

TOWN OF LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
249 Calef Highway
Lee, New Hampshire 03861
(603) 659-5414

**Lee News & Upcoming
Events
January 14, 2022**



**TOWN OFFICES CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022**



Photos by Denise Duval

ICE SKATING RINK AT TOWN FIELD IS READY – New Lighting Coming Soon!

GUIDELINES WHEN USING NEW ICE RINK

1. DAWN TO 8pm
2. PARKING OUT FRONT, AT MAST WAY OR AT HWY DEPT
3. HOCKEY MAY BE PLAYED IF NO ONE ELSE IS SKATING
4. HOCKEY ONLY HOURS: SAT & SUN 8-10am WED 6-8pm

SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

January 18th Select Board Meeting & 3rd Budget Public Hearing 5:00pm

January 24th Select Board Meeting 6:00pm

Public Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

Subject to change, please check the website meeting calendar

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

February 5th Deliberative Session Mast Way School 9:00am

March 8th Ballot Session Public Safety Complex (Subject to Change) 7:00am – 7:00pm

Meetings can be seen on  at [CLICK HERE](#)

LEE SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST SESSIONS

The Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a session for the purpose of accepting applications for new voter registration, as well as requests for corrections to the checklist and/or change of political party affiliation on **Tuesday, January 18th from 7:00-7:30pm** in the lobby of the Lee Town Offices at 249 Calef Highway.

Lee citizens may also register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office at 249 Calef Highway during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm.

Applicants for voter registration who possess proof of identity, age (18 years of age), citizenship, and domicile should bring that proof when they come to register. Driver's license and passport are helpful. Qualified applicants who do not possess proof or who do not bring proof with them may still register if they sign an affidavit attesting to their qualifications for identity, age, and citizenship, and/or domicile.

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be holding another session on **Saturday, January 29th** from 10:00 - 10:30am at the Lee Public Library, 9 Mast Road. If you wish to vote at the Lee Deliberative Session on February 5th or at the Oyster River Cooperative School District Deliberative Session on February 8th, you must be registered by January 29th.

FILING PERIOD FOR LEE TOWN ELECTED POSITIONS OPENS JANUARY 19TH

The Town of Lee elections will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Lee Public Safety Complex (Subject to Change). Polling hours will be from 7:00 am – 7:00pm.

The filing period for elected positions in the Town of Lee is January 19, 2022 through January 28, 2022. Apply at the Town Clerk's Office, 249 Calef Highway, Lee, NH. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm with Friday, January 28th staying open until 5pm per State Statute.

Any Lee resident who is a registered voter may apply for the following positions and will be placed on the ballot: One (1) Selectperson position with a 3-year term; One (1) Moderator position with a 2- year term; One (1) Supervisor of the Checklist position with a 6-year term; One (1) Treasurer position with a 3- year term; One (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds position with a 3-year term; Two (2) Library Trustee positions with a 3-year term; Two (2) Advisory Budget Committee positions with a 3-year term; and One (1) Cemetery Trustee position with a 3-year term.



CALLING ALL FARMERS IN DURHAM, LEE, AND MADBURY!

The Durham Agricultural Commission invites you all to join us for a fireside conversation on Tuesday, **January 25, 2022**, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at The Browne Center in Durham (snow date is February 1st). We're keen to learn what you are up to and your thoughts on how we can work together to strengthen our 3 Oyster River communities through agriculture. Please click [HERE](#) for the agenda and RSVP to Theresa Walker at theresawalker@comcast.net or call 603-534-3913.

LEE PUBLIC WORKS NEW ROLL-OFF TRUCK



Photo by TA Andy Robertson

On Friday, December 17th the Lee Public Works Department took delivery of a 2022 Western Star roll-off truck. The current contract with Win Waste Solutions is ending on December 31st. With the rising cost of hauling fees and the difficulty in getting our trash to the landfill this purchase became an easy decision. The towns hauling budget is \$31,400. With a new 3 year contract the first year hauling budget was projected to be \$36,000 a year. At the end of the 3 year contract it was projected to be in excess of \$42,000 a year. This truck will enable us to haul all our own dumpsters, give us the ability to shop the best price for our light iron and cut \$29,000 from the Transfer Station budget in year one. The Department would like to thank the residents for their continued support of the Public Works Department and the Select Board for their support as well.

JOIN THE NEW COMMITTEE OF LEE GREETERS!

