

TOWN OF LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

June 5, 2020

Lee News & Upcoming
Events



UNH Graduate Student's Radon Project at Lee Highway Garage



DANIELLE KALMBACH (LEFT) AND HER RESEARCH TEAM (RIGHT) PICS BY STEVE BULLEK

Dr. Robin Collins and graduate student Danielle Kalmbach at UNH asked the Select Board at their March 9th meeting to use a well system owned by the Town to test and evaluate an innovative radon removal system to be used as the basis for Danielle's graduate thesis. The graduate thesis project developed, tested, and modeled a treatment system able to remove significant amounts of radon from well water using compressed air stripping while maintaining typical household water pressures, and doing so at considerably lower costs than currently available treatment systems. The pressurized household radon removal system has shown promise as an inexpensive and easily implemented method to remove radon from well water while under pressure, eliminating the need for repumping.

Tests are currently being analyzed with more samples being collected Friday, June 5th. Results to follow.

YARD SALES AND TREE CUTTING NOTICE

Yard Sales are now allowed, but you may only place a sign on your own property or at a friend's house (be sure to get permission first) and remove the signs promptly after the yard sale is over. Signs are not allowed in the Lee triangle (where George Bennett, Mast and Lee Hill Roads meet) or on any other town-owned property, including on the side of both state and town roads. You must follow the guidance for retail establishments as well as the universal guidelines established by the Governor's office found here <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov>

Although it is great to have your trees "removed for free" be sure that the logger follows all of the laws pertaining to tree cutting. As the homeowner, please reach out to Caren Rossi to see what is required, i.e. no-cut buffers, Intent to Cut form, etc. Unfortunately, I have seen many homeowners become a victim of this "offer" and it ends up costing the homeowner more money to fix the problems created by the "free" removal than hiring a company to remove them correctly. Unfortunately, the fault lies with the homeowner and you may have more than just brush to clean up.

VOTING INFORMATION

On April 10, 2020, a memorandum was issued concluding that "in light of the current public health state of emergency, Emergency Orders #16 and #26, and current public health guidance on social distancing and avoiding being in public in groups of 10 or more, all voters have a reasonable ground to conclude that a 'physical disability' exists within the meaning of RSA 657:1." Even if a person does not consider them self a person with disability in other circumstances, the term applies for registering and voting in 2020. RSA 654:16. Therefore, all New Hampshire citizens may apply for voter registration by mail. Obtain an Absentee Voter Registration Form, affidavit, and instruction package by e-mailing (lreinhold@leenh.org or estone@leenh.org) or mailing (7 Mast Road, Lee, NH 03861). If unable to request by email/mail, please call 603-659-2964.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR NOTICE COVID-19 INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYING TAX BILLS

Your Lee property tax bill may be paid in 1 of the following 3 ways:

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. If you want a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or include your email address.
2. **Mail** - Mail it to our office at 7 Mast Road, Lee, NH 03861. Again, please include the payment stub with your check. If you would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or include your email address.
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 need to meet with us, please call the office 659-2864 to schedule an appointment. Thanks for understanding and stay safe!

NH Department of Revenue Launches Annual Property Tax Relief Program

Applications for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program due June 30; provision allows for additional time to provide federal tax return

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA) is accepting applications for its [Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief](#) program through June 30, 2020. NHDRA distributed more than \$1.1 million through this tax relief program last year, and more than \$44 million in total since the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program launched in 2002.

An eligible applicant for Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief is a person who is:

- * Single with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$20,000; or
- * Married or head of New Hampshire household with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$40,000; and
- * Owns a homestead subject to the State Education Property Tax; and
- * Has resided in that homestead as of April 1, 2019.

Applicants are required to submit their individual income tax returns with the application. However, given the federal July 15 extension, some may not have filed their federal return by the June 30 Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program deadline. An existing provision allows NHDRA to accept late applications, if complete, until November 1 if the Commissioner believes the individual was prevented from completing his or her application in certain circumstances.

