

## TAXES

**Tax Due Date & Tax  
Collector 7 School Street  
603-588-2189  
Mon - Thurs 10 am - 4 pm**

- The town's tax rate is set by four jurisdictions: municipal, county, local education, & state education. The due date is set after the Department of Revenue Administration receives all the numbers. Because of this, the date can change from year to year.
- **2023 TAX DATE:** Please submit your tax payment on or before 12/20/23.
- You can mail your payment to: Tax Collector, 7 School Street, Bennington, NH 03442. Or, pay on line at [www.eb2gov.com](http://www.eb2gov.com)
- Catherine McGillicuddy is the Tax Collector and is happy to serve the residents of Bennington. You can reach her at 603-588-2189, Mon - Thurs 9 am - 4 pm.
- You can reach Cathy at 603-588-2189, Mon - Thurs 9 am - 4 pm

- Fire & Rescue: 911 CARES program (replaces SupALI)
- Highway: Seasonal Parking
- Library: Events, Resources
- Transfer Station: New Hours & policies
- Police: New equipment & officer
- Selectboard
- Town Meeting: Schedule
- New Town Employee
- New Tax Rate
- Cemetery Trustees Request
- Annual Budget Meeting
- Primary Date
- Whittemore Lake Update
- December 3rd Events
- Fire & Rescue: New Alerting App

# TOWN OF BENNINGTON NEWSLETTER

November 27, 2023

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### Bennington Fire & Rescue

8 School Street  
603-588-2188

Mail: 7 School Street, Unit 103  
603-588-2188

(non-emergency number)

In case of emergency, please call 9-1-1

[www.benningtonnhfire.com](http://www.benningtonnhfire.com)

Follow us on Facebook

Bennington is in the 911 CARES program, which allows individuals to register specific medical conditions under their phone number. If you ever need to call 911 from one of the registered phones, the 911 dispatcher would be able to see the name, physical address (not necessarily the location of the caller) and medical conditions of the CARES individual and relay that information to the first responders before they arrive on scene.

If the program sounds familiar... 911 CARES is the new name of the revamped Supplemental ALI Medical Information database. *If you previously participated in the SupALI program, you still must register with a new account and CARES individual information with 911CARES.* To confirm your registration in the 911CARES system, contact [NH911CARES@desc.nh.gov](mailto:NH911CARES@desc.nh.gov).

How Does It Work? When we receive a call from a number associated with a CARES individual, the medical condition(s) and other information submitted by the account holder is displayed on the 911 telecommunicator's screen and can be shared with first responders, so they have a better understanding of the emergency situation, before they arrive on scene.

Where Do I Sign Up? The 911CARES database is accessible by going to: <http://www.cares.desc.nh.gov>. If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, paper forms can be requested by calling: 603-271-6911, option 4.

- Should you need assistance or have any questions or concerns, you can contact Keith Nason at [keith.nason@townofbennington.com](mailto:keith.nason@townofbennington.com) or through the town office.

## HIGHWAY

To insure snow removal and in the interest of Public Safety, residents are reminded Nov 1, 2023 - April 1, 2024. Parking is prohibited on Town roads between 11 pm – 7 am.

## LIBRARY

**G.E.P. DODGE LIBRARY**  
2 Main Street  
603-588-6585 ~ [www.dodgeline.com](http://www.dodgeline.com)  
Catalog: [dodgeline.bibliionix.com](http://dodgeline.bibliionix.com)  
Email: [dodgeline1@comcast.net](mailto:dodgeline1@comcast.net) and [dodgeline2@comcast.net](mailto:dodgeline2@comcast.net)  
Facebook & Instagram- [gepdodgeline](https://www.facebook.com/gepdodgeline)  
‘Like us’ on *Facebook* and *Instagram* for daily library news and photos

Monday - Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm  
Thursday 12 pm - 7 pm  
Friday 8 am - 4 pm  
Sunday 4 pm - 6 pm

The library is closed on National Holidays, & ConVal snow days. Please check our website, Facebook/Instagram pages and WMUR TV for any additional information and closing dates.



### **STORY TIMES AND BOOK GROUPS**

#### **Monday Morning Preschool Story Time & Activity- 9:30AM.**

Every Monday morning, except holidays and snow days

**Monday, September 18 through Monday, November 20.**

*This story time & 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! for Pre-K to 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

**October 12 , November 9, & December 14: 3:30 pm - 4 pm**

*HEAR A STORY, MAKE A CRAFT, EAT A SNACK!*

## **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**

The idea is simple; read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and or toddler.

The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes you can repeat books!) before your child starts kindergarten. This activity promotes closeness with your child, increases their vocabulary, curiosity and understanding of their world. It also prepares them for lifelong learning.



## **500 BOOKS BEFORE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The concept of this program is simple: read OR listen to any book!

