

Hampden Highlights

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 22, July 2011

CALLING ALL CANDIDATES - NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE

AUGUST 10TH

Nomination papers will be available beginning on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 for Town Council Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4, 3 (three), 3-year SAD #22 Board of Directors terms, and 1 Hampden Water District Trustee position for 5 (five) years. Nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk by close of business on Thursday, September 8th.

Citizens Comprehensive Plan Committee Starts Work

In response to citizens concerns over elements of the recently drafted Comprehensive Plan, the Town Council initiated the formation of a Citizens Comprehensive Plan Committee. In order to extend all residents the opportunity to apply for committee membership, the Town Council mailed announcements and applications to all mailing addresses within the Town of Hampden. As a result, 20 applications were received and all were appointed as members to this newly formed committee.

Committee Members

Bernie Philbrick	Shelley Blosser
David Ryder	Kympton Lovely
Jeremy Williams	Robert Dunton
George Miller	Greg Miller
Josh Ewing	Gayle Zydlewski
Rich Armstrong	Matthew McLaughlin
Lisa Kelley	Mark Cormier
Delores Landry	John Chapman
Jim Kiser	Robert Lawlis
Spencer Meyer	Gregory Sirois
James Feverston	William Castrucci

Committee Charge

The Council charge to the Committee is to complete the following:

Review Book One of the 2010 Draft Comprehensive Plan and make recommendations for amendments to the Draft 2010 Comprehensive Plan. The summary of which will be submitted to the Town Council by September 9, 2011.

Committee Facilitation

Rothe Associates, of Hallowell, an experienced land use planning consulting firm, has been hired to provide organization, direction, guidance and assistance in completing their charge.

Public Meetings and Opportunity for Input

The meetings will be conducted every two weeks with the goal of discussing two sections per meeting. All meetings are announced and open to the public.

The public will be allowed to make comments in accordance with Committee established rules.

The Town Council, Planning Board and public are welcome to attend in a non-voting capacity.

Next Meeting

The next Citizens Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting date will be posted on the Calendar on the town website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>



COMING SOON TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU... VIDEO STREAMING!

The Hampden Town Council Communication Committee is working toward making all video currently aired over Time Warner Cable Channel 7 also available via the internet through video streaming. The upgraded broadcasting equipment purchased by the Town through a reimbursement from the regional Cable consortium has the capability to also do video streaming. It is our hope to have this ability up and running by September of 2011.

HAMPDEN PUBLIC SAFETY



Police - Fire - EMS

Phone 207-862-4000

Fax: 207-862-4588



Summer Safety Tips

Heat Stroke for Pets?

Pets can suffer from Hyperthermia. (heat stroke) This summer please be extra careful and provide plenty of water and shade for your pets. You may even want to consider a trip to the groomer for a "coat trim" which many dogs could benefit from in the summer months. Dogs cool themselves by panting and through the pads of their feet – they do not have sweat glands like we do. High humidity makes it even more difficult for dogs to cool themselves down.

Some of the signs of heat stroke include excessive panting, increased heart rate, drooling (more than normal), dizziness or weakness, seizures and collapse.

Some of the most common causes of heat stroke are the pet not yet being acclimated to the warmer weather, excessive exercise for the temperature and humidity, and being left in a parked car. Some breeds/types of dogs are more susceptible to heat stroke. Dogs with longer coats, dark colored coats and short snouts (i.e. bulldogs) are more at risk.

Leaving a dog in a parked car even with the windows cracked is a dangerous proposition. The temperature can quickly jump to 120 degrees F in a parked car. Conduct your own experiment (without your dog in the car) the next time you run

an errand. Crack the windows, shut off the car and return in 15 minutes. Hop in and take a seat without turning on the air conditioner and wait 5 minutes. You may decide to shorten those errands to 5 minutes or less!

When your pet stays home, whether it is indoors or out, be sure they have access to a cool, shady spot and plenty of cool water. You can freeze plastic water bottles and place them in a large outdoor water dish or water bucket to keep water cooler for a longer period of time.

This summer, when you travel with your pet, always bring plenty of cool water, a bowl, and hit the drive-thru.

*Heat Stroke information drawn from American Red Cross Dog First Aid Safety Series Vol. 2

Trisha Bruen, Animal Control Officer
animalcontrol@hampdenmaine.gov



SATURDAY BUS SERVICE ON THE HORIZON...

