

Londonderry Times

January 22, 2026 ♦ Volume 28 – Issue 3

A FREE Weekly Publication



The owner of Mack's Apples looks to add Farm-to-Table dining at the Farm Stand, and got some mixed opinions at the Planning Board meeting last week. Photo by Chris Paul

Mack's Apples Dining Plan Receives Mixed Reactions

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A second conceptual discussion for a proposed farm to table restaurant at Mack's Apples drew some mixed reactions from the Londonderry Planning Board at its Jan. 14 meeting.

"The purpose for tonight is a conceptual discussion regarding a proposed farm to table restaurant at

Mack's Apples," explained Attorney Laura Gandia, who has been brought on to represent Mack's. "I wanted to use this time to review with the Board some of the agritourism statutes."

Gandia outlined several relevant state laws and referenced a letter of determination from Zoning Administrator Nick Codner, **continued on page 8**

Town Hall Addition Warrant Article Gets Recommended

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A major focus of the School Board's recent public hearing was a warrant article tied to the longdiscussed proposal to construct new School District office space as an addition to Town Hall. After years of temporary solutions and unsuccessful attempts to find a permanent home for the District Office, the Board voted unanimously to recommend the article to voters.

The District Office previously occupied space adjacent to Town

Hall but left the building several years ago due to overcrowding and concerns about the condition of the space. At that time, the district entered into a 10 year lease for its current location, beginning in FY19. The lease cost for FY26 is projected at \$220,000.

The expectation was that the 10year lease would give the district enough time to identify and fund a longterm solution. But as School Board Chair Bob Slater noted, that has not happened.

"Here we are seven and a half years later," Slater said previously,

pointing out that the district remains in the same predicament. Several proposals have appeared on past ballots - including a plan to utilize space at Moose Hill - but none have gained voter approval.

The new warrant article outlines a joint funding approach between the Town and the School District. Under the proposal, the Town would contribute \$2.5 million from its fund balance to support construction of the addition. The School District would repay that amount interestfree over 10 years through **continued on page 3**

Search for New Fire Chief Ends With James Young Hire

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

For the first time since late 2024, the Londonderry Fire Department will have a permanent fire chief.

"The Town of Londonderry is proud to announce the appointment of James R. Young Jr. as its new Fire Chief, effective February 17, 2026," a press release from the Town stated. "With more than twenty-seven years of distinguished service in the Massachusetts Fire Service, Chief Young brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and a deep commitment to public safety."

The vacancy was created after former Fire Chief Bo Butler publicly announced his resignation. Butler had been hired in 2023 following an internal search.

In August, Town Manager Shaun Mulholland told the Londonderry Times that this time the search would be fully open.

"There was no initial internal search," he wrote. "We are conducting an open process to allow everyone an equal opportunity to apply for the position. This includes internal and external candidates."

According to the press release, Young has

served as Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for the Town of Orange, Massachusetts, since 2015.

"His tenure is marked by notable achievements, including securing federal and state grants to modernize emergency apparatus and equipment, and implementing advancements that reduced **continued on page 2**

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School Board Recommends New Full-Day Kindergarten Plan

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry School Board is once again asking voters to approve full-day kindergarten, but this year's proposal looks very different from the plans that failed in the past two election cycles. During last week's budget hearing, Superintendent Dan Black made it clear that the district sees this as its final opportunity to bring full-day kindergarten to Londonderry in a way that is both educationally beneficial and financially appealing.

"This is really our last time to ask for it because we've asked for

it the prior two years," Black said. "We're on our third year in a row. If this is not attractive for Londonderry, I'm not sure what is."

A New Approach After Two Failed Attempts

Unlike last year's proposal, which centered on constructing a stand-alone kindergarten building at Moose Hill, the new plan would place kindergarten classrooms directly in the district's three elementary schools. Black said this approach is more cost-effective, avoids the need for a major construction bond, and better aligns kindergarten students with the schools they will attend in later grades.

Because the article no longer involves a bond, it requires only a simple majority to pass - not the two-thirds supermajority required last year.

A Rare Warrant Article That Reduces the Tax Rate

The most striking feature of the proposal is its financial impact: if approved, full-day kindergarten would reduce the tax rate by 12 cents.

Black explained that the savings come from two areas:

- Increased state revenue: The district expects to receive \$548,226 in additional state aid in the first year because New Hampshire provides more

funding for full-day kindergarten than for half-day programs.

- Reduced operating costs: The district anticipates \$208,000 in net savings, even after accounting for onetime implementation expenses.

"So that's actually a 12 cent savings on the tax impact," Black said, emphasizing that the numbers reflect both new revenue and reduced costs.

The Warrant Article Language

The article that will appear on the March ballot reads:

"Shall the Londonderry School District vote to implement Full Day Kindergarten in each of the three elementary school buildings beginning with the 2026-27 school year? If this article passes, the General Operating Budget will decrease by \$208,000 and the General Fund Revenue account will increase by \$548,226."

Enrollment Trends and Long-Term Planning

Black said the district's shift in strategy is partly driven by enrollment trends. Londonderry has seen three consecutive kindergarten classes with lower-than-expected numbers. He cited several contributing factors, including:

- Economic challenges for young families
- The difficulty of affording a home in town
- An aging population
- Lower birth rates statewide

However, Black noted that other districts that implemented full-day kindergarten have seen stronger enrollment stability. He said the district hopes that offering a full-day program will make Londonderry more attractive to young families and help reverse the downward trend.

Budget Committee Reaction

Budget Committee Chair Joseph Gagnon said the proposal strikes a balance between fiscal responsibility and educational benefit.

He described it as "a win for the residents who

were concerned about the additional cost for full-day kindergarten, as well as a win for young families who haven't gone through kindergarten yet."

Unanimous Support from the School Board

After discussion, the School Board voted 5-0 to recommend the warrant article, signaling strong support for the new approach.

The article will now go before voters in March, marking the third - and, according to Black, likely final - attempt to bring full-day kindergarten to Londonderry.

Fire Chief

Continued from page 1
ed the town's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, resulting in significant savings for residents and businesses," the release noted.

The Town also highlighted Young's strengths beyond technical expertise.

"Chief Young is recognized for his collaborative approach to labor-management relations, budget development, and strategic planning," the release continued. "He has authored successful grants funding millions of dollars in improvements, overseen an Advance Life Support transporting ambulance service for four communities, and drafted poli-

cies that keep departments responsive and resilient."

Officials added that Young's leadership style aligns with Londonderry's focus on community-centered service.

"Reflecting Londonderry's commitment to community-focused leadership, Chief Young is driven to find innovative, forward-thinking ways to constantly improve the quality of the service his department provides to its citizens," the statement read. Young is currently pursuing a Master's in Fire Administration and working toward professional accreditation as a Chief Fire Officer from the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Young and his family - including his wife and

four children - are looking forward to relocating to southern New Hampshire, according to the release.

In a Facebook post, the Professional Fire Fighters of Londonderry Local 3160, the union representing Londonderry firefighters, welcomed the news.

"After 14 months of uncertainty, we are proud to announce that Chief James R. Young Jr. will be joining our ranks this February," the union wrote. "We want to sincerely thank all of our members for their continued professionalism, dedication, and hard work throughout this transitional period. Your commitment to the department and to the community never wavered."

OBITUARY

Jane Ruiter



Jane Ruiter, 89, of Londonderry NH, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 surrounded by her loving family.

Jane was born on May 26, 1936 in Fitchburg MA, daughter of the late Clyde A. & Myrtle (Daulton) Cuthbertson. She was raised in Fitchburg MA, and later moved to Hudson NH where she graduated from Alvirne High School.

Married for 63 years, Jane was the beloved wife of the late Miles L. Ruiter, of Hudson NH.

She was predeceased by her son Miles L. Ruiter and his wife Alice Boucher, sister Sue (Cuthbertson) Guilbert, her brother David Cuthbertson and his wife Marlene (Shaw) Cuthbertson, her brother Ray Cuthbertson and brother Lee Cuthbertson.

Jane is survived by her daughter Joan (Ruiter) Clark and her husband Dan Clark of Londonderry, NH, her son Mark Ruiter of Nashua, NH, her son Keith Ruiter of Tampa, FL, her sister-in-law Pat Cuthbertson of Nashua, NH, sister-in-law Marlene Cuthbertson of Sanbornton, NH and brother-in-law Norman Guilbert of Nashua, NH, as well as many cherished grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Jane was employed by Sanders Associates for many years as well as Bourque Jewelers and Cardin Jewelers in Nashua, NH.

In her younger years she enjoyed playing the piano, going to Saturday night dances and going to her children's sports games.

