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Londonderry Times

November 30, 2023 ♦ Volume 24 – Issue 44

A FREE Weekly Publication



Holiday Prepping

Brendan Saich and members of Scout Troop 426 were busy at Matthew Thornton Elementary recently preparing 500 wreaths for delivery to the community. This is a yearly fundraiser for the troop. See more photos page 5. Photo by Chris Paul

Future of Former Lions Hall Raised at Budget Workshop

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the recent budget kickoff meeting, Town Manager, Mike Malaguti, identified the Lions Hall project as a potential warrant article for this March.

The building's future has been a point of discussion in town since

the Lions Club, who used the town-owned building at 256 Mammoth Road for decades, decided to no longer occupy the building.

Malaguti said after hearing from the public, many of whom have expressed a desire to do what is needed to save the building and then potentially doing

phased remodeling, he thought that they shouldn't propose more than \$500,000 on the warrant article.

On Nov. 20, during the budget workshop meeting between the Town Council and the Budget Committee, Budget Committee Chair, Patrick Cassidy, said

continued on page 2

Town Council Look to Revisit Town Treasurer Warrant Article

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After having a warrant article fail by nearly 100 votes during last year's town election, the Town Council will once again be asking voters to approve an amendment to the Town Charter making the Town Treasurer position an appointed position rather than an elected position.

During the Nov. 20, Town Council meeting, members agreed to move forward with the next step of the process to potentially put the question back on the ballot in March.

Town Manager, Mike Malaguti, began the public hearing by explaining that he was looking for approval to see if they can move forward with the process of notifying the Department of Business Revenue, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State to see if the proposed charter amendment follows the law.

If the three government entities agree with it being legal, it will then go back to the Town Council, who will ultimately make the final decision about putting it on the ballot or not.

Finance Director,

Justin Campo, said his concerns from last year remain the same, including having someone in the role, with a lot of power, and no experience.

"My concerns last year remain the same, that anybody can become elected the treasurer with zero experience," Campo said.

He also added that in July, certain things happened with a Budget Committee member, who at first refused to resign, and there were concerns raised by members of the public who were concerned

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Black Proposes 2.69 Percent Increase to School Budget

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board was presented with the proposed FY 25 budget on Nov. 21.

Superintendent, Dan Black, explained that it's the first step in the budget process, with his proposed budget being scrutinized over the coming weeks and months, until the School Board decides on what to send to the warrant article.

"At this point I'm proposing a budget to them, but it's really their call on what we bring to the voters," Black said.

He said the proposed budget would be a total

of \$88,259,411, which is about \$154,000 less than the default budget of \$88,413,544. The proposed budget is a 2.69% increase over the current approved budget.

"A lot of tough choices lead to that," Black said about the proposed budget coming in under the default budget.

Black explained that as part of the proposed budget they were looking to "limit the growth over last year's budget," and that matches the staffing needs to enrollment and services.

He also noted that it was important to come in with a proposed budget as lean as possible knowing they would be

proposing a likely expensive warrant article for the Moose Hill Building Project, and also a potential warrant article for a Support Staff Contract - after the district and the union couldn't come to terms last year on a tentative agreement, meaning no proposed contract made it to the ballot.

"That's a big ask of

continued on page 5

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Town Council, Budget Committee Discuss Use of Impacts Fees

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

One of the questions raised during the joint Budget Committee and Town Council budget workshop meeting on Nov. 20, was about potentially having Impact Fees for things like fire services when new developments are built in town.

Fire Chief, Bo Butler, said they currently don't have impact fees, but they used to have them and the intent behind it is "very sound."

Butler said certain types of new development or uses draws

more services from the town, which would be good to recoup.

"What can the town of Londonderry get for that draw of service," Butler said.

Town Council Chair, John Farrell, said they weren't used well or managed well, when the town previously had them, which resulted in a forensic audit ordered by the court.

"Some changes happened here in the town," Farrell said, noting that the town had to return the impact fees.

He said the main issue is the way the law

is written.

"It's something the legislator probably needs to give us better guidance on," Farrell said.

Farrell said instead they use development agreements, which helps them manage it on the front end.

For example, he stated that they have agreements with Woodmont that when they reach a certain build out, they have to help provide a public safety facility at Woodmont, along with other agreements.

Town Manager, Mike Malaguti, said they

would have to look at if they could handle managing the impact fees with the finance and planning departments.

"You don't want to get it wrong," Malaguti said.

Assistant Town Manager, Kellie Caron, said she has worked in municipalities that have impact fees, but the development agreements are a more accurate representation of what the costs are to the town from the new developments.

Questions were also raised about the ambulance services budget, particularly about where the funds go from the billing of ambulance services.

It was explained by

Battalion Chief, Bruce Hallowell, that the tax base supports having the ambulances and the staffing for it and then they bill for the services provided through a third party company.

The funds then go into the general fund as revenue with a budgeted amount of what they are expected to get and then the surplus goes towards the undesignated fund balance.

One of the questions raised was what would happen if they were to remove it from the general fund and use it instead for fire department specific needs.

Finance Director, Justin Campo, explained that if they were to remove it from the gen-

eral budget, they would be looking at a 13 and a half cent tax rate increase.

The Fire Department also raised potentially going to the ballot asking voters to approve four more firefighters, which would allow them to have a paramedic on all of their fire engines, along with a reserve paramedic on what's known as a "fly car."

