



Speak Up, Epping! Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 6

Epping, New Hampshire

September-October 2020

About this Newsletter

This Newsletter is produced by the Speak Up, Epping! Communications Group. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information about upcoming events and pertinent information from community organizations. Please note that no editorial, political or religious views will be accepted and the Communications Group reserves the right to edit submissions. If you would like to submit material for and/or receive this newsletter electronically, please visit our website at www.speakupepping.com

Check Out Our Newsletter Website

Be sure and check out our Speak Up, Epping! website: www.speakupepping.com. Each new issue of the Newsletter will be available by downloading it from the website. You can also access news from the issue separately by topic and find late-breaking news, past Newsletters, town links and calendars.

Also, check out our **Facebook** page! Join us for more late-breaking news and events that did not make our Newsletter deadline.

To our readers:

Because we're all staying close to home in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not been told of any regular meetings or events scheduled in September and October and so there is no calendar in this issue. We hope that there will soon again be meetings and events to post in a calendar. We do have some information to pass on in this smaller than usual issue.

In the meantime, we can post other events or announcements on our website, our Facebook page and can send information out to our mailing list.

Our thoughts are with all of you. Please take good care and stay safe.

Voting during Covid-19 Pandemic

Remember to vote in the **September 8th** primary. If you plan to vote in person, the polls are open 8:00 am to 7:00 pm in the Middle School Gym. Any resident of Epping who is 18 years of age and older can vote in an election as long as that resident is registered to vote. An Epping resident who has not yet registered can register at the polls on Election Day. All voters should bring an I.D. when they go to vote. Voters without an I.D. can still vote but it takes longer as they will have to fill out extra paperwork.

If you plan to vote by absentee ballot by mail, **plan to vote early**, as soon as possible, to make sure your ballot is received in plenty of time to be counted. The town clerk and secretary of state are urging those who choose to vote absentee to return their completed ballots as soon as possible to avoid any possible delay, and especially to allow ample time for delivery if voting by mail. The envelopes containing your absentee ballot must be received by the clerk no later than 5:00 pm on election day.

There are four simple steps to vote by absentee ballot in the September 8th New Hampshire primary and/or the November 3rd general election:

1. Make sure you are registered to vote.
2. Determine your eligibility to vote absentee.
3. Complete and return an application for absentee ballot(s) (one application form may be used for both the primary and general election).
4. Complete and return the absentee ballot (now available for the September 8th primary).

Registering to vote

In New Hampshire, an applicant must provide present proof of US citizenship, age (18-plus) and residence. The last day to register to vote prior to the September 8th primary election is Tuesday, September 1st, 2020. Residents with proper

identification are allowed to register to vote at the polls on Election Day.

Valid reasons to obtain an absentee ballot

Due to the pandemic, there are five valid reasons registered voters can vote absentee this year. They include:

1. Absent from the city on the day of the election.
2. Observance of a religious commitment on Election Day.
3. Due to disability.
4. Concerns about COVID-19. This year, the NH Secretary of State has added Covid-19 as a reason to obtain an absentee ballot. Any NH voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. Employment obligation (including the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation).

Applying for absentee ballot

The town clerk's office now has applications for absentee ballots and the actual absentee ballots for the September 8th primary election.

Voters are able to apply for absentee ballots for both the New Hampshire primary (Sept. 8) and the general election (Nov. 3) with just one application (voters must check both boxes). To receive an application for an absentee ballot, voters can come to the town clerk's office, call the office to receive one by mail, or download the application from the town clerk's website. It cannot be completed online; it must be downloaded and printed, then signed. Completed absentee ballots should be returned to the town clerk's office in person or by mail.

Those who applied by any means other than in person can check the status of their applications at <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx> at any time during the process.

Complete and return absentee ballot

Absentee ballots for the Sept. 8 New Hampshire primary are available now. Voters who have completed the absentee ballot application can pick up the ballot in person at the town clerk's office in the town hall. Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who did not receive one when they applied in person.

The town clerk and secretary of state are urging those who choose to vote absentee to return their completed ballots as soon as possible to avoid any possible delay, and especially to allow ample time

for delivery if voting by mail. The envelopes containing your absentee ballot must be received by the clerk no later than 5:00 pm on election day.

Absentee ballots for general election

The actual date that absentee ballots for the Nov. 3 general election will be available has not yet been set by the secretary of state, but it is expected to be sometime in late September or early October. Registered voters may apply to receive a general election absentee ballot and receive the absentee ballot in person starting on that day. Anyone who has already completed an absentee ballot application will receive a general election absentee ballot by mail. Once completed, ballots may be mailed back or delivered in person to the town clerk's office. Those who applied by any means other than in person can check the status of their applications at <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx> at any time during the process.

