

Londonderry Times

December 8, 2022 ♦ Volume 23 – Issue 49

A FREE Weekly Publication



Return of Santa Alex and Hailey Dobe were able to share some Christmas wishes with Old St. Nic on Saturday morning at the Holiday Stroll organized by the staff and PTA members of South Elementary School. The event took the place of the Santa Breakfast that had run prior to the pandemic. See more photos on page 8. *Photo by Chris Paul*

School Board Discuss Potential Right-To-Know Request Policy

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The district's right to know requests policy and the choice whether or not they should revise it was in discussion at the Nov. 29 School Board meeting. "At face value, we ap-

preciate the sentiment that we want to make it easy for Londonderry citizens to gain access to information from the school district," Interim Superintendent, Dan Black, said in a memo to the school board. During the previous meeting, Black said they

would be willing to share information to the public when they can informally without any requests being filled, and since then they received at least one request that way.

"I am happy to share **continued on page 3**

Kellie Caron Takes On Role as Assistant Town Manager

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council officially named Town Planner, Kellie Caron, as the Assistant Town Manager/Economic Development Director during the Monday night, Dec. 5, meeting.

Caron, who grew up in Londonderry, is the fourth person to hold the position as Town Planner in just over ten-years and she will be taking on a position that was held by two staff members in previous years. She has served in that role since July of

this year.

Since the former Assistant Town Manager, Lisa Drabik, left her post to move on to become the Human Resource Director in Manchester. Town Manager, Mike Malagutti, has been covering much of the responsibilities of the assistant position, as well as many of the duties of the Economic Development Director.

Malagutti explained during the meeting that Caron, before coming to Londonderry, has served in several different planning, zoning,

and land-use capacities as well as being a Town Planner for the state and other communities.

"Kellie hit the ground running, proving herself as a serious, competent professional, who represents my approach to municipal management." He added, "She has the right approach to economic development, which is to apply common sense to facilitate, not hinder development, but also to enforce our regulations to ensure the impacts of development on the community are mini-

continued on page 2

CIP Committee Looks for Better Clarity on Scoring

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Capital Improvement Committee came together for its Nov. 28 meeting to review recommendations for some ongoing Capital Improvement Plans.

Comprehensive Planner, Amy Kizak, was at the meeting to give an overview of some suggestions on recommendations from the School Board.

The focus was on changing how different spending criteria are scored in the plan as it's currently written.

"It has been requested that we review the

plan to make them a little bit more even on the town side and the school side. There were evaluation criteria that the School District had trouble with," said Kizak. "We want to see if we could come up with a more equitable set of criteria."

Proposed changes from the School Board included an alteration in wording to prioritize school safety programs. The current wording on the Capital Improvement Plan emphasizes "emergency, public safety, or school safety need" for security funding. Removing the word "or" would put school safety

on equal footing with emergency services and public safety. There was little debate over this change.

Another suggestion was for new work to emphasize improved educational services meant to emphasize educational job development and increase the tax base.

The Committee **continued on page 2**

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Twins Smoke Shop Looks to Add a Small Barbershop

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Nov. 22 Conservation Commission meeting, one of the agenda items was a minor site review for Twins Smoke Shop, which is located at 80 Perkins Road near the intersection of Rockingham Road.

Allison Lewis, who was representing the business owner, Kurt Kendall, said the owner is looking to convert about 300-square-foot of office space into a bar-

bershop.

She said there are no wetlands on the site and it's a small site.

"It's a small lot just over a half an acre," said Lewis.

Lewis said there wouldn't be any signs out front for the barbershop and they aren't looking to add any more customers aside from people who go to the smoke shop.

"They're trying to service existent people that go inside the smoke shop," said Lewis.

She stated there wouldn't be any site improvements made inside except for the barbershop and nothing on the outside of the site is to change.

It was explained by Lewis that there has been some discussion by staff about extra parking being needed because of the cigar lounge they have. She said they would be discussing that further during their formal hearing.

She said if it were decided that they would

need a few extra parking spaces then they would be willing to discuss erosion control and drainage if needed.

Overall, Lewis stated what they are proposing is a simple project.

"It's a pretty simple project," said Lewis.

One question that was asked was what was on top of the building.

Kendall explained it is a deck for people to go out and smoke a cigar.

"It's attached to a lounge and a bar," said Kendall.

He said the addition of the barbershop would

essentially replace a small room in the front of the building they weren't using for anything else.

"It was utilized as an office space," said Kendall.

He said he has visited a lot of businesses similar to his across the country and has tried to incorporate some of it to make his business better.

He thought it would be a good fit for people to be able to get a haircut while they are visiting the cigar lounge.

"I've wanted to do it for years and years. Now

it's the right time," said Kendall.

It was explained by Londonderry GIS Manager, Amy Kizak, that the meeting was a chance for the Conservation Commission to give any comments they have, however, they didn't have to make any advisory decisions for the other board since there are no conservation impacts, like wetlands.

The Commission made no comments during the meeting.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is slated for Dec. 13.

Caron

Continued from page 1

mized." He added the two roles Caron will be holding have been coupled because of the immediate need to fill both, saying that the Economic Development Director position has not been filled since 2013, when Kevin Smith was hired as Town Manager and also took on that role. He explained by having someone assume that role, it will signal to the outside world, that Lon-

donderry is focused on economic development.

Malaguti also gave a brief background of Caron's link to the community, saying she was born and raised in town and is a graduate of Londonderry High School, where she also played basketball and went to Plymouth State University, where she earned a degree in Environmental Planning. He added she served as head coach to the girls' basketball team in Londonderry and was a member of the Conservation Com-

mission. She is also expected to earn a MBA in Public Administration early next year.

The Town Council voted unanimously to move forward with the appointment, effective immediately.

Directly following that appointment, the Council also voted to designate the role of Economic Development Director as the Department Head of the Planning and Economic Development Department.

CIP

Continued from page 1

pressed concern over tying school spending to another spending. The argument was that grading criteria on the Capital Plan already lacks clarity. Many items seem to contain spending suggestions for both town and school expenses, even when unrelated.

"Who made the decision that each line needs to take care of the town and the school?" asked Steve Breault of the Budget Committee. "At the end of the day, everything is going to be ranked based on importance."

