

TOWN OF LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

7 Mast Road
Lee, New Hampshire 03861
(603) 659-5414

April 10, 2020

Lee News & Upcoming
Events



#WeAreInThisTogether

Stay at Home

New Hampshire has issued a Stay at Home order due to COVID-19

Let's work together to help stop the spread.
We CAN make a difference!

Only leave home to:

-  Seek medical care
-  Get essential supplies
(Groceries, medication, cleaning supplies)
-  Get food from take-out
only restaurants
-  Exercise outside while
practicing social distancing

For more information visit:
nh.gov/covid19/

 NH DIVISION OF
Public Health Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Although you may not be able to see some of us, please be assured that we are all still hard at work to keep Town operations flowing as seamlessly as possible, even though Town Hall, the Planning & Zoning office, and the Library remain closed to the public. Employees are now working remotely on a rotating schedule with one staff member at a time working in Town Hall and the P&Z office. We monitor on a daily basis all communications from the state and federal governments and we continue to communicate with each other so that everyone is connected and staying informed and up to speed on the latest information, which, as you all know changes rapidly.

We are encouraging anyone who has questions or needs assistance to call us or utilize our online systems for access to assessing records, motor vehicle registration, etc. (20-day temporary plates issued after 3/1/20 for NEWLY ACQUIRED vehicles have been extended through April 30, 2020.)

NH Department of Health and Human Services FAQ Sheet on COVID-19 [CLICK HERE](#)

Please see the Town website <https://Leenh.org> for more information and be sure to subscribe to **“Town News”** to get the latest notices emailed directly to your inbox.

Police/Fire/ Ambulance Emergencies	911
Police Business Number	659-5866
Fire Business Number	659-5411
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	659-2964
Planning & Zoning/Building Inspector	659-6783
Selectmen/Assessing/Finance Office	659-5414

New Hampshire residents who have concerns about COVID-19 can call 2-1-1. Information and referral specialists are on hand to direct people to the appropriate resources. NH 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Outside of New Hampshire, call 1-866-444-4211.

To immediately report any suspected cases of COVID-19 to the Division of Public Health Services call 603-271-4496 (M-F 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) or after hours at 603-271-5300. Callers should expect to leave a message and be patient while waiting for a return call.

If you are sick with symptoms such as fever, cough and/or shortness of breath call your own healthcare provider and follow their instructions.

Please stay safe and keep everyone else safe by following the CDC’s guidelines – limit social contact – wash your hands – stay in if you are sick – clean and sanitize surfaces.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT WE ARE NOT WIPING DOWN PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT,
PICNIC BENCHES OR ANY OTHER SURFACES**

Be smart. Do your part.

The Town of Lee urges our residents and visitors to do their part to stop 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. Do not participate in any team and contact sports, such as basketball, football, softball and soccer. Cookouts are also not permitted in Little River Park, until further notice. Avoid touching surfaces including playground equipment, benches, and other sports equipment that are handled by others.

We discourage gathering in our parks and remind everyone that groups of 10 or more are now prohibited under Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order No. 16.

Our parks and trails are open, but please:

- Do not gather in groups of more than 10 or get closer than six feet from other people
- Do not touch any surfaces that are likely to be touched by other people.
- Refrain from using playground equipment
- Do not participate in activities involving physical contact or sharing of equipment

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

TRANSFER STATION NEWS

CHANGES TO MIXED PAPER

Mixed paper should now 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.

We apologize for the short notice. As many of you know, we were going to make this change effective April 11th but we accumulated a full load of mixed paper sooner than we anticipated and so it made sense to make the change now.

PLEASE CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

Both bays remain open as we have seen an improvement in the flow of traffic, especially on Saturdays and everyone is doing a good job of maintaining a safe distance.

PLEASE KEEP CHILDREN IN YOUR VEHICLE

We understand that many of you have children at home with you as the schools and daycares have closed and you may not be able to leave them at home when you come to the Transfer Station but 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 in keeping everyone healthy!

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.

