

# Nutfield News

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## Town Council Looks to Ask Voters if Derry Should Be a City

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Town Council is pushing forward the first steps towards seeing whether or not Derry residents want to have their town recognized as a city.

In response to concerns over a rather large increase to the 2017 tax rate, which grew to \$28.26, Council Chair Joshua Bourdon made the suggestion that Derry be recognized as a city in order to address these issues. More specifically, such a change would give the town control over the school board and force them to work within the voter approved tax cap, as the vast majority of the increase came from local schools causing a 9.1 percent

increase from the prior year.

Thus, Town Manager David Caron and the town legal team were tasked with designing two non-binding questions that residents could vote on during the March elections. The two questions were shown to the public during the council's latest meeting on December 5.

The first question would ask voters whether or not they would simply want to see Derry gain control of the school board and work within the aforementioned tax cap, while the other question would do exactly the same thing, while also converting Derry from a town into a city, also requiring the creation of a charter commission to help oversee this process.

Ultimately, the inclusion of these questions would be introduced in a motion on January 16 by the council. If approved, voters would make their decision before the town, seek approval from the legislature, and finally go back to voters for one more vote on the matter.

Although Caron and his team put the ballot questions together rather smoothly, he did highlight that something of this magnitude would be a first for the state.

"It's never been accomplished in the state of New Hampshire", Caron noted.

The council has been relatively split on the matter ever since Bourdon made the suggestion at the council's last meeting. Councilor James Morgan is hoping to

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## Town Council Votes To Expand Downtown Revitalization District

HUNTER MCGEE  
NUTFIELD NEWS

With the potential for new development in town, councilors have approved the expansion of the Downtown Derry Revitalization District to other areas of Derry.

The council members voted at their Tuesday, Dec. 5 meeting to approve the expansion of the tax relief incentive beyond the central business district.

Derry Town Administrator David Caron said expanding the district makes sense with the possibility of new development in other areas of town.

"We think as the town expands its eco dev opportunities, and looking at the focus of the Economic

Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), it made sense to expand this availability of this program to those additional properties," Caron said.

The temporary tax relief incentive program was started a number of years ago for property owners to substantially rehabilitate or replace a building in the designated downtown central business district. This district includes a portion of West Broadway and East Crystal Avenue, Caron wrote in a recent staff report.

After the council vote, the district will now expand to include an area along Crystal Avenue north to Folsom Road and all the way along West Broadway to the Londonderry town line, Caron said.

"What we've been told in other communities is this program is more popular when properties are redeveloped as opposed to just having improvements to existing buildings," Caron said, adding, "So I think that is one of the reasons why the town has not seen a lot of participation in the program in the past. But with some developments being talked about in the general downtown area and Crystal Avenue, we are confident that we will have additional activity with respect to this program."

Now that the council has approved expanding the district, Caron said officials will begin the process to notify residents of the new program and who is eligible to participate.



**New Graduate** Brady Partello gets and adjustment made to his newly created Elf hat by his mom Robin Partello at the Derry Public Library last week during their annual Elf Training session. Brady was one of dozens that graduated during the day on Thursday. See more photos page 4. Photo by Chris Paul

## Town Council Adds Timeline to Downtown Façade Grant Program

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Amongst Derry's various efforts to stimulate economic growth in the town, one of its key efforts is the Derry Downtown Façade Improvement program. Serving to keep the downtown area generally appealing to both residents and out

of town visitors, the program offers grants to individuals within this area that are currently seeking out improvements to their building.

In order to continue to give the program a boost in the right direction, Resolution 17-163 was discussed during the Town Council's latest meeting on December

5 to consider updating the rules of the program.

Town Manager David Caron was responsible for delving into the details of the resolution. Based around one hundred thousand dollars that was earmarked for downtown revitalization, the town's Economic Development

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# Town of Derry Receives Good News On 2017 Audit Results

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

With the 2017 fiscal year far behind Derry, the town's fiscal standing was recently brought into discussion during the Town Council's latest meeting on December 5 concerning the fiscal year's audit.

Susan Hickey, Derry's Chief Financial Officer, came before the council to present the findings of the audit alongside Scott McIntyre, a partner with Melanson, Heath and Co. who handled the audit and deter-

mined where Derry currently stands.

According to McIntyre, the town fared very well for the 2017 fiscal year, as he was unable to come across any issues with records or debts, nor were any significant audit entries required.

In terms of Derry's largest fiscal holdings, McIntyre noted that Derry currently has twenty two million, eight hundred thousand dollars in its general fund, which is an increase of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the 2016 fiscal year. McIntyre

was quick to highlight this fact, considering that fiscal year actually saw a drop of two million, six hundred thousand dollars from the 2015 fiscal year.

There was also good news to be found within the unassigned fund balance which was at nine million, one hundred thousand dollars, seeing an increase of two hundred thousand dollars. Revenues were also greater than anticipated, shooting up to seven hundred, seventy two thousand dollars. Finally, the available fund balance is

required to maintain retention of funds no lower than nine million, four hundred and eighty thousand dollars, but saw an excess of one million, two hundred thousand dollars above that for this year.

But despite the generally great news, McIntyre did have some suggestions for Derry in order to keep it running even more smoothly, although he did state that the suggestions were nothing particularly urgent.

"None of these rise to the level of...a significant deficiency", McIntyre

noted.

Amongst his ideas were for Derry to update their accounting standards, attempt to minimize year-end timing issues when it comes to finalizing various fiscal matters, comply with uniform guidance, or federal rules concerning earning awards based on audit performances, and review their procedures for lease accounting.

Upon taking questions from the council on the matter, Councilor James Morgan wondered what they would do with their excess

one million, two hundred thousand dollars. Town Manager David Caron noted that they would wait until the end of the 2018 fiscal year before either assigning the funds to various projects or simply transferring it into the capital reserve.

