Accusations Fly Over Dumpster Depot Decision

**KATHLEEN D. BAILEY**
**NUTFIELD NEWS**

An open public forum at the Sept. 17 Town Council meeting turned into a discussion of how much power the Council has over other boards, specifically the Planning Board.

A delegation of about 30 residents of the Donmac, Arrowhead and Greenwich neighborhoods attended the meeting to ask the Council to intervene in the Aug. 21 decision of the Planning Board, in which that board voted 5-2 to allow David Paul, owner of the Dumpster Depot, to build a new facility off Ashleigh Drive.

Residents charge the developer has violated several conditions agreed upon in the June meeting, including not bringing back full Dumpsters, operating hours, Saturday hours and hours of starting and returning vehicles.

The abutters were scheduled to appeal the case to both the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board, as previously reported in the Nutfield News. The Planning Board turned down a request to hold a rehearing on a 2-4 vote (See related story page 3).

Dave Fischer, a resident of Donmac Drive, read a lengthy prepared statement in which he contended that the Conservation Commission and Planning Board “didn’t do their jobs.” Fischer said conditions discussed and agreed upon in the June 19 Planning Board meeting were “changed and ignored” in the Aug. 21 meeting. Fischer also said that Paul and his “hired spokesperson” (engineer Chris Tymula) were given “free reign” to explain concessions they were willing to make, while abutters were not allowed to speak.

Fischer asked, “When did things suddenly change between June 19 and Aug. 21?”

Fischer claimed that Planning Board members were biased in favor of Dumpster Depot, and that overruled “common sense, common decency and common courtesy.”

Planning Board to Debate Livestock Ordinance

**KATHLEEN D. BAILEY**
**NUTFIELD NEWS**

The Derry Planning Board has two different drafts of a livestock ordinance, but will wait for a formal discussion until Code Enforcement Officer Bob Mackey can join them.

The board took an initial look at the revised ordinance at its Sept. 18 meeting.

The draft ordinance adds a condition that roosters may only be permitted on lots with a minimum of three acres. They must not be allowed to crow between 8 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.

The ordinance also adds a condition that any animals “not interfere with other property owners’ rights,” which was not in the final draft written three or four years ago, Robidoux said.

“Putting this wording back in,” she said, “will give teeth to the Code Enforcement Officer.”

Bishop’s version also states that anyone violating the town ordinance will be subject to court procedure, after a warning has been given to correct the complaint. Those living on lots under the allowed limits at the time of the adoption of the ordinance will be grandfathered in – allowed to remain as is, but once an animal is removed, it cannot be

Benson’s Lumber & Hardware Celebrates Century Mark

**PENNY WILLIAMS**
**NUTFIELD NEWS**

It isn’t often that a family business reaches the century mark, but Benson’s Lumber and Hardware is celebrating that anniversary this week.

The company was founded in 1913 in Derry by George W. Benson to provide coal and lumber to residents of Derry and surrounding towns. Benson’s Lumber was taken over by George’s son, Grant Benson, several years later.

According to Derry Town Historian Rick Holmes, in 1915 the three Benson brothers, George, Harry and William, all had businesses in Derry. George Benson, who before starting Benson Lumber was a foreman at a local shoe factory, began selling lumber and building materials at his business at 1 Martin St. in 1913. Harry Benson was a druggist at 4 West Broadway and William Benson had a news and stationery business and was postmaster at 2 West Broadway.

“The Benson family has always loved the town,” said Holmes. “Grant Jr. not only loved the town but liked this town, as the whole family

Dancing in the Park

Derryfest brought in a number of acts Saturday to entertain the crowds gathered to celebrate the town. Pictured, “2 Legit 2 Quit” members, from left, Michael Crowley, Tyler Collins and Christopher Miller perform one of the dance routines that brought them second place at the annual Derry’s Got Talent competition. See more photos page 10.  

**Photo by Chris Paul**
Benson brothers now run the business by their youngest brother, Benson III and Brad Benson, over the business in the mid-century milestone but more importantly, they all expressed gratitude that their father had lived to see his dream of reaching the 100th year.

“It meant everything to my dad to see us reach the 100th year,” Brad Benson said. “My dad’s whole life wanted to make it to the 100th year, and it is nice he was able to. He was proud that the family had been able to continue in business for 100 years.”

Grant Benson Jr. died Feb. 23, 2013. Brad Benson said he was headed to a career on Wall Street when his brother Grant called and asked him to come home and help him run the business.

“I did and I am still here,” Brad said, as is Grant.

The Benson brothers all worked in the business during the summers they were in school and college. Today, Grant’s daughter Victoria, a college student, works part time in the Benson’s business office, and Brad’s older son Andrew worked in the Garden Center during the summer.

“There’s always a possibility of a fifth generation taking over the business,” Scott said. “You never know.”

Grant agreed, saying, “If it works, that would be great but if not, we’ll deal with that when we get there.”

“My take on a fifth generation is Andrew, Chris, Victoria should do whatever makes them happy,” Brad said. “If they find their passion, they should pursue it.”

But Brad is pleased the business has remained in the family so far. “I love going to work and being able to work with my family,” said Brad, who serves as a Derry Town Councilor. “I am a lucky guy to be able to have this good relationship with my brothers and to have such great employees.”

Grant noted, “There is a lot of history in Benson’s because we are so diverse, but it is a great place to work. I have enjoyed all aspects of working for the business and it is really great to work with my two brothers.”

Scott said only 5 percent of family businesses survive to the fourth generation and only 2 percent make it to the fifth.

“I am pretty proud of the fact that we have reached this anniversary and the fourth generation is still running the business, and that we are close both socially and business-wise,” he said.

“It is the people who have made Benson’s what Benson’s is,” Grant said. “It is wonderful how loyal the town has always been and how good the customers are, and we have great employees. It is great to be part of this community that supports us and which we support. We donate to all sorts of things in town and support our community, something which has gotten lost in a lot of companies.”

The brothers all attribute the business’s longevity to the loyalty of the community and their customers, and to the fact that the business has always had as a cornerstone giving back to the community in as many ways and as often as possible.

Scott, who lives in Londonderry, added, “We as a business and a family contribute a lot to the community without drawing much attention to it, but we try to give back as much as we can. The community has been extremely loyal.”

Brad noted a major change from the time his grandfather and father ran the business to today. He said in the past, major contractors had a key to the store, and it was not unusual to find them there getting supplies on a Sunday. The changes, he said, are part of the culture of the times, adding, “No one has keys any more.”

George W. Benson’s dream of a simple lumber and coal business has expanded over the past century under the leadership of his son Grant, his grandson Grant Jr., and now his great-grandsons, Brad, Grant and Scott Benson.

Benson’s today is much more than lumber and building materials. It has a garden section and a sports equipment section in addition to doors and windows, flooring, hardware, kitchen and bath items, lumber and building materials, millwork, outdoor living, outdoor power tools, power tools, and paint.

In honor of reaching the century mark, the brothers have decided to pay it forward and celebrate the weekend of Sept. 28 and 29 at both store locations.

Scott said free burgers and hot dogs, soda, cotton candy and popcorn will be available at both locations both days, with no purchase necessary. They will offer drawings for such items as a Weber grill and power tools and for five $100 gift cards, as well as offering door prizes, free give-aways and several promotions. One such promotion involves a customer being able to fill a 5-gallon bucket with whatever fits, for a discount of 19.13 percent at the cash register – rounded up to 20 percent.

“We are hoping these specials can give something back to our faithful customers and at the same time bring in some new customers and maybe bring back some customers who haven’t been in recently,” Scott said.
Planning Board Denies Dumpster Depot Rehearing

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  NUTFIELD NEWS

The Derry Planning Board will not allow a rehearing of the application acceptance and site plan review for a proposed Dumpster Depot headquarters on Ashleigh Drive.

Following a request for an appeal by Greenwich Road resident Brenda Wilson, the board voted 2 in favor and 4 against the reconsideration. David Paul is proposing to move his Dumpster Depot headquarters from Manchester to Derry and to store up to 350 Dumpsters on the property.

