

Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 14, January 2009

Winter Resources In Tough Times...Where to Go for Help

The following is a list of programs in Maine and in the local area that may be able to help with food, utility fuel costs, and home repairs as we head into a particularly difficult winter due to wildly fluctuating fuel prices and an unstable economy.

Programs available through Penquis Community Action Program in Bangor, phone number 973-3630:

- **Fuel Assistance** helps both homeowners and renters with heating costs. Qualifying for this program also may help in raising your food stamp allowance and in qualifying for lower electric rates.
- **Weatherization assistance and Furnace Repair or Replacement.**
- **Emergency Crisis Intervention Program** – available only once per season to avoid electricity disconnection or to have an emergency fuel delivery.
- **Low-Income Assistance Plan** to get help with lower electric bills
- **Maine Home Repair Network** gives 1% mortgages or 0% deferred/forgivable mortgages to low-income homeowners for qualified home repairs. This application applies for both State and Federal programs that help with well and septic replacement, heating and electric, roof and chimney repairs, lead paint removal, door and window replacement, energy efficiency improvements, siding replacement, handicap accessibility, and other health and safety repairs.

Programs available through the Maine Department of Human Services, phone number 561-4100, include:

- **Alternative Aid** is available to eligible families for car repairs, housing costs, etc. This program is not offered to those getting TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) and there are strict guidelines for award.
- **Emergency Assistance** is available to families with children under the age of 21 who are at less than 100% of the Federal Poverty level.

The 2-1-1 Program is a dial-direct number that will connect you to a wide range of information on over 5,000 topics that can be accessed from any cell or regular phone in Maine. In addition, 2-1-1 information is available via the internet at www.211maine.org

Local Programs available include:

- **The Hampden Food Cupboard** is located at the Hampden Congregational Church at 101 Main Road North and is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. throughout the year as well as from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. For those who are fortunate enough not to need such assistance – the Food Cupboard is always looking for donations. Edward's Shop n Save accepts food donations for the Food Cupboard as does the Hampden Town Office, the Edythe Dyer Library, and TDS Telecom.



LESSARD NAMED CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Town Manager Susan Lessard was appointed to the State Board of Environmental Protection (BEP) by Governor John Baldacci in June of 2007. In November of 2008, Ms. Lessard was appointed as the Chairman of the BEP. Lessard stated at the recent Council meeting where her appointment was discussed, "I am thrilled at the opportunity to Chair this important State Board and look forward to the challenges it will afford." There are two regular BEP meetings per month that Lessard attends as part of her regular duties. Any additional time commitment necessary for Board work will be taken by Lessard as vacation time so as not to impact her workload for the Town of Hampden. ■

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Dorothea Dix Park's Future Reflective of the Times

By Kay Carter

This past fall the Town of Hampden, like the rest of the nation, was part of an election which has enormous historic significance. The campaign of President-elect Barack Obama was based on hope and change. These messages reflect the story of one of Hampden's native daughters, Dorothea Lynde Dix, who, through her life was able to bring about significant change in this country while bringing hope to vulnerable individuals of her time: people with mental illness, people who were incarcerated in jails, and soldiers who were wounded in battles of the Civil War.

As written in *Historical Sketches, Hampden, Maine 1767-1976*; compiled by the Hampden Historical Society and published by The Ellsworth American in 1976:

Dorothea Lynde Dix was born in Hampden, April 4, 1802 on the Isaac Hopkins farm. Although her early life was one of poverty and neglect, she became a social reformer and humanitarian whose devotion to the mentally ill led to widespread reforms in the United States and abroad. Her primary career opened in 1841 when she accepted an invitation to teach a Sunday school class in the East Cambridge, Mass. jail. She was appalled by the sight of insane persons thrown into jail with criminals of both sexes. She saw special hospitals for mentally ill patients built in more than 15 states and in Canada; and improved treatment throughout the nation. Her efforts to secure public lands for her cause failed, but she did raise interest in the problems of mental illness both in the United States and Europe.