In response to this surplus, Councilor Brian Chirichiello was quite thankful that they could showcase this as evidence for residents that the council was taking precautions to spend these funds wisely.

## Derry's Economic Development Coordinator Resigns From Post

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Derry's efforts to commit to economic growth in the last few months have been due to a number of dedicated individuals working to identify what the town needs in order to become stronger.

But one of these individuals recently needed to abandon her duties, as Anne Struthers, Derry's former Economic Development Coordinator, stepped away from the position on Dec. 1.

According to Town Manager David Caron, Struthers was forced to step

away from the position due to undisclosed personal reasons, it apparently not being a choice that Struthers wanted to make.

"It was a move that neither she nor the town wanted," noted Caron.

A graduate of Lesley University, Struthers' economic experience stems back as far as the late 1980's working in senior administration positions for Bank of America, Sovereign Bank, and Santander Bank, N.A. Upon leaving Santander in 2009, Struthers decided to pursue government work, becoming the Executive Director of the Massachusetts

Office of Business Development and then the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the state of Massachusetts until 2015.

In her role with Derry, she was tasked with working alongside community stakeholders and real estate developers to stimulate economic growth in the town.

Despite only spending only seven months in her position, many town staff members were quite pleased with how much momentum Struthers had earned for Derry's economy, including Caron himself.

On top of her part in creating a new economic plan



Derry's Economic Development Coordinator Anne Struthers stepped away from the position earlier this month

for the town, she was instrumental in working with state development officials and

analyzed where zoning areas downtown could change in order to increase business activity. Although her time with Derry was short, town staff felt that they are already able to see the fruits of Struthers labors appearing.

One of her bigger supporters, Town Council Chair Joshua Bourdon, wished her the best in her future endeavors and noted that he thoroughly enjoyed working with her.

"Anne has been fantastic for Derry," Bourdon noted.

But with Struthers gone, the position of Economic Development Coordinator is open to new applicants.

According to the application found on the town website, those who wish to apply are expected to establish a productive relationship between the business community and town government; review, assess, and implement various studies; and identify current and potential development and redevelopment opportunities. Applicants are also expected to have a B.A. in a field aligned with economic development and four to six years of experience in the field.

A preliminary review of candidates will commence on January 12, 2018. For more information, visit [derrynh.org](http://derrynh.org).

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# Derry Teacher Goes Above and Beyond For Special Education

KATIE O'DONNELL  
NUTFIELD NEWS

It takes a special kind of person to teach children and a dedicated one to teach teachers. Bridgette Doucette Howell of Derry recently won the Regional Services and Education Center's "Above and Beyond Award" for her work to develop a program for teachers to better serve students with various special needs.

Doucette Howell works for RSEC Academy High School in Amherst, New Hampshire. The kids in her class attend the academy because they were unable to thrive in a public school setting. She has a mix of typical learners and special needs students who may require more support to achieve the goals of their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

The academy has 26 high schoolers and eight middle schoolers. The disabilities of the children range from cog-

nitive to emotional. For some of the students, it's hard for them to be in regular classrooms because they read at a kindergarten level as a junior, or they could be on the Autism Spectrum and their school does not have the correct supports for their needs.

"Our ultimate goal is to fill in the gaps for the students," said Doucette Howell, so they can eventually return to their schools with the skills they need to be successful in a public school setting. The academy also offers a diploma program for high schoolers.

Doucette Howell said she believes in the goals of the academy, but she found it frustrating that she did not get a lot of the intimate experience during her college years she felt was necessary to effectively work with her population.

"Part of the mission of regional services is doing outreach work," Doucette Howell said. "I noticed that a lot of colleges didn't offer



Bridgette Doucette Howell wins the "Above and Beyond Award" for instructing teachers how to be better educators.

the hands-on part of special education, so I created a professional development program." It's essentially, "how to teach teachers how to work with kids with disabilities," she said. It offers "teaching tips and techniques" to educators on how to apply it to all classes and subjects within a typical classroom.

The program is designed to give instructors a better understanding on how to

work with the special education population in a way that is typically not covered at the college level.

Doucette Howell brought the professional development program to Rivier University and Franklin Pierce University to show soon-to-be teachers how to create a more inclusive classroom experience for all students. The point of the program is to "teach you how to take what you have and apply it to all students, not just typical students," she said.

School systems in New Hampshire have been moving away from the standard grading system towards a "competency based" system

over the last couple of years. Competency based education "allows students to progress as they demonstrate mastery of academic content, regardless of time, place, or pace of learning," according to the U.S. Department of Education's website. Doucette Howell wants to make sure that newer teachers are prepared to assist students with special needs, so they will not fall behind with changes to education occurring throughout the state.

"For me, I'm seeing a need to help first year teachers to get more professional development," Doucette Howell said. She felt there was only so much experience

fresh teachers could get in their college programs and with the switch over to competency based learning, it's even more important to ensure that educators are able to help all students, regardless of need or disability.

"That idea of constantly learning. To be a great teacher you need to be constantly learning," said Doucette Howell. "We need to embody that."

To be a great teacher, in her opinion, is to always look forward to the next challenge, to be prepared for it and to be ready to embrace it head-on.

"That's what we teach our kids," she said.

## Downtown

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Advisory Committee suggested on November 20 that the program offer 50:50 grants to a maximum of five thousand dollars for façade improvements.

According to Caron, such programs have proven to be massively successful across the country, including in states such as Minnesota and Maryland, as these economic incentives for the public allow the towns to see returns on their own investments quite effectively.

