

Londonderry Times

December 17, 2020 ♦ Volume 21 – Issue 51

A FREE Weekly Publication



Holiday Chopper

Santa Claus made his much-anticipated touchdown at the Aviation Museum's annual holiday event on Saturday morning, Dec. 12. This year attendance was quite large as area children have not seen much of Ol' Kris Kringle since the COVID-19 Pandemic has put an end to many celebrations.

Photo by Chris Paul

School Board Hears From Teachers Regarding Class Size

KELSEY DERHAK
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board met recently on Dec. 10, for a scheduled Budget Workshop where the topic of class sizes at an Element-

tary level was heavily discussed.

As part of a yearly exercise around budget season the school's go through a process called a "1" exercise, in order to be sure that class sizes are at an optimal

level, balancing instructional needs with a sense of 'right sizing' our staff in the interest of fiscal responsibility.

Superintendent of Schools, Scott Laliberte, explained further "In

continued on page 7

Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund Discussed by Town Council

TJ RUZICKA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On the evening of Monday, Dec. 7, the Londonderry Town Council met, and one of the items discussed was the town budget. It was noted that all of the numbers and figures presented to and by the Council had a Dec. 1 cutoff, meaning any changes occurring after that date would not be included in the meeting.

The first topic up for discussion was the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund. The presented target was around \$180,000 to be put into the fund for the upcoming budget.

Some of the items

this potential increase would take care of include heating and cooling system replacement and repairs, roof replacement and repairs, electrical and plumbing repairs and upgrades, fire protection systems, building mechanicals, and all-around winter maintenance.

Some of the buildings that fall under the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund include the Londonderry Lions Hall and the Londonderry Police Station. Some of the projects included under the Fund include two repairs at the Town Common Band Stand and the partial trim repair of the Town Hall.

The total expenditures for the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund totaled around \$1.8 million over the last 10 years. With this figure, the \$180 thousand ask for the Fund to receive for this upcoming budget would leave the Fund budget right at the ten-year average.

After the presentation was done however, some skepticism over the \$180,000 figure literally led the Council to do the math on how the \$180,000 number came to be. After totaling a roughly \$605,000 value in projects and repairs over a three to five-year window, and after careful deliberation the con-

continued on page 3

Conservation Discusses Musquash Management Plan

TJ RUZICKA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Conservation Commission met on Tuesday, Dec. 8, and discussed a potential proposal for a management plan for the Musquash forest property. The presentation and conversation centered around understanding the map of the area, and ultimately focusing on a potential outline for guidelines in the area.

Before the presentation could even start, there was some appre-

hension by a few of the Commission members as a plan to have a plan was seen as a good idea, but they were highlighting the need to have ways the Commission and others can actually take action.

With that concern, a schedule and timeline for when any plan and subsequent steps taken would unfold was presented. The timetable for a comprehensive plan was projected to take place between 2021 and 2022.

With a timeline in

place, the first steps for the outline ensued. The first section of the forest management plan was the idea for a new map.

The property has expanded since the last map, so an updated ver-

continued on page 6

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Chief Warns: Active Cases of Covid-19 are on the Rise In Town

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

In a press release issued last week, on Wednesday, Dec 9, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Darren O'Brien warns the town of a spike in COVID-19 cases.

It stated: For the last several weeks, Londonderry has experienced its highest number of active COVID-19 cases since the first few months of the pandemic, and after Thanksgiving, the numbers have been climbing at a faster rate than ever before. In fact, we have recorded nearly 100 cases since Thanksgiving alone. Currently, we sit at 180 active cases; our town test positivity rate is reported to be 16%, which is significantly higher than that of the state-wide positivity rate (hovering near 10%); and we rank in the "Top 5" for the most active cases in the entire state, even when the cities of Manchester, Nashua and Concord are included. Given these

statistics, the prevalent community spread in Londonderry, and the danger that our hospitals and medical facilities could become overwhelmed; it is imperative that we work together to bring these numbers down. In his capacity as Town Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief Darren O'Brien reminds and urges Londonderry residents to re-commit to, and observe, the following COVID-19 protocols:

Wear a mask or cloth face covering to protect yourself from getting or spreading COVID-19.

Governor Sununu has issued a Mandatory Mask Order (via Emergency Order #74), which requires that all persons over the age of five within the State of New Hampshire must wear a mask or cloth face covering over their noses and mouths any time they are in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, where they are unable to or do not consistently maintain a physical distance of at least six feet

from persons outside their own households. A mask or cloth face coverings should be two or more layers and should be worn over the nose and mouth. This helps reduce the risk of spread both by close contact and by airborne transmission.

Maintain physical distance of at least 6' and do NOT travel or attend or host social gatherings (especially indoors) with those outside of your immediate household members.

As set forth above, we are seeing a significant rise in transmission after the Thanksgiving holiday, when family and friends presumably gathered to celebrate the holiday. As cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to increase across the state and the country, the safest way to celebrate the winter holidays is to celebrate at home with the people you live with and virtually with others via Zoom, FaceTime or other electronic means.

If you must attend any sort of social or other gathering, avoid crowded indoor spaces and ensure any indoor spaces are properly ventilated by bringing in

outdoor air as much as possible. In general, being outdoors and in spaces with good ventilation reduces the risk of exposure to infectious respiratory droplets.

If you must travel, travel by car is safer than by plane, train or other public conveyance.

Finally, a reminder that wearing a cloth face covering or mask is not a substitute for physical distancing and other prevention measures.

Observe all relevant isolation and/or quarantine requirements (see attached), whether they be related to symptoms, exposure or travel.

