

Londonderry Times

December 12, 2024 ♦ Volume 26 – Issue 50

A FREE Weekly Publication



Long List

Josie Cooper had a rather extensive list to discuss with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday at the Town Common. Santa was running a bit late, but that didn't detour Josie from waiting to discuss the items on her Christmas list. See more on page 5. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Contract With Teachers Gets Approved by School Board

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

At the most recent School Board meeting, one of the agenda items was in regards to the tentative agreement between the District and the Londonderry Education Associ-

ation, which represents the teachers in the District.

School Board Chair Bob Slater said they started working on the contract in August. He said that he thinks that both parties did a good job of listening to each

other then going out and doing their own research.

Slater said one of the main things that they looked at during the negotiations was what other school districts have been doing, that

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Extension Proposed For Tax Incentive Program

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the most recent Town Council meeting, on Monday, Dec. 2, one of the agenda items discussed was on the town's Commercial Industrial Tax Exemption program.

The program allows developers to get an up to 50% tax break for a number of years on new buildings in town and it is due to expire early next year.

"This is just a discussion for the Council's consideration," Assistant Town Manager/Director of Economic Development Kellie Caron said

during the meeting.

Caron explained if they were to move forward with anything it would first have to go to a public hearing for the extension of the program. From there, they would have a second reading, where the Town Council would then vote on whether or not they want to extend the program or not.

"This program is set to expire Jan. 9, 2025," Caron said.

Caron explained during the meeting that discussion began about the possible ordinance in 2022, and then the same year, it was enacted.

However, she explained that it was reviewed once again in 2023, to look at potentially expanding the eligibility criteria for the program.

Caron explained that ultimately the program is intended to offer tax relief for industrial and commercial properties by offering exemptions to local taxes for new and improved property.

"It's intended to attract industrial and commercial businesses," Caron told the Town Council.

One issue raised during the public input portion of the meeting, was

continued on page 3

Psaledas Hopes for Smooth Sailing In His Interim Role

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After the recent resignation of Town Manager Mike Malaguti the Londonderry Town Council appointed a familiar face to try and keep things running smoothly during this transition period.

Art Psaledas was appointed as Acting Town Manager on Nov. 26 and he feels his biggest role will be to make sure the employees at Town Hall feel comfortable.

During an interview on Monday morning, Dec. 9, Psaledas revealed his plans moving

forward.

He said his biggest challenge will getting back into the work routine, saying, "Having been semi-retired for ten and a half years, it's getting back into the routine of adjusting my schedule so that I'm ready to go."

Going in, he wants the people at Town Hall to feel comfortable, explaining that because of the recent happenings there has been some uncertainty, saying, "We're in the people business. We have to take care of the people, we have to answer to the people. We're in the peo-

ple business."

He wants to make sure the workers at town hall are in a good place with their jobs.

The first thing he did when taking the job was to walk around Town Hall and asked workers what they needed.

He added that he thought the town, for

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Kindergarten Warrant Article Discussion Expected This Month

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry School Board and Budget Committee, was given a brief preview of potential warrant articles expected to be proposed, during the budget kickoff meeting.

One of those potential warrant articles is expected to be in regards to a proposal for full day kindergarten and for the District Office building.

"This is very different than last year's plan proposal, we went through

a lot of work this spring and summer to get to this place but we're bringing a much cheaper full-day kindergarten option, one that still gets us there, one that responds to lower enrollment, one that talks about compromise with the Town, one that says we listen to the voters that they wanted a better option and one that also solves the District Office lease," Londonderry Superintendent Dan Black said during the meeting.

He said they expect

to discuss in detail the proposal, during the Dec. 17 budget workshop meeting.

Another potential warrant article expected to be discussed in the coming weeks, is in regards to the new contracts for teachers and for Allied Health unions.

Black explained during the meeting, that the teachers had recently voted on and approved a tentative contract, which will be going in front of the School Board soon for its approval, and then to

the ballot for voters to decide on.

Another potential warrant article, like in the past, would be for the Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund.

According to Black the fund is used to fix larger issues within the district from year to year.

Another potential warrant article would be for technology infrastructure.

Black explained that it would be for ongoing needed updates, for staff, and student mobile

devices, and said that its a warrant article they usually have on the ballot.

During the meeting, Black also noted that another warrant article that they are looking at, like in the past, is for the Equipment Capital Reserve fund.

Black explained during the meeting, that it would be for small equipment requests, and that the funding for the warrant article would come from the Fund Balance, meaning if the warrant article was

to be approved, it would not have any tax impact.

The final potential warrant, as of now, that was discussed during the meeting, was in regards to the Capital Reserve Fund for Vehicles/Machinery.

It was explained during the meeting, by Black, that it would be for vehicle requests.

Black also noted that the warrant article would be funded from the Fund Balance, meaning it would not have a tax impact if it was approved.



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Teachers

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they usually lose teachers to.

"That was a big part of the discussion," Slater said, explaining that they found that other school districts nearby were paying \$7,000 or more than Londonderry for starting teachers.

"We've lost several candidates over the last couple of years due to salary," Slater said during the meeting.

It was noted during the meeting that they were able to do so by combining steps 1-4 together, instead of steps 1-3 which is cur-

rently the case, which will allow for increased starting pay for the first three years teachers work in the district.

It was also noted that the steps would stop after step 18.

For employees who work for 20 years or longer will receive an additional \$500 per year longevity bonus.

With the School Board approving the contract, it means voters will be set to vote on the warrant article ratifying the contract, in March.

