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**Sharing Stories.
Connecting Neighbors.
Building Community.**

Greetings, Epsom Residents. Welcome to the first edition of Epsom Together!

Our mission is to connect our neighbors and strengthen our community by becoming a trusted source of local news, community updates and stories that celebrate the Epsom way of life.

In this first issue, you will find information on the upcoming Primary elections, short interviews with the candidates who will represent Epsom, an introduction to the celebrations planned for Epsom's 300th Anniversary and a calendar of community events.

Epsom Together is a monthly newsletter to be published in the third week of each month. The next edition will be in September. Look for local news, community events, civic updates, historical features, and opportunities to get involved. You will also find stories about residents whose commitment to our town improves all our lives in ways great and small. Our goal is to encourage community engagement and active citizen participation in shaping our town's life and our shared future.

Please help us grow! Epsom Together is a community effort. If you have an upcoming event to share, something to celebrate or other ideas for future content, we would love to hear from you. Contact us with comments, questions and ideas on our website www.epsomtogether.com or by emailing us at epsomtogether@gmail.com.

Epsom Together will be distributed primarily through email subscriptions, with a small number of printed copies made available at the Epsom Public Library and other locations. To make sure you get your copy, please subscribe on our website at www.epsomtogether.com/subscribe.

We are here to tell YOUR stories!

Thank you for reading!

The Epsom Together Editorial Team
Michele Clark, Shauna Fisher & Sini Kerman

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It's Time to Vote in the Epsom Primaries!

Staff Writers

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, is Primary Day in New Hampshire. Voters will choose their party nominees for the midterm elections for seats in the State Legislature and other county, state and federal offices.

Epsom voters will select four candidates for their party for the following legislative positions:

- **One State Senator (District 17)**
- **One State Representative (Merrimack District 14)**
- **Two Shared State Representatives (Merrimack District 27)**



Photo credit: Virginia Turner Drew, Facebook

Floterial Districts

The New Hampshire State House of Representatives has 400 elected members, making it the largest lower house

of any state. In New Hampshire there is a representative to the State House for approximately every 3,600 people. Since the population of Epsom is about 5,000, there is a “surplus” of 1,400 voters .

These “extra” people in a town with more than 3,600 are grouped with “extra” people in other nearby towns to make up a 3,600-person floterial district. The boundary of the floterial district “floats” across town lines to assure that every 3,600 people elect a representative. New Hampshire is the only state that uses this unique system.

How to vote in Epsom

If you are already a registered voter, bring your NH Drivers' License with you to the polls. If you are not a registered voter, you may register at the Town Clerk's Office or you may register at the polls with proof of US citizenship and a valid NH Driver's license.

New Hampshire voters who are registered as undeclared (often called independent) may choose either the Democratic or Republican ballot on Primary Election Day. Choosing a party's ballot temporarily registers you with that party. You may return to undeclared status before leaving the polling place by completing the required form with the election officials. For more information, visit the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Voting in Party Primaries page:

<https://www.sos.nh.gov/elections/frequently-asked-questions/voting-party-primaries>

(continued →)

Primary voting takes place on September 8, 2026 from 7:30AM to 7:00PM at the Epsom Bible Church at 398 Black Hall Road. The State General Election will take place on November 3, 2026 at the same polling location.

For further information about voting procedures and policies, including absentee voting, please visit or call the Epsom Town Clerk at 603-736-4825 or refer to the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Website: <https://www.sos.nh.gov/elections>.

Get to Know the Candidates

By Lisa Thorne

Ten of our neighbors and community members are stepping up to represent your voices and the needs of Epsom in the legislature in Concord beginning January, 2027.

We asked each to answer three, nonpolitical questions about themselves. We wanted to explore their "why" behind their decision to run for public office and to invest their time and treasure to move solutions forward for our town.

Following are the candidates' questions, answers, political party, and the offices that they are seeking. We thank the candidates for sharing their stories. To learn more about the candidates, visit epsomtogether.com.

1. What was a/the moment when you knew you wanted to run for State Representative/Senator in New Hampshire?

2. What is something Epsom residents might not know about you that they should know to help them make their decisions in September?

3. What would you like Epsom to know about your background and experiences that have prepared you to work across the aisle in what can be a challenging political environment?

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

NH State Senator District 17 race (one seat open):

Howard Pearl (Republican incumbent)

On 7/15/2003, my farm lost 4 buildings to a major structure fire. Communities responded from all over southern NH to battle the blaze. On that day and the weeks following, I experienced a huge outpouring of support from my community and the surrounding communities through donations of needed equipment, financial support and, most importantly, donations of their time to undertake the massive cleanup. I am forever grateful and that inspired me to step into public service as a way to give back.

