

Swanzey Uncovered



Fall 2016

Welcome to Swanzey Uncovered, the Town's periodic newsletter where we let you know what is going on in your town government! Inside you will find reports from departments and committees about their activities throughout the year so far and also information about what they have coming up. Between issues of Swanzey Uncovered, be sure to check the Town's website www.town.swanzey.nh.us often to see what's happening.

As always, if you have any ideas or issues with Town government, feel free to contact your Town Administrator (Michael Branley) or the Board of Selectmen (Bill Hutwelker, Ken Colby and Sly Karasinski).

2017 Town Budget

The Board of Selectmen will be beginning the process of creating the 2017 Town Budget and Warrant in October. Public participation and input, especially early in the process, is encouraged.

October 15 – Town Hall

9 a.m. – Coffee and Conversation with the Board of Selectmen

10 a.m. – Budget work sessions with the following departments: Recycling, Fire, Police, and Public Works.

What's inside...

- Mt Caesar Union Library - Free Classes
- Sheds and Permitting
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Updates on the following:
 - North Swanzey Water & Fire Precinct
 - Police Department
 - Recycling Center
 - Town Committees
 - Fire Department



Up-cycling - reuse (discarded objects or material) in such a way as to create a product of a higher quality or value than the original. More information in the Recycling Center update.

Committee Updates

E-911 Committee

The E-911 Committee was created by the Board of Selectmen and has been meeting since June. The Committee has been working to advise the Board of Selectmen with ways to correct issues related to street names and other addressing issues raised by first responders and the NH Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services.

The Committee has made recommendations to create two new private roads (off Matthews Road and South Grove Street) and rename and change addresses on the following roads: Old Lake Street, Old Eaton Road, South Grove Street, North Grove Street, and North Pine Street. The Board of Selectmen is expected to make decisions on these recommendations after a public hearing on October 5th.

In addition, the Committee and Board of Selectmen have requested that the US Postal Service eliminate the North Swanzey zip code (03431) and have all delivered mail in Swanzey use the 03446 zip code (PO Boxes in West Swanzey would remain 03469). The elimination of the North Swanzey zip code is hoped to reduce postage delivery issues and improve emergency response. Did you know that there are four communities that share the 03431 zip code and there are several street names that they all use? The Town hopes North Swanzey property owners will vote in favor of eliminating the 03431 zip code in the survey the Postal Service will be conducting.

Notices regarding the next group of streets with issues we are looking to address have already been sent out.

Bruce Bohannon, Emergency Management Director

Recreation Advisory Committee

The Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Director are in the process of restarting the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC is made up of five members of the community to advise the Director and Selectmen on matters related to Recreation in Swanzey and serve as a pool of volunteers to support recreation. If you are interested in getting involved, contact the Recreation Director or Town Administrator.



Jeannette Rondeau enjoys her ride in the parade as Swanzey's Oldest Citizen.

Christian Hill Bridge Advisory Committee

The Christian Hill Bridge Advisory Committee was created by the Board of Selectmen and has been meeting since February. The Committee has selected the engineering firm Hoyle Tanner and Associates to assist in its work and is still projecting to have a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for action at the 2017 Town Meeting.

Capital Improvement Program Committee

The Capital Improvement Program Committee has been restarted and will be working with the Town's department heads and committees to assess proposed purchases and projects to put together a comprehensive six year capital spending plan. This effort will build on the prior work of this and other committees and will include a combination of facility projects, vehicles, and major equipment.

Joint Loss Management (Safety) Committee

The Town has reactivated its Safety Committee to try to improve the safety in the Town's facilities and for the Town's employees. The Safety Committee is comprised of Town Employees from all departments and will meet at least once per quarter.



MRMHS Equestrian Team



Fire Department

By Captain Mattson, Fire Inspector

As the fall season is upon us and the cool air turns a bit colder we start to rely on our heating systems. Whether you have electric, oil, propane or wood we hope that you take a moment to check and replace the batteries in your smoke detectors. If they are more than 10 years old it's time to start replacing/upgrading them with a combination smoke and carbon monoxide detector. Install and maintain smoke alarms on EVERY level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. For the best protection, interconnect the alarms so when one sounds, they all sound. TEST all smoke alarms at least monthly. This is also a good time to schedule that last minute cleaning to your heating system that we all should have done earlier in the year.

