

TOWN OF LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
7 Mast Road
Lee, New Hampshire 03861
(603) 659-5414



Absentee Ballot FAQ's
November 3, 2020 Election

I HAVE SUBMITTED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST. WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

We have received the ballots from the State. If you requested an absentee ballot before September 28th, your ballots were mailed out either Monday, September 28th or Tuesday, September 29th. If you requested a ballot after the September 28th, your ballot is mailed the day of, or day after, we receive your application.

WHAT WARD AM I IN?

The Town of Lee does not have wards. You would enter "0".

HOW DO I OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST?

The Absentee Ballot Request is available on the Town of Lee website, Secretary of State website or at the Town Clerk's office. Once completed, you may mail, email, fax, leave in drop box by Town Hall entrance door, or deliver to the Town Clerk's office.

HOW DO I RETURN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You may return your completed Absentee Ballot the following ways:

- Mail using USPS or recognized courier service, or*
- Hand deliver in person by you to Town Clerk,*
- Hand deliver in person by delivery agent (see instructions included with Absentee Ballot for definition of delivery agent) to Town Clerk.*

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO RETURN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

On or before 5:00 pm, November 3, 2020.

-If you return your ballot by mail, we MUST receive in the mail by November 3rd. Any ballots received after that date will not be counted.

-If hand delivered, by you or your agent, the ballot must be received by 5:00 pm, November 3rd. It must be delivered to the Town Clerk, in person (by you or your agent), before the day of election, or on the day of election in the manned drop box outside of the polling area at Mast Way School, November 3rd before 5:00 pm.

Town Clerk (603) 659-2964

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:00am – 12:00 pm

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

lreinhold@leenh.org, estone@leenh.org

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST MEETING NOTICE and UPDATE

The Supervisors appreciate those citizens new to Lee or those newly eligible to vote taking the time to register before the General Election on November 3rd. You can register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8-4 (closed 12-1pm.) Please call 603-659-2964. **Wear a mask and bring your own pen.**

A Walk-up Voter Registration session is also planned for **Tuesday, October 20th** from 1:30-6:00pm in the Town Hall parking lot. **Wear a mask and bring your own pen.**

Supervisors are required by statute to hold a public session 6-13 days prior to the election, and that session is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 28th** from 4:30-6:30pm at the Public Safety Complex. **No additions or corrections shall be made to the checklist after this session (including at the Town Clerk's Office), until Election Day.**

Applicants for voter registration who possess proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile should bring that proof when they come to register. 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.

SELECT BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM – MONDAY, October 19th 6:00 pm

Meeting ID 892 7541 3158 & Password 124855

Please check the website for Agendas and instructions on how to access Zoom meetings
Subject to change, please check the website meeting calendar

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

The Advisory Budget Committee & Town Hall Renovation Committee have IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

Please contact Denise at dduval@leenh.org or call her at 603-659-5414 for more information

NEWS FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Lee Trails Guidelines Adopted 9-21-2020



Trail Maintenance for Volunteers Workshop Sunday, October 25, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Maud Jones Memorial Forest

The public trails in Lee's conserved lands have gotten unprecedented use this year. While it is gratifying to have so many folks out enjoying these beautiful public spaces, the surge in usage has presented both maintenance and improvement challenges. To help address these issues, the Lee Conservation Commission and the UNH Extension's nature volunteer program, Nature Groupie, will be co-hosting a trail building workshop at Maud Jones Memorial Forest on October 25. Participants will learn techniques help keep the public trail system in Lee's conserved lands in good repair and learn the ABC's of trail maintenance. This event will be held rain or shine. Masks will be required. The participation fee will be waived to for Lee residents (see below).

To learn more, and to register, go to Nature Groupie's event site:

<https://naturegroupie.org/experiences/training-trail-maintenance-volunteers-0>

Cost: \$10 (fee waived for Lee residents – use receive coupon code LEENH.) Space is limited to the first 12 who register.



Looking for American Chestnut Burrs



Do you know of any American chestnut trees in Lee that are producing nut crops?

Before the early 1900s, when a fungal blight all but eradicated the species, one out of every four trees in forests east of the Mississippi was an American chestnut. Fast growing, providing yearly mast crops that were an important food source for both wildlife and humans, and producing wood that was rot-resistant, light-weight, and easy to work with, the disappearance of this tree was devastating to both forest and human communities.

In the past two years, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), whose mission is to return this iconic tree to its native range, has been harvesting seeds from productive American chestnuts. Their aim is to collect as much genetic diversity as possible from the remnants of this species' surviving population in its original natural range. Harvested seeds will be used in their efforts to produce blight-resistant American chestnut trees.

TACF member Tim Elliott has located several wild, nut-producing American chestnuts in Lee, and some of their nuts will be harvested and sent for use in the TACF's program. You can help by contacting Tim if you know of the location of any American chestnut trees that are producing burrs such as those pictured above. This link gives information about identifying American chestnuts, and how to avoid confusing them with the unrelated (and unthreatened) horse-chestnut:

<https://www.acf.org/resources/identification/>. If you know of a nut-bearing American chestnut, contact Tim Elliott at: timkelliott@gmail.com.

TRANSFER STATION ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW CHANGES TO MIXED PAPER

STARTING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

Mixed paper should still be placed with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) EXCEPT NOW please go back to separating your office paper and magazines from your mixed paper in order to start the Town's recycling revenue back up again. Acceptable paper items are copy paper, envelopes (windows ok), junk mail (no glossy mail), and any magazines.

UNH SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT

Road Safety Audit on the Lee Center Intersection

Jesse Jakubajtys, Project Manager

Dr. Kyle Kwiatkowski, Project Faculty Advisor

PLEASE HELP BY COMPLETING THE SURVEY!

