

Londonderry Times



May 14, 2020 ♦ Volume 21 – Issue 20

A FREE Weekly Publication



Beginning to Bloom Apple orchards throughout the town of Londonderry have started blooming, bringing the start to another growing season. The trees near the Morrison House Museum are some of the first to start this year. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Planning Board Has Busy Agenda During Virtual Meeting

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Londonderry Planning Board meeting on Wednesday May 6, several plans were given approval by the members of the board.

The meeting, which was held via videoconference due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, had Town Planner, Colleen Mailloux, telling the board that the Planning Department is currently beginning to work out

details for how business establishments will be allowed to open as the governor starts to relax the pandemic policies.

These guidelines will be set up temporarily, and will allow for restaurants **continued on page 3**

Building Permit Denied Until Brewster Road Gets Improved

DOUG ROBINSON
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During a Conceptual Discussion by the Londonderry Planning Board held on Wednesday, May 6, members were asked to give their thoughts on plans for a home to be built on Brewster Road, where the owners of the property were asked make improvements to the road before the Planning Department could issue a building permit.

Scott and Darleen Ratte, of 34 Brewster Road have been living the American dream, owning a home on a lake and having an additional

25 acres of wooded land directly across from their home, and they wish to build a home for their son on that land.

Unfortunately, because the land is accessed by a Class VI road, or dirt road, the Planning Department will not issue a building certificate to build on 37 Brewster Road. Their dream is to build a modest, 1,600 square foot home with three bedrooms, on the corner of the 25 acres of land has been denied.

Town Planner, Colleen Mailloux, explained that a Class VI road is a “public way and open for travel, but is not

maintained, repaired, or plowed by the municipality. Brewster Road has a special exception in this case, because in 1995 the town did make a declaration declaring the road an emergency access land for the purpose of getting to the fish and game boat launch on Brewster Road. The declaration allows the town to expend funds and do some limited maintenance to keep the road passable for fish and game access.

The distance between the boat launch on Brewster Road and Scobie **continued on page 2**

Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced

KELSEY DERHAK
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School participated in the Light Up the Night by turning on all of the lights across the school grounds in support of the Class of 2020 this past Wednesday, April 29th.

The school was one of a number of schools across the nation showing their support for the class of 2020 amid the global pandemic. With precautions being taken to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, celebrating the class of 2020 has taken some

creativity to follow the respected guidelines put in place to slow the virus. The lights to all the athletic fields on the LHS grounds were lit up from 8:00 pm to 8:20 pm to honor the seniors in the class of 2020.

Along with showing the support for the Class of 2020 this week the Top 10 students of the senior class were named.

Valedictorian will be William Kemball-Cook.

The Salutatorian is Kerry Daley.

Third Honors; Timothy Gore. Fourth Honors; Dylan Hotter. Fifth

Honors; Courtney Shay. Sixth Honors; Cailin Borovicka. Seventh Honors; Ethan Byerly. Eighth Honors; Kelly Calawa. Ninth Honors; Stephen Bompastore. Tenth Honors; Cailey McDonough.

Kemball-Cook (Valedictorian) is headed to **continued on page 8**

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Londonderry Drop Off Center is Open for the 2020 Season

As of May 2, and through Nov. 21, the Londonderry Drop Off Center is open to residents each Saturday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. with the exception of July 4. It is also open each Wednesday through Sept. 9, from 3 - 7 p.m.

During the pandemic residents are asked to maintain proper social distancing and to ensure employee and resident's safety. The Drop Off Center attendants will allow only a limited number of vehicles into the gated area at one time. Residents may experience delays. Residents should follow CDC Face Mask guidelines while at the

Drop Off Center. Payment is by check only and residents should make every effort to bring their own pens. The town asks for residents patience while they provide this service during these unusual times.

The Drop Off Center is located at 13 Recovery Way off of West Road: From the junction of Route 102 and Route 128.

Mammoth Road - Follow Route 102 West towards Hudson approximately three miles to next set of lights - Take a right onto West Road - approximately one mile take a left onto Recovery Way to the Drop Off Center.

Acceptable Items -

No Charge

Yards Waste: Leaves, branches, grass clippings. (Limit one 6-wheel dump truck of brush)

Plastics: All rigid plastics with or without a recycling symbol, any size accepted (NO Styrofoam, NO plastic tarps, NO inflatable toys, NO plastic wrap or bags)

Clothing and Textiles: Any reusable item of clothing, draperies, and linens for the Salvation Army

Corrugated Cardboard: Packing boxes and other packaging cardboard, packed flat.

Single Stream Recycling: Acceptable paper, plastic bottles & containers, cans, glass (NO

plastic bags)

Rechargeable Batteries: From power tools, cell-phones, calculators, and laptops - Please give to attendants.

Automobile Batteries: Please give to attendants

Fluorescent Bulbs: All tube types and CFL's (spiral) Unbroken, please give to attendants.

Cell Phones: Please give to attendants.

Acceptable Items - Fee Charged -

Payment is by check only, No Cash is accepted.

Scrap Metal: \$5 per load - Aluminum, steel, brass, copper, and virtually any item made from metal will be recycled

except those containing Freon.

Propane Tanks: 20 lb. tank \$4, small 1 lb. tank no charge.

Construction Debris and Bulky Items: \$24 per cubic yard, Minimum \$7 up to 55-gallon barrel. Six-Foot Pickup Truck \$36, Eight-Foot Pickup Truck \$48. **Acceptable Items:** Pressure treated lumber, fiberglass, cement, plastic piping, wiring, sheetrock, carpet, lumber, and other building materials, bulky household items. **Non-Acceptable Items:** Railroad ties, asbestos, paint cans, gas cans, NO liquids of any kind.

Furniture: Small Items \$7 each. (Chairs, twin

mattresses etc.). Large Items \$14 each (Sofa, tables, full mattresses etc.)

Tires: Four Free with car registration (Additional tires \$2 without rim, \$3 with rim).

Electronics: \$7 computers, monitors, TV's 20" or less, microwaves (No charge for mice, keyboards and wiring) \$14 commercial size fax/copier machines, TV's larger than 20."

Overflow Bags: \$3 each for a 30-gallon overflow bag used for curbside trash collection.

For questions call: Public Works & Engineering Dept. 432-1100 ext. X193 or X137.

Brewster

Continued from page 1

Pond Road is approximately seven tenths of a mile, or close to 3,300 feet. From the boat launch to 37 Brewster Road, it measures another two tenths of a mile, or 1,100 feet. The town has set the expectation that the Rattes will need to pave the entire road, which measures over 4,200 feet. The road will be required to be brought up to town standards and National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards.

"The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) is a global, non-profit organization that promotes safety standards, education, training, and advocacy on fire and electrical-related hazards" ac-

cording to nfpa.org.

The Ratte's purchased 37 Brewster Road in October of 2013, for the purchase price of \$200,000. Londonderry's town policy dictating that no building certificate will be authorized should the property be located adjacent to a Class VI road was adopted in 2015. Town code now states that all building certificates will be issued only to property owners who are adjacent to a Class V, or paved, road.

"Our intent and primary interest was to control and keep the land away from developers," commented Scott Ratte. "We did not want (them) to come in cut down trees and put in residences. At that time, the land had an ap-

proved septic plan. When that plan expired this year, we updated it to a three-bedroom septic plan and it was approved by the state earlier this year."

Scobie Pond has been a popular recreation area for many residents of Londonderry for many years. Since 2014, the Londonderry Conservation Commission has advertised and promoted this scenic pond as a "prime recreational opportunity for the town." It is "peaceful and picturesque."

Planning Board Chairman, Arthur Rugg, stated that the "Town Council needs to balance aesthetics with town safety."

Chris Davies, Vice Chairman of the planning board commented, "(if) is an alteration (to

town code, it would be up to the State Fire Marshal to make that approval."

Fire Chief, Darren O'Brien said that the "State Fire Marshal would support local jurisdiction."

Members of the Planning board were both sympathetic and understanding to the Ratte's.

Town Council liaison, Deb Paul, said there should be some sort of work around for these things...undo the burden on an individual who is just trying to build a house for their son."

