

TOWN OF BENNINGTON FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

TAXES

Please submit your tax payment on or before
December 22, 2022

You can mail your payment to
Tax Collector, 7 School Street
#101, Bennington, NH 03442

Or pay on line at
www.eb2gov.com

Catherine McGillicuddy is the
Tax Collector and is very
excited to serve the residents
of Bennington. You can reach
Cathy at 603-588-2189
Monday – Thursday (9 – 4)

TRANSFER STATION

Bennington has a transfer station. The hours of operation are **Wednesday 1:00 – 5:30 pm; Saturday 10:00 am – 3:30 pm; Sunday 10:00 am – 3:30 pm**

You will see a new friendly face at the Transfer Station, Auralee Burchett. Auralee is a resident of Antrim, very excited about recycling. She brings a great attitude and looks forward to working as many hours as possible to help the Town of Bennington. Say hi to Auralee if you see her.

The Transfer Station WILL be holding a Hazardous Waste Day in 2023. This year we will hold it with Hillsborough. Save your hazardous waste for a date to be determined later. More details will follow as they become available.

Transfer Station staff asks that you please rinse out your cans. Unrinsed cans cause bees and staff has been stung many times. Please be courteous of staff and help them to do their part efficiently.

Transfer Station is continuing to look for Part-Time per diem help. Please either see Tom James or Deb Davidson for details.

Have a safe holiday season!

Inside this issue:

- Recreation
- Library Happenings
- Selectmen
- Town Clerk
- Fire/EMD
- Historical Society

PARKING BAN

To insure snow removal and in the interest of Public Safety, residents are reminded that now through April 1, 2023 parking is prohibited on Town roads between 11:00 pm – 7:00 am.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The Town Services, including Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Administrative Offices, Transfer Station and Highway (Unless its Snowing, Highway will be plowing) will be closed Saturday, December 24, 2022, Monday, December 26, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023.

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 - Tentative, may be subject to change. First Public Hearing on the proposed annual budget.

RECREATION

Come celebrate Christmas in Bennington:

Sunday, December 4th - Check the town website & Recreation Committee Facebook page for details on daytime activities.

4:30pm Nativity Play – In front of the Bennington Congregational Church

5:00pm Lighted Truck & Tractor Parade – Francestown Road, Main Street, Acre Street, School Street

Saturday, December 10th – St. Lucia Celebration. Youth participants still needed! Seating is limited to family members of performers. Please contact Bethany Craig at bethanycraig@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Thank You:

Thank you Bethany and Jim Craig for your time as Recreation Committee Co-Chairs! Thank you Bethany and Jim Craig for always resurrecting annual town events, going above and beyond, spending your time and money, and ensuring we have amazing adventures in this small New England town! So much sweat, love, and joy goes into these events that no one can possibly know, and your efforts have indeed kept this town alive. – Jessie and Alex

Bethany and Jim made it so easy for me to integrate into the community when I moved to Bennington. I will always appreciate their open arms and can't thank them enough for encouraging me to get involved. – Haley Tramosch

My favorite thing Bethany did for the kids of the town since we moved here, ours being one of them, was quarantine birthday parades! She went absolutely above and beyond organizing separate parades and routes for the kids and recruiting Emergency personnel and town residents to join the parades when these kids couldn't see their friends and have any type of party. Sage's parade was one of her fondest memories living here so far and it was so much fun to be a part of other parades, some for kids we didn't know.

They welcomed us with open arms the first time we asked how we could help and have passed tons of knowledge about Recreation, the town, and everything great about living in Bennington. Thanks for all you have done Bethany & Jim! – Crystal and Chad

Friday Night Stage:

Friday Night Stage is a new event, Live music from local musicians. \$5.00 at the door – All proceeds help support local musicians.