Here are a few pointers to be prepared;

- *Furnaces inspected/serviced
- *Chimneys and vents clean and clear of obstructions
- *A covered metal container for ashes – wood / pellet stoves
- *A 3-foot space around any wood stove, fire place or space heater

If you use any type of portable heater have it plugged directly into an outlet and not a power strip or extension cord.

- *Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection
- *Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over
- *Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed



Halloween is a fun and spooky time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.

- *Provide children with a flashlight or glow stick as part of their costume
- *Have large eye holes in masks to make it easier to see
- *Keep their costumes clear of any lit candles in jack-o-lanterns
- *Keep jack-o-lanterns safely out of the way for trick-or-treaters in your walkways, doorsteps and yards

With these few helpful tips we at the Swanzey Fire Department hope you have a safe, happy and healthy fall season.

Trick-or-treating will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Halloween.



Recreation Department Update

The soccer season is well underway. We had a total of 129 children sign up. The soccer season is very short so please be aware that this program will start earlier next year.

In case you were not aware, the Recreation Department is on the Town's website. Here you will find updates and information on programs and upcoming events for children and adults! The Town is looking for volunteers to jump start the Recreation Advisory Committee, please volunteer!





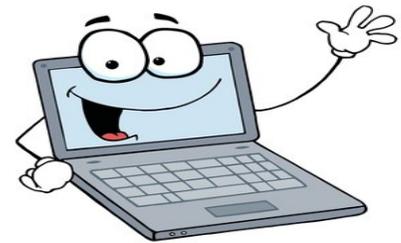
Mt. Caesar Union Library

Do you have questions about your computer, smartphone, or other device? The Mt. Caesar Union Library is hosting a series of tech lectures this fall. Resident Miguel Picanco will present on the following topics:

- 9/14 Computer & Smartphone Basics and Shortcuts
- 9/28 Troubleshooting Essentials: Internet Components & Processes
- 10/5 Universal Application Tips: Learn How to Learn Anything
- 10/19 Social Media: What Is It? How Do I Start? Should I Care?
- 11/2 Make the Most of Internet Search Engines; Alerts; Hacking
- 11/16 Password Managers: Securing Your Virtual Infrastructure
- 11/30 Managed Sharing; Backups; Other Advice
- 12/14 Summary of Everything Tech; Extensive Q & A

All lectures will be on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:30, and are free and open to the public.

Mt. Caesar Union Library
628 Old Homestead Hwy.
Swansey, NH 03446
357-0456



Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTV) Swansey Volunteers NEEDED



Just a few hours of your time can make a difference in a person's life.

If you have some time now and then to give someone a ride, for appointments, treatments, etc. we'd appreciate hearing from you.

Volunteer to be a driver for **Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTV)** and help fulfill our mission of creating, coordinating and delivering transportation solutions for the Monadnock Region. The current unmet need (not enough drivers available) is 40 requests, with many from the Swansey area.

We are a non-profit organization providing rides for individuals without access to transportation due to age, ability, income and/or life circumstances to medical and non-medical appointments, social services, banking, the pharmacy, and food shopping.

Let us answer your questions about mileage reimbursement, training, insurance and how easy it is to sign up for trips online or over the phone. Our drivers get to choose the rides that work with their schedules.

Please contact:
 Community Volunteer Transportation Company
 (CVTV)
 1-877-428-2882
www.cvtc-nh.org
info@cvtc-nh.org

West Swansey AA Memorial Park

The Town is accepting benches and other monuments to be placed in the park on the site of the former West Swansey AA Building. Contact the Town Administrator's Office to discuss a donation.

Recycling Center

With summer behind us, and going into the fourth quarter of the year, we have been busy catching up from a good summer. Everyone has been doing a great job on recycling. So far this year 54 compactors have been picked up as of 8/24/16, weighing a total of 643.84 tons. With all of the recyclables residents have diverted from landfill you have saved the Town of Swanzey money. 93.06 tons of paper and 93.69 tons of cardboard alone is a huge savings.

