

# Londonderry Times

April 4, 2024 ♦ Volume 26 – Issue 14

A FREE Weekly Publication



## Bunny Buddy

Emma Trites, 4, visits with the Easter Bunny during the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Londonderry High School on Saturday morning. The Class of 2024 organized the event for the final time this year. More photos pages 8 and 9. *Photo by Chris Paul*

## Route 102 Traffic Concerns Raised at Town Council

ALEX MALM  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the April 1 Town Council meeting, members of the community spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting about traffic concerns in town.

"I'm here to talk about traffic safety concerns on Route 102,"

resident, Timothy Cera-to, said during the meeting.

He explained that about three months ago himself and neighbors went to their first Traffic Safety Committee meeting to talk about the "escalating dangers" of the traffic on the road.

"Tragically the day following that meeting

there was a fatal accident on 102," he said.

He explained that he wants to know if there is anything they can do, including having a special committee, saying he doesn't think having a meeting every three months gives people in the community the ability to help as much as

continued on page 7

## House Fire Spurs Debate on Recent Budget Freeze

CHRIS PAUL  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On Saturday, March 30, members of the Londonderry and Derry Fire Departments responded to 16 Mallard Lane for a fire reported in the garage at that address.

According to a press release issued over the weekend by Battalion Chief, Jonathan Camire, the Londonderry Fire Telecommunications Office (TCO) received a 911 call reporting a fire in the garage of the home at the listed address. After receiving

the call, TCO was dispatching personnel to a different emergency call in the south end of town, and while a third emergency was under control, staff was transporting a patient to an area hospital. The simultaneous events prompted a significant response from the town's mutual aid partners, as there was only one Londonderry Engine Company left available.

Derry Ladder 3 arrived on scene at 12:03 p.m. and reported smoke and fire showing from the garage of a two-story

home, they requested the working fire assignment bringing in additional resources. The home was reported as evacuated by the residents on scene. A search was conducted to confirm this, and to verify the wellbeing of their pet cat.

The report added, "The fire was quickly knocked down by crews and the home was ventilated to remove the smoke. One resident was transported to an area hospital for evaluation due to possible

continued on page 7

## Conservation Questions the Application Process

PAUL CONYERS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Conservation Commission met on March 26 to discuss some concerns over the current application review process.

"I believe we have a problem with the system regarding review of applications such as design review, wetland permits, and conditional use permits," said Conservation Chair, Marge Badois. "A couple of meetings ago we had the warehouse project where they were looking for a conditional use permit, and we were confused why they were asking for this if they were getting a wetland permit."

The Chair wanted to

know how any applicant could get a wetland permit without the Conservation Commission getting a chance to look through it for comments. Only with some help from Town Manager, Mike Malagutti, was Badois able to find out more.

"That wetland permit was dropped off at the Town Clerk on November 20, and I looked through all my emails, I looked through all of our agendas and minutes, and we never reviewed that wetland permit. It never made it to us," she explained. "When I look it up in the policy, it says 'The Planning Board shall refer the application to the Conservation

Commission to review prior to a public hearing.' That kind of got dropped."

According to the law, the Conservation Commission has 20 days to review an application and to send comments to the NH Department of Environmental Services. That opportunity is lost when an application is lost or even delayed when the Commission is not in-

continued on page 2

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# Zoning Board Approve Variance For ADU on Noyes Road

ALEX MALM  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Zoning Board of Adjustment heard two different zoning variance requests for the property at 5 Noyes Road, which is owned by Laura and James Tebo.

One of the variance requests was to allow an accessory dwelling unit to be located in the front yard of the property, whereas accessory dwelling units are permitted in the side or rear yard.

The other variance request was to allow an accessory dwelling unit to be greater than 40% of the living area of the principal dwelling.

Laura Gandia, who was representing the applicant, Sebastian Rossino, and the owners, explained that they have an existing dwelling unit being occupied by the owners.

She said they want to build another house "that's going to act as

the primary dwelling and make the existing house the accessory dwelling."

Since the existing house, which would be used as the accessory dwelling unit, is in the front of the property, they needed to get a variance for it.

Gandia explained that the property is two acres in size, and the current house on the property is a 1950 single family residence, which

is about 950 square feet in size.

Based on the zoning requirements, the principal dwelling unit would be smaller than what is allowed, noting that the principal dwelling unit would need to be about 2,475 square feet in order to meet the 40% requirement.

"The town actually wants the house to be bigger," Gandia said, based on zoning.

However, Gandia said that due to costs, they are proposing the new house to be about 2,100 square feet in size.

"So with that, he needs a variance," Gandia told the Board.

Gandia said the property owners, who are Rossino's in-laws, would be living in the existing structure, which is where they currently live.

During the meeting, it was noted that one abut-

ter wrote a letter in support of the two different variances.

No one spoke for or against the applicant during the meeting.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment approved both variance requests during the meeting, with the one condition being that it can't be smaller than 2,100 square feet.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is set to meet again on April 17 at 7 p.m.

# Pool Shed Variance Gets Approve by Zoning Board

ALEX MALM  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Zoning Board of Adjustment heard a variance request to allow the encroachment of a pool shed 15 feet into the rear setback for the property at 1 Chase Brook Road, during the March 20 meeting.

"We are proposing an encroachment on the 15 foot rear setback," owner and applicant, Timothy Marion, explained during the meeting.

He stated that the location of the leechfield and the septic tank on the property is the reason why they needed to

put it in the location they were proposing.

One of the unique features of the property that he pointed out is where the house is located.

"This was set way back on the property from the street," Marion said.

He explained that it's a corner lot, so they have a large setback with an easement for drainage on the front part of the property. With that said, he added that it means they have a small space where they can have the pool and pool shed, noting they already have a pool that

was previously approved.

"We're just trying to add a shed," Marion said

Marion also noted there would still be at least 150 feet between the shed and their neighbors properties and it wouldn't disturb anyone by having it.

