



Laconia Links

October 7, 2011 - Edition #1

Welcome to our very first issue of *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](#).

Our goal is to make this your newsletter; a document you can use to become more informed about the City of Laconia, and how your local government is working to improve the quality of life for its residents and visitors. We are also hoping the newsletter will be a useful tool as an emergency alert in situations such as impending severe storms, water main issues, road closures, etc. As we move forward, 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!



The Tax Collector's office is now accepting credit cards (Visa, MasterCard and Discover) for payment of tax bills. Payments with a credit card must be made in person at the counter. A convenience fee of 2.95% will be added to all credit card transactions (minimum charge is \$1.50). *[Please note that only MasterCard or Discover is accepted for all other counter transactions in the City Clerk's office, such as vehicle registrations, etc.]* Please call the tax office if you have any questions at (603) 527-1269.

Follow this [link](#) to our Tax Department for more info.....



**Important Message
from the Laconia
Fire Department**

It will soon be time again for all of us to change our clocks.....it is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detector. Remember — the batteries should be changed yearly!

Click [here](#) to access the Fire Dep't. website

Laconia Parks & Recreation

• *Recreation Programs Begin in October*

The Laconia Community Center officially opens again the first week of October for all ongoing and special programs. The list of opportunities is vast for every age and ability. Some of the programs that are offered for the youth of Laconia and the surrounding area are Preschool, Elementary, Middle and High school open gym time, Music with Mar, dance classes and some special programs like the Royal Princess Academy. Adults and seniors have many choices as well, such as multiple exercise and dance classes, basketball and Beginners' Sewing Class. For more information or a complete list of programs the department offers, please go to www.cityoflaconianh.org and under the Parks & Recreation Department click on the "Current Brochure". For more personal contact, please call 524-5046 or come and see us at 306 Union Avenue!

• *Wyatt Park Charrette*

Parks & Recreation is hosting a public charrette for Wyatt Park on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Laconia Community Center. This is a chance for members of the public to have their voices heard and show the department what their vision is for the Park's future. If you need additional information, please call 524-5046.



NEWS FROM THE LACONIA WATER DEPARTMENT

Welcome Citizens! The Water Department is getting ready for their annual fall maintenance programs. Two of the major tasks that this department performs during this time of the year are the hydrant and valve maintenance programs. Both of these programs are designed to inspect and verify that they are indeed operable.

The valve program consists of a valve exercise, which requires closing, then opening, each valve in a specific neighborhood. The operation of the valves is extremely important. In an emergency, sections of the water distribution system may need to be isolated without delay.

As for the hydrant flushing program, this annual maintenance is done to remove minerals and sediment that accumulate in the water lines over the course of a year. This preventative maintenance also allows us to check and record water pressure to ensure the water system is functioning properly. We will update you in the near future with more specific dates for this program.

During both of these exercises, customers may experience some discolored water and sediment for a short period of time. This discolored water is not harmful and you should simply run the cold water until it clears.

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

The Library is Having a Book Sale!

Please join us on Thursday, October 6th through Saturday, October 8th and check out the bargains! The sale will be held in Laconia Rotary Hall, located on the lower level of the Library, and will be open the following hours:

Thursday: 9:30 am—7:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am—5:00 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am—2:00 pm



There will be something for everyone: hardcovers, paperbacks, books for adults and children, videos, DVDs, audiobooks and more!

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

Deputy Chief Shawn Riley Presented With Award

Deputy Chief Shawn Riley has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Hampshire Police, Fire, and EMS Foundation for his efforts in starting up the STEMI cardiac care program. He will be presented the award on October 13. The award is well deserved, and we congratulate Deputy Chief Riley! His efforts have resulted in numerous lives saved throughout the Lakes Region. His work is also instrumental in the Laconia Fire Department maintaining a 24% cardiac arrest survival rate.

News from the Public Works Department.....

Road Upgrades in Laconia and Lakeport Closing-in on Final Phases

Three (3) streets in Lakeport have been the focus of road and utility upgrades this construction season. The lower end of **Belvidere St.**, a portion of **Washington St.**, and the full length of **Fairmont St.** have seen natural gas, water, sewer and drainage upgrades over the past several weeks and these road sections were reclaimed, graded and paved with a base course of asphalt last week.

Starting October 3rd, curbing and sidewalk work will begin on these road sections and we anticipate that all work (including final paving) will be completed by October 28th.

In central Laconia, **the full length of Oak St.** is being reconstructed. During the past two months, water main and sewer main upgrades have been accomplished. Starting this week, natural gas main upgrades and PSNH utility pole relocations will begin as well as some final minor water main upgrades at intersecting streets.

