

From: The Gilmanton Town Clerk/Tax Collector
THANK YOU!

On the night of Sunday, January 11th at approximately 10:00 p.m. the Gilmanton Academy Building, which houses the town offices, suffered a catastrophic failure when a pipe in the sprinkler system burst in the attic and then disbursed thousands of gallons of water throughout the entire building. My first "Thank you" goes to our very own Gilmanton Fire Department who were first on scene and did an amazing job working swiftly, efficiently and systematically in moving, covering and saving much of the towns equipment and documents. Although I hope you never have to experience a visit from our Fire Department, you must know you are in very good hands if you do, they are a well-trained professional group of dedicated people who truly care.

A special thank you to our media, WMUR's Ray Brewer and his Cameraman for the coverage of the Academy building, also to Gail Ober from the Laconia Daily Sun , the Citizen and NH-1. I called WMUR the early hours on January 12th and spoke with Adam asking for help from WMUR in getting the word out to the public as to what happened overnight at the Academy. After turning on the TV a few hours later, there was Ray, in the cold darkness in front of the Academy reporting. Thank you for staying through most of the day and getting the story and footage of the building and word out to our community.

My next "Thank you" goes out to my fellow Town Clerk and Tax Collectors. They are the very first group I heard from offering their help and support in any way they could assist to help us to continue services to our Gilmanton residents. As most of you all know at this point, the town of Alton, Belmont, Gilford and Laconia took on motor vehicle registrations, as that was the only service we could not complete for our residents. This was an extra burden of work on their part that they selflessly took on without hesitation. Our Town Clerk (NHCTCA) and Tax Collector (NHTCA) Associations are amazing groups that I take great pride in belonging to. I have much gratitude for the networking and outreach that these two groups do for any Town Clerk and/or Tax Collector that needs help in any way for their communities. They are all true leaders who take great pride in public service to our communities. Thank you all for your offers of help and support.

I also need to reach out to say thank you to all the state agencies and vendors that offered their help and support, especially at the DMV and Interware.

Thank you to our IT department, Certified Computer Solutions (CCS) who swiftly came in that morning to retrieve all of the computer equipment to dry out and test every PC. By Tuesday, 1/13 they had our server functioning and set up so that we could stay functional by having our finance dept. and my computer set up at the Fire Department's room at the Public Safety Building, which brings me to another "thank you" to our Fire Department for sharing their space without hesitation. Our server did need replacing as well as some monitors and keyboards.

And last, but not least, thank you to all of our Gilmanton residents for your offers of help, support and patience and understanding while we continue to get back to some normalcy.

Update: As of Wednesday, 2/4/15, the Clerk's office has our new VPN connection with NH DMV and we are able to process all motor vehicle transactions as well as continuing with all of our other services. February renewal notices were sent on 2/4. New dog tags are on order (registration of dog licenses are not due until April), an announcement will go out when they become available. Check our website for information www.gilmantonnh.org

With Gratitude,

Debra Cornett
Town Clerk/Tax Collector