"It is not visible to any of the abutters or the street," he said.

Marion argued that the proposed use was reasonable since they are "very common in the neighborhood."

When asked about the size of the shed, Marion responded by saying that the shed

would be 20x26, and that one corner would be 11 feet from the property line and the other side would be one foot.

"It's all wooded behind me," he said.

One abutter wrote a letter in support of the proposed ordinance. No one spoke in opposition of the proposed vari-

ance request during the meeting.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment unanimously approved granting a variance to allow the pool shed to go on the property.

The next ZBA meeting is set to take place on April 17 at 7 p.m.

## Conservation

Continued from page 1

formed soon enough. Badois called for a new set of procedures like a "checklist" to ensure Conservation always gets the opportunity to review applications. Nobody could say how many permit requests went unseen.

"Anything that submitted is given to me, so

maybe I've been messing up," said Mike Bazegian, GIS Manager/Comprehensive Planner. "I've been bringing the application to you as the projects come up on the agenda. Maybe I've misunderstood when I'm supposed to be giving you these things, I've still got a couple more on my desk."

Members also called for a streamlined process for better digital applications so they could get relevant information before a presentation.

"When in doubt, call it in," Alternate Commissioner, Mike Speltz, said. He hoped to avoid any more confusion from town officials. "If you see something that's coming across your desk that the Commission might have an interest in, you may or may not be right, but let the Chair have the benefit of the doubt to advise on that."

Badois noted that the Conservation Commission currently has two open spots, and they called for volunteers with a background in environmental work with the government. They wanted Londonderry residents with an interest in the outdoors, and Commissioners wanted to make sure any interested applicants came to at least one meeting beforehand to see how things are run.

"It would be nice to have some next-generation members to fill our shoes," said Badois.

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# Car Rental Company Make Plans for Maintenance Facility

PAUL CONYERS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Conservation Commission met on March 26 to hear a presentation from Katie Weiss of Nasua's Bedford Design Consultants on behalf of Enterprise Rent-A-Car of Boston for a Site Plan Amendment at 10 Navigator Road. The car rental company currently has an office and parking lot on the site.

"We're keeping the existing building and we're proposing an auto-inspection building," said Weiss. "In this building, Enterprise will be maintaining their fleet, so they'll be doing inspections, oil changes, and things like that.

There will be no bodywork or paint done in the shop at all."

The plan involves renovations to the site with a new building that will connect an existing drainage system on the site. All water runoff will be gathered and treated in a bio-retention pond.

"Catch basins in the area will be properly erosion controlled," she added.

After consulting a wetland scientist, Weiss confirmed that a wetland on the property was artificial, although Enterprise has no plans to disturb it with the new construction.

"I would say you have a lot of pavement, and it definitely seems

like overkill. Is there any chance you'd be able to reduce that?" asked Commission Chair, Marge Badois. "How many cars do you expect to have there most of the time?"

According to Weiss, the pavement was optimized to park the most vehicles possible on the property, with enough cars to fill the pavement. No exact numbers were given, although the site applicant indicated that the idea was to get cars fixed and sent out for rental off-site as quickly as possible.

The Commission heard another presentation from Jason Lopez of Keach Nordstrom Asso-

ciates for a Site Plan Application for a project at 58 Wentworth Ave and 3 Burton Drive.

"This is the site where they're proposing a 50,900 square foot facility for the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) northern New England drug lab and the national fingerprint database," said Lopez. "We have a fair amount of notes that need to be put on the plan."

Some of these included erosion control and possible wildlife, notably the green snake, that could be on the site. A fee of \$119,953 will also be paid into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund for wetland mitiga-

tion. Several pockets of wetland will be impacted by the project. Much of the impact will come from security fencing around the property.

"When are you putting the fencing up?" asked Commissioner, Deborah Lievens. "I'm just wondering about the animals."

She was concerned some animals, especially cottontail rabbits, might get fenced in despite efforts to catch all animals on the site. While there was no set time for when the fencing would go up, Lopez assured the Commission that there would be full-time workers on-site to keep an eye on things. The fence will have a three-inch

gap to allow small animals to enter and leave without compromising security.

"I like to see them consult with the DEA about moving the western fence line farther to the east, you could get out of a wetland by doing that and create a little more surviving habitat," suggested Alternate Member, Mike Speltz.

The project is still awaiting further approval from the town.

The Londonderry Conservation Commission is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers.

## I-93 Pursuit Ends with Arrest

On March 30, at 2:29 a.m., State Trooper Guilbeault of the Troop B Barracks observed a vehicle traveling at speeds exceeding 100 mph while failing to maintain its lane of travel on Interstate 93 in Londonderry. Trooper Guilbeault attempted to stop the vehicle, which was traveling north, but the driver continued at speeds over 100 mph and refused to stop. A pursuit was initiated, and the vehicle was identified as a gray 2020 Chevrolet Trax.

During the pursuit, the driver of the Trax accelerated to a speed of



Jonathen Petrie

108 mph and operated erratically. The vehicle continued north onto Interstate 293 in Manchester, where State Troopers assigned to the Troop D barracks were able to deploy stop sticks just north of exit 7. The stop sticks successfully deflated two tires and the vehicle stopped at mile marker 9.2 on the

northbound side of I-293 in Manchester.

The driver of the Trax was identified as Jonathen Petrie, 32, of Bedford, Mass.

Petrie was arrested by troopers and is facing charges of reckless conduct, disobeying an officer and resisting arrest, along with other violation-level offenses. He is scheduled to appear in Manchester District Court.

Anyone who may have additional information regarding this incident is asked to contact Trooper Guilbeault at (603) 223-4381 or alexander.r.guilbeault@dos.nh.gov.



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# Editorial

## Doing Our Share

Whether or not there are border guards or high fences they won't make any difference in stopping entry into the U.S., they have no impact and these invaders are amongst us every day.

Now is the time to stop them at the roots because they are working on new growth so their roots are weak, in the fall it is the opposite.

