town Council. The expansion, which will accommodate 2,000 additional burial lots, is nearing completion.

I asked Public Works Director Chip Swan about the project. Chip said, "Locust Grove was the primary burial location in Hampden for many years. But as expansions moved closer to the river, the land became unsuitable because of ledge-rock. Lakeview had additional suitable space for expansion." Chip indicated that the current expansion should serve the town well for many years. I asked Chip, how one goes about securing a burial lot. "Devon Patterson is the town Cemetery Sexton; he handles sales of lots and is responsible for the care and maintenance of all town cemeteries. Both residents and non-residents can purchase burial lots; the purchase price includes perpetual care. The cost for lots and the fees for burial interment can be found on the town website, [www.hampdenmaine.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com) as listed in the town ordinances, in the Fees Ordinance, section 2.3."



If you would like more information, call Devon Patterson at 862-3337. ■

# A New Academy on the Horizon

By: Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly and Deke Rhinehart



Hampden Academy Concept, Architectural Rendering, WBRC Architects

It's a go...voters in Newburgh, Winterport and Hampden decided that SAD 22 should accept \$45.4 million in state funds and raise \$6.2 million in local money for a new Hampden Academy. Annette Brickley strongly voiced her opinion, "I am all for it, I have young children and I think investing in education is always a wise move."

The breakdown according to School Superintendent, Rick Lyons is, "The 6.2 million local funding will be raised through local taxes, and the 45.4 million is all state funding. Other means of raising funds will be to seek benefactors, or contributors to the 501-c-3 foundation that will be formed."

The next phase of this ongoing process is to begin to secure the local share of the money and that will be done through the Maine Bond Bank. Local taxes apportioned among the three SAD #22 communities will be responsible for repayment of the \$6.2 million in local money over a 20 year repayment period.

Town Manager Susan Lessard says that the \$3.8 million that will be Hampden's share, at the present community valuation, could require a .57 increase in the mil rate to retire both principal and interest. That translates to a \$57 increase in taxes on a house valued at \$100,000.

After logging his vote, Steve Rock said, "My wife and I are for it, our son is 3, and we think it would be great to have a new high school for him to go to. We have no problem paying a little more in taxes for something like that; I think it's very important to have."

Lyons says the \$6.2 million needs to be raised in local funds to cover four portions of the construction that are not covered by state funds. Plans have been discussed to have a 900-seat performing arts center where state guidelines only allow funds to cover a 267-seat center. State guidelines call for less lab space than what currently exists, so more funds will be raised to allow for more and larger labs. The funds raised will also cover a heating system that will reduce the use of fossil fuels, and lastly plans for the gymnasium with a community wellness center will require more funds than what the state makes available. The 23-acre site west of Weatherbee and McGraw Schools is SAD 22 owned land. Numerous vision-planning meetings have been held to discuss how this new construction will look and what it will house and now it looks like ground can be broken in the Spring.

Not all were in favor though. As one gentleman (who chose not to share his name) put it, "We don't need a Mansion of a school."

During the September 23rd voting, Marion Hopkins remarked, "As an old man of 80, I think we've got to do something for our kids. The only way this country is going to get straightened out, is for someone to be educated enough to know what to do. It is important we have excellent school systems, especially in Hampden, Maine." ■

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# Children's Day

*from page 1*

in hand, I could see there was still a full day of fun activities to experience. I made my way over to the McGraw School grounds along with the crowd of people discussing the wonderful parade and children full of wonderment of what adventures lay ahead on a day made for them. Coming around the corner of the Weatherbee School, I first noticed a long line forming. Curious as to what the major attraction was, I stopped a gentleman to get the scoop. Did I ever find the right guy to ask, John Alley, long time HCD Food Services Director Volunteer, informed me "We always have a large line," commenting on the famous doughboy booth, which was the source of this extremely long line. There isn't anything closer to being a kid than enjoying a sweet, tastebud pleasing doughboy for lunch, so of course I jumped right in line. John also filled me in on all the other great food and drink choices available, which included everything from nachos, hamburgers, lemonade, barbecue, baked goods, soda and the not to be missed out on, VFW Auxiliary strawberry shortcakes. After getting my powdered sugar energy boost, it was time to find the fun. Strolling around the school grounds,

I found laughing, happy children enjoying the bounce house, bean bag toss, instrument petting zoo, crafts, Anah Shrine Clowns, juggling performances, face painting by the Girl Scouts of Maine, and so much more. Plus great events for the whole family were scheduled throughout the day, sparking the imagination was the Mad Scientist, a bit of relaxation with a story from David Newfield, and even great country music with local talent Kayla Wass.

When the sun finally started to set to let us know the day was almost over, everyone knew the best was yet to come. The fun packed Children's Day was to end with a bang, and that it did with an absolutely spectacular fireworks display from Blue Hill Pyrotechnics. While taking in the beauty of the fireworks and holding my sweetheart close, I began to look around. I looked into her eyes and the eyes of our future (our children), and I could only hope that we continue to show our children at least one day a year, if not more, what community really means. To show them that the old saying "It takes a village to raise a child," rings so true in what it is, to be American. ■

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PERMIT NO. 201

POSTAL PATRON  
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