

Londonderry Times

September 12, 2019 ♦ Volume 20 – Issue 36

A FREE Weekly Publication



Cheered Up

The Londonderry High School Spirit Squad had lots to be cheering during the Lancers home opener against Concord High School Friday night. The home team won with a commanding 48-6 victory, leaving fans excited about the new season.

Photo by Chris Paul

Town Council Votes to Amend Agreement With Woodmont

IDAN VINITSKY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Town Manager Kevin Smith presented the First Amendment to Woodmont Commons Development Agreement, between the town and Woodmont Commons to Town Councilors at the Monday night

meeting.

According to Smith, the original agreement lays out the use of sewer for Woodmont Commons in a very broad way, thus the need for an amendment. "It doesn't get into numbers on actual sewer capacity and how the credits will be awarded."

The amendment lays out the term on how much capacity does exist going forward for Woodmont Commons to use at the Derry Wastewater Treatment Plant and how credits will be awarded to Woodmont Commons, as they lay out their sewer

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Penichuck Looks for Variance to Build 156 Foot Water Tower

MACK LEATHURBY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On Wednesday, September 18th the Londonderry Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) will conduct a Public Hearing for a variance request by Pennichuck East Utility (PEU) Inc., to locate a massive water tower storage tank adjacent to a local neighborhood and near the Woodmont development.

The heavy metal tower plan has spurred objections from a concerned neighborhood of residents. Homeowners from the area will be at the public hearing to implore the ZBA to consider that Penichuck's variance request does not meet criteria guidelines in town.

Residents feel the

enormous infrastructure will create an eyesore if located in their neighborhood. There are also key concerns about environmental, as well as, health and safety issues, as it may not be a good idea to locate large, weighty infrastructure adjacent to wetlands.

Penichuck began compiling data regarding Londonderry's water usage in 2016 with 4,165 customers that are a part of the Town's core public water users and confirmed their daily water demand was approximately 624,000 gallons. The company has factored in the Town's projected growth rate along with Woodmont's anticipated demand and projects that by 2026, London-

derry will need to have 940,000 gallons per day. The water tower idea is one of several options to add more water pressure and capacity support for the town's public water supply. For example, instead of the huge water tower, the town's water system capacity could be expanded with larger pumping stations and water ducts that would extend and upgrade mains further down Mammoth Road.

On Aug. 21, the Londonderry Zoning Board began a review for Penichuck's variance request to build a huge water tank that would be 156 feet in height and could hold about 1.25 Million gallons of water. Lon-

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Library Chooses Save Money Rather than Heated Sidewalk

IDAN VINITSKY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

At a recent Town Council meeting, Administrative Support Coordinator, Steve Cotton, presented the Town Council members with an order relative to expenditure of maintenance trust funds for various projects.

Cotton requested the council members to approve the use of \$8,400 from the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund for work on the Leach Library lower section and ramp concrete. The order request's description

read, "The library front entrance was a safety hazard with the missing concrete, cracks, trip hazards, etc. This EMTF request is for the removal of the concrete (lower section and ramp), install wire mesh, pour new concrete, brush, finish the surface, and seal."

Cotton explained that there have been several issues with the ramp in the lower section and that the town got a contract tear out the area and replace the whole ramp as well as the lower section.

Town Council Chair

John Farrell asked Cotton if the entire thing was just never put in correctly and Cotton answered, "The biggest issue over there is salt. Trying to get one of the maintenance guys to use the proper material on the concrete. If we can get our winter contrac-

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Band Performs Queen Halftime Show During Season Opener



The Londonderry Lancers Marching Band and Color Guard performed this year's show entitled "The Music of Queen" for the first time in front of their home crowd on Friday night during the Lancers football game against Concord. Songs included: Bohemian Rhapsody, We Will Rock You, Crazy Little Thing Called Love and Another One Bites the Dust. The Drum Majors for this year's band are seniors Siobhan White, Eli Patterson, and junior Tyler Kraics.

Photos by Chris Paul



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Water Tower

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donderry's current zoning ordinance only allows structures 35 feet in height within this area.

Penichuck owns an 8-acre parcel with a large wetlands area that is the intended location. This address - 7 Rear Gordon Drive - is located between the Hovey Road and Hardy Road area north of Pillsbury Road. Local residents in the Gordon Drive neighborhood have collected signatures for the ZBA's considerations and are vocal about this

big water tower project expressing how it is not welcome. There are additional issues that could affect the neighborhood, as well as, other Londonderry residents, including higher property taxes, lifestyle and bio-habitat disruption, possible health issues and a potential decrease in local home and property values. The initial building design of the tower will age over time and other factors to consider might include site pollution

from anti-corrosives typically used with metal tanks, painting decay and updates, added pressure to old mains in the neighborhood, or a future need for powerful lighting or flashing clearance lights. The towers could also become an attractive nuisance for kids or others to climb, hide in or hang out on.