December Line Up: Town Hall, 2nd floor, 7 School St. All shows are 7pm – 9pm

December 2 – Arthur James

December 16 – Wendy Keith and her Alleged Band

December 23 – Bonus Event – Tyler Allgood

Introduction:

Hey! My name is Jessie Crews, in January 2023 I will be your new recreation committee chair with the help and mentorship of Bethany Craig. This is my first year managing a committee, I hope I am able to live up to the previous chair's accomplishments. I know from this past year that this committee and town events were only successfully made because of our volunteers who make it possible. A huge shout out to them all! I live in downtown Bennington with my husband, Alexander Crews and our two small dogs, Hermes & Hades. My family transplanted from the west coast in November of 2021 and since settling we've come to love this town and this state, and we're super glad to finally plant roots! I enjoy illustration, exploring New England, board games, LARP, and engaging in community events.

SELECTMEN

Selectmen have done a lot of work this year. Many improvements have brought a welcomed use of the Town Hall 2nd floor. In honor of the donation from David Glynn, Selectmen are fulfilling his wishes with the installation of an elevator in the Town Hall and sprinkling the entire Town Hall building. This work will begin in the spring. There is a 27 week build time for the elevator, which has been ordered. We are looking forward to the changes and welcoming the increased use of the beautiful space. These improvements will maximize the use of this space, allowing for voting and other community events to be held at the Town Hall. Currently, 49 is the maximum capacity for the space on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall. Once the sprinkler system is installed the capacity will increase significantly. At the time of this printing, the exact capacity is not available, the Fire Chief indicated it will be upwards to 150 people.

The Tax Rate has seen an overall increase of \$1.31. The Town portion decreased .71 cents, State education saw a decrease of .41, the County increased .08 cents and the Local Education saw an increase of \$2.37 cents from the 2021 rate. Selectmen have worked hard to be thoughtful of tax payers, though some increases in the local budget are out of the Selectmen's control, they do monitor the budget regularly and have worked hard to keep the tax rate at bay. It is important to vote, educate yourself by going to School Board meetings, budget meetings and let your thoughts be known to the Selectboard about the tax rate and how you can help to keep the increases at a minimum.

Tax Rate Breakdown Bennington

Municipal Tax Rate Calculation			
Jurisdiction	Tax Effort	Valuation	Tax Rate
Municipal	\$1,368,573	\$131,660,297	\$10.40
County	\$158,523	\$131,660,297	\$1.20
Local Education	\$2,452,137	\$131,660,297	\$18.62
State Education	\$181,744	\$127,414,497	\$1.43
Total	\$4,160,977		\$31.65

4-year tax rate comparison

	2019	2020	2021	2022
ConVal	15.41	15.52	16.27	18.62
Town	10.78	10.99	11.11	10.40
State Ed	1.70	1.86	1.84	1.43
County	1.04	1.02	1.12	1.20

FIRE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

New Hampshire drivers are legally required to clear snow and ice off their cars before getting on the road. Drivers who violate the [law](#) face fines of \$250 to \$500 for a first offense and \$500 to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses. Please take the time and clean off your car.

Before lighting that stove or fire place, be sure to clean your chimney to prevent fires. We are always looking for volunteers, if you are interested in serving your community and joining a fun group, the fire department is a wonderful way to do just that.

TOWN CLERK

Hours open to the public: Thursday – 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm; Friday 9:00 am – Noon; Saturday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

We also have a drop box for after hour drop offs, mail-in registrations and an on-line service. www.eb2gov.com. If you have questions, you can always call the office during business hours. 603-588-2189.

LIBRARY

Monday Morning Story Time and Activity:

9:30AM every Monday morning, Monday, September 19 through Monday, November 21.

This story time and activity is for children not yet in school. Infants and toddlers are welcome to attend; NO ONE is ever too young for a Story Time!

E'AGER READERS BOOK GROUP

This is held on the second Thursday of each month:

November 10 & December 13, 2022 at 3:30-4PM

This group is for anyone in pre-K through 4th grade who likes being read to while working on a story related craft. Most books read are chosen from the NH Ladybug Award list.