With the upcoming year, we are looking at the end of our Waste Management five-year contract. There is a lot of room for improvement on a new contract like renting or buying the compactors, checking all local refuse disposal companies for best haul charges and disposal rates, and overall savings from the present contract.

Another big challenge we are facing is the proper disposal of our PGA (processed glass aggregate), and rubble pile (porcelain, ceramics, cement, brick, and other types of stones) Facilities across the country are facing the same challenges. Many have used it for drainage under sidewalks, roads, backfill and cement fill. Always remember before you want to “throw” something away ask yourself if there is another use for the material such as stones, ceramics, and bricks. Up cycling is as easy as using old bricks as a border for a garden or flowerbed. Mixing cement and processed glass for fill is another neat way to up-cycle a product!



As we start to roll into the colder months, we will be burning all of the used motor oil dropped off over the course of the year. This will heat our building throughout winter, saving on buying heating fuel. This is why taking clean oil only is so important. We inspect all of the oil before we take it, and before it gets put into our used oil furnace. It is very important to make sure there is nothing mixed with the oil such as: gasoline, brake fluid, water or paint. All of the above examples have been seen coming through the facility and caught upon first inspection and turned away from being dropped off. If they did make it through to the tank it could be damaging to the furnace and be very dangerous.

Interim Solid Waste Manager, Josh Whipple

Swanzey Old Home Day 2016

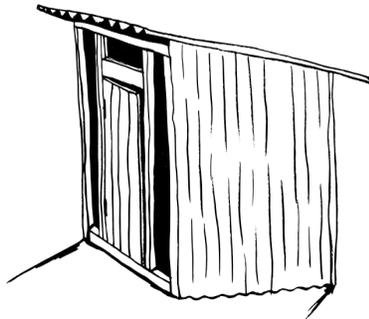
Festivities began in the morning of July 16 with the traditional parade from Talbot Hill Road to MRMHS. There were activities for young and not-so-young alike including: children's games, the Roaming Railroad, a covered wagon ride, Fire Department demonstrations, circus performances, band concert, and the Monadnock Maverick Dancers strutting their stuff. The Classic Car Show beat all previous records for the number of its participants, and our visitors enjoyed a wide variety of food and craft selections, provided by local vendors and crafters. In addition, the Town of Swanzey joined us this year with several booths that highlighted the many activities our town provides for its citizens. A few pictures from this year's OHD are in this newsletter!

Sheds and Permitting

One of the most frequently asked questions I get is “do sheds need a permit?” like most questions regarding codes, ordinances and the like the answer is “it depends.”

Let’s start with the simplest scenario; if your shed is a residential installation and it is 200 square feet or less it does not need a permit. The same goes for commercial uses except the square footage maximum is only 150. In both cases the shed still needs to be built or set within the prescribed setbacks. Please call the land use office if you are unsure of the setbacks in your area. If you are unable to stay within your property’s setbacks you can apply for a variance at the land use office. If your shed is under the prescribed square footage, but is going to be electrified then it will require an electrical permit. That will cost \$50 for residential applications and \$75 for commercial applications. Sheds larger than the prescribed square footage will indeed require a building permit. These buildings come in all types of configurations and are used for an endless number of uses so please call with any and all questions you may have regarding your next building or home improvement project.

Code Enforcement
Officer, Mike Jasmin
352-7411 ext. 105.



The Old Homestead Players serve as this year’s Grand Marshall

North Swanzey Water & Fire Precinct Water News

Our water supplier, the City of Keene is currently replacing water main gate valves throughout the City and water flows to North Swanzey may be impacted with lower pressures & discolored water. The water is safe. If your water is discolored, run the cold water tap until clear & use caution when doing laundry, as it may stain.

Conserving our natural resources is always a good idea, and water is no exception. The drought has not been as bad here as it is in other parts of the State. We, and the City of Keene, urge you to use water responsibly and conserve wherever possible, saving you money too!