DHHS has now issued a variety of isolation and quarantine requirements related to symptoms, exposures and travel. Please see the attached FAQ document issued by DHHS which contains those guidelines and requirements and follow them so as to stop the spread. Most importantly, any person who is experiencing even mild symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate and be tested. These symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, fatigue, chills, muscle aches, loss of taste and

smell and in severe cases, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. You can now request to be tested even if you are asymptomatic. To request a test, contact your healthcare professional or find testing options on the state COVID website: www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/testing-guidance.htm.

Stay at home when at all possible. The safest place for you, especially during this latest wave of the pandemic, remains at home, with your own household members. Avoid unnecessary errands, social events/gatherings, etc.

Continue to practice

good hand hygiene and regular cleaning. Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Chief O'Brien, "This is all familiar advice; we hear it every day on the news from local, state and federal officials as well as the medical community. We as a community need to take care of each other; we've all become a bit lax. I'm asking this community to stop ignoring the guidelines and re-commit to these protocols to keep each other safe."

OBITUARY

Dian Johnson Schwartz



Dian Johnson Schwartz (née Foster), 74, of Londonderry, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020. The eldest daughter of four siblings, Dian was born on Dec. 2, 1946 to Barney and Jennie Foster in Mocksville, North Carolina.

Following her graduation from high school, Dian began her nearly-50 year career as a nurse and a nurse anesthetist. After attending the Davis Hospital School of Nursing and working for several years in North Carolina, Dian moved to New London, CT where she earned her CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) degree from the New London School of Anesthesiology. Dian worked at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and was a tenured nurse anesthetist at Concord Hospital, before retiring in 2015.

Dian married her husband of 46 years Donald Schwartz on June 16, 1974. The pair eventually made their home in Londonderry, where they welcomed two children Laura and Daniel, both of whom now reside in New York City.

A North Carolina farm girl at heart, Dian loved to tend to her garden, go on walks, and share her cooking with her family. She was a voracious reader, enjoyed art and museums, and loved visiting Boston and New York. But most of all, she cherished her family and her many dear friends both near and far, spending hours on the phone each day to stay in touch with those closest to her.

Dian is survived by her husband Donald, her son Daniel, her daughter Laura, her grandchildren Logan and Luca Dunn, her sister Delorise Hendrix, and her many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Dale Foster, and her sister Vickie Walser.

Details on services and remembrances will be shared with friends and family, all of whom she loved so deeply.

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Police Chief Looks to Equip Officers with Body Cams

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Town Council meeting held on Monday night, Dec. 7, Police Chief Bill Hart addressed the board on whether to pursue outfitting Londonderry officers with body-worn cameras.

Hart told the council that the department is starting to look at whether to use what is becoming an industry

standard across the nation.

He said in the past, he didn't see the need to look into it, due to the relatively low instances of complaint they receive.

He was looking for guidance from the council on whether to put the item in front of the taxpayers as a Warrant Article.

There are three main vendors that are selling

these, and he added that if the equipped all 67 officers on the force currently it would be a total of about \$650,000 spread out over five years.

Hart followed up by saying he didn't think all the officers needed to wear them, so the cost would be more in the range \$450,000.

Councilor Joe Green was in favor of the idea saying that he's wanted to do this for a number

of years for the safety of the officers. He also agreed that the Warrant Article would let the voters decide.

Jonathan Kipp from the Budget Committee was also on board, but wondered what the added costs might be. He used the examples of policy development, training and data storage.

Hart responded that although he has only gotten quotes from one vendor, some of those costs were included.

He said that he really

wanted to get a sense from the council before moving forward.

Councilor Deb Paul suggested that Hart look to other police departments in the state for what they have paid and what issues they may have run into.

Councilor Jim Butler asked how many cases have there been involving police mismanagement or use of force.

Hart responded that there have been very few, and that is why he's been hesitant to look into the equipment. He

added less than one a year is sustained.

He added that the cameras will never be cheaper than they are today, so he wanted to get ahead of the curve. He also said the state will most likely mandate the use of cameras in the near future.

There cameras also have the benefit of a tracking ability, in case the department loses contact with an officer.

On a whole, the Town Council and Budget Committee were in favor of pursuing the cameras.

Budget

Continued from page 1

sensus of the Council was with any potential increase in the Expandable Maintenance Trust Fund, the voters needed to be more informed on what an increase would mean.

This means residents in Londonderry will see more information via newspapers and other informative sources to get a better understanding of what an increase in the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund would really mean.

The next topic on the docket was the GIS, another item that didn't pass on last year's budget. The presentation explained the essence of the GIS, noting what it is, what it does, and who it serves.

The GIS offers multiple taps of information including tax maps, road and trail maps, outdoor recreation guides, sewer maps, election planning, and has a feature Map-Geo available on the GIS

website. All of these features work alongside other departments in helping determine certain courses of action.

For example, mapping from the GIS helps and directly works alongside the Planning Department for the creation of tax maps, while road maps and members of the GIS work alongside local police in election planning. The GIS has a broad spectrum of responsibility within the town.

The GIS gets this mapping information through flyovers, with the next one being planned in spring 2022. The data from these flyovers contributes to all

of the aforementioned areas among others including the town masterplan.

This flyover is important because that was the GIS' main focus in their ask of \$28 thousand worth of funding. That figure came from analysis of how much a potential flyover, including manpower and all equipment would cost.

Ultimately, by the end of the night, the Council decided to wait to make any decision until the Dec. 21, meeting due to the uncertainty of future revenues and the concern for potential side effects of preemptive decision-making.

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Editorial For the New Year

The start of the New Year is traditionally a time for reflecting on the year just ending, but after this year who wants to do that. We all know the routine resolutions: exercise more, eat better, perhaps taking on a more “green” lifestyle, being better prepared, or cutting down on TV or computer time and replace it with more “face” time with family. All of these are fine resolutions, however, there are others that may take a bite out of personal time, but in the long run may be easier to maintain throughout the year, and with longer lasting results. After all last year was like no other with COVID, a crazy presidential election, and the uncertainty of how 2021 will go on many levels.