The Transfer Station remains open during regular posted hours, 7:00 am – 6:00 pm Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday. **Please try to avoid peak traffic day on Saturday.** In order for our employees and residents to maintain the recommended safe distance of six feet, employees will not be stationed on the wall during this time but will still be there to answer questions.

The Swap Shop will remain closed until further notice.

MCGREGOR AMBULANCE UPDATES RELATED TO COVID-19

In recent weeks, we have been asked about McGregor's preparation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering recommendations from federal and state agencies, we have implemented significant modifications since we began preparing for the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year. We wanted to highlight just a few of these changes which are most relevant to our patients:

- **Riding to the hospital with a loved one.** Due to hospital restrictions and to help protect everyone involved, we are no longer able to transport friends and family with patients in the ambulance. Exceptions can be made in limited circumstances including parents of younger children.
- **Hardship waivers for families in need.** As is always the case, McGregor offers a generous hardship waiver process for families struggling to afford an ambulance bill. We do ask that families first work with their insurance company to ensure that as much of the bill as possible is paid. That said, given the hardship created in this uncertain time we want to remind people of this option. The hardship application is available under "Patient Resources" at www.McGregorEMS.org



- **A new look for EMS crews.** While McGregor crews have always undertaken precautions for personal and patient safety, crews are now wearing enhanced protective equipment on all 9-1-1 calls. For some calls, equipment includes a gown and "CAPR" helmet which provides N95 level respiratory protection without using up a mask. We are also responding to a large number of calls in full protective gear even when a patient does not likely have COVID-19. This is for the protection of all involved.

- **Do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 for true emergencies.** Everyone is reminded to not hesitate to call 9-1-1 for emergencies such as chest pain or pressure, symptoms of stroke, difficulty breathing, bluish lips/face, or confusion. For more on distinguishing emergencies from routine illness visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) or watch this [PSA from the NH Bureau of EMS](#).

Anyone who may have questions can contact McGregor at 862-3674 or info@mcgregorems.org

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER DECLARATION FOR NH

Based on the request of Governor Sununu, the SBA has declared a disaster declaration for the entire State of New Hampshire based on economic injury due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

All the details including the joint press release, the loan application process, assistance for government contractors, and other resources can be found [here](#).

Small businesses looking for assistance should reach out to one of the following partners for help with things such as filling out paperwork, questions or even advice. These partners include SCORE, NH Small Business Development Center, and the Center for Women & Enterprise (NH's Women Business Center and Veterans Business Outreach Center). You will find links to these partners at www.sba.gov/nh.

Since this is a very rapidly developing situation, to keep up to date on all activities effecting NH small businesses, please join our mailing list [click here](#).



New Hampshire Department of
**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**



WEEKLY COVID-19 UPDATE

What you need to know this week:

- Governor Sununu restricted hotels and other lodging properties, including Airbnb, to providing lodging only for essential workers and vulnerable populations through [Emergency Order 27](#).
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) reports that its Office of Disaster Assistance expects to roll out Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) next week. Eligible applicants can receive a \$10,000 emergency grant. For more information, click [here](#).
- Our partners at the [New Hampshire Small Business Development Center](#) is helping small business owners navigate the programs and resources available to them. Their comprehensive COVID-19 page explains available loans, grants and deferment programs available, as well as a link to connect with a small business advisor.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has grounded many New Hampshire companies doing business in the global marketplace. The Department of Business and Economic Affairs' Office of International Commerce invites companies experiencing a slowdown to join the free webinar, [Using Digital Strategies to Maximize International Sales](#), from 11 am – noon, on April 15. OIC's popular [Export Boot Camp](#) is now available online, for more information and to register visit the website.
- The [New Hampshire Procurement Technical Assistance Center \(NH PTAC\)](#) is a free resource for companies doing business with the federal government. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, government spending, particularly defense spending, continues, as new and increasing needs posed by the coronavirus emerge daily. For free technical assistance, contact NH PTAC.

The Department of Business and Economic Affairs is working with its state and federal partners to provide resources to New Hampshire businesses affected by COVID-19. For information, visit www.nheconomy.com/covid19 or email us at info@nheconomy.com.

