

Photo courtesy of Aerial Photo NH

Laconia Links

December 18, 2015 - Edition #216

Wishing you all the hope, wonder and joy that the Season can bring!



Laconia Police Department

[Link to Laconia PD here](#)



The Laconia Police Department would like to remind all motorists to drink responsibly during the upcoming holiday season.

The holiday season typically causes an increased number of people to attend social functions and Christmas parties which sometimes involves the consumption of alcohol. In an effort to prevent a tragedy from happening, we would recommend the use of designated drivers and encourage people to plan ahead to ensure their own safety and the safety of the motoring public.

The Laconia Police Department will have an increased number of patrols during the holidays and will be seeking out impaired drivers.

Plan ahead and drink responsibly!

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

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



Following is the City Hall schedule for the holidays:

**Closing at 2 pm:
December 24th**

Closed: December 25th*

Closed: January 1, 2016

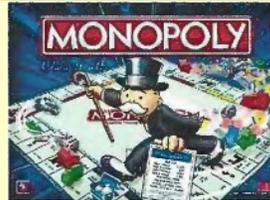
We apologize for any inconvenience!

Happy Holidays!

Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

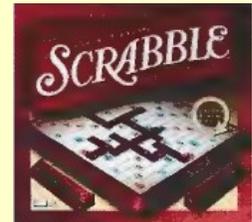
New Year's Eve Bottles

Tuesday, December 29th @
12:30 pm in Laconia
Rotary Hall
Teens in grades 6-12 bring
your imagination and
create a one-of-a-kind
New Year's Eve Bottle!
We'll provide the supplies!



Wednesday, December 23
at 6:00 pm in the
Selig Storytime Room
Play Scrabble, Clue,
Monopoly, and more!

Game Night for Grown-ups is Growing!



Bring a friend and double the fun!



Holiday Hours

The Library will be closing Thursday, December 24th @ 2:00 pm. We will re-open Saturday, December 26th @ 9:00 am.
The Library will close on Thursday, December 31st @ 4:00 pm. and will re-open on Saturday, January 2nd @ 9:00 am.



Upcoming Meetings...

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!*



Meeting
in
Progress

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

December 21, 2015, 7:00 pm
City Hall, Room 200A

Parks & Rec. Commission:

December 21, 2015, 7:00 pm
Community Center

Technical Review Comm. II:

December 23, 2015, 10:00 am
City Hall, Room 200A

Water Commission:

December 24, 2015, 8:00 am
117 Stark St., Water Treatment
Facility Conference Room

Minor Site Plan:

December 30, 2015, 2:00 pm
City Hall, Room 200A

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](#)



*Happy
Holidays*

On behalf of the Laconia School District, we wish you a joyful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!



The LHS after school group **Sachems Strong** created and decorated the Gingerbread House to donate to New Beginnings for families to enjoy. Follow this [link](#) for more information about Sachems Strong and other clubs at Laconia High School.

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 is open every Saturday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in December. Proceeds benefit the community.

Alex & Ani • Holiday Décor • Scarves • Jewelry

December 22, 2015...



Reminder From the Tax Department...

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE 12/28/15!

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.

Public Works Department

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.

And the winner is.....



The recipient of this year's Debra Bieniarz Award is Dianne Ouellette (*shown above, top row, center*). Joining Dianne at a recent City Council meeting when the award was presented are members of her very proud family.

The Debra Bieniarz Award is presented each year to honor a member of the community who has enriched the lives of our young people. Dianne is a shining example of what it means to make a difference in the lives of our City's younger citizens.

To read the award presented to Dianne in its entirety, please click [here](#). And if you happen to run into Dianne please be sure to thank her for the work she does each day to make our community such a special place to live.

