

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

**Lee News & Upcoming
Events
December 4, 2020**



DUE TO COVID THERE WILL NOT BE A LEE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AT THE TRIANGLE THIS YEAR; HOWEVER THE LIGHTS WILL BE TURNED ON FOR EVERYONE'S HOLIDAY ENJOYMENT ON DECEMBER 5TH

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Town will be collecting much needed supplies for the Wilkinson Food Pantry until the end of the year. Drop off is at the Transfer Station during their normal business hours (Tues, Thurs and Sat 7:00am - 6:00pm). Please bring donations to the side of the building where you would normally drop off bulky fee items and place them in the provided container. Below are examples of the items that are needed:

- Health Items - Band-Aids, ointments, ace bandages
- Hygiene items - deodorant, tooth brush, toothpaste, sanitary products, soap, shampoo, conditioner, brush, combs, hair ties , diapers, wipes
- Paper products - toilet paper, tissues, napkins, paper towels

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW AND IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING!

NEED HELP WITH THE HOLIDAYS?

If your family is in need of a little help this holiday season, please reach out to Caren Rossi, at 659-6783 or email crossi@leenh.org and she will see that you get the assistance you need to ensure that your children, of all ages, do not go without. She will liaison with other community groups to ensure that all needs are met without duplications. Please be sure to contact her before December 12th to ensure shopping can be completed by the many people who will make this all happen. Your request will be held in the strictest confidence. All we ask is that you don't wait until the last minute!

TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICES MOVING ON JANUARY 5, 2021

Selectmen's Office, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and Building Department

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has approved the use of Buzzell Lane to enter and exit the new municipal office building located at 249 Calef Highway (across from Sunny's.) Buzzell Lane is located off of George Bennett Road. This means of egress is temporary while the building owner's engineer works with NHDOT to reconfigure Route 125 in front of the building. Signs and striping are being installed now. There is plenty of parking all around the building and each department will have its own entrance.

While we anticipate a smooth transition we appreciate your patience as we make this significant change.

SELECT BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM – MONDAY, December 14th 6:00 pm

Meeting ID 892 7541 3158 & Password 124855

ABC BUDGET MEETING – TUESDAY, December 8th 6:30 pm

Meeting ID 851 2991 6736 & 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](#)

2020 Tax Rate Has Been Set at \$31.86

Due Date is December 16, 2020

School	County	Town	State Ed	Total
19.80	3.12	6.62	2.32	31.86

CEMETERY TRUSTEES NOTICE

Please be advised that the gates to the cemetery closed on December 1st will remain closed to automobile traffic until April 1st unless conditions require a later date. The gate across from Town Hall will be open to foot traffic at all times after the other gates are closed.

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!

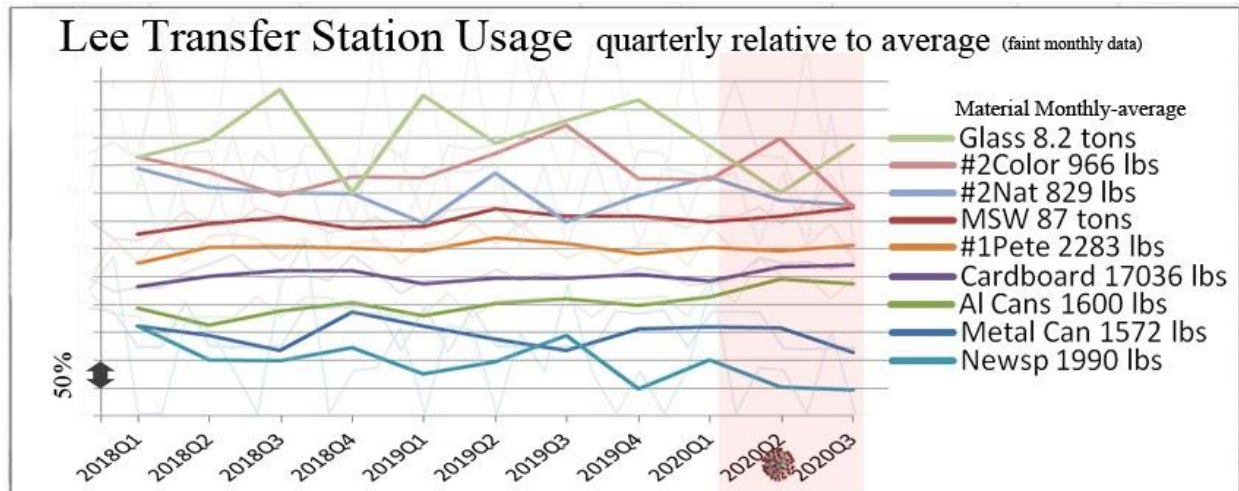
The Project Team will be working under the supervision of the NHDOT to perform a Road Safety Audit on the complex intersection at Lee Center in hopes to generate alternatives to create a safer intersection for automotive and pedestrian traffic. They look forward to the community's feedback so they can 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.



