

## Laconia Links

November 30, 2012 - Edition #60



Christmas Village is Now Open!  
(see [page two](#) for details)

## 2012 Laconia Holiday Parade!

*It's official...the 2012 Holiday Season has now begun!*

The annual Laconia Holiday Parade was enjoyed by a huge crowd on Saturday, November 24th. We extend our thanks to the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Initiatives group for their hard work on this much anticipated annual event.

For what appears to be the first time, City of Laconia employees organized a Parade Committee and, with the help of several City departments, had a float in the parade. Shown in the photo (right) before the parade are City Hall, DPW and Parks & Rec employees and their families (including Roscoe with the big plaid bow).



Click [here](#) to watch a video of the entire parade

**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](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)

*We look forward to keeping you up to date on our beautiful City!*



**LACONIA  
PARKS & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT**



***Holiday Reminder!***

Don't miss this great holiday tradition!

This year's Christmas Village, held at the Community Center, is November 29th and 30th (Thursday and Friday), from 6:00 ~ 8:00 pm and December 1st and 2nd (Saturday and Sunday) from 2:00 ~ 5:00pm

FREE with donations accepted and appreciated

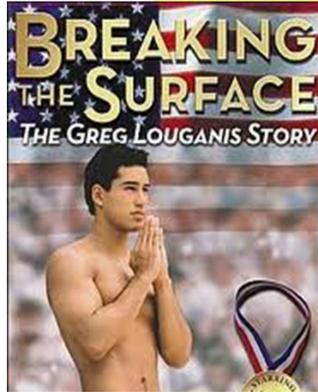
Come see Santa, Mrs. Claus and all their friends from the North Pole.

Pictures available for \$3.00.



***We hope to see you there!***

**Breaking The Surface**



Time: 6:00 pm  
Date: December 3, 2012  
Venue: Laconia Public Library

*Breaking the Surface: The Greg Louganis Story* is a 1997 TV-movie about diver [Greg Louganis](#) based on the best-selling book with the same title. The movie shows his flashbacks as a young kid being ridiculed by neighborhood bullies, his relationship with his adoptive father; the struggles of an abusive relationship with partner. After his father's death and Tom's lost AIDS' battle, Greg courageously decides to come out and go public with every aspect of his life as a gay athlete.

The Laconia Human Relations Committee in partnership with the HIV Surveillance Department of the NH Division of Public Health presents this month's film.

*Free and open to the public. Informal discussion to follow the film. Light snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring a comfy chair or cushion.*

Contact: Carol Pierce [newdynam@aol.com](mailto:newdynam@aol.com) Lovinia Ellsworth [Lovinia.Ellsworth@yahoo.com](mailto:Lovinia.Ellsworth@yahoo.com)

**Upcoming Meetings...**

Meeting  
in  
Progress

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.

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.

***Become involved in  
your City  
and make a difference!***

**Planning Board**

December 4, 2012, 6:30 pm  
City Hall, Room 200A

**Agenda**

**Licensing Board**

December 5, 2012, 12 Noon  
City Hall, Room 200B

**Water Commission**

December 6, 2012, 8:00 am  
Water Treatment Facility  
Conference Room  
117 Stark St.

**Parking Committee**

December 6, 2012, 1:00 pm  
City Hall, Room 200B



## *Popular Russian Pianist to Perform Free Concert*



Talented pianist, innovative writer and successful entrepreneur Sergei Novikov brings his blend of classical-jazz-folk music to the local area Wednesday, December 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Sergei studied at the Moscow School of Art as a child. He came to the U.S. in 1990, enrolling in the University of Maine at Augusta, concentrating on American Jazz studies. Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie were strong influences on his style. In the past 20 years, he's sold more than 250,000 compact discs and performed live more than 10,000 times. Sergei has performed for such luminaries as former President George H.W. Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Paul Newman and Billy Joel.

In addition to being a renowned musician, he's also the author of *"Escaping the Monkey's World: An Alternative Guide to Happiness."*

This free musical event is open to the public and will be held at Taylor Community's Woodside Building, 435 Union Ave., Laconia. Please RSVP by calling 524-5600 to ensure available seating.