PLEASE HELP SAVE THE SEWER SYSTEM

Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

World War II Vet Honored for Service



Taylor Community resident Russell Orton was recognized Monday for his Army service during World War II, which earned him a Silver Star. As his family and friends looked on, volunteers from Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice presented Mr. Orton with a lapel pin, certificate and hand-knitted red, white and blue lap blanket made by women from the Laconia Congregational Church through the “Stitches of Love” program.

Peter Cassell and David Shea, volunteers from the Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice made the presentation at Ledgeview’s Assisted Living building. The “We Honor Veterans” program is a collaboration of the Veteran’s Administration and Hospice which ensures support of veterans and their families in times of need. The certificate pays special tribute to Mr. Orton for his military service to America and for advancing the universal hope of freedom and liberty for all.

Russell Orton, who is now 93, was a second lieutenant in the 351st Infantry Regiment on April 29, 1945 when his company was rounding up 500 prisoners in the town of Bassono del Grappa, Italy. When they were notified Germans were progressing toward the town, the first platoon went to investigate and Lieutenant Orton led his men to high ground. As they neared higher ground, they were pinned down by enemy fire coming from a house.

With enemy fire all around him, Lieutenant Orton moved throughout the area, bolstering the weak, shouting words of encouragement and directing fire against enemy targets. Picking out the squad nearest him, the Lieutenant led an attack against the three enemy machine gun sites. During the fierce firefight that ensued, the lieutenant personally accounted for seven enemy deaths, forcing the remainder to flee. Through his aggressive and gallant actions, the enemy became completely disorganized and easy prey. His men then captured 117 prisoners.

After the Silver Star citation was read, Mary Orton, his wife of 38 years, said “At home he always downplayed the event.” Besides Mary, several family members were on hand for the presentation, including daughter, Leslie Mahar; son, Clark Orton; and stepdaughters Samantha Jewett and retired Navy Capt. Ellen Jewett.



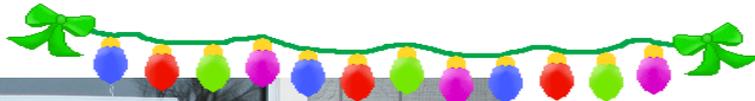
A Medication Collection and Disposal Box is located in the lobby of the Laconia Police Department for your convenience in disposing of old or unused prescription drugs in a safe manner. Open 24 hrs/day, 7 days/wk. The collection box is accessible 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week!





Key Club Shops to Help Others!

Members of the Laconia High School Key Club, the student branch of Kiwanis International, joined with representatives of the Laconia Kiwanis Club and employees of All Brite Cleaners of Gilford on a shopping trip to buy groceries for the Salvation Army Food Bank. The students funded the purchases using \$729 in donations raised during their Nov. 20 Homeless Awareness sleep out, an event during which students slept outside in cardboard boxes to simulate one aspect of homelessness. This money was augmented by the Kiwanis Club, and the funds were matched by All Brite Cleaners of Gilford. Dominic Cannuli, Key Club President, commented, "It was exciting to see how much food that the money Key Club and Kiwanis raised could buy! However, I know there are so many people that go hungry every day, and the amount of food we purchased may seem like a lot, but in all actuality will not necessarily go that far. This is why it is important for everyone to continue to do things, because with everyone contributing, even just a small amount can go a long way!" Pictured above (left to right): Kiwanis Club members Vi and Joe Adrignola and Kathy Calvin; Key Club member Sydney Stevens; Duane Rupert from All Brite Cleaners; Key Club members Morgan Gamans and Dominic Cannuli; Key Club Advisor and Kiwanis member Bill Gile, Dawn Perry from All Brite Cleaners and Ms. Perry's daughter (front row).



The Laconia Kiwanis Club, in collaboration with Stafford Oil Company, Inc., recently raised \$2,457 to support the Santa Fund, an organization that provides winter clothing and boots to local children in need. The event, *Wine Down for Warmth*, hosted 52 local artists-in-training who, under the capable instruction of Laconia's own Larry Frates, learned to paint a waterfront landscape while sipping wine and enjoying an evening out. Mr. Frates, storyteller, magician, parade and event organizer, and owner of Frates Creative Arts Center, donated his time as well art supplies to enable the aspiring artists. Local businesses donated items for a silent auction during the event.

