



Laconia Links

January 20, 2012 - Edition #15

View of the river behind City Hall



Laconia Fire Department

Important Message from the Laconia Fire Dept.

Link to Laconia Fire Dept. [here](#)

The Laconia Fire Department urges everyone to make sure that their house number is visible from the street. Far too often we respond to an emergency and waste precious time trying to locate a home.

Step out to the street and look at your home. Imagine trying to find the house number at 2:00 in the morning or during a snow or rain storm. The numbers must be very visible and in contrast to the color of the home. Put the number near the front door and also on the mail box. If you are on a rural road you should think about putting the number on a tree or post that is visible from the road.



This is not just the law; it is a matter of your family's safety!

Welcome to Laconia Links a weekly e-mail newsletter update devoted to keeping you informed of City of Laconia department news, City projects, useful links, activities and events!

Look for a new edition of the newsletter each Friday. If you have already signed up to be on our distribution list to receive your newsletter by e-mail, thank you for your interest! If you would like to be added to our e-mail list (or to unsubscribe), please click [here](#).

As always, we welcome your ideas and comments as to what you would like to see included in future issues. Just give us a call in the City Manager's office at 527-1270, or contact us by e-mail at info@city.laconia.nh.us

We look forward to keeping you up to date on our beautiful City!

NEWS From the City Clerk's Office



It's that time of year again to license your family's furry friend!

Dog licenses are available in the City Clerk's Office. Fees are:

- \$6.50 Spayed/Neutered/Puppies (under 7 months old)
- \$9.00 Unaltered
- \$2.00 First dog for a resident 65+

Please be sure to bring your current Rabies Vaccination Certificate so we can update our records. If we do not have current rabies information, we will not be able to license your dog until the information is provided.

Click [here](#) for Clerk's website

LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Announces Mother/Daughter Night Out!



On March 9th Laconia Parks & Recreation will be hosting the annual Mother/Daughter Night Out at the Laconia Community Center!

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. The fee is \$20 per couple and \$10 each for additional person.

We ask that participants arrive in their PJ's and slippers (or you can change when you get there). We will be making a craft, doing your hair and nails, playing the Wii and eating pizza. Participants will have a great time!!!



Those interested in attending must call the Laconia Parks & Recreation Department at 524-5046 and prepay by March 2nd.

Click [here](#) for Parks & Rec website

Upcoming Meetings...

Keeping the public updated and aware of what's going on in our community and receiving residents' feedback is an important goal of the City Council.

Check each week's issue of *Laconia Links* for a schedule of the upcoming week's meetings. As agendas become available, they will be posted to the City's website. You can also contact any of the City's departments for more information on a meeting or to obtain a printed copy of the agenda.

Meetings are open to the public...you are invited and encouraged to attend and provide input. Become involved in your City and make a difference!

Trustees of Trust Funds

January 23, 2012, 10 am
Mayor's Office, City Hall

City Council

Jan. 23, 2012, 7 pm
Room 200A, City Hall

[Agenda](#)

Click [here](#) for City's website

Follow this [link](#) to the "Calendar" page of the City of Laconia's website. Click on a specific meeting for additional information.

Please check the "Calendar" page often for updated info and changes.

NEWS From the City Clerk's Office

Click [here](#) for Clerk's website

ELECTIONS

The City Clerk's Office would like to extend a warm "Thank You!" to all of our Poll Workers for making the First in the Nation Presidential Primary a wonderful success! It takes a team to make each Ward Polling Location run smoothly, and all of the diligent work is appreciated.

In addition to the Presidential Primary race, voters were asked to vote on Charter Amendments as well. Results for these questions were as follows:

Question 1 – Library Board of Trustees

YES 2741*

NO 831

*Effective date of March 1, 2012

Question 2 – Redistricting

YES 2427*

NO 1125

*Effective date of July 1, 2012



Laconia Police Department



[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

The Laconia Police Department is pleased to announce that they have been working closely with the Huot Regional Technical Education Center of the Laconia High School to offer a Law Enforcement class that will be taught by police officers. Through the efforts of the Huot Director, Scott Davis, the program recently received conditional approval through the State Department of Education.

The class will be coordinated and taught by former Chief Michael Moyer and current Lieutenant Matt Canfield, as well as several other officers of the Laconia Police Department. The course is designed to give students who are interested in a career in policing, corrections, juvenile and social work a general overview of all aspects of law enforcement. The class will include a sampling of all types of police and legal work, ranging from ride-alongs with members of the Laconia Police Department to reading state and



federal court decisions. There will also be age appropriate forensics and crime scene analysis, as well as field trips to various courts, the jail and police academy. The program will also feature presentations from guest speakers throughout the length of the class.

The program is funded solely through a technical education grant and geared mostly towards second semester High School seniors, although some juniors will be allowed to participate as space permits.

Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

HARNESSING HISTORY: ON THE TRAIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S STATE DOG, THE CHINOOK



Check out the Library's
Website...Click [here!](#)

Tuesday, January 24th at 7 pm, Laconia Rotary Hall, Historian and dog lover Bob Cottrell will explain the development of this famous breed.

Called Chinooks, after the original Great Chinook, they were developed as sled dogs but made great pets and are wonderful with children.

