

Londonderry Times

August 17, 2017 ♦ Volume 18 – Issue 32

A FREE Weekly Publication



Colorful Character

The Londonderry High School Marching Lancer Band and Colorguard held its annual Band Camp this week to prepare for the upcoming football season. Monday's theme was movie characters for dress up. See more photos page 9.

Photo by Chris Paul

State Money May Be Used to Fund Stonehenge, Route 28 Intersection

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Back in June, the New Hampshire Legislature passed bill SB-38 that dictated \$30 million from last year's budget surplus be returned to cities and towns across the state; on July 28, a check was presented to the Town of Londonderry

for \$519,823 as a result. Up until now, it was unclear as to what the money would be used for.

At the August 14 Town Council meeting, Town Manager Kevin Smith presented the council with the idea of using the money to improve the intersection at Stonehenge and Route 28.

Smith was told by the Department of Revenue and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) that the money can only be spend "in excess of what we've already budgeted." Since the improvement of the intersection was not something that had been

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Londonderry Prosecutor, Kevin Coyle, Resigns from His Position

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On July 17, former Londonderry Prosecutor Kevin Coyle sent in his resignation letter to Town Manager Kevin Smith, which became effective on August 4. Coyle had served as prosecutor for 22 years, since December 4, 1994, and had plans to serve for four or five more years, that is, until this summer when he received a negative annual review from Police Chief William Hart.

The evaluations are not open to the public, but up until now, Coyle claims he received high ratings on every annual review. The

evaluation scale ranges from one to seven, one being the lowest and most critical of the employee, seven being the highest. During his time as prosecutor, Coyle said he has had a good working relationship with every police chief he has worked with and has always received sixes and sevens.

"I became a five and a four in six months," he said, regarding his most recent evaluation in July.

Coyle believes the reason for his negative review is retaliation for events that occurred in December of 2016, when he reported that Chief Hart and Deputy

Chief Gerard Dussault denied former Sergeant Shannon Coyle, Coyle's ex-wife, due process at the time of her demotion.

According to the complaint filed on December 16, 2016 by Shannon Coyle to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Sgt. Coyle faced "intense pressure from Deputy Chief Dussault to resign her position as sergeant." A police officer cannot voluntarily give up rank, and Sgt. Coyle was told on "numerous occasions" to give up her position and claim her resignation was for "family reasons."

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School Board Addresses Students' Dining Debt

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Peter Curro, Londonderry School District's business administrator, and Amanda Venezia, dining service director for the district, approached the Londonderry School Board at its meeting on August 8 in an effort to bring to light the "significant increase" in debt accrued from students not paying for school lunches.

Normally, the district ends each year with a dining services debt amount of around \$5,000; this year, the debt is nearly \$15,000. The write off for the district, or bad-debts as Curro called them, are from the students that are

leaving the district - for example, graduating seniors - and amount to only \$458, leaving a negative balance of \$14,000 and change leading into the 2017-18 school year.

Almost \$1,100 of the debt is for the free lunch program students, \$1,100 for the reduced lunch students, and nearly \$11,000 for all other students. Of the \$11,000, \$8,835 is from a total of 71 students whose debt ranges from \$50 to \$800.

The school board was shocked by the numbers.

"This is a huge number," said Board Member Leitha Reilly, "which would tell me one of two things: we either have a huge problem in this town

with economic issues, could be, or we have an abuse problem."

When Curro told the members that one family owes nearly \$800 between their two enrolled students, Reilly said, "that's debt collection status."

Board Member Nancy Hendricks ruminated on the challenge a problem like this poses: "This is a

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Londonderry Recreation Campers Enjoy an Ice Cream Send Off



On the last day of the town's Summer Recreation Camp, participants were treated to ice cream sundaes. Kids enjoyed their lunch along with a cool dessert served by the counselors and said good bye to the friends they had made over the summer before returning back to school at the end of the month.

Photos by Chris Paul

Caring Dentist

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Londonderry School District Receives Enrollment Update

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

At the end of the year meeting of the Londonderry School Board, held on June 20, the May enrollment was reported at 4,417, compared to last year's 4,384 students. Over the summer, new Superintendent Scott Laliberte has kept a close eye on enrollment to prepare for the upcoming school year and

reported his findings to the School Board at their August 8 meeting.

As of August 8, enrollment across the district is up by 74 students, six ahead of projected, according to the database that monitors and keeps track of the enrollment data. The district has "been fortunate" that the students are spread across grade levels and the school has been able

to absorb them with little to no change to classroom sizes.

The way the database works is that any time a family calls and asks about making an appointment to tour the school or enroll a new student, they are entered into the database as being a prospective student. Right now, there are 24 open enrollments, but this does not necessarily mean that all

of those students will join the district.

One of the "x-factors" in determining student enrollment numbers is getting a count of the students who have left the district. The district has no way of knowing who has left until they receive record requests from the new district. This can be a prolonged process, considering the family must first enroll the student in

the new district, then once the paperwork goes through, the new district contacts Londonderry.

As far as individual schools go, North School was mentioned specifically as one that is being watched carefully. They recently added two positions for fifth grade whose classes are "appropriately full," but the district continues to monitor the numbers. Right now, Laliberte says they are right about, and even a few students short, of what they projected for North

School.

While the 2017-18 school year begins on Tuesday, August 29, there are still a large amount of late registrations, according to the Londonderry district website. Peter Curro, the district's business administrator, added at the end of the discussion that because of the 24 students who could possibly enroll, the bus schedule will not be finalized until the Wednesday before classes start, August 23.

Stonehenge

Continued from page 1

budgeted for this year, he felt it was a good place to invest the money.

When Smith met with the DOT and Executive Councilor Christopher Pappas to discuss this topic, they seemed very supportive of the idea and said that if the town had the money and the developer was willing to pitch in, the state would move the project up on their Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and "make it a priority" since it had other sources of funding.

Smith met with the developer two weeks ago and they said they would be willing to make a payment in lieu of the offsite improvements that "they've been told they have to build." The intersection at Stone-

henge was a topic of contention regarding a multi-family development on Stonehenge Road. The developer, First Londonderry Associates, was told that in order for the site plans to be approved, the intersection and multiple other improvements would need to be made. Ultimately, at the March 18 planning board meeting, the project was denied but that decision was reversed one month later.

In order for the developer of the Stonehenge project to make a payment for the improvement of the intersection, the planning board would have to make an amendment to the current site plan decision.

With the money from the developer, the town would have to use all of the money from the SB-38 check to put toward the

intersection improvement. Smith believes the project will amount to around \$1.2 million, 50 percent of which will have to come from the state in addition to the money the town and the developers will put forward. The project would ultimately be a state project because Stonehenge and Route 28 is a state intersection, but the town will oversee it.

"We have our money, the developer is going to pitch in, now the state just needs to live up to their part of the bargain," said Smith.

"As community lead-

ers, we are looking to find creative way to help the community through some of the difficult situations that arise, and I think this is another example of that," Chairman Tom Dolan said. "I think it might be a good effort on our part to see if Mr. Pappas can pull some strings at the state and with the DOT."

The entire council agreed that Smith should move forward with this idea and contact the DOT and developer. They are optimistic that the project could be completed as early as 2019.

OBITUARY

Carol Ann Casey



Carol Ann Casey, 75, of Londonderry, died Thursday, August 10, 2017 at her beach home in Salisbury, Mass. Carol was born in Methuen, Mass. on June 9, 1942, a daughter of the late Ludger and Margaret (Hayes) Jean. She had resided in Londonderry for the past 49 years, formerly living in Methuen, Mass.

Carol loved spending time with her grandchildren more than anything. She enjoyed her summers at the beach, loved playing cards, and laughing with her family. Also known as "Nana Clause," loved giving presents and celebrating Christmas with her grandchildren and family.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Robert Casey of Londonderry, two sons, Robert Casey and his wife Robyn of Londonderry, Steven Casey and his wife Nicolle of Stratham, NH, two daughters, Kelley Hicks and her husband Daniel of Londonderry, and Christine Park and husband Dana of Londonderry, 11 grandchildren, Bryanna, Sara, Jonathan, Sebastian, Sydney, Daniel, Madison, Corey, Jesse, Jocelyn, and Casey, and one sister, Peggy Gagnon of NC. Carol also leaves many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday August 13, 2017 from 3 - 6 p.m. in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 290 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry. Funeral services will be held on Monday at 11 a.m. in the funeral home. Burial will follow in Pillsbury Cemetery, Londonderry. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Gift Processing Administrator, 18251 Quantico Gateway Dr., Triangle, VA 22172. To send a condolence or for more information, please visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com

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Editorial

Part of a Tradition

When you are weighed down by your garden's summer squash, wondering what to do with the voluminous supply of tomatoes, and reeling from a bumper crop of peaches, it's hard to think of cold nights and crisp mornings. But the bounteous harvest is a sure sign that summer is winding down.