Additional information is available in this [press release](#) or on the [NHDRA website](#).

Taxpayers with questions should call Taxpayer Services at (603) 230-5920, press prompt 2, then prompt 2 again.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

The SBA and Treasury Department have released the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness Application and detailed instructions for the application. [Click here](#) to view the application and instructions. The SBA will be helping businesses with the process along with their partners at SCORE, NH-SBDC, and the CWE. In addition to continued funding available for PPP for anyone that has not applied, they continue to offer forgiveness of 6 months of payments on ALL SBA loans through September 27, 2020.

A few workshops that businesses may be interested in are listed on their web page at www.sba.gov/nh.

Governor Sununu announced the Main Street Relief Fund that provides an allocation and expenditure of an initial \$400 million in emergency funding from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide emergency financial relief to New Hampshire small for-profit businesses due to the economic disruption caused by COVID-19. Visit their [webpage for application and details](#). Businesses must submit the pre-qualification form online by May 29, 2020.

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



RESOURCES

- 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). 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 [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**



DOGS AND LITTLE RIVER PARK

HEED THIS WARNING: DOGS MUST BE **LEASHED** AND YOU MUST **PICK UP** AFTER THEM OR IT COULD LEAD TO AN ORDINANCE BANNING DOGS FROM THE PARK COMPLETELY

Eversource Reminds Customers to Remain Vigilant Against Scams

Eversource is taking a moment to remind everyone to protect themselves against scams which is especially important today because scammers are trying to take advantage of the uncertainty and nervousness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 outbreak has led to an increase in scam activity, with sophisticated scammers finding unique and intimidating ways to exploit people and steal their money. With this wave of scams related to the pandemic, here are a few common signs of a scam and some specific pandemic-related scams to look out for, including:

- **Threats of immediate power disconnection or demands for payment:** Eversource representatives never ask for instant payment, and the energy company is not disconnecting any customers for non-payment during this emergency period.
- **Callers asking for personal or account information or insisting on specific, unusual payment methods:** Eversource will never ask for personal information over the phone in this manner and does not accept payments via gift cards, pre-paid debit cards or other common tools used by scammers.
- **Requests for a deposit to exchange a utility meter:** Eversource has suspended all non-essential work, including routine meter changes, during the pandemic. Meters also do not suddenly expire, so be wary of calls claiming payment is necessary for a new meter to be installed because the current meter is about to expire.
- **Calls, emails or texts about government stimulus checks:** The IRS won't contact people with information about stimulus payments, or to ask for personal information like a Social Security number or bank account number.
- **Online offers for vaccinations and test kits:** There are no products proven to treat or prevent COVID-19 at this time and the only FDA-approved home test kit requires a doctor's order.

[CLICK HERE](#) for direct link to Eversource scam page. Eversource will never demand instant payment over the phone nor ask for personal information in an unsolicited call, text or email. For those who suspect they've been targeted by a scam, please immediately alert local law enforcement and call Eversource at (800) 662-7764. Always remember, don't panic and don't pay.



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.

The Selectmen's Office hours at Town Hall and the office hours for the Planning & Zoning/Building Inspector are Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office is open Monday-Wednesday-Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm.

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 the Selectman's Office, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, the P&Z office and the Library. 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.

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

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.

TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE COVID-19 PROCEDURES

COVID-19 HOURS: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 8-4

Please know that while the building is closed to the public, we are still doing everything we normally do here but in a different way.

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;
OR
- 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 send renewal notices. If you moved recently you may not have received it.

If you are unable to do one of the above options for any reason, you can call our office at 659-2964 and we will tell you what you need to do to complete the transaction.

NEW VEHICLE OR NEW TO LEE:

If you are new to Lee, or if you have a new vehicle to register, please call our office at 659-2964 and we will tell you what you need to do to complete the transaction.

We are processing some NEW REGISTRATIONS while you wait in the Town Hall parking lot but you must call first.

