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

TOWN OF LEE E-CRIER
September 25, 2020

Lee News & Upcoming

LEE HERITAGE COMMISSION NOTICE CALL FOR PHOTO SUBMISSIONS!

Events

The Lee Heritage Commission is compiling photos for our 2021 wall calendar, and we want to feature photos that celebrate the enduring beauty and charm of Lee, as well as photos that show some of the strange, funny, difficult, and/or memorable aspects of this crazy and historic pandemic year of 2020!

If you have any photos taken in Lee that you'd like to share to potentially be included in the calendar, whether they feature houses, farms, businesses, parks, beautiful nature scenes, town buildings, events, people, animals, or anything else, please email them to LeeNHcalendar@gmail.com. Photos taken in past years are fine too! Ideally this calendar will include photos from all seasons, winter, spring, summer and fall. Submit as many as you'd like!

Please email your submissions to us by Oct 7th, and we'll let you know if your photo is selected for printing in the calendar. If we use one of your photos, you will be given a copy of the calendar for free! Copies of the calendar will also be available for purchase at the library, town hall, and other locations, as well as online. We expect to have the calendars available before the end of November.

We hope this calendar will be an opportunity to celebrate our town, and to make everyone feel a little closer together after a year being so apart. We look forward to seeing your photos!!

TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICES RE-OPENING PLANS

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

LEE TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

Saturday, October 3rd & Sunday, October 4th

We had 51 shopping spots register for the yard sale week!! This is the first time we have done this so it's a learning experience for sure. Several participants will only be participating until they sell out so be sure to watch for their signage because they may only be selling on Saturday. Signage may go up any time this next week. Remember, please follow the <u>Covid guidelines</u>.

<u>CLICK HERE</u> for a Basic Map of the yard sale locations
<u>CLICK HERE</u> for a MAP APP of the registered yard sale locations
A list of the street addresses participating in the yard sale is as follows:

#5, 16 & 22 Allens Ave #18, 37, 45 & 71 Belle Lane #18 Captain Parker Drive #52 Cartland Road #7 cherry Lane #8 Decato Drive #60 Demeritt Ave #7 & 23 Earle Drive #58 Fox Garrison Road #28, 34 & 78 High Road #10 Hobbs Road #33 James Farm Road #1 Kelsey Road #22 Lamprey Lane #1, 8 & 20 Lee Hill Road #145 Lee Hook Road #3 Little Hook Road #5 & 116 Mast Road

#35b Mitchell Road #19 & 67 Newtown Plains Road #4 Noble Farm Drive #33, 118 & 132 North River Road Pinecrest Estates #5 & 7 Riverside Farm Drive #1 Sacket Road Staigers Lane/Stepping Stones Rd #275 Stepping Stones Road (Nottingham side of Rt. 125) Swann Drive residents at the community mailbox #3 Thornton Lane #17 Toon Lane #85 Tuttle Road #203 Wadleigh Falls road #125 & 157 Wednesday Hill Road #10 Wheelwright Drive

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

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

SELECT BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM – MONDAY, October 5th 6:00 pm

Meeting ID 892 7541 3158 & Password 124855

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

Meetings can be seen on YOU Tube at CLICK HERE

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT IN LEE IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

If your household does not wish to participate in Trick or Treat, kindly turn your outside lights off.

This will indicate as such to those walking by and practicing safe distancing. Thank you.

LEE LIBRARY HISTORIC DESIGNATION PROJECT

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

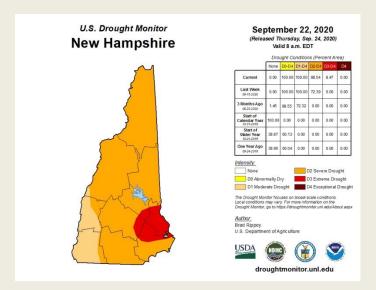
The Historic Designation Project is to attempt to have the original School House portion of the library recognized for its historical significance to the town of Lee. As the Lee Historical Society and the Lee Heritage Committee will probably attest, this can entail many hours of research and dedication.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

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

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

We hope to schedule a Zoom meeting where we can explore the project and to discuss areas of interest, the possible challenges, and creative ideas. If you are interested in being involved, please e-mail Thomas Coakley at tic1950@yahoo.com. I will notify volunteers a week in advance as to when the Zoom meeting will take place and will send out an agenda to guide the conversation while remaining open to new ideas and approaches.

