

Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 21, April 2011

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. The first email goes on 3/31/11 – don't miss it!

<http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>

Calling All Hands for Street and Stream Cleanup

By Robert C. Osborne, Town Planner

Now that it has finally stopped snowing, it's time to mark May 7, 2011 on your calendar to help with this year's annual Street and Stream Cleanup from 9:00 am to noon. This event is a coordinated regional effort by the Bangor Area Storm Water Group to involve area citizens in the protection of water quality and increase awareness about the impacts of storm water pollution in our regional waterways. Last year was our sixth annual cleanup, and it was a great success with over 75 volunteers participating in the collection of nearly 75 bags of trash near the Marina and in various parts of the Town. It would be great for even more folks join in this year.

We need volunteers and also encourage local businesses, churches and civic organizations to consider volunteering some time and effort to the event. In order to make this year's program possible, we are also asking local businesses to partner with the Town to support the purchase of necessary supplies such as trash bags, gloves and bottled water for all participants. Financial support is also welcome. Checks should be made out to the Town of Hampden-Stream Cleanup Fund and mailed to my attention in the Town Planner Office, and you can



call the office at 862-6527 to register to volunteer.

We always celebrate our hard work with a barbecue at noon at the Municipal Building the day of the event to recognize volunteers and sponsors.

This year the cleanup group will meet at the Municipal Building, 106 Western Avenue in the Community Room at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work, and all volunteers are welcome but for their safety, younger children should be accompanied by guardians. ■



T O W N O F H A M P D E N



2011-2012 Budget

On March 12, 2011 the Town Council held a budget workshop for the purpose of identifying goals and objectives for the Council's upcoming work plan and the budget that will support it. There were several themes that were evidenced by the majority of the council

- Fiscal restraint – the majority of the Council is committed to providing a budget that does not raise the mil rate. Since SAD#22 and County Tax consume more than 60% of each tax dollar raised, in order to keep the mil rate the same, increases from those two entities not absorbed by taxes from new valuation due to construction must be accommodated by reductions in the municipal budget.
- Evaluate Service Delivery – The Council is interested in examining how the Town provides its services to make sure that we are doing them in a cost-effective and efficient manner.
- Continued examination of the Hampden Academy Re-use Project
- Economic Development opportunities including implementation of the Business Evaluation and Retention program and discussion of how best to market the remainder of the Business Park on Route 202

A schedule of the Council's Budget Workshops is contained in this newsletter. Proposed budgets for all departments will be posted on the Town Website along with the agenda information for each meeting. All budget meetings will be televised on local Cable Channel 7. ■

2011/2012 Budget Meeting Schedule

(Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and are held in the Council Chambers on non-council meeting dates. Budget discussions on Council meeting nights follow the regular agenda.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| May 10, Tuesday | Public Safety
Police
Fire
Administration
Town Council
Municipal Building
Tax Collector
Elections |
| May 16, Monday: | (Council Meeting)
Library
Recreation
Lura Hoit Pool
Debt Service |
| May 17, Tuesday | Reserves
General Assistance
Education
County Tax
Revenues
Social Service Agency Requests
Assessor/Planning
Economic Development
GIS/IT
Communications |
| May 23, Monday: | Public Works
Municipal Garage
Solid Waste
Buildings & Grounds
Marina
Non-Departmental Utilities
The Bus |
| June 1, Wednesday: | Budget Review – (if necessary) |
| June 6, Monday: | Budget Review – Post for Public Hearing |
| June 20, Monday: | (Council Meeting)
Budget Adoption |

FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGER



Susan Lessard, Town Manager



Tax Due Date -

Second half of 2010-2011 property taxes were due by April 6th to avoid interest.

Pink Garden Thank You –

Please note when you come to the Town Office – the first signs of life in the Pink Garden in front of the Municipal Building are starting to show. Thank you to all who have donated to this project.



Government on the GO and the Communications

Committee – If you are interested in receiving a biweekly email from the Town listing meetings and events and reminders – PLEASE complete the email sign up on the front page of the Town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>

This new communications effort on the part of the Town is the result of a suggestion made by a resident at a recent Council Communications Committee meeting. It is featured on the front page of this edition of the newsletter to encourage as much participation as possible!

