

Londonderry Times

March 19, 2015 ♦ Volume 16 – Issue 12

A FREE Weekly Publication



Curtain Call

The Londonderry Middle School production of “Mulan” takes the stage on March 20 at 7 p.m., with additional shows March 21 at 1 and 7 p.m. See more photos page 19. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Voters Overwhelmingly Support Hiring Four More Firefighters

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Voters in the Town’s March 10 election overwhelmingly supported Article 14, a citizen’s petition to hire four additional firefighters.

“It was very exciting to see the voters’ deci-

sion,” Fire Chief Darren O’Brien said. “This article was put together to hire additional firefighters to address the needs of the community with the influx in calls and simultaneous calls, as well as the Town’s increase in calls for mutual aid.”

O’Brien expressed con-

cern with the amount of time it will take another community to respond to an emergency in Londonderry, saying “the citizens of this Town deserve better than that,” and the Article supporting four additional firefighters is “just a stepping stone.”

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Zoning Amendments Would Address Large, Multi-Family Developments

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

An amendment to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance related to workforce housing would address issues concerning large-scale, multi-family developments.

Those large-scale workforce housing developments have been a concern to residents who consider them to be incompatible with the surrounding single-family re-

sidential neighborhood, as well as generating a high level of traffic, limiting the provisions for ensuring project feasibility and failing to effectively promote more diverse and innovative types of workforce housing that are in character with neighborhoods, Jonathan Edwards of Arnett Development Group explained in a report to the Planning Board during their March 11 meeting.

“There are a variety of ways to do multi-family workforce housing and workforce housing in general,” he said, explaining the amendment would prevent further large-scale multifamily housing developments in single-family neighborhoods.

Additionally, the amendment would merge workforce housing and general standards and procedures for Condition-

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Voters Turn Down Auditorium Costs, Next Step Uncertain

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A warrant article to fund the architecture and engineering costs for a high school auditorium has failed, leaving the decision of how to move forward with the proposed facility in the hands of the School Board.

The community voted 1,264 in favor of an auditorium, 1,791 against.

School Board Chairman Leitha Reilly said she thinks the results of the election show the timing for an auditorium wasn’t right this year.

“Maybe next year,” she said.

“I was totally taken by surprise,” Pollyann Winslow, who served on the Auditorium Committee, said of the vote.

Before moving forward with an auditorium for the community, Winslow said it will be impor-

tant to identify why the community voted as it did. And she suspects a key factor is the expense to the taxpayer.

“Obviously, people are struggling financially more than is generally understood,” she said. “I think people feel there’s value to an auditorium and there are some wonderful events and opportunities that the community would be able to experience if the auditorium was available to them; but, honestly, it may be financially a greater hardship then we recognize sometimes.”

Winslow noted that although the committee and School Board in making the proposal to the community showed there is revenue coming into the Town through development, she understands that the taxpayer “doesn’t hear the ching of the coins in the coffers yet.”

“There are a lot of

expenditures the Town needed to operate the community and this appeared to be more than the voters thought they could do,” Winslow said. “We need to get a read of the community and what they’re trying to say before we can move forward.”

Winslow said she hasn’t given up on the fact that the community needs the auditorium, but said the community has “to do things in the right time.”

“We have to be led to the right next step. We shouldn’t arbitrarily put this back on the ballot next year,” she said, not-

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Voters Approve More Firefighters, Turn Down Auditorium Study

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Although the ballots for this year's Town and School District elections didn't feature any contested races, the voters turned out to speak on several important issues presented on the Warrants last week.

Voters approved Article 14 to raise and appropriate \$263,144 to hire four additional firefighters on a staggered schedule throughout the year, increasing daily staffing levels from nine to 10 firefighters on a 24-hour basis (see story page 1); but voted down Article 9 on the school side to fund up to \$500,000 the costs of architectural and engineering professional services for construction of a community auditorium at the high school (see story page xx).

Article 14 passed with a large margin of 800 votes - 1,866 votes were cast in favor of hiring additional firefighters and 735 against; while the question of funding costs associated with the auditorium was a tighter race, with 1,791 votes against Article 9 and 1,264 votes in favor.

All incumbent candidates were re-elected in uncontested races; and with no volunteers having run for Trust Fund Trustee, the Town is in the process of filling the two open posi-

tions with write-in candidates.

The top vote-getter for the position was Ted Combes, who received three write-in votes. But Combes could not accept the position because he serves on the Budget Committee, and the Town Charter says no one may serve in more than one elected position, according to Town Clerk Sherry Farrell.

The Town is contacting five other candidates, each of whom received two write-in votes, to determine if they are interested in volunteering to fill the positions.

The top five vote-getters after Combes were Donna Andricho, John McLaughlin, Howard Bookman, James Hoolie (as it was spelled), and Robert Mahoney.

Farrell said Bookman accepted one of the positions, and she is waiting to hear back from another candidate.

All other warrant articles on the Town and School District ballots passed, including both the Town and School District's operating budgets.

Town Councilor Jim Butler was re-elected with 2,252 votes, as were School Board members Leitha Reilly and Steve Young, with 1,945 and 2,131 votes respectively.

James Hooley and Gary

Vermillion were elected to the Budget Committee with 2,112 and 2,139 votes respectively, Sherry Farrell as Town Clerk with 2,190 votes, and Carol Introne with 2,024 votes and Betsy McKinney with 2,059 votes as Leach Library Trustees.

At the polls, informational booths outside the polling location in the high school gym sparked controversy, prompting an investigation by the Attorney General's office, after the Londonderry Times went to print on March 10.

"I think they were wrong. They shouldn't have been allowed to be there," Town Councilor Tom Freda said of fire officials who were manning an information booth in the lobby of the high school gymnasium during the election. "I saw a letter from the Attorney General's Office and they said they could do it. I'm not sure the Attorney General will continue the position in that letter."

Town Manager Kevin Smith confirmed that a representative from the Attorney General's Office was at the Town's polling location on Election Day, but said he's not sure if that office will issue an opinion on complaints that were filed.

"That's up to the attorneys," said Paul Brodeur of the Attorney General's Office, who visited the polls on Election Day.

Brodeur couldn't comment on his visit, which he said was prompted by a call to his office.

"It wasn't multiple complaints, it was one call," he said.

Despite the lack of contested races, the Town saw good voter turnout, with about 18 percent of registered voters participating in the Election.

For a community Londonderry's size and considering there weren't any contested races, which are what usually bring people to the polls, it was a good turnout, Deputy Town Clerk Kathleen Donnelly said. But it could certainly be better.

Detailed results follow:

Town Article 2, Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund, to raise \$100,000 for the Maintenance Trust Fund to support repairs and maintenance to town facilities. 2,559 to 430; passed.

Town Article 3, Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget, to raise and appropriate \$28.5 million for the Town's operating expenses for FY2016. 2,029 to 917; passed.

Town Article 4, Fund Special Revenue Account, to raise and appropriate \$491,523 from the Police Outside Detail Fund to cover Police Outside Details. 2,324 to 634, passed.

Town Article 5, to raise and appropriate \$2.6 million to fund the Sewer Fund. 2,370 to 563, passed.

Town Article 6, to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for Fire Department equipment. 2,650 to 344, passed.

Town Article 7, to raise and appropriate \$500,000 for the Town's Roadway Maintenance Trust Fund and to authorize the use of \$250,000 of the June 30 Fund Balance toward the

appropriation. 2,248 to 716, passed.

Town Article 8, to raise and appropriate \$120,000 to update and rewrite the Zoning Ordinance. 2,210 to 706, passed.

Town Article 9, to establish and fund with an appropriation of \$28,000 a New GIS Capital Reserve Fund. 2,242 to 683, passed.

Town Article 10, to appropriate \$295,000 to the Capital Reserve Funds to expand cemeteries, and to replace highway heavy equipment, fire equipment and highway trucks. 2,491 to 470, passed.

Town Article 11, To raise and appropriate \$105,000 to hire one or more additional full- or part-time police officers to fulfill the functions of school resource officer. 1,696 to 1,284, passed.

Town Article 12, to discontinue the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. 2,439 to 490, passed.

Town Article 13, To authorize the Conservation Commission to purchase a 26-acre easement on Kimball Road. 2,153 to 780, passed.

Town Article 14, citizen's petition to hire four additional firefighters. 1,866 to 1,078, passed.

Town Article 15, authorization for special meeting on cost items. 2,112 to 735, passed.

Town Article 16, authorization for special meeting on cost items. 2,070 to 760, passed.

Town Article 17, authorization for special meeting on cost items. 2,063 to 754, passed.

Town Article 18, authorization for special meeting on cost items. 2,063 to 755, passed.

Town Article 19, authorization for special meeting on cost items. 2,058 to 761, passed.

School Article 2, General Fund Operating Budget, To raise and appropriate \$67,764,153 as an operating budget for the 2015-2016 school year. 2,285 to 635, passed.

School Article 3, Londonderry Education Association (LEA) Bargaining Agreement. 2,011 to 956, passed.

School Article 4, Londonderry Association of Allied Health Professionals (LAAHP) Bargaining Agreement. 2,056 to 867, passed.

School Article 5, authorization for Special Meeting on cost items. 2,055 to 828, passed.

School Article 6, School Lunch Program and Federal Fund Projects. 2,526 to 421, passed.

School Article 7, Special Article (School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund). 2,071 to 861, passed.

Article 8, Special Article - Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. 2,257 to 675, passed.

School Article 9, Auditorium Architectural and Engineering Costs, raise and appropriate \$500,000. 1,264 to 1,791, failed.

School Article 10, co-curricular and athletic stipends. 2,214 to 803, passed.

School Article 11, citizen's petition on busing. 923 to 1,966, failed.

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More Enforcement Presence Sought for Musquash Target Shooting

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Before submitting to the Town Council their recommendations for addressing target shooting on town-owned conservation properties, the Musquash Task Force will consider public input during their final meeting.

Their last meeting is scheduled for March 25 at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

The group encourages

all members of the public who are interested in the issue to attend and offer their comments.

In addition to voting in favor of holding a public meeting, the Task Force voted 3-4 to recommend in their report member Dan Watson's proposal to increase Londonderry Police and Fish and Game presence in the Musquash.

Also voting in favor of the patrols were Lt. Gordon Joudrey and member

Dana Coons.

The four-hour weekend block patrols would be focused on areas in the Musquash of particular concern with regard to target shooting.

"There's some risk with the viability of enforcing target shooting," Watson said. "But the benefits of taking actions outweigh the costs. If we target only users that engage in unlawful target shooting, I believe behavior would

be drastically reduced as the public learns of enforcement."

