

Londonderry Times

January 18, 2018 ♦ Volume 19 – Issue 3

A FREE Weekly Publication



Winter Reprieve

Warm temperatures and steady rains left the intersection of Mammoth and Rockingham Roads under water for much of the day on Saturday, Jan. 13. Freezing temperatures that day and the next made for an icy mess that night and the following day. Photo by Chris Paul

Council Makes Recommendations and Passes the Town Warrant

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The town council meeting held on Jan. 15 worked towards setting up what articles would be presented on the ballot for Election Day coming in March of this year. One article that was hotly debated

was Article 2: The Bond issue for Improvements to Central Fire Station. The vote will be determined by the taxpayer if they are willing to pay for the \$6,400,000 for the purpose of making improvements to Central Fire Station. The new renovated Central Fire Station (if

approved) will be roughly three times the size of the current fire stations in town. Vice-Chairman John Farrell expressed his concern that number may be too high and that might be an issue. The town council ultimately gave their recommendation to

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Proposal Approved by School Board to Relocate SAU Offices

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On the Jan 9 meeting of the Londonderry School Board, a motion was passed 4-1 to relocate the SAU district office from 268C Mammoth Road to 6A Kitty Hawk Drive in Londonderry.

According to the school district, there have been multiple issues with the current SAU building, most notably being the air quality. The intermediate solution for this issue is to move the staff of the SAU offices to a new location near the airport.

It is the first floor of the building that will be leased and the total

square footage is 10,175 and the living space for the office is 9100 square feet. The base lease is \$12.09 per square foot and includes snow removal, grounds, water and sewer, and general building repairs.

The lease date will be in effect on July 1 of this year, but if the SAU staff is ready to move before then and funds are available an earlier move-in date can be arranged. The lease is also set for ten years, but may be reduced to five years and also includes an opt-clause. All furniture that is currently in the Mammoth Road offices, will be moved to 6A Kitty Hawk Drive with the exception

of a possible table or two, but \$100,000 will not be spent on furnishing the new building.

According to Peter Curro, the purposes of leasing the new building is to address the health issues and allow the school district and the community the next two to four years to focus on the elementary space needs, which will take lots of time and commitment to solve.

However, board member Steve Young felt this was not in the best interest of the schools or the community to lease the new building. "I will have a very difficult time walking through the grocery

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Residents Grow Weary of Extensions at Planning Board

ALEX GUITTARR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Another delay on a local construction project had some residents rather frustrated during the Planning Board's latest meeting on Jan. 10 at Town Hall.

The applicants for the project, known only as Seven Litchfield Road, Realty Trust, LLC, are hoping to establish a subdivision of the lot on 7 Litchfield Road, converting it into two lots. From there, they plan on building a duplex, as well as a sixty-six unit elderly housing complex.

However, due to what was established as "out-

standing engineering issues" by Town Planner Colleen Mailloux, the formal review for the application was delayed for the second time. The first delay occurring back at the Dec. 6 meeting.

While the board had little issue with granting this second extension, which would give the applicants another month to present their plan, several abutters to the property in attendance that night took issue with the matter. One of the more pressing issues, according to abutter Eric Kolifrath, was that due to the fact that because the property is currently lo-

cated near wetlands, he and the other abutters are fearful of the potential of flooding that may be caused by this new project.

"All of our properties are already moisture rich," Kolifrath noted.

On top of the issue of flooding, the abutters also

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TIGER Program Visits South School With Anti-Bullying Message



For over 15 years the TIGER (Theater Integrating Guidance, Education, and Responsibility) program from Plymouth State University has visited South School and has given their performance that incorporates live actors, theatre, movement, and music to engage students by using childrens' own words to enable children to hear their own voices as they step back from the experiences of bullying and the intolerance of individual differences to move into more positive social interactions at school and in their community. TIGER is a professional theatre company designed to help children, schools, parents, and communities deal proactively and positively with social issues and concerns facing children in schools today.

Photos by Chris Paul

SAU Offices

Continued from page 1

store and looking people in the eye. I will have to look at my feet when they ask me why we are mov-

ing the school district to a deluxe office in the sky," Young said.

The town of Londonderry has also expressed interest into possibly renovating the space at 268C

Mammoth Road and creating a community center out of it spending roughly \$300,000 to do so, though nothing has been set in stone as of yet.

Criteria for moving the

SAU office was also discussed and the reasons directly behind the decision to move.

Chairman Dan Lekas expressed his concerns for the safety of the staff that work in the SAU office. "I'm concerned about the people that are in there and sometimes being concerned about

the people is a little bit more than money to me," Lekas said. Urgency is also a problem with the SAU building. If the air quality worsens, it poses an immediate health risk that will need to be dealt with and money would have to be found in the existing budget to move the staff to a new location, no excep-

tions.

At the end of the meeting, the school board motioned to accept the offer to relocate the SAU offices.

The motion passed 4-1 and the plan advanced to move the school district staff out of 268C Mammoth Road to 6A Kitty Hawk Drive.

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Conservation Commission Briefed on Wetland Damage Due to Repair Work

ALEX GUITARR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Construction along a right-of-way for electric lines was recently brought to the attention of the Conservation Commission during their latest meeting on Jan. 9 at Town Hall.

Matthew Cardin, an Environmental Permitting Coordinator for Ever-source Energy, one of the largest energy providers in New England, came before the commission seeking a dredge and fill permit for areas along what was labeled as the 326 line, or one of their

right-of-ways. According to Cardin, this eighteen mile long right-of-way currently has forty two deficient wooden structures that are carrying three hundred and forty five kilovolt lines that have begun to show signs of wear and tear and need to be replaced with more modernized steel structures.

More specifically, the structures need to be replaced due to damage caused by woodpeckers, as well as the fact that underground wiring featured below the structures has begun to be

exposed. The entirety of the right-of-way extends from a sub-station in Scobie Pond and moves through Londonderry into Hudson before extending somewhere past the state line into Massachusetts.

Of the forty two structures that need to be replaced within the eighteen mile distance, roughly eight miles cover Londonderry and only ten structures will need to be replaced within the town.

However, this routine maintenance project, which will be most likely

be beginning in March and ending in June, is expected to cause significant, albeit temporary wetland damage in the areas needing replacement. Due to the use of various mats around the structures being replaced, around seventy three thousand square feet of temporary wetland impact is expected to occur.

However, on top of the damage not being permanent, Cardin assured the commission that they are working with New Hampshire Fish and Game to avoid harming any local

wildlife in the process and that the contractors will be smoothing out any affected areas during the construction and keeping the fauna consistent, essentially leaving the area as they found it.

Although the commission saw the presentation as pretty straight forward, one major concern was over why they could not simply replace all the wooden structures in the area that need to be replaced, instead of just ten. Cardin followed up by noting that not only are they not sure how many more need to be

replaced at the moment, but these types of projects are occurring all across New Hampshire, meaning that Ever-source's resources are spread pretty thin at the moment. Furthermore, replacements come on a case-by-case basis, primarily based on the amount of line outages, and some structures are simply prioritized over others as a result, especially due to their age.

"Most of it was built around the same time period; about ten, fifteen years ago," Cardin noted.

Councilor Explains Town's Commercial Values and Tax Impact

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On the Jan. 15 town council meeting, Vice-Chairman John Farrell outlined the commercial values of the town of Londonderry over the past 17 years and what has increased in value and what has decreased. The numbers have continued to grow over the years, specifically in commercial value. A commercial property refers to real estate property that is used for business activities or land that is intended to generate profit.

In the year 2000, the commercial properties in town were valued at 315 million dollars. In 2018, through all of the economic growth and devel-

opment, that number is now valued at 1.5 billion dollars (as of April 1, 2018).

Economic development has been the number one charge of the town council for over ten years according to Farrell. Once April 1 approaches and tax forms are properly filled out and sent in, Londonderry will have a commercial value of \$1.5 billion. The total revenue of 2018 comes to approximately \$25 million. It takes roughly \$100-\$110 million to run the town including the schools and the library.

Also, as of April 1, Pettengill Road will be valued at \$142 million and will generate \$3 million in tax revenue. Car registrations from the year 2000 to 2018 have increased by \$2.5

million annually, increasing by over a million dollars from last year.

The total new revenue is now estimated at approximately \$27 million. In the year 2000, it cost a total of \$18 million to run the town and \$41.5 million to run the schools with roughly 5,000 students. With this new proposed budget for the town, it will go up approximately \$31.7 million and the schools will go up approximately \$74 million. This represents a 2.85 million dollar increase over the

Ballot budget from last year of \$71,150,000. The School Board also endorsed the Superintendent's proposed budget that is \$550,000 over default with the addition of another \$170,000 a year for the new district office for a total of \$720,000.

The town of Londonderry has an increase of expenses of \$32.5 million for the schools and \$12.7 million for the town. Over the years, tax rates have stayed roughly flat, however there are no new commercial development

projects in the near term.

Farrell wrapped up his presentation by asking the public "Why exactly am I showing this to you?" The point of showing the numbers to the public was to show that any increases going forward will primarily fall on the residential homeowner. This was able to be off-set for the past 17 years, but with no commercial development projects in the near future, there is no commercial revenue coming in. Now, when items are being placed on

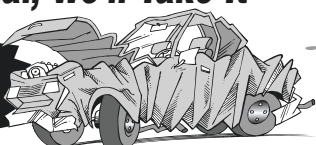
the ballot for the public to vote on, the money will have to come from the individual home owner at this point. Unfortunately, there is no other way around this issue and the money from Pettengill Road has already been absorbed.