The Project Team will be working under the supervision of the NHDOT to perform a Road Safety Audit on the complex intersection at Lee Center in hopes to generate alternatives to create a safer intersection for automotive and pedestrian traffic. They look forward to the community's feedback so they can do their best to evaluate and improve the safety of this intersection. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to take a survey and contact Jesse at jhj1009@wildcats.unh.edu or Dr. Kyle Kwiatkowski at kyle.kwiatkowski@unh.edu if you have any questions.

TOWN OF LEE – NEIGHBORHOOD TRICK OR TREAT

Friday, October 30th 5-7pm

Please stay home if you are not feeling well

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when trick-or-treating and handing out treats. Halloween Masks are NOT substitutes for CDC recommended face coverings.
- Avoid large gatherings or parties and find ways to trick-or-treat while staying at least 6 feet away from others, including when handing out and accepting treats. Consider lining up individually wrapped goodie bags for kids to grab.
- Trick-or-Treaters (and others) should NOT congregate
- Practice frequent hand cleaning. Bring a bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitizer with you while trick-or-treating and use it often.

Homes who are participating in Trick or Treat should.....

- Only give out wrapped items
- Give out items outside, on a table, keeping 6 foot distance, or behind a storm door and replace treats before each visitor or group
- Not hand treats to children directly
- Put out hand sanitizer

Trick or Treaters who are participating should.....

- Trick or Treat in small groups, preferably with family members only, and within your own neighborhood.
- Avoid large groups and going inside any homes.
- Carry hand sanitizer, gloves are not recommended
- Wear protective masks (this may be a part of a costume if its cloth)

NH Department of Safety Halloween Safety Tips

The Costume

- Keep costumes short to prevent trips and falls.
- Use make-up instead of a mask. Masks often obstruct a child's vision making tasks like crossing the street and going up and down stairs dangerous.
- Make sure children wear light colors, put reflective tape on their costumes, or carry flashlights and/or glow sticks.

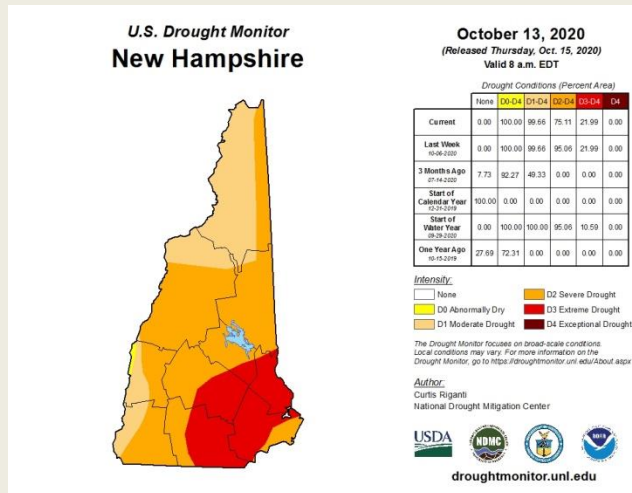
The Trick or Treating

- Make sure older children trick-or-treat with friends, never alone. Parents should map out a safe route. Young children should be accompanied by adults.
- Instruct children to stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- Remind children not to enter the homes or cars of strangers.
- Follow your communities trick-or-treating hours.
- A good alternative to "Trick or Treating" is for parents to organize parties at home, in schools, or in community centers.

The Treats

- Remind children not to eat any of their treats until they get home.
- Parents should check all treats at home in a well-lighted area and dispose of anything that seems to have been tampered with, has been opened, or is not wrapped.
- Remember to also inspect fruits for anything suspicious.

For COVID-19 Specific Information, please visit [readynh.gov](https://www.readynh.gov)



[CLICK HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION & DROUGHT GUIDANCE
[CLICK HERE](#) for Governor's Proclamation Prohibiting Open Fires
 and Smoking In and Near Woodlands

Over the past week, the state has received some widespread rain, which has been enough to decrease the severity of drought in some areas and not in others. Over the past five days, parts of the North Country received between 1.5” and 3” of rain and a good portion of that area has been downgraded from “severe drought”(D2) to “moderate drought”(D1). The majority of the southern half of the state received 1” or less of rain and drought intensity remains the same with “extreme drought” (D3) persevering in the southeastern corner. Widespread soaking rain is expected to arrive today and continue through Saturday morning, followed by dry weather through early next week.

The risk of private well owners experiencing water shortages is significantly higher in areas experiencing “extreme drought” (D3). All counties are experiencing a 30-day, 90-day, 180-day, and 360-day precipitation departures from normal (<https://w1.weather.gov/data/TAR/ESPTAR>).

The groundwater levels in each of the monitoring wells in the New Hampshire Geological Survey’s monitoring network are lower compared to last month and all but one well are below their monthly average. For more information, see the [New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report](#) for September 2020. Reports are released monthly.

Forecast and Outlooks:

The short term forecast calls for showers on Friday and Saturday morning and then dry through early next week. ([NOAA National Weather Service](#)).

According to the [US Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook](#), over the next three months, drought conditions are likely to improve, but persist across the majority of the state.

Things to Do and See and Places to Go October 16th - October 27th

Terrestrial

Every day at 10:00 a.m., York Center for Wildlife Facebook: Live Animal Ambassador - Meet one of the 29 animal ambassadors who live at the Center. Learn about the habitats where these animals make their homes, how they live and what they eat. Questions are welcome! You can tune in here each morning:

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterForWildlife/>

Take a Walk: Fruit Flags - There's a reason why many berries are bright red - they're flagging the attention of migrating birds. Berries are loaded with carbohydrates and fats, and as distance-runners know, these are what you need when preparing to run a long race. Recent research suggests that birds may also be seeking out brightly-colored berries for their high antioxidant levels to help mitigate the stress of migration. Take a walk and see how many different types of berries you can find. Note the color. Do they stand out against the other plants in their community? Children are wonderful berry hunters, so this is a fun walking activity to do with children.