If you have a temporary plate issued on or after February 26, 2020, the state has extended those until 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.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Stay healthy and stay safe!

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 DUMP STICKER IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE

Stickers are only good for two years!

If you do not already have one, stickers will be available at the Transfer Station or call Town Hall (659-5414) to get one. 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 regarding documentation please contact us at Town Hall or you may refer to the Solid Waste Ordinance, available [HERE](#). We are exploring the possibility of including a sticker with your car registration sometime in the near future.



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.

PLEASE CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

Both bays remain open as we have seen an improvement in the flow of traffic, but **please try to avoid peak traffic day on Saturday**. Everyone is doing a good job of maintaining a safe distance. In order for our employees and residents to maintain the recommended safe distance of 6', employees will not be stationed on the wall during this time but will be there to answer questions.

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.

RAIN BARRELS FOR SALE AT THE TRANSFER STATION - \$ 50 EACH

ONE ALLOWED PER HOUSEHOLD

There is only one left! First-come-first-served!

**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 still 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 6 feet from others
- 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



NEXT SELECT BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM – Monday, June 8th 6:00pm

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

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

**THE LEE BACKYARD FARMING INITIATIVE SERIES
scheduled for MAY 2020 have been postponed until further notice.**

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

LEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE
THE MUSEUM'S 2020 OPENING DATE TBD
The Lee Historical Society's programs for 2020 will be rescheduled. Check here for updates.



[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**

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

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

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

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

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

March data from the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) shows a [decrease in referrals](#) to DCYF's Central Intake, compared to the same time period over the past two years. New child abuse and neglect referrals are down nearly 50% each week overall.

To learn more about recognizing the signs of child abuse and neglect, visit [Know and Tell](#), an education program offered through the Granite State Children's Alliance, the Chapter Organization for the network of New Hampshire's Child Advocacy Centers.

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

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



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](#).

LEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Things to See and Places to Go – May 29 – June 9, 2020

TERRESTRIAL

Anytime: Go dipping at the Mast Way vernal pool - There are at least three tadpole species, damselfly larvae, dragonfly larvae, predaceous diving beetle larvae, caddisfly larvae, water boatmen, water striders, and numerous frogs swimming around in the pool. Bring a small container, a magnifying glass, and see what you can scoop up. Take pictures of what you find and send them in to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeeConservationCommission/>. Remember to gently release your critters by placing your container at the water's surface before pouring.

Anytime: Take a Walk in the Lee Town Forest - With warmer temperatures forecast for the coming week, our cool spring may be coming to an end. Things are heating up in the Mast Way vernal pool, the canopy is filling out and Canada mayflowers and starflowers will be opening up, as changes continue to unfold along our purple ribbon loop. On Sunday, Nature Notes #10 will be posted on our Facebook page (link above). This week's featured topic: the vernal pool and its denizens in late Spring.

Anytime: Take a Walk in the Maud Jones Memorial Forest - The lady slippers have been amazing, with people counting more than 100 blooms as they walk the trail. While you're out admiring the lady slipper show, why not take along Don Quigley's second self-guided walk through MJMF. His guide is posted on site, so you can pick up a copy at the MJMF trailhead. It is also posted on the Lee Conservation Commission's Facebook page (link above) - just scroll down, and let the page load. Don's second walk features, among other things, the importance of dead wood in supplying micro-habitats and nesting sites for both invertebrates and vertebrates; a sampling of some of the habitats found in the forest; and specific plants such as oaks, yellow birch, and wetland wildflowers. There's even a quiz you can take at the end of your walk!

Critter Cards: Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center has issued two new critter cards. Each card provides information and several activities that you and your child can do. Folks are encouraged to post their observations, drawings, paintings, photos, poems, etc.