He added that a member of the School

Board might rank something different than a member of the Town Council based on perceived importance. "I have a problem with every single line having to relate to both sides of the government."

"It's critically important that projects clearly articulate how items should fit into the criteria," said Committee and Planning Board member, Jeff Penta. "I think clarity would go a long way to allowing the Committee to have what it needs to make a proper assessment."

A suggested improvement was to put more detail into each spending line. While some worried that such a change would make an

already long Capital Improvement Plan even longer, more detail would increase clarity.

Kizak added that public meetings for the Improvement Plan happen specifically for clarification. They allow questions and discussion on any item, including how to grade each item.

The Committee unanimously voted to recommend changes that would prioritize school safety in the Improvement Plan, though they did not agree to make a change to how items are graded in the Improvement Plan text.

The next meeting of the Londonderry Capital Improvement Committee has not yet been scheduled.

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Right-To-Know

Continued from page 1 that after the last school board meeting, we did have one citizen reach out for information on a recent hire, and we were able to email that information back within a couple of hours," said Black. "It is an example of what we were promoting at the last school board meeting around Right to Know Requests: If there is information you are seeking on the Londonderry School District, and we are able to share it, we will. We are not trying to create unnecessary barriers for our citizens."

With that said, Black explained they don't just get requests from peo-

ple in Londonderry and instead sometimes from out of state.

"For whatever reason they are asking for information from our school district," said Black.

Black pointed to two requests from entities outside of Londonderry looking for information. He said under their current policies they would need to come to the District Office in order to complete the request.

"This approach protects the Londonderry School District from these requests in that we do not want some far off entity having free reign to ask for any information they want

from us, and we would have to spend many people hours complying and sharing this information," said Black.

He said if they had a policy where they just shared the information

electronically, they would "be swamped with these requests and would certainly need to hire more staff to comply. As a school system and community, we need to avoid that reality."

"For that reason, I would not recommend we change our current policy because we must administer our Right to Know requests the same with citizens of Londonderry and faraway entities and cannot treat them differently. That is the whole point of having a policy so that we act consistently," said Black.

School Board member, Bob Slater, said they have done a good job with transparency under the new Administration, however, he added he thinks if they went with information being provided electronically it would be their final step in terms of transparency.

"I think this is the fin-

ishing touch," said Slater. School Board Chair, Amy Finamore, said she was concerned after hearing about a neighboring district that had to hire someone to handle their right to know requests due to the number they received.

Slater pushed for a vote to allow 91A information requests to be fulfilled through electronic means when applicable.

"I would like to try it," said Slater.

School Board Vice Chair, Sara Loughlin, requested that they table a vote until their next meeting.

"I'm not feeling prepared to vote on this tonight," said Loughlin.

Slater agreed to wait on taking a vote.

OBITUARY

Michael John Foley



Michael John Foley, 64, of Londonderry, NH, passed away following a courageous 11 month battle with cancer on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022, surrounded by his loving family in the Bedford Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Bedford, NH. He was born on Nov. 8, 1958 in

Worcester, MA, a son of the late John and Irene (Orcich) Foley. Mike grew up in Auburn, MA, where he was a three sport athlete while in high school. He ran track and played basketball, but his passion was football. He played varsity football and was Telegram and Gazette All Star team player. He attended UMass Amherst where he continued playing football as an offensive lineman and played in the championship Pioneer Bowl. After college, Mike moved to Londonderry, NH, where he raised his family and was an active member of his community. He was a big supporter of Londonderry athletics. He was also active in BNI, Business Networking International. Mike was a salesman for most of his life, working for various companies over the years, including Mr. Steer in Londonderry. He will be sadly missed by his beloved dog Doodle, whom he would often take to the gym and on long walks.

He is survived by his son, Brandon Foley of Portsmouth, NH, his daughter, Morgan Foley Weigler and her husband Ben of Londonderry, mother of his children and dear friend, Margaret Quinn of Hudson, NH, two step-daughters, Christine White of Maine and Ashley White of Concord, NH, step-son, Gary White of Somerville, MA, two sisters, Mary Lewis and husband Gary of Derry, NH, and Margaret Sydlowski and husband Peter of Amesbury, MA; as well as his niece and nephews, Kristen, John and Billy Sydlowski and Matthew, Kevin and Josh Lewis. He was predeceased by his parents John and Irene Foley and his beloved wife of 14 years, Kelli Anne (Penniman) Foley in 2018.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 290 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry with cremation to follow.

OBITUARY

Tammy L. Smith



It is with great sadness that the family announce the passing of Tammy L. Smith. Tammy L. Smith, 48, of Manchester, NH passed away Sunday Nov. 27, 2022. She was born on Feb. 15, 1974 in Manchester, a daughter of Remi W. "Bill" and Pauline (Guilbert) Fortin.

Tammy was raised in Londonderry, NH and was a graduate of Londonderry High School Class of 1992. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in communications from Southern NH University. Tammy worked at St. Joseph's Hospital striving to ensure patients received the best care possible in her role as Patient Experience Administrator. Tammy was kind, gentle, loving, and beautiful inside and out. She had a passion for photography and was extremely talented. She had a special bond with her son Eric, with whom she shared a passion for the color purple, a lack of coordination and a hatred of mornings. She also greatly missed her "adopted daughter" Lily, her late pug. Tammy you are loved beyond measure and will be missed.

In addition to her parents of Londonderry, she is also survived by two sons whom she loved dearly, Eric and Patrick Smith, her sister, Karin Como and her husband Rick, two nephews, Ben and Sam Como, her grandmother, Cecile Fortin as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family.

Following cremation, memorial calling hours were held on Friday Dec. 2, in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium. Burial followed in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Manchester. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Animal Rescue League of NH, 545 State Rte 101, Bedford, NH 03110.

OBITUARY

James Henderson Shanks

James H. Shanks, 72, of Londonderry, NH, passed away on Wednesday Dec. 1, 2022, at Crestwood Care & Rehab Center in Milford, NH. He was born July 7, 1950 at Chelsea Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Ma. and grew up in Wakefield, Ma.

James was a retired locomotive engineer from a major Railroad company. He then continued working in the transportation industry until a few years ago. He enjoyed being a licensed Ham Radio operator.