My roots run deep in New Hampshire. I am a sixth generation farmer and my wife and I operate the family farm on Loudon Ridge. Growing up on a farm taught me the value of hard work and commitment. For 10 years my life experience has guided (continued →)

me through the legislative decision-making process on establishing policy for New Hampshire.

The most important aspect of being in the legislature is respecting opinions of others, especially those that differ from you. The ability to listen and engage in civil discourse is imperative in developing good public policy. I have spent three of my five terms in the legislature chairing committees, and I have always been inclusive of both sides of the aisle in the discussions.

Julie Smith (Republican candidate challenging incumbent)

Honestly, I must swap out the words "the moment I knew I wanted to run"(for State Senate) for "the moment I knew that civic duty was calling me" on June 12, the last day of filing time when I saw that no non-incumbents had filed to run.

I moved to NH in 1990 to get away from Massachusetts. In February 2025, I moved to Epsom to get away from Nashua after watching its decline in the latter part of my 35 years there.

Though it hardly counts as "background experience," having attended both deliberative sessions and seeing the results of several warrant articles on things like open enrollment and zoning in addition to observing the recent Northwood data center issue, I know I can properly represent the will of Epsom voters on things that matter to all of us, like local control.

Other candidate running for Senate District 17:

Robert Lawliss (Democratic candidate challenging incumbent)

Candidate did not respond to our outreach.

NH House of Representatives Merrimack District 14 race (one seat open):

Glenn Horner (Democratic Candidate running for vacant seat)

I was inspired by a suggestion from Miriam Yeaton; Epsom Democratic Chairperson and one of the most principled and hardworking individuals I know. My wife, despite her misgivings, convinced me to go ahead with Miriam's suggestion saying, "Someone has to do it."

As an Epsom Zoning Board member for 27 years, I have worked diligently to learn zoning law and processes. Using that knowledge, I have worked with the Board to issue fair and even handed zoning decisions. Decisions which, when challenged in court, ensured the Town prevailed in nearly every case during my tenure.

As a licensed professional engineer and nuclear engineer by profession, I am inherently more focused on the nuts and bolts of creating a product than political theater. The State has many challenges that demand consideration and logical solutions. If given the chance, I will work with likeminded legislators to find the best possible solutions and prove our government can work.

Gary Matteson (Republican Candidate running for vacant seat)

I first testified in front of the NH House Agriculture Committee back (continued →)

in the mid-1980s. Researching policy, developing examples to explain the impact of legislation, and delivering testimony have been part of my personal and professional life ever since. I am a policy guy, not a politician.

I fix things. I repair and maintain my construction and farm equipment. I do home remodeling, plumbing, electrical, oil burners, welding and even refrigeration (had to go to night school for that). I finish the jobs I start. I am happiest when hard at work.

After 30 years' farming in Epsom, I lived and worked in Washington DC for 10 years as the ultimate outsider—a farmer with small town government and agricultural finance experience, more interested in good policy than politics. I served on national farm policy advisory committees under Obama, Trump, and Biden.

Joshua Shapiro (Republican candidate running for vacant seat)

I decided to run for State Representative when I heard the incumbent was stepping down. I knew someone new needed to step into that position; someone who will listen to the people of Epsom and work to make it a better place.

Most people might not know how much I have worked with the community. When my family first moved to New Hampshire, I spent about two years volunteering in Manchester with the Police Athletic League as an ambassador to troubled youth.

I have years of business experience working with various vendors, clients, and contractors. The most important thing is bringing people together to focus on one common goal

(finishing the project). Politics is very similar; if you can work with people from all walks of life and political ideologies you can achieve those common goals.

NH House or Representatives Merrimack District 27 Floterial race (2 seats open):

Vanessa Poulin (Republican candidate challenging incumbent)

For me, running for State Representative wasn't about politics, it was about service. After serving our country in the U.S. Navy for over a decade and volunteering throughout Epsom on local boards and committees, I realized I wanted to do more to help shape the future of the community my family calls home.

Many people may not know that I am one of the few candidates in recent years with three children currently attending our local public schools. The decisions made in Concord affect my own family every day. My husband and I are raising our children with the values of family, personal responsibility, respect, and service, and I believe parents should always have a meaningful voice in their children's education.

My military service and work on Epsom's boards have taught me to listen, respect different perspectives, and build practical solutions that strengthen our community and represent Merrimack 27 with integrity.

Phillip Walker (Democratic candidate challenging incumbent)

I decided in February, 2025 that I needed to run after I watched Donald Trump get inaugurated for a second time. I wanted to (continued →)

keep on fighting and decided this was the best way to do it.

I am a lawyer and real estate professional. Previously I was a U.S. Foreign Service Officer (and later consultant) and served all over the Middle East. I will show up and do the work and try my best to represent all of my constituents.