The board voted 5-2 at its Aug. 21 meeting to allow the project to proceed (See related story page 1).

Planning Director George Sioras said the request for reconsideration must be voted on by the members who had done the original vote in August, and the motion must be made by anyone who voted “yes” on the plan.

Member Frank Mazzuchelli made the motion to reconsider. “I feel they should have something to say if the applicant has something to say,” Mazzuchelli said. Sioras said the motion must be seconded by someone who had voted Aug. 21, and Ann Alongi seconded it.

The vote was by six members because Al Dimmock, who voted Aug. 21, was absent.

Alongi and Mazzuchelli voted yes on the reconsideration. Frank Bartkievich, Jan Chomiere, Randy Chase and Granese voted no.

Chase said, “I feel the board gave this project more than usual consideration. We thought long and hard.” Granese said, “We had a lot of meetings and followed the laws and procedures.”

Sioras said the opponents’ next avenue of recourse was the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Superior Court.

Point and counterpoint

Prior to the vote, Wilson read her reasons for filing the appeal and Granese refuted them.

Wilson said, “This letter is based on the June 19 meeting. Conditions were made which included hours of operation and no full Dumpsters. The Town Administrator argued for these conditions and Mr. Paul said they were a ‘deal-breaker.’ The applicant said he needed to have time to think, and Mr. Anderson said, ‘If you want to operate in Derry, bring back empty Dumpster.’”

When they came back in August, Wilson said, the conditions had changed.

Granese countered that the continuation from June 19 was not just to allow the applicant to think, but to allow the board to think. He said, “I stated at the time that the meeting would be only to discuss the pending motion and that there would be no further public input.”

Wilson said when Chris Tymula, Paul’s engineer, presented the project, he quoted New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) regulations that allowed waste in covered containers to remain on a property for up to four days. Wilson charged that Tymula didn’t quote the rest of the statute, which read that waste should not be stored “in conditions that would adversely affect the environment, public health and safety.”

She also said that the facility was a “transfer facility” which is not allowed in the Industrial III zone.

Granese said the facility is not a transfer station and requires no permit from DES.

Wilson said when Paul and Tymula appeared before the Conservation Commission, they stated the Dumpsters would be empty. Granese responded, “The Conservation Commission has already approved this.”

At Monday night’s council meeting, however, Conservation member Paul Doolittle said the Dumpster Depot proponents told the commission the Dumpsters would be empty.

Wilson said the facility has been approved as a “contractor’s yard,” but the definition for “contractor’s yard” for the I-III zone was eliminated in May 2012.

But Granese said while the definition for “contractor’s yard” had been deleted, “livestock continued from page 1 replaced. The rule is for horses, sheep, goats, chickens and pigs; under Bishop’s version, domestic dogs and cats, reptiles and exotic indoor birds are exempt.

The board grappled again with the question of “how do you shut a rooster up?”

Vice-Chair John O’Connor, who minored in poultry in college, said, “For all intents and purposes, it needs to be black.” If the rooster has no light, it will be quiet, he said.

Chairman David Granese said he had heard about "sunglasses" for chickens to control their clucking, and he wondered if that was viable for roosters.

O’Connor also observed that with baby chicks, “you can’t tell what sex it is for two or three weeks. What if you live on a small lot, and you find out one of the babies is a rooster?” And member Randy Chase said in his opinion, barking dogs are far more of a nuisance. “There are far more dogs who bark all night,” he said. “What’s fair for one is fair for another.”

O’Connor asked, “Do we have a right to do this if we don’t have a definition of nuisance?” And Granese defined “nuisance” for his fellow board members: “If you have to get up and go to work at 7 a.m. and a rooster’s been crowing all night, it interferes with your rights.”

The group will take up the discussion again in its Oct. 2 meeting.

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Editorial

It’s the Law

The Hampstead School Board chair’s decision to “respectfully request” audience members to refrain from using electronic devices, and the board’s agreement with that request, flies in the face of the state’s Right to Know law, and its justification is based on little more than the chairman’s wishes. That’s not enough.

RSA 91-A.2 clearly states that people are permitted to use “recording devices, including, but not limited to, tape recorders, cameras and videotape equipment, at such meetings.” Newer electronic devices contain all three. Considering cell phone texting at a meeting to be rude does not justify excluding it.

So why this misguided action? Is it an attempt to head off dissent?

It’s perfectly appropriate to require cell phone ringer and sound be turned off during meetings. The tapping of laptop keyboards doesn’t make for much of a disruptive sound, and touch screens on tablets and cell phones are almost silent. We’re not sure, therefore, how use of the devices could create a problem.

Perhaps an audience member texting a friend at home to come down to the meeting could be heard.

In the last year or so, parents have begun to speak up against the Hampstead board’s actions, usually in a restrained and polite fashion. It’s best never to fear or restrict the voice of the electorate. People are going to disagree with some decisions of every board. Sure, parents can sign up to speak during public comment. But telling them not to use electronic devices won’t curtail their dissent, although it may well make people angrier.

School board meetings are open to the public but are the board’s meeting. No argument there. Nevertheless, the purpose of the meeting is not to prevent the public from taking notes, making comments to others, or looking up information. What could the board fear from that?

The world is changing rapidly, and school districts routinely make use of technology in the classroom, in ways no one could have imagined just a few years ago. The library, for example, is now a media center. Indeed, not using technology in the classroom would be the exception these days, not the rule. Telling audience members not to use that same technology during board meetings raises the specter of hypocrisy.

Personal preference is not a justifiable reason to keep the modern world at bay during Hampstead School Board meetings. But it’s a good way to alienate residents and make parents wonder what the board really fears.

Dumpster

continued from page 1

Brenda Wilson of Green- wich Road, a spokesperson for the residents, said that in the July continuation of the hearing, Chairman David Granese had said the group would meet Aug. 21 only to vote on the issue.

Wilson also accused Granese of having a bias against the abutters, based on comments he made in a May site walk. Though he later apologized, Wilson said she believed the bias was there and influenced other members.

Wilson requested that the issue be removed from the Planning Board and heard by the Council or Zoning Board of Adjustment. She also asked that Granese not be involved in a future discussion or vote. “We are asking that one member recuse himself because of the bias he has shown since Day One,” she said.

Councillor Mark Osborne asked, “What jurisdiction, if any, does this body have?”

“I don’t think we have any, unless it’s obvious malfeasance,” Chairman Michael Fairbanks responded.

While Councilor Al Dimmock has publicly supported the residents, he pointed out that they can’t make Granese step down because Vice-Chair John O’Connor, a resident of Arrowhead Road, has already recused himself.

But Dimmock charged that Granese was influencing the rest of the board, and “leading the Planning Board in its decision.”

“Four other people also voted,” Osborne said. “You can’t ask them to recuse themselves because you don’t like the decision they made.”

Asked what other recourse they had, Wilson said they had talked about taking the matter to Superior Court, but first had to appeal to the Planning Board.

The strain showed among Councillors when Dimmock said, “I have been against this since the beginning. You all say Granese is such a great guy...”

“Point of order,” Councilor Neil Wetherbee fired back. “You are making an accusation. Nobody here said Dave Granese was a ‘great guy.’”

Councilor Brad Benson told Wilson, “We don’t have the authority to tell the Planning Board what to do.”

Wetherbee noted that he has been to Conservation Commission meetings and the plan presented to the Conservation Commission last spring is “entirely different than the one approved in August.”

Conservation member Paul Doolittle agreed, saying, “We were told they would be bringing back empty Dumpsters. We were not told any of the changes discussed in August. They lied to us.”

Planning Director George Sioras declined to comment on the matter, noting that it is an active appeal.

Granese declined to comment on the accusations of bias.

Safety Committee Recommends
No Change to Floyd Road Speed

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Highway Safety Committee will not recommend changing the speed limit on Floyd Road after a “traffic counter” on the road showed residents’ concerns unfounded.

The committee discussed the request from resident David Fencer at its Sept. 19 meeting.