In the state of New Hampshire, ballot counting cannot begin until Election Day. This year, the secretary of state is permitting the partial processing of absentee ballots prior to Election Day to validate ballots received against the rolls of registered voters. This partial processing is allowed during one session, publicized in advance, and performed by the town clerk with at least three other election officials. Members of the public may observe the partial processing.

Voting on the Warrant Article September 8th

We will also be voting on **September 8th** on the Warrant Article for Lagoon Decommissioning and the Solar Project.

You need to request a separate ballot from the town clerk for this vote. The procedure is the same: ask for the request form for the ballot for the Warrant Article in person or by mail. On receiving the ballot, fill it out and return it to the town clerk, in person or by mail.

Senior Moments

The lights are out and the sign hanging on our door "Out to Lunch" is a lie (the only sign I could find). If you've followed us Seniors, you know "Out to Lunch" is our motivation. Don't worry. We senior citizens are faithful to our health and safety during this pandemic as well as to our nagging children who call too often. Not to fear....we've mastered those gadgets such as "Face Time" on our phones and

“Zoom” on our computers. They’re amazing and as an extra bonus - we visit with the kids but don’t have to feed them. Great inventions!

We oldies are the fortunate ones though. Being senior citizens during this time has some advantages of sorts. First: staying at home is what we do best. Don’t forget, we’ve already been there and done that. Second: doing without so many things is not a burden. It’s a flashback to WWII days when we lived with food and gas rations and everyone (yes, everyone!) respected the nightly 9:00 pm curfew. So we stay home, chat and share gossip with our friends, pull out the old projects in the back of the closet and best of all...we participate in “Retail Therapy” and I love it. Guess what it is? My neighbors might begin to wonder when they see Amazon trucks, UPS trucks and USPS trucks in my driveway so often. Christmas is coming to my house early this year.

We know it’s up to us to stay safe during this fearful time which evolves around everything we do. We also want everyone to take care of themselves and others. Wear those masks and get creative. I saw one the other day on a young man that had a real zipper! One of my favorites was on my great granddaughter that read “Guess Who, Nana?” I think she used every crayon in the box.

There is a light at the end of this long tunnel and it will be brighter than ever. We’ll see you then.

Healthy wishes to everyone from the Epping Watson Academy Senior Citizen’s Club!

And Some Chuckles from the Seniors

The following questions were in last year’s GED examination. **These are genuine answers (from 16-year-olds)**

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed.

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs. (Shoot yourself now, there is little hope).

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery. (So true).

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A. Premature death.

Q. What is artificial insemination?

A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow. (Simple, but brilliant)

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. What is the most common form of birth control?

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condomium

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'.

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor.

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport.

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head. Once an Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head.

Soon they will marry and reproduce!

Irene R. Cote, Secretary

News from the Town

The Town Hall is now open with a screening procedure in place. Entrance is through the front door while exit is out the back.

Town Hall Closed

September 7th – Labor Day

October 12th – Columbus Day

November 11th – Veteran’s Day

November 26th, 27th – Thanksgiving

Town dates

September 8th – State primary and Warrant article

November 3rd – General Election

Census Information

The 2020 Census is being taken this year. The census is done every 10 years, and is safe, easy and important!! The information given determines the number of seats each state has in the US House of Representatives. The census defines congressional and state legislative and school districts, along with voting precincts. The population numbers decide the allocation of federal funds to programs like Medicaid, school lunch programs, foster care and others.

The 2020 Census uses cybersecurity to keep all information secure. Information is never shared, as doing so is a serious federal crime. There are four ways to respond in 2020: online, phone, paper or a personal visit. Residents will never be asked for Social Security numbers, money or donations, political party or bank information. Everyone will be contacted shortly and your Board of Selectmen is encouraging everyone's participation. They have agreed to spread the word and help with the 2020 Census.

There are also plenty of job opportunities with the Census Bureau paying \$20-\$25 dollars an hour with reimbursement for mileage. These jobs offer flexible hours and training: You can apply online at 2020CENSUS.GOV/JOB or 1-855-JOB-2020.

More information will be posted on the Town website.

Submitted by Joyce Blanchard

Outdoor watering ban in Epping

There has been an outdoor watering ban in effect in Epping since July 30, 2020.

Drought conditions have worsened in New Hampshire and more than one-fifth of the state is now experiencing a severe drought. The affected area includes most of Rockingham and Merrimack counties plus a large portion of Strafford County.