The Great Stone Face Book Group

This is held on the fourth Thursday of each month:

September 22, October 27, November 29, 3:30PM- 4PM

The GSF book group is for readers grades 3 through middle school who are reading chapter books and want to discuss the books that they have read. The books for this group will be chosen from the annual 2022-2023 NH Great Stone Face book list sponsored by the NH Children's Librarians (CLNH).

A light snack will be available for participants in both book groups. Please register at the library and let us know of any food allergies.

ANNUAL WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION: Friday, December 2 at 6:30PM

This celebration includes stories, songs, a holiday craft activity and usually, a VERY special jolly holiday guest!

7th Annual Gingerbread House Workshop: Tuesday, Dec 6, 4PM

6th Annual Candy Cane Sled Races! Tuesday, Dec 13, 4PM

Both are held at the library. Snacks & drinks will be provided during these activities.

FREE AT THE LIBRARY:

Our online catalog: dodgeliibrary.bibliionix.com

Library news and links: www.dodgeliibrary.com

In-house: **BOOKS, PERIODICALS, DVDs & AUDIOBOOKS!**

Access to 'Libby' for: e-audios, e-books & e-magazines

Databases via library's website & catalog

INTER-LIBRARY LOAN

TUMBLEBOOKS:

(a database of picture books, youth chapter books, games, puzzles & foreign language instruction)

Online access to reference sites that include:

EBSCOhost database (medicine, genealogy & more)

24/7 Wi-Fi

Public access computer

FAX machine

COPIER- Color and Black & White

Delivery to home bound patrons

Facebook & Instagram connection

Public information bulletins & brochures

IRS tax forms

CURBSIDE SERVICE upon request

LIBRARY FALL HOURS

Monday – 9-5
 Tuesday – 9-5
 Thursday – 12-7
 Friday – 8-4
 Saturday – 4 -6

LIBRARY STAFF

Leslie MacGregor, Director
dodge.library1@comcast.net
 Melissa Searles – Asst. Director
dodge.library2@comcast.net

Laurie MacKeigan – Library Friends

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Jill Wilmoth – Chair
 Molly Eppig – Treasurer
 Colleen Allen
 David McKenzie – Alternative

BENNINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I am writing to our friends who are waiting patiently for the Bennington Historical Society to have a celebration, the opening of the Gazebo. A plan has been discussed but there is one glitch! The Historical Society has sold close to 200 memory bricks which will be placed around the Gazebo once they are all etched. About half of the memory bricks have been placed. The business that was recommended to do the lettering on the bricks, Perry Monument, Concord, NH was unable to get the materials needed to complete the procedure due to Covid, and shipping has been very slow. It reached a point that Perry Monument had to shut down their business. The historical society felt it would not be fair to have a celebration having only about one-half of the memory bricks installed around the gazebo. I have notified Perry Monument that there are still bricks not completed (etched). Perry Monument has just started working on the bricks again. BHS will do our best to keep the community updated. We are extremely sorry for not being able to go forward with completing laying bricks and celebrating. It's only fair that all bricks purchased must be completed by Perry Monument and in place at the time of celebrating.

Our member, David Sysyn, retired from collecting post cards, books, photographs, posters, etc. The Historical Society was fortunate to be given the opportunity to purchase some of these artifacts. David has been a collector for many years. Ever since he was a young child. His collections were amazing. We wish David Glynn, Pearl Walker, MaryEllen Lindsey, Joy Levesque were able to celebrate with us. These four people put their heart and soul into beginning the historical society and never lived to see the gazebo being built.

Saturday August 6th, 2022, Brenda Gibbons opened the Historical Society and remained open thru October 16th. The hours were 10:30 – 12:30. The Society is lucky to have Brenda open The Historical Society. Thankyou Brenda for all you do!

Office Hours**588-2189**

Town Hall	Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tax Collector	Available during Town Hall office hours
Town Clerk	Thursday 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Welfare Director	By Appointment – 603-588-2189
Code Officer	By Appointment – 603-588-2189
Trustees of Trust Funds	As needed with proper notice
Water/Sew Commissioners	First Monday of each month – 4:30 p.m.
ZBA	Third Monday of each month – 7:00 p.m.

