

Londonderry Times

April 16, 2015 ♦ Volume 16 – Issue 16

A FREE Weekly Publication



Recycled Art

Artist in Residence Cynthia Robinson works with South Elementary Student Damian Saunders last week on a unique garden stone. Robinson, who describes herself as an “eco-artist,” brought a variety of recycled materials to add to the students’ cement creations. More photos on page 19.

Photo by Chris Paul

School Board Plans Discussion of Teaching Assistants

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board has tentatively scheduled for its April 21 meeting a discussion to address a \$240,000 addition to the School District’s operating budget for additional teaching assistants in elementary classrooms.

The addition was intended to restore a proposed \$118,000 reduction in teaching assistant hours and increase the number of hours aides are in first and second grade classrooms.

Proposed and ratified at Deliberative Session, the budget was amended and approved by the vot-

ers in the Town’s March 10 election.

“This was a historic event in that it was the first time a quorum came into the room and changed the budget,” School Board Chairman Steve Young said.

But it’s still the School Board’s prerogative as

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Planning Board Postpones Hearing on Amendments to Workforce Housing

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Planning Board postponed to its May 13 meeting a public hearing on amendments to the zoning ordinance related to Workforce Housing.

Town Planner Cynthia May said Town Attorney Mike Ramsdell has recommended additional changes that should be considered with the amendments that were posted for the April 8 public hearing.

Sections of the Workforce Housing ordinance that are proposed to be amended include Phasing of Developments, the Use Table, Agricultural-Residential District, Inclusion-

ary Housing, Retention of Housing Affordability, General Standards for MUC (mixed Use Commercial) Sub-district, Backlot Development, Elderly Housing, Conditional Use Permits, Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes, and Minimum Parking and Loading Required.

Among Ramsdell’s recommendations was the addition of language at the end of the “Use Table” permitting multi-family workforce housing on lots adjacent to commercial and industrial districts as a transition between those zones and low density residential zones.

May said there were questions about whether

or not the proposed amendments as they exist limit where multi-family housing would be permitted because there are so few Agriculture-III Districts in town.

“Commercial and Industrial land tends to be higher priced, and it may be by virtue of that fact alone that may preclude workforce housing,” May said.

The suggested language to be added with the proposed amendment is, “Multi-family workforce housing may be permitted on lots adjacent to commercial and industrial districts, provided that the proposed develop-

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Fire Department Hopes to Cover Shortfall In House

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Fire Department plans to cover an anticipated shortfall in fiscal year 2015 with resources from within the Department’s other budgetary appropriations.

Controller Doug Smith reported the plan to cover the shortfall, which is estimated will be between \$180,000 and \$200,000, is comprised of three main components: maintain staffing levels of nine firefighters on a 24-hour basis, institute a department-wide spending freeze on discretionary appropriations, and capture savings from salaries related to injured personnel who are receiving short or

long-term disability payments.

“Chief (Darren) O’Brien’s goal is to capture any expenditure in his overtime budget by cost reductions elsewhere in his budget. I believe his chances of doing so are high, but also I believe we have a sufficient backup plan and the support of our other Town departments, should assistance be needed,” Smith wrote in a memo he sent to the Town Council on April 8, as requested at its April 6 meeting.

The Fire Department’s shortfall is due to unanticipated expenses related to injuries and long-term illnesses, O’Brien reported at the Council meeting. O’Brien said replace-

ment costs associated with vacancies due to injuries, sick leave, vacation leave, and personal leave account for 88 percent of the Department’s overtime costs of \$470,337 in FY15 to date.

The department is running over budget due to unanticipated costs, such as a vacant battalion chief position, which cost the Department \$40,953

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Recommendations, Including Total Ban on Target Shooting, to be Prepared

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Musquash Task Force held its final meeting on April 13 and will begin preparing a final report with its recommendations to the Town Council at an upcoming meeting.

Recommendations of the Task Force include a total ban on target shooting on town-owned conservation properties, as well as placing restrictions on target shooting in the Musquash, such as limiting target shooting to turkey and deer hunting seasons.

The two additional recommendations the Task Force passed at their last meeting include the following:

- The Town consider, with ammunition limitations, a firing range at the Recycling Center, with hours consistent to the hours of the Recycling

Center, with stewardship required, and with a check-in process at the gate.

The recommendation passed with a vote of 6-1. Sgt. Jason Breen voted against the recommendation.

- Also, to allow target shooting in the Musquash and other town-owned conservation properties only during turkey and deer hunting seasons, as established by New Hampshire Fish and Game; and only by those who possess a valid New Hampshire Fish and Game hunting license and have followed a check-in procedure (to be determined) with the Police Department; and with caliber restrictions equivalent only to those allowed for hunting deer and turkey (no center fire cartridges, with additional allowance for rim fire 22.22 and .22 Long Rifle); and, increas-

ing the minimum safe shooting distance from 300 feet to 600 feet.

That recommendation passed with a 4-3 vote. Mike Considine, Bonnie McSpirtt and Breen voted against the recommendation. Al Sypek abstained, as he was not participating as a member during the meeting, and Bob Saur was not present.

The Task Force also recommended at a previous meeting with a 6-3 vote to ban target shooting, skeet shooting and trap shooting in the Musquash and other town-owned conservation areas, unless at a facility approved by the Town Council.

Member Dan Watson presented a series of six recommendations, all of which were intended to provide stricter regulation of target shooting in the Musquash and more accountability and en-

forcement for those who are not shooting responsibly.

The motion that passed was a combination of several of those motions.

Considine said he voted against all recommendations, except a total ban on target shooting, because he thinks that despite the increased regulation and restrictions, target shooting in the Musquash still presents a safety concern.

"Unless we identify a location for all shooters to be shooting at the same location with appropriate berms, it just doesn't address the safety issue. I have the same general objection to all of these," he said.

Watson pointed out hunters are permitted to shoot anywhere in the Musquash and asked why responsible target shooters couldn't be given the same right.

Considine said hunters aren't shooting hundreds of rounds at a time.

"But I thought this is a safety issue," Watson argued, noting a deer is a target.

"I could make one shot unsafe and 100 shots safe," he said.

"That's safe, but we look at the biggest open space in southern New Hampshire, and we can shoot at a deer safely, but we can't find a place to target shoot?" he asked. "You seem unwilling to differentiate between people doing irresponsible, illegal shooting and people shooting responsibly."

"I'm a little confused,

because one of the charges from the Council was to bring recommendations, and so far, other than three members who have tried to be open minded and bring possible recommendations, possible solutions, the majority of this task force has limited itself to strictly one thing, and that's a ban," Dana Coons said. "That's not our charge, to just recommend a ban. Our charge was to bring recommendations, and I feel the majority of this task force has not been open minded at all."

McSpirtt said the first motion the Task Force passed was a ban, but it also said that if someone came forward with a recommendation for a target shooting area, they recommend the Council be open to that as well.

"We're not closing the door on those people," she said. "One of my major things is enforcement of it and how we control it, and making sure it's safe. But, also, from the public hearing we held, most of the people in there were for a ban," she said. "I understand there were people there saying we should be having some target shooting available to people. I don't see that recommendation as a total ban. People can come forward with a location for target shooting, but I don't think the town should be responsible for developing this. I wouldn't be in favor of having taxes go towards it because I don't think we should be having to pay for this."

Considine said when the Town started looking at the issue of target shooting about three years ago, they looked at finding a safe place for people to shoot.

"The Town Council came back and the answer was, there is no safe place within the Musquash," he said. "We continued and had a blue trailer out there, and other targets at the power lines. We took those down and put education materials at all trail heads. That hasn't worked."

Considine said he's in favor of continuing the search for a location with the right geometry and access for target shooting.

But Coons argued that everyone on the Task Force knows without a doubt, there is no way the Council will authorize a public shooting range in the Musquash or anywhere else.

"So, the resolution we passed is a ban, and it will be a ban. That's the bottom line," he said. "And the majority of people at the public hearing were abutters who are against it. And with all due respect, I hear it's constant shooting out there. I purposely went out at different times of day at different locations, and I didn't hear any shooting during the week. I did hear shooting down off Faucher Road on Saturday. The shooting is generally on the weekends, and it's not all the time. I'm not saying it's not an issue. We do have an issue with irre-

continued on page 3

Daniela E. Verani, M.D., P.A.

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- PROVIDER ON CALL - COLON CANCER

Colon cancer is cancer of the large intestine (colon), the lower part of your digestive system. Rectal cancer is cancer of the last several inches of the colon. Together, they're often referred to as colorectal cancers. Most cases of colon cancer begin as small, non-cancerous (benign) clumps of cells called adenomatous polyps. Over time some of these polyps become colon cancers. Polyps may be small and produce few, if any, symptoms. For this reason, doctors recommend regular screening tests to help prevent colon cancer by identifying polyps before they become colon cancer.

Signs and symptoms of colon cancer include: a change in your bowel habits, including diarrhea or constipation or a change in the consistency of your stool for more than a couple of weeks; rectal bleeding or blood in your stool; persistent abdominal discomfort, such as cramps, gas or pain; a feeling that your bowel doesn't empty completely; weakness or fatigue; or unexplained weight loss.

Many people with colon cancer experience no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. When symptoms appear, they'll likely vary, depending on the cancer's size and location in your large intestine. It's not clear what causes colon cancer in most cases. Doctors know that colon cancer occurs when healthy cells in the colon become altered. Healthy cells grow and divide in an orderly way to keep your body functioning normally. But sometimes this growth gets out of control. Cells continue dividing even when new cells aren't needed. In the colon and rectum, this exaggerated growth may cause precancerous cells to form in the lining of your intestine. Over a long period of time, spanning up to several years, some of these areas of abnormal cells may become cancerous.

Among other tests to diagnose colon cancer a colonoscopy has gotten the most attention in

recent years. There are also blood test, although, there is not blood test to confirm colon cancer. A barium enema allows doctors to create a clear silhouette of your rectum, colon and sometimes a small portion of your small intestine. It is important if you suspect that you have any issues to consult with your doctor to catch this early.

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Legal Expenses Throw Town Budget Over Projection

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Although Town Manager Kevin Smith implemented a department-wide spending freeze last week, he said he thinks the Town is in a better financial position than it was in February last year.

"The spending freeze is more about getting the budget in line with where it should be going in the last few months," he said. "Knowing the trends over the last few years and the projections of the larger departments, I'm not over-

ly concerned."

Smith said last year the Town was over-expendended more when a spending freeze was implemented in February than it is now, and revenues weren't running nearly as high as they are this year.

"Last year I think the situation was worse than this year. That's not necessarily to mean we were in a bad position last year, but I feel better about this year," he said.