The state needs several inches of rainfall from multiple systems over a stretch of time to get conditions close to normal. However, the forecast for the next several days calls for only scattered showers or thundershowers, so the drought will likely be a long-term problem.

Brew Fest Canceled

The second annual Center of the Universe Brew Fest has been canceled.

Cell Phones for Our Troops

Donate your old cell phone.

More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and are away from their families. Please make a donation of your old cell phone so they can call home, providing these soldiers with a much needed connection to their loved ones. There is a drop-off box at the Epping Town Hall for your convenience.

The Pease Greeters Need Our Help!

The Pease Greeters, hundreds of volunteers, meet our Armed Forces any time of day or night, as they pass through Pease International Airport on their way to a war zone or on their way home. For more than eleven years, Greeters have welcomed service members on every flight with a warm meal and beverage, small gifts, a cell phone to call home and a hearty round of applause. And for that we give the Greeters our warmest and most sincere thanks.

They also send Christmas stockings to our Troops overseas. The Pease Greeters care package team recently completed the momentous task of stuffing 2,480 Christmas stockings with goodie bags and holiday cards to send to active military overseas.

Throughout the year, the Greeters seek donations of toiletries, individually packed food items and "fun stuff" like small toys. There are donation sites throughout Portsmouth, Dover, Hampton, Greenland and Concord. Please contact peasegreetercarepackages@gmail.com for further information about the care package program.

The Pease Greeters began welcoming flights in 2005 and a few months ago reached the milestone of having welcomed 1000 flights. Recently, the number of flights through Pease has increased and the Pease Greeters are in need of **monetary help**. We need to support our service men and women any way we can. If you can give any amount, please make a check payable to Pease Greeters and send or drop it off to Joyce at the Town Hall.

To learn more about the Pease Greeters, sign up for flight alerts or to make a contribution, visit www.peasegreeters.org.

In and Around Epping

At the August Planning Board meeting the Board reviewed the following:

1. A 19-unit multi-family project off Railroad Ave next to the old shoe shop

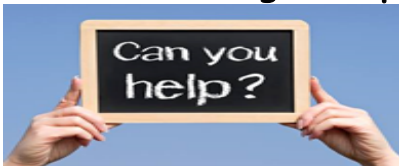
2. A housing project for Farmsteads of New England which is a business that works with adults who have autism and developmental disabilities
3. A redesign of the 55 and older community off Fogg Road

The September Agenda is also set:

1. Redesign for the site next to the Shell station on Calef Highway/125
2. Further review of the 55 and older community off Fogg Road

Submitted by Brittany Howard

End 68 Hours of Hunger - Epping



Hello Epping! We are getting ready to start the school year. We will be feeding 36 children each week! We are almost out of several of our staple items. Our current needs are jelly, mayo, mac and cheese and canned vegetables. If you would like to donate, we have drop box locations at the SAU and Erica's Garden LLC, and an Amazon wish list.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/25GZKZ5S CJMSI?ref=wl_share



Epping Lions Club

"We Serve"

We Want YOU to Join the Epping Lions Club

<https://www.facebook.com/EppingsLionsClub>

Some members will be present at Highnote, selling popcorn and water (as we have done for years now).

We still have not met as a club since March, but we continue to help applicants who request assistance. If anyone is in need, they should contact me for an application and we can assist from there.

Otherwise, we are laying low as a club.

Deb Brooks, President

lexusreina@comcast.net

Cheryl Denoncour, Treasurer

cdenoncour@gmail.com

Colleen Palmer, Secretary

colleenmariepalmer@hotmail.com

Epping Historical Society

We have been "closed" to the general public since March. However, as of this week, I put out the flag on Monday, visitors must wear masks. I welcome visitors by appointment, all they have to do is call. I had one dedicated volunteer this summer, but she had to return to her job as a teacher. She was a big help with our soon to be website. The website is a learning experience for me, quite a challenge!

I hope by the next issue, we will have news for all of you.

Stay healthy!

To call for an appointment, call 679-2944; phone number is available 7 days a week.

Submitted by Joy True, curator, Epping Historical Society
joysgarden@hotmail.com

The Civil War Roundtable of NH

Due to the Covid 19 crisis, the Civil War Roundtable of NH is holding off meetings until January 2021.

For information on the Roundtable and a complete schedule of meetings and news, please visit the web site: www.cwrt-nh.org or email cwtrnh@gmail.com.

