



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Laconia Links

December 31, 2020 - Edition #469



A view of the Belknap Mill and the river after a winter storm (photo compliments of Rob Clifford Photography)

Laconia City Hall



While City Hall remains open to the public and we are always happy to see our customers, COVID numbers are on the rise and it is now even more vitally important that everyone continues to social distance and limit their activities. With that in mind and the safety of our visitors and staff our primary concern, we are asking that whenever possible you conduct your City business on-line or by phone. There are a number of transactions that can easily be done without making a trip to City Hall. Our staff is always available and happy to help you with any questions you may have, or assist if you have questions while using our on-line services. Check out our [website](#) for more information.

Also, if it is necessary to come to City Hall in person, we want to remind you that due to COVID and the need to remain socially distant our lobby can only hold a limited number of people at a time. Depending on how busy our departments are, you may find it necessary to wait outside briefly so please dress appropriately for the weather to stay warm until you can come inside.

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@laconianh.gov



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

For the health of our customers and staff, we ask that you wear a mask when visiting City Hall and comply with our social distancing guidelines at all times. As of Monday, January 4th we will be limiting public access to departments located on our 3rd floor. If you have business with our Finance, Personnel or Purchasing Departments please check in with someone in either the City Clerk's office or the Assessor's office (on the main floor) when you arrive. Welfare applications will be available outside the entrance door of the building and will include a phone number to call to schedule an appointment.

*We appreciate your patience
and cooperation!*



The Library is open to the public! Check the Library's [home page](#) for updated information.



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 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 additional information on a meeting or to obtain a printed copy of the agenda. You are invited and encouraged to participate in any public meeting and provide input.

Follow this [link](#) to the "Calendar" page of the City of Laconia's website. Please check the "Calendar" page often for updated information and changes.

Become involved in your City and make a difference!

Please note that City Hall will be closed all day on Friday, January 1, 2021.

MEETINGS

City Council

January 4, 2021, 6:30 pm
[Agenda](#)

Planning Board

January 5, 2021, 6:30 pm
[Agenda](#)

Special Events Review Committee

January 6, 2021, 12:00 noon
[Agenda](#)



Department of Public Works

The Laconia 2021 Curbside Recycling Collection Calendar is here!

Click on the image (below) to view a full-sized version of the calendar.

Questions? Please call the Department of Public Works at 528-6379.



Reminder!

Curbside recycling will be picked up the week of January 4, 2021

"Glass is Trash"



Prescott Farm
Environmental Education Center

Don't miss "early bird" rates—register by March 1st!

**WildQuest Camp
Registration opens
January 11th!**

April Vacation Week
(April 26-30, 2021)
Ages 6-12

9 Weeks in Summer
(June 28—August 27)
Ages 4-14

FMI visit: prescottfarm.org



**SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDING AVAILABLE!**

LACONIA WATER DEPARTMENT METER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



Meters are changed periodically to comply with the Public Utilities Commission's Rules and Regulations, the American Water Works Association and in accordance with the Laconia Water Works' Tariff. The Water Department has an annual program that replaces meters and **there is no cost to the property owner**. Our goal is to change out 600 meters over the winter months.



The Water Department will contact those property owners whose water meters are to be changed. We are in the process of sending letters and making phone calls to schedule appointments. This process takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes. For your convenience Saturday morning appointments may be available.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (603) 524-0901.

Protect Yourself from COVID-19 **Vaccine Scams:**



Any representation that a COVID-19 vaccination can be provided quickly in exchange for money or personal identifiable information is a scam.

You will **NEVER** be asked:

- For payment in any form to reserve a vaccine for you or another person
- For payment in any form to schedule an appointment for yourself or another person
- To provide confidential information (such as a social security number, bank or credit card information) to reserve a vaccine or appointment
- To provide cash, money orders, gift cards, or another form of payment to secure your access in any manner to a COVID-19 vaccine



Visit nh.gov/covid19 to learn about updates related to the vaccine and for all other COVID-19 related information.