**[CLICK HERE](#) for the SMALL BUSINESS OWNER'S GUIDE
TO THE FEDERAL CARES ACT**

RECREATION COMMISSION PROGRAM UPDATE
Annual Easter Egg Hunt Cancelled
Fishing Derby Postponed – TBD
Model Rocket Day and the Music in the Park Program – Stay Tuned

LEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The museum will not be opening on April 18th.

The Lee Historical Society's Annual Meeting set for April 17, 2020 will be rescheduled along with the program, *"The Founding Father: What Were They Thinking"* originally scheduled for May 6, 2020.



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

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



NEXT ANTICIPATED SELECT BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM

Monday, April 20th – TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

Subject to change, please check the website meeting calendar

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

**Any events listed in the E-Crier are subject to change without notice, although
we will do our best to keep you informed in a timely manner**

NH Department of Health and Human Services

Press Release

4/9/2020

NH DHHS Announces 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.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To learn more about NH’s Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, visit the [New Hampshire Children’s Trust](#) website. 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 through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you suspect child abuse or neglect, call the DCYF Central Intake line at (603) 271-6562 or toll-free (in state) at (800) 894-5533.

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



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. Currently if you live in the town of Durham call 868-2324 for assistance. If you live in the town of Newfields call 772-9010 and ask for Helping hands for assistance.

Barrington, Lee, Madbury, New Market, Northwood, Barrington, Nottingham and Strafford towns 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 P.O. Box 272 Northwood, NH 03261. Be sure to also print out our service description.

For other transportation options available in the region, please visit ACT's [Community Transportation Directory](#).

SELF-GUIDED NATURE WALK FOR THE MAUD JONES MEMORIAL FOREST

BY DON QUIGLEY

For information about the Maud Jones Trail and directions:

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/us/new-hampshire/maud-jones-memorial-forest-trail>

The Maud Jones Trail is a little less than a mile-long loop. If you go to the right following the blue paint blazes, you will find numbered stations that correspond to the numbers on this guide.

There is a lot to see in this “shoulder season” between winter and the buggy summer. Stick to the trail, avoid the brushy edges and check yourself and pets later for ticks. **Leave only footprints, take only memories.**

1. Lycopodium – Notice the short evergreen plants no taller than your boot tops. They look like miniature conifer trees. These are actually called the clubmosses though they are more closely allied to ferns. The leaves are scales. There are lots of different common names used locally like princess pine, ground cedar and crows foot. Can you see three different kinds growing here? **Fun fact:** Fossil records tell us that millions of years ago these plants grew as tall as trees. The dust-like spores found in the heads were once burned to create flashy-flames like fireworks and flash photography. The spores were also used medicinally to make baby powder (no smoking when changing the baby!).

2. Pitch Pine – Look around you, there is a white pine forest as far as you can see. White pine is our most common conifer. Pitch pine is very different from white pine. The bark is very thick and shaggy and the needles are stiff and found in bundles of three. The cones are very spikey...maybe you can find one on the ground. This type of pine is closely related to the southern pines. **Fun fact:** when found in NE it is often associated with fire because it takes heat to prepare the seeds for germination. Could there have been a fire here years ago? The wood from this tree is very hard and pitchy.

3. Look up! - Can you see the fresh hole in the pine tree (about 15 feet up)? There is an older one down lower which is bleeding pitch. The pileated woodpecker knows there are ants in this hollow tree by hearing them chewing inside. The pileated is our largest woodpecker and sports a bright red hat. Their call is a very loud chirping that goes on for several seconds. **Fun fact:** their sharp chisel-like beak can penetrate 1 inch of pine wood with each hammer. Their really long tongue curves around inside their head to cushion their brain. What a way to get a meal! Behind you is a dead grey birch being slowly consumed by the birch bracket fungi. We see the fruiting bodies but the real work is going on throughout the cells as the hyphae dissolve the cell walls.