Want to make a truly lasting, and impacting resolution? How about deciding to run for office?

While it takes no effort at all to complain about what goes on at town hall, or at the schools it can be so much more rewarding to participate in the process and be in the right place at the right time to make positive changes. Get ready: the filing period begins in mid January.

Open seats often go unchallenged and the same people keep getting reelected, so open races ought to be encouraged. After all, a little change and a little completion is healthy.

If putting your name on the ballot is a little too stressful, there are always seats on boards, commissions, and committees in town that

often go empty. Whether you want to start slowly as an alternate, or jump right in as a full member, you have a variety of interest areas to choose from, from conservation to housing, in which to offer your time for the betterment of your community.

We all know the difficulties some residents have in paying their taxes or dealing with the huge changes that have happened in their town, that effect the quality of life. The answer for this to some might be to move away, but most will find similar problems anywhere they go. Perhaps the better solution would be to make the effort to advocate for responsible spending right in your own hometown.

Since budget hearings and deliberative sessions are coming up in January and February, here's another important resolution: Make a point of attending those events and speaking your mind, politely and reasonably, with facts as well as courtesy. At the very least, let your elected officials know what you think, no matter the subject, and encourage your neighbors to do the same. After all, if officials are unaware of a problem, it's likely nothing will be done to resolve it.

Best of luck with your resolutions, no matter what they may be, and from all of us at Nutfield Publishing to all of you, our best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year 2021.

Letters

Property Tax Issues

To the editor

Fred is a friend of mine; He is a lifelong resident of Londonderry. He has supported tax increases in the past because he is proud to have been a part of the development that has produced the school system we have today and to have seen the town grow over the years. But now, he is afraid that property tax increases will force him to move out of town. This is not right.

Were you alarmed by the increases in our property taxes this year? I know I was.

Our property tax bills increased by 3.7 percent this year. Do you know anyone who got a 3.7 percent pay raise this year? I don't.

I know for retirees like myself, the Social Security cost of living increase next year is 1.3 percent and retirees on a fixed income don't even get that. To put it plainly, this rate is unsustainable. Not to beat this point to death, but that is over a 10 percent increase in our tax bill every three years.

I paid attention to the political ads in the Londonderry Times this year and a consistent theme of the current incumbents was “less spending & lower taxes”, “no new taxes”, and “no down shifting of costs”. So, what are we to think

about a recent decision of House and Senate Republicans to accept a federal grant intended to double the number of charter schools in the state? The acceptance of this grant comes with a \$17 million shortfall in funding for public schools. Knowing that the school budget accounts for 70 percent of property taxes, I think that this decision needs some further analysis.

I understand that we have approximately 25 charter schools in the state and that some are facing hard times financially. I don't know if this is because of the virus or other reasons. I understand further that none of this money can be used to support any of those charter schools needing financial assistance. So, the questions that come to mind are: Are there some proven measures that show that charter schools out-perform public schools? What does our school board think the impact of the movement of funding from our public schools to charter schools will be on our current school system? Will the loss of students and the \$17 million shortfall result in an increase on our property taxes and if so, how much?

I think that Fred and I deserve to know!

Jim Green
Londonderry

Selling Your Legacy

To the editor,

Continuing to squander his inheritance and the hard work of previous generations of apple farmers the owner of Moose Hill Orchard continues to sell piecemeal his families legacy. This time the scam is to sell 28 acres across from MTS to the town.

Aside from the waste of money in the time of a pandemic what exactly does the town plan on doing with this land? Does the Conservation Commission plan on selling apples. The farmer has clearly failed to make a living at selling apples, what makes the Conservation Commission think they can do better. What are the plans of the town to maintain the apples and pumpkins? Will town councilors prune apple trees; tend the pumpkin patch; and spray the fields every spring.

Speaking of spraying the fields the town needs to require the farmer to clean his land. Not widely known was the fact the school district needed to spend over \$125,000 to remove toxins from the few acres of land donated for Moose Hill School. Though now totally illegal there is NO doubt that in previous decades the farmer's family used chemicals including DDT, arsenic, and Agent Or-

continued on page 6

Londonderry Times

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www.nutpub.net

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Nutfield Publishing Will Not Be Printing Papers on Dec. 24 & 31

In lieu of the upcoming holidays, Nutfield Publishing will not be printing newspapers on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. The publisher uses this time each year to take a two-week break to celebrate the holiday. Our next paper will be produced on Thursday, Jan. 9. We thank our readers for their understanding, and wish you a happy and safe new year.

Santa Comes to Town Courtesy of a Helicopter at Airport



The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire hosted its annual holiday event on Saturday, that featured Santa Claus touching down in a helicopter and had him greeting his adoring fans. After his landing, Santa was able to hear requests by the children attending via microphone to allow for social distancing. Each requester was given a present. *Photos by Chris Paul*



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Conservation

Continued from page 1

sion would give a better understanding of the property.

Once a base map of the new property outline would be created, plans to have other maps to understand the property were also highlighted. These maps would include the type of forest, trails, and natural features like water levels, stonewalls, and more.

The next stage of the outline was the data that has been collected. Noting that the Musquash group was willing to do more data collection, the

group presented one of the key data sets they already had: forest diversity. This basically showed the different types of plants in the area, underscoring the idea that the Musquash property has a diverse set of plant life making it a more sustainable forest.

With data in place and maps proposed the property had the basis to be truly understood when plans were put into action, but the question still lingered of what the plan would actually entail. This is when the outline of the plan was presented, noting a few

key points in the process, and underscoring what that would entail for the Commission.