After a career in international diplomacy, I feel I have a lot of practical experience in dealing with people with radically different points of view. It is a hard balancing act to walk, both holding to the integrity of your own position while keeping the door open for conversation and possible compromise. I have successfully done it in the past and can do it successfully again.

Other candidates running for NH House District 27 Floterial seat:

Harold Kozlowski (Democratic candidate challenging incumbent)

Ray Plante (Republican incumbent)

Candidates did not respond to our outreach.

Guest Writer Lisa Thorne is an Epsom neighbor on Griffin Road and an enthusiastic fan of the Blasty Bough Brewery Company and McClary Hill Farm.



Learn more at Epsom300.com

Epsom Turns 300!

By Michele Clark

A lot can happen in 300 years. Epsom was chartered on May 18, 1727. Since the first 20 families established their homes along Center Hill Road, we've grown into a bustling community of 5,000 neighbors, businesses, schools, churches, and an active municipal government supported by an army of citizen volunteers.

Old cemeteries, historic homes, remnants of mill foundations and abandoned cellar holes in the forest tell the stories of those who have lived, prospered and died here. Just as generations past have left their mark, so will we.

Our legacy is celebrated through the grit, hard work and kindness of our people. First responders risk their lives daily, and neighbors are quick to help one another in times of need.

Now it's time to celebrate! January 2027 kicks off our Tricentennial 12-month long celebration honoring three centuries of resilience, community, and history.

Each month of 2027 will feature events designed to showcase the town's unique treasures. From winter carnivals and historic property tours to guided hikes in the Epsom Town Forest, pumpkin carving contests, old vehicle *(continued →)*

COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATES

Get your commemorative license plates, available at the Town Office for \$30!

These plates are approved by the NHDMV to be placed on the front of your vehicles for all of 2027.

parades, art exhibits, a 1727 Church Service, and more, there will be something for everyone.

Virginia Drew, Tricentennial Committee Chair, and a driving force behind this initiative, is very enthusiastic. "Our amazing committee members are working hard to put on a 12-month calendar of activities to tell the story of our town, honoring our past and celebrating our shared future!"

The Town needs your energy, your memories, and your voice! Follow Epsom 300 on social media or visit their website at Epsom300.com to learn more about the different monthly events, discover volunteer opportunities, sponsorship and find out about different registration deadlines for activities, contests and art exhibits.



Members of the Epsom Tricentennial Steering CommitteeL Tom Bosiak, Sue Bosiak, Gary Matteson, Angela Little, Shannon Carrignan, Kristy Ellsworth, Shauna Fisher, Virginia Drew and Michele Clark

Shout Out to the Epsom Old Home Day Committee

We would like to extend a big shout-out to Cheryl Gilpatrick, Terry Riel, Eric Reid, Tim Riel, Stacy Davis, and Meadow Wysocki. Thank you for organizing a rich and rewarding town celebration. Your efforts brought families and neighbors together and helped to showcase the talented, and dedicated individuals who make up the heart of our community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our
Community Launch Partners!

The Editorial Team of Epsom Together extends its deepest gratitude to the **Epsom Police Association** and the **Epsom Public Library**. Your generous support, guidance, and collaboration played a major role in helping us launch this first issue of our town newsletter.



Thanks also to Denise Robinson at Granite Image for stepping in on short notice to print our first issue in a timely manner!

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*Every Community Has a
Story Worth Telling*

www.epsomtogether.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2026

Sunday, August 9

Epsom Historical Society Open House 2-4PM
1775 Dover Road, Epsom

Monday, August 10

Chair Yoga 12:00 Noon (Every Monday) Epsom Public Library
Cut Paper Collages Art Class 6:00 PM Epsom Public Library

Monday August 17

Board of Selectmen Meeting 5:30 PM
Old Meeting House

Saturday August 22

Board Game Night 6:00PM Epsom Public Library

Sunday, August 23

Epsom Historical Society Open House 2-4PM
1775 Dover Road, Epsom

Tuesday, August 25

Econ. Development Committee 5:00 PM Epsom Public Library
Tricentennial Steering Committee 7:00 PM Old Meeting House

Wednesday, August 26

Planning Board Meeting 6:30 PM Epsom Public Library

Thursday August 27

BCEP Meeting 6:00 PM 115 Laconia Rd, Pittsfield, NH

September 5, 2026

Concert at the Blasty Bough at 7:00 PM,
featuring the Horsenecks: Country, folk and bluegrass
all the while honing a brand of revamped traditionalism.
Tickets available at: [https://events.cocoatickets.com/
blasty-bough-brewing-co/the-horsenecks](https://events.cocoatickets.com/blasty-bough-brewing-co/the-horsenecks)

Monday September 14

Meet the Author 6:PM: David Frost, New Hampshire
mystery and thriller writer, Epsom Public Library