Christopher Kotsakis, who lives in the neighborhood, says folks are concerned how the tower will blemish their area directly with a structure that will be seen for miles around.

Kotsakis says, "We are uneasy about this eyesore project, and we will have construction plus maintenance interruption for this giant water tower from the time it is being built and as long as we live in the area."

Another local resident, Karen Martin, reports she and her husband have studied the project and don't understand why Pennichuck would build this humongous steel infrastructure in an area that might present environmental and safety concerns. Martin says, "Why would they build this tower directly adjacent to a wetlands area? Why is our neighborhood the right place to build such a huge tower? Since they tell us this tower will provide water for the Woodmont development, why don't they build it there? ...and in a safer place where it would not be possible for 1.25 million

gallons of water to pour down on us if there was an accident?" "We do not want a heavy steel tower built near soft marshy wetlands to come crashing down or end up tilting towards our homes. We hope others in Londonderry will see it makes no sense to locate this tower abutting our properties. The company says trees will help hide it, though in the late fall, winter and spring our trees are without leaves, so this tower will cast an ugly view over our area most of the year even if tree leaves hide it somewhat."

In order for a variance to be granted, an application request must meet all five variance application criteria; the first criteria is that the variance must not be contrary to the public interest.

Pennichuck says that a 156-foot high water storage tank will not alter the

essential character of the locality because the tower will be a quiet neighbor, with likely only one truck trip per week and the tower will be screened by the trees in the area.

Area residents do not agree this criterion is met by the proposed project. Pennichuck also says the tower meets the spirit of the local ordinance as the tank will be set back from Gordon Drive and most likely not be seen from Gordon Drive. Area residents say it will be hard not to miss a 156-foot water tank and this criterion will not be realistically met.

Pennichuck also says the values of surrounding properties would not be diminished if the variance is granted. However, there is a strong case to be made that living next to a water tower would adversely affect property values.

Library

Continued from page 1

tors to use a different product, it's going to last a lot longer."

Farrell asked if the town should but the salt and make the maintenance workers use it and Cotton replied by saying: "We've tried that. We can demand that. Also, when they go through the curve, the salt is getting on to the concrete. They recommended that in the spring we hose the thing down, wash it, get a maintenance program that is winter tear off and get rid of that salt." He added, referring the maintenance workers: "I tried to explain that you use rock salt on the pavement and

a different product on the concrete."

Cotton said after the meeting, "We always asked the maintenance people to use the concrete friendly product, which is what we are providing. We will push it more this winter, to make sure it really happens, at least for the majority of the times. The problem is that they use the rock salt next to it, and it goes on the concrete and stays there."

Asked if he changed the maintenance worker Cotton said that it will be the same person as last year: "We will just have to monitor it more."

Councilor Tom Dolan asked about the possibility of replacing the area

with a heated walkway, like the one used at the Town Hall.

According to Leach Library Director Barbara Ostertag-Holtkamp, Library trustees were asked about a year ago to replace the sidewalk area with a heated sidewalk, like the one used at the town hall. That project would have cost about \$55,000, well over the \$8,400 that was used to replace the sidewalk.

Trustees voted against that idea, concerned that the cost was way too high, and that the additional electricity would be too much. They also had concerns that if for some reason it broke, they'd have to dig it up again.



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Editorial

A Bountiful Season

For most weekends this month and next, there won't be enough space on the calendar to write in all the events and activities that catch our eye. One thing most of them will have in common is a seasonal theme, because fall is literally in the air.

We can still enjoy days of wearing flip-flops and shorts, but their time is running out for the year. In the evening, more times than not, we're reaching for a wool sweater.

The trees in our local orchards are full of apples, and if that's not a sure sign of fall in New England, we don't know what is.

So add a trip to pick apples and time to bake pies and make cider and applesauce on that calendar as well. We're fortunate to have the chance to taste the real thing, literally in our own backyards.

The farmers are saying this year offers a good harvest, and whether you choose a U-pick or prefer to select your apples, fruits, and veggies from a farmstand, opportunities abound.

For many of us, the change to fall is our favorite time of year. We already can see hints of color in the leaves indeed, the swamp maples have been giving us a preview of the glorious display to come - and the pumpkins are turning orange. Stop by any local

garden center or farmstand, and you're sure to find a colorful display of mums. You can't miss the shift. The season is changing.

While farmers markets may not have all the bounty of summer in the weeks ahead, they still offer plenty of local fruits and vegetables. We encourage you to take advantage of the markets in our area and get the freshest food available. You'll be glad you did.