That makes it a great time to visit the local farm stands and the Wednesday afternoon Derry Farmers Market to take advantage of the close-to-home purveyors of fresh fruits and vegetables, farm fresh eggs, and locally raised meat.

There's much to be said for the new focus on local food grown close to home, but we're especially fortunate in our towns, where farms may be hundreds of years old and part of a tradition that is too easily taken for granted.

Farming is a struggle, and its unpredictable nature makes it a gamble at best. So, patronize the farms that contribute to the rural beauty of our towns they're local businesses, after all, and discover for yourself how fresh, local food easily wins out over store bought. While the calendar may still say August, before you know it, you'll be figuring out where to tie the cornstalks and how big a pumpkin to put on display.

Meanwhile, the late summer signs

yellowing of leaves and yellowing of the light tell us to get ready. You may still be driving to the beach, but if you haven't done so already, it's time to consider how much fuel for the furnace to pre-buy. It's time to start hauling the firewood closer to the house and getting the furnace or the chimney checked.

The message, of course, is get prepared. Batteries? Lamp oil? Extra water? It's never too early to prepare for power outages, a New Hampshire fact of life.

Summer takes so long to arrive and lasts such a short time. Even as we complain about the heat and humidity, we know the days of ice and snow will inevitably follow. But look at the positive side: we're fortunate to have a chance to experience all four seasons, each unique and special and intense. And none of them are boring.

It's still summer, so there's still time to wear white and fire up the barbecue and lounge in the water. There is still time to sit on the screen porch with the Red Sox on the radio. Plenty of time for the pumpkins to turn orange and the apples to ripen, and still time to preserve our local crops to enjoy in the cold months ahead.

So enjoy the last weeks of summer. Fall will be here soon enough, and then comes winter.

Police Department Presents Carbon Monoxide Issues to Town Council

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

To start off the Town Council Meeting on August 14, members from Londonderry's Police Department (LPD) made two presentations under the public comment section of the meeting. The first was a grant presentation made by Lt. Patrick Cheetham and Sgt. Scott Balukonis, who recently celebrated his 15th year at the LPD, and the second was an update on the recent national carbon monoxide concerns in police vehicles.

The OHRV Patrol Program has been in place for 10 to 12 years, according to Sgt. Balukonis, and for the last decade, the LPD has received grants from New Hampshire Fish and Game to continue the program. This year, they received a grant for \$1,080 and approached the council to ask if they could accept it, as is procedure.

The OHRV Patrol Program allows officers to patrol areas traditional police vehicles would be unable to traverse, such as nature trails, woods, and undeveloped land. It is important to patrol these areas, according to Balukonis, because they can be areas with a lot of activity and people "up to no good."

He gave some examples: with the development of the Rail Trail, there have been increased sightings of vandalism and graffiti. Adam's Pond trail is

another that is on the department's radar. Acceptance of the grant will allow them to continue to patrol these areas and have a greater ability to monitor the areas where illegal activity is likely to happen.

The council accepted the grant unanimously.

Chief of Police William Hart then updated the council on the carbon monoxide concern in police cruisers and what the possible impact could be to the LPD. The national concern became more localized in the beginning of August when a Massachusetts Police Officer was hospitalized after a car accident resulting from exposure to carbon monoxide.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, carbon monoxide exposure becomes dangerous after prolonged exposure to levels over 15 parts per million. Since officers can sit in their cruisers for extended periods of time, they are at risk should the vehicle they are using have any issues.

Chief Hart produced a letter detailing the steps the LPD has taken to ensure their officers are safe while patrolling. Master Patrolman (MP) Shaun Goodnow manages the police vehicle fleet and has been in contact with Ford of Londonderry, the dealership that supplies the vehicles, and Adamson Industries, the company that converts the vehicles into patrol cars;

he has worked closely with them to monitor this issue.

According to the letter, it has "unofficially been determined that this issue is being caused by unsealed wiring along the floor" of the vehicles. While Ford continues a national investigation, MP Goodnow has, and will continue to monitor the situation. So far, all of the Londonderry Police Interceptor Explorers have been inspected to make sure the added wiring and holes have been sealed properly, equipped with a carbon monoxide alarm located in the front cabin area, and equipped with two carbon monoxide detectors obtained from the Londonderry Fire Department.

An email was also sent out to all department employees explaining the risk of carbon monoxide and what to do if someone experiences its effects while operating the patrol vehicles.

Chief Hart said this is a great example of how "Londonderry leads the way" in terms of the thorough job the LPD does regarding these issues.

The letter ends, stating that "safety is our top priority and we will continue to make sure, to the best of our ability, that the vehicles of the Londonderry Police Department are checked, on a daily basis, to ensure that they are free from safety/mechanical issues."

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Londonderry Times

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Town Manager Boasts Another Banner Fiscal Year

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

“At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we had another banner fiscal year,” said Town Manager Kevin Smith as he began his report at the end of the August 14 Town Council meeting. Expenditure for Londonderry exceeded expectations and will give the Unassigned Fund Balance a surplus of around \$2.6

million at the end of Fiscal Year 2017.

Londonderry under-spent by a little over \$1 million, beating out Fiscal Year 2016, and revenue exceeded projection by 1.6 million dollars. While these numbers are unaudited, “heading into our fiscal year 19 budget, as we start to do that this November, we have a pretty healthy unassigned fund balance right now,”

said Smith.

These numbers were well received, but there were still some questions regarding the numbers by other council members. Councilman Ted Combes inquired why Highway Operation was over budget by \$276,000, and Smith explained it was because that number includes money the town encumbered for roadway improvements. \$400,000

of the surplus received is to be put towards roadway improvements to be done this summer, fall, and next spring. This overspending reflects the use of the \$400,000 and was done intentionally because they have to budget their spending right up to the surplus line.

The Finance Department was over budget by \$105,000, which Smith explained was due to the reorganization of the department.

The revenue from motor vehicle permits was over what they predicted by a substantial amount, and Smith amounts that to people buying new cars because of the good economy. Each year, the revenue has been climbing, and so the town will keep adding to their projections going forward. Another significant revenue addition

was in the Land Use Change Tax, a “large chunk” of which came from Woodmont Commons.

“Every year we’ve been ticking up our projections, and when we do it, we’re always a little cautiously optimistic,” Smith said. “The economy’s good, so we keep exceeding what our projections are, but – as I like to say – better to be in this scenario than say we projected too much.”

Council Chairman Tom Dolan said regarding the report, “My thought is, we’ve spent less than we intended to spend and we have revenue of more than we thought we would have – that’s a positive on both ends. At a macro level, I guess that’s a very positive thing.”

Vice Chair John Farrell would like to see some of that extra revenue be given back to the taxpayers.

ers.

“One of the things we are allowed to do when we set the rate is use a portion of our Unassigned Fund Balance to count against the tax rate,” Smith answered. “It may be something the council may want to consider doing, given the healthiness of that fund right now.”

Farrell pointed out that in the past, that has run the fund down past limits, so now that they’ve “done a good job” bringing it back up, it’s “time to give back.”

Councilman Joe Green agreed, but also suggested offering a few options for where to put the money, including the possibility of retiring some bonds early.

Smith intends to keep the public updated as budget season approaches.

Veterans’ Tax Credit Discussed at Town Council Meeting

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Veteran’s Tax Credit, where eligible veterans pursuing RSA 72:27-a receive a tax break ranging from \$51 to \$500, has been added to include all veterans but will not take effect until April 1, 2019. The Town of Londonderry has adopted it, and Town Manager Kevin Smith presented the suggestion to the council to phase the tax credit in over the next three years, starting with \$100 the first year, \$300 the second year, and \$500 the third year.

By year three, it “has to be equal to the current veteran’s tax credit which is \$500.” Phasing it in gives the Town Council opportunity to see how many veterans will take advantage of it, and will allow the town to budget for it.

“Let me speak as a veteran. I think that while I’d like to see the number at \$500 per veteran, I think from a practical issue of managing the government, we need to assess the first year, how many veterans are stepping forward at the hundred dollar level – that will help us be able to predict and budget for the \$300 and \$500 level in the subsequent years,” said Town Council Chair Tom Dolan.

In order to qualify for the tax credit, the applicant must reside in a municipality that has adopted it—in this case, Londonderry—and have been a New Hampshire resident for at least one year preceding April 1 in the year which the veteran’s tax credit is claimed.

Councilman Tom Green, who has been an advocate for this, said, “I think it’s a great halfway

point—I’m all in,” and continued with, “I think it’s overdue.”

There will be an ordinance written up regarding the phase in of the All Veterans’ Tax Credit that will be presented to the Town Council at a future date.



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Town Council Votes to Test Three-Year Town Appraisal Model

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Town Assessor Rick Brideau and Doug Smith, a representative and engineer from Sansoucy Utility Appraisals and Engineering Services, addressed the Town Council at its August 14 meeting regarding the town appraisals that currently occur every five years.