Planning Board member Giovanni Verani added, "These problems keep coming up in the town. I would be strongly behind the town coming up with an alternative. It's like all or nothing. I feel for you."

"I hate to tell a home

owner' no' commented Counselor Jake Butler. "It's their land. Give them an opportunity. Get the property owner, (get) the Fire Department, and see if we come up with something that works for the Londonderry Fire Department. Anything is better than what we have now. I (would) like to see that happen."

Rattes commented that he attempted that route of communication; however, the Fire Chief was not responsive to his solutions.

Butler continued to say, "This is why a planning board exists. Chief, you have guidelines you have to follow. John, you have guidelines you have to follow. The Planning Board is here as the driver of that middle of the road and that is why we are here. We do have

a gray area. We do have the opportunity to make it a little better. The town is responsible up to the boat ramp. How do we fault the homeowner for a part of the road the town is supposed to maintain? Shame on the town."

A consensus vote was taken by the Planning Board for the purpose of "holding a site walk... to see (the location) physically, for the purpose of discussion" stated Town Planner, Colleen Mailloux.

The hope of this site walk is that all parties would be able to come to an alternate solution for the betterment of the town, homeowner, and the other residents of Brewster Road.

At press time, the date and time of the walk was still to be determined.



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Planning

Continued from page 1

rants and salons to open with certain restrictions.

Mailloux was looking for the boards approval to handle these decisions administratively, so that each business would not have to come before the board, although, she did say, if there were any that needed more in depth decisions made she

would bring them before the board for review.

She let the board know that they would reviewing the opening of businesses along with the fire department to ensure measures are being taken to keep staff and customers of these businesses safe.

She added that this would be done on a very temporary basis.

Members voted to give Mailloux that authority.

Also at the meeting, Richard and Kathleen Sargent were looking for the boards approval on a subdivision for their property on the corner of Farm Meadow Lane and Auburn Road.

The request to divide one lot into three was unanimously, conditionally approved by the board.

Another hearing that evening was for a Lot Line Adjustment at 28 Kelley Road. Jean Gagnon was the applicant and owner, along with Paul and Meredith Beal, the other owner, were looking to combine two properties into one large one.

An abutter spoke on what would be going onto the lot once approved and was told that even though the Planning Department is currently reviewing the future site plan, the abutter would need to call the town to see the plans.

That plan was also conditionally approved.

The developers of Sanborn Crossing Apartments attended the meeting to have a modification done on their phasing construction plan. They were looking to be able to have a certificate of occupancy before the site improvements were finished.

Construction is currently underway on the second affordable elderly housing unit on that site.

The board granted lifting the need to finish the site before allowing the units to be rented with the condition that the work be completed within three months.

There was also an application for a formal review of a lot line adjustment between 174 Rockingham Road and 178 Rockingham Road,

near Symmes Drive, where the applicant, 2V Londonderry LLC, was turning three parcels into two.

The plans were approved by the board without much in the way of discussion.

Also at the meeting, member Ann Chiampa was nominated and approved as the boards recommendation to the Town Council as a voting member of the Planning Board.

OBITUARY

Angela Mary Marks



Angela "Nonni" Marks, 89 – a resident of Manchester, NH passed away Wednesday, April 29, 2020. She was born July 14, 1930 in East Boston to Michael and Giovanina (Nigro) Materese and was the youngest of eight siblings. She is survived by her son Joseph Materese of Somerville, MA, Barbara Woo and her husband Roger Woo of Orlando, FL, grandsons Matthew and Dylan and granddaughters Michaela and Tabitha as well as several nieces and nephews all who brought her great pride and joy.

She loved the simple things in life: friends, old TV shows, scratch tickets and sweets! She loved God and worshiped daily. Her biggest attribute was the ability to lovingly impact all the lives that came to meet her.

There are no calling hours at this time however, memorial services will be set at a later date when it is safe to gather in her honor. Memorial contributions in her name can be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Peabody Funeral Homes & Crematorium, 15 Birch St., Derry is assisting the family with arrangements.

Let Nonni know how she touched your life by leaving condolences at www.peabodyfuneral-home.com.

OBITUARY

Michael G. Richards



Michael G. Richards, 53, of Londonderry, NH, died Monday May 4, 2020 in his home following a tough fight with cancer. He was born in Dorchester, MA on March 26, 1967, a son of Lynne (Coco) Richards and the late John R. Richards. Michael lived most of his life in Londonderry where he attended Londonderry High School, Class of 1985. Michael was a painter by trade, and had worked for Simpson's Painting, Agri Construction, and others. He loved fishing, the mountains and ocean, but his favorite time was spent with his son and grandson.

He is survived by his son, Andrew M. Richards; his grandson, Andrew M. Richards; his brother, Eric G. Richards; his sister, Jylle L. Marion; and his partner Londa Kimball. In addition to his father, he was predeceased by his brother John J. Richards.

Following cremation, a memorial service will be held at a later date. The Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium of Derry and Londonderry are assisting the family with arrangements

OBITUARY

Anna Hites



Anna Hites, 96, of Londonderry, NH died Thursday May 7, 2020 at the All American Assisted Living in Londonderry. Anna was born in Baltimore, MD on Sept. 28, 1923, a daughter of the late, Gregory and Anna (Bubela) Dolomanuk.

Anna enjoyed painting and had a special love for animals.

She is survived by one niece, Cynthia Fletcher and her husband Andrew of Kalamazoo, MI, and close friends and neighbors, Jerry loyack and Elaine Aubin.

Following cremation, private services will be handled by the family at a later date. The Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium of Derry and Londonderry is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her memory may be made to any Animal Rescue League of one's choice.



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Editorial

Something To Be Said About A Smile

I guess the people who bother me the most are the ones who seem to think the world owes them something just because, well, they exist. It's as though they feel that they are the "chosen few," the only ones on earth who have a right to be where they are when they are there.

Try going to any busy spot, and just sit and watch people. So frequently it appears that no one seems to care about the other people. No one seems to even think that the other person might be going through the same things they are. It seems like no one reaches out a hand to help anyone else unless they think it's going to result in something good for them.

Being kind to a person isn't difficult. Being kind isn't a sign of weakness. No. Being kind is probably just the opposite. Being kind to your neighbor, friend, family member or a complete stranger is more a show of strength than anything else.

You see, it doesn't take much for a person to get angry. There's no self-control or discipline involved in blowing up or taking your frustrations out on someone else. In today's world, that seems to be the norm. In today's world, it's more about doing unto others as they did unto you rather than

do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. The golden rule seems to be a thing of the past.

A strong person learns how to control his or her emotions. It takes courage to step out from the shadows of everyone else and do something different. It takes strength to see the world from another person's point of view.

Just because someone stepped on your foot, doesn't mean you have the right to step on someone else's. Just because someone closed the door in your face, doesn't mean you shouldn't hold it open for someone else.

How about walking out of a restaurant and having a complete stranger greet you with a smile and say hello, or someone passing by saying good day. It is not a grand gesture just a simple pleasantry, it does not take anytime or effort. Still, that act of kindness sets a tone for how people react.

Being kind isn't difficult. Being kind doesn't even have to take time away from your busy schedule. So the next time you are out and about say hello, give a smile and say good day to a stranger - you just might change that person's day. Why not share a smile instead of your frustration and anger. Be kind to your neighbor. It might just become contagious.

Letters

Out of State Visitors

To the editor,

I really don't believe how many out of state license plates I am seeing in NH as I go about my essential business the past couple of weeks.

I really believe NH should institute an out of state non-essential ban with a 14-day isolation period, just like our neighboring states are doing, especially with vacation time coming, we are only asking for trouble. I am calling on the Governor and state officials to institute this. Unless of course they have proper paperwork in hand stating they have essential business here! There is no way NH is going to get out of the Covid-19 situation without doing this. Our own fire chief has warned us about not inviting out of state travelers into the state.

More needs to be done like this so NH citizens can go about their business, get back to our businesses and get back to a (somewhat) normal way of life.

George A. Moranian
Londonderry

Lets Ride a Bike

To the editor,

My name is Amy Finamore, I am a member of Londonderry's School Board, but I speak only for myself in this letter.