It's still more than a week away from the official start of autumn - Sept. 23 this year - but we can't escape the message of the crisp, cool night air, or the Full Harvest Moon that will light the sky Saturday night. It's the perfect time of year to be outdoors not too hot, not too cold and not too many bugs, with plenty of places to enjoy your surroundings.

Want to take a walk? Check out your town conservation areas and discover the hidden treasures of the woodlands and wetlands your community has preserved. Soon enough, your outdoor exercise will be directed at raking those colorful leaves whose time has come.

All in all, it's an invigorating time of year, a time when nature's bounty and beauty are on display for everyone to enjoy. And as New Englanders, we know what comes next.

Letters

Trade War Hurting Farmers

To the editor,
President Trump is trying to attain trade equity with China, but his trade war is having a devastating impact on U.S. farmers, which could lead to long term losses of the Chinese market for our agricultural products since they are being replaced by competing countries. The \$12 billion farmers subsidy is just a temporary reprieve for farmers.

China typically imports large quantities of U.S. fruit, pork, cotton, soybeans and other farm products. It imports 60% of U.S. soybean exports, about 30 million tons per year. Although the European Union agreed to import more soybeans, its 14 million tons falls far short of the 30 million tons to China.

Brazil is the largest exporter of soybeans to China. It has increased its soybean exports to China by 27% to 71 million tons, and it is clearing large

swaths of the Amazon Forest for soybean production. Unfortunately, the forest is being cleared with set fires that are out of control, and the clearing has a huge adverse impact on the world since the rain forest absorbs millions of tons of carbon emissions each year; along with trees throughout the planet.

Note: My wife's father, Alton Jones, was a cattle farmer.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

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

Planning Board Chair Rugg Receives Award From SNHPC

MIKE BYERLY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On Friday (Sep. 6), at the Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission annual meeting, Art Rugg, the longtime Chairman of the Londonderry Planning Board, received the Raymond E. Closson Award. This special award is presented annually in recognition of volunteers in the Southern New Hampshire region who have made significant contributions to sound community and regional planning and helped foster inter-municipal cooperation and collaboration.

The Town of Londonderry submitted to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) a summary of Mr. Rugg's work for the town, in support of his nomination for the award. After Rugg received the award, Town Council Chair John Farrell, announced it at Monday's meeting and congratulated Rugg: "I think Art's been on the Planning Board now for 20 years

and I'd like to offer him our congratulations", said Farrell.

According to the town's letter to the commission, Rugg has served as a volunteer in town for over 30 years, in a variety of capacities and has been a strong advocate for sound local and regional planning: "Since 1986, he has contributed significantly to the Town of Londonderry and the Southern NH region, donating thousands of hours of his time in service in various capacities, including as a Selectman, Planning Board member, Representative to the Southern NH Regional Planning Commission, and member of the CART Board of Directors. Art's vision and dedication to good planning has resulted in strengthening the community that he serves. As the Chairman of the Londonderry Planning Board for over a decade, Art not only manages public meetings with ease, he also acts as an educator both to fellow board members and members of the commu-

nity at large. He has been a proponent not only for good long-range planning, but also for implementation of such plans, tracking of community goals and accomplishments, and helping to ensure that the Town continues to move towards its vision as a vibrant community."

Mr. Rugg's current roles include the Londonderry Planning Board (Member since 1999, Chairman since 2006), the Londonderry Heritage Commission, Londonderry Representative to the Southern NH Regional Planning Commission (since 2002), CART Board of Directors and the Nutfield 300th Anniversary Committee. In the past, he also volunteered for the Londonderry Board of Selectmen, Londonderry Charter Commission, Londonderry Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Londonderry Open Space Task Force, Londonderry Scenic Byway Committee and Londonderry Master Plan Update Steering Committee.

Londonderry Times

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Planning Board Gives a Conditional Use Permit Following Building Error

IDAN VINITSKY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Planning Board granted last Wednesday (Sep. 4) a conditional approval for a site plan to build a 5,000 square foot warehouse, a 600 square foot office, an outdoor storage area and associated parking and site improvements at 47 Rockingham Road.

The owners of the lot and applicants were Fred and Kathy Larson and their representative, Nick Loring from Benchmark Engineering told the board that the parcel is on a two acre lot in the Commercial II zone on Rockingham Rd., where there used to be an office building until it was

demolished last fall. At the moment, there is a large, gravel storage area there.

Loring explained that the plan is to build in two phases: First, a 50x60 feet warehouse/garage (Totaling 3,000 SF) and then, add a 40x50 feet (For 2,000 more SF, bringing the total to 5,000). With the office, the building will be 100 feet deep.

