



Laconia Links

December 9, 2011 - Edition #9

Cub Scout Pack 68 Visits City Hall

Members of the Webelos 1 Den of Cub Scout Pack 68 visited City Hall recently, working toward their Citizenship Badge.



The visit was hosted by Mayor Michael Seymour and Ward 4 Councilor Brenda Baer.

While at City Hall, the boys enjoyed a tour and participated in a mock City Council meeting.



Members of Webelos 1 Den, Cub Scout Pack 68 with City Mgr. Scott Myers, Mayor Michael Seymour, Councilor Brenda Baer and City Clerk Mary Reynolds

LACONIA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



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

The Laconia Community Center will reopen to on-going Parks & Recreation programs as of Monday, December 12th. The Christmas Village was a huge success again this year and we would like to thank all the many volunteers that helped with set up, breakdown and during the village itself. This is quite the undertaking and luckily we have people in our community willing to take it on. So.....

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!!!

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!

Laconia Police Department



[Link to Laconia PD here](#)

Laconia Police Department Conducts D.A.R.E. Commencement Ceremonies

Last week the Laconia Police Department held commencement ceremonies for the 2011 D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. The 10-week program was taught to 5th grade classes in all three of the City's elementary schools, Woodland Heights, Elm Street, and Pleasant Street Schools.



The program was taught by Officer Michelle Cardinal who has been a Laconia Police Officer for three years and is the D.A.R.E. instructor.

Throughout the program students learned life skills and obtained tools necessary to lead a drug and violence free life. They learned the harmful effects that drugs and alcohol have on the body and also learned how to effectively and confidently resist peer pressure by "saying no".

The D.A.R.E. program originated in 1983 and was taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District as a cooperative effort between schools and police as a way to help prevent drug abuse in children.

Traditional drug abuse programs dwell on the harmful effects of drugs whereas the D.A.R.E. program takes it one step further and places a greater emphasis on helping students recognize and resist the subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.

The D.A.R.E. program is taught in approximately 80 percent of the nation's school districts and is currently being taught in 51 countries outside of the United States. The program that is taught here in Laconia is very beneficial to our City's youth and provides students with many options for dealing with situations if they are ever confronted with the temptation to experiment with drugs. The program would not be possible without the generous support of the many local sponsors who have recognized the benefit of this program within our community.

Public Works Department

Click [here](#) for link to our Public Works Dep't. website

The City of Laconia has recently contracted with Lamprey Suburban Septic Service to pump and clean grease from our sanitary sewer pump station wet wells. This is a routine maintenance task, the costs of which could be significantly lowered by good housekeeping practices at home and proper management practices in restaurants. The following fact sheet gives some tips for disposing of the fats, oils and grease we commonly encounter in food preparation:

SANITARY SEWER FACT SHEET



Department of Public Works, 27 Bisson Avenue,
Laconia, NH (603) 528-6379

www.cityoflaconianh.org/index.php/departments/publicworks-inside/sanitary-sewer

FOG - FATS, OILS, GREASE

FOG (fats, oils and grease) is a byproduct of food preparation, cooking, and clean-up.

Grease is found in such things as:

Meat fat	Shortening
Lard	Food scraps
Cooking oil	Baking goods
Butter/margarine	Dairy products



FOG is not soluble in water. At high temperatures fats and grease will be in a liquid form and will go down the drain quite easily. But as the cooling process begins, it starts to congeal and becomes a solid mass – sticking to sewer pipes and building up over time. FOG also has corrosive properties. If not addressed, this accumulation may eventually block the sewer main and cause an unwelcome sewer backup in your home.

All households play an important role in preventing neighborhood sewer system blockages. The proper way to dispose of FOG in your home is to:

- Never pour grease, fats, or oil down the sink or garbage disposal. Pour FOG into jars, cans and plastic tubs (careful, the liquid may be hot!) or "Fat Trapper" container. Let contents cool and solidify. When the container is full, throw away with your trash. Mix cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place in a lidded container for disposal with your trash. For greasy pans, pour off the grease into a container mentioned above.

Laconia Fire Department



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

The Laconia Fire Department would like to share some fire safety tips as you set up your Christmas tree this holiday season:



When picking out the tree, be sure to choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1–2” from the base of the trunk and make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, such as fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Fresh cut trees can absorb large amounts of water in a short time, so be sure to add water daily!

Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not for both. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.

Do not connect more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.



Never use lit candles or other open flames to decorate the tree and always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas, remove the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are an extreme fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or even placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

If using an artificial tree, you should be sure it is labeled as fire retardant and be sure to also follow the above guidelines.

Other Tips:

Make sure the tree is not blocking an escape route from the home.

Make sure the tree is level and secured from being pulled down by children or pets.

Have a safe holiday season!

Updates from the Planning Office...