He said essentially the paramedic would be assigned to a SUV type vehicle and would be able to go to calls as needed.

It was asked for Campo to come back with different options for the warrant including having staggered starts for the positions.

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Lions Hall

continued from page 1

they were proposing to have the warrant article ask residents what they want to see for the future of the building, instead of having a \$500,000 price tag attached to it.

Malaguti said "That's perfectly fine with me," noting that it could be similar to the water warrant article last year. He added that he spoke with Weston & Sampson, consultants who gave them different potential options for the building, including a full renovation of the building.

He said they recommended a number of different things that could potentially be done with the \$500,000.

Town Council Chair,

John Farrell, interrupted saying he didn't want to hear what they had to say.

"I don't want to hear what the engineers have to say anymore, they got us to three and a half million dollars," Farrell said about the proposal.

He explained that instead, he wanted to know what it is going to cost to get the electrical system up to code, what is the minimum they can do for fire protection without sprinklers, what the cost of fixing the floor would be, and ultimately what they can do to keep it in the condition it's in "to not have it fall down."

"No more studies," Farrell said.

Instead of doing any more studies, he said they should have staff

go there and see what they can do so it's functional and see if they can or can't do anything for \$500,000.

"No more Weston & Sampson, no more three and a half million dollars," he said.

Cassidy said he wants to know what their options are and he thinks they should let voters decide what they do for the future of the building.

"The voters elected the Town Council to decide," Farrell said.

Cassidy said he thinks they should have a clear path forward if they are going to be proposing to spend \$500,000 for making repairs, saying he thinks at that point they are committing themselves to spend more.



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Heritage Commission Review Proposal For Gilcreast Development

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

One of the agenda items during the Nov. 16 Heritage

Commission meeting was on an application for a design review for a site plan to build a 96-unit multi-family residential development at 35 Gil-

creast Road.

It was explained by Joseph Maynard, who was representing the owners Gilcreast Realty Holdings LLC, that the

property is in the multi-family residential R-III district, and used to be an old apple orchard.

He said the orchard on the site is currently overgrown due to years of neglect.

He said the property is about 23 acres in size, and that the proposal is to build 96 units of town-house style units, with about three to eight units per building.

Maynard said they are proposing to have a small amenity area that would include a playground and parking associated with it.

Each unit would have conventional garages as part of the proposal and all the parking being proposed would be in front of the units, with some remote parking

areas.

Maynard stated that the plan went through the first round of comments by staff and outside consultants, and they were waiting to address the comments until after receiving feedback from the Heritage Commission to see if any of them could be incorporated.

In terms of lighting and landscaping plans, Maynard explained that they would be waiting until after they spoke to the commission, but they would likely be proposing to have six street lights on the property and the building would have wall packs lighting.

He also noted they are planning on proposing a wall monument sign with landscaping

around it, however, the formal sign plan hasn't been submitted yet.

The plan is also to have vinyl siding and asphalt shingles, and they hope to create buffers from Gilcreast Road.

Town Council Liaison, Jim Butler, said he thinks they should take another look at the design.

"I think it's cold, it's bland.. I think it's one of the most economical ways to put something up," Butler said.

Heritage Commission Chair, Krystopher Kenney, said he thinks they should also look at having different color variations.

He said it's important to note that it will be a high visibility and traffic area and it will need to look nice.

Treasurer

Continued from page 1

that they control finances of the town.

While the Budget Committee is only an advisory board for the Town Council and controls none of the actual money or finances of the town, Campo said the Treasurer position actually does, and felt it should be looked at again this year because of the concerns raised.

For example, Campo said they could limit their access and "do what they deem appropriate whether it's in the best interest of the town or not."

Town Council Chair, John Farrell, said the one bit of new information learned about this year is the fact that DRA has told them that they are allowed to run background checks on people who are appointed by the Town Council, versus people who are elected.

"That's the only difference," Farrell said.

A number of residents of the community raised concerns about moving away from an elected position, with the general theme revolving around the fact that people in town had voted just last year against it.

State Rep. Kristine Perez characterized it as the public having the perception that people in the town government aren't listening to them.

Former Town Councilor, Deb Paul, who opposed the warrant article last year when on the council, said she is concerned with moving it to an appointed position instead of an elected one because the individual may be fearful of speaking out in fear of not being reappointed, something she said she hears from people who are appointed to different boards.

Former Town Treasurer, Richard Belinski, was vehemently apposed to putting back on the ballot saying that if it goes on the warrant again he'll put his own warrant on the ballot to put a three-year moratorium on the warrant. He also mentioned there were misleading examples brought up by the council to support their urge to put the question on the ballot.

Budget Committee Chair, Patrick Cassidy, raised the question of having a compromise, and potentially having an elected treasury board.

"Is this a possible third option," he asked.

Malaguti said the

state statute requires they have a designated treasurer and would have to look into it further.

Current Town Treasurer, Kathy Wagner, who told those in attendance that she is the one who suggested they bring it to the ballot again this year, said it would be difficult to have a committee because they have to have one signer on the account and it would be difficult with a committee.

One of the reasons she pointed to for her recommendation is how difficult it is to find people who want to run for different positions saying the atmosphere has "deteriorated."

She said she thinks it should be a member of the community who is appointed and not a town employee.