Sansoucy Utility Appraisals and Engineering Services is responsible for conducting Londonderry's appraisals, and it is under their sug-

gestion that Brideau believes the town should move to an annual appraisal instead of every five years. To test to see if an annual appraisal would be worth doing, Brideau and Smith presented to the council the idea of assessing the town every three years.

If accepted, the three-year time period would begin in a year, as it has not been budgeted into this year's funds, and would be completed with two payments of \$86,000. Brideau and Smith ran the numbers conserva-

tively and it was determined that the town should come out on top, meaning get back nearly \$80,000 if they employ this plan.

Brideau believes this would be a worthwhile expenditure because of the amount of money being put into Londonderry with all the construction and infrastructure updates. According to Smith, there has been about \$8 million worth of Eversource property gain in the past three years. A benefit to conducting the appraisal more frequently

is that the town would see any money gained from the appraisal sooner, and there would less likely be a chance that anything would be missed.

Conducting annual appraisals also makes the engineer's job easier because there are less items to appraise at once, and there will be less they have to tabulate.

Right now, the town spends \$110,000 to get an appraisal every five years – that breaks down to roughly \$22,000 a year. If the town were to shift to every three years, the

cost would end up being around \$164,000, effectively increasing the annual price to \$55,000.

This cost will decrease over time, according to Smith and Brideau, because the appraisers would have less work to do on an annual or more frequent basis than trying to conduct five years' worth of appraisals.

Although it is believed by Brideau and Smith that the town will gain more money from conducting the appraisal annually or every three

years, there is "no guarantee" that the town will benefit.

Councilman Joe Green expressed that doing it annually would be "excessive," and that every few years should suffice. Multiple council members inquired about how much the numbers can change in a year, but Brideau's argument was that "at least we would know" and stay updated on the numbers.

The council voted to try out the three-year model 4 to 1, with only Green opposing.

Dining Debt

Continued from page 1

tough one for us, or at least it is for me, because we certainly can't have kids going without lunch, by any stretch; however, having said that, we can't continually ask our taxpayers to fund lunches that parents simply won't pay."

Curro amended that of course there would be exceptions for families going through a hard

time, which will be dealt with on a building-to-building level.

"If we know who the exceptions are," Reilly asked, "I'd like to know why we're being so soft on those who are clearly abusing the system."

While the lunch providers should never deny a child a lunch, Reilly believes the punishment should be harder on those students who won't pay; for example, taking away sport and extracurricular privileges.

Tyler Cullen, who represents the students' perspective on the board, also believed the punishment should be harsher than potentially just taking away end of the year privileges, at least for seniors: "When I get older and let's say one year I decide not to pay my taxes, does the IRS write it off at the end of the year or do they come after me? I'm going into my senior year, I'm going to be an adult, legally, in like six months – if we don't try to encourage some kind of personal responsibility to those who are actually adults, because most seniors by the time they graduate will be 18, then what's the message we're trying to send? If people don't learn now that decisions they make have real life consequences, then when are they going to learn it?"

Debt can still build for the students on the free and reduced lunch programs, depending on when they hand in their applications. The applica-

tion from the previous year is only eligible for a 30-day roll over, so if students do not submit the current year's application within the first 30 days of school, then the student might start to build up debt. Even when his or her application goes through, the student does not receive free a la carte items, so when they charge items not on the lunch menu, the cost gets added to their account.

Venezia currently sends out weekly or biweekly alert emails to families for students whose balances become low or reach the negative, depending on the size of their students' debts.

While some districts employ an "alternative lunch program," the Londonderry School District has no parameters on how to handle or discipline those students—and their families—who don't pay their balances after being alerted. Venezia gave the example of the Goffstown School District: after a child receives two

unpaid for meals, the child is offered an "alternative lunch" and still charged a meal fee which is to be expected paid eventually. Instead of a cheeseburger or a hot dog, the student is given something along the lines of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich—something that is still considered a redeemable meal of nutritional value by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.

Curro and Venezia wanted to stay away from the alternative lunch program, and proposed changing the wording in the student handbook regarding debts. Up until now, the language talks about the financial obligation of the students tailored towards textbooks. Curro suggested to "expand the language" to encompass all debt students might accrue, and as a caveat, have a line about end of the year festivity privileges be taken away should a student or student's family refuse to

pay their balance.

They want to try this out on the middle and high schools, letting the elementary schools continue to handle any issues that might arise because the principals "do a nice job at the elementaries" in regards to collecting debt.

Board Chair Dan Lekas suggested that Curro not only write up an amendment to the handbooks, but also write up a policy dictating the consequences of families and students not paying their balances. Board member Steve Young disagreed, saying they should see how well changing the handbook works, and if they need to "add more teeth" then they can create a policy.

By the end of the discussion, it was ultimately agreed upon that Curro would write up both a policy and a new statement for the handbooks and bring them to the board's next meeting to be reviewed.

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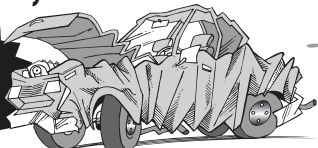
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- LHS Principal Jason Parent
- Police Chief William Hart
- Representative from BHG, Mark Oswald
- School Board Chair Dan Lekas
- Town Council Chair Tom Dolan
- Town Manager Kevin Smith
- Band Director Andy Soucy

Proceeds will benefit the Londonderry Lancer Band's upcoming 5th Appearance at The Tournament of Roses Parade New Year's Day, 2018 and local area food banks.



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Saturday, August 19th
from 10 AM to 2 PM
when the "kiss the pig"
event will occur!

Town Council Hears Presentation on Potential Griffin Road Land Purchase

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

At the August 14 Town Council meeting, Michael Speltz, an alternate for the Conservation Committee, went before the council to inquire about purchasing the piece of land abutting the parcel off 24 Griffin Road that was discussed at the August 2 Planning Board meeting.

The Conservation Commission has been looking into this 30-acre parcel for a number of years, and while the Londonderry map says the parcel is owned by Forest Land Preservation, it has since changed hands and is potentially under the responsibility of developers. Over the past few months, the Conservation Commission has come to an "informal agreement"

with the developers to split the cost of the land appraisal to see whether any development could be done and what lands should be reserved for wildlife.

Speltz brought it to the council to see what the general reaction would be on how to proceed.

The land is a combination of wetlands and supportive landscape – landscape that helps keep the wetlands from degrading. About 15 percent is emergent wetland, with the rest being supportive landscape. The majority of the land, except for the swamp that makes up the western border of the parcel, is fine to develop, according to Speltz. Parts have already been forested from a time when development was scheduled to happen

there, and has since started to grow back.

Speltz said the combination of new and old vegetation is ideal for wildlife.

As part of his presentation, Speltz outlined the Conservation Commission's next steps, should the council decide to give the go-ahead for the project. First, the commission would refer the project to the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) to negotiate the purchase price of the parcel, then the JNC would negotiate the appraisal price with the developers, after which the Conservation Commission would decide whether or not the parcel is worthwhile to purchase. If the Conservation Committee decided they would like to spend the money to purchase the parcel,

they would then bring it back to the Town Council for approval.

The members of the council felt that more information was required before they could say that the project was a good thing to pursue. Town Council Vice Chairman John Farrell said that before they make a decision, the Geographic Information System manager should get involved to determine what percentage of the land could reasonably be developed.

"Why is the developer so interested in talking to us?" he asked, stating that he would also like to know what motives the developer has regarding the parcel.

Both Councilman Jim Butler and Chairman Tom Dolan agree with Farrell and want more

information before they make any sort of decision on pursuing this project.

When the floor opened for public comment, Ann Chiampa, member of the Planning Board and curator of the Londonderry Historical Society, approached the microphone to inquire about how long the developer had been planning to do something with the land.

Chiampa was one of the public commenters at the August 2 planning board meeting when the adjacent lot was being discussed. At that meeting, there was no mention of this land parcel, and the developers had said that the only area they were planning on developing was four lots in the subdivision at 24 Griffin Road, the fifth of which

is the large stretch of land abutting the lot in question. It was implied that the developers were planning for this to be conservation land, but now that they are seemingly looking to develop the lot next to it, Chiampa questioned whether or not that was accurate.

Ultimately, the Town Council decided that before they could make any sort of decision, both informally and formally, there would need to be more information on the land parcel.

Town Manager Kevin Smith said he would give the project to the new Geographic Information Service Manager as her first project, and the council would revisit it when more information is available.

Londonderry Democrats Summer Social

Saturday, August 26, from 1 - 4 p.m.

Mack's Apples, 230 Mammoth Road, Londonderry

(Across the road from Mack's, near the barn, by the pond--watch for signs!)

Please join the Londonderry Democrats for a cookout of hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, desserts, and drinks.

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Ray Buckley

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For more information contact: Neila Brownstein, mbrown6500@comcast.net or 603-432-6428.