"People had a blast at this event," reported Rob Reid, Kiwanian and co-organizer of the event. "It was the largest event of its kind in New Hampshire so far. People are already asking to sign up for next year's party."

The Laconia Kiwanis Club will be among a host of local clubs and organizations ringing the bell for the Salvation Army donation bucket around town. Look for club members on Main Street south of Veterans' Square on December 23.

Shown above (left to right): Rob Reid (Kiwanis Member), Chris McCarthy (Santa Fund), Larry Frates (artist and donor of art supplies), Meredith Michaud (Kiwanis Member), Kim Lacasse (Santa Fund) and Curtis Stafford (Stafford Oil Company).



Winter Programs

at Prescott Farm

Celebrating the Seasons Series

\$10 (\$8 Members) per session

The natural world is constantly changing. If you take the time to look, each month brings new and exciting phenomena to learn from and delight in. Using author Mary Holland's book *Naturally Curious* as a month-by-month guide to the wonders unfolding in the fields, forests and wetlands of New England, each month participants will go on a leisurely hike with one of Prescott Farm's naturalists, with the goal of cultivating their observation skills and deepening each person's relationship with the natural world. *Note: Program titles and descriptions are used with permission from Mary Holland.*

"Endurance"

Saturday, January 9; 10-11:30 (Adults only); 1-2:30 (Families)
Wednesday, January 13; 1-2:30 (Homeschoolers ages 8-12)
Although January occasionally provides us with a thaw, most years New England is locked into winter during this month. Food is scarce for wildlife and any snow on the ground usually compounds the difficulty of finding it.

"Survival"

Saturday, February 6; 10-11:30 (Adults only); 1-2:30 (Families)
Wednesday, February 10; 1-2:30 (Homeschoolers ages 8-12)
February is a complex month—at the same time that many creatures are fighting for survival, others are bringing progeny into the world. The sun is stronger, the days longer. Even in northern New England the stirrings of spring have begun, albeit often under several feet of snow.

"Awakening"

SUNDAY*, March 13; 10-11:30 (Adults only); 1-2:30 (Families)
Wednesday, March 9; 1-2:30 (Homeschoolers ages 8-12)
For several centuries the British parted ways with the Gregorian calendar and declared March 25 the first day of the New Year. This makes enormous sense to most natural historians, for March is the month of "awakenings," when the earth begins to thaw and life begins to stir after months of relative inactivity. *March* is synonymous with *rebirth*—a new beginning for all living things. **Please note: This month's program is on a Sunday as our Maple Sugaring programs are running on Saturdays in March.*

Other Guided Walks

Snowshoe Saunters

Saturdays, Jan. 16, 23, 30 & Feb. 13, 20 & 27; 10-11:30 OR 1-2:30
\$10/person (\$8/person Members)
A winter adventure awaits! Whether you are an avid snowshoer or just beginning, join us for a refreshing walk and exploration of the winter landscape of Prescott Farm. Please wear boots and dress appropriately for the weather. Snowshoes will be available if you don't already have your own. All ages welcome.

Moonlit Walks

Saturdays, Jan. 23, Feb. 20 & March 26; 6:00-7:30
\$10 (\$8 Members)

Our environmental educators will guide you on a moonlit walk and encourage you to use your senses to explore Prescott Farm in a different and special way. You will learn to identify several constellations in the night sky, discuss the habits of several nocturnal animals, and practice your own night vision abilities. Please wear boots and dress appropriately for the weather. Snowshoes will be provided as needed. All ages welcome.