The Lee Select Board is interested in putting together a committee of approximately 6-7 members who will work together on greeting new residents to the Town of Lee. What, when and the logistics of how this will happen will be developed by this new committee and presented to the Board for final approval. If you are interested in being part of this, please call Caren at 603-659-6783.

LEE HERITAGE COMMISSION CALENDARS FOR SALE

The Lee Heritage Commission 2022 calendars are still available!! Calendars can be purchased in person at the Lee Library. They are \$10 each, payable by cash or check made out to the Town of Lee. If you would like to order copies online and have them shipped go to <https://www.ebay.com/itm/133965658009>. We hope you all enjoy the photos as much as we have! Here's to a happier and healthier 2022!



LEE POLICE DEPARTMENT REMINDER

Please Do Not park any vehicles upon any roadway in Town during a snowstorm as it impedes the Highway Department from doing their job. Also, please clear the snow from your vehicle before hitting the road!

Jessica's Law has been the law of NH for about fifteen (15) years now. It is a law that **requires the clearing of ice and snow off the top of a vehicle prior to driving it**. The basis of the law was a tragic accident that claimed the life of Jessica Smith in 1999.

265:79-b Negligent Driving. – Whoever upon any way drives a vehicle negligently or causes a vehicle to be driven negligently, as defined in RSA 626:2, II(d), or in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any person or property shall be guilty of a violation and shall be fined not less than \$250 nor more than \$500 for a first offense and not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

The Town of Lee also has a **Snow Casting Ordinance** which was adopted on 1/7/2008. [CLICK HERE.](#)

STUMPOLOGY PART 3 – EASTERN HEMLOCK – THE DEAD

By Catherine Fisher

Eastern hemlock is, with eastern white pine, one of the two dominant conifer species in Lee's town forest. Hemlock stumps aren't as numerous as those of eastern white pine, but unlike pine stumps, hemlocks have two kinds of stumps: dead and undead. This week we'll look at the dead.

Like all stumps of coniferous trees, the wood in a hemlock stump rots from the outside in, but whereas white pine stumps shed their bark after about 25 years or so, hemlock stumps keep their bark until the bitter end. As you can see, all that remains of the hemlock stump in the photograph is a tube of bark, and so it will remain until fate sends a falling limb or a foraging animal to topple and/or dismantle it.

A high tannin content is what makes hemlock bark so durable. Tannins are bitter chemical compounds called polyphenols found in the stems, leaves, fruits, or seeds of species throughout the plant kingdom. Phenols are an important part of a plant's arsenal against fungal and bacterial infection. Even after being reduced to a stump, the high tannin content of hemlock bark fends off decomposers and keeps its outermost surface intact long after all the inner wood has rotted away.



Photo by Catherine Fisher

Because its bark is so rich in tannins, eastern hemlock became, throughout most of the 19th century, the go-to tree for use in the region's lucrative tanning industry. Whole hillsides of pure hemlock stands were felled as tanbarkers harvested bark for use in tanning hides. Often only the bark was taken, and great hemlocks, some hundreds of years old, were left to rot where they fell. By the early 1900's as hemlock became increasingly scarce, tanneries turned to imported bark, and then to the cheaper, faster, and far more toxic chemical method of using chromium salts. By that time, the once dense stands of hemlock had all but disappeared in much of the Northeast.

Hemlocks did eventually rebound, but it was a slow process. Though hemlocks are quite prolific when it comes to cone production, the seeds those cones contain are finicky things, with a less than 25% germination rate. Even if a seed does manage to sprout, the seedling needs warmth and constant moisture to survive. Despite this considerable reproductive drawback, the hemlock did return, and we are fortunate to have, for now at least, several impressive hemlock stands in the Town Forest. These stands not only create a unique habitat, they act as the forest's thermostat: in summer a hemlock stand's dense canopy intercepts the heat of the sun, creating a cool haven during times of high temperatures; in winter, the canopy slows radiational cooling and provides shelter from wind and snow.

There's a hushed quality to a hemlock stand that I find enchanting, and standing in the midst of these stately conifers is calming. Particularly in winter, the quietest season, a hemlock stand's dim peacefulness invites you to pause a moment and be still. I've often thought that it was a stand of hemlocks that compelled Robert Frost to stop his small horse one snowy evening. The trails in the Town Forest pass through several of these quiet hemlock oases, and I encourage you to linger and savor their deep, dark loveliness the next time a Town Forest trail leads you beneath them.