Please bring a side item to share--either a salad or dessert. The committee will supply everything else.

PLEASE RSVP to Neila Brownstein so that we may have an approximation of how many will be attending and what food item you will be sharing and let us know if you have an auction item to donate.

Student Ambassador Exchange Program Seeks Host Families for New School Year

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The new school year is approaching quickly, and for many, that means packing up the swimsuits and bringing out the book bags. While local families are going supplies shopping and preparing to get back into the swing of things, there are some students who remain uncertain about the start of the school year—particularly those that wish to take part in the Student Ambassador Exchange Program.

Rachel Peloquin, a local coordinator for the program, is still looking for host families for 20 students who wish to study in the United States. The program is for high school students from other countries who come to the United States for one or two semesters to “increase dialogue between cultures, share new experiences, and make long lasting ties of friendship.”

Peloquin’s job is to locate host families in her area, which encompasses Derry and Londonderry.

Once the students arrive, she serves as a contact for them and the family to help with any issues that may arise. She also conducts monthly check-ins with the student and host family once everyone is settled in.

“This is a really great opportunity to learn about other cultures and also to be able to give these students a wonderful experience, as they are very excited to learn about American culture,” she said.

The students come from all over the world, but many

are from Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

Responsibilities for host families include providing transportation, such as bringing the student to and from school, providing three daily meals, a bed of their own, and treating the student as a member of the family with the same rules, responsibilities, and love provided to other members of the family.

There is some “minimal cost” associated with hosting a student, according to the Student Ambassador Exchange website.

While the students will have their own spending money and are responsible for paying for their own personal activities and extracurricular activities including school clubs and events, host families will need to pay for the costs associated with housing another person, such as utility bills and an increase in groceries.

For those who are unsure of housing a student for an entire semester or year, the program also looks for “welcome families,” families willing to host students for one

to two months while the program looks for a more permanent host family.

“The welcome families are a great opportunity for people who want to host, but can’t commit to the full school year,” Peloquin said.

Families interested in becoming a host family or a welcome family can fill out an application at studentambassadors-exchange.org, respond to one of the Facebook posts Peloquin has made regarding the program, or call the program to learn more at 512-323-9595.

Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus in Manchester

KATHERINE PRUDHOMME O'BRIEN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Department of Health and Human Services in Concord recently released a statement announcing the first positive test result for West Nile this year in mosquitoes. The New Hampshire State Epidemiologist, Dr. Benjamin Chan, said, “no humans or animals have tested positive for West Nile Virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis this year.”

With fall coming soon, towns were asked if there are any plans in place to spray for mosquitos. The general consensus was that, despite the DHHS report, Chester, Derry,

and Londonderry are going to wait until there are positive results in those areas before making any public announcements.

Darryl Quinn from the Chester Department of Health and Welfare said that his town has no current plans to spray. Debra Doda confirmed that Chester had nothing in the town warrant or budget to cover spraying for mosquitoes this year.

The Derry Department of Public Health did not return requests for comment. However, they had Dragon Mosquito Control checking the local wetlands back in April for mosquito larvae, accord-

ing to a public notice from Town Hall. The notice stated that “if Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus is found in or near Derry, then emergency spraying may be conducted...” The notice also goes on to say that “further communication will be given if emergency spraying is going to take place.”

In the past, Derry has sprayed in the following locations: all schools, all parks, the Pinkerton practice field, Veterans/O’Hara Field, Christian Bible Church, Saint Thomas Aquinas School, and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry.

The Londonderry Department of Health also said they have no plans to spray right now. Health Officer Richard Canuel reported that although they have the funds for it, Londonderry will not be spraying as long as DHHS keeps their rating for possible exposure as “low.” The alert about Manchester has been posted to the Londonderry town website. Canuel stated they will start to treat mosquitoes if areas in or around Londonderry have enough positive results for West Nile Virus or EEE.

“In the interim, of course, we advise everyone to take the proper precautions,” said Canuel.

Residents can take steps to protect themselves and their families.

The most common ways are to wear long-sleeved shirts and pants at dawn and dusk, and to use bug spray containing 30 percent DEET. You should also be aware of any standing water where mosquitoes are likely to lay their eggs such as ponds, bird feeders, or pools. Anyone into essential oils can use lemon eucalyptus oil and parmenthane-diol based products to repel mosquitoes, according to DHHS.

Although the results are from Manchester, local residents are asked to stay vigilant for signs of West Nile Virus or EEE. Symptoms don’t always appear. If they do, it usually takes a week and can include mild to severe fevers, headaches, mus-

cles aches and fatigue. It would feel like if you caught a flu-bug. In rare cases, people can develop meningitis or encephalitis.

If you or anyone you know starts to exhibit symptoms of West Nile Virus, contact your local health provider. If you have questions about spraying in your town, you can call your town hall and ask if there is an update to their spraying schedule, or check your town’s website.

Anyone with questions about West Nile Virus or EEE can call the New Hampshire Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496. DHHS also has information on their website, dhhs.nh.gov <<http://dhhs.nh.gov>> .

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Band Camp Signals Start of School, Football Season



The Londonderry High School Marching Lancer Band and Colorguard held its annual Band Camp this week to prepare for the upcoming football season. Each day of the camp has a different theme, and Monday's theme was movie characters, pictured. This year's halftime show theme is "Reverse the Curse: A Tribute to the Boston Red Sox." Musical selections this year will include "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," "Sweet Caroline," and "I'm Shipping Up to Boston." The drum majors for this year's 270 members are Julia Turk, Ian Goodspeed, and Parker McIntyre. The Colorguard Captains are Maiah Morani and Adrianna

Belanger. Musical arrangements and drill design were written by Serge Beaulieu. On Thursday, August 17, the inaugural performance will take place on the track field at 3:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. On Saturday, August 19, the Lancers will participate in the Londonderry Old Home Day Parade. The first away game performance will be at Timberlane Regional High School on September 8. The home opener will take place on Friday, September 15. The Marching Lancers will be performing this year in the 2018 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif.

Photos by Chris Paul

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State Officials Look Toward The Future of New Hampshire



State Commissioners Frank Edelblut and Taylor Caswell of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs visited to two facilities in the area as they prepare for the future workforce of New Hampshire. They first stopped in Derry to Intelitek, where they spoke with the company's president, Ido Yerushalmi, about their work with robotics and how they develop programs for school systems globally. In Londonderry, they spoke with Town Manager Kevin Smith at the Town Hall about the Woodmont Commons Development and the impact it will have in Southern New Hampshire. Later, Caswell met with developers Mike Kettenbach and Reggie Ronzello about the challenges they face with the state as they develop over 600 acres of land in Londonderry. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

LHS Coach and His Family Savor Annual End-of-Summer Cricket Event

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Growing up in Bermuda, Derek Dane and his family had a tradition of following up their Caribbean nation's Cricket Cup Match with a cricket event of their own each August.

The longtime Londonderry High School varsity girls' soccer coach and his family conducted their 10th Annual Cricket Classic at the Dane family home in Derry last weekend.

Members of the Dane family ranging in age from elementary schoolers to the 50-something.

Dane himself and his

wife Karen broke out the cricket equipment and used a makeshift field which included their driveway to maintain the family tradition which began in Bermuda decades ago.

"This is a great family gathering," said Dane. "We all go off and do our own things throughout the summer, but we all know that we'll be coming back together here for this in August."

The event also included some great Caribbean and classic American food timed around the cricket action. Along with family members, those folks

include invited guests, some of whom have attended a number of the cricket events.

The two-day annual National Cricket Cup Match back in Bermuda is played during the first weekend of August, with the West End squad from the St. George area of the island facing off against the East End contingent from the Somerset section of the island nation.

"Everything in the country comes to a stop. Restaurants, stores, hotels are all closed for those two days," said Dane. "Around late July you start to see people flying

colors (hanging flags and wearing their side's colors) for their team, and it's an exciting thing."

The Cup Matches are good-natured but still very competitive events, with bragging rights up for grabs for the two geographic areas for one year.

In the wake of that excitement, the Dane family began having their own cricket events during the second weekend in August decades ago. Ten years ago, the LHS coach - who is also a math teacher at the Hood Middle School in Derry - resumed the tradition of having late summer cricket events here in the states with his clan.

Several years ago, Dane's mom and sister and family friends were up from Bermuda for the annual event, which only heightened the fun of the gathering.

Cricket is a centuries-old game played with a bat and ball on a large field - known as a ground - between two teams of 11 players each.

Much like baseball, the object of the game is to score runs when at bat and to put out, or dismiss, opposing batsmen when in the field. But like baseball, the rules of cricket are pretty involved and can be challenging to learn.

The origin of the sport



Karen Dane has a laser focus on the ball as her husband Derek looks on during the local family's annual cricket classic. Photo by Chris Pantazis

is unknown, but it's believed that its name was derived from the Old English "cryce," which means "stick." In its most basic form, the game resembled the 13th century game known as "club-ball."

