



# Speak Up, Epping! Newsletter

Volume One, Issue 1

Epping, New Hampshire

December '07-January '08

## Welcome

Welcome to the first *Speak Up, Epping! Newsletter*. This newsletter is produced by the *Speak Up, Epping! Communications Group*. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information for upcoming events and pertinent information from community organizations. Material for this newsletter may be submitted to: **speakupepping@gmail.com**. Please note that no opinion, editorial, political or religious views will be accepted and the Communications Group reserves the right to edit submissions. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please send your email address to Barbara Helmstetter at [Barbara.S.Helmstetter@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:Barbara.S.Helmstetter@Dartmouth.edu).

## Mission of the Communications Group

The mission of the Communications Group is to improve communication to all Epping residents in order to enhance community knowledge and involvement. In order to do this, we've been working on a community website and calendar, looking into the possibility of government and community video streaming from the Town website and working on developing a community newsletter. This first issue of our community newsletter is via email. We hope with your support to eventually have a **printed newsletter** delivered to every Epping home. We welcome anyone interested in helping us. Want to find out more? Contact Barbara Helmstetter by phone 679-1929 or email [Barbara.S.Helmstetter@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:Barbara.S.Helmstetter@Dartmouth.edu).

## Volunteers Needed

There are four groups in *Speak Up, Epping!* The mission of *Speak Up, Epping!* is to enhance the quality of life in Epping through raising awareness of local resources and encouraging active community involvement.

Volunteers are needed and welcomed for the:

- Communications Group
- Recreation Group
- Downtown Revitalization Group
- Epping Volunteers Group

For more information, send an email to [speakupepping@gmail.com](mailto:speakupepping@gmail.com) and we'll be sure to have someone contact you. All are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

## Speak Up, Epping! Recreation Group

The *Speak Up, Epping! Recreation Group's* goals include:

Completing a list of the recreational opportunities, both indoors and out, that Epping has to offer, and then finding a way of making this information available to the community.

### **Can you volunteer to help with this project?**

Update the list and map of open spaces in Epping that offer opportunities for walking, boating, fishing and other outdoor activities with a map. As needed, update signage for entry points.

*As a result of the Recreation Group work, the sign for the Lamprey River Forest has been moved to the trailhead entrance and parking field on Prescott Road and the trails have been brushed out. Many thanks to the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests for this work on their property.*

*We have tried out some downtown walking routes to note improvements needed for safety: sidewalks, marked crosswalks, rough patches on hardtop. (Note: This project is also part of the Downtown Revitalization Group).*

For more information or to help out, contact Isobel Parke at 679-5304 or email [iparke@jjwpr.com](mailto:iparke@jjwpr.com).

## Scouting Around

The Epping Community Church sponsors **Boy Scout Troop 136**. They meet at the church every Monday at 6:30 P.M., except holidays. Boys in 6th grade through the age of 18 years old are welcome to visit any meeting to see what being a scout is all about, before deciding if they want to join.

**Cub Scout Pack 136** is also sponsored by the Community Church. The Cub Scout Pack meets at the church the third Wednesday of each month, from 6:30-7:30 P.M., except February. The Friday following the third Wednesday of February is the annual Blue and Gold Banquet, which is held at the Elementary School. All boys 1st grade to 5th grade are welcome. Scouting is a tremendous opportunity for all boys and all are encouraged to check out the biggest youth organization in the world.

**Explorer Post 716** is sponsored by the Epping Fire Department and community service is an important part of the program. They conduct an annual food drive for the Epping Food Pantry and recently sponsored their second annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Their big project is fundraising for Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for the Epping School System. Two AEDs have been donated to the high school athletic department and four more are on order. The Explorers will continue fundraising for two more AEDs. The Explorers were recently awarded the Community Service Award by the Exploring Division of the Daniel Webster Council Boy Scouts of America.

For information regarding the **Girl Scouts**, please call Debi Bennis at 679-1453.

## Holiday Happenings



Welcome the season with the annual **Tree Lighting Ceremony** in DAR Park (at the corner of Main Street and Route 27) on Sunday, December 9 starting at 5:00 P.M. There will be caroling, following which, all are invited to the Historical Society for refreshments, featuring hot cocoa.



**Santa Claus** is coming to town... The Epping Fire Department will be escorting Ol' St. Nick around town on the Sunday before Christmas, December 23 from 3:00-6:00 P.M.



