

Town News

Board of Selectmen
Stephen C. Volpone, Jr., Chairman
Theodore C. Tocci
Shawn C. Hanson

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Happy Holiday wishes are extended to all as well as heartfelt thanks to the employees, board members, committee members, and volunteers, and those residents who make a unique and positive difference, for their dedication throughout the year(s).

TOWN HALL PHONE SYSTEM

The phone system at the Town Hall has recently been changed from a direct line system to an auto attendant system. The telephone number for all offices at the Town Hall is 926-4618. The recorded messages now provide callers with web site address information, extension numbers to the various town offices and hours of operation for the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Building Inspector. The new system has already shown improvement in that callers are given a choice for the direction of their call(s) and inquiries are directed to the proper office.

Office	Ext.	
Town Clerk	1	Holly E. Knowles
Administrative Assistant	2	Lori A. Ruest
Town Administrator	3	Eric N. Small
Tax Collector	4	Mary Ann Hill
Building Inspector/ Health Officer/Zoning	5	Kevin C. Kelley
Deputy Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk	6	A. Jarlath Fournier Karen Sabatini

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VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteerism is one of Hampton Falls' greatest assets. Numerous Committees and Boards meet regularly to assist with the operations of the municipality of Hampton Falls. Over the past year,

many Committees, Boards, Commissions and Committees of Boards have been recognized in the newsletter. This issue recognizes those groups, whether elected or appointed, that are also important in ensuring Town business is taken care of, review and consideration is given, laws are adhered to and decisions made in the best interest of the Town of Hampton Falls.

Cemetery Trustees	Lillian A. Walker, Chair Barbara R. Lizotte, Edward C. Price
Highway Safety Committee	Jay Lord, Chairman Laurance Anderson, Jr., Andrew Christie, Jr. Robbie Dirsra, William F. Kenney Richard B. Merrill, Jr., Robert Regan
Recreation Commission	Francis J. Ferreira, Jr., Chairman Ned J. DiDomenico, Pamela J. Fitzgerald Peter G. Robart, Larry Smith Lillian L. Stan
Recycling and Solid Waste Committee	Michael R. Hastings, Chairman Thomas R. Cass, Joseph A. Melville
Supervisors of the Checklist	Maureen Hastings, Chairman Andrew Christie, Jr. Dorothy M. Dail (resigned) Lillian L. Stan (appointed)
Trustees of the Trust Funds	Maura E. Wiser, Treasurer Doreen A. Kelley, Roger D. Venden

PARKING BAN & SNOW REMOVAL

Townpeople are reminded that effective December 1, no overnight parking (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) is allowed on any town roadway. This ban will be in effect until April 1.

There is, in effect, a Selectmen's ordinance prohibiting the plowing of snow onto public roads. The ordinance provides for a fine for any person

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causing snow or ice to be placed upon the surface of the traveled portion of the road.

HOLIDAY RUBBISH PICKUP

With respect to the Christmas and New Year holidays, rubbish and recycling will be collected on Saturday, December 29, 2007 and Saturday, January 5, 2008. Whenever the New Year, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day holiday falls on a weekday, collection will be on Saturday (rather than Friday).

TOWN BRUSH DUMP / CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

The Town brush dump has closed for the winter months effective December 1 and will remain closed until April 1. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing of Christmas trees, the dump will be open on Saturday, January 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jay M. Lord, Fire Chief FIRE DEPARTMENT NOTES

Mark your calendars for January 26th and February 23rd. The Hampton Falls Fire Department will be hosting a pancake breakfast on each of these Saturday mornings starting at 7:30 AM and going until 11:00 AM.

Fire Extinguishers: It is recommended to have at least one fire extinguisher on each level of the home (including the basement). The extinguisher should be rated for type A, B and C fires (the box will indicate the type and use). Hang the extinguisher on the wall about hip high in an area that is accessible during an emergency. Do not install it near the kitchen stove, as a fire is more likely to start from the stove area.

For maintenance, the needle on the gauge should read in the green area, which indicates it is ready for use. Check your extinguishers at the time changes in the

spring and fall turning it upside down and shaking it so the powder stays fluffy and ready to use. **Call 911**, if you have a fire in the kitchen or home and evacuate everybody from the house. Should you decide to try to put out the fire, remember to keep your back to the door (so the fire doesn't cut off your escape route) and when the extinguisher runs out, it is time for you to leave. If you have an extinguisher and you're not sure if it is in good working order, call the Station at 926-5752 and we will gladly assist with checking it.

HELP WANTED

The Town of Hampton Falls is seeking a Cemetery Trustee to fill a vacated position as well as a Custodian for the Town Hall. Should you have an interest in either of these positions, please contact Town Administrator Eric N. Small at 926-4618, extension 3, for more information.

Holly E. Knowles, Town Clerk MOTOR VEHICLE PLATES & STICKERS

As a Municipal Agent with the State Department of Motor Vehicles, our office now offers plates and stickers for your convenience.

