

Londonderry Times

March 3, 2022 ♦ Volume 23 – Issue 9

A FREE Weekly Publication



Drum Night The Lancer Marching Band hosted a “Night of Percussion” recently at the LHS gym. Five schools were involved in the somewhat annual event. See more photos page 8. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Town Council Warned of Possible Power Outages

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Feb. 22 Town Council meeting the members heard from local State Rep. Douglas Thomas in regards to concerns about the power supply in New England.

He explained that he attended a webinar with ISO New England, which controls and manages the New England power grid.

“The reason why the webinar is important is because of a notice that ISO New England issued a short while ago, a notice that ISO New England has never issued before,” said Thomas.

He said that they may get to the point in the near future where there isn’t enough power

being generated in New England in order to keep up with the demand, especially during unusual cold snaps.

Dave Cloutier Director of System operations from Eversource explained that at first there would be a time period of heightened awareness where they make requests for people to conserve power usage.

“If that fails there will be an emergency declared,” said Cloutier.

He said that would hopefully hear from ISO several days in advance about a shortage of energy. He said that they would then have to turn off the number of customers that they tell them to. If it’s going to be a long period of time

they would rotate customers so it’s not a long block of time at once.

Cloutier said that they would prioritize the list so it makes sense including having hospitals at the bottom of the list.

Allison McLean from Eversource said that it’s important that the Town is preparing for it now and that they can help them with it. She also noted that unlike power outages during storms the police and fire departments would be included in the outage.

Thomas said that much of the reason for the problem in generating enough power to the grid comes from too little natural gas, which is necessary more in cold

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Three Residents Run For Two Town Council Seats

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On March 8, voters will have their chance to vote for two Town Councilor that will be placed on the board for the next three-years.

We asked each candidate to make a brief statement on why he would be the best choice. Their responses are listed below.

Ted Combes

As a lifelong resident of Londonderry, my wife Kara and I have built a

wonderful life with our 9-month-old son Grayson. I look forward to my son growing up in our beautiful community of Londonderry. My family has a history of volunteer work through local churches and Lions club. My father and mother, George and Cindy, moved to Londonderry with my siblings Dan, Bridget, and Mitch, who have taken different career paths as families often do. As I begin to build my family here in the town that I grew up, I

decided to run because I am not just trying to help Londonderry be a great place to raise a family tomorrow, I want to help to ensure that Londonderry is a great place to raise a family 10

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Five Candidates Running for the Two School Board Seats

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On March 8, voters will have the opportunity to vote in two new School Board members. We asked each why they would be the best choice for the two positions available.

There are two residents running for the

one, two-year seat and three running for the one, three-year seat.

Voting will take place at the Londonderry High School Gym from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Two-Year Candidates:

Amanda Butcher,
Perspective, Communi-

cation, and Collaboration.

We moved to Londonderry eight years ago, like many of you, for the schools. My kids are in fifth and third grade this year. As a parent and an educator, I care deeply about ensuring that all of our children have the support they need to

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Town Council Candidates

Continued from page 1
 and 20 years from now. I am a lifelong resident of the town, where I grew up playing rec soccer, playing in the high school marching band, and completing my Eagle Scout with Troup 521. I completed my undergraduate degree(BA) at Suffolk University, and my Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Southern New Hampshire University. Ten years of project management, construction management, and real estate development experience, paired with my previous Londonderry Town Council, Budget Committee, and

Planning Board experience leaves me well prepared to lead the town for years to come.

I believe that when it comes to being on the Town Council "Experience Matters", and I have an abundance of it. This is proven not only by my vast career experience, but also a lengthy resume' of volunteering and serving on

town boards, and enhanced by my strong family values. I am proud of my time on Town Council. We raised the Veterans and Disabled Tax Benefits for people living in town. I am proud that we were able to keep the Town Tax Rate low and stable. I am proud that, in my term, we were able to pass and start construction on the new Central Fire Station.

I believe I am the best Candidate for Town Council. Being an Eagle Scout has instilled me with a strong belief in Community Service and the Scout Law. "A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent"

I believe I am the best candidate for the Town Council because I am focused on maintaining our budget, I am level headed, I listen before making a hard decision, and I can come to the table with ideas on growing our tax base to help reduce the Londonderry

Residential Tax burden.

John Farrell (Incumbent)

I love our town and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve my community. Serving the community has been a family tradition. My father served on the Planning Board and Zoning Board in the town I grew up in. Growing up, I knew I wanted to serve my community like he did. My mother-in-law was also active in local activities and always watched every town meeting. She knew everything that was going on in town.

During my years of service, I have learned that to best serve our community you have to be an excellent listener and problem solver, but most importantly, you must always put the community first. My goal everyday is to help protect this great community.

My wife, Sherry, and I got married here almost 30 years ago. Sherry moved here with her parents over 50 years ago and we met here while I was visiting a friend who lived in town. Londonderry is our home and we are lucky that our two girls also plan to call Londonderry home and hope to raise their fami-

lies here someday.

Londonderry provides the convenience of being near Manchester and Boston with the beauty of our great state of NH and that small-town feel. I often joke that we live where many people hope to vacation someday. I want to continue to serve the community I love. I will strive to always have an open mind and I believe that together we can continue to strengthen our community. I love Londonderry and will do anything to protect it.

I would appreciate your vote on March 8.

Chad Franz

As a military veteran, I have a passion for not only being part of a team - but leading. As a town council member, I will leverage my military leadership experience to navigate complex problems, collaborate with others, and bring positive changes to Londonderry.

Londonderry has been, and will always be, a special place for me. When I moved here in late 2016, I noticed a deep sense of community and togetherness in this town. The beautiful orchards, commons, Old Home Days, and school system are only a few

examples of why I choose to raise my family in this community. I want to retain Londonderry as the town that we love - a place that generations before have enjoyed and for future generations to cherish.

Two significant issues facing our community are high taxes and unhealthy drinking water. Our rising tax rate is a concern for the community of Londonderry. We must ensure wise and mindful spending of tax revenue - while maintaining the services needed and work with our state and federal legislators to lessen our local taxpayer impact. The second concern I want to address is the unhealthy drinking water in town. We need to tackle this for all Londonderry community members - our youngest and oldest generations, and everyone in between. As a community mainly built for families, we should sustain healthy drinking water throughout, hold those who created this situation accountable and utilize state and federal resources to make this happen.

I have a proven track record of elected leadership positions that show my ability to unite and work together as a team.

While serving on the Londonderry Budget Committee, I have enjoyed meeting residents, building relationships, and working toward common goals. I was also appointed to head of the school's COVID Reopening Task Force that was charged with formulating a plan to keep our kids and school staff safe. I was able to channel the passion of both sides, with the collaboration of the public and district office, into developing a plan adopted by the school board.

With my strong communication skills and ability to work with diverse individuals, I will help bridge the divide that we have occurred due to the effects of COVID and other issues. All sides need to feel heard; I will work as a town council member to address all problems and bring our town together. I genuinely believe we can all partner, no matter which side you stand.

I will be the best advocate for the taxpayers and residents of Londonderry -

Together, we're better. I'd be honored to have your vote on March 8.

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School Board Candidates

Continued from page 1 receive the best possible education. While we should always strive for growth and improvement, I want to recognize that we have it really good here. Our students who go through our Londonderry schools go off to pursue wonderful things. This is a testament to our educators.

I have worked in schools for just short of fifteen years. I earned my M.Ed. while working my way through college as a paraprofessional. In my current role as an educational and behavioral consultant, I collaborate with parents, administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals to help solve problems and effect positive change. This requires an understanding of everyone's priorities, use of evidence-based intervention and methods, and data to drive objective decision making. There is so much more to education than standardized testing. We need to meet kids where they are at. This multifaceted perspective is what makes me different.

In my experience, the foundation of working together toward a common goal is effective communication. This means listening to, and understanding, perspectives and facts before acting. This is what our community needs. Masking is

currently optional and I support this. Like everyone else, I hope that with a better understanding of Covid and a less severe variant, we can keep masks off. A petition to end masks, which ignores the federally and state recommended covid mitigation matrices designed by public health professionals, however, is shortsighted. It does not consider the perspective of medically fragile families, those who have lost loved ones to this virus, or the fact that our situation could change in the future. Our priorities as a district should be ensuring students and staff members are safe, while keeping our schools open for in-person learning.

Something I think we can all agree on is that we want the best experiences and opportunities for our kids. Mutual respect and common civility play an important role in accomplishing this and in moving forward together. When I spoke with educators in our schools, the impact that community discourse has on them was one of the common themes. It was mentioned that we can't even have our students and their teachers share their accomplishments at meetings anymore. We have a great opportunity to collaborate better, and model this behavior for our

kids so we can restore the culture of our town.