In her later years she enjoyed sewing in her sewing room with her sister-in-law Pat and daughter Joan. She introduced Joan to this hobby and she will always be grateful for that.

A time of visitation was held on Tuesday, Jan., 20 with a Service of Remembrance & Prayer Service in the Dumont Sullivan Funeral Home. A private burial will take place at a later date.

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School Board Recommends New Capital Reserve Fund

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to recommend a warrant article that would establish a new Employee Benefits Capital Reserve Fund, a move officials say will help the district better manage unexpected spikes in benefit-related costs.

"This would be a brand new Capital Reserve Fund," Superintendent Dan Black told the public during the hearing, noting that the district has never had a dedicated account for this purpose.

The warrant article asks voters:

"Shall the school district establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1c called 'The Employee

Benefits Capital Reserve Fund' for the purpose of funding the cost of negotiated employee benefits including but not limited to: health insurance reimbursements, assessments, changes in coverage or policies chosen by employees, severance benefits and such other benefits as are from time to time negotiated or become contractual obligations of the district, and further to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be placed in this fund said sum to come from the June 30, 2026 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2026 and further to name the school board as agents to expend this fund?"

Because the initial \$10,000 contribution would come from the

district's yearend fund balance, the article carries no tax rate impact.

Black said the fund is being proposed in direct response to a major financial shock the district experienced earlier this year. Londonderry received an unexpected \$2 million assessment from SchoolCare, the nonprofit organization that provides health insurance benefits to many school districts across New Hampshire.

"It was a big deal - we

didn't know it was coming," Black said, explaining that the district had no dedicated reserve to absorb such a large, unanticipated cost.

SchoolCare assessments fluctuate based on claims experience and other actuarial factors. While the district has occasionally received refunds from SchoolCare in past years - money that has been used to stabilize the operating budget - officials said the lack of a designated

reserve fund leaves the district vulnerable when assessments swing in the opposite direction.

The proposed capital reserve fund would allow the district to set aside money during years when the budget closes with a surplus, creating a cushion for future benefit-related expenses. Black said this approach would help smooth out volatility and protect the operating budget from sudden, disruptive increases.

"It gives us a way to

plan ahead instead of reacting after the fact," he said.

Board members noted that the fund would only be filled using year end surplus, meaning taxpayers would not see an increase in their tax bills as a result of the article. The School Board would serve as agents to expend the fund, allowing them to respond quickly if another unexpected assessment or contractual obligation arises.

Town Hall

continued from page 1
annual lease payments of \$250,000.

In addition, the School District would contribute \$1.4 million from its Unassigned Fund Balance. That money was already set aside by the School Board during last year's fund balance allocation process in anticipation of a potential project.

Town Manager Shaun Mulholland has previously emphasized that the Town's unusually strong cash reserves make this project possible now in a way that may not be feasible in future years.

"These opportunities

don't come up every day," Mulholland said, calling the project a priority for the Town. He also noted that consolidating Town and School District offices in one building would improve efficiency and collaboration.

Town Finance Director Justin Campo explained that the lease agreement would shift to \$1 per year after the 10-year repayment period ends.

Slater said the proposal reflects a strong working relationship between Town and School officials.

"It's been very collaborative, and this is one of many ways to help our taxpayers moving forward," Slater said,

adding that the partnership could serve as a model for future joint projects.

The School Board voted 5-0 to recommend the warrant article, which reads:

"Shall the School District authorize the School Board to enter into a long-term build/lease agreement with the Town of Londonderry for the construction of School District office space on Town land adjacent to the Town offices on Mammoth Road, and to raise and appropriate \$3.9 million for this purpose with \$2.5 million to come from the Town (that amount to be

repaid by the District's lease payments of \$250,000 over 10 years) and \$1.4 million to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1? This article is a special warrant article per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until June 30, 2032, or when the project is completed, whichever is first. This article is contingent on the Town voting to approve the long-term build/lease agreement."

The article will appear on the March ballot, where voters will decide whether to move forward with the long-awaited project.

OBITUARY

Madeline Elaine Slocum (Thrasher)



Madeline Elaine Slocum (Thrasher), 75, of Londonderry, NH passed away peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 at All American Assisted Living in Londonderry after courageously battling Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. Madeline was born April 13, 1950 in Stoughton, MA and was a daughter of the late James and Patricia (Lund) Thrasher. She was raised in Easton, MA and had been a resident of Londonderry for 20+ years.

Madeline served the local community through her many years of employment with the Londonderry School district and University of New Hampshire, Manchester. She loved spending time at the beach, and at her homes she shared with her late husband in Punta Gorda, FL and Phippsburg, ME. She cherished spending time with her family, especially her precious granddaughter who she loved to color with, go on walks, and eat dessert together!

Madeline was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 46 years, Craig Slocum in 2024. She is survived by her son, Elijah Slocum (Jill Owen) of Derry, NH; her daughter, Mariah Beard (Sean) and her granddaughter, Piper Beard of Salem, MA; and her two brothers, James and Arthur Thrasher; as well as many treasured nieces and nephews and extended family.

After cremation, calling hours were held Friday, Jan. 16 in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium

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Editorial

Your Voice Matters - Here's When to Use It

For those of you who stayed home while your elected officials worked hard to craft the budgets... for those who chose not to speak during the recent public hearings... we trust you're comfortable with the decisions that were made.

If you're not, the good news is this: the Deliberative Sessions are coming.

This is your chance to shape what goes on the ballots - where residents can discuss, debate, and even amend most warrant articles before they appear on the March 10 ballot. These sessions are not symbolic. They are moments of influence, and they belong to the people who show up.

Mark Your Calendar

Both Londonderry Deliberative Sessions will be held at the LHS Café:

- School Deliberative: is on Friday, Feb. 6 starting at 7 p.m.
- Town Deliberative: is on Saturday, Feb. 7 starting at 9 a.m.

These dates are your chance to speak up - whether to suggest improvements, question spending, defend a program you value, or simply listen and learn.

Why do deliberative sessions matter? Because it's the only time residents can amend warrant articles that affect the budgets. Budgets can be adjusted up or down. Language can be clarified. Priorities can be reshaped. All of it happens in a room where every registered voter has equal standing.

There's no "force" involved - only participation. If turnout is low, a small group can steer the outcome. If

turnout is strong, the community's full range of voices is heard. The power rests entirely with those who attend. So don't miss it.

A chance to lead is also upon us. If you've ever felt like you could make a difference - frustrated or unheard about decisions made without your perspective - there's another path: run for office.

The filing period for elected positions starts on Wednesday, Jan. 21, and runs through Friday, Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. in Londonderry. Hudson's filing period closes at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 30.

Serving as an elected official on any board or committee requires time, patience, and a willingness to listen - but it also gives you a direct hand in shaping your town's future.

Those with personal agendas need not apply.

If you care deeply about your community, can find common ground, and are willing to put in the work, your town needs you.

Democracy only works when we show up. In towns like Londonderry and Hudson, where populations are small enough for individual voices to matter, the deliberative session is one of the purest expressions of local democracy.

Attend: Stay for the full session. Listen. Speak. Vote on amendments. Help shape the articles that will appear on the March 10 ballot.

Your local newspaper is always here to publish your letters and help your voice reach your neighbors.

Change begins with action.

Letters

Concerning HB675

To the editor,
The facts of why I voted against HB675, a spending cap on school budgets, at the State House on 01/02/26. This Bill that was grossly misleading and was not appropriate for Londonderry. RSA 32: 5-C already allows any school district or town to put forward a cap on spending. It can be done almost identically to how HB675 was attempting to mandate. Therefore, I felt that it was more appropriate to allow this to be done at the town level instead of another heavy hand by the state. I am a firm believer in local control and in March of 2025 I put forward a citizen's warrant article to place a cap on the Londonderry school district. At the deliberate session it was changed to study. The SAU did a phenomenal job with its study, and I was able to use that as part of my opposition to HB675. We all agree that property taxes are rising too fast and school budgets are the largest driver. The real question is how do we apply restraints without harming classrooms or stripping local control. HB675 would rely on state level formulas tied to inflation and enrollment and that approach adds complexity, and shifts accountability away from local decision makers and makes it harder for voters to understand who is responsible for their tax bill. There was an override component that would allow 3/5 of the voters to override the cap. The school would put together a budget

according to the cap and take it to the town for vote and if overridden would have to start again with a new more appropriate budget. HB675 was based on numbers only and not the needs of a specific town and one problematic component of this was that special education and its ever-changing dynamics are not taken into consideration. I have said before, any time you try to lower a school budget at deliberative all we hear about how the kids will lose. I believe that if the State really wants to help they will allow towns to split the operating budget from the SAU to be voted separately. The fastest rising costs show that the SAU administrative budgets rise disproportionately and have for many years. Now that is not the major part of the Budget but it is a start and if lowered by the voters would protect the children and the teachers and still meet the needs of individual towns. There are other concerns, the rising costs of transportation, and insurance. One of the biggest complaints I hear is that only a small percentage of voters (10 to 15%) vote at the March elections. Does that give us the right to just mandate at the State level? Actually having 400 vote for 1.4 million is a mere .03%. I stand by my decision not to vote for HB675 because I stand strong in the belief that one size does not fit all and I work for the town of Londonderry.