Perhaps the most significant over-expenditure detailed in a report Smith

presented to the Town Council last week, as reported by the Londonderry Times, are the Town's legal expenses. Of the \$174,500 budgeted for legal expenses, the Town has spent \$174,877, or 100.22 percent of the budget.

Smith said legal issues keep arising, and costs were incurred due to the need for counsel on impact fee lawsuits, the Murray's junkyard lawsuit, and a lawsuit brought against the Town by firefighter Patricia Hamann alleging harassment and a

hostile work environment.

"We also had legal fees related to workforce housing and getting legal clarification on that," Smith said. "We think we get pretty sound legal advice from Attorney (Mike) Ramsdell, and we would rather incur some fees up front than not get advice up front and have to pay a lot down the road."

For labor and personnel matters, the Town has been counseled by Attorney Mark Broth.

Smith said the Town Council is in the process of hiring a new labor attorney, and said Broth will continue to manage personnel matters he has already taken on, such as Hamann's case.

Smith said it wasn't the Town's intent to go to court with Murray's Auto Recycling this year, but the Town was put in a situation where it had exercised all other options.

Most of the legal fees incurred from the lawsuit

with Hamann have been covered under the Town's insurance policy, but some weren't covered, according to Smith.

And Smith anticipates the issue of impact fees will be resolved this summer, "so hopefully anything with impact fees will be taken off the table."

When asked if there is anything the Town can or is trying to do to avoid future legal issues, Smith said "the way we have been operating is we like to err on the side of caution before we go forward to make sure we're not in hot water down the road on something."

With regard to other over-expenditures noted last week, Smith said most are not substantial.

For example, the miscellaneous expense line in the Town Council's budget is overspent by a couple hundred dollars, according to Smith.

"The Council gives money towards the breakfast

for veterans on Veterans Day, and the costs were slightly more than last year. It's not very much.

The expense for that is taken out of the Town Council budget line, and it's shared with the school department," he said.

The miscellaneous expense line in the Council's budget is additionally used to pay for plaques and awards.

The overtime and printing in the Zoning Board budget is also overspent, with \$38,299 of the \$47,256 expended to date.

Smith said the over-expenditure in that line isn't substantial, either; and that the department won't be spending much more of the budget between now and the end of the Fiscal Year.

"There are certain lines within the larger department lines that are overspent, but in terms of the bottom line budget, I'm not concerned about it," Smith said.

Musquash

Continued from page 32

sponsible people, but that's not the majority."

Watson and Coons argued that irresponsible shooting will be addressed by restricting shooting to hunting season, when people expect guns to be in the Musquash; further restricting target shooting to those with a Fish and Game hunting license (which requires completion of safety training); and requiring target shooters to check in at the police station, providing identification and information about where they will be shooting.

"Irresponsible shooters aren't going to go to

the police station," Coons said.

Town Attorney Mike Ramsdell said he thinks it's within the Town's rights to require target shooters to check in before target shooting on town-owned conservation areas, and that officers have the right to ask to see a target shooter's hunting license.

Additionally, Police Operations Commander Gerard Dussault said he doesn't anticipate a check-in procedure would overburden staff at the Police Department.

Coons said he anticipates there would be about five target shooters on a given day checking in, and that activity would

most likely be limited to the weekends.

Police Chief William Hart, who served as chairman of the Task Force, said he would produce a final report of their recommendations and supporting materials to present to the Council.

Members will additionally have the opportunity to share their own conclusions, if they wish to do so.

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Editorial

A Taxing Issue

This has been a frustrating budget season. With everyone's favorite target for budget cuts seemingly the local fire department, it's an interesting situation when proposed cuts mean a permanent loss of four fewer firefighters in Derry, while a proposed plan to get Londonderry fire overtime expenses under control could cut firefighters on duty.

Makes for an interesting mutual aid situation, doesn't it.

This is the kind of thing that happens with top down budget cutting.

Londonderry has already overextended the year's local services budget, and even its Town Council budget hit the overage column. Derry proposes charging only town water users for hydrants – and while that would lower the tax rate, it would jack up the cost significantly for residents on town water and cut revenue currently paid by Londonderry users of Derry hydrants.

Are people really thinking things through before jumping on the budget cut bandwagon?

And in Chester, the selectmen are trying to negotiate with the budget committee to come up with a single proposal to bring to May town meeting – offering to make cuts if the budgeters agree with the new figure. If they didn't need that money to begin with, why was it in the budget proposal?

Meanwhile, property taxes remain

too high. Of course they need to be reduced. No argument here.

But is there some reason the towns are bearing the burden of the cuts when they account for just one-third of the property tax, with the vast majority funding local school districts? Why are the town unions berated for sticking with their contracts when school unions are left alone?

And what about urging legislators to take a serious look at the potential for gambling revenue, while they're busy cutting the state budget and downshifting the costs onto the local property tax.

We're no better than the people who buy the biggest and showiest house around, then leave the rooms empty because they can't afford furniture. We can tout the New Hampshire way of life, but we can't pay for it.

Is it a lack of economic development or a lack of reason?

When services are hacked away without a discussion of what their absence will mean and the focus is solely on the bottom line, you have a mess. Welcome to New Hampshire.

Fire and police and road crews are asked to keep the town going with a reduced force. What if town management in Derry actually promoted economic development without hiring someone else? What if we prioritized by what we need, and budgeted accordingly?

Letters

Staff Reduction

To the editor:

In our enrollment peak from late 1990 through the early 2000s, we had as many as 30 or more students in many elementary classrooms without the assistance of classroom aides. At that time, all we had available were community volunteers who assisted when possible.

The class size was a facility limitation rather than a desire to have that many students in a classroom. Adding teachers would have done no good since we did not have space for more classrooms; at one point, we converted lunchrooms to classrooms with 8-foot partition walls.

In the early 2000 time-frame, the solution was to add assistants to support certified teachers. Just as a big ship takes time to turn, the aides started a bit late. They were added when we were in our downward run of enrollment. In my opinion, they should have been added sooner. However, those at the time may not have known the drastic change the district would take. They also did not have the advantage of hindsight.

To illustrate how dramatic the enrollment drop has been you need only look at the peak in 2000 of 2,274 elementary school students. Then look at the projection for next year of 1,374. This is a decrease of 40 percent and a loss of 900 students.

Through the last decade and into this one, the district has reduced all staff including administration, teaching staff, support staff, and classroom aides. Classroom sizes have been reduced from a 30-32 student high to the proposed size this year of 18-23 students (largest class) in the elementary

schools. The average ratio of students to certified personnel over the entire district has been adjusted to approximately 13 students to one. It is paramount that we keep this level, with the ability to reduce staff when the district gets smaller or increase staff as the district gets larger.

Mr. Greenberg proposed elimination of four elementary teachers and the aides that we have left in grades one and two and several in grade three at one school. This is only part of the planned staff reduction for the Londonderry School District. The district has had a reduction in enrolled students from our peak in late 1990 through the early 2000s. Since then, the superintendent, with the School Board's unanimous support, has "right sized" the district each year.

In grades one and two, in areas where aides were eliminated this year, class sizes are projected to be from 16.8 - 20.7 students. The detailed plan, outlined by the Superintendent and supported by his principals, results in almost a one certified staff member to 10 students ratio in the classroom during some portions of the day. This is accomplished by the use of reading, educational support and special education teachers, including the disciplines of math and reading.

This environment, where certified professionals are at a higher density per student, is for the entire day, not just the 1-2 hour period we had for dedicated aides. Please note these numbers do not include any Special Education assistants in the classroom.

Steve Young
Chairman
Londonderry School
District Board

Middle East Equilibrium

To the editor:

Due to indecision by the Obama White House to support moderate Sunni rebels in Syria, Islamic terrorists in Syria (ISIS) were able to reposition forces and attack the Iraqi Army, which folded and abandoned its U.S. equipment, including many Humvees and 155mm guns.

The Iraqi government requested air strikes against ISIS, but President Obama ignored the request, referring to ISIS as the "JV Team."

The result was ISIS captured our military equipment, and established territory from which they can launch terrorist attacks.

We belatedly decided to send advisers to assist the Iraqi Army, and we launched air strikes against ISIS.

We appear to be fostering equilibrium in the Middle East with Shiites of Syria, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq counter weighted by Sunnis of Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq.

We should continue to conduct air strikes, training, and covert operations in Iraq and Syria to counter ISIS.

The Kurds, who are reliable Arab allies, should be well armed. Other Arabs, including so-called moderates, should be sold used equipment without spare parts.

With the decrease in our dependence on Middle East oil, containment of turmoil and fighting by Arabs in the Middle East could translate to increased security for the U.S. and other countries.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry

Londonderry Times

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www.nutpub.net

Owner/Publisher – Debra Paul Editor – Leslie O'Donnell
Art Director – Chris Paul

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LHS Culinary Students See Working Chef in Action

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School culinary students had the opportunity to cook with Chef Manny Lapa of Azorean Restaurant and Bar in Gloucester, Mass.

In a demonstration he shared with the class, Lapa taught students how to transform simple ingredients into a tasty chicken, rice and vegetable dish with lemon cream sauce.

"The demo was a chance for the students to

see an actual chef in motion, and to see if it's something they enjoy doing," teacher Donna Harmon said.

Lapa donated his time and brought all his own equipment and ingredients to share with the students.

Harmon said Lapa's presentation reinforced the school's focus on college and career readiness, sharing his experiences working in the field and the level of dedication and passion it requires.

"You get to know what

it's really like, and that you should do it because you love it," Nena Lapa, Manny's daughter, said of the presentation.

The senior took culinary classes at the high school her freshman and sophomore year.

Lapa said the message that you have to love what you do is something everyone could take away from the presentation, regardless of whether or not the students plan to pursue a culinary career or another career path.

Senior Leah Vigliotta

said she was interested to learn about the hard work that goes into working as a chef in the kitchen of a restaurant.

Lapa said he enjoyed working with the high school students and sharing his passion for cooking and working with real ingredients to create healthy recipes.

"Food is fun," he said.

The students, who had a chance to enjoy the recipe Lapa prepared during the special visit, appeared to agree.



Head Chef Manny Lapa and Haley Glidden of Azorean Restaurant and Bar in Gloucester, Mass., serve students a chicken dish after Lapa demonstrated his cooking to students at Londonderry High School's culinary arts classes. Photo by Kaitlyn G. Woods

LHS's Greg Warren Honored for Mental Health Awareness Work

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School Vice Principal Greg Warren will receive the 2015 National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire Educator Award for his work to address mental health issues among students and raise awareness in their community.