My professional experience, perspective, collaborative style, and ability to communicate are what we need to move forward, and what makes me the best candidate for this role.

Timothy Porter,

My name is Tim Porter and I am running for the Londonderry School Board. The main reason I decided to run is the large vested interest I have in seeing our School District regain its reputation of excellence. I was born and raised in Londonderry. My family established roots here when my parents arrived in town 44 years ago. My wife and I both graduated from Londonderry High in 1999 and decided to raise our three children here in town in large part because we were proud of the education we received from the Londonderry School District. My four brothers and their combined five children also attend Londonderry schools.

I have attended almost all School Board meetings over the past two years. While doing so, I have taken a more in-depth look into the statistics of the district and found glaringly negative trends. We have a massively growing budget weighing on all taxpayers while our student population has actually consistently been dropping

and, most importantly, while our academic proficiency has declined. To justify the expense of our School District, which makes up over 70% of our town's annual property tax burden, these trends need to be reversed.

I am a local business owner here in Londonderry. I specialize in family and small business financial and retirement planning and investment management. It is my job to help our clients achieve their financial goals in the most efficient manner possible. We also have a family tax practice where the focus is on helping those clients keep their annual tax burden at a minimum. I believe that the professional expertise I have developed over the course of the past 20 years makes me uniquely qualified as a candidate to assist with our School District's current issues.

Londonderry has one of the largest populations of citizens aged 55-plus in the entire state of NH. This means we have one of the largest contingents of seniors that help bear the burden of our School District budget almost entirely without having a child in any of our schools. This is the demographic most likely to be restricted to

a fixed income and hurt the most financially when taxes increase. This is all the more reason we need to search for ways to bring these costs down while achieving higher levels of academic proficiency.

For two years now, within our schools our children and staff have been forced to contend with an abnormal and sometimes negative learning environment due to pandemic restrictions. This has led to detrimental effects both academically and socially within our schools. It is imperative we restore a normal, positive academic environment in which our students, teachers, and staff can thrive.

As a School Board member, I will be cognizant of the fact this is an elected position and I should be a voice of the voting taxpayers of Londonderry. I appreciate your consideration and hope to earn your vote on March 8. Find me at Facebook.com/PorterforSchoolBoard or email at PorterforSchoolBoard@gmail.com. Thank you.

3-Year Candidates:

Kevin Gray,

I feel very passionately about public education and I have a deep

respect for public school teachers and administrators. This passion started early, as a student and product of Public school education. In addition, through the teachers in my family, I saw firsthand the hours of preparation, passion, and dedication that is poured into their work. Witnessing this after hour commitment, often flying under the radar, developed a deep appreciation for all that educators do. I believe that the school board, as a conduit to the community, should work in a collaborative measure to ensure the public school district is thriving, with effective use of the school budget, by supporting the teachers and administration.

In my professional career as a director and software architect, I work at the apex of multiple teams, striving to align approaches and determine long-term direction. This is effectively what the school board is tasked with in regards to the school district.

The job of the school board requires gathering data, talking to people knowledgeable in varying areas and weighing short term costs against long term bene-

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Editorial

Be Prepared to Vote on March 8

Election Day for most towns in the state is March 8. In the days between now and then, we hope you'll listen to candidates speak, read their words, and ask them about the issues that concern you.

Local Elections results affect everybody in town; the money being sought after is your tax money, and you have the right to have a say in where it goes. This is your town, and your views make a difference, but only if you vote.

The March election has no state or national candidates, and that's traditionally bad news for voter turnout. We remind you, that your vote has far more impact in the local government elections than it ever will on the state or federal level.

In countries across much of the world people take to the streets and literally risk death to demand free elections and the right to have a say in their government. They look to the United States as an example of how government by the people works.

Equally important are the warrant articles on both the town and school ballots whether it's the school budget or a request for funding for other items. Town and school requests should be handled the way you handle your checkbook - Can you afford it? Is it a necessity or a luxury? Is it something you can put off, or will cost much more later on?

Staying home is easy, but taking the time to cast an informed vote is what a democratic country expects of its citizens. If you don't understand what you're being asked to approve, seek the answer. The right to vote is important, but it carries with it the responsibility of understanding the issues. Your vote shouldn't

be swayed by the vote of the town council or the budget committee. Your vote should also not be influenced the views of your neighbors. The vote is yours and you must vote on what is true to you, so choose wisely and educate yourself. In the local papers, there are bios of the candidates that run, sample ballots are printed, and the website of your town should have sample ballots posted.

We let ourselves and everyone else down when we ignore local elections. If you fail to vote and find yourselves taxed out of your home and represented by people who embarrass or upset you, complaining after the election will not help.

How about union contracts? Most contracts are for two to five years and add a dollar amount for each of those years it is in effect. Make sure you understand the costs attached to each additional year because you won't be asked to vote on it in future years; the money will be added to the overall budget each year and will be part of your future tax bill. When a warrant article states that there is no tax impact that may not be true for future years.

Please educate yourselves and understand the complete picture, the choice is yours. Each article has pros and cons. In addition, many have long-term implications that affect your wallet every year. It pays to listen and understand both sides' citizens and local governments.

Many people pride themselves on their patriotism. Theirs is no better way to express your patriotism than by heading to the polls and making informed choices.

So for your own good and the good of the community, please vote March 8.

Letters

Response to Monica Plourde Letter

To the editor,

Many thanks to the editor for giving me the opportunity to respond to some defamatory letters written about me. While I have previously chosen to ignore these constant attacks, I do feel that we've reached a point where failing to address this misinformation is potentially harmful to the culture of our community. I'm specifically responding to a letter to the editor written by Monica Plourde.

In the spirit of transparency, I have dedicated a Facebook post to my stance on each of the most pressing issues. If you look in the comments you will see that there are people who don't agree with me. The people who are banned are those who make false allegations or act in a blatantly disrespectful manner.

Monica referenced articles posted on my personal page. One was called, "Ten Things White People Can Do to Promote Racial Justice". I'm perplexed as to why, in 2022, this would be insulting to her. Does she not realize the alternative is racial injustice? Promoting acceptance is not CRT, and neither is advocating for the rights of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+. Everyone has a right to be accepted as they are.

My other post was a Newsweek article that looked at personality characteristics, like empathy, that best indicated willingness to wear a mask. I posted this in July 2020. Covid wasn't understood, the country was shut down, and hospitals were overwhelmed. I would argue that most of us were willing to wear a mask at this time, you know, for the greater good. Almost two years

later, masks are optional, but Monica continues to harass those with opposing viewpoints, because to her, different means bad.

What she conveniently omitted was that this past summer she was a part of a lawsuit suing the district for following federal and state mandates surrounding masking. How much taxpayer money went toward defending this lawsuit that could have instead gone towards TEACHING? Monica also left out that she feels that union teachers only care about themselves, that she called an esteemed principal "sick" following a presentation on social emotional learning, and that she publicly encouraged harassment of district administrators.

My critics very much want you to know that I didn't attend in-person meetings before my candidacy. I watched them from home. Luckily, I had the opportunity to see lots of behind-the-scenes footage, like the video Monica posted showing school board members being followed after a meeting that was ended as a result of unruly behavior. She saw "nothing wrong" with it. This aggressive behavior discourages well-intentioned people from participating and is actually what compelled me to run. If, despite 15 years of experience as an educator, my watching virtually results in your selecting another candidate, I absolutely respect that and your right to vote.

Monica's letter, an attempt to hurt me, actually aids me, as it highlights the very behavior I have continued to speak out against. It is people who behave like her, not opposing viewpoints, that are hurting our community.

Amanda Butcher
Londonderry

Running for Town Council

To the editor,

Hi everyone, I'm Chad Franz, and I'm running for town council.

I've had a few people ask me what I mean when I say "Together, we're better."

I served honorably in the Marine Corps for 16 years. I've traveled the globe, where I've experienced multiple cultures, backgrounds, ethos, and customs. I heard varying opinions and found value in people's contributions. My time in the service has taught me several valuable lessons – one I'll share with you now.

Being in combat, you quickly realize that you must become reliant on your team. Supporting each other by watching the other's back.

Recent times have driven a spike in the heart of our town. Friends became adversaries, and families have become ripped apart – why are some people choosing hate?

Londonderry – it's time to be a team.

If elected as your town councilor, I will encourage a place where people feel heard, where we can collaborate to find the best solutions – utilizing resources mindfully and responsibly. Where we can have civil conversations with dignity and respect – even on social media. I believe in the goodness of this community because together, we are better.

I hope to earn your vote on March 8.