LACONIA RESIDENTS: DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR DOGS!



Beginning January 1, 2021, you can register your dogs for the 2021 year.

To renew **online**: www.laconianh.gov, Online Bill Pay, Dog Licensing

By **Mail**: City Clerk's Office, PO BOX 489, Laconia NH 03247, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

1st dog for an owner 65+	\$2.00
Spay/Neutered dog	\$6.50
Unaltered dog	\$9.00
Late charge per month as of June 1	\$1.00
Civil Fine for failure to register	\$25.00

*All dogs are to be
registered by April
30th each year.*

Tai Chi for Healthy Aging and Better Balance

The practice of Tai Chi can offer many rewards such as strengthening your body and a better ability to focus your mind as well as release tension. The practice combines exercises of the mind and the body.



In Person or on Zoom

Mon & Thursday at 9:30 Jan 4 – Feb 11

\$70.00 for 6- weeks of sessions twice a week

Please register in advanced

This is the first half of 12 week program.

This program focuses on the rudiments of Tai Chi such as standing, stepping rooting etc. We also work on the “Jings” (energies) of Tai Chi such as releasing expanding condensing splitting and more. You will be given simple drills to practice at home (5 min. per day) to help you develop your Tai Chi.

This program is designed with two primary goals:

- a. To prepare you to learn more Tai Chi including the forms that are taught in the ongoing classes.
- b. As a falls reduction program to help with balance as well as some strategies to avoid slips and falls.

Register at the Belknap Mill, call 603 524-8813 or online at www.belknapmill.org
Belknap Mill is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization
25 Beacon Street East, Laconia NH 03246

Winter Parking Ban!

The City of Laconia's winter parking ban is now in effect! From November 1st to May 1st no vehicle is allowed to be parked on a public street between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:30 a.m.

This parking ban allows our City vehicles to safely and effectively keep our streets passable during and after a winter storm.

Failure to comply with the winter parking ban may result in your vehicle being towed at your expense.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Steve Loughlin, a Director at the Kiwanis Club of Laconia, NH, produces a monthly newsletter for the Club, “Laconia Kiwanis Kronikle”.

To read the most recent issue and see what our local chapter of Kiwanis is up to,
Click [here!](#)

Past issues of the Kronikle can be found [here](#).

New 2021 City Hall Holiday and City Council Meeting Calendars!

For your convenience, our 2021 City Hall Office Holiday Closing Calendar can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

And please mark your calendars with the dates of [City Council meetings](#) in 2021! As always, we appreciate public input and invite you to attend any of our meetings (whether via ZOOM or in person when those meetings return).

Meeting agendas for the City Council, as well as other City Boards and Commissions, are available on our website [here](#). Questions? Please call the City Manager's Office at 527-1270.

A Suggested New Year's Resolution from the Public Works Department....

To place only those items that can be recycled in Laconia's single stream recycling system!

The following items are not recyclable but are commonly found in recycling bins:

- Shredded paper – it is non-sortable. The recycling processing center sends non-sortable materials to the landfill. Putting shredded paper in the trash saves the City dollars for other recycling programs.
- Coat hangers – Also non-sortable. The wire gets wrapped around all of the equipment. This stops the sorting system and increases the cost of recycling.
- Tops to plastic bottles – They generally are made out of different material that is non-recyclable, so please remove all bottle tops when you put the bottle in the recycling system.
- Heavy metal – Not the music (!) but everything other than tin or aluminum cans that hold food and drinks.
- Pizza boxes and other food contaminated cardboard - Please put it in the trash so that the City can continue to afford to support the recycling program.
- Paper coffee cups – They have a wax coating that prevents them from being recycled.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Do you need to change your mailing address for tax bills and other general correspondence?

Just fill out and submit our ["Change of Address Form"](#) on-line and we will be happy to correct our records.

Sand is available!