This also means that everything placed on the ballot will have to be done with careful consideration of the town council, because it will be up to the public if they are willing to pay the extra money on Election Day.

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Editorial

Everyone Has a Say

To the residents who stayed at home while their elected officials crafted school and town budgets, and to those who chose not to air their concerns during recent public hearings, we trust that you are satisfied with the final numbers that resulted from these meetings.

But now that the hearings are over, your next shot at participatory democracy comes at the Deliberative Sessions and Town Meetings. It's not too late to offer your well thought out and practical suggestions for saving your town money, or to offer your thanks if you feel that your elected officials have paid attention to the woes of the taxpayers.

Of course, there's one other thing you can do, particularly if you are passionate about fiscal and personal responsibility. Is it frustrating to state your case and feel that no one is listening? You can see to it that that changes by running for elected office yourself.

From January 24 through February 2, the filing period is open for town and school district offices (check our calendar listings for details specific to your town).

If you're willing to put in the effort (and it will definitely require effort), sign up for a seat on your school board or town council. Don't let the apathy that brought out only one or two people to budget hearings continue into the upcoming election.

If you have great love for your community, are truly willing to listen to others, seek a middle ground among differing opinions, have a thick skin, and are willing to put in long evenings to serve your constituents, we encourage you to put your name in the running (those with personal agendas need not apply).

In a country founded on citizen participation, in a state where the voice of the individual is honored, and in towns with small enough populations that the voice of individual citizens is more easily heard, elected office is a possibility for anyone who cares enough to make an effort.

With a position in Town Council or your town's School Board, you'll know what's really going on, have a say in what happens next, and be responsible for helping your town move forward. You'll truly be part of your community, as well as a part of democracy in action.

At your local newspaper, we only cover the news, we do not make it. If you're unhappy with what you're reading in your weekly town paper, but are unable to run for a seat, sit on a board, or speak up at meeting, then please let your voice be heard by sending us your letters to the editor! We want to know your thoughts along with others in your town.

Change happens with action, so if you're unsatisfied with the status quo, take action to make a change!

Letters

Trump-Russia Dossier

To the Editor:

As more and more info comes out about the so-called Trump-Russian dossier, it's turning out to be the biggest political scandal ever. It turns out that Obama and his administration of the Department of Justice, the FBI, the National Security Agency, the Democrat National Committee and Hillary Clinton were all complicit in promulgating the Trump-Russian dossier that Trump and his staff prior to the 2016 Presidential election colluded with the Russians to rig the election in Trump's favor.

The objective of the fabricated dossier was to besmirch Trump to influence voters to vote for Hillary. If Trump were elected, the dossier would be used by the Democrats and FBI as an "insurance policy" to impeach and remove Trump from office.

It is now known that Hillary's DNC and rouge elements of the FBI paid GPS Fusion to obtain dirt on Trump. GPSF in turn relied on hearsay provided by a former British agent whose background is questionable. The dossier was then used to obtain wire-tape authorization from the Foreign Intelligence Security Agency that in itself was probably illegal as the dossier had no basis in fact nor corroborated.

After over a year of investigation by a Democrat special prosecutor appointed by a DOJ Democrat and staffed by Democrat lawyers, no substantiation of any collusion has been found. To

justify the spending of taxpayer money on the special prosecutor's investigation, a former Trump staff member has been indicted for purportedly being paid for a foreign business deal 11 years before Trump's 2016 presidential campaign for not registering as a foreign lobbyist; nothing to do with the collusion charge and outside the scope of what the special prosecutor was appointed to investigate.

I have read the co-founder of GPSF's testimony before the Foreign Intelligence Committee and none of his testimony substantiates Trump's colluding with the Russians. As Trump has said all along, the investigation is a witch hunt to try to nail Trump and just another negative media blitz to criticize everything Trump. Trump can't fire the special prosecutor as it would look bad for our Democracy, but he should.

This whole investigation is a farce. When and if the special prosecutor ever issues his final report, it will indicate no collusion; and probably will not mention any personnel of Obama's Shadow Government of the aforementioned government agencies and no one will be prosecuted.

My concern in light of these new revelations is that the fabricated dossier will continue to be pushed by the liberal media along with any other fake news to try to influence 2018 mid-term elections. I can understand Democrat leadership resisting Trump; it's politics and hatred of

Trump. I also well understand the 1st Amendment and right of free speech by the media, but for the liberal media to promote an anti-Trump agenda because their candidate lost is unprofessional and weakens OUR President and OUR country via innuendo, mischaracterizations and lies that give aid and comfort to our enemies. There is a word for this. Traitor.

Bob Pitre
Londonderry

Thank You Publisher

To the Editor:

I have met your Newspaper on my first week or month after moving to Londonderry to be the pastor of the Londonderry Presbyterian Church. Since then you have been a blessing to my life and my ministry as well. Actually, I have been witnessing how much you have been blessing our community, the Town of Londonderry and neighboring Towns.

When visiting your facilities, you made sure that I told you about our programs and you would announce them in the all around Town for free, because you know they are for the well being of the community altogether.

I'd like to thank you for your kindness in posting every week the LPC meetings in the around town for me!

I also would like to tell you a few ways in which you are blessing the community by doing this.

The Walking Together Group, is a group that

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Londonderry Times welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, written by local residents, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Londonderry Times at londonderrytimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Londonderry Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed. Deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.

Correction: Correction: In last week's article concerning the Londonderry Recreation Committee's latest meeting on January 8, it was noted that the two soccer organizations in Londonderry, Londonderry United and Londonderry Youth Soccer, would be united under the Londonderry United banner to handle both travel and recreational soccer needs. In actuality, the two will be united under The Londonderry Soccer Club banner to handle these matters.

Broken Bleachers Become Bothersome At School Budget Meeting

KATE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The current state of decay of the home side bleachers at the Londonderry High School football field was a cause for contention at the last school budget meeting. The bleachers located directly under the press box are old enough that they risk becoming a safety issue. At the meeting, the board discussed if it's best to let the town vote on replacing the bleachers or just absorb the cost into next year's budget.

The bleachers were donated and installed in the mid-1980s by the Grid-iron Club, making them at least 30 years-old. Wear and tear has caused the district to spend over

\$20,000 in the last 3 years on repairs. However, metal fatigue is limiting any potential future repairs, which could cause a failure to pass safety inspections over the summer. If they fail the inspection, the bleachers will be roped off or taken down before the first of Aug., according to school district Business Manager Peter Curro.

"Half of your bleacher capacity on the home side would come down or is probably inaccessible," said Curro. This could leave Lancer sports fans scrambling for space to stand during games.

"I personally wouldn't want to stand a whole football game," said Vice Chair Jenn Ganem. "I'm short."

Jokes aside, the board had a serious discussion over whether the matter should stay a warrant for voters to decide. School Board member Leitha Reilly said she believed the money for new bleachers should come out of the operating budget, and not be presented as a warrant.

"I believe there is wiggle room in the budget," Reilly said.

According to the submitted budget, the estimated cost to install new bleachers is around \$300,000. Reilly said, "it's basically a lease to own scenario" where that price would cover a five-year lease for the new equipment. The district is budgeting \$65,000 a year for the bleachers (to account for

the lease plus interest) and the reported tax impact would be two cents a year per taxpayer.

Reilly advocated removing the warrant because she was concerned that the town would not vote for the bleachers.

"Imagine if it doesn't go," Reilly exclaimed, "then every football game with hordes of people there who are going to watch their kids play football, play in the band, they're not going to be able to see over each other."

Chairman Dan Lekas offered to be "devil's advocate" to that scenario by stating that if the funds to pay for new spectator bleachers had to come out of the default budget, then the board could run into the problem of struggling to find the money. That could lead to cuts elsewhere.

Reilly retorted with, "it's part of our campus. It's a safety issue and it should be a part of our budget... I don't think it's a warrant article worthy thing."

Fellow board member Steve Young said, "I understand Leitha's concern that if it didn't pass we couldn't do anything. I think it wouldn't be unreasonable to tape off that section and make it non-accessible to people if something did happen."

Young went on to express his concern that if the board rolled the first year's payment into the default budget, then it would "encumber future boards to lease" without

input from the taxpayers.

"I'm not happy about that," said Young.

Ganem voiced her own concern over the issue, saying, "I agree it's a safety issue. I agree we could have people standing. I think it's a deterrent for other teams to come. I think it hurts our program. I think it hurts our overall reputation in the Class-L world."

Lekas asked the present members of the budget committee for some insight.

Tim Seikmann, the chair of the budget committee, said "it's the responsibility of the school board to fix it."

Seikmann said he saw both sides to the argument, but his main concern was the dollar amount proposed. He remarked that the "school proposed budget is above the default budget." He found this concerning, because if taxpayers voted for the lower of the two budgets then how would the board get the rest of the money to cover expenses like new bleachers.

"It creates a major, major financial problem,"

said Seikmann. "That's a lot of money to find from small things."

Lekas asked Curro if the cost of the bleachers could be covered under grounds maintenance costs. Curro replied that they could, but there is no room in the current budget because that money would have to come from somewhere else.