You're invited to come by the **Plumercrest Bed and Breakfast** for its **Open House and Hand-crafted Gift Sale** on Sunday, December 2 from 2:00-5:00 P.M. Some of the fine gifts include: jewelry, unique fabric bags and satchels, goat's milk soaps, inspirational cards, hand-carved walking sticks and more!

Plumercrest will also be offering **House Tours** at 2:00 and 4:00 P.M. You can find this wonderful B&B at 22 Plumer Road, Epping. Also on the web at [www.plumercrest.com](http://www.plumercrest.com).



Come and join the fun at the **"Make and Take" Craft and Vendor Fair to Support Artists-in-Residence**. The Epping Elementary School Art's Committee is sponsoring a Make and Take Craft Fair/Vendor Event to raise money to support our awesome Artist-in-Residence program. Kids of all ages can come and make a variety of crafts to take home with them that night while Mom and Dad visit the various vendor/craft tables and do some shopping.

The event will take place at the Epping Elementary School multi-purpose room on Thursday, December 6 from 6:00-9:00 P.M. Admission and parking are free. **Make and Take Crafts** are available for a modest fee. Some of the participating vendors include: Pampered Chef, Arbonne, Tupperware, Simple Graces, Usborne Books, Body Shop at Home, and various other craft vendors. Please call Epping Elementary School at 679-8018 for more information.



**Help decorate Epping for the Holidays**. Meet in the library parking lot at 12 Noon on Saturday, December 8. Rain date: Sunday, December 9 at 1:00 P.M. Anyone interested in helping, call the Epping Garden Club at 679-2573.



The **American Legion Annual Children's Christmas Party** will be held at the legion hall on Elm Street December 8 from 1:00-3:00 P.M. All pre-school youth are welcome. A special guest will make an appearance at the hall that afternoon.

## Senior Moments

The **Epping Watson Academy Seniors Club** meets the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 P.M. at the Recreation Building on Academy Street. Meetings include programs for seniors over the age of 55. **Program topics include healthcare, prescription information, laws affecting seniors, environmental issues, exhibits, entertainment and much more.** The seniors like to interact with the school children whenever possible on various programs.

The Club genuinely enjoys going places and seeing things such as live shows, museums, and other area attractions. Some of the favorite trips have been to a candy shop and a local sheep farm. And, every two months the group takes a trip to the casinos in Connecticut.

As part of giving back to the community, the Club has packed boxes for service men and women, collected mittens and hats for needy children and collects food for area food pantries. **The group loves to be involved with the community and volunteers at every available opportunity.**

The Club is very fortunate to be included in the Epping Recreation Department. The resources provided by Seth Hickey and Brian Reed are greatly appreciated, as well as the support of the community.

The group welcomes new members. For more information, contact Irene Cote by calling the Recreation Director at 679-3301 or the offices at 679-3797 or 679-8677.

## Epping Historical Society & Museum

Did you know that our town is much more than one of New Hampshire's oldest settlements? The Epping Historical Society and Museum provides **public access to thousands of computerized genealogical entries** dating from the 1700's, cemetery records, family books, exhibits, maps, original documents, vintage photos, historical books and Epping memorabilia of interest both to the casual visitor or serious researcher.

All are welcome to stop by the museum on Mondays from 6:00-9:00 P.M. and Wednesdays from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. You can also request an appointment by calling Madelyn Williamson, Curator, at 679-5482.

## The Halls of Epping

The **Masons** meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M., except July and August, and including holidays.

The **American Legion** meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, except July and August when they only meet on the fourth Tuesday.

## Epping Recreation Department

The Recreation Department is located at the Watson Academy in downtown Epping. There are always numerous activities and programs throughout the year such as **yoga classes, music lessons, Teen Youth Center, pre-school art classes, pre-school soccer and basic computer classes.** To find out more about any of these programs, call the Recreation Office at 679-3301 or email [rec@townofeppping.com](mailto:rec@townofeppping.com).

## Epping Residents: Is there a walking group in Epping's future?

- How often should it meet?
- What is the best day?
- The best time?
- How long should the walks be?

If you are interested, please e-mail Isobel Parke at [iparke@jjwpr.com](mailto:iparke@jjwpr.com) or call 679-5304.

## Harvey Mitchell Memorial Library

Phone: 679-5944

Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 10:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Saturday: 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Computers are available for public use and information is available on audio books.

**Friends of the Library Silent Auction** ends Saturday, 12/8 at 2 p.m. and is open to all.

Stop by the **Book Group and Holiday Cookie Swap.** We'll be discussing a Christmas story TBA, swapping cookies, and choosing what we read in 2008 on Tuesday, 12/11 at 7:00 p.m. – adult group.

