



Laconia Links

November 18, 2011 - Edition #7

Recycling Challenge Update



The City's Recycling Challenge kicked off on October 31st.....since that time, the City has been tracking the total tonnage collected each day on the Monday-Friday solid waste routes. We have just completed our first two-week cycle and are very happy to report that overall recycling as a percentage of total volume collected improved from 12.2% to 13.4%, or an increase of over 9%! The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday routes showed increases in percentage of recycling, while the Thursday and Friday routes remained steady.

The Recycling Challenge is based on which route (Monday—Friday, or the remote locations) can increase their percentage of recyclables by the greatest amount. The focus of the challenge is to reduce solid waste costs and save taxpayers money. We're off to a great start, now it's up to all of us to help the City reach its goal of a 25% recycling level by March 1st!

Reminder! The next recycling collection week begins Monday, November 21st!



Assessing [Click for Assessing Dept.](#)

With the 2011 update now completed, new values are available for viewing on the City's website at <http://www.cityoflaconianh.org/>. The revised assessments have a sales ratio of 97%, which means the assessments are at 97% of market value. The State guideline is to maintain a ratio between 90% and 110%.

Please call the Assessing Department at 527-1268 for more information or questions.

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!



Renovation included rebuilding underground utilities and water supplies to provide safe new lighting and protection for plants and turf with a new irrigation system. Trees were professionally pruned, new 8 ft wide multiuse ADA compliant walkways were installed, as were striking circular paving stones at walkway intersections. New park seating maximizes views of the landscape across the river and into Rotary Park. Prominently placed planting beds full of native plant selections adorn the renovated Stewart Park, creating a midtown oasis at downtown Laconia's doorstep.

Stewart Park and River Walk Extension

Belknap Landscape Co., Inc. of Gilford, NH recently received the 2011 Building NH Award for Outdoor Community Space for its rejuvenation of Laconia's Stewart Park and River Walk Extension. Stewart Park, a three quarter acre municipal park on Union Avenue is now a Winnepesaukee Riverfront gem.



Dale Squires (right), Belknap Landscape Co. Marketing Mgr. presenting 2011 Building NH Award to Kevin Dunleavy, Director, Parks & Recreation (left) and Mayor Michael Seymour (center) at a recent City Council meeting.

NEWS

From the City Clerk's Office

Due to construction at the Belknap County Nursing Home, the polling location for Ward 1 voters will be **temporarily** moved for the January 10, 2012 Presidential Primary Election to the Beane Conference Center located at 35 Blueberry Lane.

The City would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Beane Family for their gracious offer!

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

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday next week, we will not be publishing our regular issue of

Laconia Links

Please look for the next edition in your e-mail and on our website on December 2nd. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!



CITY OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOV. 24 AND
FRIDAY, NOV. 25, 2011
FOR THANKSGIVING

Laconia Police Department



[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

The Laconia Police Department is urging citizens to lock their cars and homes!

With the holiday season upon us, thieves are on the lookout for easy targets. Please, help make our community safer by following these safety tips:

- Always lock your vehicles and homes.
- Never leave money or valuables in plain view.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Park in well lit areas when possible.
- Keep your home well lit; criminals like the cover of darkness.
- Look out for your neighbors.
- Call the Police Department to report suspicious persons or vehicles.



To report suspicious activity, call the Laconia Police Department at 603-5252 or the Greater Laconia Crime-Line at 524-1717.

LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Two Upcoming Christmas Programs!



On Tuesday, December 6th Santa will come to the Laconia Parks & Recreation Office to call the kids of Laconia. This is a yearly event in which the kids of the area actually get to speak with the big man himself!!!

Santa will call the kids between the times of 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Parents will need to call the office at 524-5046 to pre-register their kids by December 5th. We have had such a fantastic response to this program we may need to bring Santa back for another night of calling, but we will let the parents know that beforehand.

Come join in on the fun of an age old tradition of *Christmas Caroling!* We will be meeting at the Laconia Community Center on December 7th at 7:00pm and going over to the Taylor Community to do our singing. Don't worry if you've forgotten the words, we will provide them along with hot cocoa. The more people who come for this event the better, so bring a friend and a travel mug for your cocoa!

Call Laconia Parks & Recreation at 524-5046 to register.

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



Updates from the Planning Office...



The Planning Department is very pleased to present a concept plan for downtown traffic changes!

The concept plan and preliminary report are on the new [Downtown Traffic Change](#) page on the Planning Department's website.

The Planning Department and Public Works Department (DPW) have fielded many requests from residents and business owners to take another look at the one way loop currently in place. Many of the concerns revolve around the traffic congestion, speed and pedestrian safety that the current traffic pattern poses. However, we also see the frustration the current one-way loop causes and we hope the redesign will allow more choice for patrons of downtown businesses with an increase in the ease of getting to and from their destination.

