

## Laconia Links

December 12, 2014 - Edition #164



*Mallards on Paugus Bay*



## Christmas Village 2014



Another Christmas Village has come and gone and the magical Christmas season is now officially underway! Thanks to countless volunteers generously donating their time, the Community Center was transformed into an enchanted land and thousands of children were able to again enjoy this annual tradition and share a moment with Santa.

Thank you to everyone who shared their time to make this happen! You are truly appreciated.

*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 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way



[Laconia High School Website](#)



[Huot Career Tech Center Website](#)



[Laconia Middle School Website](#)



[Elm Street School Website](#)



[Pleasant Street School Website](#)



[Woodland Heights School Website](#)

## WEEK AT A GLANCE IN LACONIA

12/15	12/16	12/17	12/18	12/19
		<p><b>WHS PTO Mtg. @ WHS - 6:30 pm</b>  <b>Simon Brooks Storyteller @ PSS</b></p>		

## LACONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY GIVES BACK

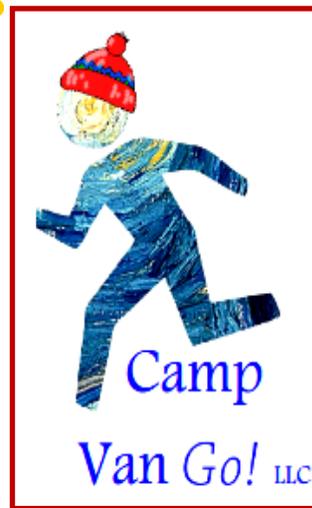
Members of the LMS NJHS held their first fund raiser, a Balloon Toss using teachers as their targets, in early November 2014. Their



next event was a bake sale in mid-November 2014. The money generated from both of these activities in the amount of \$350 was donated to the Santa Fund of the Greater Lakes Region, a non-profit organization that provides winter outerwear to children in the Lakes Regions as well as funding enrichment activities year round.

## PLEASANT STREET STUDENTS PRESENT AT MCAULIFFE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

A small group of fifth graders attended the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference as presenters. These students, along with Mrs. McCallum and volunteer, Alicia Emery, were part of a showcase featuring NH students who are hard at work learning through STEM. They demonstrated activities and spoke intelligently to educators from around the state about the importance of science.



## WINTER CAMP VAN GO!

Rebekah Gonzalez and Jasmyn Gray are accepting limited registrations for the winter break for Camp Van Go. This session will run from February 24-26, 8am-3pm. They will focus on outdoor winter adventure. Hoping for snow, campers will build snow sculptures, snowshoe and much more. They will also create a piece of art to be displayed in the community. Click [here](#) for more information and registration form.

## ESSENCE OF GIVING

Students participated in the 3rd Annual ESSENCE of Giving last Saturday at Elm Street School. Children were able to “shop” for gifts for their family members. Gift wrapping stations were set up so that students could have their gifts wrapped to take home to surprise their families. There were no prices on items but donations were accepted with the proceeds going to St. Vincent De Paul for their food pantry.



## COMMUNITY READER

Superintendent Terri Forsten was the guest reader last week at the preschool program at Laconia Head Start. The program promotes collaboration between young children and community leaders to strengthen the value of reading and literacy experiences.



Superintendent Terri Forsten reads to Headstart students

Follow us on **twitter**

Follow Laconia School District on [Twitter](#)

# News From the Tax Department...

## PROPERTY TAX BILLS WERE MAILED 12/8/14!

Tax bills were mailed on Monday, December 8, 2014. They are due on January 8, 2015. 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, American Express 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...



## LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Link to Parks & Rec Website [here](#)

On Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> the Laconia Community Center will reopen for all programs. The Christmas Village is over and we will have a fresh coat on the floors. Come and join a program!!



Belknap Mill  
presents  
*6th Annual*  
*Holiday Bazaar*  
**Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon St. East, Laconia, NH**

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**9 am – 3 pm**

**FREE Admission**

Locally handmade art, jewelry, gifts, ornaments and many more treasures from New Hampshire artisans.

Original Belknap Mill Holiday Stockings available in the Gift Shop.

Explore the Knitting Room and Powerhouse museums.



Connect with us:



[www.belknapmill.org](http://www.belknapmill.org) (603) 524-8813 [programs@belknapmill.org](mailto:programs@belknapmill.org)



A Medication Collection and Disposal Box is located in the lobby of the Laconia Police Department for your convenience in disposing of old or unused prescription drugs in a safe manner. Open 24 hrs/day, 7 days/wk. The collection box is accessible 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week!





# Laconia Fire Department

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

## Christmas Tree Safety Tips

It is that time of year when Christmas trees are brought into our homes. Christmas time is a wonderful time of year however it can also be very dangerous. The Christmas tree is probably one of the most recognized seasonal symbols in the world. Unfortunately, a Christmas tree, if not properly cared for, can create a very dangerous fire hazard. Normally, Christmas trees are harvested starting in October. By the time you purchase a tree and bring it home the tree could be several months old. Obviously if you cut your own tree it is as fresh as possible. However, once you place the tree indoors the drying process accelerates - Christmas trees must be watered daily.