Conservation officials remind us that invasive plants are a problem in our towns, and they're a problem in our waterways as well. According to the state's invasive species coordinator, invasive plants impact endangered or threatened species, reduce diversity and wildlife habitat, impact water quality, damage property, and can lead to the starvation of birds and other wildlife.

Just to name a few; Japanese knotweed, bittersweet, purple loosestrife, multiflora rose, Russian olive, and burning bushes thrive locally and have a stranglehold on portions of our woodlands and roadsides. We don't have to leave our yards to encounter invasive plants we never put in the ground ourselves. The invasives are many and varied, and some, such as burning bush and loosestrife, are pretty. That attractiveness doesn't make up for the damage they cause.

Oh, let us not forget the invasive bugs like jumping worms and hammer worms that can destroy your yard in a heartbeat.

What invasives do is simple, they take over which then leads to crowding out native plants. Educating yourself is key.

It's a battle we might be losing. This problem can't be left to someone else to deal with, it will take a village because if

these plants or worms are near your yard or by the road, they'll be in your yard soon enough.

Meanwhile, if you think the water is safe from unwelcome visitors, think again. With boating season underway, state officials regularly issue warnings to boaters to pay attention to what they might be putting in the water. When boating at any lake check your boat before they enter the water to make sure you aren't bringing any unwelcome weeds to a lake currently free from these damaging invasives.

NH now demands a new way to look at littering boats, trailers, motors, fishing equipment, bait buckets, and diving gear since they can carry aquatic weeds, leaving an infested lake. With no natural predators, the plants quickly dominate native plants, fish, and aquatic life. That translates into impaired water quality and reduced shorefront property values.

Homeowners can help control these invaders by learning to identify them, joining in volunteer efforts to control them, and carefully disposing of pulled-up roots for plants, any soil for worms, and for water think about shoes, or tires during launching and of boats. Removing them is important, but you can always check with the state's Cooperative Extension Service for advice.

Once an invasive gets a foothold, it's too late. Prevention is key and is the duty of every boater. Back on land, you can contact your local conservation commission, garden group, or the state for advice on getting rid of invasive plants. This battle won't be won unless each of us does our share.



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**

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**Owner/Publisher – Debra Paul**

**Art Director – Chris Paul**

The Londonderry Times is published through Nutfield Publishing, LLC a privately owned company dedicated to keeping residents informed about local issues and news in the town of Londonderry. All articles submitted for placement in the Londonderry Times are welcome and subject to review/editing and/or acceptance by the publisher. Decisions of the publisher are final. Views contained within submitted and published articles do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher or Londonderry Times. No articles, photographs, or other materials in the Londonderry Times may be re-published, re-written or otherwise used without the express permission of the publisher.

# Letters

## Town Council, Londonderry is speaking...are you listening? Part 2

To the editor,

Let us discuss this year's Town vote.

Despite the residents of Londonderry expressing their desire to keep the Town Treasurer's position appointed, the Town Council, once again ignoring the concerns of its residents puts the question on the ballot again to change the Town Treasurer position from an elected to appointed position. An overwhelming majority of Londonderry's residents spoke and said no! (2,539 NO to 1,553 YES). The same with pickleball. The residents said no once before but the Town Council once again puts pickleball on the ballot and the residents again speak loud and clear with a resounding NO to pickleball (2,688 NO to 1,564 YES).

To address concerns and issues that the Town Council refuse to, various petitioned warrant articles were placed on this year's town ballot. Advisory article 17 to amend the town charter to provide that the planning boards members should be elected sound-ed with a YES (2,646 YES to 1,430 NO). Articles 18, 19 and 20, deemed advisory only, demand that the Town Council ensure that meetings are scheduled at reasonable times for its residents to

attend, that the public has an opportunity to speak at the beginning and at the end of each meeting, that meetings be recorded and these recordings be made available to the public. All of these petitioned warrant articles passed with an overwhelming majority with over 3,000+ residents voting in favor of each petitioned warrant articles with the Article 20 requiring the recording of all official town meetings claimed 3,204 yes votes, the highest yes vote of any warrant article on the ballot.

Londonderry Town Council, Londonderry is speaking...are you listening?

Article 21 Town Manager/Town Manager Plan, not surprising that even with all of the confusion surrounding this article, 46% of the residents expressed their displeasure with the Town Manager/Town Manager plan (with 517 under-votes (the most of any article). If you add in those undervotes as no votes, the scale tips in favor of a majority of residents opposed to the Town Manager/Town Manager plan.

The most telling is the recent March 2023 defeat of Councilor Jim Butler, a 12-year incumbent by Shawn Faber (2,035 Shawn Faber and Jim Butler 1,866). On repeated occasions, Butler yelled, made dis-

paraging remarks to and about residents all while refusing to apologize despite numerous requests for him to engage in civil dialogue with the residents he was elected to represent.

Within the last two years, two long time incumbents were ousted, the residents have spoken and expressed their displeasure with the workings and behavior of the Town Council, its members and its Manager. These residents were overlooked, so they have taken it upon themselves to have their voices heard at the ballot. Londonderry Town Council, Londonderry has spoken - are you listening? Because we are watching.

Jonathan Esposito  
Londonderry

## President Biden's, Accomplished Presidency

To the editor,

Very rarely have we had a President who has accomplished so much in just 4 years. All in the midst of the worst performing Congress (House), well in my lifetime. Nothing short of amazing, really. This GOP cult following freak show is now not only the laughing stock of the US, but of the entire world. Ex.: Hey, lets have an impeachment. Wait, don't you need to have a violation or crime? No, we'll

**continued on page 6**

Londonderry Times welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Londonderry Times at [londonderrytimes@nutpub.net](mailto:londonderrytimes@nutpub.net). All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Londonderry Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content, length, and frequency. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

## Nutfield Publishing Will Not Print a Paper on April 11.

Nutfield Publishing will not be printing newspapers on April 11. The publisher will be taking a one-week break. Newspaper publishing will resume on Thursday, April 18. We thank our readers for their understanding.