The Town currently publishes four newsletters a year, airs its Town Council and Planning Board meetings on local Cable Channel 7, runs announcements for School and Town events on local Cable Channel 7, and posts its meeting agendas at the Post Office and the Bulletin Board at Hannaford's as well as distributing Council meeting agendas to local news outlets and some area businesses.

The Communications Committee wants to hear from YOU about what forms of communication from the Town work best and are most helpful. Please take a minute and drop an email to me at manager@hampdenmaine.gov, or to Committee members Kristen Hornbrook at hornbrooktowncouncil@gmail.com, Andre Cushing III at andrec@roadrunner.com or Jean Lawlis at lawlistowncouncil@gmail.com with ideas and suggestions for improving our communications efforts. If email is not your preference – please call me at 862-3034, Councilor Hornbrook at 862-2889, Councilor Cushing at 449-1358, or Councilor Lawlis at 862-4080.

The Communications Committee is also looking for help! We are seeking to continue our Hampden Happenings and Hampden Highlights News Magazine shows and could use persons interested in conducting interviews, developing ideas for shows, and working with our student interns from New England School of Communications on programming. The Communications Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Town Office. ■

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

— PUBLIC SAFETY CORNER —



Hampden Public Safety



By Sgt. Christian Bailey

Over the last several years, Hampden Public Safety personnel have been aggressive at pursuing state and federal grants for public safety equipment and to implement community initiatives. Grant seeking is more important than ever due to the budgetary difficulties municipalities across the state are facing. Alternative revenue sources are a must in order to maintain the level of public safety service citizens expect and deserve.

Since 2006, Hampden Public Safety has received approximately \$250,000 for purchasing equipment and to fund created public safety initiatives. The following is a list of some of the equipment and initiatives:

- \$9,000 for a thermal imaging camera. The camera is used mainly at fire scenes to locate heat sources. The camera can also be used in missing person cases.
- \$60,000 for self-contained breathing apparatus equipment. These items provide breathable air to public safety personnel in toxic environments such as entering a burning building.
- \$2,500 for portable radios and to enhance the current communication system.
- \$600 to be used to maintain the public safety training facility on Western Ave.
- \$7,000 for protective equipment, i.e. tactical and traffic vests.
- \$2,000 for the Rapid Intervention Pack. This item is used in firefighter rescue situations.
- \$15,000 for teenage drinking initiatives. The money was used for extra patrols and community education.
- \$20,000 to fund extra patrols for speed, seat belt and OUI enforcement.
- \$3,500 for traffic radar units.

Hampden Public Safety recently received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for \$118,750 to fund a brush truck. The truck is designed for wild land fire suppression and has the capability of pumping water while in motion. This piece of equipment will allow public safety personnel access to areas within the community that were prohibited in the past with normal fire apparatus.

Hampden Public Safety personnel will continue to pursue funding opportunities in an effort to provide the citizenry a high quality public safety service.



POLICE - FIRE - EMS

106 Western Avenue

Hampden, Maine 04444

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



Healthy Hampden Partnership: Recreational Trail Development Underway

INFORMATIONAL MEETING SET FOR
7:00 PM. MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011

The Town of Hampden in partnership with MSAD#22 is developing a recreational trail system within the town center. The trails will provide a great link for our community for a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The creation of the trail system includes enthusiastic support from the Town Services Committee, MSAD#22, the Hampden Academy Athletics Boosters, The Penobscot Valley Ski Club and the Goodwill Riders Snowmobile Club.

The proposed four-season trail system is a 1.8-mile interwoven loop. Access will be from an existing trailhead with designated parking at Reeds Brook Middle school as well as connections to the pipeline, new school campus and local neighborhoods. The trails will be available for hiking, biking, skiing and will be a regional host site for Cross Country running and skiing events for all levels.