Chad Franz
Londonderry

Running for Budget Committee

To the editor,

My name is Patrick Cassidy and I am running for Budget Committee. My family and I have had the great pleasure of living in Londonderry over the last

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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 seven years. I believe that we have a beautiful, well-run town. While other candidates seek to bring radical change to our community, I seek to preserve both our fantastic school system and our exceptional public services.

In my early career, I served in the Army and as a police officer with the US Capitol Police. In an effort to move my family back to NE, I changed careers in 2015 and became a public school science teacher. The roles I have held in my career have been very rewarding, giving me great appreciation for, and understanding of, the work of police officers and teachers.

Jan. 6, 2021 was a sad day for me as it was for many Americans. It was a disgrace to see my brothers and sisters attacked, injured, and in some cases killed for defending our Capitol. It was appalling to see the Capitol Building itself, the symbol of our great democracy, broken into by force and desecrated. Whatever the political spin may be, Jan. 6 was nothing short of an attack on our democracy by radical extremists. It was a blatant attempt to prevent, by force, the peaceful transition of government for which the US is known throughout the world.

What has disturbed me even further since then is to see similar political tactics, which some misguid-

ed political leaders might describe as "legitimate political discourse", employed in our own town. During much of the last year, duly elected members of our school board were subjected to threats, intimidation, and inappropriate treatment, necessitating the presence of police officers at school board meetings and police escorts for school board members. This was followed by school members' home addresses being released on social media in an attempt to encourage retribution against them. Unfortunately, these underhanded tactics resulted in two members resigning from their seats. Now, some of the same individuals who employed these tactics, or did nothing to discourage them, are seeking election to the vacated School Board seats, as well as other elected positions around town.

I sincerely hope that the reasonable-minded members of this community will not allow a small group of individuals to use bully tactics and intimidation to gain positions of power in our town. It is this appalling set of circumstances that has led me to run for public office and to lend my support to Kevin Gray and Amanda Butcher, who are running for school board. We are reasonable, moderate individuals who want to see our schools and our town preserved and protected.

I welcome the opportu-

nity to hear about your concerns and ideas. Please visit my facebook page www.facebook.com/patrickforlondonderrybudgetcommittee/ and/or email me at patrickforlondonderry@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration,
Patrick Cassidy
Londonderry

Running for School Board

To the editor,

My name is Tim Porter and I am running for the Londonderry School Board. The main reason I decided to run is the large vested interest I have in seeing our School District regain its reputation of excellence. I was born and raised in Londonderry. My family established roots here when my parents arrived in town 44 years ago. My wife and I both graduated from Londonderry High in 1999 and decided to raise our three children here in town in large part because we were proud of the education we received from the Londonderry School District. My four brothers and their combined five children also attend Londonderry schools.

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Thank you,
Tim Porter

Re-Elect Supervisor of Checklist

to the editor,

My name is Kristin Grages and I'm asking for your vote on March 8 for re-election as a Supervisor of the Checklist. I've lived in Londonderry for more

than 30 years, met my husband at the high school, and I am so grateful to raise my children in this wonderful town. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve this great community as your Supervisor of the Checklist.

The Supervisors of the Checklist are responsible for the voter registration process and the checklist for signing in. We are 3-person, non-partisan, non-policy making board. I've spent the past 6 years as a Supervisor of the Checklist and the past 4 as Chair.

Along with Sherry Farrell, Jonathan Kipp and the late Tom Freda, I have helped Londonderry lead the way in reducing voter wait times, increasing the security and accuracy of our elections, and making sure the right to vote is protected for every citizen of Londonderry.

As Chair, I am responsible for training not only new Supervisors but also all of our election workers about the seriousness of following State laws and making sure we are only registering people who should vote in town, that we are following all Voter-ID and other laws, and that the right to vote is available for all eligible citizens of Londonderry.

In addition to registering new voters, as Supervisors we are also responsible for removing people

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Letters

Continued from page 5 who have left town or have passed away. I take this part of our role extremely seriously and we are diligent about reaching out to people who we believe may no longer be eligible to vote in town. We also process notifications from other states and from the Department of Vital Records to ensure the accuracy of our voter list. All additions, changes and removals must be approved by a majority of the 3-person Supervisor board.

Over the past 6 years, I have dedicated myself to the accuracy and integrity of Londonderry's voter checklist. I would be honored to continue to serve our community and hope that I have earned your vote.

Kristin Grages
londonderry

Running for Budget Committee

To the editor,

My name is Ron Dunn and this letter is to officially announce my candidacy for Budget Committee. I am running in this election because I believe that I can be a strong representative for this community. I am starting my campaign by reaching out to you, my community, to ask for your support.

A little about me; I'm a Retail Store Manager and a certified Pharmacy Technician Immuniizer (I give COVID-19 vaccinations) and

I have a BS in Business Administration from the University of NH. I am a member of the Londonderry Solid Waste and Environmental Committee, a member of the National PFAS Coalition, part of the Londonderry, NH Concerned Citizens for Clean Water and a graduate of the 2021 Leadership Londonderry class. My loving wife is Cara and we have 3 wonderful dogs, a German Shepherd named Slate, a Great Dane named Moose and a Bulldog named Tank. I am fiscally conservative and will always look out for the taxpayers of this town.

I grew up in NH and lived here for the first 21 years of my life. Then I moved to Boston for work. I met the love of my life, my wife Cara. After many years of city life, my wife and I decided that we wanted to move back to NH for a better lifestyle and community. We returned to NH in 2013 and have lived in Londonderry ever since.

COVID-19 has hit our community hard causing economic instability. As a tax paying citizen, I know the importance of keeping the property tax low. Many in our community are struggling and having a large tax bill only adds to the pain. We must reduce spending to reduce the tax burden. I don't want to see people that have owned a home in Londonderry a majority of their life have to sell due to the rising property taxes and evaluations.

The PFAS issue has personally affected myself and my family. We are one of the many households that are on bottled water. Unfortunately, many still are not aware of this serious health issue. In speaking with other residents, not enough of our community is aware of the PFAS issue and how it impacts their health. This issue is finally being addressed after much delay, but it is important for the entire community to be aware of the issue. We need to develop a solution for our town that will not cause the taxpayer to bear the burden with a remedy for this situation caused by corporate polluters.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I appreciate your time and welcome your support and vote on March 8.

Let's Get It "Dunn" Together!
Ron Dunn
Londonderry

Running for Supervisor of the Checklist

To the editor,

My name is Cara Dunn and this letter is to officially announce my candidacy for Supervisor of the Checklist. I am running because I am passionate about voting integrity and following and upholding our voting laws.

I have worked in IT for over 25 years. In my job, I have to be detailed oriented and follow procedures closely. If elected I would use my experience with analyzing data to ensure the integrity of the voter

list. I have strong communication skills that enable me to relay technical information in a clear and concise manner. I must clearly articulate information to all employees including executives, office personnel, sales people, warehouse staff and truck drivers.

Growing up, my parents wanted my three sisters and I to get to know people of all different backgrounds. They joined an organization called Christmas International where international students are invited to be the guest of American host families over the winter break and celebrate Christmas with them. Over the years we met some wonderful people that we have remained friends with. In learning about these people's culture, it was sad for me to learn of some countries where they didn't have freedoms as we do here in the US. In learning about these countries, I developed a great appreciation for the freedoms we have and feel passionate about keeping them.

I am the other half of the Dunn duo. Ron and I have lived in Londonderry for the past 9 years with our 3 dogs, Slate, Moose and Tank.

I appreciate your consideration and would welcome your vote on March 8.

Cara Dunn
Londonderry

Running for School Board

To the editor,

No one was prepared

for a pandemic in 2020. Our country shut down, hurting people physically, emotionally, financially, academically, and developmentally. If you have seen our school board meetings or followed town Facebook pages, you probably agree the pandemic has also harmed our community's sense of unity and ability to communicate. This is why I've decided to run for the open two-year seat.

As we learned more about COVID, strong opposing opinions among residents surfaced over mitigation strategies. Ultimately, we need to return to normalcy while ensuring our schools remain open and that students and staff members are safe. Not every answer or decision will be perfect for everyone, but we need to work together to move forward. If you are someone who has hesitated to get involved, I would encourage you to go back and watch past meetings. Observe how people are speaking to others and consider the connection as we simultaneously discuss bullying in schools. Yelling and speaking at others condescendingly are not effective means of communication. I knew running would be tough, but one really never gets used to being continuously sought out for the sole purpose of being put down. I understand the intention behind this is to try make me go away. Luckily, this inspires me to stick around. Is this really our new normal though? I'm wondering when it became political to advocate for public education, kids, and teachers. We

can and should do better.