More intense work will develop and play-out over the next four weeks as the intersection of **Oak St. & No. Main St. will be fully reconstructed (including new traffic lights)**, which will involve roadway widening on the south leg of No. Main St., installation of new curbing and sidewalk modifications. Along with this work, the full length of Oak St. will be reclaimed, graded and paved.

This Oak St. work will require **Traffic Detours** during the weeks of October 10th and 17th. The anticipated paving dates are October 24th (base course) and November 10th (final course). These dates are subject to change.

Anticipated project completion date is November 18th.

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



Members of the 2011 Citizen Academy

LACONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The 2011 Citizen Academy is entering its fourth week. There are ten “recruits” in this year’s class from various backgrounds. The “recruits” get to experience what it is like to be a police officer in the City of Laconia. They will learn about recruitment, investigations, drugs, internal affairs, domestic violence, criminal law, court system, K-9 Division, weapons, use of force, and DWI apprehension, to name a few. They will also get to experience a ride along and witness a trial in court.

The Laconia Police Department Citizen Academy is held once a year, starting in September and runs for ten weeks. If you are interested in learning more about your police department, please sign up for next year’s academy...it will be an experience you will never forget!

[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

News From the City Clerk’s Office:



Boat Registrations Are Coming!

The staff of the City Clerk’s and Tax Collector’s office will begin training for Boat Registrations in October and November, with a tentative implementation date of December 1! We are offering this service to allow

for a centralized location for our residents to conduct their business more efficiently. If you have ideas on additional services the City Clerk’s Office can provide for our residents, please send your ideas to:

cityclerk@city.laconia.nh.us

DOG LICENSING

Do you want to be on our email reminder list for your Dog Licensing Renewal? It’s simple! Just send an email to cityclerk@city.laconia.nh.us with your name, address and name of your dog(s) and ask us to add you to our new email reminder. By reducing the number of notices mailed each year we can save municipal dollars that would be spent on printing and postage.

Make a difference and sign up today!

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

Do you wait until the end of the month to come in and register your cars and spend time waiting in line? Although we try to get everyone serviced as quickly and efficiently as possible, we still have a surge of residents at the end or beginning of every month. Have you considered registering on-line? It’s fast and easy to use and can be done up to 7 days before the end of the month at any time of day or night.

Visit the City of Laconia website (www.city.laconia.nh.us) go to Departments, City Clerk/Records, Vehicle Registration. Click on the orange E-Reg button and take advantage of this easy access service. Your registration(s) and decals will be mailed to you within 24 hours!

Election Headlines

The Municipal Election will be held on November 8, 2011. Polling locations are as follows:



Ward 1—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

Candidates for Mayor, Council, Police Commission, School Board (Wards 4 & 5 only) and Election Officials will be on the ballot. For a sample ballot, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (603) 527-1265.

We are still looking for polling location workers for the Presidential Primary Election, to be held in January or February 2012. The Municipal Election is a great opportunity to come in and see how the polls run and get training for the Presidential Primary.

Anyone interested in working at their polling location should contact City Clerk Reynolds at (603) 527-1265 or cityclerk@city.laconia.nh.us.

*We hope you have enjoyed the first 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

Assessing

As of 9/1/11 all 2010 abatement requests were answered, owners were made aware of their appeal rights and deadlines in a letter sent out in late July. Now we will be completing the 2011 value update which will be implemented for the fall (final) tax bill. As is the same every year, owners will have from the time they receive their final bill until March 1 to file an abatement on their 2011 value. [Click](#) for Assessing Dept.....

Updates from the Planning Office...

The Laconia Planning Department has been busy over the last several weeks. We were thrilled to find out we were selected as a finalist in the Ortin Family Foundation's Heart and Soul Grant competition. The Grant is for \$100,000 for community planning efforts. A team from the Ortin Family Foundation will be touring the City on Thursday October 27th and meeting with the grant team before deciding to award the grant. We hope to show them the vibrancy and life in our three village areas so if you see us on the street on the 27th, come on over and say hi!

The department is also working hard on planning efforts for the Former Prison property. Although we did not receive EPA assessments funds this year we understand from EPA we have been wait-listed for funds for the upcoming year. These EPA funds will be used to complete a partial Phase II Environmental Assessment of the property and potentially help to clean it up as well. As we wait for those EPA funds to become available we have received funding from the Annalee Davis Thorndike Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for a charrette of the property to further the efforts of the Vita Nova/SRA process that occurred in 2010. Details of the former Prison Charrette time and place will be available in the upcoming weeks. [Link to the Planning Dept's website for info and updates](#) —click [here!](#)

Finally, we are midway through our Capital Improvements Program. The program is an effort of the Planning Department to help departments with long term budget plans for capital items, and prioritize capital items for the upcoming budget season. Information on department's capital requests are available in the Planning Department and the Public Hearing on items for Budget year 2012-13 is on October 25th.