The trustees believe this project will be an interesting opportunity to learn about our library's history and to connect with other members of the community. We hope you will join us!



Upgraded to "EXTREME Drought" Conditions

Today, the Governor banned the kindling of fires or smoking in the area of woodlands as the drought continues to worsen.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought has worsened across a significant portion of the state. Currently 72% of the state is experiencing "severe drought" (D2), up from 28% last week, while 28% of the state is experiencing moderate drought (D1). There are no indications of the situation improving in the next 10 days. The weather forecast indicates unlikely chances of receiving any significant amount of rain and the Weather Service's 6-10 day and 8-14 day precipitation outlooks favor below normal precipitation.

Impacts to residential wells are being experienced across the state. Well drillers are reporting long waits for their services, due to increased demand by residential well owners seeking to remedy water shortage issues and water quality issues related to drought and more people at home putting higher demand on the wells. Water conservation is key, as residents may not be able to get timely service to remedy shortage issues or have the monetary means to improve their wells.

Although municipalities in areas experiencing drought are authorized by RSA 41:11-d to implement municipal-wide lawn watering restrictions, at this time the Lee Select Board is instead strongly urging residents to refrain from watering lawns and gardens and to also practice water conservation in other ways, such as fewer/shorter showers, etc. Hundreds of residential wells went dry during the 2016 drought, and homeowners who retained well contractors to improve their wells experienced a significant wait as a result of increased demand for services. Please report residential well shortages using the Residential Well Impact Survey form. NHDES will track well impacts so as to provide current information on drought impacts in our region.

Drought Update:

The majority of the state is experiencing below normal to low groundwater levels. For more information, see the <u>New Hampshire Groundwater Level Monitoring Report</u> for August 2020. Reports are released monthly.

Forecast and Outlooks:

Temperatures will be cooler through the weekend and are expected to be below normal early in the week. Frost and freeze is expected in the northern part of the state with potential for spreading to the southern interior early next week. (NOAA National Weather Service).

The 6-10 day outlook favors below normal precipitation and below normal temperatures. The 8-14 day outlook favors below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures (<u>National Weather</u> <u>Service Climate Prediction Center</u>).

The <u>U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook</u> favors drought conditions to remain, but improve in the portion of the state of experiencing "severe drought" (D2). (Note*Since the Monthly Drought Outlook was released on August 31st, precipitation predictions have changed. It is unlikely the outlook is accurate.)



NEWS FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION Looking for American Chestnut Burrs

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

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

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

TACF member Tim Elliott has located several wild, nut-producing American chestnuts in Lee, and some of their nuts will be harvested and sent for use in the TACF's program. You can help by contacting Tim if you know of the location of any American chestnut trees that are producing burrs such as those pictured above.

This link gives information about identifying American chestnuts, and how to avoid confusing them with the unrelated (and unthreatened) horse-chestnut:

https://www.acf.org/resources/identification/

If you know of a nut-bearing American chestnut, contact Tim Elliott at: timkelliott@gmail.com

Things to Do and See and Places to Go September 25th - October 3rd Terrestrial

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

Critter Cards: Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center has issued three 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.