Lee Transfer Station Usage through September 2020

Dean Rubine, Lee Sustainability Committee

In July we published a chart showing aluminum can, cardboard and solid waste disposal had increased at the Lee transfer station in the second quarter, likely a result of the pandemic. In this article we extend the chart through the third quarter of 2020.



Here are the graphs of the last eleven quarters of some of our waste streams. I've highlighted 2020Q2 and 2020Q3 in pink -- that's April through September 2020, the pandemic period. Each stream has a baseline indicating its average over 33 months; the baseline is indicated by the label which includes the monthly average. A move up or down a line indicates a 50% increase or decrease. The noisier monthly data is lightly overlaid. Thanks to Public Works Manager Steve Bullek for the raw data.

Aluminum can, cardboard and municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal remains high compared to prepandemic norms. I've added glass and the number two plastics, both colored and natural, to the chart at the committee's request. Unfortunately for these the quarterly data is too noisy to draw conclusions from.

DROUGHT UPDATE

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Hampshire



December 1, 2020
(Released Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	17.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week	0.00	100.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago	0.00	100.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6 Months Ago	0.00	100.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9 Months Ago	0.00	100.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago	0.00	100.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Interpretation:
None: No Drought
D0: Abnormally Dry
D1: Moderate Drought
D2: Severe Drought
D3: Extreme Drought
D4: Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Author:
Richard Higgins
NCEM/NOAA

USDA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor map](#) released today, the recent precipitation was enough to provide some parts of the state drought relief. Approximately 42% of the state experiencing moderate drought has now been re-categorized as "abnormally dry". The southeast portion of the state experiencing severe and extreme drought remains mostly unchanged and while [this month's drought outlook](#) and the [3-month drought outlook](#) indicate drought improvement is likely in this area, drought removal is not. The drought outlook also indicates drought removal is likely across the remainder of the state by the end of the month.

While conditions are trending in the right direction, it is advised, especially for those areas experiencing severe and extreme drought to monitor conditions carefully and continue to promote [indoor water saving tips](#). Also, while precipitation deficits are the greatest in the southeast, long term precipitation deficits remain throughout the entire state. **IMPORTANT!** Are residential well owners experiencing well shortage issues in your community? If so, they may qualify for the [Low-Income Residential Drought Assistance Program](#).



One Bin at a Time – Office Paper

Talking trash with Jen Messeder, LSC member

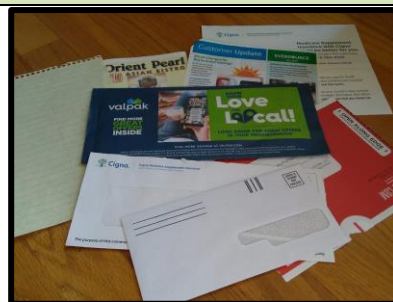
Now let's take a look at the office paper side of the divided bin (on the right). This is the side where we might get paid to recycle – if we sort correctly.



YES, please!

