



Laconia Links

January 13, 2012 - Edition #14

Winter's Morning at Opechee Park

Recycling Challenge Update

2 week total - Dec 26 thru Jan 6

Route	Total Tons Collected (MSW + Recycling)	Total Tons Recyclables	Percent Recycled	Pre-Challenge % Recycled	Councilor
Remote Sites		19.14	N/A	N/A	Lahey
Monday	31.73	4.62	15%	12%	Doyle
Tuesday	43.86	8.73	20%	18%	Lipman
Wednesday	49.4	4.89	10%	10%	Hamel
Thursday	40.46	4.53	11%	11%	Bolduc
Friday	43.59	4.81	11%	10%	Baer
		Curbside Ave =	Curbside Ave =	Prior 2 weeks =	
		13.2%	12.1%	15.2%	

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!

As the above chart shows, the percentage of recyclables has dropped from the last two-week reporting period (with the exception of Councilor Doyle's Monday route which increased from 11% to 15%). However, the good news is that the curbside average of recyclables for all routes combined still shows an increase from the end of October when the Recycling Challenge began.

Now that the busy holiday season is over, it's time to get back on track to reach our goal of a 25% City-wide recycling level by March 1st. Every little bit helps to reduce our solid waste costs!

Reminder!



The next recycling collection week begins Monday, January 16th!

LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



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

TAKE A WILD WEST FAMILY ADVENTURE THIS SUMMER



Laconia and Gilford Parks & Recreation are offering a trip through Collette Tours and Penny Pitou Travel that may be right up your alley!

The trip is called the Wild West and Yellowstone Family Adventure. It will include 4 nights in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, rafting the Snake River while checking the sights of the Grand Tetons, touring Yellowstone and checking out an actual rodeo.



The trip will take place from August 11 – 17, 2012. There will be an informational night on Thursday, January 26th at 5:30pm at the Gilford Town Hall. Anyone interested in attending may call the Laconia Parks & Recreation Department at 524-5046 to be sure there are enough handouts for everyone.

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!*

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

Reminder:

City Hall is closed
On Monday, Jan. 16th

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.

Lakes Business Park Commission

January 17, 2012, 4:00 pm
Room 200A, City Hall

[Meeting Notice](#)

Parks & Recreation Commission

January 17, 2012, 7:00 pm
Community Center

[Agenda](#)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

January 17, 2012, 7:00 pm
Room 200A, City Hall

[Agenda](#)

Backyard Composting Lecture

Presented by Laconia Conservation
Commission

January 18, 2012, 6:30 pm
Room 200A, City Hall

[Meeting Notice](#)

Water Commissioners' Meeting

January 19, 2012, 8:00 am
Water Treatment Facility Conf. Room
117 Stark Street

Updates from the Planning Office...

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

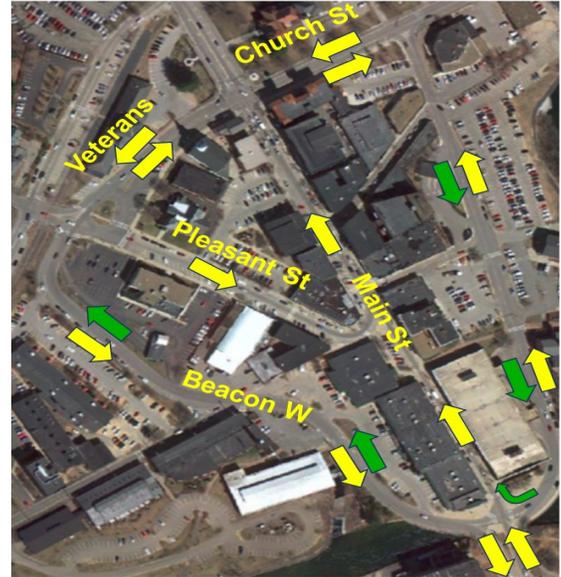
DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC PATTERN

Updates to the Downtown Traffic pattern change plan are now available on the Planning Department's Website, and were presented at the first public meeting on January 10, 2012.

TEC of Lawrence, MA has completed the full traffic study looking at converting Beacon Street, East and Beacon Street, West to two-way traffic. The change would include updates to the intersections at Beacon Street, East/ Church Street and Pleasant Street/Veteran's Square/Beacon Street, West, and at the Main Street Bridge.