Grey Treefrog Critter Card:

https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/photos/a.257414180946/101571247235509

American Goldfinch Critter Card:

 $\frac{https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/photos/flying-in-with-another-critter-card-all-about-the-american-goldfinch-did-you-kno/10157084441775947/$

Woodchuck (Groundhog) Critter Card:

https://www.facebook.com/MassAudubonJoppaFlats/photos/its-time-for-another-critter-card-and-this-week-we-are-featuring-the-woodchuck-g/10157067698235947/

Any Clear Day: Go on a Hawk Watch: Hawks are on the move as many of them make their way to their southern wintering grounds. Most famous among the hawk migrants are the broad-winged hawks, which travel in "kettles" of hundreds and sometimes thousands. There are several good hawk-watching places in the area:

Pack Monadnock, Peterborough: one of the most famous places to hawk watch, and there are usually experienced hawk-watchers to tutor new-comers in the finer points of hawk-identification. Parking is at Miller State Park and reservations are required. A modest fee of \$4/adult and \$2/children 2-11 is required. To learn more and to make reservations: https://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/miller-state-park

Blue Job Mountain, Strafford: A relatively easy 3.3 mile loop trail. In addition to passing raptors, on clear days you can see the Atlantic and the White Mountains. There's a fire tower at the top of the longer loop trail with spectacular views. Parking is available.

https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/new-hampshire/blue-job-mountain-loop

Fort Stark, New Castle and Odiorne St. Park, Rye: Though not providing the dramatic soaring views of raptors that you'll get on a mountaintop, I've found that watching the Maine coast from either of these two locations, particularly the latter, is a good way to see raptors making their way down from Maine. Often in the early morning, I've watched hawks having to flap their way across the open water to Odiorne. With no thermals to carry them, they're often flying low by the time they reach the shoreline at the jetty end of Odiorne Point, providing bird watchers with wonderful close looks.

Little River Park or Old Mill Reserve, Lee: Both these local sites offer wide open sky - the better to see migrating hawks riding the thermals on their way south. On Thursday, Andrea LeBlanc and I saw a half dozen hawks, including two right at the tail end of the deeply wooded River Trail. We also saw many other migrants, including various warbler species, white-throated sparrows, phoebes, robins,

grackles, and a belted kingfisher.

Bird of the Week: Last Encounters of the
Hummingbird Kind: Hummingbird time in New
Hampshire is rapidly coming to a close. This
year's generation has fledged, and despite the
fact that their natal grounds are still replete
with flowers, insects and sugar-water feeders,
those that bred in Lee have left for their winter
territory. Just a few weeks ago traffic at our
sugar-water feeders was frantic as the new
generation of ruby-throated hummingbirds
joined the old, jockeying for position at the
ports and driving away rivals seeking access to
the feast. This was their time of hyperphagia —
feeding almost constantly in order to put on a layer



First year ruby-throated hummingbird, tanking up on firecracker plant nectar. Photo by Andrea LeBlanc.

of fat and nearly doubling their weight. Then suddenly they were gone, chasing longer days and tropical flowers, their brief season in NH over for another year.

Unlike many neotropical migrants, hummingbirds do not migrate in flocks. Individual hummers, including those who just hatched this summer, make the 1500+ mile journey alone - a passage that often includes crossing of the Gulf of Mexico. - a grueling, 500 mile, non-stop journey that requires 23 hours of flight before reaching Central or South America. The layer of fat they put on during their last weeks in the north provides fuel that sustains them during this amazing migration. But they still need to tank up along the way, and as the hummingbirds that bred north of us make their way south, some will pass through Lee, providing us with some last glimpses of these beautiful little birds.

Nearly a week after the last of the breeding hummingbirds had abandoned our yard; we woke one morning to find several ruby-throateds drinking at our sugar water feeder. They stayed for two days, and during that time our morning newspapers sat unread as we watched - as though we were trying to store up hummingbird images for the long winter ahead. Since then we've seen none, but Andrea LeBlanc has had several visitations in the past few weeks. The most recent being the young male pictured above who visited on the equinox three days ago. The most endearing of her visitors was a little female who stopped at one of Andrea's nectar feeders and spent seven minutes and twenty seconds, feeding, giving her wings a good stretching, napping and then some more feeding before taking to the skyway once again. Andrea's photographs below capture the story, and provide a lovely coda to hummingbird season.



