

## WHAT'S INSIDE

01. River's Edge Ribbon Cutting
02. Community Garden
03. Board Member Highlight
04. Green Tip

PAGE

## 01. | Now Open!

On August 19th, 2016 the Laconia Area Community Land Trust (LACLT) celebrated the completion of River's Edge with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house.

Jason Hicks, LACLT Board Chair, welcomed a packed room of 100+ LACLT members and supporters. He thanked all the people and organizations that made this project possible and called it LACLT's "crowning achievement."

Mayor Ed Engler was on hand to share the distant and recent history of the site. After a private developer abandoned plans to redevelop the site, the Planning Department turned to LACLT. Engler spoke on behalf of the city, saying for 20 years, a procession of mayors, councilors, and administrators have viewed the Land Trust as "an extremely valuable partner" who has a "glorious history of turning something that wasn't into something that is."

"Glorious history of turning something that wasn't into something that is."  
~ Mayor Ed Engler

In 2004 LACLT re-developed the old Vernitron factory across the street from River's Edge. Millview, an apartment complex of 18 units, was re-developed at the request of the city and also required the removal of highly contaminated soil.

Dean Christon, Executive Director of New Hampshire Housing, touted River's Edge as "a special project" that re-purposed a hazardous vacant space and added to the



*The ribbon is cut!*

*Ryan Barton LACLT Board Vice Chair, Andy Saavedra Rural LISC, Jason Hicks LACLT Board Chair, Mayor Ed Engler City of Laconia, Dean Christon NH Housing, Hunter Taylor Belknap County Commissioner, Paul Weech NeighborWorks America, Erin Weller LACLT Board of Directors*

affordable housing stock. He stated that "this has been a very challenging project that required creativity and tenacity."

Paul Weech, Chief Executive Officer of NeighborWorks® America, a congressionally chartered non-profit corporation that supports 247 organization like LACLT throughout the country, said that LACLT "stands out amongst the 247."

Last to speak, but certainly one of the most memorable, was Erin Weller from the LACLT Board of Directors. Erin came to LACLT as a working but homeless single mother. She entered LACLT's Transitional Housing Program and upon successfully graduating from the program, she moved into one of LACLT's permanently affordable units. She then took financial literacy and homebuyer education programs offered by LACLT. Today, she is currently under contract for her first home! After a large applause Erin stated, "If someone had asked me five years ago what would happen if I applied to be homeowner, I would have told them I didn't have a chance. But because of the Land Trust, I am almost there." Weller welcomed the new River's Edge tenants to the LACLT family and urged them to take advantage of what LACLT has to offer.

**Continued on page 2**

River's Edge includes 32 fully accessible apartments; 12 one-bedroom and 20 two-bedroom units, leased at permanently affordable rents. The building includes a community day care facility for infants aged between six-weeks and 18 months that will be run by Lakes Region Community Child Care. The building also includes our HOMEteam office and classroom that will be used for homeownership and financial literacy classes and one-on-one counseling.

The three-story building overlooks the Winnepesaukee River just above the Avery Dam, offering views of the Busiel Mill and Belknap Mill and adds 700 feet to the downtown river walk.

The building is within walking distance of downtown restaurants, stores, schools, churches, the hospital, a grocery store, and more. "The property illustrates so much of what we talk about with community development," said Weech. "It's not just creating a home, but a home that is connected to amenities. A home that is safe and secure and part of the bigger community."

To close the ceremony some key people were recognized and given a token of appreciation. The project Vision-

ary Award was presented to the Hickey family in honor of George Hickey. He was a great friend and architect to LACLT for over 20 years. George designed River's Edge and passed away suddenly before he could see his design become a reality.

Project Heros include Jim Menihane, Rob Dapice and Shaun Malone of New Hampshire Housing; Jonathan Smith of Warren Street Architects; Chip Elliott of Eckman Construction; Kevin Leonard of Northpoint Engineering; and Courtney Moore of TLCM Environmental Engineering. The Good Neighbor Award was given to Joseph Gonzalez who was a supporter of the project since the beginning.

Funding partners for River's Edge are: New Hampshire Housing, Raymond James, NeighborWorks America, Rural LISC, Community Development Finance Authority, Belknap County, City of Laconia, and Laconia Area Community Land Trust.

If you are or someone you know is interested in renting, contact Danielle Maslbas of The Hodges Companies at (800) 724-4686 or email [housing@hodgescompanies.com](mailto:housing@hodgescompanies.com)

## Come join us for some family fun at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Putt Putt Tournament

The First Annual Putt Putt Tournament presented by Meredith Village Savings Bank to benefit LACLT will be held at Pirate's Cove of Winnisquam on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The event includes a hot lunch and beverage, prizes, raffles, and giveaways. Registration is limited to the first 144 paid registrants. **Registration for the first flight will start at 10:00am with a shotgun start at 11:30am. Registration for the second flight will begin at 11:30am with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. Please mark your preference on the registration sheet.** The format is a four person team. If you do not have a four-some we will match you with other individuals. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams. Please fill out the form at [lactputtputt.eventbrite.com](http://lactputtputt.eventbrite.com) or contact Caitlin Meaney at [cmeaney@lact.org](mailto:cmeaney@lact.org) or 603.524.0747 ext. 108.

Proceeds from this event will go towards LACLT's Housing Development, Resident Services, Transitional Services and Housing for Homeless Families, and Prescott Farms Camp Scholarship Program.