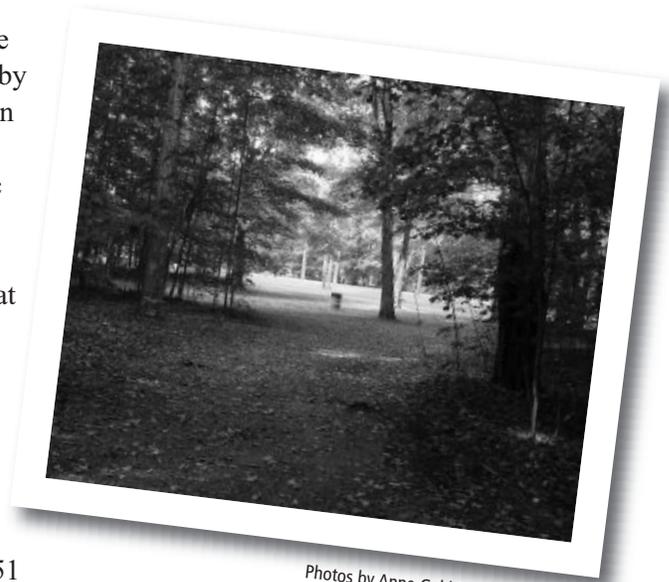
In 1899, the site of Dorothea Dix's birthplace on Rt. 1A-Main Road South was purchased by the Dorothea Dix Memorial Association and turned into a park. It was deeded to the State of Maine in 1953 to be used

as a picnic area. Interestingly, this park was the first State Park in Maine. Today the park is owned and maintained by the Town of Hampden, which acquired it from the state in 1980.

Recognizing the significance of the park as an historic place, a natural area, and an educational resource, the Town of Hampden is committed to working with the newly created Friends of Dorothea Dix Park to assure that the park is protected and offers opportunities to the people of the Town and the region to enjoy its benefits for years to come. Plans are under way at this time to enhance the park and highlight its significance to our community and our nation. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please contact:

Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director (207) 862-6451
hampdenrecreation@yahoo.com

Or Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist (207) 862-4500
hampdenmemaps@gmail.com



Photos by Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly

Winter Resources *continued from page 1*

- **Help For Hampden Fund.** This program is operated from the Hampden Congregational Church for the primary purpose of avoiding utility disconnection and emergency fuel assistance and is affiliated with the Hampden Food Cupboard. There is limited funding available in this program and donations are always welcome. Contact the church for both the Food Cupboard and Help for Hampden at 862-5248.
- **“Warm Spot Wednesdays”** is a new program available at the Hampden Congregational Church now through March providing a warm place on Wednesdays for those who are keeping the heat down at home. It is open from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Contact the church at 862-5248 for more information. This program also willingly accepts donations in order to buy pellets for the pellet stove that is heating the facility and to buy food for the lunches provided.
- **The Salvation Army Church** in Bangor can be reached at 941-2990. They have limited funds available for emergency needs.
- **General Assistance** is a program of last resort that is available through the Town Office. This program has strict income and reporting guidelines. Appointments can be made with the Town General Assistance Officer by calling 862-3034. ■

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. We welcome your feedback. Edited by: Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly, Susan Lessard, and Mark Pierce • Layout and design by Val Williams

Winter Trails: A Year Round Project

By: Susan Hall

The Goodwill Riders Snowmobile Club began in the winter of 1970-1971. The actual building on Western Avenue was built in 1973. With this comes 37 miles of trails maintained by volunteers, and this year these trails will be groomed with a new drag sled, a 2008 Skidoo. These snowmobile trails are used by many including snowmobiles, cross country skiers, and walkers. In fact, several of our members ski more than snowmobile.

The snowmobile club is part of the Maine Snowmobile Association. Anyone can join the club. \$20.00 covers either single or family membership. Each membership helps the club. It is costly to maintain the trails, which is a continuous process of clearing existing trails, making new ones when needed (sometimes because of new housing), building and repairing bridges, keeping equipment up-to-date and repaired, and, of course, grooming the trails in the winter.

We also have the building to maintain. Rentals are offered throughout the year. Public Bean Suppers are held the second Saturday of the month from October to May. This is a lot of fun for all. It has become a social event for many with a complete meal including dessert for a reasonable price. We invite all to join us.

Goodwill Riders has always given to the community. We provide a scholarship to a Hampden Academy graduate with first consideration going to a relative of a club member. The MSA also offers several scholarships to members. We also donate to the Pine Tree Camp for children and adults with disabilities.