When discussing alternatives in case the warrant failed, Lekas remarked, "you could let everyone stand during the football games, bring it up next year and ask 'how did you think about that?'"

But Lekas did not seem worried about presenting the new bleachers as a warrant article. "I feel in my heart of hearts that people are going to vote for it."

Young agreed. "I can't imagine the bleacher warrant article failing."

The board finally voted to recommend the warrant article (Article Six) requesting the \$300,00, to be paid off through a five-year lease, for new spectator bleachers at Londonderry High School.

Letters

Continued from page 4

meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, where widowers and widows gather to "walk together" (talk/share) their journey of grief, because only someone who has lost a spouse would understand that big of a pain.

Three Tuesdays ago, we had a widow and a widower come because of your announcement. The first question they both asked was if they would have to change religions or join our church, and of course the answer was no. This group is to address their pain, not for church purpose. This gentleman had lost his wife 2 month prior to coming to the meeting. The lady had lost her husband 1 month prior to the meeting. Both felt blessed to come to the walking together group

and now are a part of it.

Another lady (about 82 yrs old) from Hampstead also called me and wanted to know when the walk would begin and from where we would leave. I explained that we do not walk per say, but we walk the journey of grief together. She is excited about the group, which she read in the all around too, and as soon as the weather permits, she'll join us.

The Walk With Me group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, for the same purpose, but this is for people who have lost any loved one other than their spouse. When you posted this one, you wrote "if you are losing someone" and that brought a woman whose father is in hospice and she was able to come to the group and have her pain eased as well.

The other announce-

ment was about the Lamp-lighters, and this is the women's group of the church, which normally we do not invite people from the community, but since we like to help people in shelters, etc... we thought it would be a good idea to post it as well.

As you can see, you have been that much of a blessing, not only to Londonderry Presbyterian Church, and to my ministry, but to our community as well.

Once again, Thank you all so much for the amazing job you all do at the Londonderry Times for all of us!

God bless you,
Pr. Karla Dias
Pastor of Londonderry
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Londonderry Seeking New Assistant Town Solicitor

ALEX GUITTARR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

For residents who have both legal experience and a desire to assist their community, the town of Londonderry is currently looking to hire on a full-time Assistant Town Solicitor.

Working underneath the Town Manager, Assis-

tant Town Manager and Chief of Police, this legal and administrative position would have the candidate serve as an internal legal advisor to town departments, boards and committees on a broad range of legal issues, including criminal law, taxation, planning, zoning, land use, elections,

regulatory issues, and the right-to-know law, as well as prepare and prosecute cases for the Police Department, Derry District Court and Rockingham County Superior Court.

More specifically, the position will be host to a wide variety of duties, such as providing legal advice or opinions to police and government units, drafting deeds, obligations and other legal instruments, reviewing and drafting regulations and ordinances and providing assistance to the Code Enforcement Officer regarding violations and

enforcement of land use issues.

Furthermore, the position would also work to draft and review legislation, work closely with police officers and witnesses in courtroom cases, research and develop policies for courtroom presentations and be available for twenty four hour on-call assistance for legal advice in all criminal investigations.

In terms of working conditions, a solid applicant must be able to listen, analyze, communicate, advise and problem-solve effectively, as well as have the ability to

effectively persuade others by using reason and logic and safely operate a vehicle.

In order to be considered for the position, one must be an active member of the New Hampshire Bar and have knowledge of New Hampshire criminal statutes and case law, as well as courtroom experience. They must be able to perform effective legal research, write memorandums of law and legal opinions and learn Police Department and town of Londonderry policies, procedures, and rules and regulations, amongst other expectations. Applicants will also need to pass a background investigation, criminal history check and drug test.

The position pays anywhere from fifty eight thousand to eighty five thousand dollars annually and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, as well as other hours when required. To apply, submit a cover letter, resume and completed application to ldrabik@londonderrynh.org. The application for said position can be found on the Human Resources page of town website. Applications must be received by Jan. 25 at 5 p.m.

For more information on the position, go to londonderrynh.org and check the Town News section on the front page for the "Town seeking to hire Assistant Town Solicitor" link.

Suspect in Custody After Standoff With Police and Swat Team

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Police were called to 64 Winding Pond Rd., after reports of a gunshot being fired in the area. Londonderry police arrived on the scene around 11:30 a.m. on Sunday and evacuated the surrounding neighborhood. There were no injuries from the fired gunshot and the gun was not fired at anyone in particular. Police said that the man fired his gun near another person, who then went to another home for help. It is unclear if the suspect was specifically aiming for something or someone, but the fired weapon was reckless nonetheless.

After the standoff, the

suspect was taken into custody peaceful and surrendered to police. The man is now facing a class-A felony of reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon as well as resisting arrest according to Londonderry Detective Christopher Olsen. The Londonderry Police Department also had assistance from the Southern New Hampshire Special Operations Unit to help bring the suspect into custody. Thankfully, no one was hurt before or during the standoff and residents who were evacuated from their homes were able to return once the situation was under control and no longer posed a threat.

OBITUARY

Irene Hicks



Irene M. Hicks, 89, of Londonderry, died Monday Jan. 8, 2018 in the Elliot Hospital surrounded by family in Manchester. She was born in Derry, NH on April 23, 1928, a daughter of Donald and Nina (Kingsbury) Butterfield, Sr. Raised in Derry, she was a graduate of Pinkerton Academy, Class of 1946. Mrs. Hicks was a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post #27 in Londonderry. Irene was "famous" for her apple pies sold at Sunnycrest Farms.

She is survived by two daughters, Penny L. Hicks, and Judith A. Shaver and husband Robert, both of Londonderry; five grandchildren, Shawn Cummings and wife Lisa, Tammy Berard and husband Eric, Adam Gould and his partner Wendi, Rebecca Groulx and husband Thomas, Jennifer Roach and husband Colin; nine great grandchildren; as well as many nieces, nephews and a large extended family. She was predeceased by her husband, George "Bud" Hicks in 2012, and her siblings, Donald Butterfield, Jr., and Norma Lee Holmes.

Following cremation, a calling hour will be held on Friday, Jan. 12, from 5 - 6 p.m. in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 290 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry. A memorial service will follow at 6:00pm in the funeral home. The burial will be in Glenwood Cemetery in Londonderry in the Spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Red Cross, PO Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839, or the family asks that a Random Act of Kindness be performed. To send a condolence or for more information, please visit, www.peabodyfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY

Maureen Davidson



Maureen Davidson, 56 of Londonderry, died Jan. 10, 2018 at the Hospice House in Concord. Maureen was born in Cambridge, MA on March 12, 1961, a daughter of the late Robert and Mary Lou (Grant) Phelan.

She was a 1978 graduate of Pinkerton Academy in Derry. Maureen had resided in Londonderry for the past 22 years, formerly living in Woburn, MA.

She is survived by her husband, Rod Davidson of Londonderry, two sons, Rod Davidson III and Ben Walker, four daughters, Cindy Ingeme, Jenny Walker, Nicole Delano, and Steph Walker; five grandchildren - Mally, Rod IV, EJ, Lucy and Reed - one brother, Michael Phelan, three sisters, Kathy Pruitt, Arleen Crowley, and Colleen Attanasio, and close friends Helen Dippold, Rochelle O'Gorman, and Bryan Walker. She also leaves several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday Jan. 13, 2018 from 2 - 6 p.m. in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 290 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry with cremation to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Concord Regional VNA Hospice House, 240 Pleasant St., Concord, NH 03301. To send a condolence or for more information, please visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com

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windham@masiello.com

School Board Debates Budget Options For Next Year

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Tension was felt at last week's School Board budget meeting when discussions about the difference between the proposed budget versus the default budget came up. The Budget Committee members that were present asked why two budgets being discussed in the first place. To make matters more complicated, there is over half a million dollar difference between the two.

Vice Chair of the Budget Committee, Greg Warner, asked why two budgets exist. Business Manager Peter Curro explained that having two budgets ensures that the town votes to fund the school system one way or another. By offering two choices, it allows the district to finance its most important needs in case it

doesn't get all the money it wants. The budget amount from the previous year is used to create the "default budget" for the upcoming fiscal year.

Budget Committee Chairman Tim Seikmann said the default budget is specifically "last year's budget plus and or minus any contractual agreements." For example, if staff in the district retire or get hired, those contracts would affect the baseline of the default budget.

"The town has to have a default budget," said Seikmann. He echoed Curro explanation, saying it's like a safety net to ensure that the district can keep running.

The board offers its own budget, which includes the needs and wants of the district. This year, its proposed General Operating Fund Budget

for the 2019 fiscal year is \$73,473,218. This includes salaries for 746 employees (376 teachers, 36 health professionals, 241 support staff, 44 custodians, 15 technicians and specials and 34 administrators) to help care for and educate the over 4300 students currently enrolled in the Londonderry school system. It also covers supplies for the schools like desks, chairs, tables, athletic equipment and replacing outdated or broken technology like projectors and smartboards.

When the budgets go up for a vote, the town will have to decide whether to support the board's budget or the default budget. In the past, the board has been able to keep its budget close to the same amount as the default budget.

This year, though, the school board is asking for almost \$570,000 more. Board member Steve Young said voters "will be presented with a number for the first time in 15 years" that is higher than the default budget. However, he noted that "the board budget is an exact replica of the Superintendent's budget."

