

## Summer “Sand Pail” list

Here is a start to your summer bucket list – over 70 free or low cost things to do in Loudon this summer....

By Amanda Masse

*This article was updated and edited from a 2006 version I wrote and had help from, Alicia Grimaldi, Laurie Cowan, Michele Holbrook, Jenn Pfeifer, Kris Tripp, Deb Kardaseski, Samantha French, Melanie Kiley, Tamara Chalifour and others*

1. Be sure to read your *Loudon Ledger* cover to cover to see all the great things that happen in our town! Each month there are updates on activities and events - it is a great resource to find out what is up!
2. Enroll your child in The Maxfield Public Library Summer Reading Program – keep those reading skills sharp this summer while participating in TONS of fun activities and earning PRIZES! – Seriously wait until you see the list of prizes – we are talking BIG fun!
3. Check out all the new and exciting things that are being offered at The Maxfield Public Library – Monday at the movies, summer story time, craft time, teen/adult craft time, family nature outing, sit ‘n stitch, yoga, book group, etc... loads of activities for all ages – check it out! Did you know they have a website?  
[www.maxfieldlibrary.com](http://www.maxfieldlibrary.com)
4. Play some tennis at the tennis courts (located in the village at the Recreation Fields)
5. Gather a group of friends for a game of basketball at the basketball courts (located right next to the tennis courts) or shoot some hoops on your own.
6. Go for a hike up Oak Hill and if there is a fire warden present you may be able to tour the fire tower
7. Check out other hiking trails in the area. Ask for the open space trail system plan or an existing trail system map at the library or town offices.
8. Visit a farm! Did you know we have MANY farms in Loudon. Windswept Maples, Sanborn Mills Farm, Meadow Ledge, Miles Smith, D.S. Cole Growers, Ledgeview, Red Manse just to name a few – look for a list in the *Loudon Ledger* or at the library along with a map and stop by all of the Loudon farms.
9. Go meet a neighbor you haven’t met before
10. Go fishing at Clough Pond, in the Village, Rocky Pond, or Hot Hole Pond but be sure to get that fishing license online at [www.wildlife.state.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us)
11. Go for a swim at Clough Pond
12. Sign up for swimming lessons at Clough Pond more info at [www.loudonnh.org](http://www.loudonnh.org)
13. Pack a picnic lunch and go to the recreation field or down near a brook or stream.
14. Tour the fire stations – did you know we have two! Call for more info and schedule a time. Watch for events that the Loudon Fire Department will be holding.
15. Tour the police station – call for a good time
16. Attend a Loudon Young At Heart event

17. Use the free passes at the library for McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Canterbury Shaker Village, Children's Museum of New Hampshire, Squam Lake Natural Science Center, Currier Museum of Art, Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, Museum of NH History and The Wright Museum. Call the library at 798-5153 for more information on this program available to Loudon residents and to reserve passes.
18. Canoe or kayak on the Soucook River
19. Contact the Historical Society for a free tour – [loudonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:loudonhistory@gmail.com) is the email address for Loudon Historical Society
20. Attend the Recreation Department's Community Fun Nights in July and August! See the schedule in this issue of *The Loudon Ledger* or on the website at [www.loudonnh.org](http://www.loudonnh.org)
21. Go to the library and explore all it has to offer – this is worth mentioning again.
22. Put on some gloves, grab a trash bag and clean up your road
23. Stop and say "Hi" to someone out walking
24. Take a bike trip around our many ponds or dirt roads – be sure to wear your helmet!
25. Go camping overnight at one of the campgrounds here in Loudon!
26. Have a campfire in your own backyard and do some campfire cooking. BE SURE TO CONTACT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR A PERMIT by calling 798-5612. They will inspect your fire pit and give you a permit - if all is well.
27. Go for a drive! Get a map of Loudon and explore roads you haven't been on before.
28. Try out the skateboard park – remember to wear your helmets and if you don't have one, get one free at the Police Department!
29. If you are able to.... Volunteer! Do something good for someone in the community, LYAA, youth sports, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Young at Heart, John O. Cate Memorial Van, Lions Club, Loudon Food Pantry, even the Library. Call these places or go and see if they can use a volunteer.
30. Go to a meeting. Check the meeting schedules and attend a meeting of an organization or group in town. If you are curious as to what they do, check it out! Look for a list on the calendar section of [www.loudonnh.org](http://www.loudonnh.org)
31. Ask an "old timer" what Loudon used to be like.
32. Go on a bird or wildlife watch – remember to be respectful and identify birds and wildlife you don't know.
33. Get together with a group of friends or neighbors and build a float for the Grand Parade for Loudon Old Home Day – this year's theme is "Game-On"
34. Dig out your favorite recipe and make it for the baking contest at Old Home Day
35. Attend Loudon Old Home Day on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> don't forget the fantastic fireworks show at 9 p.m. look for a schedule in an upcoming issue of *The Loudon Ledger*.
36. Go blueberry picking
37. If you are a Veteran – Join The American Legion Post 88 – Contact Commander Shawn Jones
38. Ice Cream from a local ice cream shop – Dudley's on Rte 106 or Fat Dan's at the Loudon Village Store

