



# The Town of HAMPSTEAD Maryland

Volume 31

November 2024 - February 2025

### Mayor

Christopher Nevin

### Town Council

Diane Barrett  
Deborah Painter  
Wayne Thomas, Sr.  
Dave Unglesbee  
Ben Zolman

### Planning & Zoning Commission

Sharon Callahan  
Lou Konior  
Charlie Obermayer  
Barb Yeager

### Town Office 410-239-7408

Jim Roark, Town Manager  
Cheryl Rhine  
Judy Rang  
Christina Swisher  
Elizabeth Dietrich

### Department of Public Works 410-239-6659

Kevin Hann, Superintendent  
Toby David, Asst. Superintendent  
Richard Armacost  
Jim Thompson  
Jeremy Dietrich  
Daniel Thompson  
Joey Orovich  
Brian Iacoboni  
Tom Devilbiss, Project Consultant

### Police Department 410-239-8954

Chief David Snyder  
Corporal Jonathan Cranshaw  
Corporal Daniel Vanik  
Samantha Geiger, Administrator  
PFC Matt Baughman  
PFC William Wilt  
PFC Bryan Emery  
PFC Casey Mann  
PFC Jesse Burriss  
Officer Matthew Blanton  
Officer Dalton Cape

[www.hampsteadmd.gov](http://www.hampsteadmd.gov)

## From The Mayor's Desk

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the final days of fall as we prepare for the holiday season!



The Town of Hampstead is bustling as we get ready for the upcoming Christmas season. A small-town America Christmas has a special charm that's hard to beat. As many small towns do, Hampstead has a long-standing tradition that gives the holidays a unique, timeless feel. That tradition is the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year the event will be held on Friday, November 22nd at 6:00 pm. It is always a pleasure to hear the local school musical groups perform and to see their proud parents. Because we are a small town, frequently we have siblings from the same family perform over the years and they pass through elementary, middle school and high schools. The feeling of familiarity with the performers and their families adds to the uniqueness of our annual tradition. On the same evening, don't miss the Hampstead Farmers Market Christmas Market at St. John's Church, filled with holiday treats and handmade crafts to enjoy. The Market will be open from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

For those who wonder why the pre-Thanksgiving date, as it is early in the season, it all comes down to the schedule of the children who participate. Schools are closed for the Thanksgiving holiday the following Friday and then you are into December and the holiday season is already well underway. The event will be rain or shine! The Hampstead Farmer's Market Christmas Market will also be taking place next door at St. John's Church, so bring the whole family for a magical event filled with lights, goodies, and crafts. It's a Hampstead tradition!

As we look forward to holiday celebrations, it's also a time to reflect on key projects underway in Hampstead. One major initiative is the Town of Hampstead Water System Centralization and Modernization Project, a large-scale undertaking to eliminate PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances) from our water supply. You can learn much more about the project in depth in the Town Manager's Report. We're proud to be at the forefront of addressing this challenge, taking proactive steps to protect our community and serve as a model for water safety across Maryland.



(continued on page 7)

## Town Manager's Corner

As we head into the holiday season, I hope everyone is having a happy and healthy year. It has been a busy year in the Town with many projects underway. The Tractor Supply Company store, to be located in the vacant property just north of Almost Family Child Care Center and Greenmount Station, is in plan review. The Weis Gas N' Go, to be located in the Roberts Field Shopping Center, and the WashX car wash, at the corner of Route 30 and Eagle Ridge Court, are also in plan review. All three of these projects could possibly begin construction in the Spring/Summer of 2025. On the residential side, Melanie Acres 3, a six-home subdivision off Dana Avenue, will begin infrastructure construction shortly. Unfortunately, one of the projects which was in the works will not be completed. Hahn's Meats, along with their Pork and Beans retail store, has decided to stay in their current location and will not be building their new facility in Hampstead.