Superintendent Scott Laliberte defended his proposed budget amount. "What I brought forward was a budget I felt was necessary for us to solve the problems of the district and also maintain all of our current programs."

Laliberte explained that "we've been able to keep things moderate and keep things down about the default because we've had some teacher turn over, we have had some fund balance. We've had some good fortune in that department."

Young explained to the board that an issue with having one budget be so much larger than the other is the number alone can sway voters. "The problem is if people don't want to go to the default budget, the voters may in fact put you at the default budget."

Laliberte later remarked that, "if I'm forced to do with less, then I'll find a way to do it."

Young asked Curro how leasing a new district office building by at least one \$1 million changed the default budget. "How much did that affect the

default number, by how much money?"

Curro responded that it hasn't changed yet, but it could lead to an increase in spending by \$165,000 a year for the next 10 years.

Seikmann asked if the board anticipated the lease being approved. Curro said he believed it would, but "can I guarantee you? No." However, he also said the attorneys have exchanged drafts of the lease.

Seikmann expressed his concern that the townspeople would automatically vote for the smaller amount once in the ballot box.

Curro asked the room if it felt "the voters recog-

nize the work of the school board" or vote for the default.

Laliberte said "we've got to get the message out to the public that now for the third or fourth year in a row, if you look at elementary enrollment it's coming back up... we're trying to get ready to be able to grow."

Laliberte said he wants to use this opportunity to ensure there is enough money in the budget to cover any possible costs that the increase in enrollment could have on the district.

"The time to adjust to some of this growth is now," said Laliberte.

Extention

Continued from page 1

wonder what kind of impact this project would have on local traffic, considering that the neighboring Stonehenge Road has already had its fair share of traffic issues, and simply grew frustrated with driving all the way to Town Hall to only find out that they would not get an answer to any of these questions and had wasted their time.

Unfortunately, according to Board Chair Arthur Rugg, most of the matter seems to be out of their hands, as not only do they not find out about these extension requests

until the day of the meeting, but there does not appear to be any legal provision that would prevent a certain number of extensions on formal reviews.

"We operate by what the state of New Hampshire tells us to do", Rugg noted.

In order to somewhat alleviate the problems for the time being, Rugg advised that the abutters try to call Town Hall the day of these meetings in order to see if extensions have been requested, as well as leave their emails with the board in order to get this information more quickly in the future.

Rugg and Mailloux also suggested that more

research be done into the matter of application extensions and even considered pursuing legislation if this becomes an ongoing problem in the future.

Board Vice Chair Mary Wing Soares did voice concerns she had over whether or not the applicants would ask for another extension, but Mailloux felt that a third extension would most likely not happen, as she felt that none of the engineering issues brought up to her by the applicants would take more than thirty days to fix.

The application is now expected to be looked over during the Planning Board's Feb. 14 meeting.

Wedding Announcement

Courtney Brown & Philippe Candido



Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Brown of Londonderry announce the engagement of their daughter, Courtney Brown, to Philippe Candido, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Candido of Minas Gerais, Brazil and later Lowell, Mass.

Brown is a graduate of Trinity High School in Manchester ('07) and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass ('11). She is a risk consultant in Boston, Mass.

Candido is a graduate of Lowell High School in Lowell, Mass. ('07), and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass ('11). He earned a master's degree in business from University of Massachusetts Lowell's Manning School of Business in Lowell, Mass., and is currently working as a procurement manager in Boston, Mass.

An August 2018 wedding is planned.

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Londonderry Town and School Candidates Filing Period Opens

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The town of Londonderry is looking for a few good men and women to run for open elected positions. There are nine positions available, and interested candidates can start applying Wednesday, Jan. 27 until Feb. 2 at the Town Clerk's Office.

There is one opening for the Town Council, which gets a yearly stipend of \$2000 per fiscal year, according to Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik. Jim Butler currently holds the seat, but since filing has not begun yet, it is unknown as of now if he plans to run again. The position is a three year term, during which the person elected will attend bi-monthly council meetings and other board meetings during the week. Each councilor sits on four boards in addition to the council.

The Budget Commit-

tee will have two positions open, as Kirsten Hildonen and Duncan Campbell's seats will be up for grabs. The role of the Budget Committee "is to advise the Town Council, the School Board, and the Town of Londonderry on matters related to their budgets, providing a "third party" taxpayer's perspective," according to the committee website. Being on the Budget Committee is a three-year commitment, with meetings held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Anyone looking to get involved with both the town and school budgets and feels they are excellent with numbers are encouraged to run for the unpaid positions.

The Town Moderator is a two year position that is currently held by Bob Saur. The role of the moderator is to "preside at town meetings, regulate the business thereof, decide questions of order,

and make a public declaration of every vote passed," according to the New Hampshire Municipal Association website. The moderator attends Town Council meetings and makes sure that the rules and procedures are followed. The position pays \$9 an hour, according to Drabik.

The Supervisor of the Checklist is also an hourly paid position, earning \$10.69 an hour to maintain the checklist of voters in town. It's their job to make sure that only those qualified to vote in Londonderry are able to participate in municipal elections. Kirsten Hildonen is the current Supervisor of the Checklist. The supervisor serves a six-year term.

If rules and math and lists are not your style, there are two openings for Library Trustees. These positions, both are for three year terms, are currently held by Carol

Introne and Chairwoman Betsy McKinney. The role of the trustees is to help the library achieve its mission to "provide materials, information and services for community residents of all ages to meet their personal, educational and recreational needs," according to the Leach Library website.

The Trustee of the Trust Funds has one opening and is a three year position, currently held by Howard Bookman. There are three trustees, and each year they rotate out of their position, according to Administrative Support Coordinator, Steve Cotton. The role of the trustees is to "set the policy for the finance of those funds," said Cotton, that apply to town related trust funds, scholarships and cemetery related funds.

The Town Clerk is an elected position with a three year term, but is

salaried. The current Town Clerk is Sherry Farrell. The position "ensures the security of confidential data within the office, including the records of the Town Council, board and committees; vital records; and documents related to elections," according to the official job description. It also over sees the day to day at the Town Clerk and Tax Collection Office. The work schedule is set by the Town Clerk, according to the job description.

The Town Clerk position saw an increase in salary from 2016 fiscal year to the 2017 fiscal year, from \$37,500 to \$49,500, according to town Finance Director Doug Smith.

The salary is determined by the Town Council.

Farrell's husband, John Farrell is the Vice-Chairman of the Londonderry Town Council.

School District

The Londonderry School District has the following open positions for the School District Elections to be held on March 13, 2018. There are two three-year School Board members seat expiring in March of 2018.

Members Steve Young and Leitha Reilly will have terms expiring and residents who wish to run for the seats will have until Feb. 2

The filing period is Jan. 24 through Feb. 2, 2018. Residents wishing to file should contact Mary Wing Soares, the School District Clerk, at (603) 247-1679. Or, for information, contact the Londonderry School District Office at 432-6920 Ext. 1103.

Mrs. Soares will be at the Londonderry School District Offices, 268C Mammoth Road, Londonderry from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, for final filing.

Warrant

Continued from page 1

vote "YES" on this topic by a vote of 4-0.

The council also rec-

ommended voting "YES" on Article 3: Town-Wide Communication Systems Upgrade. On this article, the town will vote to raise \$2,300,000 for the purpose

of upgrading the town-wide communications system. Overwhelmingly, the town council voted "YES" to vote for the articles presented (2-24).

The only recommendation to vote "NO" was on Article 22: The Non-Lapsing Special Article Funding Open Space. The voters will decide if they would like to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 for the purchase of land, easements, or any other transaction that meets the mission of the Londonderry Conservation Commission.

At the meeting, Articles 2-24 were discussed and presented by Town Manager Kevin Smith. All of the articles were accepted on to the ballot. Voters are encouraged to meet at the Londonderry High School Cafeteria on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. for the Deliberative Ses-

sion of the Budget Town Meeting. At this meeting, amendments to the budget may be made before the official ballot is presented to the voters on Election Day. On Tuesday, March 13, the town of Londonderry will then be able to vote for the aforementioned articles and have a voice in whether or not they are willing to spend the money.

Election Day will be held in the high school gymnasium at 7 a.m. and the polls will close no earlier than 8 p.m. Voter turnout has been low over the past years, but the town council hopes to have a strong turnout to determine the fates of

these articles and hear public opinion on how the tax money should be spent, most notably, renovating the Central Fires Station on Mammoth Rd. and the communications upgrade for the police station. Safety is of paramount importance and having the right and reliable equipment will make a significant impact on the response time of officers to a possibly dangerous situation. Whether or not the voters will approve the communications upgrade or the renovations to the fire station is still up in the air, and will ultimately be determined by the taxpayer on Tuesday, March 13.

Veteran's Benefit Seminar

All American Assisted Living
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Light refreshments will be served.

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Caregivers Potter's Bowl Serves Up Soup and Service

KATE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Charity comes in all forms, and sometimes it can be found in a simple bowl of soup. For the last 12 years, Community Caregivers of Greater Derry has hosted their annual "Potter's Bowl" to raise money to continue providing services for disabled and elderly locals in need. This year it will be on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria.

The Potter's Bowl offers patrons that beloved cold-weather comfort food, hot fresh soup served in bowls crafted by local vendors. The bowls are hand made and donated by artisans, some of whom come to the event.

