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 28^{th} , your ballots were mailed out either Monday, September 28^{th} or Tuesday, September 29^{th} . If you requested a ballot after the September 28^{th} , 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

Ireinhold@leenh.org, estone@leenh.org

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. We have begun the modifications 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.

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.**

Walk-up Voter Registration sessions are also planned for Tuesday, October 13th and 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 <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>October 28th from 4:30-6:30pm at the Public Safety Complex</u>. 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 You Tube 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

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.

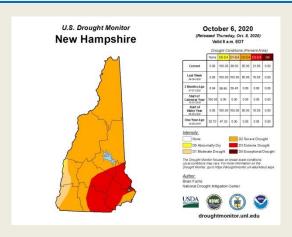
The Trick or Treating

- 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 <u>readynh.gov</u>



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION & DROUGHT GUIDANCE **CLICK HERE** for Governor's Proclamation Prohibiting Open Fires and Smoking In and Near Woodlands

As the growing season winds down and cooler temperatures set in, there is only a small window of time left to eliminate non-essential outdoor use in an effort to sustain supplies to meet essential future needs. The Select Board strongly urges everyone to follow water conservation guidelines.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the southeast section of the state experiencing "extreme drought" (D3) conditions has doubled in size from 11% to 22% since last week. The majority of the state (73%) remains in "severe drought" (D2). This weekend will be dry, except there is potential for occasional showers up north. On Friday, temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s across most of the state and in the low 60s in the south. On Saturday, temperatures will be in the 70s and will then again drop by 10 to 15 degrees on Sunday. There is a possibility the state will receive the remnants of Hurricane Delta early next week, but the track of the storm cannot yet be predicted; therefore, temperature and precipitation forecasts for early next week are uncertain.

The state Drought Management Team met last week. See the <u>follow up press release</u> for a summary of drought conditions and impacts.

All counties are experiencing a 30-day, 90-day, 180-day, and 360-day precipitation departures from normal. Departures from the spring range from -4.98" in Coos County to -10.15" in Rockingham (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 occasional showers in the north on Saturday, but otherwise a dry weekend. On Friday, temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s across most of the state and in the low 60s in the south. On Saturday, temperatures will be in the 70s and will then again drop by 10 to 15 degrees on Sunday. Due to uncertainty in forecast models related to the track of the remnants of Hurricane Delta, the weather for early next week is unpredictable. (NOAA National Weather Service). The 6-10 day outlook and 8-14 day outlook favor above normal temperatures and lean slightly toward above normal precipitation.

(National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center).

According to the <u>US Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook</u>, over the next three months, drought conditions are likely to improve, but persist across the majority of the state.

LEE LIBRARY HISTORIC DESIGNATION PROJECT

My name is Tom Coakley and I am a newly-elected trustee for the Lee Public Library. I have only been a trustee for the past four months, but I am pleased to be a part of a very dedicated group of individuals. Every trustee takes on projects and different duties, trying their best to make the Lee Public Library a vibrant part of the community.

The Historic Designation Project is to attempt to have the original School House portion of the library recognized for its historical significance to the town of Lee. As the Lee Historical Society and the Lee Heritage Committee will probably attest, this can entail many hours of research and dedication. I look at this project as a perfect venue to get to know my community, my neighbors, and an important part of Lee's history.

This project is based on the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources application process. We will be required to research and define responses to 48 questions based on the Historical Significance of the School House section of the library. These questions include architecture, structure, photographs, and personal narratives. Each category needs to be answered and supported with documentation. It is not a project for the "Faint of Heart." Yet, I am already finding it a very rewarding challenge.

As a retired teacher of 43 years at the middle school level, I realize that collaborative projects work best when we can bounce ideas off each other and work to find solutions together. I am seeking collaborators to help make this project a success: members from the town's already successful Historic Designation projects, returning college students, and interested community members who wish to become involved with this library project.

We hope to schedule a Zoom meeting where we can explore the project and to discuss areas of interest, the possible challenges, and creative ideas. If you are interested in being involved, please e-mail Thomas Coakley tic1950@yahoo.com. I will notify volunteers a week in advance as to when the Zoom meeting will take place and will send out an agenda to guide the conversation while remaining open to new ideas and approaches. The trustees believe this project will be an interesting opportunity to learn about our library's history and to connect with other members of the community. We hope you will join us!

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.

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 spacing, 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-volunteer

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







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:

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

Things to Do and See and Places to Go October 9th - October 20th 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/

Anytime: Take a Walk! Lee is absolutely beautiful right now, though windy days will soon make inroads on the foliage display. The bog is spectacular with the blueberry leaves contrasting with the grey green of black spruce. Appearing along the trails in the Town Forest, Little River Park and Maud Jones look for the strange and fascinating flowers of ghost plants; the red berries of wintergreen, partridge berry, bunchberry, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Canada mayflower and winterberry. The scant rains we've had in the past week have been enough to trigger the emergence of all kinds of mushrooms - children love to see how many different shapes and colors they can find.