I was recently lucky enough to receive a letter from a member of Londonderry's community. As someone who loves the mail, I was quite excited. In their letter, this community

member spoke of the importance of riding bicycles, for both children and adults. Their letter made me think of the work of Jean Twenge, a psychologist who often speaks about the impacts of technology on our children's development. Her research focuses on how digital natives interact with one another, their social emotional maturity and the predicted impacts as children move into adulthood. For any parent over the age of 40, Dr. Twenge frequently refers to the roller rink as a quintessential symbol of generational differences. Going to the roller rink was a choice children and teenagers made - a generation empowered in their decision-making. They may not have always been the best decisions, but these were decisions they had ownership of nonetheless.

What does this have to do with bike riding? Compared to children of the 1970's, 80's and 90's, today's children (notwithstanding COVID-19), go out less and have less unstructured time. This is not necessarily bad, but does make me wonder if the decline of bike riding is a bell weather of the loss of childhood independence and adventure seeking?

In college and in the workforce, we need our children to be good critical thinkers, to be problem solvers who know there is more than one way to solve a problem. Our children will need to communicate well, and think creatively. Unstructured, free

time, outside play, and yes, bicycle riding, can help children develop the confidence and independence needed to master these skill sets, to be successful now and in the future.

Thank you,
Amy Finamore
Londonderry

Letter Response

To the editor

Last week, there was a letter from a library patron who thought our website should be independent of the Town and that employees should be providing on line programs. We appreciate his interest. There is always room for improvement.

While closed, the Library has been busy preparing for the future and the "new" normal. Camera equipment has been purchased to facilitate the Summer Read Programs that serve some 3,000 participants, materials are being cleaned, and inventory that hasn't been done in a decade is being completed. Who knew that obtaining Plexiglas for sneeze barrier would be the new commodity rivaling toilet tissue?

We are mindful of the tax shock taxpayers received in their December tax bill so a separate Website seems to be out of the question at this time. We are grateful to the Town for our many shared services such as Website and grounds maintenance. There are economies to be realized by combining such functions to say nothing of possible

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Londonderry Times

The Londonderry Times is a weekly publication. It is mailed to every home in Londonderry free of charge and is available at a number of drop-off locations throughout the town.

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Letters

Continued from page 4

contract obligations for the Website. All governments are going to be struggling with finances in the near future due to the “virus days” so I believe this is the time to clamp down on spending tax money, and not requesting more.

I checked the state statistics on Hudson and Derry to compare with Londonderry, the latest being from 2018. Our budgets are pretty much the same, but Londonderry use was startling. Checked out materials including electronic books: L'derry – 466,000; Derry – 184,000, Hudson 157,000. It boggles the mind!

The next Trustee meeting will be June 3, at the Library with masks and separation, we are always happy to receive suggestions to enhance services for the patrons.

Betsy McKinney
Library Trustee

In Response to Letter

To the editor,

Regarding Mr. Donald Moskowitz' letter to the editor spreading the rumor that the coronavirus responsible for covid-19 “came from bat research at the Wuhan Center for Disease Control & Prevention,” I would like to caution readers about listserve.com.

Mr. Moskowitz used a listserve article, or “list,” in the publication's parlance, as the

source of his information. Listserve should be low on anyone's list of places to find well-researched news. Simply go to www.listserve.com/authors/listserve-author-guide.pdf to see what a contributor must do to have his or her list published. Listserve assumes its writers will use other websites as their sources, so gives a list of websites they may not use as sources, like CNN and The Washington Post and several others. That leaves questionable online and print papers to the writer, or doing the research themselves by interviewing primary sources.

Listserve pays nothing for submissions it accepts, but dangles the possibility of future payment if the writer's article is popular enough. Now, if you were a conscientious journalist and did your research into virus lifespan, then interviewed the appropriate experts to get respected opinions and explanations as to the origin of this particular virus, would you submit your article to Listserve?

The stuff you'll find on listserve is cobbled together from various websites that cannot afford their own professional journalist staffs. Some of its stuff is by professional writers (that is, writers who are paid), perhaps, but it is not original, thoughtful, well-researched journalism. It is short articles meant to shock the reader, as they express-

ly ask for in their Author's Guide.

Although I appreciate the Londonderry Times' role in giving the people of our town a place to voice opinions, I am rather disappointed that the paper would participate in the rumor-spreading that organizations like listserve rely on. We have enough misinformation as it is.

Let Londonderry Times be a place where the light of good journalism and thoughtful opinions shines.

Amy Lapwing Pitts
Londonderry

“We need to do better”

To the editor,

I would like to start off by thanking our medical workers and first responders for the wonderful work they have been doing to help the community combat Covid-19. It has been great to see everyone band together. That said, I would like to respectfully take a counterpoint to Fire Chief O'Brien's statement that “We need to do better”. As of Sunday, May 10th, there were 90 confirmed cases in Londonderry. In a town with a population of greater than 24,000, that puts our infection rate at .0037%. In fact, as testing increases, the number of confirmed cases be-

comes less and less relevant. The numbers that matter are hospitalizations, patients that require ventilators, and fatalities and those numbers, thankfully, remain relatively low. While I appreciate the Fire Chief's sentiment, because I believe it comes from a good place, he came off as him scolding the community at large. During my weekly trips to the grocery store and pharmacy, I have seen the vast majority of the people wearing masking and social distancing. From my standpoint, WE are doing a great job as everyone has sacrificed at some level for the greater good. In the end, I believe that some of our community leaders have forgotten that realism and hope are not mutually exclusive. It is their job to paint the picture of a future of prosperity and normalcy while setting a realistic path of how we get there. The doom and gloom scenarios are getting old and our small businesses will not last if we do not find a way to be smart enough to do two things at once, be safe and smart while being open. I trust that our community can. I am just not sure that our leaders, all the way up to the governor's office, believe we can. And that is a problem.

Tony Ramy
Londonderry

Travesty of Lt. General Michael Flynn (Part I)

To the editor,

After two years of House Intel Committee chairman Adam Schiff blocking HIC documents regarding the FBI and HIC investigation of Army Lt. General Michael Flynn for purportedly lying to the FBI about conspiring with the Russians to influence the 2016 presidential election in Trump's favor, Schiff was finally forced by Republicans to release the documents. We now know from the documents that the investigation and subsequent conviction of General Flynn was a case of entrapment and coercion by the FBI to get Flynn to admit to violating the Logan Act. The Logan Act enacted January 30, 1799 and seldom enforced is a federal law that criminalizes negotiation by unauthorized American citizens with foreign governments having a dispute with the United States. Flynn, who was the National Security Advisor to Trump after Trump's swearing in, supposedly violated the Logan Act in a phone conversation with the Russian ambassador prior to Trump

being sworn in thus purportedly violating the Logan Act. The phone conversation as charged by the FBI was allegedly to discuss eliminating sanctions imposed by Obama as a penalty for Russia trying to influence the 2016 presidential election in Trump's behalf. However, the CIA had tapped the phone conversation and documented that the conversation was merely a show of sympathy by Flynn of a recent Russian airplane crash killing Russians. Still the FBI used this phone conversation as the bogus basis to investigate, entrap and coerce Flynn into pleading guilty to lying that there was no discussion with the Russian ambassador about eliminating the sanctions when Trump became president. The FBI threatened Flynn that his son would be prosecuted for the same violation of the Logan Act since Mike, Jr. ran General Flynn's counter-intelligence consulting company and should by default be guilty of the same Logan Act violation. General Flynn pled guilty to protect his son losing millions of \$\$\$, his home and bankrupt

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May Has Become Mental Health Awareness Month

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
LONDONDERRY TIMES

As the news of Stay At Home 2.0 rolls out across the Granite State, those who have already been confined to their homes for several weeks may be experiencing a number of emotions.

And for those who have already had difficulty dealing with emotion, this may be exacerbating preexisting issues.

Since many New Hampshire residents will be finding themselves at home for the remaining days of May, it is a fitting time to observe National Mental Health Awareness Month.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) works to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public, and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families. One way the organization works to do this is through informing the public through Mental Health Awareness Month every May.