We moved here eight years ago for the schools. Since then, my kids have been taught by amazing educators, attended wonderful town events, and have loved playing sports. The opportunities they have to succeed here are endless. This is what makes our community great. I have recently visited schools across town to gain a better perspective surrounding our successes as a district, and to determine where more support or attention is needed. The theme has been fairly consistent: students, teachers, and administrators are happy to be back in their buildings. Time lost to remote learning has resulted in challenges, but educators are meeting kids where they're at. It's the discourse within the community that is contaminating schools and negatively impacting job satisfaction. This should be concerning to everyone as educators leave the field in record numbers.

I have worked in schools for almost 15 years. I attended UNH and earned a B.A. in Psychology. After college, I worked as paraeducator while going to graduate school to obtain a M.Ed. in Leadership, Teaching, and Educational Transformation from UMass Boston. I then studied to become a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst and Educational and Behavioral Consultant working in early intervention programs and public schools across our state. What I'll bring to the school board is not only my professional experience and perspective, but more

continued on page 11

Janet Huttula has my vote!

I will be voting for Janet Huttula for Budget Committee. I have gotten to know Jan over the last five years as a neighbor and friend. She is one of the most honest people I know and she truly cares about our community and others. She is retired and has more energy than I could ever hope for. My children love her and her husband, and we support her 100%! As a busy mom, who is short on time, Jan always keeps me informed and updated on key issues that are important. I know her personally and she is smart, honest, transparent, and sensible. She exemplifies a service before self-attitude in everything that she does. She is giving, caring and unselfish. She is actively involved on many local and state issues and devotes a great deal of time on her involvement. Jan is more than qualified for a position on the Budget Committee given her extensive work and education history. I know that if elected Jan will put her whole heart and effort into doing what is right and best for our community. I always appreciate Jan's advice and am grateful for her service to our community. She is a wealth of knowledge and experience and would be a huge asset to the Budget Committee.

Vote for Janet Huttula!
Donna Hopkins

Paid for by Janet Huttula

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY NOTICE OF TOWN ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the Official Ballot Session of the Town of Londonderry's Budgetary Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Londonderry High School Gymnasium, the polls to be open at six o'clock in the morning and to close not earlier than eight o'clock in the evening.

A sample ballot is posted at Londonderry Town Hall, and may be accessed on the home page of the Town's website, the Voting and Elections section, and the Town Clerk's section of the Town's website.

School Board Candidates

Continued from page 3 fits. Decisions must be based on experts' advice along with the balance of budget and the community needs and wishes. It is a sounding board that is receptive to often divisive ideals and hot topic debates, but ultimately they are elected to consider the best plan forward that will keep the community safe, financially healthy, thriving, and united. This is a long and hard list no doubt, but I feel I have the temperament, the passion, and the level headedness to be a beneficial team player, working for the school board to speak as a united front, representative of the community with its best interest at heart, all through open and collaborative dialogue.

There has been a noticeable shift in some attitudes to a more adversarial stance, and I can categorically state that never once in all my years in business has that approach or mentality lead to a well functioning team or company success. We definitely need to do better than that. I think I have a disposition that unites people and I bring proposals that are a happy medium to the table.

I am heavily involved within the community, specifically around youth sports and schools. I believe in being actively vested in our town, since this is where my wife and I chose to move to raise our boys. I currently head coach, coordinate or assistant coach more than six teams in town, and that number moves based on need. I'm also the PTA president for North School, where I have had the privilege of serving at the intersection of administration, teachers, and parents. If I am elected to the School Board, I intend to continue to foster these lines of respectful communication.

I am asking for your

support on March 8, because I know I can bring the same professional success, collaborative problem-solving, and rational voice to benefit the School Board and public education here in Londonderry

Rachel Killian,

Two years ago I decided I wanted to give back to the town that welcomed my son and I so many years ago. I publicly committed to running for school board this summer. I started my campaign early to ensure I had enough time to get to know the community, answer questions and get a feel for the priorities and concerns our citizens have. Since then I have taken time to personally meet with teachers, administrators, students, community members and parents.

It's time we rebalance the system of checks and balances between the board and district office.

A seven year trend in dropping achievement data, correlated to consistently raising spending is incredibly troublesome.

A vote for me will be a vote for transparency, accountability and change. I have been a vocal advocate for parents rights, fiscal responsibility, academic rigor and sensible spending. It's time to evaluate the policies and school board charter. The school board charter has not been reviewed since 1989. We need policies that hold the board members and district office accountable to the community.

I have over 17 years of experience in education. I spent 10 years in various roles in the K-12 sector. The last seven years I have spent on quality assessment and curriculum design and in transformative change in higher education. I invite you all to learn more about me and my proven track record of showing up, and being a

voice for the community by visiting my website-<http://rk4londonderry.com> or email killian4schoolboard@gmail.com

On March 8, I ask for you to cast a vote for change- vote for Racheal Killian. I thank you for your support and look forward to serving you.

Tracey Ramshaw

I am an educator of 25 years with an MEd. in Special Education but being a mom is my first job. I am the proud mother of four children who are all being raised in the town of Londonderry and are either in the school system or have graduated from it. My three children that are currently enrolled are in elementary school, middle school, and high school. I have the advantage of seeing how these three different schools are run and can offer a viewpoint, as a parent, from each school. I am passionate about education and the town of

Londonderry. I am running for Londonderry School Board not because I think we have a broken school system or school board but because I feel some areas of our school system appear to have taken a backseat to the COVID crisis. Remote learning, limited attendance at all sorts of events, and of course the infamous mask debate are all temporary problems that seem to be dividing our town. I believe looking past all of that is in the best interest of our students.

I would like to see special education student success as a top agenda item. These students and families deserve the best that Londonderry has to offer and I do not think we are quite there yet. I think teaming up with the NH Department of Education

and implementing additional programs and staffing will ensure that this group of individuals are successful. Our underperforming special education students must be a priority in Londonderry. Additionally, I would like to see the Londonderry school system invest in programs that are designed to assess the mental health of our students. By providing students with mental health screeners, we can reach students who wouldn't otherwise be able to express how they are feeling. With these services in place we can get students the help they need and never leave a student feeling alone and helpless.

On March 8 I ask for your support in the election. Together we can work to make our children our top priority.

OBITUARY

Kristin Marie Pfau



Kristin Marie Pfau, 28, of Londonderry, NH passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022 at her home.

She was born on April 28, 1993, in Arlington Heights, IL and spent the first few years of her life in Michigan. Her family made their home in Londonderry, NH in 2000, where she attended local schools and spent many years as a cheerleader for her town's youth teams, schools and competition teams.

Kristin worked as an LNA for St. Jacinta's Healthcare and traveled to various nursing homes around southern New Hampshire. Her children were her world and she loved every minute spent with them.

She is survived by her parents, Mark and Debra (Johnson) Pfau of Londonderry, NH; her daughters, Nayeli and Natalie; her brother, Bruce Pfau and his wife Heather of Londonderry; her nephews, David and Dylan Pfau; and her grandfather, Bruce Johnson; as well as several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Calling hours will be held on Friday evening, March 4 from 4 - 8 p.m., at the Carrier Family Funeral Home, 38 Range Rd., Windham, NH 03087. A Funeral Service will take place on Saturday morning at 11am at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Catholic Charities of NH, 100 William Loeb Dr., Unit 3, Manchester, NH 03109.

Arrangements are in the care of the Carrier Family Funeral Home. For directions or to leave a message of condolence, please visit www.carrierfuneralhome.com.

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Lancer Marching Band Holds Night of Percussion at High School



The Londonderry High School Marching Band hosted a “Night of Percussion” in the school’s gymnasium recently with five schools attending. Along with LHS students performing throughout the evening, Londonderry Middle School had students performing as well as Alvirne, Bedford and Salem High School. Seniors Connor Dupuis and Zach Rivet also performed a duet of “Catching Shadows” on xylophones.

Photos by Chris Paul

CHAD FRANZ
TOWN COUNCIL



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Vote for a Leader Who Listens on March 8th

Chad's Priorities

- ★ Transparency between residents taxpayers and town government
- ★ Wise and mindful spending of town budget funds
- ★ Collaborative approach when handling business

About Chad

- ★ Retired Marine
- ★ Husband, father and Londonderry homeowner
- ★ Passionate advocate for the community
- ★ Focused on current and Future needs of town departments

Contact Chad

603-703-8986

chadforlondonderry@gmail.com

Chad for Londonderry on Facebook

Paid for by Friends of Chad Franz. 1 Sunflower Lane, Londonderry, NH.

