

**SEE Notice Below!**

- ***Primary Election – Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.***
- ***Office Closure.***
- ***Red Cross Blood Drive at Fire Station on September 26<sup>th</sup>.***
- ***Reminders: Appointments & Masks Required at Town Office.***
- ***Gordon-Nash Library update and New Hampton School’s re-opening.***
- ***Historical Corner – When Ralph Waldo Emerson Spent the Night in New Hampton.***

**THE “NEW HAMPTON CONNECTION”**

E-mail notices will be sent from this office with dates, locations and times of Town Meetings, special meetings, special events, and other important town events or information. We hope you will find these notices helpful. These e-mails will not provide notice of regular scheduled meetings, deadlines, holiday hours, general information, etc. For such scheduled information, please check the town web site [www.new-hampton.nh.us](http://www.new-hampton.nh.us) or call the Town Office at 744-3559. All public meeting notices are posted at the Town Office and Public Works Department. All town newspaper notices are placed in the Laconia Daily Sun.

Please talk with other New Hampton residents who may not have been contacted to see if they are interested in receiving these e-mails. I also would encourage you to get the “word out” about important information to those who may not have e-mail.

If at some future time you change your e-mail address or you wish to be removed from the list please send an e-mail to [nirvine@new-hampton.nh.us](mailto:nirvine@new-hampton.nh.us).

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Kenneth A. Mertz, Michael A. Drake, and Eric Shaw

Neil G. Irvine  
Town Administrator  
Town of New Hampton  
6 Pinnacle Hill Road  
Tel. 744-3559

September 4, 2020

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**Notice of Details for the September 8th Primary Election**

1. Absentee Ballots will be preprocessed on Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day) between 1:30 and 3:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Town Offices. This will involve opening the outer envelope and checking that the inner envelope affidavit is correctly completed; highlighting the voters name on the check list, and marking either DEM or REP based on which ballot the voter requested. **THIS WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE THE VOTERS OF PRE-PROCESSED BALLOTS.**
2. **The Town Clerk’s office will be open on Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day) from 3:00 to 5:00 PM to issue Absentee Ballot Request Forms and to accept completed Absentee Ballots.**

3. **No one will be permitted to enter the Town House without a mask.** We will provide a disposable mask if you do not have one. If your mask has electioneering material printed on it, we will ask you to cover it with a disposable mask while you are in the Town House or the No Electioneering Zone. **We thank you for your cooperation.**
4. We will begin processing Absentee Ballots at 9:00 AM.
5. Completed Absentee Ballots will be accepted outside the Town House on Election Day between 8:00 AM and **5:00 PM**. They must be handed to the Town Clerk or one of her assistants.
6. Curbside Absentee Voting will be available at the Town House between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM. You must fill out an Absentee Ballot Request Form (or bring one already completed), complete the affidavit envelope, marking the “disabled” box (which for 2020 includes concern about COVID 19), and return the ballot in the sealed envelope to the clerk. These will be processed in the same manner as all other Absentee Ballots.
7. If you do not want to wear a mask, you may either do Curbside Absentee Voting (see above), or utilize an auxiliary voting area, in a tent with its own guard rail, outside the Town House. The auxiliary voting area will have a table with a voting screen and locked ballot box. The Moderator will periodically make an announcement and transfer ballots from the auxiliary box to the ballot counting machine.

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**Office Closure**  
**The Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office will be closed**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

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***American Red Cross Blood Drive***

**Location: New Hampton Fire Station, 26 Intervale Drive**  
**Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**  
**By Appointment Only**

**Any donating individual will have their blood tested for COVID-19 antibodies.**

An antibody test screens for antibodies in your blood, which are formed when fighting an infection, like COVID-19. An antibody test assesses whether your immune system has responded to the infection, not if the virus is currently present. The COVID-19 antibody test is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and may indicate if the donor’s immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Donors who test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may have the unique opportunity to help patients fighting the disease.

***Contact 1-800-733-2767 to schedule a donation.***

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*Reminders for conducting business at the Town Offices*

**As our doors are locked, we ask that you make an appointment if your business cannot be done by phone, online, or through the mail.**

**If you must visit the Town Offices in person to transact any business we are requiring that you wear a face covering.**

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**Gordon-Nash Update  
New Hampton School's Re-opening**

To the New Hampton community,

As you may have noticed, students have returned to campus as in past years. This year is a little bit different and the school has strict guidelines in place for the health and safety of the entire community, including the town. Here are a few of our guidelines and updates:

- All students on campus were required to arrive with a negative COVID-19 test and submitted to a nasopharyngeal test upon arrival. Subsequent testing will occur.
- Employees were tested prior to the start of the school year.
- All community members must wear face coverings except when in their own dorm rooms or alone in their offices, when eating or when outside and physical distancing of six feet can be maintained.
- Campus is unfortunately closed to all guests, including parents and neighbors, until further notice. This means that access to our campus, facilities, and athletic event attendance is restricted to those residing and working on campus.
- Renovations to the **Gordon-Nash Library** are now complete. Students will begin using the facility next week and we look forward to welcoming the larger community soon. We are developing curbside pickup for community members and are studying a reopening plan for the health and safety of the larger community. For news, photos and videos on renovations, etc. we invite everyone to visit our frequently updated website (<https://gordonnashlibrary.org/>) and to “friend” our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/gordomashlib>).