The first part of the proposed plan outline was forest inventory. This would be a "statistical analysis" of the forest taken in 100 to 120 plots. The estimated time to complete this first process, compiling data and doing calculations before creating a summary and analysis, was roughly 60 hours.

The second pillar of the proposed outline was a forest plan fieldwork. This would entail detailed walkthroughs of

the property to best understand it. The information collected from these would be forest type, natural resource mapping, and natural resource issues, concerns, and potentials. This was estimated to take roughly 72 hours.

The third section of the outline was geographic information system (GIS) mapping. This would take all the data collected and visualize it in maps. These maps would include some of those mentioned earlier, but would also include soil and topography maps, among others to fully understand the

property. This was estimated to take roughly 72 hours.

The final part of the outline was plan preparation. This explained the steps that would be taken throughout the process, including the three mentioned beforehand. Some of the other steps throughout the process would be natural resource assessment and wildlife assessment, forest management, and appendices, before reviewal and submission. This was projected to take approximately 120 hours.

With a final estimated cost of \$30,000 the Com-

mission looked for ways to make the process as cost-efficient as possible. The ultimate conclusion was that to have the potential plan see the strongest and most cost-efficient results, the process would be refined and would work closely with the town.

Ultimately, the Commission was looking for a few revisions in the plan, including a schedule for delivery dates, before they were willing to bring the plan to a contract. With that said, the groundwork is there for a new and improved conservation plan in the Musquash forest.

Letters

Continued from page 4

ange to control pests. Though no longer allowed to be used those carcinogens are lurking just inches underground. The town in no way shape or form should be held liable for the cancers that will sprout as soon as the soil is disturbed.

There are too many open questions including cost to buy; future costs to maintain; and poison chemical clean-up that need to be disclosed prior to spending

multiple-multiple millions. Londonderry with almost 28,000 acres is near the top of the list of towns in Rockingham County with the amount of land under protection. How much more do we need?

Luckily as the farmer continues to laugh all the way to the bank he is running out of land to sell. Glad he doesn't own a bridge in Brooklyn, the Conservation Commission might want to buy that too.

Jim Loiselle
Londonderry

Trump Is Sabotaging Our Country

To the editor,
Vindictive Trump attacked our country for not reelecting him. Trump lost his cases in the courts, and then the corrupt President tried to circumvent the will of the people by coercing Republican law makers in swing states to overturn the election and appoint pro-Trump electors to the Electoral College. He has placed his self interest above the country's interests, and he is sabotaging Biden's incoming administration. Trump is

trying to turn the civilian leadership in the Pentagon into a politicized organization by infiltrating highly political unqualified personnel, including former campaign staff, and this weakens our military posture.

By delaying Biden's transition team's access to our government agencies, including intelligence agencies, Trump jeopardized our security in the world. Our adversaries, including Russia, China, North Korea and Iran were pleased with Trump's weakening of our deterrent capabilities.

Internally, Trump has done a terrible job combatting the coronavirus pandemic, and he is responsible for increasing hospitalizations and deaths. Trump is disrupting our economy by ending some key Federal Reserve loan programs on Dec. 31, 2020.

Trump's drawdown of troops in Afghanistan and Iraq is designed to cause havoc within the Biden administration, and place Biden in the position of having to send troops back into war torn countries. This will put more troops in harms way as they try to re-stabilize the countries and prevent terrorists from establishing bases.

Trump is causing some environmental

havoc by opening up the Arctic Refuge to drilling for oil.

The outgoing corrupt and vindictive President is sabotaging the incoming administration and weakening our democracy, and he is promoting a radical following in the U.S. Trump's comments and actions are consistent with that of current and former dictators. Given it is the eleventh hour in Trump's Presidency, why is he loading up the civilian hierarchy in the Pentagon with his devout sympathizers? Is he hoping to not relinquish the Presidency with the backing of his civilian henchmen in the Pentagon?

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry



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Ocean Born Mary, A Noteworthy Londonderry Resident

DAVID J. ELLIS
SUBMISSION

She was a striking woman. Tall and red headed. She wore a pale green brocade dress at her wedding that matched her green eyes. She was born at sea in July 1720 during her parent's voyage from Ireland to their new home. The ship was intercepted by pirates in mid voyage. It is claimed that she was born prematurely during the confusion of the interception. When the pirate captain became aware of the new born, he agreed to let their vessel continue if he could be permitted to name the child for his recently deceased

wife. He left Mary with a bolt of green cloth that she used in her wedding dress.

Many accounts of Ocean Born Mary have been written and many false claims have been made and disproven. The New England Historical Society www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/ocean-born-mary-new-hampshire-legend/ explains some of them and summarizes the factual ones.

She was the only child of James and Elizabeth Wilson. James was granted a 1st Division home lot at the southerly end of the Eayers Range in September 1720. He constructed his home at the easterly

end, on North High St., in Derry. In March 1721, He sold half of this parcel to John McClurg. He died sometime during the next twelve months and in May 1722 his widow married James Clark. James became a deacon in the East Parish and lived in Derry Village on East Derry Road. His grant extended southwards and he later he built a larger farm house on Humphrey Road. These were Ocean Born Mary's childhood homes – all in Derry.

Mary's mother died in 1732 leaving twelve year old Mary with her step-father and several step-siblings. Mary married James Wallace on

Dec. 17, 1742. A few years earlier James had purchased a thirty five acre parcel from his father that lay along Pillsbury Road. It was on the southerly side of his father's home lot in Wallace Range. His father lived just a little southerly from the Spring Rd., intersection and beside the old road that is still visible between 19 and 21 Hardy Rd. James built the first home on his parcel and lived there with his new bride. That home would have been at the old Shipley Farm at 68 Pillsbury Rd., although it is very unlikely that the present house was James' original home. A young farmer would not have

had resources sufficient to construct a home that large. The present building is probably the result of additions or replacement. James and Mary Wallace lived there until James died in 1791, after which Mary lived with her son, William, at Heniker.