4. High and Dry! - This is the highest part of the trail. Can you imagine being here 15,000 years ago when this land was covered with a mile-thick glacier of ice? We are standing on a deep, deep (more than 100 feet deep) layer of sand and small rocks deposited here as the glacier receded. The large depression just off the trail is called a “kettle hole”. This classic glacial formation is very rare in our area. It was probably formed as the sand was deposited around a large block of melting ice. As the flowing water from the glacier slowed down, sand and round rocks were deposited in layers beneath us. Can you see some of these rounded rocks on the trail surface? **Fun fact:** They might have skidded and tumbled all the way here from the White Mountains or even Canada.

This type of soil is so well drained and dry that only certain kinds of trees can grow on it. As you can see, white oaks and black oaks can survive here but in stunted, gnarly form. The white oaks have light grey scaly bark that rubs off when you brush it briskly. Black oaks have more alligator bark. Pines can grow here, but they don’t get very tall. These trees make me thirsty!

5. Wet and Wild! -There is nothing more attractive than a peaceful little brook in the forest. This brook has no formal name but it flows from a perched wetland behind the Sackett Hollow development. It runs nearly dry in the summer, but there are always little pools and puddles that can support tiny life forms. Hanging over the brook are spindly looking shrubs (about two inches diameter). There is also one right behind you along the trail. These shrubs are called "ironwood" locally. They like to grow near water in rich organic soils deposited by spring floods. **Fun fact:** The wood of this little tree is so dense that it will not float in water and was used by farmers for making prying and pounding tools. It is also called "muscle wood" by some. Put your hand around the small one behind you to find out why.

Can you keep a secret? There is a very unique plant nearby that should be protected from harm. Not everyone can be trusted to leave plants alone. About 5 feet to the left of the marker, hidden in the leaves, is a tiny evergreen plant with bright white veins on the flattened leaves. This is called rattlesnake plantain. It is a tiny orchid. The name possibly comes from the seed head which grows upright in the late summer and looks like a little rattle. This little beauty is not necessarily rare or endangered but is rarely seen. Let's keep it safe! Do not disturb it!

6. Different Soils=Different Plants - The influence of a nearby wetland has created moist organic soils and more diversity of plants. If you were walking here in summer, you would be standing in waist-deep ferns of several types. You can see the dried stalks of some of these ferns around you. Looking down near the marker you might see a shiny green leaf that looks like a raggedy clover. This is three-leaf gold thread, named for its bright yellow thread-like roots. **Fun fact:** The roots were used as a poultice to numb canker sores in the mouth and tooth ache. Very nearby is a taller (one foot) plant with leaves still attached though the leaves are small and curled under. This is sheep laurel, a small relative of mountain laurel and rhododendron. This plant, and many like it, are part of the taxonomic family, ericaceae. When grouped together they are called heath plants. This whole forest is classified as an "oak, pine, heath forest because of the common occurrence of these small shrubs in the understory. These low shrubs create great cover for ground nesting birds.

7. The Wolf - This big old pine can tell us a lot about how and when the forest developed. A "wolf tree" is one which started growing in an open area like a field or pasture. It is called a "wolf" because it is dominant and consumes the resources of many other trees. With no competition from other trees, it developed a large, spread-out crown area. It was also exposed to attack from insects and storms which caused the top-most branches to die off allowing side branches to take over making many new trunks instead of a single straight one. Because of the huge crown area with many needles, this tree grew really fast. **Fun fact:** There may be people in the Town of Lee as old as this tree. How many hikers does it take to put your arms, touching hands, around this old wolf of the forest?

8. Blueberries Galore! - The low blueberry plants found here are another member of the heath group (ericaceae family). They make a low tangle of shrubs providing excellent ground cover. Many whippoorwills have been heard by neighbors in the past because they liked nesting in the heaths. These plants do require some sunlight and, unfortunately, the pine forest is closing in over them reducing this habitat over time. The town plans to reverse this trend by making some small "patch" cuts in the pine to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor. If you have not heard a whippoorwill at dusk you might listen to one on the internet. Wow!