As part of the three year contract, it is expected to cost an additional \$1,841,436 in year one, it will be an increase

of \$1,681,972 in year two, and it will be an increase of \$1,646,319 in year three of the contract.

School Board member Kevin Gray, who also served on the negotiation team for the District, said that he was happy with how both sides were professional during the negotiations.

Also during the meeting, the School District approved a number of personnel items during the consent portion of the agenda.

It included accepting the resignation of Richard Davidson, a custodian at Matthew Thornton Elementary School, and the resignation of Kelly Kashian, a support staff at Londonderry High School.


The next Londonderry School Board meeting is set to take place on Dec. 17 beginning at 7 p.m.

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Psaledas

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the most part, is running smoothly.

"We're not in a choppy sea right now, I think we're okay."

When asked about his role in the budget process, which is now about mid-way through, he said, "I got to get caught up real quickly. That's the challenge. The real positives are the people in finance." Adding that the people the town has in finance department are outstanding and their knowledge on the budget has been extremely helpful.

He said his main role as the Interim Town Manager will be to keep

the ship running smoothly. Psaledas said, "I think we have to keep it smooth, present the budget in a way people can understand and hopefully encourage the people to get out and vote for what they would like."

Psaledas also praised the work of Administrative Support Coordinator Kirsten Hildonen, comparing her to a Master Sergeant saying that her advice on the day-to-day operations of the town is extremely capable on organizing his day.

"I can't say enough about the people in Town Hall, they are great employees."

"We're in the people business, we're here to

serve the people."

Psaledas plans on being available to the residents in town, saying that he'll return calls within 24-hours. "People want to be heard, and that's their right to be heard."

According to Justin Campo, the town's Finance Director, Psaledas will be paid on a monthly basis in the amount of \$5,000 per month, plus any applicable taxes.

Malaguti is currently receiving \$3,000 per week with, any applicable taxes, until Jan. 31, 2025.

The first Public Hearing on the Town Budget will be held on Monday, Dec. 16, during the Town Council meeting that starts at 7 p.m.



Art Psaledas took the job of Interim Town Manager last week.

Photo by Chris Paul

Tax Program

Continued from page 1
about the lack of public hearings that have taken place for applications.

However, it was explained by Caron that they haven't received any applications so they haven't had to have public hearings.

"We have not received any formal applications for this program since its adoption," Caron said.

When asked about whether or not she thinks its important to keep, Caron said its a tool they have in their "tool box" when it comes to economic development.

She also noted that

while they haven't had any applications so far, she said that they have received inquiries about it, including from New Balance, which didn't take advantage of the program. She said that New Balance was able to take advantage of a similar program offered by the state called a PILT Program, which stands for Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

"I view it as a tool for economic development to attract businesses to our community," Caron said during the meeting.

Caron noted there are about 20 communities across the state that have the same program.

It was also noted by Caron during the meeting, that they are required to have a public hearing before each of the proposals are able to be approved or not as part of the program.

Town Councilor Ron Dunn said he wanted to hear from the public, so he was in favor of moving it forward to a public hearing, before deciding on whether or not they should extend the program.

Town Council Chair Chad Franz also said he was OK with moving it forward to the next step.

The first reading on the policy is set for Dec. 16, with the public hearing set for Jan. 6.

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Editorial

Taxing Choice For Residents

Facing a proposed increase for the 2025-26 budget, board members asked administrators to find ways to cut the spending.

The proposed town budget represents a large increase over the 2023-24 budget.

The primary drivers for the proposed budget remain health insurance, personnel costs, repair and maintenance costs, and equipment costs. These all increase as our town expands rapidly, a little too much and too fast for my taste.

With the budget season in full swing, we hoped that the boards have kept the taxpayers in mind in this difficult economy. In current times, it makes good financial sense to ask officials in your town to sharpen their pencils, and do everything possible to reduce spending and lower burdensome property taxes.

Many residents throughout the region are dealing with escalating property taxes, along with increased prices for food, electricity and water, which is causing financial stress. Of those affected, elderly homeowners are often the ones who suffer and have the most to lose. Living on fixed incomes, they struggle to pay their bills and have trouble covering the high costs of such items as prescription medications and home heating oil.

Seniors face the daunting task of keeping up with the rising cost of living while trying to stay in their homes. In some cases, they have lived in the same house for decades and really have nowhere else to go. Their children are grown and they are

often left alone to handle daily living expenses and pay for maintenance and repair costs on their aging properties. Even a small percentage increase in property taxes could be financially catastrophic and enough to force them out of their homes. While seniors who no longer have children attending school do benefit if property values remain stable or increase, they also suffer if property taxes rise precipitously.

Developing a budget isn't an easy job, as officials must balance reducing costs while trying to maintain services such as police and fire at a reasonable level. As they work on their spending plans, we encourage them to scrutinize the bottom line, while keeping in mind the most vulnerable in their community. After all, we want to be an inclusive community and avoid becoming an elitist community, one that prioritizes actively welcoming people. We want to focus on creating a community where everyone feels comfortable and can afford to belong here!

Although state and federal taxes usually garner the most attention, NH property owners pay more in local taxes when compared to many other states. Yet during the budget season, few typically attend school and town budget planning sessions.