But what about the Sea Born Mary house that was moved from Wilson Road to Little Compton in Rhode Island in 1937?

That 3rd Division location was not released by the Town until 1729 when it was granted to Alexander McMurphy. That was seven years after Mary's father had died. He could never have lived there. In 1733

Alexander sold the property to James Wilson, but not to Mary's father. Curly Jim Wilson built that house circa 1733. He and Black Jim Wilson, who lived on Rockingham Road, ran the saw mill whose remains are at the southerly end of the Rail Trail. Willey's Book of Nutfield contains several interesting anecdotal tales of those two that are well worth reading. In that book, the Rev. Jesse McMurphy describes the Old Wilson House but, strangely, he never mentions Mary. The claim that she lived at that house came later, during the 1900s, and like many false claims – it grew legs.

Teachers

Continued from page 1

effect what we do is use next year's enrollment projections to break out class sizes and see what it would look like if there were one fewer teacher at each grade level." Laliberte then briefly discussed an overview of the current recommendations, as well as mentioning that his full powerpoint can be found on the school district website.

Laliberte then went on to explain that the current K-5 staffing recommendation, and current budget proposal allows for district wide

reduction of 3.0 FTE in teaching staff. This also includes a recommended class size of 20 students in grades K-2 and 25 students in grades three through five.

Where the State of New Hampshire recommends a maximum of 25 students in grades K-2 and 30 students in grades three through five. As stated in the presentation the reason behind the current recommendations are the overall concern with increased learning challenges, complex social issues, and post-covid learning recovery, and post-covid social and emotional challenges.

Next, representatives

from all four elementary schools (including Moose Hill) were able to speak on their stance to maintain class sizes where they are currently.

A theme found throughout each of the teachers testimonies was the topic of Social Emotional learning and how to best meet their students needs other than on a basic learning level as students continue to arrive with more needs and demands as those in previous years.

In order to be proactive in addressing these needs teachers are having to provide intentional and systematic instruction of social emo-

tional learning using curriculum such as the "Choose Love" curriculum. "These teachers are trying to create an inclusive environment, though this is not a full classroom, it often feels more than full, the class sizes proposed in our budget for next year are optimal and better address social emotional needs of students," says Sandra Mack, Kindergarten Coordinator.

Kelly Murphy, a fourth grade teacher at South Elementary School left the School Board with this analogy, "Suppose I'm the soccer

coach of a soccer team consisting of 22 athletes, and two assistant coaches. If any issues arise I have the other two coaches to help me. Then, next year the Athletic Director tells me I have to fill 25 spots, I think 'no problem, just a few extra players', then the Athletic Director adds that five players cannot learn fundamentals of soccer the way I normally teach them, and adds another four players might have difficulty with the rules the way I normally present them and asks if I can adjust the way I teach

them. He then informs me another one of my players will be coming with another adult each day and leave early because they cannot handle a full practice. I think 'wow that's a lot to think about on top of teaching fundamentals of soccer' but I don't have to worry because I have two assistant coaches to help. Until he informs me that because of budget cuts I will not have my assistant coaches and wishes me 'Good Luck' on a successful season. I urge you to think of how that coach might feel."



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Holiday Spirit Rings Out Throughout the Londonderry



This year's holiday season has seen a great deal more decorations being displayed throughout a number of neighborhoods across the town of Londonderry. These photos only capture a few of the more ornate homes in town.

Photos by Chris Paul

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COVID-19 Vaccine Achieves FDA Approval: First Shipment Arrives

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced the arrival of the first allotment of COVID-19 vaccines on Monday, Dec. 14, after the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was approved and given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Two doses of vaccine, administered 21-days apart, demonstrated a vaccine efficacy rate of 95% during initial trials. Those vaccinated were shown to be maximally protected 1 - 2 weeks after receiving the second dose. Pfizer/BioNTech report no serious safety concerns to date among the more than 40,000 participants. The vaccine is approved for individuals 16 years of age and older.

"New Hampshire is ready to hit the ground running to do our part in delivering this game-changing vaccine," Governor Chris Sununu stated. "It is an all-hands-on-

deck effort for one of the most important undertakings in the history of our state. The State stands ready to get to work and distribute this life-saving vaccine to the citizens of our state."

"This momentous occasion marks the beginning of the end of the pandemic," DHHS Commissioner Lori Shibinette stated. "The FDA conducted a thorough approval process while ensuring an unprecedented timeline for vaccine production. This is great news for the people of New Hampshire, who have endured so much for the past 10 months. The end is in sight for this worldwide pandemic."

New Hampshire expects to receive 12,675 in the first allotment of vaccine for immediate distribution to at-risk health workers including front line clinical staff providing direct patient care. Subsequent weekly allotments of the vaccine will be distributed to all the populations

and individuals included in Phase 1a, including at-risk health workers, residents of long-term care facilities, and first responders.

The timeline for widespread access to a COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be approximately 6-12 months. As vaccine production increases over time, updated information on when people can expect to receive the vaccine will be posted at NH.gov/COVID19.

New Hampshire has been preparing for the allocation and distribution of a safe and effective vaccine for several months. Data show that NH residents understand the importance of disease protection and prevention given that



The first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the State of New Hampshire this week. The shipment is being unloaded, processed, and prepared for immediate distribution to at-risk health workers, including front line clinical staff providing direct patient care. Courtesy Photo

the State has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country for other commonly admin-

istered vaccines. For more information on the State's COVID-19 vaccination planning, please

visit www.nh.gov/covid-19/resources-guidance/vaccination-planning.htm.