# *Laconia Fire Department Fire Call*

Link to Fire  
Dept.'s  
Website [here](#)

Laconia and Gilford fire crews were dispatched recently to 16 Winter Street, an older multi-story, multi-family dwelling.

On arrival a woman reported heavy smoke in the third floor apartment. Lt. Shipp and the crew from the ambulance entered the apartment and encountered a moderate smoke condition. They donned air masks and searched for the fire. They found a couch on fire which they were quickly able to extinguish. Burning fabrics and couches produce very toxic smoke. They started venting smoke and then discovered a second fire in the bathroom.

The woman reported to Lt. Shipp that she awoke to heavy smoke. No smoke detectors were sounding as they had been removed from the ceilings by an unknown person.

The fire started from someone smoking and falling asleep on the couch. The Fire Prevention Bureau is working to locate the landlord and have the smoke alarms reinstalled. It is very fortunate that the occupant awoke on her own, as the smoke was banking down from the ceiling. In a few more minutes the smoke would have been at bed level.



*Please be sure  
there are working  
smoke detectors  
in your home.....  
and test them  
regularly!*



# Laconia Police Department

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

## Winter Driving Safety Tips

***In last week's issue we provided some suggestions to help make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared for the winter months ahead. Following are some tips for driving in snow and ice:***

**The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it!**

- Don't go out until the snowplows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.
- If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.
- It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.



### Driving safely on icy roads

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first.
- Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Don't pass snowplows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.



### If your rear wheels skid...

- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.
- If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.

- If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.
- If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse — this is normal.

### If your front wheels skid...

- Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately.
- As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

*Continued on next page...*



# Laconia Police Department

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

## Winter Driving Safety Tips (continued)

### If you get stuck...

- Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.
- Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.
- Use a light touch on the gas, to ease your car out.
- Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.
- Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels to help get traction.
- Try rocking the vehicle. (Check your owner's manual first; it can damage the transmission on some vehicles.) Shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.



## Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

### 'Tis the Season for Giving



This holiday season the Laconia St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is very much in need of assistance. The Food Pantry routinely serves over 360 families a month and the holiday season is especially difficult.

The Laconia Public Library urges you to help by donating canned goods (vegetables, fruits, tuna fish, stews, juices, pastas etc.) to the bin located at the main circulation desk of the Library.

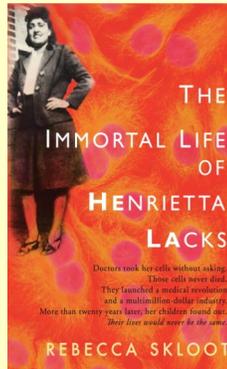
Since the Library does not charge overdue fees, we ask instead that you please bring in an item for the Food Pantry. Please help us help others this

holiday season!



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

## A Novel Time at the Library Book Discussion Series



On December 4th at 7 pm at Laconia Rotary Hall on the lower level of the Library, the fourth and final discussion in the fall "Novel Time at the Library" book discussion series will focus on *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot.

This is the true story of Henrietta Lacks, known by scientists as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco

farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells (taken without her knowledge) became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture they are still alive today, although she has been dead for more than 60 years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses and the atom bomb's effects and helped lead to advances in vitro fertilization, cloning and gene mapping. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave. Skloot shows how the Lacks family, past and present, is connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of. Copies of the book are available at the Library's main circulation desk. For more information please call 524-4775 x12.

# News From the Tax Department...

## PROPERTY TAX BILLS ARE OUT!



Tax bills were mailed on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. They are due on December 28, 2012. Payments are accepted by mail and at the counter in City Hall during normal business hours. Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:30-4:30. For your convenience there is a drop slot located on the side door of City Hall. We are now accepting credit cards over the counter and online. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. Convenience fees apply to all credit card transactions. Please call the tax office at 527-1269 if you have any questions.

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



## 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. During August 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 13th:

### Landscape Recognition Awards

Garden Artisans for Rotary Park  
Opechee Garden Club for Belknap Cty Court House  
Belknap Landscape for Stewart Park  
CBH Landscape for the Gale Memorial Library

### Best Planter

Lakeport Association

### Best Barrels

LaBelle's Shoe Repair  
Patrick Wood Law office  
Laconia Savings Bank  
Altrusa Club at Hector's

### Special Recognition/Profile of Excellence Award

River Crew Art/Richard Smith & Elaine Morrison for work on the (former) Laconia Police Station/Church Street

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

**LACONIA  
PARKS & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT**



***SANTA'S CALLING***



On Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Santa Claus will call children in the Laconia area to wish them Happy Holidays and ask what they would like for Christmas!

