



# Laconia Links

November 4, 2011 - Edition #5



## Winter Storm Update

Overall, the City of Laconia survived the recent October snow event quite well! Extra crews were scheduled for the overnight hours Saturday evening at Public Works and the Fire Department. The biggest issue the City faced was breaking limbs blocking roadways. No major events were reported, and at the peak of the storm there were approximately 300 electric customers without power. As of Monday afternoon (Halloween), power was restored to all Laconia customers. Thanks to our City employees for their hard work, and to the citizens of Laconia for their patience!



**Reminder!** The next recycling collection week begins Monday, November 7th!

Do your part to help us reach the "Recycling Challenge" goal of 25% recyclables City-wide!

**Japanese Wife**



**Wednesday, November 9th  
@ 6:30 p.m. in Laconia  
Rotary Hall, Laconia Public  
Library**

Local author Kazuko, who was born into a samurai family, will discuss her new book and her experiences and struggles adapting to the American way.

### Mark Your Calendar!

Daylight Savings Time officially ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 6th. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour (and also remember to change the batteries in your smoke detector)!



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

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

# NEWS From the City Clerk's Office

**The Municipal Election  
will be held  
this Tuesday,  
November 8!**



Polling locations will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The 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

All absentee ballots delivered in person must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7. All absentee ballots delivered via mail must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8.

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

# Tips from the Tax Department



Did you know that the Tax Office accepts and processes Water/ Sewer Bills for the Water Department?

Whether you're running late or City Hall is closer on your commute, drop your payment off at City Hall and save a stamp! We accept water/sewer bills all day long, and we offer an after-hours drop box located on the side of City Hall!

So remember....even if it's late you can still drop off your payments! (The only bill we cannot process is the bill for reconnection fees; please send that bill and your payment directly to the Water Department)

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

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

The 2011 update has been completed

New values will be implemented on the final tax bill with the revised tax rate, which is set by the state. 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.

## Holiday Parade



The Laconia Chamber of Commerce and Laconia Main Street are looking for groups to be involved in the Holiday Parade to be held on Saturday, November 26. If you have a group that is interested, please contact Sue Bullerwell at 528-8541.

# Updates from the Planning Office...

## The recent snow in October is a clear sign winter is fast approaching!

It's time to button up those construction sites – whether it's construction of a new roadway or construction of a new deck – to make sure there are no erosion issues come spring.

Vegetation is the best way to keep your soil in place. Even now if your ground is clear of snow, spreading some grass seed will help keep that soil from washing away during spring rains. Another option is erosion control matting or jute matting. This is sold at many hardware and home improvement stores and is easily installed with small "pins" over un-stabilized soil. This matting protects the un-vegetated soil layer from being dislodged by heavy rains and washed away.



Once the growing season has ended and the ground is frozen, it is very difficult to keep the soil from moving come those spring rains. The rains in the spring tend to be very heavy and fall on frozen soil which warms it just enough so top soil is washed away bit by bit.

The eroded soil is often washed into wetlands and waterways, which is especially problematic here in Laconia where we draw our drinking water directly from Paugus Bay. Sediment laden spring stormwater runoff that ends up in the lake also hurts fish spawning and directly impacts milfoil proliferation, so let's all do our part to stabilize our sites as soon as possible.

**If you have any questions about how to stabilize your site, come see us in the Planning Department and we can help you out!**

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

## Laconia Water Department

Laconia Water Department will be holding a public hearing on Monday, November 14, 2011 to gather comments on raising its rates on consumption from \$1.15 to \$1.45 per hundred cubic feet.

**The meeting will be at the Water Treatment Plant at 117 Stark Street beginning at 6 p.m.**



The Water Department has concluded our hydrant flushing program! We would like to thank all of our customers for their understanding and cooperation during this bi-annual event!

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

*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)

Laconia Parks & Recreation  
presents...  
**National Parks of America Tour**

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

June 10 ~ 21, 2012

Please join us for an informational slideshow and sign-up night  
at the Laconia Community Center on November 9th at 6:00PM!!  
Please RSVP to 524-5046



For more information contact  
Kim Terrio @  
Penny Pitou Travel  
524-2500



This trip is during  
Laconia Bike Week 2012

12 Days \* 17 Meals: 10 Breakfasts \* 7 Dinners  
COLLETTE VACATIONS

# Laconia Police Department



On Saturday, November 5, 2011  
from 10:00am-1:00pm  
the Laconia Police Department  
in partnership with Vista Foods  
376 South Main Street  
will be conducting  
"Project KidCare ID"!

Project KidCare ID is a national child photo identification and safety education program that was developed jointly by Polaroid Corporation and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The objectives of the program are to increase awareness about the issue of missing and exploited children and to educate parents and children about the ways they can protect themselves.

Each participating child will have a chance to meet Officer Michelle Cardinal who is the department's D.A.R.E Officer. Parents will be given a KidCare ID booklet with their child's picture and fingerprints. There will also be refreshments and cookies available for your child to enjoy!

For further information, please contact:  
Lieutenant Matthew Canfield, 524-5257 Ext. 332 or  
[mcanfield@laconiapd.org](mailto:mcanfield@laconiapd.org).

[Link to Laconia PD here](#)



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

### *Give Thanks Nighttime Storytime*



Monday, November 7th @ 6:00 pm in the Selig Storytime Room, families with children through 5th grade can listen to stories to be thankful for. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to a local food bank.

### *Teen Advisory Committee*

Teens in grades 6-12 meet on Tuesday, November 8th at 3:00 pm in the Volpe conference room. Discuss what you would like to see the Library offer for programs and materials!



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



# Laconia Fire Department

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

## Focus on Fire Safety Holiday Baking

**Deputy Chief Deb Pendergast states that according to the U.S. Fire Administration:**

- Cooking was the cause of almost half (46%) of residential building fires in 2009.
- Young children and older adults face a higher risk of death from cooking fires than do other age groups.
- Unattended cooking is the single leading factor contributing to cooking fires.
- Frying is the cooking method posing the highest risk.

More than half of home cooking injuries occur when people try to fight the fire themselves.

### Focus on Fire Safety: Holiday Cooking

Cooking fires continue to be the most common type of fires experienced by U.S. households. This is even more apparent during the holidays. **There is an increased incidence of cooking fires on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.** Cooking fires are also the leading cause of civilian fire injuries in residences. These fires are preventable by simply being more attentive to the use of cooking materials and equipment.

### Safe Cooking Tips

The kitchen can be one of the most hazardous rooms in the home if you don't practice safe cooking behaviors. Here are some safety tips to help:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- Stay alert! To prevent cooking fires, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy.
- Keep anything that can catch fire: potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, or curtains, away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire if it comes into contact with a gas flame or electric burner.



Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

### If You Have a Cooking Fire

- When in doubt, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you do try to fight the fire, be sure others are already getting out and you have a clear path to the exit.
- Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.
- If you have a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. Unplug the appliance if you can safely reach the outlet.
- After a fire, both ovens and microwaves should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.