Check our website for more information:
[Geocities.com /goodwillriders](http://Geocities.com/goodwillriders)

Or call:
Bill Hall (862-2062)
Steve Eyles(862-2884) or
Randy Macdonald (862-5556). ■



Photos by Julie Michaud

Diane's Garden

By: Lori Matthews

The staff at Reeds Brook Middle School collected and planted over 1,300 flowering bulbs in memory of Diane Briggs, a longtime M.S.A.D.#22 teacher who passed away this fall. The bulbs were donated by many of her friends and colleagues and are planted in a long bed going up the driveway at the school. Diane spent a lot of time over the years planting bulbs in the front of the school, so the staff felt that a garden in Diane's memory was a fitting way to remember her hard work, creativity, and dedication. ■



Photo by Jeff Rawcliffe

Ruff! Ruff! Ruff! It's That Time Again...

Dog licenses are now available at the Town Office. All dogs in the Town must be licensed by 1/31/09 in order to avoid a \$15 late fee. Licensing is required for all dogs over the age of six months. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination and the spaying/neutering certificate if applicable. ■



Meet Your Town Clerk

By *Melissa Antononi*

Denise Hodsdon

Photo by Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly

If there is a document in town, Denise Hodsdon is sure to know about it or know exactly where to find it. That's because Denise is Hampden's Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters. She has been working at the Hampden

Town Office since January of 2001. She's no stranger to Hampden being a 1979 grad of Hampden Academy and she said, "I love working in the community in which I grew up. I have the good fortune of seeing many long-time friends and have had the opportunity to meet many more as the Town continues to grow." Previous to her position with the town office, she had a 15-year career working as a real estate paralegal.

Denise is the official record keeper for the Town of Hampden. The Clerk's office maintains and ensures the safe-keeping and preservation of town records and other official town documents including: council agendas and minutes, the Town Charter and Ordinances, birth, marriage, and death records, election records, contracts and insurance policies. It is also Denise's responsibility to maintain a public information service, which she accomplishes by disseminating material through local media and bulletin boards, the town's website, and the Cable TV Government Access channel.

Denise works closely with several state agencies. She is the Town's agent for all state licensing programs including dog licenses, marriage licenses, hunting and fishing licenses and recreational vehicle registrations. As Town Clerk, she also administers all election activities, and she was appointed by the Town Council as Registrar of Voters after the retirement of long-time Registrar Vivian Gove. As Registrar, Denise maintains all voter records through the state's Central Voter Registration system.

When asked how she keeps track of all this, Denise stated, "As Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters, you need to be really organized and pay attention to detail and it is vitally important to keep abreast of the ever-changing laws."

She is currently serving on two Executive Boards for Clerks' Associations.

She is in her third and final year on the Executive Board of the Maine Town and City Clerks Association, and is currently the 4th Vice President of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks and will advance to the presidency in 2012.

When Denise is not in the office, she spends time with her husband Paul and her cat Gizmo at their home in Brewer. She also enjoys outdoor activities such as boating, gardening and landscaping, and volunteering with Komen Maine Race for the Cure. She has been involved with the organization for the past six years. She also enjoys attending hockey games at UMaine.

If you don't know Denise from doing business at the town

FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Sue Lessard, Town Manager

As we come to the end of 2008, there is much to be thankful for here in Hampden. Despite the downturn in the economy and all-over-the-map fuel prices, the Town is fiscally stable. No Town funds were placed in any vehicle that was at risk during the recent stock market/investment crisis. We are currently paying approximately half of the cost per gallon we budgeted for fuel oil and diesel, and the small number of storms we have had so far have kept snow-related expenditures to a minimum. For a snapshot view of 2008 – check out my Annual Report on the town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.com>

Work continues on the Town Comprehensive Plan. We hope to have a draft available for public review and comment within the next few months.

This quarter's edition features a where-to-go-for-help article. I would encourage anyone who is fortunate enough not to be in the position of needing help to consider an end-of-year donation to the local Hampden food cupboard, the Help For Hampden fund, the Warm Spot Wednesdays Program at the Congregational Church, or a program that you know of that operates out of your own civic or charitable organization.

Make sure and put the Hampden Highlights Day on your calendar for 2009. January 17th at the Community Room of the Town Office. This will be an opportunity for you to talk with representatives of local and regional civic organizations about volunteer and membership opportunities. Check out the Town website for more information on this event as it gets closer.

