



Rainbow over Lake Winnepesaukee

Laconia Links

September 14, 2012 - Edition #49



25th Annual Debra Bieniarz Award

This award is presented annually by the Laconia City Council to a resident of the City based on his/her work with the youth of the community.

Written nominations will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 12, 2012. Please send nominations to the City Manager's Office, City of Laconia, 45 Beacon St. East, Laconia, NH 03246. Please call 527-1270 if you have any questions.

Click [here](#) for a list of previous years' winners.

Welcome to Laconia Links a weekly email 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!*



LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Summer is almost at an end, which means it's time for a new Parks & Recreation Program Brochure!



Copies of the brochure will be in the mail next week.

In the meantime, you can check it out on the City's website by clicking [here](#).

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



Laconia Police Dept.

[Link to Laconia Police Dept. Here](#)

9/11 Remembered



(Photo Credit: Harrison Haas, Citizen Newspaper)

The Laconia Police Department will never forget the victims of the terrorist attacks on 09/11/2001, or the courage and sacrifice of the firefighters, police officers, EMS and civilians who joined together in an effort to save lives that day and the following days as hope waned for locating survivors.

Many of our brothers and sisters in emergency services paid the ultimate price and we honor this loss; a staggering loss to both to their families and their communities.

This year officers and civilian employees of the Laconia Police Department paid tribute by coming together and saluting the colors by the 9/11 monument at the front of the police station at 8:46 am. Uniformed members stood at attention while Taps played into the sunny morning.

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!

Follow this [link](#) to the "Calendar" page of the City of Laconia's website. Click on a specific meeting for more information. Please check the "Calendar" page often for updated info and changes.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

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

[Agenda](#)

Parks & Rec. Commission

September 17, 2012, 7:00 pm
Community Center

[Agenda](#)

TRC II

September 19, 2012, 9:30 am
City Hall, Room 200B

[Agenda](#)

Conservation Commission

September 19, 2012, 6:00 pm
City Hall, Room 200B

[Agenda](#)

Board of Water Commissioners

September 20, 2012, 8:00 am
117 Stark St., Water Treatment Facility Conference Room



What would you do if someone was bleeding, choking, having a stroke or heart attack?

Are you prepared to use a fire extinguisher?

Are you prepared for a power outage, fire or weather emergency in your home?

You can learn all this and more at the

FREE

Community Emergency Response Classes

1st Class: Tuesday, September 25th, 6:00-8:30pm

Meredith Community Center

1 Circle Drive, Meredith, NH 03253

Classes to continue weekly for 9 weeks

For more information and registration, contact Kathleen Merriam, Coordinator of Volunteers at 528-2145 or email to: kmerriam@lrpph.org

Check out our web page at <http://www.lrpph.org/html/LR-CERT>

After classes are completed, there is an opportunity to become a member of the **Lakes Region Community Emergency Response Team (LR-CERT)**

Just this past summer, LR-CERT:

- Provided fire and police departments with food, water and traffic control in the vicinity of fires and hazmat situations.
- Assisted with the Hepatitis C Clinic in Exeter
- Worked with EMS personnel at the Timberman Triathlon providing first aid and triage in the medical tent

A program of:

Lakes Region Partnership
for Public Health, Inc.



67 Water St, Suite 105, Laconia, NH 03246
(603) 528-2145 www.lrpph.org



CITY OF LACONIA BOARD & COMMISSION VACANCIES

The following Boards and Commissions either have current vacancies or terms of current members* will be expiring and up for renewal at the end of October 2012:

Building Code Board of Appeals
Heritage Commission
Board of Assessors
Laconia Housing Authority *
Personnel Advisory Board *
Planning Board
Zoning Board of Adjustment

If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, please contact the City Manager's office (527-1270) or by e-mail at brownn@city.laconia.nh.us for further information or to request an application. Applicants must be residents of Laconia. Service on more than one Board or Commission is acceptable as long as it is a non-conflicting Board. The deadline for receipt of applications is September 28, 2012.



CHANGES TO CHAPTER 189 SEWER ORDINANCE

The Council will consider proposed changes to the Sewer Ordinance, specifically Chapter 189 regarding the billing of Sewer-Only accounts. The Council is expected to vote on the proposed changes on September 24, 2012.

Please click [here](#) to view the proposed changes and additional information.



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

DATE: **September 19, 2012**
(Third Wednesday of each month)

TIME: 11:00 am—1:00 pm

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

Please call the City Manager's Office at 527-1270 or e-mail info@city.laconia.nh.us for questions or additional information.

HYDRANTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

History

The fire hydrant, previously known as a fire plug, is an active fire protection measure, and a source of water provided in most urban, suburban and rural areas with municipal water service to enable firefighters to tap into the municipal water supply to assist in extinguishing a fire.

The original idea of a fire plug dates back to the early 17th century when firefighters responding to a call would dig down to the wooden water mains and rapidly bore a hole to secure water to fight fires. The water would fill the hole creating a temporary well, and be transported from the well to the fire by bucket brigades or, later, by hand-pumped fire engines. The holes were then plugged with stoppers, which over time came to be known as fire plugs. The location of the plug would often be recorded or marked so that it could be reused in future fires.