Behind you, down the hill, you will see another brook. This brook flows out of Turtle Pond and through a large wetlands complex before it gouges through the deep sandy glacial formation we are standing on. Turtle Pond is known habitat for Blandings and Spotted turtles which likely use this brook in some parts of the year. Looking across the brook there is a sharp rise in the land. These sharp ridges of deep sand deposits are called eskers. Many of these formations in our town have been excavated for their sand and gravel used for construction. These will be protected. Can you think of any "gravel pits" in our town?

9. Shinrin Yoku - The Japanese developed a therapeutic activity which has become quite popular. Shinrin Yoku literally means “forest bathing”. To immerse yourself in nature is found to be a great stress reliever. It works like this: first you go alone to the forest and find a nice place to sit or relax (like this log bench). Alone, with no electronics, dogs or other distractions, you sit quietly for 20 minutes or more. In this time, you focus your thoughts on your breathing, the sounds, smells, feeling of air movement and changes in light. The added bonus is the realization that you are not alone but life abounds around you. Try it! It will help put your crazy life in perspective. Just across the trail from the bench is an array of sleeping pink lady slipper orchids. More than a dozen are seen here in late May.

10. Smells Like Gum - Near the marker is a small plant with dark green, shiny leaves with smooth edges. This little evergreen, called wintergreen, is everywhere in this forest. It is another member of the ericaceae family (heath plants). If you search among these plants, you might find a bright red berry left behind by hungry birds or chipmunks. Have you ever had wintergreen gum or Lifesavers? You might recognize the smell when you pick a leaf and crush it to a pulp between your fingers. The leaves have a taste as well if you don't mind chewing something found on the forest floor. Just behind you is a small sapling tree about 2 inches in diameter with a smooth, shiny black bark. This is a black birch. There is a bigger one just up the trail a few feet. These trees have a wonderful hard, white wood which is used for anything you might put in your mouth like toothpicks, popsicle sticks and tongue depressors. **Try this:** Find a small branch twig from the tree and using your fingernail, scratch the bark off and smell that spot. Wintergreen smell again, right?

Maud's Quiz:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What plant made fireworks? | 5. How did the rocks get rounded? |
| 2. What plant smells like chewing gum? | 6. What plants make a “heath”? |
| 3. What kind of wood won't float? | 7. Where could I find a therapist out here? |
| 4. Who is afraid of the big bad “wolf”? | 8. How come wood peckers don't get headaches? |

Note: Maud Jones grew up in the big white colonial house at the corner of Turtle Pond Road and Sackett Hollow Road. This woodlot was part of the Jones farm called the Northeast Pasture...that's right, no trees until the 1930s.

LEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Things to See and Places to Go – April 10 - April 17, 2020

TERRESTRIAL

Nature Walk Notes will be posted this weekend on the Conservation Commission's Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/LeeConservationCommission/?eid=ARcav8ClwcVvJenCadblX9CxcFY_f7cj6hVbVUnrRqcg30Pby106u62U9Hdxv2ObQn7x5m89F-zfvMu-

Anytime: Take a Walk in the Lee Town Forest: This week's Nature Walk Notes features frog eggs, the first spring wildflowers, smooth-barked tree species, and last but not least, some easy trees for your child to climb. The trail used is marked by purple ribbons, so it's easy to trace the route taken and find the things we're looking at each week.

Anytime: Take a Walk in the Maud Jones Memorial Forest (MJMF): Don Quigley's self-guided walk is still posted at MJMF. This week he was surprised to find beautifully painted rocks placed here and there along the trail, and peanuts left on stumps! I'm looking forward to checking these out while enjoying another walk in this lovely place.