Refueling



A quick siesta



Getting the kinks out of those tired wings



Feeling refreshed

Celestial

Wednesday, Sept. 25 - Saturday, Sept. 26, After 6:45, Looking South: The waxing moon is in its first quarter phase Jupiter and Saturn and the Moon - The waxing moon is in its first quarter phase and will grow larger every evening as it moves beneath the solar system's two largest planets along the ecliptic.

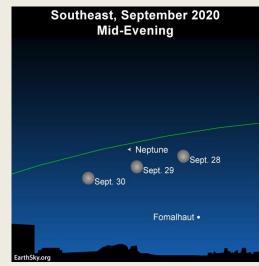


September 28-30, 8:00-9:00 p.m., Looking Southeast: The Moon and the Fomalhaut (the Lonely One): Use the waxing gibbous moon these next three evenings to locate Fomalhaut, a first magnitude star that has this part of the sky pretty much to itself. For this reason it is known as "The Lonely One" or "The Solitary One". It is listed variously as the 17th or the 18th brightest star in the night sky.

September 30, 6:45 p.m., Looking East: Full Harvest Moon and Mars - The first full moon of Autumn happens at sunset tonight. Saturn and Jupiter continue to put in an appearance further to your right (southeast) along the ecliptic, and if you wait about 30 minutes longer, Mars will rise just a bit to the north (left) or the moon along the ecliptic. Both will appear at around 7:10 p.m. on October 1, and they'll rise side by side on October 2. Start watching at about 7:00 p.m. on this evening - the view should be spectacular!

October 3-October 9, 7:00 p.m., Looking Northwest: Arcturus and the Big Dipper - You can use the asterism the Big Dipper to locate the red giant Arcturus - but you probably won't need to. Brilliant orange Arcturus, the Alpha star in the constellation Bootes (The Herdsman), is the 4th brightest star in the night sky! 25 times the size of our sun, Arcturus gives an idea of what our star will become when it evolves to be a red giant.

As always, these two online resources tare a wonderful asset to help you and your family explore the night sky: EarthSky (https://earthsky.org/. The EarthSky website provides several weeks' worth of nightly write-ups about







what's going on in the night sky, along with a brief daily feature giving more in-depth information about a particular night-sky object. They've very generously given their permission to have their graphics used in this newsletter, and I encourage you and your children to visit their website. Stellarium (https://stellarium-web.org/), has replaced StarAtlas, but remains an interactive map of the night sky. This new incarnation will set itself to your location. You can change the time and date to coincide with when you'll be star-gazing, and the map scrolls in all directions. If, for instance, in your location the best place for viewing the night sky happens to be facing west, just scroll the map to show the stars, planets and satellites that will appear in that part of the sky. Once you have the sky set for viewing time and direction, you can click on objects in the sky and an information box will appear giving the object's name plus information about brightness, type of object, etc. This is a fantastic website.



Absentee Ballot FAQ's November 3, 2020 Election

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

The State completed all recounts for the Primary on September 16th. Now, they are diligently working to process, print and distribute the General Election absentee ballots to all the Towns/Cities. Obviously, this is a huge task and takes time. Towns and Cities should be receiving the Absentee Ballots at least 30 days before the election, if not sooner. It depends on when the State gets them to us.

When received, the Town Clerk will post on the website and in the E-Crier. As soon as they are received, they will be mailed out immediately.

HOW DO I OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST?

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

HOW DO I RETURN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You may return your completed Absentee Ballot the following ways:

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

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO RETURN MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

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

- -If you return your ballot by mail, we MUST receive in the mail by November 3rd. Any ballots received after that date will not be counted.
- -If hand delivered, by you or your agent, the ballot must be received by 5:00 pm, November 3rd. It must be delivered to the Town Clerk, in person (by you or your agent), before the day of election, or on the day of election in the manned drop box outside of the polling area at Mast Way School, November 3rd before 5:00 pm.