WildQuest Winter Camp

Monday-Friday, February 22-26; 9:00-3:00 – Ages 6-12
\$225/week or \$45/day (\$175/week or \$35/day Members)

It's a special time of year—chilly and sparkly white outside, and there are so many fun things to do! Winter camp is one of our favorite programs—it has a "personality" that is so different from Spring and Summer camps because we see Prescott Farm from such a different perspective! Depending on the weather, the week will be a mix of: Animal tracking and snowshoeing adventures, sledding, winter games such as "Weasels & Voles," building "quinzhees" or igloos, a Winter Quest, exploring the frozen pond, winter-themed art & craft projects, maple sugaring, and stories around the campfire. Extended care is available.

March—Maple Syrup Season!

Saturdays, March 5, 12, 19 & 26; 10:00, 12:00 or 2:00 (Public)
Weekdays with reservations for school and youth groups.
\$8/adults and \$7/kids (\$5/adults and \$4/kids Members)

Join us to experience an old-fashioned New England tradition—making maple syrup! From tapping a tree to tasting delicious maple syrup, you will have hands-on participation in every step of the syrup making process. Our environmental educators will help you to build tree ID skills and learn the parts of a tree and their functions, use measuring tools to find an appropriate tree to tap, use historical and modern tree tapping tools, learn the history of maple sugaring including Native American legends, and discover the math and chemical/physical science in the boiling process.

Homeschool/Youth Programs

In addition to the *Celebrating the Seasons* programs for homeschoolers listed above, homeschool groups, church groups, other youth groups (and schools, of course!) are welcome to register as a group for any of the programs in our School Programs booklet on our website (www.prescottfarm.org/education/for-schools). Programs are not limited to those listed in the booklet—we can work with you to design a program that meets your group's specific needs and interests. Please call us at the number below with any questions and to book your program.

Reservations are required for all programs — Please call us at 366-5695 to save your spot!

Prescott Farm
Environmental Education Center

"Through preservation and education, Prescott Farm celebrates the interconnections between our community and the natural systems that sustain us all."

928 White Oaks Road, Laconia, NH 03246 · (603) 366-5695 · Fax: (603) 366-5720 · info@prescottfarm.org
www.prescottfarm.org

Christmas Village 2015

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.



Reminder!

The next recycling collection week begins Monday December 28, 2015!



LACONIA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



DOG OBEDIENCE

The next dog obedience class will begin January 6th (no class on the 13th) at the Laconia Community Center. Beginners from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, advanced 7:00 – 8:00 pm running every Wednesday. The cost will be \$50.00 for the 4 weeks. Dogs must have all of their shots before joining our class. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. For questions and registration, please go to the Laconia Parks & Recreation Department's office at the Community Center at 306 Union Avenue or call 524-5046.



City Hall staff were treated recently to Christmas caroling by Woodland Heights first graders!

Approximately 60 of the cutest little reindeer ever sang several carols to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

As a small thank-you, each caroler received a candy cane from the City Manager (*left*).



Living Well



Better Choices, Better Health Workshop

*Designed to help you or someone you live with,
better manage your chronic health condition
including arthritis, joint pain, diabetes, high blood
pressure, COPD, chronic pain, asthma or others!*

Free Six Week Workshop

Mondays, Jan. 11 - Feb. 15

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Woodside Bldg, Taylor Community

Tuesdays, Jan. 12 - Feb. 16

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Franklin Regional Hospital

Registration required. Please call 527-7120



**“I learned to set manageable goals for myself and to focus on what I could do
or change to improve my condition.”**

**“Better Choices, Better Health workshops put me back in charge.
Now I have the energy to do the things that matter.”**

“I’ve put life back in my life”

In collaboration with the NH CDSMP Network, a Stanford University Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

Christmas Tree Disposal Procedure

If you're looking ahead and wonder where you can dispose of your Christmas tree after the holidays are over, we have the information you need!