Chipmunk Walk - As winter approaches, chipmunks spend most of their days gathering food stuffs such as seeds, nuts, berries and mushrooms. Stuffing these supplies in their cheek pouches, these ground squirrels dash back and forth from their dens to foraging sights. Take a walk in the Town Forest, Maud Jones Memorial Forest, or Little River Park and you'll be sure to see them. Watch where they go to forage - see if you can tell what foods they are gathering. Watch where they head once they've got a full load. What sort of places do they select for dens? Chipmunks communicate to each other - letting other chipmunks know where their territories are located, or when a predator is approaching. Right now the woods are full of their percussive "chuck, chuck, chuck" calls. Take a child for a walk and see how many chipmunks you can see and hear.

Check Out Our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeeConservationCommission/>

Amanda Gourgue, who maintains the Conservation Commission's Facebook page, publishes frequent posts to help folks learn about local trails, flora, fauna, and habitats. As well as posting about outdoor/indoor activities for families and how to enjoy the outdoors while keeping safe during this period of social distancing, Amanda finds things to amuse, comfort and delight. Her work makes our Facebook page a lively, fun, and informative place to visit. Also posted are weekly Nature Notes (published on Sunday mornings. This Sunday's notes will feature stilted trees - find out what they are and then take a walk to see if you can find some. Take pictures! We love having folks share their nature photos, so feel free to post if you have a photo you'd like to share.

October 25, 1-4 pm, Maud Jones Memorial Forest: Trail Maintenance for Volunteers Workshop - Learn how to repair, re-route, and maintain trails in this workshop co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission and the UNH Extension's nature volunteer program, Nature Groupie. Learn techniques for keeping Lee's public trail system trails in good repair. This is a rain or shine event. Masks will be required. There is a participation fee which will be waived for Lee residents. While it is gratifying to have so many folks out enjoying these beautiful public spaces, the surge in usage has presented both maintenance and improvement challenges. To help address these issues, the Lee Conservation Commission and the UNH Extension's nature volunteer program, Nature Groupie, will be co-hosting a trail building workshop at Maud Jones Memorial Forest on October 25. Participants will learn techniques help keep the public trail system in Lee's conserved lands in good repair and learn the ABC's of trail maintenance. This event will be held rain or shine. Masks will be required. Registration is required. There is a participation fee, but this will be waived for Lee residents (use coupon code LEENH when registering). To register and find out what to bring (tools will be provided by Nature Groupie) go to:

<https://naturegroupie.org/experiences/training-trail-maintenance-volunteers-0>

Bird of the Week: The Finches are Coming!

Late last week, and for the first time in many years, I looked out to find a flock of dozens of pine siskins feeding on the ground among the goldfinches, purple finches and house finches. As bird-sized pools of water have been hard to come by during this extended drought, all four finch species were also queuing up at the bird baths. Goldfinches are regular residents - both breeding communities and over-wintering groups from further north. House finches are less numerous, and even more sporadic are purple finches. But suddenly purple finches outnumber the house finches and there are scores of goldfinches and pine siskins. What's going on with the finches?



"Pine Siskin Finch" by stokes rx is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0

Just as the red-breasted nuthatches written about a few weeks ago, finches can be irruptive, which means that large populations of northern-breeding birds occasionally make their way south in fall and winter. Irruptions can be triggered by an abundance of a favorite food, or by food scarcity. In the former case, an abundance of food during the breeding season can result in a greater number of young produced; with the onset of winter, food resources, though ample for an average-sized population, may not be sufficient to support the baby boomers, hence some of the population moves south. Food scarcity, such as a crop failure of a preferred food type, can also send large numbers of a particular species south as they search for sustenance to get them through the winter.

For many years it was anyone's guess which boreal finch species would irrupt in a given winter. Then, beginning in the 1970's, Canadian birdwatcher Ron Pittaway and a few friends across Ontario began recording data in which they correlated food availability with finch irruptions. Compiling these observations about boom and bust years of seed crops produced by birches, ash, pines, spruce, hemlock, Pittaway created yearly maps of winter seed resources in boreal forests. From these he was able to make informed predictions about which finch species were likely to irrupt each winter. For many years, he made his reports informally, to friends and fellow birdwatchers, but as word got out, and his network of observers grew beyond the borders of Ontario, his yearly finch predictions became more and more well-known. Beginning in 1999, his yearly report, *The Winter Finch Forecast*, quickly became an eagerly anticipated annual publication, as birdwatchers sought to plan where they might go to see crossbills, redpolls, and grosbeaks.

Though Ron Pittaway retired last year, he passed the finch-predicting-torch, along with the army of volunteer observers, to Tyler Hoar, who has created his own maps documenting this year's boreal forest food resources. The results? It's looking to be a pretty good year to see finches. Though what follows doesn't include all the species covered by the 2020-21 Winter Finch Forecast, it does cover those species we may be lucky enough to have visiting our feeders this winter.

Pine Siskin: Having already witnessed a sizable flock in my yard, it's not a surprise that populations in the eastern boreal forests are reported as moving southward. The pine siskin resembles its relative the goldfinch and both species are often seen feeding together. Siskins are the smaller of the two species and have striped breasts and flanks as well as shadings of yellow along wing and tail edges and a more narrow and more pointed beak.



Male purple finch, photo by Andrea LeBlanc

Purple Finch: Spruce budworm outbreaks in the eastern boreal forests have resulted in an increase in the population of this species, so chances are good you'll see an uptick in numbers at your feeders this fall and winter. We've seen at least four females in the last week - not a huge number, but considering we've seen, at most, a single pair during the breeding season, I'm optimistic that New Hampshire's beautiful state bird will be adding a splash of color at feeders in Lee this winter.