The goal is to read 500 books before you start middle school (and yes, you can repeat books). If you read 2 books a week, you will have read 104 books in a year. That is 208 books in two years and 312 books in three years! You have more time than you think to complete the 500 Books Before Middle School challenge! Start at any time, and read at your own pace. Stop by the library to pick up your reading logs and a prize for every reading log you turn in.



## **WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY**

First Friday, December 1 @ 6:30 pm

Fingers crossed--upstairs @ the TOWN HALL.

*Save this date for our WINTER HOLIDAY celebration. The celebration includes stories, songs, a holiday craft activity and usually, a VERY jolly special holiday guest!*



## **8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP**

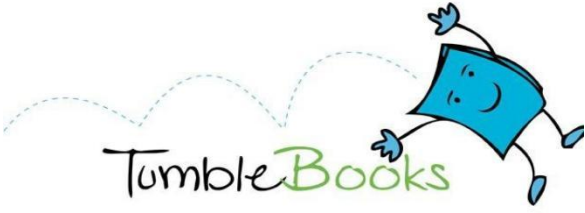

*Tuesday, December 12, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm*

**7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CANDY CANE SLED RACES!**

*Tuesday, December 19, 3:30 pm 4:30 pm*

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

**DOWNLOAD THESE TWO GREAT FREE APPS!**

	
<p><b><i>TUMBLEBOOKS!</i></b></p> <p>FREE online/APP database of picture books, youth chapter books, Math picture books, Math chapter books, games, puzzles &amp; foreign language instruction!</p>	<p><b><i>'LIBBY'</i></b> <b>(NHDownloadable Books Consortium)</b> Audio books, E-books &amp; Periodicals for adults &amp; children</p> <p><i>Check-out the updated Libby Periodical format! They are even easier to download and read than ever before!</i></p>

**Library Resources**

**For ALL age groups:** Audio Books on CD, Movies on DVD & Blu-ray, periodicals, games and puzzles AND of course --- BOOKS! Inter-library loan from ALL NH, Libraries, colleges & universities.

**FREE Services Available at the Library through our website/online catalog:** EBSCOhost Databases: medical, genealogical - Ancestry & Heritage & student resources- Explora & Explora K-8, Novelist and Novelist K-8, 24/7 Wi-Fi, public access computers, FAX machine, color/ b & w photocopier, public information bulletins & brochures, IRS tax forms. Delivery to home-bound patrons and CURBSIDE SERVICE upon request.

**TRANSFER STATION**

**TRANSFER STATION  
200 N. Bennington Road  
NEW HOURS BELOW**

**NEW BARREL POLICY:** As of 9/15/23, trash barrels can't be emptied directly into the town dumpster. Garbage must be bagged.

**NEW TRANSFER STATION HOURS:** As of 10/1/23, the Transfer Station will be CLOSED on Sundays. There will be extended hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays and new hours on Friday have been added. New regular hours are below.

**Wednesday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Friday: 1:30 pm - 6:30pm  
Saturday: 8 am - 4 pm**

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES:** No holiday closures are anticipated through the end of 2023.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**7 School Street #102**  
**603-588-3409**  
**(non-emergency number)**  
**In case of emergency, please call 9-1-1**

The Bennington Police Department hopes everyone had a great Summer and is enjoying the cooler Fall weather. We have remained steady between calls for service and slowly updating the Police Department.

We just received and qualified on our new Firearms, which replace the very old ones we were carrying. These new firearms will serve the Officers of the Bennington Police Department for the next 10-15 years. The Town of Bennington also hired a new part time Officer, Hayley Minahan. Many of you have already met Officer Minahan and she is doing well in her training. Officer Minahan is scheduled to attend the NH Police Academy in January of 2024. If you see Officer Minahan in Town feel free to say hi! Lastly, we are also in the process of completing a background on another applicant for the Police Department. Upon completion of the NH Police Academy, both Officers will be used to fill any open shifts, to provide the best coverage possible to the Town.

The Officers of the Bennington Police Department want to thank the Townspeople for their continued support.

## SELECTBOARD

**SELECTBOARD**  
**7 School Street**  
**603-588-2189**

The Town of Bennington is an SB-2 Town Meeting form of Government. The Selectboard operates the Town based upon the vote at the March Town Meeting.

**The Selectboard meets on Mondays at 6 pm.**

**SELECTBOARD MEETING AGENDA:** Please call the Town Administrator by 12:00 Noon the Thursday before a meeting, if you want to meet with the Selectboard and be placed on their Agenda.

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes are available in “draft” at the Town Office, if not posted yet. Website posting is done only after they have been approved at a Selectboard Meeting by the Selectboard.