Full intersection images are posted on our website at:

<http://www.city.laconia.nh.us/index.php/departments/planning-inside/downtown-traffic-change> .



Yellow=existing; Green=proposed change

Please click [here](#) for larger image

In addition, the report was completed such that almost all improvements are small in scope, and can be phased in or out as the City feels is best. For example, Beacon Street West could be converted to two-way, whereas Beacon Street East may work best to remain one-way. The only essential piece of the plan is the Main Street Bridge. The bridge MUST be expanded slightly to accommodate the two-way traffic pattern. If the bridge were to be replaced in kind, the City would not be able to change to a two way traffic pattern for the life of the bridge – and that could be almost 70 years! For that reason, it's imperative we look at all relative data and alternatives and seek public input to make an informed decision to whether or not to adopt the new traffic plan.

The next public meeting will be February 7th at 6:00 PM, Room 200A, second floor of City Hall. Public comment is welcomed! The full report, including appendices, is available in the Planning Office located on the lower level of City Hall.

Laconia Police Department



K-9 Fundraiser to be Held at Hectors Restaurant



A fundraiser to help raise funds for the new Laconia Police Department K-9 Unit will be held on January 18th at Hectors Restaurant in Laconia. Twenty percent of all proceeds from lunch and dinner on that day will be donated to the program. There will also be a raffle with some great gifts starting at 7:00 pm. Stop in with your friends and family and help support the Laconia Police Department K-9 Unit!

The Laconia Police Department would like to thank all of those who have generously donated time and money to support this endeavor, it is greatly appreciated!

[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

Laconia Police Department



[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

Congressman Frank Guinta Visits Laconia Police Department

First District Congressman Frank Guinta attended daily roll call at the Laconia Police Department on January 5th.

The Congressman spoke to an audience of approximately twenty officers and recounted his time as Mayor of Manchester. Law enforcement and public safety has always been a top priority for him. He explained that while Mayor, he often attended roll calls so he knew first hand what the department's challenges and needs were.

Congressman Guinta went on to say that he believes resources need to be pooled for law enforcement, explaining that a regional viewpoint is needed. On the same note, Captain Clarke thanked Congressman Guinta for his efforts in attempting to secure funding for last year's Hells Angels World Run.



Congressman Frank Guinta and Chief Christopher Adams

Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

Laconia During the American Civil War 1861—1865



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

Thursday, January 19th @ 7:00 p.m. in Laconia Rotary Hall the Library will present the lecture "Laconia During the American Civil War 1861-1865".

Did you know the City of Laconia sent 144 of its men to the American Civil War; thirteen made the '*Supreme Sacrifice*' and two died in Confederate Prisoner of War Camps?

Steven Robert Closs, a New Hampshire Civil War historian and author, will tell their stories. There is no longer the sense that the Civil War did not affect us here in New Hampshire. On the contrary, 2,036 soldiers from New Hampshire Volunteer Regiments and Organizations died in combat during this war. They were fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, and nephews, and their loss was strongly felt by their families, friends and communities. Thirty-three New Hampshire men were awarded the Medal of Honor for acts of courage, bravery, valor and heroism.

Closs's lecture will focus on the stories of the fifteen Laconia soldiers who made the "*Supreme Sacrifice*" for the Union and the abolition of slavery.

Laconia Fire Department



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

Important Message from
the Laconia Fire Dept.

Ice Safety

When is ice safe? There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all of these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

There is no such thing as 100 percent safe ice.

For New, Clear Ice Only:

- 2" or less - **STAY OFF**
- 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" - Snowmobile or ATV
- 8" - 12" - Car or small pickup
- 12" - 15" - Medium truck

Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

Other things to keep in mind when checking ice:

Ice is seldom the same thickness over a single body of water. It can be two feet thick in one place and one inch thick a few yards away due to currents, springs, rotting vegetation or schools of rough fish. You need to check the ice at least every 150 feet, especially early in the season or any situation where the thickness varies widely.

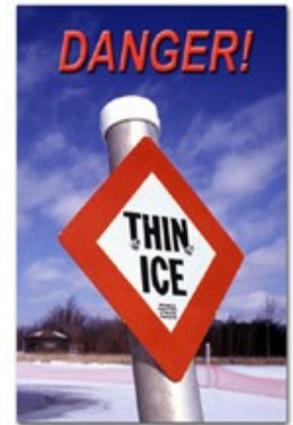
White ice, sometimes called "snow ice," is only about one-half as strong as new clear ice so the above thicknesses should be doubled.