However, the new resolution updated the pro-

grams' rules in order to establish a timeline for applicants. Those interested in acquiring said grants would have to file an application no later than July 1 of next year and the façade improvements would have to be completed by January 1, 2019. Caron argued that these timelines simply existed to build momentum for Derry's economic efforts, as well as to gauge the effectiveness of the program and determine whether or not it still needs some alterations.

But the program has already managed to see decent success according to members of the council.

Councilor James Morgan noted that he has already spoken with several downtown business owners in Derry that are looking forward to taking advantage of the system in order to improve their own facades.

"It was received very well by the two folks that I talked to", Morgan noted.

Overall, the council has seemed quite supportive of the program from the get go, with Council Chair Joshua Bourdon thanking those responsible for putting the system together. In the end, the council unanimously approved the updated rule set.

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## Editorial

### Holiday Greetings

As the holidays get closer and closer, we're all treated to outdoor Christmas decorations brightening the night on most streets, with gaily lit trees adding a festive touch to public spaces, and warm, friendly holiday music playing from every other car on the road. The weather even seems to be cooperative (for the time being), offering a light covering of snow to better set the scene for a Norman Rockwell, New England Christmas.

Now is a great time to bake an extra batch of cookies, or get together a few hand-written holiday cards and send them along to neighbors and co-workers. It may seem like a small gesture, but you'll never know whose holiday you'll make in the process.

In the past few decades, it feels like we have been led to believe that the amount we love our family and friends is reflected only on the amount of money we are able to spend on them, through fancy gifts and extravagant dinners. In our hearts, we know that Christmas and Hanukkah are not holidays based on greed and gluttony, despite what large commercial companies would want us to think. Rather, it being an opportunity for families and friends to reunite, these holidays carry the message of a miracle. It's true that both involve gift-giving, a little thinking outside of the gift-box goes a long way - and it doesn't have to break bank.

Money, after all, is not what the holidays were meant to be about, rather, good

will towards our fellow human. In our case at Nutfield Publishing, it is through the good will of all the businesses you see advertised in the paper you hold in your hands that we are able to keep you informed with this and every publication.

We report on the good, the bad, and the in-between, bringing you up to speed on what's happening in town. The owners, and all the staff all live locally and are all personally impacted by the ups and downs of life in this unique state.

Our newspapers exist thanks to the help of advertising, and we encourage our readers finishing up their last-minute gift purchases to shop locally this holiday season, and to take advantage of what our towns have to offer. If you find what you need from one of our advertisers, please let them know we sent you!

With the holidays fast approaching, we don't doubt that you readers have been busy. Between holiday activities, school fundraisers, collecting warm clothes and toys to help out the needy in our midst, requests from community groups selling Christmas trees and wreaths and email holiday party invites and suggestions for gift giving, it can be hard to remember to take a breath. We appreciate you for taking the time to catch up on your local news!

We wish each one of our readers a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a very Happy New Year. Thanks for reading!

## Letters

### Tax Reform

To the editor:

I am writing to express my concern with the current tax reform packages passed in the US Senate and House by a completely partisan vote. These bills, now being debated behind closed doors at the Congressional Conference Committee, will be coming up very soon for another vote.

My first concern is that very large tax breaks will go to a very small percentage of very wealthy individuals who own the controlling shares of large and multinational corporations. Over 60% of the tax cuts will go to the richest 1% of our pop-

ulations. It should be noted also that tax breaks given to corporations will be permanent while any tax breaks given to individual citizens will be temporary and will last only for 10 years.

My second concern is for the national debt that these large tax cuts would likely cause: one trillion dollars according to the estimate from the Joint Committee on Taxation, a nonpartisan group of experts working to educate Legislators. This is not the revenue-neutral tax reform which the White House initially claimed. It seems that the GOP has decided to ignore the estimates of the JCT and go ahead with this irrespon-

sible bill which will further erode the economic stability of middle-class families. A deficit in the budget will result in stripping many middle-class workers of their health care and raising insurance premiums for many others. In addition, mandated automatic cuts will then be made in Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and education. All this is risked so that the elite of this country can continue to increase their wealth exponentially.

If you share my concerns, call or e-mail your US Senators and House Representatives immediately.

Corinne Dodge  
Derry

Nutfield News welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, written by local residents, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Nutfield News at [nutfieldnews@nutpub.net](mailto:nutfieldnews@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. Nutfield News reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

## Fire Department Looks to Change House Numbers on Damon Road

KATHERINE PRUDHOMME O'BRIEN  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Derry Fire Department wants Damren Road residents to change their house numbers. Because all the affected property owners were not willing to do so, state law requires a public hearing on the issue.

During the Public Hearing on Dec. 6, at the Derry Planning Board meeting, Patricia Varrengia of the current 2R Damren Road stated that if this change is enacted, it would be the third address she has had on her property. She would prefer not to have all the hassle of changing her address with banks and other services; "We've been there 20 years, there's a lot to change."

The Derry Fire Department is tasked with assigning and re-assigning house numbers in town. In the interest of safety and their ability to respond to emergency situations, they have proposed the following changes on Damren Road:

2L will become 4L, 2R will become 4R, and 246 Hampstead Road will be re-addressed as 2 Damren Road. Currently, there is no number 4 Damren Road. Assistant Fire Chief Scott Jackson noted the changes are needed because of a new home being constructed at the corner of Hampstead and Damren Roads. That home has a driveway that exits on to Damren Road and will need a Damren Road address. "We don't take this lightly, we do this in the interest of public safety", said Jackson.

An ongoing, town-wide assessment of all addresses and their compatibility with the 911 reporting system is currently underway. It is due to be completed in the next few months according to Assistant Chief Jackson.

Planning Board members recently took a site walk in the area anticipated to be most affected by Exit 4A, Folsom Road and tertiary roads up to Tsienneto Road to consider appropri-

ate zoning changes. The public is invited to send their input and ideas regarding these changes to Planning Director, George Sioras. The Planning Board will hold a workshop in January focusing on the potential changes.