He is survived by his mother, Doris (Dean) Shanks of FL., brother, Michael G. Shanks of VA., two sisters, Brenda (Shanks)Saucier-USNR, husband Chuck of TN., Pamela (Shanks)Griffith, husband Karl of VA. and 3 nieces, Erika, Chelsea & Sarah, 1 nephew, Jimmie-USN, all of VA.

He is preceded in death by his father, Jimmie H. Shanks-USNR, his beloved wife, Denise (Mello) Shanks and younger brother, Christopher G. Shanks.

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Editorial

A Generous Spirit

Nutfield Publishing's newspapers cover five towns, and often the news in one town has little to do with what is happening in the others.

However, all five towns are similar in at least one area - their residents are generous when it comes to helping out the less fortunate.

In the midst of the holiday rush, there is fulfillment of wishes with Giving and Angel Trees, donations of food and gift cards to provide holiday baskets, donations of toys, as well as new and used clothing coming day in and day out.

The generosity involves all individuals, ranging from school-aged children to businesses collecting socks, warm hats, coats, and toys.

Donations don't get where they need to be without the help of volunteers, and they too were in abundance in the holiday season. Whether it was carting gifts and food to a central location, matching gifts with the appropriately aged recipient, packing holiday food boxes, or serving at soup kitchens. People were ready to fill the need.

The holidays are far from the only time for the generous spirit in our towns. Free clothing is offered throughout the year at several local churches. Sports teams and school clubs dedicate time to helping out the less fortunate, while learning something about the world in the process.

In addition to Sonshine Soup

Kitchen and the various food pantries, the Community Meals Network hosts free meals for all ages several times each month throughout the year, whether it's a hearty breakfast or a spaghetti dinner. Volunteers do everything from donating the food, cooking the meals, serving the guests, and arguably the most important role, taking the time to sit down and chat with people who may not have opportunities for socializing.

We regularly announce fundraisers to benefit individuals with serious medical conditions. It's sad, and frightening that insurance is not available to meet these needs, but our fellow residents continue to step forward and host any number of creative activities to help out.

We'd be remiss if we didn't also highlight the volunteers who fill seats on town and school district boards and commissions. While some of their decisions may elicit criticism, that's the nature of a democracy, and it doesn't detract for an instant from the appreciation they're due for being willing to leave their homes and take the action needed to keep our communities functioning.

If you're into the spirit of making a New Year's resolution, volunteering to help your community is a good one to top off the list. To those who already do so, we offer our appreciation and thanks.

Letters

Speed Limits Revisited, Again?

To the editor,

Back in March of this year, the residents of Londonderry voted AGAINST a Town-wide speed limit. The referendum was defeated by a huge margin, as it had been before. Imagine my disbelief when I read (Londonderry Times, Nov. 24, 2022) that the issue was being brought up yet again at the Town Council meeting on Nov. 14. How much energy and resources will be expended chasing after this? The people of Londonderry have spoken and done so quite clearly. The Townspeople just said no!

In that Nov. 14 article, one Town Councilor noted that during the (Oct. 3) Londonderry Traffic Safety Committee meeting, there were 13 people that were in favor of lowering the speed limit. I did not think there was quite that many folks who attended (not counting those required to be there), but I won't argue the number. Thirteen individuals out of a Town population of 26,000. What I can say with certainty is that at least one person spoke against it. His name is me!

I understand it can be an emotional issue for some, but we must follow the science and strive to keep emotions out of the discussion. Town traffic studies and police traffic patrols have indicated time and again that by and large, most vehicular traffic travels at a reasonable speed. Arbitrarily reducing (or sometimes increasing) speed limits does not necessarily

equate to lower traffic speed nor does it necessarily equate to enhanced safety. In fact, sometimes the exact opposite could be true!

There was an article earlier this year published in the NH Union Leader wherein the Administrator of the Bureau of Traffic (NH DOT), William Lambert, was interviewed. (He may sometimes be referred to as the State Traffic Engineer.) In the article, he indicated that "reducing a speed limit due to a wishful thinking value usually doesn't work". He added, "We find that traffic is not going any slower because we want them to". He indicated once again that the lowest crash rate (thus the safest speed) occurs at the 85th percentile of measured traffic speed. Finally, he said: "If some speed limits are credible and others aren't, and people disrespect them where they're not, then they disrespect them in other places and go too fast". So, I interpret his remarks as meaning artificially lower speed limits could actually cause more instances of speeding and reduce overall traffic safety. The exact opposite of what a Town-wide speed limit would attempt to accomplish!

Once and for all, please drop this idea and let the engineers do their work. Work which is based on proven science. Respectfully,
Robert R. LeBreux
Londonderry

Senior Thoughts for the Year Past

To the editor,

I want to thank every one who helped make

this a good year for seniors in town. The Senior Resource Committee has had a very productive year, highlighted by our participation in Old Home Day and the Senior Information Expo.

We have given out hundreds of the "File of Life" between both events. This is a magnetic sleeve that attaches to your refrigerator and contains all of the medical and contact information for first responders if you have a medical emergency.

The Senior Information Expo was a wonderful opportunity for one-stop shopping to learn about the services that are available for the Town, State, and Federal Government in addition to meeting with vendors who specialize in the needs of seniors. Two examples are Community Caregivers and Service Link.

Community Caregivers provide free in-home and transportation assistance to vulnerable elderly and disabled individuals. Their Loaner's Closet for Durable Medical Equipment loans out wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, bath seats, etc. free of charge. Finally, their Project Upkeep is a special set of "handyman" volunteers that make handicap improvements and repairs to our low-income clients' homes.

Service Link is a program of the NH Department of Health and Human Services that helps elderly and disabled people learn about and get the State services that are available to them. Being able to discuss your specific needs with a knowledgeable

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Londonderry Times

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Owner/Publisher – Debra Paul

Art Director – Chris Paul

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Ovation Theatre Company Performs Disney's Descendants



The descendants of Disney Princes, Princesses, and Villains took the stage at the Adams Memorial Opera House in Derry over the weekend as Ovation Theatre Company performed the musical "Descendants." The room was filled to capacity on Friday night to see four young villains try to overthrow Auradon. The musical was directed by Meg Gore with musical direction by Kevin Fisher and choreography by Miranda Winward.

Photos by Chris Paul

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School Board Discuss Middle School Chrome Books

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board heard a proposal to have a device for all students at Londonderry Middle School like they currently do at the high school.

