



## Laconia Links

January 6, 2012 - Edition #13



The Busiel Mill, with Laconia City Hall in the background

### Updates from the Planning Office...



The City of Laconia for many years has contemplated changing the traffic pattern downtown to allow for better circulation and lessen confusion. In conjunction with the pending replacement of the Main Street Bridge, the Laconia Planning Board retained a consultant to review the potential conversion of Beacon Street East and

West to two-way traffic, including intersection improvements, phased implementation and cost.

The consultant will be presenting the final report on January 10th at the Planning Board Meeting, at City Hall, Room 200A.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm, but doors will open at 6:00 pm to allow viewing of the intersection improvement plans. Planning staff will be available at that time to answer questions.



There will be additional opportunities for the public to provide input and ask questions; check the City's website and future issues of *Laconia Links* as we move forward with this important discussion!

**The public is welcome and encouraged to attend!**

Click [here](#) for Planning Dept's website!

**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](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)

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

## City Manager Updates...

Two new updates have been posted to the City's website to keep you up-to-date and informed on what's happening in your City:

First, check out the newest version of [Project Updates](#) providing a concise update of projects in the community. Then, take a look at the updated [Financial & Operational Trends](#) report. In this document you'll find financial information for the current year compared to prior years in several departments, such as fire and rescue call data, revenue from motor vehicle registrations and property taxes, police incidents and much more!

Contact the City Mgr's office at  
527-1270, or  
[info@city.laconia.nh.us](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)

# Assessing

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

The abatement filing period is now open until March 1, which is the process taxpayers can use to dispute their final 2011 value. We have received our final 2011 statistics from the DRA, which fall within State guidelines. The equalization ratio has been set at 99.5%. Guidelines are to be between 90% and 110%, with 100% being ideal. The 2011 values are based on fair market sales taking place between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011. Any sales that took place after April 1, 2011 will be used to help determine the 2012 values.



## Department of Public Works

### Disposal of Christmas Trees



**Reminder!**



In conjunction with regular solid waste pickups until January 13, 2012, Laconia residents may place Christmas trees at the curb for pickup by the Laconia Public Works Dept.

Laconia residents NOT on normal collection routes may dispose of their trees at the composting area at the Laconia Transfer Station on Meredith Center Road between the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM. Monday through Friday.

Call Ann at 528-6379 with questions.

[Click here](#) for link to our Public Works Department website

## Upcoming Meetings...

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

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!*

#### **City Council**

January 9, 2012, 7:00 pm  
Room 200A, City Hall

[Agenda](#)

#### **Heritage Commission**

January 11, 2012, 5:00 pm  
Room 200B, City Hall

#### **Zoning Bd. of Adjustment**

Site Walk, January 12, 2012  
10:00 am  
14 Oak St., Laconia, NH

[Agenda](#)

#### **Lakes Business Park**

January 12, 2012, 4:00 pm  
Room 200A, City Hall

[Meeting Notice](#)

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.

# LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Click [here](#) to access the Parks & Rec website



## ICE SKATING & SLEDDING DELAY !

Laconia Parks & Recreation maintains two ice skating rinks during the winter months. The first rink is located in the Memorial Park Baseball parking lot. This is a manmade rink, which makes this facility easier to create and maintain. The second rink is located at Opechee Park in the Cove area. This rink is on the actual lake and, therefore, it is more difficult to control the ice conditions.

Unfortunately, due to the mild weather we have been experiencing lately, we have not been able to maintain our ice rinks. Also, the lack of snow has been a problem for the Department where the Laconia Sledding Hill is concerned. We have not been able to open the hill yet this year. The Department is looking into the possibility of having permanent lights installed at the sledding hill that would be on from 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm so kids of all ages may use the hill even after school and work!



Without the snow and ice during the winter months we have very limited outdoor recreation opportunities. Both ice skating and sledding are great physical exercise and both are free for you to use. Keep your fingers crossed for snow!

# Laconia Police Department



[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

**STOP Underage Drinking**

**Too Young To Start**  
By the time they reach eighth grade, nearly 50 percent of adolescents have had at least one drink, and over 20 percent have been "drunk." About 20 percent of eighth graders and nearly 30 percent of twelfth graders have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. Approximately 30 percent of twelfth graders say they participate in binge drinking (having at least four or more drinks on one occasion in the previous 2 weeks).