Evening Grosbeak: This species was a frequent winter feeder bird when I was a girl, and when we first moved to Lee, there were a few winters when they showed up at the feeders. Until last year, however, it had been over 30 years since I'd seen one. To our great excitement, a single female showed up here last winter and fed beneath our feeder for a few days. With outbreaks of spruce budworm in eastern Quebec this breeding season, the population of evening grosbeaks is robust, and flights of this species are expected in New England this winter. Fingers crossed!



"Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*)" by Tim Harding is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Common and Hoary Redpolls: Another species fondly remembered from my childhood. We'd get great flocks of these little arctic finches with their red head patches (the "poll" part of their name means "head"), little black "goatee" and breasts that were streaked on the sides with a rosy blush in the center. Their call sounds like the "boing!" of a cartoon bedspring. The roof of our front porch projected beneath the windows of the bedroom I shared with my sister, and we'd throw seeds out on the roof so we could watch them while doing our homework or getting ready for school. I've seen only a few in the years that I've lived



"Common Redpoll" by seabamirum is licensed under CC BY 2.0

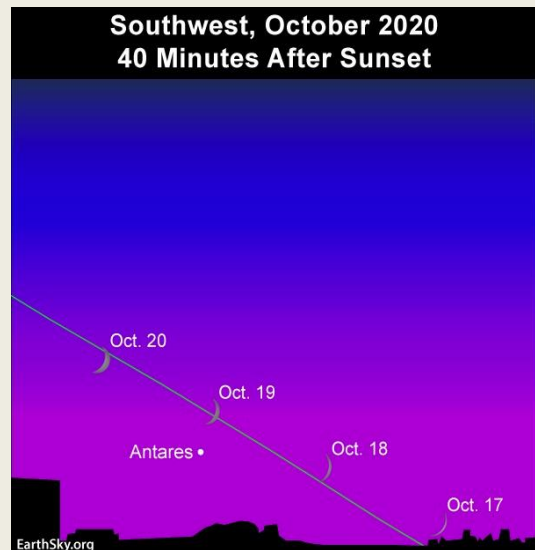
in Lee, and this year's forecast is a bit tenuous. Redpolls feed primarily on birch seed, and the reports, though scanty due to Covid19, are for a heavy crop of bog birch. If that source of food runs out, both species of repolls (the common is, not surprisingly, more common; the hoary is whiter) may push south. If you have birches or weedy areas, look there for redpolls as well as at your bird feeders.

What to feed these finches? Siskins are partial to nyger seed. Redpolls like nyger, too, but also are fond of black oil sunflower seeds. Black oil sunflower seed is also the preferred food of both purple finches and evening grosbeaks.

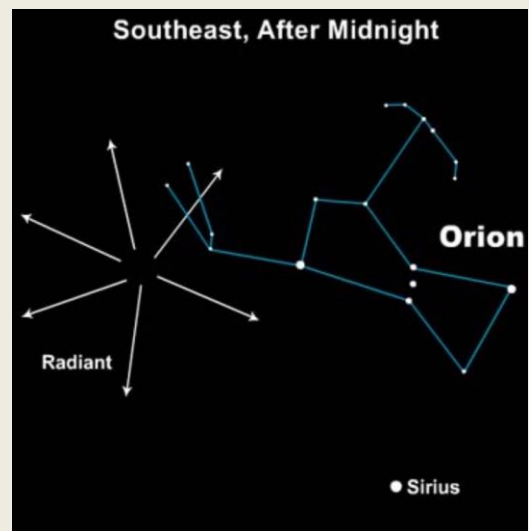
With the continued influx of countless red-breasted nuthatches and the newly arrived purple finches and pine siskins, the winter bird outlook is promising. What a treat to have these beautiful avians showing up just as our neotropical migrants are leaving. We may not see all the finches listed here. It may turn out that yet another winter passes with no grosbeaks or redpolls, but whether they appear or not, we'll be watching for them while enjoying the birds that do appear. Anticipation is a positive way to enter this dark time of the year. As Emily Dickinson wrote: "'Hope' is the thing with feathers."

Celestial

Looking East, October 12-14, one hour before dawn (@ 6:00 a.m.): The Moon, Venus, and Regulus - You'll need to get out a little early, but this look at Venus, the waning moon, and Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo (the Lion) is a lovely way to begin the day. Venus is, after our moon, the brightest object in the night sky. Bright blue Regulus is only 79 light years away and is 150 times brighter than our own star the Sun. It is the 22nd brightest star in the night sky.



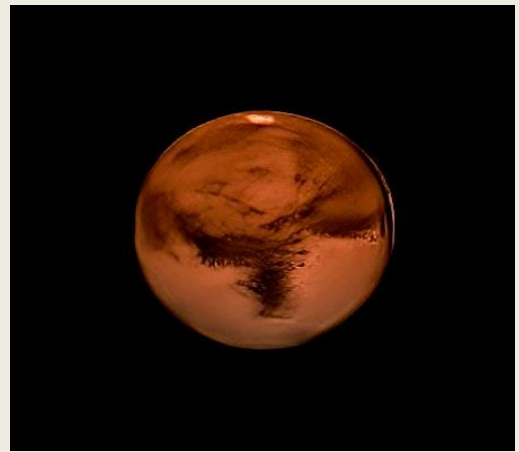
Looking Southeast, after midnight, October 20-22: The Orionid Meteor Showers - Formed by the bits of debris left by Halley's comet as it passes our part of the galaxy every 75 years, the Orionids you can expect to see about 10-15 meteors per hour on the peak evening of Wednesday October 21. Don't want to stay up past midnight to see the show - just take a walk or step outside after dark on any of these evenings, and keep an eye on the sky. Chances are you'll glimpse a meteor or two. If you do get up in the wee hours for the show, you'll also get a preview of winter's dominant constellation, Orion (the Hunter). The Orionids appear to radiate out from Orion, hence their name.