It was explained by Interim Superintendent, Dan Black, that when they moved to that model for the high school it was a multi year process and they were able to do so by moving away from stationary computer labs to mobile devices for staff and students.

Now a pitch has been made to do the same at the middle school level.

"The middle school said they want the same opportunity," said Black.

Unlike the high school, the middle school doesn't have the same number of computer labs as the high school did.

"However, our middle school technology committee, LMS staff, and our IT team believe we can shift LMS to 1:1 Chrome book devices in one year. As Interim Superintendent, I support this plan through the means of a warrant

article that asks for voter support while we gain funding through fund balance from this year to make no impact on the tax rate," said Black.

Black said he has a lot of confidence that the initiative will be successful if approved.

"Based on the growth we have made as a school system to implement a digital curriculum, the ability for all our schools to access our Digital Learning Specialists, and the affordable way we have identified implementing this plan, I believe the

Londonderry School District is ready for this ambitious plan and we hope to gain the support of the Londonderry School Board and taxpayers for this plan throughout the school Budget process," said Black.

Long-term, if approved, Black stated it would cost the school district about an additional \$130,000 a year for their replacement cycle.

"We currently project these costs to be \$250,000 that we could include in a warrant article accessing fund balance," said Black. "If this

was supported, this would result in an additional \$130,000 in costs to our yearly replacement cycle long term based on current prices in future budget years."

It was pointed out during the presentation that the current ratio at the middle school is about 50% for devices to students. In total, they are proposing to get 980 devices for the middle school. Currently, they have 485 devices for their students.

As part of the proposal, the Chrome books would be on a three-year

replacement schedule with about 330 of them being replaced per year.

Black said they would also look at adding Chrome books for elementary school students.

"We would use this same method to add 50 Chrome books to our three elementary schools to ensure that at any one time 75% of our elementary school students could access a device," said Black.

No decision was made during the meeting.

The next Londonderry School Board is slated to take place on Dec. 13.

Letters

Continued from page 4

person is invaluable to those in need.

I also want to recognize the wonderful work of our Senior Center. They have a wide variety of programs that help to keep us, seniors, active and healthy. I know that I am particularly interested in programs that help prevent falls as I know so many people whose lives have been restricted after a fall. The Senior Center has many activities that support this goal and checking them out is well worth your time. Of special interest may be a presentation by the Southern NH Vertigo and Balance Center on Jan.

19 at 10 a.m., at the Senior Center. It is open to Senior Center members and Londonderry residents 55 and older.

Jim Green
Londonderry

School Budget Season

To the editor,
As we head in to the winter months and the accompanying holidays and celebrations, local and school governments are also heading into budget season for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. If you can believe it, planning for July 2023 and beyond starts in the cold, dark winter months!

The School Board received the proposed

budget on Nov. 22- a meeting that is available on the district's YouTube Channel, and received a nice overview of what to expect in each upcoming budget meeting.

Budget workshops are going to be held each Tuesday in December, at 7 p.m., in the High School Gym. At each meeting, the School Board and Budget Committee will hear about the proposed budgets for each school, departments (such as buildings and grounds, IT and Food Services) as well as personnel, curriculum and anticipated sources of revenue.

Right now, the total proposed budget (including all warrant arti-

cles) is \$87,021,043 with \$21,588,686 expected to come from revenue in the form of grants and state aid, and \$65,432,357 anticipated to come from local property taxes, for an effective rate of \$14.03.

Right now, the total default budget (including all warrant articles) is \$86,622,434 with \$21,588,686 expected to come from revenue in the form of grants and

state aid, and \$65,033,748 anticipated to come from local property taxes, for an effective rate of \$13.95.

The budget focuses on doing right by students and putting their needs at the center, helping to make sure our students have access to the resources and supports necessary to ensure they have access to an up to date curriculum and can be college or

career ready upon high school graduation.

Please come to any and all of the budget workshops to ask your questions! If you have questions and are unable to attend a meeting, please email your questions to schoolboard@londonderry.org.

Thank you,
Amy Finamore
Londonderry School Board Chair

Meet & Greet for Superintendent

The process to find Londonderry School District's next Superintendent has been underway since October. The Search Committee went through almost 15 applications and interviewed 3 viable candidates during short interviews; after filling out rubrics and reference checking these candidates, one of the 3

was invited back for a long interview. After the committee reviewed the long interview rubric, it was determined this candidate, current Interim Superintendent Daniel Black, will move onto the next phase of the search process, which is to visit all schools with 2 designated Board members during the day on Dec. 12, and then that

evening, attend a Meet and Greet for the Londonderry community in the Matthew Thornton Library from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. All community members are welcome to attend to meet this candidate and ask him questions.

The School Board plans to vote on the next Superintendent at the Dec. 20, Board Meeting.



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Recommendation Made to School Board For Transitioning Plan

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Tuesday, Nov. 29, School Board meeting, Londonderry School District's Interim Superintendent, Dan Black, explained what his recommendations are in regards to transitioning one of their district-wide special education programs from the South School to North School.

"The three programs were run at South School because space was available in the past," Black wrote in a memo to the school board. "There is still

physical space for these three programs at South School with current enrollment projections, but we have reached the conclusion that it is no longer sustainable for South School to house all three programs in one space due to a variety of factors."

Black said one concern with North School housing the program is in terms of space.

"North School is currently at functional capacity and moving a program without addressing this space need will negatively impact the whole school," said

Black.

He explained that they looked at five different options for what could be done.

"Setting up for success and planning for the future while the transition is occurring is important to us all," said Black.

It was explained by Black he was recommending getting a temporary classroom space.

"The current recommendation, which is in the Interim Superintendent's Budget, is to lease one temporary classroom space at North School to make this pro-

gram transition possible," said Black. "The other four options are either more expensive (Voluntary Redistricting) or would cause more stress on North School than their benefit of saving costs on the temporary classroom. We also believe the recommendation would not create a situation where general education and special education are competing for resources and we can continue with our overall approach of maintaining a school system for all our students."

The other options

that the district administration came up with was having music on a cart, having voluntary redistricting for families, forcing a reduction in staff at one grade level to make space or moving the North School up before Moose Hill or the high school on the master planning process.