The Upper Room Offering Sober Curious Group

The Upper Room, a Family Resource Center, in partnership with South Central Public Health Network in it's work related to substance misuse in young adults, will be offering a 3 week in person, discussion time for young adults 18-25 who want to explore living without substances. This program is a product of the Young adult Strategies efforts that The Upper Room, along with many other statewide initiatives, are offering to address New Hampshire's young adults and heal-

thy living. #YoungAdultsStrong, a social media presence and following is a facebook/instagram link to information, education and resources. Beth O'Connell the program coordinator "Wants to provide a place where young adults can look at ways to live their lives as healthy as can be. This means, looking at their own resilience, their connections, their coping strategies for stress and their habits that may impact them negatively."

In addition to the group, O'Connell has

developed two interactive programs, "Best Foot Forward" and "Thriving Through Stress" which allow participants to receive information and skill building virtually. "Beth has been working to engage young adults, and this is a unique format to invite young adults to talk about their lifestyles." States Brenda Guggisberg, Executive Director. "We are excited to be part of a larger solution with our public health network, and other statewide initiatives that were provided

resources through the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, and with support from Untied Way."

This group will meet Jan. 20, 27 and Feb. 3, 2021 at 3 p.m. Space is limited to 6 people in person, then a virtual option will be available.

Those interested in attending, contact Beth O'Connell at 437-8477 x 124 or boconnell@urteachers.org leave your first name and phone number and you will receive a response back. Registration required to participate.



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry School District will conduct a public hearing on the Proposed FY2021-2022 School District General Fund Operating Budget and all other warrant articles at the Londonderry High School, 295 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, New Hampshire, in the Cafeteria on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 7:00PM. The public is invited to attend.

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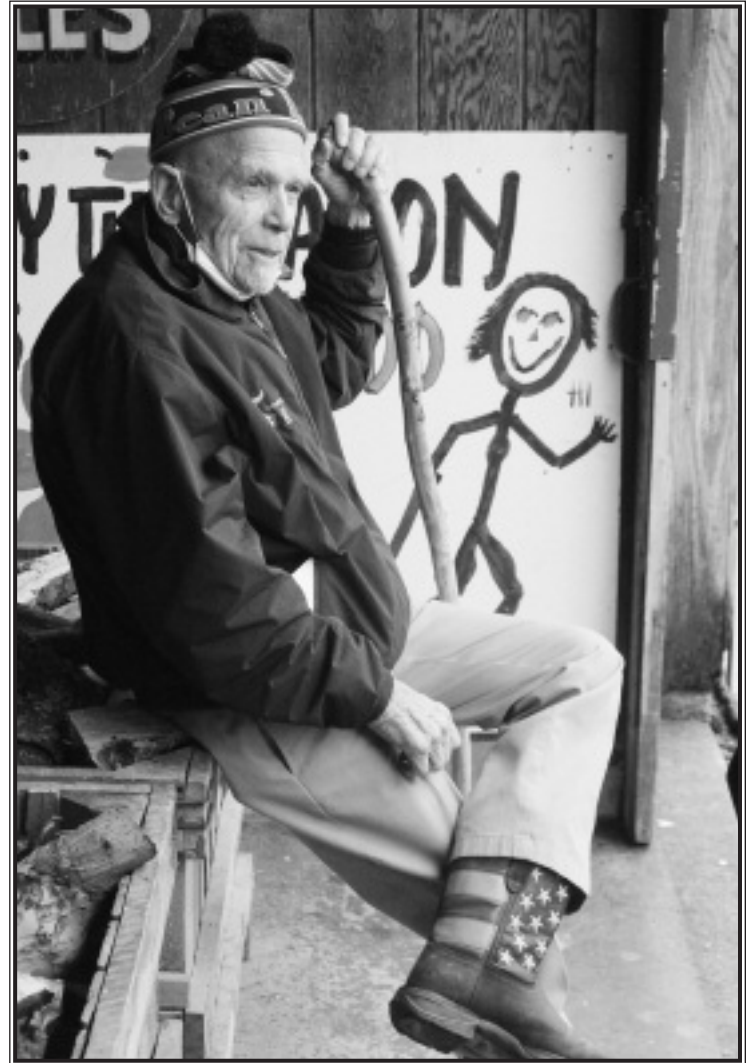
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Mack Art Displayed at Farmstand



The Londonderry Arts Council helped organize a gathering at the Moose Hill Orchard's Farmstand on Saturday, Dec. 12, where Andy Mack Sr. displayed a number of his locally-famous signs that depict some farming, social and political issues. Andy Mack was there to greet and speak with those who stopped by.

Photos by Chris Paul



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*If you'd like to be River's forever home,
please visit The Greater Derry Humane Society
website to fill out an application.*

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"The Signs of Londonderry"

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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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, 5 Rockingham Rd., Londonderry, invites everyone to a Candlelight Service on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Celebration

Drive though The Upper Room back parking lot Friday Dec. 18 at 10 a.m., for an opportunity to see our special guest SANTA! He will be here safely outside reading a story and passing out treats. His appearance and story will also be stream-

ing live on the following platforms: Live On Zoom at www.bit.ly/connectstorytimezoom or Live On Facebook www.facebook.com/URTeachers/live_videos Connect the Upper Room for more information.

Free Parenting Workshops

View these free parenting workshops at your own pace hosted by the Upper Room at www.urteachers.org/workshops-on-demand. Dealing with Challenging Behaviors in Children - The Importance of Routines and Consistency for your Child.

Holiday Hours

The Upper Room is open through Dec. 23, closing at 2 p.m. The Upper Room will be closed for the winter break of Dec. 24, - Jan. 3. From Jan. 4 - 18 2021 all classes and services will be remote.