Looking South/Southwest after dusk, October 21-23: Waxing Moon Moves up the Ecliptic Past Jupiter and Saturn - Three of the night-sky's brightest objects are arrayed on these three evenings, and it's a good time to compare the relative brightness of the two biggest gas giants in the solar system. The moon, of course is the brightest object in the night sky. Jupiter is next, the biggest gas giant and the night sky's 3rd brightest object - only Venus is brighter than Jupiter. Yellow Saturn is the eighth brightest night sky object; Jupiter, which is larger and closer to our planet, is thirteen times brighter than its fellow gas giant.

Looking East After Sunset Above the Horizon, Throughout October: Mars -

Ruddy Mars has been exceptionally beautiful this month. It's worth stepping outside just to get a glimpse of our beautiful planetary neighbor. And if you look a bit to the south, you'll see Saturn and Jupiter as well. Take a moment to enjoy them - it's wonderful to be able to see three planets at a glance; four, if you count the one you're standing on...



As always, these two online resources are a wonderful asset to help you and your family explore the night sky:

EarthSky: (<https://earthsky.org/>) - The EarthSky website provides several weeks' worth of nightly write-ups about what's going on in the night sky, along with a brief daily feature giving more in-depth information about a particular night-sky object. They've very generously given their permission to have their graphics used in this newsletter, and I encourage you and your children to visit their website.

Stellarium: (<https://stellarium-web.org/>) - has replaced StarAtlas, but remains an interactive map of the night sky. This new incarnation will set itself to your location. You can change the time and date to coincide with when you'll be star-gazing, and the map scrolls in all directions. If, for instance, in your location the best place for viewing the night sky happens to be facing west, just scroll the map to show the stars, planets and satellites that will appear in that part of the sky. Once you have the sky set for viewing time and direction, you can click on objects in the sky and an information box will appear giving the object's name plus information about brightness, type of object, etc. This is a fantastic website.

TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICES RE-OPENING PLANS

On August 31st the Select Board approved a lease agreement between the Town of Lee and Daley Realty Trust for commercial office rental space for the new municipal offices. We are now waiting for the engineer's report on installing turn lanes in front of the entrance on Rte. 125, the cost of which is being borne by the landlord. Modifications have been made to the building in order to provide safe spaces for the public and employees to socially distance from each other. Each department will have its own entrance to the building (these entrances already exist) and each entrance has sufficient parking. The Department of Revenue has approved the Select Board's request for an emergency appropriation, with funds to come out of the unassigned fund balance so that no additional taxpayer dollars will be required for the modification costs and twelve months' lease payments. This move will not be scheduled to occur until after the General Election on November 3rd so as not to cause any unnecessary confusion or inconveniences. The Select Board has been meeting regularly via the Zoom platform and we invite all members of the public to join us as we continue to discuss this plan. Agendas, minutes and videos of the meetings can be found on the town's website www.leenh.org.

FROM THE TRUSTEES: LEE PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATE

The Library Trustees have been working with SMP Architects to develop a plan for remodeling the Lee Public Library and adding a small addition to the existing building. The discussion has included the future of the library footprint, which areas to renovate, where to expand and compliance issues. Community space, a dedicated and expanded children's area and integration of outdoor space with indoor space were also considered.

SMP developed several designs, working with the trustees to keep the project cost as low as possible. Considerations included phasing, where to start the project and opportunities to reduce the cost in selected areas while possibly increasing the costs in other areas in order to achieve a library and community space that the Town of Lee can be proud of for years to come.

The Trustees are now beginning the process of an RFP to select a construction manager to help finalize the budget before beginning the renovations. The renovations will include moving the children's area to the schoolhouse portion in the front of the library, relocating stacks to the basement (a lift will be added to make the space ADA-compliant), adding a 2nd bathroom, a small vestibule at the entrance and a small addition with a porch for outdoor use during mild weather.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE TOWN IS NOT WIPING DOWN PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, PICNIC BENCHES OR ANY OTHER SURFACES

The Town of Lee urges our residents and visitors to do their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. If you go to a park or trail to exercise, use extreme caution. Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others when outside and wear a mask if you cannot maintain this distance. Cookouts are now permitted in Little River Park.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE NOTICE

COVID-19 HOURS: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 8-4 (Closed 12-1)

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office is currently experiencing a higher volume of calls than usual, so if your call is not immediately answered, please leave a message or email reinhold@leenh.org or estone@leenh.org. The office will try to respond to all messages on the same business day if left no later than 3 pm; any messages left after 3 pm will be answered on our next business day.

TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE COVID-19 PROCEDURES

There is a walk-up service window located outside the Town Clerk's Office. This does not change the way the office is conducting business while the building is closed. If you cannot conduct your business online or by dropping it in the box outside then call 659-2864 to schedule an appointment.

RENEWING VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS:

- If you have a vehicle currently registered in Lee and it is not more than 6 months late, you can register online at www.leenh.org. The registrations and decals are then mailed to you;
- If you have your Lee renewal notice, you can renew by mail or drop it off at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lock Box along with a check made out in the correct amount to the Town of Lee. We will then mail you the registrations and decals.

Please note - We always try to send renewal notices. If you are unable to do one of the above options for any reason, please call our office at 659-2964.

NEW VEHICLE OR NEW TO LEE: If you are new to Lee, or if you have a NEW REGISTRATION, please call 659-2964 to make an appointment to come to Town Hall. Temporary plates issued on or after February 26, 2020 expired on May 31, 2020.

VITAL RECORDS REQUESTS: These can be done online at www.leenh.org. The directions will indicate that it is required to email your ID in order to complete this request. Please email your ID to estone@leenh.org.