Rescue of Great Horned Owl Nestlings: Great Horned Owls generally start breeding in January or February. Incubation takes a month. By early April, the babies are growing quickly and beginning to lose their fluff. Owls don't build their own nests but use abandoned squirrel, hawk, or heron nests (or, they evict the occupants of new nests). In the case of this nest in Carlisle, Ma., the old nest was a rickety affair, and one of the nestlings tumbled out. All that fluff kept it from being injured, but getting the owlet all the way back up in its nest was a problem. Andrew Joslin, professional arboreal aeronaut, tree arborist, tree climbing specialist, gear innovator and instructor, was called in to do the job. Mr. Joslin's services have been employed to rescue cats, pet birds, and wild animals in distress in trees. He re-nested the owlet, made some quick improvements to the nest (while being scolded by the parent owls) and posted a video. A week later, after a tremendous windstorm, a second owlet fell from the nest, and this time Mr. Joslin did a more extensive nest rebuild. Below are links to his re-nesting of these owlets. It's fascinating watching the technical aspects of climbing a big pine. Fascinating, too, how different the owlets look after just one week.

Owlet re-nesting, Round 1: <https://vimeo.com/401622466>

Owlet re-nesting, Round 2: <https://vimeo.com/404366524>

Online Live Bird Cams: At this time of year, there are going to be days that are too wet and chilly to get out much. Cornell Ornithology Lab has eight different live bird cams to enjoy. You can choose from nest cams (barred owl, red-tailed hawk, royal albatross, Bermuda petrels) or feeder cams (located in Ithaca, NY, West Texas, Panama, and Quebec). The birdsong heard in the background of some of the feeder cams is so peaceful, that I often have one up on my computer just to listen to as I'm working.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/?utm_source=adgrant&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=BirdCams&utm_content=webcams&gclid=Cj0KCQjwj7v0BRDOARIsAGh37irzgKOSJoleOm-b6GPooYUoehLHx-b0t6cp6n783Gb4WiJgstgo61YaAgIIeALw_wcB

Any morning before sunrise: During the breeding season, just as the sky is beginning to lighten and long before the sun has risen, birds begin to sing. This begins in late February with species that have spent the winter here. As the days grow longer, and migrating species return, more species add their voices to the chorus. This week there have been cardinals, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, blue jays, phoebes, juncos, song sparrows, white throated sparrows and a drumming hairy woodpecker singing in the early morning, with wood frogs and a few peepers adding to their voices to the chorus. It's a really lovely way to begin the day.

Throughout the Season: Keep a calendar of signs of spring: Spring is a daily revelation. Why not keep a family record of signs of spring? When did the first flower appear in your yard - what kind was it? What tree was the first to flower? What tree was the first to have its leaves unfurl? What new birds are you seeing in your yard? When did they appear? Any signs of nesting? What day did you see the year's first bumblebee, and what kind of flower was she visiting? This week in my yard the first squill opened; the last snowdrops are in full bloom; the first phoebe and the first pine warbler of the year appeared; and a pair of blue jays set up housekeeping with one gathering small sticks and twigs for nest building. I was thrilled to see a pair of Eastern Commas hovering near each other in my front yard - the first butterflies of the year! By the time I'd grabbed my cell and raced out to get a picture to post here, they were, of course, long gone.

Anytime: Learn about the critters in your neighborhood: Thanks to Andrea LeBlanc for this one. The Mass. Audubon Society's Joppa Flats Education Center has launched a new program featuring a weekly "Critter Card" on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/>). Every Tuesday, they post a new card focusing on a different critter (March 31 featured red winged blackbirds; April 7 featured wood

frogs). Each virtual card gives information on what the critter looks like, what it eats and where it lives. In addition they provide ideas for nature activities. All ages are encouraged to submit photographs, artwork, essays and poems to be shared on their Facebook page. Here's the write up on critter card

https://blogs.massaudubon.org/theflats/our-new-critter-cards-take-flight-with-online-fans/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheFlats+%28The+Flats%29

And here's the Red-winged blackbird card:

<https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/photos/a.257414180946/10156673720240947/?type=3&theater>

Check out their Facebook page for more information and to make submissions.

Anytime: Do an online bird puzzle: Another rainy day activity. Vermont bird watcher Cynthia Crawford shared this link to her online bird puzzles. Just click on the link to a specific puzzle. Several different species are featured, including a red-winged blackbird, winter wren, white-throated sparrow, chickadee, and a puzzle of some of the common birds of New England.