The **Magic of Christmas Pajama Night Story Hour** is on Friday, 12/14 from 6:30-7:30 P.M. This is an event for kids.

The theme of **Toy Play Day** is a **Holiday Tea Party** on Saturday, 12/22 from 11:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. This is also an event for kids.

The **Winter Break Movie Series** will be from Wednesday-Friday, 12/26-12/28 at 1:00 P.M. This is an event for kids where we'll be showing new G and PG-rated movies (parent's discretion for ages).

Note: The library will be **closed** on 12/25.

## Epping Fire Department

The Epping Fire Department is looking for people **interested in fire fighting and emergency medical service**. The department pays for all training. Please call 679-5446 for more information.

## Spotlight on Epping Police Officer

The Great Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross recently honored **Officer Seth Tondreault** with the **2007 First Responder Hero Award**. The award was presented to Officer Seth at the Great Bay Heroes Breakfast for his quick action in administering CPR to a crash victim in February. Had it not been for his taking immediate control of the situation and for his quick thinking, the woman could have suffered serious brain injury or death as a result of a lack of oxygen. Congratulations Officer Seth – you're making Epping proud!

## Epping Youth Athletic Association

EYAA provides the youth of Epping from age 5 and up with an opportunity to participate in sports throughout the year. EYAA is run by volunteers and the board meets every second Monday of the month at the Elementary School Library.

**It's basketball time!** The season's schedule has yet to be announced. Please check the EYAA website at [www.eyaa.org](http://www.eyaa.org) for this winters schedule.

In the month of November, EYAA hosted a Pancake breakfast at Applebee's and a dance and silent auction at the American Legion. The money raised went to the **Dakota Adams Medical Fund**. Dakota is a 15-year-old Epping resident who was recently diagnosed with lymphoblastic lymphoma. He is currently undergoing treatment for his cancer while recovering from surgery. Everyone's support of these fundraisers was greatly appreciated!

## Epping Community Church

Epping Community Church is a truly community-centered church that supports missions locally and around the world. Worship time is on Sunday morning at 9:00 A.M. and Sunday School is at 11:00 A.M.

Some of the local missions the church supports include the **Food Pantry**, which has provided food for over 900 individuals in the last year. Our **Closet of Caring** gave new and like-new coats free of charge to nearly 200 individuals, with nearly 100 more sent to a medical mission. Other outreach that has touched the lives of several individuals and families includes special dinners and benevolent funds.

The church hosts **Friday Night Pizza Night** from 5:00-6:45 P.M. where a family can come and eat or carryout any number of large pizzas with toppings for \$8.00 each. For carryout, you can call in your order between 5:00-6:00 P.M. by calling 679-5542. Your purchase of pizzas goes toward supporting the ministry of the congregation.

Besides hosting monthly third Saturday dinners, which raise funds for church projects, fiscal resources and outreach, the church is hosting its annual **Prime Rib Dinner** on Saturday, December 8 at 5:00 P.M. This is a reservation by ticket only event, which is presented as a sit-down candle light dinner. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$20.00 each by calling 679-5542. Leave a message and someone will call you as soon as possible. Every year those who attend speak of how much they enjoy the food and time together. We hope you will join us!



## Leddy Center

The Leddy Center for the Performing Arts will be presenting "**A Story of Christmas**", an original play by Ellen M. Gregg.

"On a frenetic Christmas Eve, a father's sadness over his children's ignorance of the reason Christmas is celebrated brings an unexpected opportunity for their family to reconnect as they look to the past and remember A Story of Christmas."

**December 7-16**, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 P.M., Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

Tickets are \$16, all reserved, group rates available. \$2.00 off advance tickets for Friday evening shows.

Call 679-2871 to order tickets or go order online at: [www.leddycenter.org/AStoryOfChristmas.htm](http://www.leddycenter.org/AStoryOfChristmas.htm).

### **Epping High School**

Epping High School will play in its first ever basketball game in the new gymnasium on December 3. The girls' team hosts Farmington at 7:00P.M. The Boys' team will have its first home game on January 2 at 7:00 P.M. Come and support your Blue Devils and check out our new facility!

The girls' varsity basketball team will be playing in the Coe Brown Holiday Tourney over winter break and the boys' team will travel to Farmington.

Congratulations to the Fall Cheer Team for placing 2nd at the Class M-S State Cheer competition! A banner will be presented to them and hung in the new gymnasium soon.

You can get game schedules online at: [highschoolsports.net](http://highschoolsports.net).