DOG LICENSES:

- If your dog was registered for 2019-2020 and the rabies is still up-to-date, you can renew the registration online.
- If the rabies is not up-to-date, then we need proof from the vet. You can mail it, email it (estone@leenh.org) or fax it (603-659-7202) to us and then you can do it online or through the mail or drop box.
- NEW DOGS cannot be done online. We need owner's birthday, phone number, address, dog's name, breed, and color and proof of rabies from the vet. If they are spayed or neutered we need proof. Altered dogs are \$6.50 and unaltered dogs are \$9. Puppies under 1 year are \$6.50. You can send us via mail or drop box this information with a check in the correct amount to the Town of Lee and we will mail your license.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYING YOUR LEE PROPERTY TAX BILL

1. **TC/TC Lock Box** – This is labeled and located to the left of the entrance to the Town Hall building. Please leave payment in an envelope with the payment stub.
2. **Mail** - Mail it to our office at 7 Mast Road, Lee, NH 03861. Again, please include the payment stub with your check.
3. **Online** – Go to www.leenh.org. Click on the property taxes button under Town Resource Center. There you may pay via ACH or credit card. There are additional fees associated with this method.

If you want a receipt for any of the above transactions, please include a self- addressed, stamped envelope or include your email address. Thanks for understanding and stay safe!

NH CARES ACT FUNDING

The State has published an online Transparency Map which is an interactive overview of awards made with New Hampshire's CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds. To date, the Town of Lee, as well as other non-profit organizations and for profit businesses have received a total of **\$1,490,852**. Go to <https://www.goferr.nh.gov/> to see a complete list and the amount of funding provided.

The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery has initiated a number of financial aid programs to assist residents such as Supporting Children In Care Program, NH Housing Relief Program, Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) Tuition Assistance Program and NH Agriculture Relief Program Expansion. Please go to <https://www.goferr.nh.gov/apply> for a description of each program and application deadlines.

SAFER AT HOME GUIDELINES

The Stay at Home 2.0 order has been replaced by Safer at Home. Guidelines still must be followed and can be found at <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/>

Town Offices remain closed to the public at this time but we are working on a plan to be able to reopen to the public. Town employees continue to work both remotely and on site and remain committed to ensuring the safety of both employees and the public.

In these difficult times, we want you to know that help is available. Additional funds were recently allocated to The New Hampshire Housing Relief Program to help customers experiencing financial hardship during the pandemic.

- Even if you have never applied before, if you have been laid off or had your hours reduced because of the pandemic, you may be eligible now for a one-time grant of up to \$2,500 or assistance over the course of several months.
- These funds can be used to pay housing or utility costs and will be sent on your behalf direction to your landlord or utility company.
- There is no income limit to qualify.
- This is not a loan and does not need to be paid back.

Apply online, or through your local community action agency. To find an agency nearest you, call 211. Please have copies of your utility bill handy for reference. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

NH HOUSING RELIEF PROGRAM

The GOFERR allocated \$35 million from the \$1.25 billion in federal funds that NH received from the CARES Act State-Local Coronavirus Relief Fund towards a new [Housing Relief Program](#) to assist families and individuals facing housing insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has two components: 1) one-time grants for households that suffered a limited short-term loss of household income or increased expenses that threaten the family's ability to maintain its housing; and 2) short-term rental assistance program. The program is being administered by the state's five Community Action Program (CAP) agencies and more details, including how to apply to your local CAP, can be found [here](#).

NH DHHS Announces Online Purchasing Program for SNAP Recipients

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division for Economic and Housing Stability (DEHS) has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in a pilot program that allows recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase and pay for groceries online. The [SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot](#) program allows the use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to purchase eligible food items through two authorized online retailers, Amazon and Walmart.

"From the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency, we have worked hard to ensure that our residents are able to safely access the things their families need when they need them the most," said Governor Chris Sununu. "Online purchasing provides additional flexibility for all Granite State SNAP recipients, allowing them more ways to use their SNAP benefits to make sure their families have access to healthy and nutritious food during the pandemic and beyond."

"Online purchasing is one more way New Hampshire residents can access good nutrition throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic," said DHHS Commissioner Lori Shibinette. "Purchasing groceries online is safe, secure, and helps people maintain social distancing measures that help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities."

Participation in the pilot program is one of several measures DHHS has taken to reduce concerns around food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Others include the issuance of emergency SNAP benefits; the extension of certification periods for SNAP recipients; a temporary suspension of SNAP work requirements for eligible individuals; participation in Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), which provides families with children enrolled in the National School Lunch Program additional SNAP

benefits due to the loss of school meals during remote learning; and accepting applications by phone for the Women, Infants and Children program. SNAP recipients will be able to purchase eligible food items, but will not be able to use benefits for service or delivery charges.

The SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot was established by the federal 2014 Farm Bill, which mandated a pilot to test the feasibility of allowing online transactions using SNAP benefits. In 2017, eight states were selected to be part of the pilot, which was launched in New York State in 2019, followed by Washington in January 2020. Additional states have joined the program as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot program, please visit <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dfa/foodstamps/index.htm>.

NH Department of Health and Human Services Resource Guide and Warm Line to Support Families During COVID-19

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has developed two new resources to help children, youth, families and caregivers during the COVID-19 emergency.

The first is “[Supporting Child and Family Wellbeing During the COVID-19 Emergency](#),” a new resource guide with practical tips on how we can all support children and families during COVID-19. The guide also provides a list of resources available to families statewide. The second resource is the [Family Support Warm Line](#), a partnership between DHHS and Waypoint. The Family Support Warm Line is a no-cost, confidential phone support line focused on promoting family resiliency. Residents can call 800-640-6486 and speak with family support professionals and parent partners for help with managing family challenges, coping strategies, or emotional support during COVID-19.

“Our data has shown a decline in the number of calls made to DCYF from those community helpers who regularly see kids face to face, but this is continues to be a stressful time for families and our focus has to remain on prevention,” said DCYF Director Joseph Ribsam. “Having resources readily available and a place where parents and caregivers can turn if they need to talk to someone can make a difference for our families and guide them to the services they need to stay strong and healthy, before they reach a tipping point that leads to abuse or neglect.”