### **Ordinances and Regulations**

<b>Current Use Criteria Booklet \$10.00</b>	<b>Excavation Regulations \$3.00</b>
<b>Site Plan Review Regulations \$7.00</b>	<b>Subdivision Regulations \$15.00</b>
<b>Water Pollution Control Regulations \$2.00</b>	<b>Zoning Ordinance \$25.00</b>

Website posting of minutes is done as a courtesy and only after they have been approved at a Selectboard Meeting by the Selectboard.

## TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting Tuesday March 12, 2024, 8 am - 7 pm, Town Hall Gymnasium

### COMMUNITY POWER PLAN:

The Town of Bennington is moving forward on a Community Power plan.

Community Power is a program approved by the State Legislature that allows towns to buy power, at rates that are lower than utilities' rates. The Town thus becomes the power supplier for residents and businesses. The purpose of this program is to lower energy costs in the town of Bennington. The plan will need Town Meeting approval. Once approved, we will be able to bring the energy to all residents and businesses that choose to participate, at a competitive price.

### NEW EMPLOYEE

Effective October 1, Selectmen authorized the hiring of Curtis Dude. Curtis was hired as a full-time employee, working 20 hours with the Highway Department and 20 hours at the Transfer Station. Curtis will be the newest friendly face you see at the Transfer Station and will be able to assist you with any questions. Curtis lives in Bennington with his wife and their dog.

### TAX RATE

The tax rate has seen an overall increase of \$0.50. The Town portion increased by .23, State education increased .54, the County increased .04, and Local Education decreased \$0.31, from the 2022 rate.

### NEW TAX RATE BREAKDOWN & COMPARISON

#### Municipal Tax Rate Breakdown

Jurisdiction	Tax Effort	Valuation	Tax Rate
Municipal	\$1,402,896	\$132,028,631	\$10.63
County	\$164,098	\$132,028,631	\$1.24
Local Education	\$2,417,016	\$132,028,631	\$18.31
State Education	\$253,502	\$128,369,731	\$1.97
Total	\$4,237,512		\$32.15

#### 4-Year Tax Rate Comparison

	2020	2021	2022	2023
ConVal	15.52	16.27	18.62	18.31
Town	10.99	11.11	10.40	10.63
State Ed.	1.86	1.84	1.43	1.97
County	1.02	1.12	1.20	1.24

## **CEMETERY TRUSTEES REQUEST**

### **Request from the Bennington Cemetery Trustees**

In 2020, the Cemetery Trustees updated their record-keeping procedures. So, they'd like copies of cemetery deeds for lots purchased before 2020 at the two Bennington Cemeteries: Sunnyside, at the center of town, and Evergreen, on Old Stagecoach Road.

This request is being made so that the Cemetery Trustees can update records, according to our policies and procedures. Please bring or mail a copy of your Deed to the Bennington Town Hall.

Questions can be addressed to any of the Cemetery Trustees.

Robert Christian, Chairman  
Karen Belcher  
Kelly St. Pierre

## **ANNUAL BUDGET**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNUAL BUDGET** – Monday, January 22, 2024, 6 pm, Town Hall Gymnasium.

**DELIBERATIVE SESSION** – Monday, February 5, 2024, 6:30 pm, Town Hall Gymnasium

**SB2 MEETING** – Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 8 am - 7 pm, Town Hall Gymnasium

## **PRIMARY DATE**

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 8 am - 7 pm, Town Hall Gymnasium.

## **WHITTEMORE LAKE UPDATE**

Whittemore Lake was resampled November 16, 2023. Unfortunately, the cyanobacteria density continues to exceed the state limit of 70,000 cell/mL so the advisory will remain active. The highest observed density was 91,800 cells/mL near the dam. Other samples collected from around the lake ranged from 28,500 - 32,000 cells/mL.

## **SUNDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> EVENTS**

- ◆ 3:00 pm - Decorated Tree Stroll, sponsored by Bennington 4-H, at the Town Gymnasium.
- ◆ 3:30 pm - Nativity Petting Zoo, at the Bennington Church.
- ◆ 4:30 pm - Nativity Play, at the Bennington Church.
- ◆ 5:00 pm Lighted Vehicle Parade 5:00 pm

*If you would like to have a vehicle in the parade, please contact the Town Office: 603-588-2189.*

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **New Alerting App**

As of 1/1/24, the town will have a new alerting app for your mobile devices. The app will provide location-based emergency/non-emergency alerting, including severe weather. You can opt in/out of what you receive. It's recommended that you download/use the new app as it will be our primary tool for providing community-based information in the future.

If you'd like to register a phone number to the alerting system, please email: [keith.nason@townofbennington.com](mailto:keith.nason@townofbennington.com) with your contact information. Include your name, address and phone number(s) you want to register. Please also include your email if you'd like to receive further updates/alerts there.

We're very excited about this new tool and hope you sign up right away. If you have any questions or require assistance, please reach out to Keith or the town office.

There is no cost to the town for this new system.