

# Nutfield News

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## School Board and Town Council Discuss Ways to Lower Tax Rate

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The last couple of months have seen the Derry School Board and Town Council struggle to find common ground on the issue of Derry's tax rate.

Residents voted last winter to support a non-binding resolution that makes the School District a department of the town, thereby giving town officials control over the school budget in order to help lower the town's tax rate.

However, discussions broke down between the two entities for a time, only restarting recently and continuing at the council's July 17 meeting, where School

Board member Dan McKenna and Chair Lynn Perkins came before the council to discuss a plan they have proposed to help the tax rate.

According to a plan introduced at the most recent school board meeting, district staff hope to use their Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) to increase their projected revenues and offset the impact of the current budget on the tax rate. More specifically, by taking advantage additional adequacy funding from the state of \$54,432.67, \$158,400 from the Department of Revenue because of funds taken from Keno sales in New Hampshire, and other sources, the addi-

tional \$862,318.34 from the UFB could stagnate the tax rate at \$17.14. However, the Perkins and McKenna also warned that taking no action could potentially see the tax rate rise up dozens of cents more. None the less, Perkins recognizes that communication between both sides is key, not only to the district, but also for the sake of Derry tax payers.

"I think that this is a great opportunity to share that responsibility with all of you", Perkins noted.

Upon entering discussions with the councilors, it was established that the funds from Keno sales would only last one year.

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## Planning Board Hears Plan to Improve Crystal Avenue's Look

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Crystal Avenue has been the hub for many businesses in Derry, and while most of it tends to be visually appealing, a particular portion has been quite the eyesore for some time now.

In particular, 23 Crystal Avenue, located between Moo's Place Ice Cream and Sal's Pizza, has been home to nothing more than undeveloped dirt and an abandoned factory for some time. But one group is hoping to change that, as was the point of discussion during the Planning Board's latest meeting on July 18.

Representatives for Anagnost Realty came before the board to seek

approval of their site plan, discussing a multitude of facilities that would be placed on the property.

Presented as a mixed use redevelopment in the general commercial zoning district, the site would mainly see the currently abandoned 40,000 square foot warehouse converted to host a bank, urgent care facility, physical therapy building, and also save room for light industrial use.

Furthermore, a new 10,000 square foot building would be built deeper onto the parcel behind Moo's, where a spa would be occupying the new facility. Of course, this would also lead to some major landscaping in and around the property, with the frontage by the

warehouse having several trees added.

The developers would then work closely with St. Thomas Aquinas Parish across the street to connect parking between the two sides, since parishioners of the church regularly use the parking lot outside of the warehouse.

There are also plans to utilize bio-retention within the property to appease conservation efforts and prevent mosquitoes.

Finally, the developers hope to decrease the size of the original plan, namely by decreasing the amount of paving done to the back of the property in order to stick to a "less is more" principal.

**continued on page 4**



The sign warning residents of the high levels of bacteria has been up for much of the summer at Hood Pond. Residents have been urged to seek alternate places to cool down during the hot weather.

*Photo by Chris Paul*

## Popular Derry Swimming Spot Still Under Advisory

SHANNON FINNEY  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Greater Derry residents looking for a fun way to cool off in the heat this summer are advised to swim at their own risk when visiting Hood Pond, a usually popular destination for locals.

The town has posted state mandated signs at the beach to warn swimmers of a potential health threat due to high lev-

els of e. coli in the water.

Dangerous levels of bacteria at Hood Pond were first found during a routine water sample test in late June.

Since then, the beach has been under advisory, and will not be deemed safe for swimming until the water sample test results meet the state standard.

The town of Derry, unlike other towns, conducts its own water testing

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# Elderly Exemptions Examined Again by Town Council

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

In recent months, the Town Council has been trying to come up with a solution to an ongoing issue facing elderly Derry residents. The problem is that some of these residents are struggling to pay their bills, and despite the prospect of earning elderly exemptions, certain residents fall short of obtaining them for one reason or another. At the council's most recent meeting on July 17, Town Administrator David Caron held a presentation that went into more detail about the town's exemption program when compared to other commu-

nities, but may have also uncovered another issue surrounding the program.