Principal Jason Parent told the School Board at its April 7 meeting that he appreciates, admires and respects Warren's unique approach to educating the whole child, which led to the high school's Community Awareness Night to talk about substance abuse and a discussion about students suffering from depression or anxiety.

"A lot of that attention

wasn't paid well enough before. He has really led that effort," Parent said.

Faculty members of the school's crisis response team, for which Warren serves as chair, meet weekly to discuss the needs of students

who are at risk; and they have also worked closely with Center for Life Management to implement ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell), a program that has become part of the school's daily announcements.

"The message has really resonated with students to act and report things they notice, things they hear from friends and things they're struggling with. It's been amazing to see how that's evolved," Parent said.

Warren thanked the School Board for its support of the program.

"We came to you earlier in the year to present our plan to roll this out and you were all very supportive of it," he said. "We were all a little nervous about

the program and how it was going to play out, but it obviously has done an amazing job with helping those students that may feel a little displaced and just trying to make them feel a little bit more a part of the LHS community."

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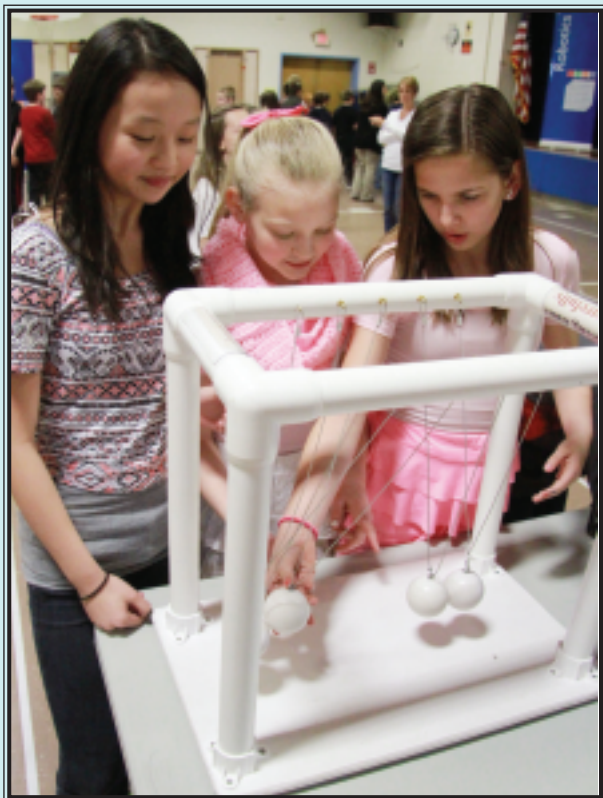
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Students Experiment at Mobile Museum



Matthew Thornton Elementary School students were visited recently by a "Mobile Ed Museum" that turned the gymnasium into a children's museum focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education. After a brief introduction from Mark Bishop, museum curator, with his robot, top center, students got a chance to explore the museum independently. Activity stations included Holograms, Newton's Cradle, Friction Raceway, a bike generator, working with gears, building an arch, and watching a 3D printer at work. The STEM Museum was from Michigan-based Mobile Ed Productions. *Photos by Chris Paul*



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Matthew Thornton Fifth Graders Learning CPR Skills

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Matthew Thornton Elementary School fifth graders are learning life-saving skills through a new CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) certification course

established at the school.

Last year, CPR Instructor Steve Chasin, who works as a paramedic at New London Hospital, approached Principal Sharon Putney about offering the course.

Chasin agreed to train

one pilot class at the school, and New London Hospital paid for the students' certification cards once they completed the course on administering compressions and using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Additionally, students learned how to assist someone during a choking emergency.

After the pilot program last year, students completed evaluations, which were used to craft this year's CPR and AED training courses, expanded to all fifth grade classes.

"We got very good reviews, and the kids learned (the skills) very quickly," Chasin said.

Putney said the classroom teachers attending the sessions with their students are also earning their certification, and she is looking into becoming a "CPR Safe School," which requires a specific ratio of staff to students who are certified.

"We're really excited about it," Putney said. "The next step is to get all fifth grades in the School District certified."

"We think fifth grade is the perfect age to learn CPR," Chasin said. "They're mature and strong enough, and they're getting more responsibilities at home. Many are ready to start

staying home alone."

Chasin said it's particularly important children have CPR skills in case an emergency with a parent or grandparent arises at home.

About 120 students will have completed their training once the program is complete at Matthew Thornton, with only a handful having opted out of participating, some of whom have already earned their CPR/AED certification. The participation rate is over 90 percent.

The school's six fifth grade classes were divided into two groups to complete two-hour training sessions. On April 3, four of the six classes had completed their training; all students are expected to complete their training by April vacation, according to Putney.

"They did great. They really enjoy it," Chasin said. "They're very proud when they get their (certification) cards."

"I thought it was very



Tyler Kraft works with paramedic Steven Chasin at Matthew Thornton's fifth grade CPR training recently. Photo by Chris Paul

cool, and a new experience," said fifth grader Tyler Kraft. "I want to work as a lifeguard in the future." Jack McCarthy, who is excited to have his certi-



Artist Honors

Londonderry artist Barbara Scott was recently juried into the Pastel Society of America, New York as an Associate Member, based on her portraiture. To gain entry she provided five images of her work to be juried on composition and a skill-based knowledge of the medium. Pictured is her painting "Sheer Delight." Her pastels titled "Bug Lighthouse, Portland, Maine," and "Fisherman's Retreat, Fishing Village in Menemsha, Martha's Vineyard, Mass." were juried into the Newburyport Artists Association's (NAA) 18th annual Regional Juried Show, running May 1 through June 6 at the NAA gallery, 205 Water St., Newburyport, Mass.

Courtesy photo



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High School Submits Progress Report for Accreditation

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School's New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Steering Committee submitted its Five Year Progress Report for final evaluation, closing out the decennial review cycle, Principal Jason Parent reported at the School Board's April 6 meeting.

"Now, we're just waiting to hear the determination if we will be accredited through 2020," Steering Committee Chairman Steven Juster said.

Highlighted recommendations in the school's Five Year Progress Report, all of which were classified as completed, include the following: ensure the emphasis on depth over breadth in all curricula; provide sufficient time for professional planning and teacher collaboration; and develop a plan, with a timeline for implementation and sources of funding, to provide appropriate performance space for music and drama students.

To complete the recommendation that the school investigate build-

ing an auditorium, the School Board authorized \$25,000 to the Londonderry School Community Auditorium Committee for conceptual, architectural and site analysis for the purpose of building an auditorium.

Based on the Committee's resulting 71-page report, the School Board voted to create a warrant article to fund up to \$500,000 for architectural and engineering plans for the construction of an auditorium. The Budget Committee voted 4-3 to support the warrant article.

"We believe the recommendation has been completed. No one can predict the public vote in March, but the process, in as much as we can control it, has come to its logical end," the report said.

Although the voters ultimately voted against funding the architecture and engineering plans for the auditorium, Parent told the Board the recommendations don't necessarily require a change to be classified as complete.

"When they ask us to complete a recommendation, it's to do the leg-

work and to thoroughly investigate other options," he said.

For example, NEASC asked the school to study alternative scheduling to LHS's eight, 45-minute periods, according to Parent.

"The Committee looked at modified blocks, block scheduling, visited some schools, and spoke with faculty," he said. "It's still an ongoing discussion we're having."

In the case of the auditorium, the Steering Committee submitted the Auditorium Study Committee's research and investigation with the School Board's \$25,000 commitment, as sufficient for completion of the recommendation.

In addressing the recommendation of emphasizing depth over breadth in all curricula, the report said the school's philosophy is supported by the curriculum coordinators and reinforced in teacher observations and evaluations.

Students complete anonymous course evaluations, and the high school recently adopted the College Board Assessment

Suite (Readi-Step, PSAT, SAT), which has increased flexibility in the pacing and emphasis of information delivery, according to the report.

"Ensure' is a difficult verb, as it represents an absolute. However, we believe we have completed this recommendation by embedding a process, which we will continue to 'tweak,' to ensure its implementation," the report said.

The progress report

goes on to describe professional conferences and department meetings, as well as other programs and training to provide professional development for teachers on the creation and use of rubrics and performance-based assessments; and for professional planning and teacher collaboration.

Parent said the school is pleased with Juster's leadership of the review process and noted the Commissioner called him,

as well as the Superintendent, to compliment them on the thoroughness of the school's report.

Juster said the steering committee will regroup in about a year-and-a-half to begin the next cycle, which started in 2011 and follows a new format that requires submission of a pre self-study.

The Five Year Progress Report is available on the high school website at www.londonderry.org/lhs/.



Pinewood Derby

Cub Scouts from Londonderry's Pack 521 competed in the Nutfield District Pinewood Derby on Saturday, April 11, at First Parish Church in East Derry. From left, Gage Licciardi, Zach Crimmins, Anthony Licciardi, and Martin Dormer show off their Pinewood Derby cars after the Wolf Cub race. For information about scouting visit nhsouting.org.

Courtesy photos

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LHS Grad Runs Boston Marathon with 'Miles for Miracles' Team

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School graduate Ryan Joy O'Connor knows a lot about overcoming obstacles.

Born with a congenital heart defect, Truncus Arteriosus, O'Connor has undergone four open heart surgeries, the first when she was only 3 months old.

Next weekend, O'Connor will take on another monumental challenge when she runs the Boston Marathon to raise money for children who suffer from heart defects like hers, and for the hospital that helped give her the opportunity to stand at that starting line.

"This is something I would have never dreamed would be possible. But now it is because of the hospital and what they've done for me through my entire life," said O'Connor, who has been training with the Children's Hospital of Boston's "Miles for Miracles" marathon team.

O'Connor, who graduated from Londonderry High School in 2006 before moving on to study at Roanoke College in Virginia and serving the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers through AmeriCorps, works as a clinical assistant at the Heart Center at Boston Children's Hospital, where she herself has been a life-long patient.

The 26-year-old, whose ultimate goal is to go to medical school and train as a pediatric cardiac sur-

geon, said she has a special connection with her young patients, knowing what it's like being in their shoes.

Just two years ago, O'Connor suffered a bout of Bacterial Endocarditis, an infection in the inner tissues of the heart. She credits her co-workers at Boston Children's Heart Center with saving her life.

"It completely blindsided me," said O'Connor, who underwent emergency open heart surgery. "I was thinking, now I'm a patient on the floor I always work on and my colleagues are taking care of me. My parents and colleagues were such great advocates for me."

O'Connor credits her ability to train and run the upcoming marathon to that support from her co-workers and family.

"This marathon is my 26(.2) miles for 26 years. It is my way of saying thank you to those whom it is seemingly otherwise impossible to properly thank. Undoubtedly, my heart has been changed by those whom I interact with on a daily basis. Today, because of them, I am living," she wrote in an email to friends supporting her efforts.