"We get pottery bowls from artists all over the state," said Julie Levesque of Community Caregivers. She exclaimed that "it's really nice" when the potters come to the dinner. "They set up a table and people choose a bowl with the price of a ticket." There are even bowls just for kids to make the event more family friendly.

After picking their pre-

ferred piece of pottery, attendees can fill up on over a dozen varieties of soup from 14 local restaurants. Even the Pinkerton Academy Culinary Arts program gets involved. Chef Keith Desjardin said 10 to 12 of his students created a menu and will be serving once the soup's on. Those who enjoyed the Astro Café's butternut squash bisque last year can look forward to a tasty revival.

Students in the program must participate in a catering event like the Potter's Bowl as a course requirement. Desjardin said it "helps them practice" working on large scale events from set up to take down. The goal for this event was to have the students plan and execute a recipe that can feed up to 200 people.

"It's a big experience for them," Desjardin explained.

Community Caregivers is hoping to entice attendees with more than just some chicken soup for the soul, though. Michael Gooden, also from Pinkerton Academy, will be doing a live pottery wheel demonstration before dinner and DJ Sharon Deluca will be playing music

throughout the evening. Levesque said there will be a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction. Artists from all over New England have donated a variety of goods to the auction, including art, photos, jewelry and hand carved wooden crafts.

"Basically everything's donated," said Levesque. Local grocers donate gift cards to put towards supplies like gluten-free breads and balloons, while florists bring in flower arrangements for the tables. Volunteers also come in and help set up the event.

"These people want to do it," remarked Levesque. "The community gets together. It's a great night."

Through the ticket sales, raffle and auction, Levesque said Community Caregivers is hoping to take in between \$8,000 to \$10,000. That's roughly what the group made during last year's Potter's Bowl.

"It's our biggest fundraiser," said Levesque.

The money raised during the Potter's Bowl goes towards keeping Community Caregivers running by funding its operation budget. The organization is able to provide constant community care through the efforts of its

five staff and dedicated volunteers. Levesque said they have everyone from middle schoolers to adults donate whatever time they can to the elderly and disabled clients of the nonprofit.

The volunteers do a variety of things, like provide transportation to and from medical and dental appointments, to doing small household chores or yard work. There's even a "Loaner's Closet" of medical equipment from canes and commodes to blood pressure kits and bed pans that can be borrowed for free.

The volunteers are matched to the clients by Executive Director Cindee Tanuma, who started the Potter's Bowl 13 years ago. She discovers the likes and dislikes of the clients and volunteers, then pairs them up accordingly. For example, if a young volunteer is thinking of entering the service, he or she would likely be paired with a veteran who wants to reminisce and encourage the next generation to enlist.

"It's pretty rare a match doesn't work out," said Levesque. She explained that Tanuma really takes the common interests into consideration because "it tends to



Handmade bowls of all shapes and sizes will greet attendees at the annual Caregivers of Greater Derry Potter's Bowl on Saturday, Jan. 27.

be a long-term thing."

Levesque and her fellow staff look forward to the Potter's Bowl because it sheds a light on their mission while bringing the community together. "They know we're doing good things," she said.

Anyone who wants to sample some soup for a cause can come to the Potter's Bowl from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan.

27 at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria in Derry.

Tickets are \$40 each for adults and \$10 each for children under 12. They can be bought by calling Community Caregivers at (603) 432-0877 x1 or by visiting their office during the work day at 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10 in Londonderry.

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After School Floor Hockey at North School Gets Kids Going



Fifth grade students at North Elementary School took the opportunity to blow off some steam and have fun during the annual after school program run by Physical Education teacher Brian Pampel. About a dozen students broke out into two teams and battled it out last week.

Photos by Chris Paul



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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Lady Lancer Gymnasts Continue to Show Plenty of Strengths

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The 2017-18 Londonderry High girls' gymnastics squad is, unquestionably, an extremely strong entity. And coach Heather Lennon, her assistants, and their charges are fully intent on maxing out their promise this season.

The Lancers exhibited that once again by powering their way to yet another team success at home on Wednesday, Jan. 10, tallying a team score of 131.15 to easily outdistance Pelham (113.15), Milford (94.5), Alvirne (60.1), and Exeter (37.7).

The hosts snagged the top three spots in every event and the two highest in the all-around. Maddie Croteau proved unbeatable on vault (score of 9.0), in the floor exercise (8.35), and in the all-around (32.95). She also snared a second on the balance beam (8.5).

Other wins were tallied by Seana Kelly on the uneven bars (8.8) and Mira Kutney on the beam (8.8).

Other seconds were delivered by Ashley Griffin on vault (8.7) and in the all-around (31.75), Kutney on bars (8.5), and Sophie Hagymas on floor (8.0).

Third places came from Kutney and Kelly on



Seana Kelly continues to be a power on the uneven bars. Photos by Chris Paul



Mira Kutney keeps excelling in multiple events for her Lady Lancers.



Maddie Croteau tallied event wins in both of the recent LHS meets.

vault (tied at 8.2), Griffin on bars (8.4), and Griffin and Marissa McKay on floor (tied at 7.85).

"It was nice being back home, especially with all our equipment back together," said Lennon. "We had all of our girls hit bars, which is the first time this season. Every meet we find out where we need improvement and work hard to fix it. In this meet we saw a great improvement in our bars."

The Lancers then found themselves back on the road this past Monday evening competing at A2

Gymnastics in Salem.

The LHS squad also walked away from that event having been the powerhouse once again, tallying a team score of 133.2 to win handily and leave coach Lennon wearing a wide grin.

The locals bagged at least the top two spots in every event including the all-around and showed their mentors that they are continuing to develop beautifully as the regular season rolls forth.

"This is the best we have done all season," said coach Lennon. "We

had very hard judging on bars, but the judge was consistent throughout the meet and our girls? still took the top three spots. Our true test this season will be on Monday the 22nd at 7 p.m. at home when we take on Pinkerton in the Ball Trophy meet."

Pelham finished second to the LHS crew in the Monday meet but was

more than 16 points behind in the team scoring with a 116.95. Goffstown (113.4) and Windham (111.45) also competed.

Kutney was a standout once again for the victorious Lady Lancers, snagging first places on beam (9.0), floor (9.15) and in the all-around (33.7), with Croteau proving unbeatable on the vault (8.8) and

Kelly ruling the roost on the bars (8.15).

Second places were delivered by Griffin on vault (8.35), Kutney on bars (8.05), Courtney Baharian on beam (8.9), and Croteau both on floor (8.9) and in the all-around (33.2).

Thirds came from Griffin on bars (7.2), Croteau on beam (8.5), and Gianna DelViscovo on floor (8.85).

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Lancer Hockey Crew Plays Great But Falls in OT to Rival Astros

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High hockey team could certainly be forgiven for entering its Friday, Jan. 12 road game with rival Pinkerton Academy concerned about being rusty because the LHS bunch had gone nearly an entire week without facing any competition.

And Londonderry had also dropped its previous two decisions going into the rivalry battle, having been bested by the Bedford High Bulldogs and the Trinity Pioneers of Manchester in falling to 3-3 in tough Division I.

But if the storied history of the Pinkerton/Londonderry sports rivalry has taught spectators anything over the last 30-plus years, its that one has to toss records and recent outcomes into the trash when it comes to PA and LHS teams facing off in just about any sport the majority of the time.

The Jan. 12 hockey contest between the two local contingents at The Ice Den in Hooksett was everything fans of the two schools' athletic programs have come to

expect over the decades and nothing like what a rank newcomer to the rivalry might expect from a 5-0 team facing an opponent sitting right at the .500 mark.

The Division I battle was fast-paced from the opening faceoff, hard-hitting, intense, and wildly-entertaining for the large crowd which watched all 45 minutes and 24 seconds of fiery action.

Pinkerton led 1-0 after one period and 2-1 after two, but the Lancers knotted the score at 2-2 a little more than three minutes into the third period but were unable to bust that deadlock in regulation time despite subsequently being given a full four minutes of power-play time when an Astro drew an ill-advised double-minor penalty with 7:40 showing on the clock.

Regulation play concluded with the score knotted up right there at 2-2, but Pinkerton made a booming statement by allowing overtime to only go 24 seconds before senior forward Ty Rivier sent his Astro bunch and its fans into full celebration mode by scoring a beauti-

fully set up goal.

Both teams were able to step away from the rink that evening fully worthy of feeling as though they'd play extremely well. But Pinkerton was able to have its collective chest thrust out just a tad further because it, of course, notched the climactic victory and the ugly fact for the Lancers was that they'd just suffered their third consecutive divisional defeat.

However, LHS coach Peter Bedford made it perfectly plain in the moments after the contest that his crew had acquitted itself superbly in the loss and the distance between his sub-.500 team and the undefeated Astros is evidently extremely small in the final analysis.

"I understand that now the standings are going to show that we're 3-4 and they're 6-0, but I honestly don't think there's a whole lot of distance between us," he said. "When we're playing the better teams we're having good showings, we're just not getting the good results yet."

The Astros notched

their 1-0 lead with 5:33 remaining in the opening period on a truly beautiful goal by senior captain Pat Hare, who skated the puck down the left wing of the LHS defensive zone, toward the Lancer net, and deposited it short side between Londonderry goalie Cam Donovan's blocker and the left post. And as a Londonderry power-play was just expiring at that second, the goal was of the short-handed variety.