Loring noted that there will be a detention pond added in front of the new warehouse for drainage, expanding the gravel area for parking in the rear of the building. According to the plan, there will be just fewer than 50 percent of green space on the site. The applicants have a septic

permit from the state and are still waiting for the curb cut permit from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Town Planner Colleen Mailloux presented the board with a number of waivers the applicants are requesting, including to allow overhead utility service where underground is required and to allow a storm drain line with less than the required minimum depth cover of 36 inches for the driveway culvert.

Board member Ann Chiampa asked Loring for a more clarification on the use of the proposed warehouse and he explained that the FL Larson trucking company is staying at their site in Bil-

lerica, MA and that the new site will be used for antique trucks to be kept in the garage and rent a portion of the garage out. Fred Larson added that the current site is being vandalized in Billerica and they need a place for the trailers that are not being used.

Chiampa also asked about the exterior storage and Loring answered that it will be used for storing trailers. Mailloux added that the outdoor storage is permitted, but not for a trucking terminal, since it is a C-II zone. There is no limit on the number of trailers that can be stored, but the Board can place one. Larson estimated that three trailers and some spreaders will be

stored.

In addition, a Conditional Use Permit to impact 3,600 square feet of the conservation overlay district at 49 Wentworth Ave. was granted with two conditions: Prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy, a report, prepared by a certified wetland scientist, be submitted documenting the vegetation present in the area of disturbance and all other conditions of site plan approval from the Aug. 1, 2018 Notice of Decision must be met.

The Conditional Use Permit was requested as Mike Hammer, surveyor from Meridian Land Services, told the board that while under construction on the site at Wentworth

Ave. there was a survey error that resulted in the building being laid out 10 feet to the north. Hammer said that while the building is not in concern, the location of the drainage that resulted from the mistake is, since there is a manhole and a pipe that is inside the buffer area and cannot be relocated. He added that they spoke to Fish & Game and want to keep the natural vegetation as it is a good habitat for rabbits. Mailloux said the applicant presented the Conservation Committee a report from a certified botanist of what the natural vegetation is as a condition of the Conservation Commission's approval.

Town's Aviation Museum to Celebrate Smithsonian Day



The Aviation Museum of N.H. will celebrate Museum Day with free admission on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you're planning to check out the Aviation Museum of N.H., an upcoming Saturday this month is a wallet-friendly day to do so.

Saturday, Sept. 21 is this year's Museum Day, an annual nationwide event organized by Smithsonian magazine. On Museum Day, participat-

ing institutions offer free admission to visitors who download tickets on the magazine's Web site.

The Museum Day ticket covers admission for two people on Saturday, Sept. 21. Tickets are available to download on the Smithsonian website at the following address: www.smithsonianmag.com

m/museumday/museum-day-2019/

"We're delighted to once again participate in Museum Day," said Jeff Rapsis, the Aviation Museum's executive director. "It's a great incentive for families to visit, get involved, and discover all we have to offer."

Museum Day is an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by Smithsonian magazine. Museum Day brings together museums, zoos & cultural centers from all 50 states to offer free admission to all Museum Day ticket holders.

The museum, headquartered in the vintage

Art Deco 1937 airline terminal at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving N.H. aviation history and inspiring tomorrow's aviators.

The museum's display floor includes hands-on exhibits designed to give visitors a sense of the experience of flight, including several cockpit simulators.

A recent recipient of the Aero Club of New England's prestigious 'State' award, the Aviation Museum is known for its innovative and creative programming, both at its facility at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport and at

venues around the state.

Each year, the Aviation Museum engages hundreds of Granite State youth through its educational outreach programs, highlighted this year by a plane-building partnership with the Manchester School of Technology.

In this new initiative, museum volunteers are collaborating with high school students to build a two-seat RV-12iS light sport aircraft during the

2019-20 school year.

The Aviation Museum is open on Museum Day (Saturday, Sept. 21) from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Normal admission prices are \$10 per person; \$5 for seniors (65+), students age 6-12, and veterans/active military; kids under 6 free.

For more information about Museum Day and the Aviation Museum of N.H., call (603) 669-4820 or visit the museum's Web site at www.nhahs.org.

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Town Assessor Explains Revaluations and Cyclical Inspections

IDAN VINITSKY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Town Assessor, Rick Brideau, attended the Town Council meeting on Monday, Sept. 9, and spoke about revaluations and cyclical inspections. He said that this has been done for the past 50 years. "We knock on doors, try to get inside and the purpose of that is to make sure our data is accurate", he explained. "It's not a reassessment

every time we go to your house. We just make sure the data is correct."