Thankfully, over the years this idea was further developed and in the 1860s a man by the name of Birdsell Holly invented the modern version of the fire hydrant.



This picture is an example of an 1869 Holly fire hydrant currently in New Orleans

Fire Hydrant Maintenance



The Laconia Water Department is responsible for maintaining most of the 600 fire hydrants throughout the City. This department has a hydrant maintenance program in place that includes hydrant post protection, repairs, painting and flushing.

The hydrant flushing program includes the department flushing a number of hydrants twice per year around town to improve the quality of the water and also collecting static pressures for all of the hydrants.

Prior to winter, the department pumps out all of the hydrants. The department then follows this with another inspection of the hydrants in the months of January and February just to make sure that the hydrant seats have not leaked and frozen.

The hydrant flushing program along with the maintenance program are extremely essential so that the Fire Department, together with the Water Department, can meet the Insurance Services Office's (ISO) criteria in order for the City insurance rate to stay as low as possible. The ISO collects and evaluates information from communities around the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities and assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) through a point system.

The insurance companies use PPC for marketing, underwriting, and to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance. The price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is lower than in a community with a poor PPC. This even applies to the properties that are not on City water.

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HYDRANTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

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The water supply system accounts for 40% of the total classification. During ISO's review they look at the water supply a community uses to determine the adequacy for fire-suppression purposes along with hydrant sizes, types, installation, and inspections/condition of hydrants.

During the last ISO's review the Water Department received a score of 36.52 out of a maximum score of 40. This score was achieved due to the department's due diligence in the maintenance programs and recordkeeping.

Hydrant Protection

Over the past three years, the Water Department has implemented a Capital Improvement Plan that allows for the upgrades of hydrants. The first two years the department heavily concentrated its efforts on the installation of hydrant posts to protect the hydrants from any damage. The picture to the right is an example of a hydrant that was not protected which was recently hit by vehicle, and the results were the department had to dig and replace the hydrant.



The New Look Around Town

This year our efforts are being slightly refocused by the City wide plan for beautification. The department has begun a painting program in which a fresh coat of paint is being applied to the hydrants and posts. This will greatly enhance the appearance and improve visibility of faded and weathered hydrants.

The painting program will run from now until cold weather and then resume in the springtime.



Before painting...



After painting!

Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

Calling All Teens.....

Welcome the Wii

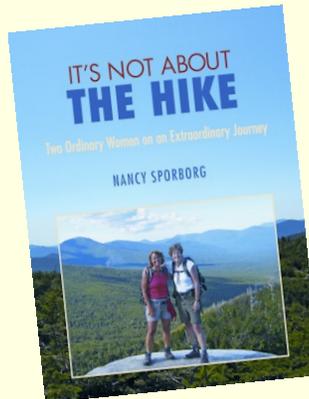
Come help us welcome the new Wii on Thursday, September 20th from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in Laconia Rotary Hall.

For teens in Grades 6 through 12!



It's Not About the Hike

Thursday, September 20th
@ 7:00 Laconia Public Library



This is the motivational story of two ordinary women, Nancy Sporborg and Pat Piper, in the second half of their lives who start out walking the sidewalks of their hometown and end up climbing 190 mountains through all four seasons.

Along the way they learn that it's not about the hike, it's about discovering who they are.

This program is free and open to everyone, hikers or not! Books will be available for purchase.

Check out the Library's website—click [here!](#)

Updates from the Planning Office...

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

The Laconia Planning Board's Capital Improvements Program is now in session! The Committee is comprised of three Planning Board members, three City Council members and three members at large. Their job is to review and make recommendations on all City Department's capital improvement needs. A capital improvement is any request for any building, equipment or infrastructure needed by a department with a life expectancy of more than three years and a cost of more than \$5,000. The Committee will spend the next several weeks reviewing Capital Improvement submissions from all City department heads and listening to department presentations on their needs. Presentations are scheduled for Tuesday September 25, Monday October 1 and Tuesday October 16.

The Capital Improvements Committee scores the requests based on the following criteria:

1. Does the request improve the economic condition and quality of life of the City and does it meet the objectives in the City's Master Plan?
2. Is there a public need and has there been sufficient planning for efficiency and/or cost savings for the City?
3. Does the request satisfy an outstanding safety concern or public liability?

The scores are then summed and ranked and it is from this ranking that the Capital Improvements Committee (CIP) makes their recommendation to the Planning Board at their December 4th meeting. The Planning Board then deliberates on the ranking and, in turn, makes its recommendation to the City Council. The City Council will use the recommendation in their annual budget deliberations.

The Planning Board is always looking for new CIP members. If you are interested in serving or finding out more information about the Committee, please contact the Planning Office at 527-1264.



Volunteers Needed!

Last year Belknap Landscape Company rejuvenated Laconia's Stewart Park and the River Walk Extension which passes through it. Subsequently, the company maintains select gardens in the western end as a City of Laconia 'Adopt a Spot'.