# Cub Scouts Compete During Annual Pinewood Derby



Local Cub Scouts of Pack 901 gathered recently for the annual Pinewood Derby. Over 50 members of the pack competed at Matthew Thornton Elementary School's gymnasium vying for the top three fastest creations. The honor of first place went to Max Richardson. Jack Richardson was awarded the second place trophy and Amber Lee received third place honors. The Best Paint Job went to Lincoln Aikawa; the Most Creative vehicle was Sebastian Herrick's car; and the Scout Spirit award went to Jack Richardson. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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# ZBA Approve Variances For Machine Parts Business

ALEX MALM  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Zoning Board of Adjustment heard three different variance requests for the property located at 347 Rockingham Road during the March 20 meeting.

One of the variance requests was to re-establish an existing non-conforming use of a small machine parts and service use, after discontinuance for one year.

Another variance request was to allow the rebuilding of a parts and service use after damage exceeding 75% of its replacement value.

The third variance request was to allow a

contractor yard, parts and service distribution operation in the R-III zoning district.

Representing the applicant, Vinnie Iacozzi, was former Town Manager, Kevin Smith.

He said the property was in front of the ZBA a few years ago.

"Notably a similar variance request was granted in 2018, with unanimous approval," Smith said.

It was explained by Smith that the previous owners didn't move forward with the repurposing of the existing structure and since they had a change in ownership and with the delay "We find ourselves in front of

you," Smith said.

Smith said by repairing it, they wouldn't be adding a new structure, but instead would just be improving what is currently on the property. He also noted that the closest abutter was across the street.

ZBA Vice Chair, Suzanne Brunelle, said she was concerned about the traffic on the road.

"My concern is that building sits very close to the road and I know we're relying on the prior nonconforming use, but it is a very busy street and that building is very close to the road," she said.

Iacozzi said they

would likely be putting in a green area in the front of the building and the parking lots would be set further back from the road, which would make it more safe.

"I think that would alleviate a lot of your concerns," he said, referring to comments made by Brunelle.

No one spoke against the application during the meeting for any of the variance requests.

Letters in support of the variance being granted were sent in by abutters.

One question asked of Zoning Administrator, Nick Codner, was whether or not he was concerned with any of the traffic issues in the area. He responded by saying he wasn't concerned.

"I don't foresee a problem myself," he said.

Iacozzi said the ten-

ant that would be there has a supplies parts business for the construction industry, and they have been in business for many years.

"They run a very neat operation," he said.

All three of the variance requests were approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment on a 3-1 vote, with Brunelle the one dissenting vote against each of the variances.

## Letters

Continued from page 4

just spend the next couple of years trying to find something. And don't worry, they are saying the same about themselves.

From off the chart GDP numbers, to lowest un-employment in history, to record Oil production, to a raging stock market. All the things the Right wing cult of the ignorantly brainwashed used to CHEER about. And best of all is the Conservative spending! Yes, currently running of the Debt/Deficit spending which was incurred under the previous regime. That's what happens when you have a President who actually cares about the country and the people in it.

One of the biggest things that turned the US around was President Bidens infrastructure deal. That would be the one the GOP menace all take credit for in their Districts (and all who voted NO on it).

Inflation: Yes, lowest

rate in the world and coming down still. As 1/2 the country knows this was largely due to covid and supply chain issues. I know some will point to lower under the last regime. However, one has to factor in the almost 2 years of nothing happening and the manufacturing sector losing jobs while corporate profits were up 8.5% overall! Probably due to the 3 trillion in tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy had something to do with it.

I would encourage people to look up all the accomplishments from lowering perscription drug prices, to canceling student debt and forcing China to open their books, if they wish to do business in the U.S. I understand some who only listen to right wing brainwashing media are outraged at 75K Fentanyl deaths while Biden is Presidnet. I guess we should not tell them there were 116K under the last regime?

Unfortunately, we still do not have a Bor-

der/Immigration deal. The one recently proposed was the most comprehensive plan in 50 years. This was a Bipartisan bill, given much consideration. Unfortunately, the Orange criminal who is still out to destroy America called the GOP leaders and told them NOT to vote for it. Strange, I thought they swore an oath to the Country vs. the Cult leader.

Please do yourself a favor and read up on the accomplishments (as it would fill this paper).

4 more years! As I would rather vote for someone with 81 years of experience than one with 91 Felony charges.

Steve Homsey  
Londonderry

### Require Tugboats For Transiting Ships

To the editor,

The recent crash of the ship Dali into the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore harbor, and the attendant loss of life,

continued on page 7



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## House Fire

**Continued from page 1** smoke inhalation but has since been released. There were no reported injuries to fire service personnel."

The incident was placed under control as of 12:21 p.m. and the investigation is ongoing by Londonderry Division Chief, Brian Johnson.

The report added, the apparatus on scene was: Londonderry Battalion 3, C3, Engine 1, Engine 2, Tanker 1, Rescue 1, Derry Car 1, Derry Ladder 3, Derry Engine 1, Derry Medic 1, and Auburn Tanker 1.

Station coverage was

delivered by: Londonderry Battalion 2, Salem Engine 2, Windham Engine 1, Litchfield Tanker 1.

Shortly after the fire, a statement was released by the Professional Fire Fighters of Londonderry Local 3160 on social media.

The statement read, "Due to a budget freeze enacted by the Town Manager we are operating in drop down mode, meaning our response was significantly diminished as only Engine 1 and the Battalion Chief were available."

In that post, the admin of the page explained that the union was told by the town

that "an increase in health insurance and unexpected legal fees" was the reason for the sudden budget freeze.