Last week's Critter Card featured the Baltimore oriole:

<https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/photos/a.257414180946/10156827056110947/?type=3&theater>

Especially for children, here are two oriole-related crafts:

Sketch an oriole and color an oriole (or do two, one female, one male, showing the color differences:

<https://www.kidzone.ws/geography/usa/maryland/oriole.htm>

Make a cool paper card featuring a stylized oriole:

<https://www.cindyderosier.com/2018/01/baltimore-oriole-craft-not-may-oriole.html>

Going from the sublime to the uncomfortable, this week's Critter Card is everybody's favorite: Poison Ivy:

<https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/photos/a.257414180946/10156845875515947/?type=3&theater>

Can't get enough of that p.i.? Check these out:

Mass. Audubon's webpage, The Many Faces of Poison Ivy:

<https://blogs.massaudubon.org/yourgreatoutdoors/many-faces-of-poison-ivy/>

Botany for Kids short video about poison ivy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rcg7C1lRq8w&feature=youtu.be>

Bird of the week - Baltimore Oriole

As soon as May rolls around, I begin to listen for the sweet, clear whistle of a Baltimore oriole. As soon as I hear the first song - always in paired notes - the oranges go up on our old apple tree, the nectar feeder is hung out, and not long after we have our first oriole. If you aren't familiar with the Baltimore oriole's voice, this video provides a nice sample of a typical song, with some interspersed chattering: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1AggXpWL-k>

Some neotropical migrants species are just more tropical-looking than others, and this week's bird, the Baltimore oriole, *Icterus galbula*, is one of them. With his strikingly patterned plumage - black head, throat, wings and tail a perfect counterpoint to his fiery orange breast, belly, undertail coverts and rump - the male is one gorgeous avian. Like his relative, the red-winged blackbird, the male Baltimore oriole has shoulder patches - though his are orange - above his wings. He has a single white wingbar and white on the far edge of his primaries (main flight feathers). The female is quite striking in her own right, and her coloring can be quite variable; most often she is yellow-orange in those areas where the male is orange, and grey-brown where the male is black. Sometimes, however, the female can be quite orange with a largely black head. Helpfully, the female always has two wingbars to the male's one, making gender identification easy, so long as you get a good look at the wings.

Arriving a week before the females from their wintering grounds in Central and northern South America, male Baltimore orioles begin immediately to establish territories. As female orioles begin to pass through, a male oriole will pursue them from one end of his territory to another; should a female pause and show some interest, the male will display to her by singing, chattering, and hopping from branch to branch. Once he has her attention, he engages in what is called a "bow display" in which he lowers his front end while spreading his wings and raising his rump with tail feathers fanned like a peacock. Bow displays give his potential mate a good look at what he's made of: how agile is he; are his feathers all in place; is he bothered by parasites such as lice and mites? If the female likes what she sees, she will often join in the dance, hopping and singing, fanning her tail feathers, and shivering her wings like a nestling begging for food.

During this period of territory establishment and courtship, the orioles will consume an assortment of foods - eating the fruit and nectar that constitute much of their winter menu, while adding the adult insects, larvae (particularly caterpillars) and spiders that make up the bulk of their spring and summer diet.



Once the pair have established a bond and mated, the female selects a nest site. This is usually high in a tree at the end of a branch, hidden and safely out of the reach of most predators; in the Midwest, where the sites on the ends of tree limbs are more vulnerable due to wind stresses, nests are often built on thicker branches, or even against the trunk of a tree. In the Northeast, elms, with their high, arching branches, were once this species' tree of choice for nesting. With the demise of the American elm, maple, horse chestnut, and other tall-growing trees are favored nesting sites. Having found a suitable location, the female Baltimore oriole begins the week-long process of building her pouch-like nest, one of the most unique and beautiful of any in North America.

Using stretchy fibers from plants, animals and humans, the outside of the pouch is constructed first. Before the dawn of the automobile, horsehair was a favorite source of nesting material. This fiber has been replaced by such human-made fibers as string, twine and thread, as well as other materials such as cellophane and fishing line. Swamp milkweed is a particularly favored component of many Baltimore oriole nests, and this video shows a female harvesting a nice long strand: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHnpOF2vj4M>.

