

Laconia Links

October 28, 2011 - Edition #4

City Manager Announces Recycling Challenge



A Recycling Challenge is set to kick-off on October 31st! The City has been tracking the total tonnage collected each day on the Monday-Friday solid waste routes. Of this tonnage, we calculated the amount (by percentage) that each route is recycling. The "Challenge" is based on which route (Monday – Friday, or the remote locations) can increase their percentage of recyclables by the greatest amount, with the goal being to reduce the tonnage going to the incinerator and saving the taxpayers money in the budgeting of municipal solid waste expenses. I'm very pleased that the Laconia Schools are partnering with the City in this effort to increase awareness and encourage participation!

The six City Councilors will be acting as Captains for the five routes plus the remote sites, and will lead the charge in encouraging recycling in our community. Following is a chart showing total tons of solid waste collected, total tons of recyclables and percentage recycled during a four week period in September:



Route	Total Tons Collected	Total Tons Recyclables	Percent Recycled
Remote Sites	N/A	36	N/A
Monday	83.37	9.97	12%
Tuesday	92.74	16.61	18%
Wednesday	95.67	9.14	10%
Thursday	76.15	8.56	11%
Friday	95.06	9.52	10%

Our goal is to achieve 25% recyclables across all routes in the City over the next four months.

Recycling is easy, economical and necessary for the environment! Now is the time to accept the challenge and do your part to save natural resources and return recycling for reuse.

Remember.....recycling saves Laconia tax dollars by avoiding disposal costs, reducing the budget impact on taxpayers.

If you have recycling questions, please call DPW headquarters at 528-6379. We appreciate your help!!

Important Halloween Messages from...

Laconia Police Department



On behalf of the Laconia Police Department, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Halloween! All of us at the Laconia Police Department encourage everyone to follow our safety tips so you can help us make this Halloween a more enjoyable one for everyone.

- Set time limits for children to trick or treat
- Remind children not to enter a stranger's house or car
- Wear white or reflective clothing.
- Inspect candy before eating.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.



Laconia Police Department MIS, Robin Moyer, will once again be hosting the Chief Dunleavy Halloween Party. Stop by for your candy bags, glow necklaces and a chance to win a prize. The party is being held in the department's Community Room, between 5:00-7:30pm., Monday, October 31st.

For more information, call 524-5257.

Chief Christopher A. Adams

Link to Laconia PD [here](#)



Laconia Fire Department



Be extra cautious when driving on Halloween!

Children are everywhere!

- ~ Parents should remind their children to stay away from any open flames. Many costumes are combustible.
- ~ When walking the streets and sidewalks carry a flash light or lantern so that you can be seen.
- ~ Be careful crossing streets - look both ways. Children will get excited and can easily lose focus. Tell them to be careful.
- ~ Give your child a curfew. Children should never trick-or-treat alone. Go with groups of children. There should be an adult with every group.
- ~ If your child is wearing a mask make sure the eye holes are big enough so they can see. Check to make sure there are no tripping hazards with the costume.

We hope everyone has a safe and Happy Halloween!

Chief Kenneth L. Erickson

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

Notice

The City of Laconia will observe Halloween and trick-or-treating on Monday, Oct. 31st.

Please use common sense, enjoy the day and keep yourself and your family safe!

Laconia Public Library Upcoming Event.....

Michael McKinley, independent historian, will present *The Dirty Thirties* on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 7 pm . Using the Great Depression era as a backdrop, this program will bring into focus the greatest land-based ecological disaster in U.S. history which devastated the Great Plains in the 1930s—the Dust Bowl. It will highlight the human and natural factors that brought about the Dust Bowl and will showcase its effects on the region and the Country as a whole. The program will follow the experiences of those Plains dwellers that lived through it as well as those who fled to seek new beginnings in California who were labeled collectively as “The Oakies”.



For more information or questions, please call the Library at 524-4775.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT

With the colder weather now upon us, you may be wondering “When does the landlord need to turn on the heat?”

Heat must be provided at 68 degrees from Oct 15th, 2011 until April 1, 2012 for Laconia, or if the outside temp maintains less than 60 degrees on a given day.

