

TOWN OF LEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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


September 7, 2018

Lee News & Upcoming
Events

LEE FAIR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

PICK UP A PROGRAM AT THE TOWN HALL OR LIBRARY!



LEE FAIR

BBQ MENU
ROASTED PIG, BBQ CHICKEN,
BAKED BEANS, POTATO SALAD,
COLE SLAW, CORN, CORN,
APPLES & ONIONS,
DESSERT & BEVERAGE
ADULTS \$10,
CHILDREN \$5
(UNDER 14 YEARS)

**Saturday
08
SEPTEMBER 2018**
FAIR
10AM - DUSK
BBQ
5:30PM - 7PM
FIREWORKS
DUSK

TRACTOR PARADE - CONTESTS - GAMES - FUN - LIVE MUSIC

LITTLE RIVER PARK

TICKETS FOR THE LEE FAIR BBQ ARE AVAILABLE AT:
LEE TOWN HALL, LEE LIBRARY AND LEE FARMERS' MARKET

GET READY FOR THE TRACTOR PARADE LEADING TO THE FAIR!

Shine up your old - or your new - tractor and join the parade on Lee Fair Day, September 8th. Just arrive around 10:30am, in time to get lined up at the Lee Public Safety Complex before the parade starts out at 11:00am. We will drive directly to Little River Park. Stay for the day and enjoy the fair. Tractors will be lined up on the fair grounds. For further information contact Laura Gund at 659-2044 or walgrove@comcast.net.

*Lee Agricultural Commission Presents
The Lee Fair's
Best of Harvest Contest
Saturday September 8, 2018*

*Registration begins at 10:30am. Entries must be
registered by 12noon. Judging begins at 12:15.
Winners will be announced at 2:15 or after
judging concludes.*

Categories

Relishes and salsas

Pickles: The good ole' cucumber type

Pickled: Pickled goodies other than cukes

Sweet Stuff: Pies, breads, tarts, and any other sweet
deliciousness***

Jams and jellies

Wild Card: Surprise us!***

*** Please no custard, pumpkin, or squash pies. No
foods requiring refrigeration, No homebrew (sorry),
and no foraged mushrooms.

Judging

Judging is based on: Presentation, Originality, Aroma,
Texture, and flavor.

Rules

Use as many local ingredients as possible...Lee is the
best but local will do!

Pie crusts and doughs must be fully made from scratch
and of natural ingredients.

All entries must include a separate ingredient list.

No name labels please. Each participant will be given
an entry number.

All entries must be in place by 12noon.

Safe canning practices are expected by all participants.

Questions? Contact: kmcisneros@comcast.net

Lee Fair Schedule of Events
September 8, 2018
Opening Ceremonies at 10:00 am

Morning Schedule:

10:30: Children's Parade (line up at 10:00 a.m. on the Back Field)
10:00 – 2:00: Antique Car Show, sponsored by Lee USA Speedway.
(Contact Andre Huppe by text at 603-534-6629 or email bowhunting1@hotmail.com)
10:00: Crafters and Vendors on the grounds all day
10:30: Sheep and Duck Herding with Tim Molinaro and his dogs (on going)
10:30: Fiber Demonstrations (spinning, weaving, etc), (on-going)
10:30–12:00: Registration for Best of Harvest
(Pickle, Pie, Relish, Sweet Breads)
11:00-5:00 Children's Games sponsored by the Church
11:00: Lee Conservation Commission nature walk
11:00–12:30: Registration for Children's Tractor Pull
11:30, 11:45, 12:00: Children's Penny Hunt
11:00: Tractor Parade, starting at the Safety Complex
12:15-2:15: Judging of the Best of Harvest contest
12:30–2:30: Children's Tractor Pull
12:30-2:30: Children's Farm Games

Lee Fair CAR SHOW

ALL CARS & TRUCKS, MAKES AND MODELS WELCOME

Date: SEPTEMBER 8, 2018
Time: 10am to 2pm
Location: Little River Park
28 North River Road, Lee



Trophies awarded at 2pm.
Trophies: Best of Show;
1st 2nd and 3rd placings

Sponsored by
**Lee
USA Speedway**

Questions—659-6783

Afternoon Schedule of Events continued:

1:00-4:00: Tricky Dick's Magic Show
1:30: Joy of Dance demonstration
2:00: K-9 Demonstration
2:00-5:00: Corn Hole game
3:00: Walk Around with Tricky Dick
3:00: Pie Eating contest
3:00-5:00: Adult Farm Games
4:45: Call to Suppa
5:30-7:00: Pig Roast and Chicken Barbecue
6:30-8:00: Ice Cream Smorgasbord
8:00: Fireworks

Registration for all events:
At the Yellow Tent Information Booth

CONDENSED SCHEDULE

Lee Fair 10:00am – 5:30pm Free Admission
Tractor Parade – Contests – Games – Food –
Music – Shows
Lee BBQ 5:30pm – 7:00pm \$10 Adults \$5 Kids
Ice Cream Social 6:30pm – 8:00pm \$5 All you
can eat
Freese Band 5:30pm – 8:00pm
Fireworks 8:00pm Free Admission

The *Lee's Trees Contest*



Science and the Arts Unite!

A friendly contest that is open to all Lee residents
and ORCSD elementary school students.

*Stop by the Lee Sustainability Committee booth
at the Lee Fair to learn more and to enter.*

All submissions due by December 31, 2018



*Sponsored by the Lee Sustainability Committee
in collaboration with the Lee Heritage
Commission, the Lee Conservation Commission,
the Lee Public Library, the Lee Historical Society
and the ORCSD elementary schools.*



LEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Lee Historical Society Museum building, the old Lee Railroad Freight Depot, has been placed on the NH State Historical Register. Thank you Laurel Cox for helping us in this endeavor!

Come and bring your questions about Lee to our booth at the Lee Fair. We have items for sale for both adults and children.

VISIT THE MUSEUM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH 10 am – 2pm.



GO TO <https://www.facebook.com/LeeFarmersMarket/> for UPDATES
CLICK HERE for the 2018 Lee Agriculture and Farm Brochure



SWAP SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The new swap shop still **NEEDS** more volunteers to assist with the day-to-day operations. **If volunteers are not found to work the hours needed then the swap shop hours of operation will be restricted.** If you wish to help, please call Shirley McKeon at 603-659-8163 or email her at smckeon123@aol.com.

SEPTEMBER SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

Monday, **September 10th & 24th** starting at 6:30 pm

Meetings can now be seen on **You Tube** at www.media.leenh.org

SOLID WASTE OPERATOR POSITION OPEN

The Town of Lee is seeking a part-time Solid Waste Operator for the Transfer Station. Pay rate is \$15.61/hr. Candidates must have or be able to acquire a NHDES Level I or higher Solid Waste certification and will need to pass a pre-employment physical and criminal background check. Ability to operate a skid-steer, baler and other heavy equipment preferred. EOE. Please submit an application with 3 references to Town Hall, 7 Mast Rd, Lee, NH 03861 or email resume and references to dduval@leenh.org. Position is open until filled. **CLICK HERE** for application.

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS VACANCY

A vacancy is available with the Trustees of Trust Funds. Any one with an interest in serving on this vital board should contact the Town of Lee Secretary, Denise Duval, to be considered for appointment by the Select Board. Please call 603-659-5414 or email dduval@leenh.org.



LEE TOWN COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Energy Committee, Lamprey River Advisory Committee and Conservation Commission have immediate openings to be filled. If you are interested contact the Town Secretary Denise Duval at 603-659-5414 or email dduval@leenh.org. **CLICK HERE** for Application.

POLICE ANNOUNCEMENT

School is starting so please watch for children and school buses along the roads. The Lee Police will be enforcing the Mast Way school zone as usual.

265:54 Overtaking and Passing School Bus.

I. The driver of a vehicle upon a way upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus, plainly marked with school bus signs or such other distinguishing identification as the director may require, which has stopped on the highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children shall stop his or her vehicle before reaching such school bus at least 25 feet away from such school bus. The driver shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until flashing red lights cease to operate.

I-a. Testimony under oath from the school bus driver or other witness that a vehicle failed to stop and remain stopped as required by paragraph I shall be sufficient evidence to prove that the owner of the vehicle was driving and has violated the provisions of paragraph I, unless such evidence is rebutted or contradicted.