In addition to showing the young children she works with that they, too can reach goals they never imagined possible despite having congenital heart defects, O'Connor said she wants people to see that the quality of her life wouldn't be what it is today without Boston Children's



Londonderry High School graduate Ryan O'Connor, right, is pictured with Lacey Warner, who died last year at age 16 due to a congenital heart defect. O'Connor, who also has a congenital heart defect, will run the Boston Marathon for herself and her patient partners, including Warner. Courtesy photo

Hospital.

"Three and four decades ago, people with congenital heart defects weren't living and thriving like now; and it's only because of the work hospitals like Boston Children's is doing and their tenacity that we are not only living into adulthood, but we can also thrive," she said.

Leading up to the marathon, O'Connor trained up to 14 miles, using a run/walk program respectful of the unique toll covering such a long distance will take on her heart.

"It definitely affects me. Endurance running is definitely difficult for someone who has a cardiac defect," she said. "I knew right off the bat I wouldn't be able to run all 26 miles."

But working with two coaches on the hospital's Miles for Miracles team,

O'Connor has safely made strides toward reaching her goal of finishing one of Boston's most cherished sporting events.

O'Connor started training in October, knowing she would need time to prepare her body for the challenge ahead. She anticipates it will take her about eight hours to complete the Boston Marathon.

"It has been such an incredible experience. It's something I really didn't think would be possible just because of the nature of my congenital heart defect and my cardiac history," she said. "I'm being very realistic about how

much strain this is going to put on my body and heart; and I'm pushing myself the respectable amount you need to push a body just to run a marathon, but I'm being realistic in my walk/run."

While O'Connor's efforts honor her own journey, she is not only running for herself, but also for patient partners Emily, 8; George, 3; Finn, 3; and Lacey, a friend who passed away last year at the age of 16.

O'Connor said Lacey Warner, who had the same heart defect she does, was the catalyst for her decision to run the marathon.

"She and I met for the first time prior to the 2011 Boston Marathon. I had been connected with her parents through another family whose daughter has Truncus Arteriosus, and her father was running the marathon for her as a member of the Miles for Miracles team," she said. "Every subsequent Boston Marathon, he ran for her through Boston Children's, and we would go watch him every year. They were from West Virginia and Lacey would come up to Boston Children's for her cardiac care."

About a week before the marathon last year, Warner was transported by Life

Flight to the Heart Center.

O'Connor spent Marathon Monday with her friend in the cardiac intensive care unit, where they cheered on Lacey's father as he ran again in her honor.

Later that week, Warner went into surgery. She never recovered and died at the end of May.

O'Connor said she approached her friend's family on her 26th birthday in July while they were visiting and learned Warner's father, Steve, would not be running this year's marathon.

"It was just going to be too much, and I decided Lacey couldn't not have a runner and I would run in his place," she said. "I'm so excited I get to honor my patient partners and my co-workers at the hospital in this way."

O'Connor's fundraising goal for the event is \$10,000, and so far she has raised almost \$9,000.

To make a donation or for more information about O'Connor's journey to raise money for patients of the Boston Children's Hospital Heart Center, visit O'Connor's fundraising page at <http://fundraise.childrenshospital.org/goto/ryanjoyoconnor>, or her Facebook group "26.2 for Twenty-Six."

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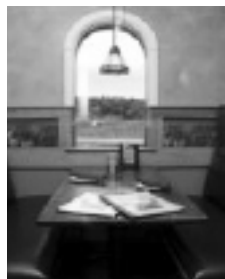
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Londonderry Times Publisher A Regular on New Cable Show

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Times Publisher Deb Paul is joining in with Dottie Grover on Grover's new television show, "One Voice at a Time," on Londonderry Cable Access. The show offers people a chance to share their point of view on a range of topics.

Grover said she started the show because she saw that people were going to public meetings and were not being given a chance to finish their thoughts.

Paul's commentary covered a range of topics including workforce housing, transparency in government and a community auditorium for Londonderry.

Grover, who said she saw Paul speaking against

granting a variance for a workforce housing development before the Zoning Board, asked Paul to "explain a little bit about how she perceives this process."

"I know some of it has to do with the government, bigger government than town government," Paul said. "And a word to our legislators, we need to stop trying to social engineer where people live and work. It should be you afford what you afford, you live where you like, you work where you want. America is based on freedom of choice. I would love to have lived at Rye Beach. But could I afford to live at Rye Beach, no. You do what you can, you can't accommodate everyone."

Paul said if the Town doesn't take lessons from

other towns that built out a significant amount of affordable housing, like Derry, Londonderry could lose the rural character people have come to cherish.

"Derry was a really quaint town at one time, just like Londonderry. Then, it was over-built with high density apartments and now they have all kinds of financial issues, and having to pay for those schools is expensive," she said. "It affects everyone in your town."

Paul said although the assessed values of homes may remain the same when a high density apartment complex is constructed in a neighborhood, the development has an impact on taxes needed to cover services for the additional residents, and resulting impacts, like traffic, can affect a home's re-sale value.

"Thank goodness for the zoning ordinance rewrite, it may be too late," she said. "We're going back to the old way, where we have a house and allow two or three families to live there."

With many families



Londonderry Times Publisher Deb Paul, center, and co-host Dottie Grover, left, speak with guest Barbara Scott during a taping last week.

caring for senior relatives, and children coming back home after college, Paul said changes to the zoning ordinance could allow homes to be more accommodating to multi-generational families living together.

Additionally, Paul added she believes a more natural place for higher density, multi-family housing would be toward the airport, where many new jobs will be located and access to public transportation is better.

"Workforce housing is supposed to be accommodating like that," she

said.

In addition to speaking about workforce housing and the zoning ordinance rewrite, Paul said she would like to see the Town establish an Ethics Committee to hear residents' complaints; and she expressed her support for a community auditorium, despite her concerns over the process used recently.

"In my mind, they were putting the horse before the cart," she said. "The committee needs to be from a wide variety of people in the community. We're talking about needing a senior center, and we're desperately in need of a teen center because of the heroin problem and other issues going on with teenagers. Maybe that small auditorium is not what we needed in the first place."

Paul added it's possible the auditorium needs a non-profit to run it so that there's no burden to

the taxpayer and they can ask businesses for support.

Paul said she hopes the group will get back together and do their due diligence to come up with a proposal to benefit everyone in the community.

Grover invited anyone who worked on the Auditorium Study Committee to appear on her show, and Paul invited the public to stop in at the Nutfield Publishing office at 2 Litchfield Road or call her at 537-2760.

"Really, I want people to get involved," she said. "We need to take back our town."

Grover and Paul will be taping episodes of the show the second Friday of every month from 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Cable Access Studio. Those who are interested in appearing on the show to discuss a topic or share information with the public should call Paul at 537-2760.

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Fire Budget

Continued from page 1
between September of 2014 and February of 2015.

Long-term injury and sick leave since July of 2014 has cost the department \$88,138, and O'Brien said he expects that cost to rise with new injuries and long-term illnesses.

Additionally, the Department saw significant unanticipated expenses due to the need for additional coverage during the winter storms, which cost \$16,732, as well as the Hall Road fire at Murray's Auto Salvage, which cost the department \$4,950.

A vacant firefighter position cost the department \$12,389; an injury to a battalion chief cost the Department \$7,999 thus

far; and additional injury costs are at \$5,121, but that amount is also expected to increase.

The total unanticipated funds spent to date are \$191,795, with ongoing additional injuries expected to result in an increase in that cost.

O'Brien said had the Department not experienced the unanticipated injuries and long-term illnesses, it would have come in under the Council's goal of ending February 2015 at 66.64 percent of overtime costs, with overtime costs at 63.2 percent.

Council Chairman John Farrell said unless the Town comes up with some sort of plan for emergency circumstances, he doesn't know how,

under the Town's form of government (the Town must call a special election to ask for more money from the voters if a shortfall can't be subsidized), it can fix unanticipated costs that departments like the Fire Department and Public Works Department incur due to significant storm events and other emergencies, which can't be budgeted.

"The biggest thing I fear is because of fixed costs, we end up in a situation where we have to do layoffs," he said. "And no one on the Town Council wants to see that happen. Under this form of government, our hands are really tied."

Farrell said based on his conversations with O'Brien and Town Manager

Kevin Smith, he thinks they "are really trying to think outside the box and manage in progressive ways going into the future."

Freezing discretionary spending of the Fire Department is expected to yield an anticipated \$50,000, while savings already existing from short- and long-term disability situations totals \$63,000. The total of those items, \$113,000, leaves the Town with a potential gap of \$67,000 to \$87,000.

Smith said they hope to fill the potential gap with savings achieved by staffing nine firefighters on a 24-hour basis.

This savings is difficult to quantify in advance, Smith wrote. "However, based on prior year overtime run rates for the last

quarter of the fiscal year, when staffing was maintained at a level of (10 firefighters), we believe a savings of \$41,000 to \$61,000 is achievable," he said.

Smith noted that even if the Fire Department were to achieve no savings from its plan to cover the shortfall with its own resources, the remaining shortfall in the department bottom line would be more than covered by projected surpluses in other departments.

Combined savings of the Fire Department, Police Department, Finance Department, Planning and Economic Development, Welfare and the Town Clerk/Tax Collector for FY2015 is expected to total \$426,000.

"The savings that are

being shown in our back-up plan will be unspent appropriations turned back to general fund surplus regardless of how the Fire Department fares in their quest for a balanced budget," Smith wrote. "In fact, with the exception of the amount shown for the Police Department, these savings already exist as of the end of March."

Moving forward, Farrell said the town manager and fire chief have to work more closely to actively manage the bottom line and the decisions around overtime and replacement costs, and he looks forward to them forming a greater partnership with the local collective bargaining group and command staff of the Fire Department.

Workforce

Continued from page 1
ment meets the Conditional Use Criteria for workforce housing."

May said it was also suggested the section related to Small Workforce Housing Developments be amended in two places to clearly reference the applicable New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services regulations.

To prevent a burden on planning staff, it was additionally recommended the section of the ordinance related to Administration, Compliance and Monitoring: Assurance of Continued Affordability be amended to separate the requirements for rental and ownership workforce housing; to include

a statement that a qualified third-party reporting entity must have expertise in determining eligibility of prospective owners and renters; to require submission of an affidavit of compliance with the ordinance certifying income eligibility prior to the sale of workforce housing units, with rental to be provided in an annual report to the Town, sales to be reported at each transaction and an affidavit reflected in the deed; and to provide a reference to the enforcement and penalty sections in the ordinance for non-compliance.