Laconia residents needing sand for their driveways or walkways during this icy weather can get sand from our Department of Public Works. There is a sand pile for residential use located at our DPW garage at 257 Messer

Street. Residents can get a maximum of two five gallon pails (or the equivalent). Please do not take sand from our facility on Bisson Avenue; it is for City use only to maintain our streets and sidewalks. Questions? Please call 528-6379.

Thanks and have a safe winter!

City Manager Update

The following updates have now been posted to the City's website to keep you up-to-date and informed on what's happening in your City!

Be sure to check out the [Project Updates](#) report which provides a concise update of projects in the community. In this report you will find everything from road projects to the latest information on the Master Plan update.

Next, check out the current version of the [Monthly Economic Development Report](#). This report contains information pertaining to Laconia's unemployment rate and wages, as well as business and economic development partnerships.

We hope you find these reports helpful!

Questions? Please contact the City Mgr's office at 527-1270, or info@laconianh.gov



Bryan Halperin, Playwright, Save the Weils

Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, the new theatre program at the Belknap Mill and the resident theatre company of the Colonial Theatre, is pleased to prepare for its inaugural 2021 season by sending out 2020 with a new play reading.

On New Year's Eve, at 7 pm, Powerhouse will debut on YouTube a reading of the first draft of Bryan Halperin's new play *Save the Weils, 2020: a tragi-comedy of pandemic proportions*.

"2020 has been a year like no other. Everyone has a story and most people are happy to see it go. This play is about 2020; the highs and lows, laughs and tears, and seemed an appropriate thing to share with an audience before the year ends," says Halperin.

It is late June, 2020 and the Weil family is quarantining in their Cape Cod vacation home on the beach. Lou and Ruth, retired, have been there since March, but grown daughter Liza has only recently arrived from New York after losing her job as an off Broadway stage manager and being dumped by her long-time, live-in boyfriend. Can you believe that? Dumped during a pandemic! Having joined her parents' bubble, Liza laments the state of the world, and doesn't understand why her parents aren't more upset about it. But the family's privilege is turned upside down by a surprise visitor - well, two surprise visitors. Both are mammals.

"Normally you might not share a new play this early in its development, but 2020 isn't normal and neither is this play! We thought this New Year's Eve people would be home looking for something to do. This 75 minute play will hopefully make you laugh, angry, thoughtful, and maybe even teary. Just like 2020," says Halperin. The play is appropriate for teens and adults. *Save the Weils* will be recorded for its debut and will star professional actors C.J. Smith, Megan Gaffney, Richard Brundage, and one of the grande dames of New Hampshire theatre, Donna Goldfarb. All but Smith should be familiar to Lakes Region audiences for their performances at the Winnipesaukee Playhouse over the years. After the video ends, audience members will be invited to join Bryan and Johanna Halperin on a live Zoom at 8:30 pm for a talkback to discuss the play and the plans for Powerhouse's debut season.

There is no fee to view the reading or participate in the talkback, but donations to support Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative can be made via the Belknap Mill's website (<https://www.belknapmill.org/html/donate.html>).

The link for the reading will be posted to Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative's and the Mill's Facebook pages, or email powerhouse@belknapmill.org to request the link directly. After the premiere the video will stay available for the immediate future for those who want to watch but can't make the premiere.

The Belknap Mill Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the Belknap Mill as a unique historic gathering place and a center for award-winning cultural and educational programs.





KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

THE LAST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

12PM-1PM VIA ZOOM

UPCOMING DATES:

DECEMBER 28

JANUARY 25

FEBRUARY 22

MARCH 29

Parenting is tough; parenting a second time can be even harder. This group aims to bring grandparents and other relative caregivers together to celebrate successes, mourn losses, problem solve for the hard times, and give support to one another. We hope you can join us to hear from other kinship caregivers and learn more about resources and opportunities that are available in your community.

This program is sponsored by the Family Resource Center of Central NH and the Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center.