Town Councilor, Chad Franz, noted that they weren't necessarily going to approve sending it to the ballot at this point, saying they can "call an audible all the way to the last minute."

Despite all those attending the meeting to speak against putting the article back on the warrant, the council voted to move forward with the plan.



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Editorial

Shop Locally and Be Proud

The holidays have snuck up on us yet again. Hanukkah arrives on December 8th, and Christmas is not far behind. While some of our readers had their holiday shopping done before the turkey hit their family dining rooms last month, there are still many left wondering where to do their holiday shopping?

Staying with the movement of eating food grown locally, we'd like to suggest you consider doing all your holiday shopping close to home and, no, we don't mean online.

Local shops may not have the flashy, "low, low" prices of big box stores, but they're likely to have the answer you need if a question arises. Plus, you won't have to do a lot of driving to get there.

Supporting your local retailers is a gift that keeps on giving. By doing so, you're helping a local business stay open, as well as helping the town's tax base. With the local paper, we depend on business to advertise to get their message out it and in turn that is how we get the information out to you every week. Without these advertisements, you have no true local paper.

Shopping locally also helps to support local artists, crafters, farmers and independent businesses whose work is available for purchase, and can make for unique and thoughtful gifts. There's a certain pleasure that comes from buying something with a label certifying that it was made in your hometown. Just about everyone loves getting those

gifts from the heart, made especially for them from those they love.

Just as the economy has us reevaluating how we heat our homes and fuel our cars, it prompts us to look at where we spend our hard-earned money, especially when it comes to gift giving. Local businesses, like us, give back to the community in many ways and help keep our town strong.

If you're planning on dining out for a special holiday meal, consider a local restaurant or getting a platter to go and bring it home. Chances are you'd be sure to miss your unique culinary getaways if they had closed, so help them remain open by celebrating the mom and pop restaurants as opposed to more of the same big chain restaurants. This makes for warm, special memories and a healthy local economy.

By spending your money locally, you may find yourself in a heartfelt conversation about your holiday plans and favorite seasonal recipes, as opposed to the more commercialized alternative where you are more apt to merely be bombarded with incessant sales pitches and half-hearted, corporate-mandated, "Happy Holidays". A genuine verbal exchange is an added treat to consider, especially around the holiday season.

This holiday season, Nutfield Publishing urges you to consider your local artists, bakers, and shop owners to take care of your loved ones. The support you will be providing your community will be the greatest gift you could give yourself.

Letters

Our Library

To the editor,

Previously sleepy and lightly-attended monthly Library Trustee meetings have become popular events for far right-wingers and anti-government types to focus their ire and attention. Leach Library is no exception to this disturbing and growing trend.

During public comment in the June 7 Library Trustee meeting, Budget Committee member, Maureen Hardy, targeted the NHLTA (NH Library Trustee Association) claiming that the NHLTA's mission "does not reflect NH, family, or Londonderry values". She requested that no taxpayer money be used to remain a member of the organization. During November's meeting, Ms. Hardy expressed concerns about "conservative works for children" not being shelved by the library. A Christian-based children's book series by child-actor turned evangelist Kirk Cameron that was donated but not immediately shelved was cited as an example of anti-conservative bias in our library. During public comment in July and August, State Rep Kristine Perez continued her quest to destabilize local public institutions, requesting that Leach Library cease participation in the ALA (American Library Association) due to political/ideological issues that she has with the ALA's current president. She also "warned" the board of a bill being brought forward that, if adopted, would PROHIBIT NH public libraries from

ALA membership on the basis that NH "is not a communist state". We have since heard from first year Library Trustee, Christine Fitzgerald, requesting disassociation from both organizations citing something to do with Marxists, Socialists, and Communists. Ms. Hardy has requested the same stating that the ALA and NHLTA use the library as a platform to "influence our librarians and trustees to promote their Marxist agenda". During November's meeting, Trustee of the Trust Fund member and undisputed king of frivolous 91As, Jonathan Esposito, brought FreeStater and author of The Croydon Budget Battle, Ian Underwood, to the meeting to advocate for the shelving of his book. For those who aren't familiar with Mr. Underwood and the Croydon NH budget issue, Mr. Underwood successfully waged a campaign to cut Croydon's budget in half, which would have ended public school in that town along with other services, only to have his campaign reversed after a town-wide referendum. Mr. Esposito has publicly advocated for the closure of Londonderry public schools so it's not difficult to find the connective tissue.

We continue to see the emergence of a vocal and relentless band of hard-right Republicans bent on the weakening of our public schools, our libraries, our town committees, our community. We witnessed this same group harass school board members, teachers, and administrators in 2021 over

school Covid mitigation policy. More recently, town council members and election officials have been targeted by these same individuals.

The Leach Library Director and her staff do an excellent job of serving a growing and diverse community. The Library Director has been forthright and professional in addressing the Library Trustees and the community at large. It's vital that we not allow our public library be bullied into accommodating an ideologically-driven group not interested in its growth or survival.

Paul Skudlarek
Londonderry

Town Treasurer Change Not Needed

To the editor,

I wish to write to the public regarding a conversation that we've all heard as taxpayers and at Town Hall before. The topic is on the merits of an elected treasurer vs. an appointed one, and this topic recently resurfaced at a Public Hearing of the Town Council.