Fencer, of 8 Floyd Road, submitted a letter in July asking for the speed limit to be lowered from the current 35 miles per hour and for a “No Through Trucking” sign to be posted.

Highway Supervisor Alan Cote told the group that a traffic counter had been set up on Floyd Road. Eighty-five percent of the vehicles in the specified period had been traveling at 44 mph or lower. Cote said the information had been passed on to the Police Department.

“As far as I’m concerned,” Cote said, “35 mph is a reasonable speed. Floyd Road is not a ‘local’ road but a collector road. It’s more a matter of enforcing the speed limit that’s already there.”

The traffic counter registered that fewer than 1 percent of the vehicles on the road were trucks, Cote said. And due to interstate commerce rules, they can’t post a road unless there’s also a structural problem.

The committee agreed to have a letter sent to Fencer explaining its response.
Derry Road Maintenance System Explained to Council

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
NUTFIELD NEWS

Derry Public Works (DPW) Director Mike Fowler flicked on a slide. “This condition is called ‘rutting,’” he said of a paved road filled with furrows. “This road actually had a 7-inch depression at one spot.”

Fowler and Derry Highway Supervisor Alan Cote spoke at the Sept. 17 Town Council meeting to explain their highway maintenance system and how they decide which roads get attention, and when.

Fowler’s system relies heavily on data gathering, he said as he narrated a PowerPoint presentation. He uses a rubric called a Pavement Condition Index (PCI), and when a PCI drops below a set number, the road is flagged for evaluation.

“The town does a survey of road conditions every three years, Fowler said. It determines the cost implications and measures them against the DPW budget, then projects the needs over five years. “The system stores, manages and calculates the data,” he said.

Field surveys are done by Engineering Technician Dave Belanger and are then entered into the database. The software evaluates the data and generates a PCI for each road. They use a computer program called “Road Manager,” Fowler said.

Belanger looks for and enters conditions including longitudinal cracking, transverse cracking, raveling and rutting, and something called “alligator cracking,” Fowler said.

The Town Council supports a “pay as you go” policy, Fowler said, and because of that, the town hasn’t had to bond for routine road improvements. The amount allotted by the town ranges from $1.2 million to $1.4 million each budget cycle. The town receives a $581,000 Community Block Grant from the state for roads, but that covers only a fraction of the need, Fowler said.

When the funding isn’t there, the PCI declines, Fowler said. And in recent years, he’s found his pavement dollar doesn’t go as far.

“Asphalt is up 167 percent,” he said. “It was $26 to $30 a ton in the 1990s. It’s now $75 a ton. We have the same amount of money, but what we’re able to do with it has declined.”

His goal, he said, is to “give the right treatment to the right road at the right time.” This means one of three treatments: reclaiming, including pulverizing the pavement, adding a new gravel base and repaving over it; mill, shim and overlay; or just shim and overlay. The last two are less costly than a complete reclamation, but if the issues are caught in time, are adequate.

“We also have to consider the drainage, base material and traffic volume,” Fowler said. “Is the traffic local, collector, arterial?”

He also makes an effort to coordinate road repairs with construction projects. “If utilities are to be upgraded, that’s done first so we don’t have to pave twice,” he said.

Time is essential in Derry roadwork because of the short paving season, Fowler said, adding, “We attempt to go forward as quickly as we can.”

But the systematic approach and the computer-managed data works for Derry, he said, noting, “You don’t see us chasing potholes like you do in other communities.”

Council Continues Inquiry into Charges Against Town Administrator

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Town Council is continuing its inquiry into charges brought against Town Administrator John Anderson and has not taken any action, Acting Town Administrator Larry Budreau said.

Budreau made the announcement as part of his report at the Sept. 17 Town Council meeting. Anderson, 50, was placed on paid administrative leave July 11 after accusations of indecent exposure inside his home from a DirecTV salesman.

He was charged with a misdemeanor Aug. 16 by State Police after a five-week investigation, and on Aug. 20 the Council met in executive session and changed his status to administrative leave without pay. Last week the Council met in nonpublic session with Anderson and his attorney.

Budreau, who has been appointed sole spokesperson for the town regarding the matter, said he would contact local media “as soon as I have anything to report.”

Town Again Receives Award for Financial Reporting

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
NUTFIELD NEWS

Derry’s finance department has once again been recognized for its efficiency in reporting.

The department, headed by Chief Financial Officer Frank Childs, received its 15th annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of America and Canada (GFOA) for its work on its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

“It is the 15th year the town has received this,” Childs said as he accepted the plaque from Budreau.

Childs noted that the CAFR is not mandated. “We could have gone with a ‘just a straight audit,’” he said. “We could have done the extra work, Childs said, adding, “We do the extra work, Childs said, and it gives Derry residents a clearer picture of where their money goes.

“We intend to present the information in a way the average layperson could understand,” he said. “They need to know where we are at as a town, what the trends are.”

The CAFR is used extensively by the financial community and bond rating agencies, Childs said.

Childs and Budreau thanked the rest of the finance staff, including Controller Janice Mobsby, Mark Fleischer, Bob McCarthy, Debbie Mailloux and Sonata McPhil.
A pair of local entrepreneurs will be allowed to sell motor vehicles out of their showroom on Tinkham Avenue after a vote by the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA).

Phil Littore and Larry Ouellette, owners of White Knuckle Enterprises LLC, appeared before the board Sept. 19 to request a variance to Article VI, Section 165-42.A and 165-42.C of the zoning ordinance. The parcel is owned by Kachanian Realty Trust and is Parcel ID 35015-011 and is zoned Industrial IV. The property is at 8 Tinkham Ave. White Knuckle Enterprises occupies 10,000 square feet. Littore read off the conditions for a variance and how he and his partner think their request fit them. The variance would not be contrary to the public interest, he said, because the use is consistent with other current uses in the district. The project will meet state and local building codes.

“The area is Industrial IV and the property is surrounded on all sides by commercial and industrial uses,” he said. Littore said “substantial justice” would be done because sometimes a customer wants to trade an unneeded car for a recreational vehicle, and they want to be able to resell them. Board member Teresa Hampton asked if the change would involve any extra fire safety precautions and Littore said he didn’t think so.

Member David Thompson asked where the cars taken in trade would be stored. Littore said they would be stored inside the building.

Chairman Allan Virr said the variance is needed because of a zoning change last year prohibiting sales of motor vehicles in the 1-IV district. “We wanted to prevent a situation like Ryan’s Hill,” he said, referring to the large number of used car lots on Route 28 South.

“That’s almost more cars than we have on the road in Derry,” Virr said of Ryan’s Hill. Virr noted that White Knuckle Enterprises already has a variance to do repairs inside the facility.

“The problem is when people bring cars in to trade, we can’t take them,” Ouellette said.

Their landlord, Derek Kachanian of Windham, spoke in favor of the variance, noting that the two men run a clean operation.

Virr asked about carbon monoxide. Kachanian said his tenants use a system called AirMax, which takes out the bad air and brings in the good.

As the property is at the end of a dead-end street, Virr and the board discussed allowing Littore and Ouellette to display a limited number of vehicles outside. They settled on two.

Virr and the board drafted a list of conditions for the variance, including:

- No outside washing of vehicles
- No outside repairs
- Obtaining all necessary state and town permits
- Using a water reclamations system for all inside washing
- Allowing environmental cleaning mats to be inspected
- No parking on the road or in drainage swales; and
- No more than two vehicles displayed outside during normal working hours.

The board voted 5-0 to grant the variance.

Variance Granted by Zoning Board for Used Car Showroom

**KATHLEEN D. BAILEY NUTFIELD NEWS**

A pair of local entrepreneurs will be allowed to sell motor vehicles out of their showroom on Tinkham Avenue after a vote by the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA).

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The board voted 5-0 to grant the variance.

**BBC Irish Radio Ulster Produces Program in Derry**

BBC Irish Radio Ulster was taping in Derry last week, at work on a radio show about the ancestral connection between Derry/Londonderry in Northern Ireland and Derry and Londonderry in New Hampshire.