Nature Talks

You've probably seen glimpses of the Epping Conservation Commission's work and projects around town: neighborhood parks, forest management activities, and trails. Our evaluation of permits is less visible and focuses on reviewing development designs to protect Epping's wetlands and other natural resources. In addition, we partner with schools to share knowledge and information about conserving land and wildlife with Epping's children - you might have read about the scavenger hunts at Fox Run and the spring fish release.

Navigating the sometime complex world of environmental regulations can be challenging, and we're here to help residents get answers to a variety of issues, ranging from technical questions about storm water management to inquiries about native plantings for wildlife. We also work with other conservation organizations and neighbors to foster an appreciation for our special corner of New Hampshire.



Lady Slippers at Hedding Pond

In other news, congratulations go out to Ross Clark, the winner of our 2020 Photo Contest. We will honor him at our September meeting and his picture of *Lady Slippers at Hedding Pond* will be shown in the Harvey Mitchell Memorial Library until next fall. Check out the picture on our website as well.

The Epping Conservation Commission is here to share our expertise and passion for conservation with the residents of Epping and our region.

Submitted by Liz Wilson & Sandy Goodspeed

Lamprey River Advisory Committee When in Drought...

Dick Lord, long-time LRAC representative from Durham, shared these images of a site near Packers Falls in Durham, allowing us to compare last year to this year. Flows in the Lamprey River tend to be low in late summer and into fall, but this year's drought has resulted in exceptionally low flows. Let's hope for rain!

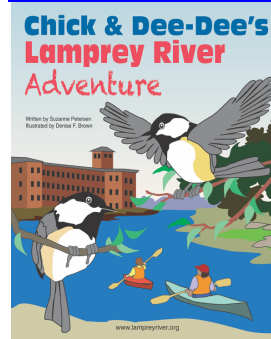


October 2019



August 2020

**Chick and Dee-Dee's Lamprey River
Adventure Now Available for FREE at
www.LampreyRiver.org**



This engaging children's book with a totally local setting is now available on the LRAC website www.LampreyRiver.org. Now you can read the story with your kids or grandkids at your leisure and share the adventure together. We hope older readers will share some of their own Lamprey River adventures with the younger generation as they follow Chick and Dee-Dee to discover several natural and historical features of the Lamprey River.

White Nose Syndrome Update: Bad News for New Hampshire's Bats

We humans are sick and tired of Coronavirus and many have died after being infected. Bats are also suffering from a very contagious disease, but the death rate is nearly 100%. White nose syndrome first appeared in the United States in 2006-2007. Since its arrival, the fungus that causes the disease has decimated the populations of several bat species that hibernate in caves. Areas that have been hit especially hard include New Hampshire. The effect of the virus on our bats is clear: it's deadly. What has

not yet been fully determined is the effect on the environment of losing so many bats.

The long-eared bat has been listed as endangered in NH for a few years and it is also federally listed as endangered. Sadly, what was once our most numerous bat, the little brown bat, is now listed as endangered in New Hampshire. Two other bats, the eastern small-footed bat and the tri-colored bat, have also been listed as endangered in New Hampshire, bringing the total number of endangered bat species to four. A fifth species, the big brown bat, has been listed as threatened. A survey undertaken by the LRAC in 2018 showed that all the expected species of bats were present, but the survey relied on bat sounds and could only record that at least one bat of a particular species was present; it did not tell how many bats of that species were present.

These bats have white nose syndrome. The fungus attacks their face and wings and causes metabolism to rise, interrupting hibernation and routinely leading to death.



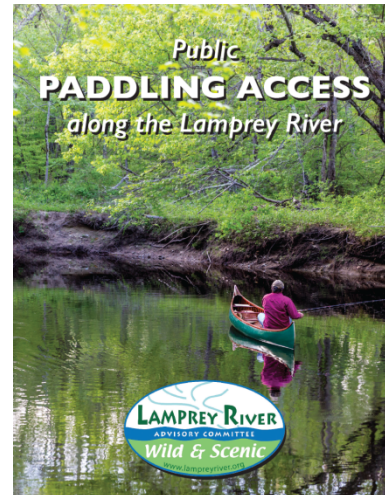
Photo by Nancy Heaslip, New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

Bats are an important piece of our landscape and they are in trouble. For more information on white nose syndrome or what you can do to help bats, visit

<https://wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/white-nose-syndrome.html>.

New! Lamprey River Public Paddling Access Map and Guide Now Available.

This past summer offered local people more opportunity than usual to get out on the river with a canoe or kayak. Due to many requests for public access areas, we created a map to meet that need.



The map includes driving directions, GPS coordinates, notes about each site, and rental information where applicable.

Two versions of the map allow reading on-screen or easy printing from a home computer so you can take it with you. Links for both versions are available on the home page at

www.LampreyRiver.org.