The largest project underway is the Town of Hampstead Water System Centralization and Modernization Project. Due to the need to eliminate PFAS in our water system, the Town is reconstructing a major portion of our water infrastructure. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been widely used in many industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. PFAS do not break down easily, earning them the nickname "forever chemicals". PFAS has been found in almost all regions of the United States and the world, including a large number of US public water systems. You can see the extensive amount of PFAS found in water systems in the interactive map at this website: [https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas\\_contamination/map/](https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas_contamination/map/). Last year, the EPA set a maximum contaminate level (MCL) of four parts per trillion. That is equivalent to one drop of water in five Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The plan is to construct four new water treatment plants and five new pipelines to pipe raw water from existing wells to the new plants. The Town has been working with two engineering firms on design and planning for the new pipelines and water treatment plants since the fall of 2023. We also have been working closely with the

*(continued on page 7)*

## News From the Police Department

### Schools

Schools are open and our traffic patterns are back to the more typical traffic patterns. Be mindful of children in the morning and afternoons. Leave time to travel through traffic. Expect extra traffic in the area of our three schools. Leave yourself enough time to adjust for the traffic flow during arrival and dismissal times.

### Parking

A reminder on parking in prohibited areas. While in the business areas watch for the prohibited areas as well as time zones. In our residential areas be aware of the parking limitations in the areas of intersections.

### Frauds

We continue to take reports of residents becoming a victim of fraud. This includes telephone calls, emails, and through the postal system.

Law Enforcement and the Court System will never contact you requesting immediate payment associated with warrants or criminal cases. They will never ask you for gift cards, green dot or bit coin in exchange for avoiding arrest. If you receive notification of something that seems to be too good to be true, it most likely is. Don't send money to an unknown entity to cover costs associated with some type of prize or award.

Some frauds begin with an email that requests payment for not publishing embarrassing information or compromising photos. Don't fall for this type of scam. If you have any questions regarding suspicious activities similar to those above, contact the police department.

### Personnel

We have had some changes in personnel over the past few months. Matthew Blanton and Dalton Cape successfully completed the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions basic police academy in Sykesville graduating at the end of August. Both were born and raised here in Carroll County and graduated from Manchester Valley. They are currently completing their Field Training Courses and you will be seeing them around Town.

As we gain two officers, we will be without PFC Matthew Baughman for at least the next year. Matthew is a Lieutenant in the Pennsylvania National Guard. His unit has been activated and is being deployed overseas. Please keep him in your thoughts.

***Thanks to the Hampstead Community for once again making this a great year so far, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the rest of this year's events!***



# Public Works News and Notes

**As fall has arrived and winter is just around the corner**, here are some reminders from Public Works of little things that everyone can do to make the coming months just a little bit easier.

- **Please do not rake or blow your leaves into the street!** The Town does not have the budget or the equipment to dispose of leaves pushed out into our streets, and the accumulated leaves then create a driving hazard especially when wet. If the leaves clog our storm drains, we have to hire a subcontractor to remove them or face fines from the State. Either way, the costs are then passed on to taxpayers!

- **Yard Waste Pickup** continues until the third Monday in December. Please utilize this service to dispose of your leaves.

- **Make sure you have disconnected your garden hose** from the outside faucet to prevent that pipe from bursting.

- **Please remember that sidewalks must be cleared** of ice and snow accumulations within twenty-four hours for the safety of pedestrians (including children on their way to the bus stop the next day).

- **Please understand when we snow plow streets**, we try to be sensitive to your freshly cleared driveway but there are times when blocking is unavoidable.

- **When you clear your driveway, PLEASE DO NOT** throw the snow into the street. This creates a hazard to drivers.

- **If you have a fire hydrant near your house please keep it clear** so the Fire Department can quickly access it during an emergency.

- **If the sky looks like snow please park your car in the driveway** - this will safe-guard your car and make our job of plowing the street faster for you. Parking in cul-de-sacs is prohibited during phase one or greater snow emergencies...and of course please do not park on the side of the street where you see a snowflake sign. Our plows need full access to better clear our Town and ensure the safety of all!



Town of Hampstead



*Thank You!*

## HAMPSTEAD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

*Serving the Town of Hampstead for more than 100 years*

### UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lunch with Santa on Dec 7th 11am - 1 pm at the Fire Station
- Santa in the Community - Evenings of December 10th-14th, Check our website and Facebook for Daily Routes
- Commemorative Bricks make Great Christmas Presents
- Check out our Online Raffle for Great Presents
- The Event Center will be Opening in 2nd Qtr 2025 Watch our website for Updates



- HVFC Capital Campaign Page:

<https://www.hampsteadvfd.org/content/campaign/>

### HOLIDAY SAFETY REMINDERS

- Have your chimney cleaned and checked.
- Keep area around fireplaces and stoves clear of combustibles.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Only store ashes from the fireplace in a metal container outside, away from buildings
- Keep turkey fryers outside and away from house

*Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue our 123 year mission of serving and protecting you, our neighbors. We are always looking for new members, whether it is emergency services, administration or fund raising, come join us.*

**Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department  
410-239-4280**

**Learn more at: [www.hampsteadvfd.org](http://www.hampsteadvfd.org)**

## Follow the Town on Instagram

We're excited to announce that the Town of Hampstead has launched an official Instagram account! Now, you can receive all the same great information that's shared on our Facebook page right on Instagram. By following us, you'll stay up-to-date on billing reminders, upcoming community events, and important safety and emergency updates—whether it's about road closures, water main breaks, or other urgent news.

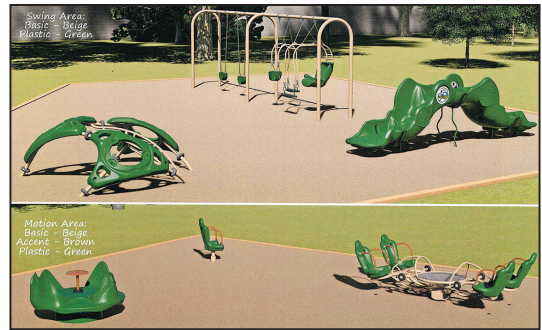
Following our social media pages is an easy way to stay informed and connected. Don't miss a thing—scan the QR code to follow us today!



## New Inclusive Playground

The Town of Hampstead, in partnership with the Community Parks and Playground Grant, is pleased to announce the addition of an inclusive playground area to the current Panther Park Playground. This playground expansion offers a swing area that includes an ADA primetime swing with 2 bays, expression swings with one including an adaptive seat, a sensory wave arch climber, a sensory dome, a sensory wave seat, and a Roxall sea saw, with a pored in place safety surfacing for ease of mobility in the playground areas.

Watch the Town of Hampstead Facebook and Instagram pages for updates on the construction of the park and the opening of the new playground area in the coming months. We are excited to offer this enhanced playground area to our community and visitors to the Panther Park alike. See you there!



## Hampstead Christmas Market



The Hampstead Farmers' Market Christmas Market will be held on November 22, 2024, from 4 to 9 pm at St. John's United Methodist Church, 1205 N. Main Street.

Fifteen vendors will be selling a variety of baked goods and crafts, everything from handcrafted cell phone holders and jewelry, to stuffed cookies and artisan breads. Attendees are sure to find items for gifts or for themselves all crafted by your favorite Hampstead Farmers' Market vendors.

People can also enjoy dinner for purchase from It's All Good, a local food truck offering a variety of delicious sandwiches and other items.

Santa has also agreed to make an appearance at St. John's from 4 pm until arriving at the tree lighting at 7 pm.

Be sure to attend the tree lighting, arrival of Santa Claus, and the Hampstead Farmers' Market Christmas Market. This is what small town life is all about. You won't want to miss this celebration of the start of the holiday season!



## Main Street Committee

The Hampstead Main Street Partnership extends a heartfelt thank you to our community for making this year's Fall Fest a resounding success! Your enthusiasm, support, and participation helped create an unforgettable event.



We are also grateful to all those who continue to support our monthly Main Street cleanups and spring/summer Flea Markets; your dedication helps keep Hampstead vibrant and welcoming.

We encourage you to reach out to us with any suggestions or if you would like to get involved in future projects and events. You can contact us via email at [hampsteadmsc@gmail.com](mailto:hampsteadmsc@gmail.com), and be sure to follow us on Facebook at Hampstead Main Street Partnership for updates.

Save the date: Next year's Fall Fest will take place on October 11th. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday and the Carroll County SBS Passport Program returned this year on Saturday, November 2nd.

- Visit any participating business to get a passport.
- Get signed proof of purchase at eight businesses throughout the County between November 2nd and December 8th.
- Turn in the completed passport at any Carroll County Public library or Town Hall by December 10th.
- **WIN!** 20 winners will be picked at random on December 13th for a \$50 gift certificate, good at any Passport business!