The efforts stem from [Emergency Order #22](#), issued by Governor Chris Sununu on April 1, which authorizes emergency funding for critical child protection services to ensure that New Hampshire families continue to receive the right services at the right time during the COVID-19 emergency. In addition to the Family Support Warm Line, the funding will support domestic violence and substance use supports, expansion of the DCYF Strength to Succeed Program, and additional technology support for DCYF-involved families.

March data from the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) shows a [decrease in referrals](#) to DCYF’s Central Intake, compared to the same time period over the past two years. New child abuse and neglect referrals are down nearly 50% each week overall. To learn more about recognizing the signs of child abuse and neglect, visit [Know and Tell](#), an education program offered through the Granite State Children’s Alliance, the Chapter Organization for the network of New Hampshire’s Child Advocacy Centers.

The Family Support Warm Line can be reached toll-free at 1-800-640-6486, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, call the DCYF Central Intake line at (603) 271-6562 or toll-free (in state) at (800) 894-5533.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, STATE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER, 603-223-6169 or jic@dos.nh.gov

TRANSFER STATION

HOURS

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

The Swap Shop will remain closed until further notice.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO GET A TRANSFER STATION STICKER IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE
Stickers are only good for two years!

The easiest way is to get your sticker is when you register your car. If you have already done so and still do not have a sticker, they are available at the Transfer Station or at Town Hall. Proof of residency, such as a recent utility bill, lease or rental agreement, or recent tax bill, and your car registration will be required. If you have any questions please call Town Hall or you may refer to the Solid Waste Ordinance, available [HERE](#).



NEW CHANGES TO MIXED PAPER

Mixed paper should still be placed with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) EXCEPT NOW please go back to separating your office paper and magazines from your mixed paper in order to start the Town's recycling revenue back up again. Acceptable paper items are copy paper, envelopes (windows ok), junk mail (no glossy mail), any magazines.

PLEASE CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

Both bays remain open as we have seen an improvement in the flow of traffic, but everyone has to maintain the recommended safe distance of 6' while inside. In order for our employees and residents to maintain a safe distance, employees will not be stationed on the wall during this time but will be available to answer questions.

PLEASE KEEP CHILDREN IN YOUR VEHICLE

PLEASE have your child(ren) stay in your vehicle while you are disposing of trash and recyclables. This is for their safety! If they have to be out of the vehicle please keep them next to you at all times and do not let them run through the Transfer Station, roadways or parking areas.

There are several important issues you must be aware of regarding your household trash and recycling disposal if you or anyone in your household has been quarantined for COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19. Your trash and recycling must be handled and disposed of under different rules. Please consult Caren Rossi, Lee's Health Officer to discuss the new steps that must be taken. Email is crossi@leenh.org or phone at 659-6783. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bulky items are accepted at the Transfer Station, HOWEVER, payment will be by check only – there will be a drop box available. Employees will **not** be able to assist with removing items from your vehicle but will be available to guide you, weigh items, and answer your questions.



[CLICK HERE](#) for Lee Farmers Market
Facebook Page

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Lee Farms and
Agricultural Brochure

**During this time of social distancing and no Farmer's Markets –
Please remember to shop your local farms online, by delivery or pickup**

WILKINSON FOOD PANTRY - Lee Church Congregational, 17 Mast Rd

Even though our building is closed, 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 6 - 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

The Planning Board, Energy, Advisory Budget, and Sustainability Committees have openings to be filled. If you are interested contact the Town Secretary Denise Duval at 603-659-5414 or email dduval@leenh.org. [CLICK HERE](#) for Application.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Go to <https://www.leenh.org/calendar>

LIBRARY CALENDAR

Go to <https://www.leenh.org/node/14/events/month/2019-08>

READY RIDES

Notice : Change in Services Due to Social Distancing Recommendation

Ready Rides is still operating during this time. We have adjusted our services to reflect the recommendations in place and to protect both our drivers and riders while still remaining available to those most vulnerable without taking them from their homes to incur possible contact with the virus. We are still providing rides to patients who require life sustaining services such as dialysis, blood transfusions, injections etc. We will take each request as they come in and assess the depth of the need. We are suspending all rides to counseling, physical therapy and general health and dental checkups. We recommend you utilize family friends and neighbors who you already have regular contact with to help provide rides during this short suspension.

A service we are adding to our registered riders is pharmacy pickups and food pantry and grocery pickups. If you have placed an order with Walmart.com or Hannaford.com we have volunteers who will pickup these orders and bring them to your door with minimal contact.

If you are unable to order online and you are in desperate need of help with acquiring food or some necessity here are some resources. If you live in Durham call 868-2324 for assistance. If you live in the Newfields call 772-9010 and ask for Helping Hands for assistance.

Barrington, Lee, Madbury, Newmarket, Northwood, Barrington, Nottingham and Strafford do not directly have things in place yet. Call us here at 244-8719 and we will do our best to find a way to get you the help you need.

What Ready Rides Offers During Normal Operation

Ready Rides provides transportation at no charge for the elderly & disabled residents living in Barrington, Durham, Lee, Madbury, Newfields, Newmarket, Northwood, Nottingham and Strafford. 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 us at info@readyrides.org or call (603) 244-8719. You can find an [Application](#) for riders and a [Volunteer Application](#) can be printed from this website and emailed or mailed to Ready Rides PO Box 272 Northwood, NH 03261. For other transportation options available in the region, please visit ACT's [Community Transportation Directory](#).

LEE FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT



Scott M. Nemet
Fire Chief

20 George Bennett Road
Lee, New Hampshire 03861
(P): 603.659.5411 (F): 603.659.9611



Jeffery S. Liporto
Deputy Chief



**LEE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT SEEKING CALL
FIREFIGHTERS AND EMTS**
[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

BURN PERMIT

[CLICK HERE](#) for NH BURN PERMIT RULES AND REGULATIONS
[CLICK HERE](#) to get a Burn Permit Online

[BACKYARD BURNING QUICK GUIDE](#)
[DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS FIRE PERMIT BROCHURE](#)

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Fire Department Fee Schedule
Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Permitting Checklist and Reference Guide

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. Some mailboxes are clustered together. The numbers are small and the location may not mark the entrance to your driveway.