MPV Development, LLC, developers of the proposed Shepard Landing on 3 Nutfield Court, off Highland Avenue, requested an adjustment to the lot line to eliminate the garage encroachment between tax map 27, Lots 094 and 095. Lot 095 is 2 Highland Avenue, owned by Sandra Wiland. A garage on her property is partially situated on Lot 094 owned by MPV Development. The issue will be revisited by the board next month when an updated plan is made available to the board.

The Planning Board approved a motion to grant a waiver allowing a home at 2.5 Village Brook Lane to connect electrical services overhead from an existing pole instead of underground as was previously approved.

## Nutfield News

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# Little Elves Graduate From Academy at Derry Public Library



Even though school was off on Thursday last week, there were three intense sessions of Elf Training at the Derry Public Library for children to learn the finer points of helping Santa. There were crafts made, cookie decorating, along with dancing and singing under the guidance of Children's Services Director Ray Fontaine. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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# Historian Asks Residents to Assist in Swedish Historical Reenactments

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Michael Glaeser has always had an affinity for history. Between his time teaching it at the University of New Hampshire and Southern New Hampshire University and his current role as a public speaker, he has always loved to educate the public on the matter.

His latest enterprise has seen him perform what he calls Hands-On History presentations, where Glaeser expands upon the history of a certain topic while showcasing various elements from that time period, such as, costumes, foods, music, and artifacts. Just recently, he put on A Tudor Christmas at the

Derry Public Library which elaborated on what the holiday was like during the House of Tudor's reign in England.

But while Glaeser has been able to get by on his own for most of these presentations, some of his future ambitions will require a few helping hands in order to be successful. For this reason, Glaeser is hoping to encourage residents with an interest in history to reach out to him in order to start assisting his educational efforts, possibly for more than one event.

"I'm trying to establish an organization from the ground up", Glaeser noted.

First on his agenda for these presentations would be a take on Swedish history

which happens to be Glaeser's specialty. More specifically, he hopes to reenact what life was like for Swedish soldiers during the Great Northern War. Taking place from 1700 until 1721, the war pitted Charles XII, King of Sweden until his death in 1718, against Denmark, Poland, and Russia which eventually led to Russia's rise to power.

Glaeser already has a series of costumes on hand, but on top of reenacting the war, he is also looking for residents who can help produce their own props for the presentation, taking the likes of carpenters and seamstresses and giving them the chance to study their craft from an historical perspective.

Although residents with an interest in history may want to take a look at this opportunity, their specialty does not necessarily need to be in Swedish history. As long as they are interested, Glaeser feels that the rest will all come naturally as they study the subject and start to see what these reenactments can offer.

"There's something for everyone. It's just about drawing attention", Glaeser stated.

Once the group of volunteers is large enough, Glaeser hopes to start giving stage demonstrations and school visits in the coming months. For more information, contact Glaeser at michaeltgaeser@aol.com.



Michael Glaeser, pictured in Swedish military uniforms that he created for the sake of his historical presentations.

## Salvation Army Makes Derry Its Home



After more than 13 years of being part of the Derry Community the Salvation Army has now solidified that bond by buying the building they currently reside in at 18 Folsom Road.

A group of enthusiastic residents attended the ribbon cutting on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 8 to share in the joy of Derry Police Captain Vern Thomas, Lt. Katie Mayes and Lt. Kathryn Bender as they cut the ribbon to officially mark their home for the foreseeable future.

After the ceremony guests to the event were invited inside for refreshments and to hear Mayes explain how the Salvation Army had changed her life.



Above, Lt. Katie Mayes and Lt. Kathryn Bender as they cut the ribbon in a ceremony announcing the Salvation Army had bought their building. At left Lt. Katie Mayes thanked those that made the purchase of 18 Folsom Road possible and shared an emotional story of how the Salvation Army had changed her life. Photos by Chris Paul

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## City Talks

continued from page 1

keep Derry as a town, as he is not in favor of the involvement of a charter commission. Councilor Neil Weatherbee, who has been vocally opposed to the idea from the

start, felt that voters need to know about what the charter commission would do if implemented but ultimately believed that controlling the school board should be their top priority.

"Changing the form of government is not the solution to your problem",

Weatherbee noted. Regardless of what the outcome will be, Bourdon felt that it is incredibly important for residents to be educated on these matters before voting, encouraging said voters to reach out to the council over this issue if necessary.

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# First Parish Church Gets Final Beams Inside as Winter Approaches



The First Parish Church in East Derry hit another milestone last week as a portion of the historic slate roof was removed and support beams were hoisted up by a crane with workers from the Preservation Timber Framing workers positioning them for installation at a future time.

The beams will be used for the roof of the Meetinghouse as well as to secure the steeple to the church.

Church member, Paul Lindemann has been organizing most of the Preservation project over the past two years, and he was happy to announce that the group had received its third grant from the state's LCHIP organization.



At left and above, Paul Lindemann and Arron Sturgis fasten a GoPro to one of the beams as it is moved into the Church rafters. At right a beam makes its way, by crane, to inside the Meetinghouse roof. *Photos by Chris Paul*

## Upper Village Hall Holds Annual Tree Lighting Event



ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Upper Village Hall has been a staple of Derry's past since its official opening back in 1875. Originally serving as everything from a town hall and fire station to a grange hall and library, it has and still does leave a major mark on Derry.

This time of year is no different, as residents and volunteers recently held the annual tree lighting event at

the hall on December 10.

Starting all the way back from the 1960's, tree lighting originally took place on the triangle between Cemetery Road and East Derry Road until said tree unfortunately fell down. Don Houston, a former member of the hall, soon decided to donate a new, albeit smaller, tree to the hall to be placed in the same spot, but that tree also passed on due to a rather small life span.