On Monday night, Town Manager, Mike Malaguti, addressed the statement with a press release, "Since I became Town Manager, support for our public safety departments has been my first priority, and this includes the Londonderry Fire Department. LFD is not operating in 'drop down mode.' LFD is currently budgeted for 12-member battalions, with minimum staffing at 11 during the spending freeze. Three of four battalions are currently staffed at 12,

although this can differ based on employee leaves. The fourth battalion will be staffed at 12 as soon as the budget allows, which I expect will occur later this fiscal year. Battalion 3 had 11 working members on March 30, 2024."

He added, "While over the past year, LFD has consistently hired overtime to hold staffing at 12 if one or more battalion members is on leave, this has not been the historic practice before 2023, and the current budget approved by the voters does not support this given the vacancies LFD had early in the fiscal year. In fact, staffing was sometimes allowed to drop below 11 in the past - to nine as recently as 2016 - to adjust to budgetary conditions."

On the response time, Malaguti said, "It is not surprising that Derry's response to this particular fire scene was faster than Londonderry's because Derry Station 3 is 1.1 miles away from this scene, whereas the closest Londonderry station is five miles away. Mutual aid is always called for a building fire in Londonderry, and mutual aid is the norm in the fire service."

On the budget freeze,

he said, "My staff and I became aware that LFD's overtime expenses were trending significantly over budget, and in January we learned the cost control measures adopted by LFD earlier in the fiscal year had not been effective to reverse this trend. At this time, LFD's \$723,000 overtime budget was almost fully expended just over halfway through the fiscal year, and LFD was running a projected deficit of approximately \$487,000, bringing the town's total projected surplus to dangerous levels. Because of the significant time remaining in the fiscal year, and in order to ensure sufficient funding for all of our departments, including police and DPW, with the Town Council's awareness, I instituted a budget freeze across all town departments. This is important because it is illegal to overspend the town's total approved budget by even one dollar."

Fire Chief, Bo Butler, also spoke on the situation during the Monday night Council meeting, saying he had been discussing the situation with the Town Manager and working through the issues.

He started by taking ownership of the problem, saying, "I will put the wellbeing of the fire fighters first, because once the members are protected and taken care of everything else will take care of itself. I prioritize civil protection and public safety over everything else."

He also said he and Malaguti have a disagreement on their views are on the drop down situation.

He also made a case on why the number 12 is the proper number to staff the department at, citing what the voters have approved since 2015. In 2015, the department went from 10 to 11 members and in 2018-19, it went to 12 through the use of a SAFER grant.

He identified the fact that his department is down six positions currently and because of that, staff has accrued overtime to accommodate the 12-man staff number.

He added that this year, voters agreed to raise the staffing number to 13 fire fighters.

Butler finished by saying that the department is very close to filling the six open spots on the roster and when that happens all the other problems will go away.

## Letters

**Continued from page 6** the destruction of the bridge, and the economic impact reminded me of mariner concerns for the lurking dangers to ships entering and leaving ports.

I served on 13 Navy ships that made many ports of call in the U.S. and foreign countries. As a conning officer and navigator I remember

being on total alert as we transited harbors through designated channels. We typically maintained enough speed at about five knots to provide headway for steering, and we always had two to four tugboats assisting our transits.

The Dali was transiting at around eight or nine knots, which is too fast, and it did not utilize any tugboats. Its speed

was excessive, but the absence of tugboats was the critical mistake. The tugs could have prevented the collision.

All port authorities should review their ship transit policies and procedures and require all major sea going vessels to utilize tugboats when entering and leaving ports.

Donald Moskowitz  
Londonderry

## Traffic

**continued from page 1** they want to.

Cerato stated that he would be willing to help in any way he can.

Also during the meeting, the Town Council was asked to approve an expenditure from the Maintenance Trust Fund.

Director of Public Works, Dave Wholley, explained that the fire panel at the Library was installed in 1997 when the Library was expanded.

"That puts it at about 27 years old," he said.

He explained that they have been having trouble with it having false alarms, and that

parts are becoming increasingly difficult to find and replace in a timely manner.

Wholley said they solicited bids and received three quotes with the lowest one being \$7,331.03.

The Town Council unanimously approved the request.



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# Class of 2024 Holds Annual Easter Hunt with Bunny



Members of the Londonderry High School Class of 2023 held the annual Easter Egg Hunt with roughly 10,000 eggs scattered across the infield of the high school track on Saturday morning. Before the hunt, that ended quite quickly, attendees could visit with the Easter Bunny, play games, have their face painted, and enjoy arts and crafts. More photos on next page.

*Photos by Chris Paul*



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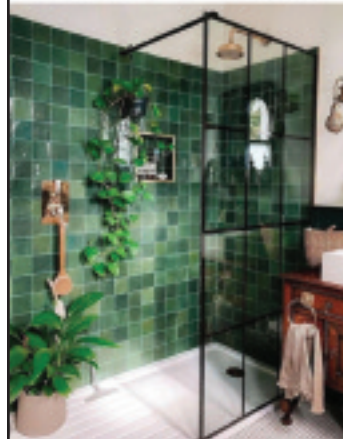
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# LONDONDERRY SPORTS

## Lancers Baseball Looking To Defend the DI State Title

CHRIS PAUL  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Baseball squad finished the 2023 spring season with an outstanding 22-1 record and a Division I championship title by finishing the playoffs with two dramatic wins in their final two games, one of which against an exceptionally strong Pinkerton Astros team.

The 4-3, walk-off, extra innings win against Pinkerton Academy on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at Delta Dental Stadium gave the Lancers their seventh state title.

The Lancers lost the strong starting pitchers, Connor Fennell, Mike Crowley, and a number of other key players to graduation last year, but are looking to stay just

as competitive with the 2024 roster.

This year's roster includes: Brady Fuller, Brady Gillis, Brett McKinnon, Carter Washington, Cole Metivier, Devin Boles, Drew Fuller, Jayden Hamilton, Jaylen Stott, Jet Jones, Joey Cafaro, Johan Pena, Jonathan Wilson, Owen Carey, Ryan Perry, Ryan Williams, Sam Iorio, Sully Daron, Trenton Powers, Ty Miles and Zach Green. The team is once again coached by Brent Demas, Chris Tutt, James Freda, and Sam Carey.