We urge you to attend these meetings and exercise your right to question and hold officials accountable during the budget season; making them look at whether it is a true need or a want. After all, it's the taxpayer's money and we have a say in how it is spent - but only if we participate in

Letters

Local Business Owners

To the editor,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Londonderry 12U All-Star Baseball team - the Diamond Dawgs. This team is composed of 12 year old boys from Londonderry, NH who will represent the town in local and regional tournaments next summer. The culmination of years of All-Star baseball for many of these players is an exciting trip to Cooperstown, NY to play at Dreams Park!

Our team of 14 players will represent our community during Hall of Fame week in July, 2025 at the Cooperstown Dreams Park national summer tournament, in Cooperstown, NY. Teams from all across North America will be participating, giving our team the opportunity to face competition from across the country. The Cooperstown dream is about playing baseball at a high level, while providing a "once in a lifetime" experience for our young players. The players will live together in bunk houses and learn important life lessons such as teamwork, respect, sportsmanship, and pride in the community, to name a few.

We are writing to you to ask for your support. As you can imagine, a trip like this comes at a significant cost, so any contribution would be very much appreciated. If you would like to make a monetary contribution to our team, our Tax ID is 02-0352035. Your cash or gift contribution will be used to help cover the costs of living

expenses and tournament fees for these 14 boys. We need to raise over \$40,000.00 in order to take advantage of this great opportunity to represent our community. The players, their families, and all the coaches will be working extremely hard and to help realize our goal. Thank you for your consideration and we sincerely appreciate any support that can be provided.

Sincerely,
Tim Porter
Londonderry

The Danger of Groupthink

To the editor,

Groupthink, a psychological phenomenon that can occur within highly cohesive groups, where the desire for harmony or conformity within the group suppresses dissenting opinions, can lead to flawed decision-making. Here are three examples of major mistakes attributed to Groupthink.

The Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961) The Kennedy administration's failed attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro's government in Cuba was partly due to groupthink. Advisors avoided raising concerns about the plan's viability, fearing it would disrupt group cohesion.

The Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster (1986) NASA and contractor engineers suppressed concerns about the O-ring's reliability in cold weather due to pressure to maintain schedule consensus. This led to the shuttle's catastrophic failure.

And the Vietnam War Escalation where lead-

ers underestimated the complexity of the conflict and ignored dissenting voices, contributing to prolonged and costly military engagement.

I am concerned that in today's highly politicized world, groupthink will occur with significant consequences: we live in separate bubbles. We only hear our own thoughts in an echo chamber. Our belief in unity can blind us when making critical decisions. Dissenting voices are marginalized, reducing diverse perspectives and leading to extreme or impractical choices.

Groupthink can also lead to poor crisis management, in situations like climate change, public health emergencies, or international conflicts, leaders under groupthink may downplay risks or overestimate the feasibility of solutions without thorough debate.

Finally social media exacerbates groupthink as like-minded people reinforce each other's beliefs, regardless of factual accuracy.

We probably won't be able to change things nationally, but we can try to get along better and reduce tensions by mitigating the effects of groupthink in our personal and professional lives. We can encourage different opinions. We can seek out people and news sources with varied perspectives and expertise to counterbalance biases and assumptions. Our leaders can promote open, fact-based dialogue with the public and among their teams.

As we navigate challenges in our increasing-

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Santa Visits With the Young Residents on the Town Common



The Londonderry Rotary Club and staff from the town of Londonderry hosted the annual Christmas on the Common. Children were treated to holiday music, games, crafts, food and drink while waiting for Santa and Mrs. Claus to arrive by fire truck. The couple had traveled throughout the neighborhoods in town before their visit, where they handed out candy canes and sat with children.



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Senior Resources Committee Considers Warrant Article for Transportation

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Senior Resources Committee met on Nov. 19 to discuss transportation, an issue that has grown increasingly important with the ongoing budget season.

“Our charter is to make recommendations for new services, activities, and so on,” said Committee member John Wilson. “What I’d like to do tonight is to get the Committee’s agreement that we ask the Town Council to get a warrant article on the ballot to enable us to

add on a \$5 fee to registration.”

The hope was that such a fee would raise around \$200,000 for the town to fund better public transportation and pedestrian improvements, including services that would benefit many elderly residents in Londonderry. Such a use is allowed under state law. As a warrant article requires voter approval, there was debate over whether to aim for a \$5 fee increase or a lower amount to increase its chance of passing. Police Liaison Tim O’Donoghue sug-

gested being specific about where the money will go.

“You probably have a better chance of getting it passed if you can state what the fee is and where it’s going,” said O’Donoghue. “If you guys were to move forward as a committee with it, I think it would be a good idea for you guys to craft the warrant for a specific amount of money, and for a specific purpose.”

The money would also need to go into a specific fund. The Senior Resources Committee considered creat-

ing a designated reserve fund for their proposal.

“Once we have a reserve fund, that’s a town fund. There has to be some entity to manage that fund and the rest of it,” said Chair Jim Green. “Regarding our advice and consent role, we’re advising and consenting that this looks like a good opportunity for the town, getting some resources for seniors with transportation issues.”

Green did not seem to think the warrant article, even at \$5, would be difficult to pass.

One idea was to

expand the Curb-to-Curb, or CART service Londonderry has now, which does serve many senior residents. Wilson noted that Curb-to-Curb has its limitations.

“If you need a car, you call them up, tell them where you want to go, and they’ll show up, but you have to be able to get to the car. They won’t come in and help you from your door out,” he said. “CART is very good; we can expand them.”

Wilson also floated the idea of a shuttle system, with a circular route.

“Getting into this business would be a huge undertaking,” Wilson admitted.

The Committee unanimously voted to move forward with the Town Council to consider a warrant article on their \$5 registration fee and municipal transportation fund.