Be safe and enjoy!

Underground Concerns in the Age of COVID-19

Since mid-March, most of us have become accustomed to the new routines of life with COVID-19. We know the importance of social distancing, wearing masks in public places, washing our hands frequently, and that cleanliness is more important than ever.

But have our septic systems heard the news or read the memos? Most of us who live on the Lamprey River have septic systems at home to treat our domestic sewage. Septic systems need to have bacteria to function properly. Septic system bacteria can be killed by bleach and other sanitizing chemicals. The whole system can be clogged by “disposable” or “flushable” wipes and materials that do not break down easily. With or without COVID-19, septic systems are only capable of treating water, bodily waste, and toilet paper.

Nobody wants to replace a failing septic system. So what can we do to prevent that?

- Go old school. Most surfaces can be cleaned well with plain soap and water.
- Use bleach sparingly. Where sanitizing is essential, clean the surface first with soap and water and then use a disposable wipe or cloth. Dispose of the wipe in the trash.

- Use less toxic chemicals such as 70% rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide. These break down into harmless chemicals. The EPA and CDC websites have lists of acceptable bleach substitutes.
- If we face another toilet paper shortage, use what's available, but do not flush it; instead, bag it and dispose of it in the trash.
- Follow the usual guidelines to keep your septic system working well:
 - Inspect and pump every 2-3 years.
 - Don't overwhelm the system with too much water at one time. Spread laundry out over the week, don't empty hot tubs all at once.
 - Keep cars and other vehicles off the leach field.
 - Make sure only water, body waste, and toilet paper go into the septic system. Dispose of food waste and grease in the garbage. Dispose of medicine at your local drug collection site (pharmacy, police, etc.).
- Even if you don't have a septic system, the same rules apply for those on municipal sewers.

For more suggestions about septic system care, <https://getpumpednh.com/> has lots of useful information.



*Helping communities protect the
Lamprey River.*

Submitted by Suzanne Petersen

Epping Garden Club



The Epping Garden Club is once again taking pre-paid orders for your fall plant needs. Amazing mums, cabbage and asters will arrive mid-September so please get your orders in to us at:
Epping Garden Club
9 Folsom Mill Lane
Epping NH 03042
or call me to pay by Paypal @ 603-300-0064 or email us at:
eppinggardenclub@gmail.com

We will offer mums in pots, hangers and in a 12" container with a grass in the center, usually surrounded by a variety of colored mums. We will have cabbage for sure, and hopefully kale, for those who like them for decorating their homes. We will have white or purple asters, your choice. We can also bring bushel baskets to town if you need some.

We will also be looking for Scarecrows to line our town's streets again this year so if you need a kit, please call or email me.

Prices:

6.5" pots of Mums, Asters, Cabbage - 2 pots for \$10.00

8" pots of Mums - \$8.00 each or 2 pots for \$15

10" Hanging Mums (you can take hangers off and plant) - \$15.00

12" mixed containers with grass in the center – \$25.00 for 1 or 2 for \$45.00

Empty wooden bushel baskets for displays - \$6.00 each.

Thanks for your continued support!

EGC

Submitted by Eunice Miller



ETV Schedule

Please consult the ETV Bulletin Board, Channel 22 or the Town website for changes, updates or announcements.

When meetings resume, please note the new website for ETV: etv22.viebit.com. This is where you will find past meetings. You will also find live video streaming.

The ETV email remains the same:
eppingtv22@gmail.com.



Scouting Around Epping

All regular activities in Cub Scout Pack 136 and Boy Scout Troop 136 are canceled until further notice.

Boy Scout Troop 136

The Scouts in Troop 136 still don't have a plan for what they're doing this fall.

However, on Saturday, August 15th they did have their third recycling fundraiser at the American Legion. They had so many donations that it filled the truck. See the picture below.



Highnote Festival

The McPhee Family of Epping, NH presents **Highnote!** – the 20th Annual Balloon, Music and Fireworks Festival to benefit the Adam McPhee Memorial Foundation. With nineteen years in the running, the festival has attracted an average of 500 guests each year and has raised about \$120,000 in donations to benefit the Adam McPhee Memorial Foundation.

On Saturday, **September 12th** from 2:00 pm until dark (rain or shine) at the grounds of the Governor Prescott House on the McPhee family farm, friends, family and festivalgoers will continue the tradition of the all day celebration. The Epping Police and the Fire Department will be present. The grounds are handicap accessible.