During a number of discussions on the matter, we heard a lot of information, but virtually none of it was new from the previous year's hearings on this potential Warrant Article change.

We heard from Town Manager Mike Malaguti, that we were getting close to the deadline with which we would have to submit a potential Warrant Article to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration for review. I seem to recall us

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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.

Nutfield Publishing, LLC

118 Hardy Rd., Londonderry, NH 03053

tel: 603-537-2760

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www.nutpub.net

Owner/Publisher – Debra Paul

Art Director – Chris Paul

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Troop 426 Prepare Holiday Wreaths for the Community



Members of BSA Troop 426 recently assembled at Matthew Thornton Elementary School to put together about 500 holiday wreaths to be distributed to area families. The annual fundraiser is a major source of revenue for the troop. While supplies last, they will be selling some of their wreaths at Plummers Tree Farm on Pillsbury Road. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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Budget Committee Ask For Library Personnel Policy To Be Reviewed

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Members of the Budget Committee questioned the Leach Library's policy when it comes to raises during the Nov. 20 budget workshop meeting with the Town Council.

It was explained by Leech Library Director, Erin Matlin, that the policy, which is governed by the Library Board of Trustees, is to give up to a 5% merit increase each year, and up to a 3% cost of living adjustment increase, which is tied to the CPI.

Matlin said the merit increases are given out on the anniversary of the hire date for each employee and they budget for every employee to get it, but it's not always the case.

"That's not always the case... we plan for

the best possible outcome," Matlin said.

Budget Committee member, Ryan Cronin, asked to have the merit increases to be maxed out at 2.5% increases, saying they want to stay in line with increases for the police and fire departments.

Finance Director, Justin Campo, said the policy for other non exempt employees would be in line with what was proposed.

It was explained that while the Town Council and Budget Committee could ask for the request to be considered, there are no guarantees, since the library has a separate legislative body – the Board of Trustees.

"We can not tell the library trustees anything," Town Council Chair, John Farrell, said.

Town Manager, Mike

Malaguti, explained that the Town Council funds the budget that voters vote on in March, however, he doesn't think they would be able to set the personnel policies of the library.

Farrell explained that about a decade ago the Library and the Town Council disagreed on the budget and they ended up cutting the budget, which was the only action the Town Council could take.

"That is the only action after getting legal advice that the council can take," he said.

Farrell said the Town Council would rather work collaboratively with the Board of Trustees.

"The Town Council isn't going to force anybody's hand," Farrell said.

It was ultimately

decided to have Matlin speak with the Library Board of Trustees about making changes to the personnel policy regarding raises.

Also during the meeting, Budget Committee members asked about a proposal in the budget to include funding for the membership fee for the Greater Manchester Integrated Library Consortium System in the budget.

Matlin at the budget kickoff meeting said that the program has been around for 39 years, and they have had longtime success and have grown to 13 libraries who have joined.

If Londonderry were to join, patrons would have the chance to access over 1.4 million items, along with the ability to check in and check out books at any

library part of the system.

Matlin said for example, if someone checks out a book at a different library, they would then be able to drop the book off at the Londonderry Library.

She said it's just one of the savings they would have, including not having to purchase every book or title for the Leach Library, knowing that patrons could access them somewhere else.

While some concerns were raised about potential additional costs down the road, Matlin

stated that they looked at it very closely as a staff and with the Board of Trustees. She added that one of the concerns with waiting is that eventually they will cap the number of libraries allowed in the program, and it may be too late to join.

It was also raised that it was more of a "want" rather than a "need"

"It's a want for the community absolutely," Matlin said, noting that the majority of the people who filled out a survey said that they wanted the program.

School

Continued from page 1

the community," Black said about the Moose Hill project, saying that they wanted to "tighten our belts," in the areas they could.

Out of the increases to this year's budget,

Black said 80% of it was from previous voter approved warrant articles, including \$915,000 in increases for collective bargaining agreements and \$445,000 for the infrastructure bond, for example.

If the proposed budget goes to the bal-

lot, the local tax rate would be \$10.48 compared to the default budget, which would have a tax rate of \$10.51. The amount of money needed to be raised from taxes would be just over \$65.9 million as part of Black's budget compared to the default budget which would need to raise just over \$66 million from local taxes.

Black also laid out the budget schedule for the coming months, not-

ing there would be workshop meetings during the Dec. 5, 12, and 19 meetings with the School Board expecting to finalize its budget on Jan. 9, and with a public hearing on Jan. 11.

On Jan. 16, the Moose Hill Project bond hearing is expected to take place, and the Deliberative Session is scheduled for Feb. 9 with the budget vote on March 12 during the town's elections.

OBITUARY

Marilyn A. Riendeau

Marilyn A. Riendeau, 87, of Londonderry, NH, passed away Thursday Nov. 23, 2023, in the Hackett Hill Nursing Home, Manchester, NH. She was born on Jan. 15, 1936 in Pawtucket, RI, a daughter of the late Elmer and Alfreda (Ballou) Boyd. Marilyn owned and operated Marilyn's Restaurant until her retirement to FL. She later moved back up to NH to live with her daughter Susan in Londonderry. Marilyn enjoyed water aerobics. She loved going to the beach and traveling and shuffle-board.