<https://www.creaturekinships.net/puzzles>

Bird of the Week: Eastern Phoebe: It's always a pleasure when, as happened in my yard a few days ago, the first phoebe returns and fills the air with his buzzy, vibrato-filled call. He seems to say his name first as a question, and then as an answer: "Fee bee? Fee bee!" A member of the flycatcher family, this plain little bird has a dark brown head, lighter brown back, wings and tail, white breast, and buffy belly. Tail-wagging is a trait shared by flycatchers, and the phoebe is no exception. Its tail is constantly bobbing up and down. This video of a singing phoebe, you can see that notched tail waggle up and down:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Phoebe/sounds

Phoebes are remarkably tolerant of human proximity, and the female will often build her beautiful cup-shaped nest under a deck or over a porch light diet. As is the case of all flycatchers, their diet consists primarily of winged insects: wasps, moths, butterflies, and, of course, flies. If you're lucky enough to have a pair of phoebes set up housekeeping in your yard, watch as they hawk for flying insects, and listen for the loud snap of their beaks as they grab for their prey. In return for providing a pair of phoebes with a good nesting site, they will provide you with pesticide-free fly-extminating services.

With thanks to Andrea LeBlanc for the use of this fine phoebe photograph.



CELESTIAL

Don't forget these two online resources to help you and your family explore the night sky:

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

have their graphics used in this newsletter, and I encourage you and your children to visit their website.

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

Any Day This Week: Looking West, After Sunset: Venus shines in the west throughout this month. Earth's brilliant sister planet is, after the sun and the moon, the brightest object in the night sky. To the upper left you can find the winter constellation Orion, soon to exit our night sky until it reappears in autumn.

April 11, Looking North, After Dark: Find the Little Dipper: Everyone is familiar with the Big Dipper, (Ursa Major, The Greater Bear), but the Little Dipper (Ursa Minor, The Lesser Bear), not so much. The stars of the Little Dipper are fainter, making finding this constellation a bit more difficult. You can use the Big Dipper to make finding the Little Dipper pretty simple. Just extend an imaginary line down through Big Dipper's outer stars - that line will take you to Polaris, the North Star, and the brightest star in Ursa Minor.



Our planet's axis points almost directly at Polaris, and because of this, all the other stars in our night sky seems to rotate around it, as illustrated in this time-lapse photograph by Ken Christison



Scott M. Nemet
Fire Chief

LEE FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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



Jeffery S. Liporto
Deputy Chief

TIMELY TOPICS FOR THE SPRING SEASON

We are in the midst of unprecedented times with the onset of the COVID 19 Virus. In an effort to protect our personnel and the public, the Fire Department has adjusted its operations. We are still fully staffed and operating to protect our community and respond to emergencies, but we have put a hold on or adjusted the way we provide some of our services. The Safety Complex has been closed to all visitors for the foreseeable future. All official business will be conducted by phone or email. Phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the Fire Department's web page (<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 below.

All station tours are 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 local bodies of water are ice free at this time. Please be cautious when recreating on the water as the water temperature is still near freezing and any exposure to the water could lead to hypothermia very quickly. Always wear a safety jacket when boating and abide by all safe boating practices.

All information regarding the Town of Lee's recommendations and response to the COVID 19 crisis will come from the Town of Lee Health Officer, Caren Rossi. All questions should be directed to her office at (603) 659-6783. Please abide by all recommendations to stay home, social distance, hand wash and protect yourself and the community. Only together can we make it through this crisis. For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit www.cdc.gov/.



**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...



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.

Please take the time NOW to SAVE TIME in an EMERGENCY.

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

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](#)!

WILKINSON FOOD PANTRY

Lee Church Congregational, 17 Mast Rd

The food pantry is open to **any family** in the towns of Lee, Durham, Newmarket and Nottingham. The pantry is open the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from 6 - 7:00 pm. If there is an emergency please call the Church office at 659-2861. All visits to the pantry are strictly confidential.