** Due to insurance reasons we ask that you leave your pets at home.*

Music and Activities Schedule

- 2-4 pm Live music - Truffle
- 4-6 pm Drive in Movie - The Call of the Wild
- 6-7 pm Live Auction
- 7:15 pm Fireworks

Food options available:

- Bag of chips
- Bag of snacks
- Bottled water
- Soda

2020 Guidelines

All activities are "drive in" style. We will provide guidance for all families to stay 6 feet apart.

We will have hand sanitizer stations throughout the grounds.

We will have portable toilets 6 feet apart with hand sanitizer available and markings to keep socially appropriate distance. These portable toilets will be cleaned every hour during the festival.

Festival goers **MUST** wear a mask when moving from your Vehicle to walk around or socialize. Per Governor's Order!

Tickets

Tickets are available at the gate. Music and events will be rain or shine. Fireworks are weather permitting.

\$15 for adults. Kids and high school students are free.

Additional donations can be made to:
The Adam McPhee Memorial Foundation
174 Prescott Road
Epping, NH 03042



Epping Fire Department

Hello to my Speak Up readers. As summer winds down and we get into the Fall season, I want to discuss safety tips for home and school. I would also like to touch base on the COVID-19 crisis and some safety about that, as well.

Fall Safety

It's never too early to start thinking about winter and heating appliances. They should be serviced annually to ensure proper efficiency and operation. This includes having someone clean your chimney, as well. The Fire Department always recommends a licensed contractor for insurance and safety purposes. Consider getting a few quotes to help save money. The Fire Department usually gets called out during the first cold snap or cooler weather for smoke in the basement. We always approach it as a possible fire. We find it is usually what we call a

furnace “Burp.” This occasionally happens when homeowners turn on the heat for the first time. Always call 911 if you think or know you have a problem. We will also recommend following up with your heating company or local HVAC technician.

If you’re using space heaters, make sure to keep them away from combustible items, including curtains, clothing, paper and cardboard. Newer heaters should have an automatic shut off switch that de-energizes the system in case of a tip over. For safety’s sake, make sure they are UL listed and shut them off when not in use or if you leave your home.

Smoke and CO detectors

Recent fires in New Hampshire resulted in people being seriously injured, including burn victims in Dover and a fatality in Bristol. These injuries and the fatality could have been prevented if both homeowners had working smoke detectors. Make sure you have proper smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home on every level and bedroom. These devices are made for a reason and can save your life! They should always have a battery, including if they’re wired into the home. The detectors should be replaced every 10 years. It’s good to check them every month and practice fire drills with your family. Have a plan with 2 ways out and a meeting place outside. Change your batteries during our annual time changes.

Covid-19 Crisis

This year has been interesting to say the least. We are not out of the woods yet when it comes to the pandemic or crisis that is currently happening. Stay safe. We encourage wearing a mask in public places. Distance yourself from others and if you’re sick, stay home. When attending public outings, please continue to distance yourself if you can. Masks can help to prevent everyone from catching the virus. I know it’s not easy for all of us and the future is uncertain. Many of you are looking forward to next year for some normalcy. Let’s all do our part so we can get there in time.

School is back

As the kids go back to school, I would like everyone to be more alert when driving. Look out for kids on bikes, or sidewalks. Kids should have clothing people can see during the day. Let’s teach our kids to be respectful of traffic and to always wear

a helmet when riding a bike. Halloween is a fun night for kids, but certain costumes can be dangerous as they can limit the ability to see and be flammable or not visible at all. Strive for visibility. Always look at the labeling.

October is Fire Prevention month, although we should practice fire safety every day. This year is going to be interesting and hopefully we can still get into the schools to teach them fire safety. Fire and building codes are in place just like fire prevention week.

Because of past tragic events, we celebrate fire prevention week so those who died, did not do so in vain. The Great Chicago Fire is the main reason we celebrate it. There were many fires in October 1871. These included the Great Peshtigo Fire that killed 1,500 people in Wisconsin. An estimated 2,000 people died that one week from fires.

We are here for you! 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call us when you need us, seconds count.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Paul St Cyr

Fire Prevention Officer and 9-11 Liaison.

Epping Explorer Posts

Epping Fire Department Explorer Post 136

Youth 14 to 19 years old are invited to consider joining the Fire Department Explorer program. Call Captain Cray at 396-9436 or Lt. Labonte at 679-5446.

Friends of the Epping Fire and Brick Museum

Right now the Fire Museum is still on hold.

American Legion News

Monthly Breakfast Buffets

Monthly Second Sunday Buffets are canceled until further notice.