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 \$35.00 and it will be installed by the Lee Firemen's Association.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Reflective House Number Sign Request Form



NEW HOURS FOR THE LIBRARY

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 11am -7pm
Thursday and Friday 10am – 5pm Saturday 9am – 12pm



Youth Programs September/October 2020

Story-time At The Library! (weather permitting)

We will have an outdoor/in person story time Thursday morning from 10:00-10:45 weather permitting. Bring a blanket and your mask. Watch the library Facebook page for updates/cancellations.



Grab and Go Crafts - Pick up on Tuesdays

We continue to put out new craft kits and activities every Tuesday at 2:00 pm. We also have fun worksheets to take.

October 20 *Tissue paper leaf crafts*

October 27 *Spider web craft/Spider game*

Preschool Story-time – Thursdays - 11:00-11:45am

Come join our preschool story-time on **Facebook Live!** every Thursday.

October 22 – *Halloween stories/costumes*

October 29 – *Halloween stories/favorites*

Lap Sit Story-time – Wednesdays - October 21 11:30-noon

We will do some movement activities and read a story or two via **Facebook Live!**

Music and movement Story-time - Wednesday - October 14 - 2:30-3:00pm

We will sing and move to some fun stories and songs. A **Facebook Live!** Program.

Pajama Story-time - Wednesday - October 28 - 6:00-6:45pm

We will read some fun stories, do some activities and learn some fun facts. Wear your pajamas and bring your teddy bear. A **Facebook Live!** Program.

Curbside Pickup

Contact-less curb-side pickup is available during regular open hours. If the weather is non-cooperative, the pickup will be just inside the library front door. You may request items via phone 659-2626, [email](#) or online through our [catalog](#). Your requested items will be checked out to you, placed in a bag, and tagged with your name. We will email or call you when your items are ready to be picked up.

Library to Library Loans are up and running

Yes, you may now make requests for items that might be in another NH library. We will not be able to get recently published items, but many other titles are available. Not all NH libraries will be participating, but as each community assesses their level of risk and response to our current situation, we should see more and more libraries coming back into the program.

There will be a longer wait time for getting materials due to ongoing COVID-19 mitigation/quarantine restrictions.



Youth Program via Zoom
Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
Virtual Live Animal Program
"Creatures of the Night"
Saturday, October 17, 2020 10:30 am

Join us as we discover what animals are found at night. Sponsored by the Lee, Madbury and Durham Public Libraries and the Friends of the Lee Library. A virtual zoom program. Visit the [Durham Public Library](#) Website to sign up for this program. All ages welcome.



A VIRTUAL PROGRAM via Zoom.us.join
Meeting ID 476 452 0503 Password 675752
The Founding Fathers: What were they thinking?
Wednesday October 28, 2020 7:00pm

In 1787 delegates gathered in Philadelphia to address a wide variety of crises facing the young USA and produced a charter for a new government. In modern times, competing political and legal claims are frequently based on what those delegates intended. Mythology about the founders and their work at the 1787 Convention has obscured both fact and legitimate analysis of the events leading to the agreement called the Constitution. Richard Hesse explores the cast of characters called "founders," the problems they faced, and the solutions they fashioned.

Presented by [Richard Hesse](#), Professor Emeritus at the UNH School of Law. Professor Hesse has published on a variety of legal and ethical topics. He served as a community lawyer in Philadelphia, heading a police community relations project before moving to Boston to head a national project focused on the rights of consumers. His academic concentration is on state and federal constitutional law and international human rights. Hesse has been an advocate for civil and human rights for more than 50 years and was twice awarded the Bill of Rights Award by the NH Civil Liberties Union. New Hampshire Humanities to Go program sponsored by the Lee Library and the Lee Historical Society.

**Regional & State
News & Events**



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

GOVERNOR & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2020

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 10/7/2020 Minutes

Next Governor & Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the State House in Concord, NH

OYSTER RIVER SCHOOL BOARD NEWS – OCTOBER 7, 2020

The Oyster River and Barrington School Boards held a joint meeting on October 7 to review the effectiveness of the Barrington-Oyster River high school tuition agreement. Students from Barrington make up about 20% of the ORHS student body. The current 10-year agreement runs through the 2024-2025 school year.

A School Board Workshop (no decisions made) has been added for October 14 focused exclusively on the fall hybrid and remote school models and potential changes. This discussion will continue at the board's October 21 regular meeting.

Oyster River High School sports teams will be allowed to play in state tournaments, beginning with golf and cross country starting the week of October 12. The Athletic Director is closely tracking the precautions NHIAA is implementing. Go Bobcats!

Laptops for the full roll-out of the high school 1:1 device plan have been received and the IT department is working to configure them as quickly as possible so they can be issued to high school students who have not already received one.

ORCSD will enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with ReVision Energy to construct a 638 kW solar array on the new Middle School site. The array will be on the roof of the building and on a canopy that will partially shade the drop-off loop. The PPA gives Oyster River the option to purchase the system from ReVision in 2027. This investment will enable the new ORMS to generate at least 98% as much energy as it uses and will generate a long-term utility cost savings for Oyster River taxpayers.

McGregor EMS Volunteers Needed

McGregor EMS is currently seeking both Medical and Non-Medical Volunteers. Those interested may email membership@mcgregorems.org. To learn more about this great service [CLICK HERE](#)!

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 Andy Corrow, Commander, VFW Post 10676, at 603-397-9267 or 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 Town Hall for a **printed copy** or go to the Library to view it there. If you cannot leave your home please call Town Secretary Denise Duval at 659-5414 to have it mailed!