If you are interested in helping build a healthier Hampden and giving us your ideas how to make this a vibrant recreational area and in learning how you too can reap the benefits of this opportunity, please come to the Town Services Committee meeting on Monday May 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

FMI Contact: David Shapiro @ Hampden Academy:
dshapiro@sad22.us or 862-3895. ■



Matthew Arnett

Thank You

Mayor Matthew Arnett, a Town Councilor since 2007, recently resigned from the Town Council to pursue a move to South Carolina to be near his son's family. According to Mayor Arnett, he and his wife Sandy had planned to spend ten years near their daughter and her family – and then ten years near their son and his family. They have accomplished the first part of the goal by living in Hampden for the past ten years near their daughter Sara Henry and her husband Jon and their children. The next opportunity happened more quickly than anticipated when Matt and Sandy found a great housing opportunity in South Carolina on a recent visit there. The process of selling one home and buying another and relocating has forced the decision to resign from the Town Council. Mayor Arnett served the Town with a passion for good government and worked tirelessly to advance efforts in communications, planning, and fiscal responsibility. His energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to work will be greatly missed by the Town. ■



Photo caption here?



V.F.W. Post 4633 Members an Integral Part of the Hampden Community

By Allison Muth Berube

The V.F. W. Post located at the end of Canoe Club Road was founded in 1945 at the conclusion of World War II. Burpee Calkins, who is the patriarch of Calkins Farm Stand on Main Road South, was a founding member. Today, at 95 years of age, he is the oldest current member of the Post. Although Burpee no longer attends meetings, he and his family continue to support the veterans and the Hampden Community by placing flowers along the wall at Dorothy Dix Park as well as supplying the flowers to decorate the Veterans Honor Roll on Western Avenue.

According to Post Commander, Ray Lupo, members of the V.F. W. fill an active and important role in our

community. Post members sponsor the Boy Scout Troop 1776 as well as a little league team. On an annual basis they sponsor two essay contests, The Voice of Democracy for high school students and The Patriotic 10 for elementary students. V.F.W. and auxiliary members visit residents at the Veterans home in Bangor every Tuesday and Thursday where they call BINGO games and assist in supporting the needs of the residents. The V.F.W. Post also holds BINGO games every Friday night beginning at 6 P.M. for both members and the public to attend.

V.F.W. members meet monthly on the 1st Wednesday for a dinner meeting beginning at 6 P.M. and the

Auxiliary meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 6 P.M. The Veterans participate in the Memorial Day and Children's Day parades in Hampden as well as the Veterans' Day parade in Bangor. Somber ceremonies of remembrance occur on Veterans' Day and Memorial Day at the Veterans' Monument located directly behind the post building. Members also maintain and update the Hampden Veteran's Honor Roll monument which lists the name of any person who entered the military while living in Hampden.

According to William Sinclair, Quarter Master and Adjutant of the post, there is also a group of guys who "get together for coffee nearly every morning between 7 and 8 A.M." This is an informal time to chat about a variety of topics over coffee and donuts.

A new project for the VFW was the development and continued management of the Hampden Flag Project. This project was initiated by Frank Jewell, Richard Newcomb, and Bud Tribou. They proposed the flag project four years ago. Unfortunately, Frank passed away before the flags first flew in 2008. Each year when the flags are prepared in the Spring the work is done in honor of Frank Jewell and all of the veterans who have served.

This year a new member of the Hampden community, Katahdin Trust Company, has come forward to serve as sponsor of the Hampden Flag Project. "The Bank's support has come in the nick of time, the flags and

hardware need replacement after years of exposure." said Craig Snow, V.F.W. member.

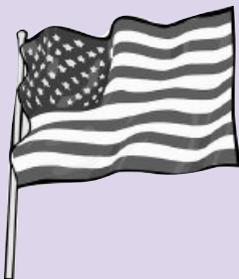
"In our role as an independent community bank, we believe in the spirit of community and the quality of life we share," said Danelle Weston, Katahdin Trust Company Regional Vice President in the greater Bangor area. "And, there is no better way of celebrating that quality of life than by recognizing the veterans whose bravery and character provided it to us. We are not only pleased, but privileged, to invest in the Hampden Flag Project."

This Spring marks the 4th year that the flags will be installed by the public works department, along the Main Road and down Western Avenue in Hampden, beautifying the town with Patriotism from mid-May until after Veterans' Day.