For more information, please contact:

Melissa Shadden-Cyr

(603) 460-5285 or Melissa.Shadden-Cyr@LRCS.org

Or

Patricia Eisner

(603) 286-4255 or PEisner@GTA-FRC.org

To Register, please follow this link: <https://www.lrcs.org/parentedregistration/>

ARE YOU RAISING
A GRANDCHILD,
NIECE OR NEPHEW,
OR OTHER
RELATIVE?

ARE YOU
INTERESTED IN
LEARNING ABOUT
RESOURCES
AVAILABLE IN
YOUR
COMMUNITY?

WOULD YOU LIKE
TO CONNECT WITH
OTHER RELATIVE
CAREGIVERS IN
YOUR AREA?

DO YOU
NEED
SUPPORT?

YOU ARE NOT
ALONE

We hope you'll
join us for this
monthly lunch
hour group.

 **FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**
Engage. Empower. Empile.

 The Greater Tilton Area
FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTER
MAIN OFFICE



Start the New Year Connecting to Nature & Your Community!

Saturday, January 2

New Year, New Beginnings Nature Hike

1-3 pm

Meteor Shower Campfire

4:30-6:30 pm

Online advanced registration is required.

FMI visit: prescottfarm.org



News From the City Clerk's Office



2021 Transfer Station Stickers

2021 Transfer Station stickers are now available for sale at the City Clerk's Office. Transfer Station stickers are \$20 each; a valid vehicle registration for the vehicle must be presented at the time of purchase for the vehicle the sticker will be put on. Questions? Call the Clerk's Office, 527-1265.

Disposal of Christmas Trees

The City of Laconia does not pick up Christmas trees curbside. This allows the Department of Public Works to more efficiently and effectively utilize personnel and equipment time. Laconia residents can bring their Christmas trees to either the City's Transfer Station at 385 Meredith Center Road during its hours of operation (Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, Saturday 8:00 am to Noon) or bring them to the designated area in the parking lot at the end of Memorial Park Drive (near its intersection with West St.) by Memorial Park, which is available every day.

Christmas trees may also be taken to the Brush Dump on Friday or Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm unless it snows. In the event of a snowstorm the Brush Dump will be closed to allow all Public Works personnel to work on snow removal.

For more information call DPW at 528-6379.



Our yesterdays

Our thanks to Warren D. Huse, the Laconia Historical and Museum Society, and the Laconia Daily Sun for providing a glimpse into our community's past....



THEN ...

Here, Bank Square and Main Street are seen as a pedestrian mall, in 1972, with the new O'Shea's Department Store, Melnick's Shoe and Lynch's at right, all of which had opened between March and November of 1970. In distance, at left, former Laconia Savings-Peoples National bank building is in process of demolition, completed in late November of 1972. (Laconia Historical and Museum Society)



AND NOW ...

After 25 years as a pedestrian space, this section of Main Street was reopened to vehicular traffic and limited parking, July 8, 1994. A new building — The Municipal Parking Garage — on the east side of Main Street was completed and opened, June 21, 1974. (Adam Drapcho/The Laconia Daily Sun)

Since there was no newsletter last week, please see the next page for an additional edition of "Our Yesterdays"....

Our yesterdays

Our thanks to Warren D. Huse, the Laconia Historical and Museum Society, and the Laconia Daily Sun for providing a glimpse into our community's past.....



THEN ...

Shell station at 725 Union Ave. was built during the summer of 1929, in the side yard of the Benjamin Cole/Gov. Henry B. Quinby (later, Knights of Pythias) House at 713 Union Ave., and was reportedly the first of its kind in this area. Replaced by a new modern building by Atkinson Oil Co. in 1955, the original filling station was relocated to Sheridan Street. When the Robbins Auto Parts store was built in 1973, the replacement station and adjoining Cole/Quinby House were demolished. (Photo from 2009 Lakeport Community Association calendar)



...AND NOW

Robbins Auto Parts, which held its grand opening, Nov. 15, 1974, became Fisher Auto Parts in 2009. The 1920s Shell Station occupied the north (left) third of the lot, while the Cole-Quinby House was located on the south (right) portion. The house at left, 743 Union Ave., was known as the Moulton-Adams House in the 19th century. Industrialist John Carroll Moulton — who built the Moulton Opera House in 1887 — lived there prior to moving to Meredith Bridge (today's Laconia) in 1841. The house seen at far right is at the corner of Laurel Street. (Adam Drapcho/The Laconia Daily Sun)



Are you looking for ways to help your community during the pandemic?