To be more specific, elderly exemptions in Derry are offered to residents who are 65 or older, have lived in New Hampshire for 3 years, have had no family transfers in 5 years, and make a minimum between \$13,400 and \$20,400 annually. For this, residents can earn between \$85,000 and \$165,000 in exemptions depending on their age. In order to get a better sense of the state of Derry's program, Caron compared various factors of the program to three groups: surrounding communities with economic conditions similar to Derry, the 10

largest communities in New Hampshire with similar service demands, and simply all communities in the state. According to his findings, Derry's program allows for an income of \$35,000 for single people and \$45,000 for married residents, which is roughly the same as the median for the first two groups, but roughly \$10,000 more than the third group. As for assets allowed by the program, \$150,000 are granted to both single and married residents, which is higher than the median for the first two groups by around \$8,000 to \$16,000, but almost triple the median of the third group.

However, while helping

residents struggling to obtain the exemptions is a problem, the other major problem surround the program is how to actually fund it. Caron noted that while Derry's assessed value per capita stands at \$85,401, the majority of all three groups are surpass that at values between \$95,122 and \$124,788. Thus, while Derry provides a competitive exemption program, the town also has a harder time funding it than most other New Hampshire towns. Furthermore, there lies the possibility of an increase in participants in the following years. Currently, 248 residents are signed up for the program, leading to a total

exemption of \$28,300,000, or one percent of the tax base. However, due to New Hampshire having one of the oldest populations in the country, experts are expecting the elderly population to grow from 180,000 to 400,000 by 2035. All these factors could possibly lead to the tax rate rising between \$.05 and \$.09 if left unchecked.

"I think an argument could be made that the community is stepping up and actually providing exemptions which are currently above the town's ability to fund", Caron noted.

In response to his, Councilor Joshua Bourdon feels that the matter needs to be

"attacked from all angles" and that Derry should continue to try and attract citizens in their 20s towards Derry through affordable housing and downtown development. Council Chair James Morgan would then suggest advocating for legislation that would alter the age brackets that determine how much of an exemption residents get, taking into account the fact that more people work later into their lives in this day and age. But any official action will have to wait, as the council will address the matter further in a November workshop so that any action they take will be implemented into the 2019-2020 budget.

## Zoning Board Denies Neighbors' Appeal of Toilet Business Expansion

MELISSA RUIZ  
NUTFIELD NEWS

In a continuation of a Zoning Board case from June 21, Derry resident Roberta Robie continued her appeal against a decision handed down by Code Enforcement Officer Robert Mackey. More specifically, Robie felt that Triangle Portable Services Inc., a portable toilet supplier in Derry, went against a variance from 1984 that forbade any sort of expansion of the business because they have

added more tankers to the property. However, upon examining the property, Mackey sided with the business, stating that he analyzed the business as a whole and not just the tankers and found no issue. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the meeting and Robie's rebuttal of her opposition needed to be extended to the July 19 meeting.

Robie began her rebuttal by first stating that she felt that the minutes from the June 21 meeting were not entirely accurate and

skipped key detail from the opposition's argument. She then went over said details that she felt were pertinent to the discussion, but board alternate Donald Burgess noted that certain details were glossed over due to the length of the prior discussion. Continuing on, Robie said that the expansion of the business could be seen in the expansion of the size of the trucks used by the business and that the waste was being dumped in areas outside of Derry. When asked by Board Chair Lynn Perkins about what she would like to see done to

remedy the situation, she simply felt that the variance should be upheld. Finally, she expressed her frustration at the business' lawyer, Morgan Hollis, for attacking her credibility and referring to her argument as unreliable.

"It was an abusive tirade, in my opinion," Robie said.