We have also introduced a Community Health Agreement outlining behaviors our school community will take for a safe and healthy school year. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

Sincerely, Joe Williams P'22, Head of School

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*The History Corner*

**When Ralph Waldo Emerson Spent the Night in New Hampton**

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was one of the most famous American philosophers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century here and across the globe. He was the author of many books and, over his long career, delivered thousands of lectures across the country. “Waldo,” as he was known to friends, was invited to speak to the three literary societies at New Hampton School. Traveling with his daughter, Ellen, he addressed the societies on the evening of June 30, 1875, and

spoke at commencement the next day. The Emersons spent the night in the boarding house of Abigail and William Dyer at 36 Main Street (now “Harvey House”). Waldo and Ellen were led in a parade to speak in the evening – and again to commencement the next day. As reported in the NHS Annual Catalogue for 1874-75, *“The anniversary exercises were made especially interesting and memorable by the presence of one of America’s ripest and ablest scholars, Ralph Waldo Emerson, who listened with manifest interest to the exercises, and expressed his satisfaction to the students in a few simple and beautiful words, at its close.”*

After the ceremony, Waldo and Ellen headed north to Plymouth, then and on to the White Mountains for a “vacation” through July 6. We are fortunate to have a detailed account of his visit in a letter that Ellen Emerson wrote to her sister, Edith. They traveled by train to Bristol, which is where the excerpts below begin.

*Mr. McIntyre [graduating NHS senior who went on to Dartmouth] received us at Bristol at about five o’clock. He had a carryall for us, and we first drove by one of the finest falls I ever saw – indeed two, one on each side of the bridge... and then through enchanting scenery under a perfect sky for about five miles to New Hampton, where we stayed at Mrs. Dyer’s, a place after my own heart.*

*A marshal with portentous baton took Father, and a humbler one with pink ribbons on a cane took me, and assigned us our places in the procession, and we marched in unbroken silence with infinite solemnity to the Academy... We were brought with much pomp into the Hall, which was very well filled... The audience was unusually responsive for a country audience, and a universal scream of delight hailed Miss Fanny Forbe’s speech about dress, though Father trembled a little beforehand lest they should be too orthodox and strait-laced to bare it. [In his address, “Social Aims,” Emerson quoted the experience of a woman who declared that being perfectly well-dressed gives an inner tranquility that cannot be found in religion!].*



*Waldo enjoys the morning news*



*Waldo and Family in Concord, MA. Ellen is standing on the left*

*When we had been marshaled home, a pile of autograph-books was brought in from the Academy... The first thing after breakfast the band of music and Academic Procession appeared at the gate and carried us once more to the Hall where they had regular Commencement Exercises till one o’clock. Mr. McIntyre had won our hearts driving us over... He was first scholar and had the Valedictory.*

*We took the cars in Ashland and left them at the Pemmigewasset House at Plymouth. There we took tea, went to walk, saw a most lovely sunset, and I went to bed before dark you may be sure. The next forenoon we went strawberrying, and right after dinner took the stage for the Flume House. We had the box seat with the driver. The day was perhaps the most heavenly ever seen – clear July glory – and I being dressed for a sleigh ride was able to forgive the coldness of the wind, so there was no drawback, and Father enjoyed every inch of the way and could not have done praising everything. He thinks he never had such a delightful drive....*

*We're to take stage for Franconia at 1:20. We need to spend the night at the Flume House. We have bought a mug and tin-pail that I may go strawberrying. This amuses Father. He almost dies over it... He feels very rich, however, with the New Hampton money, and we are going to blow it out straight and have all the luxuries. He paid for the tin pail with pleasure.*

The next time you are driving down Main Street, imagine a solemn procession, led by a marshal with a baton, marching along with Ralph Waldo Emerson and his daughter, Ellen at the front. Perhaps Waldo might be smiling at the thought of all those strawberries he would be collecting as he enjoyed his honorarium from the Academy - after all, pie was his favorite dish for breakfast!

For more information on the history of the town, please visit the New Hampton Historical Society website at <https://www.newhamptonhistory.org/>

Kent Bicknell  
Historian, NHHS  
Curator of Special Collections  
The Gordon-Nash Library at New Hampton School  
August 3, 2020

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**\*\*END\*\***