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 week's Nature Notes is the second of a three part series on milkweed. We love having folks share their nature photos, so feel free to post if you have a photo you'd like to share.

Anytime: Make Your Own Nature Blocks - Bark and fallen limbs can be used to make beautiful nature blocks for children to use when playing with toy animals. All you need is a hand saw. My grandson and I will be making some of these in the coming week. Learn more here: https://www.adventure-in-a-box.com/how-to-make-waldorf-inspired-nature-blocks-creative-challenge/

Anytime: Make a Mandala - Use brightly colored fallen leaves, acorns, colorful berries, cones, pine needles, bits of lichen and other fallen materials to make beautiful patterned rings. This has always been a favorite nature walk activity. We'd love to see some of the creations that folks come up with, so feel free to post your pictures on our Facebook page (above).



Bird of the Week: The Little King

By Catherine Fisher

Late September is usually when I see the season's first golden crowned kinglets. Although many overwinter in the boreal forests of eastern Canada, Maine and northern NH, a large part of the population moves south in the winter months, and they begin to show up in Lee in mid-autumn.

Golden-crowned kinglets are dapper and appealing little birds. And they really are very, very little. In our part of the world, only ruby-throated hummingbirds are smaller, and not by much. Weighing in at 5 grams - the same as two pennies - the golden-crowned kinglet is the smallest perching bird on the planet.

Male and female golden-crowned kinglets have almost identical plumage that is both strikingly patterned and wonderfully concealing. With their grey-green backs and white breasts and bellies they present a fine example of countershading. This type of contrasting coloring, where the back (dorsal) side is dark, while the underside (ventral) is light, is found in all types of vertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic. In the kinglet's case, seen from above, the grey-green back blends in with the branches and foliage where the bird perches and forages. Seen from below, the pale breast and belly blend in with the sky. From the side, the kinglet's two-tone coloring helps disrupt its outline, providing further concealment from would-be predators.

Almost as a counterpoint to this camouflaging color pattern, the golden-crowned kinglet has a beautifully patterned head topped by a gorgeous crown. The female's crown is a pure, bright yellow, while the male's crown has a patch of orange in the middle. Kinglets have white faces with a black stripe running through the eye and another beneath their crests. Adding to their visual appeal are their tiny black beaks, the rolly-polly look of their round bellies, and their bright yellow feet set off by thin black legs.

Though historically this species has bred almost exclusively in the higher latitudes of Canada, the golden-crowned kinglet has, in recent years, been expanding its range south into northern portions of the United States. Coniferous forests are its preferred habitat and nests are almost always located 50-60 feet high in a spruce or fir, suspended from the end of a twig or a forked branch. Both male and female take part in constructing the deep, cup shaped nest made of spider silk, tree bark, lichens, feathers, animal hair, moss, dead grass, pine needles, and "unidentified stretchable material". Once the nest is constructed, the female lays a clutch of 8-9 tiny white eggs. Though she may sit on the eggs at night, she does not begin brooding until nearly all the clutch has been laid, after which she spends most of her time on the nest and is fed by her mate. Two weeks later her brood hatches, and for the first few days feeding is largely the task of the male. The boreal forest can be a cold place in spring, and the female spends much of her time keeping the chicks warm. Once the young are a few days old, the female joins the male in the task of feeding their enormous family, but only for a little while. Soon the male is back to having to provide most of the food for his ravenous chicks, while the female gets on with the business of building a new nest for the next brood. From the time the chicks of the first brood have fledged, until they are on their own 17 days later, their care is wholly the responsibility of the male. During this time the female is incubating another large clutch of eggs. It is amazing that, given the short breeding season at higher latitudes, these little birds often produce a dozen and a half chicks each year. So, what's driving this hyperprocreativity? The perils of winter, may hold the answer.

Despite the fact that their diet consists almost entirely of invertebrates, that they have almost no fat reserves, and that their tiny size makes them very vulnerable to heat loss due to cold, golden crowned kinglets often overwinter in snow-covered regions where insects and other invertebrates are seemingly scarce, and the night temperatures can drop to 40°F. Winter is a severe winnower, and often takes a huge toll - up 87% of the golden-crowned kinglet population. Large broods are

necessary to replace such devastating losses. How the remaining 13% survive, what they eat to sustain themselves and how they withstand the long and often bitterly cold winter nights, is still poorly understood, although the research of a few hardy souls is beginning to provide some insights. Feeding and roosting in densely needled conifers such as spruce, fir, and hemlock, probably plays a significant part in this species' cold-coping strategy; roosting in groups that huddle together for warmth is another. Kinglets tuck their heads under their wings to prevent heat loss through their eyes and beaks; another cold-adaptation may be the single tiny feather covering each nostril. None of these strategies are enough to keep the kinglet's core temperature at the 111° it needs for its body to function. Though it has not been proven, many biologists believe that these birds become hypothermic at night, drastically lowering their body temperature and reducing their metabolism to the point where the birds' hearts beat just enough to keep them alive.