But members of the hall needed not to fret, as yet another tree was soon given to them. At this point, hall volunteers decided instead to place this new tree right outside the hall where it remains to this day.

And it was this tree that served as one of the key elements to this year's lighting. The roughly twenty or so attendees formed inside the hall around 6 p.m., enjoying various refreshments before being escorted outside to the location of the tree. Paul Dion, head of the East Derry Village Improvement Society, was there to lead attendees in a series of Christmas carols as the tree slowly began to illuminate the dusk.

Despite the rather frigid temperatures, it was still quite evident that the Christmas spirit was quickly beginning to take over Derry that night.



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# Polar Express Rolls Through Little Library on the Hill Again



The annual Polar Express reading at the Taylor Library was held last week with nightly readings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The train was set up in the center of the Library where child climbed aboard and enjoyed holiday stories read by librarians Linda Merrill and Fran Mears. After the reading of the holiday classic Polar Express” Santa arrived to hand out candy, bells a special surprise for one lucky attendee. The Wednesday drawing went to Miya Kirkorian.     *Photos by Chris Paul*



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# DERRY SPORTS

## Overcoming Personnel Losses Will Be Huge For PA Boys' Hoop

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Losing talented athletes to graduation and, sometimes, prep schools, is just something to be taken in stride for high school sports squads. But after frustratingly failing to reach the Division I post-season tournament following a rebuilding 2016-17 campaign earlier this calendar year, the Pinkerton Academy boys' basketball squad had to

wave goodbye to two important grads and two key transfers to prep schools.

But when he casts his eye across his current, 2017-18 roster, longtime PA boys' hoop coach Peter Rosinski finds himself with a bunch of battle-tested varsity returnees and three promising newcomers.

Gone are graduates Matt Anzivino (a 6-foot-1 guard) and Nick Bortone (a 6'3" swing man) as well as talented sophomore guards

Joey Merrill and Jay Reynolds, both of whom scored plenty last season and have since transferred. Anzivino is playing college hoop at the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord.

But returnees to the well-known red and white Pinkerton uniforms include tri-captains Matt Fabrizio (a 6'5" senior center), Jack Potvin (a 5'11" senior guard), and Andrew Lufkin (a 6'1" junior guard).

The other returnees from a 7-11 PA hoop crew include seniors Matt Furgal (6'3" forward), Cason Giordano (6'0" guard), and Colin Petrie (6'3" forward), juniors Ryan Auger (5'11" guard) and Sam Goy (6'0" guard), and sophomore Andrew Bolduc (6'4" center).

Fresh faces on the varsity include juniors Joron Harrell (6'3" forward) and Aiden Conroy (6'2" forward), and freshman Andy McDonald (6'0" guard).

Other players who will work toward playing time and chances to contribute to the Astro cause will be 6'2" senior forward Ben Linsley

and 6'0" junior guard Jacob Lear.

"We believe this year's team is ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work as we improve each game," said coach Rosinski. "The team's focus is one step, one practice, and one game at a time. We hope to do this with a mixture of returning players and new faces. And we have work to do."

In looking at the challenges which the competition in D-I will present, Rosinski sees Spaulding, Salem, and Nashua South as the strongest. But he also warns, "On any given night any one team in Division I can beat another."

PA plays two D-I games prior to Christmas, with the first at home against Merrimack Tuesday, Dec. 19.



Pinkerton senior guard and captain Jack Potvin prepares to loft up a shot during his team's jamboree contest against Dartmouth last Sunday. Photos by Chris Paul



Aidan Conroy drives past a Lawrence opponent during Sunday's Pinkerton Academy boys' hoop jamboree.

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# Astro Wrestlers Look Strong as 2017-18 Campaign Gets Rolling

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

After an up-and-down 2016-17 regular season last winter, the Pinkerton Academy wrestling team finished up strong by placing fourth at both the Division I championships and the huge state Meet of Champions. And the Astros also wound up sending sev-

eral talented grapplers to the New England championships.

It's that fine finish to the campaign and the return of much of the talent which made it possible which gives Pinkerton veteran coach Dave Rhoads an optimistic outlook upon and excitement for the 2017-18 campaign, which his Astros began with a dual-meet and

an appearance at a nine-team tournament last week.

Pinkerton, which went 11-7 last year, started the new campaign with a 45-35 loss to the Salem High Blue Devils in Derry last Thursday, Dec. 7. Two days later, the Astros found themselves in that opponent's home gymnasium for the annual Blue Devil Classic, in which the locals placed a very solid fourth out of nine competing squads.

Coach Rhoads' roster features 2016-17 New England competitors Sterling McLaughlin - a sophomore at 182 pounds - and junior Robbie Fahey at 220.

Other key returnees include juniors Walker Stinson at 113 pounds, Tyler MacKiernan at 145, Kyle Setzer at the 170 level, and Cam Macro at 285 pounds.

Other returning lettermen include still more 11th graders in Jack Lynch (152), Max Moseley (182), Robbie Morin (145), Jacob Dube (160), and Christian Kuechler (182), along with sophomore Mark Harrington (106).