The Chinook breed was developed by a rough and ready adventurer named Arthur Walden. After spending time as a "dog puncher (musher)" in the Alaskan Yukon during the Gold Rush days, Walden returned to Wonalancet, a small village in Tamworth, New Hampshire. His goal was to create a new sled dog breed with power, endurance, speed, and a friendly nature.

Bob will present a one hour PowerPoint presentation of the history of Arthur Walden and his Chinooks. Also on display will be a handmade dog sled and harnesses and, quite possibly, a visit from Bob's Chinook, Tug.

Admission is free!

Updates from the Planning Office...

Link to the Planning Dept's website —click [here!](#)

Often times just the whisper of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) raises fear in the heart of property owners wishing to build. But that is **not** the case in Laconia!

Because Laconia is an older City with historic infrastructure, many of the streets and homes were built prior to the adoption of the current Zoning Ordinance. For that reason, structures are often in violation of setbacks or green space simply due to their age, and it is the job of the ZBA to help those property owners complete reasonable projects, accessory to the use of a single-family home.

A reasonable request from a property owner, who has explored all other options and meets the state-set requirements of:

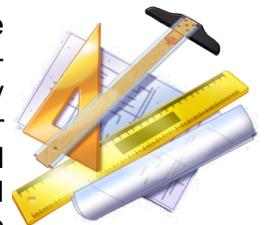
- 1) being in support of the public interest,
- 2) being in the spirit of the Zoning Ordinance,
- 3) being within substantial justice,
- 4) not causing diminished property values in surrounding properties, and

- 5) causing an unnecessary hardship to the property owner because of the unique characteristics of the property,

will be thoroughly reviewed by the ZBA and often times approved.

The ZBA meets only once a month to review these applications and the position of a ZBA member allows an individual to enjoy a role in public service while making sure the Zoning Ordinance is clear, concise and applied fairly.

The Board is made up of five active members with alternates. The Board is currently seeking members. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Zoning Board member, please contact the Zoning Technician, Kris Snow, at 527-1264, or stop by the City Manager's office in City Hall for an application.



Department of Public Works



COMING SOON!!!

**NEW RECYCLING DROP-OFF CENTER
@ LINDSAY COURT
(across from Memorial Park Club House)**

The Public Works Department will soon be announcing the opening of the City's new recycling drop-off center! The center will be located on Lindsay Court, directly across from the Memorial Park Club House. We'll keep you posted of the exact opening date. In the meantime, thank you for your recycling efforts to reduce solid waste disposal costs!

For questions or additional information, please call Ann at 528-6379.

Assessing

[Click for Assessing Dept....](#)

The abatement filing period is now open until March 1. This is the process by which taxpayers can dispute their final 2011 value.

Applications for abatement are available in our office or can be mailed upon request, by calling 527-1268.

We always recommend owners get a copy of their PRC (property record card) to verify its accuracy and to be able to compare on a year-to-year basis to monitor what changes have occurred.

All abatements will be answered this year by our deadline of 7/1/2012.



Economic Impact of the WOW Trail

The WOW Trail is a four-season trail that is open to non-motorized uses such as walking, running/jogging, bicycle riding and cross country skiing. Phase 1 was completed in the Spring of 2010, planning for Phases 2 and 3 are underway.

The Trail will ultimately connect the Town of Belmont, the City of Laconia and the Town of Meredith. The proposed pathway will be constructed adjacent to the railroad tracks used by the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad, and will provide users with beautiful vistas of Lakes Winnisquam, Opechee and Winnepesaukee.

The WOW Trail Board of Directors commissioned the Belknap County Economic Development Council (BCEDC) to conduct an economic impact analysis of the WOW Trail to demonstrate the amount of new spending and jobs that this project can potentially generate for our local communities once it is fully built.

To read the full report of the economic impact analysis, please click [here](#) or visit the "News and Current Reports" section on the City's website at <http://www.city.laconia.nh.us/>

*We hope you have enjoyed this
Edition of Laconia Links*

*We welcome your input, comments
and suggestions!*

Feel free to contact us at the
City Manager's office, 527-1270,
or by e-mail at info@city.laconia.nh.us

Have a great weekend!

Scott Myers, City Manager
City of Laconia
City's Website: www.city.laconia.nh.us

City Manager Updates

A new, updated version of the [Monthly Economic Development Report](#) has been posted to the City's website to keep you up-to-date and informed on what's happening in your City. This report contains information pertaining to Laconia's unemployment rate and wages, as well as business and economic development partnerships.

*We hope you find
this report
helpful and informative!*

Contact the City Mgr's office at
527-1270, or
info@city.laconia.nh.us



Laconia Public Library



*Do you
have a new
Kindle, an
Android, or
IPAD and
need help?*

The Laconia Public Library is a member of the New Hampshire consortium for downloadable audio books and e-books. Laconia Public Library cardholders are able to access a wide array of electronic books through this service.

Catch up on your "reading" with hundreds of unabridged titles. Downloadable audios are available 24 hours a day. Follow the link to downloadables available from the Library's website at www.laconialibrary.org. Bobbi Slossar at the New Hampshire State Library has a great blog that you can refer to for step-by-step instructions, compatible devices, etc. at <http://nhdbooks.blogspot.com>

*Check out the Library's
Website...Click [here!](#)*