

## TAXES

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

Or pay on line at [www.eb2gov.com](http://www.eb2gov.com)

Catherine McGillicuddy is the Tax Collector.

You can reach Cathy at 603-588-2189 Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4 pm.

# TOWN OF BENNINGTON NEWSLETTER

## ***G.E.P. DODGE LIBRARY***

2 Main Street, Bennington, NH 03442  
603-588-6585 ~ [www.dodgeliibrary.com](http://www.dodgeliibrary.com)  
Catalog: [dodgeliibrary.biblionix.com](http://dodgeliibrary.biblionix.com)  
**FACEBOOK:** GEP Dodge Library  
**INSTAGRAM:** [gepdodgeliibrary](https://www.instagram.com/gepdodgeliibrary)



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### **SPRING HOLIDAY DATES:**

***Easter - March 31***  
***Memorial Day - May 26 & 27***

### **MONDAY MORNING**

#### ***PRESCHOOL STORY TIME AND ACTIVITY***

*Held at 9:30AM, every Monday morning, except holidays and snow days, beginning on*

*Monday, January 22, through Monday, May 6.*

*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 READER BOOK GROUP**

***April 9 & May 14***

***Hear a story, make a craft, eat a snack!***

### **The Great Stone Face Book Group**

***SECOND FRIDAY @ 3:30***

*The GSF book group is for readers who are reading chapter books at the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade levels and are interested in reading and discussing the books that they have read. This group will select their books from the annual*

***NH Great Stone Face book list.***

***Call the library if you are interested in joining!***

### **TRI-TOWN BOOK GROUP**

***Meetings are monthly at various locations, days and times.*** *This book group has formed between the Greenfield-Stephenson, Francestown-Bixby and Bennington-Dodge libraries. Please call the library for more information and for the reading list.*

## **SUMMER IS COMING SOON!**

*This year's summer reading program is: 'ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY'*

**July 1 to August 2**

**Registration will begin on  
Monday, June 10!**

*The summer reading program is for patrons of all ages, infant through adult.*

*Some of the activities include weekly story times, games, puzzles, a bike rodeo, trivia night, field trips, craft activities and programs.*



### **GEP TALKS!**

***The return of GEP Talks!***

*Join us for programs sponsored by the library on the **SECOND THURSDAY** of the month.*

**GEP Talks** are a way of showcasing local programs, and talents, knowledge and hobbies of our local area friends and neighbors.

### **COMMUNITY SUPPER!**

*The GEP Dodge Library Garage will host the **Community Supper** on  
Thursday, **APRIL 11, 2024 @5:30PM***

### **FREE Services**

**Available at YOUR Library**

### **HOMEBOUND SERVICES!**

*For patrons who are unable to visit or access the library because of and not limited to: inclement weather, short or long term illness, non-driver status, physical challenges or disabilities*

*Please call us to organize.*

### **IRS FORMS!**

**IRS forms begin to arrive in January**

***We participate in the NH State Library's inter-library loans services (NHAIS) and we receive materials from ALL participating NH Libraries.***

### **VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND ONLINE CATALOG!**

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

[dodglibrary.biblionix.com](http://dodglibrary.biblionix.com)

### **HAVE YOU MET LIBBY YET?**



**'LIBBY'**

**(NHDownloadable Books Consortium)**

Audio books, E-books & Periodicals  
for adults & children



**TUMBLEBOOKS!**

*FREE online/APP a database of picture books, youth chapter books, Math picture books, Math chapter books, games, puzzles & foreign language instruction!  
Ages: infant through teen*

*Online access to reference sites that include:*

***EBSCOhost Databases***

*Medical, genealogical - Ancestry & Heritage  
& student resources-Explora &  
Explora K-8, Novelist and Novelist K-8*

***IN HOUSE***

*For all age groups, we have Audio Books on CD, Movies on DVD & Blu-ray, periodicals  
AND of course --- BOOKS, fiction, nonfiction and reference!*

*We have 24/7 Wi-Fi, Public access computers,  
a FAX machine,  
Color & Black & White photocopier  
Public information bulletins & brochures  
IRS tax forms  
Delivery to home bound patrons*



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***REMINDERS!***

*The library is closed on National Holiday & ConVal snow days.  
Please check our website, our library Facebook page and WMUR TV for any additional closing  
dates and other announcements.*

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**IT'S THE LAW, FIRE PERMITS ARE REQUIRED!**

- Burning of category II and III Fires is allowed between 5:00PM and 9:00AM, unless it is actively raining.

- Landowner permission is required in writing to obtain a legal permit.
- Category I fires must be at 25 feet from structures or other hazards.
- Category II and III fires must be at 50 feet from structures or other hazards.
- You must obtain a seasonal permit for your fire pit or cooking fire annually.
- Brush piles require their own permit (you cannot use your seasonal permit), the permitted shall have sufficient water, tools and personnel necessary to control and completely extinguish the fire.
- Permissible materials are clean, untreated wood and brush 5 inches in diameter or less.
- **NO** domestic waste, treated wood or composite materials may be burned.
  - RSA -125N defines “combustible domestic waste” as, but not limited to, household trash, packaging materials, plastics, coated or laminated papers, rubber, painted or treated wood, coated or treated cardboard, oily rags and animal, vegetable, and kitchen waste.
- A complete copy of the laws and regulations can be a complete copy of the laws and regulations can be obtained at the fire station, from the fire warden or one of the deputy fire wardens.