### **Epping High School Class of 2008**

Project Graduation will be selling Christmas Trees from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday. December 8 and 9 at the American Legion on Route 125 in Epping. The cost is \$25.

### **Epping Pride – Celebrate Our Schools!**

Come celebrate our Epping Pride by joining, applauding, and cheering our students. This December and January we have much to offer in holiday, athletic, and extracurricular events. Upcoming school events can be located by school links on the district website located at [www.sau14.org](http://www.sau14.org).

There is also much going on at the district level. The Epping School Board meets on December 13, January 10, and January 24 at 7:00 P.M. in the Epping Town Hall. If you can't attend our meetings in person, meetings are televised on ETV, summaries are printed in The Carriage Towne News, and meeting minutes are posted on the district website referenced above.

The Epping Budget Committee and Epping School Board will also be meeting on December 1 at 9:00 A.M. in the Epping Town Hall to review the 2008-2009 proposed school district budget.

### **Speak Up, Epping! Downtown Revitalization Group**

The Downtown Revitalization Group is a working team of residents whose primary goal is to **improve the appearance of downtown Epping**. The intersection of Main and Pleasant streets is cleaner and more attractive and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Park are looking quite nice. Our focus is to make downtown attractive to residents and newcomers alike. We invest a couple of hours on an occasional Saturday morning and meet once a month downstairs in the library to discuss issues and projects. All are welcome if you would like to join us. For more information, please email Louis J. Santucci at [louandpauli@juno.com](mailto:louandpauli@juno.com).

### **VOTE on JANUARY 8**

The date for our New Hampshire Primary has finally been set for January 8, 2008. Be sure and remember the date and come out to vote in this important election.

### **Overheard on the Street**

*"Did you know Epping is the center of the universe?"*

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### **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 of this newsletter will be sent out by February 1, 2008. We will accept submissions through January 25 to be included in the next issue. Please send your content, including contact information, for consideration to: [speakupepping@gmail.com](mailto:speakupepping@gmail.com).

*Thanks for reading and happy holidays from the*



*Communications Group!*



## EPPING CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER, 2007 - JANUARY, 2008

Date	Event
Dec. 1	Epping Budget Committee and Epping School Board Meeting to discuss the 2008 – 2009 school budget. Location: Town Hall. Time 9am.
Dec. 2	Open House and Hand Crafted Gift Sale. Location: Plumercrest Bed & Breakfast. Time: 2pm – 5pm. House tours 2-4pm
Dec. 3	First Basketball Game in new gym. Girls vs. Farmington Location: Epping High School Gym. Time: 7pm.
Dec. 6	“MAKE and TAKE” Craft and Vendor Fair. Location: Epping Elementary School. Time: 6pm – 9pm.
Dec. 7 – Dec. 16	A Story of Christmas. Location: Leddy Theater. Time: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:00pm.
Dec. 8	Decorate Epping with the Garden Club. Location: Harvey Mitchell Library Parking Lot. Time: Noon.
Dec. 8	American Legion Annual Christmas Party. Location: Legion Hall. Time 1pm – 3pm.
Dec. 8	Prime Rib Dinner. Location: Epping Community Church. Time: 5 pm.
Dec. 8	Friends of the Library Silent Auction ends
Dec. 8 – Dec.9	Project Graduation Christmas Tree Sale. Location: American Legion. Time 9am – 5pm.
Dec. 9	Rain Date for Decorate Epping with the Garden Club. Location: Harvey Mitchell Library Parking Lot. Time: 1 pm.
Dec.9	Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Location: DAR Park. Time: 5pm.
Dec.11	Book Group and Holiday Cookie Swap Location: Harvey Mitchell Library
Dec. 14	Magic of Christmas Pajama Night. Location: Harvey Mitchell Library. Time 6:30pm -7:45pm.
Dec. 22	Toy Play Day. Location: Harvey Mitchell Library. Time 11:00am -1:00pm.
Dec. 23	Santa Claus Escorted by the Epping Fire Department. Time 3pm – 6pm.
Dec.26-28	Winter Break Movie Series at 1:00pm Location: Harvey Mitchell Library
Jan. 2	First Boys Basketball Game in new gym. Location: Epping High School. Time: 7pm.
Jan. 8	New Hampshire Primary Elections.
Jan. 25	Deadline of Speak Up, Epping! Newsletter Submissions Due.
Feb. 1	Speak Up, Epping! Newsletter

If you would like your next event to appear on the Calendar of Events, please send us an email [speakupepping@gmail.com](mailto:speakupepping@gmail.com) by Jan. 25. Please include the date, event name, location and time.