I-b. Except as provided in paragraph IV, a person who violates the provisions of paragraph I shall be guilty of a violation and shall be fined \$150 plus penalty assessment for a first offense, and shall be fined not less than \$250 or more than \$1,000 for a subsequent offense. In addition, the director may suspend the person's license to drive or nonresident driving privilege for a period of 30 days for a second or subsequent offense.

II. Whenever road conditions and space permit and whenever the number of vehicles following a moving school bus is 5 or more, the driver of the school bus shall pull over and let the following vehicles pass. A driver passing the school bus must do so without driving any part of his vehicle to the left of or across any unbroken painted line marked on the highway.

III. The driver of a vehicle upon a divided highway with separate roadways need not stop when meeting or passing a school bus which is traveling in the opposite direction on the other half of the divided highway, or when upon a controlled access highway if a school bus is stopped in a loading zone which is part of or adjacent to such highway and pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.

IV. Except as provided in paragraph III, no driver of a vehicle who is required to stop his or her vehicle in accordance with paragraph I shall overtake and pass a school bus on the right. A person who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be guilty of a violation and shall be fined \$500 plus penalty assessment. In addition, the director shall suspend the person's license to drive or nonresident driving privilege for a period of up to 30 days for a first offense. For a second or subsequent offense, the person must appear before the court and shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,200 plus penalty assessment. The director shall suspend the person's license to drive or nonresident driving privilege for a period of 30 days for a second offense, and for a period of not less than 30 days nor more than 120 days for a third or subsequent offense.

DO NOT FORGET!

Please do not become a victim. WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T GIVE IT OUT.

The scammers are still out there working hard to steal your money and your identity. Please do not release any information or agree to accept a check where you have to forward part of the funds either back to the caller or to a 3rd party.

Report Treasury (non-IRS scams) to OIGCounsel@oig.treas.gov.

Report IRS scams to phishing@irs.gov.



Over the Wall at the Transfer Station



The Lee Sustainability Committee thanks Lee Transfer Station manager Toby Van Aken for the recent tour. Toby walked us through the 'ins' and 'outs' of the recycling process and the 'ups' and 'downs' of the recycling markets in the hopes that we'd let you all know how to be better recyclers. Here goes.

Generate less waste. Remember your reusable supermarket bags, buy products with no or minimal packaging when possible, just try to consume less and throw out less.

You should recycle. The amount we pay or get paid to dispose of our solid waste varies with the type of waste. Non-recyclable trash is the most expensive. Besides being better for the environment, we lower our taxes by recycling. You're already going to the transfer station; it's not that much harder to put your stuff in the right bins.

Don't practice *wishful recycling*. We have an award winning transfer station that is often able to get the highest prices for our refuse because it is of high quality, meaning that it is well sorted with little contamination. We all work a little harder to sort our waste, but we are rewarded for it. Please don't ruin it by throwing stuff in the bins because you think "it should be recyclable." Obey the posted instructions.

Metal makes money. The town currently gets paid 79 cents a pound (\$1580 a ton) for aluminum cans and \$120 per ton of steel and other metal. Aluminum requires a lot of electricity to make but is easily recycled, so the demand for cans is high. If you have a choice, choose aluminum cans over plastic or glass.

Compost at home. It costs the town \$65 per ton (plus about \$15 per ton hauling) to dispose of trash. Much of that is food waste that can be [composted](#) (turned into topsoil) at home rather than be thrown away. That saves us all money and is good for the environment too.

Plastic and paper break even or so. The markets for newspaper and cardboard are solid, mixed paper and plastic a bit weak of late, but all cost much less than trash for the town to dispose of.