The ends of the first few strands are wound around two thin branches that form a fork; these anchor her nest. More fibers are added and the original strands are tightened as the female jabs the new material with her beak - if you've ever needle felted, what she does is similar - adding more and more flexible strands and using her beak to felt them together. She reinforces the outer sides of the structure by weaving in twigs and leaves, using her beak to stab things into place. Once the outer part of the pouch is made, she finishes with a soft lining of such fibers as milkweed fluff, cotton, downy feathers, and pine straw. With nest construction completed, she lays a clutch of 3-7, pale, white eggs streaked with pale black squiggles.

The eggs are incubated entirely by the female, with the male staying near and often bringing her food. After 11-14 days of incubation, and over a period of three days, the eggs hatch. The nestlings are brooded by the female for the first few days, during which time both she and the male feed the hatchlings by regurgitation. Within a few days following emergence, the nestlings have moved on to solid food - mostly caterpillars and the soft parts of adult insects. Living in a sack means the young can't hang their rumps off the edge of the nest to let their droppings fall to the ground. The parents see to keeping the nest clean by carrying off the fecal sacks of their young and leaving them some distance from the nest (the young of many bird species have droppings that come with their own ready-made wrapping - almost like a tiny cellophane garbage bag - enabling the parent birds to remove and carry them away and thus maintain nest sanitation).



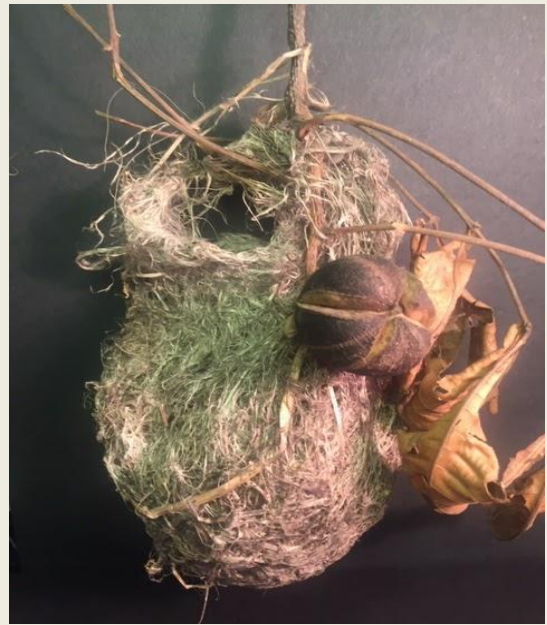
Female Baltimore oriole photo by Andrea LeBlanc

Twelve to fourteen days after hatching, the young leave the nest - often the young of all the orioles in a breeding ground synchronize their fledge-time. Though the young are fully feathered at this time and are able to fly short distances, the first few days after fledging is one of the most dangerous times in an oriole's life, as it is quite vulnerable to predation. The parents continue to feed the fledglings for about two more weeks, adding ripe fruit to their diet.

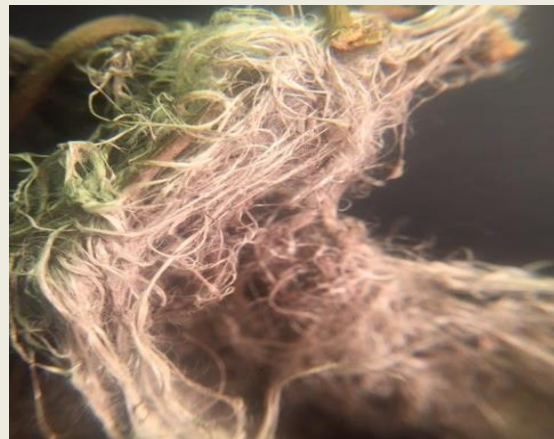
It's amazing to consider that the breeding season, with all the miles traveled, the territorial skirmishes, the days of song, courtship, week of nest building and four weeks of caring for the young, is largely finished by the end of June. Though summer's only just a few weeks old, the longest day has come and gone, and though the nights are still shorter than the days, each evening begins to grow a little longer than that which preceded it. Birds are extremely sensitive to these changes. The male oriole ceases singing. Four weeks after their hatching, the female leaves her fledglings to the care of their father and forages widely while she begins her prebasic molt - the annual replacement of all of