"I think this is a very good alternative to a total ban," said Coons, who thinks patrols by officers in the Musquash would have the same effect as patrols that target speeding in town. "Especially, if the police are in there catching people. Whether they're prosecuted or not, they would explain why their conduct is reckless and the ramifications to them if they're charged and convicted for that. It would be a heavy deterrent to the reckless shooting that goes on in there, while preserving the right of individuals who are responsible."

"But we're still not providing the tools to the police officers to go in and enforce the negligence piece," member Mike Considine said. "We need some tools the police can use to enforce what's going on out there, such as an ordinance."

"If I'm a lawful, safe shooter, I won't be worried about the police coming out there to get me," Watson said. "The people

who don't know are the ones who will be driven out."

"To determine what a nuisance shooter is, or what is safe or unsafe will be very difficult to do," Deputy Chief Gerard Dusault told the Task Force.

"We tried the education approach," Considine said. "There were bins with information on how to shoot safely in the Musquash. We did that for a year-and-a-half and target shooting has exploded out there because shooting was advertised."

"This is active control. This is different than a piece of paper on a kiosk. People will know a police officer is out there looking for them," Watson said. "This is active patrol, it's preemptive."

Considine said he has spent a great deal of time in the Musquash, informing people of safe shooting and directing them away from areas that could result in harm to a person or home, but noted the education approach wasn't successful.

"If I see an officer in uniform, I'll think twice

about how I'm going to be shooting and where I'm going to be doing it," Coons said. "There's a big difference between you and someone wearing a uniform."

Coons also expressed concern that an outright ban on target shooting will result in an increase in the number of people calling the police when they hear hunters shooting in the area.

But Considine said he's confident neighbors can tell the difference between target shooting and hunting, where hunting is one or two shots versus 50 to 100 rounds discharged at once by a target shooter.

Coons, Watson and Joudrey voted in favor of weekend-block patrols of the Musquash for a one-year period, and Considine, Randy McIntyre, Jason Breen, and Bonnie McSpirtt voted against the recommendation.

The Task Force agreed to include the recommendation in their minority report, which is to be presented to the Council by April 1.

Man Injured in 80-Foot Fall from Tree

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Fire and Police responded on March 11 at 4:24 p.m. to reports that a 40-year-old man fell approximately 80 feet from a tree on Noyes Road.

The man suffered a broken leg and was trans-

ported to the Elliot Hospital in Manchester.

In cases where there is a fall greater than double a person's height, Battalion Chief Mike McQuillen said the State has protocols that first responders follow to stabilize the patient's neck and back.

The Fire Department is unable to release the identity of the man due to privacy laws protecting the patient.

In the Police Department's record of incoming calls, the incident is described as an "industrial accident."

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

Family Medicine • 182 Rockingham Road, Suite 9
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- PROVIDER ON CALL -

WOMEN AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE (CVD)

Men have always been considered to be the most at risk for heart disease. But, you might want to take a look at the following:

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) ranks first among all disease categories in hospital discharge for women.
- Nearly 37 percent of all female deaths in America occur from CVD, which includes coronary heart disease (CHD), stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.
- In 2005, CVD claimed the lives of 454,613 females; cancer (all forms combined) 268,890.
- In 2005, coronary heart disease claimed the lives of 213,572 females compared with 41,116 lives from breast cancer and 67,894 from lung cancer.
- At age 40 and older, 23 percent of women compared with 18 percent of men will die within one year after a heart attack.
- Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability; an estimated 15 percent to 30 percent of stroke survivors are permanently disabled.

A 2003 American Heart Association study of more than 1,000 women conducted by Harris Interactive, Inc., revealed the lack of understanding women have of the dangers of heart disease and stroke. According to the results, a mere 13 percent of women in America believe that heart disease and stroke are the greatest health threat to women. This reveals the lack of knowledge and understanding a majority of women have for their most serious health threat.

- Risk of heart disease and stroke increases with age, and in the year 2006, more than 36 million American women were 55 and older.
- More women than men die of stroke.
- Low blood levels of "good" cholesterol (high density lipoprotein or HDL) appear to be a stronger predictor of heart disease death in women than in men in the over-65 age group; high blood levels of triglycerides (another type of fat) may be a particularly important risk factor in women and the elderly.
- Regular physical activity and a healthy weight

reduce the risk of non-insulin-dependent diabetes, also called type 2 diabetes, which appears to be an even stronger contributing risk factor for heart disease in women than in men.

Diagnosis of heart disease presents a greater challenge in women than in men

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Editorial

Don't Stay in the Dark

Open and transparent government – it's what the public should expect from officials at the local, state and national level, and it's what officials love to say they support. Fortunately, a bill to put more hurdles in front of Granite Staters seeking to obtain public information was tabled in this legislative session. It should never have arisen in the first place.

March 15 through 21 is National Sunshine Week, a reminder that government business conducted in the open is at the heart of a democracy. If we don't know what our officials are doing, we can't hold them accountable.

The heart of Sunshine Week is the public's Right to Know, which in New Hampshire is guided by statute – RSA 91-A. Knowledge, as the saying goes, is power. And that power is not something to be held close to the chest by politicians; it belongs to each of us.

Sunshine Week is a national effort spearheaded by the American Society of News Editors, an annual effort to promote open government. Though the week was created by journalists, it's not about newspapers. The motto of Sunshine Week is "Your Right to Know." As a citizen in a democracy, you have the right to know how your government operates, and your elected officials have the obligation, except in carefully delineated situations, to conduct their business in the open and in accordance with the will

of the people, even when that's uncomfortable.

James Madison, the father of the U.S. Constitution, wrote that "consent of the governed" requires that people be able to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." That knowledge shouldn't be hidden away, and in our participatory democracy, every citizen has a right to access government meetings and public records.

And that's the key. Keeping government transparent means newspapers must be watchdogs, ask the uncomfortable questions, get the information, and provide it in unbiased fashion to their readers. When roadblocks are thrown up, the Right to Know process is ready for everyone to use – and they should not be hampered by excessive fees or court challenges.

We know it's easier for officials to discuss public business in private, where strategies can be aired without anyone listening. But that's not the way it's supposed to work. Discussion is to be public. In a quorum. On the record.

Making it hard for the public to find out what's going on is not open government. You can criticize us for reporting things you don't want to hear, but we support the right to air that information.

Because without information, we're all in the dark. The better choice is to let the sun shine in.

Letters

Police Thanks

To the editor:

To Town Manager Kevin Smith:

I write to you with such formality as you are the titular head of our community; in your position as Town Manager, you represent the interests of the community with our elected political leadership, the Town Council. As well you implement their requirements and direction about the future of the Town of Londonderry. As such you are in the best position to communicate my thanks to both the Council and to the citizens for their support of the School Resource Officer (SRO) in the recent budget process and at the ballot yesterday.

Their trust in our ability to provide professional policing to Londonderry as reflected in the strong support for this SRO position is a visible confirmation to the men and women of this agency of the successful professional work we do every day serving the people who visit, work and live in Londonderry.

Thank you, the Council and the residents who came out to vote yesterday for your support. We will gratefully build on the confidence you have placed in us.

William Ryan Hart Jr.
Chief of Police
Londonderry

Thanks for Londonderry Times

To the editor:

I wanted to send a quick note to show you my appreciation.

We enjoy getting your paper. Every week we get

information on our community that allows us to stay involved, even though our lives are very busy. Everything from keeping the scores on our school sports, bus schedules, town meetings, local gatherings and things to do. What is happening that our neighbors want us to know, from trying to fight for their rights to keep chickens in this farm town to engagement, birth and death announcements. Controversial issues as well as informative articles and write-ups on the people trying to get voted in to our elected town positions.

The information provided is so necessary for people like me that do not have the time to find out who these people are before elections.

I have to say though, our favorite part is looking for those really cute school pictures. Checking out the "oh, hey, that's so and so...from my school. That was when we did..." Those moments open up conversations about what happened in school that day that they sometimes forget to share at dinner. This really is only something that you can get from a hometown newspaper like yours!

Having a paper like yours, in town, keeps the small town feel in this ever growing community.

Thank you so much for keeping your paper going!

Shelly Rushton
Londonderry

Historical Society Thanks

To the editor:

And the lucky winner of the Londonderry Historical Society's Voting day basket raffle is...

Jeanne Buckley!

Our Londonderry Fire Chief, Darren O'Brien, graciously agreed to pick the winning ticket just after the polls closed at 8 p.m. Thanks, Chief O'Brien!

Jeanne won gift certificates to The Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern (\$50), T-Bones & Cactus Jack's (\$25), La Carreta Restaurante Mexicano (\$25), McDonald's (\$10), a quart of Hank Peterson's maple syrup, a 1725 Rev. Morrison House mug and pumpkin scone with maple glaze, and Coffeeberries Dark Chocolate.

A big "Thank You" to all who supported the Londonderry Historical Society by purchasing raffle tickets and our delicious baked goods, coffee, hats, mugs, books, maps, shirts, and coverlets, and pizza and soda later on.

A personal thank you goes to all of the wonderful LHS members and friends of LHS who baked for us; to Romano's for donating the pizza; and to our members who came early to set up and to staff our tables.

We love the opportunity to talk with the citizens of Londonderry on voting days and we thank you all for supporting the Londonderry Historical Society and our mission to share our knowledge and preserve the history of Londonderry for generations to come. We hope that when better weather comes, you'll stop by and visit us at our Morrison House Museum property at 140 Pillsbury Road and see for yourself what Londonderry was like in earlier times!

Ann Chiampa
President
Londonderry
Historical Society

Londonderry Times

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Council Continues Hearing on Rezoning for Bistro

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council has continued a public hearing on the re-zoning of two Mohawk Drive properties for the proposed construction of an upscale wine bistro.

The Council's public hearing had been continued from its March 2 meeting after the Council learned that none of the 132 condominium owners living on adjacent properties to the proposed home of Cabonnay, Wine and Cuisine had been notified of the Planning Board's public hearing on the re-zoning.

Town Manager Kevin Smith said a certified letter announcing the public hearing was sent to and received by the property management for the condominiums, but that management failed to pass the notice along to the condominium association and abutters.

As a courtesy, town staff sent certified notices of the Council's March 16 hearing to the condominium owners who immediately about the Mohawk Drive parcels.

Councilor Tom Freda noted not one of the abutters was present at the March 2 public hearing to provide input before the Planning Board made its decision to recommend rezoning 6 and 8 Mohawk Drive from Commercial-IV to Commercial-I.

Attorney Thomas Aylesworth, who represented the condominium owners abutting the two parcels to be rezoned, said the request "has the appearance of spot zoning."

"Where the individual land owner is looking for a zoning change for a small area of land, he is not to be given special consideration just because it's helpful to him," Aylesworth said. "Is this a benefit to the community? Is there a compelling need in the community for this zoning change? I would submit to you that does not exist here."