Kristine Perez
FB: Kristine Perez
for Town Council
Londonderry

Running For Budget

To the Editor,

My name is Kevin Koehler, and I am writing to announce my intention to run for the Londonderry Town Budget Committee.

I am a New Hampshire born and raised resident, and my family and I have proudly called Londonderry home for over five years. I am married, have children in our community, and like many families here, I am deeply invested in the long-term financial health, stability, and quality of life in our town.

Londonderry is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. As a taxpayer, homeowner, and parent, I believe it is important that town budgets are responsible, transparent, and focused on delivering real value to residents while protecting essential services. I am running for the Budget Committee to bring a practical, common-sense perspective that reflects the needs of families, seniors, and local businesses alike.

I believe strong communities are built on fiscal responsibility, thoughtful planning, and accountability. I am committed to listening to residents, asking tough questions, and working collaboratively to ensure Londonderry's finances are managed wisely both now and for future generations.

I respectfully ask for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Kevin Koehler
Londonderry

Londonderry Times

The Londonderry Times is a weekly publication. It is mailed to every home in Londonderry free of charge and is available at a number of drop-off locations throughout the town.

Nutfield Publishing, LLC

118 Hardy Rd., Londonderry, NH 03053

tel: 603-537-2760

send e-mails to: londonderrytimes@nutpub.net

www.nutpub.net

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.

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. 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.

Utilities Committee Continues Search for New Solar Farm Locations

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Utilities Committee met on Jan. 6 to continue discussions on several ongoing 2026 initiatives,

including the search for a suitable location for a public solar array. Committee member Mike Speltz and former Chair Lynn Wiles have been leading the effort.

“Lynn and I are hatching an effort to do a more rigorous GIS analysis of the entire town, looking for suitable solar locations,” Speltz said. “That’s going to be

driven by the GIS manager’s availability, because it involves specialized software.”

Committee member Anne Fenn asked whether the group was considering solar installations on townowned land only, or also on municipal buildings.

She was told that “all options” remain on the table, though recent discussions have focused on open, accessible land.

“I think we need to include parking lots, roofs, FAA sites - you name it,” Speltz said. “With schools, if I get my way, we’re not going to treat them as a separate entity. They have some pretty suitable land. But we need to make sure they’re involved and that this is something they want to do.”

One potential location is the open space surrounding the FAA bea-

con behind Town Hall.

“A great site for the solar array is the open space at the FAA beacon behind Town Hall,” said Secretary John Ferreira.

The Town has also explored the possibility of solar installations closer to the airport, and committee members have been in contact with Derry officials to learn more about that town’s landfill solar array.

“Derry’s shown enthusiasm and complete willingness to help us as we endeavor to do something similar,” Speltz said.

Deputy Director of Public Works James Danis reported that he has reached out to several contacts in an effort to speak with FAA officials about access to the beacon site.

“I will follow through until I have a hard answer, hopefully for our next meeting,” Danis said.

Committee member Paul Ramsey provided an update on Freedom Energy and the Community Aggregation Plan, which the committee hopes to implement in the first half of 2026.

“We’re going to wait until the NH Public Utilities Commission announces its default rate before we make the final decision,” Ramsey said. He noted that residents may opt out and that some households - such as those with home solar arrays - would not qualify due to net metering rules.

For the Aggregation Plan to move forward, community power rates must be lower than Eversource’s default rates. While many NH municipalities have already launched similar programs, Londonderry’s implementation has been delayed for more than a year.

Town is Seeking Volunteers

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

Recreation Commission

One (1) Three-Year Full Member Position (expires Dec. 2028)

One (1) Two-Year Full Member Position (expires Dec. 2027)

Heritage Commission

One (1) Three-Year Alternate Position (expires Dec. 2028)

Beautify Londonderry

One (1) Ad Hoc Full Member Position

One (1) Ad Hoc Alternate Member Position

Pettengill Road TIF

Advisory Board

One (1) Full Member Position (position open to any resident)

Old Home Day Board of Directors

One (1) Three-Year Director Position

One (1) Two-Year Director Position

Old Home Day General Volunteers

Day-of support, set-up/breakdown, info table help, organizers, parade, family activities and more.

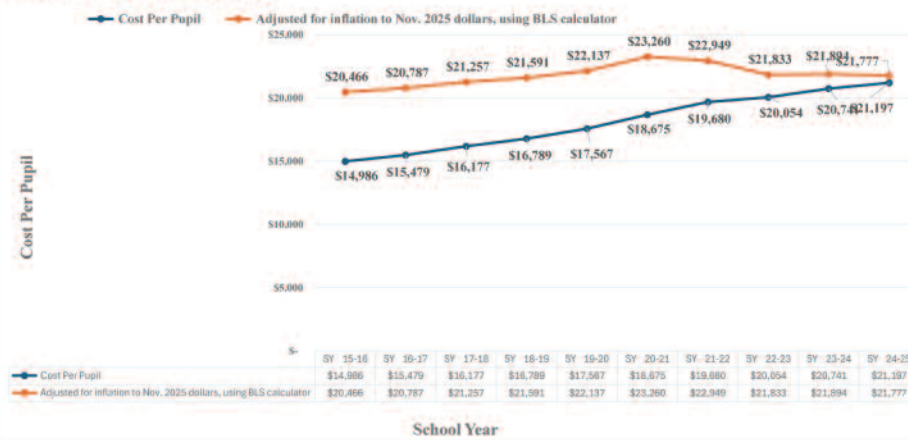
Applications must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 30, 2026. Interested applicants should be prepared to have a brief

interview with the Town Council at the Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 2 or Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Moose Hill Chambers at the Londonderry Town Hall.

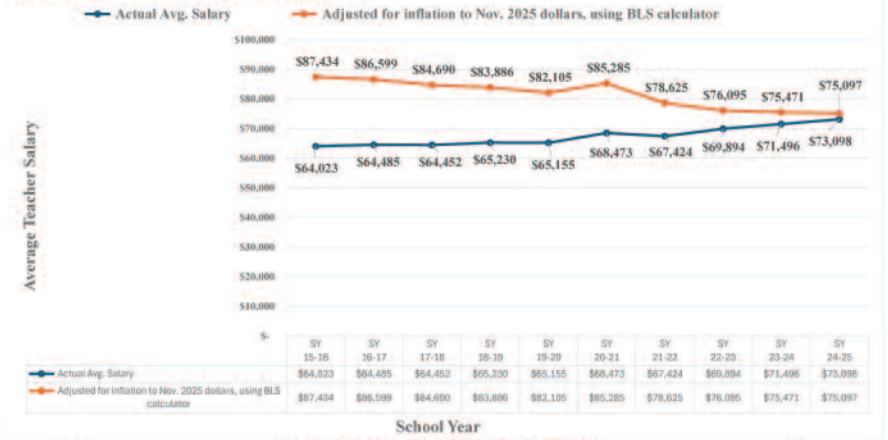
You must be a resident of Londonderry to apply any of these positions. Information regarding these boards can be found on the Town’s website. Talent bank forms can be found at londonderrynh.gov/TalentBank. Questions, contact Kirsten Hildonen at khildonen@londonderrynh.gov or at (603) 432-1100 x153.

