

Swanzey Uncovered

Summer 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 out the Town's website www.town.swanzey.nh.us often to see what is happening.

As always, should you have any ideas or issues with Town government, feel free to contact your Town Administrator Michael Branley at 352-7411 ext. 107 or the Board of Selectmen.

Coffee and Conversation with the Board of Selectmen



Monthly (usually on the first Saturday) the Board of Selectmen has been hosting Coffee and Conversation with the Selectmen. Locations and times vary, however the idea is to give residents and taxpayers an opportunity to have discussions with the Selectmen in a less formal atmosphere than a typical Board meeting. Keep an eye on the website for upcoming dates.



May 7th Coffee and Conversation at Town Hall

Falls Brooks Project

The Town of Swanzey has teamed up with the Cheshire County Conservation District and Trout Unlimited to replace the culvert on Hale Hill Road at Falls Brook. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid July and should be done by the end of August. During construction, Hale Hill Road will be closed to through traffic. Most of the money for this project has come from an Aquatic Research Mitigation Fund grant.

What's inside...

- Old Home Day schedule and events
- Recreation Programs
- Does your pool need a permit?
- New Town committees
- Human Services - Reach out to your Elders
- New Assessor in Town
- Main Street Reconstruction Project

Old Home Day – July 16, 2016



- 9:00am Parade Assembles
Paul Scheuring, MC
- 9:00am – 2:00pm Classic Car Show
- 10:00am Parade Steps off!
- 11:00am Swanzey Fire
Department
Demonstrations
- 11:00am NECCA – Circus
performers
- 11:00am Roaming Railroad
- 11:00am Bike the Bridges
- 11:00am Decorated Bicycle
Judging at Town Hall
- 11:00am – 2:00pm Martial Arts
Demonstrations
- 11:00am – 2:00pm Meet and greet Donkey
- 11:00am – 2:00pm Pony Rides by MHS
Equestrian Club
- 11:30am Nelson Band Concert
- 11:30am K-9 Demonstration with
Officer Josh English
- 12:00pm Historic Mt. Caesar
Cemetery Walk with
Lee Dunham
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm Monadnock Maverick
Dancers
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm Ben Pratts Magic Show
- 1:00pm Classic Car Trophy
Presentation
- 7:30pm “Old Homestead Play” at
Potash Bowl

Bridges Bike Ride

Free - a 12.5 mile guided bike ride through the covered bridges of Swanzey led by Bob Audette.



Assemble in front of the old Grange Hall across from Town Hall at 11 am Helmets & water recommended. Trail bikes are preferred.

Historic Mt. Caesar Cemetery Walking Tour

Free - Learn the history of Swanzey and some of its former inhabitants during this walking tour led by Lee Dunham. Assemble in front of the Grange Hall at noon.



Town Government Booth at Old Home Day



Do you want to know more about emergency management? Do you have questions about the West Nile virus or how to prevent tick-borne diseases? Are you looking for fun places to hike in Town? Answers to these questions and many more can be found at the Town Government booth at Old Home Day.



Emergency Management, the Health Officer, Town Hall Staff and many other town government departments will join forces to provide interesting and valuable information regarding services available to you! Recreation brochures, trail maps, dog licensing/regulations, town reports and much more will be available.

Plus, goodies for Swanzey’s youngest residents will be on hand. Stop by and say hello!



Swanзей Recreation Department

Applications are available at Town Hall or on the Town's website www.town.swanзей.nh.us

Come by and meet the new Recreation Director Ian Fraunfelder at the Town Government booth at Old Home Day. We will have mini beach balls for the kids!

Swanзей Lake Day Camp - June 20th to August 12th
Monday thru Friday 8am to 4pm

Red Cross Swim Lessons - July 18th to July 22nd
Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm

Splash & Play - July 13th, 20th, 27th and August 3rd
Infants to 2 years olds – 12pm to 1pm
3 – 4 year olds – 11am to 12 pm

Soccer - Open enrollment now till September 9th
VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED IN ALL LEVELS

Softball - Spring of 2017

Space is still available, Sign up today!

Yes, pools need a permit too...or at least most of 'em

By Mike Jasmin Code Enforcement Officer

It's that time of the year again, few things better than a dip in a pool on a summer's day! Many residents are surprised to learn that pools do indeed require a permit from the Land Use Office. I'd like to take this opportunity to answer some of the more frequent questions I get asked.

Q: Does every pool require a permit?

A: Every pool with over 24" of water depth requires a permit and compliance with 2009 IRC Chapter 42 and Appendix G. You can google it or email me for a copy of the link, I'd even mail you a hard copy if that would be preferred.

Q: I take my pool down every year, do I need a new permit every year?

A: No, after the first year as long as it's the same pool in the same spot, and installed the same way simply notify the Land Use Office that you are going to re-install it.

Q: Even the pool I bought at (Insert name of Big Box store here)?

A: Yes as long as it's deeper than 24" it requires a building permit.

Q: What are you inspecting / looking for?

A: I'm looking for compliance with the Building Code as well as adherence with the manufacturers installation instructions.