her feathers. A week or so later, the male does the same, feeding heavily as he begins his molt. As is true for most long-distance migrants, the reproductive organs of both the male and female, shrink dramatically. By the end of July or the beginning of August, with a new coat of feathers and a layer of traveling fat, they'll start their long journey to the Neotropic, chasing summer as the Earth's northern axis continues to tip away from the sun. Our patch of the planet always seems a less colorful, less tuneful place once they've gone.

The photos that follow are of an oriole nest found in his driveway by my Dad. My parents have several huge shagbark hickories on their property, and this nest and its branchlet were torn down following an October storm. Evidently the nest had failed due to bad weather, or the female had been killed, or some other calamity resulted in the nest being abandoned during the breeding season, for there was one egg in it and the fragments of another. The beautiful nest and its contents were gifted to me. Swamp milkweed fibers comprise a large proportion of its fabric, no surprise as my folks' home is on the Piscassic, and there is a lot of swamp milkweed on the property. Pine straw, animal hair, grape vines, dead leaves and grass stems are some of the other components.



**Oriole nest, attached to hickory branchlet
Photo by C. Fisher**



**Oriole nest detail, showing string, milkweed fibers,
hair, and grapevine. Photo by C. Fisher**

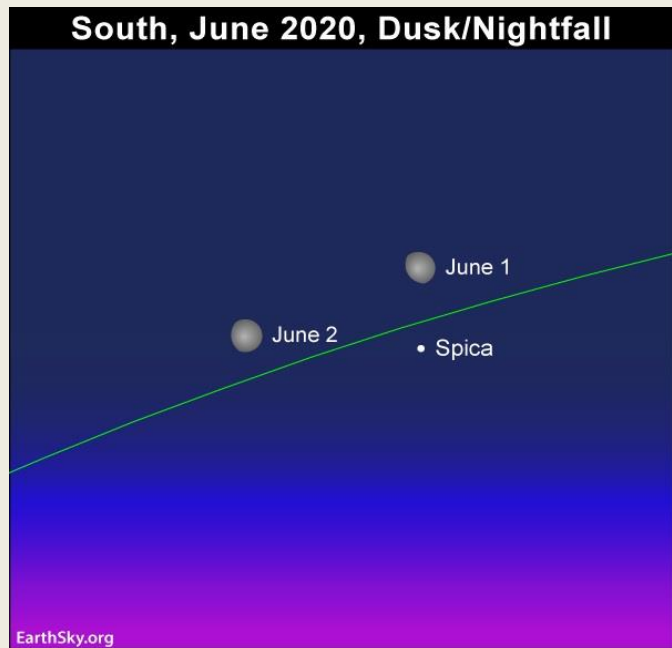


CELESTIAL

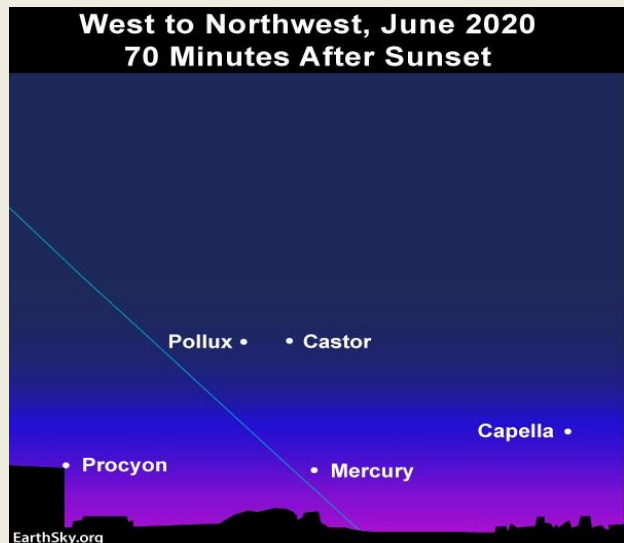
June 1-2, after dark - Moon and Spica: June 1-2, after dark - moon and Spica:

Throughout May, we've shown how you can use Arcturus to find Spica. But if you weren't successful, or cloudy skies made star-gazing impossible, you can use the almost-full moon to locate the brightest star in the zodiacal constellation, Virgo, The Virgin, and the 20th brightest star in the night sky.. Spica is, in fact, the only bright star in this constellation, and the brightness of the moon will probably make seeing Virgo's other stars impossible. A blue-white subgiant, Spica is 262 light years from Earth - if you were able to view our planet from Spica's surface you'd see it as it looked in 1752 - the year Ben Franklin tried out his lightning rod. Spica is a spring and summer night-sky object, and as these

seasons spool by, it will move increasingly west, towards the sunset, and by the time the autumnal equinox rolls around, it will disappear for a half a year, obscured by the brilliance of the sun.



June 3-4, 70 minutes after sunset, looking west: Mercury - As always with this planet, you need the most unobstructed view possible of the horizon, in this case the western horizon. The innermost planet has been in our early evening sky since early May, but it is growing dimmer with each passing day. If you have a clear western view, look for a grouping of five stars. The top two are Pollux and Castor, the beta and alpha stars, respectively, in the constellation Gemini, (The Twins). Look for a line of three stars beneath the twins: the middle "star" between the 6th and 8th brightest stars in the night sky: Procyon, the alpha star in Canis Minor (The Little Dog) and Capella, the brightest star in Auriga (The Charioteer) and the 6th brightest star in the night sky.



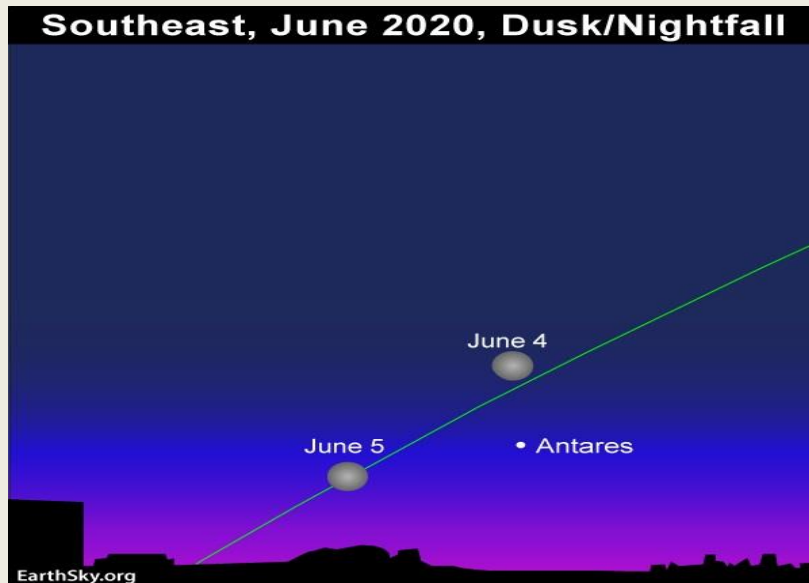
June 4-5, After dusk, looking east: Strawberry

Moon and Antares - Over these two nights, you can use the full moon to get acquainted with an enormous star, Antares, the brightest star in the constellation Scorpio (The Scorpion). Antares is a red supergiant (it's name means "anti-mars",

because it appeared to early astronomers, similar to the planet Mars) that is approaching the end of its life. Once it has burned up all its fuel, it will explode, and become a supernova, at which time it will go from being the 16th brightest star in the night sky to the brightest. Its diameter is 700 times that of our sun, and if it were put in the Sun's location Antares would extend into the orbit of Mars.