Chairman John Farrell told Aylesworth he has spoken to the Town's attorney about spot zoning and he thinks they should "be having a different conversation about spot zoning."

"We want to do the right thing, but we're splitting hairs here," he said.

Members of the Council noted the parcels have historically been zoned Commercial-I, with the properties having been re-zoned for a previous owner to facilitate their sale.

Aylesworth said the condominium owners who about the parcels to be re-zoned, some of whom would be 90 feet from the proposed bistro, are opposed to the project, not just the re-zoning.

And he argued the benefit to the developer of rezoning the parcel is that he won't have to go to the Planning Board for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and the building height restriction would increase from 30 feet to 50 feet.

"Is that enough for a zoning change, to give him greater room to increase the building's height and lose that extra step with the Planning Board?" Aylesworth asked.

"When you did the zoning change to Commercial-IV, I think you got it right. This is residential use right on top of commercial use. This use would have a substantial adverse effect on the residential use of this area."

The proposed bistro is to be housed in a long, townhome-style structure with a brick façade, featuring a courtyard inside and an upstairs gallery that would accommodate large groups and additionally serve as an art gallery.

In order to establish upscale gardens on the property, which are part of Windham developer Cornelius de Jong's concept for the restaurant, the design for the site takes advantage of setbacks on the property and features a curved design for the parking lot that increases green space.

De Jong said to take advantage of the setbacks, the property must be re-zoned from Commercial-IV to Commercial-I.

De Jong maintains his dream is to develop the property into an upscale, restful oasis with landscaping unparalleled at other commercial properties in town.

"There's not a single commercial parcel that will be built this well," he said. "Everything we're doing is saying, 'how can we make this better, not worse.'"

De Jong said "the palpable tension" with his neighbors "is disheartening," and the project is privately funded and "very personal" to him.

"I'm a community

member, I'm not some big group moving in," he said. "When you vote, you're not voting for or against me, or for or against the abutter. This is about voting for Londonderry."

De Jong noted the parcels were zoned Commercial-I for decades and are unique, difficult lots to develop.

"This is not a restaurant, this is a very personal, elegant, high-end, restful place, with world-class landscaping that's far superior to any other landscaping for any commercial lot in town," he said. "This is not a developer's solution for the property because a developer wouldn't do what I'm proposing."

De Jong said he has heard people call his proposed bistro a saloon.

"I will be obtaining an alcohol license for wine and beer," he said. "I could pursue a hard liquor license, but every single thing that has been proposed has been for an elegant space you can bring your family to, with food service being incidental. It's not going to be a crazy kitchen environment, this will be high quality, chef prepared, Farm to Table food. This is not a big restaurant moving to a corner lot."

"My company has been dealing with properties like this and that would be more of a fairly failed property, so far," local developer Richard Flier of Isabella Drive said. "In the past, we have never dreamed of having this kind of use going to a property like that. The fact that someone wants to beautify the property like that, I would think the abutters would welcome this."

Flier noted height restrictions for future development of the property can be put in place "if the right documents are put together."

"I think that given all the uses around it, this would be much more compatible than any other uses around the property. We're talking about a much more quality atmosphere. This would be protecting the houses. I think the abutters should think much harder about this project before opposing it."

Abutter Sharon Reed of 77 Granite St., told the Council she and her neighbors don't oppose de Jong's opening his business, they just think it would be better suited to another location.

"I think this is a great dream and a great vision,"

she said. "It's definitely somewhere I would frequent if it wasn't in my front yard."

Reed noted the restaurant, which would accommodate 60 people, will generate a significant increase in traffic and operate until 11 p.m., creating a disruption to neighbors who work night shifts and have young children.

"What happens if this restaurant fails?" she asked. "What goes in next? The businesses around us operate until 9 p.m., 10:30 p.m. at the latest. And I have worked in a restaurant, I know that 11 p.m. close doesn't mean the business shuts down at 11 p.m. We have a nurse who gets up at 4 a.m., we don't need a business open to 11 p.m. I hope the Council considers this before they make a zoning change."

A previous proposal for a medical center was satisfactory to the neighbors, as business hours would have been limited to weekdays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Council noted a future permitted use for the parcel under the Commercial-I zoning would be a fast-food restaurant with a drive-thru window.

Continued on page 8

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LHS PTSO, International Club Host Recycling Fundraiser

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) and the International Club will host their second annual Recycling Fundraiser on

March 28.

The drive-thru recycling station at the high school's main parking lot will collect unwanted electronics including computers, televisions, air conditioners, phones, digital cameras, printers, and

dehumidifiers.

A portion of the fees for recycled items will go to the PTSO and International Club.

"People don't even have to get out of their car. They can just drive up with their items,"

PTSO Volunteer Coordinator Doreen Stubbs said. "A portion of the money we raise from the event is set aside for student scholarships, and the rest goes into the general account. Some of that might be used for staff appreciation or for teacher grants. Teachers who are members of the PTSO can request funding for resources to be used in the classroom that they have tried other ways to obtain funding for."

The International Club uses their funds to host International Night, a fundraising event for Heifer International, a non-profit that helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty.

The Club's International Night, which features musical performances, dancing, food and even a kids' corner with face painting, raised enough money last year to allow

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

"They teach them how to build the well and maintain it," International Club Advisor Donna Chisholm said. "Our thought was, if you don't have water, you don't have anything. We wanted to start with the basics."

"It's nice to give back," Club President Nicole Calhoun, a senior, said of the fundraiser and serving with the International Club.

"Heifer International is unique because it allows

you to choose the animal to send and (the recipient) makes a deal that they will give the first female goat born to someone else in the community and teach them to care for it and get milk," Vice President Abby Espallat said.

The recycling fundraiser for the PTSO and International Club will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., rain or shine.

All items will be recycled through Recycle USA. For a complete list of acceptable items for drop-off, visit Recycle USA online at www.recycleusa-llc.com/.

Federal Grand Jury Indicts Local Man in Wife's Shooting

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A federal grand jury indicted Gregory Owens of Londonderry last week for charges related to a Maine home invasion in which he is alleged to have shot his wife and the homeowner.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Owens, 58, on Jan. 11 for crossing state lines with the intent to kill or injure his wife, Rachel Owens,

on Dec. 18, 2014. He was charged with Interstate Domestic Violence and Discharging a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence.

The shooting occurred shortly after a woman Owens was having an affair with in Wisconsin threatened to publicly reveal their relationship unless he ended his marriage, according to court documents.

Both victims underwent surgery and requir-

ed extensive care; both survived.

Owens faces up to 20 years in prison and/or a fine up to \$250,000 for the Interstate Domestic Violence charge and up to life in prison for Discharging a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence, a Class A felony.

He is scheduled to be arraigned on March 18 at 10 a.m., according to Maine Prosecutor Darcie McElwee.

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Jaimie Orlosk and Adam Johnson

Scott and Verne Orlosk of Londonderry announce the engagement of their daughter, Jaimie, to Adam Johnson, son of David and Debby Johnson of Robinston, Maine.

The bride-to-be graduated from Londonderry High School in 2007 and earned a bachelor's degree in marine science from Boston University. She works as a veterinary technician in coastal Maine.

The groom-to-be received his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Maine and his master's degree from Southern New Hampshire University. He works as an industrial engineer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

A September 2015 wedding is planned on Peak's Island, Maine.

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Democrats Discuss Ongoing Political Efforts at Annual Brunch

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Democrats discussed the future of their party and ongoing political efforts at their annual Holiday Homecoming Brunch last weekend.

The brunch, held at the Coach Stop in Londonderry, was originally scheduled for Jan. 24, but had to be postponed to March 14 due to a snowstorm.

In a letter recognizing the Homecoming Brunch,

Gov. Maggie Hassan thanked members for their support and “tireless efforts to continue to make it possible to achieve real progress for the people of New Hampshire.”

“Because of these efforts, our economy is stronger and our private sector has recovered all of the jobs lost in recession,” she wrote. “We restored higher education funding, helping to freeze in-state tuition at our university system, and reduced tui-

tion at our community colleges, making higher education more affordable and more accessible to all Granite Staters, and we passed a bipartisan transportation funding plan to strengthen and modernize our transportation infrastructure.”

“We’re a party that stands for ‘we,’” guest speaker Chris Pappas, who represents Londonderry on the State’s Executive Council, said in addressing the party’s

fight to preserve the Affordable Care Act and to raise the minimum wage. “We believe we’re stronger as a state when we fight for the minimum wage because we feel we could lift people in the state out of poverty by raising the minimum wage.”

Pappas also discussed the importance of investing in education and infrastructure, and the ongoing efforts of the party to earn back seats that were lost in the last election.

“There were a lot of tough losses across the State in the last election,” said Ian Moskowitz, New Hampshire Democratic Party political director. “Our job is to determine what we need to do. We believe it’s neighbor to neighbor conversations that are going to help us take back the Senate and the State House.”

Tammy Siekmann, chairman of the Londonderry Democrats, said the Town “had a really good slate of candidates in the last election,” noting Gary Vermilion was re-elected to the Budget Committee in the Town’s March 10 election, and Ted Combes, who also serves on the Budget



Londonderry Democrats Chairman Tammy Siekmann presents Andy Mack Sr. with an award recognizing his support of the party.

Photo by Kaitlyn G. Woods

Committee, was recently elected National Committeeman of the New Hampshire Young Democrats.

Also recognized at the brunch was Andy Mack Sr., for his ongoing support of the Democratic Party and its candidates.

“Andy Mack Sr. has always been a strong supporter, opening his doors to candidates for ice cream and apples - and

famously, even the President of the United States. We appreciate the many signs you have put up and you have always been helpful getting the word out,” Siekmann said.

“I take pride in knowing you and think you’re a great model for other businesses,” Pappas told Mack.

“I’m happy to be part of an honest effort,” Mack said.



Book Fair

The South Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) set up its annual Book Fair last week, allowing children the chance to browse some of their favorite stories. Aidan Calusdian checks out a possible book purchase, left, while above, a group of shoppers try their luck at guessing the number of shells in a fishbowl to win a book. Photos by Chris Paul



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Council Give Pipeline Company OK to Survey Town Properties

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council voted 5-0 to grant Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company permission to survey town-owned properties within the study corridor for a proposed pipeline route, while a resident voiced concerns regarding the impact the pipeline will have on the community.

"I'm asking you to hold forums on the project and community meetings," Chuck Fuller of 42 Elwood Road said. "Many other communities have scheduled these types of meetings already. I don't want to see the Town wait too long to have our fate decided by a federal regulatory commission without our voice in it at all."

