


Seacoast Sunday WEEKEND

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 | SEACOASTONLINE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK




**Eric Boucher of P. Gagnon & Son makes an oil delivery Nov. 17.** DEB CRAM/SEACOASTONLINE

# WARMEST WISHES

## Donations to the Gift of Warmth will help a Seacoast neighbor battle the cold this winter

**Howard Altschiller**
Portsmouth Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

Temperatures are dropping, heating fuel prices remain near record highs and advocates are deeply worried about how Seacoast-area residents will keep from freezing this winter.

That's why Seacoast Media Group is launching its annual Gift of Warmth fuel assistance campaign early this year. Over the past 20 years, readers have donated $1.2 million, helping community action programs serving Rockingham and Strafford counties to respond to home heating emergencies quickly and without the restrictions that come with federal funds.

"Gift of Warmth provides critical assistance to households facing hardships such as loss of income, significant medical expenses, and loss of childcare, all of which have affected many families in Rockingham County," said Alicia Hannon, fuel assistance program director at CAPHR. "Gift of Warmth funds have helped prevent utility shutoffs, ensuring that essential services remain active for those in need."

Melena Lugo, fuel and electric assistance manager at CAP Strafford, said the organization already has 400 new applications for fuel assistance,

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# Workman family made history on Portsmouth waters, at shipyard

**Sherry Wood**
Portsmouth Athenaeum

Over three generations, men bearing the name Harrison Workman worked at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, spanning the age of steam vessels, World War II home harbor defense, and nuclear submarines.

Harrison Alan "Worky" Workman, 78, added the job of lobstering to the list, as did his father, the late Harrison Homer "Workie" Workman.

"It's got to be in your blood," the Portsmouth resident said.

His grandfather, Harrison Morton Workman, (1888-1949) died just a year after Alan was born, but his grandson still cherishes a 1948 Portsmouth Herald clipping about a Navy Yard ferryboat caught by a flood tide on the Piscataqua River on a 20-below-zero morning in February 1918. The ferry was pushed by an ice jam toward the Boston & Maine toll bridge. There were about 70 shipyard commuters aboard.

"We got so close (to the bridge) that I was shimmerin' in my boots," Harrison Morton Workman told the Herald's editorial department 30 years after the accident. "Me and the deckhand pushed a hole in the ice and dropped the anchor and the ferry swung around on the mud hook."

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# Turning tragedy into action

## Daughters push for safer roads year after Somersworth father, dog killed in accident

**Sarah Donovan**
Foster's Daily Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK

SOMERSWORTH — The family of Steven Forrest is mourning his death a year after he and his dog were fatally struck by a car on Old Rochester Road. And they're trying to turn their pain into purpose.

Steven "Steve" Forrest, who died at age 58, was a Somersworth resident known for his "generosity, big heart, and deep roots in his community," according to his obituary. His two daughters, Kayla Forrest and Ashley Forrest have launched "The Forrest Way," a mission "trying to turn an unimaginable loss into something that can make a difference for others. We want to remind people that no life lost on our roads should ever be accepted as just another part of driving."



**Steven Forrest**

After Steven Forrest and his dog, Randell, were killed Nov. 7, 2025, while walking at the intersection of Hickory Lane and Old Rochester Road, residents implored city officials to take action to improve safety on the roadway. The Forrest sisters said they appreciate the response from local and state officials.

"There have been a number of safety issues on that road," Somersworth City Councilor Crystal Paradis-Catanzaro said. "Unfortunately, the gentlemen who passed away with his dog was not the first person to be hit on that road."

Somersworth police Capt. Matthew Duval said the man driving a 2017 Volkswagen Golf, which struck Forrest and his dog, was not charged with a crime. He noted an investigation was conducted and reviewed by the Strafford County attorney's office.

### Old Rochester Road safety improvements have been made with more to come

Safety improvements have started on Old Rochester Road in the past year, according to Jennifer Lane,

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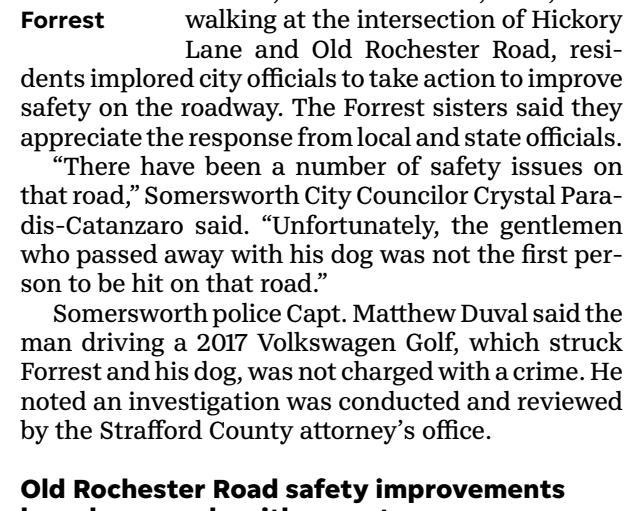


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Volume 143 | No. 59
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