Mark Wilson, the presenter, and Chris Spurr, the producer, interviewed Derry Town Historian Rick Holmes and Heather Rojo, president of the Londonderry Historical Society, about the connection forged by the Rev. James MacGregor centuries ago. The Irish visitors also interviewed Jean Manthorne and Brad Dinsmore of Windham, who spoke about their Ulster connection, Robert Dinsmore, the Rustic Bard of New Hampshire.

The participants met in front of the memorial stained glass window to the Rev. James MacGregor at First Parish Church in East Derry on Friday morning. The church was founded by MacGregor as a Presbyterian Church in 1720.

Holmes spoke briefly about why MacGregor had come to America, bringing with him from the Northern Ireland village of Aghadowey, County Londonderry his parishioners — about 20 families. The congregation later split and moved to what is now Londonderry and formed the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, while First Parish formed a Congregational connection.

But the Irish link for both towns today remains through the late Senator John Kerry, a former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, is a direct seventh generation descendant of MacGregor.

He talked about his trips to Ireland and his efforts to keep the connection between the two Derry/Londonderry communities alive. Holmes said Mark Patterson, an Irish Radio Foyle personality, was one of the founders of the Derry Historical Museum in downtown Derry, making the first contribution to fund the museum and further cementing the connection between the towns.

Holmes recalled that during his trip to Ireland this past summer, he was delighted to find himself quoted on a museum wall in Donegal. That was the result, he said, of proving that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, a former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, is a direct seventh generation descendant of MacGregor.

Following the interview, the group moved to Forest Hill Cemetery to visit the grave site of the Rev. MacGregor and to examine the gravestones of his small flock of Scots who founded what is now Derry and Londonderry.

Holmes noted that when MacGregor brought his parishioners across the ocean, they were not just able-bodied men and women. He showed the visitors the grave site of a man who had been 91 when he traveled with MacGregor, and added that there were babes in arms as well.
Cosmetology Program in Full Swing at Pinkerton

Kathleen D. Bailey
Nutfield News

Keryl Rabideau, director of the Cosmetology program at Pinkerton Academy, pulled out a drawer in the side of a footstool and pointed to a row of shiny pedicure equipment. “I love this,” she said. “We’ve got all the bells and whistles!”

Cosmetology opened this fall in the new building it shares with Pinkerton’s Animal Sciences program. Sixty young women spend one period a day perfecting their skills on mannequins, each other and eventually the general public. The program teaches career-ready skills in a career-ready facility.

On a recent weekday morning, 20 juniors and seniors from the four Pinkerton sending schools stood in front of mirrors at their “stations” and worked on complicated braided hairdos on mannequin heads. Rabideau strolled among her charges, pausing to admire or give advice. “Remember to push your creature up looking like a headband,” she said as she curled the ends of her model’s long hair. “I just started braiding, and it ended up looking like a headband,” she said as she curled the ends of her model’s long hair.

Her students are still students, and there’s a classroom with a white board, projector screen and work tables. This is where she does her lectures, she said.

Rabideau hopes to have the salon open to the public, at least students’ families and friends, by the holidays. It will be a “soft” opening, with students doing manicures and pedicures. By spring she hopes to have them doing hair “in time for prom season.” She will eventually offer waxing and facials to the public.

For now, she’s enjoying her new students and her new facility. “I am like a kid in a candy store,” she said.

The “real” kids are pretty excited too. Senior Gabby Guinto worked on a complicated braided design. “I babysit for a hairdresser, and she told me to take the course,” she said. Guinto has always been interested in the field and experimented with her own and friends’ hair.

“I love looking up the YouTube videos on hair,” she said.

Her mannequin had a French braid ending in a bun made of curls.

Samantha Hargery’s mannequin had a braid going around her temple. “I just started braiding, and it ended up looking like a headband,” she said as she curled the ends of her model’s long hair. Hargery said she’d done her hair and her sisters’ for years. Cosmetology is a career option, she said, adding, “I’m trying to decide between this and one other thing.”

Junior Kirstin Davis worked on shampooing her mannequin. “I like doing other people’s hair,” she said. Though the class hasn’t studied coloring hair yet, she has already explored that on her own, coloring on a regular basis for a friend’s mother.

The studio is “gorgeous,” Davis said, adding, “It gets me to realize what it will be like when we’re older and working — it’s so professional.”

And senior Alyssa Willey said, “I love this course. I look forward to it all day! I can’t wait until C period when I can go to ‘Cosmo’ and work, work, work.”
Traffic Counter Planned for Stoneleigh Drive Speed Request

The Town Council has approved an increase in the rate structure for reimbursement when police, fire or public works personnel assist at an incident involving hazardous materials.

Fire Chief George Garone, who was out of town, wrote there was no need to bring back more data. Instead, he said he went to Berry Road and saw the nature of New England. If we were in Kansas, it wouldn’t be a problem.”

Member Donald Burgess said he went to Berry Road from 4:30 to 5 p.m. and didn’t see a problem.

The committee agreed to have a letter written to McCullough explaining its position.

Council OKs Increase in Hazardous Materials Response Reimbursement

Kathleen D. Bailey
Nutfield News

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The committee agreed to have a letter written to McCullough explaining its position.

Safety Committee Rejects Lowering Berry Road Speed Limit

Kathleen D. Bailey
Nutfield News

The Highway Safety Committee has rejected a request from a Berry Road resident to lower the speed limit from 35 miles per hour. At its Sept. 19 meeting, the committee discussed a request from Jeannine McCullough to lower the speed limit due to poor visibility for at least four of the houses. The committee determined that while the traffic is heavier now because the road is being used as a detour, it will not be traffic-heavy when work on Rockingham Road is completed. McCullough wrote, “Due to the type of road it is, I feel that the limit should be lowered.” She said she had requested a “Blind Drive” sign at an earlier point and been told it would lead her into a “false sense of security.” But, McCullough argued, “As a driver, when I see this type of sign, I automatically slow down until I can see the driveway to make sure there is no car exiting.” Derry Police Capt. Vern Thomas, acting for Chief Ed Garone, who was out of town, wrote that there was no new construction nor any changes to the area to justify a lowered limit. The deton will end when Rockingham Road is complete, he wrote, and 35 mph is appropriate for a secondary road.

Thomas wrote that it was important for residents and their guests to recognize the limited visibility. While a radar trailer to measure speed is an option, Thomas wrote there was no place to put one unless residents offered their property. Highway Director Alan Cote said he considered 35 mph a “reasonable speed” and added that if it were not reasonable, every road in town would have to be posted at 30 mph.

Cote also said he hasn’t seen much effectiveness to “Blind Drive” signs. “As far as that goes, we could have one every half mile,” he said.

The main reason for “Blind Drive” in the Berry Road area is a large boulder obstructing the view, and, he said, “That’s the nature of New England. If we were in Kansas, it wouldn’t be a problem.”

Member Donald Burgess said he went to Berry Road from 4:30 to 5 p.m. and didn’t see a problem.

The committee agreed to have a letter written to McCullough explaining its position.

Due to the light traffic, vehicles have plenty of room to avoid a pedestrian even if they don’t step on to the curb,” Thomas wrote.

Highway Director Alan Cote recommended a neighborhood solution. “I drove out there and I noticed that there were only 10 houses on the road,” he said. “Five people signed the petition. How about asking the other five to slow down?”

Cote recommended a drop to 30 mph and said, “Some of it is common sense. I don’t believe people are going that fast.”

Fire Chief George Klauber said a fast driver might be someone who drove into the cul-de-sac by mistake “and now they just want to get out.”

The committee agreed to table the issue to the next meeting, giving Cote time to set up the traffic counter and to bring back more data.

Traffic Counter Planned for Stoneleigh Drive Speed Request

The New Hampshire RSA 154:8a requires the state Department of Safety to establish maximum rates for equipment use and personnel costs for the purpose of reimbursement when providing services at a hazardous materials incident.

Klauber said that the town was asked to participate in a state survey to update the statewide rate. The town’s rates were last revised Sept. 6, 2011. Klauber added that the recommended rates are based on current wages and roll-up costs (Social Security, Medicare, Workers’ Compensation and New Hampshire Retirement System). Equipment reimbursement rates are based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) equipment usage rates.