## Hampstead Merchants Association

Happy Fall everyone! The Hampstead Main Street Merchants Association would like to take a moment and thank our members and the community for supporting the HMA this past year. Its been a busy but fun year and could not have been possible without the support of everyone!



Some of the events recently held consists of the Annual Cornhole tournament which had over 30 participants. In November, we changed up the annual Vino event to the Cask and Cork Night, held at Ruhlmann's Brewery in Hampstead. There were more than 90 attendees who came out for a fun night of seeing friends and networking. Due to the sponsorships and attendee's, we are proud to say that we will be able to fund two Manchester Valley High School scholarships for 2025. Again, thank you for the support in making our continued scholarship awards possible. Over the summer, Jennifer Lleras, owner of Hampstead Marketing and Design, presented a Business Marketing Seminar at Pipe The Side Brewing. Jennifer did a great job of showing us different ways to market our businesses successfully. The HMA also supported the Hampstead Mainstreet Partnership with their Fall Fest activities held in October. The event was very well attended and had more than 50 vendors.

The Board of Directors is looking to fill our Secretary and Vice President positions for 2025. We also are looking for volunteers to help with several of our event committees. The committees consist of the Cornhole Tournament, Networking/Business Seminar events and the Cask and Cork Night. Please consider taking on one of these roles or volunteer spots as we would love to have more participation in the coming year. The Board of Directors is also seeking your feedback for topics for the business seminar events. Feel free to drop us an email at [hampsteadmerchants@gmail.com](mailto:hampsteadmerchants@gmail.com) We welcome all suggestions along with Speaker/Presenter recommendations as well.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Luncheon held on December 19th at Oakmont Green Golf Course. The luncheon is from 11:30am until 1pm. The luncheon is open to all members. We will be sending out an invite so please RSVP!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in December!

Grateful and Thankful,  
The HMA Board



# Christmas Tree Lighting

Hampstead's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held this year on Friday, November 22nd at the War Memorial Park. The event is co-sponsored by the Town and local merchants and is one of Hampstead's best known traditions. The event kicks off at 6:00 pm with Cub Scout Pack 791 singing Christmas carols, followed by the Spring Garden Elementary Chorus, the Spring Garden Elementary Band, and the Manchester Valley High School Choral Group. The Mayor and Santa will arrive by fire truck at 7 pm to turn on the lights! Children will be able to visit with Santa and have their picture taken. Any donations received from pictures with Santa will be given to NESAP for their community assistance program. Please come join the festivities!



The Hampstead Farmers' Market Christmas Market returns this year to St. John's Church from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday. The Christmas Market will feature many of the vendors from the Hampstead Farmers' Market with their unique and hand crafted products, baked goods, holiday crafts and much more!

Crossroads Church will also be holding a Live Nativity next to the War Memorial Park in the Matthews Tire lot. Santa will be returning to the Santa House on December 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th between the hours of 6 pm and 8 pm for children to visit and take photos.



# Candy Cane Lane On Main



*Let's make Main Street a Magical Place for All this Holiday Season!*



## Contest Rules:

- Decorations should be up by December 11, 2024
- Decorations should be respectful
- Decorations should not be a distraction to drivers
- Decorations should not obstruct the sidewalks
- Please be considerate of your neighbors
- Please do not use any Town, County or State poles, boxes, etc. for decorations
- There will be a first and second prize winner in both residential and business categories
- Public voting will select the winning displays
- Winners announced at 10am on December 30th
- Winners receive a Gift Certificate to a Hampstead Business

**Call Town Hall To Get Your Candy Cane Lane Sign & Enter The Contest:  
410-239-7408**

## Town Manager's Corner (continued)

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on this project. The pipeline plans are complete, and the Town will be requesting bids to construct the new pipelines in December. The construction plans for the four new water treatment plants are 95% complete and are currently being reviewed by the MDE and Carroll County Bureau of Permits and Inspections. We are scheduled to put the water treatment plants construction out for bid in February. Construction of the pipelines is expected to begin in late Spring of next year, with construction of the water treatment plants beginning in the Fall.

The new plants will be noticeably taller than the existing treatment facilities. This is due to the size of the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) equipment which will be added to the water treatment process. The GAC process uses a carbon filter system to capture the PFAS before it leaves the treatment plant for distribution. The cost of the GAC equipment necessitates the need to centralize raw water to the four new treatment plants equipped with GAC. For anyone on a private well, the MDE recommends installing treatment on any outlets from which you will be drinking the water. Switching to bottled water may also be an option, however consumers should be aware that PFAS can be present in bottled water.