Fuller noted the Town of Troy recently voted on petition warrant articles

related to concerns with how the project will affect individual property rights, the potential diverse effects on health and safety, the Town's lack of equipment and personnel to address emergencies related to the pipeline and the potential threat the pipeline poses to groundwater.

"I believe by not participating early, it would hurt the Town," Fuller said.

The Council informed Fuller that representatives for Kinder Morgan attended a previous Council meeting and presented their plan, and the energy company additionally hosted an open house at the high school for members of the community to gather more information about the project, both previously reported by the Londonderry Times,

Kinder Morgan has started the pre-filing process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and is now holding open houses to discuss the project, as required.

The preferred route for the 36-inch natural gas pipeline would cross into New Hampshire from Massachusetts, cutting through 17 communities, including Londonderry, before leaving through Pelham.

Most of the 2.5 mile route through Londonderry is located in the Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) power line right-of-way.

The corridor through which Kinder Morgan is considering as the route for the pipeline enters Londonderry at the Litchfield town line near Morway Drive, running along the PSNH power lines, across the West Road fields, and heading southeast past Elwood Orchards into Hudson.

Kinder Morgan Vice President of Public Affairs Allen Fore said at a Feb. 18 open house at the high school that 39 landowners

in Londonderry are included in the 400-foot study corridor.

Town Manager Kevin Smith confirmed most of the properties that will be affected are owned by the Town and utilities.

"Each of those property owners will get a private consultation with our land surveyors about the survey process. Through the survey process, we are able to learn more about the property and ways we may adjust construction. The earlier the discussions, the better," Fore said.

If a landowner does exercise the right to refuse the survey, Fore said Kinder Morgan's team would do its best to survey the land from abutting properties and records of the land that are available.

Town Attorney Mike Ramsdell advised the Council that signing the form to consent to Kinder Morgan's survey does not express support for the project. The form only gives the energy company the right to inspect and survey the land.

If the company obtains

its state and federal approvals, construction could begin in the spring of 2017, with the pipeline in service by the winter of 2018.

Over the next several months of the pre-filing process, Kinder Morgan will hold several open houses and public meetings to discuss the project.

Councilor Tom Dolan told Fuller the Town has some experience dealing with the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission (FERC), dating back to the installation of a pipeline that runs from south to north in town.

"This doesn't mean it's all positive news, but it's something that is not groundbreaking for us," he said.

Chairman John Farrell recommended the Council hold one or two public hearings to inform citizens of what's coming.

Bistro

Continued from page 5

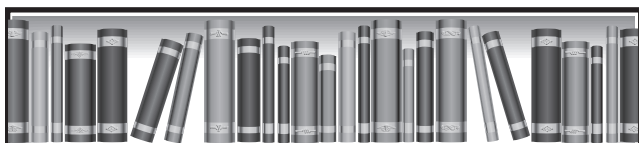
Other permitted uses in a C-I zone include limited services motor vehicle, retail, professional office, and repair services.

The most recent inquiry for this site was an automotive repair shop, according to Town Planner Cynthia May.

Planning Board Chairman Art Rugg told the Council the Commercial-

IV zone is relatively new, and condominiums have abutted Commercial-I properties for most of their existence.

"We will speak with the Town Attorney and get an opinion on what we can and can't do with regard to re-zoning," Farrell said. "We will not move with haste, and try to get all the answers and make the right decision. We want to make sure all the facts are available to everyone."



Marie's Corner

February and March are exciting months for those of us in the library world. It is during these months that the American Library Association posts its list of the best children's books for 2015. Please follow the link below to view the ALA's notable book list for 2015

www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb

Please follow the link below to view the Newbery and Caldecott Award winners and honors of 2015. As you know, the Newbery Award is given to the author of a young adult book. The Caldecott Award is given to the illustrator of a children's book.

www.ala.org/alsc/2015-ac-book-media-award-winners

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"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." - Emilie Buchwald

Be talking to you soon,
Marie

Marie A. Parker,
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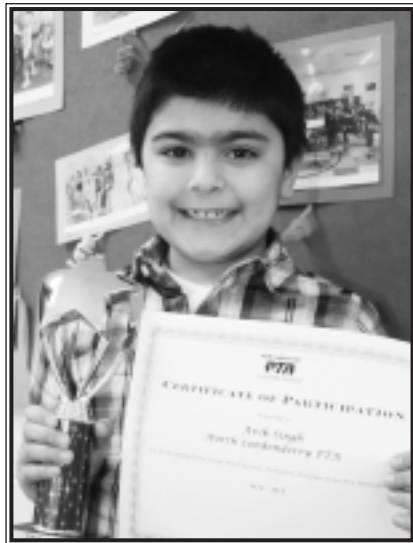
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Local Artwork Heads to National Reflections Judging



Kylie Harrison, Moose Hill



Avik Singh, North School



Hayley Santor, North School

Five area youngsters will see their creative work sent on to national judging in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Reflections contest. Reflections is a national arts program sponsored by the PTA for preschool through grade 12.

Local students whose work received First Place in the state judging and will go on to national competition, are:

- Derry – Jeffrey Velez, music, "A Better Time, A Better Place," Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, and Branden Yorke, visual arts, "Forgiveness," East Derry Memorial Elementary School.

- Londonderry – Hayley Santor, special artist, photography, "The World Would Be Better If...", North Elementary School; Avik Singh, visual arts, "Be Kind to Others," North School; and Kylie Harrison, film, "I Wish I Had a 'Pegacorn,'" Moose Hill Kindergarten.

Several other local stu-

dents received state honors in the program, as follows:

- Derry, second place – Rebecca King, music, Derry Village Elementary School; and Katelynn Goy, film, West Running Brook Middle School.

- Derry, third place: Alessia Diamantopoulos, film, Derry Village School; and Yazlin Pena, film, West Running Brook Middle School.

- Derry, honorable mention – Maura Covino, visual arts, East Derry Memorial Elementary School; Nathen Yorke, visual arts, East Derry Memorial School; Ashleigh Lemay, visual arts, Ernest P. Barka Elementary School; Alyssa Rzasa, visual arts, Derry Village School; Monique Gingras, visual arts, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School; Samantha Murray, visual arts, South Range Elementary School; Rebecca King, photography, Derry Village School;

- Londonderry, second

place: Hayley Santor, special artist, photography, North School; Katia Chylinski, music, North School; and Alex Harrison, film, Matthew Thornton School.

- Londonderry, third place: Meghan Moore, special artist, visual arts, South Elementary School; Donovan Chylinski, music, North School; Sarah DeFazio, visual arts, Matthew Thornton Elementary School; Gloria LeBlanc, photography, Moose Hill; and Andrew Zavorotny, photography, South School.

- Londonderry, honorable mention: William Garity, special artist, visual arts, Moose Hill; Elizabeth Roy, literature, South School; and Linsey Gregoire, photography, North School;

- Sandown, honorable mention – Lauren Violette, photography.

The state PTA Reflections exhibit, featuring 314 entries, took place Wednesday, March 11, at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School. Thir-

ty-one PTAs statewide participated this year, according to Sally Bertrand, New Hampshire PTA Reflections chair. They submitted more than 1,200 entries covering the categories of literature, musical composition, dance choreography, visual arts, photography, and film production. This year's theme was "The world would be a better place if..."

All first-place entries go on to national judging, the results of which will be announced in May.

Wedding Announcement

Marisa and David MacLean



Marisa Virginia Johnson of Londonderry and David Chute MacLean of Conway were married Nov. 1, 2014 at the Bedford Village Inn in Bedford, with a reception following.

The bride, daughter of Michael and Jeanette Johnson of Londonderry, graduated from Londonderry High School in 2006. She graduated magna cum laude from Plymouth State University in 2010 with a degree in Criminal Justice, and is employed at Flynn Law Group in Boston.

The groom, son of Julie Chute of Nashua and David MacLean Sr. of Conway, graduated from Kenett High School in 2006. He graduated from Plymouth State University in 2010 with a degree in Music Technology, and is employed at High Output, Inc., in Canton.

Kristen Johnson was Maid of Honor for her sister. Bridesmaids were Alicia Garside, Jamie Lamarre, Emily Marks, Kelly McCusker, Krystal Morin, Jillian Petruzzello, Krista Selig and Amanda Teneriello.

Best Man was Jake McKenzie.

Groomsmen were Nick Johnson, brother of the bride, and Neil Elwood, Mark Gelsomini, Jordan Richardson, James Selig and DJ Spinelli.

After a honeymoon trip to the Dominican Republic, the bride and groom live in Norwood, Mass.

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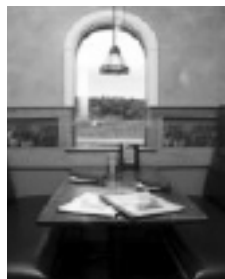
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Auditorium

Continued from page 1

ing it wouldn't be right to force the expense on the taxpayer. "That's not the way to treat the residents of our community."

State Rep. Al Balasaro, R-Londonderry, who serves as chairman of the Town's Elder Affairs Committee and has heard concerns from seniors in town who say they may have to move if taxes continue to increase, voiced concerns over the impact the auditorium would have on those living on fixed incomes.

"I don't think the Town should move forward with the project until more debt is paid off," he said. "There are people who are hurting now. The private sector isn't getting raises and their pay can't support the tax rates going up. I'm not opposed to an auditorium, I think it's a great idea. I would just prefer to see the Town pay off more debt instead of keep borrowing."

School District Busi-

ness Administrator Peter Curro said the District still thinks the auditorium would enhance programs, such as the arts, as well as serve many educational purposes.

"It's up to the School Board to decide if they want to bring back the whole proposal as it is, or go back and have the study committee consider problems brought up in Deliberative Session, like parking, and make some changes if they can," he said. "My guess would be they will probably take a year off to regroup and determine what we can do and what we should do. Bringing back something next March isn't out of the question, it's just a matter of do they want to do something that fast or do they want to wait a bit."

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which provides accreditation for the high school, has mentioned the auditorium/performance space issue for 40 years, according to NEASC Steering Commit-

tee Co-Chair Steven Juster, a teacher at Londonderry High School.

"As a refurbished middle school, NEASC gave us time to upgrade the facility. We have added the gym/field house, high school level science classrooms and library. In that time, all the Class L schools in the state now have auditoriums or dedicated performance spaces/stages. Except us," Juster wrote in an email.

"On the Five-Year NEASC Progress Report, submitted March 1 of this year, the auditorium issue was one of their 'highlighted recommendations,' which means they ask for a detailed response as to why it has not been completed," Juster said. "They expect that as our next step to being a high school facility. People can say the economy is down, or we have a population of elderly (fixed income) or unemployed or underemployed people; but, NEASC can see that every other town has similar aspects of their population, and every high school of our size has an auditorium space. Forty years of a slow economy is not valid. This is why they have highlighted this recommendation in the

report. They expect us to complete a high school facility."