39. Enroll in a vacation bible school at a local church
40. Write a letter, postcard or note! - No, not a text – an actual letter! Mail it to a friend, someone you love, haven't seen in a while or even a soldier serving overseas. There is nothing like getting a letter in the mail.
41. Attend a youth sports game at the Recreation field or Landry Ball Fields – if there isn't one going on, then gather friends and neighbors and have one!
42. Make a dandelion necklace
43. Pick wildflowers and make a bouquet for a friend
44. Plan a scavenger hunt for friends in your neighborhood
45. Get a book at the library on an animal or bird you have seen around town and read all about it.
46. Have a game night – invite friends, neighbors or just your family and play board games.
47. Play flashlight tag
48. Catch fireflies and then let them go!
49. Go to the library and get a book on the solar system and the stars
50. Gaze at the stars on a crystal clear night – see if you can find the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper, Leo the Lion, Virgo the Virgin, Ursa Major (the great bear), Draco the Dragon, Hercules, Serpens the Serpent, Libra the balance and many others present in the July sky.
51. Learn to recycle – Solid Waste and Recycling Committee has more info find them on Facebook – Loudon Recycling Committee
52. Play in the rain or mud! It is fun at any age
53. Fly a kite at the Recreation Field
54. Look through the old town reports at the library and find your children's or your ancestors birth records
55. Go to a local cemetery and find the oldest grave stone and make a crayon rubbing of the dates and names. You could even do some research on that person at the library!
56. Help to clean up an overgrown gravestone – maybe even plant a perennial there, just remember to be respectful
57. Pick up a new hobby! Learn to knit, crochet, quilt, build a robot, or learn anything! YouTube is an excellent resource.
58. Get a few families together and play a game of kick ball
59. On a rainy day, watch a classic movie
60. Have a movie night with popcorn either with a DVD from the library or swap one with your neighbor
61. Be an entrepreneur and have the kids open up a lemonade stand – even sell homemade cookies.
62. Have a yard sale
63. Go to a yard sale and find a neat treasure to keep you busy
64. Make a nature collage
65. Start an exercise group – or walking group with friends – you can just walk and catch up
66. Read past issues of *The Loudon Ledger* online
67. Bug hunt – learn the names of bugs you find in your yard

68. Listen to the sounds of the night and try to identify the things you hear – research any that you don't know what they are
69. Get a Loudon map and locate all the “water spots” dip your toes in each one
70. Go sit on the porch at The Loudon Village Store and talk with others who come and go.
71. Make a scrapbook of all your Loudon fun to share with others
72. Make a photo collage of all the new and interesting spots you visit in Loudon – send your photos in for submission to *The Loudon Ledger* – share your stories!!
73. What do you do with your family in Loudon that isn't on this list??? Let us know and we can add to the list and share your idea!

Remember there is lots of fun to be had right here in Loudon!