Online Story & Craft

Looking for something fun for the kids? Connect Online Story & Craft Session for Parents and their children up to age 6 with the Upper Room. Free Live on Zoom. Join us on Zoom for live interactive songs and children's stories fol-

lowed by a craft lesson, that is easy and fun to do with your child at home. Zoom link to join: bit.ly/connectstorytimezoom. craft supplies at bit.ly/connectstorytime or email skoza@URteacher.org.

Teen Talk

Free LIVE on Zoom on Tuesdays from 3 - 4 p.m., for teens 13-18 to talk, support each other, and be heard. No preregistration necessary. Zoom link to join: bit.ly/tipsttopics

Free Stress Management Workshop

An on demand workshop by the Upper Room. View at www.urteachers.org/workshops-on-demand. To learn more contact Beth O'Connell at eoconnell@URteachers.org.

Vaping and Your Health

A Vaping and Your Health Teen Workshop will be held on demand. Workshops are held on the first Tuesday of the month and online options are also available. Call (603) 437-8477 x117 to register and get more information.

Covid-19 Relief Fund

To apply for financial assistance, call Community Health Services at (603) 425-

2545. For holiday gifts, food and other types of assistance, call The Upper Room at (603) 437-8477 x 110.

Legion Meals

Every Sunday Post 27 is serving food prepared by members during the 1 p.m., football game. Legionnaires eat for free and there is \$5 donation for everyone else. Please wear a mask when entering and moving around within the Post. The bartender will ask for your cell number as part of our contact tracing. Located at 6 Sargent Rd., Londonderry (behind the fire station on Mammoth Rd.)

Gallons Fuel Oil Raffle

The Londonderry Lions Club hosts their 4th annual 100 gallons fuel oil raffle. Tickets are \$5 each. Drawing will be Jan. 11, 2021. Please come support the Londonderry Lions so they can continue to support our community.

COVID-19 Response Help Needed

The South Central NH Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is recruiting medical and non-medical volunteers to help with the COVID-19 Response in the region. Are you a practicing or retired medical professional or a concerned

local citizen (with or without medical expertise), and interested in assisting your community during an emergency? The MRC provides communities with medical and nonmedical volunteers trained to assist in the event of public health emergencies. Volunteers may be called to assist during emergencies, such as the COVID-19 response. Activities may include but not limited to greeting, registration, and vaccine administration. Free training will be available within your scope of practice. For more information, please reach out to Kate MacDonald at katemacdonald@catsnh.org or 603-505-7216.

"Rotary Saves Christmas" Raffle

Londonderry Rotary Club is running its "Rotary Saves Christmas" raffle through Dec. 23. All funds raised through the raffle will be directed back into our community to support charities, those in need, scholarships and more. Tickets for the raffle are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. The drawing will be held on Dec. 23, at our evening meeting at the CoachStop restaurant, Mammoth Rd., Londonderry. Drawing will

Continued on page 13

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Around Town

Continued from page 12

be for three prizes. Top prize will be \$2,000. There will be two second prizes drawn of \$500 each. To get tickets, text Mike Dolan at 774-245-2279; call Faye Sell at Martinelli Travel at 603-

434-4989; or visit Londonderry Rotary Facebook Page. Please support Londonderry Rotary, which in turn supports our community.

Young Adult Craft

Starting on Monday, Dec. 21 at 10 a.m., a virtual craft program for teens will be available on the

Leach Library Facebook page. Follow along with Miss Megan to create your very own mini library craft! Please call the library at 432-1132 to reserve a time to pick up your mini library template today. Please check the Leach Library's Facebook page on the day of the activity

for the link. To access the library's Facebook page, visit the Leach Library website at www.londonderryh.org/leach-library then select the "Facebook" link from the blue menu on the left side of the page.

Toys for Tots

It's safe to say 2020 has

been a tough year for everyone. Kids and parents more than ever could use a little extra "Merry" in their Christmas this year and we're hoping to help bring bright smiles to their faces this Holiday Season! Derry PD will be participating in the Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots

Campaign for the 2020 season. Please drop off new, unwrapped, nonviolent toys to the main lobby of the station.

Story Time

Beginning on Monday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m., watch as Miss Jennifer shares the

Continued on page 15

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Wants to purchase minerals and other oil and gas interests. Send details to P.O. Box 13557 Denver, Co. 80201.

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - Dec. 7

12:48 a.m. Four officers respond to a Disturbance on Winding Pond Road. Subject taken to Family/Guardian.

10:17 a.m. Services rendered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud on Kitt Lane.

10:44 a.m. Identity Theft investigated on Mammoth Road.

12:02 p.m. Services rendered for Neighborhood Disputes on South Road.

1:08 p.m. Report of Assault leads to an arrest(s) Made by four officers on Capitol Hill

Drive. Timothy Kyrousis, 56, of Londonderry charged with Domestic Violence; Simple Assault; Physical Contact.

2:41 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Kitt Lane.

5:36 p.m. Four officers respond to a report of Domestic Disturbance on Kitt Lane resulting in a person being transported to a hospital.

6:10 p.m. Services rendered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud on Pheasant Run.

Tuesday - Dec. 8

10:36 a.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Grapevine Circle.

10:52 a.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on King George Drive.

2:14 p.m. Served a Summons/Subpoena and arrest(s) made on Friar-tuck Avenue, Derry. David Coburn, 48, of Derry charged with Simple Assault; Physical Contact or Bodily Injury.

5:17 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Morway Drive.

Continued on page 15

CLASSIFIED ADS \$1⁰⁰ PER WORD

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

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

ALL ADS MUST BE PRE-PAID

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

story of "Lucy the Talented Toy Terrier"! This story time features a book written by Londonderry author Janice Spina and illustrated by her husband John Spina. Please check the Leach Library's Facebook page on the day of the activity for the link. To access the library's Facebook page, visit the Leach Library website at www.londonderrynh.org/leach-library then select the "Facebook" link from the blue menu on the left side of the page.