If a private company or person is responsible for the hazardous materials incident, they can be billed for actual expenses related to the incident, Klauber said.

The new rates are a range of amounts depending on the person’s job and the type of equipment used, Klauber said. “We factored in straight time, overtime rates and benefits,” he said of personnel reimbursement. The equipment reimbursement depends on the type of equipment used – it varies for everything from a police cruiser to a front-end loader to a ladder truck.

There is no cost to the town, and the amount of revenue is undetermined, Klauber said.

The board voted 7-0 to approve the new rates.
Derry Bridge to be Named in Honor of Fallen Marine

Kathleen D. Bailey  
NUTFIELD NEWS

A bridge over Route 102 will be named in honor of a fallen Marine with both Derry and Londonderry ties.

The Derry Town Council voted 7-0 at its Sept. 17 meeting to allow the bridge over Shields Brook on Route 102 (West Broadway) to be named in honor of former Derry resident Lance Cpl. Michael E. Geary.

Geary, a 2009 graduate of Pinkerton Academy, was killed in combat Dec. 8, 2010 while serving in Afghanistan. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The bridge is just west of the Marion Gerrish Community Center and municipally owned within Derry’s Urban Compact. A legal opinion from the New Hampshire Municipal Association provided that the Council has the authority to grant the request.

Town Councilor Phyllis Katsakiores spoke to the request. She said she had received a phone call from State Rep. Al Baldasaro, R-Londonderry, asking if Derry had a bridge that could be named after Geary. Katsakiores said Geary’s mother, Nancy, was in the audience that night along with several other family members.

She said she’d first found out about the possible dedication earlier that afternoon, when Baldasaro telephoned her. Her sister had been working behind the scenes with Baldasaro to get some recognition for Michael, she said, but hadn’t said anything because “she didn’t want to get my hopes up.”

Michael was a “handsome kid,” Nancy Geary said, though he didn’t see himself that way. He was raised largely by herself and her mother, in a household of women, and perhaps because of that he had a kind nature. He had “adopted” some elderly neighbors, shoveling their walk and carrying in groceries, and when one of them tried to give him money he refused, his mother said, and he said, “That’s what we’re here for.”

Michael became interested in the military as a young teen, Geary said. At first she had made a deal with him, “Finish college and I’ll back you.” But in his senior year he said, “We have to talk,” and explained that college after high school was “not for him.” He said he’d been working out and trying to get his grades up, in preparation for a Marine enlistment, and he would take advantage of educational opportunities in the Marines, retire at 38 and have a second career. “He knew what he wanted, he had a plan,” his mother said.

She and other family members wear bracelets that were crafted by a Marine buddy of Michael’s, and given to them at a ceremony at Camp Lejeune. Hers has opened numerous conversations.

“I was in Payless and a girl spotted my bracelet and said, ‘Are you Michael’s mom?’ She had wonderful stories about him,” she said. His legacy lives on in stories about his kindness, Geary said.

In the Council meeting, Geary said, she was “more proud of him than ever. I was very touched,” she said. “He will never be forgotten.”

“Michael Geary is a true American hero and deserves recognition,” Katsakiores said. The audience applauded after the Council’s affirmative vote.

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DERRIFEST FUN MacGregor Park was filled with festivities Saturday for Derry’s annual town celebration, Derrfest. There was something for everyone, with children’s games, food booths, and entertainment throughout the day. Above left and clockwise, this year’s Greater Derry’s Got Talent winner Andrea Debra of Derry recited her winning original slam poetry piece, inspired by her grandmother; Red Star Twirler Mikhala Bornstein performs; Abby O’Brien enjoys some fried dough; veterans serve as vigil guards at the annual POW/MIA Vigil, sponsored by Derry Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1617 and ladies and men’s auxiliaries; Brendan Gaudette plays a game at the Chamber of Commerce booth; and the crowd is amazed by a Cayman lizard presented by Wildlife Encounters.  Photos by Chris Paul

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Pinkerton Golfers Move to 15-6

A first-place finish and a last-place finish in two road matches last week left the Pinkerton Academy golf squad with a 15-6 record thus far in the 2013 season.

Coach Joey Lee’s Astros played impressive golf in a fine win at the par-36 Atkinson Country Club on Tuesday, Sept. 21, won’t wind up anywhere near the top of the list of Astro/Blue Devil grid battles from throughout the years.

A now 2-1 Astros carved up their host in workman-like fashion in that most recent meeting, and the Blue Devils had few answers either on defense or offense.

Pinkerton’s star senior running back Manny Latimore collected 147 rushing yards and a touchdown in the first half, and junior quarterback Jack Hanaway solidified his hold on the starting signal-calling job by running for a pair of scores and 62 yards on just five carries by halftime as the Astros went to the break with a commanding 20-0 advantage.

Latimore finished with two touchdowns and 173 yards on the ground, and the Astros never had any reason to think winless Salem (0-3) could mount a serious comeback after PA posted its first three scores.

Latimore sprinted for an 82-yard touchdown with 6:27 remaining in the first quarter, and Pinkerton added on to its 6-0 advantage with Hanaway’s 50-yard keeper run to pay-dirt early in the second period. One offensive series later the visitors were celebrating Hanaway’s 18-yard scoring jaunt, and the score sat at 20-0.

Latimore ran for his second score of the day by covering five yards on a run in the last minute of the third quarter, and Salem got its two points thanks solely to an errant PA snap on a punt attempt deep in Pinkerton territory in the middle of the fourth quarter.

The Astros collected 287 offensive yards in the first half and finished with 325 rushing and 36 passing for a total of 361. Salem had just 65 yards on offense in the first half and later a not-so-grand total of 207 (134 rushing and 73 passing) in the full contest.

Pinkerton junior quarterback Jack Hanaway had two touchdown runs during his squad’s thumping of the Salem High Blue Devils on the road last weekend.
Pinkerton’s Boy Booters Best Both Timberlane and Salem

The Pinkerton Academy boys’ soccer squad gave coach Kerry Boles bunches of reasons to grin last week by defeating both the Timberlane Owls and the previously-undefeated Salem High Blue Devils. Those, wins placed the Astros’ 2013 record at 5-1.

The academy guys shoved their season record up to 4-1 with a pleasing 4-0 defeat of the Timberlane Owls at Londonderry High School on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

The contest was scoreless until the final minute of the first half when senior standout Tim Wood potted what would prove to be the winning goal on an assist from Alex Ebner.

Ebner then gave his Astros a 2-0 lead after being set up by Tommy Martin just a minute into the second half, and Kyle Hicks made it 3-0 game just six minutes later on a set-up by Jacob Konstant. Hicks finished the scoring with his second tally in the 68th minute of the match on an assist from Arlo Wetherbee.

Eric Werner (three saves) and Jimmy Mansour (two) handled the goalkeeping for the winning side, and Timberlane keeper Josh Grumbow made 13 stops in attempting to keep his side in the game.

“This was a good game for us,” said coach Boles. “We were sluggish after having a week off, but it was nice to see us stay focused, work together, and find the back of the net a few times today. These guys continue to work hard, progress, and grind out victories.”

And in the road match with 5-0 Salem during the Blue Devils’ homecoming festivities last Saturday, Sept. 21, coach Boles’ boys busted a scoreless deadlock with second half tallies from Hicks seven minutes into the second-half (from Ebner) and Ebner unassisted 21 minutes later to win 2-0.

PA goalie Werner had four stops in the shutout, and coach Boles had many reasons to be pleased with the work of his charges in the successful match.

“I am very happy with our overall performance today,” he said. “It was great to grab a victory against an undefeated opponent, but individually we need to continue to make improvements. Hopefully this happens quickly because we have a tough schedule ahead of us.”

PA Lady Booters Maintain Their Perfect 2013 Mark

Pinkerton Academy girls’ soccer squad bounced its season record up to 6-0 by winning two more Division I contests last week.