Brideau added that the value can stay the same or change: "A lot of people think that just because we were there two years ago, we already did their new assessment. That wasn't the assessment, just the collection of the data. Once every five years, by state law, we are required to bring the values anew."

That will be done this year. For the commercial part of the revaluations, Brideau was able to hire a company with the town's money and his office will do the residential revaluation and will be doing so using a new system. Brideau informed the council that he did not want to put new values before switching to the new system, since he did not want to value in cases where the previous and

new system will not match dollar for dollar in their results. "Most of the work is done", he said. The commercial preliminary values were sent to the company that was hired to assist in this process.

Brideau discussed about a presentation he made that explains what a revaluation is and why it is needed and said: "Right now, the market in Londonderry is basically phe-

nomenal. Houses are selling, they are under contract within a week, four days, five days. From the numbers I have on the system, from my update, I'm already low. I have to start my values in April 1 and this summer the market has taken off in this town, unbelievably."

He added that the state checked last Friday and Monday the sales and building permits in town and said: "I want to let

people know that we are doing a revaluations and it isn't all about your assessments, we have to requalify all the elderly, veterans", and explained that "most people are going to see an increase in assessment, which doesn't necessarily mean you are going to pay that increase in assessment at today's tax rate. The tax rate usually will come down when the assessment rise."

Chief O'Brien Speaks About House Fire and Dangerous Batteries

IDAN VINITSKY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Fire Department responded on Saturday, Sept. 7, evening to a fire at 8 John St., with other towns (Derry, Hudson, Litchfield and Windham) all responding with mutual aid to the scene.

The next day, in a press release, the department informed that at 6:20 p.m. on Saturday, the Fire Alarm received a telephone alarm reporting a structure fire. Battalion 4 staffing, Engine 2,

3 and 4, Tanker 1 and Car 1 all rushed to 8 John St., along with a Hudson Engine and Tanker.

On their way to the scene, the firefighters were updated that multiple 911 calls were received and that Battalion Chief Fred Heinrich requested a Derry Medic to arrive to the scene as well.

Engine II arrived and Lt. Butler reported a two and a half story wood frame single family residence with heavy fire from the A/D corner on

division 2. Engine II then stretched an attack line into the residence, while Tanker I established a water supply and Engine 3 conducted a primary search off of their line, and the crew was able to rescue the family cat from the burning apartment.

Battalion Chief Heinrich ordered that an Engine and Tanker from Windham and a Tanker from Litchfield also be brought to the scene, but the fire was eventually knocked down quickly and the two additional tankers were canceled. Companies remained on scene, extinguishing hot spots and overhauling prior to clearing.

The Chief of the Londonderry Fire Department, Darren O'Brien, addressed the Town Council on Monday and spoke about the fire. O'Brien said that one firefighter suffered a shoulder injury while helping one of the residents down the stairs. He was taken to Parkland Medical Center for assessment.

Chief O'Brien explained, "The cause of the fire as of now is undetermined, but it is looking like it was either a laptop or a radio control car that was on a desk. People have a personal laptop computer and are buying the batteries on eBay or something like

that. Those batteries are made in China and nobody knows how long they are going to last."

Council member Tom Dolan added: "When a teenager or an adult use their laptop in bed and set it on a puff or a blanket, it doesn't properly vent and that's a real danger for a fire. Talk to your people, in home. When they use a laptop in bed, they have to be very careful."

Chief O'Brien said that anyone who has any question on the matter is free to stop by the fire station and receive literature on how to avoid this kind of fire. The Chief also updated the council on the renovations at the

Central Fire Station on Mammoth Rd. and said that on Aug. 28 the Communication Center was moved to the new wing and the crews and equipment were also moved, three days later.

On Sept. 23, the front driveway will be torn up for some work and the Chief said that he hopes everything will be ready for the Fire Prevention week in October, as he hopes to have a "soft opening" for the public to come in and see the administrative wing. He admitted that there is a delay in the schedule and that the hope is for the building to be ready in February.

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Council Approves Rezoning Land Near Airport to Gateway Business District

IDAN VINITSKY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry's Town Council unanimously approved an Ordinance (#2019-04) relative to rezoning of 15 lots in Map 28, in the area of the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport that is located on the north-west corner of town, at Monday's meeting. The lots are on the south side of Airport Road, said Town

Planner Colleen Mailloux.

The request from the airport was to rezone the parcels from Commercial II, Industrial II, Agricultural-Residential I and Airport District to Gateway Business District and on Aug. 7, the Londonderry Planning Board held a Public Hearing and recommended unanimously that the Town Council act favorably upon the request.