Call Laconia Parks & Recreation at 524-5046 to fill out a registration form. Forms must be filled out no later than Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This program is free of charge and will be very exciting for your children!

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

***Holiday Happenings!***

**HURRAY FOR  
THE HOLIDAYS!**

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, we will be having a family program called Hurray for the Holidays. At this event we will be making Christmas ornaments and singing or listening to Christmas carols.

The fee is \$2.00 per person. Remember, this is a family event so come join in on the fun! Call Laconia Parks & Recreation to register by December 7<sup>th</sup> at 524-5046.

**CHRISTMAS  
CAROLING**

Let's make holiday season happier for some people!

Come to the Community Center on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and we will leave to sing to the Taylor Community. Don't worry if you forget the words to the songs, we have the words written out for you. This is a free event and will bring a smile to everyone! Cocoa will be provided. Please call Laconia Parks & Recreation to sign up by December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 524-5046.

***MOTHER/CHILD COOKIE  
DECORATING***

This program will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 pm and is always lots of fun!



Moms... sign yourself and the kids up to decorate your Christmas cookies. All materials will be supplied and you will take your cookies home with you!



The fee for this program is \$10.00 per family of 4 with \$2.00 for each additional person. You must register with Laconia Parks & Recreation by December 7<sup>th</sup> at 524-5046.



Have you ever wondered what goes on in our community schools after the regular school day has ended?



Click [here](#) to view the most recent Project EXTRA newsletter to see what our local students have been up to!

## Reminder...

Join Santa & Mrs. Claus ~ Goodies for the kids!

**Saturday, December 15, 1-2:30 p.m.**  
**Lakeport Freighthouse, Railroad Avenue**  
*Hosted by Lakeport Community Association*

*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](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)

*Have a great weekend!*



Scott Myers, City Manager  
 City of Laconia  
 City's Website: [www.city.laconia.nh.us](http://www.city.laconia.nh.us)



## CITY OF LACONIA PHONE DIRECTORY

Assessing .....	527-1268
<i>Assessor - Jon Duhamel</i>	
City Clerk.....	527-1265
<i>City Clerk - Mary Reynolds</i>	
City Manager.....	527-1270
<i>City Manager - Scott Myers</i>	
Code Enforcement.....	527-1293
<i>Planning &amp; Zoning Dir. - Shanna Saunders</i>	
Finance .....	524-3877
<i>Finance Director - Donna Woodaman</i>	
Licensing .....	528-6331
<i>Licensing Clerk - Katie Walsh</i>	
Planning & Comm. Dev. ....	527-1264
<i>Planning &amp; Zoning Dir. - Shanna Saunders</i>	
Tax .....	527-1269
<i>Tax Collector - Lindsey Allen</i>	
Welfare.....	527-1267
<i>Welfare Specialist - Suzi McCormack</i>	
<i>Welfare Director - Donna Woodaman</i>	
Fire Dept. (Central Station) * ....	524-6881
Fire Dept. (Lakeport) * .....	524-7777
Fire Dept. (Weirs Station) * .....	366-2229
<i>Fire Chief - Ken Erickson</i>	
Library .....	524-4775
<i>Library Director - Randy Brough</i>	
Parks & Recreation.....	524-5046
<i>Parks &amp; Rec. Director - Kevin Dunleavy</i>	
Personnel .....	524-3877
<i>Personnel Administrator - Paula Baumel</i>	
Police (Administration) * .....	524-5257
Police (Crime Line) * .....	524-1717
<i>Police Chief - Christopher Adams</i>	
Public Works (Main Office) .....	528-6379
Public Works (Transfer Station) .....	528-5822
<i>Public Works Director - Paul Moynihan</i>	
Water.....	524-0901
<i>Superintendent - Seth Nuttelman</i>	

\* For emergencies, remember to always dial 911



Visit the City's website at:  
[www.city.laconia.nh.us](http://www.city.laconia.nh.us)