SWAP SHOP NEWS – WINTER 2021/2022

Bulky Items: **Saturday, December 11** was the last day until spring that large bulky items were being accepted at the Swap Shop.

Electronics: A reminder that there is a Disposal Fee that needs to be paid before drop off of electronics (Radios, Stereos VCR/DVD Players, Monitors, or TV's).

Smaller items: With limited space for the winter, please limit your drop off items to One (1) Tote per week.

If you have a large load, we suggest you use the Facebook page "Swap Shop Treasures ~ Lee, NH" or one of the local charitable groups (Goodwill, Re-Store, Salvation Army, etc.). Please note the "Swap Shop Treasures ~ Lee, NH" Facebook page is not maintained or controlled by the Transfer Station Swap Shop but provided by a private citizen. Please follow the rules associated with this page.

Hours: The Swap Shop is open for now but the number of Volunteers is reducing for the winter months. This open status may change in the future.

The Swap Shop is open, if the garage door is open. **Please do not drop off anything if the Swap Shop garage door is closed.**

The Swap Shop will be Closed due to:

High winds, rain or snow;

Schools closing due to weather;

Temperatures below 10°F wind chill;

Or the lack of volunteers.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to returning to normal operations in the spring.

RECENT COVID-RELATED INFORMATION

[NH COVID-19 WEBSITE](#)

NH DHHS

[COVID-19 PANDEMIC, UPDATE #48](#)

Vaccine for Children 5-11 Years Old

WILKINSON FOOD PANTRY - Lee Church Congregational, 17 Mast Rd

The food pantry is open to any household in Lee, Durham, Madbury, Newmarket, and Nottingham. Delivery is through a walk-up window service to minimize contact during this time. The pantry is open the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from **5:30pm - 7:00pm**. If you have an emergency need for food outside of the normal hours, please call the Church office at 659-2861 or email at leechurchucc@comcast.net. All visits to the pantry are strictly confidential.

LEE TOWN COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Various Committees have openings to be filled. If you are interested contact the Assistant Town Administrator Denise Duval at 603-659-5414 or email dduval@leenh.org. [CLICK HERE](#) for Application.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & BOARD [MEETING CALENDAR](#) [LIBRARY CALENDAR](#)

READY RIDES

Ready Rides provides transportation at no charge for the elderly & disabled residents living in: **Barrington, Durham, Lee, Madury, Newfields, Newmarket, Northwood, Nottingham and Strafford** NH. Rides are provided by volunteer drivers using their own vehicles. **Accessible rides available.** To request information about registering as a rider or becoming a volunteer driver, please email info@readyrides.org or call (603) 244-8719. You can find an [Application](#) for riders and a [Volunteer Application](#) on this website. Email or mail it to Ready Rides P.O. Box 272 Northwood, NH 03261. For other transportation options available in the region, please visit ACT's [Community Transportation Directory](#).

WHEN SECONDS COUNT... **Please take the time NOW to SAVE TIME in an EMERGENCY.**



Can the Police, Fire, or Ambulance find your home when you need them for assistance with an emergency? Can they find it at night? Can they find it during a snowstorm?

Having your name and number on a mailbox is just not enough. The Lee Firemen's Association, in a joint effort with the Lee Fire Department, has a program to install reflective house number signs at driveway entrances to assist all emergency responders in locating your home in a time of need. The cost for each sign with a post is \$50.00 and it will be installed by the Lee Firemen's Association. [CLICK HERE for Reflective House Number Sign Request Form](#)

Lee Public Library

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Wednesday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

Thursday & Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

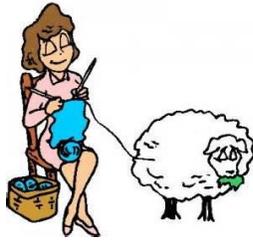
HOLIDAY

Monday, January 17, 2022 - CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

Winter Weather:

We want you to be safe this winter and take extra care when driving, especially during snowy and icy conditions! If there is extreme weather, please check our website www.leelibrarynh.org, our Facebook page or WMUR for library closures or delayed opening.





KNITTERS MEET HERE

Knitters are meeting on the 1ST AND 3RD Wednesday morning of the month at 10 AM. Their next meeting is Wednesday, January 19th. All skill levels invited, and there is instruction!