Both teams put nine shots on the opposing net during those first 15 minutes, and that stat exhibited just how close play was.

The Lancers got the equalizing goal just under six minutes into the second period on a pretty play of their own. Junior forward Patrick Murphy stole the puck from a Pinkerton defender in front of the PA net and lifted a backhander into the top-right corner of the net just over PA keeper Dakota Robinson's left shoulder.

But the score would only be deadlocked for 2:19 as PA reclaimed the lead with 6:42 remaining in the second when Sullivan sent Riviere off on a breakaway on Cam Donovan and the Astro senior did not miss.

The Astros' 2-1 lead on the scoreboard and in shots on net in the second period (12-11) continued to show that these two rivals are neck and neck with each other, competitively speaking.

But a mere 3:08 into the third period Lancer Nick Pitarys was sent in alone on Dakota Robinson



Lancer Jared Tuccolo, left, battles Astro Pat Hare for a face-off victory during the recent rivalry game.
Photo by Chris Pantazis

by Jared Tuccolo, and Pitarys beat the PA keeper with a beautifully-placed, high wrist-shot.

But the Astros would survive the aforementioned four-minute penalty span before the period was over, and the score sat at 2-2 so overtime was required.

However, the host Astros made it perfectly clear that they had no interest in playing much of the eight-minute overtime stanza at all, and they ended the matter with some pretty passing from Sullivan to Taylor Whiting behind the Londonderry net, and then out front to Riviere who would not miss in potting his second tally of the evening.

"We used the time between the end of the

third and the start of the overtime to set up a play," said PA coach Sam Littlefield. "We wanted to win the draw and push the pick right into their zone, and the guys executed it."

Pinkerton finished up with a relatively small shots on net advantage of 34-29 to go along with their one-goal win, with Robinson making 27 saves and the PA keeper Donovan notching 31.

With mid-term exams on the way at both local schools, the Astros and Lancers bounced into this week looking at fairly slim game schedules with one apiece, with PA at Bedford on Saturday Jan. 20 and LHS at home against Salem on Wednesday Jan. 17, after Londonderry Times press time.

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Lancer Boys' Hoop Squad Gets to 5-0 in D-I Before Falling

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After beginning the Division I season by winning every one of its first five games, the Londonderry High boys' basketball squad absorbed its first league loss at the hands of an opponent which was, itself, undefeated.

Coach Nate Stanton's LHS crew advanced to 5-0 early last week by nipping host Concord by the tightest of all possible margins, but the Lancers then slipped to 5-1 three nights later when they proved unable to get past the unbeaten Exeter High Blue Hawks at LHS.

The Lancers squeaked out a 53-52 overtime vic-

tory over the host Concord High Crimson Tide in the state capital last Tuesday night, Jan. 9 to keep their divisional record perfect at 5-0.

Londonderry trailed at the end of one quarter (11-8) and at the half (21-15), but the locals outscored their opponents by a 17-11 tally in the third period to leave the score knotted up at 32-32 driving into quarter four. Both teams then netted 13 points in the final quarter to force overtime.

And in that extra period, the visitors were one point better than their host. The winning point came on a free throw by Shane McNamara with five seconds left on the

game clock.

Londonderry, which had seven players net points, was paced by Dakota Bertrand with 16 of them, Jack Anderson with 13, and Ethan May with 11.

But on the evening of Friday Jan. 12 back at their home court, the Lancers had the now 5-0 Exeter bunch wind up being eight points better in a 59-51 decision.

The hosts led by a bucket after one quarter at 13-11, but Exeter was the better team in the second period - outscoring LHS by a 15-6 tally - to carry a 26-19 advantage into the break.

The Lancers' deficit was down at just six

points (41-35) going into the final stanza, but the Blue Hawks managed to outscore LHS by a tiny tally of 18-17 in the fourth in collecting the victory.

With the Lancers having difficulties getting ball to fall for points throughout the game, the locals only had five players net points in the defeat, with Cole Britting (14) and Jack Anderson (13) in double figures. McNamara contributed nine, Bertrand had eight, and May was good for seven.

Londonderry is now in the midst of a lengthy break from competition which doesn't end until Jan. 23 when the locals play host to the Merrimack High Tomahawks.



Londonderry High junior cager Ethan May lofts a shot toward the rim during his squad's tough loss to Exeter last week. Photo by Chris Paul

Lancer Track Squads Achieve Mixed Results at League Meets in Durham

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High boys' indoor track and field squad finished fourth out of seven teams and the Lady Lancer tracksters were seventh out of nine contingents when those two local squads took part in the most recent Division I league meets on the University of New Hampshire's Sweet Oval in Durham this past Sunday, Jan. 14.

Coach Matt Smith's Lancer males notched 34 points to finish behind victorious Pinkerton (88.50), Concord (70.50), and Bedford (58) but ahead of three other teams. And the Lady Lancers' longtime leader Sue Johnson saw her squad tally 13 points in winding up looking up at six other squads ahead of it.

The LHS males got their top placing performance from Will Heenan

with his second place in the 1,500-meter run, with thirds being delivered by Justin Cassidy in the 300-meter dash, Brian Metro in the 600 run, and the 4x160 relay quartet of Damon MacLeod, Cassidy, Kyle Dickson, and Khalique Bagley.

The Lady Lancers, meanwhile, collected a trio of fourth place finishes and one sixth. The fourths came from Caitlin

Boufford in the 1,000, Kalin Gregoire in the 1,500, and the 4x160 team of Brittany Fernandez, Olivia Galluzzo, Gia Komst, and Kiara Quitayen, and Fernandez claimed a sixth on her own in the 55 dash.

The Lancer squads will be right back to competition - but at a different facility - at the University of Southern Maine this coming Sunday the 21st.

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Lady Lancer Hoopsters Showing Growth and Starting to Bag Wins

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Coach Nick Theos knew that his young Londonderry High girls' basketball squad would go through some distinct growing pains during this, its 2017-18 season. But he also knew that his Lady Lancers had plenty of potential.

There were growing pains aplenty for Theos'

troop during the 2017 segment of the campaign and a bit beyond, with the local cagers starting out 0-4 in Division I, then struggling in the Massachusetts holiday tournament in which they played, and tallying a sub-par 1-5 record in their first six D-I battles.

However, since then, that potential which the LHS coach knew was

there has been shining through, and the Londonderry girls have now won three of their last four divisional contests and are edging toward the .500 mark with a 3-5 record at present.

The Lancers bagged their second win in their previous three Division I contests with an extremely pleasing, 59-34 walloping of the Concord High Crimson Tide at LHS last Tuesday night, Jan. 9.

The hosts won every quarter but the third, in which each contingent netted a dozen points.

Londonderry led 12-5 after one quarter, 32-12 at the half, and by a full 20 points at 44-24 going into the final stanza.

Freshmen Ashley Rourke tallied a game-high 22 points and nailed some four three-point shots. Courtney Shay contributed 17 big points to the successful effort, and Paige Velie tallied six.

"We finally started pressing effectively and got some early turnovers, which we turned into points," said Theos. "The entire team scrapped for every loose ball and rebound. We were focused from the start tonight and we were able to rebound well even though we were outsized. Courtney was consistent the entire game, scoring multiple points each quarter, but Ashley Rourke broke the game open, scoring 13

second-quarter points including three threes. She was unstoppable, scoring from deep or penetrating to the hoop. She couldn't miss. All in all, we finally put it all together and it looked good. We played hard and with tempo and made good decisions."

And LHS found more success when it faced off against the Exeter High Lady Blue Hawks in Exeter on Friday Jan. 12, knocking off that 4-2 opponent by a 69-59 tally.

After spotting its guest a 19-10 lead in the first quarter, Exeter appeared to take the game over in period two by more than doubling up on the Lady Lancers where scoring was concerned (25-12). And with their halftime lead of 35-31, the Lady Hawks resolved to come out and do more of the same in the second half.

However, Londonderry had a superb third quarter - outscoring its host by a big, 19-7 tally - to bound into the final period grasping a 50-42 advantage.

And the locals wound up being two points better than Exeter in the fourth quarter, outscoring it 19-17 to reach the final game score of 69-59.

Shay was a true standout with a 25-point night, Charlotte Sullivan was good for 14, and Rourke contributed 11.

"Exeter has a crazy



Skilled young guards Courtney Shay, right, and Mia Fantauzzi played important roles in the LHS girls' hoop team's recent success. Photo by Chris Paul

style of play, very aggressive and trapping all over. When we relaxed and set things up we got good looks, even lay-ups," said Theos. "When we rushed or got nervous they got steals and finished. They took over the game in the second quarter with all our turnovers. We composed ourselves and came out in the third and did our jobs. Ashley scored 11 second-half points and Courtney scored 17 second-half points, and our guards Colleen Furlong and Mia Fantauzzi did a better job breaking pressure and finding the open girl."

Perhaps most importantly, the LHS coach felt that his charges took a big stride forward by overcoming the challenges presented by this tough opponent.

"It was a big win for the team. We could have folded when they went on their run, but we didn't and that shows some growth. We are becoming the team I thought we could be," said Theos.

And the locals will have had quite a while to savor that success because their next game isn't scheduled to take place until Jan. 23 at Merrimack High.