We are looking to assemble community and clinical volunteers to assist with any staffing shortages that may arise in the future within healthcare facilities, and this would include: APRNs, RNs, LPNs, LNAs, etc.

We are proactively building a back-up team to have on standby in case it becomes necessary to assist our healthcare community as well as provide assistance when a vaccine for COVID-19 becomes available for dispersion.

In addition to clinical volunteers, we have a need for community volunteers who would be willing to assist at clinics with logistical tasks such as setting up/taking down at clinic locations, registration, supply management etc.

Temporary Health Partners (THP) are desired for the length of the COVID-19 crisis, with an 8-hour online training program and the scope of work including activities to meet the needs of residents in long term care centers. You can learn more about the work and training to become a THP at <https://bit.ly/THP4LTC>.

Anyone who has a desire to help should register at www.nhresponds.org and choose to join Lakes Region COVID-19 Team. You can also contact John Beland from the Partnership for Public Health with an inquiries at jbeland@pphn.org.

Laconia Water Department **Prevention is Better than Reaction!**



If the temperature inside a house gets below 32 degree Fahrenheit (0 degree Celsius) it's likely that the water supply pipes and the drain traps will freeze. When water freezes it expands 9 percent, and if there is no room for expansion it's possible that the pipe will develop a crack and eventually leak once the ice thaws out. Fixing a burst pipe can be expensive, but the damage from uncontrolled water leakage can easily reach into the thousands of dollars.

The majority of the calls received for frozen water pipes and water meters are a result of inadequate heating and cold air drafts where piping is located in the home. It is recommended that property owners check their property for these conditions and identify the location of their water meter and shutoff valve before an emergency.

If for any reason you cannot stop the flow of water from a frozen or broken pipe, call the Water Department's 24-hour emergency number at 524-0907.



Pictured above: Bolduc Park volunteers Bob Bolduc, Bill Kosla and Stevens Hill

\$80 per person including rental equipment or \$40 per person if you have your own equipment. Register with the Gilford Parks and Recreation Department or at Bolduc Park. For more information call Bob or Pat at 524-2068. For more information, contact Piche's Ski & Sport Shop (524-2068), Bolduc Park (524-1370), Laconia Parks & Rec (524-5046) or Gilford Parks & Rec (527-4722).

Bolduc Park is now open for cross country skiing! Come join us for some safe, affordable fun outdoors. Bolduc Park is on Gilford Avenue at the Laconia/Gilford Town line. The non-profit, all volunteer run Bolduc Park's mission is to offer recreation to area residents.

Cross Country lessons will be offered to youth and adults beginning on Saturday, January 2 and will continue on January 9, 16 and 23. Lessons begin at 10am and rental skis may be picked up at 9am at Piche's Ski shop. The cost for lessons is

Winter Information from the Department of Public Works

DID YOU KNOW?

...That drivers cannot park their vehicles overnight in the City's downtown parking lots? Cars and trucks that park overnight interfere with Public Works' ability to clear snow from these parking lots. Instead, please park in the parking garage overnight. The Police Department announces through Twitter whenever Public Works will be plowing or removing snow from these parking lots, and owners of vehicles parking in the City lots may be fined or have their vehicles towed at their expense to ensure that these parking lots can be plowed.

And did you know that it is unsafe to plow a driveway's snow across a street and leave it there? Traffic passing by your driveway during the plowing could have an accident as a result of hitting the plow truck or hitting the snow windrow left by the plow.