CHILDRENS PROGRAMS – JANUARY 2022

Grab and Go crafts

Make sure to like the *Lee Public Library (NH)* Facebook page to see our weekly updates, and watch for info on this month's grab and go crafts. Kits will be going out on January 4th and 18th.



Preschool Story-Time – Thursdays from 10:30am – 11:30am. Stop by for our traditional story time. We will read, sing, wiggle and craft.

Sensory/Station Story time – Fridays from 10:30am – 11:30am. This is our activity based program. We will listen to a story or two, get out our rhythm sticks/maracas/boomwhackers or scarves and then have fun with assorted stations including sensory, fine/gross motor, puzzles...



January Themes:

January 13/14 - **Trains**

January 20/21 - **Let's Get Cozy**

January 27/28 - **Feelings**

Afterschool Offerings – Tuesday & Thursday

Call the library at 603-659-2626 for information on registering for our next 8 week session.

Session 4 – March – April

Afterschool story time - Tuesdays from bus drop off until 4:45.

Craft Club - Thursdays from bus drop off until 4:45.

Middle School Book Club – Tuesday, January 25th

Our middle school book club meets via ZOOM on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 6-6:45 pm. Contact the library at 603-659-2626 if you are in grades 5-8 and would like to join us. We have a supply of the books available at the Library.

Middle School Crafters

This fun group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month. Our January crafts supplies will include items and ideas to create winter dream catchers and gods eye wall art. Call the library at 603-659-2626 for more information.



Regional & State News & Events

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS – 1-5-2022

Happy New Year! The new Oyster River Middle School building is on track to open to students on February 28, 2022. As of January 5th, there are 28 school days left in the current ORMS building.

Multiple speakers recognized the efforts of students, parents, and staff to communicate openly and utilize multiple, layered precautions to reduce the risk of COVID transmission in Oyster River Schools and keep schools open. It is essential that parents communicate with the school about students' health before sending them to school if they have any COVID symptoms. Students who arrive at school with symptoms of illness will be sent home. If your student is symptomatic, please call the school and speak with the nurse before sending or bringing your child to school. Oyster River continues to use state guidance on screening procedures. Please thank our school nurses when you talk with them – they continue to work tirelessly to support all Oyster River students.

The staff has been particularly stretched covering for each other with a limited number of substitute teachers available. Thank you for continuing to go above and beyond to keep our students in school! Some of the precautions employed in school settings are mask use, collaborating with health officials to make vaccinations available, weekly surveillance PCR testing, health screening, distancing in cafeterias, extra cleaning, and hand hygiene.

Dr. Andrew Smith from the UNH Survey Center presented an overview of parent and staff feedback received in the fall district communication survey. Thanks to parents and staff who provided their insights. A community survey (targeted for those who live in Durham, Lee, or Madbury and do not work for or have students in Oyster River Schools) will be conducted this winter.

The proposed 2022-2023 school budget will be presented at a public hearing on January 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the ORHS auditorium.

The School Board will discuss the 2022-2023 school year calendar at its January 19th meeting. Under consideration are options for the start of the school year and for February break. For February vacation, Oyster River could align with Dover, Rochester and Somersworth to synchronize schedules for ORHS students who attend Career Technical Center classes in these towns (Feb 20-24, 2023), or align with the NH DOE recommended calendar (Feb 27-Mar 3, 2023). At the beginning of the school year, the district is considering starting before Labor Day (as we have typically) or after Labor Day, pushing the end of school later in June.

Oyster River is hosting two online events to discuss equity and belonging in Oyster River Schools on January 13th and January 26th at 6:00 pm. This series is an opportunity for the community to connect and share perspectives on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice work in the district. Events were planned with good faith to foster genuine conversation among neighbors and community members. This is an opportunity to share your perspective, answer questions, and make connections. January 13th will feature facilitated small-group discussions and January 26th will include a panel and dialog. Preregistration is required. Please register using the following link: <https://unh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEld-2qzrwjH9JV572uYPMsY0gIPwCrSpra>



[CLICK HERE](#) for the Winter Lamprey River Wild & Scenic Newsletter

EVERSOURCE: Preparing for cold snap and possible controlled power outages

ISO-New England's warning is that, if extended periods of extreme cold weather occur this winter during a time when fuel supplies are constrained, the necessary balance of supply and demand in the electrical grid could be upset. This could require emergency actions up to and including **controlled, rotating power outages**. ISO-New England has authority to require electric utilities to accommodate these outages to safeguard the stability of the power grid.