May said written confirmation of income eligibility will ensure rent is not exceeding what the State requires, and the third-party reviewer re-

quired by the ordinance would be paid for by the applicant for workforce housing.

"We will check the third-parties out. We'll work on that part," May said, noting the ordinance requirements will not put undue stress on the Planning Department. "I think this is better than what we had there. This is adding more teeth."

Member Lynn Wiles raised a concern with the fact that the cost of rent for a workforce housing unit is tied to the median income of the region, and how that could affect a property manager's ability to afford operating costs, should the median income in the region drop dramatically.

Member Leitha Reilly asked if there will be

reports by owners to check the income of workforce housing renters every year.

"The objective (of Workforce Housing) is to be affordable the first time," May said. "If you have the good fortune of tripling your income, then that's great for you."

A final amendment added to those the Board and public will consider at the May 13 public hear-

ing is related to Elderly Housing.

The change reverts the maximum density per acre for elderly housing back to six units per acre in the AR-I District, as well as an increase of Elderly Affordable to eight units per acre.

The amendment as it was originally proposed could render regular elderly housing unbuildable because the costs of

developing it wouldn't be recouped because of the density, May told the Board.

The full text of the proposed amendment is available on the Town's website at www.londonderrynh.org, or may be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office, the Planning and Economic Department and at the Leach Library.

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Quaker Group Walks Pipeline Route to Raise Climate Change Awareness

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A Quaker-led pilgrimage along the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline route passed by Londonderry on Saturday before the group finished the day in Pelham, with five more miles left of their journey to Dracut, Mass.

The intention of the 12-day, 150-mile pilgrimage from Winchester to Dracut was to raise awareness for climate change, posing the question, "Climate change: An invitation to new life?"

"Nothing is being done systematically to deal with it, to the point people are proposing a pipeline project," said organizer Jay O'Hara of Massachusetts, a member of the Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group, a group of New England Quakers working to address the issue of cli-

mate change.

The pilgrimage was not a protest of the proposed pipeline.

O'Hara said walking the length of the pipeline and seeing the land to be affected was symbolic and offered the pilgrims, as well as the dozens of locals who joined them to walk portions of the route, an opportunity to ask themselves, regarding the issue of climate change, "what am I to do?"

The group was overwhelmed with support along the way - locals brought them baked goods and attended potluck dinners at the churches that hosted them each night.

A woman brought to one of the potlucks scarves she knitted to keep the pilgrims warm along the way.

"I thought, this is love," said Meg Klepack of Vermont, also an organiz-

er with Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group.

Klepack said the group was surprised by the overwhelmingly positive response to their journey, and that they did not encounter any opposition to their message along the way.

At a potluck after their 10th day walking, the group spoke with a local man whose home sits directly on the proposed pipeline route. In their conversation with the man, the pilgrims discovered he was the driver of a Discount Oil truck that honked at them earlier in the day.

"It was so clear the level of interest in the pipeline project by the number of honks we got and the number of signs we saw along the way," she said. "This is clearly a really hot issue."

O'Hara said although



A Quaker-led pilgrimage along Kinder Morgan's proposed pipeline route concludes the penultimate leg of their 150-mile journey, which passed under Londonderry, at the First Congregational Church in Pelham.

Kinder Morgan's route does pass through Londonderry, the pilgrimage bypassed the Town because of the substantial amount of distance it would have added to their journey.

Through his travels and conversations with locals who are to be affected by the pipeline, O'Hara thinks it's still pos-

sible for communities opposed to the pipeline to prevent its construction.

"The fact that there have already been towns in Massachusetts that have forced the re-routing of the pipeline and those people are still working with the people in New Hampshire, it seems like there is a unique coalesc-

ing of people around this," he said. "Every town we go into there are signs everywhere and people at potlucks eager to share their stories."

For more information about the pilgrimage and the Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group, visit <http://pipelinepilgrimage.org>.

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—LONDONDERRY SPORTS—

Ace Sprague Leads LHS Softball to First 2015 Victory

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Standout senior pitcher Melissa Sprague overpowered the Pinkerton Academy Lady Astros in leading the Londonderry High softball squad to a 2-0, season-opening victory over that rival at LHS this past Monday, April 13.

The Lady Lancers' pitching ace struck out 17 Pinkerton batters and only allowed the Derry team one hit in helping her crew start the new campaign at 1-0.

The academy crew's lone hit was an infield sin-

gle by catcher Lauren Phillips to begin the second inning, but Sprague wound up striking out the side in that frame as well as in the third inning, the fifth, and the seventh en route to her 17-strikeout effort.

"They just couldn't hit," said LHS veteran coach Wayne MacDougall. "Their pitcher did an adequate job against us, but Melissa was great."

The host Lady Lancers managed a modest six hits against Pinkerton hurler Ashley Walalis and scored single runs in the first and second innings

to snare the 2-0 victory. But MacDougall was left a tad concerned about the fact that his charges were so limited offensively.

"You're living right when you win 2-0, and I don't think we had more than three hits in a row," said the coach. "We've got to hit better."

Londonderry couldn't possibly have found a better day to have pitcher Sprague pile up the strikeouts and keep the softball out of the air, because a heavy wind coming in from center field played havoc with the ball when it went airborne, and the fielders were challenged.

The hosts plated the only run they'd wind up needing to win the season-opener when leadoff batter and lone returning Londonderry starter Summer Vose - who reached base all three times she batted - led off the bottom of the first with an infield hit.

She was bunted over to second base by Justine McElman, advanced to third on a ground-out up the middle, and scored on a balk by PA hurler Walalis.

The Lancers snared an insurance run in the latter half of the second when Anna Maggio drew a one-out walk, stole second, moved to third on a wild pitch, and sprinted home on a sacrifice fly to right field by Casey Humes.

Vose wound up being the only Londonderry



Londonderry High softball player Anna Maggio slides into third base safely and would go on to score during the Lady Lancers' season-opening win over Pinkerton at LHS this past Monday. Photo by Chris Paul

player to smack out multiple hits, finishing with a pair of singles.

The team was scheduled to play Spaulding High School at home on Wednesday, April 15, then travel to Winnacunnet High on Friday, April 17.



LHS senior pitcher Melissa Sprague struck out 17 batters in leading her team to a season-opening win over PA on Monday.

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Lancer Laxmen Have New Coaches and Plenty of Promise

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The combination of lots of impressive returning talent and a new coaching staff intent on making the most of that talent may make the Londonderry High boys' lacrosse team a power in tough Division I this spring.

New head coach Sean LeBlanc is able to peruse a Lancer lineup that boasts a bunch of seasoned players from a 2014 contingent that posted a fine 10-7 regular-season record and ended up seeded seventh before being eliminated by the second-ranked rival Pinkerton Academy Astros in D-I quarterfinal-round tournament play.

"We have a very experienced and talented group this year," said LeBlanc, who is taking over for LHS veteran mentor Joe McCune, who stepped aside in order to continue his education.

"With an entirely new coaching staff in place, we have thrown a lot at these guys in only a few weeks. The team will have to buy into the new system 100 percent in order for us to be successful. They have responded very well over the past two weeks, and we look forward to seeing them in action."

Among the returning starters from the 2014 crew are senior midfielders Shayne Holland, Lewis Carroll, Andrew Mitchell, and John Derhak, Lehigh University-bound senior defender Matt Rimol, senior long-stick middle Scott Beedham, and junior attack Dave Wiedenfeld.

Other returning lettermen are senior attack Kyle Hussey and senior middies Ted Tharrington and Tommy Cranmer, junior attack Max Hastings, sophomore attack Sean Snyder, and sophomore midfielder Pete Navarro.

And LeBlanc's list of promising newcomers in-



Returning LHS laxman Lewis Carroll and his Lancers had a rough start to their 2015 season.

cludes senior goalie Chris Nick Donnelly, and sophomore Rowan, junior defender more middle Merrill Nie-

man.

"We will need big performances from our senior-laden midfield group, who we will lean on to do a lot for us on both sides of the ball," said LeBlanc. "We feel we have a very athletic team, and will look to play to our strength by playing an up-tempo brand of lacrosse. Returning starters Matt Rimol and Dave Wiedenfeld will be expected to pace the defense and offense respectively."

When he looks at Division I and which teams he expects to be capable of ending up in the upper-echelon, LeBlanc points to the usual suspects (Bish-

op Guertin of Nashua and Pinkerton) along with Bedford, his own Lancers, the Souhegan High Sabers from Amherst, and the Exeter High Blue Hawks.

The LeBlanc era officially began in rather bumpy fashion on the road Monday, April 13, as the Lancers suffered an 18-4 defeat at the hands of the tough Bedford High Bulldogs on that opponent's home field.

The Lancer boys lacrosse team are scheduled to play their initial 2015 home game against the Manchester Central Little Green this Saturday, April 18.

LHS Boy Tracksters Need Seniors to be Clutch

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School boys' outdoor track and field squad is capable of having a productive 2015 season. But certain things will need to go right for the Lancers to get where they'd like to go.

Last spring, coach Matt Smith's LHS crew tied for sixth place at the Division I championship meet. Smith's squad has a

fine bunch of battle-tested veterans back in the fold this spring and intent on having their team finish as high as possible in the tough division.

"For us to have a successful season, we need to stay healthy and continue to progress as the season goes on," said Smith. "We'll need our seniors to have big performances at the championship meets, and we'll also be relying on our

younger guys for depth on our relays."

At the heart of the Lancers' hopes - as has been the case for a number of years now - is senior multi-event star Starlin Ortiz, who will look to bag big points for his side in the 110-meter high hurdles, the high jump, the long jump, and the 200-meter dash.

His fellow senior veterans who will figure big in the LHS plans are Eric Fairweather (110 hurdles, jumps, javelin), Lukas Charbonneau (400, 300), Keith Perry (middle-distances), and Jon Deschamps (jumps).

Key juniors include Trevor Guay (300, high jump), Derek Davies (pole

vault, 400), Kyle Foden (shot), Mark Gigliotti (400), Jared Kane (distances), Cam Dickson (distances), Noah Schrank (distances), Spenser Kutney (distances), and Colin Fraser (sprints).

The Lancer squad's most promising newcomers include sophomore distance men Chris Zaino and Declan Hotter, and freshmen sprinters Cameron Taranto, Zach Ford, Avery Bonnano, and Shane MacEachern.

When asked what Division I teams he expects to battle it out for the 2015 championship, coach Smith responded, "Pinkerton, (Nashua) North, and Londonderry."

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LHS Boy Spikers Aim to Improve on Their 2014 Record

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After finishing up below the .500 mark and making a first-round exit from the tournament under first-year coach John Vaughn last spring, the Londonderry High boys' volleyball squad saw a number of its spikers graduate and leave the fold.