She is survived by one daughter, Susan Desmond of Londonderry two sons, Robert Riendeau of Sweden and Richard Riendeau of Cumberland, RI; nine grandchildren, Marc Landry, Eric Landry, Kevin Riendeau, Christopher Riendeau, Jeffrey Riendeau, Rebecca Riendeau, Jakob Riendeau, Lauren Reindeau, and Nicole Jenkins; five great-grandchildren, Cole Landry, Kyle Landry, Devin Hursh, Daphne Hursh, Bobby Hursh, and Alana Riendeau. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Eugene Riendeau, one grandson, Joseph Riendeau, and her brother, Robert Boyd.

Following cremation, memorial services will be held on Wednesday Dec. 6, at 11 a.m., in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 290 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry. Friends and family are welcome to gather at the funeral home beginning at 10 a.m., prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 15 Constitution Dr., Suite 1G, Bedford, NH 03110, or at alz.org. To send a condolence please visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com.

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Budget Committee Discuss Proposed Prosecutor Warrant Article

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Police Chief, Kim Bernard, and his command staff raised the possibility of putting forward a warrant article during the budget kickoff meeting, which would add a prosecutor position to the department, something he said is needed because the amount of arrests made, the time it takes to prosecute cases, and with just one full-time prosecutor, and it has lead to concerns.

On Nov. 20, he was back in front of the Town Council and the Budget Committee to answer concerns raised.

One question raised during the public comment portion of the meeting was in regards to why the extra captain position isn't being uti-

lized to help with prosecution as originally intended.

Bernard explained that years ago under the previous police chief, the Town Council approved having a Legal and Professional Standards bureau with the intent of adopting the CALEA gold standard in law enforcement, but it wasn't well understood what it would entail.

"What I know now, what I didn't know as a young captain, was the amount of work that one man does to maintain the CALEA accreditation status for your police department," he said.

He explained that with the program, they learned that it's a lot of responsibility for one person to be in charge

of, and a lot of agencies have an assistant manager as well, to manage it.

At the time, Capt. Mark Morrison was going to help out with prosecution, however, Bernard said, "We don't have the time for him to do that."

Bernard stated that while Morrison recently went to law school and became accredited in Massachusetts, those plans were in the works before he became a captain, explaining that they pride themselves in continuing education.

"We put these things out there for our employees to excel so you guys have a better product with your employees," Bernard said, also noting that it makes the town more

attractive to potential employees.

Budget Committee Chair, Patrick Cassidy, asked if they could use one of the open police officer positions in the budget, for prosecution instead.

Town Manager, Mike Malaguti, said that patrol is "taxed to the limit" and it's been a "huge problem" for the department since at least the time he's worked for the town.

Town Council Chair, John Farrell, said they made the decision to send the head count question to the ballot for the police and fire department years ago, essentially asking voters how many first responders they should have.

If they were going to make any changes, he

said he views it as making a service cut.

"The voters said that's how many positions you need," Farrell said.

While it legally could be done, Malaguti said, he doesn't view it as a good move.

"It is taking a public safety person and turning them into a courtroom person, a lawyer," he said.

Finance Director, Justin Campo, said if they were to start the prosecutor position at \$95,000, then it could cost upwards of \$165,500 for a family plan and other benefits.

The question was also raised of what the plan is if the warrant article isn't approved by voters, if it goes to the ballot.

Malaguti said they

were getting to the point when he was a prosecutor that they had to make tough decisions about what cases not to pursue because of the limited resources.

Oftentimes, he stated that lower level driving offenses were the ones that wouldn't get prosecuted, which is important to prosecute.

"It really does lead to safer roads, it really does lead to people who aren't driving around without licenses. Nobody wants that," Malaguti said.

He also noted that there are concerns about not making enough outreach to victims of crimes with the lack of resources.

"That's really where I see the big liabilities, the big concerns," Malaguti said.

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Moose Hill Celebrates Thanksgiving with a Small Feast



Kindergarten and LEEP students got to enjoy a pre-holiday feast at Moose Hill School just before the Thanksgiving break. Both morning and afternoon sessions assembled in the hallway where there was a small feast of snacks served to the children.

Photos by Chris Paul





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Kids Coop Theatre Perform The SpongeBob Musical



The Kids Coop Theatre group has kicked off its 27th season with a large cast of area children performing "The SpongeBob Musical," on Friday night, Nov. 17. SpongeBob was played by Ben Bertini, 14, of Derry and the musical had a 24-member cast of young local actors. Directed and Choreographed by Becca Antonakos-Belanger, Music Director, Keith Belanger, and Mayson Gentiluomo was the Stage Manager. Londonderry cast members were: Brady Harlow, Colin Chaffee, Jena Gamache and Rebecca Solomons.

Photos by Chris Paul



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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Lancers Get Bitten by Bulldogs in the Division I Final

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Football team had their season end in the New Hampshire Division I Final on Saturday afternoon with a 28-8 loss to the Bedford Bulldogs in Exeter.

This was the second consecutive year the Lancers suffered a loss to the Bedford squad during a title game, this year, in an extended season.

Both teams defeated their higher-seeded opponents to make it into the finals. Londonderry beat Pinkerton 42-7 and Bedford blanked Portsmouth-Oyster

River 28-0 to get to the championship.

This was the first year of a 12-game season for the Lancers, finishing with a 10-2 record overall. They were 7-1 going into the playoffs and had three dominant wins against Windham, Exeter, and Pinkerton, heading into the finals.