Please never hesitate to call Mike Jasmin at the Land Use Office at 352-7411 ext. 105 or email me at code@town.swanзей.nh.us with all your building questions. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Selectmen's Meetings on the Road

To try to reach citizens in other parts of Town, the Board of Selectmen has been taking their meetings "on the road" by periodically meeting in locations other than the Town Hall. So far, meetings have taken place at the fire stations in the east and west Swanzey villages. Additional meetings "on the road" will be posted on the website and bulletin boards.

Board of Selectmen Now Meeting on Wednesdays

Effective immediately the Board of Selectmen will regularly be meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.

2017 Town Budget

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

Opportunities to Serve Your Town

Have you ever thought about signing up as a volunteer for a Town Board or Committee? The Swanzey Board of Selectmen is soliciting nominations please see the Town website for details.

The Town has created the following ad-hoc committees to work on specific subjects

Christian Hill Bridge Advisory Committee

The Christian Hill Bridge Advisory Committee (CHBAC) was created by the Board of Selectmen and has been meeting since February. The CHBAC has been tasked with studying the need to replace or repair Christian Hill Road Bridge (which was closed to traffic in 2014 at the recommendation of the State Department of Transportation) and determining the best way to reopen the road. The Committee has just advertised a request for qualifications to identify an engineering firm to provide professional assistance. The goal is to provide a recommended course of action to the Board of Selectmen by October 2016.



The Committee is comprised of the Town Administrator, the Director of Public Works, the Fire Chief, and a citizen resident of Christian Hill Road and meets once or twice per month at Fire Station #3 on Main Street. Meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend.

E-911 Committee

The E-911 Committee was created by the Board of Selectmen and has been meeting since June. The E-911 Committee is meeting to review issues relating to street names and other addressing issues raised by the NH Department of Safety, Division of Emergency Services and Communications to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee is comprised of emergency services personnel, Director of Public Works, E-911 Liaisons and other town officials.

The E-911 Committee is charged with researching, advising and/or making recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on proposed changes to street names and rectifying other addressing issues.

Bruce Bohannon, Emergency Management Director





Water Study Committee

The Water Study Committee was reestablished by the Board of Selectmen and has been meeting since April. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Board of Selectmen as to the advisability of the potential acquisition of the West Swanzey Water Company (WSWC) and other similar matters upon request of the Board. The reason behind the Board's new interest is an engineering study funded by NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to try to find a long term method of remediation for the MtBE problem in West Swanzey. The engineering study recommended that a WSWC South Winchester Street water main extension to Rt. 10 and a short way down Westport Village Rd. would provide clean water to the affected homes. The DES has mitigation funds available from a lawsuit won against a number of oil companies.

The Committee met with the engineering team that prepared the study and with the DES officials involved in the mitigation efforts. The Committee suggested to DES that the WSWC system may not be a long term solution since it likely is not up to municipal standards today and if they expect any entity to take over the WSWC more engineering work is needed to establish what are the items and costs needed to make the WSWC a viable system for the future. The DES agreed and has found funding for the engineering study. The Committee is currently waiting for the engineering study and its report.

Aquifer Protection Committee

The Aquifer Protection Committee was created by the Conservation Commission and has been meeting since June. The Town of Swanzey is home to extensive aquifers which lie beneath the town. This rich source of clear fresh water is an important resource for the many homeowners in town who obtain their drinking water from wells. The Conservation Commission thought protecting this valuable resource was important enough to form a sub-committee, which will pursue a water protection plan and possibly a future aquifer protection ordinance. Having only recently been formed, the Committee will review materials provided from past research efforts and meet on a regular basis with

Andrew Madison of the Granite State Rural Water Association who will guide the Committee on their work. Members of the Committee include Jane Johnson, Beverly Bernard, Selectman Sylvester Karasinski, State Representative Jim McConnell, Glenn Page, Scott Self, and Stephen Stepenuck.



NH Service Link
(866) 634-9412

Home Delivered
Meals
Homemaker
Services
In-Home Care
Transportation
Services
Day Services
Congregate Meals

OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

Edna Coates Human Services -Town of Swanzey- Telephone: (603) 352-7411
ext. 110 ecoates@town.swanzey.nh.us

If you have an elderly neighbor(s), you can play a key role in making their lives a little easier, just by making yourself available and looking out for them. In doing this, you could be providing some valuable help where it is needed and you might also make a new friend. Some senior citizens need familiarity before they will feel comfortable with accepting your friendship and they will frequently refuse offers of help as they are very proud. Be consistent in your waves of hello, chats at the mail box, visits, daily to weekly telephone calls and offers of assistance, slowly they will feel comfortable with you and your offers of help.

Introduce yourself. Make a point of getting to know the people who live near you. Knock on the door and introduce yourself. After an initial introduction, say hello when you see them in the street.

Ask. There may be relatively simple tasks that they are no longer able to do on their own. Don't be shy, ask if there's anything they need help with. Many older people are fit, healthy and independent, so be careful not to be patronizing, but mention that you are available to help out should they need it.