A reminder to anyone who needs to re-register their vehicles – the town participates in the state Rapid Renewal program. You can access that site from the front page of the town website. To do so, you must have your old registration, your current insurance card, and a checking account. The receipt you print from the transaction serves as proof of registration until you receive your registration and tags in the mail from the State. ■

office, you may know her because of her recent hardship when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has been able to fight it and would like to send a special thank you to all of those who have supported her. Denise stated, "I would really like to thank my family, co-workers, and the community for the tremendous support during my battle with breast cancer. It was all of their prayers, love, and support that helped me through that difficult time, and I am so blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful people every day!" ■

COUNTDOWN TOWARD CLOSURE

By: Susan Lessard



Photo by Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly

As many of you are already aware, the Pine Tree Landfill will stop accepting wastes no later than December 31, 2009. The closure process is being done in three phases over the course of three years, ending in the summer of 2010. The first phase of closure faces I-95 and the Emerson Mill Road and was completed early November. Grass is already growing on the side that faces the highway. The second phase of construction for final closure will begin in the spring of 2009, and the last phase of closure will be completed by the summer of 2010.

The final cap that is placed as part of the closure process is more than five feet in thickness and consists of placing alternating layers of sand, clay, plastic liner, more clay, more sand, soil, and then seeding with grass.

Although the Pine Tree Landfill no longer accepts odor causing wastes, the topsoil component of the 'cap' contains a mixture of till, compost, and short-paper fiber (a byproduct of creating paper) that has the potential to create some odor when it is mixed for placement. Each phase of closure will require placement of this material – depending on weather conditions at the time; it may be possible that periodic odor can be detected within the vicinity of the landfill. In addition, closure also requires the installation of gas lines to collect the methane generated by decomposing waste for use in the gas-to-energy facility now generating 'green' electricity at the site. The future excavation of the waste to place these lines can also cause odors when formerly-buried waste is exposed.

The landfill staff made every effort to prevent offsite odors from all parts of this past year's closure process and they appreciated your patience during the 2008 final closure phase at the site. As always, the landfill's 24-hour complaint line at 862-5427 will remain active. You are encouraged to call it to report any issues relating to the landfill.

GOING GREEN AT THE LANDFILL...

You may have read an article in the Bangor Daily News or seen local news reports about the landfill gas-to-energy project that is now operating at the Pine Tree Landfill. This is the first landfill gas-to-energy project in Maine. It has a production capacity of about 3 Megawatts of electricity. The project has generated about 12,000 Megawatt hours (12 million Kilowatt hours) of electricity since start-up back in January. At full operation, enough power to meet the electricity needs of about 3,000 homes. The Pine Tree Landfill gas-to-energy project has been designated by Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut as a renewable energy source. By generating electricity without the use of fossil fuels, this project is the equivalent to preventing the use of about 22,600 barrels of oil a year. The gas-to-energy project will continue to generate electricity long after the landfill is closed. ■



Photo by Andre Cushing

Reeds Brook Students Research Hampden's History

By Matt Arnett



Alice Hawes

Photos by Matt Arnett

Long time resident and local historian Alice Hawes is working with 7th and 8th grade students in Reeds Brook Middle School's Gifted and Talented Explorers program under the leadership of Sharyn Hastings and Karyn Field as part of Hampden's Community Heritage Program, which is a component of the Maine Community Heritage Project. As you may recall, Hampden was one of eight Maine communities out of 50 applicants awarded a \$10,000 grant to kick off this project of the Maine Historical Society.

Hampden's project is a collaboration of the Hampden Historical Society, the Edythe Dyer Library, Reeds Brook Middle School, and the Hampden Town Council's Communications Committee. One of the goals of the project is to produce a section of a new website of the Maine Historical Society featuring digital images created from Hampden Historical Society collections and other sources, which will tell part of the story of Hampden's development. Two historic houses, the home of John Crosby on Main Road North opposite the Congregational Church, and the Jacob Curtis house, just north of the Crosby House across West Elm Street, known and signed as the "Dam Site," will be featured in the project.