Against the Bulldogs on Saturday, Nov. 25, the Lancers came out looking very strong in the first quarter, with an early interception into a quick touchdown on their first possession, but the Bedford defense made it nearly impossible for LHS to gain any ground from that point on.

The Bulldogs held Londonderry to just 128-yards of total offense, with 84-yards on the ground, and 44 passing yards.

Bedford finished with 221-yards, 28 passing, and 193 rushing.

Third down conversions were tough for the Lancers also, converting just five of 11 and coming up 0-2 in fourth down attempts.

Senior running-back, Jake Schena, lead the Lancers in rushing with 35-yards on seven carries.

Senior quarterback, Conor Williams, finished with 27-rushing-yards.

Junior quarterback, Sam Ogden, led his team

in passing, completing five of eight attempts for a total of 43-yards.

On defense, seniors Jaydon Navarro and Ty Parsons led the Lancers in tackles with seven each. Junior Colin Couture had six solo tackles in the game.

The biggest LHS highlight of the game came during the Bulldogs first drive of the game. On third and 19, Bedford QB, Danny Black, had his pass intercepted by senior, Seth Doyon, setting the Lancers offense up at the Bedford 39-yard-line.

From there, it took nine plays for London-

continued on page 11



Junior Devin Boles made a big catch on third down to give his team a first down.





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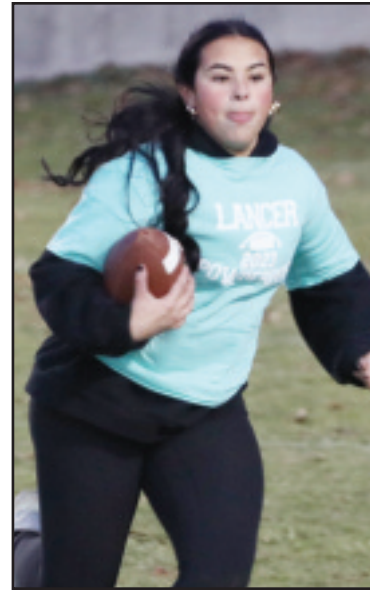
Juniors Come Out on Top of Annual Powder Puff Contest

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Just before the Thanksgiving recess, the four classes at Londonderry High School each send their representative onto the Lancers football field for their 10th annual Powder Puff touch football championship.

It was yet another bitterly cold contest, taking place on Monday, Nov. 20 and after three 30-minute games, the junior class team finished with two-over-time wins to take the title.

In the first game, the senior class team was able to outlast the sophomore team in a 14-6 finish. The game was highlighted by senior captain, Lilly Haggart, showing off her strong kicking skills



Photos by Chris Paul - More on next page

with two successful extra-point attempts.

The second game of the event featured a tough ground battle between the freshman and junior class, which finished 0-0 in regulation.

In overtime, the

freshmen were able to score first, but had an incomplete pass, while going for two, giving the frosh girls a six-point lead. The junior squad was able to match their touchdown, and then scored the go ahead point with a field goal

kicked by Audrey Hughes for the slim 7-6 victory.

The championship game, played between the juniors and the seniors also resulted in a scoreless tie and a deciding overtime peri-

od. With the seniors attempting to go ahead first, the juniors continued to hold them scoreless in four downs.

The following drive by the juniors came up short of the end-zone, but on fourth-down,

Audrey Hughes kicked a field goal for the 3-0 championship win.

Ashley Tebbetts and Holly Lafore were the staff advisors running the game again this year, which raised \$500 for St. Jude Hospital.

Football

Continued from page 10
derry to get on the board first.

Junior quarterback, Alex Villa, handed the ball off to Schena for an 18-yard run into the end-zone.

During the extra-point attempt, Ogden, the holder, darted to the right side and into the end-zone for the two-

point conversion and an 8-0 lead.

The Lancer lead held until the second quarter, but after that, it was Bedford's game to lose, scoring three unanswered touchdowns in the second quarter and adding another halfway through the final period.

One major defensive highlight for LHS was when they kept the Bulldogs out of the end-

zone, late in the third quarter, with a big stop at the one-yard line on BHS's fourth down attempt. Alex Villa was awarded the tackle.

This was Londonderry's fourth Division I final game in the last five years. The Lancers finished with championship titles in 2021 and 2019 in those four attempts.

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AROUND TOWN

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

Christmas on the Common

The Londonderry Rotary Club, in partnership with the Town of Londonderry and both the Fire and Police departments, will once again host "Christmas on the Common" on Sunday, Dec. 3. The schedule for the event is as follows: 1 p.m. - Santa and Mrs. Claus will begin their annual "Ride through Londonderry", with the assistance of the Londonderry Fire Department. Please pay attention to the Town website, Facebook page, and the Rotary Facebook page for specific information about the route; 3 p.m. - Festivities on the Town Common will begin. There will be caroling and good cheer provided. The Rotary Club will again provide hot cider, cocoa,

coffee, cookies, and chili, free of charge to all who attend; 4 p.m. - Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at the Town Common to meet; the event will end at 6 p.m.