But three important seniors are back from that 6-10 crew as Vaughn commences his second campaign, and there are a slew of additions to the roster, including several newcomers who are fresh

off an undefeated championship basketball campaign.

The key senior returnees include setter Spenser Flood, defensive specialist Aidan McCaffrey, and opposite Ryan Muse.

Players making the move up from the junior varsity level to the varsity include seniors Ben Stoller (outside hitter), Tim O'Neil (OH), Chris Monks (OH), and Lucas Poulin (defensive specialist). Poulin was a stalwart and team-leading captain on the Lancers' varsity ice hockey squad during the

winter season.

And Vaughn's newcomers include Mr. New Hampshire Basketball Cody Ball and his fellow senior hoop star Marc Corey, both of whom played vital roles for the Division I title-winning LHS basketball team this past winter. Both of them will serve as middle-hitters for the volleyball crew. Senior outside-hitter Jeff Baroody has also been added to the Lancer volleyball contingent.

When asked who he thinks the top teams in Division I will be this spring, Vaughn - who was

the man who started the LHS girls' volleyball program several decades ago - responded, "The front-runners are Salem, Pinkerton, and Timberlane."

And the Lancers had their hands full in their season-opener on Monday, April 13, when they kicked things off by playing the 10-time defending state champions from Salem High at LHS.

The Blue Devils powered their way to wins of 25-11 and 25-16 in the first two games to snare a 2-0 match lead, despite the fact that their hosts were in command of that second contest early on. And the Lancers remained alive by battling their way in spirited fashion to a 25-22 victory in game three.

However, the visiting Salem High School spikers then ended the day's battle by winning game four by a decisive 25-15 margin.



LHS senior Chris Monks and the Lancers' volleyball team gave the reigning champions from Salem a battle in Londonderry earlier this week.

After Fine 2014 Season, LHS Girl Tracksters Still Strong

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Longtime Londonderry High girls' track coach Sue Johnson had every reason to be proud last spring when her talented Lady Lancers finished second at the Division I championship meet.

Johnson has a bunch of the talented tracksters who made that excellent finish possible back in her 2015 fold this spring, with the understanding that everybody in LHS uniforms will be working hard to try to equal or better the 2014 runner-up finish.

Among the returning event stalwarts are seniors Natalie Howes (multiple events) and Arianna Liles (throws), juniors Courtney Guay (middle-distance races), Jordan Dufresne (versatile), and

Yorgelis Ortiz (jumps and sprints), and sophomores Devon Enwright (versatile), Lexy Freire (versatile), Rachel Larkin (versatile), Kaitlyn Marchant (long sprints), and Bella Ziolek (versatile).

Other returning letterwinners expected to garner attention include junior Andrea Wooldridge (versatile) and sophomores Laura Doherty (jumps), Addison Garofalo (versatile), Ellie Goodspeed (sprints and jumps), Lindsey Guenther (versatile), and Elizabeth Stubbs (middle distances).

The Lady Lancers also have a crew of impressive newcomers, including junior Kylie McClelland (versatile), sophomores Ashley Baines (sprints and jumps) and Kalina McLaughlin (versatile), and freshmen Jessica

Brien (versatile), Ashlie Dodge (throws), Kalin Gregoire (mids), Kaylie Longua (versatile), Ashley McClelland (versatile), Taylor Mellinger (versatile), and Alexandra Seeley (mids).

When asked what she sees as her team's keys to another successful campaign this spring, Johnson said, "Each of us has to work as hard as the hardest-working member of the team. There can be no looking to others to have the big performances. We are relying on each and every athlete to pull her weight and carry part of the team load. There are no free rides for anyone."

The veteran mentor expects Bedford, Bishop Guertin of Nashua, Pinkerton, and Merrimack to be among the toughest opponents in Division I.

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LHS Tennis Teams Both Have Tough Start to Season

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High boys' tennis team saw its early-season record slide to 0-2 with a 9-0 blanking at the hands of the Exeter High Blue Hawks on the seacoast this past Monday, April 13.

The strongest statistical performance put forth by a Lancer came from number six singles player Cody Woods, who dropped a 4-8 decision.

"Another shutout for my boys, but I think we

had an encouraging day against the third-place finishers from last year," said the Lancers' second-year coach Janice Norwesh. "Playing these tough teams is teaching them to trust their strokes, and if we are going down we're going to go down swinging. Trusting their strokes will give them the confidence they need to progress."

Meanwhile, back at home on the Nelson Road fields in Londonderry, the LHS Lady Lancer racketeers suffered their second

9-0 loss of the young season to the skilled Exeter High Lady Blue Hawks.

It was the first match of the 2015 campaign for the seacoast squad, and the second for the Lady Lancers, who earlier took a season-opening 9-0 defeat on the chin from another seacoast crew - the Winnacunnet High Lady Warriors from Hampton.

Coach Tom Meighan's LHS Lady Lancers are in rebuilding mode this spring, but they hope to find some success.



Olympic Pep Talk

Governor Maggie Hassen stopped in to show her support of the Special Olympics during their 2015 Basketball Tournament on Saturday morning at Londonderry High School. Pictured, the governor speaks with Alisia Crawford and D.J. Burgess just before their Derry Timberwolves team took to the court.

Photo by Chris Paul

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Third Annual Charity Soccer Tournament is Scheduled

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Leon family has taken a family tragedy suffered a little less than three years ago and turned it into something that will benefit many other folks dealing with loss.

Viviana, the 3-month-old daughter of Eddie and Stacey Leon - who own La Carreta Mexican restaurant in Derry - died unexpectedly on June 28, 2012. In the wake of that loss, the family decided to create the Viviana Leon Memorial Soccer Tournament.

That fundraising soccer event - which benefits the tax-deductible 501c Viviana Leon Memorial Foundation - will take place for the third consecutive year on Saturday,

June 27 at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry.

The tournament is expected to consist of 12 teams of 10 players each, but there will be activities for the entire family, including a bounce house and a face-painter.

"The purpose of the foundation is to provide funds for a local charity each year (that is) decided upon by the board of directors of the foundation," said Eddie Leon. "The local charity chosen will be based on certain guidelines, including but not limited to research into premature passing of infants, or helping families cope with an illness or loss of a child."

"With the proceeds raised (by the 2014 tour-

ney) we were able to donate to both the C.J. Foundation for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and the New Hampshire Make-A-Wish Foundation."

Players are expected to begin arriving around 8 a.m. on the morning of the tourney and begin warming up, with play expected to start at 9 a.m.

Each team will play multiple contests, with the games played outside on reduced-sized fields in order to facilitate the running of multiple games at one time. Players must be aged 18 or older.

Questions about having a pre-organized team participate in the event or regarding all sponsorship opportunities should be directed to 603-674-8144 or to heriberto83@yahoo.com.

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International Night April 17 at Londonderry High

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School's International Club will hold its fourth annual fundraising event for Heifer International on April 17.

Heifer International is a non-profit organization that provides livestock, seeds, or training to families around the world who are struggling with hunger and poverty.

Heifer International allows the donor to choose

the animal to send and the recipients make a deal that they will give the first female goat born, for example, to someone else in the community and teach them to care for it and get milk, Vice President Abby Espailat said last month, when the group was planning its annual Recycling Fundraiser, which helps fund International Night.

Last year, the students used the money they raised through Interna-

tional Night to purchase a \$400 well for a village that didn't have access to clean water.

International Club advisor Donna Chisolm said Heifer International taught the villagers how to build the well and maintain it. "We wanted to start with the basics," she said.

International Night, held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria, will celebrate diverse cultures through ethnic music, dance, food, displays and

activities.

The family-friendly event also features a kids' corner with face painting, live performances and booths representing many countries.

Admission is free, but there will be a small fee for food and activities. All funds earned will be donated to Heifer International.

More information on Heifer International can be found at www.heifer.org.



Londonderry High School math teacher Betty Mak assists attendees with learning to cook authentic Chinese fried rice at last year's event.

Eighth Graders' Trip to D.C. Begins April 21

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry eighth graders will head to Washington, D.C., on April 21 for the school's 17th annual trip to the nation's capital.

It's the sixth class trip that will also include a tour of historical monuments in Philadelphia, Penn., including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Franklin Court and Congress Hall, Principal Richard Zacchilli told the School Board at its April 7 meeting.

The trip will also include a stop at Fort McHenry in Maryland. Students will return home late on Friday, April 24.

A total of 288 students and 33 chaperones will depart for Washington on seven buses, and local churches will serve the group a bagged breakfast to take on the road.

Zacchilli said participation among members of the eighth grade class is up this year, with 82 percent of students planning to attend. On average, between 75 and 85 percent of students go on the trip.

"Students who stay back will be doing Washington, D.C.-related projects and activities," Zacchilli said. "Of the students who are not going, some do not wish to go and some are students who don't meet the behavioral or academic

requirements. But there aren't any students who are not going because of any financial issues."

Scholarships are available for students who need financial assistance through budgeted money, donations and the school's BJ's fundraiser.

This year, 41 students needed financial assistance to go on the trip, which costs families \$670. Last year, 38 students utilized financial assistance, according to Zacchilli, who noted the cost of the

trip has remained pretty stable over the last five years.

In total, the trip cost \$13,000.

The cost covers transportation, drivers, guides, lodgings, meals and admission to the various attractions the students visit.

"It should be a great week," Zacchilli said, adding teacher chaperones will be communicating through Twitter for parents who wish to check updates on their travels.

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KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

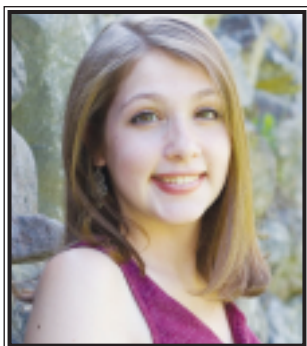
Londonderry High School senior Madeleine Doris was one of 10 students to represent the Granite State at the All-Eastern Honors Choir last weekend.

A member of the Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Band, as well as Section Leader for the Marching Band's mallet section, Doris said performing with the All-Eastern Honors Choir, "was definitely the best musical experience I have ever had."

Although the group totaled 326 students from 11 states, and included some students from as far away as Europe, Doris said the choir was totally in sync when they performed.

"We had four-hour practices, and some 18-hour days. We were up at 5 a.m. and in bed at 11 p.m., and we were sleeping in between because we had to," she said. "I learned about conducting and behaving as an ensemble. In order to create music, you have to be listening, and watching and breathing in sync - practically your heart beats have to be in sync to really be as successful as it was."