Town Clerk (603) 659-2964 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Ireinhold@leenh.org or estone@leenh.org

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

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

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, many homeowners become a victim of this "offer" and it ends up costing them more money to fix the problems created by the "free" removal. Unfortunately, the fault will lie with the homeowner.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE NOTICE

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

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

TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE COVID-19 PROCEDURES

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

RENEWING VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS:

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

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

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

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

DOG LICENSES:

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYING YOUR LEE PROPERTY TAX BILL

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

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

NH CARES ACT FUNDING

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

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

SAFER AT HOME GUIDELINES

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

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

EVERSURCE

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

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

Apply online, or through your local community action agency. To find an agency nearest you, call 211. Please have copies of your utility bill handy for reference. <u>CLICK HERE</u> for more details.

AUGUST 17, 2020 IRS NEWS

The IRS announced it will reopen the registration period for federal beneficiaries who didn't receive \$500 per child payments earlier this year. The IRS urges certain federal benefit recipients to use the IRS.gov Non-Filers tool starting August 15 through September 30 to enter information on their qualifying children to receive the supplemental \$500 payments. Click here for more information.

NH HOUSING RELIEF PROGRAM

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

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- Frequently Asked Questions FAQs # 50 and #51 have been added (Released 8/11/20)
- Frequently Asked Questions For Loan Forgiveness (Released 8/11/20) Look closely at pages 10 and 11 for updated info on how EIDL advance and PPP forgiveness will work.
- Summary of PPP lending as of 8/8/20 (Released 8/11/20)

Just a reminder that also included in SBA's disaster recovery programs is 6 months of forgiveness payments on any new loan made and disbursed by 9/27/2020. This is a good time for businesses to look at their balance sheet and consider talking to their lender about any new purchases needed or eligible debt restructuring to get as financially healthy as they can be. There is still time to take advantage of this, but time is getting short.

On our outreach and marketing side, we are starting to filter in some of our normal activities. We are going to be introducing weekly webinars on different topics beginning in September, and we continue to have our weekly Wednesday morning virtual update and our monthly small business start-up webinars with the NH Secretary of State. We are trying to keep you all informed with our monthly partner emails but you can always join our email list to make sure you know what we and our partners are up to.

NH DHHS Announces Online Purchasing Program for SNAP Recipients

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

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

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

Participation in the pilot program is one of several measures DHHS has taken to reduce concerns around food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Others include the issuance of emergency SNAP benefits; the extension of certification periods for SNAP recipients; a temporary suspension of SNAP work requirements for eligible individuals; participation in Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), which provides families with children enrolled in the National School Lunch Program additional SNAP benefits due to the loss of school meals during remote learning; and accepting applications by phone for the Women, Infants and Children program. SNAP recipients will be able to purchase eligible food items, but will not be able to use benefits for service or delivery charges.

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

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

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

The first is "Supporting Child and Family Wellbeing During the COVID-19 Emergency," a new resource guide with practical tips on how we can all support children and families during COVID-19. The guide also provides a list of resources available to families statewide. The second resource is the Family Support Warm Line, a partnership between DHHS and Waypoint. The Family Support Warm Line is a no-cost, confidential phone support line focused on promoting family resiliency. Residents can call 800-640-6486 and speak with family support professionals and parent partners for help with managing family challenges, coping strategies, or emotional support during COVID-19. "Our data has shown a decline in the number of calls made to DCYF from those community helpers who regularly see kids face to face, but this is continues to be a stressful time for families and our

focus has to remain on prevention," said DCYF Director Joseph Ribsam. "Having resources readily available and a place where parents and caregivers can turn if they need to talk to someone can make a difference for our families and guide them to the services they need to stay strong and healthy, before they reach a tipping point that leads to abuse or neglect."

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

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

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

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

THE TRANSFER STATION IS OPEN BUT PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 7:00 am – 6:00 pm The Swap Shop will remain closed until further notice.

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

The easiest way is to get your sticker is when you register your car. If you have already done so and still do not have a sticker, they are available at the Transfer Station or at Town Hall. Proof of

residency, such as a recent utility bill, lease or rental agreement, or recent tax bill, and your car registration will be required. If you have any questions please call Town Hall or you may refer to the Solid Waste Ordinance, available HERE.