NAMI's "You Are Not Alone" campaign for 2020 serves as an important reminder of the importance of reaching out during this time of social distancing.

"Now more than ever before, it is important for the mental health community to come together and show the world that no one should ever feel alone," says the NAMI website.

The "You Are Not Alone" campaign strives to help those struggling build a connection by increasing awareness of digital tools that make reaching out possible during this time of social distancing.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently come out with some best practices for those having a hard time coping with stay at home orders and with the pandemic in general. The following practices help to support NAMI's Mental Health Awareness campaign, and more can be found in the document titled, "Mental health and psychological considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak" released by the WHO in March of 2020.

Being supportive to others during this time benefits both the person being supported and the person offering support, says the WHO. Calling neighbors or anyone in the community in need of extra assistance can

help to create a sense of solidarity and strength in numbers, and helps those who otherwise might go without the assistance they need.

The WHO also suggests trying to minimize the amount of COVID-19 news and stories that reach those who find themselves overwhelmed and anxious. Muting or temporarily unfollowing certain pages or individuals on social media and choosing only to follow trusted news sources and local news can help cut down on the bombardment of constant anxiety-inducing media. Setting aside spe-

cific times of the day to check news updates can also be helpful for those who find themselves obsessively or compulsively seeking out an overflow of information.

Older adults and those with underlying health concerns may be more anxious, angry, or withdrawn while in quarantine, says the WHO. Establishing a network of family members, friends, neighbors, and health professionals can help to alleviate some of the stress elderly or immunocompromised individuals are likely currently under.

The WHO urges those

who have had to isolate alone to try their best to maintain their social networks and keep their personal daily routines intact as much as possible. Staying in touch with loved ones via telephone, social media, or video conference can help to reduce feelings of loneliness. Paying attention to personal needs such as maintaining a healthy diet and getting exercise from home can also cut down on negative feelings during isolation, and can be done as a group via video conference.

These uncertain times have been affecting everyone, especially

those already struggling with their mental health. But one thing remains certain: though the community must remain distanced a while longer, no one should feel completely hopeless. Remember, "You Are Not Alone."

For more resources on mental health as it relates to the COVID-19 crisis, visit mhanational.org/covid19, or search COVID-19 Information and Resources on nami.org.

The National Alliance on Mental Health offers a helpline which can be reached at (800) 950-NAMI, or by texting NAMI to 741741.

Despite Less Traffic, Granite State Sees Spike in Traffic Fatalities

The Office of Highway Safety (OHS) urges all motorists to help public safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic by keeping unnecessary hospitalizations down due to preventable crashes. To date, there have been 34 traffic-related fatalities resulting in a 70% increase from this same period in 2019. Pedestrian fatali-

ties are also on the rise with eight adult pedestrian fatalities resulting in a 166% increase from this same period last year.

"Despite a drop in traffic volume, fatalities continue to rise. We are also seeing an increase in speeding. During this difficult time, OHS remains committed to traffic safety and will maintain coordinated police monitoring activities between local, county and state law enforcement agencies," said Commander of Highway Safety, Captain William Haynes. He continued: "We will remain visible on the roads to ensure traffic safety and we will continue to support our

local and state partners in the fight against COVID-19. Our commitment is to our NH citizens. We are all working together to ensure safety in all capacities."

Commander Haynes offers the following traffic safety recommendations:

For Motorists:

- Slow down and obey all posted speed limits
- Stay alert for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists
- Avoid all distractions
- Wear your seat belt in every position (front and back seats)
- Never drive impaired

For Pedestrians:

- Obey all Walk/Don't Walk signs
- Use a sidewalk/crosswalk whenever possible, or as needed, walk facing traffic
- Wear reflective clothing/gear when walking at night
- Stay alert

OHS thanks the motoring public for their continued efforts in making good choices behind the wheel. Whether you are an essential worker traveling to and from work or driving to get essential items, please observe all rules of the road and #GetHomeSafely.



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Fire Chief Gives Weekly Address on Covid-19 Pandemic

PAUL MARGOLIN
SUBMISSION

As residents continue to remain at home due to the Stay-at-Home guidelines set up by New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, Londonderry Fire Chief Darren O'Brien has been keeping the town abreast of the state of our community.

It has been nearly two months since the State of Emergency was issued, and the chief has been posting weekly video updates on the town website.

On Thursday, May 7,

O'Brien updated the number of cases in town, he said, "Again this week Londonderry numbers are continuously going up, we are currently sitting at 36 cases here in town, and that number is increasing every week."

He cautioned citizens to be careful as the governor begins to ease restrictions over the next couple weeks. Salons, barbershops and restaurants will be opening between May 11 and May 18 and with that the chief reiterated, "Please wear some sort of mask when going out

in public, whether it's a cloth mask, a surgical mask, or a N95 mask, people need to wear a mask."

O'Brien reminded residents that there are

many people in the community that are asymptomatic, and don't know they are walking around with the virus. Those people are unknowingly infecting

those around them to the virus.

O'Brien cautioned that the things are getting worse, not better, and each week the amount of cases in town increases. "I think we're in this for the long haul," he said.

He added, we need to keep up with social distancing, follow the Governor's stay at home order, wear a

mask when going out in public.

He also warned residents to stay away from the rail trail over the weekend saying, it looks like a Massachusetts parking lot, or a New York sidewalk. It's crazy."

For more information, visit www.londonderry.org, www.governor.nh.gov or www.cdc.gov

OBITUARY

Susan C. Brown



Susan C. Brown, 75, of Londonderry, NH died Monday May 4, 2020 at her home surrounded by her loving family. Susan was born in Woburn, MA on March 24, 1945, a daughter of the late, Walter Brown, Sr. and Irene (Tate) MacDonald.

Susan attended schools in Dracut, MA and Pelham, NH. She spent her career caring for others in the medical field as a Licensed Nursing Assistant Retiring from Windham Terrace Assisted Living Facility in Windham, NH. She was an avid collector of Elvis Presley Memorabilia and truly one of his biggest fans. She was a lover of dogs, especially her Chihuahuas that she has had in the past.

She is survived by her two daughters, Lorri (Blinn) Moore of Londonderry, and Sharon Blinn-Silva and Son-in-Law, Keith Silva of Londonderry, three granddaughters, Melanie Reilly of Nashua, Jessica Silva of Londonderry and Amanda Reilly. One grandson, Danny Silva of Hooksett, 12 great-grandchildren, six brothers, Cary Brown, Dennis Brown, Timothy Brown, Walter Brown Jr., David Brown, and Steven Brown, five sisters, LuAnn Mehlman, Mary Gallant, Linda Leonard, Nancy Dodson, and Shirley Marie Holland, also many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Patty (Brown) Smith, two grandchildren, Nicole Reilly, and Deatrah Reilly, and by two great-grandchildren, Kamdyn, and Izabella.

Following cremation, private services will be held at a later date by the family. The Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium of Derry and Londonderry is assisting the family with arrangements.

Londonderry Times

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OBITUARY

Gregg J. Boie



Gregg J. Boie, died Monday, May 4, 2020 at Portsmouth Regional Hospital in Portsmouth, NH. He was born in Baltimore, MD the son of James "Jim" and Teresa (Dube) Boie. Gregg was a graduate of the Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover, MA, class of 1971.

Gregg had a 40-year career with Malden Mills/Polartec of Lawrence, MA as a Facilities Manager. In 2017, he started a new career with the University of New Hampshire of Durham, NH working as a Facilities Project Manager.

Gregg was a thoughtful and considerate man, always putting others needs before his own. He was gifted in his technical abilities and was well known for his electrical and mechanical skills.

He had lifelong passions for music, classic muscle cars, motorcycles, golfing and fishing. Most recently, he began collecting firearms, riding his four-wheeler, and relearning guitar.

A longtime resident of Londonderry, NH, he is survived by his wife of 20 years, Claire (Tremblay) Boie; his sons, Jamison and Timothy of Hampton, NH; stepson, Peter Soucy of Manchester, NH; his granddaughter, Caralyn, his dog Grizz, sister, Robin Grasso and two brothers Garry and Glenn Boie.