Cricket evolved in England in the 18th century, mainly because of the interest of great landowners who tried out their athletic skills on a field of play with their tenants and the local peasants.

The game was carried forth to English colonies like India, South Africa,

Australia, and Bermuda where it was picked up by the natives who, in many cases, got even better at it than the Englishmen.

According to cricket-rules.com, cricket first appeared in North America way back in 1859 when an All-England team toured Canada and the United States. Today, it lives on in various areas in the United States, and cricket remains part of a summer tradition - carried from the Caribbean - by the Dane family of Derry.



Season Prepping

Londonderry High School assistant football coach Bill Duffy has Lancer gridders running this way and that during the LHS varsity squad's first 2017 practice in steamy weather last week. The Lancers didn't enjoy the kind of success they hoped to last autumn, but coach Jimmy Lauzon and his charges will be right back after it in earnest against tough Division I competition again this fall. The Lancers open at Bishop Guertin on September 2.

Photo by Chris Pantazis


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Northern NH Native Takes Over LHS Varsity Field Hockey Job



Ex-Keene State field hockey star Nichole Treadway, a Twin Mountain native, has taken over the LHS field hockey program. Photo by Chris Pantazis

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Several hours south of the tiny Northern New Hampshire town in which she grew up, Nichole Treadway's rich and impressive history with the sport of field hockey is beginning its newest chapter at Londonderry High School.

The native of Twin Mountain is succeeding veteran LHS varsity field hockey coach Laura Federico in that post this year, inheriting a contingent which lost 10 seniors to graduation after a 10-4-1 season in which it got as far as the Division I tournament quarterfinals before losing a 1-0 decision to the arch-rival Pinkerton Academy squad.

"I'm very excited to take over at LHS," said Treadway, who also works in education as a health

and physical education teacher at Nashua High School South. "Coach Federico did a great job with the program, and I am looking forward to continuing to build LHS field hockey."

The new Londonderry High coach was a field hockey star in high school and college, excelling at White Mountains Regional High School in Whitefield, which borders her hometown of Twin Mountain, before moving on to still more success at Keene State College.

"I started playing field hockey in fourth grade, and fell in love with it," she said.

Treadway was a four-year varsity player at White Mountains and had one heck of a senior season. That autumn, she earned all-state honors, was named the Division III

Player of the Year, and played on the Twin-State Senior Team against a comparable all-star contingent from Vermont.

She then moved on to Keene State and started for four years there, earning All-Little East Conference recognition as well as All-Academic honors. But that doesn't even cover the full breadth of her field hockey playing experience.

"I've played in various leagues and on travel teams, on Cape Cod and in Canada to name a couple," she said.

After her strong collegiate career at Keene State, Treadway moved into coaching and has built up an impressive resume.

"I coached junior varsity at Keene High School from 2007 to 2012," she said. "I spent a year coaching at Rundlett Middle

School in Concord in 2013, and was at Manchester Memorial from 2014 to 2106. I also coached at Trilogy Field Hockey Camps in Keene, Cave Girl Field Hockey, and Granite State Elite Field Hockey, where I'm entering my fifth year coaching and where I recently took over as the program director. I am also currently the president of the New Hampshire Field Hockey Coaches Association."

When asked what she feels her strongest coaching attributes are, the new Lady Lancer leader stated, "I think my passion and love for the sport of field hockey are two, and my knowledge of the game. I also feel that I am fair but have high expectations for my athletes, not only on the field but off the field as well."

Annual Run for the Apples Race Slated for Aug. 27 at Mack's

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A great many folks wound up with quite a few reasons to enjoy the 2016 Greater Derry Track Club (GDTC) Mack's Run for the Apples 5K Cross-Country Race last August.

That annual event - which drew a fine crowd

of more than 125 runners - was run through the aromatic Mack's Apple orchards in truly magnificent weather, with some talented teenagers excelling.

So it's certainly understandable if the folks directing this year's GDTC/Mack's race have high hopes for the 2017 event, which will be held

on the afternoon of Sunday, August 27 at 5 p.m. in the Mack orchards just off of Mammoth Road in Londonderry.

Runners come from all local areas to tune up for the fall cross-country season with this race. Long-time GDTC member Eldon Burkinshaw has been the director of this popular

annual event for many years, and awards go to the top overall finishers as well as the top finishers in numerous age groups.

Teenagers stood up tall in the 2016 race, with Litchfield 15-year-old Jeff Allen finishing first overall in a time of 16 minutes and six seconds and Concord 16-year-old Jennika Mannesto pacing the females (20:06). The total number of finishers of

that race was 129, which was the highest tally in several years.

Registration for this year's race can be taken care of online via the track club's website at www.gdgc.org. The pre-registration fee is \$15, the race-day fee will also be \$15, and families can pay one fee of \$30. The family fee would cover two adults and an unlimited number of children who all live at the same

address.

Custom race shirts will go to the first 75 entrants, and packet pick-up and race-day registration will start at 4 p.m. at Mack's Apples.

Professional timing is being provided by The New England Timing Company as has been the case for years now, and more information can be obtained by calling race director Burkinshaw at 432-9805.

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Area Runners Stand Out in the State's Biggest Road Race

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The annual Cigna/Elliott Corporate 5K Road Race is the largest of its kind in the Granite State, drawing many thousands of runners from around New Hampshire and beyond to Manchester in support of an exceptional cause.

Funds raised by the event benefit the Elliot Regional Cancer Center, and runners and teams from local towns like Londonderry, Derry, Hampstead, Chester, and Sandown all stood up tall with their efforts in the 25th Annual Cigna/Elliott event on the Queen City's Elm Street last Thursday, August 10.

Organized and directed by former Londonderry High School multi-

sport standout John Mortimer's Millenium Running, the 2017 event had nearly 5,000 runners cross the finish line after being cheered on by thousands of spirited spectators.

Runners competed as individuals, and in some cases, as members of corporate and organizational teams. Among the teams were a Stonyfield Yogurt team from Londonderry, a team simply named "Londonderry," a Derry Police Running Team, a Derry Medical Center squad, and a Chester Academy contingent as well.

Well over 250 teams competed in the race, and more than 100,000 runners have taken on the Elm Street race during the 25 years it has existed. The total number of finishers of this year's race

came to 4,907.

Cambridge, Mass. resident Brian Harvey repeated as the winner of the race, crossing the line in 14 minutes and 45 seconds. But Sandown's Louis Saviano III was not far behind, finishing eighth overall in 16:23.

There were a slew of other area runners who finished among the top 100 in a race which had nearly 5,000 finishers. Among the top 100 line-crossers were Noah Davis of Derry in 22nd place (17:14), Peter Saviano of Sandown in 25th (17:23), Josh Noe from Derry in 39th place (18:01), Londonderry resident and Pinkerton Academy track and field coach Ian French in 49th place (18:19), Christian Smith of Londonderry in the 69th spot

(18:59), and Kevin Coyle from Derry in 93rd place (19:35).

Also finishing among the top 250 competitors were Joe Ripley of Londonderry (158th), Steven Brodeur from Chester (215th), and Zach Peters (226th), Kyle Wheeler (226th), and Tim Porter (230th) of Londonderry.

Other area runners who crossed the line among the first 500 finishers were Londonderry's Myke Wyman, Steve Bioren, Ryan Quinlan, Brenda Horan, Steve Street, William Dodge, Matt Smith, Bob Henderson, Erik Dodge, Cory Keeling, and Chris Von Pichl, Derry residents Eric Martens, Maria Checket, Clint Havens, and Amy Hollingworth, Hampstead's Chris Talbot

and Sadie Farnsworth, and Chester resident Christine Grady.

Where teams were concerned, the Derry Police Running Team and Derry Medical Center squads did particularly well.

The latter contingent finished a truly excellent 11th out of some 126 women's teams, and that determined bunch included Mary Beth Torosian, Lauren Sullivan, Kim Boschi, Meagan D'Urso, Ava Underwood, Julie Sisson, and Amanda Underwood.

The Derry Police crew finished 17th out of more than 100 men's teams, with Mark L'Heureux, Jon Breen, Chris Talbot, Clint Havens, and Jared Knox all placing among the top 500 overall finishers to

lead that impressive charge. Their teammates included Mike Muncey and Jeff Dawe.

The aforementioned Stonyfield contingent from Londonderry finished a fine 42nd out of the many women's teams, and that group included Bridget Pichette, Elizabeth LaCamera, Aura Huot, Mairead Dunphy, Allison Bartak, Lisa Kinzel, and Lisa Hammer.

Contributing their efforts to the "Londonderry" team were runners Sherry Farrell, Beth Hamilton, Kirby Wade, Diane Demers, and Christie Campbell, and the Chester Academy squad included Riana Cleveland, Lori Hanson, Deb Freiburger, Ann Gaffney, Meredith Dugan, and Leann Nelson.