When you bring the tree indoors the warmth of your home will start to dry the tree. As soon as you get your tree home place it in a bucket of water. Let it absorb as much water as possible. Be sure you first cut the bottom end off so there is fresh wood exposed. Most good tree dealers will do this for you.

Unfortunately, every year there are thousands of home fires involving Christmas trees. Every year the damage is in the millions and 30 to 40 people will die in fires as a result of Christmas trees catching fire. Fortunately, the number of home fires related to Christmas trees is steadily declining. This is primarily because of awareness, early detection of fires, and the use of artificial trees.

Fortunately, there is an easy way to reduce the risk: water. A Christmas tree needs to be adequately watered every day. The moisture content of the needles will determine how fast a tree can be ignited and then burn. Once a tree is stood up and the branches open up the tree will quickly start to dry out.

When picking a Christmas tree bounce the tree on the ground. If needles fall off then the tree is already too dry. After you pick your Christmas tree it is very important that you make a fresh cut on the bottom of the trunk. A straight cut is all that is needed. This allows water to travel up through the rings of the tree. Put the tree into a large stand as soon as possible. Keep the stand filled with water at all times. A large tree may soak up to 3 quarts of water per day; especially in the first few days when the tree attempts to rehydrate itself. It is very important to keep a tree adequately watered. If the tree dries out beyond a certain point, it will not rehydrate.

According to experts it is best to use plain ordinary tap water. There are a number of additives for sale that claim to reduce the flammability of Christmas trees. There is no evidence that validates these claims. The best solution is plenty of water. You may need to fill the basin 2 or 3 times per day.

Try to keep your tree away from doorways and stairways. Never place a Christmas tree near a fireplace or other type of heating unit. This will cause the tree to dry out regardless of the amount of water in the tree stand. Check your Christmas lights to make sure they are in good shape. If the wire is worn or frayed throw the lights away and buy new lights. Never use candles on or near a Christmas tree. Always put the lights out if you're leaving the house and before going to bed.

After Christmas remove the tree as soon as possible. It will definitely be dried out by then. Store the tree away from the house. Never store it in the garage, in the basement, or on the porch.

Please heed our advice and you and your family will have a safer holiday season.

*The Laconia Fire Department would like to take this time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



# Be An Angel!

## HELP A CHILD IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS! IT'S EASY!

The Salvation Army is in great need of your help with their Christmas distribution of toys scheduled for Dec. 20th. Please visit our "Angel Trees" at the Gilford Wal-Mart, Bank of NH and other local businesses to bring happiness to a child in our community this Christmas. Here's how it works:

1. Choose a tag off an Angel Tree that represents a child in our community.
2. Purchase a gift representing that child's wish(es) for Christmas.
3. Bring the unwrapped gift with the tag attached to the Salvation Army at 177 Union Ave., Laconia from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (closed on Mondays).
4. We will see that your gift gets to that child in time for Christmas!



Thank you for thinking of others during this Christmas Season!

*Captains McNeil*



*Head elves Deb Derrick and Raquel McCutcheon!*

Several City Hall employees got together recently after-hours to make, wrap and tag 99 scarves for the folks at the Belknap County Nursing Home.

We hope this small effort on our part makes for a brighter and warmer Christmas for the residents there!



# 2014 HOLIDAY PARADE!



# Tree of Love

An annual symbol of community Christmas and holiday spirit, angels lovingly adorn the tree to honor and remember our living and lost family and friends.



Angels are \$3 each, and may be purchased in the Lakes Region General Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop.

## Holiday Shopping

The LRGH Gift Shop has unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list. Stop in today!

**Alex & Ani • Holiday Décor • Scarves • Jewelry**

Proceeds benefit the community through support from the LRGH Auxiliary

## Winter Parking Ban!

Just a reminder...Laconia's Winter Parking Ban is in effect!

The Winter Parking Ban went into effect on November 1st. Parking is prohibited on any public street between 12 midnight and 6:30 am until May 1st.

*Thank you for your cooperation!*



*The first day of winter is Sunday, December 21st!*

## Public Works Department

### PLEASE HELP SAVE THE SEWER SYSTEM

All Laconia households play a vital role in preventing neighborhood sewer system blockages. Please do your part to protect and maintain the City's significant investment in the sanitary sewer collection system. Click [here](#) to find out what is not allowed to be disposed of in the toilet or down the drain, and the proper way to dispose of such items. Questions? Please call Matt Mooney, DPW, at 528-6379, Extension 303.

*Your assistance is greatly appreciated!*



# Laconia Police Department

[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

## Winter Driving Tips



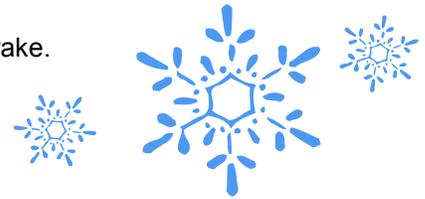
### Driving in Snow and Ice

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 travelled 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.