Black said it would be a good temporary space.

"It will be an excellent, but temporary space," said Black.

As part of the proposal, Black previously said that current students in K-3 that are in

the district wide behavioral/emotional program would shift from North Elementary School next year. Most of the staff at South School that work in the district wide program would make the transition as well.

"A small contingent of staff would be utilized to work with the students in grade 4 and 5 (2023-24 school year grades) to complete their elementary education and then transition to Londonderry Middle School," said Black.

No decision was made during the meeting.

Londonderry High School Announce Hall of Fame Inductees

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Nov. 29 School Board meeting, High School Principal, Jason Parent, announced the Londonderry High School Hall of Fame Class of 2022.

"I also wanted to share that Londonderry High School is proud to announce the hall of fame for the class of 2022," said Parent.

The list of inductees includes Amy (Brassard) Oelkers, a member of the class of 1993, Barbara Dion, a former administrative assistant for the high school, Heather Diamond, the high school yearbook advisor, Sharon (Franks) Fawcett, a member of the class of 1991, Noelle Lambert, class of 2015,

and Keith Lee, a member of the class of 1998.

It also included Marcia Manseau, who was the founder of the Londonderry High School Field Hockey Program, and Suzie Swenson, a former Human Resources Director for the school district.

High School Athletic Director, Howard Sobolov, also will be inducted along with School Board member, Bob Slater, who is also a former Londonderry Girls' Lacrosse coach during their State Championship team.

Parent said the ceremony would be on April 1 and they would have more information about the details of the ceremony in the future.

"We want to congratulate those 10 inductees," said Parent.



Noelle Lambert recently spoke at LMS and is one of ten people being inducted into the LHS Hall of Fame.

es," said Parent.

Also during the meeting, the School Board heard from Director of Pupil Services, Kim Carpinone.

Carpinone explained that in September they received more information regarding House Bill 124.

"That set up funding for extracurricular activities for students with disabilities," said Carpinone.

Carpinone said that the funding was set up through a grant process and they recently found out they were awarded a grant.

"We applied for a grant and we were mortified in November that we were awarded up to \$4,000 to establish a unified theater program here at Londonderry High

School," said Carpinone.

Carpinone stated they were very excited and they would have more information in the coming months.

"We're looking forward to having a unified theater program here," said Carpinone.

It was also announced during the meeting by Interim Superintendent, Dan Black, they would be starting their first ALICE drills.

"That's been a big process for us," said Black.

He said that last winter their administration team began to get trained on it and this

summer they worked with the Londonderry police department.

"Now we're ready to work with our kids," said Black.

Black said they would be continuing to have different drills regarding school safety.

"Obviously these drills will be ongoing," said Black.

In other news, the School Board also accepted the resignations of Yolanda Reyes, an employee with dining services at North School, and Patricia Zanella a support staff member at Matthew Thornton Elementary School.

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South Elementary School Invites Students to Holiday Stroll



After taking a break during the pandemic, South Elementary was finally able to resume a holiday celebration. The school staff and the PTA organized a Holiday Stroll this year with lots of fun activities to enjoy. Families visited with Santa, bid on raffle items, played holiday games and took part in a cake walk. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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Matthew Thornton Hosts Winter Wonderland Event



Matthew Thornton Elementary School was able to re-start the annual tradition of holding Winter Wonderland and Secret Shop on Saturday morning, Dec. 3. Students and their families were invited to a Pancake Breakfast, as well as a short holiday concert by the school chorus. Santa was available for photos and students were able to shop for gifts and homemade cookies.

Photos by Chris Paul

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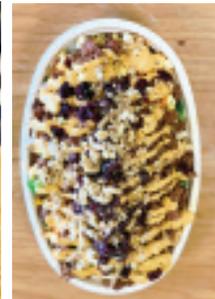
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Local Rotary Holds Annual Christmas on the Common



Members of the Londonderry Rotary Club held the annual Christmas on the Common event on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 4. Area Girl Scouts and Brownies sang Christmas Carols on the stage, while Rotary members handed out cookies, chili, and hot chocolate. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived to end the event after being paraded through town on a fire engine. They handed out candy canes to all those wanting a picture with the happy couple.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Local Veteran Releases His Book on Korean Conflict

Local veteran and writer, William R. Graser, recently published a new military, non-fiction book called: "Smell the Gunpowder: The Land of the Morning Calm" which is considered a comprehensive account of the undeclared, unconventional struggles that have gripped Korea since 1945.

Graser was a Sergeant First Class recruited by the U.S. Army Security Agency in 1965. He was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal (West Berlin) and the Legion of Merit Medal for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service and achievements while serving with the U.S. Army Field Station Berlin. Assignments included South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, West Germany, occupied West Berlin, and the U.S. Army Security Agency's headquarters at Arlington Hall Station in Virginia.

The book, published by Outskirts Press Incorporated, was inspired by true events by veterans' firsthand accounts of Americans who served in Korea during the late 1950s and early 60s. Because of these veterans, the Republic of Korea remains a free sovereign nation and is still one of the strongest and wealthiest countries in Asia.

According to the book's website, North Korea continues to have a nuclear arsenal and is one of the most militarized countries in the



Local veteran William R. Graser has written, "Smell the Gunpowder: The Land of the Morning Calm" on the struggles of Korea.

world-creating a critical security challenge. Concerns about North Korea and its intentions remain at the highest level since the end of the 1950s and 1960s Korean Conflicts. South Korea has urged the United States and North Korea to formally reach a peace agreement ending the decades-long conflict. The outcome of a peace agreement is uncertain, and Smell the Gunpowder makes no pretense of providing the complete account of the undeclared, unconventional struggles that have gripped Korea since 1945, although it may serve to refocus