The All-Eastern Honors Choir was held in



Madeleine Doris

Providence, R.I., from April 9-12. Students who earned top scores in their auditions for All-State could apply to participate.

Doris was selected to participate in the 2014 and 2015 New Hampshire Jazz All-State, and in the 2014 and 2015 classical New Hampshire All-State Chorus. She earned the top score in her audition for the 2014 New Hampshire Jazz All-State.

Students selected to participate in the All-Eastern Honors Choir received seven pieces of music to prepare in advance, then spent three days in rehearsal as a group, learning to function as an ensemble.

"We worked on the really nitpicky stuff, like tone," said Doris, who enjoyed performing with a group of musicians whose level of dedication was so high.

Doris has attended the Summer Youth Music

School at the University of New Hampshire and the Berklee College of Music's Vocal Summit Camp; and she has performed in a variety of musicals including "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "The Wedding Singer," "Footloose" and "Grease."

"Most of the work we

do individually as soloists. When there are 326 other people on your watch and 326 other tones to be adjusting to, it's a completely new experience. If even one person in that choir was different, it would have been a different feel," said Doris, who called working

with the large, diverse, talented group a completely unique musical experience.

Doris will major in Music Therapy with a focus on Classical Voice at the University of Miami and thinks her participation in the All-Eastern Honors Choir prepared

her for the kind of intensive work she'll be doing in college. And the weekend even offered her a chance to meet some of the students she will attend school with in the fall.

"It was a great way to send me off on the end of my senior year," she said.



Battle Winners

The fifth grade team of Tess Brown, Olivia Hamel, Brandon Galan and Adam Palmer won their grade's game of "Battle of the Books" at North Elementary School. Five teams were tested on their recall knowledge of the books read by each class, with three rounds of five questions. The winning team received gift cards to Barnes and Noble.

Photo by Chris Paul

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16TH ANNUAL YARD SALE

To Benefit Local Charities

Where: In front of Crossroads Mall, Londonderry
(At the intersection of 102 and 128)

When: Saturday May 2, 2015 **Time:** 8 - 3 p.m.

Rain Date: Sunday May 3, 2015

DONATIONS ACCEPTED: Thanks to Fortin Modular Storage Items can be dropped off starting April 8 at RE/MAX 1st Choice. Mon-Sat 9-5 p.m.

Any questions please call: 603-425-2400

Please no large furniture, large appliances, skis, computer parts/televisions and clothing

Student Artists Work with Nature



Artist in Residence Cynthia Robinson worked with South Elementary Students last week creating garden stepping stones. Robinson, who is an “eco-artist,” brought a variety of recycled materials to add to the students’ cement creations. Some of the stones will be used in the school’s garden. Students in the lower grades worked with her on making paper from items found in nature. The students’ creations will be on display at the school during its annual Art Show on April 22, which is also Earth Day.

Photos by Chris Paul



Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday, April 6

6:58 a.m. Caller reports work trailer on Iris Lane broken into. Generator and tools taken.

3:05 p.m. Minor vehicle fire on South Road, started by operator spilling oil.

Wednesday, April 8

8:59 a.m. Theft from motor vehicle on Fieldstone Drive.

9:15 a.m. Fight in parking lot in front of police station, Mammoth Road.

12:20 p.m. Gun stolen from vehicle last night at Whippersnapper’s, Nashua Road.

1:05 p.m. Report of Hookah pins taken from vehicle Sunday while at Triangle Mobil Mart, Rockingham Road.

5:34 p.m. Anthony Fruci, 19, Rolling Ridge Road, Londonderry arrested for Theft: From a Building and Receiving Stolen Property. Bail set at \$2,000 personal

recognizance, with Derry Circuit Court date of May 19.

9:14 p.m. Londonderry Fire responding for pickup truck fire on Auburn Road at Pinyon Place.

Saturday, April 11

6:14 p.m. Caller on Rolling Ridge Road reported loud explosions coming from woods near Sarabeth Lane. Officer checked both roads, nothing found.



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AROUND TOWN

New Policy for Around Town: 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 \$30.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$30.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. 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 calendar@nutpub.net.

Car Wash, Yard Sale

A car wash and yard sale take place Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Londonderry United Methodist Church, 258 Mammoth Road. All donations benefit John Perry's Eagle Scout project to replace the Fire Danger sign at Central Fire Station.

Benefit Yard Sale

RE/MAX 1st Choice holds its 16th annual yard sale in front of Crossroads Mall at the intersection of Route 102 and Mammoth Road on Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, May 3. Items to be donated may be stored on site, courtesy of Fortin Modular Storage, which has donated a storage trailer. No clothing, large appliances, computer parts or televisions are accepted. Proceeds from the Yard Sale go to local charities. For further information, contact RE/MAX 1st Choice at 425-2400 Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Taste of the Town

Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce's third annual Taste of the Town runs from 6 to 8

p.m. Thursday, April 23, at Castleton Banquet & Conference Center, Windham, and features the wares of over 40 local food and beverage vendors. Tickets are \$40 for Chamber members, \$45 for non-members. VIP tickets, including a separate area with premium food, wine, beer, and "swag" bag - cost \$75. For tickets, visit gdlchamber.org/taste or call 432-8205. Proceeds benefit the Chamber's Kyle B. Ross Memorial Scholarship fund, which annually provides a \$1,000 postsecondary education scholarship to a graduate of a high school in the Chamber's catchment area.

International Night

The Londonderry High School International Club holds its fourth annual International Night on Friday, April 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the school cafeteria. The evening features ethnic music, dance, food, displays and activities, along with live performances and booths representing many countries. Admission is free, with a small fee for food and activities. This year all funds earned will be donated to Heifer International, an organization providing

livestock, seeds, or training to families around the world who are struggling with hunger and poverty. International Night is appropriate for all ages.

Ted Cruz to Speak

An event featuring U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, R-Texas a candidate for President, will speak to "the 2nd Amendment Community in New Hampshire" Sunday, April 19, from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Londonderry Fish & Game Club, 5 Lund St. Litchfield. The event is free but space is limited and pre-registration is required. The event is sponsored by: Gun Rights Across America, Gun Owners of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Firearms Coalition, NRA (National Rifle Association) ILA (Institute for Legislative Action) New Hampshire, Pro-Gun New Hampshire and Women's Defense League of New Hampshire. For questions and ticket information, contact MediaWDLNH@gmail.com.

Toy Swap and Sale

Londonderry Women's Club's 13th annual Toy Swap and Sale takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16, at the Matthew Thornton School gym. It is a consignment sale, with the price set by the owner, who receives two-thirds of the sale price. The Londonderry Women's Club keeps one-third. Proceeds will benefit Moore Mart, which sends supplies to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Registration forms are at Leach Library. Children's items in good condition may be sold, including bassinets, strollers, sporting goods, Halloween costumes, games, books and wooden puzzles. Stuffed animals, cribs, car seats and clothing cannot be accepted.

Car Seat Check

The Londonderry Car Safety Program holds car seat check appointments



South School Presents

South Elementary School students present "Girl with the Golden Locks," opening Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m. with an additional performance April 17 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 per person, with a maximum of \$10 per family. Pictured are Brooke Silvia, left, as Agent White, Laura Haas as Agent Gold and Rebecca Quimpo as Agent Red.

Photo by Chris Paul

every second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon and every fourth Tuesday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. Call 432-1118 for an appointment.

Legion Bingo

American Legion Post 27 plays bingo with patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Manchester from 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 27. Donations are welcome, or stop by and help out. Legion members will serve pizza and diet soda and provide \$150 in prize money.

Miss New Hampshire Voting

New Hampshire residents are invited to vote for one contestant to be included among the 10 semi-finalists in the 2015 Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Competition, which takes place at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy in Derry from April 30 to May 2. Vote on the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/MissNH>). A panel of five judges will determine nine contestants earning the greatest number of points in the five phases of preliminary competition (Private Interview, Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit, Evening Wear, Talent and On-Stage Question competitions) to join the one contestant gathering the largest number of popular votes.

Miss New Hampshire

The Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Competition takes place April 30 through May 2 at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy, Derry. The final competition is May 2. To purchase tickets, call the Miss New Hampshire office at 437-9027.

Senior Art

Art classes for April for seniors at the Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Road in Londonderry, include the following: Mondays, 12:30 to 2 p.m., ceramics; Thursdays, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., beaded jewelry; Friday, April 17, 12:30 to 2 p.m., Earth Day crafts; Friday, April 24, 12:30 to 2 p.m., paint afternoon; Thursday, April 30, 12:30 to 2 p.m., May basket. Pre-registration is required, with payment at sign-up. For details and cost, call 432-8554 and visit: www.londonderrynh.org/Pages/LondonderryNH_Senior/index.

Garden for Wildlife

On Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m., the Leach Library will host a free program in the lower-level meeting room titled "A Garden for Wildlife: Natural Landscaping for a Better Backyard" with Sigrid Salmela, a trained volunteer from the

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension's Speaking for Wildlife project. Audience members will learn how to modify a backyard, garden, or landscaped area to help wildlife. Salmela will discuss wildlife and habitats, plant choice, native plants, nest boxes and feeders, and invasive plants. "Speaking for Wildlife" is a volunteer effort of UNH Cooperative Extension. Light refreshments will be served.

Hats for Veterans

The Londonderry Athletic Leadership Council at Londonderry High School is selling camouflage hats in support of veterans through Operation Hat Trick. Two styles are available this year: 72 adjustable clamp ones such as were sold last year, and 72 flex-fit caps. Prices are \$15 and \$20 respectively. Delivery date is May 1. For questions, email crich@londonderry.org.

Library Week Raffle

Through closing on Saturday, April 18, during National Library Week, for each children's item checked out from the Leach Library that week, a raffle ticket will be provided for a chance to win a book bag. Stop by the display case in the Children's Room to see the book bag.

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Around Town

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National Library Week Craft

Through closing on Saturday, April 18, during National Library Week, Leach Library patrons will have a chance to create their own "been caught reading" picture frame. Stop by the Children's Room desk to pick up the supplies

and create a frame at home or at the library.

Great Stone Face Voting

Youths in grades 4 through 6 may vote at the Leach Library for the Great Stone Face award through closing on Saturday, April 18. Everyone who votes will receive a bookmark.