Eversource wants you to understand what it would mean to your community if instructed to take the unprecedented step of effecting controlled power outages and how by working together we might be able to conserve enough energy to avoid rolling outages. Some key points are as follows:

Steps in the ISO New England Energy Emergency Process

- If an energy shortage occurs, ISO-New England will typically start with public appeals for electric conservation. We will share those requests with communities and other stakeholders and would ask you to amplify those appeals. We would also ask that you think about how you would conserve energy in your own municipal buildings and facilities, if called upon.
- The next step would be implementation of voltage reductions by utilities. This step will not be noticed by most customers, except for some commercial and industrial customers.
- If those steps are not sufficient to balance supply and demand, ISO-New England may call for controlled outages. **In an emergency, ISO-New England may go straight to this step as necessary to stabilize the electric grid.**
- Eversource may not receive advance notice of a controlled-outage order, and **our ability to notify communities and customers in advance may be limited.** We are committed to communication and collaboration and will share information as promptly as possible with you, customers, and other stakeholders.
- Eversource will seek to rotate outages among "blocks" or groups of customers on different circuits so that the burden is spread as equally as possible. The number of customers experiencing an outage at any given time - and the length of their outage - will depend on the situation.

What Communities Need to Know and Do

- Review and be prepared to activate your business continuity plans.
- Be prepared to share ISO-New England conservation requests with residents, and to take all possible steps to reduce your own energy use.
- In the event of controlled outages, **communities should expect loss of power at facilities that are considered "critical" in storm responses**, such as police stations and water or sewer facilities. Unlike storms, Eversource cannot exempt these facilities, nor can we promise to provide generators. Communities should ensure that generators are in place, working and sufficiently fueled at these key facilities as part of normal business continuity plans.

- **Ensure that facilities designated as warming sites in emergency plans have generator arrangements.** Controlled outage events are most likely to occur during extreme cold and these facilities may lose power in those circumstances.
- Controlled outages may continue for days or longer at ISO-New England's direction, depending on the scope of the emergency. This is unlike a storm situation, where the system sustains physical damage and Eversource makes repairs to restore power.

Eversource Is Taking Steps to Be Ready

- We are reviewing and updating our plans for controlled outages.
- We participate in a monthly load-shedding exercise with ISO-New England. We are also working with ISO-New England to coordinate communications.
- We are briefing state, regional and local officials, media and others on our controlled outage plans.
- We are increasing training for our entire Community Relations Team and Liaison Organization to ensure full preparation.

Collaboration and Communication Will Be Critical

- Any emergency would likely impact the entire New England region. We will partner with ISO-New England and state officials on communications and resource coordination.
- In addition to ISO-New England's communications, Eversource's primary public communications channels will be news outlets, social media and eversource.com.
- If an energy emergency requires rotating outages over several days, our mission will be to provide as much information as possible to customers and other stakeholders.

BEWARE OF SMISHING CAMPAIGN

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center (NHIAC) bulletin regarding a COVID-19 themed smishing campaign being distributed to NH citizens. Smishing is the fraudulent practice of sending text messages purporting to be from a reputable company in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information. If you receive a text message like this one, please delete it immediately. If you click on the link, you will be redirected to a fraudulent website that collects personal information.



The Seacoast Village Project (a nonprofit)

Helping seniors age in their homes and community!

Educational Programs, Social Activities, Home Services, Resources, Friendships

Membership Information

<https://www.seacoastvillageproject.org/>

(603)-373-8429

If you are a Lee Resident in need of assistance with a Veteran's issue the Lee Memorial VFW Post 10676 may be able to help.

This post serves the communities of Lee, Durham, Madbury and Newmarket and has Service Officers who can help folks with just about any Veteran's related issue. At the State level they have a seat on the SVAC (State Veterans Advisory Committee) and are linked with tens of other non-profit Veterans organizations that provide a host of services. Please contact **Scott Moreau**, Commander, VFW Post 10676, at vfwpost10676@yahoo.com for assistance.

ATTENTION!

To receive the E-CRIER via email every week go to www.leenh.org, click on the Subscribe button under the Town Resource Center section & follow the directions to subscribe.

If you do not have the internet please come to the Town Offices for a **printed copy** or go to the Library to view it there. If you cannot leave your home please call Town Secretay Denise Duval at 659-5414 to have it mailed!