There are no calling hours. Following cremation, memorial services will be held at a date in the future when it is safe to gather again.

OBITUARY

Richard H. Carlson

Richard H. Carlson, 87, of Londonderry, NH, passed way Sunday May 3, 2020 surrounded by his loving family in the Elliot Hospital, Manchester, NH. He was born on Jan. 10, 1933 in Arlington, MA, the son of Henry and Ruth (Potter) Carlson. Richard worked as a mechanical engineer for Raytheon for many years.

He is survived by his daughter, Brenda Demirjian of Sandown, NH; two sons, Doug Carlson of Valerica, FL and Glenn Carlson of West Virginia and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 58 years, Natalie (Stanford) Carlson in 2013.

There are no services at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held by the family at a later date when it is safe to gather together again. Memorial contributions may be made to Londonderry United Methodist Church, 258 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry, NH 03053. The Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 15 Birch Street, Derry is assisting the family with arrangements. To send a condolence or for more information, please visit, www.peabodyfuneral-home.com

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LHS Top Honors

Continued from page 1

Brown University this fall. Kemball-Cook was a founding member of the Green Council, worked with the Blue Star Lancers (support the military), and played soccer for the New England Revolution Academy. Over his four years at LHS Kemball-Cook notes that his favorite thing about high school was his teachers, “I had some really amazing teachers that truly changed my life.” What helped him make the best of his high school experience? Kemball-Cook credits time management skills, and of course, his friends. Kemball-Cook plans on studying chemistry this fall at his first choice, Brown University.

Kerry Daley (Salutatorian) will be attending Harvard this fall. Daley was involved in a variety of activities during his four years at LHS including being class president and running cross-country. He notes that along with the staff at LHS the “sporting events, expressions of spirit, and friends” is what helped him make the best of his four years. While finishing up his senior year online he is looking ahead and finding joy in the small things. Daley will be studying neuroscience at Harvard in the fall with hopes of one day becoming a doctor.

Timothy Gore (third Honors) is planning to attend Williams College in the fall after graduat-



William Kemball-Cook
Valedictorian



Kerry Daley
Salutatorian



Timothy Gore
Third Honors

ing from Londonderry High School. During his time at LHS he is especially thankful for the school in its entirety, “the educators and staff create an environment that helps students like me grow and discover their passions.” One of his passions being the

school newspaper, “The Lancer Spirit”, where he has worked on the paper for the past three years. He plans on studying mathematics and theatre at school and pursuing a career in education.

The Dollars for Scholars Teacher of the Year for 2020 at Londonderry High School was also announced this past week naming Kelly Giguere this year’s winner. Kelly Giguere has been teaching for 31 years and is also a graduate of Londonderry High School. Working with children was always on her radar, however she started off at college as a biology major in a pre-med program. Realizing her passion was in the humanities, she looked to her former principal

for advice. “I was home visiting and had a conversation with Mr. Thibodeau, about not loving classes and he suggested I take an education class. Once I did, I realized that was the direction I wanted to pursue,” says Giguere. Now with 31 years under her belt Giguere is facing a new challenge with online teaching during a global pandemic, but like teachers across the world she is rising to the occasion. While she is certainly fortunate for the access to technology, “it can never replace the power of physically being together in a classroom,” she adds. As hard as it is for teachers to move their curriculum online she knows it is just as hard for her students. She

recalls working on their college essays in the fall and being struck by how many shared personal stories of overcoming serious challenges and being impressed with their resiliency. During this difficult time she encourages her students, as well as the senior class, to “hold on to that goodness and never let go.” Ms. Giguere is not only well thought of by her students but by those who work alongside her too. “She has devoted her life to helping students find success and the self-confidence they need to reach levels of excellence they didn’t believe they could attain,” says LHS Principal, Jason Parent.

Letters

Continued from page 5

cy. Release of the documents now reveal that Flynn was coerced to admit that he lied when in fact he did not discuss eliminating the sanctions and only pled guilty to protect his son. Although Flynn was the FBI’s upfront target, there’s more to it than just Flynn’s charges which will be

brought forth next week in Part 2 of this travesty. Have the morals, ethics and corruption in our federal government in imposing the will of so few sunk so low that our Republic and our Constitution are in danger of being subverted? We, the American people, cannot condone the corrupt acts of powerful people at the head of our Republic. Due to limited word-space in

this venue, I will continue in the next edition of The Londonderry Times the wrongful charges against General Flynn and the direction that William Barr’s DOJ must take in pursuit of the truth. Please hang onto this edition so you can follow the path to the hopeful conclusion of federal government corruption.

Bob Pitre
Londonderry

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

College Sports Recruiting Changes During the Pandemic

KELSEY DERHAK
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With stay at home orders still issued for most states, college recruiting looks a lot different from both the perspective of the athlete and the college coach.

Every level of sports has come to a halt during this pandemic. From professional sports to youth sports, everything has shut down. It has been especially hard for the seniors who cannot play out their last high school season. Some of those seniors, while it is hard not to be able to play their sport, are continuing their sport in college. But what about those players who are looking to get recruited during a pandemic? Your sophomore and junior seasons are important recruiting years.

A big part of recruiting is getting seen. You have to get seen by a coach or a coach has to see you play, either in your high school season, club season, or a prospect camp etc. With all those options

on hold right now there are still things you can do for any sport to help yourself in the recruiting process. While there are a lot of things you cannot do, here are some things you can do to help yourself get ahead as told by someone in college athletics.

Make yourself a highlight video. Gather all of the clips you have of yourself playing and combine them into one video. Make sure to have a title card with all of your information on it including: your name, the teams you play for, your hometown, your graduating class, your GPA, your jersey number, and your position for whatever sport you play. It is also important for you to point yourself out in each clip to make it easier for those coaches to know it's you. You can either spotlight yourself or pause the clip and make sure to have an arrow pointing towards you. The good clips usually show 10-20 seconds before you do something so the coach can see the play develop, or 10-20 seconds after if what you

did helped your team succeed in any way. Remember to keep the video between 2-10 minutes long, it is just to showcase your talent, not to display every game you have ever played in.

Send an email. Research the schools that fit what you are looking for in higher education. Keep in mind that you have to spend 4 years there not just playing sports but living there and taking classes as well. Once you have some schools in mind, send an email to the coaching staff. Introduce yourself and add a personal touch (i.e. why you are interested in the school). Make sure to mention where you are from, your graduating class, GPA, position, teams you play on, and contact information for your club and/or high school coaches. Including contact information for your current coaches is another way for a college coach to have the ability to contact those coaches and get an idea of how you are as a player. This may provide infor-

mation that your highlight video might have missed. At the end of your email is a good place to attach a link to your highlight video and if there are any times and places where they can see you play. You don't have to write a novel but make sure to include all the key information.

Keep up with their social media. All if not most teams have their own social media accounts that they keep up to date with any information you might need. Their accounts might contain any links to prospect

camps, summer camps, and play days they might have. Since no one knows exactly when these might be held nowadays it is good to follow their social media to stay up to date on when they will be taking place. Camps and playdays are a great way to be seen by college coaches and get coached by them first hand. The team social media accounts provide important recruiting information and will help you get a sense of the team in general. They can show you what your day to day

might look like if you make the team.

Keep in mind while you might be worried that no coaches can see you play right now, everyone is in the same boat. College coaches are also trying to find creative ways to recruit players while having limited resources. It is all about controlling what you can control and doing what you can do right now as a part of your recruiting process. More opportunities will open up, but in the meantime use these tips to help gain momentum in getting recruited.

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Londonderry Recreation Committee Holds First Virtual Meeting

KELSEY DERHAK
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On Monday, May 11th, the Londonderry Recreation Commission held its first virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was held via telephone conference where the public could access the meeting with a certain code that was made public on the Commission's meeting notice. The meeting was brief and lasted just over twenty minutes. The focus was kept on status updates on fields throughout the town. Discussions were focused around what could be done during this period of stay-at-home orders.