Farm Fun

Leach Library presents a children's program about

farms on Monday, April 20, from 4 to 5 p.m. Participants will hear stories of the animals that live on the farm as well as learning about what life on a farm is like. A tour through "Old MacDonald's Farm" is also featured. All participants will receive a red bandana. Advance registration is required. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

Free Meals

The Community Meals Network offers the following free meals in Derry. Derry residency is not required. Every weekday, dinner, 4 to 5 p.m., Sonshine Soup Kitchen. April 16, 5 to 6:30 p.m., dinner, West Running Brook Middle School; April 18, 5 to 6:30 p.m. dinner, St. Luke's United Methodist Church; April 19, noon, lunch, Seventh Day Advent-

tist Church; April 19, 5 to 6:30 p.m., dinner, Etz Hayim Synagogue; April 24, 5 to 6:30 p.m., spaghetti supper, First Parish Church; April 26, noon, lunch, Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Lions' Concert

The Londonderry Lions Club Valentine's Day Concert, cancelled because of snow, is rescheduled to Saturday, May 9, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Lions Hall, Mam-


moth Road. Bobby and the Sharptones will play classic rock and roll from the '50s through '80s. The concert benefits Londonderry High School scholarships, local sight and hearing, and Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Tickets purchased for the February concert will be accepted. Cost is \$20 per person, \$35 per couple, and includes popcorn, chips, pastries and coffee. Soda

Continued on page 22

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Around Town

Continued from page 21

and water can be purchased. Alcoholic beverages can be brought. For tickets, call Jerry at 434-5307.

Free Children's Clothing

St. Gianna's Closet gives out children's clothing of all sizes free to any family in need. Call Liz at 247-8654 to arrange a pick-up time to receive clothing. Donations of gently used children's clothing are accepted. Drop-off locations are St. Mark's Church in Londonderry and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Derry during office hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and at 5 Isabella Drive in Londonderry.

Crafters Wanted

Londonderry Senior Citizens, Inc. (LSCI) will hold a Summer Arts and Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 20 at the Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. Space is available to local artisans. Funds raised from the fair will be used to purchase equip-

ment and materials for the Senior Center. Crafters must provide their own table and chairs. LSCI will have food and drinks available for purchase and will sell raffle tickets for donated items from participating artisans and local businesses. Applications and fees are due by May 1. For more information, call Bonnie Ritvo at 432-8554.

First Parish Fundraiser

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC of East Derry hosts a Noche Mexicana Fundraiser on Sunday, April 26, from 4 to 10 p.m. at Margarita's Mexican Restaurant, 1037 Elm St., Manchester, with 15 percent of pre-taxed food and beverage sales from participants donated to First Parish Congregational Church. Those attending should tell their server on arrival that they are part of the fundraiser. Call 434-0628 or email officemgr@fpc-ucc.org for more information.

Garden Thinning

The Derry Garden Club holds its annual Plant Sale

on Saturday, May 16. As soon as the weather permits, the club will be sending diggers out to gather perennials for the sale. Garden club members will dig perennials free from areas that have become overgrown or that can be dug up to plant something new. To arrange a visit, call Wanda at 434-6681.

HU Chant

A free Community HU Chant is offered Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. and continuing on the third Thursday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. For more information, call 800-713-8944 or visit www.eckankar-nh.org

Car Wash, Yard Sale

A car wash and yard sale take place Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Londonderry United Methodist Church, 258 Mammoth Road. All donations benefit John Perry's Eagle Scout project to replace the Fire Danger sign at Central Fire Station.

CLASSIFIED ADS

\$1⁰⁰ PER WORD

Ad will run in Three Newspapers and Reach over 30,000 Homes in Londonderry, Derry, Chester, Hampstead, and Sandown!

Deadline for placing ads is Monday at 3 p.m. for that week's publication.

ALL ADS MUST BE PRE-PAID

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Assistants

Continued from page 1

elected officials, and as indicated in their charter, whether or not to spend the added money for teaching aides.

If the \$240,000 had been passed on the School District's Warrant as a citizen's petition, the money would have to be spent as directed by the warrant article; but the Board still has the option of returning the money to the voters rather than spending it.

"My fear is there's a policy agenda that's taking precedence over the common good for our kids," said Kris Sloper, whose daughters attend North Elementary School and Moose Hill Kindergarten. "This is a small community that voted the way they did, and the idea of the Board using the money for anything else is disheartening, at best."

"We had a public hearing, we had deliberative session and we had a vote. The Town stepped forward and said we'll put money towards aides. It's just very frustrating to engage in the democratic process and get the input, and then have to continue the fight," said Donna Traynham, an educator who has been one of the most vocal advocates for teaching assistants in the elementary school classrooms. "My fear is people will disengage. We rallied people to vote in favor of the aides, but we have to go back now to say please, come out again."

Superintendent Nate Greenberg proposed as part of the budget, before it was amended, eliminating four elementary teachers and aides who remain in first and second

grades, as well as several aides in third grade classrooms.

"This is only a part of the planned staff reduction for the Londonderry School District," Young said of the cut to teaching assistant hours. "The district has had a reduction in enrolled students from our peak in late 1990 through the early 2000s. Since that time, the Superintendent, with the School Board's unanimous support, has 'right sized' the district each and every year."

To illustrate how dramatic the enrollment drop has been, one need only look at the peak in 2000 of 2,274 elementary school students, then look at the projection for next year of 1,374 students. This is a decrease of 40 percent and a loss of 900 students, Young said.

In first and second grades, in areas where the aides were eliminated this year, class sizes are projected to range between 16.8 and 20.7 students.

But parents who advocate for additional aides in the classroom said the additional assistance isn't about class sizes, it's about providing enough support for all students and ensuring no first or second graders are left to work independently for long periods of time.

"Whether students are advanced or proficient or receiving special education services, all kids will need the assistance of adults," Traynham said. "The issue gets muddled by class sizes going down."

Traynham argues the District can pay for the teaching assistants for the elementary school classrooms now, or pay for it at the high school level when students don't have the content background they

should and aren't able to meet the college and career readiness skills the District wants them to have.

Based on what she has seen in the budget and the plans she has heard from the Superintendent, Traynham is concerned students will, at times, be working on their own for up to 60-minute blocks.

"Some will be doing worksheets or busy work, which could be stimulating for some kids, but for some, not," she said. "Learning gaps can become insurmountable when students disengage that early in the learning process. It's very difficult to get them back."

And as Common Core standards become more rigorous, Traynham said it will be even more difficult for teachers to provide a fun learning environment that meets the standards and keeps children engaged without the assistance of teaching aides.

"I think most people come here solely for the school system, and the track record the school system has is exemplary," Sloper said. "It keeps me up at night to know we have settled here, set roots in and paid higher taxes; to think education could be affected is disheartening and makes me think, what will our next move be?"

Young said he agrees that it's helpful to have additional adults in the classroom, and that the Superintendent outlined he intends to have additional professionals in the room.

"I had twins who were

in Matthew Thornton when there were classes with 30 to 33 student. My daughter had classes in the cafeteria, and the classrooms had portable blackboards. It was so crowded - there was one teacher and no aides, but we had parents who helped out in the classroom," he said. "Because of that, I do understand the importance of making sure children have adequate assistance."

The detailed plan, outlined by the Superintendent and supported by his principals, results in a ratio of almost one certified staff member to 10 students in the classroom during some portions of the day. This is accomplished by the use of reading, educational support and special education teachers, including the disciplines of math and reading, according to Young. This environment, where certified professionals are at a higher density per student, is for the entire day, "not just the one and two

hour period that we had for dedicated aides," Young said. "These numbers do not include any Special Education assistants that may be in the classroom."

Lisa St. Hilaire disagrees with Greenberg's plan, writing in a letter to School Board members that she takes issue with his opinion that support in the classroom can be met with existing personnel.

"While enrollments have in fact decreased, the average class sizes have remained fairly consistent," she said.

Since 2001, the average class size for first and second grade has ranged from 19 to 22 students, with 20 students being typical, according to data St. Hilaire obtained from the New Hampshire Department of Education.

"While class sizes have remained relatively stable, the demands we are placing on our students are growing. I see it first-hand with my daughter, who is in first grade at Matthew Thornton. Her curriculum

is noticeably more advanced from what my third grader experienced just two years ago," she wrote. "That being said, I am not against increasing the rigor of our curriculum. My concern is for our children getting the instruction they need to succeed, and I firmly believe that these assistants will play a critical role in that success."

Sloper, Traynham and St. Hilaire said they hope to motivate those who turned out to add funding for elementary teaching assistants to the budget to attend the School Board's April 21 meeting to again advocate for the teaching aides.

The discussion is tentatively on the agenda and the Board will provide time for public comment. To check the agenda for any changes, visit www.londonderry.org.

Those who cannot attend the meeting may submit comments to be read into the record during the discussion by emailing Steve Young at syoung@londonderry.org.

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY PLANNING BOARD

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH to consider the following:

A. Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments - Public Hearing:
The Town of Londonderry seeks to amend the zoning ordinance to more fully comply with NH RSA 674:58-61, Workforce Housing; provide for enhanced housing opportunities throughout Town; amend Conditional Use Permit criteria to promote project feasibility; and to carry out other associated administrative changes consistent with the 2013 Master Plan goals, **as updated by the Planning Board on April 8, 2015**. The following sections (inclusive of subsections) are proposed to be amended:

- Table of Contents
- 1.3.3 Phasing of Developments
- 2.2 Use Table
- 2.3.1 Agricultural-Residential District
- 2.3.3 Inclusionary Housing
- 2.3.4 Retention of Housing Affordability
- 2.4.5 General Standards for MUC Sub-district
- 3.4.1 Backlot Development
- 3.6 Elderly Housing
- 3.6.5 Conditional Use Permits
- 3.7 Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes
- 3.10.10 Minimum Parking and Loading Required

(The full text of the proposed can be found on the Town's web page, and is available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office, Planning and Economic Development Department, and Leach Library during regular business hours.)



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Londonderry Administrative Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 9:30 AM in the Elwood Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH to consider the following:

MINOR SITE PLAN

David Fortier (Owner) and Mila Motors (Applicant), Map 10, Lot 136 - Application Acceptance and Public Hearing for formal review of a minor site plan application to facilitate a change of use from a take-out restaurant to automotive sales at 9 Nashua Road, Zoned C-II.

2015 Mind, Body, Spirit Spring Celebration

Holistic & Psychic Fair at Hampton Beach, NH
Sat. April 25, 2015, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"Loving Life Expo" to benefit The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. The Historical Ashworth by the Sea, 295 Ocean Blvd, Hampton, NH 03842

More information at 603 321-4818
or www.lovinglifeexpo.com

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When:

Thursday, May 7th
1:00PM to 6:30PM

Where:

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\$250 FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT

To all past and present first responders (police, fire, paramedics, and military) with valid ID. Discount is off any new or pre-owned vehicle purchase. Offer is an Ira Toyota of Manchester discount and can be used in conjunction with other Toyota incentives. \$395 dealer fee additional. Offer may not be combined with any other dealer offers or discounts. Offer expires 4/30/15.



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