It's possible NEASC will decide the District's formation of the Auditorium Committee and the study that was completed is satisfactory until the Pre Self-Study report, which they will ask for in two years. Or NEASC may decide that the District is deficient in the School Resources Standard because the high school doesn't have a facility yet, according to Juster.

At that point, the school may not be accredited until the issue is resolved, which can affect how colleges view Londonderry High students applying to their school.

"Colleges may just see the school's name on the list of schools with deficiencies and decide, by the standards of NEASC, an independent auditing system, that the education is deficient," Juster said. "NEASC may decide, since the results of the vote were not in the report, to renew our accreditation and ask for a progress report from us in the next year or two to determine our continued progress with the highlighted recommendation. We will not know for a few

months, when they respond to our Five-Year Progress Report."

The last time the School District considered an auditorium was in 2005, when a study committee received seed money for architectural renderings and presented a large facility the size of Pinkerton Academy's performance center, according to Curro.

"Based on the size and scope, it was estimated it would cost around \$17 million to build the auditorium as it had been proposed," he said. "It never went to vote."

"I think we need to have a discussion around it," School Board member John Laferriere said. "I know everyone did a lot of work and I think it was good work. We're in a position now where if we chose to revisit it, a lot of the base work was done. The \$500,000 was to go to the next step of a shovel-ready plan and getting the total costs to build it to go to bond if we chose to do it. I believe the voters have spoken and I do realize everything has gone up and we had some other pressing issues on the Town side, with the Fire Department and employment negotiations

this year. We have to understand where the Town is at as a whole."

Laferriere noted his primary concern is the cost of money, as he expects it will only become more expensive to bond the project in the future. He added that perhaps there should be a conversation about what can be done to bring the cost of the auditorium down to something that is more palatable to the voters, such as fundraising by the subcommittee.

"We had a good, solid committee. Tony (DeFrancesco) did a lot of work, and we only spent \$30,000 total," Laferriere said. "In my opinion, that was money well spent. We got a lot of information that was there to inform voters and give an understanding of what the costs would be. All the groundwork was done for a shovel ready plan, it was presented and the Town said we don't need this right now."

Whether or not the Board should revisit the plan or bring it back to the voters next year, that's a discussion the Board has to have, according to Laferriere.

"I think the best option is to explore all the options," he concluded.



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Beautify Londonderry, Anti-Littering Advisory Merge, Seek Volunteers

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Anti-Littering Advisory Committee has merged with Beautify Londonderry to offer the community a

more cohesive spring cleanup campaign.

"There has always been a lot of confusion about the Roadside Pride and Beautify Londonderry Town Cleanup events,

and both are essentially doing the same thing," Beautify Londonderry Chairman Kerri Stanley said. "We decided it's in the best interest to merge the two groups."

In total, Beautify Londonderry now has about a dozen volunteers working to organize and execute the spring cleanup events, which will kick off with Roadside Pride on the last

two Saturdays in April.

On April 18 and April 25, residents are encouraged to participate in the anti-littering campaigns by volunteering to pick up roadside litter. Event coordinators will be at the high school gymnasium between 9 a.m. and noon on both days distributing supplies and giving instructions on which roads need attention.

No advance notice of participation is required.

Following Roadside Pride, the Beautify Londonderry Town Cleanup will be held on May 2-3. Residents who would like to participate should contact Stanley by email at beautifylondonderry@comcast.net or by phone at 860-9369 to discuss a project that would improve the Town.

Projects range from cleaning up litter along the road to landscaping public spaces by laying mulch, weeding and planting flowers.

"We provide all the flowers, mulch, gloves and equipment people need," Stanley said. "We just need people to call ahead of time to say how many people are in their group, where they will be working and what they plan to do. We leave the bags with everything they need."

And for those who are unsure of how they can help, member Maureen Pauwels said there are many recommendations for projects around town from which volunteers may choose.

In addition to seeking participants in the upcoming town cleanup, Beautify Londonderry is in need of volunteers to serve on the subcommittee to help plan the event. Meetings are held between February and June. Those who are interested in serving on the committee or serving as a sponsor of the committee's efforts should contact Stanley.

Farrell Appointed Town Council Chairman

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council voted 5-0 Monday night to appoint Councilor John Farrell as chairman and Councilor Jim Butler as vice chairman, before approving several other appointments to positions with the Town.

After brief interviews with a handful of applicants for three open positions on the Elder Affairs Committee, the Council agreed to postpone a vote to fill two open positions and one alternate position on the Committee.

In hopes of extending the opportunity to serve to all the applicants, the Council asked the Town Manager to look into whether or not the number of positions on the Committee is restricted.

The Council did, however, reappoint to full membership Bonnie Ritvo, whom Councilor Joe Green, Council Liaison to the Committee, recommended as "a very active, important member" of the Elder Affairs Committee.

Candidates for the remaining seats on the Board are Dolores Stoklosa of 6 Kelley Road,

Tammy Siekmann of 89 Hovey Road, Doug Thomas of 143 Mammoth Road and its current chairman, State Rep. Al Baldasaro of Hall Road.

In their interviews, candidates agreed that assisted living and affordable housing for seniors in town are the most pressing issues the Elder Affairs Committee faces.

Siekmann, who cares for her elderly father, said he had to go to Derry for assisted living because there was none available in Londonderry.

"The elderly need assisted living, but also affordable living," Thomas said, noting the Committee should also focus on the impact increased expenses at the Town and State level are having on seniors living on fixed incomes.

"We have affordable housing, but it's not affordable for seniors," Stoklosa agreed.

Green also recommended Stoklosa as a member of the Committee, saying she took on issues with the Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART), doing a lot of her own research, and is passion-

ate about her work with the group.

In his interview with the Council during their March 2 meeting, Baldasaro said he would be happy to step down if the Council has more applicants than seats on the Committee so that it may benefit from new ideas and perspectives.

The Council also voted 4-0-1 to appoint Sherry Farrell deputy tax collector and town clerk; and to appoint Kathleen Donnelly tax collector and deputy town clerk.

Farrell abstained from voting as Sherry Farrell is his wife.

Town Manager Kevin Smith said in a town the size of Londonderry, it's not uncommon for the Tax Collector and Town Clerk to serve as one another's deputies.

In other business:

- The Council voted 5-0 to approve the expenditure of \$2,530 from the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund for winter maintenance at Town Hall, the Police Department, the Leach Library and the Cable Access Studio.

- The Council voted 5-0 to approve the expenditure of \$3,760 from the Vehicle Expendable Maintenance Trust to purchase equipment to outfit the Police Department's 2013 F-250 pick-up truck with blue emergency lights, a siren and a speaker so that the vehicle may be used as an emergency vehicle.

- The Council voted 5-0 to re-appoint Steve Young of 7 Fiddler's Ridge Road and Elizabeth LaRocca of 45 Winding Pond Road to the Manchester Airport Authority.

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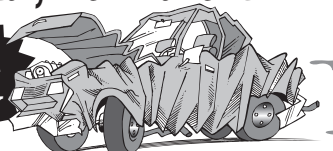
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Londonderry Destination Imagination Team Advances to State

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Thanks to their stand-out performance at the Destination Imagination (D.I.) Regionals competition last weekend, Londonderry High School's D.I. team will advance to the State Finals.

The team will square off against other finalists for a chance to compete with teams from around the world at D.I.'s Global competition.

"They did awesome in their long-term Improv challenge, and they also did extremely well in the Instant Challenge," the team's manager, Craig Plevinsky, said in an email.

D.I. is a competition that challenges students in a variety of tasks testing a wide range of skills. Scoring is based on each team's performance of an instant challenge, which

is assigned on the spot during competition; as well as their presentation of a challenge prepared beforehand.

The prepared challenge is performed in front of an audience, while the instant challenge is completed in private and teams are not allowed to talk about their challenge to anyone except one another and their team manager until after Globals.

For their prepared challenge, Londonderry's team chose the Improv challenge, in which they performed three, two-minute skits, each of which included elements they were assigned from a list they had selected beforehand, as well as elements assigned at random related to the location the skit had to take place and the scenario.

After only one minute to prepare, the team per-

formed their skits before the appraisers and an audience of about 30 people.

"During the challenge, they handed us a slip of paper with all the elements we need to include," said Evan Plevinsky, a junior, who has been competing in D.I. since fourth grade. "We actually don't plan for anything ahead of it and go with the flow."

Several members of the team have experience performing with their school's Drama Club, which is an advantage, according to Plevinsky.

"This team I feel is a lot better at the improv," Trevor Melanson, a freshman, who has been competing in D.I. since first grade, said before Regionals, noting there is a high level of trust among members of the group, who have been friends for a number of years.

Other members of the team are Andrew Marsden, a junior, who has been competing since middle school; and Duncan Campbell, who is competing in DI for the first time this year.

"Experience in front of a crowd definitely helps you go with the flow and forget everyone is watching you," Plevinsky said.

And the teen found his experience with the Drama Club especially useful during a performance where an appraiser dropped his stopwatch and called for the team to stop. Plevinsky froze where he was standing, his hand glued to his head mid-scene, then jumped right back into his performance when instructed to carry on.

"I've never seen that happen before. It's very out of the ordinary," said Craig Plevinsky, who has served as an appraiser for D.I. competition. "The whole room and appraisers were amazed by Evan's reaction, or lack thereof (freezing)."

Plevinsky said the team "did a stellar job" and that "they have a really good chance of moving on to the prestigious Global Finals in Tennessee."

All teams that finished in the top tier of their challenge and age group at Regionals, including



After a standout performance at the Destination Imagination State Finals, Londonderry High School's D.I. team members Trevor Melanson, Team Manager Eric Melanson, Team Manager Craig Plevinsky, Andrew Marsden, Duncan Campbell, Evan Plevinsky, clockwise from left, will compete at the State Finals on March 28. Courtesy photo

Londonderry's team, will advance to the New Hampshire Destination Imagination State Finals on March 28 in Hampton. The top finishing teams at the State competition will earn an invitation to the Global Finals in May.

In addition to the high school team, Londonderry Middle School's Creature Feature technical team will advance to the State Finals. The team came in first place at the

Regionals in Kingston. The middle school's "Feary Tales" teams tied for third place, and elementary school teams finished third in "Making Waves," and ninth, 14th and 15th place in the "Feary Tales" challenge.

Londonderry also had two noncompetitive teams in kindergarten through second grade showcase their skills in the "Animal Mish Mash" challenge.

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—LONDONDERRY SPORTS—

Lancer Girls Repeat as Division One Basketball Champions

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High Lady Lancers captured the Division I championship for the second year in a row.