The Lady Astros edged both the Timberlane and Salem contingents by one-goal margins to remain perfect in that tough division. The team netted two unanswered, first-half goals and then hung on tight for a 2-1 win over the Timberlane High Lady Owls in Plaistow on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

Grace DiPersio and Keara Doolan notched the two Pinkerton tallies, and goalie Sammy Mitchell was good for six saves as the academy bunch moved its season record to 5-0.

The Lady Astros then had to take on a hungry but winless (0-3-2) Salem squad on the Lady Blue Devils’ homecoming day last Saturday, Sept. 21. And one tally - potted by Pinkerton’s DiPersio on an assist from Andrea Galvin in the 11th minute of the first half - made the difference and kept the PA squad unbeaten.

Goal tender Sammy Mitchell contributed four saves to her team’s fourth shutdown of the still-young season.
Pinkerton AD Tim Powers Wins Pair of Impressive Honors

Pinkerton Academy athletic director Tim Powers was recently given a pretty good idea of what the other AD’s in the state think of the job he has been doing at the Derry school over the last three years.

“Tim Powers, athletic director at Pinkerton, was named both the New Hampshire Athletic Director of the Year and the Division I Athletic Director of the Year on Monday (Sept. 16) at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association,” said PA public relations and external affairs director Chip Underhill.

The state honor is voted upon by the athletic directors in the Granite State, and the divisional award is voted upon by the AD’s of Division I schools.

The Pinkerton athletic director is a Salem High School graduate who was serving as the athletic director at Pelham High School when he was selected by the academy to replace outgoing Pinkerton AD Bob Royce.

“It was a surprise and an honor, especially since the voting was done by peers,” said Powers of receiving the awards. “I’m very thankful for the support I get here from administrators Mary Anderson, Glenn Ahrens, the board of trustees, the rest of the admin team, and also from (administrative assistant) Courtney Wall and all the coaches. Without all of what they do, I wouldn’t be able to do what I do.”

Astro Stickers Get a Winning Streak Rolling

Coach Jen Resmini’s defending Division I champion Pinkerton Academy field hockey contingent kept its winning ways rolling along in earnest recently by collecting its third and fourth consecutive victories in matches with Bedford and Salem.

The Lady Astros had little difficulty with the Bedford High Lady Blackbirds on Wednesday, Sept. 18, as coach Resmini’s girls thumped their host by a 6-2 margin.

The visitors netted four unanswered goals in the first half and added two more in the second half to collect the blowout.

Julie Saltamartini potted half of the Pinkerton goals, Kaylie DeCosmo scored one of them and assisted on two, Jessica McCully was good for one tally, and Haley Harrington also netted a goal.

Laura Moran, Samantha Daigle, and Erin Johnston all registered assists for the winning side, and goalie Abbey Doherty contributed six saves in her net in the shutout.

In their Saturday, Sept. 21, road match against Salem, the 5-1 Lady Astros required a stellar performance from goalie Jordan Dudley and a second half goal to get past the 5-2 Lady Devils.

Dudley made a total of 16 stops in the victory - including a clutch one on a penalty stroke - andSaltamartini set up Erin Johnston for the winning tally midway through the second half. And the Lady Astros collected their fifth straight win - upping their Division I mark to 6-1 - by blanking the Concord High Crimson Tide 3-0 in the state capital this past Monday, Sept. 23.

PA Athlete of the Week for the week of Sept. 16 Johnston notched a point in a third consecutive match by potting one of the three Pinkerton goals. Harrington and DeCosmo bagged the other two, and assists were registered by Day, Elizabeth Tyer, and Jessica Cote.

Lady Spikers Claim Shutout and Get Shut Out

The Pinkerton Academy girls’ volleyball squad saw its season record continue to hover at the .500 mark last Saturday, Sept. 21, with the host Lady Blue Devils snaring game victories of 25-22, 26-24, and 25-23, despite a significant effort from the Lady Astros.

But coach Royce’s crew had its record slip to 3-3 with the 3-0 loss to Salem last Saturday, Sept. 21, with the host Lady Blue Devils snaring game victories of 25-22, 26-24, and 25-23, despite a significant effort from the Lady Astros.

PA got a fine match from Mathieu (15 digs, 10 service points, three aces, and seven kills) and nine service points from Kelsey Cummings despite the rough outcome.

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CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

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Sam Gray Memorial Softball Tournament Benefits CASA

The children of the late Sam Gray, a Derry man known for his generous and caring way of life, are sponsoring a softball tournament in his memory to benefit a cause he was passionate about — CASA of New Hampshire.

The first Memorial Sam Gray Softball Tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 28, at 2 p.m. at the Don Ball Field off Humphrey Road. It will feature two teams made up of family and close friends; next year will be much bigger, the family promises.

Gray died July 4, 2013. Gray’s daughter Jennifer Byrne said, “The teams are named after two things dad loved — Peaches and Dad bought all of his kids peach trees so that we could have a contest for the first edible peach and we have something to remember him — and Strawberries — in his last year, he rode a horse named Strawberry. At the time he was losing his hair, things were very sad and we were in shock that he rode a horse.”

All the proceeds from the tournament will benefit CASA — Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Hampshire. Expenses for the game are being donated by the family. Donations are welcome at http://casanhan.kintera.org/.

Byrne said of the effort to organize and put on what is planned to be an annual memorial softball tournament, “We knew in our heartache, Dad would want as much money and attention to be raised for CASA. It’s the best way to honor the man he was.”

Gray, who was born Dec. 29, 1947, was a Derry native, graduating from Pinkerton Academy and serving with the U.S. Marines in Vietnam and Lebanon. After leaving the military he became a court reporter for the State and for 25 years, was the owner of Samuel Gray Court Reporting Services. In retirement, Gray served as a CASA volunteer, a role in which he advocated for abused children’s best interests and brought joy to the many children he assisted during their difficult times. Throughout his life he was involved in local and community activities.

In an interview several years ago with the Nutfield News, Gray talked about his involvement in CASA. “Every day, you see terrible things,” he said, noting that a CASA appears in court to speak for the child victims. He often recruited for CASA using the Marines’ mantra — “we’re looking for a few good men.”

Gray said in that interview that while he had done a lot of volunteering, “being a CASA is the most rewarding thing I’ve done in my whole life.”

A CASA spends 10 to 15 hours per month on his or her assigned child – usually visiting the child once a month, and talking by phone with a child’s caseworker, foster parent, therapist, physician, or anyone else involved in the case.

Byrne said, “Dad loved every aspect of CASA. He loved being a mediator, and his ultimate goal was always for the child to be in the best possible home situation. To our knowledge all his cases remained very successful. He helped seven children in six years.”

Gray’s children settled on a softball tournament because Gray had played in the Derry men’s league when they were growing up, and also served as coach for his children. His four oldest grandchildren now play baseball or T-ball.

The family hopes the tournament will raise as much as $5,000 and say they have already reached $3,000. “We thought about ways to raise money for CASA, and even though things like a 5K race would probably raise more money, we wanted to do something Dad would have loved,” Byrne said. “He would have been the first person to sign up for this and he would have raised the most money. Of the people who eulogized him, every single person talked about his willingness to help anyone and his ability to make everyone laugh.

“More than anything, I miss his humor,” she said. “He could pick you up no matter how down you were. He would do anything for anyone.”

Athletes of the Week

Week of Sept. 16

Erin Johnston, Junior, Field Hockey

This skilled 11th grader contributed points to the Lady Astros’ wins over Bedford and Salem during the week, putting forth a superb showing at the invitationals.

Phil Parent, Senior, Boys’ Cross-Country

Parent has become a going concern for the Astro harriers over the last several years, and he stood tall once again in winning the Nashua Invitational as an individual and leading the Long Red Line to the team title as well.

Chris Pantazis

Pinkerton Academy’s boys’ and girls’ cross-country teams set their school’s other varsity sports squads up nicely for this weekend’s Mack Plaque games against Londonderry High by both putting forth superb showings at last Saturday’s (Sept. 21) Nashua North-South Cross-Country Invitational at Mines Falls Park in the Gate City.