Epping Community Church

Our church service has changed a little bit from what we’re used to. It is still at 9:30 am every Sunday morning, but you will find it on Facebook Live. You can also find it afterward at Eppingcommunitychurch.org. We do miss being able to gather in person but can still worship together and pray together and commune together online. Please feel free to join us as we listen to what the Lord has to say to us. You can also bring a chair

and sit in our parking lot.

No dinners are planned until after the first of the year. The Soup of the Day Café is also currently closed. If these things change, we will announce on Facebook as well as on our sign.

Our food pantry is open on Saturday from 8-10 am at the side door off the driveway. We are placing bags and other items outside on our porch. We are asking that people come to the porch one at a time and take what you need.

Also, at the pantry we have two Pop Up Library bins with books that are bagged from the elementary school. Mrs. Rossel and Mrs. True brought these to the food pantry to make sure that all children are able to have books to bring home and keep. These are free to anyone that would like to share with their children or grandchildren.

As always, if you are in need, please come to the food pantry for help. We do not ask questions...we just want to help. If you find that you need help, you can call the church at 679-5542 and leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Meals on Wheels continues to deliver out of the church. If you know a senior who is in need of a delivered meal call 679-1609 and leave a message.

Stay safe...stay healthy and God bless you all!

St. Joseph Catholic Church

208 Pleasant St. (Rte 27)
Epping, NH 03042
Office telephone: 679-8805

Our new mass schedule is:

Monday through Thursday 7:30 am

Saturday 4 pm, Sunday 8 am and 10 am

All masses with limited capacity and masks are required.

If you have any questions, please call the Rectory Office at 679-8805 or check our website at <http://stjosepheppingnh.com> for further information.



Harvey-Mitchell Memorial Library

The Library is open for appointments and curbside pick-up!!!

To set up an appointment to visit the library, please call us at 734-4587. Patrons will be able to browse, check out materials, and use our services (copy, fax, etc.) for 30 minutes. We will also have

appointments for computer use and study rooms that will last an hour. Please arrive at the library at or before the start of your appointment. A mask or appropriate face covering is **REQUIRED** to enter the building. Patrons will also be required to pass a health screening consisting of a temperature reading and short questionnaire (similar to Town Hall) before entering the library. Appointments are for patrons thirteen years of age and older for the time being. We will continue to provide curbside pick-up service as well (details below). Our hours for appointments and for curbside pick-up are as follows:

Monday	12-5 pm
Tuesday	12-5 pm
Wednesday	12-5 pm
Thursday	3-7 pm
Friday	12-5 pm
Saturday	10-2 pm

Curbside pick-up:

To make a request for library books and DVD's simply call us at 734-4587 or email us at eppinglibraryrequest@gmail.com and include your name and which title(s) you would like. We'll get back to you within the next day or two to tell you when you can pick up your materials. Please first visit our catalogue online to confirm the materials you're looking for are available: https://harveymitchell.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas06_2800519

To return them: Simply place your items in the drop box outside the library, as usual. When we collect the materials, we will quarantine and clean them before redistributing. **Expect that the turnaround time on new arrivals and other popular materials may be longer than usual because of this process.**

Inter-library loans are not currently available; it is a state-run operation and won't be back until a majority of NH libraries resume patron services. Once the state decides to bring it back, we'll let you know!

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library are offering an Engraved Brick Program to raise money for the Library, including such things as computer equipment and supplies for the adult and children's gardening programs. You can have a brick

engraved with your name or that of a family member or friend. The old doorway at the back of the building is now empty space and has room for 50 bricks, from the same batch as that used for the expansion.

The landscaping plan calls for a patio seating area in the front of the Library and bricks will be used for paving. The requested donation is \$100 for an engraved brick for the doorway or \$50 for a patio brick. Please go to the Library's website (eppinglibrary.com) for more details and order forms. Be a lasting part of the Library's future.

The Friends meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Since April, we have been meeting remotely via ZOOM. Hopefully, before long we will be able to meet again in person, even if that means masks and distancing.

Submitted by Pat VanWagoner

Epping Parks & Recreation

Home of the "River Otters"

Director: Nicole Bizzaro

Recreation Dept. Main Phone Number: 609-3006

or email at eppingrecreation@gmail.com.

Address:

17 Academy Street

Epping, NH 03042

Mailing address:

157 Main Street

Epping, NH 03042

The Recreation Department is currently closed to the public until further notice. You may email eppingrecreation@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding food assistance during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Nicole Bizzaro, the Director can also be reached by phone at 608-9487.

If you have any summer camp registration questions you can email Tiffany at eppingrecoffice@gmail.com. Any programming questions you can reach Marlee, the Assistant Director at eppingrecprograms@gmail.com.