Coach Nick Theos' troop capped off its superb 2014-15 campaign by besting the upstart, ninth-ranked Winnacunnet High Lady Warriors 48-33 in front of a large, vocal crowd in the championship battle at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester on Friday night, March 13.

The seacoast squad had knocked number eight Manchester Memorial, top-seeded Bedford, and then fifth-ranked Pinkerton Academy out of title contention in its three previous tourney contests.

But the Lady Lancers would have no part of playing the upset victim of Winnacunnet.

After posting a 16-2 regular season record and defeating number 15 Exeter, seventh-seeded Nashua North, and third-ranked Manchester Central in its three previous tourney games, the local contingent won every quarter of the title game in delivering the third state championship in the girls' hoop program's history.

"I knew we could compete," said Theos after



LHS senior cager Noelle Lambert had a tight grip on the D-I title trophy after her team repeated last week. Her teammate Rebekah Carroll looks on.

the title victory, when asked if he thought his 2014-15 crew could repeat. "We're deep, and I knew that I could put every kid in there with confidence that they could get the job done. And that's huge."

Londonderry came into the championship contest having won seven consecutive games and 17 of its last 18 D-I games, with just one divisional loss since before Christmas. And the Lady

Lancers bounced coach Cassie Turcotte's Lady Warriors by a 58-47 tally in regular season play at LHS at the end of January.

In the championship contest against Winnacunnet, Londonderry held leads of 10-8 after one quarter, 27-18 at halftime, and 35-24 going into the fourth period. The Lady Lancers put the final touches on their second straight D-I championship by outscoring the opponent by a 13-9 margin dur-

ing the final eight minutes of play.

Senior forward Tara Burke - a Londonderry resident who attended Lawrence (Mass.) Academy during her first two years of high school before coming home to LHS for her junior and senior years and two hoop titles - picked up a good amount of the slack for the injured junior low post stalwart Ashley Berube, who was lost to a knee injury in opening-round tourney play against Exeter. Burke finished with a game and team-high 11 points as well as six rebounds.

Junior point-guard Jackie Luckhardt did masterful work of running the Lady Lancers' offense, scoring seven points, hauling down a team-high 11 rebounds, dishing out nine assists, and snagging six steals.

Senior guard Jenna Conroy - who occupied a seat on the LHS bench for every one of its games in the 2013-14 championship season due to a knee injury - played a significant role in the Winnacunnet win by netting eight clutch points in eight min-

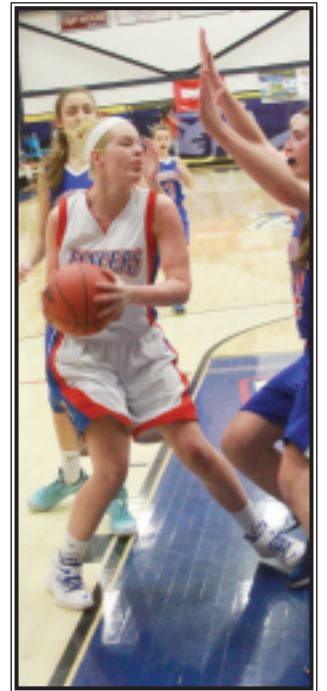
utes of court time.

"This is just amazing," she said amid the post-game celebrations. "It feels so great to be a part of it and to know that I contributed."

The two-time state champs also received eight points and five rebounds from sophomore guard Kelsey Coffey, who has now played two seasons of high school varsity basketball and won two state titles.

"It's amazing to be able to play with girls who are this good," she said. "I knew we could win again this year, we'd just have to work harder. And it worked out."

Senior swing-player Brittany Roche, who nailed memorable and clutch shots in the 2013-14 title team's semifinal and final victories last winter, didn't have an exceptional effort in this year's championship game, with a modest output of five points and the recurrence of a back injury during the second half. But she was a key contributor to the LHS cause throughout the season and a significant reason for the repeat success of the



Senior Tara Burke looks for her shot during the D-I title game.

2014-15 Lady Lancers.

Asked if playing a Winnacunnet High Lady Warriors' contingent that had already bested three higher-seeded opponents in the tourney had been the subject of pre-game conversation, Roche responded, "We just knew we'd have to put in our best effort today, no matter who the opponent was."

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LHS Spirit Squad Takes Third at State Championships

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

As a product of the successful Pinkerton Academy spirit program, Londonderry High School coach Becki Barden would love nothing more than to have her Lancers begin to enjoy even a modicum of the success the PA squads have

been having for years now. And Barden's bunch may well have taken a step in that direction Sunday, March 15, when it finished third out of eight teams at the New Hampshire Division I spirit championships at Pinkerton in Derry.

The Lancers qualified for the title round of the

big event by placing sixth overall in preliminary-round competition at PA a week earlier. And on the day in the finals, the LHS contingent tallied a team score of 97.9 to finish behind only the Dover High Green Wave (103.4) and the host Lady Astros (107.6).

"We believed top three

to be a very real possibility from the start of the season," said Barden, who was assisted by Chelsea Murfitt. "You never really know what the other teams will bring, so we are only targeting improvement. This team understands that it takes hard work, lots of focus, and practice to better themselves. They put their time in, worked together, and pushed to improve at every prac-

tice, so we would've been proud of them for their accomplishments this season whether or not their placement showed it."

It was veteran Pinkerton coach - and Barden mentor - Michelle McCarthy's charges' sixth consecutive winter title and the 20th in PA spirit program history.

As a result of its success, the Londonderry squad has also qualified to compete at the New

England regional championships at Lawrence (Mass.) High School on Saturday, March 21.

The Londonderry High team's athletes include Becca St. Pierre, Meghan Evangelista, Dennis Bishop, Holly Alix, Jessica Brien, Megan Butler, Corinne Dubois, Erin Kelly, Kelly McEachern, Taylor Mellinger, Ally Morris, Cassie Stuart, Julia Thorpe, Mariah White, and Lauren Zins.



The Londonderry High varsity spirit squad surprised some folks when they claimed third place at the D-I championships in Derry last weekend.



Spirit was in abundance last Sunday when the LHS varsity spirit crew took third at the state championship meet. Photos by Chris Paul

Lancer Track Star Ortiz Third at National Event in NYC

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School senior track and field star Starlin Ortiz capped off his excellent indoor career last Saturday, March 14, by finishing third in the pen-

tathlon at the 2015 New Balance National Indoor Track and Field Championships at The Armory in New York City.

The Lancer standout competed against top high school track stars from across the nation in

the five-event competition and tallied 3,584 points to wind up third.

Ortiz, who has been one of LHS Lancer coach Matt Smith's top scoring weapons in both indoor and outdoor track and field over the last few years, tied for first places in the long jump with a top effort of 22 feet, 1 1/2

inches, and in the high jump with a top performance of 6'4 1/4."

The 12th grader also snagged a second place in the 60-meter hurdles (time of 8.23 seconds), seventh place in the shot put (37'8 3/4"), and 10th in the 1,000-meter run (3 minutes, 08.58 seconds).

Ortiz had continued

his superb 2014-15 winter season on Feb. 28 by placing third in the high jump at the 28th annual New England Interscholastic Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury, Mass.

He managed a top jump of six feet and seven inches that day to wind up with his third place.

Ortiz was a regular

point machine for his Lancers at the Division I championships at the University of New Hampshire the previous weekend, claiming first places in the 55-meter hurdles (7.71 seconds), the high jump (6 feet, 7 inches), and the long jump (21 feet, 5 1/4 inches) on his own. He also helped the LHS boys' team's 4x160-meter relay quartet snag a second place.

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Lancer Boy Cagers Close in on Crown with Victories

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Watching the Londonderry High girls' basketball squad bag its second consecutive state championship late last week has only heightened the undefeated LHS boy hoopsters' desire to cap off their exceptional 2014-15 campaign with a crown.

Second-year coach Nate Stanton's cagers got two steps closer to doing just that last week by ending the campaigns of the contingents from Winnacunnet High School of Hampton and the Merrimack High hoopsters.

The Lancers had no trouble with the 16th-seeded Winnacunnet High Warriors in opening-round tourney play at LHS Wednesday, March 11.

The top-seeded hosts - who had bested their sea-coast opponent by 65-56 during a regular season meeting in mid-February - pounded the Warriors by a 71-44 count in the tourney contest to end the 6-13 visiting side's season.

Londonderry was up by double digits by the time the first quarter was complete (21-9), and it led by better than 20 points (39-18) when halftime arrived.

Winnacunnet put forth a surge in the third quarter - outscoring its host



Young Londonderry High guard Cole Britting penetrates toward the basket during his undefeated team's tourney win over Winnacunnet..

by a 19-13 count - but the Lancers finished strong by outscoring the sea-coast side by a 19-7 margin during the final eight minutes of action.

Senior guard Cody Ball led the LHS charge by netting 21 points, sophomore Jake Coleman notched 15 and added six steals, Marc Corey contributed 14 points, and Brandon Radford was good for 11. Joey Kwiatkowski registered eight rebounds in the lopsided victory.

The host team bagged nine, three-point buckets, with Ball and Coleman each sinking three and Corey notching two.

In the quarterfinal-round home game against Merrimack Saturday night, March 14, the Lancers were handed a battle by the ninth-seeded Merrimack High Tomahawks. But in the end, the hosts dealt veteran coach Tim Goodridge's gutsy group a 49-44 defeat in ending its 2014-15 campaign.

Londonderry played Merrimack twice during the regular season, barely escaping with a 52-51 win on the road the first time but besting the opponent by a 56-48 score at home in the second.

The Lancers were pushed right to the wall by Merrimack in the tourney battle, with the Tomahawks holding LHS star guard Ball scoreless until mid-way through the third period and keeping their hosts without a lead until the very last moment of that stanza.

Goodridge's group employed a triangle-and-two defense to bottle up Ball and the offense around him, but the Saint Anselm College-bound stalwart finally busted loose with a little less than four minutes to go in the third quarter. He wound up scoring 15 of the Lancers' last 26 points and pointed

the locals toward the dramatic semifinal win.

Londonderry headed into the fourth quarter with the slimmest possible lead (32-31), and that was the host team's first advantage of the night. Stanton's squad battled it out and then hung tough in the fourth - with Corey (team-high 17 points) and Coleman each sinking a pair of clutch free throws - in bagging a win that pushed it on to a semifinal-round contest with fourth-seeded Spaulding of Rochester on Tuesday, March 17, after Londonderry Times press time.

"This was the most adversity we faced all season long, and we overcame it and I could not be more proud of my team," said Stanton after the Merrimack win. "They came together in the most challenging time and got the job done, and that is

what makes them such a special group."