In response to citizen requests for increased service and in consideration of the impact of escalating fuel prices on local residents, the Town Council recently adopted a 2011/2012 budget that includes funding for the expansion of the BAT Bus Service in Hampden to include Saturday service. The Town will be working with the City of Bangor to implement this service. The goal is to have the service operational by September of 2011.



*Edythe Dyer Library
To Receive Three New
Laptops!*

The Maine State Library received a \$1.36 million BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) award (July, 2010) for the **Maine Public Library Information Commons Project** under the **Public Computer Centers** category administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act/ARRA), signed into law in February 2009. The Edythe Dyer Library is one of 107 Maine libraries to participate in the Maine Public Library Information Commons Project.

"Public Computer Centers:

Projects to establish new public computer facilities or upgrade existing ones that provide broadband access to the general public or to specific vulnerable populations, such as low-income individuals, the unemployed, seniors, children, minorities, and people with disabilities"

Bringing together access to technology and access to needed information makes sense. That is the aim of the Maine Public Library Information Commons Project.

The Maine Public Libraries Information Commons Project seeks to use these findings in public library settings. This project will provide library staff and volunteers with the tools to give assistance to the vulnerable populations in all areas our targeted groups may need: e.g. use of the technology and its latest applications such as social networking, photo editing, and SKYPE; and knowledge to find resources on employment issues, legal issues and other information needed in their daily lives.



*SUMMER READING AT THE
EDYTHE DYER LIBRARY*



Look for this logo on the Edythe Dyer Library website www.edl.lib.me.us to report your reading even while you're on vacation! When you are in town try to make it to our very special Summer Reading programs—here is a list of them with times and locations all programs are held on Thursdays.

July 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Public Safety Community Room 106 Western Ave. Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers will present "**Everyone Loves Pirates**" which is the story of eight-year-old Lucy and her goofy pal Little Chucky who are searching for buried treasure. A gang of bumbling pirates keeps getting in the way. The kids get some help from their ocean-dwelling friends including superhero Lobster Boy. This program is suitable for all ages and is brought to you with a grant from **The Rose and Samuel Rudman Library Trust.**

July 28th at 10:30 a.m. at the Reeds Brook cafeteria. Back by popular demand, magician **Norman Ng** will present a family magic show full of original magic effects, visual comedy and audience participation. You will laugh the entire time and you might take center stage during the show. This show is suitable for all ages and is brought to you with funds from the **George Stern and Sara Stern Foundation.**

August 4th 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Public Safety Community Room Everyone who participated in our Summer Reading Club is invited to our celebration. Those who reached their goal or completed their challenge will have an opportunity to pick out their book and the winner of the Book Store Gift Card will be announced. Use your Book Bucks to "buy" additional books!



HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE 2011-2012 BUDGET

The 2011-2012 Budget was adopted at the June 20, 2011 meeting of the Town Council. We were challenged this year in preparing this budget on a number of fronts, including dramatic fuel price increases, a water rate increase that takes full effect in this budget year, increases in the County Tax and increases in the School Budget.

As adopted, the gross budget has a 1.6% increase. Of that increase, \$38,782.12 is due to the SAD #22 increase, \$28,928 is the County Tax increase, and \$42,954 is due to the full impact of the Water Rate increase passed last year by the Hampden Water District

At the present time, it appears that the Town should have approximately \$9,200,000 in new valuation to act as an offset to the increases. At the present mil rate of \$15.90, \$9,200,000 of valuation will generate an additional \$146,280. in tax revenue. Increases in budgeted revenues offset the remainder of the increase and will allow the mil rate to remain at \$15.90 per thousand of valuation for the fourth year in a row. You can view the entire budget, as well as a PowerPoint presentation of the budget on the front page of the Town's website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.gov>

In an effort to minimize budget impacts, this budget does the following:

- Reduces Reserve amounts necessary by budgeting for 5 year lease purchases on Public Works vehicles.
- Reduced Public Safety reserve accounts for fire truck reserve and ambulance reserve by dedicating funds left at the end of this fiscal year to be transferred to the reserve account rather than budgeting and raising more funds for that purpose. This includes \$25,000 for the Fire Truck reserve and \$15,000 for Ambulance reserve.
- Caps the amount set aside for new voting machines at \$24,000 – which was raised over the past four years. The Election budget has been reduced by the \$6,000 per year that was funding that reserve.
- Debt service reduction due to payoff of a loan.

