

# Rally for after-school programming in Laconia

LACONIA — The Laconia School District, in partnership with the Belknap Mill, will Light up a Landmark on Thursday, Oct. 24, to draw attention to the need for more after school programs to serve the millions of children nationwide who are unsupervised and at risk each weekday afternoon. The Office of Extended Learning's partnership with the Belknap Mill has included after school programming such as First Robotics and art lessons with Larry Frates.

In addition to the Light up a Landmark event, children, parents, business and community leaders will come together on Oct. 24, at Laconia schools to celebrate the achievements of after school students. These events are some of more than 8,000 events happening nationwide.

Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, Lights On Afterschool has been celebrated annually since 2000.

The Office of Extended Learning opened in 2002

with a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It serves 873 children in Laconia, providing academic assistance, mentoring, tutoring, and classes and clubs in sports, recreation, mathematics, chess, and other subjects. Programs include Project EXTRA, Enriching Extensions to Raise Achievement, at the elementary schools; the REAL, Relevant Experiences Advancing Learners, Initiative at the middle school; and ELOs, Extended Learning Opportunities, Freedom Found, and other clubs at Laconia High School.

Senator Jeanne Shaheen said, "The Laconia REAL Initiative is so important for students as well as the future of our workforce. This program gives young

people a chance to experience and pursue opportunities in career fields and hobbies that appeal to them. It builds their confidence and develops their skills. It pairs them with insightful mentors who can lend proper guidance. And it provides a pathway for them to thrive in the workforce or in higher education."

"The Laconia School District has a long history of after school programming that allows for students to receive academic support and engage in a wide-variety of engaging activities based on their interests," said Superintendent Steve Tucker.

To get involved with helping young people become more active in their community, contact 603-524-5710.

## Irwin Automotive Group to host 8th annual Ladies & Wheels

LACONIA — The Irwin Automotive Group invites the community to join their 8th annual Ladies & Wheels event. The event will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 6-8 p.m. at 59 Bisson Ave. This Ladies & Wheels event focuses on the theme Ready Set Snow.

Winter is right around the corner and Irwin wants to make sure that all women are prepared and ready. All the ladies who attend the free and informative event will have the chance to win prizes and giveaways, including a chance for a set of snow tires. For every non-perishable food item donated during the event, attendees will receive a free raffle ticket.

Wayne Thayer, senior Toyota technician for Irwin Toyota, will present Winterizing Your Vehicle. Billy Salta, Quicklane manager, will explain the importance of tire safety, how to recognize wear and tear, purchases, and all snow tire questions. Jason Foss, vehicle detail manager, will demonstrate the important steps to preparing the exterior of a vehicle. Kim Terrio, executive vice president of Penny Pitou Travel, will discuss Travel By Design, Solo and Group Travels. Wendy Bagley, vice president of personal lines for Melcher & Prescott Insurance, will present Travel Safety.

Pre-register to a spot along with a free car wash, by contacting Betty Ballantyne at ballantyne84@gmail.com or 603-630-5531.

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