The team's promising newcomers include juniors Cam Bacon (145), Jake Scarelli (182), and Josh Rebane (132), sophomore Billy Knapp (120), and freshmen Dominic

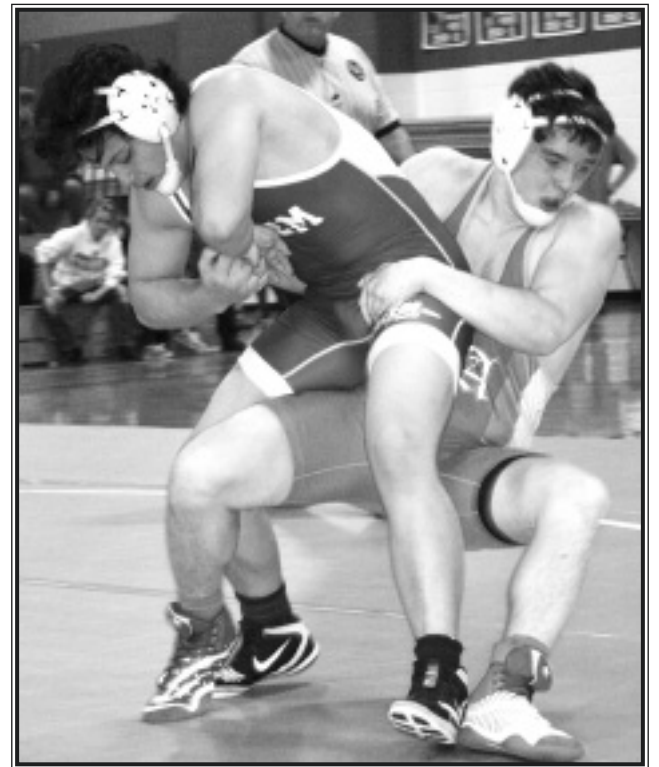
Robinson (106), David Hammond (120), Marcus Sconza (145), Zach Marinos (152), and young lady Corinna McJuany (120).

"We're still a relatively young team, with only one senior on the squad," said coach Rhoads, who boasts an excellent 85-32 record as he begins his seventh year. "We're looking to build on last year's strong finish. After a rebuilding year last year, we have set aggressive team goals for this season. Our core group of sophomores and juniors has been working very hard in the off-season, and they're excited to show what they're capable of in both duals and week-end tourneys."

In that season-opener against Salem on the 7th, Pinkerton had several stand-outs including Fahey sitting out as they recovered from having gotten bruised and banged up during the grueling football season.

Salem collected a total of six pins, with the Astros receiving victories from Harrington at 106 (a pin), Stinson at 103 (pin), Dube at 170 pounds (pin), Setzer at 195 (technical fall), and Macro in his heavyweight battle (pin).

Then on Saturday the 9th, the Astros again shared a gym with Salem at the Blue Devil Classic, which



PA sophomore wrestling standout Sterling McLaughlin prepares to rifle a Salem opponent to the mat during the Astros' season-opener. Photo by Chris Pantazis

was won by the Concord Crimson Tide with its team score of 198. Lawrence Central Catholic from Massachusetts snared second (168.5) and Salem finished third (137), a slim five points ahead of Pinkerton.

McLaughlin and Fahey both won their weight class titles, Setzer finished second, Stinson, McKiernan

and Macro all finished third, and Harrington wound up fourth.

This week's slate had the academy grapplers at Bedford High School this Wednesday the 13th - after Nutfield News press time - followed by another road trip to Hollis-Brookline High on Saturday for the Nor'easter Invitational.

## Athletes of the Week

Week of Dec. 4



**Chloe Freedman, Sophomore, Swimming**

Competing in a diving exhibition, this talented Lady Astro averaged scores of four or better on her dives to qualify her for the state meet in just the first meet of the new season. Her score of 148.5 was a personal best.



**Robbie Fahey, Junior, Wrestling**

In a rematch of last year's state Meet of Champions consolation finals, this skilled grappler once again beat his Concord opponent - this time in overtime - to defend his 220-pound weight class title at the Blue Devil Classic.

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# Academy Swim Squads Should Create Lots of Excitement This Winter

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Longtime Pinkerton Academy swim coach Ed Faszewski certainly shouldn't be lacking for sources of competitive excitement from his Astro boys' and Lady Astro contingents this winter.

The PA males look to have considerable depth again this winter, and the Lady Astros have an abundance of young swimmers fully intent upon making up for their team's losses to graduation from the 2016-17 crew.

The Pinkerton males got

their 2017-18 competitive season going before the girls did thanks to the fact that Massachusetts has its high school girls' swim season during the fall. Hence, the Astros started up at Haverhill High School last Friday, Dec. 8 and did extraordinarily well, while the PA gals didn't get going officially until this past Tuesday the 12th - at Southern New Hampshire University - after Nutfield News press time.

## BOYS

The PA males have a slew of key returnees including seniors Chris Ploss (in the breaststroke) and Nathan

Landry (sprints/butterfly), juniors Jackson Neeb (distances/freestyle) and Christian Nelson (backstroke), and sophomores Gavin Divelbiss (distances/freestyle) and Ryan Golabiewski (butterfly).

Other returning letter-winners include seniors Davin Curry (backstroke) and Colby Adams (backstroke), junior Tristan Soucy, and sophomores Tyler Montgomery (distances/freestyle) and William Poole (breaststroke). And the contingent's promising newcomers include senior Gordon Suwirjo (butterfly) and Lukas Hakme-Silva (freestyle).

In the aforementioned season-opening, 94-65 trouncing of host Haverhill, the Astros won every single event with Suwirjo taking the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly, Neeb winning the 200 freestyle and 500 free, Ploss proving unbeatable in the 100-meter breaststroke, Nelson taking the top spot in the 100 backstroke, Landry winning the 50 free, and Hakme-Silva winding up tops in the 100 free.

In the relays, the 200 medley quartet of Nelson, Ploss, Suwirjo and Landry couldn't be bested, nor could the 200 free relay group of

Ploss, Landry, Golabiewski and Hakme-Silva or the 400 free relay foursome of Suwirjo, Nelson, Tyler Montgomery, and Neeb.

"The boys' keys to a successful season are depth and having many individuals trying to qualify in many different events," said coach Faszewski.