Tim Porter

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

- ✓ Responsible Tax Spending
- ✓ Restore a Normal Learning Environment for Kids & Staff
- ✓ Focus on Academic Excellence



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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Two Lancer Wrestlers Finish Second in State's Meet of Champions

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Wrestling team had four of their grapplers competing in the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association's Meet of Champions (MOCs) with two making it to the state championship match.

The MOCs has the winners of each of the three New Hampshire divisions facing off for the number one spot in the state and it took place in Londonderry. The top two will then head to the New England Interscholastic Wrestling Championship at the Providence Career & Technical Academy in Rhode Island on Saturday, March 4.

There were 34 teams competing in the MOCs on Saturday and Londonderry finished in 15th. Timberlane Regional High School finished in first as a team with 262 points,

while Salem High School took second with 190 and Nashua South was third with 126-points.

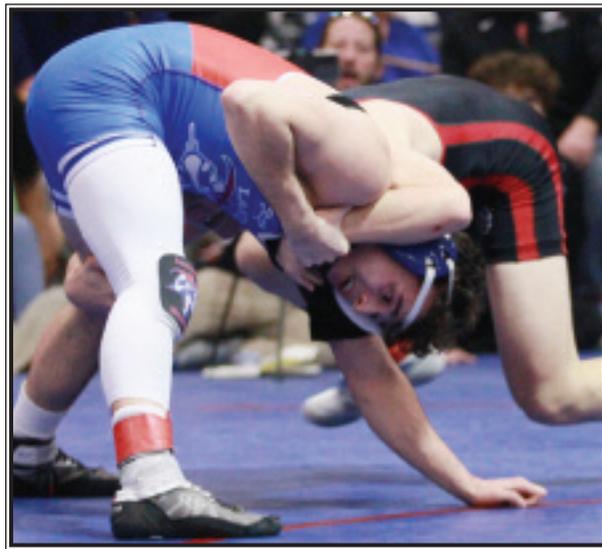
The Lancer squad had freshman David Pento wrestling in the 132-pound championship bout and junior Nick D'Alessandro fighting for the 126-pound title.

Freshman Nikki Stylianos, wrestling at 106-pounds and Patrick O'Connor wrestling at 152-pounds also competed in the tournament, but didn't make it to the championship bouts.

Pento had three wins and one loss at the MOCs. He started his day with a quick win by fall against a Merrimack opponent.

His second win was a close 6-5 decision over Cam Jordan of Conval High School in the quarterfinals.

In his semifinal bout, Pento had a 13-6 decision win over Caleb O'Rourke from Salem



Lancer junior Nick D'Alessandro took on Kiaben Kennedy of Bedford High School at 126-pounds for championship title.

High School.

In the finals, Pento lost 8-0 to Anthony Fernandez of Nashua South.

D'Alessandro also had a strong performance leading up to a championship bout against Kiaben Kennedy of Bedford High.

D'Alessandro had fall win in his first round match followed by a 16-

10 decision win in his quarterfinal match against John Fabrizio.

In his semifinal victo-



LHS Freshman David Pento wrestling in the 132-pound championship bout at the MOCs on Saturday evening. Photos by Chris Paul

ry, D'Alessandro pulled out a tough 6-5 decision win over Cam Monahan of Salem.

D'Alessandro's only loss that day was in the finals, suffering a 9-1 defeat to Kennedy.

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WHY RACHEAL KILLIAN FOR LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD?

"Racheal has been attending school board meetings for years, so she could learn everything she needed to before running. Her passion for education and our children, has never been questioned."
- Monica P.

"Racheal has knowledge of the school board policies, and a history of working within education to assess the many facets of a district. She is able to work with different views and opinions."
- Heather B.

"She deeply cares about well being of our children, teachers and administrators and always open to discuss different views and opinions. She is also a fantastic friend and I know I can always count on her."
- Maria B.

"It is apparent Racheal wants the Londonderry voters voices to be heard since she (and Tim Porter) were the only candidates to not support a change to a petition. She voted to let the majority vote stand. We need a leader that wants what the majority of voters want. Not someone who makes decisions based on how unions or political parties want them to vote."
- Leigh T.



**THE CHANGE WE NEED
THE VOICE OUR KIDS
DESERVE**

Paid for by Londonderry Residents

Lancer Hockey Team Ends Season With OT Loss to Astros

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

In the regular season ending game between cross-town rivals

Pinkerton Academy and the Londonderry High School hockey teams, the Astros pulled off a 2-1 overtime win, and

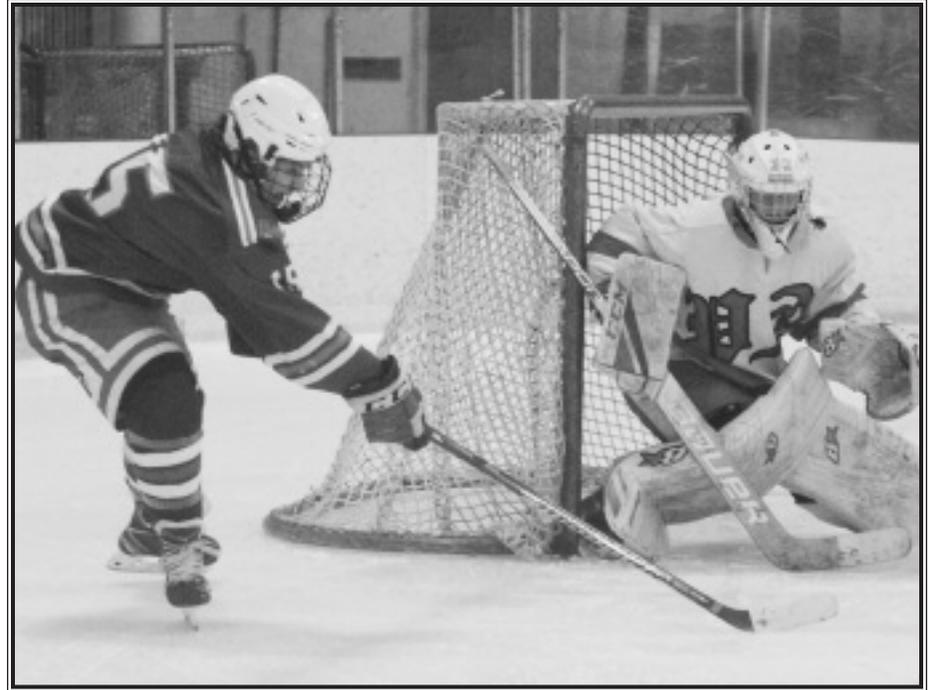
handing the Lancers their seventh loss of the season.

The loss gave the team an 11-7 season record and the number five seed heading into this week's Division I playoffs.

In the Wednesday night, Feb. 23, game at the Tri Town Arena in Hooksett, both teams played hard right from the start and despite a number of hard checks by both sides, just one penalty was called in the four periods played.

Astros senior forward Aidan Curran put his team on the board with just over three-minutes left in the first period. The goal was assisted from fellow senior Ryan Leighton and junior Willem Peterson.

Trailing by one, the Lancer squad stepped



Londonderry junior Drew Cameron tries to stuff in a goal from behind the net at the Wednesday night game against Pinkerton Academy. The Astros junior goalie Damien Carter was tough in net. Photos by Chris Paul



Lancer sophomore Mike Maloney sent th game into OT with under a minute left in the game

up their offense in the last three minutes of the period and LHS junior Ben Padykula very nearly tied the game just before the period-ending buzzer on a blistering shot near the blue line, but was denied by Pinkerton junior goaltender Damien Carter.

In the second period, the Lancer squad thought they had tied the game with a shot from junior Logan Bower and a follow up by junior Jack Patti, but the referee deemed Patti to be in the crease.

After another game tying save by Carter in the PA net, a bit of a scuffle ensued between the rival squads, but the period ended with

PA still clinging to a slim one-goal advantage.

Early in the third period, Londonderry committed the lone penalty of the game, freshman Brett McKinnon was sent to the box at the 11:44 mark in the third.

The Lancer team tied the game with a goal by sophomore Mike Maloney with under a minute left in the game. The game-extending goal was assisted from junior Drew Cameron with the LHS goalie being pulled for a man advantage.

It didn't take Pinkerton long to score the game winner in overtime, despite a hard press from the Lancers to start the period.

The Astros celebrated the victory at 4:21 in OT when junior Lorenzo Corsetto scored an unassisted on a hard forecheck and Londonderry turnover.

The Lancers were given a bye in the first round of the NHIAA playoffs and will start the tournament, on Saturday, March 5, with a trip to Hanover to play the Marauders at Champion Rink in West Lebanon starting at 3:20 p.m.

The Hanover High School squad finished the season at 12-5-1 and gained the number four seed in the tournament. Londonderry suffered a close 4-3 loss at home to the Marauders in their only meeting this season.