### 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.



# Christmas Crafts Fair

Join us on Saturday, December 13th  
from 8 am to 2 pm at the Leavitt  
Park Clubhouse on Elm Street! The  
Lakeport Community Association and  
many other vendors will be there to  
help you finish your Christmas list!

And don't miss Santa  
& Mrs. Claus at the  
Lakeport Freight  
House on Dec. 13th  
from 1 to 3 pm!



LAKES REGION  
**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**



## Parent Education & Support

Check out the Winter 2015 Parent Education & Support classes offered by Lakes Region Community Services Family Resource Center. Mark your calendars to take advantage of the helpful information and training offered! Just click [here](#) to access the calendar.



**NH HUMANE SOCIETY**  
Laconia • New Hampshire

**New!** Beginning with our next issue, look for news and updates from the NH Humane Society. Can't wait? Just click [here](#) for their website.....



## ANNUAL APPEAL LETTER AN AFFILIATE OF THE BIKE WALK ALLIANCE

It has been an amazing year for the Bicycle Exchange. Planning began in December 2013, one year ago. By April a name was chosen and wonderful location was found at 229 Messer Street. During the year over 200 bicycles were collected, donated and exchanged. On October 1<sup>st</sup> the Bike Exchange moved to its new location on 343 Court Street. From May to October 99 bikes were donated or exchanged. There are currently bicycles in inventory, and with some work they will be ready for next season.

Peter Bixby and Cliff King were wonderful volunteers who spent many productive hours at the shop and helping with the move. With great personal reward from all that they did, as they witnessed the appreciation from many who received a refurbished bicycle.

The Exchange recently received a \$5,000 grant from some generous donors through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The next stage for the Exchange is to search for and hire a motivated person to take over the responsibility for publicity, communications and to coordinate continued funding. This will help build the credibility of the Exchange and build on its current success and community support.

As you may well know reliable alternative transportation is a important factor for individuals' ability to maintain employment and to build a stronger community. The Exchange is asking for your support at any level to help build on the momentum. You may designate your funds for the following: Operating costs, Publicity or Program. Checks may be sent directly to the: Bike-Walk Alliance, 2 Whitney Road, Suite 11, Concord, NH 03301-1844. Please Make checks out to BWANH with a notation: Attn.LABE Account. Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your consideration!



# BECOME A CERTIFIED PRE-APPRENTICE



Are you a young person, a veteran, under-employed or unemployed and looking for a pathway to a successful future?

Then the Pre-apprenticeship Certificate Training-PACT™ Program is for you. PACT Training offers:

**APPLY  
TODAY!**  
Registration  
Deadline  
**12/31/2014.**

- FREE training from journey-level instructors in the building trades, including Carpentry, Electrical Wiring, Brick Masonry, Plumbing, Painting, and Facilities Maintenance
- Instruction in safety and first aid, construction math, tools and materials, green building and employability skills
- Hands-on training in specially-designed workshops
- Opportunities to volunteer your skills on real job sites in the community
- OSHA 10, EPA Lead Paint, and HBI PACT™ Certification
- Career counseling and job placement assistance

Classes will be held at  
Huet Construction  
Career Training Center at  
Laconia NH High School

HBI has partnered with New Hampshire Home Builders Association ( NHHBA), to provide PACT™ training to eligible persons 18 years and older. Graduates earn a certificate that proves to employers that they have skills needed to be successful on the job. We can help you build your career, creating a foundation for your life that leads to a well-paying job.

For more information contact:  
Elizabeth Fischer, HBI Program Manager  
New Hampshire Home Builders Association  
119 Airport Road  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-296-5272  
[efischer@hbi.org](mailto:efischer@hbi.org)  
[www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org)

*In partnership with:*



 Find us on  
**Facebook**

[Facebook.com/  
homebuildersinstnhrh](https://www.facebook.com/homebuildersinstnhrh)



Don't forget !  
ServiceLink  
Resource Center  
(1-866-634-9412 or  
528-6945)....it's the first  
number to call for  
senior services.



Join us for our Holiday  
Lunch at 11:15 at the  
Laconia Senior Center  
on December 18th.  
Come for some  
warmth, friendship  
and entertainment!  
For reservations call  
524-7689 or drop  
in and reserve  
your place.

*Laconia Senior Center is located at 17  
Church Street in Laconia.  
Questions? Call 524-7689*

*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's Website: [www.city.laconia.nh.us](http://www.city.laconia.nh.us)



## CITY OF LACONIA PHONE DIRECTORY

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

### **City Council Contact Info:**

- Mayor Edward Engler ..... 630-4484
- Ava Doyle (Ward 1) ..... 393-6533
- David Bownes (Ward 2)..... 524-4330
- Henry Lipman (Ward 3) ..... 528-0191
- Brenda Baer (Ward 4) ..... 524-6349
- Robert Hamel (Ward 5) ..... 524-6360
- Armand Bolduc (Ward 6) ..... 524-2514
- E-mail: [citycouncil@city.laconia.nh.us](mailto:citycouncil@city.laconia.nh.us)

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