## **PLEASE NUMBER YOUR HOUSE, APARTMENT, CAMP & MAILBOX**

It is extremely important that when you call for help, that we can find you quickly. Please help us help you.

- Number your mailbox with large and reflective numbers.
- Number your residence with large and reflective numbers that are easily seen from the road.
- If you are in a camp or apartment, it is very important to number your entry door.
- When calling 911, give as much detail as to your location as possible.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The State of New Hampshire office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management recently visited Bennington to evaluate our programs and have given us a GOLD STAR rating. With the exception of one plan which is in the middle of being updated, we are at or in most cases above the state averages from all agencies including those which are full time.

## **AED PROGRAM**

The Town of Bennington has purchased AEDs to place in many town buildings including, both police vehicles, multiple fire vehicles, town office, gym upstairs at town office, library, transfer station/highway department and the VFW. Training will be provided for CPR and AED to all town employees and a program for residents is coming soon.

## **NH CARES**

NH Residents with special medical conditions can register to be included in the NH 911 CARES Program anytime, anywhere using the new NH CARES Website. To register yourself or someone else simply log into <https://cares.desc.nh.gov> to set up a new account.

If you have questions or require assistance, please call 603-271-6911 or email us at [NH911CARES@desc.nh.gov](mailto:NH911CARES@desc.nh.gov).

## **GENESYS ALERTING**

Visit <https://benningtonnhalerts.genasys.com/portal/en> to sign up for Bennington specific alerts, you can select which message types you wish to receive and how to receive them such as text, email and/or phone.

We also welcome emails anytime which can be sent to Director Nason at [keith.nason@townofbennington.com](mailto:keith.nason@townofbennington.com) or Deputy Director Powers at [jason.powers@townofbennington.com](mailto:jason.powers@townofbennington.com).

## **TRANSFER STATION**

Hello from the transfer station! Transfer Station would appreciate all caps removed, all bottles and cans rinsed. Anything with food in it should be rinsed. Please don't leave anything at the swap shop without first checking with Tom or Curtis.

Please plan your trip to the dump allowing for plenty of time. We thank you for your consideration.

The Transfer Station is for resident use only. Hours are Wednesday 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM; Friday 1:30 PM – 6:30 PM; Saturday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Earth Day is upon us. While we should be thinking about positively impacting our world all the time, this annual observance gives us an opportunity to come together as a community and clean the roadsides of the town from all the litter that has been chucked out of car windows over the winter. Saturday, April 20 at 9:00AM the Conservation Commission is organizing the Annual Roadside Cleanup. The morning will begin with a free waffle breakfast at the Depot underwritten by the Monadnock Paper Mill and Common Place Eatery. Then groups will head out on town roads to pick up litter. Reflective vests and blue bags will be supplied. Each participant should bring some good gloves to wear to pick up the debris.

Also, that morning it will be announced which Bennington student submitted the winning design for the Annual Earth Day Sign Competition.

We hope to see many of the community there to help make our town look sharp.

## 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. The purpose of the Town Clerk and her assistant register not only cars, but also boats, dogs, and OHRVs (Off Highway Recreational Vehicles). They issue marriage and death certificates and hunting and fishing licenses, and provide an annual rabies clinic in April.

A reminder that dogs were due to be registered in April. Civil forfeitures (fines) will begin in June!

A huge Thank You to everyone who helped out with the election.

## FRIDAY NIGHT STAGE MUSIC

Friday Night Stage Music has been a success so far. It has been great to use the gymnasium, the stage and to be able to utilize the lift for anyone who stairs may challenge. The next band will be McGettigan & Gilbert. That show will be held on April 19 at 8:00 pm, cost is \$10.00.

After that, the final show will be on May 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm, come watch The Monadnock Mavericks do some incredible line dancing and enjoy the fun. We are hoping to maybe have some music at Sawyer Field during the summer. Sponsorship is always welcomed, the bands appreciate all the support. We are so lucky to have such talent in the Monadnock Region and even more lucky they are willing to help support our community. Thank you everyone who helped with the music this winter. We could not have done it without all the volunteerism, your all very much appreciated.

## RECREATION

**Amateur Radio Forum** – Starting April 2, the first Tuesday of each month, at the VFW between the hours of 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, the Town of Bennington will be sponsoring an Amateur Radio Forum. Curtis Dude will be available to educate and demonstrate for the community and all interested people an Amateur Radio Forum. This Forum is FREE to all who want to attend, we look forward to seeing you there.

Selectmen met with the Easter Bunny, it was agreed that on March 24, 2024 at 10:00 am, Newhall Field with one of the largest Easter Egg Hunts. 1,000 candy filled Easter Eggs were intended to be hidden throughout the field, children were excited to hunt for the eggs in the various age groups. However, due to the inclement weather, **the Easter Egg Hunt, complete with the Easter Bunny and 1,000 eggs was postponed until Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 10:00 am at Newhall Field.**

June 1 – Bennington NH Rhubarb Festival – More information to come.