Alice says the students in Mrs. Hastings and Mrs. Field's Explorer class have an important job. "As a volunteer from the Hampden Historical Society for the Maine Community Heritage Project, I have tried to help the students work with historical objects. Their main activity has been transcribing primary documents by using photocopies of pages from the Society's "Jacob Curtis Journals." From Curtis's business accounts with settlers Simeon Gorton and John Crosby, students experienced reading 18th century script and archaic terminology, learned about the barter system of payment in goods and services, and deduced the occupations of these settlers. In addition, I set up two displays that included photocopies of two 1794 documents from the Massachusetts Archives, the first naming our town "Olive," and the second, changing the name to "Hampden," and a sketch of the town's first meeting house, Crosby's Gristmill Store and the Long Wharf." Among objects displayed was an 1848 book made of paper produced at the J & B Crosby Paper Mill.

She goes on, "From photocopies of an 1875 map, students related sites of the past to the present. Students followed the 1767 route that town founder Benjamin Wheeler likely took along the Penobscot to the Souadabscook Stream where he later built a cabin, sawmill and gristmill. The map showed that the number of wharves by 1875 demonstrated the shipbuilding and sea going activity of the town. Students noted that the paper mill at the end of Elm Street West and Crosby's warehouse store on the corner of the Main Road no longer exist, but the brick church next to Hampden Academy is there, modified into an apartment building. They also located the houses of Jacob Curtis and John Crosby, which are still standing, and will be the focus of further study by the students."

Student Clark Bjorn is enjoying this hands-on learning project. "It was interesting visiting the Hampden Historical Society, seeing the homes of John Crosby and Jacob Curtis, and learning that the early settlers often traded goods and services instead of paying money for the things they needed." It's clear this project is an exciting connection allowing the youth to appreciate their town's history. ■



Home of early settler Jacob Curtis



Alice Hawes with Mrs. Hastings' Class



Home of early settler John Crosby

Thanks to Councilors for Years of Service

By: Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly

It's hard to believe what ten years' worth of changes can mean to a person, but for Rick Briggs, it means a true sense of accomplishment. Briggs became a town councilor ten years ago, eight of which were served as the town's mayor ending in December. "When I came on board, landfill expansion hearings were splitting the community and now today we accomplished an agreement to close the facility." The list changes and growth for the town goes on. "The mill rate has consistently dropped each year and is now \$6.00 less than ten years ago. There was no Business and Commerce Park, and we were solely relying on residential taxes."

Briggs is proud of how the town has grown, not just by 2,000 more people and many miles of new roads, but he says, "Residents' opinions are more appreciated and welcome and many residents are involved in the community and on town boards. I was so embarrassed as a councilor before I became Mayor because of residents being shut out."

Briggs reminds us, "Hampden is consistently ranked in the top ten in quality of life in central and northern Maine; we have a healthy school district; we have many services such as public safety, the library, the pool, public works department, and we have managed to continue to do this and lower the mil rate at the same time."

Despite all this success, Briggs knew it was time to step aside and offer others the opportunity to serve on the Council. "It is extremely time consuming, which can easily be 30 plus hours a week volunteering, but now I need to spend more time with my family and business. Briggs won't be lost as to how to fill all the hours as he owns and operates a couple of businesses and will be visiting colleges with his soon-to-be graduating daughter."

Briggs doesn't leave the council without leaving behind a wish list. "It's my hope Mayo Road is studied for improved safety and, "Tax relief is tied to long time residents; these people need some relief by either rebates or a locked in valuation as a thank you for giving to the community for more than 20 years." Briggs does admit he will miss his co-councilors because, "it was a team and very non partisan, which is why so much got accomplished."



Councilors Colford and Briggs sharing a laugh



Gathering to say thanks to Councilors Murphy, Briggs and Colford

Photos by Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly

Even before joining the town council, Briggs was an integral part of the town beginning with his work on the town's ambulance back in 1978, and Ed Murphy was a long time town employee even before Briggs. Murphy is one of the five founding fathers of Children's Day, which is about to celebrate its 30th year. He retired after 26 years of service on the fire department. These years allowed him to work closely with contract negotiations. So when Murphy joined the town council seven years ago, he had an edge. "I've been on both sides of negotiations as an employee and head of union from the fire department and then on council side. This made me fully aware of the process and thinking. We used to have to hire big guns and handle the contract talks, and today it's handled in conversation with the town manager; it's so successful."