Athletes of the Week

Week of Jan. 8

Will Boyle, Senior, Unified Basketball



This smooth-shooting 12th grader has exhibited both fine hoop skills and considerable leadership ability for his LHS unified crew this winter. His offensive and defensive skills make him a real force on the court.

Ashley Rourke, Freshman, Girls' Basketball



Despite her youth, Rourke has been given lots of responsibility on the LHS varsity squad and she has performed great. The young stalwart led the Lady Lancers in scoring in a big win against Concord, netting 22 points including four three-pointers.

Student Athletes Supplied by Athletic Department

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY and the LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS

The Town of Londonderry and the Londonderry School District will be conducting their Deliberative Sessions. The following are the details:

- The 2018 Deliberative Session of the Londonderry School District shall be held on Friday, February 9, 2018, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Londonderry High School Cafeteria. All warrant articles shall be acted upon at that time for placement on the School District Official Ballot.
- The 2018 Deliberative Session of the Londonderry Budgetary Town Meeting shall be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Londonderry High School Cafeteria. All warrant articles shall be acted upon at that time for placement on the Town Meeting Official Ballot.

Voting for all town and school officials and all Official Ballot Warrant Articles shall take place on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Londonderry High School Gymnasium.

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Lancer Wrestlers Test Their Mettle in NH and on Long Island

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High wrestling team faced a couple of significant competitive challenges last week. And although their results weren't all that coach Jason Cucolo and his charges would likely have wanted, the Lancers certainly gave it their all in both cases.

The locals knew full well that they'd have their hands entirely full when

they made the relatively short ride to Plaistow right here in New Hampshire to take on the Timberlane Regional Owls on their home mats last Wednesday, Jan. 10.

The final team score wound up being 57-12 in the hosts' favor, with LHS points being tallied by Alex Boucher at 195 pounds on a fall at 2:55 of his bout and Taylor Dyer on a forfeit at 220.

And the locals were back on the road later in

the week - with a much longer ride ahead of them - for the Seventh Annual Ed Solosky Memorial Tournament at the Kellenberg Memorial High School in Union, NY on Long Island on Saturday the 13th.

Londonderry took 14 wrestlers to that 13-team event, which featured a dozen teams from New York and the Lancers from the Granite State. And coach Cucolo's crew ended up right around the

middle of that pack, finishing seventh overall.

Unlike most local tournaments, all entered wrestlers at the Long Island event scored points for their teams rather than one wrestler per weight class doing so elsewhere.

The contingent from Masapequa, N.Y. won the tournament title by tallying 329 points, with the John Glenn, N.Y. entry 10 points behind with 319. Londonderry finished with 120.

The locals had Craig Santos win his 145-pound class and Boucher prove unbeatable at 195, Ben Psaledas finish third in the 182 division, and freshman Aiden O'Loughlin finish sixth at 113.

The Lancers will return to action this coming Saturday Jan. 20 when they compete at the Merrimack Invitational.



Battle-tested LHS veteran wrestler Craig Santos won his 145-pound weight class title at a tournament on Long Island last weekend. Photo by Chris Paul

LHS Swimmers Enjoy Big Successes in Home Pool

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School's talented girls' and boys' swim teams very nearly beat each and every opposing squad which they faced in their home pool at The Workout Club last Friday night, Jan. 12. The only fly in the Lancers' ointment on the way to a perfect night was, in fact, the tie score at which the LHS boys and the Nashua North Titan males deadlocked.

Longtime Londonderry coach Chrys Ewen saw her Lady Lancers go a perfect 5-0 on the evening with lopsided wins over every opponent. And Ewen's Lancer males were very nearly as successful, going an excellent 4-0-1 at their home facility.

The two LHS contingents also had some of their top swimmers compete well at The Bobcat Invitational at the University of New Hampshire this past Sunday the 14th.

GIRLS

The Lady Lancers simply throttled Campbell of Litchfield (133-14), Goffstown (121-36), John Stark Regional from Weare (125-29), Merrimack (114-55), and Nashua North (123-34) on a perfect night.

The exceptional effort was paced by individual event wins from Kaitlin Witkop in the 200-yard freestyle (time of 2 minutes, 06.47 seconds) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:08.52), Julia Ethier in the 50 free (28.56), Isabella Wright in the 100-yard butterfly (1:25.61), and Elizabeth Allen in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:21.65).

Relay victories were delivered by the quartets of Caity Mahan, Witkop, Allen, and Jasmine Brown in the 200 medley (2:05.71), Maeve McPahil, Caroline Russell, Madison Martin, and Ethier in the 200 free (1:59.94), and Brown, Martin, Allen, and Witkop in the 400 free (4:17.52).

Two days later at the

UNH event, Witkop proved unbeatable in both the 100-meter breaststroke (1:02.11) and the 100 fly (1:02.11). Other top-six performances were notched by Allen in the 100 back (fourth) and Martin in the 500 free (sixth).

BOYS


Thanks to their great depth, the LHS males wound up being far better than Goffstown (106-50), John Stark (135-5), Merrimack (116-41), and Campbell (131-16) along with the aforementioned tough tie with North.

First places were bagged by the 200 medley relay quartet of Brandon White, Brian Parrott, Luc Lafond, and Chris Byrne (1:56.90) and Parrott on his own in the 100 fly (1:03.68).

At the UNH event, White managed a sixth place in the 100 backstroke.

The LHS squads will once again host a meet in their home pool this Friday night the 19th.

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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.

Yoga for Seniors

The Londonderry Senior Center is offering yoga classes to the senior community. Barbara Scott and Lisa Kress will conduct an eight-week series of affordably priced yoga classes which are designed especially for seniors to help increase balance, flexibility and strength, as well as maintaining well-being. Sign up for either the Tuesday or Thursday class, or both. Classes begin on Tuesday, Jan. 22 from 9 - 10 a.m. and are held at the Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry. Pre-registration is required. For more details call the Senior Center at 432-8554.

Elijah's Table

Elijah's Table, a joint project of Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. We will be serving a free community dinner on Jan. 21. Serving time is at 5 - 6:15 p.m., and will be held at the Etz Hayim Synagogue at 1-1/2 Hood Rd., Derry. The atmosphere is informal and friendly, warm and toasty. Meet up with old friends, make new friends, and have a great meal. For more information on free meals in the Derry area, please go to <http://freemealsinder-ry.blogspot.com>

New Location Republican Committee

The Londonderry Republican Committee (LRC) has exciting news. We now have a new "home" for our meetings. The Victory Baptist Church under the direction of Pastor Tim Hawkins has graciously offered the use of their conference room for our

monthly meetings. These meetings will be held there on the third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Candidate Nights

Candidates: Senator Andy Sanborn, Candidate for US Congress, 1st Congressional District. Chuck Massahos, Candidate for Rockingham County Sheriff, will be present on Jan. 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. at Victory Baptist Church, 78 Litchfield Rd., Londonderry. This is an excellent chance to meet candidates for the 2018 elections as well as fellow members and your Londonderry State Representatives, ask questions, and see how we can continue to grow our town committee to ensure we elect republicans in the upcoming election. This is a great opportunity for those new to the town and for those who are interested in finding out how you can help or to just learn what's going on. All are welcomed to walk in and bring friends.

Arts Cafe

The Londonderry Arts Council's Arts Café returns Saturday, Feb. 10. A day of music, art and coffee returns for the 4th year from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Londonderry Senior Center on 535 Mammoth Road (adjacent to Rockingham Road/ Mammoth Roads. Admission to this event is free. For more information Email: Events@londonderryArtsCouncil.org

Potters Bowl

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Community Caregivers of Greater Derry is hosting their 13th Annual Potter's Bowl fundraiser from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Pinkerton

Academy Freshman Cafeteria in Derry. For \$40, patrons are able to pick a handcrafted pottery bowl donated by local NH artists, and enjoy over a dozen different soups donated from local restaurants in the Derry area as well as delicious breads & desserts. In an effort to encourage more families with children, we will be selling a Kids Under 12 ticket for just \$10. A pottery wheel demonstration will be occurring in the hour prior to the event for waiting patrons. Auction items donated from other New England artists and craftsmen include oil, acrylic and water color paintings, matted photography, wooden crafts, clothing and handcrafted jewelry. The value of all art donated amounts to over \$5,000. It is not too late to donate your fine art, pottery or homemade craft to a good cause. To purchase tickets to the event, please call Caregivers at 432-0877 x 1 or drop by 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10, Londonderry, during the business day.

Karaoke Night

The American Legion Post 27 will hold Karaoke with DJ Sharon on Jan. 19. The fun starts at 7 p.m. at 6 Sargent Rd in Londonderry (behind the fire station on Mammoth Road). Non-members are welcome to attend. For more information go to alpost27.com, call us at 437-6613.

Youth Free Throw Competition

Local Knights of Columbus Councils from St. Mark, St. Thomas, St. Jude and St. Peter to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship. All boys

and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2018 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held Saturday, Jan. 20, from 1 - 4 p.m. (registration begins at 12:30 p.m.) at St. Thomas Aquinas Center Gymnasium in Derry. Participants are required to furnish a birth certificate as proof of age and written parental consent.

VA Bingo

On Jan. 22 the American Legion Post 27 will host 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. For more information go to alpost27.com, call us at 437-6613.