**Consequences**  
Underage drinking is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined. Alcohol abuse in youth leads to increased incidents of:  
• Drinking and driving (crash fatalities)  
• Suicide and attempted suicide  
• Sexual assault  
• High-risk sexual encounters  
• Learning impairments  
• Brain damage  
• Alcohol dependence  
Early alcohol abuse may have long-lasting consequences. People who begin drinking before age 14 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some time in their lives compared to those who have their first drink at age 20 or older.

**Prevent & Treat**  
The immediate and long-term risks of alcohol abuse among the young underscore the need for prevention and treatment action. Discussions of the consequences of alcohol abuse as well as participation in community programs are the best way to start. Treatment for abuse that has already begun should be age appropriate and take into account the increased peer pressure young people experience.

Laconia Police Department  
126 New Salem St. • Laconia, NH 03306  
(603) 524-5024  
Emergency Dial 9-1-1  
Working With You To Keep Our Community Safe.

The Laconia Police Department has increased efforts in preventing alcohol use and abuse by minors, through enforcement, education and awareness programs. Officer Stephen Orton, the School Resource Officer, along with Officer Michelle Cardinal, the DARE instructor, routinely speak to students and parents about the dangers of alcohol use and abuse .

Chief Adams and Lieutenant Lessard are involved with "Stand Up for a Drug Free Laconia", a grass roots coalition which was founded by Jessica Blais of the Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health. The coalition involves numerous community members and organizations that will explore the root causes of alcohol and drug abuse in our community. The collation is working with adults as well as children to address these issues.

The Laconia Police Department will be distributing several hundred "Stop Underage Drinking" educational posters over the next month. If you are interested in obtaining a poster to display at your business or place of employment, please contact Lieutenant Al Lessard at [alessard@laconiapd.org](mailto:alessard@laconiapd.org).

[Click](#) to view larger image of poster

**The Laconia Police Department looks forward to collaborating with its community partners and reducing underage drinking and the abuse of alcohol and drugs.**



# ***Laconia Fire Department***

**Important Message  
from the Laconia  
Fire Department**

## **STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**

John Barthelmes, Commissioner

Division of Fire Safety

Office of the State Fire Marshal

J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

Office: Richard M. Flynn Academy, Route 106, Concord, NH

Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305

603/223-4289, FAX 603/223-4294



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—December 29, 2011**

For further information, contact:

State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan (603-223-4289)

## **ARE THERE HIDDEN DANGERS IN YOUR HOME? TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND PROPERTY AND ENJOY THE WARMTH OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE, FOLLOW THESE IMPORTANT WOOD HEATING SAFETY TIPS:**

The recent tragedy in Connecticut with the loss of three children and two adults to fire on Christmas day reminds us of how vulnerable we are in a fire.

State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan and NH Association of Fire Chiefs President Corey Landry recommend taking the time to be alert to fire hazards in your home. Chief Landry encourages home owners to make sure that combustible materials are kept at least 36 inches away from all heating devices and when cleaning out ashes from a fireplace or woodstove, place the ashes in a covered metal container that is set outside on dirt or concrete that is at least 36 inches away from buildings or combustible materials. Never set a bucket of ashes on a deck!

Fire Marshal Degnan stated heating fires are often the result of the improper use or maintenance of supplemental home heating appliances, such as wood stoves, coal stoves, and kerosene space heaters and are the leading cause of fire in New Hampshire. The use of these supplemental heating devices also increases the risk of dangerous accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home if not properly installed or maintained.

Both Degnan and Landry advise that it is critical that every home has at least one smoke detector on each floor level and a carbon monoxide alarm. The best protection for your family is smoke detectors in combination with automatic residential fire sprinklers. You also need to know what to do when the alarm sounds; every family should develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

For further information concerning home fire safety, contact your local Fire Department or the State Fire Marshal's Office.

# Conservation Commission News

## BACKYARD COMPOSTING



The City of Laconia Conservation Commission would like to invite Laconia residents to attend an upcoming question and answer session on "Backyard Composting Made Easy". Kelley McAdam, Agricultural Resources Educator from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Services, will be the speaker.