Other successes for Murphy have included being on committees and sub-committees, and one of the things that stands out is the rewriting of the town ordinances, "so the council could be more friendly with businesses. Also, working with Casella especially on the landfill closure discussions, allowed me to appreciate the town more for protecting itself with its relationship with Casella."

So, like Briggs, Murphy acknowledges the time commitment to town council business can be "never-ending." He goes on to say, "I thoroughly enjoyed working with the town, and I am going to miss the council meetings because of the camaraderie. The people who work for the town are very unique because they are so cohesive and fit together like a glove."

Where Briggs and Murphy did not seek reelection, Andrew Colford did not win his bid for reelection to district four, but that doesn't mean he's done working for the residents. "I'll be running for the council at large position in November's election because there is still so much more I'd like to accomplish on the council," says Colford. Certainly the landfill closure is on his list along with the purchase of a Pumper Tanker for the fire department.

Colford began his stint on the Town Council five years ago. During that time, he has served on the town's Public Safety Committee, Public Works Committee and assisted with making appointments to other boards. Colford's

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Hampden Kiwanis Celebrates 50 Years of Service

By: Joe Dowling

The Hampden Kiwanis Club celebrated 50 years of service to the community and children of Hampden in September. The club was chartered on September 18, 1958 with 25 members. One charter member, Frank Jewell, remained active until his death in December 2007. He held the position of President of the club in 1967 and Lt. Governor of then Division 25 in 1980. The club members chose to honor Jewell by dedicating the meeting room at the Hampden Kiwanis Civic center to him with a plaque and placing his "Red Jacket" and memorabilia in a shadow box on the wall of the meeting room. The Hampden Kiwanis Club previously donated \$1000.00 to the "Hap Gerrish Pediatric Trauma Registry" in Frank's name, and the "Red Jacket" was given to him at that time. His wife Barbara returned the jacket to the club, expecting that another deserving individual would receive it.

The New England District Governor, John Maihos, spoke to the audience on the history of Kiwanis



Barbara Jewell (Frank's Wife) and Family with Shadow Box and Frank's "Red Jacket." Photo by Joe Dowling

International, and incoming Lt. Governor Nikki Nixon, of the MDI Kiwanis Club installed new officers and directors. ■

Officers for 2008-2009 are:

James Allmon –	President
Gary Jordan –	President-Elect
John Torrance –	Secretary
Al Ritchie –	Treasurer
Joseph Dowling –	Immediate Past President

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



Left: Mayor Rick Briggs leads Christmas caroling at annual town tree lighting



Right: Ali Nason quite taken by sitting on Santa's lap



Left: Ayda Holyoke being shy with Santa



Waiting to see Santa

Photos by Mark Nason and Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly

A Haunting Time

By: Matt Thomas and Dan Stewart



It was a haunting night in the woods this past Halloween. A new venue for the evening saw the woods around the municipal building decorated and haunted by costumed volunteers. So while some were being spooked outside, others were inside enjoying activities and games including cookie decorating, martial arts demonstrations, and snacks. A fire engine, ambulance, and police car were set up for children to view.



Photo by Ed Gardilla

Hampden Police Sgt. Dan Stewart coordinated the haunted forest idea seeking something new and exciting. “We were able to adjust the size of the forest depending on how many people came out to help. Mike Underwood, the Manager at Edward’s, spearheaded the effort to find help for the event.” The response to his plea for volunteers was as successful as the night, which saw several groups and businesses join in.

Edward’s Shop & Save provided people and equipment. ATA martial arts, Rite Aid, Hampden Kiwanis, Hampden Food Cupboard, Hampden Academy Key Club, and Jenny Schnedler of Liberty Mutual all joined in along with Coldbrook Equestrian who provided pony rides and the Headless Horseman. “The pony rides were an especially popular attraction with younger children,” says Matt Thomas, public education officer for Hampden Fire.

He says there was a captive audience, “It was great to have so many kids come out to the event. By combining fun and games with safety tips, hopefully we were able to show kids that you can have fun on Halloween night while still staying safe.” Some safety tips included staying in familiar neighborhoods and wearing reflective clothing to help motorists see you. “We were lucky that there weren’t any Halloween incidents in town this year, but injuries to children are always something we worry about. Children are four times more likely to be killed by a motor vehicle on Halloween than on any other day of the year.”