- Please bring 2 checks if you want to obtain state stickers at our office.
- An extra \$2.50 per registration for state stickers will be added to the town amount due.
- State fees require exact cash or check (the state doesn't provide change).
- Town fees paid by cash should be as close to the amount due as possible – No large bills please (we keep limited cash).
- Renewals and transfers require the original registration(s) (RSA 261:168) (copies are to be kept in your vehicle(s)).
- A notarized Power of Attorney is required when signing a title application for another person (even your spouse).

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-Please allow time for processing your transactions by arriving an hour or so before our closing times of noon and 4 p.m.

INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

To save time in line, you may complete your vehicle renewals over the internet (E-Reg) for a small fee. In addition to completing the town portion, you are now able to obtain your state stickers that will be returned to you through the mail. Click on the plate link on the town clerk's web page (www.hamptonfalls.org) for instructions. Transfers or new plates cannot be processed over the internet.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE PRIMARY/TOWN ELECTIONS

Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may apply in writing or in person to the Town Clerk anytime prior to either the Jan. 8th Primary and/or the March 11th Town Election(s). The ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to each election. Distribution and return of absentee ballots must be done in person by the voter or sent through the mail. You qualify to vote by absentee ballot only if on election day you will be unable to vote because you:

- Will be absent from the town where you are registered to vote, or
- Cannot appear in public because of observance of a religious commitment; or
- Are unable to vote in person by reason of a physical disability; or
- Are unable to appear at the polls at anytime during polling hours because an employment obligation requires you to remain physically at work or to be in transit to or from work from the time the polls open until after the polls close.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Residents may register to vote with the Town Clerk during regular office hours or the Supervisors of the

Checklist by Dec. 29 for the Jan. 8th Primary or by March 1 for the March 11th Town Election. Residents may also register to vote on election day (proof of identity, age and domicile are required). October 12th was the last day for anyone wishing to change their party affiliation before the Primary.

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Citizen's petitions for the 2008 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 8. Petitions must have the signatures of twenty-five (25) legal voters on each petition (RSA 39:3) in order to be valid.

TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTION

The Town Deliberative Session will be held on February 2nd beginning at 9 a.m. at Town Hall. The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Town Hall. Hampton Falls' voters vote all money articles and the annual budget by ballot. Registered voters may file for any of the following offices with Town Clerk Holly Knowles (or school positions only with School Clerk, Maureen Hastings) between Jan. 23rd and Feb. 1, 2008.

Officials	# of Positions	Term
Cemetery Trustee	1	3 years
Library Trustee	2	3 years
Planning Board	2	3 years
Moderator	1	2 years
Selectman	1	3 years
Town Clerk	1	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	1	3 years
Supervisor of Checklist	1	6 years
School Board	1	3 years
School Moderator	1	3 years
School Treasurer	1	3 years
School Clerk	1	3 years

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The Town Hall is equipped with a handicap access ramp and voting booth. The Town Clerk, 926-4618, extension 1, is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 25, from 9 – noon; and Friday, Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION Prime Wetlands Initiative

On November 27, 2007 the Planning Board held a public hearing to consider a warrant article that will amend Section 8, Wetlands Conservation District of the Town of Hampton Falls Zoning Ordinance to include 8.2.4 Prime Wetlands.

Mark West, wetlands scientist and president of West Environmental, discussed the Prime Wetlands initiative and stressed that it would provide greater protection for the highest value wetlands in Hampton Falls. Projects that are in or adjacent to these wetlands would not only be scrutinized through the local review process, but would also be reviewed by NHDES (<http://www.des.state.nh.us/wetlands/>). Wetlands designated as Prime Wetlands are considered to be the wetlands with the most significant values and functions. These wetlands are the largest wetlands in our wetlands system; they not only provide many services to our community in terms of aesthetic beauty and wildlife habitat, but also function to retain storm water and recharge aquifers. You will find a map of the proposed Prime Wetlands complexes overlaid on tax parcels at the Conservation Commission's link on the Town of Hampton Falls website (<http://www.hamptonfalls.org/>).

The Conservation Commission is pleased that a motion was accepted to include Prime Wetlands in the upcoming warrant article. We encourage our fellow citizen to become informed about this

proposal and to vote on this initiative on March 11, 2008. The Conservation Commission may be contacted through the following email address: hfccemail@yahoo.com.

Mary Ann Hill, Tax Collector

The tax office will be **CLOSED from December 28th until January 2nd**. There is a drop box for tax payments outside the Town Hall entrance for those who are unable to visit during office hours or do not want to mail payment. **Please call 926-4618, extension 4, for the correct balance due before making payment as all unpaid balances are now accruing interest.**

The 2008 Inventory of Taxable Property forms will be mailed to all property owners in February. There are two sections on this form that sometimes confuse people. Section 3 – Taxing Information – includes the question “Is any portion of the parcel **assessed** under Current Use?” This refers to a special assessment for parcels that qualify for current use assessment (10 acres in size which have no improvements such as buildings, roads, septic systems, etc.) The second problem area is Section 5 – Census Information. Please enter the names and ages of all persons occupying the premises as of April 1, 2008, whether that is your family or tenants.