Earn: about \$75/ton (varies, as of Q1 2020)

- Basic 8.5x11 and similar paper of any color or size
- Copy paper
- Plain (not shiny) mail
- Lined notebook paper, graph paper
- Envelopes (plastic windows are okay)



NOT HERE (but maybe in another bin)

Magazines and magazine-like catalogs; they go on the left side of the divided bin.



The following are trash:

- Shiny paper
- Card stock (postcards, business cards)
- Gift-wrapping paper and tissue paper
- Food boxes and wet pack cartons



Refuse • Reduce • Reuse • Repair • Repurpose • Recycle • Rot

 • Lee NH Sustainability Committee • Low Carbon Diet - Seacoast NH • "Zero Waste" groups

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 still experiencing a higher volume of calls than usual, so if your call is not immediately answered, please leave a message or email ireinhold@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!

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. Proof of residency, such as a recent utility bill, lease or rental agreement, or recent tax bill, and your car registration will be required. Please call the Town Hall with question or refer to the Solid Waste Ordinance, available [HERE](#).

MIXED PAPER

Mixed paper should still be placed with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) EXCEPT please separate 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

Change in Services Due to Social Distancing Recommendation

Ready Rides is still providing rides to patients. We recommend you utilize family friends and neighbors who you already have regular contact with to help provide rides if possible but we are here for you if you need us. **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 pick up 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 Barrington, Lee, Madbury, Newmarket, Northwood, Barrington, Nottingham and Strafford towns call 244-8719 and we will do our best to find a way to get you the help you need.

What Ready Rides does during normal operations

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

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

As you know, we are still in the midst of Covid 19. The department remains fully staffed and operating to protect our community but must continue to modify the way we provide some of its services. The Safety Complex remains closed to all visitors for the foreseeable future, but business will continue to be conducted via phone or email. Go to <https://www.leenh.org/fire-department>.

Burn permits are still required for all outside burning and all State burning regulations are still in effect. Burning regulations and permits can be found [HERE](#). Please check to see what the fire class for the day is prior to lighting any outside fire. Class 3 day or higher, all outside burning is not allowed. You can find out what fire class day it is by visiting the NH Forest and Lands website or look at the road side board at the Public Safety Complex.

All station tours remain suspended as are all home visits for wood stove, burn permit and inspection purposes. Furnace installation inspections will be conducted on an emergency basis for emergency replacement only. All furnace replacement work shall be coordinated through the Fire Chief's office before any work is to be done. All Covid 19 related inquiries should be made to the Town's Health Officer, Caren Rossi.

Winter is closing in and we would like to pass on some friendly reminders for fire safety.

- Change batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Have furnaces and water heaters (fuel burning) cleaned and inspected annually.
- Have woodstove and fireplace chimneys inspected and cleaned annually. Only burn seasoned hardwood to reduce creosote build-up. Burn your woodstoves at high temperatures occasionally to burn off creosote build-up in the chimney.
- During power outages practice generator safety and keep generators at least 10' from the house in a well-ventilated area. Never run them inside the house or a garage.
- Live Christmas trees should be kept watered and placed away from heat sources to prevent drying out. Remove from the home if they become dry and the needles readily fall off.
- Inspect all lighting used to decorate Christmas trees and do not use any lights that are defective.
- Keep all vents on your home free and clear of snow and ice.
- Keep all means of egress from your home shoveled and clear for easy escape in case of fire.
- When the ponds and rivers freeze over stay off of the ice until it has been deemed safe to walk on. Ice should be at least 4" thick before being considered safe to walk on. Stay away from areas where there is running water or current as they will not freeze enough to hold a person's weight.

We hope you all have a safe and happy winter season. Remember to please wear a mask in public, practice social distancing and wash your hands frequently to help prevent the spread of Covid 19.



**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

IRS

The IRS recently urged any eligible self-supporting college student who doesn't need to file a tax return to register by November 21st so they can receive an Economic Impact Payment before the end of the year. More information can be found [here](#).

Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery

- **Shelter Modification Program** – The GOFERR allocated \$15 million from the federal funding NH received through the CARES Act towards creating the Shelter Modification Program. The New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) will distribute grants to existing homeless shelters for physical modifications and expansion before December 30, 2020 to enable shelters to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The application window is now open and NHHFA will accept and approve applications until funds are exhausted or December 14, 2020, whichever comes first. More information and the application can be found [here](#).
- **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](#).

FEDERAL RESERVE

The Federal Reserve Board recently adjusted the terms of the Main Street Lending Program in two important ways to better target support to smaller businesses that employ millions of workers and are facing continued revenue shortfalls due to the pandemic. In particular, the minimum loan size for three Main Street facilities available to for-profit and non-profit borrowers has been reduced from \$250,000 to \$100,000 and the fees have been adjusted to encourage the provision of these smaller loans. The Board and Department of the Treasury also issued a new frequently asked question clarifying that Paycheck Protection Program loans of up to \$2 million may be excluded for purposes of determining the maximum loan size under the Main Street Lending Program, if certain requirements are met, which should also help smaller businesses access Main Street loans. More information can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR NH

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program** –New Hampshire is set to receive \$25,117,942 in assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). More information can be found [here](#).
- **Funding to Support NH Outdoor Recreation & Forest Economies** –New Hampshire has been awarded \$467,410 from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support the state's outdoor recreation and forest economies. These grants will be allocated through NBRC and USDA's State Economic & Infrastructure Development program and help create and retain jobs and promote economic growth in rural Granite State communities. More information can be found [here](#).

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 INFORMATON CENTER, 603-223-6169 or jic@dos.nh.gov

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available in New Hampshire Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration for Drought

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and private nonprofit organizations as a result of drought. The loans are available in the following counties: Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford and Sullivan in **New Hampshire**. Loan applications can be downloaded from sba.gov/disaster. Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than **June 15, 2021**. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.



HOURS

Monday 11-7

Tuesday 11-7

Wednesday 11-7

Thursday 10-5

Friday 10-5

Saturday 9-12

Youth Programs December 2020

Grab and Go Crafts - Pick up on Tuesdays while supplies last!

December 1

December 8

December 15

December 22

December 29

Music and Movement Facebook Live on Wednesday, December 9, 2:30 p.m.

Preschool Story Time on Facebook Live, Thursday, December 10, 10:30 a.m.



Middle School Book Discussion Group

Monday, December 7th 6:00pm on Zoom

This month we will finish reading **A Good Kind of Trouble** by Lisa Moore Ramee. Our next title will be **Because of Mr. Terupt** by Rob Buyea. If you are in grades 5-8 and interested in joining us please call the Library @ 659-2626 to register.

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 main entrance. 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.



Saturday, December 5th 10:30am via Zoom

Cactus Head Puppets Presents:
Magnificent Monster Circus Show



Register at www.durhampubliclibrary.org to participate in this program.

Regional & State News & Events

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD NEWS December 16, 2020

Oyster River High School returned from the Thanksgiving holiday break with freshmen having the opportunity to come into the high school for academic support and enrichment activities on Monday and Tuesday afternoon. About half of 9th graders chose to participate. This program will expand to grades 9-12 next week.

The school district is seeking to hire additional bus drivers and paraprofessionals.

The School Board approved a preliminary 2021-2022 budget that represents a 3% spending increase over the current school year budget. The budget will be reviewed at a public hearing in January, and again at the district Deliberative Session in February leading up to a public vote on the budget in March.

The committee to Improve Instructional Strategies had its first meeting on December 3rd. This committee includes school administrators, parents, teachers, and school board members.

The school board will meet with the ORHS Student Senate the morning of December 9th and with the Barrington School Board the evening of December 9th, followed by the next regular school board meeting on December 16th.

GOVERNOR & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, December 2, 2020

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 12/2/2020 Minutes

Next Governor & Executive Council Meeting

Friday, December 18, 2020 10:00 a.m. in Concord, NH



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

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!