One major concern was the athletic fields and their care. Maintaining the athletic fields

was deemed a necessary expense. The Recreation Commission's budget is currently frozen due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only authorizing necessary expenses. The major concern regarding the budget freeze is the need to pay the fire department overtime in the event the department is hit by the virus.

The concern with the athletic fields being that if they are not cared for now, it will take a couple years to get them back. The fields need to be treated with fertilizer and insecticides to help control the weeds, with a major focus on the grub issue at the LAFA fields. The treatments to the fields were authorized and can be cared for during this time.

The only updates given at this time to the recreation commission's budget was that it is in good standing. With no extra labor costs, no use of the public porta potties, and a decrease in electricity use across the town's fields the budget is in good shape.

The town has closed all of its fields, courts and playgrounds during the pandemic to help stop the spread of the virus. There have only been a few incidents where people have been found using the facilities and they have all been cooperative in leaving.

There have been few cases of vandalism over the years but most recently there was an incident regarding a fire damaged five ft. by five ft. area on the town basket-

ball courts. The Town Highway Department has agreed to help and will pave over the area and the Recreation Commission will take care of painting it. The Commission members added that generally people take good care of the facilities and respect the area. This incident would most likely not have happened if the facilities weren't closed.

Another hot topic brought up during the meeting: When will the fields re-open? The short answer being that no one has an exact date

and time. Commission member's noted that the decision lies with the Town Council, Town Manager, and the Fire Chief. All of who are sticking close to the guidelines from the state and the answer will depend on the orders given by Governor Sununu.

There was an additional question concerning if the facilities would be opening for the summer sports camps and the Summer Playground Program as expected. Currently the playground program is expected to

start July 4th. Most voices at the meeting agreed that most likely the opening will not go as planned due to the children's safety and liability reasons. As that may end up being the case it questions and concern was discussed about those who run the program and are counting on that paycheck. The Commission discussed coming to a decision some time in June to give people a chance to find another job. There were no final decisions made on the matter and the meeting was adjourned.

Department of Revenue Launches Annual Property Tax Relief Program

Applications for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program due June 30; provision allows for additional time to provide federal tax return

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA) is accepting applications for its Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program through June 30, 2020. NHDRA distributed more than \$1.1 million through this tax relief program last year, and more than \$44 million in total since the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program launched in 2002.

Applicants are required to submit their individual income tax returns with the application. However, given the federal July 15 extension, some may not have

filed their federal return by the June 30 Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program deadline. An existing provision allows NHDRA to accept late applications, if complete, until November 1 if the Commissioner believes the individual was prevented from completing his or her application in certain circumstances.

NHDRA is urging individuals to submit their applications by June 30. If an applicant has not yet filed his or her federal tax return by that date, NHDRA still urges the individual to submit his or her incomplete application by June 30, 2020 and submit the federal tax return as soon as it is complete, but no later than November 1, 2020.

"This relief program was designed to lessen the economic burden of

the State Education Property Tax on certain at-risk taxpayers," said NHDRA Commissioner Lindsey Stepp. "Our mission is to provide as much support as possible to our taxpayers. This is especially true given the current COVID-19 situation and we will continue to work with individuals to make sure those who qualify will get the relief they count on."

An eligible applicant for Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief is a person who is:

- Single with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$20,000; or
- Married or head of New Hampshire household with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$40,000; and
- Owns a homestead subject to the State Education Property Tax; and
- Has resided in that homestead as of April 1, 2019.

The application form (Form DP-8) is available on NHDRA's website at www.revenue.nh.gov/forms/low-moderate.htm. Older versions of the form will not be accepted.

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DMV Expands Appointment-Based Services to Three Locations

The New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announces the expansion of appointment-based services to three additional locations. Starting Monday, May 11, Salem, Nashua, and Keene will open for appointment only services, in addition to Concord, Dover, Manchester, Newport, and Twin Mountain. The following appointment only services will resume on Monday, May 11:

- Motorcycle permit testing – by appointment only. Call 227-4000 to schedule an appointment.

- Motorcycle testing – by appointment only, limited to the Concord location. Call 227-4020 to schedule an appointment.

- Motorcycle Rider Training classes. Call 227-4025 to register for a class.

- In-person driver license renewals are available for customers whose licenses have expired or will expire by June 30, 2020 – by appointment only. Call 227-4000 to schedule an appointment. Customers are encouraged to renew at www.nh.gov/dmv, if eligible.

- Customers transfer-

ring a license from another state – by appointment only. Call 227-4000 to schedule an appointment. The DMV offers the following important service reminders: Driver Licenses

- Non-Commercial Driver License driving road tests are not currently being conducted.

- All Commercial Driver License related transactions can be conducted by appointment only. Call 227-4000 to schedule an appointment.

- Customers whose licenses have expired or will expire by June 30, 2020 may apply for a 6-

month license extension. Call 227-4020 to apply for the 6-month license extension over the phone. Customers are encouraged to renew at www.nh.gov/dmv, if eligible.

- The REAL ID compliance deadline has been extended until October, 2021. REAL ID transactions will not be conducted for the duration of the Stay at Home Order. Vehicle Registrations

- Existing vehicle registrations are renewed by your city or town clerk's office. Please visit your town website or call your local town

clerk's office for vehicle registration renewal options.

- NH DMV 20-day plates as well as NH authorized dealer 20-day plates, issued on or after February 26, 2020 have been given an automatic extension through May 31, 2020. Residents are encouraged to reach out to their local city or town clerk's office for permanent vehicle registration options.

- Walking disability placards or license plates may be issued 6-month extensions without meeting the in-person application and med-

ical certification requirements. Drop box services are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. at the following locations: Concord, Dover, Manchester, Newport, Twin Mountain, Salem, Nashua, and Keene. For all other transactions, please call DMV customer service at 227-4000 to determine the availability of services. Customers should take advantage of the DMV's online services, including online driver license renewal for those who are eligible; ID renewals, and online ticket pay at www.nh.gov/dmv

Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Opening Delayed and Season in Doubt

It is with a heavy heart that we are announcing that the opening of the 4th season of the Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market will not take place as scheduled on June 3rd. Equally distressing is that at this point we do not know when, or if, we will open for the 2020 season. We have decided as a Board that it will not be before July at the earliest and the possibility exists that it may not happen at all.

The safety and health of vendors, volunteers, market patrons and the community at large MUST be our first priority, even if that means not having a Market. While there are other markets in the region pressing forward, so many of the things that make our market unique are proving to make for immense challenges as we try to adapt to a "new normal".

First and foremost is that Derry has been and continues to be a "hot spot" for Covid-19 cases. As of a week ago we had 143 known active cases in Derry alone. Our Market location in the heart of a bustling downtown of 34,000 people and next to the Derry Rail Trail also presents distancing challenges. Unlike other markets that are in parking lots/pavement, being on grass does not make it easy to mark out 6 foot spaces for waiting lines. And finally, with our average market attendance last year running between 700 and 750 people, putting that many people or more in a fairly confined space over the course of four hours is a significant concern.

While we cannot say that we are overly hopeful, we continue to look,

listen and explore options such as an alternate location that might better suit today's circumstances. This is not an easy decision for anyone on our Board. The entire Board and volunteers have poured their heart and soul into this Market for 3 years and frankly, have enjoyed every minute of it and have been immensely grateful for the support the community has shown. We are so disheartened at the prospect of not holding a market this season and our hearts break for both vendors and the community should that be the final decision.

We will continue to talk with other markets as well as watching conditions on the ground locally in the coming weeks. At this point we hope to make a final determination on the

season sometime after Memorial Day. However, barring some extraordinary circumstances, it is not looking good.

With the recent news of disruptions to the food supply chain, this decision is all the more difficult. Whatever happens, we will be doing whatever we can to support our vendors and we will be vocal advocates for the many advantages of supporting local farmers and sourcing more of your food locally.

About Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market:

Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, is registered with the NH Dept. of Agriculture and the NH Secretary of State's office and is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. It has been

organizing and operating the Market at 1 W. Broadway since 2017

Our Mission:

Derry Homegrown's mission is to provide local farmers and growers, artisanal bakers, gourmets and craftspeople with a long term sustainable marketplace for the many advantages of supporting local farmers and sourcing more of your food locally. We intend to create a vibrant marketplace where the community can purchase locally grown produce, locally raised meats, eggs and poultry, organic and grass fed dairy

options, and the highest quality prepared foods and baked goods along with quality handcrafted items from local artisans. We will also strive to educate the community on the many benefits of eating and buying locally.

For more info, contact Derry Homegrown at:

info@derryhomegrown.org
603-548-3935
derryhomegrown.org
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AROUND TOWN

Around Town Policy: This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group is receiving money for what they are publicizing, there will be a charge of \$40/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of three weeks. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m. Please send items to londonderrytimes@nutpub.net.

Yoga For Children

Do you have an active 3-6 year old? Upper Room offers Yoga for Children on Fridays from 9:45 - 10:15 a.m., May 8 - June 28. Free live on Zoom. Preregistration required, facilitated by the Childlight Education Company. Register at www.bit.ly/yoga-connect, Email skoza@URteacher.org with questions.

Caregiver Resource Line

Have parenting questions? Upper Room offers Parent & caregiver

resource line, call (603) 437-8477 ext. 26. Call with your name and contact number, and a trained professional will return your call within 24 hours. If you are having an emergency, please call 911.

Feeling Overwhelmed?

The Upper Room is offering supportive online counseling schedule a free one-on-one supportive counseling session. Email Seren at selizab@urteachers.org.

Raising another person's child?

Upper Rooms Grand-parent & caregiver support group is on Tuesdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Free, live on Zoom facilitated by The Upper Room. Join this weekly meeting for resources, discussions and support. To access, visit: www.us04web.zoom.us/j/140218559, Meeting ID: 140 218 559 Contact Seren Elizabeth at selizab@urteachers.org.

Raising children ages 0-12?

Upper Room offers Parent & caregiver workshops on Wednesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m. Free live on

Zoom, facilitated by The Upper Room. Tune into this new series for weekly workshops offering families information, discussion and support.

Food Pantry Open

The Upper Room's Food Pantry is Open; Monday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursday 3 - 4 p.m. contact-free pick up at 36 Tseneto Rd., Derry. Call 437-8477 x10 with questions.

Raising a teenager?

Upper Rooms Parent & caregiver café (PaCC) is on Thursdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Free live on Zoom, facilitated by The Upper Room. These meetings are a wonderful resource for parents and caregivers raising teens. Discuss your concerns and learn new parenting strategies.

Teen Talk

Upper Room offers Teen Talk (TT) for ages 13-18 yrs. On Tuesdays from 3 - 4 p.m. Free live on Zoom, facilitated by The Upper Room. A virtual place for teens to talk, connect, relate and support each other. To access, visit: www.zoom.us/j/111147286, Meeting ID: 111 147 286, Password: 694887. Contact: Nicole Smith Martin at nmartin@urteachers.org or call 437-8477 x29.

On My Own Teen Series

Upper Room's On My Own Teen Series, Learn Acrylic Painting Online, from May 6 - June 3 four video lessons followed by live discussions on Zoom. Free, facilitated by The Upper Room and PaintingParties.com for teens looking to learn new skills. This series includes four video painting lessons followed by weekly live discussions. Free art supplies are included. Register now to reserve your supplies. Contact Shelly at skoza@URteachers.org.

Young Adult Programs

On Fridays 11 - 11:30 a.m., facilitated by The Upper Room, weekly free remote support programs are available. To access: Contact Beth O'Connell at eoconnell@URteachers.org or follow the Young

Adults Strong Facebook page.

Building Skills

The Upper room is helping individuals in recovery build skills, confidence and start a career Bridge to WorkReadyNH Tuition Free Online from May 11 - 29. This 1-3 week course is self-paced and easy to follow. The 6 modules are interactive and coupled with virtual meetings with the instructor. Self-Leadership, Communication, Collaboration, Organization & Time Management Getting Your Job Search Started and Personal Development. To enroll, contact Tim Jones at tcjones@ccsnh.edu.

Couch to 5K

The Greater Derry Track Club is adjusting as well. We are trying to be optimistic about summer activities. We are hoping to schedule our Couch to 5K programs this summer. However, it's up in the air as to whether the associated race will be the Run for Freedom on July 4. Thank you to those of you who sponsored the 2020 Coach to 5K program. We are grateful and hope to provide this program within the year. If you have any questions please send me an email: fdag@gdctc.org

Leach Library

The Leach Library will be closed to the public until further notice. Please check the library's website (library news), the Facebook page or the blog for updates on virtual services and programs.

CART Transitions to Essential Trips only

In an effort to keep drivers and the ridership of CART safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, CART will transition to essential only. CART will communicate with all passengers who have current trips scheduled and make adjustments where appropriate. Essential travel will include medically necessary trips (dialysis, pharmacy, etc.) as well as trips to the grocery store. CART will work with passengers to accommodate

the essential trips and will work on timing to be as flexible as possible. Service will remain available to all towns, 5 days a week. Any questions, concerns or comments should be directed to mwhitten@mtabus.org or phone CART at 603-792-5151. CART looks forward to restoring regular service levels as soon as this crisis passes.

Annual Plant Sale

The Derry Garden Club's annual plant sale has a new location this year at the Robert Frost Farm, Route 28, in Derry on May 30 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. This event is our biggest fundraiser for the year and all proceeds go toward improving Conservation efforts in town and supporting our community projects. The plants come from our members' gardens as well as those donated by nurseries and our supporters. Our plants are guaranteed to be "clean". We make every effort not to transmit diseases and abide by all good gardening practices. We have knowledgeable gardeners on site to answer any questions you may have. Please join us on May 30.

Presbyterian Church

The Walking Together Group and the Walk With Me Group will be meeting together via zoom 7 p.m. every Tuesday, via computer or telephone. This is a support group for anyone who has lost a spouse, a family member or a friend. For information, contact: 781-866-9976 or jrkdias@aol.com

Touch A Truck!

Free family event offers hands-on opportunities for children to Explore, Climb, and Touch trucks, emergency response vehicles, heavy machinery, and other equipment. On June 6, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at West Running Brook Middle School 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry. A kid's fire muster will be held on the rear field hosted by your very own Derry Fire Department Prepare to be Amazed by the BMX Stunt Show who will be promot-

Continued on page 13

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Around Town

Continued from page 12

ing helmet safety and showing off their BMX skills. Don't forget to pick up your Free all-purpose helmet provided by the

Derry Police Department and get sized by Derry PD Officers with assistance from Derry Cooperative School Staff Members! Jump in line early - helmet sizes and numbers are limited. BMX Stunt Shows will take place at 11 a.m.

and 1 p.m. Horn/siren free hour is 10 - 11 a.m. (for sensitive ears). Overflow parking is located at the following locations: Derry SAU Office: 18 South Main St., and Derry Village School: 28 South Main St. A free shuttle will be pro-

vided to and from the event at each above location.

St. Jude Food Pantry

St. Jude's Food Pantry is open to all Londonderry resident who maybe in need. Call Kay at 434-1827

to make an appointment to pickup your food from the panty. "We are there for the people and want to help them."

Evolve!

A group for young woman ages 13 to 18 to

talk about today's challenges meets every Wednesday from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Upper Room, 36 Tsienneto, Rd. Derry. This is a free weekly group. To register, Call 437-8477 to register ext. 16.

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - May 4

7 a.m. Criminal Mischief investigated at New Construction Site on Pet-tengill Road.
9:33 a.m. Complaint investigated on Auburn Road.
11:57 a.m. Domestic Disturbance investigated by three officers on Nutfield Drive.
12:14 p.m. Services rendered during suspicious activity on Elwood Road.
4:33 p.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Department with transportation to hospital on Sandstone Circle.
11:42 p.m. Criminal Threatening investigated on Pendleton Lane.

Tuesday - May 5

9:38 a.m. Services rendered for Neighborhood Disputes on Sunset Drive.
12:11 p.m. Fish & Game Violations investigated on Mayflower Drive.