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT Superintendent Community Survey



The superintendent search committee would like your input to help with the search process. If you would like to give your input you may scan the QR code (and complete the survey digitally) or you may complete this paper copy and mail or drop it off at district office (6a Kitty Hawk Landing, Londonderry NH 03053). **The deadline for the survey is March 11, 2022.**

- Please indicate which constituent group you represent.
 Parent/Guardian Community Member Student Faculty/Staff Administrator
- What areas of expertise of school district leadership are most important for the Londonderry School District? Please rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important (please rank even if you think all are important)
 Distinguished record of improving student performance
 Educational leadership that emphasizes curriculum, instruction, and assessment
 Effective communication and community engagement
 Emphasizes staff development and team building
 Budget and finance expertise
- What are the most important personal qualities for the next superintendent in Londonderry? Please rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important (please rank even if you think all are important)
 A strong focus on student academic and personal growth
 A clear and compelling vision for district success; an educational visionary
 Self-confident problem solver and decision maker
 Courage to do the right thing for students and the district in the face of opposition
 Integrity and professionalism
 Effective team builder
 Accessible, approachable, and visible within the schools and community
- Please list 2-3 other success factors or qualities of a new superintendent you see as essential for the district.

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Letters

Continued from page 6

importantly, objective decision-making that is fiscally responsible and based on data and common sense. Please consider voting for me on March 8 so we can move forward together.

Signed, a concerned taxpayer, educator, and parent.
Amanda Butcher
Londonderry

Running for Library Trustee

To the editor,

My name is Liz Thomas and I've been a resident of Londonderry, NH for 18 years. Our library is vital to both youth and adults. It is an integral part of our community and it's no accident that it is in the center of town next to our town facilities. It brings knowledge, entertainment, and a sense of wonder of our world through books, magazines, and computers. It's ever evolving and must adjust to the times to attract more visitors. I know I can assist in doing that by being an effective Library Trustee.

How do I know that? I've managed many programs in my previous work and brought them through the initial budgeting process, planning, and completion. I understand how accountability and trans-

parency work in managing taxpayer funded programs. In my previous work, I managed many programs and kept them within budget and quickly adapted to the changing technical environment to implement them. I earned an Associate's Degree in computer science to assist me in these tasks. My BA in history and my secondary high school teacher certificate in History and English provide me skills that lend well to understand and assist in running a library. My undergraduate studies gave me the proud opportunity to work my way through college as a night librarian in a private girls' school, where I taught research techniques to students. I earned my MBA attending night school. And lastly, I have worked as a volunteer in the Leach Library's used book shop and loved the job!

A Library Trustee has the trusted responsibility to help run an efficient library and keep it current and balanced with the funding provided to it. I also believe with proper planning and effort, additional funding is possible, such as in grants. I can use my demonstrated ability to work with people, manage challenges and opportunities, and communicate effectively throughout my career to achieve these goals and others.

A trustee is accountable

to the taxpayers and certain elected officials. A Trustee must be responsible for understanding the services provided by the library and the cost for those services. They must answer not only to the taxpayers, but also to the loyal employees of the library. A Trustee must assume the responsibility of attending board meetings, overview expenditures, assist in researching grants and other vehicles to help support the library in the least cost manner to the taxpayers. They must be the library's advocate in the town. These are only some of the duties a Trustee may have to assume.

If I am elected as a Library Trustee, I will commit to provide my best possible service to the library and the community. I am prepared to devote my time and effort to the duties of trusteeship. I ask for your vote for Liz Thomas on March 8.

Thank you!
Liz Thomas
Londonderry

The Proposed Conservation Land Swap

To the editor,

Article 17 on this year's Town ballot asks voters to release a conservation restriction on 23 acres of former orchard at 35 Gilcreast Rd., for no less than \$2,650,000. Article 18 appropriates \$750,000 of this amount to replace this

land with separate conservation land of equal or greater conservation value. The remaining \$1.9 million will become fund balance, which historically has been used either to lower the tax rate directly, or to support taxpayers in other ways. The articles are contingent upon each other, meaning that if one fails, the other automatically fails.

The Town purchased the conservation restriction in 2003 for \$1.23 million to reduce the scope of a proposed 361-unit development on the orchard parcel as well as on the abutting parcel, which is now the Nevins Retirement Community. The Nevins is separated from the former orchard by undeveloped, forested land extending at least 600 feet east toward the former orchard. This land is owned by the Nevins homeowners, is legally protected, and will not be affected should these articles pass.

Today, the former orchard is thickly overgrown. The conservation restriction prohibits public access. The soil is contaminated with chemicals associated with the historical application of pesticides. While the parcel has some value as wildlife habitat, it is too small and isolated from other natural areas to host a robust natural community.

We must consider whether this will create a "precedent," and jeopardize

other conservation easements in Town. Unlike most conservation restrictions, this restriction allows it to be amended or revoked by the voters. The Town's easements on Moose Hill Orchards and Sunnycrest Farms, for example, do not. The Town has every intention to continue to protect the conservation properties we all cherish.

Any proposed development must comply with the Town's zoning ordinance and other regulations. Additionally, because the Town holds the conservation restriction and can always decline to release it (even after the passage of these articles), the Town has even more control than it normally would. The Town has informed the developer it will not permit apartments.

Should Articles 17 and 18 pass, the Town Council and the Conservation Commission will be authorized, but not required, to move forward. Before giving final approval, both bodies must be satisfied that the transaction makes sense for the Town. They will consider two criteria: 1) The transaction must produce equal or greater conservation value, and 2) The development of the former orchard must benefit Londonderry.

Voters will decide whether this makes sense for the Town. We are not advocating for a particular

result. We have tried to explain the articles, their effects if passed, and to dispel any misunderstandings that may exist. In closing, it is up to you, the voters, to determine if Articles 17 and 18 make sense for the Town. We can think of no better way to decide this complex question.

Marge Badois
Chairwoman, Londonderry Conservation Commission

Mike Malaguti
Acting Town Manager,
Town of Londonderry

Running Town Budget

To the editor,

I'm Tara Myles, and I've volunteered for the Londonderry Budget Committee. It is an elected role, but I say volunteer because I see it as an opportunity to serve my community leveraging my experience consulting on government operations, and more specifically, budgeting and financial transparency.

I've worked with local, state, provincial, and federal governments around the globe in a consulting capacity across my career, including a couple of those years spent helping hundreds of towns, cities, counties, and states across the US to foster financial transparency and build their budgets.

I haven't run a formal campaign, and I don't

continued on page 12

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL

The Londonderry Town Council will conduct a second reading and public hearing on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Rd., Londonderry, NH to consider the following:

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments - Recommended by the Planning Board.

Ordinance 2022-01 - An organizational amendment to the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance. Proposed changes to the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance to correct section references, scrivener errors and organizational updates.

Ordinance 2022-02 - An amendment to the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance relative to portable storage. Proposed changes to the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.15.1 Portable Storage Structures in the AR-1 District as it relates to establishing that the ZBA has the authority to regulate the length of time that such structures may be permitted by Special Exception.

The full text of the proposed amendments can be viewed online or during business hours in the Planning & Economic Development Department and the Town Clerk's Office.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Londonderry is seeking bids from qualified vendors, for the mowing, landscaping, and turf maintenance of town grounds and town cemeteries. The expected bids will be for a contract term of three years and will commence on or about April 1st, 2022. The bid package will be available in the Public Works' department at Town Hall or on the Town's bid webpage at www.LondonderryNH.org/bids.

All bids shall be submitted to the Londonderry Finance Department in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Bid for Lawn Mowing" and addressed to the Town of Londonderry Finance Department Attention: Dave Wholley, 268 B Mammoth Road, Londonderry NH 03053. Bids will be accepted until 2:00 pm on Monday March 21st. All bids received by 2:00 pm on Monday March 21st, 2022 will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Londonderry Town Hall on Monday March 21st, 2022 at 2:15 pm; no Bid can be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and take such action as may be deemed necessary in the best interest of the Town. Contact Person; should any questions arise, please contact Dave Wholley at 603-432-1100 ext. 152 or at DWholley@LondonderryNH.org.

Letters

Continued from page 11

intend to. I don't see this role as political whatsoever. The budget committee's purpose is to do the due diligence on the budget on behalf of the residents, so asking the right questions and providing information to empower the voters as *they* decide what budget and warrant articles are right for the town, their families, and their businesses.

I'd love to volunteer my time and experience to help Londonderry. If you think my skill set matches what you're looking for on the budget committee, I'd be happy to have your vote.