Increases in the budget are driven in some areas by the following:

- Workers' Compensation is up significantly and the Admin legal fee budget is up to accommodate the increased use of the Town Attorney to review documents for legal opinions.
- Communications includes the additional monthly cost of adding video streaming of meetings so that non-cable subscribers can view meetings from their computers.
- Employees in some departments have had life/family changes in the past year that have changed their health insurance plan from single to family. Although employees pay a portion of the cost of family health insurance, it results in an increase in the line items of several budgets including Public Works, Police, and the Fire Department.
- The final year of the contract with Police and Fire defines the raise to be given as 3%. That percentage has been applied across the board to all employees, with the exception of the Town Manager and the Public Safety Director (at their request).

Other positives for this budget include the following:

- Reduced Public Works Equipment Reserve budgets by utilizing 5 year lease purchases on the large plow truck and the loader instead of full payment in one year.
- The combination of the new boilers at the municipal building and the change in hours of operation have resulted in the savings of nearly 3000 gallons of fuel from 7/1/10 – 5/1/11 over the comparable prior period. At the budgeted cost of \$3.60 per gallon – that translates to a savings of \$10,800.
- The Transfer Station construction and demolition debris budget continues to come down based on actual usage of the station. The budget for 2012 for the Transfer Station is over \$100,000 less than the budget for 2008.
- The Building and Grounds budget is reduced by \$8,500 because no equipment is due for purchase this year
- Debt service is reduced by \$66,033 this year due to the payoff of the business park and the land which occurs in September of 2011. The Town picks up the Mayo Road bond but it was less of a payment than the business park so there is a net reduction.
- TIF reimbursements go down this year since the current year is the last year of the TIF for the grocery store.
- A portable sound system for the Community Room can be purchased from existing reserves set aside for the Municipal Building without adding it to the operating budget.

Other factors:

- The budget includes requests from Outside Agencies totaling \$21,193. There was a good deal of discussion about whether or not these requests should be funded by the Town. Over the course of the coming year the Council will further discuss this issue and determine if they wish to fund any in the future, and if so, what criteria should be established for agencies applying for funding.
- The Council budget is up to accommodate the number of meetings estimated to occur in the coming year.



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN.... CHILDREN'S DAY!!!!

Mark your calendars for the third Saturday in August – it's time for Children's day again! This year's theme is "Under the Sea" – and there is still time to enter a float in the parade or have a booth at the event. Call Kurt Mathies at Hampden Recreation for more information at 862-6451. The day starts with a breakfast at the Hampden Kiwanis Club and will offer a parade, booths, children's games, and more ...including FIREWORKS! It is a not-to-be-missed event! The Children's Day Committee is also still seeking helpers for the event. Be part of a long-standing Hampden tradition aimed at celebrating Children and Families!



FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGER...

- 30-Day Notices for Unpaid 2011 Property Taxes – 30 Day Notices for unpaid 2011 property taxes were mailed the week of 7/15.
- 2012 Tax Bills – 2012 Property tax bills will be mailed in August. The first half payment of them is due by the first Wednesday in October.
- Summer Meter Readings – A reminder to persons with summer water meters – make sure you call in your readings to Kathy at 862-3034 no later than July 22nd for this past quarter and October 21st for next quarter.
- Kid's Kamp Restaurant – Thanks to Jill McLaughlin and her staff for the great program put on by the Kid's Kamp participants in creating a restaurant and serving lunch that was held on July 14th. The children did a superb job!
- Tax & Rent Refund Applications – Maine State Tax and Rent Refund applications will be available after August 1st. Check the Maine State website for an application at <http://maine.gov>

STAFFING CHANGES.....

Fire Department

Congratulations to Firefighter/ Paramedic Matthew St. Pierre on his appointment as a Lieutenant with the Hampden Fire Department. Mr. St. Pierre has been a member of the department since 2005.

Administration

Current Finance Assistant Tammy Ewing has been selected to replace Finance & Human Resource Officer Janie Pitcher upon Janie's retirement from the Town in September of 2011. We will be advertising in August for a replacement for the position in the front office that Tammy currently handles.

FARMERS' MARKETS TO BE HELD AT HARMONY HALL

On four Saturday mornings this summer, the Hampden Garden Club will host farmers' markets in Harmony Hall at 24 Kennebec Road. The scheduled dates are July 23rd, August 13th, August 27th, and September 17th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This will give residents an opportunity to buy locally grown vegetables, herbs, and plants as well as homemade breads and pastries from several local vendors.

This project fits well with the Club's current Hall renovation campaign by opening Harmony Hall for public usage. Garden Club members hope to see you there! For more information, contact Anne at 862-3467 or Pat at 862-3909.

GOVERNMENT ON THE GO!