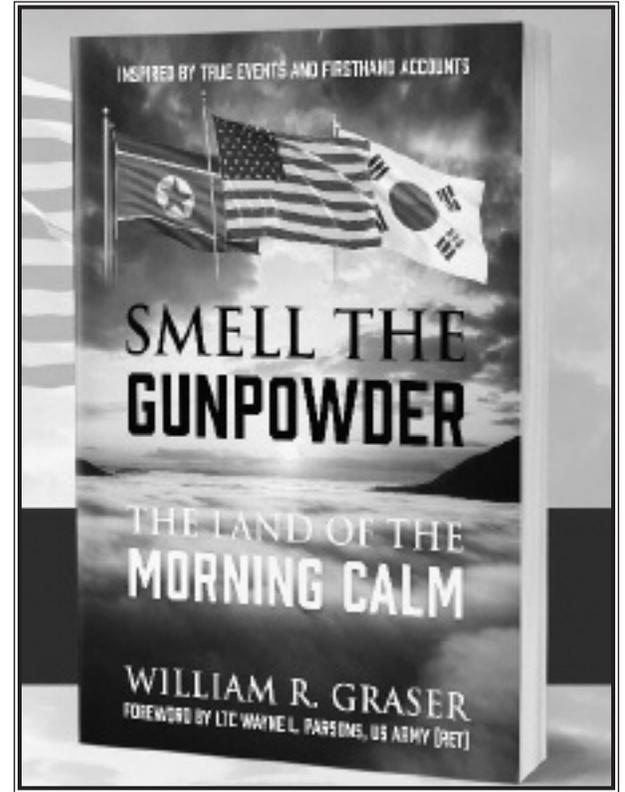
attention on a most intriguing chapter in the annals of American and Korean history.

The United States and Korea's Joseon Dynasty established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, and the first U.S. diplomatic envoy arrived in Korea in 1883. U.S.-Korea relations continued until 1905, when Japan assumed direction over Korean foreign affairs at the end of the Russo-Japanese War.

American military in Korea began from the end of World War II through the Cold War to

include two Korean Conflicts (1950-1953) and (1966-1969). Smell the Gunpowder: The Land of the Morning Calm continues with the Singapore Summit 2018 (Singapore), the Hanoi Summit 2019 (Socialist Republic of Vietnam), North Korea's hostile threat of nuclear conflict along with the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Smell the Gunpowder is inspired by true events and veterans' firsthand accounts of Americans who served in Korea. Because of these veterans, the Republic of Korea remains a free sovereign nation, and one of the strongest and wealthiest countries in Asia.

Today, North Korea continues to have a nuclear arsenal and is one of the most militarized countries in the world creating a critical security challenge. Concerns about North Korea and its intentions remain at the highest level since the end of the



1950s and 1960s Korean Conflicts. South Korea has urged the United States and North Korea to reach a formal peace agreement to end the decades-long conflict, but the outcome of a peace agreement is uncertain.

der: The Land of the Morning Calm is timely given the current posture of North Korea and its nuclear/missile threat.

The book is available at the Barnes & Noble website, barnesandnoble.com, in paperback for \$38.95.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Londonderry is seeking volunteers to serve on the following Boards & Committees:

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- One (1) Two-Year Alternate Member Position

Planning Board

- Two (2) Three-Year Full Member Positions
- One (1) Three-Year Alternate Member Position

Zoning Board of Adjustment

- One (1) Three-Year Full Member Position
- One (1) One-year Full Member Position
- One (1) Three-Year Alternate Member Position
- One (1) One-Year Alternate Member Position

Heritage Commission

- Three (3) Three-Year Full Member Positions
- One (1) Two-Year Alternate Member Position

Recreation Commission

- One (1) Three-Year Alternate Member Position

You must be a resident of Londonderry to apply for a position. Please e-mail Kirby Brown for a copy of our Talent Bank Form. If you are interested in more than one position, please check off. **You must be available to attend the Dec. 19 Town Council meeting to be interviewed.**

Information regarding these Boards/Committees can be found on the Town's website. There is an application deadline of Thursday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. For more information regarding the open positions, please contact Kirby Brown at (603) 432-1100 x120 or kbrown@londonderry.nh.org.

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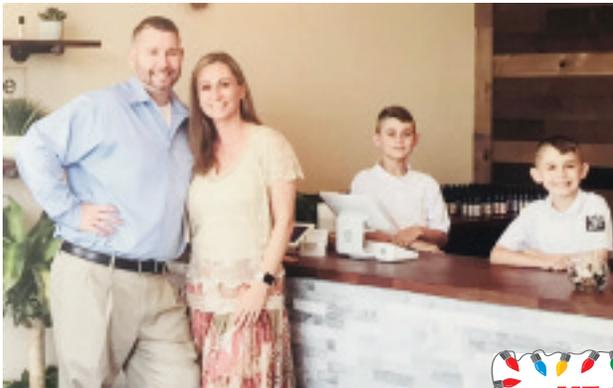
GREEN Team Holds Second Annual Swag Building Event



The GREEN Team of Londonderry held its second annual swag decorating fund raising event. This year it was held at the Granite State YMCA in Londonderry on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 3. Attendees filled the room and were given all the materials necessary in constructing holiday swags. The event is one of a number of fund raising events held by the GREEN Team, which main function is to promote environmentally positive activities and to increase the areas polinators in the butterfly garden near Moose Hill School. *Photos by Chris Paul*



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Pantry Plunge

The 6th Annual Pantry Plunge will take place at noon at Gallien's Beach (on Beaver Lake, 39 Pond Rd.), in Derry, on Saturday, Dec. 10. This event is to benefit the FBC Community Food Pantry. The FBC Community Food Pantry has been fighting hunger in the Greater Derry area for over 30 years and this event is our community's way to support this fight. Please support this event by pledging at pantryplunge.org or by forming a team, raising money and taking the plunge yourself. Information on how to join is also on the website.

Christmas Tree Sale

The Londonderry Lions Club is having their annual Tree Sale. They are selling trees on Fridays,

Saturdays and Sundays in December until they sell out. The new tentative hours will be: Fridays 4 - 8 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sundays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Please check their FB site for changes in time. The location will still be at The Londonderry Lions Hall Christmas Tree Corral and Pavilion. These premium rated trees are freshly cut from St Johnsbury VT. All the proceeds from the Lions tree sale go back to the Londonderry community.

Yoga for Seniors

The Londonderry Senior Center offers yoga classes to the senior community and are taught by Barbara Scott and Lisa Kress. These eight-week series of affordably priced yoga classes are designed especially for seniors to

help increase balance, flexibility and strength, as well as maintaining well-being. The next session begins the week of Dec. 12. Classes take place at the Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 - 10 a.m. You may sign up for either the Tuesday or Thursday class - or both. Call the Senior Center at 432-8554 for more details. Payment is required at time of registration to secure your spot.