A large planting bed at the opposite end of the Laconia City park has since become overgrown with weeds. While all the other planted areas in Stewart Park look terrific, this particular planting bed needs additional efforts.

*City of Laconia's river front Stewart Park on Union Avenue.
Volunteers are needed for a clean-up effort on Sept. 18th.*

With City resources focused elsewhere, a volunteer effort has been coordinated to restore this part of the park to last year's luster. Local youth groups looking to satisfy their community service contributions have agreed to participate and help from the public is most welcome.

The project involves weeding and bagging the debris for disposal by Laconia's Parks & Recreation Department. Civic clubs such as the Laconia Rotary have been invited, as have youth groups from Laconia High School, Huot Tech Center, Belknap County Youth Services, Boy Scout Troop 68 and the Lakes Region Boys & Girls Club, which has already committed up to 10 middle school students.

Volunteers should meet in Stewart Park, at the Overlook at 3pm on Tuesday, September 18th.

Refreshments, tools and gloves will be provided for the volunteers who will be pulling weeds, bagging the debris and returning a nice looking waterfront planting bed to area residents and visitors. Work should be finished by 5 pm, if not before.

Parks & Recreation will provide hoes, rakes and bags and arrange for trash collection the following morning. The planting bed will be mulched later on with City crews.



Volunteers wishing to participate in this community enhancement effort are asked to contact Dale Squires at 603 455-1594.

Laconia Historical & Museum Society

Presents

An Evening Celebrating Lakeport History

Please join Laconia Historical and Museum Society on Monday, September 17th at 7 p.m. at Cactus Jack's of Laconia for a preview of Lakeport resident Claire Blanchette Clark's book on the history of the Black Brook area of Lakeport.



Listen to stories from long ago about this historic section of Lakeport while you treat yourself to a delicious dinner at Cactus Jack's. Also, learn about Ms. Clark's research and writing process and help LHMS raise funds to get this amazing historical work published.

Cactus Jack's has generously offered to provide those purchasing dinner with light refreshments and soft drinks. For more information, please call 527-1278 or email us at www.lhmslpl@metrocast.net



Sept. 22nd

 **Bank of
New Hampshire**
New Hampshire's local bank

**Lakes Region Businesses
& Organizations -**

Get your team together!

Support your staff to get active and be healthy, grow your staff morale and bring exposure to your organization by fielding a team for WOW Fest '12 and showing your support for the WOW Trail.



(Special awards to most participants on a team, best dressed, most money raised and fastest 5K/10K race times).



WALK BIKE RUN

Register at:
www.wowtrail.org

Conservation Commission Project



As part of a United Way Day of Caring Project, a group of volunteers will help clean up an overgrown area of Oriental Bittersweet in the vicinity of Water Street. Volunteers will meet on Friday, September 21st from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For additional information or to assist with the project, please contact Scott McPhie in the City of Laconia Planning Office at 527-1264, or by e-mail at mcpbies@city.laconia.nh.us.

This volunteer effort will help to clean up an overgrown area of the City to preserve shoreland vegetation, and will allow the public to feel safer when utilizing that portion of property on Lake Winnisquam.

The State of New Hampshire has approved instructions for the removal of Oriental Bittersweet. Please click [here](#) to view the correct protocol to use when removing this invasive plant.

Public Works Department

LACONIA RESIDENTS ON CURBSIDE TRASH COLLECTION ROUTES:

Notice! NOTICE OF CHANGE IN ALLOWABLE LIMITS

On May 14, 2012, the Laconia City Council voted to approve a reduction in the number of containers of trash allowed for curbside collection effective October 1, 2012:

1. Single-family dwellings and duplexes will be reduced from 5 containers to 2 containers on a weekly basis.
2. Multi-family dwellings and commercial establishments will be reduced from 10 containers to 7 containers on a weekly basis.

All trash set out for curbside collection must be in a container – bagged trash must be tightly sealed and placed in the container. **NO** loose trash in containers will be collected.

The City of Laconia strongly encourages all Laconia residents and businesses to recycle -- by participation in the curbside collection program for those on collection routes, by utilizing the 4 remote drop-off sites around the city (behind 257 Messer St, behind the Lakeport Fire Station, at the Weirs Community Ctr. parking lot, and across from the Memorial Park Club House) or, by delivering recyclables directly to the Laconia Transfer Station.

Recycling bins are provided free of charge. There is currently no limit on the amount of recycling which is collected curbside.

Questions? Please call Ann at 528-6379



The 12th Annual Thomas F. Mullen Golf Tournament will be held September 17, 2012 to benefit the Laconia D.A.R.E. Program and the Laconia Police Relief Association!

For additional info, please click [here](#) or contact Lt. Al Lessard, 524-5257, Ext. 356.

Reminder...



Location: Lochmere Country Club
Date: September 24, 2012 9AM shotgun start
Fee: \$100 per player



Package Includes:
Tournament play, cart rental & lunch.

Contact/Sign-up Information:
Laurie Fox 603.524.1233

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