Sgt Stewart is excited about building on the event for next year and already has ideas. “We would like to try and expand the forest to use the walking trail located behind the Municipal Building which runs to the fields behind the Lura Hoit Pool. We might even be able to add haunted hay rides using some ATVs and wagons.”

As expected, this would require a lot of support. If your business, club, group, and yes even families, would like to help, you can contact Hampden Public Safety, 106 Western Avenue, Hampden, Maine 04444 or e mail HampdenPolice@hotmail.com. ■



Photos by Anne Gabbianelli O’Reilly



Vocal Variety

By Heidi E. Corliss

Some voices from Hamdpen Academy teamed up with other talents, including internationally acclaimed folk singer and songwriter Gordon Bok, this past fall to expand their horizons on the musical front. The Academy's Voices Unlimited combined with the Quasimodal Chorus from Belfast and the Voices For Peace from Bangor and several area instrumentalists to perform for the 25th anniversary of WERU radio station. Gordon Bok is often singing songs about the sea and coastal life. *Another Land Made of Water* is one such piece including Bok telling the story and playing guitar, instrumental movements, and sung choruses.

Gordon Bok is a native of Camden and is no stranger to the coastal boatyards. After a young career of working on fishing boats, passenger schooners, and various yachts, he journeyed on to music while in Philadelphia. It was there that he found a thriving folk music scene and began performing. Paul Stookey of the folk trio Peter, Paul, and Mary produced Bok's first album.

Students today do not hear a lot of folk music, so being exposed to Bok's talent was quite an educational experience along with combining with older adults to experience this musical genre. The first half of the concert featured the choral groups performing songs of their choosing. Voices Unlimited, directed by Heidi E. Corliss, have performed *Corner of the Sky* from "Pippin," *Over the Rainbow* from "The Wizard of Oz," *Will It Go Round in Circles* by Billy Preston and, can now add folk to their repertoire. ■



Photos provided by Timberhead Music

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latest role was Deputy Mayor.

When asked to speak on the great accomplishment while on the council, Colford couldn't select just one. "Certainly getting the roads paved in my district was a great success.

Working towards the closure of Pine Tree Landfill was huge as well." Another item on Colford's list is the enhanced paramedic service in town. "When I began on the council, we didn't have any paramedic service. Now we have two paramedics per shift, 24/7."

All three men admit they will miss working with the town employees. As Colford says, "We have enjoyed

working with the councilors and will miss that, and the staff is so tremendous that you want to work with them."

Town Manager Susan Lessard speaks highly of the three exiting Councilors. "The Town has faced many challenges during the service of these Councilors. They have had many difficult — and sometimes unpopular — decisions to make, but they consistently put aside their own personal feelings to consider what was best for the community." She continues, "It is not just what gets done in any community that is a measure of its success — it is how it gets done as well. Thanks to the efforts of all three councilors — the Town Council of Hamdpen has conducted its deliberations in an open and inclusive manner." ■

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

District 1:	Janet M. Hughes	947-5273	hughestowncouncil@gmail.com
District 2:	Thomas B. Brann	862-4954	tombrann@tds.net
District 3:	Jean H. Lawlis	862-4080	lawlistowncouncil@gmail.com
District 4:	William W. Shakespeare	862-4375	wmshakespeare@hotmail.com
At Large:	Andre E. Cushing, III	449-1358	andrec@roadrunner.com
At Large:	Matthew D. Arnett	862-5382	m.arnett@tds.net
At Large:	Shannon F. Cox	862-3882	CoxTownCouncil@gmail.com

JANUARY 2009

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

HAMPDEN HIGHLIGHTS DAY 2009

On Saturday, January 17th from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. the Hampden Town Council Communications Committee is sponsoring its second Hampden Highlights Day. It will be held in the Community Room of the Town Municipal Building.

This event is an opportunity for residents to meet with representatives from all local civic and charitable organizations as well as staff members from various Town Departments. It is a great opportunity to get to know what there is available for membership and volunteer opportunities in your home town as well as your town services. It is also an opportunity to meet your neighbors!

Refreshments will be available and there will be door prizes as well. Stay tuned to Cable Channel 7 and the town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.com> for more information on this event, which is sure to be a fun break from the winter blahs! ■

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
106 WESTERN AVENUE
HAMPDEN, ME 04444

PERMIT NO. 201

POSTAL PATRON
HAMPDEN, ME 04444