Ladybug Award Voting

Each year, librarians from around the state nominate ten outstanding picture books to be voted on by the children of NH Children in preschool through grade 3 can vote on their favorite book from the list of nominated titles. Stop by

Leach Library to read one of the titles, and be ready to cast your vote. Ladybug Award Voting will take place in the Children's Room beginning on Monday, Dec. 5 and ending on Saturday, Dec. 10. Everyone who votes will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a fun Ladybug prize bag.

Wiggle Worms Story Time

Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. through Dec. 13, toddlers ages 2-3 years old and their caregivers are invited to the Leach Library for a new story time with songs, rhymes, books, and more. Registration is required and begins one week before each session. To register, please visit the children's desk or call the library.

Bookworms Story Time

Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. through Dec. 14, Leach Library will offer a story time for preschoolers ages 3-5 years old. Bookworms will focus on preschoolers learning more about words, numbers, and concepts through stories, songs, rhymes, and games. The program will also include a simple craft to promote developing fine motor skills. Registration

is required and begins one week before each session. To register, please visit the children's desk or call the library.

Craft Time

Thursday, Dec. 8 at 4:30 p.m., kid crafters are invited to the Leach Library to work on a craft in the meeting room. Craft kits will be provided, and staff will be available to offer assistance. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, Dec. 1. To register, please visit the children's desk or call the library.

Game Time

On Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. come to the Leach Library for Game Time. Participants will compete in a variety of Minute-to-Win-It style games for a chance to win prizes. This program is designed for ages 5 and up. Registration is required and begins Saturday, Dec. 3. To register, please visit the children's desk or call the library.

Adult Greens Workshop

On Monday, Dec. 12 at 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., join Sarah Seamans at the Leach Library to make your own festive centerpiece with fresh greens. All materials will be provided

including a container, greens, cones, and berries. Adult participants (ages 18+) need to bring their own clippers to the workshop. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library. Registration is required and begins on Monday, Dec. 5. To register, please visit the main desk or call the library.

Library After Dark

On Friday, Dec. 16 from 6 - 8:30 p.m., the Leach Library will host a special after-hours movie night in the main reading room! Join the library staff for a showing of a 2019 animated holiday film (rated PG), along with refreshments and raffle prizes. PJs and costumes are welcome. Registration is required and opens on Friday, Dec. 9. To register, please visit the main desk or call the library.

Story Time with Santa and Friends

Santa will be stopping by Leach Library on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. with some friends for a very special story time. Enjoy stories from Santa as he takes time out from his busy holiday prepara-

Continued on page 15

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - Nov. 28

9:47 a.m. Services rendered for Neighborhood Disputes on South Road.

10:39 a.m. Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with Transportation to a Hospital from Gilcreast Road at Cortland Street.

11:29 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

5:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop leads to an arrest made at the 7-Eleven on Rockingham Road. Four officers assist with charging Matthew Royce, 44, of Hooksett, on Bench Warrants.

5:53 p.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity on Pendleton Lane.

Tuesday - Nov. 29

1:36 a.m. Three officers render services for a Welfare Check on Bridle Path at the Wallace Farm Apartments.

7:42 a.m. Three officers assist the Londonderry Fire Department with services on Litchfield Road at Chase Brook Road

8:39 p.m. Runaway Juvenile Investigated by three officers on Hillcrest Lane.

Wednesday - Nov. 30

9:45 a.m. Services rendered for Juvenile Offenses at the LAFA Complex on Nelson Road.

10:46 a.m. Peace Restored after a Domestic Disturbance on Fieldstone Drive.

11:48 a.m. A Welfare Check at The Stumble Inn on Rockingham Road results in transportation to a hospital.

1:26 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated at the US Post Office on Nashua Road.

8:15 p.m. Criminal Threatening investigated at Loomis Armored on Aviation Park Drive.

8:57 p.m. Services rendered for Juvenile Offenses at the LAFA Complex on Nelson Road.

Continued on page 15

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

tions for a visit. Registration is required and begins Saturday, Dec. 10. To register, please visit the children's desk or call the library.

Holiday Handbell Performance

On Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., come to the Leach Library for an evening of seasonal and holiday music. The Garage Bell Band will perform their "Holiday Handbells." The Garage Bell Band is the quartet version of the larger handbell ensemble known as the Granite State Ringers. They have performed at a variety of venues across NH and consist of Joan Fossum (director, bells, keyboard), Heidi Prior (bells, keyboard), Hilary Justice (bells, keyboard, bell tree), and Debbie Young (bells, vocals). Registration is required and begins on Thursday, Dec. 8. To register, please visit the main desk or call the library.

Switch It Up

Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 1 p.m. in the Leach Library Meeting Room, participants in grades 6-12 are welcome to try their hand at video games on the big screen with the library's Nintendo Switch consoles. Snacks will be available during the program. Regis-

tration is required and begins on Dec. 21. To register, please visit the main desk or call the library.

Holiday Break Offerings

A variety of crafts, coloring pages, and a Guess It jar available in the Leach Library's Children's Room during Holiday Break, from Dec. 27 - Dec. 30. Enjoy some time working on them at the library or take them home for later.

Library Holiday Sale

The annual Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library Holiday Sale will be available during library hours by the Circulation Desk through the holidays. Stop by the table to purchase Leach Library bags and mugs as well as homemade gifts and treats while supplies last. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library.

PJ Story Time

Thursday, Dec. 29 at 7 p.m. get ready for bedtime in cozy pajamas to listen to a couple of bedtime stories and sing along to a lullaby at the Leach Library. Don't forget a stuffed animal or blanket to snuggle. Registration is not required for this program and drop-ins are welcome.

Child Find

Londonderry School District Announces a free community child find pro-

gram for all Londonderry residents, ages 2 1/2 - 5 years 11 months old who are suspected of have developmental concerns. Child find will be held at: Moose Hill School 150 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry.

