



Thank you for your purchase! An email will be sent to gilrichardson@wildblue.net for your records.

Stafford House implements energy improvements

Laconia Housing Authority hopes to reduce costs by nearly one-third

By ED PIERCE | Apr 07, 2015

LACONIA — Thanks to a generous Community Development Block Grant of \$500,000, significant energy savings are about to be realized for Laconia's Stafford House.

According to Richard Weaver, Laconia Housing Authority executive director, the grant provided funding for workers to implement a series of energy and infrastructure improvements last fall at the public housing facility.

It's hard to predict how much will be saved after one year, but it could be in the range of \$29,000, Weaver said.

"This is a good thing because the savings will be put back into the property," Weaver said. "This is an essential housing resource for Laconia."

Built in 1912, the Stafford House at 7 Church St. contains 50 independent-living residential units for income-qualified elderly households and has 36,000-square feet of space.

Weaver said energy improvements made at the Stafford House followed recommendations of energy audit and included installing airseals and insulation in the building's attic, front entry and roof; airseals for hot water heating pipes; airsealing between apartments; installing 149 triple-pane, low-energy replacement windows; putting in LED lighting with "smart" controls in offices, stairwells, the community room, laundry and common areas; purchasing a 34.5 kilowatt solar-electric photovoltaic system; and installing 1.28 gallon toilets to replace the old 4.5 gallon fixtures.

In addition to CDBG funding, the housing authority called upon the construction management expertise from Resilient Buildings Group, Inc. in securing an additional \$120,000 for electrical efficiency from Eversource, natural gas savings from Liberty Utilities and money back from the state's Public Utilities Commission's Solar Rebate Program.

If everything holds firm as determined by the energy audit, the housing authority expects to reduce energy use at Stafford House by nearly one-third going forward.

Stafford House units are studio and one bedroom apartments and heat, hot water and electricity are included in the rent. It is next door to the Laconia Senior Center.

Once known as the Laconia Tavern Hotel, it was billed as an upscale inn with luxury amenities including private baths, telephones and hardwood floors with rugs, elevators, electric lights, and its own automobile garage.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once stayed at the Tavern Hotel during his visit to Laconia.

It was operated as a hotel until the early 1970s when it was converted to apartments.

Weaver said because of the potential for further energy savings, the housing authority plans on asking the city of Laconia to help it obtain another grant to conduct an energy audit for its Normandin Square Apartments formerly known as the Scott & Williams factory on Strafford Street.

Comments (0)

Staff Profile

Ed Pierce
ED PIERCE
(603) 581-1970
[Email Me](#)

I'm a general assignment reporter covering Laconia and the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. My coverage responsibilities include Laconia city government and Laconia schools, feature writing, photography, veterans issues, breaking news coverage and the towns of Sanbornton, Tilton and Northfield. I'm originally from Rochester, N.Y. and obtained a bachelors degree in journalism from the University of New Mexico in 1988. My career has included serving as an Air Force journalist for eight years and I've worked as a news reporter, sportswriter, feature writer, columnist, news desk editor and sports section editor, managing editor and editor for a number of daily and weekly newspapers in New Mexico and Florida.

Recent Stories by Ed Pierce

- **[Workers achieve Main Street Bridge milestone](#)**
Apr 08, 2015
- **[Laconia sets tentative high school graduation date](#)**
Apr 08, 2015
- **[Bardellini to lead NH Ball Bearings in Laconia](#)**
Apr 08, 2015
- **[Tilton Police Log](#)**
Apr 07, 2015
- **[Speare specializes in healing chronic injuries](#)**
Apr 07, 2015