The Planning Board

also recommended that the rezoning be effective upon approval and recording of a plan separating the westerly portion of Map 28, Lot 14 from the easterly, airside operations parcel. According to records, Lot 14 is the site of parking lot F and the airport salt shed and presently Lot 14 and a portion of Lot 10 are under an Intent to Lease agreement, which would

result in a split-zoned development.

The airport stated that the use intended by the Intent to Lease is not permitted in either C-II Commercial or AD Airport District, but is allowed use in Gateway business and that the intent of the airport is to further develop the area with compatible uses, which would be facilitated by a common zoning district.

Lot 10 was a C-II lot so far and the site of the former Highlander Hotel. It has a commercial building, recreational facilities ancillary to the health club use and parking lots D and E.

Longtime State Representative Betsy McKinney addressed the Council and the Airport Director Ted Kitchens and said that she read a story in the paper saying that the

airport is planning to build a hotel in the future and lease the land.

Kitchens did not deny this and answered, "We do have interest in the parcel and it will be consistent with the uses that are allowed with the Gateway Business parcel." After a follow up question by McKinney, Kitchens said that a hotel, if indeed built at some point in the future, will not be a tall one.

Going Green: Scoop the Poop for Cleaner Rivers, Beaches and Pathways

Many of us walk or bike the Londonderry rail trail. We now have 3.5 miles of paved trail to enjoy, and

work just recently began on the scenic 1.1 mile Little Cohas Brook segment that runs from Mammoth Road to Harvey Road. Yet

while the rail trail is a great place to walk with your (leashed) dog, not everyone picks up after their pet.

The environmental impact of dog waste has gone unrecognized for decades.

Scientists recently developed a new lab technique of fingerprinting DNA to match bacteria found in the water to the bacteria from specific animals, including humans and domestic animals. Using this type of forensic science, local scientists have found that dogs are a significant contributor of bacteria in several New Hampshire surface waters.

Scooping your pooch's poop isn't just a courtesy for those walking behind you; it is also the healthy and environmentally sound thing to do. Pet waste can pollute our waters and make them unsafe for drinking and

swimming. When left on the ground, dog waste and the associated disease-causing organisms such as giardia and salmonella can be carried by rain or snow runoff directly into nearby waterbodies or storm drains due to our negligence.

In fact, a recent environmental report found that 15 of 47 beaches in New Hampshire had at least one day last summer with fecal bacteria levels exceeding EPA standards for safe swimming. Besides sewage spills and ancient public works, storm water crossing lawns and parks littered with waste from pets and wildlife flows into streams, storm drains and rivers, and on to the ocean.

Keep our trails pristine, and waters clean

Unfortunately, it is common to find little bags of dog poop left along the

trail. Pet owners: finish the job! If you don't remove your pet waste, who will? Please collect your bags of waste and bring them home to dispose of properly. Follow these easy steps to avoid contaminating our trails:

Always carry two small bags when you walk your dog. Plastic grocery or produce bags work well for this. Using the bag like a glove, pick up the pet waste, turn the bag inside out around the waste, and tie a knot. For safety sake, place in a second bag to carry it home.

Be sure not to hose pet waste toward storm drains, as they can drain

directly to a stream, lake or other waterbody. If you have a large yard, you may bury unbagged pet waste in the yard at least five inches in the ground and away from vegetable gardens, drinking wells and waterways. And wash your hands with warm, soapy water afterwards.

For information about additional things you can do to help reduce pet waste in our water, visit the NHDES website at www.des.nh.gov.

~ Courtesy of the Solid Waste and Environment Committee and the NH Department of Environmental Services~

OBITUARY

Michele (McCumber) Brown



Michele (McCumber) Brown, 58, January 17, 1961 – September 3, 2019

Michele Brown of Pepperell, and formerly from Derry NH, passed away Tuesday Sept. 3. She was a daughter of Shirley Vickery and the late Barry McCumber; a devoted Mother of two sons Jeffrey and Michael Brown and his wife Anna; a loving partner to Phil Codyer and a loving dog mom. She was also a dear sister of April Myers (Oz) and Gail Peck. Michele was hopeful and excited for the birth of her first grandson in October. She was a kind, gentle spirit who shared her love with all, who spent most of her life as an educator and bettering the lives of children of all ages. Michele was an Ordained Deacon at Londonderry Presbyterian Church where she also served for many years in the administrative office.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the New England Lab Rescue.

Services will be held on Sept. 15, 3 p.m. at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 126 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry. Reception will be following upstairs at Westervelt Hall & all are welcome.

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Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris' Sparks a Crowd at Mack's Apples

MACK LEATHURBY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Andy Mack Sr. of Mack's Apples usually has a sparkle in his eye. Last Friday afternoon, Sept. 6 on an overcast afternoon, Mack said he was looking forward to Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris' visit to his Londonderry orchards and to hear what she had to say about our nation and her campaign.