Free Meals

Please join us for free, family-friendly meals, served in a relaxed atmosphere. Meals are generally held as posted below, but may be rescheduled for holidays. Please call the facility to check on holiday times. We look forward to seeing you! Dinner on Jan. 20, at St. Luke's Derry, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Dinner on Jan. 21, at Etz Hayim Synagogue Derry, from 5 - 6:15 p.m.; Dinner on Jan. 26, at First Parish Derry, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Breakfast on Jan. 28, at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration Derry, from 9 - 10 a.m.; Lunch on Jan. 28, at St. Jude's, Londonderry, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. For more information, please visit: <http://freemealsinder-ry.blogspot.com>

Red Sox Service Scholarship

The Boston Red Sox Foundation is looking to recognize inspiring senior students dedicated to making a positive impact in their communities with the New England Red Sox Service Scholarship. The annual scholarship honors high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to social good. Those selected will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship and recognition during a special pre-game ceremony at Fenway Park. Submissions for New

Hampshire seniors are due Jan. 12. For more details and to apply visit, redsoxfoundation.org/service-scholarships.

Tiny Houses

The Leach Library will host the program "Tiny Houses: A Very Different Approach to Home Ownership" on Thur., Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., "Tiny Houses: A Very Different Approach to Home Ownership" by Isa Bauer. The event 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.

Needle Crafts

Although the long winter months lie before us, the needlecraft books we have on display at Leach Library this month will help you have fun and keep warm indoors. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned expert, we have something for you. If you have a specific craft or project in mind, the Leach Library Reference Staff can help find the right book for you.

St. Gianna's Closet

St. Gianna's Closet provides free children's clothing to any family in the community that is in need. It is now well-stocked with sizes birth to teen as well as winter coats. Please contact Liz at 437-6678 to receive clothing.

"Magic Show"

Come to the Leach Library on Mon., Jan. 22 from 4 - 5 p.m. for a program filled with magical fun. With lots of laughs and participation, this program will leave a smile on everyone's face. This 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 Tue. Jan.16.

Continuing Education Program

Programs are open to the public at no charge, except as otherwise indicated. Donations to the Etz Hayim Synagogue will allow us to continue to offer these and other programs, and are gratefully

accepted. Thurs. Nights, at 7 p.m. Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603 895-6120.

Lamplighters

A womans group with the goal of helping less fortunate woman and people in NH meets every 4th Thursday of the month 7 p.m. at Londonderry Presbyterian Church at 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

LEEP Applications

Now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year! If your child turned 3 by September 1 and is a Londonderry resident, consider enrolling your child in the Londonderry Early Education Program (LEEP) preschool program. We are a developmentally appropriate preschool that is respectful of the talents and needs of individual children. Our teachers are all certified educators and the program is provided by the Londonderry School District. Although we currently have a wait-list openings are anticipated. Applications are available online on the Moose Hill School website. We also have our LEEP Handbook available online on the Moose Hill School website if you'd like additional information on the program. For more information, contact Kathy Kelley at 437-5855 ext. 7223 Please email Kathy Kelley at kkelley@londonderry.org or Kim Speers at kspeers@londonderry.org.

Walk with Me

Are you losing or have lost someone? A child, a parent, a sibling or a friend? It can be a painful journey but you don't have to walk it alone anymore. Just come "Walk With Me". Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

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Going Green in Londonderry

Where to Go When the Drop-Off Center Is Closed

The Londonderry Drop-Off Center - the town's one-stop resource for disposing of excess household recycling items, yard waste, electronics waste, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, construction and bulky waste - has closed for the winter and will be open again in April. In the meantime, residents have other options depending on the type of material.

For example, if you need to replace some of your compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs with LEDs, Benson Lumber is a partner in collecting both small and tube bulbs for

Londonderry residents, free of charge. If you still have your Christmas tree but no space to put it out for animal shelter, you can bring it along with other virgin wood to M-R Wood Recycling in Derry. S&S Metals on Rockingham Road in Londonderry is a resource for disposal of auto batteries, scrap metal and some appliances (no Freon accepted).

Each business has its own hours and pricing for collection of the material, so residents should call first to confirm. For convenience, the Department of Public Works has put

together a single-page document entitled "Where to go when the Drop Off Center is closed," with the locations and phone numbers of area businesses. For this and more information, visit: www.londonderrynh.org and follow the links to the Public Works Department and Environmental Services Division - Solid Waste Disposal. You can also call 603-432-1100 ext. 193 or ext. 137.

Courtesy of Londonderry's Solid Waste and Environment Committee ~



Four-Way Stop

Over the past several years the intersection of Stonehenge Road and Hardy Road has been the sight of numerous motor vehicle accidents. It was recently announced at the town council meeting the the Safety Committee is taking steps to have four-way stop signs installed at the dangerous intersection. A recent accident, pictured, involved two cars and a service truck which ended up on the wall of the resident on Stonehenge Road.

Photo by Chris Paul

LHS Snowball Dance Will Unify Students for Second Straight Year

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

It may be cold outside, but there'll soon be a fire burning on the dance floor as the Londonderry Unified Sports Programs gears up for its second Unified Snowball semi-formal dance on Jan. 27. Ashley Tebbetts and her committee of students, parents, teachers and support staff have been working to make this year's event even more memorable than last year. Students from eight other high schools are also invited to cut a rug in the Londonderry High School cafeteria and join in on a winter-themed night of whimsy.

"These kids deserve to have an experience," said Tebbetts.

The Unified Program at LHS is made up of both special needs and typical students who work together both on the field

and in the classroom. The sports teams hosted the first Unified Snowball dance as a way to bring together members of Unified Sports, the interactive classes and the special education support classes, as well as students from similar programs in the schools they compete against. The schools also get together in the spring at Alvirne's Unified Prom.

"We were actually inspired by Alvirne," said Tebbetts. "It's nice to give them two dances to look forward to."

A typical school dance may be too overwhelming for some of the students in the Unified program, especially for those who have sensory issues. Flashing lights and loud music are often triggers for Autistic students and the Snowball Committee took those issues into account when planning

the dance. The soft glow of Christmas lights from the indoor trees illuminated the white and turquoise decorations that hung from the café ceiling and offered just enough mood lighting for the students to dance by.

"One of the most amazing things about this event is how many incredible people make it happen," Tebbetts remarked. "It's like a little wedding."

The committee even coordinated with Amanda Venezia, Director of Dining Services, to make sure all students had a meal that met their dietary restrictions. Tebbetts recalled a student from last year that was on an all liquid diet. Venezia made a three course liquefied meal for him so he would not feel left out during the sit down dinner.

"It's always about the

kids first," Tebbetts exclaimed.

This year's dance is looking to be even bigger than last year, with 136 invitations already sent out to LHS students. About 50 or so students from eight other schools have also been invited. Alvirne, Concord, Pinkerton and both Nashua North and South were all invited last year. This year, the committee extended the invitation to Raymond High School, Bedford and Hollis Brookline. Staff and parents from all schools are also invited to attend to make sure the students have the support they need to have a good time.

Once the kids arrive, they are treated to a "social hour" in the lobby where they can munch on passed appetizers, provided by dining services. Tim Acerno from Special Olympics will return to

take formal photos of the attendees and even brings his printer so families can take home the memories that night.

After mingling with their peers, the students are welcome to a three-course sit down dinner without their parents around before busting some moves on the dance floor. DJ Bobby Cormier, Tilton's Chief of Police, swaps his badge for some beats as he throws down the hottest hits for the kids' enjoyment. Cormier had so much fun last year, that he asked Tebbetts to call him for this year's dance.

"We just have such an amazing community," said Tebbetts.

Tebbetts credits several people at the high school and in the district for their strong support of the dance and the Unified Program as a whole. She thanked Special Edu-

cation Program Director Connie Biedrzycki, the Director Buildings and Grounds Chuck Zappala, and Head Custodian Charlie Wilton for their support of the dance, as well as several others. Tebbetts said she was also grateful for the mentoring she received from Joanne Curry of Alvirne.

"She was an amazing resource," said Tebbetts. "Gave a lot of feedback on how to make it great for the kids."

Tebbetts said the hard work of all the volunteers, from the committee to the school staff, is what makes the dance a success. "Their vision is really what makes this come to life," she said.

As for next year, Tebbetts is not ruling it out. "The Pintrest gets going right after it ends," she said with a laugh.

Police Log

Continued from page 18

Investigate Suspicious Activity on Sherwood Road.

2:53 a.m. Four officers investigate Drug Offenses

on Judy Drive.

7:23 a.m. Three officers respond to Overdose on Judy Drive and transport subject to Hospital.

11:22 a.m. Ten officers respond to a report of

Weapons Offenses and make arrest on Winding Pond Road. Feliciano Sanchez, 28, of 64 Winding Pond Road in Londonderry charged with Reckless Conduct; Placing

Another In Danger and Resisting Arrest.

4:55 p.m. Peace Restored after Domestic Disturbance on Pinto Lane.

7:22 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on

Stage Coach Circle.

10:07 p.m. Four officers make arrest at motor vehicle stop on Rockingham Road at Triangle Mobil Mart. Jesse Campbell, 44, of Derry charged

with Driving After Revocation or Suspension and Resisting Arrest.

10:44 p.m. Assist Londonderry Fire Dept with transportation to hospital from Gilcreast Road.

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