NH has a Legal Advice & Referral Center which assists tenants at www.larcnh.org or call 1-800-639-5290.

Click [here](#) to access Code Enforcement website



NEWS From the City Clerk's Office

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

Absentee ballots are now available for the municipal Election on November 8, 2011. Please complete an application and go to the City Clerk's Office to pick up your ballot.

The Supervisors of the Checklist will meet on Saturday, October 29 at 11 a.m. at City Hall to make additions and changes to the Checklist. This will be the last opportunity to make changes until after the Municipal Election.

Public Works Department

NOTICE

City of Laconia
Hillard Road Brush Dump
Will Commence Winter
Hours of Operation
By Appointment Only
(Normally at 1:00pm, weekdays)
Effective Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Please Call Ann @ 528-6379
To Schedule Appointments

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 LACONIA WATER DEPARTMENT

At their regularly scheduled meeting on October 13, 2011, the Board of Water Commissioners voted to proceed with increasing its water rates by changing the consumption amount from \$1.15 to \$1.45 per hundred cubic feet. This increase is necessary as the cost of our operation and maintenance of the department has been steadily rising since the last rate increase in 2007. These cost increases, primarily of fuel, electricity and chemicals, have been taking place while simultaneously the volume of water billed has decreased approximately 11% over the last 5 years.

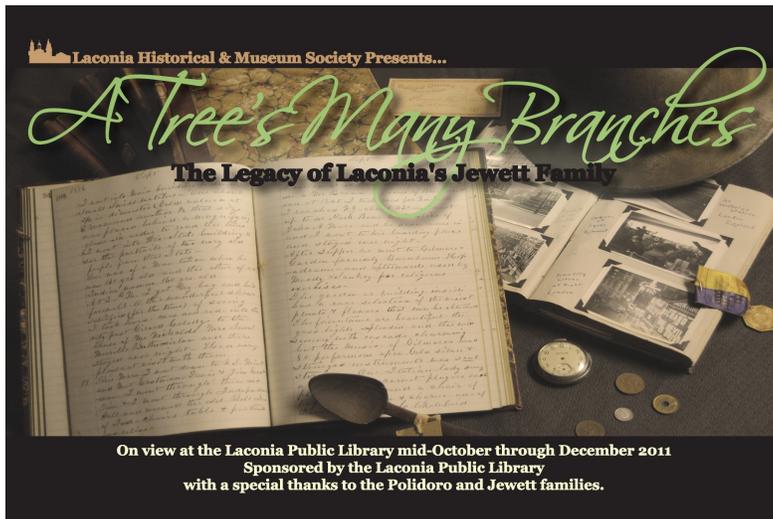
A press release will be out shortly and will contain the date, time and location of a public hearing to receive input from our rate payers.

Please note that even after this proposed increase, your average home pays only \$0.62 a day for water or \$0.012 per gallon.

Family of Four Average Based on 25 hcf/qtr

Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Increase Amt.	Percentage	Cost Per Day
\$195.00	\$225.00	\$30.00	\$15.38%	\$0.62

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



Laconia Historical and Museum Society

Laconia Historical and Museum Society proudly announces a RECEPTION for its fall exhibit, *A Tree's Many Branches: The Legacy of Laconia's Jewett Family*. The reception will take place in the exhibit space on the second floor of the Laconia Public Library on Nov. 2, 2011 from 5:00-7:00 pm.

The exhibit will be on display at the Laconia Public Library through 2011, during normal library hours. It accompanies the recent publication of *The Day Book of Jeremiah Smith Jewett*, edited by LHMS' Brenda Polidoro. LHMS owes many thanks to the Jewett family who has conscientiously preserved the history of Laconia for over 200 years. For six generations the Jewett family has been careful stewards of history, collecting, documenting, and chronicling historic events and everyday life in the Laconia area. This exhibit is a tribute to the family and will feature items from LHMS' large Jewett Collection. *A Tree's Many Branches* is made possible through the support of the Laconia Public Library. For more information visit www.LaconiaHistorical.org or contact 603.527.1278, lhmslpl@metrocast.net. Laconia Historical & Museum Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Laconia, including Lakeport and The Weirs.

LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



We are offering for the very first time Floral Design 101 for the public. Elaine from Heaven Scent Design will be instructing a class where you will make a Thanksgiving centerpiece out of silk flowers that you can use each year! The class will be held on November 10th, but you will need to register by November 3rd. The cost is \$60 per person and you will need to bring wire cutters, scissors and a sharp knife with you to the class.

Please call early to register!



Also, as an ongoing program we offer after-school gym time for everyone. Middle school days are Mondays and Tuesdays, elementary school days are Wednesdays and high school and college days are Thursdays and Fridays. We are open right after school to 4:15 pm. This is a free program and we welcome all. For middle and high school the gym time is used for basketball only, but elementary days we have different things to play. No need to register, just stop by! We hope to see you.

For more information or questions on any of these programs, please call 524-5046.

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

Updates from the Planning Office...

As a result of interest generated from the recently completed Laconia Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and in response to the State of New Hampshire's controversial discussion of the sale of State Forest open space tracts in Laconia, the Laconia Conservation Commission (LCC) created a regional open space discussion group and forum in January 2011.

The topic of discussion for the first meeting included preservation of 500 - 1000 contiguous open space acres as recommended by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and trail linkage across City and Town lines. The second session took place in Laconia three months later and included the willingness of Gilford and Laconia to take the next step forward to focus on open space preservation. Finally, a meeting was scheduled in Meredith to discuss creating a regional map of existing open space lands and potential linkage across city lines.

The NRI provided the necessary tools to discuss why open space lands in Laconia need to be protected. Open space protection is critically important in highly developed areas where storm water is directly discharged into our water ways. Open land is necessary to create buffers allowing infiltration and natural filtration of ground water when properties are developed. By protecting open space across the community and along major drainage routes, we can all be comfortable that we have done our part. The City of Laconia does not own a lot of open space land outright but has worked with local property owners to place their land into a public conservation easement, therefore protecting the property for future generations. The ultimate goal of the group is to expand regional community participation while utilizing Laconia's experiences to make open space owners comfortable with making long-range plans for protection of their land.

If you are interested in this effort please contact the Conservation Technician, Scott McPhie at mcphieS@city.laconia.nh.us

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

*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

Public Works Department

Fall Leaf Pickup Begins Next Week

The first and third weeks in November (weeks starting Monday, October 31st and Monday, November 14th) the City's solid waste contractor (Bestway Disposal) will pick up an additional 10 bags of leaves/yard waste at properties along the curbside trash pickup routes.

Please note that yard waste will be collected by a separate truck, NOT the normal trash collection truck. Also, all yard waste materials must be placed in paper compostable bags.

Please place bagged yard waste at least 3 feet away from your trash containers.

Laconia residents may also bring leaves/yard waste to the composting area at the Laconia Transfer Station – FREE of charge! Hours of operation are: Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

Any questions can be directed to the Public Works Department office at 528-6379.

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



Assessing

We are still working on the 2011 update with the hope to be completed by 10/28. As a whole, the 2010 values are in-line with state parameters/guidelines. Owners should check their assessment record cards on a yearly basis to ensure we have the proper information. If errors exist, we can take appropriate measures to correct them before the final bill is sent thereby possibly saving the need to file an abatement.

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

Laconia Putnam Fund

**FREE ADMISSION!
/NO TICKETS REQUIRED/
FIRST COME—FIRST SEATED**

Mark Your Calendar!

Friday, November 18

7:00 p.m.

Laconia High School

**An Evening with Groucho –
Frank Ferrante**

See our schedule online at
www.city.laconia.nh.us
Special Events/Putnam Fund

Wii Time for Seniors

At the Laconia Community Center

Wii is a physical video game, where you actually move to play the games. Come bowl or play golf. It's tons of fun and good exercise too! Those who need to sit are still able to play. Time slots are as follows:

Mondays through Fridays 8:30am ~ 4:30pm

Call to sign up for an hour slot at 524-5046.



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