Londonderry rolled into its final-four battle with Spaulding holding the knowledge that it bested the Red Raiders by a 77-60 tally in Rochester in the last regular-season game for both sides. That decision ended a seven-game winning streak that the Spaulding side had rolling.

"We are going to UNH, which is well-deserved, and we are going to enjoy every second of it. It is tough beating a team three times in one season, especially a Merrimack team," said Stanton. "That was a statement game for us to show our toughness. This is the culture change, and the kids are reaping the benefits of their hard work, dedication, and their sacrifice to get the job done and to get to Durham."

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Lady Lancer Gymnasts Finish 10th at New England Meet

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High gymnastics squad made its first trip to the New England Championships in years a memorable one last Saturday, March 14.

Head coach Heather Tuden's LHS crew didn't have to travel far - just to Pinkerton Academy in Derry - to compete in the

21st annual New England Interscholastic Girls' Gymnastics Championships, which marked the first time that event has been held in the Granite State.

The competition drew the top three teams from the state championship competitions in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The Barnstable Mass., High School entry won the

regional crown by tallying 147.125 points, with the Woodstock Academy (Conn.) squad a close second (147) and the host Pinkerton Lady Astros winding up third (144.675). The Londonderry squad bagged 10th place by tallying its top meet score of the 2014-15 season (135.525).

"The girls had to overcome a lot for this meet since the rules and re-

quirements are completely different at New England," said Tuden. "The girls adapted quickly and were up for the challenge. We had an amazing season, and ending with our best score of the year, I couldn't have asked for more. Our girls should hold their heads up high."

Veteran standout Jill McIntire was the Lady Lancers' top finisher with a 14th place on vault and a 15th on the balance beam. She also managed to end up 28th overall in the all-around with a score of 34.375.

Courtney Baharian wound up snaring 17th place in the floor exercise and 22nd place on vault, with other fine vaulting efforts contributed by Mira Kutney, Rachel Larkin, and Maddie Baumann.

On the uneven bars, the locals received solid routines from Jessi Pignone, Kutney, Baumann, and McIntire, and Jordan Dufresne, Baharian, and Baumann joined McIntire in putting forth fine work on the beam.

Good floor exercises were delivered by Maddy Britting, McIntire, Baumann, and Taylor Mac-

Kenzie.

The Lady Lancers had qualified for the regionals for the first time in more than five years by finishing third overall behind Pinkerton and Bishop Guertin at the state championships a month earlier.

Londonderry's team score of 132.025 that day was its top tally of the season to that point, but the locals outdid themselves at New England while going up against the finest high school competition the region has to offer.

Dodge-Ball vs. PA this Friday

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Anyone who has been around Londonderry High School or Pinkerton Academy during the Mack Plaque games knows that those varsity events create considerable excitement among the student bodies on both campuses.

So five years ago - with intra-school dodge-ball tournaments bringing together scores of LHS Lancers and PA Astros student/athletes and their friends in friendly but intense competition - it was decided that a dodge-ball event pitting select squads of Lancers and As-

tros against each other could be added to the existing competitions between the schools, with area charities benefitting from the monetary proceeds.

Hence, the "Dodge-Ball, Mack Plaque-Style" tournaments commenced in 2011 and were successful. And with Pinkerton winning the vast majority of Mack Plaques each Fall, the LHS Lancers took pride in collecting the first three winter dodge-ball titles in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

When the LHS and PA teams gather at LHS Friday, March 20, at LHS at 6 p.m., it will be the Astros who will be defending a championship for the first

time.

The 2014 Pinkerton contingent busted a 2-2 tie that evening by having its all-star crew beat the Lancers' best bunch of dodge-ballers, and the academy side walked off with the hardware for the first time.

The two schools have contributed to different charities of their choices over the years, and last year's Pinkerton donation involved funds going to the family of Pinkerton teacher, coach, and athletic trainer Bill Cofrin, who was lost to cancer.

The public is welcome to join the PA and LHS communities at Friday's fifth annual competition.

Athletes of the Week

For the Week of March 9



Marc Corey, Senior, Boys' Basketball

This skilled big man has been a real x-factor for the undefeated Lancer cagers this year, especially during the post-season. He has been a scoring threat in wins over Winnacunnet and Merrimack.



Noelle Lambert, Senior, Girls' Basketball

This hard-nosed senior saved her best for last this winter in helping the Lady Lancers repeat as D-I champs. Filling in for the injured Ashley Berube, she provided key defense, rebounding, and scoring.

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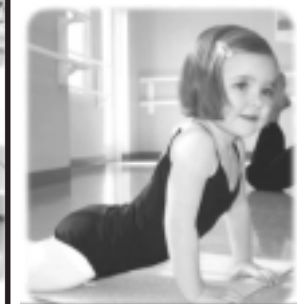
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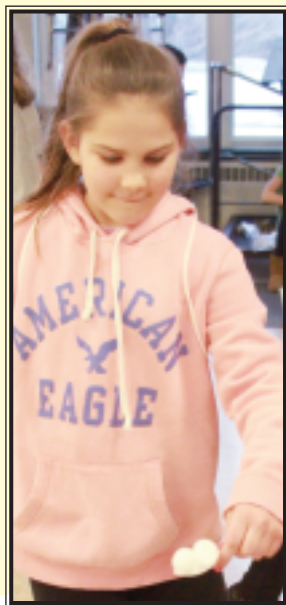
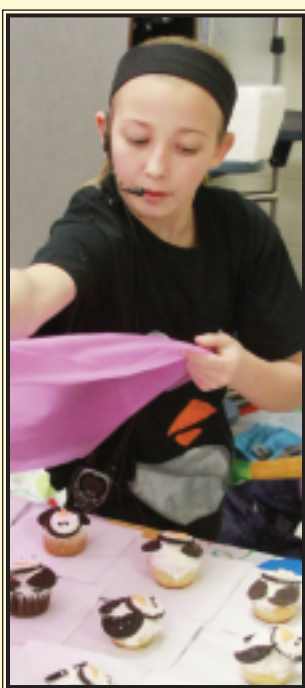
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Girl Scouts Celebrate Birthday



Area Girl Scouts celebrated the anniversary of their organization with a birthday party on Friday, March 13, at Matthew Thornton Elementary School. Attendees played games set up by the hosting troop, made swaps and socialized. The theme of the party was based on the movie "Frozen." The host troop dressed in penguin attire and baked penguin cupcakes

Photos by Chris Paul

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LMS Brings China to Londonderry



The Londonderry Middle School production of "Mulan" is set to open Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m., with additional showings on March 21 at 1 and 7 p.m. Students were busy rehearsing for the play this week, working out the bugs and having a chance to perform in their costumes. The 45-member cast has been rehearsing over the past two months; director is Jennifer Maurice. Abby Palmer plays the part of Mulan, with Chris Maio playing the role of Captain Shang.

Photos by Chris Paul

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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.

Egg Hunt

The Londonderry High School Class of 2016 hosts an Easter egg hunt and crafts at the LHS gym Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. The egg hunt starts at 11:30 a.m. and will be held outside, rain or shine; bring a basket. Other activities include crafts, and a visit with the Easter bunny for \$3. Admission is free, and

donations are welcome. The event is for ages 12 and under. For questions, email: atebbetts@londonderry.org or hlafore@londonderry.org.

Musquash Meeting

The Musquash Task Force, charged by the Londonderry Town Council with "studying the issue of target shooting in the Musquash and other Town owned Conservation land,"

is holding a meeting to solicit input from the public regarding this issue at the Cafeteria at Londonderry High School on March 25 at 6 p.m.

Creative Writing

A creative writing workshop hosted by Londonderry resident Jaclyn Blute, for writers of all levels, will meet every other Thursday starting April 2 from 6 to

8 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Manchester, across from the Mall of New Hampshire. Each workshop starts with feedback on submitted pieces, followed by a writing topic (dialogue, writer's block, etc.). On April 2 the group will review pieces and discuss workshop basics, such as giving and receiving feedback, copyright, and editing. For more information, send an email to operationwriting@gmail.com. Submission guidelines can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/1544052869198789/.

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

Garden Club

The Derry Garden Club meets at 10 a.m. April 3 at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry, 40 Hampstead Road, Derry for a program titled "Shrub Care and Pruning Advice" with Sarah Benson, manager of Benson's Garden Center in Londonderry. She will present a lecture with slides and handouts on the proper cleaning and maintenance of pruning tools as well as

basic cut demonstrations. Lunch will be provided by club members. For more information, visit www.derrygardenclub.org. The Club is a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs and the National Garden Clubs.

Covered Bridges

On Thursday, March 19, at 7 p.m., the Leach Library will host a free program titled "Covered Bridges of New Hampshire" by Glenn Knoblock. He will discuss covered bridge design and technology as well as bridge designers, builders, and associated folklore. Attendees who fill out a short multiple choice covered bridges quiz will have a chance to win a stone hand-painted by local artist, Tom Abruzese. The program is in the library's lower-level Meeting Room. Light refreshments will be served.

continued on page 21

Electricity Provider Blames Rate Increases on Gas Shortage

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council hosted a presentation Monday night by Eversource and Liberty Utilities on winter electric rate increases in the region.

Eversource is the new name for Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH).

Eversource spokesperson Liz LaRocca said the rate increases customers have seen are the result of a natural gas shortage in the region.

"Over 50 percent of plants in New England are operating on natural gas,

and we don't have a pipeline to support that amount of natural gas generation," she told the Council, noting energy costs are less subject to fluctuations in market prices for Eversource customers, due in large part to diverse, company-owned generation facilities.

LaRocca added that if anyone has an issue with their electricity supplier, they should call the company as there are options to address concerns, from increasing a home's energy efficiency to accessing fuel assistance programs

for those who qualify.

"It's a long time coming. The region has steadily been shifting towards natural gas. There just isn't enough gas on the pipeline for generators to fire up their facilities," Liberty Electric spokesman Mike Licata said. "We don't make a profit from the electricity we sell, our business is to run and maintain the wires. We have a system that's a bit fragmented - people have been ringing the alarm that the region is shifting towards natural gas and the pipeline doesn't have the capacity to fuel them

for a while."

Proposed pipeline solutions, such as Kinder Morgan's preferred route, which cuts through Londonderry, would provide relief to the region, according to Licata.

"Liberty Utilities would be a customer of that line, should it be sited," he said.

"This is your business," Councilor Tom Freda said, asking how the cost of gas is decreasing while the cost of electricity is going up. "I wish I could run my business where you as the customer get what I give you

and I'm free to make stupid long-term decisions."

Licata said what the utility companies have seen and expect to continue to see are high electricity rates in the winter, then a significant reduction of rates in the summer.