This is the largest project, in scope of work and cost, that the Town has ever undertaken. The Hampstead Bypass and the Main Street Revitalization Project were both state projects which they managed and paid for. The estimated cost for the entire project is approximately \$30 million dollars. For a town with 6,400 residents, that is a staggering number. In January of 2023, the Town applied for funding assistance through the State of Maryland and the Federal Government. At that time, the estimated project cost was \$20 million dollars. In November of 2023, we were informed that we had received \$19.5 million dollars in an EPA grant and a State of Maryland Forgivable Loan. We will be reapplying this January through the same process for more state and federal funding assistance.

The Town of Hampstead does not take this issue lightly. While we may not agree with the standards being set, we realized early on that this work must be done to ensure the safest, cleanest water for the residents and businesses of Hampstead. Because we were the first to address the problem, it has led to more financial assistance opportunities, better interaction with MDE personnel, and the ability to procure the needed equipment to eliminate the emerging contaminant PFAS. Hampstead's project is far ahead of any other drinking water provider in the state. Through our immediate recognition of the problem and immediate response to alleviate the problem, we hope to be able to complete this, the largest project in Hampstead history, through almost entirely state and federal funds, without it being a burden on the Town or our residents. I give updates on this project every month at the Town Council meetings, and we will post the updates on our website also for any that wish to follow the progress of this project.

**In closing, I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays!**

## Mayor's Message (continued)

The Town also continues to monitor and respond to the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), a large-scale power line proposal affecting Carroll, Baltimore, and Frederick Counties. Our position remains firm in advocating for local residents, as this project offers minimal benefit to our area while addressing the power demands of data centers in Virginia. We are thankful that the latest proposed route is set to bypass Hampstead's limits, but we remain committed to supporting our neighboring communities in opposing this project. We will continue to stand in opposition to the project and work to protect what makes Carroll County a wonderful and special place to live, a place with a vibrant agricultural heritage and a unique charm that we must preserve for future generations.

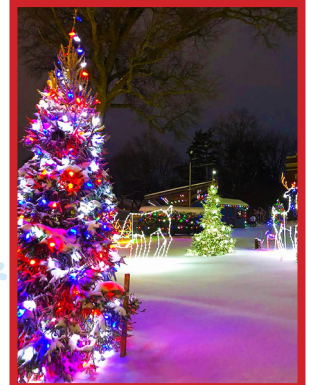
Finally, as we reflect on this year's efforts, we're proud of the hard work our staff dedicates to keeping Hampstead a safe, welcoming, and vibrant place to live. From maintaining our streets and parks to ensuring clean, reliable water, our team puts in daily effort for a better quality of life here in Hampstead.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season, and thank you for your continued support of these efforts to improve our town.

# Town of Hampstead

1034 S. Carroll Street  
Hampstead, MD 21074

Standard Pre-Sort  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Westminster, MD  
Permit No. 15



**Christmas Tree Lighting • November 22nd - 6:00 pm**

## Upcoming Meetings and Town Events

### November

- 22 Christmas Tree Lighting - 6:00 pm - Main St
- 22 Christmas Market - St. John's UMC
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday - Town Hall Closed
- 2 thru Small Business Saturday & Passport
- Dec 8 Promotion - Shop Local!

### December

- 6-7 Santa visits the Santa House  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm • War Memorial Park
- 10 Town Council Meeting - 7:30 pm - Town Hall
- 13-14 Santa visits the Santa House  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm • War Memorial Park
- 16 Last Yard Waste Pickup
- 18 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting  
7:00 pm • Town Hall
- 24-25 Christmas Holiday - Town Hall Closed

25 *Merry Christmas!!*

### January

- 1 New Years Day - Town Hall Closed
- 6 Christmas Tree Pickup
- 13 Christmas Tree Pickup
- 14 Town Council Meeting - 7:30 pm - Town Hall

- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Town Office Closed
- 22 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting  
7:00 pm • Town Hall

### February

- 11 Town Council Meeting - 7:30 pm - Town Hall
- 17 Presidents Day - Town Office Closed
- 26 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting  
7:00 pm • Town Hall

