

**Scott Myers**

**Recycling starting to benefit city's budget**

The process of recycling changed dramatically several years ago when China stopped accepting most of the world's used materials. Municipalities, including Laconia, looked to rethink how we were handling recyclables in order to adjust to the changing times. There was an added emphasis on "clean" recyclables and the need to keep contaminants out. Some communities stopped recycling altogether because it was less expensive to landfill than to reuse these materials.

While recyclable commodities of aluminum, metal, corrugated cardboard and plastics were once a profit center — or at least a better environmental and financial option than landfilling for most communities — this flipped upside down and became an added expense to local budgets.

Laconia made adjustments.

There was an educational effort to stress the need for keeping contaminants and items that do not belong out of the recycling stream so that we had "clean loads." Even though we knew glass had the ability to be reused, the reality was that there was no market for glass in New England and that we were paying more to sort glass out of the single-stream recyclables only to have it end up in the landfill anyway. Laconia focused on "Glass is Trash" until better options came along. We continued to recycle all other appropriate materials.

The city constructed a cage behind the Department of Public Works garage on Messer Street where residents can drop off clean, flattened corrugated cardboard 24 hours a day. We also lease a compacting dumpster and city staff load the cardboard in and have it

hauled away when the dumpster is full. We now take in enough clean cardboard material to resell on the open market where it pays for the cost of the compactor and the hauling fee, actually returning a few positive dollars per ton back to the city to assist in reducing other solid waste costs.

After a couple of years, the market for clean, contaminant-free recyclables has begun to turn and there are more options for putting these materials back to a productive reuse. The city's solid waste hauler, Casella Waste Systems, now has a process to crush glass and use it as an aggregate in their operations. Based on this productive use for glass, the city is now asking you to place your glass back in the recycling bins.

Recycling still plays an important role in Laconia and our state. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get additional landfill sites approved in New Hampshire. If we run out of capacity, municipal costs will increase if we have to ship material out of state or out of New England in order to landfill.

Just like the Bob Dylan song, "The Times They Are a-Changin'" and the city is asking you to change with us. Please make sure that only proper items are placed in recycling bins. No plastic bags, no trash and only items that are clean of food product. Flatten your corrugated cardboard and put it aside until you can drop it off in the cage behind the DPW garage. Please start placing glass in your recycling bins.

Thank you for assisting us in making the best use of your tax dollars.

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*Scott Myers is city manager for Laconia.*



**MYERS**



**LETTERS**

**His proposed bills will offer greater property tax relief**

To The Daily Sun,  
This week, I will cover three bills I am prime sponsoring. These are all bills that I wrote and each bill addresses property tax relief.

The first two bills, HB 1055 and HB 1057, are relative to the property tax exemption for individuals with disabilities and deaf or severely hearing-impaired individuals, and the property tax exemption for the elderly. New Hampshire currently has property tax exemptions for these three groups of Granite Staters, but the income qualifications have not been updated since the early 2000s.

Over the last two decades, inflation has made it so fewer Granite Staters qualify for this vital property tax relief. HB 1055 and HB 1056 will adjust the income qualifications so more Granite Staters can be eligible for property tax relief and honor the original intent of these tax relief programs.

The last bill, HB 1056, increases the

veterans' property tax credit. Currently, veterans' standard property tax credit is \$50, and the optional veterans' property tax credit a community can offer is \$51 to \$750. HB 1056 will increase the required minimum tax credit to \$200 and allow communities to give a property tax credit for veterans of \$201 to \$900. This will provide many veterans with much-needed tax relief.

The most important responsibility any citizen can ever assume is to defend their country. Veterans have put their lives on the line to protect our country, lives, and freedoms. The least we can do is honor their service and help give back to them and their families. Veterans who have served honorably deserve to be supported once they come home and retire.

If you have any questions about HB 1060, please contact me at BrodieforNH@gmail.com or 603-387-4210.

Rep. Brodie Deshaies  
Wolfboro

**When it comes to vaccine, forget mandates, think family**

To The Daily Sun,  
Vaccine? It's a choice. Just do it for others, be brave.

Time to stop the rhetoric and placing more fear out there with this go around. Yes, we all understand, "Live Free or Die" and choice, but there is also such a thing as being just stubborn to the point of stupid. Enough is enough. Numbers mean something. People dying by the thousands from this must mean something. Herd immunity is something to be hoped for, vaccination is something we can do now.

Just imagine if we said no to the many other vaccines for other diseases?

We have the "no helmet issue." I have so many brothers that ride without helmets, but have no problem putting one

on when they hit another state. Why not just do it all the time? Because freedom can only be taken just so far. Seeing those with head injuries being airlifted off to Dartmouth with the hope of some chance of survival and then we so often hear, "if only they had a helmet on maybe it wouldn't have been quite as bad." Or like my brother-in-law the funeral director says, "a helmet can mean the difference between an open or closed casket."

It's beyond the political. It's time to get it together. The vaccine will help, stubbornness is harmful. When is common sense going to kick in? The point is "Live free and just live." Forget terminology like mandate. Just think family.

Bob Jones  
Meredith

**Letters Policy**

Letters should be written in the third person, be respectful in tone, avoid personal attacks and name-calling, and address a topic of general public interest.

Writers may submit one letter per week, up to a maximum of 500 words.

We consider all letters for publication, but cannot print all submissions due to the volume of letters we receive. Some letters may be published online only, including thank you letters.

Priority will be given to letters that address local issues.