Offer to run errands if you're going to the shops. When you are going shopping or into town, mention it to your neighbor and ask if there's anything they'd like you to fetch while you're there.

Help with benefit forms. There are a number of benefits specifically available to older people, such as the pension credits, tax rebates or benefits and various other allowances.

Provide some company. Notice whether or not your neighbor has any regular visitors. If their family lives far away and they don't leave the house much, they may appreciate someone popping in once every so often for some company.

Read the signs. If you have not seen your neighbor for a while, pay particular attention to some simple signs. Do the lights come on at night? Knock on the door to check that they are okay or **call local police or fire department for a wellness check.**

Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services
(BEAS)

8:00am-4:30pm Monday through Friday

Telephone (603) 271-9203

Toll Free Number (800) 351-1888

TDD Access Relay (800) 735-2964

Fax Number (603) 271-4643

Adult Protection (603) 271-7014

Adult Protection Toll Free (800) 949-0470

New Program Home Repairs for Seniors:

USDA 504 Home Repairs / Grant Program - Michael Santomassimo (603)-223-6059

New roof, septic issues, new furnace, stairs, deck or ramp repair or built, new windows

Up to \$20,000 (loan) for home repairs at 1% financing and monthly payments can be as low as \$25 (based on their income) with minimal or zero closing costs

Or up to \$7500 in grant money (minimum age of 62)

And/or a combination of a loan and a grant

Swanzey Recycling Center

Starting this year we began the transition of moving our metal pile from the ground to an open-top roll off container. There are many advantages to doing this. It keeps the metal off of the ground; therefore less nails and sharp objects. With the low market value of plastics, cardboard, and aluminum, it gives us more leverage in the metal market to make more money. The Highway Department crew has been a huge help in the process of moving the pile into the container.

With the extremely dry summer, we have had to monitor and even shut down the burn pit due to the lack of rain. With that we have put in several hours building up the walls of the burn pits to better contain the brush and the fire when it comes time to burn it.

Next summer we will be coming up to the end of our 5-year contract with Waste Management. With the help of the NRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association), we will be looking into Waste Management and other refuse disposal companies to see where we can get the best pricing and save money.

It's a great thing to recycle; many materials that don't get recycled can really impact the environment. When a banana gets put into landfill, it will decompose in 3-4 weeks. If you have wool socks they can take up to a year in the right conditions, a leather work boot takes 40-50 years! The sock and boot can be put into a Planet Aid box that we have at the facility, they will be properly disposed of that way.

If you want to help your community, and keep Swanzey great, apply for a part time job or volunteer! There are many jobs to work around your skill set, whether it's picking up trash around the facility, or just a smiling face to greet customers!

Interim Solid Waste Manager, Josh Whipple

SEWER COMMISSION

This past spring the generator at the West Swanzey Wastewater Treatment Plant was replaced. Our old one served us well for 35 years.

The sludge removal at the West Plant was started in the spring of 2014 and completed in the fall of 2015. A total of 133.94 tons of sludge was removed from the three lagoons. This was an increase from the removal of sludge back in 2000. The increase was due to the increase in the chemicals used to meet our monthly phosphorus limit.

We continue the yearly maintenance on the sewer lines and manhole rehabilitation in both the West and North systems. We are continuing to work with the staff at Keene WWTP on our portion of the upgrade to the plant. This is a multi-year project.

Thank you to the West Swanzey sewer users who returned your sewer inventories. We appreciate taking time to complete them. These inventories are important to ensure accurate billing.

Glenn W. Page, Chair





TOWN OF SWANZEY
620 OLD HOMESTEAD HIGHWAY
PO BOX 10009
SWANZEY, NH 03446-0009

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

Email Updates

The Town is working on putting together a list of email addresses for residents so we are better able to reach you. If you are interested in getting on our list, please email Sara Carbonneau Director of Planning & Community Development at scarbonneau@town.swanzey.nh.us.

Postal Patron
Swanzey, NH 03446

www.town.swanzey.nh.us

Up-to-date Town news, public hearing notices, election results, minutes and more

Whitcomb Hall Committee is hosting a BBQ on Saturday September 3rd. Come enjoy good company, food and see the progress of Whitcomb Hall.

Main Street Reconstruction Project

The reconstruction of Main Street is scheduled to begin at the beginning of August. Pat Rawson Construction has been awarded the contract and the project is slated to take approximately three months. The Town will host a public informational session with Rawson, SVE Engineers, and other Town Officials on **Thursday July 21st at 6:30 p.m.** at the West Swanzey Fire Station at 34 Main Street.

New Assessor in Town

Swanzey recently hired David Marazoff of M&N Assessing as the Town's contracted assessor. You may see Dave or his assistant Nick around town measuring buildings or knocking on your door as they begin the process of updating property inventory in anticipation for the 2019 revaluation. Approximately 1/3 of the Town will be inspected this year. If you have any questions, please contact Assessing Coordinator Coleen Birmingham at cbirmingham@town.swanzey.nh.us or 352-7411 x114.