We are at the beginning stages of re-evaluating the traffic pattern downtown and have been working with consultants Ironwood Design Group from Exeter, NH and TEC from

Lawrence, MA to make sure we meet NH Department of Transportation (DOT) funding deadlines to assure the new Main Street Bridge will accommodate any future two-way traffic pattern change.

Now that the deadlines are met and we have received positive feedback from the DOT, we are confident that we will not be pigeonholed to the one-way traffic pattern for the life of the bridge - the next 30 to 40 years. Now we will begin the process of ironing out the details of the new design. TEC is completing their phasing and costing plans and we will be presenting the concept plan formally to the public at a City Council meeting and taking the plan "on the road" to garner feedback from citizen groups.

We have links on our [Downtown Traffic Change](#) webpage for you to e-mail us your opinion. Please tell us what you think and look for our presentation coming to a meeting near you!

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



New!! Check out these two new features on our City website designed to keep you up-to-date and informed on City projects and goals!

[Goals and Objectives](#) A working document which, together with the 2007 Master Plan, will help to direct and focus the City's resources and efforts toward meeting the goals identified. Quarterly updates will be provided and posted on the website when available, so check back often to stay informed on the progress being made in your community!

[Project Updates](#) The City Manager will be providing a monthly, concise update of projects in the community. Please check monthly to keep up-to-date on projects in your City and neighborhood!

Notice Trash pickup for Thursday, 11/24 (Thanksgiving) will be Friday (11/25), and Friday's normal trash pickup will be on Saturday (11/26). Please call Public Works at 528-6379 for further info.



News

From the Laconia Water Department

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



Prevention Better Than Reaction

Although the last several weeks we have seen moderately warm temperatures, it is inevitable that the cold weather will be upon us!

As the Water Department is nearing its completion of our annual winter preparation/prevention program, this is a reminder for our customers to keep in mind the potential of water pipes freezing.

If the temperature inside a house gets below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degree Celsius) it is likely that the water supply pipes and the drain traps will freeze. When water freezes it expands 9 percent, and if there is no room for expansion it is possible that the pipe will develop a crack and eventually leak once the ice thaws out. Fixing a burst pipe can be expensive, but the damage from uncontrolled water leakage can easily reach into the thousands of dollars.

The majority of the calls received for frozen water pipes and water meters are a result of inadequate heating and cold air drafts where piping is located in the home. It is recommended that property owners check their property for these conditions and identify the location of their water meter and shutoff valve before an emergency occurs.



The property owner is ultimately responsible for repairs to the piping within the home or building. The Water Department will replace frozen or damaged meters. Customers will be charged for the cost of the replacement of the meter and after-hours service calls, as applicable.

If for any reason you cannot stop the flow of water from a frozen or broken pipe, call the Water Department's 24-hour emergency number at 524-0907.

Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

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

SHAKE UP Your Thanksgiving!



Whether you're looking forward to a traditional Thanksgiving feast or a new twist on the usual, the Laconia Public Library has an abundance of information available to plan your menu! We have cookbooks galore full of recipes, cooking techniques, and methods.

Don't forget about our magazines! "Bon Appétit", "Country Living", "Vegetarian Times", "Yankee", and all sorts in between. You're bound to find whatever you are looking for!



Adopt-A-Spot

Laconia's Adopt-A-Spot program began in 1994 as a way of encouraging individuals, civic organizations, garden clubs, businesses and other organizations in the area to assist with the beautification of the City by planting flowers and gardens.

Participants in the program submit an application to adopt an area in the City, and plant and maintain their adopted area from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For areas adopted on City property, a sign is placed at the adopted site with the name of the individual or organization responsible indicated. By August 15 of each year, a committee judges all of the adopted areas in the various categories and chooses the winners.



This year's winners were acknowledged at the City Council meeting on November 14th. Each received an engraved pewter bowl and a \$50 gift certificate:

Landscape Recognition Awards

Residential:	Linda Vollmerding	Windmill Lane
Civic:	Laconia Rotary Club/ Garden Artisans	Rotary Park
	Martin, Lord & Osman	1 Mill Plaza
	Belknap Landscape	Stewart Park

Best Barrels

Prescott's Florist
Patrick Wood Law office
Cub Scout Pack #58

Best Planter

Laconia Main Street Outdoor Marketplace

Special Recognition Awards

CBH Landscape Contractor	For their care and maintenance of the Laconia Library grounds
Opeechee Garden Club	For their continued work on the WOW Trail and plantings at the Belknap County Court House

The City would like to express its sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the Adopt-A-Spot program for to make it such a wonderful success! For more information on the program, please call the Public Works Department at 528-6379.

Laconia Putnam Fund



**DON'T MISS
"AN EVENING
WITH GROUCHO"
FRIDAY, NOV. 18, 7:00 PM
LACONIA HIGH SCHOOL**

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

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

The Zoning Board of Adjustment needs alternate members! Help shape the future of your community. Click [here](#) for an application; for further info or questions, please call our Planning & Community Dev. Office at 527-1264.

*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