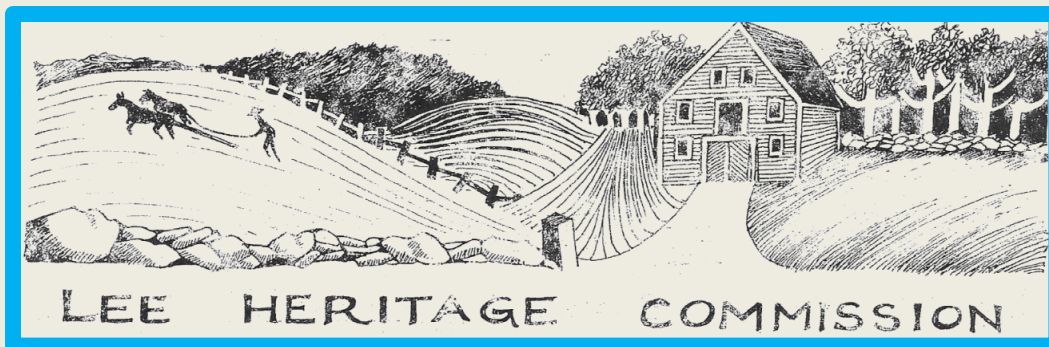
Glass is less desirable. We end up paying to dispose of glass at about half the rate of trash.

Compost yard and farm waste at the transfer station. We have a composting operation for this sort of stuff. The compost is available for the taking but due to the potential presence of animal waste products, veterinary medications, pesticides and herbicides, we urge caution in using this compost for growing food.

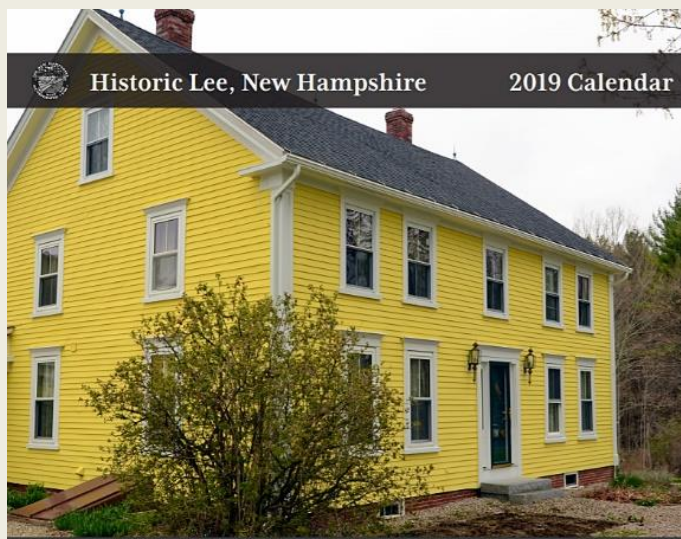
Swap Shop is best. It's always better to reuse something than to throw it away, even if it's recycled. If you think someone might get some use out of it, put your item in the swap shop rather than the trash. The new swap shop is finally open.

Changes are coming. The newly formed Solid Waste Committee will likely recommend increasing the fees for disposing of some products to better reflect the town's costs. While this is annoying to people who have to pay these fees, it saves the rest of us money.

Check out the [GUIDE TO TRANSFER STATION](#) for more details about what happens when we throw stuff over the wall at the transfer station.



NEWS FROM THE LEE HERITAGE COMMISSION!



The farmhouse at Velvet Pastures Elk Ranch on Wednesday Hill Road is our 2019 calendar cover photo – and also the featured photo for March 2019. Look there for more details about the farm. Photo by Gerald Sedor.

**Our 2019 Historic Lee, New Hampshire wall calendar is on sale, beginning this at Saturday's Lee Country Fair!! \$10.00
Stock up now for the coming holidays!**

Look for the Lee Heritage Commission booth at the Lee Country Fair on September 8th. The LHC will have a great selection of Lee history publications available for sale at the fair, as well as the remaining Lee 250th Celebration items: mugs, kids t-shirts, coins, wooden nickels, and bells. AND – Ta Da!! – thanks to the diligence of Commission members Liz McCaffrey and Cord Blomquist, the new 2019 Lee Heritage Commission wall calendar is now available.

The books LISTED BELOW will be available at the Lee Heritage Commission booth at the Lee Country Fair. They also are on sale at the Lee Town Hall and the Lee Historical Society museum. Pick one up and enjoy the rich history of Lee!

- *Land in Our Hands* (Burleigh-Demerit Farm) by Martha Butterfield - \$20 [LHC]
- *Down The Mast Road* (reprint – J. M. Duncan's 1956 book) - \$10 [LHC]
- *Oliver C. Gilbert* by Jody Fernald and Stephanie Gilbert - \$10 [LHC]
- *Lee, New Hampshire* by John Scales - \$4 [LHC]



The Lee Town Center is now sporting a bright new summer look, due to the Lee Heritage Commission asking our very own Lee artist, Amy Daskal, co-owner of Blue Bell Greenhouse, to design some colorful banners. The two Little River Park banners should be up very soon.