The Londonderry Senior Resources Committee is not scheduled to meet in December.

The committees next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the Sunnycrest Room.

Hickory Woods Community Help Homeless with Backpacks

JOHN J. GOGLIA
SUBMISSION

The senior community of Hickory Woods, located in Londonderry, is providing 200 knapsacks for men and 50 knapsacks for women to the Families in Transition/New Horizons in Manchester for distribution to the homeless and veterans in the local area.

The Hickory Woods community has been providing local homeless and veteran organizations with donations

to help those in need for the past 6 years.

This story begins in the 1990’s in Washington D.C. where Nora Morris of Davidsonville, MD, lived. Nora was passionate about helping others in need. On the commute to work she started giving bottles of water and granola bars to the homeless in the less desirable areas around Washington D.C. and Baltimore. After becoming a stay-at-home Mom, she carried items in her car such as \$5 McDonalds

gift cards and various toiletry items. Her personal efforts in supporting the homeless continued to grow and she eventually designed the knapsacks that became known as “Nora’s Knapsacks.” The knapsacks are filled with items that are needed by the homeless such as hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toiletry items, snacks, hand-warmers, ponchos, and mylar blankets.

Sadly, Nora passed away on April 18, 2018. When Nora’s battle with

pancreatic cancer became known to her fellow parishioners at Holy Family Catholic Church and she became too sick to continue her efforts the parish rallied around her cause and “Nora’s Knapsacks” became a permanent outreach program for the church. At Nora’s memorial service her husband asked that instead of donations parishioners fill a knapsack, and give it to a person in need in memory of Nora. The parish has continued the practice for the

past 7 years and now distributes around 500 knapsacks annually.

One of those at the funeral was Nora’s mother-in-law and a long-time resident of Hickory Woods in Londonderry. She and her husband and two local granddaughters started Nora’s Knapsacks in town in 2018. Initially, they arranged to distribute 40 knapsacks to a homeless camp under a bridge in Lawrence, MA. In 2019 with additional support, and donations from their pickleball friends in Litchfield and neighbors and friends in Hickory Woods they distributed about 100 knapsacks in Nashua and surrounding areas.

The participation of the Hickory Woods community has grown over the past few years. This year a committee of 12 Hickory Woods women formed to organize and distribute the knapsacks. The items in the knapsacks were provided by many residents. Several female residents knitted hats and scarves. The knapsacks were donated by the owner of Phoenix Screen Printing of Nashua, who is the son of Hickory Woods residents.

To learn more about “Nora’s Knapsacks” please visit www.holyfamilychurch.com or www.fitnh.org.

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Budget Workshop Features Discussion on Leach Library

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

At the most recent budget workshop meeting, the Town Council and Budget Committee reviewed a proposed warrant article for the Leach Library.

It was explained previously that the proposed warrant article would be for a new full-time children's librarian. Library Director Erin Matlin explained previously that they don't have any full-time help in the library, and that it would help with the number of patrons they have for the children's room.

One of the questions raised during the budget workshop was would they be able to have a part time position instead of a full-time position.

Matlin explained that

the backup plan could be to potentially have a part time position, but said it could be hard to find someone due to the job market.

"I think a lot of people are looking for (a) full-time (job) right now," Matlin said.

Matlin, during the meeting, explained that she was previously asked what they could do to strive if they received an additional \$100,000 over what they are proposing in the budget this year.

She said that she hasn't spoken to the Library Trustees yet, but said in conversations with the assistant library director, they discussed that they could potentially request two part time employees for 56 hours a week, without benefits.

Another thing they discussed was being

able to increase their mileage amount in the budget, which would help with deliveries for homebound patrons.

"We would also add to our management services account to potentially be able to set up a library cafe space," Matlin said.

She explained that patrons have asked before, and said they would have minimal food like coffee, and snacks. Matlin also said that they would likely add to the periodicals

line, and the maintenance line to help with repairs.

Budget Committee member Sarah Meier said she wasn't directing her comments at the library in particular, but said she was concerned with the directive to look at additional funding, outside of what was already being proposed in the operating budget or through warrant articles.

"Just throw out \$100,000 really come on," Meier said.

Budget Committee Vice Chair Joseph Gagnon said "Right now I just don't see the reason in just throwing \$100,000," saying he thinks they came up with a pro-

posed budget that was appropriate

"I'm bringing this to you because this was a request by a Budget Committee member," Matlin said.

OBITUARY

Vittorino "Victor" Dossi



Vittorino "Victor" Dossi, 77, of Londonderry, NH, passed away Tuesday Dec. 3, 2024, in Southern NH Medical Center, Nashua, NH. He was born on Nov. 11, 1947 in Adrara, Italy, a son of the late Pietro and Teresa (Moleri) Dossi. Victor was a well established businessman in the area for over 30 years, operating numerous different businesses. He enjoyed the simple pleasures in life. He had an affinity for his Fedora hat. Victor will be remembered as having a zest for life and a unique sense of humor. It was not always easy to break through his stern façade, but once you got to know him, you saw and understood his humor.

He is survived by his longtime companion and partner, Anna Maria Santos, one step-son, Mark DeLoria and his partner Dale Ford; three step-grandchildren, Matthew DeLoria and wife Katie and their three children, Lindsay DeLoria and her partner Paul O'Sullivan, and Stephanie Dumdey and husband Reece and their three children. Victor is also survived by many family members in Italy.

There are no calling hours. Following cremation, memorial services will be held privately by the family at a later date.