This video gives more information about this star: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzU4TIRIN3s>

And this video gives a nice perspective of Antares' size relative to our planet, our Sun, and other known giant stars: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4M6wIBjU38>



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

Even though our building is closed, the food pantry is still open to any household in the towns of 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 - 7:00 pm. 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, 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>



LIBRARY BOOK DROP REOPENS!

The Library has reopened the book drop. Thank you for your patience and for caring for our materials during this time. As usual, there are no overdue fines and we will continue renewing your items as needed until the library building reopens.

The Library building still remains closed to the public. We are getting materials ready for you and are ordering new books and DVDs on a regular basis. Please continue making your requests known through the library catalog, by email and telephone and continue to pick up items at the front of the library.

In order to assist us, please try not to return everything you have out at once, stagger your returns, over a few days especially if you have many to return. All materials returned to us WILL NOT BE CHECKED IN for 72 hours. The current best practice for library material handling specifies quarantine of those materials for at least 72 hours. After sufficient time has passed the library staff will wipe down, and then check in the items.

If you want to see what the library has just ordered and want to request those items go to the [Library Catalog](#) and look at the scrolling list of "What's New" and "What's Coming". Log in to your account on the top right corner of the page.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us 659-2626 or email Ruth Eifert, [library director](#) at leelibrary@comcast.net. You may email book or DVD requests to [Michelle](#) at leelibraryill@comcast.net.



Regional & State News & Events

OYSTER RIVER SCHOOL BOARD NEWS – JUNE 3RD

Oyster River High School graduation will be Friday, June 12, 2020 at the high school.
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

The popular REACH summer enrichment program, a collaboration between Durham Parks & Recreation and the Oyster River Schools, is offering REACH-in-a-Box activity kits for kids and families to explore each week between June 29th - August 7th. The initial set of materials has sold out, and the team that organized the kits is working to find additional materials to be able to offer more REACH Boxes.

The grant-supported school meal program is continuing to deliver meals to children who have signed up across Oyster River through June 12th. For June 15th - June 30th, requested meals can be picked up at ORHS or Mast Way School. The Child Nutrition department is assessing community interest and possibilities for providing meals in July and August after the grant ends.

An informal survey regarding Remote Learning received 819 parent and guardian responses, and 621 responses from middle and high school students. Thank you to students and families for the huge amount of feedback. The school administration and school board are just beginning to review these data.

The 1:1 student laptop program started with the middle school in the 2018-2019 school year. For the 2019-2020 school year it expanded to cover grades 5-9. Starting in fall 2020, all ORHS and ORMS students will be included in the 1:1 program.

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL'S 1ST EVER VIRTUAL SENIOR ART SHOW

NHDOT's Bunker Creek Bridge Replacement Project on US Route 4

Progress since last update: Concrete placement of all abutment sections (4 of 4 sections).

Upcoming work:

- Continue reconstruction of 700 feet of roadway on eastern side of bridge to Morgan Way.
- Reconstruction of 450 feet of roadway on the western side of the bridge.

June 1st - 12th will require extended work hours (approximately 6am-7pm Monday - Saturday. During those time periods the existing asphalt pavement will be removed and traffic will travel on a gravel roadway until the new asphalt pavement can be placed. Work will be contingent on weather conditions and current COVID-19 constraints.

If you have questions, please contact the Design-Build Team,

- Facebook - NHDOTRte4Durham
- Twitter - @NHDOTRte4Durham
- Email - nhdotrte4durham@gmail.com

Go to <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/durham16236/index.htm> for more information

GOVERNOR & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, May 20, 2020

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 5/20/2020 Minutes

Next Governor & Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 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](#)

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!