There will be no activities at the Recreation Department until further notice.

Families First

support for families...health care for all

Here is the

link <https://www.familiesfirstseacoast.org/family->

[programs/parenting-classes-family-groups/](https://www.familiesfirstseacoast.org/family-programs/parenting-classes-family-groups/) to our Family Center page. It outlines the different kinds of Virtual support we are offering at Families First, and the text is below. We have online parent and grandparent support groups open to all.

Here is the link to the online calendar https://www.familiesfirstseacoast.org/calander/?tribe-bar-date=&tribe_eventcategory=49,37,48,38 with Zoom meeting links for those groups.

The groups have been small so far but are really fun and a great way to connect with other parents. Hopefully more people will find them.

Epping Students in the News

Southern New Hampshire University announces the President's List for the 2020 Winter semester

Nicholas Arsenault

Benjamin Fowler

Bradley George

Kiley La Fond

Emilie LeBlanc

Sabrina Rivers

Southern New Hampshire University announces Dean's List for 2020 Spring semester

Benjamin Colban

Samantha Frazer

Endicott College announces the Dean's List for the 2020 Spring semester

Jennifer Nikolova

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces the Dean's List for the 2020 Spring semester

Megan McCool

Megan is majoring in electrical and computer engineering and has completed an intense research project titled "Transitioning During Covid-19: Student Perspectives." At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to address an important societal need or issue.

The Seacoast Artist Association is proud to announce that for the 32nd year in conjunction with local high school art departments, it has awarded scholarships to financially assist talented student artists who are planning to continue their education in the field of visual arts. This year they were able to award nine students awards of \$500 each.

This year's winning students from Epping are:

Samantha Johnson

Sharon Swanson



Epping Back-to-School

The Epping School District will open for in-person learning on **September 9th**, with extensive safety precautions. It was a difficult decision for the School Board, but the conditions and the data supported the plan.

A Reopening Task Force had been meeting since spring and identified four phases for reopening. The Task Force has recommended Phase III, which would open the schools to most students but provide a remote option for those uncomfortable about coming back.

The decision was also driven by data, including the results of a survey of parents, staff and students. Of the 418 student respondents, 54.5 percent were comfortable returning to school full-time and 31.4 percent were comfortable with a more limited schedule. Of the 390 parent respondents, 60 percent were comfortable with their children returning to school full-time with "reasonable safety precautions." A limited schedule was the preference of 26.9 percent of the parents. For staff, 49.4 percent felt comfortable returning full-time, again with reasonable safety precautions, while 32 percent were more comfortable with a limited schedule.

Epping Elementary School (EES)

The Epping Elementary School welcomed a new principal, Heather Cantagallo on July 1st.

EES School Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7 – No School LABOR DAY

Sept. 9 – First day of school for Preschool

Sept. 9 – School for Grades 1-5; A-L last names

Sept. 10 – School for Grades 1-5; M-Z last names

Sept. 10,11 – Kindergarten screenings by appt.

Sept. 11 – School for all Grade 1-5 students

Sept. 11 – No school for Kindergarten

Sept. 14 – PTO meeting 7:00 pm in the EES Art Room. Free babysitting in the Library

Sept. 14 – No school for Kindergarten

Sept. 15 – Kindergarten Orientation

Sept. 15 – Students with A-K last names 10:00-11:30
Students with L-Z last names 12:30-2:00

Sept. 16 – School picture day Elementary school and Preschool

Sept. 16 – First day of school for Kindergarten

Sept. 29 – Virtual Open House Kindergarten -
Grade 2 - 5:30-7:00 pm

Sept. 30 – Virtual Open House Grades 3-5 - 5:30-7:00 pm

OCTOBER

Oct. 5 – PTO meeting 7:00 pm in the EES Art Room. Free babysitting in the Library

Oct. 13– NO SCHOOL- COLUMBUS DAY

Oct. 13– NO SCHOOL Professional Development Day

Email Address Changed?

If your email address has changed, please notify Barbara Helmstetter at: bhelmstetter@comcast.net.

Newsletter Schedule

Have we missed your group or event? Please let us know. Our purpose is to include as many Epping groups and events as possible.

The next issue (**November-December 2020**) of this newsletter will be available **on November 1, 2020**. We will accept **submissions through October 25, 2020**, to be included in the next issue. Please send your content with contact information for consideration to bhelmstetter@comcast.net.

If you would like your next event to appear on the Calendar of Events, please send us an email at bhelmstetter@comcast.net by **October 25, 2020**. Please include date, event name, location and time.

Thanks for reading!

• • • • • • • • • •