Intergenerational Family Service

On Sunday, Dec. 3, (the first Sunday in Advent), St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Londonderry will be having an Intergenerational Family Service with a children's sermon and fun, family oriented activities. Celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas in a whole new way with family friendly take home crafts and reading materials. This will be a fabulous, festive, fun, morning for the entire family. There will be two give away drawings for family appropriate, seasonal gifts to share with generations during the hol-

idays. All are welcome this is for the young, young at heart, and every age in between. Worship starts at 9:30 a.m. at 3 Peabody Row (on Mammoth Road) in Londonderry.

Used Toy Sale

The annual St. Thomas Used Toy Sale will be held on Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Derry. This is the largest toy sale in New England! Beautiful gently used toys from dolls to games to ride ons and play sets and so much more are for sale at low, low cost. Arrive early for the best selection. All proceeds go to charity. Cash only. Bring your own bags.

Toy Vouchers

Birth Right will be donating Toy Vouchers to families in need on Satur-

day Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the used toy sale at St. Thomas Church to benefit the churches outreach programs and St. Gianna's Place. This sale is an annual event that provides an opportunity to start Christmas shopping while benefiting a worthy cause.

Diaper Donations

The Orchard Christian Church is looking to for donations of diaper, wipes, and monetary donations to give to the Makeover Ministry's FREE Diaper Pantry in Manchester NH. Please drop off donations at Orchard Christian Church, 136 Pillsbury Rd. Londonderry, from Nov. 3 - Dec. 3.

Republican Committee Meeting

The Londonderry Republican Committee (LRC) will be meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., at Londonderry Baptist Church, 368 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry. The LRC will also be holding a Christmas Social for Members, friends, and affiliates at Long Blue Cat Brewery on Friday, Dec. 8, from 7 - 9 p.m. Come and join like-minded citizens for fun discussions, board games, a

raffle while you enjoy a drink in a friendly atmosphere! For more information: Londonderry-GOP.org, facebook.com/LondonderryGOP, or contact us at lrc@londonderry-gop.org.

Mrs. Claus and Santa at Cable Studio

On Saturday, Dec. 2, Mrs. Claus and Santa will be back the Londonderry Cable Studio from 1 - 3 p.m. Kids can visit with them, live on TV, and have a memory captured that will last a lifetime. This is a free event. Parents are encouraged to take pictures. Refreshments and coloring are available while the kids wait. Kids go home with a small gift and a Candy Cane from Santa. Santa hopes to see a lot of kids this year so be sure to tell your friends and invite anyone you think might be interested. For information contact Erin at 603-432-1147.

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. 18, from 6 - 7 p.m. To register to vote, one must provide: Proof of London-

derry 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.

Child Check

Londonderry School District announces free community child find program for all Londonderry residents ages two 1/2 (2.5) years through five years, 11 months (5.11) of age who are suspected of have developmental concerns child find will be held at: Moose Hill School located at 150 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry. Londonderry early education program (LEEP) on Dec. 7, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., please call Denise Fosmire for an appointment (603)437-5855 ext 7223. No Child Will Be Seen Without An Appointment.

continued on page 15

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections taken from the daily Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - Nov. 20

10:17 a.m. Medical Emergency at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport results in transport to a hospital.

11:06 a.m. Four officers render services for Suspicious Activity on Yellowstone Drive.

12:10 p.m. Sudden Death on Conifer Place investigated by four officers.

12:20 p.m. Report of Car Breaks investigated on Litchfield Road.

6:10 p.m. Citation issued while responding to Suspicious Activity at Papa Ginos on Nashua Road.

8:44 p.m. five officers render services to assist a citizen at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

8:30 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

Tuesday - Nov. 21

5:03 a.m. Services rendered for a Welfare Check at the Macgregor Cut apartments at Stonehenge Road.

7:37 a.m. Officers assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with services on Fieldstone Drive.

9:39 a.m. Stolen motor vehicle recovered and arrest made by three officers on Pendleton Lane at Bayberry Lane. Scott Belville, 54, of Stratham, charged with: Possession of a Controlled Drug; Schedule 1-4; and Receiving Stolen Property over \$1,501.

9:56 a.m. Drug Offenses investigated on Rocking-

ham Road.

6:20 p.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity at Londonderry Police Department on Mammoth Road.

11:08 p.m. Three officers render services for Welfare Check at the Backyard Brewery on Rockingham Road.

Wednesday - Nov. 22
4:10 a.m. Services rendered for a Medical Emergency reported at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

2:09 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated at Market Basket on Michels Way.

3:43 p.m. Auto Theft investigated at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

Thursday - Nov. 23
1:52 a.m. Subject taken to Family/Guardian/Other under Protective Custody at RMZ Truck Stop on Rockingham Road.

1:55 p.m. Four officers investigate an Abandoned 911 call on Ash Street.

2:07 p.m. Services rendered to keep the peace at the Londonderry Flea Market on Avery Road.

3:38 p.m. Weapons Offenses investigated on Old Nashua Road at Bayberry Lane.

6:37 p.m. Three officers rendered services on Old Nashua Road for a Domestic Disturbance.

7:25 p.m. Keeping the Peace on Old Nashua Road.

8:57 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Granite Street.

Friday - Nov. 24

1:20 a.m. Officer assists the Londonderry Fire Department with transportation to a hospital from the Shell Food Mart on Nashua Road.

10:47 a.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity on Cross Road at Apple Blossom Drive.

12:30 p.m. Four officers render services for Fish & Game Violations on Dan Hill Road.