In an effort to improve communications with our customers, and the public, we are inviting you to visit our new Facebook page labeled North Swanzey Water & Fire Precinct. For postings of meetings and news updates, please visit our website at:

<http://www.northswanzeywater.org>



First Congregational Church Celebrates its 275 year of Service to our Town and beyond



Update from Swanzey PD



The past eight months we have seen a continuation in the complexity of criminal investigations fueled by the use of the internet, social media, smart phones, computer scams and drugs. We have investigated serious car accidents, two of which resulted in fatalities.

In reviewing our Calls For Service (CFS) this year many of our serious calls are down, such as burglaries, assaults, thefts, reckless driving, DWI, robbery and non-injury traffic accidents. I would like to attribute some of these lower numbers to our proactive law enforcement approach. Cruisers are patrolling the roads and neighborhoods as much as possible, being visible to the residents and motoring public; officers are shaking doors at night on businesses; and residents are taking an active role in their community calling the police when they know something is wrong.

Here is an example of a few of the calls that have increased; willful concealment (thefts from stores), mental health calls, fraud, bad checks, obscene material (computer crimes), violations of protective orders, hit and run accidents, registration of sex offenders, drug related offenses, and driving after suspension. Increased driving after suspension incidents is to be expected with an increased police presence. We have a major heroin problem in Swanzey; it is widespread and is the root cause of many of our serious cases.

Here are some interesting facts:

- We are below the national average of officers for the size of our community.
- Year 2000 estimates from the FBI reports an average of 2.4 sworn officers per 1,000 population nationwide.
- Swanzey's population is over 7,000 and growing. This formula would suggest a force of 16+ officers.
- Example: Jaffrey, a town of 5,500 has 12 full-time officers. Swanzey a town of 7,400 has 12 full-time officers.
- We are the 2nd largest and 2nd busiest community in Cheshire County.



I also want to state some additional facts: We have experienced an increase in the complexity of calls due to the use of technology. Demands will continue to increase from the effects of our town and region's growth. I am asking for the continued support for the 2017 budget so we can keep providing the best service to the Town. For 2017 I want to make sure that we have the tools, continuing education, and help required so we can continue to be more proactive and less reactive.

I urge you to contact me and I will be happy to discuss any of our police operation with you. From all of us at the Swanzey PD, thank you for your continued support!

Chief Thomas R De Angelis



Main Street Reconstruction Project

The reconstruction of Main Street is well underway since construction began at the beginning of August. The project is currently on schedule to be completed around the end of October and is on budget. Initial paving in addition to the infrastructure under the roadway has been completed. The Thompson Covered Bridge will reopen to traffic when the project is finished.



TOWN OF SWANZEY
620 OLD HOMESTEAD HIGHWAY
P.O. BOX 10009
SWANZEY, NH 03446

PRSR.T. STD.
PAID
Swanzey, NH
Permit #11
ECRWSS

If you would like to donate any plants or flowers to be planted at the Carpenter Home please contact Kathy Nicholson at hodgman59@yahoo.com



Postal Patron

Swanzey, NH 03446

We need you!

Are you interested in...

- Preserving the environment?
- Cheshire TV?
- Sports and recreation?
- Something else?

Contact the Town Administrator for information about volunteering to serve your town!

The Assessors are Coming! The Assessors are Coming!

It is hard to believe it has already been two years since the Town's last property tax assessment updates. The State of New Hampshire requires that towns update tax assessments every five years. The Town of Swanzey has 3,500+ parcels. In order for the contract assessors from M&N Assessing to visit all (if possible) properties, it is necessary to spread the property visits out over a three year period of time. Some of you may have already met Nick who has been working in the West Swanzey area over the summer. He will continue his work in that area for a bit longer. Dave will be working in the Marcy Hill Road and North Swanzey areas over the next couple of months.

Both Nick and Dave carry company ID's, have a letter from the Town, and they both drive a Subaru Forrester (one red and one blue). If you have any questions, please call Coleen Birmingham, Assessing Coordinator at 352-7411 x114. Thank you for your cooperation.





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Swanzey, NH 03469

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Postal Patron

Swanzey, NH 03431

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- Something else?

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