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North School Families Head to Holiday Breakfast



North School families attending the annual Santa Breakfast at North Elementary School on Saturday morning had plenty to keep them entertained. Games music, a gift basket raffle, the school chorus and visits with Santa were some of the many things to do at the annual event. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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Matthew Thornton Host Annual Winter Wonderland




Matthew Thornton Elementary School families attended the annual Winter Wonderland and Secret Shop on Saturday morning, Dec. 7, where the school and PTA served up loads of pancakes, provided games and activities and items to be bought and wrapped. The school chorus also entertained attendees.

Photos by Chris Paul





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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Year-End Statistics Reveal Some Amazing Achievements

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School football team ended its season last week, short of what they would have liked and individually there was plenty to be proud of after the team won eight of 12 contests and two of their three Division I playoff games.

Although the New Hampshire Division I All-State team roster has not been released yet, a number of Lancer players tallied some pretty big numbers this season.

Senior kicker, Blake Thompson, tacked on to his Londonderry High School's Point-After record of 86 successful kicks overall. This season, Thompson had 39 extra points in his 41 attempts. He also made

three of seven field goal attempts, with his longest being 38-yards.

The statistics leaders on total offense are: Senior quarterback Sam Ogden, who played in all 12 of the team's games and put up 1,839 total yards, with 956 yards from scrimmage, scoring 54-points.

Junior Adrian Cruz tallied 1,054 yards from scrimmage (YFS), with 56-points scored and 965-yards.

Senior Mason Paquette had 394-YFS and 36-points in the 12 games he was in.

Senior Carson Palma had 346-yards from scrimmage in the 11 games he played, with 18-points scored.

Senior Alex Villa played in 11-games, had 361-yards, 193-YFS and scored 32-points.



Adrian Cruz had 1,054 yards from scrimmage and scored 56-points this season .



Senior quarterback Sam Ogden, put up 1,839 total yards and scored 54-points.

Ogden also led in Passing Yards, he finished the season with 81 completed passes out of

139 attempts for 917-total yards in the air. His longest pass went for 49-yards and he had 44 first down passes completed. Villa was 8-13 in attempts with 170-yards thrown. His longest throw was for 36-yards.

Cruz was Londonderry's biggest threat running the ball this season. He ran the ball 152 times with 995-yards gained and just 30 lost yards.

His longest run of the season was for 65-yards and had nine touchdowns and ran for 50, first downs. Ogden ran the ball 135 times with 984 yards gained and 62 lost. His longest run was for 61-yards, had 51 first downs and he tallied nine running touchdowns. Palma had 43 carries with 326 total yards with all but five positive yards. He had

three TDs, 19 first downs an his longest run was for 28-yards.

Villa 223-yards in 41-attempts, had a 50-yard run and scored five TDs.

Paquette was the team's biggest target in receiving, catching 25 of 43 with 394 total yards and 144-yards after the catch. Paquette's longest catch was for 37-yards and he had six touchdowns. **continued on page 11**

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State Gives a Presentation on 10-Year Energy Plan

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With the cold season officially here, the Londonderry Utilities Committee focused on energy during its Dec. 3 meeting. Josh Elliott, Director of the Division of Policy and Programs from the NH Department of Energy, was at the meeting to give a presentation on the state's 10-year Energy Strategy.

"What this document is designed to do is to give a framework for policymakers about how they think about energy

policy. So, whether it's a proposal in front of them, a larger concept, something like that, it's to give them a lens and sort of context as to what exactly they looking at," he explained. "This document is designed to be fuel neutral and technology neutral. It's not picking winners or losers, not advocating one technology type over another."

He emphasized the top goal of the Strategy, which was to prioritize cost-effective energy policies across the state. A major concern was

around rate increases for gas and electricity, especially for lower-income residents, as was the introduction of renewable energy into the statewide electric grid.

"All of the sudden you have introduced all of these extra players into the system," said Elliot. "It's both good and bad. You have people who are going to be able to generate their own electricity at the homes or businesses, but there's complications with that when it comes into the existing grid."

Much of the issue was the many different, often unpredictable sources of power with solar and wind, especially offshore wind, the development of which has been a focus for many state regulators.

Other energy issues included security, maintenance, innovation, subsidies, climate change, infrastructure construction, cost-effectiveness, and regional policy with power purchase agreements.

"What segment of the market is under power purchase agreements?" asked Committee member Mike Speltz. "Is it a big number or a little number?"

Elliot could not give an exact number, although he stated that power purchase agreements were becoming more common. There were concerns over the impact of such agreements through market

distortions in the long term.

Committee members were particularly interested in three-phase power lines, which they saw as a critical piece of infrastructure for connecting large solar arrays to the local grid. Elliot noted that "other than maybe a residential array that's on the roof of your house," three-phase power was the only setup capable of dealing with a major influx of solar power.

"Does the state or your office try to influence anybody into expanding the availability of three-phase power?" asked Committee Chair Lynn Wiles.

Elliot explained that whoever creates the need for more power lines is usually expected to pay for them, giving the example of the Woodmont development, whose developers

paid to run three-phase lines through town to the site.

With a clear, growing focus on renewable energy, Speltz suggested adding a clearer policy regarding the social cost of carbon to the Strategy.

"I think leaving that out of the Strategy, or at least having it explain your approach to how you will use the social cost of carbon, or why you will ignore it, that should be in the Strategy," said Speltz.

Elected state officials determine what renewable energy goals appear in the document.