Sponsored by



- Central NH VNA & Hospice
- Landmark Self Storage
- Lawson Persson & Weldon-Francke, PC
- Mainstay Technologies
- RL Benton Builders
- Sotheby's International Realty
- Taylor Community

## 03. Board Member Highlight

**Caitlin McCurdy** is an Associate at Lawson Persson & Weldon-Francke, PC of Laconia and LACLT's newest board member.



She was born in Frederick, Maryland and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Classics with a minor in Art History from Washington & Lee University in 2011. She received her Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University School of Law in 2014. While there Caitlin met Sam Garland, NH native, who introduced her to NH and the Lakes Region. She moved to here

in the fall of 2014 and connected with Susanne Chisholm of

Lawson Persson & Weldon-Francke, PC through a friend of the family.

Caitlin joined Lawson Persson & Weldon-Francke, PC, in 2014 and became an Associate with the firm in 2015. She concentrates her practice in the areas of estate planning, probate, and real estate. Caitlin is a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association, the New Hampshire Women's Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the New Hampshire Estate Planning Council.

Caitlin lives in Laconia. She enjoys horseback riding and traveling around the U.S. and abroad. In her free time, she takes flute lessons with a local instructor and has recently taken up hiking and cross-country skiing.

"I am excited to join the LACLT board and to have the opportunity to be part of an organization that provides such a vital service to the Lake Region community," says McCurdy.

## NeighborWorks Week Kicks Off the GROW Program

NeighborWorks Week (June 4-11) is a nationally recognized week-long celebration of neighborhood revitalization activities. NeighborWorks organizations across the country mobilized tens of thousands of residents, business people, and government officials in a week of neighborhood change and awareness. It was the perfect time to kick-off the GROW Project.



GROW is a collaboration between the Partner-

ship for Public Health (PPH), Laconia Area Community Land Trust (LACLT), Lakes Region Child Care Centers (LRCCC), Lakes Region Food Network, UNH Cooperative Extension, the Opechee Garden Club, and volunteer master gardeners, with funding support provided by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and NeighborWorks Week. The goal of GROW is to create more opportunities to access and consume healthy foods for low- and moderate-income families.

The first year of this three year project will concentrate on communities in Franklin and Tilton. Since June our tenants of Lochmere Meadows in Tilton have had: weekly on-site access to a Farm Stand that provides fresh local produce at a discount and accepts SNAP; on-site healthy food demonstrations, classes, and taste testing; and a demonstration garden that is used to teach residents about gardening with

the hopes of increasing interest to warrant the construction of a larger community garden in year two. Container gardens were given to tenants for their individual residences. This showed them the ease and benefit of gardening as an additional way to build knowledge and excitement about the community garden.

At the Tilton kick-off event Lochmere Meadow resident



*Lochmere Meadows Resident and Volunteer Master Gardener Richard Christopher*

helped plant the demonstration gardens, decorated and planted container gardens, viewed a cooking demonstration and tried food samples, made purchases at the Farm Stand, and played healthy food trivia to earn a spin of the prize wheel. This event was a great way to start such a valuable program.



658 Union Avenue  
Laconia, NH 03246  
Phone: (603) 524-0747  
Fax: (603) 527-2514  
www.laclt.org

Help us be more green and receive our newsletter by email!  
Contact Caitlin at 524-0747 ext. 108 or email her at cmeaney@laclt.org to be added to our newsletter email list.

## Like us on Facebook & follow us on Twitter & Instagram

LACLT wants you to keep in touch with us on social media. We use Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to post updates on LACLT events, building projects, news about our work, tenant stories and accomplishments, and more.

Please take a minute to search for us on Facebook at LaconiaAreaCommunityLandTrust and click the "like" button. Our Twitter & Instagram handle is @LaconiaAreaCLT.



## Green Tip - Black Gold

Compost is called black gold because of its value in improving garden soil. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 23% of municipal solid waste collected (and put into landfills) is made up of organic yard waste and food residuals.

### Green Materials to Compost:

Vegetable and fruit scraps. Coffee grounds and filters. Tea bags and leaves. Fresh grass clippings. Plant trimmings from your garden. Houseplants.

### Brown Materials to Compost:

Dry leaves. Straw and dry hay. Woodchips and sawdust from untreated wood. Dried grass clippings, shredded paper. Egg and nut shells. Hair and animal fur. Paper, shredded newspaper (printed with soy ink to be safe) paper towels, and paper tubes.

### DO NOT COMPOST!

Meat. Fish. Eggs. Dairy products. Oily foods or grease. Bones. Cat and dog waste. Diseased plants and seeds of weedy plants. Anything treated with pesticides.



### Our mission:

To assist low and moderate income households achieve economic self-sufficiency through the development of permanently affordable housing opportunities and associated support programs.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>JASON HICKS</b> Chair	<b>RYAN BARTON</b> Vice Chair	<b>GEOFF RUGGLES</b> Treasurer	<b>CHRISTOPHER WALKLEY</b> Vice Treasurer	<b>MARIA BABINEAU</b> Secretary	<b>CAITLIN McCURDY</b> Vice Secretary	<b>LINDA L. HARVEY</b> Executive Director
<b>ASHLEY DAVIS</b> Board Member	<b>JENNA PANCOAST</b> Board Member	<b>THOMAS RODRIGUE</b> Board Member	<b>FRANCES STRAYER</b> Board Member	<b>ERIN WELLER</b> Board Member		