4:26 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Crestview Circle.
4:29 p.m. Services rendered for Criminal Threatening on Pine Hollow Drive.
5:52 p.m. Three officers restore peace during Domestic Disturbance on White Plains Avenue.
7:54 p.m. Services rendered for Disturbance on Nashua Road at Citizen's Bank.
8:35 p.m. Drug Offenses investigated by three officers at Boat Ramp on Brewster Road.
8:58 p.m. Five officers assist with an Arrest during a Domestic Disturbance on High Range Road. Eric Hanson, 49, of Londonderry charged with Domestic Violence (Simple Assault, Physical Contact).

Wednesday - May 6

7:43 a.m. Services rendered for Suspicious

Activity on Smith Lane at Life Storage.
11:46 a.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud reported on Michels Way at N.H. Liquor Store.
11:58 a.m. Four officers render services for a Welfare Check on Rockingham Road.
12:30 p.m. Missing Person investigated on Nutfield Drive.
2:52 p.m. Services rendered in Keeping the Peace on Alexander Road.
5:13 p.m. Sex Offenses reported on Oak Drive.

Thursday - May 7

10:14 a.m. Services rendered for Unlawful Activities on Trolley Car Lane.
12:45 p.m. Juvenile Offenses reported on Charmarand Row.
12:58 p.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Department with services on Nashua Road at Burger King.

Continued on page 19

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Applying Lessons of Remote Instruction When We Go Back to School

FRANK EDELBLUT
COMMISSIONER OF NH
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

I recently spoke to a pair of high school juniors with very different perspectives on remote instruction.

Leslie (not her real name) was committed to keeping a strict schedule when schools shifted to remote instruction in April. Her pre-COVID routine included getting up early, focusing on class until 2:30, and a full load of extracurricular activities until 6:00 p.m. She also found time to socialize with friends.

Remote instruction has been really hard on Leslie. She misses her friends and her extracurricular programs.

"The instruction is OK, but I miss my friends and my sports," she told me.

She cannot wait to get back to her routine and life before it was disrupted.

The switch to remote instruction caught Melody (also not her real name) by surprise. She does not engage in

extracurricular activities, and has an after-school job at a local pizza place. She has not been particularly interested in classroom instruction, finding it tiresome to repeatedly go over material when she was ready to move on. She would lose interest and mentally check out in class.

Remote instruction was another thing altogether. Melody is now engaging the material on her own terms.

She says it's going "really well. I get to set my own pace. If I need to re-review something, I can. If I want to move on, I can. If I need to get up and get a snack, I can, but the teachers would not let me do that. I can finish my work faster if I want and have more time for myself during the day and before I go to work."

Melody does miss her friends, but they still stop by the pizza restaurant for takeout, where they arrange online hangouts. Melody's GPA has gone up.

For well over a decade, New Hampshire's central education philosophy is that students learn differently. We need an education system that recognizes that. Personalized learning recognizes that students are not cogs in some elaborate machinery, but inherently curious learners full of potential. The role of education is not to fill them up with information, but to draw out of them all that they can be.

With this academic year almost over, we're already planning for the fall, and a new meaning of "back to school." We need to learn what this period of remote instruction has to teach us.

As we work to get things back to normal, it would be very easy to imagine that the pre-COVID-19 instructional model functioned without any downside, while we know this to not always be the case. Two areas where this is particularly illustrated is with respect to student academic attainment

and student social-emotional wellness.

Student assessment results reveal that many students do not reach proficiency targets we have for them. This is particularly true for economically-disadvantaged students, minority and English language learners, and students with individual education plans. While it is appropriate that we consider learning gaps for students that may have manifested as a result of COVID-19, persistent and inequitable learning gaps existed pre-COVID-19.

For some time now, schools have been working to support the social-emotional health of students. Pre-pandemic teen suicide, substance misuse, and a host of other mental health issues were on the rise and reaching alarming levels. The circumstances of the pandemic are likely to have exacerbated these issues. Yet some students report lower anxiety levels outside of a peer-dependent environment, reduced

stress levels as they exercise increased control over their schedules, and even deeper engagement in learning. Parents report that students with behavioral issues in the structured instructional environment are more engaged in a less structured, more fluid, and student-driven learning model.

As we all search for our equilibrium and new-normal resulting from this pandemic, it is important that we craft a way forward that captures the strengths of an education system that has served us for decades, but also captures the opportunities presented.

In his recent Forbes article, Paul Leblanc, the president of Southern New Hampshire University states, "American higher education cannot respond to the current crisis with a calcified industrial production model of learning." This same approach applies to our K-12 system. New Hampshire students deserve nothing less.

The Department of Education is constituting a School Transition Reopening and Redesign Taskforce (STRRT), similar to the committee working on opening the economy. This group of stakeholders from across our educational systems will make recommendations to the Governor, the Department, and local school districts about how to responsibly move education forward. We see this work as a community conversation and, as part of the work, will be conducting public input surveys and encourage participation.

The COVID-19 virus forced us to an unprecedented shift to remote instruction, and New Hampshire educators, parents, and students adapted admirably. But it also reinforced that all students learn differently. Let's take that lesson to heart as we work to build an education system that supports all learners when they come back to their school buildings this fall.

Police Log

Continued from page 18

1:18 p.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

1:27 p.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Department with services on Lawson Farm Road at Bear Meadow Road.

2:22 p.m. Peace restored after Domestic Disturbance on Bridle Path at Wallace Farm Apartments.

2:59 p.m. Keeping the peace on Boyd Road.

3:19 p.m. Peace Restored after report of Criminal Threatening on Pettengill Road at UPS.

5:32 p.m. Assault investigated on Bridle Path at Wallace Farm Apartments.

6:17 p.m. Three officers

investigate a Disturbance on Charmand Row.

8:36 p.m. Three officers investigate a Disturbance on Walton Circle.

Friday - May 8

12:52 p.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity on Nashua Road at Home Depot.

1:07 p.m. Four officers restore peace during a Domestic Disturbance on Nashua Road at Londonderry Ford.

1:49 p.m. Auto Theft Investigated by four officers at Shell Food Mart on Nashua Road.

3:30 p.m. Services rendered during Neighborhood Disputes on Granite Street.

4:21 p.m. Services rendered during Neighborhood Disputes on Mer-

cury Drive.

4:54 p.m. Services rendered for Unlawful Activities at Power Lines on Hardy Road.

8:41 p.m. Neighborhood Disputes investigated on Winding Pond Road.

8:52 p.m. Peace Restored by three officers during a Domestic Disturbance on Grenier Blvd.

9:16 p.m. Criminal Mischief investigated on Gilcreast Road.

Saturday - May 9

5:11 a.m. Suspicious activity reported on High Range Road.

11:59 a.m. Services rendered at suspicious activity on Button Drive.

12:04 p.m. Welfare Check performed on Nashua Road at Home Depot.

12:10 p.m. Services ren-

dered by three officers for an Overdose on Bockes Road.

1:15 p.m. Services rendered for Drug Offenses on Terracewood Road.

3:15 p.m. Services rendered for Drug Offenses at Boat Launch on Scobie Pond.

5:34 p.m. Report of Trespassing results in transport to hospital from Bockes Road. Four officers assist with charging Sean Koehler, 31, of Londonderry with Criminal Trespass.

Sunday - May 10

12:10 a.m. Three officers investigate an Overdose on Rockingham Road at T-Quip Corporation.

12:12 p.m. Three officers render services for Disturbance on Mammoth Road at CVS Phar-

macy.

3:01 p.m. Wires Down/Removed Hazard on Grove St at South Road.

3:11 p.m. Shooting Complaint reported on Hall Road.

3:51 p.m. Services rendered for Domestic Disturbance on Mercury Drive.

4:02 p.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Department with transportation to hospital from Kitt Lane.

4:46 p.m. Services rendered for Civil Issue on Karen Lane.

8:11 p.m. Domestic Disturbance leads to an arrest made by five officers on Chase Road. Juan Carlos Ortiz, 35, of Londonderry charged with Domestic Violence (Simple Assault, Physical Contact); Domestic Violence (Criminal Threat, Fear of Bodily Injury); and Criminal Mischief

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