The Director encouraged anyone interested in the state energy policy to review the Energy Strategy on the state website.

The next meeting of the Utilities Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025.

Statistics

Continued from page 10

touchdown receptions. Senior Ethan Wheeler played in 10-games and had seven catches out of 14-attempts for 172-yards. His longest reception was for 49-yards and he scored three times on catches.

Senior Nathan Marshall was 8-12 in receptions with 177-yards gained and 49-yards after the catch. His longest catch was for 29-yards.

Cruz was perfect this year when it came to catching, going 17-17 with 98-yards with a long of 19-yards.

Senior Devin Boles

had nine catches in five games finishing with 73-yards. His longest catch was for 22-yards.

On defense, Palma led in tackles, getting 47, with 45 solos and two assists.

Villa finished with 32-tackles, four of them being solo sacks and 30 were solo tackles. He had eight tackles for losses totaling 25-yards.

Two LHS players recorded 25-sacks, senior Cameron Ayotte and Colby Walden had 24-solo sacks and one assist each. Colin Coulter and Cooper Freitas both accrued 24 tackles. Davis Magarian had 23-tackles, J-Veion Teeter and Damon Dawson

each had 21-tackles and Devin Boles got 20-tackles.

Overall the Lancers were able to outdistance themselves from their division opponents by a substantial margin in the regular season. Londonderry outscored opponents 250-97, averaging over 31-points per game.



TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice of open elected positions for the Londonderry School District Town Election to be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Filing period: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, through Friday, Jan. 31, 2025

- (1) School Board Member - 3 - Year Term
- (1) Moderator - 3 - Year Term
- (1) Treasurer - 3 - Year Term
- (1) School District Clerk - 3 - Year Term

To file, please contact Kerri Stanley, School District Clerk, at 603-860-9369 or at kstanley@londonderry.org. Kerri will be at the Londonderry School District Office, 6A Kitty Hawk Landing, Suite 101, Londonderry, NH 03053 on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 3:00-5:00 PM, for the purpose of final filing.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY LEGAL NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Londonderry Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, at 7 P.M. in Moose Hill Council Chambers to consider the following:

Public Hearing:

Case No. 12.18.2024 -1 Request for variance from LZO Section 7.6.D.5.a-b. to allow three (3) wall signs totaling 97 square feet, whereas one (1) wall sign not exceeding 100 square is permitted and one (1) freestanding sign and six (6) electric vehicle charging station signs, whereas one (1) freestanding sign not exceeding 100 square feet is permitted. The parcel is located at 36 Industrial Drive in the Gateway Business (GB) zoning district. Scannell Properties #714, LLC (Owner) and Harvey Signs, Inc (Applicant).

Case No. 12.18.2024-2 Request for variance from LZO Section 4.2.1.3.C.1 to allow replacement stairs to encroach into the 40-foot front setback. The parcel is located at 9 Grapeview Circle in the Agricultural-Residential (AR-1) zoning district. Tax Map 9 Lot 11-4, Shaun Martin (Owner & Applicant).

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Women's Club Gets Grant



The Londonderry Women's Club (LWC) announces that the group has received a generous \$500 grant from Eversource Energy to support our ongoing efforts to make a positive impact in the community.

For over 50 years, the LWC has been a cornerstone of service and philanthropy in town. Recent initiatives include: Awarding scholarships to local students pursuing higher education; hosting fundraisers to support local charities and non-profit organizations; and

partnering with community resources to promote education, wellness, and environmental sustainability

Pictured from left, Michelle DeStefano, LWC Vice President, Maitri Chittidi, Community Relations Specialist of Eversource Energy, and Emily Crane, LWC President.

For more info on the LWC: Email info@londonderrywomensclub.org; visit www.londonderrywomensclub.org; or follow the LWC on Facebook.



Toys & Tots

Moose Hill School students and staff are donating to the Toys for Tots in the Season of Giving. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Letters

Continued from page 5

In a complex world, we must remember that groupthink is lurking even and especially among our most effective groups. Learning

from the mistakes of others is the most painless form of learning.

Jim Green
Londonderry

N.H. Government

To the editor,
Our N.H. government, and town of Londonderry government have now become the protectors of democracy and stability.

One has only to note the craziness coming from the Trumpers. I know the N.H.

Democrats will uphold the tenets of America. Will the N.H. Republicans do so? Kristine Perez, Ron Dunn, Julius Soti, Sharon Carson, Tom Dolan, David Lundgren, Wayne MacDonald, Sherman Packard, and Doug Thomas, this is the question? We need you.

Can you be counted on?

Thank you for the Londonderry Times, we need you also to stand up.

Jane Cooper
Londonderry



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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.

LRC Meeting

The Londonderry Republican Committee will be meeting on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., at Londonderry Baptist Church, 368 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry, NH. Find more information at: Londonderry-GOP.org; facebook.com/LondonderryGOP; or contact us at lrc@londonderry-gop.org.

Annual Tree Burn

All are welcome on Friday Jan. 3 with a rain date

on the Jan. 4, to Estey's Country Store in Londonderry on RT 102 for their 4th Annual Tree Burn from 6 p.m. until . Friends, customers, bring a tree or just stop by for a bonfire, s'mores, Hot Chocolate, and good company.

Library Holiday Hours

Leach Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For the holidays, the library will close at 2:30 p.m. on Tues-

day, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 31. The library will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Holiday Gift Book Sale

Come to the Leach Library for the first Holiday Gift Book Sale. Items for sale include books, unopened DVDs, and puzzles. They are brand new or like-new items that can be used as gifts for friends and family. Items are priced as marked and may be paid by cash or check.