In the team's first two scrimmages of the new season they got off to very strong start. Against St. Thomas Aquinas Saints, they had a 14-4 victory, and against the Eagles of

Boston College High School, the Lancers won 5-1.

On Monday, March 25, against the Saints of St. Thomas, LHS got ahead early and never looked back.

They led 4-0 after two innings, had a 6-2 lead after four innings, and finished with the 10-run advantage at the end of six frames.

It only took eight hits for the team to score 14 runs. Carey had two hits, including a two-bagger, driving in four of the Lancers runs.

Londonderry's biggest inning was in the fifth, scoring six runs on three hits.

Wilson hit a triple as the designated hitter.

Two days later in Massachusetts, the LHS team battled the Eagles

to a 5-1 win on just four hits.

Londonderry took the lead early in this one also, getting three runs in the first two innings and leading 3-1 after three innings.

The Lancers scored two more times in the fifth to help solidify the win.

Londonderry had five runs on four hits and nine walks, they also struck out nine times on some tough pitching.

Boles was the winning pitcher, throwing three innings with four strikeouts, one walk, one hit and one run.

Gillis threw for three scoreless innings, striking out nine batters and walking just one with one hit given up.

The team's hits were delivered by Carey, Pena, McKinnon, and Miles. Miles had the only extra-base hit for LHS in the game, a double in



Jayden Hamilton

the top of the second, where he eventually scored.

The Lancers season will officially start at home on Wednesday, April 10, against Manchester Central-West, followed by a game on the seacoast, at Winnacunnet, on Thursday, April 11.

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# Lady Lancers Softball Squad Head Into New Season

CHRIS PAUL  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Softball team had their 2023 season end in the Quarterfinals of the Division I State Championship after a twelve-game winning streak and an impressive 15-5 overall record.

They are scheduled to begin their 2024 spring season on Monday, April

8, at home, against the Winnacunnet Warriors, starting at 5 p.m.

The Lady Lancers were the #5 seed in the 2023 State Championship and hope to improve on that this year.

This year's roster includes: Addie Browning, Addie Martinez, Allison Chambers, Abbey Austen, Vivian Belanger, Olivia Cutuli, Elisabeth

Kearney, Ginny Flaherty, Grace Nutter, Jen Raza, Riley Campo, Sadie Moore, Sara Daniels, Shannon Crowley, and Zoey Nelson.

Londonderry had two scrimmage games last week, to help warm up for the season start, winning two of three games against teams from south of the Massachusetts border.

The Lancers beat the

Peabody High School squad 1-0 in extra innings on Wednesday, March 27 and had a 2-0 win over Tewksbury on Saturday, March 30.

Also on Saturday, Londonderry suffered a late-inning loss to Tyngsborough. Falling 5-3 after an inside-the-park home run was hit by the opposition to score two in the fifth inning.

In the 1-0 win over



Olivia Cutuli threw seven hitless inning in two pre-season games last week.

Peabody, Campo hit a solo homerun to center field in the top of the eighth for the thrilling victory.

Londonderry had just four hits in the game, Campo had one, with the homer, Kearney had two doubles, and Nelson hit a single.

In the circle, Cutuli started the game, pitching four scoreless innings with eight strikeouts, zero walks and no hits. Kearney came on for the win, getting 11 strikeouts, with one walk and one hit. The two pitchers combined for an impressive 19-Ks.

In the second pre-season shutout, against Tewksbury, Kearney and Cutuli shared duties again in the circle with Kearney getting the win. Both pitched three innings and combined for 13-strikeouts and three walks. Kearney gave up the only hit.

Austen had two of

the four Lancers hits in the game, getting a homerun and a triple for one RBI. Nelson brought home the other run scoring Browning in on a fielder's choice in the fourth inning. Singles were hit by Chambers and Nutter in the win.

In the only pre-season loss, against Tyngsborough, Austen and Belanger combined pitching efforts, striking out 13 batters, walking just one and giving up six total hits.

Belanger suffered the loss, with four hits and four runs. Of the five Lancer hits, Crowley put up two impressive ones, getting a double in the second inning and a homerun to centerfield in the fourth inning to give her team a 3-1 lead.

The other three hits came off the bats of Austen, Nelson and Browning.



## Karate Kids

Londonderry Middle School seventh grader, Andrew Emery, and eighth grader, Charlie Melia, with Liam Webber of Matthew Thornton, recently returned from competing at two separate World Karate Tournaments in Malta. The Malta Open International Competition and the World Karate-Do Alliance World Championship took place from March 21 to the 23rd. Featuring top-level Karate with competitors from 34 countries, involving 50 clubs, with Londonderry having the only team representing the USA. USA placed 15th out of the 50 clubs. Charlie Melia captured one Gold and one Bronze; Andrew Emery got to the podium with one Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze; and Liam Webber took the podium with two Gold and two Bronze.

*Courtesy photo*

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# North School Team Wins Annual Battle of the Books



The three Londonderry Elementary Schools sent teams of fifth-graders to represent them at the annual Battle of the Books, and this year, the contingent from North School was able to topple Matthew Thornton's three-year-reign for the number one spot. Each school had about 14 books to read over the course of the year and the battle was set up like a spelling bee, asking teams to recall information from the books where points were given for correct answers and spelling the title completely and correctly. North and South were tied through two of the three rounds, but pulled ahead in the final round with 79-points. The other two teams had 71-points each, for a close finish. Members of the winning team, pictured top left, were: William McCurley, CJ Rouselle, Grace Richards, Emily Hamilton, and Ilanna Monaco.

*Photos by Chris Paul*

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**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](mailto:londonderrytimes@nutpub.net).

## Scrimshaw Showcase

The Scrimshaw art of local artist Tom Abruzese will be on display during April at the Leach Library. There will be 110 pieces of his work using sea shells and bones to be viewed throughout the library.