- *The Story of Peter Little Bear* by David Allan & Leslie Hamilton- \$10 [LRAC]
- *Lee Historical Maps* - \$5.00 [LHS]
- *Lee in 4 Centuries* by Ursula Baier - \$5 [LHS]
- *The Annals of a Country Church* by David Allan - \$5 [LHS]
- *The Railroad that Passed through Lee NH – 1874 – 1934* by Randy Stevens - \$12 [LHS]
- *The Early Roads and Settlers of Lee, NH* by Melvin E. Jenkins - \$15 [LHS]
- *Jeremiah Smith Grange Book* by Donna Eisenhard - \$20 [LHC]
- *A Colored Man in Exeter (With Sketches of Lee)* by Michael Cameron Ward - \$20 [Mike Ward]
- *The Early Mills and Industry of Lee, NH* by Richard Wellington - \$20 [LHC]

NEWS! Through the efforts of the Heritage Commission, the Lee Historical Society Museum building has now been placed on the NH State Historical Register. The Lee Town Hall building and the Lee Town Shed (with Tramp Room) building were both placed on the NH State Historical Register earlier this year. A hearty “Huzzah!” for Laurel Cox, who did painstaking research on the history of these buildings!

NEWS!! A NEW LEE TOWN HISTORIAN HAS BEEN APPOINTED! We are delighted to announce that, upon his retirement after 38 years of service to the Town of Lee, the Lee Heritage Commission invited Randy Stevens to accept the position of honorary Lee Town Historian. Happily Randy has accepted our invitation and the Lee Select Board has approved the appointment! Throughout his years of service to the town, Randy has also had an avid interest in researching and writing about the history of Lee in his “spare” time. One of his books, “*The Railroad that Passed through Lee NH – 1874 – 1934*” by Randy Stevens is available at the Lee Heritage Commission booth at the Lee Country Fair on Saturday. We can hardly wait to see what his next project will be! Whenever you next see Randy - at the fair or elsewhere - please give him a hearty “Congratulations!” on his appointment!



**COME WALK WITH THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO SEE
CONSERVED LANDS IN LEE!
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING**

Some of these lands are owned by the Town, but most of them are privately owned and protected in perpetuity with a conservation easement. If you'd like to participate, call the Town Secretary, Denise Duval, at 659-5414. We meet in the Town Hall parking lot at 8:45 am, dressed for walking in the woods. Standard precautions for ticks & mosquitoes are advised. Walks take 1½-2 hrs.

A LEE FIRE AND PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT REMINDER TO ALL HOMEOWNERS AND BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN OF LEE

A Building Permit is required for all tents that are 400 square feet and over per the International Building Code adopted by NH and the Town of Lee. An Assembly Permit is required for all tents being occupied by more than 50 people per RSA 155:17-39. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or call Planning and Zoning at 603-659-6783 or the Fire Department at 603-659-5411.

ATTENTION REGARDING SIGNS

Please remember that advertisements of any kind need to be posted on "free standing" posts, not on telephone poles, street signs, markers, posts, etc. If you do put signs out for yards sales etc., please make sure that they do not block the view of traffic, are not on town property, and, if on private property that you have the land owner's permission and that you remove them once the event is over. Thank you!

CHAPTER 236
HIGHWAY REGULATION, PROTECTION AND CONTROL REGULATIONS
Outdoor Advertising - Section 236:75

236:75 No Advertisements of Any Kind Upon Certain Objects. –Notwithstanding any provisions of the law to the contrary, it shall be unlawful to affix, attach or display any advertisement upon any object of nature, utility pole, telephone booth, or highway sign, directly in such a manner that the object of nature, utility pole, telephone booth, or highway sign, is utilized as an integral part of the sign's support as distinguished from being only incidentally a support to the sign, such as the earth or ground upon which a sign is affixed. This prohibition shall extend to all primary and secondary highways and roads of and within the state without exception for any type of advertising. The owner of an object upon which an advertisement is placed in violation of this section shall be entitled to remove and destroy the advertisement and the advertisement owner shall not be entitled to damages or compensation therefor. The object owner shall be entitled to collect the costs associated with the removal and destruction from the advertisement owner or the person who is responsible for placing the advertisement on the object in violation of this section.