Also, please be aware that pushing or blowing snow onto a City sidewalk could prevent the City from clearing the sidewalk if the snow pile is too large for the sidewalk plows to clear. Please ensure that you or your plow contractor do not push driveway snow across a public street or blow snow into the sidewalk. This will help Public Works clear the streets and sidewalks after a storm to keep our community safe.

The City Council has implemented an Ordinance to minimize these problems. Public Works will first reach out to educate a property owner if there is a violation. If the violation continues after the first communication, the property owner or person in violation of the Ordinance can be subject to a \$500 fine.

Please feel free to contact our Department at 528-6379; we will be happy to answer any questions and provide additional details.

Thank you for helping to keep our community safe this winter safe this winter!



Department of Public Works

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Solid Waste Collection Delay
NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ON
CURBSIDE COLLECTION ROUTES
New Year's Day is Fri., Jan. 1st

All trash collection during the
week of New Year's will be on the
normal schedule, with the exception of New Year's Day, Friday, January 1st. There will be no
trash collected on New Year's
Day; Friday's trash will be picked
up on Saturday, January 2nd.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



2020 AWARD WINNERS
JUDGES SELECTIONS
Clark Griswold - 256 Country Club Road
Themed - 10 Belknap Street
Traditional - 233 Mechanic Street
Rookie - 76 Center Street

COMMUNITY CHOICE
Business - OpenDoor Preschool & Childcare
Residential - 256 Country Club Road



More info:
celebratelaconia.org/light-up-laconia



Colonial Theatre Updates...



Our thanks to City Councilor Robert Hamel for providing these photos!



ServiceLink
Resource Center
(1-866-634-9412 or
528-6945) is the first
number to call for
senior services.



If the holiday season and the pandemic have made you feel a bit uneasy, try a new habit!

Click on the picture above to read some helpful hints provided by the National Council on Aging to get us all through this busy and stressful time.

*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@laconianh.gov

Have a great weekend!



Scott Myers,
City Manager
City's Website:
www.laconianh.gov



CITY OF LACONIA PHONE DIRECTORY

Airport	524-5003
Airport Manager - Marv Everson	
Assessing	527-1268
Assistant Assessor - Tara Baker	
City Clerk	527-1265
City Clerk - Cheryl Hebert	
City Manager	527-1270
City Manager - Scott Myers	
Code Enforcement	527-1293
Planning & Zoning Dir. - Dean Trefethen	
Conservation	527-1264
Conservation Technician - Ashley Ruprecht	
Finance	524-3877
Finance Director - Glenn Smith	
Licensing	528-6331
Licensing - Lindsey Allen	
Planning & Comm. Dev.	527-1264
Planning & Zoning Dir. - Dean Trefethen	
Fire Dept. (Central Station)	524-6881
Fire Dept. (Weirs Station)	366-2229
Fire Chief - Kirk Beattie	
Library	524-4775
Library Director - Randy Brough	
Parks & Recreation	524-5046
Parks & Rec. Director - Amy Lovisek	
Personnel	524-3877
Personnel Administrator - Paula Baumoel	
Police (Administration)	524-5257
Police (Crime Line)	524-1717
Police Chief - Matthew Canfield	
Public Works (Main Office).....	528-6379
Public Works (Transfer Station)	528-5822
Public Works Director - Wes Anderson	
Tax	527-1269
Tax Collector - Lindsey Allen	
Water	524-0901
Superintendent - Ben Crawford	
Welfare	527-1267
Welfare Technician - Cathy Raymond	

City Council Contact Info:

Mayor Andrew Hosmer	496-2078
Bruce Cheney (Ward 1)	491-8946
Robert Soucy (Ward 2)	524-7054
Henry Lipman (Ward 3).....	528-0191
Mark Haynes (Ward 4).....	524-3605
Robert Hamel (Ward 5).....	524-6360
Tony Felch (Ward 6)	998-1418

General Council E-mail:
citycouncil@laconianh.gov

Visit the City's website at:
www.laconianh.gov