12:58 p.m. Services rendered for a Domestic Disturbance on Bridle Path.

2:31 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Granite Street.

7:24 p.m. Services rendered for Weapons Offenses on Brown Avenue, near UPS.

Saturday - Nov. 25

11:23 a.m. Juvenile Offenses reported on Kestree Drive.

7:55 p.m. Car Break-ins investigated on Orchard View Drive at Planet Fitness.

11:20 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Old Nashua Road. Two officers arrest Nathan Barka, 42, of Auburn, charged with the Possession of Controlled Drug (Schedule 1-4).

11:26 p.m. Five officers respond to a Be-On-the-Lookout on Rockingham Road.

Sunday - Nov. 26

12:52 a.m. Three officers respond to a Disabled Motor Vehicle and make an arrest on Nashua Road at Parmenter Road.

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Letters

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running up against this deadline in 2022, and I spoke at public comment last Fall asking why we had to rush this to warrant again, asking why a review of the matter could not be conducted with citizen involvement before crafting another Warrant Article.

We heard from Justin Campo, Town Finance

Director, on why he did not initially support putting this matter to the voters again, but re-examined his position and lent his voice in support, seeing the increasingly complex threats that face municipalities, and expressing concern that an elected official could remove Justin's access to banking information.

We heard from Town Treasurer Kathy Wagner, who has been an elected

official for 14 years without incident, on why she believes that campaigning has largely become more hostile in recent years, why no candidate for public office should be subject to the vitriol of campaigning, and expressed her disagreement with Justin Campo, stating that an appointed Treasurer should not be a Town Official, but should be a citizen.

And we heard from Councilor Chad Franz,

on why he believes he misvoted last year, and his position that new information has come to light that has caused him to re-examine his position on the matter of an appointed Treasurer. Councilor Franz did not elaborate on what that new information was.

We heard from several citizens, including Glenn Douglas, who reminded us that this Warrant Article failed before voters by an

almost 20% margin this past Spring, which was not that long ago.

We heard from Kristine Perez, who suggested that even a year's delay in putting this to the voters again, would help prevent the impression that Town Hall is trying to ram this through.

I also had the opportunity to speak, to apologize to the council for my past conduct during public comment, and to

give my opinion that I will give here for readers also;

That there are more than enough checks and balances, to include the Town Manager, Town Finance Director, and the State DRA, to keep an elected Treasurer's actions accountable to the people. No changes to the Town Treasurer are needed at this time.

Jonathan Esposito
Londonderry

Around Town

Continued from page 13

Lions Christmas Tree Sale

The annual Londonderry Lions Christmas Tree Sale will continue each weekend while supply last. Fridays from 4 - 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sales will take place at the Dykstra Pavilion, 256 Mammoth Road, across from the Town Common.

Little Sprouts Baby Lapsit

On Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. from now through Dec. 12, story time program for babies 0-18

Police Log

Continued from page 14

Dave Prerak, 45, of Pelham, charged with: Driving Under the Influence - Impairment; and having an Open Container.

9:19 a.m. Three officers respond to a Shooting Complaint on Pillsbury Road.

12:11 p.m. Violation of a Protective Order leads to an arrest made by three officers on Rockingham Road. Mark Thibeault, 42, of Greenfield, charged with: Possession of a Controlled Drug (Schedule 1-4); Falsifying Physical Evidence (Alter, Destroy, Hide); and Arrested on a Warrant.

9:19 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Gertrude Street. Derek Heinig, 34, of Manchester, charged with: Stalking (Domestic Violence-Order); and Breach of Bail Conditions.

months old will be held by the Leach Library. 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, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

Wiggle Worms Story Time

On Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. from now through Dec. 12, toddlers ages 2-3 years old and their caregivers are invited to the Leach Library for story time with songs, rhymes, books, and more. Registration is required and begins one week before each session. To

register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

Bookworms Story Time

On Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. from now through Dec. 13, story time for preschoolers ages 3-5 years old will be held at the Leach Library. 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, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

"Library After Dark" Movie Night

Come to the Leach Library on Friday, Dec. 8 at

6 p.m., an after-hours movie night in the main reading room! Join eight-year-old Kevin McCallister as he fends for himself over the holidays (rated PG). Pizza and refreshments will be served while supplies last, and raffle prizes will be provided. Registration is required and begins on Friday, Dec. 1. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

Story Time with Santa

Santa will be stopping by the Leach Library on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. for a very special story time. Enjoy stories from Santa as he takes time out from his busy holiday preparations for a visit. Registration is required

and begins on Thursday, Nov. 30. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

DIY Glitter Ornaments

Come to the Leach Library on Monday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. to create your very own DIY glitter ornament. Registration is limited to 25 participants and begins on Monday, Nov. 27. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

A Very Merry Book Discussion

Do you love cozy Christmas romances? Then this is the book discussion hosted by the Leach Library is for you. On Monday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. and discuss

Debbie Macomber's novel *The Christmas Spirit*. Cocoa and cookies will be served. Registration is limited to 15 participants and begins on Monday, Nov. 13. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132. Copies of the book will be available to check out at the library's main desk.

Tinker Time

On Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m., a variety of toys and games from the Library of Things will be provided for children to try at the Leach Library. Registration is recommended and begins Saturday, Dec. 2. To register, visit the library's online event calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

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