All proceeds support the Leach Library. The sale ends on Dec. 31, but supplies are limited, and they are going fast, so stop in today.

Children's Ornament Craft

Come to the Leach Library on Monday, Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m. to create a unique and colorful ornament. Using fillable plastic ornaments, children will be able to choose from a variety of items to fill and decorate an ornament.

Cookies and Cocoa

Teens and tweens are invited to celebrate sweater weather with a refreshing hot cocoa in the Leach Library Meeting Room on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 3 - 4 p.m. While enjoying their chocolatey treats, participants will be able to decorate gnome-inspired cookie creations. Space is limited and regis-

tration is required. This program is intended for participants aged 12-18. Registration is required.

Holiday Romance Book Discussion

Come tot the Leach Library on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. to discuss Josie Silver's novel "One Day in December". Refreshments will be served. Copies of the book are available at the library. This program is intended for adults 18 and up. Registration is required.

Children's Cookie Decorating

On Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 4:30 p.m. Children ages 5 and up are invited to the Leach Library to decorate a gingerbread person-shaped sugar cookie. Cookies and decorating supplies will be provided, and staff will be available to offer assistance. Registration is required.

Duplo Budding Builders

On Thursday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. Participants will create using larger Duplo blocks at the Leach Library. This program is designed for younger Lego enthusiasts ages 0-5. Registration is required.

Building Buddies

Come to the Leach Library on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m. for a Lego program designed for ages 6 and up. Each month, there will be a fun theme and time to create using the library's Legos. Registration is required.

Washi Painting for Teens

Come to the Leach Library on Monday, Dec. 23 for a fun washi tape painting afternoon. Teens and tweens will create their own painted master-

Continued on page 14

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

pieces using acrylic paint and washi tape. Space is limited and registration is required. This program is intended for participants aged 9-18. Registration begins on Monday, Dec. 16.

Baker Street Escapes Mini Escape Rooms

Mini escape room program once a month in Leach Library's Study Room A for teens. Find inspiration from the original consulting detective, Sherlock Holmes, and unlock the mystery. Each month will feature different themes and puzzles to solve. Join the next mystery on Friday, Dec. 20 from 3-4 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required. This program is intended for participants aged 12-18.

Adult Book Bingo

Adults are invited to play Bingo and win free books from the Leach Library book sale. This event will be held at the library on Friday, Dec. 27 at 10 a.m. Registration is required.

Laser Tag Tournament

Teens and tweens are invited to a special after-hours program on Friday, Dec. 27 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Leach Library. Participants aged 11-18 will participate in a friendly Laser Tag Tournament and capture the flag style experience in the Main Library. Space is limited and registration is required. This program is intended for participants aged 11-18. Registration begins on Friday, Dec. 20.

Saturday Children's Crafts

A variety of crafts will be available throughout the day on Saturday, Dec.

28 in the Leach Library Children's Room, while supplies last. Stop by to work on a craft or two or take one home for later. Registration is not required for this program.

Adult Take and Make Craft

New Year's ornament crafts for adults will be available at the Leach Library on Saturday, Dec. 28 while supplies last. No registration required.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Gather a team of up to 4 people to compete against other groups in a timed jigsaw puzzle competition at Leach Library on Monday, Dec. 30 at 10 a.m. Teams will have 90 minutes to put together their puzzle. Each team will be working on an identical 500-piece puzzle provided by the library. First

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections taken from the daily Londonderry Police Logs

Sunday, Dec. 1

9:01 a.m. Domestic Disturbance on Reed Street leads to an arrest made by four officers. Katelyn Civian, 40, of Londonderry, charged with: Simple Assault (Physical Contact or Bodily Injury); and Criminal Mischief.

11:56 a.m. Peace restored during a Domestic Disturbance on Teton Drive.

2:27 p.m. Welfare Check conducted by three officers on Seasons Lane.

6:53 p.m. Disturbance investigated at the N.H. Liquor Store on Rockingham Road.

6:54 p.m. Four officers investigate Juvenile Offenses on Kestree Drive.

Monday, Dec. 2

10:56 a.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated

at Bauchman's Towing on Enterprise Drive.

11:48 a.m. Juvenile Offenses on Mammoth Road results in subject taken to Family/Guardian/Other.

12:39 p.m. Five officers respond to a Bank Alarm on Michels Way. Result was False Report/Human Error.

3:42 p.m. A motor vehicle stop on Nashua Road, at Buttrick Road, leads to an arrest. Neil Howe, 45, of Litchfield, charged with Operating a vehicle without a Valid License - License Required.

6:41 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Catamount Road. David Matthew Levesque, 21, of Londonderry, charged with: Two counts of Conduct After an Accident; and two counts of Criminal Mischief.

11:11 p.m. Three offi-

cers respond to a Motor Vehicle Accident and make an arrest(s) on Winterwood Drive.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

5:44 a.m. A Medical Emergency at Manchester Boston Regional Airport results in transport to a hospital.

10:31 a.m. Three officers conduct a Motor Vehicle Check at Saint Jude's Church, on Mammoth Road, and provide transportation to a hospital.

11:57 a.m. Services rendered for Criminal Mischief at the LAFA Complex on Nelson Road.

4 p.m. Criminal Threatening reported at the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store on Nashua Road.

8:07 p.m. Peace restored by three officers after Juvenile Offenses report-

ed on Bayberry Lane.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

8:30 a.m. Services rendered for Drug Offenses at the 7-Eleven Food Mart on Nashua Road.