Poinsettia Fundraiser

The Greater Derry Humane Society is holding a Poinsettia Plant Fundraiser from Nov. 9 - 28. A portion of every plant purchased will help with the cost of animal supplies, food, vet care, behavior training, dental care, surgical procedures, and much more. Plants have been grown by Orchard Hill Greenhouses in Londonderry, and come in a variety of sizes: 6.5" pot - \$15 each; 7.5" pot - \$23 each; 8.5" pot - \$30 each. Order Forms are located at the Greater Derry Humane Society Website at <https://forms.gle/RXuWcMe9u8e3nRCi7>. Plant(s)

can be picked up at Orchard Hill Greenhouses, 92 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry, from Dec. 5-20. Call or text Orchard Hill Greenhouses at 603-235-2804 to schedule a pick-up day and time. Please bring a copy of your emailed receipt when you pick up your plant(s).

TIPS Zoom

Are you a young parent? The Upper Rooms Teen Information for Parenting Success (TIPS) will hold Zoom meetings on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. Support and resources for young parents (up to age 24) and their children. Zoom meeting link: bit.ly/tip-stopics

Parent & Caregiver Café

Parent & Caregiver Café Remote meetings are open to those raising teens. Thursdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. To access, visit: us04web.zoom.us/j/302497889 Meeting ID: 302 497 889 (no password needed) Contact: Seren Elizabeth atselizabeth@urteachers.org No preregistration need.

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.

Raising another's child?

Are you parenting a second time around? Attend the Grandparent and Relative Caregiver Support Group. Join this free weekly meeting for resources, discussions and support for those raising another person's child. No preregistration needed. Tuesdays 6 - 7:30 p.m. Meeting in person at the YMCA - Londonderry. Contact: Seren Elizabeth at selizab@urteachers.org or g. Grandparent PASTA Groups are brought to you by NH Children's Trust, the YMCA of Greater Londonderry, the Southern Rockingham Coalition for Healthy Youth (SoRock) and The Upper Room.

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.

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, Road, Derry. This is a free weekly group. To register, Call 437-8477 to register ext. 16.

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 jrkcdias@aol.com

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."

Raising a Teenager?

Parent & Caregiver Café (PaCC) Group. These meetings are a wonderful resource for parents and caregivers raising teens. Discuss your concerns and learn new parenting strategies. New topics are introduced weekly including anger management, drug and alcohol abuse, communication and setting boundaries. No preregis-

tration needed. Thursday 6 - 7:30 p.m. Free live on Zoom. Link to Join: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/302497889>. Contact: Seren Elizabeth at selizab@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.

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.

Teen Talk

Need to be Heard? Upper Room's Teen Talk, an online forum to talk, support and be heard is open Tuesdays 3 - 4 p.m. Free live on Zoom. Teens 13-18. No preregistration necessary; Meeting ID: 111 147 286, Password: 694887. Contact: Nicole Smith Martin at nmartin@urteachers.org or call 437-8477 x29.

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

Contact-free pick up at the Upper Room, 36 Tsienneto Rd., Derry is available on Mondays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (back entrance), Thursdays 3 - 4 p.m. and by appointment (front entrance).

Police Log

Continued from page 14

6:44 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Gary Drive.

11:28 p.m. Criminal Threatening investigated on Constitution Drive.

11:33 p.m. Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with transportation to a Hospital from Scots Place.

Wednesday - Dec. 9

1:13 p.m. Four officers respond to Domestic Disturbance, which leads to an arrest being made on Beacon Street.

2:03 p.m. Services rendered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud at Londonderry BP Station on Mohawk Drive.

2:33 p.m. Services rendered to keep the peace

on Manter Mill Road.

2:38 p.m. Services rendered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud on Crackling Log Lane.

2:44 p.m. Services rendered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud on Old Derry Road.

5:03 p.m. Four officers assist with a report of Domestic Disturbance at the MacGregor Cut Apartments on Stonehenge Road. Subject taken/referred to another agency.

8:04 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on Michels Way.

Thursday - Dec. 10

5:59 a.m. Assisted Derry Police Department with services on Wilshire Drive.

9:01 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on

South Road at Londonderry South School.

1:38 p.m. Three officer Restore Peace after a Domestic Disturbance on King John Drive.

10:08 p.m. Disturbance leads to an arrest made at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store on Nashua Road.

Friday - Dec. 11

3:17 a.m. Assisted another Police Department with services on Melody Lane.

1:30 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Sequoia Avenue.

3:28 p.m. Assault investigated by three officers at Route 102 Gas on Nashua Road.

6:15 p.m. Three officers investigate a Disturbance on Charleston Avenue.

7:04 p.m. Drug Offenses investigated at the Boat Ramp on Brewster Road.

7:58 p.m. Peace restored following Juvenile Offenses on Bridle Path at Wallace Farm Apartments.

Saturday - Dec. 12

12:04 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated at Home Depot on Nashua Road.

8:11 p.m. Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with services at Manchester Boston Regional Airport on Airport Road.

8:44 p.m. Alarm, Hold-up investigated on Airport Road.

11:13 p.m. Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with services at Convenient MD on Nashua Road.

11:55 p.m. Three officers assisted the Derry Police Department with services at The Stumble Inn on Rockingham Road.

Sunday - Dec. 13

3 a.m. Report of a Domestic Disturbance leads to an arrest on Pillsbury Road. Three officers assist in charging Julio Samaniego, 32, of Londonderry with

Criminal Threatening - Deadly Weapon; Domestic Violence (Simple Assault - Bodily Injury); and Second Degree Assault (Domestic Violence; Strangle).

10:54 a.m. Services Rendered for Drug Offenses on Michels Way at N.H. Liquor Store.

5:58 p.m. Disturbance on Eagle Way results in transportation to a hospital.

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