The Nashua event was the pre-determined meeting place for the PA and LHS teams where Mack Plaque action is concerned, and with the Pinkerton boys finishing first to Londonderry’s third and the Lady Astros winding up third to Londonderry’s fifth, the academy takes those two Mack points before this weekend’s play even commences.

Pinkerton also had two of its harriers win the individual titles at the invitationals, with male Phil Parent pacing all of the guys and female Morgan Sanange leading all of the girls.

Parent’s win in the boys’ varsity race (time of 16 minutes, 24 seconds) helped the Long Red Line to its winning tally of 34, with the Methuen, Mass., entry a distant second (91) and Londonderry a more distant third (107).

Veteran coach Mike Clark’s victorious boys placed all seven of their runners in the top 25 of the 82-man field, with Tom Hanlon (fourth), Connor Kwiecien (seventh), and Owen Clark (ninth) all ending up in the top 10.

Coach Amy Bernard’s PA Trailblazer team tally of 65 was just behind the runner-up total of Concord (64) and a bit further behind the meet champs from Bishop Guertin (49).

But race champion Sanange paced the 82-runner field in the girls’ race by crossing the finish line in 19:18, and her teammate Ariel Vaillancourt ended up an excellent third overall (19:52). Taylor Lacey (14:45) and Haley McMullen (20th) also finished in the top 20 for PA as the Lady Astros enjoyed a productive day.

PA Harriers Produce Mack Plaque Lead

By Peter January

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Budget and Pre Pay Plans
Salvation Army Holds Annual Chili/Chowder Cook-off

The Salvation Army holds its annual Chili/Chowder Cook-off Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at MacGregor Park to raise money for projects designed to help the community.

Local restaurants provide their chili and/or chowder for tasting, and the public is encouraged to sample the offerings and cast a vote for their favorite chili and chowder. Among restaurants participating are: Granite State Lunchbox, Stumble Inn, J. Michaels, Steven James Tavern, Brooklyn Bagel, Shellie’s Butcher, the Hailigan Tavern, MMI Catering, the Lobster Tail, How’s Your Onion, and Whippersnapper’s.

In addition to chili and chowder, hamburgers and hot dogs will be available as well as Kona Ice and Sno Cones.

The public is urged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and settle in for a fun afternoon.

Music will be provided by Jivecats and California Dreamers. For the kids there will be a bouncey obstacle course, pumpkin painting, sand art, face painting, coloring and other crafts.

Participants can enter to win four VIP tickets to Nightmare New England.

The cost for the tasting is $5 per ticket, and activities tickets can be purchased at two for $1.

All proceeds from the event go directly back to helping the community, said Lt. Kiley Williams.

October Brings Drawdown of Several Local Lakes

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has announced its scheduled lake and pond drawdown controlled by dams it owns.

In Derry that refers only to Ballard Pond, which will be drawn down 2 inches starting Oct. 14.

The depth of drawdown is not from the current level, but from the normal full pond level. As the hydrologic conditions and recreational uses of water bodies vary, the degree and date of the start of drawdown could be affected by the amount of rainfall during the period. In addition, the actual date at which the drawdown will begin could vary by a few days based on operational constraints.

Pond and lake drawdowns are conducted each fall to reduce winter ice damage to shoreline properties and to reduce spring flooding.

Drawdowns also give property owners an opportunity to conduct repairs to their waterfront property, provided they first secure a permit from the DES Wetlands Bureau at 271-2147.

Generally, lake levels are allowed to return to the normal full pond level in the spring.

John DeVito of the Big Island Pond Corporation said that Big Island Pond, which is in Derry, Hampstead and Atkinson, will see the opening of its dam on Columbus Day, Oct. 14. He said the pond water runs downstream into Arlington Pond in Salem and takes about two weeks to empty, although it could be more or less due to weather.

The Town of Derry owns the dam that controls the Beaver Lake drawdown.

Derry Public Works Director Mike Fowler said the Town will begin the drawdown at Beaver Lake on Oct. 15, the day after Columbus Day.

The drawdown usually lasts a month to six weeks and if that time period doesn’t see an excessive amount of rainfall, the lake will expose anywhere from a few inches to a few feet of the lake bottom, depending on the shoreline and lake bottom drop-off.

With the flooding that occurred in the spring at Beaver Lake, some lakefront properties sustained some erosion, and the drawdown offers an opportunity, if the owners have the appropriate permits, to restore their property.

Another Batch of Mosquitoes in Derry Test Positive to EEE

The Sept. 17 discovery of an infected batch of mosquitoes with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Derry will not change the town’s response, Health Officer Paul Raiche said this week.

The town had already planned to spray public areas, including parks and playing fields, after a horse in Derry was found with EEE. The spraying was conducted on Sept. 18.

Raiche said spraying lasts up to four weeks. If the area has a hard frost between now and mid-October, there won’t be any need to spray again, he said.

“If we reach mid-October and we’ve got some positive batches, we may have to spray again,” he said. “We’ll have to wait and see.”

Seacoast United Soccer 2013/14 Derry Junior Academy Tryouts

Date: Wednesday October 2 & October 9

Time: Boys - 4:15-5:30 p.m.
Girls - 5:45-7 p.m.

Age Groups: 7 & 8 Year Olds, 9, 10 & 11 Year Olds.

Location: Sports Zone, 7 A Street, Derry, NH, 03038

For further information on the Seacoast United Junior Academy program and locations, please visit www.seacoastunited.com/JrAcademy
COMMUNITY EVENTS

This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group or non-profit is receiving money for what they are publishing, there will be a charge of $30.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of $30.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. Additionally: We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at www.nutpub.net. Please send submissions to calendar@nutpub.net.

Free Admission

The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire offers free admission from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, as part of Smithsonian magazine’s ninth annual Museum Day Live! A nationwide event, Museum Day Live! offers free admission at participating museums to emulate the admission policy of the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C. The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire will host a special event on “home-built” aircraft to celebrate the day. The museum is operated by the New Hampshire Aviation Historical Society in the restored 1937 terminal at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry. Visit www.NNHAHS.org for more information.

Garden Club

The Derry Garden Club will present “Putting Gardens to Bed, Dividing Perennials, Fall Bulbs to Plant” with presenter Emily Lameu of Chakarian Farms in Derry at its meeting Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry, 40 Hampstead Road, Derry. An optional Perennial Swap for members is also planned. For more information, visit derrygardenclub.org or call 434-0578. The club is a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs (District IV) New England Region and of the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Chamber Honors

The Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce will honor the Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year at its annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony Oct. 10 at Atkinson Country Club in Atkinson. The 2013 winners are the late Attorney John Michels of Londonderry, Citizen of the Year, and Amphora Restaurant of Derry, Business of the Year.

Community Service

Ez Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry invites community members to a special worship service on Friday, Sept. 27, at 7:15 p.m. The synagogue welcomes spiritual seekers and parents who want a Jewish education for their children. The new officers and board members will be present.

Genealogy

The monthly meeting of the Genealogy Roundtable is 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the downstairs meeting room of the Derry Public Library. Meetings are informal and allow discussion of research. Everyone is welcome, regardless of level of experience.

Mahjongg

Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway in Derry, hosts a Mahjongg class for six weeks to teach area seniors the game.

Recreation Trips

Derry Parks and Recreation offers a trip to Foxwoods on Friday, Oct. 18, and a trip to see the “Nutcracker” ballet in Boston on Dec. 6. Contact the Derry Parks and Recreation Department at 432-6136 or www.derry-nh.org for information regarding these trips.

Road Closure

Work has begun on construction of a new bridge and installation of water, sewer and drainage utilities on Rockingham Road (Route 28) south. The road is closed 24 hours per day, seven days per week until the bridge is placed in service. Residents will be allowed access to their homes through other neighborhood streets. Detours are: From Birch Street, take Windham Road to Berry Road, then Route 28 toward Boston. From West Derry Road, take Route 28 toward Boston. From East Derry Road, take Route 28 toward Derry. For more information, call Derry Public Works at 432-6144.