Laconia residents can transport and drop-off their tree(s) at the following locations for ultimate disposal by DPW:

1. Laconia Transfer Station, 385 Meredith Center Road. Monday thru Friday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm and Saturdays from 8:00 am to Noon. Place trees in the specifically marked/designated area only. Please pull on scales first!
2. Memorial Park Softball Field off Pearl St (on Memorial Park Drive). Place trees in the specifically marked/designated area only.

Please call Ann, Department of Public Works with any questions,
at 528-6379, Ext.300

Assessing

[Click](#) for
Assessing
Department

The abatement filing period is now open until March 1st. This is the process by which taxpayers can dispute their final 2015 value.

Applications for abatement are available in our office or can be mailed upon request, by calling 527-1268.

We always recommend owners get a copy of their PRC (property record card) to verify its accuracy and to be able to compare on a year-to-year basis to monitor what changes have occurred.

Please call the
Assessing Office at
527-1268 with
questions.



Shown above (left to right): City Manager Scott Myers, Mayor Edward Engler, DPW Employee Lucas Lamos and Santa! At the annual City employee luncheon, Lucas was awarded the 2015 Employee Recognition Award. This award is presented annually to an employee who has shown great dedication and a high degree of commitment to their job with the City.

Congratulations Lucas!



Please note that there will be no newsletter next week on Dec. 25th. Watch for the first issue of 2016 coming your way soon.

In the meantime, we all wish you a wonderful Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year!



NH HUMANE SOCIETY
Laconia • New Hampshire



Christmas
Delivery
Ho-Ho-Home
for the Holidays!

Pick out your new furry family member on Dec. 19, 20, 22 or 24 and have your new pet delivered to your home on Christmas Day!

Click the image above for details!



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ON CURBSIDE COLLECTION ROUTES



The Christmas holiday falls on Friday December 25th and the New Year's holiday falls on Friday January 1st -- there will be a **one-day DELAY** in curbside collection of trash on each of these 2 days.

Friday routes will be collected on Saturday. Monday collections will be on their normal schedules.

Any questions, please call Ann @ 528-6379.



Laconia 2016 Curbside Recycling Collection Calendar

Recycling in Laconia is collected at your curb every other week in 2016. Your curbside collection is every week. Place your trash and Mixed Paper and Curbside Containers at the curb by 6:00 AM. The recycling collection will be on the Green Shaded Weeks as follows:

January					February					March					April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2														1	2
3	4	5	6	7																4	5
10	11	12	13	14																11	12
17	18	19	20	21	22															18	19
24	25	26	27	28	29															25	26
May					June					July					August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2														2	3
8	9	10	11	12	13															9	10
15	16	17	18	19	20	21														16	17
22	23	24	25	26	27	28														23	24
29	30	31																			
September					October					November					December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2														1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14														8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21														15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28														22	23
29	30	31																			

Click [here](#) for a full-sized version of the 2016 Recycling Collection Calendar!

BESTWAY DISPOSAL		Recycling and Trash Collection Schedule	
2016 (Holidays)		<input type="checkbox"/> Collector will be delayed one day after the holiday dump these weeks	
New Year	Monday 1/1/2016	Friday 1/1/2016	
Memorial Day	Monday 5/30/2016	Monday 5/30/2016	
Independence Day	Monday 7/4/2016	Monday 7/4/2016	
Labor Day	Monday 9/5/2016	Monday 9/5/2016	
Thanksgiving	Tuesday 11/23/2016	Tuesday 11/23/2016	
Christmas Eve (Observed)	Monday 12/16/2016	Monday 12/16/2016	

Recycling is easy, economical and environmentally necessary! Your recycling efforts save natural resources and returns recycling for reuse, and by recycling you save Laconia tax dollars by avoiding disposal costs. 603-737-0532 Casella Waste



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



From your friends at the
Laconia Senior Center!

*Laconia Senior Center is located at
17 Church Street in Laconia.*

*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's Website: 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

Visit the City's website at:
www.city.laconia.nh.us