## Medicinal Herbs for Dogs & Cats (People, too)

Come to the Leach Library Meeting Room on Thursday, April 18, at 6 p.m., for a session on the

power of indigenous New England plants and herbs, for not only your own life but also for your furry friends. This event will be presented by local veterinarian Dr. David Smiley. Space is limited to 50 participants, so secure your spot now. Sign up for this event online at [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BACA92EA0F8CE9-488-11039-medicinal](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BACA92EA0F8CE9-488-11039-medicinal)

## Arts Café

The Londonderry Arts

Council will host the 2024 Arts Café, on April 13 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Londonderry Senior Center, located at 535 Mammoth Rd. This free family event showcases the talents of local artists and musicians in a coffee house atmosphere. Attendees can enjoy complimentary coffee provided by Coffeeberies, hot chocolate, and delicious breakfast pastries while browsing the artwork and engaging with the artists. The event also

features live acoustic music performances, offering a relaxing backdrop for art appreciation. There will also be a 50/50 raffle will be held with proceeds supporting local art events. The drawing is scheduled for 3 p.m., and participants do not need to be present to win.

## Legion Meeting

On April 8, American Legion Post 27 will host their Monthly General at 6 p.m., at 6 Sargent Rd., Londonderry. This meeting will hold the installation of the new Executive Board officers.

## Kids Fish Derby

The 34th Annual Derry Lions Kids Fish Derby will be held on May 4 at Hood Pond in Derry from 8 a.m. - noon. Registration is online at the Derry Rec Department website prior to the derby or at Hood

Pond the day of the event beginning at 7:30 a.m. Registration is Free for kids up to age 15. Donations to defray costs are accepted. 400 trout will be stocked in the pond, a dozen trophies will be awarded in various fish categories and participant ribbons are presented to the first 100 participants. Light refreshments, soda and water will be available for sale. There will be a 50/50 raffle for the adults and several fish related items will be handed out to kids with lucky tickets received at registration.

## Legion Music

On April 27, from 4 - 7 p.m., musician Joe MacDonald will be performing at American Legion Post 27, at 6 Sargent Rd., Londonderry.

## Pizza Wars

Taste all the yummiest

local pizza and vote for Best Cheese, Best Specialty at this years Pizza Wars on Thursday, April 11, from 5 - 7 p.m., at Pinkerton Senior Café (38 N. Main St., Derry) Tickets are \$20 per person, kids 10 and under free with paid adult. Proceeds to benefit the Sonshine Soup Kitchen. Good fun, great cause, plus raffles too!

## Sea Glass Creations Event

Are you interested in creating colorful sea glass art by using an assortment of shells, colorful pebbles, sand, and sea glass? If so, you can attend this event at The Canvas Road Show with the Londonderry Women's Club on April 17 at 6:15 p.m. All materials you will need are provided but you are welcome to bring your beach finds to add to your masterpiece! If

continued on page 15

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# Londonderry Police Log

Selections taken from the daily Londonderry Police Logs

## Monday - March 25

**10:38 a.m.** Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with services on Pleasant Drive.  
**2:42 p.m.** Services rendered for Suspicious Activity on Nashua Road at Reed's Ferry.  
**2:58 p.m.** Services rendered for Juvenile Offenses on Fieldstone Drive.  
**3:26 p.m.** Three officers respond to Juvenile Offenses on Abington Drive.  
**3:41 p.m.** Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Judy Drive.  
**3:46 p.m.** Welfare Check conducted on Seasons Lane.  
**6 p.m.** Restraining Order served on High Range Road.  
**6:02 p.m.** Services rendered by six officers for a Sudden Death on Noyes Road.  
**7:44 p.m.** Domestic Disturbance investigated at the Londonderry Police Department.

## Tuesday - March 26

**4:27 a.m.** Medical Emergency investigated at Manchester Boston Regional Airport  
**8:01 a.m.** Three officers respond to a Disturbance at Manchester Boston Regional Airport. Angele Marie Gower-Benoit, 34, of Baldwin, ME, charged with: Disorderly Conduct; and Theft By Unauthorized Taking over \$1,501.  
**8:03 a.m.** Three officers assist another Police Department with an investigation on High Range Road.  
**12:35 p.m.** Auto Theft investigated at Penske Truck Rental on Jack's Bridge Road.  
**12:36 p.m.** Five officers assist another Police Department with an investigation on Nashua Road.  
**1:41 p.m.** Services rendered for a Welfare Check on Chartwell Court.

**2:51 p.m.** Welfare Check conducted on Arrowhead Road.

**3:57 p.m.** Services rendered for Juvenile Offenses at Londonderry Leach Library.  
**7:46 p.m.** Search Warrant served by five officers on High Range Road.

## Wednesday - March 27

**12:16 p.m.** Abandoned 911 call investigated on Sanborn Road at Sanborn Crossing.  
**3:52 p.m.** Services rendered to Keep the Peace on Hidden Meadow.  
**4:55 p.m.** Medical Emergency reported at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.  
**5:50 p.m.** Assault investigated at the Macgregor Cut apartments on Stonehenge Road.  
**6:47 p.m.** Services rendered for a Civil Issue at the Macgregor Cut apartments on Stonehenge

Road.

## Thursday - March 28

**7:42 a.m.** Suicide Attempt/Threat transported to a hospital from Lance Avenue.  
**11:35 a.m.** Juvenile Offenses investigated on Bridle Path at the Wallace Farm Apartments.  
**1:31 p.m.** Services rendered for a Missing Person on Reed Street.  
**5:47 p.m.** Services Rendered for a Medical Emergency at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.  
**5:52 p.m.** Juvenile Offenses investigated on Nashua Road at Orchard View Drive.  
**7:25 p.m.** Warrant Served on Mill Road.