9:52 a.m. Services rendered to Keep the Peace on Noyes Road.

10:36 a.m. Domestic Disturbance reported on Currier Drive.

11:37 a.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Wilson Street, Manchester. Alexander Barden, 23, of Manchester, Arrested on a Warrant.

1:53 p.m. Three officers respond to Suspicious Activity on Stage Coach Circle, resulting in transport to a hospital.

4:06 p.m. Three officers respond to Button Drive for a Suicide Attempt/Threat. Taken/Referred to another agency.

Thursday, Dec. 5

6:29 a.m. Services rendered for a Missing Person reported at the Mac-

gregor Cut Apartments on Stonehenge Road.

9:47 a.m. Criminal Mischief investigated on High Range Road.

3:37 p.m. Auto Fire on Nashua Road, at Acropolis Avenue, results in vehicle being towed.

Friday, Nov. Dec. 6

1:20 p.m. Three officers respond to an Overdose on Mammoth Road and assist with transport to a hospital.

4:56 p.m. A motor vehicle stop on Rockingham Road, at Sanborn Road, leads to an arrest. Stephen Byrnes, 55, of Manchester, Arrested on a Warrant.

10:55 p.m. Peace restored after a complaint made at the Macgregor Cut Apartments on Stonehenge Road.

Saturday, Dec. 7

8:47 a.m. Medical Emergency at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport transported to a hospital.

12:19 p.m. Criminal Threatening investigated on Wiley Hill Road.

2:19 p.m. Sudden Death on Mammoth Road investigated by six officers.

6:03 p.m. Identity Theft investigated on Premier Drive.

7:30 p.m. Juvenile Offenses investigated on Oakridge Drive.

Sunday, Dec. 8

11:52 a.m. Five officers respond to a Suicide Attempt/Threat on High Range Road and assist with transport to a hospital.

1:10 p.m. Services rendered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud at Shaw's on Orchard View Drive.

9:29 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Side Drive, Concord. Heather Marie Pacetti, 41, of Concord, charged with: Driving After Revoke/Suspension; and Driving Without Giving Proof.

Around Town

Continued from page 14

place team members will be awarded a free book from the book sale and bragging rights. Registration is required and opens on Monday, Dec. 16. Participation is limited to 20 people, and individual registrants are welcome.

Mini Art Studio

Teens and tweens are invited to unleash their creative sides by creating miniature works of art on Monday, Dec. 30 at 3 p.m. in the Leach Library Meeting Room. Participants will have the opportunity to create tiny canvas pictures, decorate mini tile magnets, and fold little origami sculptures. This program is intended for participants aged 9-18. Registration begins on Friday, Dec. 20.

Noon Year's Eve Party

Celebrate the upcoming new year with a Noon Year's Eve Party for children at Leach Library on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 11:30 a.m. Play a game, have a snack, and create your

own party hat while we countdown the almost-New Year. At noon, we'll have a midnight-worthy celebration. Registration is required.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross is in dire need of blood donations, please come and make a blood donation. The Londonderry Rotary Club, in partnership with the Red Cross, will be hosting a blood drive, on Monday, Dec. 23, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Londonderry High School Cafeteria. To schedule your appointment for blood donation at this blood drive, please call 1-900-733-2767 or visit "redcrossblood.org" and enter the sponsor code: LONDONDERRY ROTARY.

Menorah Lighting

Join the Etz Hayim Synagogue for the 3rd night of Chanukah and Shabbat Services on Friday, Dec. 27, at 7:15 p.m. hey will light their outdoor giant electronic menorah. Please bring your own menorah and four candles. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-1/2 Hood Rd., Derry, NH.

Tinker Time

Join Leach Library staff on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. for Tinker Time. A variety of toys and games from the Library of Things will be provided for children to try. Registration is recommended and begins one week before each session. To register, visit the library's online event calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

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 provides one-on-one assistance tailored to technology-related needs. No appointment is necessary. Stop in any Thursday between 10 a.m. - noon.

Free Meals

Heaven's Kitchen Mobile Meals is providing FREE hot meals in Londonderry every Tuesday and Thursday. They'll be serving at the Leach Library parking lot now through March 28, 2025

from 3:45 - 4:15 p.m.

Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? Overeaters Anonymous, no dues, no fees, no weigh-ins no diets. Meetings are on Tuesday's from 9 - 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Church 190 Meetinghouse Rd., Bedford, use the rear doors for access to the meeting room in the church basement. Contact Pat At 603-289-8476 Or Jane At 603-674-6540 With Any Questions (Not Affiliated With Any Private Or Public Organization)

Be Kind - Do Good

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

Child Find

Londonderry School District Announces Free community child find pro-

gram 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.

LEEP

Londonderry Early Education Program is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year! If your child turned 3 by Sept. 1 and is a Londonderry resident, consider enrolling your child in the Londonderry Early Education Program (LEEP) preschool program. Programs for three-year old preschoolers meet from 8:25 - 10:55 a.m., either 2 or 4 days per week and our program for our prekindergarten students meet from

noon - 2:30 p.m., either 3 or 4 days per week. Tuition rates are: Preschool: \$160 per month for a 2 day per week program and \$210 a month for a 4 day per week program. Prekindergarten: \$190 per month for a 3 day per week program and \$210 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 Please email Denise Fosmire at dfosmire@londonderry.org or Kim Speers at kspeers@londonderry.org.

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