When Senator Harris appeared at Mack's Farm Stand, she had a warm greeting for Andy. Mack told Sen. Harris, "...happy to see you and here's a Mack's Apples baseball style hat to remember us by." Mack showed her around his farm's packing areas that are being prepped for the upcoming harvests.

After the Senator saw the gorgeous fruits around his store, she decided to get some New Hampshire peaches and apples. While shopping, Harris greeted Mack's farm stand store employees and customers - speaking in detail with several local folks, as she shopped.

When a local Londonderry resident at the farm stand named George told Harris, "I really want to see you debate President

Trump..." Harris replied, "I am very much looking forward to that!"

Harris said, "Meeting people in New Hampshire and hearing what's on their mind is one of the many things I love about coming here." The U.S. Senator and former prosecutor, as well as Attorney General from California, then was escorted across the way to an idyllic Moosehill orchard meadow, where a large crowd was ready to hear what the Presidential hopeful had to say at this rustic town hall event.

Derry Town Councilor Joshua Bourdon introduced Harris in front of a sizable gathering at this outdoor rally. The landscape was set up with seasonal pumpkins, hay bales, apple baskets and American flags against a scenic backdrop, adorned with an immense willow tree and a pond filled with Lilly pads.

Harris first thanked the crowd for coming and then Andy Mack Sr. for his generosity, as well as hosting her visit, and began her "stump" speech - that by the evidence of much applause - did not disappoint the gathering. She offered her thoughts on the nation's challenges telling



Andy Mack Sr. and Senator Kamala Harris pose for a photo at Macks Apples Farms Stand before addressing the crowd across the street.

the group what she wants to accomplish if she wins the Presidency. Harris spoke with a passion about our nation. "One reason for sure why we are all here today is that we love our country," she said. "And I arrive with you today, with a great sense of optimism."

Harris said her optimism is sparked by a desire to make this country work for all people and she spoke about how

her mother was small in stature, but big on strength and commitment. She said her mother taught her to treat others equally and with respect. Harris told the gathering, "My mother was tough. If you ever came home complaining, she would ask 'What are you going to do about it?'" So, I decided to run for President of the United States."

Harris called out Pres-

ident Trump and said his slogan to "Make America Great Again" is a call to take the country backward. Harris said, "He was talking about going back to something, but what? Before the Fair Housing Act? Before voting rights? Before Roe v. Wade?" Her follow-up, "We aren't going back" received a big round of applause from the gathering.

Another applauded topic was when Harris discussed Trump's tax cut. She said this was a blow to middle-class families, and a financial boost for big corporations. She said If she was elected President, she would repeal Trump's tax bill on day one.

Harris has a plan to give tax credits to families with specific income levels, who may receive up to a \$6,000 a year. She also strongly supports American teachers and said they should be paid fairly. She intends to push federal investment to close the teacher's pay gap.

Harris says that as President she would request that Congress put a bill on her desk within

the first 100 days to address gun violence and if that did not happen, she would take executive action. "We need responsible gun control, universal background checks and a ban on assault-style weapons. In the America we believe in, our babies should never go to school to endure a drill during which they are taught to crouch in a corner or hide in a closet."

Harris believes in universal Medicare for all - with choices of private or public options saying, "Healthcare is a right, not just for those who can afford it."

One questioner identified himself as naturalized U.S. citizen said he spent "all this effort" to live the American dream; and then Trump got elected. "Somehow a racist bigot gets into the White House ...so I am scared for this country. I am scared for people of color in this country."

He then asked Harris what she would do "in the next one year, to diminish the mentally retarded actions of this guy?" The man received crowd applause and laughter as Harris began an answer saying, "Well said, well said."

Harris later apologized after criticism about her answer related to this man's use of the words "mentally retarded." "I didn't hear the words the man used in that moment, but if I had I would've stopped and corrected him. I'm sorry. That word and others like it aren't acceptable. Ever," she later wrote on Twitter.

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Senior Gators Club Celebrate Before LHS Football Opener

IDAN VINITSKY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

There was excitement in the Londonderry High School air last Friday evening, as the Lancers' Varsity Football team was preparing to take on Concord for its season opener.

And about an hour before the players took the field, the school's Senior Gators Club led a pregame celebration which is somewhat like a 'tailgating' party for the club's members, right behind the main stands. The evening ended with a big 48-6 victory.

Chris Tutt, the Senior Gators President this year, explained the club, "We have been trying to revamp the Senior Gators tradition. We are trying to get more local restaurants to cater us."

For the first game, the club received subs from the local Market Basket and for the school's next home game, on Friday, Sept. 20, against Timberlane, the plan is to have Kendall Pond Pizza, "We have a bunch of things planned for each home game," says Tutt.