## GIRLS

The Lady Astros' 2017-18 squad features key returnees in seniors Zoe Freedman (breaststroke) and Samantha Knight (distances/freestyle) and juniors Sydney Devine (freestyles), Olivia Neville (distances/frees), Alice Hammond

(breaststroke), and Madison Young (butterfly).

Other returning letter-winners include sophomores Chloe Freedman (diving) and Maya Hedstrom (frees), and the promising newcomers include freshmen Amanda Roberge (breaststroke), Camelia Hannah (butterfly), and Molly Repoza (breaststroke).

"The girls' keys to success include replacing some of the graduated seniors with an influx of strong swimmers and developing current members of the team," said their veteran coach, who certainly has plenty to be positive about.

# Pinkerton Grads Playing Major Roles For College Swim Squads

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

There's no shortage of Pinkerton Academy graduates doing big things for their respective colleges' swim teams these days, with a pair of them playing huge roles for their squads at the recent two-day Great Northeast Athletic Conference Championships.

That event took place at Simmons College in Boston - in the school's Holmes Sports Center Natatorium - and Simmons star and Pinkerton grad Maria Soraghan excelled in helping her Lady Sharks to their rather stunning 14th straight GNAC title.

A Pinkerton grad also starred for his Elms College (Chicopee, Mass.) team in the mens' championship competition. Elms' senior standout Nick Bergstrom was one of the top scorers on those two days, tallying

some 30 points in helping his squad to a strong team finish behind the meet champs from Norwich University.

Additionally, two former Pinkerton swimming stars have helped the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, Mass.) mens' swim team drive out to a fast start to their 2017-18 season.

The three males in question were all stalwarts for longtime Pinkerton swim coach Ed Faszewski's Astro boys' crews throughout their years at the Derry school, and Soraghan was a competitive powerhouse at Solo Aquatics in Haverhill, Mass. for seven years while excelling in classes and clubs at PA.

## SORAGHAN AND BERGSTROM

East Hampstead resident Soraghan has been named the Great Northeast Athletic Conference Women's Swimming and Diving Rookie of

the Week several times so far this season, and she did some masterful work for the powerhouse Lady Sharks' contingent at the pressure-packed Great Northeast title event.

The local woman - who is a freshman at Simmons - helped her team to a jaw-dropping total of 1,104 points to easily outdistance the runner-up crew from Regis College (541.5) and six other contingents.

The host team won a total of seven events and broke an astounding eight conference records. The Lady Sharks also set four new records for their own pool.

Soraghan tallied 74 points with two first place efforts and a pair of second place showings for the meet. She turned in a winning swim in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 53.60 seconds, and later placed second in the 50-yard

backstroke.

The Pinkerton grad also teamed up with three talented teammates for a win in the 400-yard freestyle, with that great quartet setting a new GNAC record with its time of 3 minutes, 39.52 seconds.

During her four years at Pinkerton, Soraghan was a member of the National Honor Society and the Foreign Language Honor Society there. She was named a New Hampshire Scholar at the Derry school, and was also a member of the Mock Trial, Destination Imagination, and the Pinkerton and Little Students Academy Mentor Program.

On the mens' side of things at the big GNAC event, the Norwich squad

made the biggest team news, but Pinkerton graduate and Elms senior Bergstrom was among the top male competitors.

The Derry resident won the 100-yard individual medley with a mark of 57.13 to give him a pair of first place showings. He finished the meet with those impressive 30 points to lead Elms and stand fourth among the meet's leaderboard.

The talented veteran, who is majoring in health care management at the Bay State school, has been an ace competitor in freestyle and individual medley events for his college contingent.

## WPI STANDOUTS

Former Pinkerton stalwarts Hendrick Suwirjo and Zach Denbow made signifi-

cant contributions to the noteworthy, early-season successes of the Worcester Polytechnic mens' swim squad.

Junior Suwirjo and freshman Denbow helped their Engineers bag first place at the much-anticipated annual Worcester City Championships at Clark University, and then go 5-2 in their first seven meets of the campaign.

Suwirjo from Derry competes in the backstroke, and Hooksett resident Denbow competes in the breaststroke and the individual medley for longtime coach Paul Bennett's team, which competes in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference and does it well.

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# Astro Hockey Squad Aims to Take Another Stride Forward This Winter

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

With new coach Sam Littlefield behind its bench for the first time, the 2016-17 Pinkerton Academy ice hockey squad enjoyed an exciting and successful campaign last winter. But the Astros didn't get as far as either they or their first-year coach would have liked.

Now in his second season at his varsity coaching post, Littlefield and his charges entered their 2017-18 campaign this past Monday night, Dec. 11 with a home game against the Exeter High Blue Hawks intent on having the season roll along at least a bit longer than the tournament quarterfinal round like last winter.

This year's PA contingent has 10 battle-tested varsity veterans back in its fold, and a slew of promising newcomers are stepping up to the varsity level aiming to fill roles which need filling if the 2017-18 contingent is to go deep into the Division I tourney.

Last winter's PA squad went an excellent 11-6-1 during the 2016-17 regular season and, after falling to the tough Salem High Blue Devils in the quarterfinals, slipped to 11-7-1 and as a result had to put their uniforms into mothballs.

Coach Littlefield's present crew includes key returnees Nick Trask (a senior forward), Patrick Hare

(senior forward), Cody Sullivan (senior forward), Colin Leighton (senior defenseman), Genarro Marra (junior defenseman/forward), and Dakota Robinson (junior goalie).

Other varsity returnees include senior forwards Lucas Masciarrelli, Ty Riviere, and Tyler Whiting, and sophomore goalie Matt Gilliland.

The lengthy list of promising newcomers includes junior forwards Landon McClure and Jonathan Last, sophomore defensemen Jack Normand and Sam Patti, sophomore forward Joseph Marra, freshman forward Robert Flinton, and freshman defenseman Brett Levesque.