Londonderry Cops Contribute to Success in Battle of the Badges

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Even before the annual Old Home Days softball contest is played between the Londonderry Police and Fire Department teams this Friday night, Londonderry cops Jim Freda and Justin Hallock have reasons to be able to gloat a bit about earlier success on a diamond against several town firemen.

Freda and Hallock were members of the New Hampshire Battle of the Badges police baseball squad which tallied a lopsided 15-2 victory over the Granite State firemen in the 2017 Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (CHaD) Battle of the Badges Baseball

Classic at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester last Friday evening, Aug. 11.

Londonderry firemen Riley Northrop, Mike Roberson, Brian Schofield, and Chris Schofield were members of the vanquished squad in that seventh annual contest, which was played under the lights for the first time in series history.

Each player was tasked with raising at least \$1,250 for the worthy CHaD cause, for which some \$320,000 were raised through the first six contests via sponsorships, ticket sales, and the players themselves.

The 2017 game was played in front of a reported crowd of just under

2,000 fans at the Delta Dental Stadium, best known as the home of the Toronto Blue Jays' Double-A minor league squad the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. The firemen won the 2016 contest, so with the recent split in successes the 2018 game might be even more fun next summer. You can bet the firemen are none too pleased with being bested by double digits.

The firemen's roster once again included Anthony DeRosa from the Derry Fire Department, who had the game-winning hit in the ninth inning for the fire crew in its successful 2016 Badges battle.

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Manchester, as well as outpatient pediatric specialties at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Dover and in Exeter. Primary care is available at Dartmouth-Hitchcock facilities in Bedford, Concord, Keene, Lebanon, Manchester, and Nashua, N.H. as well as Bennington, Vermont.

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World's First Paralympic Woman Bobsledder Seeks Aid

ALYSSA GUINN
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After every workout session at the Zoo Health Club in Derry, resident Dawn Macomber walks through the parking lot and picks up loose change. To many it may seem strange, but to her it is just another small step in fulfilling her dream of competing as a para-bobsledder, something she has been doing for about a year.

Earlier this year, Macomber competed in multiple competitions, including a World Cup event in Europe, and has the ultimate goal of competing in the Paralympics at Beijing in 2022. She was the first woman in the world to make it on a paralympic bobsledding team, and now competes as part of the U.S.A.'s National Para-bobsledding Team.

"It's always been in my blood to go fast," she said about her love of the sport.

This upcoming year will take her to many places, with Latvia, Germany, and Austria being only a few; the cost to participate in these journeys will exceed \$15,000 – something she has to pay for herself.

Part of the expenses is simple training time. Since the U.S.A. team

doesn't have access to sleds or tracks, they have to pay to use others', often using the facility in Latvia, which costs 300 euros to go down the track six times. This equates to two runs per a day during their week there, each run lasting under 60 seconds. Macomb has under an hour of on-track training time.

Other expenses include airfare, lodging, and food.

"What most people don't know is that most Paralympics athletes, when they're first starting out, don't have sponsors. We have to pay our own way," she said.

Last year, she received some grants from the Veteran's Association and other outlets to help pay for the numerous expenses, in addition to fundraising using a Go-Fund Me page, but it was still not enough. She found herself running out of money while abroad, and her husband even had to take out a loan to pay for a plane ticket back home.

This year, she doesn't know how she's going to do it, but that isn't going to stop her from trying.

"I know it seems like a lot of money, but the way that I take my illness and my recovery is small steps and small goals."

The 46-year-old became paralyzed from the waist down in June of 2010 after two herniations in her spine ruptured. She was on a romantic getaway with her husband when her husband found her lying on the bathroom floor, unable to get back up. The next day, when she went to the doctors, they discovered that she has Cauda Equina Syndrome (CES), a condition in which the Cauda Equina nerves, located in the lower part of the spinal cord, are compressed. If not treated right away, the condition leads to varying degrees of paralysis.

She described her injury as "incomplete," meaning not all the nerves in her spinal cord have been severed, causing her to feel some sensations, but not others.

"I can feel wet dog drool, but I can also walk in snow up to my hips because I can't feel the cold. I can move my hip flexors, but I can't move my ankles."

When she first woke up in the hospital bed and couldn't move her legs, she was "in a very dark place." She suffered from two herniated discs sustained in her early 20's when she was in the Army, and for the past 20 years, she had suffered from extreme back pain and gone through multiple abdominal, back, and

shoulder surgeries. After her paralysis diagnosis, she was ready to give up.

"I asked [my husband] to help me take my life, and he said absolutely not," she remembered.

Now, after years of physical training and pushing herself, first from wheelchair to standing, then from standing to walking, from walking to powerlifting, and now to becoming a Paralympics athlete, she says she's "stronger than ever."

"I would always pray that God would take my pain away, and on June 27, 2010, a kind of weird way of doing it, he did," she said. In a way, she considers the injury a blessing, because it alleviated a lot of the pain she had been struggling with for so long.

Macomb got involved in bobsledding when she went to a Wounded Warrior Clinic in Lake Placid and contacted the captain for Team U.S.A. He offered her a chance to train in Latvia before trying out for the team and she accepted, eventually competing in three World Cup competitions, and the World Championship.

Along the way, she discovered a love for the sport that has been an essential part of her recovery process. "I have been given this opportunity," she said, "and every single time I've been given an opportunity and taken



Derry resident Dawn Macomber has embarked upon a competitive career as a paralympic bobsledder. The local woman has overcome a great many obstacles over the years, so betting against her accomplishing yet another challenge is far from advisable. The local woman has taken part in international competitions in numerous parts of the world already and has a real passion for the experience.

the chance on it, it becomes the driving force of my recovery."

Now that it is a possibility that she won't be able to afford the upcoming season, she's "willing to do anything," including reaching out to the community for ideas on how to make her dream more of a reality.

Macomb has posted on Facebook to get ideas, but it hasn't been very effective. She's hoping that in the next couple of

months she will receive more grants to aid her, but until then is staying optimistically realistic about the status of her dream. She has enough money for a few of the fares, but not nearly enough to compete and travel like she desires.

"Every little bit helps," she said, and she appreciates whatever the community of Derry can offer her, be it advice, donations, or emotional support.

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Third Annual Blues Festival Will Assist Struggling Service Members

ALEX GUITTARR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry residents with an ear for the sound of blues will be happy to hear that the Londonderry Commons will be hosting the Third Annual Blues Festival on August 26. Music will start at noon.

The event is being organized by resident Dennis Martin, a lifelong fan of the blues and harmonica player since the age of 10. He has even opened for the likes of B.B. King, Steppenwolf, and the Bobby Blue Band, just to name a few.

But, the purpose of this festival extends far wider than just Martin's love of the blues. Martin served with the United States Coast Guard from 1979 until 1983 and, unfortunately, found himself homeless after his service, struggling to get by in the town of Cape Cod. A

local veteran's organization helped him to get back on his feet, allowing him to move on with his life and to move to New Hampshire, where he has resided for the past 16 years.

Feeling indebted to the groups that helped him get his life back on track, Martin was inspired to begin these festivals. His goals ultimately come down to assisting fellow veterans and "helping their families too."

The first year was originally dedicated to raising funds for Liberty House, a group based out of Manchester that provides a "safe, supportive, substance-free housing community for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness," according to their website. The first festival had roughly 30 people in attendance and raised about \$1,000.

But, for this year and last year, the organiza-

tion Veterans Count has been Martin's focus. This organization follows the same mission as Liberty House, helping veterans find employment, aiding them with financial emergencies, and helping them handle mental health and substance abuse problems that may stem from their time in the military.

The festival will also feature a number of other attractions, including a craft section, a cookout, and other vendors, as well as assistance from the Patriot Riders, a group of veterans, firefighters, and police officers who attend military funerals to help honor the dead.

However, as this is a charity festival, Martin asks that any vendors at the festival donate anywhere from 15 percent of their profits from the day to at least \$25 to Veterans

Count. 90 percent of the earnings from the festival will be going directly towards veterans in need, while the other 10 percent will be used for administrative costs for Veterans Count.

Martin noted that "[they] have a good lineup this year." Attendees can expect performances from the Deep Fried Blues Band, the Watts Up Band, and Dr. Harps Blues Revue Band to cap off the show. "Dr. Harps" is actually Martin himself, who will be playing alongside special guest Jose Ramos, who has been friends with Martin for three decades.

For more information about Veterans Count, please visit vetscount.org/nh. If you wish to participate as an assistant or vendor for the festival, please contact Martin at (603) 303-0352.



Local veteran Dennis "Dr. Harp" Martin is planning his third annual Blues Festival on the Town Common. The concert will be held on August 26.



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PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Have an Announcement?

This service is provided free of charge to local residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Tri-Town Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to tri-towntimes@nutpub.net.

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– PROVIDER ON CALL – BRAIN CANCER

Recent news of one of the nation's representatives being diagnosed with brain cancer has raised some questions about the condition.