Vehicles weighing about one ton such as cars, pickups or SUVs should be parked **at least** 50 feet apart and moved every two hours to prevent sinking. It's not a bad idea to make a hole next to the car. If water starts to overflow the top of the hole, the ice is sinking and it's time to move the vehicle!

Please enjoy your winter ice activities here on Laconia's beautiful lakes, but remember to be safe.

Deborah Pendergast, Deputy Fire Chief



News From the Laconia Water Department

Please click [here](#) for the Water Dept. website!

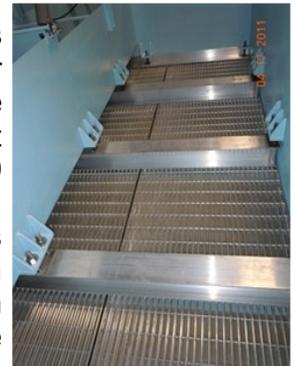
Treatment Facility Upgrade

The Water Department is currently in the second of a three year upgrade plan for the Treatment Facility. This is the first upgrade since the facility went on line in September of 1989. This upgrade consisted primarily of filter media replacement, valve replacement, as well as electrical and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) control upgrades.

Over the last five years, the Water Department has been setting aside money in each budget year which will allow the department to complete this project without incurring any debt. After receiving cost estimates for as much as 1.5 million dollars from contractors that perform this type of work, the department decided to perform the upgrade using their own staff, which allowed us to not only gather "Hands-on Knowledge" but also produced a considerable cost savings. Contractors were hired to do some of the more specialized tasks such as the painting of the trains, the electrical and the SCADA control work.



The treatment plant has three identical filter units called trains which are capable of processing water at approximately 1200-1500 gallons per minute (GPM). Each train consists of two parts, the first being the clarifier which removes approximately 80 percent of the particles, also known as turbidity, from the raw water. The water then passes through our mixed media filters. The media, which consist of anthracite coal, silica, sand and high density silica sand, helps to polish and remove the remaining loose particles. Unlike other years, when the department has just added more of the materials as needed, this time all of the mixed media along with the clarifier material will be entirely removed and replaced with new material. Prior to the new materials being put in place, the trains will be sand blasted and painted to improve their appearance and minimize maintenance.



The work started last year when the department was able to rebuild train #3 by taking it "off line" for sand blasting, painting, new filter media and the installation of new electronic isolating valves. This process was a success based on achieving the goals of staying under budget and within the timeframe that we had planned on.



This year we are completing all of the electrical and SCADA upgrades and replacing the remaining control valves for trains #1 and #2.

We expect that next year we will complete the entire project by sand blasting and painting trains #1 and #2 and replacing the filter media as we did on train #3.





NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ON CURBSIDE COLLECTION ROUTES

NO DELAY

On Curbside Trash Collection Routes
the week of January 16th

All collections will be on their
normally scheduled day

Questions? Please call
DPW office (528-6379) or
Laconia Transfer Station (528-2822)

Meeting Notice

The quarterly meeting of the Winnepesaukee River Basin (WRB) Advisory Board will be held January 17, 2012 at the WRB Maintenance Facility, 202 Water St., Laconia, beginning at 9:00 am. (The WRB Maintenance Facility is the former Laconia Wastewater Treatment Plant site adjacent to the Water St. boat ramp, and just beyond Boulija-Gorrel Lumber Co.)

For further information or questions, please call
the DPW Office at 528-6379.

*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



U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte Office Hours in Laconia!

DATE: Third Wednesday of each month
beginning January 18, 2012

TIME: 11:00 am—1:00 pm

LOCATION: City Hall, Room 200B
45 Beacon Street East, Laconia, NH

Please call the City Manager's Office at
527-1270 for questions or additional information.

Reminder!



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
7th Annual Celebration
Laconia Middle School Cafeteria
150 McGrath Street (next to Opechee Park)
Laconia, New Hampshire

For more info call:
Carol Pierce: 524-2052
Umija Gusinac: 528-1285

**Sunday,
January 15, 2012
3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**



Please Note:

City Hall will be closed on
Monday, January 16 2012
In Observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*We apologize for any
inconvenience!*

A complete list of 2012 City Hall closings
can be accessed on our website
by clicking [here](#).