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 started 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 \$30.00 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





LEE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT SEEKING CALL FIREFIGHTERS AND EMTS

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

FIRE DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Fee Schedule

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Permitting Checklist and Reference Guide



[CLICK HERE](#) for NH BURN PERMIT RULES AND REGULATIONS



LEE CEMETERY RULES

[CLICK HERE](#) for Rules

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Go to www.leenh.org/Pages/LeeNH_MeetingsCal/?formid=158

LIBRARY CALENDAR

Go to http://leenh.org/pages/LeeNH_LibraryCal/?formid=158



READY RIDES offer free rides to medical appointments for residents 55+ and those who are disabled and unable to drive. They serve Lee, Barrington, Durham, Madbury, Newmarket, Northwood, Nottingham and Strafford. Please call Meri Schmalz at 224-8719 or email info@readyrides.org for more details about how to help your neighbor. **Volunteers from Lee are needed!**



FOOD PANTRY

WILKINSON FOOD PANTRY

Lee Church Congregational

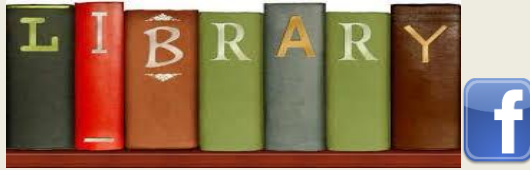
17 Mast Rd

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

DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

A drop-off is available at the Public Safety Complex to the left of the front entrance for unused and unwanted prescriptions.

Lee Public Library

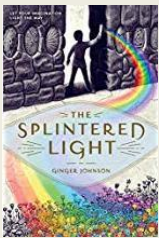


Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 12:00 – 8:00 pm

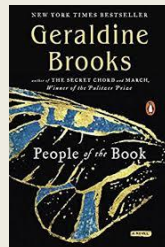
Thursday, Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Winter Hours 10am – 3pm

CLOSED Saturday, September 8th for Lee Fair Day



Come visit the **Library Booth** at the Fair. Meet our new children's librarian, Inga Cullen and make a beaded bookworm. In the morning, Lee Resident, Ginger Johnson will be debuting her brand new First Novel, "A Splintered Light".



ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION
PICK UP AT LIBRARY
People of the Book
By Geraldine Brooks

The book group has chosen this book for its summer read. On Monday, September 10th the group will gather to discuss this book and choose books for the coming year. All are welcome to participate.



"HOLY GRAIL COMMUNITY NIGHT"
To Benefit the Friends of the Lee Public Library
Wednesday, September 12th 6-8pm

20% of your bill (excluding alcohol) from their "Community Night" menu will be donated to the Friends of the Lee Library. The Friends of the Lee Library sponsor our Summer Reading Program, our discount Museum Pass program, special speakers and many other events for the library.

Hope to see you there! Stop by the **Friends of the Library Booth** at the Fair for more information.



MUSEUM PASSES

The library has the following museum passes available for free or discounted admission. Call ahead availability.

Boston Children's Museum
Currier Museum of Art
Seacoast Science Center
New England Aquarium

Museum of Science
Isabella Stewart Gardner
Strawbery Banke
Woodman Museum

Children's Museum of NH
Museum of Fine Arts
Peabody Essex Museum



ADULT GAMES
Tuesdays 9:30 am

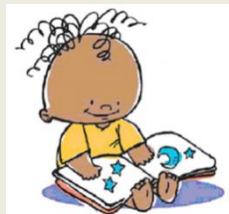


KNITTING GROUP
Tuesdays at 6:00 pm



STORY TIME
Thursdays @ 10 am
Fridays @ 11 am

Reading, crafts, puppets, music and more. Who knows where next week's adventures may take us? Large groups and families welcome.



BABY LAPSIT
Fridays @ 10 am

Silliness, songs, scarves, rhymes and of course...reading. This baby story time is full of age-appropriate activities to facilitate learning and bonding. Give it a **GO**.