Londonderry School District Mandatory Report to Voters on School Expenses

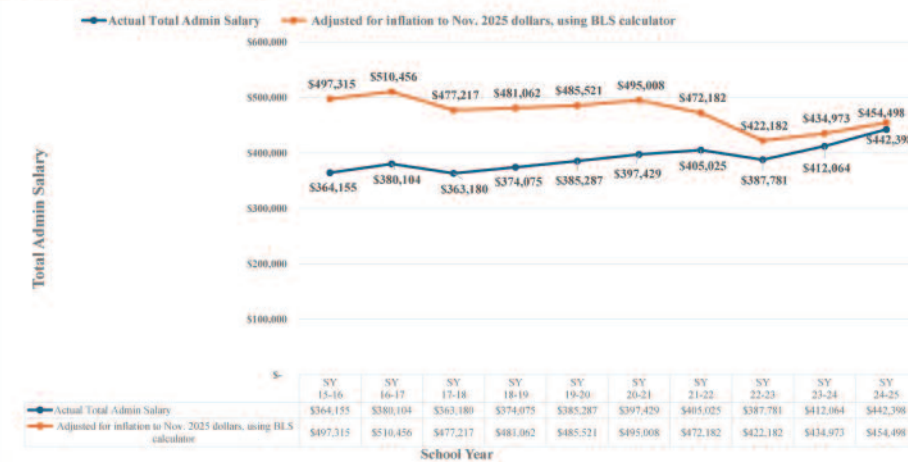
Cost Per Pupil: Last 10 Years



Teacher Average Salary: Last 10 Years



Sum of Administrator Salaries: Last 10 Years



Top Administrator Salaries for FY26	
Superintendent	\$171,392
Assistant Superintendent	\$157,535
Business Administrator	\$131,167



Conservation Commission Reviews Dickey Street Auto Sales Redevelopment

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Conservation Commission met on Jan. 13 to review a redevelopment proposal for Broadway Auto Sales on Dickey Street, a longstanding business seeking to expand its operations. Jason Hill of TFMoran and property owner Leon Lampes presented the plan, outlining both the regulatory steps already taken and the improvements proposed for the site.

"This is a redevelopment project. It's an existing business," Hill explained. "We're looking to expand his client base. Currently they are doing wholesale, and to operate as a retail loca-

tion, we've had to go before the Planning Board for a site plan. We've also been before the Zoning Board to get several variances. We're in the process of finishing those up."

Hill noted that about half of the required variances have already been approved, with the remaining ones expected to be addressed soon. The shift from wholesale to retail triggers additional zoning and site-plan requirements, prompting the need for updated layouts, buffers, and environmental considerations.

While the building itself will remain unchanged, the exterior will undergo several

upgrades intended to improve safety, appearance, and environmental performance.

"We're basically redeveloping the interior and leaving the building as is," Hill said. "Outside, we're focusing on perimeter work - a paved driveway for parking, an increased landscaping buffer, and closing off the driveway that currently accesses the road. There's going to be more greenspace, regrading, and other improvements."

Commission Chair Marge Badois asked about snow storage, a recurring concern for commercial sites located near wetlands.

Hill said snow would be stored along the edge

of the parking lot and described the amount as "negligible," noting that the small scale of the site makes it easier to avoid runoff impacts.

Commission Alternate Mike Speltz asked for clarification on the status of the variances and whether all environmental considerations had been addressed.

"Not every variance has been granted yet," Hill acknowledged, though he expressed confidence in eventual approval.

Lampes added, "Three of them we didn't have time to get to. The others got approved."

Hill emphasized that the project still requires Planning Board approval

before moving beyond the design stage.

"We'd like your support," he told the Commission. "A letter of support would help us get through the Planning Board. We're working on technical details with the Town Engineer and other town agents. I haven't filed the formal paperwork yet for the public hearing."

Speltz recommended that any letter of support include two conditions:

- Inspection of two existing sheds on the property for hazardous materials.

- Documentation of the rationale for any waivers requested as part of the site plan.

Most Commissioners agreed that these were reasonable and appropriate conditions.

Hill said the redevelopment would benefit both the business and the surrounding neighborhood.

"I think this will be a positive improvement," he said. "The landscaping will enhance curb appeal, and the drainage improvements will enhance water quality and reduce runoff. It will enable a practical use of the business."

The Commission did not take a formal vote but indicated general support for the project pending the recommended conditions.

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How Does Ivybrook Academy Support My Child's Individual Learning Needs?

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The **Montessori approach** encourages self-directed learning, allowing children to explore at their own pace while building independence and decision-making skills. The **Reggio Emilia philosophy** emphasizes child-led exploration and collaboration, giving children meaningful opportunities to express themselves and learn through relationships and shared experiences.

Our educators closely observe each child to design learning experiences that reflect their interests and developmental needs. This personalized approach supports academic growth while nurturing confidence, independence, and a strong sense of self.

How Will I Stay Informed About My Child's Progress?

Open and ongoing communication with families is a cornerstone of our program. We believe that when parents and educators work together, children thrive.

Families receive regular updates that highlight their child's accomplishments, areas of growth, and upcoming learning goals. Scheduled parent-teacher

conferences provide time for deeper conversations, reflection, and collaborative goal-setting. In addition, classroom portfolios document each child's work, offering meaningful insight into their learning journey over time.

This transparent communication keeps families informed, engaged, and connected to their child's daily experiences.

What Opportunities Exist for Family and Community Engagement?

At Ivybrook Academy, education is a partnership that extends beyond the classroom. We value strong relationships with families and the community, knowing they enrich children's learning experiences.

Families are invited to participate in school events such as celebrations, workshops, and classroom activities. Parents are also encouraged to share their talents, cultures, and experiences, adding depth and diversity to our learning environment. Community collaborations further provide real-world learning opportunities that foster curiosity and social awareness.

Together, these experiences create a strong sense of belonging and connection.

How Does Ivybrook Academy Support Social-Emotional Development?

Social-emotional growth is essential to a child's overall development and future success. At Ivybrook Academy, we intentionally create environments that support emotional awareness, empathy, and positive relationships.

Through storytelling, role-play, and guided conversations, children learn to identify and express their feelings. Educators support children as they navigate challenges and conflicts, helping them develop problem-solving skills and empathy. Collaborative activities and group projects further encourage teamwork, respect, and community.

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- **Three-Year-Old Program:** Encourages collaboration, critical thinking, and early literacy and numeracy skills.

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Senior Resources Committee Explores New Ways to Boost Voter Participation

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The January meeting of the Londonderry Senior Resources Committee focused on planning for the new year, with an emphasis on expanding outreach for events, awards, and activities overseen by both the Senior Resources Committee and the Londonderry Senior Center. Members also discussed how to help residents get to the polls for the upcoming town and school elections.

“Senior outreach, this is something many of us

have been talking about for years and years, getting to those people that really, they don't have TVs, they don't have social media, or often cell phones,” said Chair Sherry Farrell. “One thing that's focused on my mind now is thinking about elections. That's a place where we can really do a lot to try to help out seniors. They're aware for the most part of when the town election is on March 10.”

She added that transportation remains a major challenge for many older residents.

“They're aware of the election, but how do they get there?” asked Farrell. “Absentee ballots can assist, but again, that's another thing involving social media or going to a website.”

One option discussed was partnering with the Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART) to help residents with mobility issues, though several members noted that the service is not free for users.

Members agreed to contact Director of Senior Affairs Ilona Arndt before their next meet-

ing to develop a more comprehensive plan aimed at improving voter turnout.

“Obviously, people will want to be able to get in and out without having to wait in long lines,” said Vice-Chair Valerie Brauer, who suggested working with local transportation services during certain times of the day to move senior residents either from the senior center to the polls or from their homes to the polls.

“Our elections are so vital, and we just have to keep working towards them,” said Farrell. “I

don't know why we can only have maybe 3,000 at the annual elections, 2,800 if it's snowing, and maybe 3,500 or 4,000 if there's something really big on the ballot. We have to all work together to spread the word, and if one person tells one person and gets people to come out and speak with their feet, or with an absentee ballot, our election will reflect what people want.”

School Board Liaison Bob Slater echoed the importance of voting, especially during budget season.

“For seniors especially on fixed incomes, it's tough to see school budgets going up three to four million dollars every year,” said Slater. “As we know, the cost of everything is going up.”

He also encouraged residents and committee members to reach out to state representatives.

“We can't just do it ourselves,” said Slater. “Reach out to representatives, go to Concord, whatever you can on some hearings, tell them we need some help at the local level. We've got to take that next step.”

Senior Resources Committee Debates Wording of CART Funding Warrant Article

PAUL CONYERS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

At their first meeting of 2026, the Senior Resources Committee discussed the impact of a proposed warrant article designed to provide additional transportation funding for older town residents. If approved, the article would add \$5 to vehicle registration fees, with the revenue directed toward transportation programs such as the Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART).

“Just to give us an idea on it, I'm not sure it will be reviewed at

upcoming Town Council meetings again,” said Chair Sherry Farrell, who noted that some of the wording on the warrant article could still change. “CART is the primary focus here when they talk about the senior transportation aspect of it. That's the number one goal, to increase the funding to CART, so we can add Saturdays, and additional hours in the evening and all.”

The CART program provides low-cost rides to Londonderry residents who need assistance, particularly seniors.