Over the past two years the Laconia Conservation Commission has successfully conducted two invasive species educational events as part of Laconia's downtown sidewalk days. These events were a great opportunity to combine the resources of the Laconia Middle School's Weed Watcher program and the Conservation Commission's educational efforts to help manage invasive species in Laconia such as Milfoil, Knotweed and Oriental Bittersweet.



Among the Conservation Commission's current projects is bringing together various environmental interests including the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture invasive species division, Waste Management's native wildlife habitat enhancement program, and the Laconia Public Works Department with the objectives of eradicating invasive species outbreaks around the transfer station, adding more native species to the property and enhancing the wildlife habitat. A public informational area will be constructed at the transfer station to assist residents with invasive species identification, provide tips on how to separate them from the waste stream, and dispose of them properly so that they do not spread.



A spring 2012 Earth Day project will partner the University of New Hampshire Master Gardeners' program with Waste Management personnel to plant a native species garden on a portion of the transfer station property. In addition, the Conservation Commission and State Department of Agriculture will conduct experiments with landscaping tarp to eradicate Knotweed on the site and introduce non-invasive insects to eliminate the spread of loosestrife in a sensitive wetland area. This long term small laboratory will not only provide education for all residents that use the facility but will enable City staff to learn the approved techniques for better management of invasive species throughout the community.

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

Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

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



Make and Take a Holiday Card

Monday, December 12th @ 6:00 p.m.

In the Selig Storytime Room

For Kids of All Ages!

Shimmering Snowball Craft

Thursday, December 15th @ 4:00 p.m. in the Selig Storytime Room for kids in grades 1-6.

Please sign up in the Children's Room

(Snow date is Friday, December 16th @4:00 p.m.)

NEWS

From the City Clerk's Office

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



The election process is an exciting time for local political parties to advertise and express support for their favorite candidate. When showing your support, we ask that you abide by RSA 664:17 Placement and Removal of Political Advertising. This RSA sets forth the guidelines for such advertisement, including the restrictions of placement in public right-of-ways (such as sub-lawns and along the roadway). To read the full content, please click here:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/LXIII/664/664-17.htm>

In addition to State guidelines, the City Zoning requirement 235:53-B (5) sets forth guidelines for placing political signs on private property. Please be considerate and do not place signs sooner than 30 days prior to an election and remove them within 10 days of the conclusion of an election.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 527-1265.

2012 Dump Stickers are now available for purchase in the City Clerk's and Tax Collector's Office in City Hall!



Please be sure to bring in the current registration for the vehicle the sticker will be affixed to.

The charge for one sticker is \$20 and it is valid for the calendar year 2012. This sticker is your gate pass for the year and does not include the cost of disposal for material.

Questions? Call the City Clerk's Office at 527-1265.

Reminder:



Tax bills were mailed on Tuesday, November 29, 2011.

Payment is due on December 30, 2011. Payments are accepted by mail and at the counter in the City Clerk's Office during normal business hours. Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:30-4:30. For your convenience there is also a drop slot located on the side door of City Hall.

We are now accepting credit cards over the counter. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. A 2.95% convenience fee applies 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...



Please Note:

In order for City Hall employees to attend their annual Christmas luncheon, City Hall will be closed during the lunch hour on Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We apologize for any inconvenience!

Start A New Holiday Tradition With Your Family.....

In conjunction with the downtown merchants' Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 10th, there will be a new addition to the festivities!

A "Helping Hands Tree" will be located on the downtown mall corner! Here's how it works.....on Saturday between noon and 5 pm bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry to help others this holiday season, and decorate an ornament for the "Helping Hands Tree"! The tree will stay up and decorated throughout the holiday season as a symbol of the generosity and giving nature of our community.



The day starts off with a pancake breakfast at the Congregational Church followed by the Frozen 5K Race and ends with Christmas music at the Evangelical Baptist Church. During the day, downtown merchants will be adding to the magic of the season by offering refreshments, demonstrations, specials, good cheer and fun!



Be sure to check the local newspapers for details, or call Sue Bullerwell at 528-8541.

Reminder:



In the process of negotiating a renewal of the City's cable franchise agreement with Metrocast, a public hearing will be held December 12, 2011, at City Hall in Council Chambers, Room 200A during the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7 pm. You are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

Please click [here](#) to access copies of the existing franchise agreement and additional information or contact Jonathan Gardner at 524-3877 or gardnerj@city.laconia.nh.us

We hope that you will be able to attend the hearing and thank you for your assistance!

City Manager Updates...

Two new updates have been posted to the City's website to keep you up-to-date and informed as to what's happening in your City:

First, check out the December version of [Project Updates](#) providing a concise update of projects in the community.

*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



Also updated is the [Financial & Operational Trends](#) report for December. This document contains financial information for the current year compared to prior years, and covers items such as fire and rescue call data, revenue from motor vehicle registrations and property taxes, police incidents and much more!

Contact the City Mgr's office at
527-1270, or
info@city.laconia.nh.us