Thanks-
Tara Myles
Londonderry

March Election Madness

To the editor,

On March 8, Londonderry will hold Town and School elections that will decide many issues that affect most of us who live, work, and pay taxes in this town. We've been through a difficult five years in which many of our institu-

tions (public schools, elected officials, teachers, healthcare workers, and public administrators) have been attacked, denigrated, bullied, harassed, and treated miserably by a minority of those in our community who have engaged in and contributed to normalizing behavior that is anything but normal. We have witnessed this behavior for many months at School Board and School TaskForce meetings in which two elected School Board members, people doing good and honest work for our community, resigned their positions at least partially due to the relentless verbal and social media attacks on them and their families. We witnessed School Board members physically chased into the high school hallway after a vote, requiring police intervention to keep them safe. We witnessed our School Superintendent charged by a member of the UnMaskMyKids group requiring LPD and a member of Town Council to pull him away. These are the things not seen by most people during this past year. Not

picked up by Public Access TV due to its limited capacity. Not reported on by this paper for reasons unknown. Not discussed or confronted by our local public officials who were in the best position to address them.

We witnessed members of the UnMaskMyKids group, rebranded as "Parents Choice", sue the School District during the Spring over its masking policy. A policy that is and was fully consistent with state Covid mitigation guidelines. A lawsuit that cost the district thousands of dollars in legal and administrative costs. A frivolous suit that has since been dismissed by the Rockingham County Court, with prejudice, and the attorney who brought the suit suspended from practicing law in NH due to mishandling of client funds.

We witnessed a failed attempt by Londonderry Republicans to deny federal ESSER Covid grant money to our town on the grounds that it was tied to the indoctrination of students into Marxism and Communism. Funding that is now being used to

upgrade our schools' ventilation systems, for touchless faucets, among other needed structural and student learning initiatives.

So, when you vote on March 8, please look for those candidates who support teachers and school administrators. Seek those candidates who believe in strengthening public education, not defunding and dismantling it. Seek those candidates who believe that decency and civility are vitally important characteristics to a functioning community. Look for those candidates who wish to be a part of the solution and not those who contributed to the problem.

Paul Skudlarek
Londonderry

Running Library Trustee

To the editor,

My name is Kimberly Bears and I have lived in Londonderry with my husband and two sons for 29 years. I am writing today to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. I am running for the position of Library Trustee in the upcoming town election on March 8, 2022. I know what it takes to be a Library Trustee as I was elected twice to the Stoneham Public Library

Board of Trustees in my early 20's.

I absolutely love our library! I feel I would be an asset to the Leach Library Board of Trustees as I have been a professional librarian since 1990. I was actually the Head of Children's Services at Leach Library from 1996-1999 before I had my second son and decided to stay at home. I had the pleasure of being on board when the former library building was renovated to the current library building back in the late 90's. While working for Leach Library I had the honor of representing the library by serving as the President of the NH Library Association's division of Children's Services. The fact is that I live and breathe books, libraries, and Londonderry. I feel we are at a crucial time with regards to our hometown library. I feel there is so much more we can offer the community, and I will work my hardest to help lead Leach Library proudly into the future.

As R. David Lankes says, "Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, and great libraries build communities." I hope that on March 8, I will earn your vote for Library Trustee. Thank you

for your time, and no matter who you decide to vote for...just VOTE!

Sincerely,
Kim Bears
Londonderry

Please Do Not set Speed Limits based on Emotions

To the editor,

Article 19 on this year's Town Election Ballot asks the electorate to opine on a Town-wide speed limit. I believe this idea originated at the Londonderry Traffic Safety Committee. I have attended several of their meetings and there has been some discussion regarding Town speed limits, usually precipitated by a resident's complaint about speeding vehicles and usually on some particular street. Oftentimes, the street in question happens to be the same street that the complainant lives on. No surprise there. There was even some discussion about a resident who wanted the speed limit lowered because of speeding cars on their street, which happened to be a dead-end cul-de-sac! Maybe more of an enforcement issue? Perhaps a misperception of the vehicles' actual speed? A neighbor versus

continued on page 14

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Traffic Control Crew: \$22 Starting Pay

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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.

Tennis Camp

Londonderry Tennis Camp has announced the spring and summer sessions for ages 7-13 year olds to learn to play tennis. The spring program will begin on Saturday, April 23 and will run on consecutive Saturdays for 5 weeks. The cost is \$156, with early bird special pricing of \$135 if payment is received by April 8. The summer program will run for 2 consecutive weeks, the week of July 11 and 18. More details to follow. If you have any questions or want to register your child, email londonderrytennis-camp@gmail.com.

Re:generation

Looking for support to find freedom from addictions, past hurts, or destructive patterns? Re:generation is a 12-step discipleship ministry based on the principles of healing and life transformation found in the Bible. Re:generation is a safe place where you can be honest with others and with yourself as you work through steps of healing and freedom. Come experience the abundant life God desires for you! New group starts on March 10, 7 - 9 p.m., at Orchard Christian Fellowship, 136 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry.

For more information or to sign-up, contact us at (603)425-6231 or info@orchardnh.org. Register online at www.orchardnh.org

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is back with in house dining Starting in February on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays from 11 a.m. - noon must be 65 or better to participate. It cost \$3 per meal. Make reservations and reserving your space. Call Jess at 603-434-5148.

Shamrock Shootout

The Shamrock Shootout 3v3 basketball tour-

ament will be on March 19 at the Londonderry High School gym. The tournament is open for all ages from Middle School to adult! The fee is \$20 for a team of four players. A portion of the profits will be allocated for a financial need scholarship in support of a Londonderry Basketball Club player.

Need a Tutor?

Work one-on-one with a volunteer tutor. Free Tutoring for a variety of programs including Adult Basic Education, Adult High School, and English as a Second Language at Derry Center for Adult Studies. Cover a variety of content areas, Flexible days and hours, Sessions held via Zoom and/or in-person. If you are interested in receiving tutoring services, please email kcapistran@sau10.org for more information.

Free Meals

Please join us for free,

family-friendly meals. Sunshine Soup Kitchen will be serving drive by to go meals on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 5 p.m.

GriefShare

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? You are not alone. We invite you to attend a GriefShare support group taking place at Orchard Christian Fellowship, 136 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry. Choose between an IN PERSON daytime session which meets on Tuesdays at 10 a.m., beginning on Feb. 1, or an evening ONLINE session meeting on Mondays at 6 p.m., beginning on Jan. 31. Register at www.orchardnh.org. For more information, contact Lynne at lynne@orchardnh.org.

Food Drive

Derry Village Rotary helps support ending 68 hours of hunger which

supplies weekend food bags for our Derry children to take home so they have meals over the weekend. Most of these students partake of the reduced cost breakfast / lunch program but have no other means for food while not in attendance at the schools. Rotary helps the Ending 68 Hours of Hunger program in town by distributing the food bags to the schools. Courtney Cashman and a group of volunteers bag the food that is needed. What's needed: Non-Perishables for all meals, including snacks, protein bars Their food supply is getting low and if you would like to help go to Ending 68 Hours of Hunger website: [Derry - End 68 Hours of Hunger www.end68hoursofhunger.org/find-your-community/new-hampshire/derry/](http://Derry-End68HoursOfHunger.org/find-your-community/new-hampshire/derry/)

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Reach five towns.

Letters

Continued from page 12 neighbor issue?

I can understand that there may be some streets in Town that might be better served by a lower (say, 30 MPH) speed limit but I also believe the blanket approach is the wrong way to go about it. Sure, some may simply think this is the easy solution to reduce motor vehicle speed (which reducing speed limits might not even accomplish) on their streets but it defies logic for ALL streets. This "one size fits all" method just doesn't fit well in a town with many varied streets and roads, each with their own distinctive features. This is where the US Department Of Transportation's "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways" (MUTCD) comes in. It spells out the science for properly setting speed limits and is the generally accepted authority on the subject. We should stick with the science and research as recommended therein.

As a percentage of the Town's population, I am certain the number of

speeding complaints is a tiny fraction but the Traffic Safety Committee as well as the Londonderry P.D. respond to complaints. Well, this is an opportunity for all the rest of us who have no complaint and who oppose a Town-wide speed limit to be heard and counted. Let's nip this emotion-driven idea in the bud. Please vote NO on Article 19. Respectfully,

Robert R. LeBreux
Londonderry

Pay Attention to Articles When They Say "No Tax Impact"

To the editor,
Our duty to vote comes up soon. Everyone, please take your time when voting and understand what you are voting for or against. Some people may just look at the bottom of the warrant article and see no tax impact and think it is free. Sure, I'll vote in favor of it. I don't have to pay for it.

If you read the articles in detail, many state that the money is coming from the unassigned fund balance. This year is a little different. Some warrant articles show a reduced tax impact due to the use of

unassigned funds.