While the Senior Re-

sources Committee supported the \$5 increase as a way to fund CART services without affecting the overall tax rate, Vice-Chair Valerie Brauer expressed concern that the current proposal lacked clarity.

“I thought I read something in the email that it was going to fund something like CART or for seniors, but this wording is vague,” said Brauer. “It's more than vague, there's a lot of things in here.”

Some of the language referenced public transportation, roadway improvements, and signal

upgrades - areas outside the Senior Resources Committee's purview. Farrell indicated that the broader wording was intended to satisfy the Town Council. There were also practical concerns about directing all anticipated revenue to a single program.

“With discussion right now and with the Budget Committee, they want to just have the money all for CART. The problem with that is that if you look at how many vehicles we have, and how much the cost for CART is, there's going to be a

big surplus, a huge surplus,” said Town Council Liaison Dan Bouchard. “What do you do with that surplus?”

Farrell added that the warrant article would allow the town to “look down the road” while improving transportation options for senior residents. State law also dictates how municipalities can restrict access to money generated through car registration fees. The Town Council will have discretion in distributing the funds.

“The way this is written, it would be the

Council, and I'm sure with the advice of the Town Manager,” stated Farrell. “In good faith, I feel good about it if some of it goes towards lights or walking paths.”

She encouraged the Senior Resources Committee to remain active at Town Council meetings to ensure CART receives adequate funding in the future. Bouchard added that such involvement would be especially important for funding tied to registration fees or CART services, which are not part of the annual budget or tax rate.



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Macks

continued from page 1

which classified the restaurant as “a form of agritourism” and therefore a “permitted agricultural use” in the AR-1 zoning district. The application described the restaurant as an extension of a farm that dates back to 1732.

“Today Mack’s Apples is a farm of approximately 400 acres, 100 of which are dedicated to apples,” said Gandia. “Everybody’s familiar with Mack’s Apples and the Mack family - it’s a staple of Londonderry. I think one of the primary things people know about Londonderry is Mack’s Apples, and we are looking at the Board to support Mack’s.”

The plan included two parking areas, and a revised 99 seat design that was about half the size of the original proposal. Despite the changes, several Planning Board members expressed concern about creating what they

viewed as a commercial business in a zone dedicated to agriculture.

“That’s a restaurant. I don’t know what the business hours are going to be, I don’t know if it’s going to be year round,” said Board member Jeff Penta. “If this thing is open at night, that’s on a state road where there’s no lights, and I see safety issues with coming out of that establishment.”

Penta also wanted more information on the state’s position regarding farm to table restaurants, noting that Concord had specifically defined agritourism in statute.

“This is an issue that is very important to the State of New Hampshire,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Shawn Jasper. “Agriculture, quite frankly - and I hate to say this - is to a very large degree a dying entity in the State of New Hampshire. We are losing farms on a regular basis.”

Jasper argued that many farms would struggle to survive without



Annual Wishes

Members of the Matthew Thornton Elementary School Student Council presented Olivia Stanas and Keagen Kelly of the Make-A-Wish New Hampshire organization a check for \$1,500 last week. This year the students raised \$500 over last year’s fundraising efforts.

Photo by Chris Paul

diversification. He reiterated that “serving a meal” falls under the state’s definition of agritourism, though some questioned whether serving a meal is the same as operating a restaurant.

“To serve a meal implies you are going to be sitting down and having a meal, and that happens all over the state at many of our farms with agritourism,” Jasper said. “This is not a new

concept; this is something that is happening all over the state and has not been questioned as part of agritourism.”

He acknowledged that compromise may be needed, including potential restrictions on hours of operation.

“Looking for clarification - and maybe town staff can help with this - as far as use determination, as far as the restaurant being agritourism and permitted, it was my understanding that the issue was decided,” said

Gandia. “If that’s not accurate, I would like to know.”

Board member Tony DeFrancesco noted that the agritourism issue was “pointed,” and that state law only requires municipalities to be “reasonable” when considering such uses.

“Does this meet the definition of agritourism? If our zoning person says it does, then it probably does,” said Alternate Jason Knights.

“What’s grown on the farm will come from the

farm and be used in the restaurant,” added Business Advisor Jason Mills.

Members agreed that the restaurant qualifies as agritourism and appeared generally open to the idea of Mack’s Apples expanding with a developed site plan, but felt that site plan regulations would need to be adhered to.

As the proposal remains conceptual, no formal vote was taken, and additional review is expected at a future meeting.

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Lancers Girls' Get Bitten by Bulldogs, Bounce Broncos

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Girls' basketball team had an extended holiday break, getting five consecutive wins in the month of December, but the team didn't get back to playing a Division I contender until Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Coming off their two-week absents, the Lady Lancers had the daunting task of facing the defending DI Champion Bedford Bulldogs. A team they had suffered their only two losses to in the 2024-25 season.

Last week's contest, at Bedford High School, turned out to be a low-scoring defensive struggle with Londonderry

having difficulty in getting to the hoop. They had single-digit scoring in the two opening quarters, seven in the first and nine in the second.

Despite those difficulties, Londonderry was still able to keep the game within reach by the half, in large part, by holding the Bulldogs to just two-points in the second quarter, to finish at 19-16.

Heading into the second half, they knew scoring 16-points wasn't going to get it done and they managed to hold Bedford to just six-points in the third, while scoring 11 of their own for a slight lead.

With the momentum shifting, Londonderry worked their way out of

the huge deficit they had dug themselves in the first period and gave Lancer fans renewed hope in LHS continuing their winning streak.

Unfortunately for those fans, Bedford was able to bust out of their funk and outscore the Lancers 18-11 in the final period for the 43-38 outcome.

Senior forward Sammie Sullivan commanded much of the Bedford players defensive attention, being swarmed throughout the game, but still managed to come away with 22-points, getting 13 baskets including four foul shots.

Seniors Brooke Wilson and Brooke Eacret

both finished with five points and sophomore Allie DiNovo finished with four.

Three nights later, at Alvirne High School, the Lancers overwhelmed the Broncos with an unbelievable 50-5 finish.

Londonderry held the less-experienced Alvirne squad to just two-points in the entire first half and let up just three in the second for the 45-point win.

Needless to say, Londonderry starters saw very little playing time in the second half, with none of them hitting the court in the fourth quarter.

The Lancers were scheduled to face Goffstown (2-5) on Tuesday and Concord Christian (9-0) this week.



Londonderry junior Gemma Murray makes her way around an Alvirne defender last week.



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Friday	9:00AM - 6:00PM	Friday	7:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00PM	Saturday	8:00AM - 3:00PM
Sunday	10:00AM - 3:00PM	Sunday	CLOSED



Lancers Boys' Basketball Fall to Panthers, Broncos

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Boys' Basketball team fell below .500 last week with a five-points loss to Nashua South in the Gate City and a 21-point defeat to the Alvirne Broncos at home.

The Lancers 64-69 loss to the Nashua South came on Tuesday, Jan. 13, giving the Purple Panthers their third victory of the season and putting Londonderry at even, at 4-4.

Sophomore forward Garrett Nahlik scored 15-points to lead LHS, scoring in each of the four quarters with one three-pointer, five for two and two free throws.



Casey Marsh got two-points as the buzzer ended the first half against Alvirne.

Senior guard Casey Marsh had 12-points in the game, including two, three-pointers.

Junior forward Nathan Mbuyi finished with 10-points on five baskets.

The Lancers expected much better results when the team returned home on Friday night to face the 4-2 Broncos, but being held to single-digit scoring in the first three quarters, dashed those expectations.

Londonderry was outscored 19-7 in the first and 17-9 in the second, giving them a significant mountain to climb in the latter half of the game.

The third quarter had Londonderry drop

further behind, scoring another nine-points and trailing 50-25 to begin the fourth.

The Lancers scored 15-points in the final period and fell 61-40.

Junior guard Ben Sakellar was the only Lancer to break ten points, scoring 11, with one three-pointer, three baskets for two and two foul shots.

Senior forward Evan Vago finished with seven and Davis Magarian and Casey Marsh both had five in the game.

Londonderry looks to turn things around this week when they face Goffstown, at 5-3 and Timberlane, a team that has yet to win this season.



Davis Magarian battles under the basket at home Friday night. Photos by Chris Paul

Lancers Distance Dominance Powers Boys to Victory at UNH

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Behind a dominant showing in the distance events and steady scoring in the field, the Londonderry High School Boys Indoor Track team captured first place at the NH Winter Track League Meet

held Sunday, Jan. 18, at the University of New Hampshire. The Boys tallied 62 points to top the 13-team field, while the Girls turned in a solid sixth-place performance with 28 points.