Government on the Go! – If you have not yet provided your email address to the Town – go to our website at <http://www.hampdenmaine.com> and add it under email sign-up. We will provide you with a bi-weekly copy of Government on the Go! that highlights when and where meetings are to be held as well as other important Town information.

Swimming Pool Safety

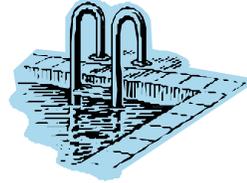
By Jared LeBarnes, Firefighter/Paramedic

With summer upon us, we would like to remind residents of the potential dangers of swimming pools. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 300 children under the age of 5 drown in pools and spas and thousands more are hospitalized annually in the United States. As of April of this year, 37 children had drowned and 38 more had nearly drowned in swimming pool and/or spa related incidents. They recommend that all pool and/or spa owners learn CPR, provide all children with swimming lessons, install safety drain covers, audible alarms and fencing and never leave children unattended. Other potential hazards are small, plastic or inflatable pools. These pools should always be drained when not in use and after any amount of rainfall.

The Town of Hampden has an ordinance regarding fencing around pools. Zoning Ordinance Section 4.15, Water Recreation and Sewage Lagoons states:

- Any swimming pool as defined and any sewage lagoon shall comply with the following requirements:
- 4.15.1 – The facility shall conform to setback requirements
 - 4.15.2 – The facility shall be enclosed by a fence no less than 4 feet high to prevent uncontrolled access.

More information may be obtained online at poolsafely.gov.



QUESTION OF THE QUARTER...

Do you think that the Town of Hampden should provide funding as part of its budget to agencies such as the Red Cross, Eastern Area Agency on Aging, PENQUIS CAP, etc.? Email your response to the Feedback section of the Town website at <http://www.hamdenmaine.com>

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW HAMPDEN....

- Did you know that Hampden was once part of the Sowadabscook Plantation?
- Did you know that Hampden was once named Wheelersborough after Benjamin Wheeler, the founder who settled here in 1767?
- Did you know that when the Town was incorporated in 1794, the townspeople had chosen to name the town 'Olive', but it was changed to Hampden before the incorporation took place in Boston. Can you imagine saying you were from Olive, Maine?
- Did you know that Terratine Indians once inhabited the shores of the Penobscot River and sold their baskets to local inhabitants? Ram Island (in the Penobscot River at the end of Summer Street) was the location where the Indians speared salmon from the Penobscot River.
- Did you know that in the 1920's, the first gas station in Hampden was located on Western Avenue by the railroad tracks. This gas station was owned by Percy Severance and was also a warehouse for farming supplies.

Our thanks to local historian Richard Newcomb for providing this information

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

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

ECRWSS

**POSTAL CUSTOMER
HAMPDEN, ME 04444**

WELCOME TO THE NEW TOWN COUNCILOR!

Shelby Wright of Kennebec Road was elected in the June 14, 2011 election to fill the Town Council Seat vacated by former Mayor Matthew Arnett. Shelby provided the following information to help the community get to know their newest Councilor a little better!

What are your priorities as a Town Councilor?

I am honored to have been entrusted this exceptional opportunity to serve the good people of Hampden. As a new Town Councilor, my first priority is to listen and learn. During the campaign, I promised to help create sound policy driven by common sense, fiscal responsibility and the shared values of our community but in order to do that I must first have a good working knowledge of the issues facing Hampden both past and present. To that end, I am drilling down on the facts and figures of town government, listening to community leaders and small business owners and paying close attention to the ideas and opinions of my fellow residents and councilors. I welcome and seek your input.

What strengths do you bring to the Town Council?

I take my responsibility as a citizen of Hampden seriously and I have made a personal commitment to give back to my community through public service. I will not shy away from the tough decisions and will tackle issues head on with a balanced and fact based approach. I will never admit to having all of the answers and will seek guidance and input from all sides before making a decision that affects my community. I am independent minded and will never let politics get in the way of the people who have trusted me to serve them.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the community?

Unfortunately, the financial woes of our state did not stop at our town line or many of our front doors for that matter. We are all struggling to some extent to maintain balance and a quality of life that makes us comfortable. Hampden has weathered the economic crisis better than other communities in Maine because of good planning and a forward thinking and strategic approach to fiscal matters. But, we are not out of the storm yet.

Economic concerns loom and monetary practicality is in order. Tough decisions will need to be made and innovative ideas fostered to ensure we as a town can keep our mil rate stable and maintain the quality of services we have come to expect as residents.