CHANGES TO MIXED PAPER

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

PLEASE CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

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

PLEASE KEEP CHILDREN IN YOUR VEHICLE

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

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

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



CLICK HERE for Lee Farmers Market
Facebook Page
CLICK HERE for the Lee Farms and
Agricultural Brochure

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

WILKINSON FOOD PANTRY - Lee Church Congregational, 17 Mast Rd

Even though our building is closed, the food pantry is open to any household in Lee, Durham, Madbury, Newmarket, and Nottingham. Delivery is through a walk-up window service to minimize contact during this time. The pantry is open the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from 6 - 7:00pm. If you have an emergency need for food outside of the normal hours, please call the Church office at 659-2861 or email at leechurchucc@comcast.net. All visits to the pantry are strictly confidential.

LEE TOWN COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

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

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

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

LIBRARY CALENDAR

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



Notice: Change in Services Due to Social Distancing Recommendation

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

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

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

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

What Ready Rides Offers During Normal Operation

Ready Rides provides transportation at no charge for the elderly & disabled residents living in Barrington, Durham, Lee, Madury, Newfields, Newmarket, Northwood, Nottingham and Strafford. Rides are provided by volunteer drivers using their own vehicles. Accessible rides available.

To request information about registering as a rider or becoming a volunteer driver, please email us at info@readyrides.org or call (603) 244-8719. You can find an Application for riders and a Volunteer Application can be printed from this website and emailed or mailed to Ready Rides PO Box 272 Northwood, NH 03261.

For other transportation options available in the region, please visit ACT's Community Transportation Directory.

LEE FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT



Scott M. Nemet Fire Chief 20 George Bennett Road Lee, New Hampshire 03861 (P): 603.659.5411 (F): 603.659.9611



Jeffery S. Liporto Deputy Chief

TIMELY TOPICS

As our country continues to fight this battle against COVID-19, we continue to operate fully staffed to protect our community but have had to put a hold on or adjust the way we provide some of our services. The fire department remains closed to all visitors but are working with town officials and the State for recommendations. All official business will continue to be conducted by phone or via email for now. Go to the Fire Department's web page for numbers and email addresses.

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

All station tours continue to be 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 inquiries regarding the Town's response to Covid-19 and the current status of the virus should be made to the Town's Health Officer, Caren Rossi at the Planning Department.

With summer come thunder storms. Some storms can be severe and contain lightning, hail and wind. When lightning is in the area you should seek shelter indoors and away from windows. Do not shelter under trees or near tall objects. Be aware during high winds of trees, branches, power lines and debris being blown down. Occasionally these storms can cause downed power lines and power outages. We would like to remind everyone that we consider all downed lines as "energized" and should never be touched, moved or driven over. That includes cable and phone lines as they could be in contact with power lines at some point in the system. Call the fire department immediately and keep everyone away from any downed lines. With the power outages several people in our community use portable generators to power their homes. When using a portable generator follow all manufacture's safety guidelines for your generator. They should be run at least twenty-five feet from the residence; exhaust should be point away from the residence and away from anything combustible. Never operate a generator in an enclosed space such as a garage or a shed. Generators emit carbon monoxide and can cause serious injury or death if run indoors and carbon monoxide is allowed to accumulate.

Use caution while outdoor grilling. Keep grills at a safe distance from the residence or other structures while cooking. Have a hose or dry chemical extinguisher nearby to extinguish any grill fires before they get out of control. Make sure propane tanks are in date for hydrotesting and the gas lines are in good condition and not leaking. Dispose of burned charcoal in a safe manor, preferably in a metal container until cold throughout. Thank you and have a safe and happy summer.



LEE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT SEEKING CALL FIREFIGHTERS AND EMTS

CLICK HERE for more information

BURN PERMIT

CLICK HERE for NH BURN PERMIT RULES AND REGULATONS

CLICK HERE to get a Burn Permit Online

BACKYARD BURNING QUICK GUIDE

DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS FIRE PERMIT BROCHURE

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

Please <u>CLICK HERE</u> for the Permitting Checklist and Reference Guide

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



Can the Police, Fire, or Ambulance find your home when you need them for assistance with an emergency? Can they find it at night? Can they find it during a snowstorm? Having your name and number on a mailbox is just not enough. Some mailboxes are clustered together. The numbers are small and the location may not mark the entrance to your driveway.