Boys: A Distance Triple Crown

The Lancers' victory

was built on the backs of their distance runners, who secured three individual wins on the day. Sophomore Patrick Ramsey set the tone in the 3,000 meter, taking first place with a time of 9:29.53.

The dominance continued in the 1,000 meter, where Londonderry secured a thrilling 1-2 finish. Senior Cash Robles (2:48.35) narrowly edged out teammate Joey Gainey (2:48.44) in a battle that showcased the depth of the Lancer

roster. Senior Carson Fitzgerald capped off the individual wins by claiming the 1,500 meter in 4:34.81. Fitzgerald led a massive scoring pack in that event, followed by Mason Hernandez (third), Gil Tapia (fifth), and Aaron Modini (sixth).

In the field, Devin VanAvery soared to a second-place finish in the High Jump, clearing 5'10", while Lucas Palma added a point in the Long Jump with a leap of 17'9". The relay team of

Gainey, Nate Twomey, Gavin MacLean, and Finn McDonald closed out the scoring with a 3rd-place finish in the 4x400 meter.

Girls: Youth and Veterans Lead the Way

The Lancer Girls showed great promise, fueled by strong performances from both seasoned seniors and emerging underclassmen. Senior Eres DeLorey was a standout in the field, taking second place in the High Jump with a mark of 4'10".

On the track, sophomore Anna Laufersweiler led the distance charge, taking second in the 3,000 meter (11:52.70), supported by classmate Stella Dutton in fifth. In the sprints, Lillian Barud secured fifth in the 55 meter dash (8.00), while freshman Lillian Paris showed her potential with a sixth-place finish in the 55 meter Hurdles.

The Girls 4x160 meter relay team-comprising seniors Jaylin Galeaz, DeLorey, junior

continued on page 11

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT & TOWN OF LONDONDERRY NOTICE OF DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS



The 2026 Deliberative Session of the Londonderry School District will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026, beginning at 7 p.m., in the Londonderry High School Café. All warrant articles shall be acted upon at that time for placement on the School District Official Ballot.



The 2026 Deliberative Session of the Londonderry Budgetary Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, beginning at 9 a.m., in the Londonderry High School Café. All warrant articles shall be acted upon at that time for placement on the Town Meeting Official Ballot.

The 2026 Londonderry Town/School Election will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Our Polling area opens at 6 a.m., and close at 8 p.m., in the Londonderry High School Gymnasium. Voting for all Town and School Offices and Warrant Articles will take place at this time.

Please Help Us to Spread the Word to Come Out and Vote on March 10th
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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 10, 2026.

Filing period: Wednesday, January 21, 2026, through Friday, January 30, 2026
(2) School Board Members - 3 - Year Term

To file, please contact Amy Finamore, School District Clerk, at afinamore@londonderry.org or call or text 603-339-6872. Amy will be at the District Office on Friday, January 30, 2026, from 3 - 5 p.m., for the purpose of final filing.

Lancers Wrestling Dominate the Mat in Neighboring Windham

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School wrestling team put on a clinic of technical skill and aggressive grappling Wednesday night, dismantling the Windham Jaguars with a commanding 69-12 victory.

The Lancers utilized a combination of early-round pins and veteran poise to overwhelm the Jaguars, winning 12 of

the 14 weight classes in a dual meet that showcased Londonderry's depth across the board.

The heart of the Lancer lineup proved too much for Windham to handle. At 126 lbs, Jackson Butcher ignited the Lancer bench with a lightning-fast pin of Genevieve Snell just 1:04 into the first period. Not to be outdone, Brendan Egan provided the highlight of the night at 157

lbs, needing only 29 seconds to put Cody Grenier's shoulders to the mat.

The middleweight classes saw a pair of grueling battles that ended in Lancer favor at the 4:56 mark. Both Anthony Cipolletta (106 lbs) and Gabriel Perez (132 lbs) showed exceptional conditioning, securing falls in the final seconds of their respective matches. Caleb Holden also joined the "Pin Parade" at 150 lbs, ending his match against Rocco Ponzini in the second period.

While the pins provided the excitement, Colin Egan (144 lbs) demonstrated tactical mastery in the night's most competitive bout.

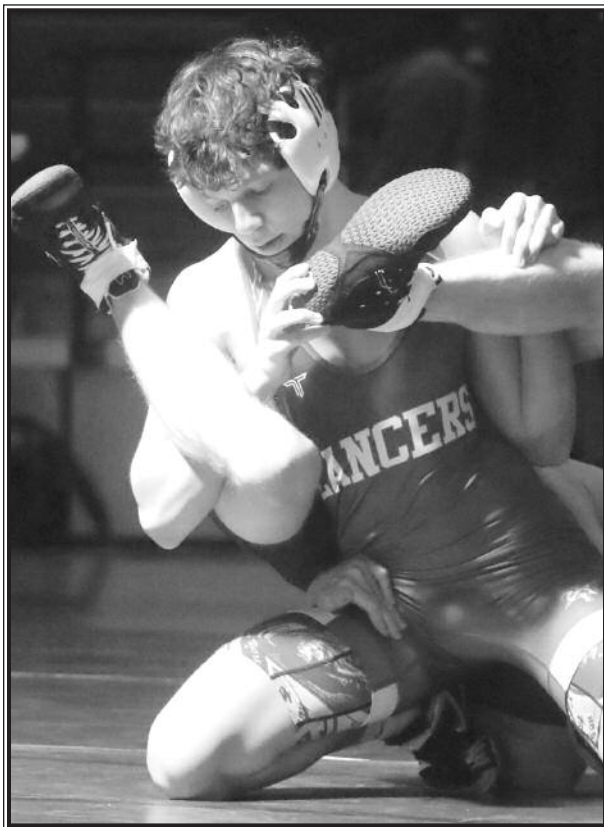
Facing off against Henry Palmer, Egan controlled the pace from the neutral position and worked the top effectively to earn an 11-5 decision, adding three crucial points to the team total.

Windham managed to find the win column twice, with Liam McGrail (138 lbs) and Antonino Ciresi (215 lbs) earning falls, but the Lancer onslaught was already well underway.

- Match Results:**
- 106 Anthony Cipolletta Fall at 4:56
 - 113 Lennox DeLeon Forfeit
 - 120 Cam Roussell Forfeit
 - 126 Jackson Butcher Fall at 1:04

- 132 Gabriel Perez Fall at 4:56
- 144 Colin Egan Decision win 11-5
- 150 Caleb Holden Fall at 3:25
- 157 Brendan Egan Fall at 0:29
- 285 Brandon Dyer Forfeit

The Lancers also benefited from five forfeits at 113, 120, 165, 175, 190, and 285 lbs, as Windham struggled to fill a complete card against the Londonderry squad.



Gabriel Perez (132 lbs)
Photo by Chris Paul

Track

continued from page 10
Barud, and freshman Paris-took fourth place with a time of 1:32.72. Senior Drewanne Sherman, fourth in the 600 meter, and junior Harper

LaBonte, sixth in the 1,500 meter, rounded out the Lancer scorers.

The Lancers look to carry this momentum into next week as the winter season builds toward the state champi-

onships. The distance squad's ability to "pack up" and score multiple runners in single events continues to be Londonderry's greatest tactical advantage.



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CITATION FOR PUBLICATION
Superior Court Rule 4(d)

Town of Londonderry, New Hampshire v Unknown Heirs of Daniel Gentile and The Unknown Persons who Claim Any Interest or Estate in and To the Subject Matter of This Action

Case Name: **Matter of This Action**
Case Number: **218-2025-CV-01381**

The above entitled action is now pending in this Court. The original pleading is on file and may be examined by interested parties. The Court has issued an Order for Service by Publication on defendant(s) Unknown Heirs of Daniel Gentile; Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest or Estate in and to the Subject Matter of this Action.

The Court ORDERS:

Town of Londonderry, New Hampshire shall give notice to Unknown Heirs of Daniel Gentile; Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest or Estate in and to the Subject Matter of this Action of this action by publishing a verified copy of this Citation for Publication once a week for three successive weeks in the Londonderry Times, a newspaper of general circulation. The last publication shall be on or before January 23, 2026

Also, **ON OR BEFORE**
30 days after the last publication Unknown Heirs of Daniel Gentile; Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest or Estate in and to the Subject Matter of this Action shall electronically file an Appearance and Answer or other responsive pleading with this Court. A copy of the Appearance and Answer or other responsive pleading must be sent electronically to the party/parties listed below.

February 13, 2026 Town of Londonderry, New Hampshire shall electronically file the Return of Publication with this Court. Failure to do so may result in this action being dismissed without further notice.