In mid May the V.F.W. members place flags on the graves of all veterans in three local cemeteries. This is a project that the VFW would greatly appreciate some assistance from community volunteers who could better navigate the hilly terrain of the cemeteries with ease.

The majority of the active members of the V.F.W. post are Korean War veterans that are now in their 70's and 80'. It would be wonderful to see younger veterans step up and join the VFW to carry on the good works that have been started in Hampden. Any veteran, family member or community member that would like more information about the V.F.W. can call the post at 862-2553 or Ray Lupo at 942-8486. ■

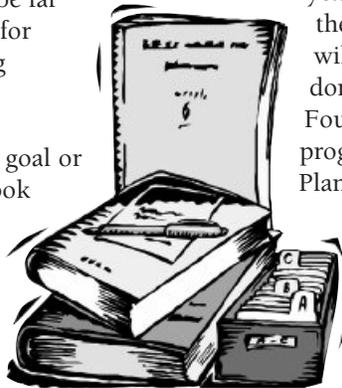
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The Edythe Dyer Library Getting Ready for Summer Reading

Spring is in the air and summer can't be far behind. Preparations are under way for the Library's annual Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Take out a good book@your Library".

Children from ages 3 to 13 can choose to set a goal or take the challenge. Either way, they will earn 'Book Bucks' each week for reporting their progress. The 'Book Bucks' are then redeemed for books when we have our end of the summer celebration. Our Summer Program also features special children's programming involving entertainment and education. This



year we were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Rose and Samuel Rudman Library Trust which will be used to pay for three of our programs and a donation from the Sara Stern and George Stern Foundation for another program! This year's programs will include the Northern Stars Planetarium, The Frogtown Puppeteers, Storyteller

Jennifer Armstrong and Author/illustrator Chris Van Dusen. Sign-up for the program begins after school lets out for the summer. Look for details on the actual dates in a flier that will be sent home through the schools as well as the Library's monthly newsletter. ■

Changes at the Library

Every first grade student who tours the library with their class knows that the library has a swimming pool. This is a photograph taken of it before it was filled in order to support the weight of all our children's books. Early in March, Hughes Brothers, a Hampden contracting company filled the pool. Next new carpeting will be installed over the smooth surface and it will be ready for bookshelves. This is exciting for Children's Librarian, Mrs. Beck, whose office door can be seen at the left of the picture. She will be nearby whenever children or caregivers need her assistance. Believe it or not, Mrs. Beck has read nearly all the children's books in the library and she can usually find the book you are looking for if you can tell her a little something about it. And once she knows what you like to read she can recommend new books you may like. The work is being done with funds from a competitive grant awarded to the library from a donor who prefers no publicity. ■



KID'S KORNER REGISTRATION

By Jill McLaughlin, Director

As we see Spring arrive, we also see the line start for the 2011-2012 Kid's Korner registration for Hampden residents. On Thursday, April 28th, parents will get in line in hopes of acquiring a slot in the Hampden Recreation Kid's Korner Before and After School Programs. The Kid's Korner program has been running since the early 1990's and has expanded in recent years to accommodate more children. Children from kindergarten to Grade 5 have the chance to get involved in a variety of activities that include: field trips to local attractions like Fort Knox and Treworgy Orchards along with homework help, crafts, games, outdoor play, community service and much more. We are conveniently located in the Weatherbee and McGraw schools for easy access. Enrollment is limited to 35 children per morning session and 25 per school for the afternoon sessions. Hampden resident registrations will be taken starting at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 28th, on a first come first served basis. For further information, feel free to contact the Hampden Recreation Department at 862-6451. ■

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 send an email to 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 April 2011 is...

What form of communication (newsletter, cable television program, newspaper article, email, etc.) is the most effective way for the Town to get information to you?