Brain tumors are abnormal growths of cells in the brain. Although such growths are popularly called brain tumors, not all brain tumors are cancer. Cancer is a term reserved for malignant tumors. Malignant tumors can grow and spread aggressively, overpowering healthy cells by taking their space, blood and nutrients. They can also spread to distant parts of the body. Like all cells of the body, tumor cells need blood and nutrients to survive. Tumors that do not invade nearby tissue or spread to distant areas are called benign. In general, a benign tumor is less serious than a malignant tumor. But a benign tumor can still cause many problems in the brain by pressing on nearby tissue.

In the U.S., brain or nervous system tumors affect about 6 of every 1,000 people.

The brain is made up of many different types of cells. Some brain cancers occur when one type of cell transforms from its normal characteristics. Once transformed, the cells grow and multiply in abnormal ways. As these abnormal cells grow, they become a mass, or tumor. The brain tumors that result are called primary brain tumors because they originate in the brain. The most common primary brain tumors are gliomas, meningiomas, pituitary adenomas, vestibular schwannomas, and primitive neuroectodermal tumors (medulloblastomas). The term glioma includes glioblastomas, astrocytomas, oligodendrogliomas and ependymomas. Most of these are named after the part of the brain or the type of brain cell from which they arise.

Metastatic brain tumors are made of cancerous cells from a tumor elsewhere in the body. The cells spread to

the brain from another tumor in a process called metastasis. This is the most common type of brain tumor. As with tumors elsewhere in the body, the exact cause of most brain cancer is unknown. Genetic factors, various environmental toxins, radiation to the head, HIV infection, and cigarette smoking have all been linked to cancers of the brain, in most cases, no clear cause can be shown.

It is important to let your provider know if there are any symptoms such as headaches, weakness, clumsiness, difficulty walking and seizures. Other factors such as changes in concentration, memory, alertness, nausea or vomiting, abnormalities in vision, difficulty in speech or changes in intellectual capacity or emotion should also be addressed. Getting the correct direction is always the best.

As a Family Practitioner for over 25 years in Southern New Hampshire, I have treated new borns to individuals in their Golden Years. My staff and I believe that prevention is the best cure. And we like to do it the old-fashioned way, by listening and caring for each patient as if they were our own family. At the same time, we do not ignore the innovations that are taking place in medicine and electronic medical records to help communicate with other providers and facilities

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AROUND TOWN

Around Town Policy: 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 publicizing, there will be a charge of \$40.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$40.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m.

Additionally: We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at www.nutpub.net. Please send items to londonderrytimes@nutpub.net.

Blues Festival for Vets

Local musician Dennis Martin, a veteran, is once again bringing a Blues Festival to the Londonderry Town Common. His third annual event is Aug. 26 from noon to 4 p.m. His band, Dr. Harps Blues Revue, as well as the Deep Fried Blues Band and the Watts Up Band will perform. No admission will be charged, but attendees are asked to contribute to Veterans Count. Vendors, ice cream and a barbecue are planned. Bring chairs or a blanket for seating.

Old Home Day Service And Picnic

Londonderry's Old Home Day was originally centered around a church service and followed by a picnic. To honor that tradition, the Londonderry Clergy Association will once again be hosting a joint community worship service on The Common at 11 a.m., followed by a free picnic. All are welcome to bring chairs or blankets. Any donations received will support St. Jude's Food Pantry, and checks can be written out to Londonderry Clergy. With questions, contact us at info@orchardnh.org.

Library Fall Bulb Sale

The Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library will be conducting their 17th annual Fall Bulb Sale beginning Monday, August 14, 2017. This year there are

color-themed gardens with many varieties of spring and summer flowers, including lilies, tulips, irises, and daffodils. Also available is a Healthy Herb Garden which contains 6 varieties of seeds. Orders can be placed at the Library's main desk until Saturday, September 23, 2017.

Aviation Museum Car Show

On Saturday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire will host their Third Annual Car Show. There will be a 50/50 raffle, trophies awarded, food and ice cream for purchase. Registration is \$10 per carload, which includes museum admission, if you are participating in the show. Regular museum admission for otherwise. The museum is located at 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry.

Renew Clothing

Renew clothing will be opening on Thursdays starting August 17, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Fall clothing is now available. We give away free gently-used apparel that has been donated by the community. Enter at marquee sign of Calvary Bible Church, 145 Hampstead Road in Derry. Donations of good condition, modern clothing may be placed in our donations bin by our door at any time. No house ware items, books, toys, or bedding, please. No

donations of money are asked for or accepted in return for our clothing. Contact us by searching for "Renew Derry" by emailing renewclothing@yahoo.com or calling the church secretary at 434-1516.

Freshman Orientation

LHS will welcome the class of 2021 on August 28th 2017 for their Freshman Orientation. The day starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 11:15 a.m. Busses will pick up students one hour after regular scheduled pick up time. Questions please email Assistant Principal Ms. Sullivan at ksullivan@londonderry.org.

Library Closure

The Leach Library will be closed on Monday, September 4, for Labor Day. Hours Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Adult Program

"To the Ozarks and Back: Ballads and Fiddle Tunes" On Thursday, September 14 at 7 p.m., the Leach Library will present Sarah Jane Nelson's musical performance, "To the Ozarks and Back: Ballads and Fiddle Tunes". This program is free and open to the public with seating limited to the first 90 individuals. It will be held in the library's lower-level meeting room. Light refreshments will be served.

Bubble Show

On Monday, September 11 from 4 - 5 p.m. Participants may learn a thing or two about the science of bubbles and everyone may even have a chance to be in a bubble. This engaging program is open to 90 participants of all ages and advance registration is required. To register, stop by the Children's Room, or call 432-1127 beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5.

Awesome Octopuses!

Dive into fun on Monday, September 25 from 4 - 5 p.m. to hear stories of amazing octopuses. Participants will hear stories of octopuses and their relatives, learn interesting facts and even do the Octopus Dance! Each participant will have a chance to toss rings on an octopus's legs, and will leave with a fun octopus friend. One lucky participant will leave with a fun stuffed octopus! This exciting program is open to 90 participants of all ages and advance registration is required. To register, stop by the Children's Room, or call 432-1127 beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 18.

Drop Off Center Opening

A new Drop Off Center will now be open on Wednesdays from now until September 27 from 3 - 7 p.m. This is a limited time trial program, and payment is by check only. For more information, visit londonderry-nh.org or call 603-432-1100 X193.

Karaoke Night

Join the American Legion Post 27 on August 18 for karaoke with DJ Sharon beginning at 7 p.m. at 6 Sargent Road in Londonderry. Non-members interested in joining Post 27 are welcome to attend.

Bingo With VA Hospital Patients

On August 28, American Legion Post 27 will be playing bingo with patients at the VA Hospital in Manchester from 7 - 8:30 p.m. We'll be serving pizza and diet soda as well as providing \$150 in prize money.

Londonderry Dems Summer Social

On Saturday, August 26, from 1 p.m. until at least 4 p.m. at Mack's Apples. The event is a Fundraiser with food and drinks provided. Please let's know if you will attend, and if would like to

bring a side dish. We would like to get an approximate headcount. There will be a minimum cover charge of \$10 to participate. Some key Democrats, in Congress, and activists have been invited.

Backpack Blessing

Students of all ages and their friends are invited to the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 126 Pillsbury Road, on Sunday August 27 during the 10 a.m. worship service to have their backpacks blessed before the upcoming school year begins. This is a special way to ask God's blessing as you go back to school.

Night of Hope

Free event on August 26 at MacGregor Park in Derry from 5:30 pm till 9:45 p.m. This night will bring new hope to all who have been directly or indirectly affected by drug addiction. We will provide free food and drinks, powerful testimonies of recovery, inspiring songs, and giant screen projection of the movie "Victor" (PG-13), a true story of a son's addiction, a praying mom, and the faith to overcome. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and bug spray. For more information contact LifeWay Church at 603-845-6601 or visit our website at www.lifewaychurch.net.

Arts Council Summer Finale Booths

The Londonderry Arts Council is offering free booth or table space to approved non-profit groups at the Summer Finale, scheduled for Saturday, September 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Groups should contact Susan Hanna at 603-582-4777 for details or email Events@LondonderryArtsCouncil.org.

Londonderry Girls Lacrosse Club Elections

The Londonderry Quicksticks Girls Lacrosse Booster Club will be holding its annual Board of Directors Elections at our monthly meeting on September 12, 2017. The meeting will be held at Londonderry High School at 6:30 p.m. All members are welcome.

Touch-A-Truck

Londonderry's North School PTA is organizing a Touch-A-Truck Event during Londonderry's Old Home Days this year. The event will take place directly after the parade at Moose Hill

School on Saturday, August 19 from 12 - 2 p.m. You will have the opportunity to touch, interact with, and learn about lots of cool vehicles! Tickets are \$3, not to exceed \$10 per family. Children under one are free with a paying adult. For more information, contact Kate Dahlgren at kate.dahlgren@gmail.com.