Notice to Unknown Heirs of Daniel Gentile; Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest or Estate in and to the Subject Matter of this Action: If you are working with an attorney, they will guide you on the next steps. If you are going to represent yourself in this action, go to the court's website: www.courts.state.nh.us, select the Electronic Services icon and then select the option for a self-represented party. Complete the registration/log in process then select "I am filing into an existing case". Enter the case number above and click Next. Follow the instructions to complete your filing.

Once you have responded to the Complaint, you can access documents electronically filed through our Case Access Portal by going to <https://odypa.nhescourt.us/portal> and following the instructions in the User Guide. In that process you will register, validate your email, request access and approval to view your case. After your information is validated by the court, you will be able to view case information and documents filed in your case.

If you do not comply with these requirements, you will be considered in default and the Court may issue orders that affect you without your input.

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BY ORDER OF THE COURT

December 09, 2025
(1261021)

Patrice D. Touma
Clerk of Court

Instructions for filing the Return of Publication:

If you are working with an attorney, they will guide you on the next steps. If you are going to represent yourself in this action, go to the court's website: www.courts.state.nh.us, select the Electronic Services icon and then select the option for a self-represented party.

1. Select "I am filing into an existing case". Enter 218-2025-CV-01381 and click Next.
2. When you find the case, click on the link follow the instructions on the screen. On the "What would you like to file?" screen, select "File Other Document" and choose "Return of Publication".
3. Scan the Return of Publication and newspaper clipping, then follow the instructions in the electronic filing program to upload the Return of Publication to complete your filing.

FAILURE TO FILE THESE DOCUMENTS MAY RESULT IN YOUR CASE BEING DISMISSED.

December 09, 2025
Date

Patrice D. Touma
Clerk of Court

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High School Robotics Team Kicks Off a New Season

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Members of the Londonderry High School robotics team kicked off a new season earlier this month.

Team 1058, the PVC Pirates, is a competitive FIRST Robotics team. FIRST is a non-profit pro-

gram bringing STEM directly to students through partnerships between industry-professional mentors, school programs, and corporate sponsors.

Each year, the PVC Pirates build a highly competitive robot from scratch to compete in the new year's game.

These 120-pound robots are intricately designed, machined, programmed, tested, and entered into competition entirely by LHS students.

The new challenge was revealed through a live broadcast on Jan. 10, giving students and mentors a first look at the 2026 game and the

engineering challenges they will face this season.

The 2026 season centers around an archaeology theme, requiring students to create robots that can toss balls into receptacles, cross obstacles, and climb a tower.

After the new challenge was revealed, students set to work building a practice field and brainstorming ideas for robot design.

The PVC Pirates will meet several times per week until the competition season officially begins in early March.

Residents can follow the team's progress on social media at



Members of the PVC Pirates look at items needed to compete in this year's challenge.

frcteam1058 on Instagram and Londonderry High School Robotics - FRC 1058 on Facebook

Granite Edvance Awards \$30,000 in Scholarships

Granite Edvance, a NH nonprofit that helps students plan and pay for college and career goals, has awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 21 two-year and trade-school students for the spring semester.

"We're honored to support our community college and trade-school students as they reach for their goals," said Granite Edvance President and CEO Christiana Thornton. "In conversations with our partners around the state, we've learned that these scholarships can make a difference in helping a student take that first step toward furthering their education or staying enrolled. The scholarships also show our students that we believe in them and their future contributions to their commu-

nities and our workforce."

Scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 were awarded to NH residents studying at two-year colleges and Title IV-eligible trade schools. Awardees come from a variety of ages and backgrounds and are pursuing a wide range of professional goals.

"Because of your generosity, I am able to continue my journey toward becoming a healthcare professional who leads with empathy, advocacy, and purpose," said Simran Dahal, who is pursuing an associate degree in nursing at Rivier University. "This support means more than financial assistance; it is a reminder that someone believes in my dream to give back and serve others with compassion.

Thank you for investing in my future and in the lives I hope to touch."

Scholarships for two-year and trade-school students are now being offered three times a year, to better support students in pursuing education goals throughout the year. The four-year scholarship program will continue to be offered on an annual basis.

The next scholarship window, for two-year and trade-school students enrolling in the summer term, opens on Monday, Jan. 19. The fall term scholarship for both two-year and four-year students will open in mid-February. For more information, visit graniteedvance.org/covers-the-cost/search-for-scholarships/granite-edvance-scholarships.

Aviation Museum to Hold New Volunteer Open House

Would you like to be part of a community of people who enjoy airplanes and aviation? Would you like to make a difference, help a good cause and have fun doing it?

Then you're invited to attend the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire's upcoming New Volunteer Open House, scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

At the museum's volunteer open house,

you'll meet current volunteers and learn about the many ways to help carry out its mission.

The Aviation Museum is specifically seeking volunteers to help carry out its educational programming to young people from pre-school through high school ages.

The museum hosts field trips, school visits, and operates a popular 'Flights of Discovery' summer camp. In addition,

the museum welcomes families with young children to participate in hands-on activities in its classroom. Volunteers can help all these programs.

The open house will take place at the museum, which is located at 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry.

If you plan to attend, please send an e-mail to Christine Bates at cbates@nhahs.org or call her at (603) 669-4820 ext. 404.

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AROUND TOWN

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

Candidate Meet + Greet

Any candidates who will be on the March 10 ballot will be at a "Candidate Meet + Greet" event! Hosted at the Leach Library on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. A great opportunity to meet voters in person and discuss your approach to Londonderry issues. If you would like to attend this event as a candidate, please contact me at patrick@elazem.com.

Public Engagement Events

Residents of Londonderry are encouraged to participate in a series of upcoming public engagement events designed to foster community input

and transparency in local governance. A public input session will be held on the revised Code of Ethics on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers. The Utilities Committee will host a Water Town Hall Session on Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the LHS Café. A public input session on the Town Strategic Plan will take place on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. - noon in the Moose Hill Council Chambers. The Town Council Candidates Forum, facilitated by Heather McGrail of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers. Questions

will be gathered in advance. All candidates for Town Council are encouraged to participate. Current Council members who are not running are welcome to attend, though their presence is not central to the event. These sessions offer residents a chance to ask questions, share feedback, and engage directly with town officials and candidates. All are welcome to attend.

Democrats Meeting

The next meeting of the Londonderry Democratic Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:15 p.m., in the Leach Library downstairs meeting room. Local Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents are

Town Council Candidates Forum on February 10

Please join us to hear from the candidates for Town Council on the issues that you think are the most important for Londonderry. On Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

To be held at the Moose Hill Council

Chambers Town Hall.

Questions must be submitted in advance online. Please submit your questions anonymously using this form. www.londonderrynh.gov/FormCenter/General-Forms-4/Town-Council-Candidates-Forum-111 All submitted questions

will be kept confidential, and candidates will not have access to questions prior to the forum.

All questions should be submitted by Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Facilitated by Heather McGrail of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

urged and welcome to attend. Please reach out to LondonderryNH Democrats via Facebook or email pskud@gmail.com for more details.

Tu B'shevat Seder

ETZ Hayim Synagogue will hold a Tu B'shevat Seder Family Program on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. Decorate pots and plant parsley for Passover and have a "fruit" seder. All are welcome to participate in this free event! Join to celebrate the Jewish New Year of the Trees.

Sunday Family Camp

ETZ Hayim Synagogue

Sunday Family Camp will be Sunday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. - Noon for ages 4-6. February's class will focus on Purim in preparation for the holiday in March. Children will learn about the Purim story (using an age-appropriate text) and how to celebrate this fun holiday. RSVP to sarahjohnplater@aol.com by Feb. 6 to ensure we have enough materials.

Patriots Watch

Each Sunday afternoon come to the American Legion Post 27 to watch the Patriots play and eat some great free food cooked by our members!

(Feel free to bring something to be cooked.)

Family Pizza Shabbat

ETZ Hayim Synagogue will hold Family Pizza Shabbat on Friday, Feb. 6, at 5:30 p.m. A free pizza dinner will be followed by an intergenerational service for everyone. There will be kids' activities while adults enjoy a sermon with Rabbi Jonathan Biatch. Bring a nosh for the potluck oneg. Come to share in the mitzvah of L'Dor V'Dor, transmitting Jewish heritage and values across generations. RSVP by Feb. 5 to office@etzhay.com

Continued on page 14

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY LEGAL NOTICE PLANNING BOARD

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 7 P.M. in Moose Hill Council Chambers to consider the following:

Public hearing for an application for formal review of a site plan for forty (40) residential units and a conditional use permit for 1,023 square feet of buffer impacts, including associated site improvements in the Commercial II (C-II) Zone. 225 Rockingham Road, Tax Map 15, Lot 126, Genex Construction Group, LLC (Owner/Applicant).