Where do you think that unassigned fund balance came from? Did the money just rain down from the sky?

It came from us. The tax payers. It is fund that is allowed by the state to help towns have money for an emergency or unplanned expenses. If the money isn't needed the town can use it to help lower the next year's tax rate and reduce our tax burden. But, more often than not it is used to buy new product or services. You allow this by voting for warrant articles listed as "No Tax Impact". If you add the amounts listed in the warrant articles being funded fully or partially by unassigned funds (\$652,000), the unassigned portion is approx. \$352,000. I wonder what the total of the unassigned fund is and who else wants to use more of it? Tired of paying so much in taxes.

Please read each warrant carefully so that you know what you are voting on and what it's tax impact really is.

Paul Mentzer
Londonderry

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Power

Continued from page 1 winter month. He added that the pipelines aren't big enough to supply power plants.

One question that was asked was if the outages would only happen during cold weather.

Cloutier said that it can happen any day of the year depending on how much power is generated in New England. He said that they are more concerned during the winter because home heating uses a lot of natural gas.

Town Councilor Tom Dolan asked about people with generators and was told that it would be like any other outage

that happened.

"For the customer it's going to be like any standard outage," said Cloutier.

Town Council Chairwoman John Farrell said he was concerned especially if hospitals aren't able to have power.

"Godforbid you take a hospital offline," said Farrell.

Town Councilor Deb Paul asked how Ever-source and other companies would be correcting the situation and how they are going to make it up to the people affected by the power outages.

"How are you guys going to compensate for your poor vision to the resident, and the community and municipalities and the hospitals, for your

inability to foresee what was going to happen considering your rates go up considerably," said Paul.

In regard to correcting the issue, Thomas said that some efforts were made to correct things but residents shot down the North Pass project and the gas line expansion project.

Farrell said that the State needs to come up with a solution to the problem.

"Someone in Concord needs to get their act together and figure out what we're going to do next," said Farrell.

Farrell closed by saying that he wasn't happy with what they are facing.

"How ridiculous is it that we're sitting here having this conversation," said Farrell.

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - Feb. 21

9:50 a.m. Suspicious Activity Investigated on Eagle Way.

11 a.m. Three officers assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with services at Londonderry South School.

2:55 p.m. Juvenile Offenses investigated at the Londonderry Middle School.

7:13 p.m. Unlawful Activities investigated at Papa Ginos on Nashua Road.

7:23 p.m. Burglary investigated by five officers on Pinyon Place.

Tuesday - Feb. 22

11:02 a.m. Services rendered for Sexual Offender Registration on Hall Road.

11:31 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

11:33 a.m. Trespassing investigated at Granite Marketing on Orchard View Drive.

2:38 p.m. Four officers assist with a subject of an Overdose transported to a hospital from Nashua Road.

3:04 p.m. Officer responds to keep the peace on Haley Court.

Wednesday - Feb. 23

2:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop leads to an arrest on Mammoth Road at Litchfield Road. Three officers assist with charging Marselle Jeremiah Desbordes, 20, of Pelham with Speeding (26+ Mph Over Limit of 55 or Less); Reckless Operation; and Disobeying an Officer.

7:35 a.m. Sudden Death investigated by six officers on Lori Lane.

12:18 p.m. Peace restored after a Shoplifting incident at the Nutfield Country Store on Shasta Drive.

3:12 p.m. Medical Emergency investigated at the Macgregor Cut apartments on Stonehenge Road.

3:18 p.m. Shoplifting investigated at the NH Liquor Store on Michels Way.

3:47 p.m. Criminal Mischief investigated on Michels Way.

4:14 p.m. Keep the Peace Investigated on Haley Court.

5:43 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Prospect Street. Haley Simmons, 23, of Manches-

ter charged with Credit Card Fraud, \$0-\$1,000; and Theft By Unauthorized Taking \$0-\$1,000.

8:55 p.m. Peace restored at a Disturbance at the Sleep Inn on Perkins Road.

10:36 p.m. Domestic Disturbance investigated on Winding Pond Road.

Thursday - Feb. 24

1:40 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at Luciano's Cafe on Orchard View Drive.

7:15 a.m. Assault investigated at Londonderry High School.

12:34 p.m. Services rendered for Criminal Threatening on Mammoth Road.

2:42 p.m. Services rendered by three officers for a Medical Emergency on Cross Road.

2:58 p.m. Shoplifting investigated at the NH Liquor Store on Michels Way.

3:18 p.m. Services rendered for a Neighborhood Dispute on Treadway Lane.

7:36 p.m. Arrest(s) made by five officers after a Domestic Disturbance on Justin Circle.

8:18 p.m. Officer investigates need for an Emergency Restraining Order on Litchfield Road.

8:24 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Liberty Street in Concord. Queen Wilson, 23, of Concord charged with Theft by Unauthorized Taking over \$1,501; Disobeying an Officer; Charge #5: Reckless Operation; Reckless Conduct - Deadly Weapon; and two counts of Traffic Control Device Violations.

Friday - Feb. 25

12:08 a.m. Missing Person Taken To Family/Guardian on Winding Pond Road.

12:28 p.m. Peace restored after Neighborhood Disputes on Park Avenue.

1:54 p.m. Services rendered for Criminal Threatening on Pillsbury Road.

2:30 p.m. Medical Emergency on Hovey Road.

10:42 p.m. Services rendered for a Domestic Disturbance on Bartley Hill Road.

Saturday - Feb. 26

1:08 a.m. Three officers render services for a Suicide Attempt/Threat on Nevins Drive.

7:14 a.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity on Pillsbury Road.

7:43 a.m. Services rendered for Trespassing on Pillsbury Road.

8:38 a.m. Peace restored for a Disturbance on Nashua Road at St. Mary's Bank.

12:26 p.m. Motor vehicle stop leads to an arrest on Mammoth Road at Peabody Row. Shawn Hood, 37, of Hooksett charged with Operating After Certified as a Habitual Offender; Driving After Revoked/Suspended License; Suspension of Vehicle Registration.

4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident leads to an arrest made on Old Nashua Road at Nashua Road. Five officers assist with charging Mitchell McGrath, 32, of Woburn Mass. with Driving After Revoked/Suspended License; Falsifying Physical Evidence (Alter, Destroy, Hide); Possession of Controlled Drug: Schedule I-4; and Driving Under the Influence - Aggravated Collision with Serious Injury.

6:15 p.m. Disturbance investigated at The Stumble Inn on Rockingham Road.

7:59 p.m. Disturbance Investigated by five officers at Renegades Pub on Nashua Road.

8:36 p.m. Follow-up arrest made by four officers on Mammoth Road in Windham. Adam Pratt, 31, of Manchester charged with Reckless Operation; and Disobeying an Officer.

Sunday - Feb. 27

3:30 a.m. Suspicious Activity transported to a hospital from the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

4:20 a.m. Services rendered by three officers for a Domestic Disturbance on Noyes Road.

4:48 a.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity at the Sleep Inn on Perkins Road.

5:18 a.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity at the 7-Eleven on Rockingham Road.

4:16 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on Bayberry Lane at Rolling Meadows Condos.

5:09 p.m. Peace Restored after a Civil Issue on Winterwood Drive.

9:37 p.m. Services Rendered by three officers to keep the peace on Scots Place.

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Proposed Londonderry School District Office Project

**VOTE
MARCH
8th**



Relatively Cost Neutral
Long Term Savings
Central Location
No Impact on Future District Plans

The proposed project entails constructing a roughly 9,600 gross square foot addition to the existing Londonderry Town Hall. The two-story building mimics the design of the Town Hall and creates a permanent home for the school district administration.



TAX IMPACT

The proposed bond amount of \$4.5 million for 20 years leads to an average annual cost to the taxpayers of \$0.054 per \$1,000, or roughly \$0.0139 over the existing lease payment to own a building, and after 20 years the payment goes away! Additionally, there are potential operating expense savings that are expected with the move.

For more information, please go to www.londonderryschooldistrictofficeproject.com
Or use the following QR Code



Vote Yes Article 2

The Londonderry School District Permanent District Office Solution Will:

1. Produce cost savings to Londonderry taxpayers in the long run by eliminating the risk of rent increases. Operating costs are expected to be something less than existing due to the reduced square footage of space.
2. The savings and risk mitigation will free up money and resources to support other school facility needs.
3. Incorporate a pad-ready site with infrastructure and parking in place, saving the town substantial development and acquisition costs over other new facility options that were explored.
4. Relocate the School District Office back to the centrally located Municipal Office Complex, where it will neighbor the high school, middle schools, town government offices, and emergency response facilities.

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