Crafters Wanted

Crafters are wanted for the Londonderry Historical Society’s Harvest Feast, set for Oct. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Morrison House in Londonderry. The Harvest Feast is offered in conjunction with the Londonderry YMCA, Londonderry Times, Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce and Orchard Christian Church. Crafters and artists may contact dpaul@nutpub.net or call 537-2760 to sign up. The fee is $30.

Youth Open Gym

The Veterans Hall Memorial Gymnasium is now available for Open Gym, a time for youths to practice basketball skills, join in on a pick-up game, and make new friends.

Youth Camps

The Greater Derry Young People’s Exchange has announced its youth programs to schedule appointments and get other information.

Free Meals

The Community Meals Network offers the following free, family-friendly meals in Derry: Sept. 27, spaghetti supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at First Parish Congregational Church, 47 East Derry Road, 434-0628; and Sept. 29, lunch from noon to 1 p.m. at Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Anime Club

The Derry Public Library offers Anime Club for teens on Oct. 9 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Draw Manga characters, watch Manga movies and do Manga-related crafts. For questions, contact Teen Librarian Erin Robinson at erin@derrypl.org or 432-6140.

Nutrickers & Children's Theater

The Greater Derry Youth's Nutcrackers with pre-booked Nutcracker performances at the old Derry High School auditorium at 432-5200 or call 432-7224 for more information. Performances are Dec. 19, 20 and 21.

An Eckankar Worship Service is offered Sunday Oct. 13, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and continuing the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. For more information, call 800-713-8944 or visit www.eckankar-nh.org.

Creative Women Writers

The Creative Women Writers Group will celebrate a 10-year anniversary in 2014, and new members are invited to join. Whether a published writer or writing a memoir, all are welcome to stop by on the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. at the Derry Public Library on East Broadway. Membership is free. For more information, email Arline at: cwcc@londonderry.nh.org.

Meditation Classes

Bodhi Meditation is offered free at the Derry Public Library, 64 East Broadway on Mondays, Sept. 30 and Oct. 28, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For additional information, call Barbara Chapman at 432-6104, ext. 5498 or email barbarachapman@derrypl.org.

Nutrition Phone Number

Southern New Hampshire Services has changed its contact number to 800-256-9880 for Rockingham County clients in the Commodity Supplemental Food and Women Infants Children nutrition programs to schedule appointments and get other information.

Coat Collection

Enterprise Bank has started its 19th annual Coat Drive to collect gently used winter coats for children. The drive runs from Oct. 14 through Jan. 11. Coats can be brought to any Anton’s Cleaners or Jordan’s Furniture between those dates, and will be cleaned free by Anton’s Cleaners. The coats will be distributed free through the Coats for Kids Distribution Partners network.

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Formalized Homework Help in New Pinkerton Program

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
NUTFIELD NEWS

Pinkerton Academy is piloting a program to help students tame the Homework Monster.

The semi-private high school is recruiting sophomores to be part of its Directed Study Hall, an initiative to help them master study skills and be able to stay on top of their assignments.

Academic Dean Chris Harper said, “We have seen students not be successful in class, and for the most part, it’s because they haven’t done their homework. It’s not that homework is a huge part of their grade - rather, it’s that the learning is not being done.”

This can be for myriad reasons, Harper said - conditions at home, a part-time job, activities and that elusive “executive functioning” that helps them to be organized.

A Directed Study Hall provides opportunities in the school day to do the work, under the supervision of a trained professional who can spot gaps in a student’s learning. The school found a teacher, Danyel Sandz, and carved out a space.

Time in a student’s day was a problem, Harper said, and they eventually decided to create a “working lunch.” Students in the program will bring their lunch to the Directed Study Room and eat while they learn.

Now all they need are students. Harper explained that the program is voluntary. Students who have missed five homework assignments are eligible, and they and their parents must sign a contract agreeing that they will go to Directed Study. The student will receive full credit for all work made up, Harper said.

The initial period for Directed Study is a minimum of 10 days, he said. If the student gets a handle on his or her work, they can go back to a regular lunch. If they continue to need assistance, they can stay.

“One thing we don’t want to portray this as is a punishment,” Harper said. “It is not. It provides time for a student to work in a quiet, facilitated environment.”

Harper likened the Directed Study to the Resource Room for students with the distinct that Directed Study is open to students of all abilities.

The program will start with sophomores and grow to include juniors and seniors. Harper said. Freshmen are not eligible because they already give up part of their lunch for Freshman Academy.

“We want to ensure learning for all students,” Harper said.

Sandz is currently working with teachers to learn curriculum and students’ needs, he said. The program is open now, and parents wanting more information may call him or their child’s guidance counselor at 432-5200.
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Community Caregivers Celebrates 25 Years of Service

Cindee Tanuma, executive director of Community Caregivers of Greater Derry, is pictured with the organization’s new sign announcing 25 years of service to the community. Photo by Penny Williams

Crime Briefs

Kathleen D. Bailey
Nutfield News

Derry Man Faces Assault Charge

A Derry man was arrested this week and charged with simple assault and criminal threatening.

Curt Edward Leo, 45, of 11 Birch St., was arrested after police responded to an abandoned 9-1-1 call at 5 Charlestown Place in Derry.

Derry Police Capt. Vern Thomas said police spoke to a male who had a swollen eye and cheek. According to Thomas, the man said Leo had punched him six to 10 times in the face.

The argument was allegedly over a cell phone charger, Thomas said. The victim allegedly went to the basement of the building to retrieve a cell phone charger when Leo was sleeping. “He woke Mr. Leo, and Mr. Leo allegedly threatened to kill him and punched him in the face,” Thomas said.

Bail was set at $2,000 personal recognizance, with a court date of Oct. 3.

Teen Charged for Underage Drinking Party

A Derry man was arrested on a warrant this week and charged with facilitating an underage drinking party.

David Bennett III, 19, of 12 Fairway #28, was arrested after an incident Aug. 17 when police were called to his apartment at 3:46 a.m.

The officers heard loud music,” according to Derry Police Capt. Vern Thomas, and the sound of Ping-Pong balls, which they determined to be Beer Pong.

The police knocked on the door and heard “some scrambling,” Thomas said.

Police made contact with several individuals, all under 21, who admitted to having consumed alcohol. There were about eight young people, with the youngest age 17, Thomas said.

He was released on $1,000 personal recognizance bail, with an Oct. 3 court date.

Shopping Leads to Arrest

A Derry woman was arrested on a warrant this past week and charged with theft.

Angela Sullivan, 38, of 14 Fordway #2, was arrested Sept. 17 on a warrant from May 30, Derry Police Capt. Vern Thomas said. “At about 11:10 p.m., security guards at Walmart observed two women putting merchandise in their purses. One was Ms. Sullivan. After concealing several items the other woman walked out the door, but was detained.”

Then guard also had contact with Sullivan and found she had about 60 items in her purse, mostly “low-end jewelry,” Thomas said.

Bail was set at $1,000 personal recognizance, with a court date of Oct. 3.

Teen Charged in Transport of Alcohol

A Derry woman was arrested this past week and charged with being a minor transporting alcohol.

Marie Igoe, 17, of 20 Sawyer Ave., was arrested Sept. 21 during an underage drinking detail staffed by local police. The officer stationed at the Circle K/Irving station observed a young woman driving into the parking lot, according to Derry Police Capt. Vern Thomas. Thomas said two men got out and went into the store, returning with a six-pack, 12-pack and 30-pack of beer.

They placed the beer in the trunk and Igoe began to drive away.

She was arrested and charged with being the principal/ accomplice to a theft. Tracey Jesmer, 24, also of 16 Windham Depot Road, was also arrested and charged with being the principal/ accomplice to a theft.

According to Derry Police Capt. Vern Thomas, store security observed two women entering the store about 2:52 p.m. and pulling clothing off the racks and placing them in their carts.

They also took coolers from the Sporting Goods department and filled them with frozen food, which they attempted to conceal. They were concealing more than $600 worth of merchandise when they were detained by store security, Thomas said.

They were arrested on the warrant Sept. 19. Each has $1,000 personal recognizance bail and a court date of Oct. 3.
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