Books Alive
Tuesdays @ 3:30 pm
Begins September 25

Join our interactive after school story program that joins reading, movement, hands-on learning and creativity to bring books to life. There will be snack. It is geared for grades K-4 and will meet after school on **Tuesdays beginning September 25th**. Mast Way students may take the bus to the library. To register call 659-2626.

[CLICK HERE](#) for ongoing events at the library

Regional & State News & Events



TrailFest early-bird registration ends soon!
Early-bird Discount

REGISTER NOW

JOIN US FOR TRAILFEST – 5k Trail Run/Walk
September 22, 2018 at Burley Farms in Epping, NH

- Free 1K fun run for kids
- Free fun for the whole community
- Nature activities
- Live raptor and reptile presentations
- Guided walks and self-guided scavenger hunts
- Beer Tent, food for purchase and more!
- Option to fundraise for SELT with peer-to-peer fundraising tools

OP Ed: Oyster River Moves Toward a New Middle School

August 31, 2018

The Oyster River Cooperative School Board has voted unanimously to develop a plan for a new middle school, which we will put before voters in the district. Drawing on almost four years of study, we have concluded that the current middle school has such serious deficiencies that renovation or tinkering with the current building are not viable options.

The current facility is a sprawling set of older buildings and additions that cover the equivalent of three football fields. These additions often “join” up in half floors, requiring lifts, which make any handicapped navigation extremely difficult. Many of the classrooms were designed for elementary school students, and almost half are smaller than the recommended size, as are the music, art, and phys. ed space. Special Education space is mostly makeshift, frequently undersized, and lacking sunlight.

Some of these deficiencies have been glaringly evident during the recent heat wave. The lack of air-conditioning, combined with the westward orientation of many classrooms, can make the school a furnace on hot days.

The current building is poorly suited to the team concept of a middle school. There is also a lack of informal gathering spaces and smaller conference rooms. We have come a long way from school buildings that were simply classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and a gym. The current building also fails to support the robust music and performing arts programs at the middle school.

Simply maintaining the current building is not a cost-free option. A recent report by Siemens engineers identified almost \$6 million in needed upgrades to the heating, ventilation, and mechanical systems. The Siemens representative actually recommended against such expenditure in an aging and outdated building.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Board established a Middle School Facilities Committee to evaluate the current building and make recommendations to the Board. The committee was composed of architects, citizens, builders, members of local government, and representatives from the administration and school board. This committee reviewed previous reports and evaluated 13 options, including renovation, shifting middle school students to the other schools (e.g. creating a 5-12 middle/high school), and building a new facility.

The Committee unanimously voted to recommend building a new middle school, with the majority favoring building on-site, though with some support for building off-site.

The Board is moving ahead to select a building site manager and an architect to help us develop a plan to put up for a vote by the community, we anticipate in March 2020. This decision date will roughly coincide with the retirement of the \$25 million bond for the high school renovation.

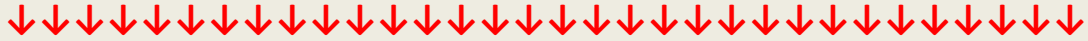
As a Board we appreciate the financial and emotional effects of this decision. The current building holds history and memories, and the district has worked hard to keep it functional. But as with an old car that has served you well, you reach a point where you decide the next repair is not really justified. We are at that point with the current building. Our district—and those around us—have also learned the hard lesson that delay usually means paying more for less in the future.

We look forward to extensive community discussions about what a new middle school can be. There are exciting possibilities for energy efficiencies, new learning environments, better performing space, and better use of the school site. It's time to move forward.

Thomas Newkirk, Chair, Oyster River Cooperative School Board
868-6243

CHECK OUT MAPGEO

A GIS Collaboration between the Strafford Regional Planning Commission and Lee bringing basic GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to your fingertips. GIS map data is now displayed on the MapGeo website. This website can be found by clicking [HERE](#). The site allows residents to search for tax map info, as well as view several different overlay layers.



To receive the E-CRIER via email every week go to www.leenh.org, click on **Subscribe to E-Alerts** in the left hand column & follow the directions to subscribe. It's that easy!

ATTENTION!

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 Secretay Denise Duval at 659-5414 to have it mailed!