## SELECTMEN

During the summer hours the Selectmen meet bi-weekly on Mondays at 6:00 PM. Please call the office at 603-588-2189 to make an appointment if you want to meet with the Board of Selectmen.

The Selectmen appreciate everyone who signed up for an official position within the Town of Bennington. The Planning Board and ZBA have new faces on each Board. The March 12, 2024 election results are as follows: Selectman (3 years) James Cleary; Library Trustee (3 years) Colleen A. Allen; Cemetery Trustee (3 years) Melissa Clark; Planning Board (3 years) Donald A. Trow; Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years) Shelley Griswald; Water & Sewer Commissioner (3 years) Tyler Howe; ZBA (3 years) Jim Craig; ZBA (2 years) Chris Clough; Moderator (2 years) John Cronin; Supervisor of Checklists (6 years) Walter Turner; School Board Member (3 years) Michael Hoyt. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Town, contact Town Clerk, Deb Belcher – 603-588-2189 – She can direct you to positions that have openings and help you to get involved with becoming a member of a Board or Committee.

All Town Warrants passed as written.

ConVal Warrant Article 10, to close four ConVal Elementary Schools, FAILED.

The reval is well underway, if you have received a letter to either enter your property or with your property updated information, if you have question for John Hatfield (Commerford, Neider, Perkins, LLC) and want to meet with John, please follow the instructions in the letter and he will meet with you. If you missed the letter or haven't received one, another letter will be sent to each taxpayer after the reval is completed. At that time, if you call to set up an appointment, CNP will email you a card or mail it if email is not available, this will assure you have confirmation in advance of the scheduled appointment.

**Low to Moderate Income Tax Relief** – The State of NH offers a low to moderate income tax relief program. The Town can help you through the program, the forms will become available at the end of April. Call the office and speak with either Deb or Cathy who are happy to help you complete the paperwork that may provide you a little relief from the state. An eligible applicant for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief is a person who is: Single with adjusted gross income equal to or less than \$37,000; or. Married or head of NH household with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$47,000;

Information and updates for Selectmen and other town business can be found on the town website [www.townofbennington.com](http://www.townofbennington.com) and also on the town Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bennington.NH.Municipal>



## **POLICE**

The Bennington Police Department hopes everyone had a great start to 2024 and is ready to enjoy the nicer weather coming. A few updates with the Department; Sworn Officer Nicolas Cole is currently in the Part Time NH Police Academy and is approx. half way through. Ofc. Cole is doing very well and will be graduating end of May. After Graduation, Ofc. Cole will begin an extensive Field Training Program before becoming a solo Officer. We look forward to having Officer Cole back with us and ready to start working patrol.

We are also currently working on replacing our aging rifles and are testing out several new rifle models to purchase and will have those later in the year. Lastly, after several meetings with the Selectboard, we are currently working on purchasing at least two digital speed signs through a grant, one of which will be placed on Route 202. The money from the grant will offset most of the costs of these signs.

The Officers of the Bennington Police Department want to thank the Townspeople for their continued support and we hope you continue to have a wonderful 2024.

## **HIGHWAY**

Here is to a great summer!

This picture is of the two recent upgrades to the highway department, we are ready to work. Both pieces of equipment are ready for anything that they are needed for.

We are looking forward to some big projects this year. Old Greenfield Rd will be re-claimed with a paving crew and paved with a new surface. Mountain Road will get a top coat of pavement at that time as well, also we are geared up to repair the end of Mountain Road where the stone culvert plugged up during July rains.

We will also be ditching parts of many roads during the early spring, so please look for the signs of us working and drive accordingly.





## **WATER/SEWER CUSTOMERS**

Don't forget to get your meter replaced. Rates will be going up and if your meter isn't replaced, it will go up significantly.

## **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

There are three Notaries of Public at the Bennington Town Offices; their services are available free of charge.

## **TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS**

Trustees of the Trust Funds have just completed a transfer of all Capital Reserve Funds and Trust Funds from Three Bearings Fiduciary Advisors, Inc. to Bar Harbor Wealth Management. Our goal with this new management company is to see better returns on our invested funds. Questions can be directed to Trustees of the Trust Funds Chair, Bethany Craig, 588-2106 or [bethanycraig@yahoo.com](mailto:bethanycraig@yahoo.com). David Parker and Shelley Griswold are also trustees.

## **CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

In 2020 the Cemetery Trustees changed how they keep their records. The Cemetery Trustees are looking to make copies of cemetery deeds for lots held at the two Town Cemeteries located in Bennington. Sunnyside at the center of town and Evergreen on Old Stagecoach Road. Again, only for lots purchased prior to 2020. This request is being made so that the Cemetery Trustees can update their records according to our policies and procedures. The Trustees are asking that you bring or mail a copy of your Deed to the Bennington Town Hall. Any questions can be addressed to any of the Cemetery Trustees.

Chairman Karen Belcher, Trustee Melissa Clark