When asked what he feels his team's keys to success will be this winter, coach Littlefield stated, "Hard work and team play. We need to finish strong. We had a strong start last year, going 7-2 in the first

nine games, but we didn't finish the season well, going 4-4-1 in the last nine games. We need the seniors to take charge and set the tone for working hard and playing smart, and the new players need to find their roles and follow the leadership on this team."

In their season-opener at Hooksett's Ice Den against Exeter this past Monday evening, the Astros got the 2017-18 season officially rolling in fine style by hammering the visiting Blue Hawks by a 6-0 score.

The locals potted three unanswered goals in both the first and third periods, and no less than four Astros finished up with multiple points while junior goalie Dakota Robinson contributed 18 saves to the shutout success.

Junior forward Landon McClure and senior frontliner Patrick Hare each scored twice and assisted once, and senior forward

Lucas Masciarrelli and freshman forward Cooper Flinton each scored once and assisted once.

McClure potted the first two PA goals - with the first coming a mere 16 seconds after the opening faceoff - and rookie Flinton began his high school career in great fashion by potting his first goal with 3:11 left in that initial stanza.

The second period was scoreless with Exeter playing better than it had in the first, but the Astros tucked the win away with two goals from Hare and one from Masciarrelli in the third stanza.

The hosts outshot their opponent by a huge, 38-18 margin in the blowout, and the PA locker room sounded every bit like a New Year's Eve celebration after the final buzzer had sounded.

"Offensively I'm very pleased with how we played. We had lots of good pressure and opportunities," said



Pinkerton senior captain Nick Trask battles an Exeter High opponent while trying to move the puck toward the opposing net during the Astros' 6-0 whipping of that seacoast squad.

Photo by Chris Pantazis

coach Littlefield. "We have very good way to start the to work some on our season." defense, but overall it was a A good start indeed.

## Pinkerton Bowlers Bag Seven Team Points in Claremont

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

While Southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts were preoccupied with just how much snow would fall on them last Saturday, Dec. 9, the Pinkerton Academy bowling team was on the road headed for Claremont and a three-team match at Maple Lanes there.

And the Astros had a pretty decent day in their second competition of the season, finishing in second behind the host Stevens Cardinals but ahead of the Souhegan High Sabers from Amherst.

In round one of Baker competition, veteran coach Janet Boyden's second-seeded PA bunch bested third-ranked Souhegan by a 2-1

score with victories of 130-120 and 134-102.

But the Astros then had to face off with the top-ranked Stevens squad and fell by tallies of 168-141 and 155-85 to that extremely tough opponent on its home lanes.

The academy squad had snared the second seed with some strong play in the match-opening, standard

level play by tallying a team score of 1,261. Stevens was tops with its 1,857 in standard action, and Souhegan brought up the rear with a 1,181.

Pinkerton had rolled standard games of 597 and 664 to bag the second seed, with contributions being made by Bryant Nourse (an 81 and a 147), Meghan Slater (104, 85), Zac Emery

(122, 112), Jason Barton (152, 160), and captain Keenan Nash (138, 160). Other roster members Dan Kirichok (151, 112) and Elijah Johnson (98, 121) also had strong performances.

The academy crew will have its final match of 2017 this coming Saturday the 16th at a four-team competition in Goffstown.

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This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group or non-profit is receiving money for what they are publicizing, there will be a charge of \$40.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$40.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. **Additionally:** We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at [www.nutpub.net](http://www.nutpub.net). Please send submissions to [nutfieldnews@nutpub.net](mailto:nutfieldnews@nutpub.net).

Current Hours for the  
Derry Public Library: Mon.-  
Thu. 9:30 a.m.- 8:30 p.m., Fri.  
& Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The monthly meeting of the Hyla Brook Poets will be held Sat. Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Derry Public Library in Meeting Room A. Contact Bob Crawford at bobik9@aol.com for more information.

Gather around the teen table this winter to get creative, share stories and use your imaginations on Wed. Dec. 27, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the Teen Space section of the Derry Public Library. Contact Erin Robinson at 432-6140 or [erinr@derrypl.org](mailto:erinr@derrypl.org) for more information.

Come hang out, grab a hot chocolate and choose from projects (friendship bracelets and beading,) tabletop games (Betrayal at House on the Hill, Pandemic and Carcassonne) and an assortment of puzzles. Ages 10-18. This event will be on Thur. Dec. 28, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B of the Derry Public Library. Contact Erin Robinson at 432-6140 or [erin@derrypl.org](mailto:erin@derrypl.org) for more information.

A support group for mothers who stay home with their children, including those who have home-based businesses and those who work part time but are home with their children during the day will be held on Fri. Dec. 29, from 10 a.m. - noon in Meeting Room A of the Derry Public Library. Open to mothers of all ages in greater Derry, the group's activities include guest speakers, playgroups and special activities for mothers and/or their children. For more information, please visit our web-

On Thur. Dec. 14, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Are you great at logic puzzles, clues, codes, ciphers and mysteries? Join us for our monthly escape room as we try to unlock mystery upon mystery before it's too late. In Meeting Room B at the Derry Public Library. For more information contact Erin Robinson at 603-432-6140 or

On Wed. Dec. 20, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. the Derry Public Library welcomes home-schooling families to "hang-out" in our meeting room. What you do with the space is up to you. Many games, puzzles, crayons, scrap paper are available to use, or feel free to bring a favorite game or activity of your own to share! This

Please join us for free.

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Hosted by David Hunter, the group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bedford Presbyterian Church 4 Church Road Bedford. For more information call 660-3425 or email [dhunter31@gmail.com](mailto:dhunter31@gmail.com)



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