"Our expectation is this summer, rates will jump down to 7 cents, simply because natural gas is more available," he said.

Councilor Tom Dolan urged residents to shop around for utility companies, but to always read the fine print of any new contract, noting he switched his electricity

provider, only to find the rates he signed up for doubled from the rates he had been paying as an Eversource customer.

Licata said legislation has been proposed that would put regulations around competing suppliers and offer a resource where customers could compare suppliers "apples to apples."

"Be careful when you make changes and be sure to monitor your bill," Dolan advised, adding residents should call around and use competition among providers to save money.

Firefighters

Continued from page 1

In a letter "to the Citizens of Londonderry," Firefighter's Union President Bo Butler thanked voters for "putting public safety first."

"You sent a very clear message," he wrote. "You heard us. You listened to us. You gave us the opportunity to educate you and stayed open to it. You asked the hard questions and stayed actively involved and dedicated to us. You stood behind us and supported us. When

we needed you the most, the community of Londonderry, as she does so very well, rallied around us by putting your voice to task."

With a margin of nearly 800 votes, the Article passed with a vote of 1,866 in favor to 1,078 against.

But the Warrant Article requires only that the Town raise and appropriate \$263,143 for the purpose of adding staff to the Fire Department. Ultimately, the Town Manager decides whether or not to hire the additional firefighters, Town Manager

Kevin Smith confirmed.

"All the Articles are always advisory only," he said.

"That's, unfortunately, what I was trying to explain to people," Town Councilor Joe Green said. "Unfortunately, all this was, was a way to increase their budget. It does not mean we have to hire firefighters. All it means is we're increasing the budget by that amount, and it has to be spent from the Fire Department's coffers. I'm in favor of more firefighters; in fact, I think we need

more than four. I think we need six."

Green said that if the Town and Firefighter's Union are able to address the issue of overtime, the Town will be able to hire the number needed and increase safety for the firefighters employed by the Town.

"Overtime never should have been part of the payroll. We need to sit at the table and make negotiations happen because it's unfair the firefighters are working without a contract and they haven't gotten their Cost of Living

raises for three years. They work hard," he said.

Green said he supports the firefighters, noting they saved his mother's life. But he wants to see the overtime costs at a realistic level so that the Town can hire as many firefighters as are needed.

Smith said in determining whether or not to hire additional firefighters moving forward, he weighs the advice of the Council, the needs of the Fire Department he manages, and the will of the people.

"The voters have spo-

ken, and they wanted four firefighters; so, they're willing to pay for the tax increase to get it," Councilor Tom Freda said. "Had it been defeated, I would not have supported hiring against the will of the people."

"The article passed by a pretty healthy margin. I don't see this becoming a contentious issue down the road. I'm fairly confident there will be a resolution where all expectations are being met," Smith said. "The Town did speak and two-thirds said they want more firefighters."

Around Town

Continued from page 20

Isinglass and Flume Voting

Young Adult voting on New Hampshire's Flume and Isinglass award-winning book titles is ongoing through March 31, and is open to all students in grades 6 through 12. The Isinglass Award nominees are books recommended

by middle school students. The Flume Award nominees are books recommended by high school students. Lists of the titles are available in the Young Adult area of the Leach Library. Everyone who votes will receive a chance to win a Barnes & Noble gift certificate.

Women's Club Trivia Night

The Londonderry Women's Club hosts Trivia Night on Wednesday, April

8, at Whippersnapper's Restaurant, 44 Nashua Road. Admission is free; 15 percent of food sales will be donated to the Women's Club. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; the trivia games start at 6:30 p.m. Prizes and raffles are planned. For more information about the club, visit www.facebook.com/groups/londonderrywomensclub or email londonderrywomensclub@hotmail.com.

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 equipment 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.

HU Chant

A Community HU Chant is offered Thursday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. and continuing on the third Thursday of each month at the Holiday

Continued on page 22

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Around Town

Continued from page 21

Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. For more information, call 800-713-8944 or visit www.eckankar-nh.org.

Scuffy the Tugboat

The Children's Room of

the Leach Library presents Scuffy, star of the children's book "Scuffy the Tugboat," on Monday, March 23, from 4 to 5 p.m. Stories about boats, naming the parts of a ship and pictures with Scuffy are planned. Advance registration is required. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's

Room.

Children's Programs


The Children's Room at the Leach Library will offer the following programs as part of Spring Session 1: Craft Time; Shake, Move and Read; and Toddler Time. Spring Session 1 will run April 1 through 23. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. Monday, March 23. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

Legion at VA Hospital

American Legion Post 27 runs bingo for patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Manchester on March 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Donations are appreciated, or stop by and help out. The Post will serve pizza and diet soda as well as providing \$150 in prize money. For more information about Post 27, visit www.alpost27.com or the Greeley Parmenter Harrington Facebook page.

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday, March 9

12:59 p.m. Theresa Copello, 20, Partridge Lane, Londonderry arrested for Resisting Arrest or Detention, hindering Apprehension or Prosecution, and Obstructing Government Administration. Bail set at \$3,000 personal recognizance, with April 21 Derry Circuit Court date. William Maurier, 34, Par-

tridge Lane, Londonderry arrested for Violation of Probation or Parole, Resisting Arrest or Detention and Obstructing Government Administration. Defendant refused the services of a bail commissioner and was transported to Rockingham County Jail, to be arraigned at Derry District Court on March 10.

Tuesday, March 10

3:45 p.m. Pile of hypodermic needles found by pond between Canterbury and Treadway.

7:13 p.m. Lance Scates, 47, Winterwood Drive, Londonderry arrested for Criminal Threatening (intimidation, etc.). Bail set at \$1,500 personal recognizance with Derry Circuit Court date of March 31.

Wednesday, March 11

4:23 p.m. Londonderry Fire on scene of industrial accident on Noyes Road, with male who fell approximately 80 feet from tree.

Friday, March 13

12:26 p.m. Caller reports people living in lean-to in the woods behind house on Mammoth Road. Officer spoke with person who built the hut and he said he is going to take it down the next day.

7:50 p.m. Lance Scates,

47, 28 Winterwood Drive, Londonderry arrested for Violation of Protective Order: penalty and Possession of Controlled/Narcotic Drugs. He was held without bail for violating DVO and was scheduled for arraignment in Derry District Court on March 16. Wanda Hanscom, 44, 3931 Old Brown Ave., Apt. 53, Manchester arrested for Possession of Controlled/Narcotic Drugs. Bail set at \$1,000 personal recognizance plus \$40 bail commissioner fee,

with Derry District Court arraignment April 21.

8:07 p.m. Dylan James Butler, 20, 422 Vinton St., Manchester turned himself in on Londonderry warrant for two counts of Theft: All Other. Bail set at \$1,000 personal recognizance plus \$40 bail commissioner fee, with Derry District Court arraignment set for April 21.

Saturday, March 14

2:48 a.m. Caller reporting loud party on Wiley Hill Road.

Zoning

Continued from page 1

al Use Permits, abolish the Town's responsibility to administer workforce housing income verification requirements and procedures, and extend opportunities for more diversified elderly housing and assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Geographic Information Systems Manager John Vogl told the Board that the Town offers 6 percent affordable housing for seniors in town, which satisfies State requirements.

About 20 percent of the Town's population are seniors.

The amendment proposed would add to conditional uses permitted under Elderly Housing "small lot elderly housing or assisted living."

"This seemed a good opportunity to provide for small-scale elderly residential dwellings, given they have residential qualities, size and scale," Edwards said. "The elderly don't tend to attract a lot of traffic and noise."

Vogl said the thought behind the amendment is

to take higher intensity uses and put them in commercial sectors that will absorb them better.

"This fosters more mixed-use in those districts and higher intensity land use, as well as a potentially higher tax base from those uses," he said.

To facilitate workforce housing projects that would better fit into the character of the Town, the amendment would broaden the type of accessory dwelling units permitted, increasing the allowable square feet from 750 to 1,000 square feet, according to Edwards.

A half-acre of land would be required for each unit.

Additionally, the amendment includes various stipulations related to an accessory dwelling unit being compatible with the existing neighborhood.

Edwards noted that under the amended ordinance, accessory dwelling units must be a self-contained unit, but don't necessarily have to be attached.

"There could be an addition to a building, provided residential characteristics are maintained

so that it's not obvious and the additional unit appears to be an extension of the house," he said. "And at least one of the units must be owner occupied."

An example of such an addition may be a detached barn behind the home converted into a few workforce housing units, Edwards explained, noting if the Board wishes to reduce the height limit for workforce housing developments, the proposed amendment offers a good opportunity to do so.

"The purpose of this amendment is to foster more options for smaller developments," Vogl said. "It will address the RSA (statute) of permitting workforce housing in the majority of residential areas and fill up some of the smaller lots in town."

The change would have the effect of providing larger diversity of housing than currently allowed, and having workforce housing in diverse areas of town, satisfying that statute, Edwards agreed.

Planning Board Chairman Art Rugg said it's the board's intention to post the amendment for a pub-

lic hearing as soon as possible, which would preclude all future workforce developments from basing their projects on the Zoning Ordinance as it stands.

But Deb Paul of 118 Hardy Road, publisher of the Londonderry Times, expressed concern the amendment may be "too little, too late."

Between the expansion of Interstate 93, proposed workforce housing projects, and the proposed Woodmont Commons development, there will be a substantial burden placed on residents living in a two-mile radius, according to Paul.

"How do we fix that moving forward so only so many projects can only go into one area at a given time?" she asked.

Rugg explained that according to New Hampshire law, the Board can limit growth but not control it through the Town's Growth Management Plan.

"What if I put a two-mile circle around your home and put in 700-plus apartments, plus the I-93 construction, all happening within three years? Think about it, it's a problem. It needs to be looked at," Paul said.

"What I see on one side of town is all this conservation land being purchased, and nothing is being purchased where we live."

Vogl said the purpose of the amendment is to try to address concerns like Paul's.

Rugg said by posting notice of the amendment as soon as possible and beginning the process of public hearings, the Board and town staff hope to prevent any additional burden on residential neighborhoods.

The recommendations for a series of revisions to the ordinance are exten-

sive, and Rugg noted the Board will have to hold several meetings to finalize an amendment that will satisfy the Board and the community.

The Board plans to host their first public hearing on the proposed amendment related to housing opportunities in Londonderry, including workforce housing, elderly housing, inclusionary zoning, multi-family housing, assisted living residence, village plan alternative, and accessory dwelling units, at their next meeting on April 8 at 7 p.m.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY PLANNING BOARD

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 8, 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. 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 PLANNING BOARD

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH to consider the following:

- A. Public Hearing regarding the relocation of Ammon Drive by the Boston-Manchester Regional Airport.



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