LEE TOWN COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

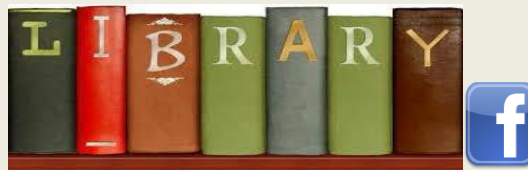
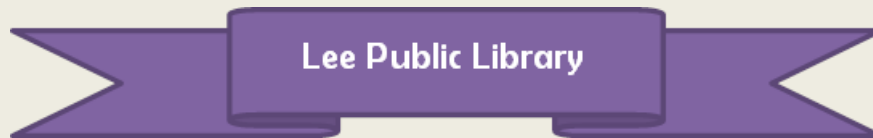
The Planning Board, Energy, and Sustainability Committees have immediate openings to be filled. If you are interested contact the Town Secretary Denise Duval at 603-659-5414 or email dduval@leenh.org. [CLICK HERE](#) for Application.

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>



THE LIBRARY IS NOW CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Starting Saturday, March 28, 2020 the library will discontinue curbside pickup. Per order of Governor Sununu's Stay Home order, we will no longer offer book pickup. We encourage you to keep all the items you currently have on loan until a future date, yet to be determined.

Please DO NOT return anything to the library during this time. When the library reopens we will begin accepting returns. Our Book Drop will remain CLOSED for the next several weeks.

You can reach the library director through email leelibrary@comcast.net with any concerns or questions.

MISSING THE LIBRARY?

You can check out Overdrive, Novelist, EBSCOHost and Universal Class at leelibrarynh.org.



GOVERNOR & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, April 8, 2020

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 4/8/2020 Minutes

Next Governor & Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the State House in Concord, NH

Help UNH Extension map food-access resources and needs across New Hampshire during COVID-19 – [CLICK HERE](#)



10th ANNUAL SEACOAST VETERANS CONFERENCE

Saturday, May 9th 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Service Credit Union Corporate Office, Portsmouth, NH

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED IN STRAFFORD COUNTY

Foster children come from your town, your neighborhood, and your school. They are friends of your child, members of your church, and kids on your little league team. They are babies, toddlers, school-aged kids, and teenagers. They are brothers and sisters who need to stay together. Due to a situation beyond their control, they have to be displaced from their homes and put into a temporary home. They need support, guidance and love. They need a safe place to call home while their family works to put itself back together. Are you able to make a difference in a child's life? Are you able to open your home to a child from your community – enabling them to remain in a familiar school, with familiar friends? There is a real need for foster homes in the Merrimack and Strafford County areas [for Children of all ages & sibling groups](#).

If you'd like to learn more about the foster care program, please contact Dawn Ghiorzi, Recruitment and Licensing Specialist, with Ascentria Care Alliance at 603-931-9582 or at dghiorzi@ascentria.org. For more information on how you may help foster children in the Lee community please call Sally Cedarholm at the Lee Church 603-659-2861 or email her at leechurchucc@comcast.net.

NHES Operation VET Connect

Operation VETS Connect is a challenge to connect those who served and those who are serving and their spouses to employment, training and services they need to return to employment or into training to assist them with obtaining employment. Additional goals are to build an employer's awareness of the benefits to hiring those who served along with the awareness for those who served of the skills they have or need to build on to return to employment.

Employers are asked to register for the challenge by completing the registration form on the website under Job Fairs. (<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/media/job-fairs/index.htm>) The information from their registration form will be entered into a spreadsheet by Operations staff and made available to the offices. The employer name, industry, and town/city will also be listed on the website weekly. ESRs and LVERs should verify that the employer is registered in JMS and if appropriate, contact the employer to advise of the services available to them.

Veterans, those currently serving and their spouses are also asked to complete a registration form on the website under Job Fairs. (<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/media/job-fairs/index.htm>) Their information will be entered into a separate spreadsheet and distributed to the office nearest their homes. [CLICK HERE](#) for the Operation VET Connect Flyer

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!