What the species feeds on during the long winter had long been a mystery, but it is now known that a large part of the golden-crowned kinglet's diet are tiny caterpillars that overwinter on firs, maples, alders, birches and oaks.

They are remarkably tame. Whenever I encounter one in the fall (and during this time of year, they tend to forage low in the canopy and in shrubs, and even on the ground), the kinglet usually seems as interested in looking at me as I am at looking at it. This week, returning home from the Town Forest, I came upon a male golden-crowned kinglet feeding on the ground just off the paved walkway on the north side of Mast Way School. I was only a few yards away when I noticed him and stopped. He continued foraging for whatever tiny critters he was busy with and seemed not at all concerned that I was looming so close to him. When I see one in the woods, using my wrist to make soft kissing sounds will often bring it down to investigate, before it returns to the business of finding a meal.

A few years back we had a male kinglet spend the entire winter in our yard. I'm sure it found spiders and other tiny critters among the conifer needles and bark crevices, but the suet feeder in our old apple tree was a place he frequented every day. His beak was too small to peck out pieces of suet, so instead he gleaned the bits that fell to the ground when the woodpeckers hacked out pieces. Occasionally, if a woodpecker pecked out more than it could swallow, it would wedge the suet chunk in one of several cracks in the apple tree's bark, then peck off bite-sized pieces. The kinglet visited these as well, daintily picking off minute pieces of suet until the crack in the bark was clean. Occasionally, when startled by a larger bird, he'd raise his orange-red crest, and when the sun shone on him, it seemed to set his golden crown ablaze. As usually happens with a special bird at the feeding station over the course of a long winter, we became attached to "our kinglet", and it was impossible not to wonder about where he sheltered and how he fared on frigid or stormy nights. The following mornings were always a bit fraught, until the brisk little fellow showed up for his morning portion of suet bits. We passed a whole winter enjoying the company of that hardy little soul.



Male Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa)" by Jacob McGinnis is licensed under



Golden-crowned Kinglet" by Rick Leche is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

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 stat 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.

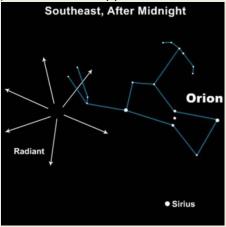


Looking Southwest, 40 Minutes after Sunset (@ 6:40) October 17-20: Watch the Young Moon grow and move past Antares and towards Jupiter and Saturn - The young moon will be just a slip of a thing on the 17th and will quickly disappear beneath the southwestern horizon on the 17th. But, with each passing day, it will grow a bit more robust and be visible longer as it glides past Antares, the alpha star of the constellation Scorpio (the Scorpion). Antares, whose name is Greek for "Rival to Mars" is a red giant. Were it to be situated in our sun's location, it would extend past the orbit of Mars!

Though not pictured in our star chart, look for Jupiter and Saturn further south (left) above the horizon on these evenings.



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.



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 indepth 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.

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 lreinhold@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.

EVERS=URCE

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. <u>CLICK HERE</u> 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 <u>decrease in referrals</u> 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 <u>Know and Tell</u>, 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 INFORMATON CENTER, 603-223-6169 or jic@dos.nh.gov

THE TRANSFER STATION IS OPEN BUT PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

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.

CHANGES TO MIXED PAPER

Mixed paper should be placed with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) until further notice. We are doing this to protect our employees, as it takes a great deal of handling and sorting in order to make it recyclable. When we are no longer under the conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will switch to having residents separate office paper and magazines from other types of paper in order to maximize our recycling revenue.

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

<u>PLEASE</u> 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, Madury, 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



CLICK HERE for NH BURN PERMIT RULES AND REGULATONS

CLICK HERE to get a Burn Permit Online

BACKYARD BURNING QUICK GUIDE
DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS FIRE PERMIT BROCHURE

Please <u>CLICK HERE</u> for the Fire Department Fee Schedule

Please <u>CLICK HERE</u> 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

Lee Public Library

NEW HOURS FOR THE LIBRARY

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 11am -7pm
Thursday and Friday 10am – 5pm Saturday 9am – 12pm
CLOSED Monday, October 12th for Columbus Day



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 week at 2:00 pm. We also have fun worksheets to pick up.

October 13 Paper bag Scarecrow, Pom-pom monsters, Pom-pom pumpkins

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 15 – Pumpkin stories and counting

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, <a href="mailto:emai

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 hundreds of thousand other titles will soon become available. Not all NH libraries will be participating initially, 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 <u>Durham Public Library</u> 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 <u>Richard Hesse</u>, 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.





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 <u>printed copy</u> 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!