The Lee Firemen's Association, in a joint effort with the Lee Fire Department, has a program to install reflective house number signs at driveway entrances to assist all

emergency responders in locating your home in a time of need. The cost for each sign with a post is \$35.00 and it will be installed by the Lee Firemen's Association.

CLICK HERE for Reflective House Number Sign Request Form



NEW HOURS FOR THE LIBRARY

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



Youth Programs September/October 2020

Story-time At The Library! (weather permitting)

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

Grab and Go Crafts - Pick up on Tuesdays

We continue to put out new craft kits and activities every week at 2:00 pm. They will go along with the week's story time theme. We also have fun worksheets to pick up.

September 29 - Paper leaf sun catcher printable/directions.

October 6, 13, 20, 27



<u>Preschool Story-time – Thursdays - 11:00-11:45am</u>

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

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

<u>Lap Sit Story-time – Wednesdays - October 7 & 21 11:30-noon</u>

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

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

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

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

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



Curbside Pickup

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

Inter-Library Loans to re-start September 15

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

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



New Hampshire's Long Love-Hate Relationship with Its Agricultural Fairs

Wednesday October 7, 2020 7:00pm via Zoom

New Hampshire Humanities to Go program sponsored by the Lee Library and the Lee Historical Society. To attend this online lecture go to Zoom.us. Join meeting ID 476 452 0503 Password 675752.

The first agricultural fair in North America was held in what is now Londonderry in 1722, and it would become a wildly popular event lasting for generations until it came to be so dominated by gambling, flim-flam, and other "scandalous dimensions" that the legislature revoked its charter in 1850. But fairs have always had strong supporters and eventually the state came around to appropriating modest sums to help them succeed. Temperance groups and others would continue to attack the fairs on moral grounds and their close connection to horse racing was a chronic flashpoint. Steve Taylor will discuss the ups and downs of the fairs down through years and how public affection for rural traditions helps them survive in contemporary times.

Presented by **Steve Taylor**

Steve Taylor is an independent scholar, farmer, journalist, and longtime public official. With his sons, Taylor operates a dairy, maple syrup, and cheese making enterprise in Meriden Village. He has been a newspaper reporter and editor, and served for 25 years as New Hampshire's commissioner of agriculture. Taylor was the founding executive director of the New Hampshire Humanities Council and is a lifelong student of the state's rural culture.

Youth Program via Zoom



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

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



GOVERNOR & EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, September 23, 2020

CLICK HERE for the 9/23/2020 Minutes

Next Governor & Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the State House in Concord, NH

OYSTER RIVER SCHOOL BOARD NEWS – SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Oyster River Students, Staff, and Families are wrapping up an orientation period with schools moving to a more consistent academic schedule starting Monday, September 21.

Between the Middle and High Schools, over 400 student athletes are playing fall sports. This will be an abbreviated regular season, with HS competition only in the Seacoast region, and the MS sports primarily intramural, as schools around us also adjust their athletic programs.

The opportunity to add solar photovoltaic to the new middle school building was reviewed. This investment would enable the new middle school to be nearly "net-zero" energy consumption, meaning over the year, the solar panels would produce as much energy as the building uses. The school board is expected to decide on this aspect of the project on October 7.

Finalists for the school board seat formerly held by Kenny Rotner will be interviewed by the school board at a meeting on September 30, with a final selection on September 30 or October 7.

The school reopening models used for the first quarter of the academic year will be reviewed by the school board on October 21. Please continue to send your suggestions, comments, and concerns to the superintendent and school board: orcsdsb@orcsd.org. Please address specific student concerns to your teachers and principals.

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!.

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 **<u>printed copy</u>** or go to the Library to view it there. If you cannot leave your home please call Town Secretay Denise Duval at 659-5414 to have it mailed!