Thank you, in advance, for your response! ■

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE TOWN OF HAMPDEN

The following is the meeting schedule for regular Council Committees. All meetings are open to the public and held at the Hampden Town Office. Agendas for these meetings are posted several days before each meeting and can also be accessed online at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov> by clicking on the appropriate date on the Community Calendar.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:

- **Finance**
Before every Regular Council Meeting at 5:45 pm
- **Planning & Development**
1st Wednesday at 6:00 pm
3rd Wednesday at 6:00 pm
- **Services**
2nd Monday at 6:00 pm
- **Infrastructure**
4th Monday at 6:00 pm
- **Communications**
3rd Thursday at 6:00 pm

Susan G. Abraham Memorial Endowed Scholarship

The Susan G. Abraham Memorial Endowed Scholarship was established in 2007 in memory of Susan Abraham. Susan was a student at Hampden Academy and a lifeguard and swim instructor at the Lura

Hoit Pool when she died in 2007. She had a dream and vision for all people to love and care for each other. This 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 in her own life.

Interested persons should call the Lura Hoit Pool at 862-4305 for an application, or you can access the application online at the town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov> on the Lura Hoit Pool page under Town Departments. ■





Children's Day 2011

By Don Darling

The 32nd Hampden Children's Day is a few months down the road from here. The 2011 Hampden Children's Day Committee members have, by this time, met to lay the

groundwork for this year's event.

This small but determined group has some pretty good ideas about how our event should go, but could really use your help to make it all happen.

Children's Day is Saturday, August 20, 2011. The event takes place on the grounds of SAD #22. Our parade starts at 11 a.m. and events on the grounds start at noon.

Before you avert your eyes elsewhere on this newsletter, please give the following list a gander. We have a bunch of stuff that does not take much time or effort, but will go a long ways towards easing the burden on our small organizing committee.

By the way, the Children's Day Committee does have a pretty good time at our meetings. This event is a fun event, and our meetings are frequently lively and always warm-hearted. So, you could also consider joining us.

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

- Chair our Parade Committee! This is an important part of the day, and we do not have anyone to take the lead in putting it together.
- Help us find judges for the parade. Do you know someone who would be willing to perform this function if asked?
- Help us find local organizations to participate in the parade. We are always looking for folks to be part of our parade. Can you help us contact these folks to help them to participate?
- 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.

- Help with the parade line up. THIS IS a hectic, FUN time. We really need folks who can help getting the parade units in a reasonable order, hand out participant ribbons, and make sure everyone gets going in the right direction.
- Pick up our ribbons and trophies. Take custody of them and make sure that they arrive on time. This sounds pretty ominous, but all we are looking for is someone who can make sure these things are at the right place at the right time!
- Children's Day Information Booth an hour before the parade line-up starts.
- Can you help us set up on the morning of Children's Day? We always have tables, chairs, barricades and safety cones to put out. You could join us at the Kiwanis Breakfast and after, head out to do these things. It may only take an hour of your time in the morning.
- Can you help us the evening after the fireworks? We have to collect safety cones and barricades and return them to their collection point.
- 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 and be available to help these folks?
- Cleanup!! I know this is seriously unpleasant, but very necessary. The tables and chairs we set up have to be taken down. Can we count on you to help?
- Most of all, it would be great if you would join the Hampden Children's Day Committee. This is OUR community's signature event. Thirty-two 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 would be delighted to have you join us!

Feel free to drop us a note if you can help. Our email address is hampdenchildrensday@yahoo.com or you can call me, Don Darling, at 944-5019. Thank you so much for considering our needs! ■



DAY TRIP

TO STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

JUNE 4, 2011

The Hampden Historical Society is sponsoring a Cyr Bus Trip to Strawberry Banke Museum In Portsmouth, New Hampshire on Saturday, June 4, 2011.

This museum offers an orientation to start and is about a two hour self-guided tour. There are 14 houses with docents in several of the houses.

The bus will board at 7:30 AM at Maine Savings Credit Union, 101 Western Ave. Hampden, ME

We have reserved a 54 passenger motor coach. The bus will stop for a short coffee break enroute. Each person is to bring a bag lunch; water and iced tea will be provided. We will stop at Cole Farm Restaurant in Gray for dinner.

The cost is \$70.00 per person which includes transportation, bus driver's tip, tour of the village, and drinks. The only added cost is dinner at Cole Farm.