Voter Information

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet at the Town Clerk's Office to correct the checklist and register voters on: Dec. 8, from 6 - 7 p.m. To register to vote, one must provide: Proof of Londonderry residency; Proof of citizenship (passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers); Proof of age; Photo ID. Applicants for registration who possess proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile should bring that proof when they come to register. Qualified applicants who do not possess proof or who do not bring proof with them may register if they sign an affidavit attesting to their qualifications for identity, age, domicile and citizenship. If you have questions contact: Kristin Grages, Chair, Supervisors of the Checklist 603-432-1100, ext 198

Youth Art Contest

The Londonderry Arts Council is pleased to again be hosting the 2022/2023 Youth Art Contest for students in NH. This year's contest runs from Nov. 1 -

Jan. 9. The contest is open to students in NH, ages 5 - 18. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each age category will win gift certificates for art supplies and be able to display their work at the Londonderry Library. The winners will be notified by Jan. 24. For details on the contest see the application you can download here. <https://londonderryartscouncil.org/youth-art-contest>

Bookworms Story Time

On Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. and continuing weekly through Dec. 14, Leach Library will offer a story time for preschoolers ages 3-4 years old. Bookworms will focus on preschoolers learning more about words, numbers, and concepts through stories, songs, rhymes, and games. The program will also include a simple craft to promote developing fine motor skills. Registration is required and begins one week before each session. To register, please visit the children's desk or call the library.

Little Sprouts Baby Lapsit

On Tuesday, November, at 9 a.m. and continuing weekly through Dec. 13, Leach Library will offer a story time program for babies 0-18 months old. This introduction to story time is a great opportunity

for your littlest sprouts to learn to interact with you and others in a new environment, as well as to begin to follow along with songs, dances, and finger movements. Registration is required and begins one week before each session. To register, please visit the children's desk or call the library.

Book Sale Extended Hours

Thanks to many generous community volunteers, the Leach Library Book Sale located on the lower level of the library is now open more hours: Tuesdays 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Thursdays 6 - 7:45 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. - noon. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library. Donations of gently used materials are accepted any time during library operating hours. Please check the Materials Donations Guidelines on the Leach Library website or call the library with any questions at (603) 432-1132.

Respect Life Essay Contest

The NH Knights of Columbus is once again sponsoring a Student Respect Life Essay Contest. The contest is open to any Jr-High (grades 6,7,8) and Sr. High (grades 9,10,11,12) student in NH. The NH Knights of Columbus will make up to six cash

awards of \$100. You do not have to be a member of the Knights or a Catholic. The theme for this year's contest is: "Even though the Supreme Court ruled there is no "right" to abortion in the Constitution (Dobbs), many mothers still experience fear and uncertainty. What can I do to help make abortion unthinkable?" Deadline: Midnight, Dec. 15, Rules: Essays may not be longer than 500 words; typed, and submitted as a PDF or Word Document and e-mailed to matu19@comcast.net. Include student name, age, grade, school, parent name and address, phone, parish and email. Students may obtain help & information, including from parents, teachers, friends, and internet, but the essay itself must be their own work. Further contest details may be obtained from K of C NH contest chairman John P. Matuszewski (603-434-4098) or K of C NH State Pro-Life Chairman Ron Distasio (603-595-7837).

Be Kind - Do Good

The Sunshine Soup Kitchen located at 6 Crystal Ave., Derry, is seeking Volunteers age 18+ for help preparing and serving drive-through meals: Monday -Thursday, 3 - 6 p.m. For more information or if you have questions call 603.437.2833.

Police Log

Continued from page 14

dered for a Medical Emergency at the UPS on Pettengill Road.

Thursday - Dec. 1

8:15 a.m. Services rendered for Criminal Mischief on Pillsbury Road at Gilcreast Road.

9:56 a.m. Services rendered for a Violation of a Protective Order on Thornton Road results in an arrest. Heather Walker, 51, of Londonderry, charged with: Stalking - Notice of Order; and Breach of Bail Conditions.

5:40 p.m. Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with Services on Windsor Blvd.

5:38 p.m. A Welfare Check conducted by three officers results in transportation to a hospital from Londonderry North School on Sanborn Road.

6:21 p.m. Burglary investigated on Stokes Road.

6:29 p.m. Overdose on Whittemore Road results in transportation to a hospital.

8:06 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at the Shell Food Mart on Nashua Road.

10 p.m. Shoplifting investigated at the Convenience Plus Londonderry on Rockingham Road.

Friday - Dec. 2

12:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop results in an Arrest Citation issued on

Route 93 at the Exit 5, Northbound On-Ramp. Ray Dixon, 62, of Londonderry, charged with: Driving After Revoked/Suspension of License; and Suspension of Vehicle Registration.

3:44 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at Planet Fitness on Orchard View Drive.

4:15 a.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Range Road in Belmont. David Fife, 32, of Belmont charged with Theft by Unauthorized Taking of \$0-\$1,000.

8:18 a.m. Dog Bite investigated by Animal Control on Melody Lane.

12:27 p.m. Services rendered for a Suicide Attempt/Threat on Bayber-

ry Lane.

2:11 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Old Coach Road.

2:20 p.m. Services rendered for a Runaway Juvenile at the Londonderry High School on Mammoth Road.

2:24 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at Market Basket on Michels Way.

2:38 p.m. Services Rendered for Criminal Threatening on South Road.

Saturday - Dec. 3

7:53 a.m. Arrest(s) made by four officers during a Domestic Disturbance at the Macgregor Cut Apartments on Stonehenge Road.

8:28 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at Pen-

ske Truck Rental on Jack's Bridge Road.

12:20 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made by three officers at Great American Subs on Nashua Road. Justin Spirko, 37, of Londonderry, arrested on a warrant.

12:51 p.m. Wires Down investigated on Rockingham Road at Page Road.

8:12 p.m. Peace restored by five officers after a Domestic Disturbance on Bridle Path at the Wallace Farm Apartments.

9:12 p.m. Welfare Check investigated by six officers on Boulder Drive.

Sunday - Dec. 4

12:09 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on

Bridle Path on Bridle Path at the Wallace Farm Apartments.

9:37 a.m. Services rendered for Down Wires on Rockingham Road at Page Road.

12:43 p.m. Suicide Attempt/Threat transported to a hospital from Fieldstone Drive.

1:31 p.m. Disturbance investigated on Auburn Road.

2:11 p.m. Disturbance investigated by three officers at Taco Bell/KFC on Nashua Road

2:44 p.m. Disturbance Investigated by four officers on Bridle Path at the Wallace Farm Apartments.

7:39 p.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity on Westminster Drive.

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