Supporting Women's Education

The Londonderry Women's Club is now accepting applications for an Adult Female Scholarship in the amount of \$500. The requirements are: must be a female at least 23 years of age and a current resident of Londonderry, must be currently enrolled at an accredited postsecondary institution, and must have completed a minimum of half of the time or credits toward the named degree, certificate or licensing program. The deadline for submitting applications is September 30. Applications are available at the Leach Library and online at www.londonderrywomenclub.com

Wild NH Photo Contest

Accepting photos now! Take a look at your snaps and submit your best photos to the 11th Wild NH photo contest! Submissions will be accepted from now - September 2, 2017. Photos will be judged by September 16, and winning photos will be exhibited in a Massabesic Center art show from October 7 to November 18, 2017. Details at www.nhaudubon.org.

Let's Talk Turtles

On August 18, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, Chris Bogard will share her knowledge on threatened and endangered turtle species in NH. She will discuss reasons for their decline and what is being done to preserve these ancient species. Come and gain knowledge on how to help baby turtles and more! Cost: \$5/Free for Massabesic Volunteers. Registration required, please call 668-2045.

Londonderry Sings Auditions

Londonderry Sings, the annual contest which will take place on August 19 during Old Home Day this year,

Continued on page 19

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Kevin Coyle

Continued from page 1

This came as a result of an incident in September, after Lt. Patrick Cheetham filed a complaint against her “alleging that she ordered an unlawful arrest and was discourteous to him.” Deputy Chief Dussault then assigned Lt. Cheetham to conduct an Internal Affairs Investigation, during and after which the complaint document offers evidence that Sgt. Coyle was denied due process from Deputy Chief Dussault, and Chief Hart. The complaint document also names Lt. Cheetham and Town Manager Kevin Smith for violating multiple procedures and policies.

Coyle had followed the investigation, and after Sgt. Coyle’s demotion on December 2, Coyle had a duty as an administrator to report the alleged violations of policy and procedures made by both Deputy Chief Dussault and Chief Hart to Smith.

“I did what I thought I had to do, and I thought the town would do something,” Coyle said.

Some of the violations

for Chief Hart, according to the complaint, are failing to provide notice of his intent to demote Sgt. Coyle – P-106 (IV) (7) (d), demoting Sgt. Coyle without the authority to do so – P-106 (IV) (7) (b), and failing to provide due process – P-106 (II) (A).

“How do you take someone’s livelihood away from them without giving them due process? That’s not what law enforcement is supposed to stand for,” said Coyle. “Law enforcement is supposed to stand for and be the pinnacle of due process.”

Hart did not respond regarding the situation.

The Londonderry Police Department’s policies and procedures can be found on the town website.

After filing a report to Smith, Coyle said he followed up with an email detailing his concern for “retaliation from Deputy Chief Dussault and Chief Hart.” Coyle believes no investigation had been thoroughly completed by the town regarding the violations because no one has approached him with any inquiries.

However, Smith ex-

plained that “when the Town receives a report that a town employee or town official has violated a town policy or procedure, it is investigated to our satisfaction. No reports or complaints are ignored. When we are satisfied that sufficient information has been obtained, action is taken.”

He continued with, “In the time I have been town manager, I am unaware of instance in which a report was made and no action was taken.”

Sgt. Coyle’s complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says that Smith failed to conduct a hearing within five calendar days after being notified that Chief Hart demoted Sgt. Coyle, which was in violation of P-106 (IV) (7) (f): “the Town Manager shall meet with the employee(s) and the Chief of Police within five calendar days of receipt of the recommendation and will render a decision within ten calendar days of that meeting.” Smith was copied on an email Chief Hart sent out two hours after the demotion of Sgt. Coyle, but failed to hold a hearing and had yet to meet with Sgt. Coyle before the complaint

was filed.

While Smith was unable to comment on private investigations, Smith did explain that sometimes the course of action regarding a report takes different routes: “The action may be addressing the matter with the employee or official, or it may be closing the investigation as unfounded. It may be that we find as a result of the investigation that the manner in which we are doing something could be improved.”

Coyle believes that Sgt. Coyle was demoted because she is a woman, and says that “the way they treat women [at the police department] is just pathetic, it really is.”

Sgt. Coyle was the first female Sergeant in the department’s history, and now, out of the 19 positions of rank, there is “no longer a single woman of rank.”

“For them to take the only woman of rank, just because she happens to be my ex-wife, and they really thought I would just lay down and not do anything to help her,” Coyle said.

Coyle claims the six months leading up to his review were tense between himself, Smith, and Chief

Hart, and that he knew some sort of retaliation was coming.

However, Smith said, “I do not believe that I have enjoyed more or less interaction with Kevin Coyle during the last six months than I had previous to that time.”

When Coyle received his evaluation, he thought, “Well, here it is. This is how it’s going to be.” Coyle then emailed Smith and waited for a week before speaking with a Union representative about resigning.

“If you don’t want me here, I’m okay with leaving, but I’m not going to let you force me out.”

The only way Coyle was going to resign was if he was paid a year’s salary. According to the separation agreement between Coyle and the Town of Londonderry, which is available to the public, upon his last day (August 4), Coyle would be paid \$85,889, and his health care benefits would continue throughout the month of August. The document also stated that Coyle agreed to “a full and final release and settlement of all claims” regarding his employment of the town, and gives up the

right to come back and sue for any reason.

There was no conversation about his resignation, according to Coyle, and the agreement was settled fairly quickly. Coyle does question why no members of the Town Council brought his resignation up at any meetings.

“No one asked, ‘Why are we paying this guy \$86,000 to leave?’”

Although Coyle no longer works as a prosecutor for Londonderry, he is still employed by the town of Sandown and will continue to prosecute there.

“I truly am glad I left,” he said, though he would have liked to stay for a few more years.

Coyle’s position as prosecutor has been filled by Adria Farr, Senior Entertainment Supervisor and Marketing/Entertainment Assistant Manager at Canobie Lake Park. According to Farr’s LinkedIn profile, Farr received a B.A. in History in 2010 from University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and both a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intellectual Property Law and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from University of New Hampshire School of Law.

Around Town

Continued from page 16

is looking for contestants ages 11-11! Singers should send their information to mary@oldhomeday.com along with a link to a YouTube audition.

Child Passenger Safety Program

The Londonderry Fire Rescue and Londonderry Police Department, along with volunteers, have collaborated to form the New Hampshire Child Passenger Safety Program. The program helps residents and those outside of Londonderry with child restraint concerns by answering questions, providing safety information, and making appointments to inspect car seat installations. They also host inspections during the month on a Saturday morning or week night at 103 High Range Road in Londonderry. Certified technicians are available. For more

information, call (603) 432-1104 ext. 4623 or email cps@londonderrynh.org.

Old Home Day Kick-Off

On Wednesday, August 16, the Londonderry Old Home Day celebration will be kicked-off with the 118th Senior Barbecue. For this event, the committee considers seniors to be age 62 and older. The barbecue is free to all Londonderry seniors, but you must have a ticket. Tickets will be available at the Londonderry Senior Center starting July 5. The barbecue will take place in the Lion’s Hall Pavilion. Prior to food being served from 5 - 6:30 p.m., bingo will start at 4 p.m. Following the meal, there will be a concert at the bandstand on the Town Common from 6:30 - 8 p.m. This year, we will feature the Windham Swing Band. The concert is open to all Londonderry residents. In event of inclement weather, the barbecue and concert will be moved to the Londonderry

High School cafeteria.

Free Dinners

Free, family-friendly meals will be served in a relaxed atmosphere at the following locations on the following dates. At Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, dinner will be served from 5 - 6:15 p.m. on Sunday, August 20. At the First Parish Congregational Church, 47 East Derry Road, East Derry, spaghetti suppers will be served from 5 - 6:30 p.m. on Friday, August 25, and September 29. At St. Jude Church, 435 Mammoth

Road, Londonderry, lunch will be served from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 27, and September 24. At St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, 63 East Broadway, Derry, dinner will be served from 5 - 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 19, and September 16.

Lancer Golf Tournament

The Lancer Nation Boys’ Basketball Association’s 3rd Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, Sept. 17, at the Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown. The event will feature a four-person team scramble format with

awards going to first and last place teams, and there will also be a \$10,000 hole-in-one contest. The cost to participate will be \$115 per person, which will include greens fees, golf carts, a Lancer Nation golf towel, a Corflex bag with giveaways, a backyard BBQ lunch, and opportunities to win raffle and silent auction items. Day of event registration will begin at 8 a.m., with a shotgun start slated for 9. More information can

be obtained at lancerbasketballnation@gmail.com.

Greater Manchester Lyme Disease Support Group

Hosted by David Hunter, the group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bedford Presbyterian Church, 4 Church Road Bedford. For more information call 660-3425 or email dhunter31@gmail.com

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