All society members and friends are invited to join us for a day outing to learn a bit more history of our forefathers and their way of life. Please call Jerry Stanhope, 207-862-3463, for information or questions.

Send your reservations and payment to:
Hampden Historical Society
P.O. Box 456
Hampden ME 04444,

Reservations are due by May 14, 2011. ■

Hampden Family Applying for Extreme Makeover

The Twombly family from Hampden is applying for an extreme Makeover. The Twombly's have 2 young boys who are in Kindergarten and 2nd grade at McGraw School. They have a rare genetic condition called A.S.L.D. and are 2 of 62 cases known world wide with this condition. The boys have visual impairment, can not speak, and have severe physical disabilities. They also are wonderful boys whose smiles light up a room and who touch the hearts of all who come in contact with them.

The family is hard working and humble. The parents and two older sisters, Kassidy and Haley care for the boys around the clock. The mom, Lisa never asks for help and works from home while having to care for the boys, transport the boys to and from school and to numerous doctor's appointments. She uses her skills as a seamstress to help with school projects on top of all of her other responsibilities.

The dad Daniel works as an iron worker. He too attends numerous doctors' appointments. Both parents also work hard to support their older girls' activities at school. The older sisters are loving and supportive.

The boys and their family would benefit from a new house because of their need for a more handicap accessible home.

We need EVERYONE's help with contacting extreme makeover and asking them to choose the Twombly family. Please send this information to everyone you know and ask them to start writing and emailing to the information below. We want to continuously flood Extreme Makeover with letters and emails beginning April 1, 2011. Once you begin emailing and writing, please continue for at least one month.

Let's show Extreme Makeover how "it takes a village" and that Hampden supports the Twomblys.

Write to Extreme Makeover: Home Edition For the Twombly Family

Even though this show is a "reality" type show they still "cast" their families for it, so please send your letters to:

Lock & Key Productions
c/o Family Casting
P.O. Box 38670

Los Angeles, CA 90038

(Do not send Fedex! They will not ship to a PO Box!)

Email: abc.audience.relations@abc.com (in the subject line please put "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" (in case they sort their emails by show this will make the process easier for them. ■

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
106 WESTERN AVENUE
HAMPDEN, ME 04444

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
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HAMPDEN, ME
PERMIT NO. 201

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER
HAMPDEN, ME 04444

Spring Forward with the Hampden Garden Club

By Anne Bennett

Garden Club members are planning a lot of exciting events for the Spring season, beginning with the ever-popular Perennial Plant and Pie Sale on Saturday, May 21st from 8 a.m. – 12 noon at Harmony Hall, 24 Kennebec Road. Hundreds of perennials which members have grown and potted will be for sale at very reasonable prices and delicious homemade pies will tempt customers as well. On Saturday, June 4th from 9 a.m. – 12 noon the annual Daylily Sale will offer an exceptional selection of unusual daylilies for only \$5 each thanks to the generosity of the breeder, Bill Warman of Waldo, who will be on hand to give advice on growing these beauties.

All proceeds from these sales go to the Harmony Hall Restoration Fund. The first phase of much needed structural repair to the building is scheduled to begin this Spring.

Last Summer's first-ever farmer's market at Harmony Hall met with such an enthusiastic reception that a series of markets will be held on several Saturday mornings in July, August, and September, dates to be announced. Also in the planning stage is an Art Show in June, featuring the work of area artists.

In addition to these projects, members will enjoy day trips to gardens in nearby areas in the summer months. The Club welcomes new members at any time. Gardeners of all abilities and ages may join with the group to learn and share garden expertise while having lots of fun.

For more information, call Anne Bennett at 862-3467 or Pat Kerfoot at 862-3909. ■

Special Election for Town Councilor

The Town of Hampden will be holding a Special Election for the unexpired term of Councilor Matthew Arnett who resigned his Council seat on March 7, 2011. This is an at-large Council position and it expires on 12/31/2012.

Interested persons may pick up nomination papers to run for this office from the Town Clerk. Nomination papers must be returned by April 14, 2011. In order to be listed on the ballot, persons must have filed nomination papers prior to the filing deadline with signatures from not less than 25 nor more than 35 registered Hampden voters. ■