## Friday - March 29

**1:10 a.m.** Services rendered for a Motor Vehicle Check at Park & Ride - South, on Garden Lane.  
**1:48 a.m.** Motor Vehicle Check conducted at the RMZ Truck Stop on Rockingham Road.  
**3:10 a.m.** Three officers respond to a Disturbance at the Sleep Inn

on Perkins Road.

**7:31 a.m.** Five officers respond to Suspicious Activity at the Sleep Inn on Perkins Road.

**3 p.m.** Suspicious Activity investigated on Cortland Street.

**3:23 p.m.** Services rendered for a Domestic Disturbance on Copperfield Lane.

## Saturday - March 30

**1:16 a.m.** Services rendered for an Abandoned 911 call on King Phillip Drive.  
**5:23 a.m.** Criminal Threatening investigated at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.  
**10:05 a.m.** Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with transportation to a hospital on Tokanel Drive.  
**3:07 p.m.** Shooting Complaint investigated on Wiley Hill Road at Power Lines.  
**5:09 p.m.** Animal Control investigates a Dog Bite on Hovey Road.  
**5:52 p.m.** Motor Vehicle Stop leads to an arrest made by three officers

on Rockingham Road at Page Road. Luis Ariel Martinez, 29, of Lowell, MA, charged with: Reckless Operation; and Speeding (over 26-miles per hour over a limit of 55 or less).

## Sunday - March 31

**1:54 a.m.** Juvenile Offenses on Gordon Drive at Hardy Road.  
**2:19 a.m.** Juvenile Offenses on Bancroft Road.  
**4:58 a.m.** Disturbance investigated by three officers at the Sleep Inn on Perkins Road.  
**10:24 a.m.** Shooting Complaint investigated on Premier Drive.  
**11 a.m.** Welfare Check investigated at the Red Arrow Diner on Rockingham Road.  
**3:48 p.m.** Criminal Threatening investigated on Chase Road.  
**4:59 p.m.** Medical Emergency at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.  
**7:44 p.m.** Three officers render services for a Domestic Disturbance on Jewel Court.

## Around Town

Continued from page 13

interested, please email [info@londonderrywomensclub.org](mailto:info@londonderrywomensclub.org) for more information. RSVP deadline is April 14. This is an 18+ event.

### Prostate Cancer Support Group

The Prostate Cancer Support Group of NH announces its monthly meeting via Zoom for April 10, from 6 - 8 p.m. This meeting will feature two Zero-ProstateCancer.net webinar replays especially focused on the early identification and diagnosis of prostate cancer. "Early information for Newly Diagnosed with Early Prostate Cancer" shows actual microscopic slides of prostate cancer cells, the meaning and use of the "Gleason Score" and decisions to be made early on in the prostate cancer journey. The second webinar, "The Pathology of Prostate Cancer," is presented by a pathologist from Johns

Hopkins University who explains how a pathologist examines the tissue from biopsies and from surgically removed prostates and makes the critical determination of grading and staging of the actual tumor to develop the Gleason score. The second hour of the meeting will have group sharing of current life issues in peer-to-peer support and discussion. Send an email to [dbraiterman@outlook.com](mailto:dbraiterman@outlook.com) or look on the group's Facebook page for a link to this Zoom meeting. There is no cost to attend.

### Drop-In Tech Help

Curious about reserving library materials online from home? Want to learn how to access library databases and digital collections? Looking to get started with Libby and Hoopla? Need help navigating a new device? The Leach Library reference staff has you covered! We are here to provide one-on-one assistance tailored to your technology-related needs.

No appointment is necessary. Stop in any Thursday between 10 a.m. and noon. For more information or to make an appointment for another time, please call the library at (603) 432-1132.

### Republican Meeting

The Londonderry Republican Committee will be meeting on first Thursday, every month, at Londonderry Baptist Church, 368 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry, NH. For more information: [LondonderryGOP.org](http://LondonderryGOP.org), [facebook.com/LondonderryGOP](https://facebook.com/LondonderryGOP), or contact us at [lrc@londonderry-gop.org](mailto:lrc@londonderry-gop.org).

### LEEP

Londonderry Early Education Program is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year! The program is provided by the Londonderry School District for three-year old preschoolers and meets from 8:25 - 10:55 a.m., either 2 or 4 days per week and the program for pre-kindergarten students

meet from noon - 2:30 p.m., either 3 or 4 days per week. Tuition rates are: Preschool: \$150 per month for a 2 day per week program and \$200 a month for a 4 day per week program. Pre-kindergarten: \$180 per month for a 3 day per week program and \$200 a month for a 4 day per week program. Applications are available online on the Moose Hill School website. We also have our LEEP Handbook available online on the Moose Hill School website if you'd like additional information on the program. For more information, contact Denise Fosmire at 437-5855 ext. 7223 or email Denise Fosmire at [dfosmire@londonderry.org](mailto:dfosmire@londonderry.org) or Kim Speers at [kspeers@londonderry.org](mailto:kspeers@londonderry.org).

### Be Kind - Do Good

The Sonshine 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.

### Child Find

Londonderry School District Announces Free community child find program for all residents ages two 1/2 yrs (2.5) through five yrs., 11 months (5.11) of age who are suspected of have developmental concerns child find will be held at: Moose Hill School 150 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry.

### Free PFOA Water Test By NHDES

You can request a water sampling here: Southern NH PFOA Investigation Private Well-Testing Request Form Survey ([surveymonkey.com](https://surveymonkey.com)) Questions contact Amy Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator - MtBE Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: [Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov), Phone: 603.271.8801

### Women's Club

Looking to dive into

stories while connecting with your community? The Londonderry Women's Club invites you to join their book club, meeting monthly for engaging discussions. But that's not all! The club offers other social events catering to diverse interests. From white elephant bingo to cookie swaps, splatter painting, bake sales, and floral design, their activities promise fun and fulfillment. If you're curious about the book club or want to learn more about the Londonderry Women's Club and its initiatives, reach out at [info@londonderrywomensclub.org](mailto:info@londonderrywomensclub.org).

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