Public hearing on an application for formal review of a subdivision of a 9.624-acre lot into two (2) lots, consisting of one 1.226-acre lot and one 8.398-acre lot, with associated site improvements, in the Commercial 1 (C-I) District. The property is located at 222 Rockingham Road, Tax Map 15, Lot 150-1. Dark Horse Investments, LLC, (Owner/Applicant)

Public hearing for an application for formal review of a site plan for a 48-unit multi-family residential development and a conditional use permit for 2,808 square feet of wetland impacts and 2,357 square feet of buffer impacts, including associated site improvements in the Commercial 1 (C-I) District. 222 Rockingham Road, Tax Map 15, Lot 150-1, Dark Horse Investments, LLC (Owner/Applicant).

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections taken from the daily Londonderry Police Logs

Monday, Jan. 12

8:13 a.m. Services rendered for Juvenile Offenses on Mallard Lane.

1:06 a.m. Medical Emergency reported at the Londonderry Middle School.

3:23 p.m. School Check/Walk-Through Building at the Londonderry Middle School.

7:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop and Arrest made by three officers at Londonderry Lions Hall on Mammoth Road. Cody Creekmore, 36, of Londonderry, charged with: Driving Under the Influence - Impairment; and Open Container of Alcohol.

8:54 p.m. Animal Control Investigates a Dog Bite reported on South Road.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

8:04 a.m. Services rendered for a Structure Fire on Winding Pond Road.

2:34 a.m. Services rendered for Identity Theft on Adams Road.

3:08 a.m. Suspicious Activity on Victoria Drive investigated by three officers.

4:08 p.m. Juvenile Offenses at Londonderry High School.

6:24 p.m. Four officers

investigate Juvenile Offenses on Constitution Drive.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

12:09 a.m. Motor vehicle stop and arrest made by four officers on Hampton Drive. Alexander Thebeau, 20, of Londonderry, charged with: Operating Without a Valid License - License Required.

12:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Check at the Citizens Bank ATM on Nashua Road leads to a car chase ending in Manchester with an arrest made by seven officers. Heather Lewis, 34, of Merrimack, charged with: Loitering or Prowling; Resisting Arrest/Detention; Disobeying an Officer; Criminal Mischief; Drive After Revoke/Suspension; Reckless Conduct - Deadly Weapon; Traffic Control Device Violation; two counts of Traffic Control Device Violation; and four counts of Reckless Conduct.

8:03 a.m. Welfare Check conducted on Stonehenge Road.

10:22 a.m. Larceny/Fraud investigated at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

4:15 p.m. Services rendered to Keep the Peace at the Macgregor Cut Apartments on Stonehenge Road.

7:13 p.m. Services Rendered by three officers for a Disturbance on Vista Ridge Drive.

9:39 p.m. Juvenile Offenses investigated on Larch Lane.

Thursday, Jan. 15

12:03 a.m. Services rendered by Animal Control for a Dog Bite reported on Haywood Road.

1:23 a.m. A motor vehicle check conducted at the RMZ Truck Stop on Rockingham Road leads to an arrest by six officers. Sean Brunette, 35, of Rochester, arrested on a Warrant.

4:16 a.m. Welfare Check conducted by three officers at Continental Paving, on Continental Drive.

10:47 a.m. Peace restored by three officers after a Disturbance on Mallard Lane.

2:50 p.m. Disturbance investigated on Charleston Avenue.

4:50 p.m. Response of a Disabled Motor Vehicle leads to an arrest made by four officers at the RMZ Truck Stop on Rockingham Road. Zach-

ary Bohne, 37, of Manchester, charged with: Drive After Revoke/Suspension; and Suspension of Vehicle Registration.

7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Rockingham Road, at Red Arrow Diner, leads to an arrest made by four officers. Stefanos Kostakis, 49, of Londonderry, charged with: Driving Under the Influence - Impairment; and having an Open Container of Alcohol.

Friday, Jan. 16

12:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop on Rockingham Road, at Sanborn Road, leads to an arrest. James Szpyt, 50, of Billerica, MA, charged with: Driving After Revoke/Suspension.

1:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident on Litchfield Road, at Kelley Road, leads to an arrest made by four officers. Cameron Butchman, 30, of Londonderry, charged with: Bench Warrants; Suspension Of Vehicle Registration; and Driving After Revoke/Suspension.

10:04 a.m. Three-officers assist the Londonderry Fire Department with Transport to a Hospital from Pendleton Lane.

11:32 a.m. Warrant served and arrest made by five officers on Harvey Road. John Peloquin, 49,

of Londonderry, Arrested on a Warrant.

12:10 p.m. Welfare Check conducted on Shelley Drive.

12:37 p.m. Peace Restored after a Disturbance on Rockingham Road at Page Road.

2:23 p.m. Services rendered for Trespassing on Norwich Place.

2:40 p.m. Officers respond to Criminal Threatening reported at the Triangle Mobil Mart on Rockingham Road.

4:40 p.m. Services rendered for a Medical Emergency at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

7:14 p.m. Welfare Check conducted on Charleston Avenue.

7:24 p.m. Suspicious Activity leads to an arrest made by four officers at Manchester Boston Regional Airport. Scott Piltch, 34, of Boston, MA, charged with: Driving Under the Influence - Impairment; and Disorderly Conduct.

Saturday, Jan. 17

12:17 a.m. A motor vehicle stop on Nashua Road, at Winding Pond

Road, leads to an arrest. Melphie Kanyinda, 21, of Manchester, charged with: Drive After Revoke/Suspension; Failure to Dim Lights.

2:54 a.m. A Domestic Disturbance on Dresden Way leads to an arrest made by four officers. Dylan Menslage, 21, of Londonderry, charged with Domestic Violence - Simple Assault or Physical Contact.

1:19 p.m. Neighborhood Disputes investigated on Norwich Place.

2:28 p.m. Trespassing served on Norwich Place.

5:58 p.m. Services rendered for a Medical Emergency on Chase Road.

Sunday, Jan. 18

1:53 a.m. Disturbance investigated on Darrow Way.

9 a.m. Criminal Mischief investigated on Oakridge Drive.

4:54 p.m. Services rendered to Keep the Peace on High Range Road.

11:45 p.m. Services rendered by three officers for Juvenile Offenses on Laurel Hill Drive.

Around Town

Continued from page 13

im.org.

Voter Information

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet to correct the checklist and register voters at the Town Clerk's Office on Jan. 20, from 6 - 7 p.m. To register to vote, one must provide: Proof of Londonderry residency, Proof of citizenship (passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers), Proof of age, Photo ID. Applicants for registration who possess proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile must bring that proof when they come to register. Qualified applicants who do not possess

or cannot produce proof of domicile may register if they sign an affidavit attesting to their qualifications.

LEEP

Are you considering preschool for your child? 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 the program for prekindergarten students meet from noon - 2:30 p.m., either 3 or 4 days per week. Applications are available online on the Moose Hill School

website. LEEP Handbook will be 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.

Drop-In Tech Help

On Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon, the Leach Library reference staff is available to provide one-on-one assistance in technology-related needs. No appointment is necessary.

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OBITUARY

Patricia "Pat" J. Bannister



Patricia "Pat" J. Bannister, 80, of Londonderry, NH, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026 in the Elliot Hospital, Manchester, NH with her family by her side. She was born on July 9, 1945 in Arlington, MA, a daughter of the late Peter and Constance (Cagiano) Schultz, and had been a resident of Londonderry for over 50 years, formerly living in MA.

She is survived by three sons, Mark Bannister of Londonderry, Cory Bannister of Derry, and William Bannister of MA; one daughter, Faith Higgins Bannister of Derry; many loving grandchildren; and her brother, Greg Schultz of CA. She was predeceased by her husband, George Bannister in 2022, son, George Bannister in 2021 and her brother, Pete Schultz.

Patricia was an active member of her community throughout her adult life, having been a faithful member of Saint Jude's Parish in Londonderry for many years. There, she was involved in the Women's Guild and Quilter's group, communities she held dear to her. Patricia was a talented quilter and cook, and her family will cherish the beautiful quilts and delicious recipes she has left for them. Patricia was always quick to lend a helping hand, make a meal, or support those around her in whatever way they needed. She will be remembered by those close to her as a generous, loving woman who always sought to care for others.

A calling hour was held on Monday, Jan. 19, in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium. A funeral service followed in the funeral home. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m., in the chapel of the NH State Veterans Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Hwy., Boscawen, NH. To send a condolence please visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com.

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