TOWN OF HOOKSETT NEWSLETTER

This newsletter will be updated weekly or bi-weekly to keep everyone informed about what is happening in the Town of Hooksett.

ADMINISTRATION

Next Town Council Meeting: January 26, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

The Town begins a joint program of Government Days with Cawley Middle School 8th Graders. Each month beginning in January, departments will present information to students. Classes will take place through May and will include a Town Council meeting at Cawley.

Website – Let us know how you like the new website and offer any suggestions.

Volunteer receptionists to help direct the public are always needed. Interested individuals should contact Administration at 485-8472.

BUILDING

Winter Maintenance Item

Many of the new homes being built have heating systems that do not vent into a conventional chimney but vent directly to the outdoors. These vents are used to remove the products of combustion from the heating system and are sometimes located within 12” of the ground. With snow depths reaching 2’ or more, these vents may become blocked and will not operate as designed. This may cause the heating system to shut down or allow smoke and carbon monoxide to enter the dwelling.

Be sure you check for snow build-up around the vents and remove if necessary. Also be sure that your carbon-monoxide and smoke detectors are installed and functional. Check for proper operation monthly.

If you have any questions about this or other building issues please feel free to contact the Building Department. 485-4117

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

With bitterly cold weather forecasted for our region over the upcoming weekend, I want to pass along some cold weather tips for our area residents. It is recommended that you keep your indoor temperatures between 64 and 75 degrees for healthy people. The minimum temperature should be kept above 68 degrees Fahrenheit to protect the very young, the elderly, or people with health problems. Watch out for signs of hypothermia. Early signs of hypothermia in adults include shivering, confusion, memory loss, drowsiness, exhaustion, and slurred speech. Infants who are suffering from hypothermia may appear to have very low energy and bright red, cold skin. When outside, take extra precautions to reduce the risk of hypothermia and frostbite. In high wind conditions, cold weather-related health problems are much more likely. Be sure the outer layer of clothing is tightly woven to reduce body heat loss caused by the wind. If you will be spending time outside, do not ignore shivering! This is an important sign that the body is losing heat and a signal to quickly return indoors. Since cold weather puts an extra burden on the heart, if you have cardiac problems or high blood pressure, follow your doctor’s orders about shoveling or performing any strenuous exercise outside. Even otherwise healthy adults should remember that their
bodies are already working overtime just to stay warm. Dress appropriately and work slowly when doing heavy outdoor chores.

**Do not forget about your pets!** Keep your cats and dogs indoors during cold weather. Outdoors, it is possible for your pets to freeze to death. Never let you dog off the leash on snow or ice. Dogs can easily lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter months than any other season. Thoroughly wipe off your dog’s feet and stomach when he comes in out of the snow and ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze, or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.

For any New Hampshire resident, if you should find yourself without heat at any time during the cold weather months, dial the New Hampshire Community Resource line at 2-1-1 for referral information. This line is staffed 24/7 and will be able to direct your inquiry to the appropriate agency.

**FINANCE**
The Town received its Annual Audit Report that is positive with no Management letter for items to be addressed. Copy of the report is available on the website.

**HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY**
5th Annual Ladies Night Out
Thursday, January 27th, 6-9 PM
Mark your calendars for the Library’s 5th Annual Ladies Night Out event featuring over 30 local vendors, free products samples, refreshments and fun for you and all the special women in your life. Show your Hooksett Library card and receive a free extra raffle ticket! Call 485-6092 for more information.

**PUBLIC WORKS**
Snow Removal – Please remember to remove cars from areas during snow storm to allow snow removal.

Placing of Snow and Ice on Streets and Sidewalks – Pursuant to Town Ordinance No. 00-34, “No person shall place or cause to be placed any snow, ice or pumped water on the traveled portion of any public way or sidewalk in the Town, unless specific written permission is obtained for special events from the Town Administrator or designee of the office of the Town Administrator. Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine not less than $30.00 and not more than $300.00 and the offender may be subject to reimburse the Town for any expense incurred by the cleanup of said violation.”

**Winter Parking Ordinance** – Pursuant to Town Ordinance No. 00-1, “Effective November 1 through May 1 each year, no parking shall be permitted on any Town road or Town maintained road between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am or anytime during storms and related Town operations for snow and ice removal and control. The parking ban shall be in effect seven days a week. Violator’s vehicles shall be removed under the direction of the Highway Manager or Chief of Police. Charges for towing and storage shall be paid by the owner for release of the vehicle.”

**RECYCLING & TRANSFER**

Single Stream Recycling: That was easy!
Thanks to all the residents who have made the special effort to recycle this year. During these tough economic times it is up to all of us to do what we can. The Town has implemented a pilot single stream recycling program. Residents who have participated are very excited about the ease of the program. Single stream recycling is a program that allows all recycled materials to be mixed saving storage space and making disposal easier by dumping in one container.

Plastic containers marked 1-7, newspapers, junk mail, magazines, cardboard, steel cans, aluminum cans, and glass bottles can all be stored together then dumped together. No plastic bags or styrofoam please. Recycling saves the Town money that is spent on trash disposal costs. Easily 60% of trash generated can be recycled. If residents make the effort to bring the recycling here to the facility or to the mobile recycling trailer we can all help to keep costs down.