There are currently around 75 members in the

club. The cost for a full year of membership is \$30 and it includes a T-shirt and entry to all the Senior Gators pregame festivities. The club's advisor is Londonderry High School Assistant Principal, Katie Sullivan.

"We have activities before the games", adds Tutt. "It's a tradition. It's been going on for 14 years and we just want to keep it rolling. We want to set the picture for future classes. We want them to say 'they did a really good job, I want to be just like them'."



Members of the Senior Gator Club also cheer on their team at game from the stands. Photo by Chris Paul

Woodmont

Continued from page 1
infrastructure.

Smith emphasized that the amendment does not change anything in the existing development agreement, just puts specifics to what is already in the agreement.

The Town Council agreed unanimously to give directions to the Town Manager to sign the agreement and approve the amendment.

According to an email which was sent by Town Attorney Michael Ramsdell to attorney Ari Pollack, the First Amendment was discussed with the Town Council members before Monday's meeting, in a non-public meeting at Town Hall. The meeting took place shortly before Town Council meeting, in the room next to the Town Manager's office.

"Before the First Amendment is signed by our clients, I want to ensure we have a common understanding of the Town of Londonderry's

approach to Derry about seeking additional wastewater capacity to the Derry Wastewater Treatment Plant while seeking an extension of the Inter-Municipal Waste Agreement, which is set to expire in 2021," wrote

attorney Ramsdell in his email to Pollack. "While not mentioned in the First Amendment, the Town intends to negotiate for total addition reserved capacity in the amount of 600,000 GPD of wastewater to the DWTP. Pro-

vided the Town secures the additional reservation of 600,000 GPD, the Town plans to allocate 400,000 GPD of additional reservation to sewer flow from the area served by the existing Tokanel pump station and newly con-

structed portion of the South Londonderry Interceptor. The other 200,000 GPD shall be allocated to WC-12."

It is in the context of this broader plan that paragraph 5 of the First Amendment states: "In

the context of extending the IMA, the Town shall attempt to negotiate for capacity such that an additional reservation of 200,000 GPD of wastewater to the DWTP shall, when able, be allocated to WC-12."

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Governor Picks Year's First Apple at Chester's Hazelton Orchards

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The official start of Apple Picking Season in New Hampshire was kicked off on a beautiful sunny pre-fall afternoon at Hazelton Orchard in Chester last week.

New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu was accompanied by officials from the N.H. Tourism and Agricultural Officials to pick the first apple of the fall season and also announced visitation and spending projections for fall 2019.

Sununu and Taylor Caswell, the Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs as well as Shawn Jasper, the Commissioner, of New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food met with Kitt Plummer, a Londonderry resident and Hazelton Orchards farm

manger, , and Representatives from New England Apple Association and the New Hampshire Fruit Growers Association to celebrate the event on Thursday, Set. 5.

The officials attending also shared their thoughts on visitation and spending projections for the fall 2019 season, while also presenting the fall tourism marketing campaign. The fall tourism season, represents about 25-percent of total annual visitation, draws the second-largest number of visitors compared to all four seasons in New Hampshire.

Jasper began things by saying how much he enjoyed seeing that Kit had brought the orchard back to full production. "I've been coming by here my whole life," he said "This is what New Hampshire is really all about."

Plummer addressed

the crowd by saying, "We're really looking forward to having people come out this season to pick from the trees we've been working on all year."

Plummer was joined by many of his family members including his wife and mother and farther in-law.

Plummer also joked with the governor, that instead of picking just one apple he'd be picking the first 15-bushel bin.

He also explained that some of the trees on the property are over 150 years old.

Sununu also addressed those gathered in the orchard that afternoon by saying, "Agri-Tourism is such a huge part of our economy in New Hampshire," explaining that he had just signed in a bill on Agri-Tourism that morning in Lee.

The bill creates more "flexibility" at the local



Londonderry native Kitt Plummer, at right, hosted Governor Chris Sununu at the Orchard he manages in Chester for the First apple pick of the season. Also pictured is Derry State Representative John O'Connor. Photo by Chris Paul

level, "So people can do what they do best."

He stressed that buying local and growing local keeps the brand of what the state does alive.

He then read the proclamation recognizing New Hampshire Apple Day.

The proclamation stat-

ed that there are nearly 200 apple growers in the state, that produce nearly 20 million pounds of apples with the crop adding \$12 million annual to the state economy. It also stated that with more than 1,400 acres of orchards adds to the

open space in the state and helps enhance the beauty of the state.

After the proclamation was read, Plummer led the group to a tree full of Zestar! apples, where Sununu picked the first apple to get season officially underway.



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