The event will be held here at Laconia's City Hall in the Main Conference Room 200A at 6:30 pm on Wednesday January 18, 2012. If you have ever thought about composting, are currently composting, do not want to compost, or think composting can't be done in the winter you should plan on attending!

The City of Laconia encourages residents to reduce the actual weight of waste items being transported to the Transfer Station which will, in turn, reduce transportation and other related costs. A compost station in your backyard helps to achieve this goal. Composting is the ultimate reduce, reuse, recycle process that pays you back with a usable product during the growing season.

The Laconia Conservation Commission encourages composting because it creates a pure organic fertilizer reducing the need for chemically based fertilizer use on your property. If your property is within 250 feet of the shoreline, the State of New Hampshire does not allow chemically based fertilizers (with the exception of lime based only products). Composting will help to keep your natural vegetation lively and your fruits and vegetables productive.

Hope to see you there with your questions! If you need further information, please feel free to call Scott McPhie, Conservation Planning Technician at City Hall at 527-1264 or by e-mail [mcphies@city.laconia.nh.us](mailto:mcphies@city.laconia.nh.us)

## Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

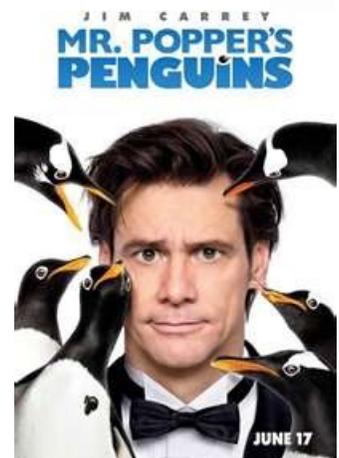


Monday, January 9 & 30, teens in grades 6-12 meet in Laconia Rotary Hall at 3:30 to play the popular card game, Yu-Gi-Oh!

Friday, January 13th @  
3:45  
Laconia Rotary Hall

"Mr. Popper's Penguins", rated PG. The life of a businessman begins to change after he inherits six penguins, and as he transforms his apartment into a winter wonderland, his professional side starts to unravel.

*Free Admission!*



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

# NEWS From the City Clerk's Office

**The Presidential  
Primary Election  
will be held  
Tuesday,  
January 10!**



Polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The polling locations are as follows:

- Ward 1 – Please note the temporary location change for the Presidential Primary Election to the Beane Conference Ctr., 35 Blueberry Lane, due to construction at Belknap County Nursing Home.
- Ward 2 – Sacred Heart Parish Hall
- Ward 3 – Laconia Middle School (multipurpose room)
- Ward 4 – Memorial Park Club House
- Ward 5 – Woodland Heights Elementary School (gym)
- Ward 6 – Leavitt Park Clubhouse

All absentee ballots delivered in person must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9. All absentee ballots delivered via mail must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10.

*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](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)

*Have a great weekend!*

Scott Myers, City Manager  
City of Laconia



City's Website: [www.city.laconia.nh.us](http://www.city.laconia.nh.us)

Join us for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration to Commemorate

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

Laconia Middle School Cafeteria  
150 McGrath Street  
(next to Opechee Park)  
Laconia, New Hampshire  
Sunday, January 15, 2012  
3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.



### **"I Have a Dream."**

- ◆ Celebrate by bringing your favorite food
- ◆ Dr. King, Jr.'s speech, *I Have A Dream*
  - ◆ Movie *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*
- ◆ Sarah Dan Jones, renowned guitarist and Civil Rights song leader
- ◆ Bhutanese dancing ◆ Drinks provided

**All are welcome!**

**Sponsored by the Laconia Human Relations Committee, LR Ministerial Association, and Appalachian Mountain Teen Project**

*For more information call:* Carol Pierce at 524-2052 & Umija Gusinac at 528-1285

**Reminder!**



**A REPRESENTATIVE OF  
CONGRESSMAN FRANK GUINTA WILL HOLD  
PUBLIC OFFICE HOURS IN LACONIA AT THE  
LACONIA CITY HALL  
ROOM 200B**

**THURSDAY, JAN. 12th, 2012 , 10 to 11 AM**