Hollis then came forth to make his case, but not before apologizing to Robie for his actions, which Robie accepted. Hollis also stated that he felt that Robie was right to question the variance based on the visual aspects of the scene. However, he then repeated his

argument from the June 21 meeting by saying that the change of the needs of the public demanded an expansion of equipment, but that the business has not expanded and, in fact, has actually decreased in recent years. Furthermore, Hollis mentioned that the business had to get rid of the waste outside of Derry due to an inability to do so in the town.

"Derry accepts Derry toilets; not septic," Hollis stated.

Mark Chase, the son of the business' owner Carol Chase, also came forth to agree that business has decreased over time and that the additional vehicles were also bought to assist in emergencies that need immediate support.

When the board came around to speaking on the issue, Burgess noted that

even if the business did expand, it is sometimes an inevitability. This was a sentiment shared by Secretary Stephen Coppola, who not only felt that plenty of other businesses have encountered this problem, but that the reference to business expansion in the variance was too vague. He did, however, commend Robie for her case and the extensiveness of it.

Finally, Perkins admitted that he would like to see the variance made more specific in the future, while feeling that the variance should pertain to equipment that would expand upon what the business actually does.

However, the board unanimously denied Robie's appeal of Mackey's findings, citing a lack of pertinent evidence to validate her claim and a strong trust of Mackey's capabilities.

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# Town Council Plans Ahead With Ideas for Derry in 2019

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The summer is typically an offseason for the Derry Town Council, with councilors shrinking the typical bi-monthly schedule down to one a month until September.

However, with that extra time, members of the council hope to start planning out where they hope to direct Derry in 2019.

The council recently held a Goals Setting meeting at the First Parish Church on July 19 to throw around numerous ideas for developing and assisting Derry. Each councilor would be tasked with listening to the different ideas, listing ten that catch their eye the most, and ranking their importance from 1 to 10. A second goals meeting is set to be held in August to continue the discussion on these ideas.

Roughly 20 different ideas for Derry were discussed by the council, starting with economic and community development. Specifically, Councilors Neil Wetherbee and Joshua Bourdon championed the idea of helping to lead New Hampshire in efforts to encourage younger citizens to stay in the state because of its aging population. To this end, councilors believed the likes of micro apartments, art festivals and a strong arts and theatre presence would be some potential solutions. Furthermore, the council agreed that more effort should be placed on decorating the downtown area during holidays like Independence Day and Christmas, something that Council Chair James Morgan thinks would be key to increasing business and the appearance of Derry.

“Nobody wants to come to a town that’s not decorated at Christmas time”, Morgan noted.

Continuing on, Councilor Richard Tripp proposed that the council consider an ordinance to allow tiny houses with foundations in Derry, as they would be appealing to many groups, including elderly residents.

In continuation of the appearance of Derry, propositions were made for professional graffiti art to be done at certain locations around town and for additional planters to be set up. There is also the possibility of trying to clean up the Abbott Court area, not only through a blight ordinance to improve the area’s disposition but to also establish a building that connects to the Rail Trail and fuses it with educational and retail potential. In general, there

is also hope to create an overarching Downtown Improvement Plan to give ideas like this better direction. Traffic would also be a focus, with a proposition being made to fund a traffic study for Broadway to test the idea of making the road one way. The idea is thought to help with adding commercial zoning, but Councilor Brian Chirichello believes such an idea would fail.

Beyond the appearance of Derry, other propositions were made to address Derry’s finances, recreational areas, and legislative matters. There are hopes to enhance commerce by widening the Franklin Street extension for the town’s Industrial Park, and reducing the mandatory number of parking spaces need for businesses in town. Then, there was the idea of encouraging

non-profit building owners in Derry to possibly make donations to the town’s various health and human services venues. This would be through what was referred to as the “Good Neighbor Fund”. The council also felt that establishing a private or publicly owned hotel in the vein of a Bed & Breakfast would be beneficial, as well as using land on Hood Park for frisbee golf, possibly finding a party interested in building a privately funded hockey rink, and building an irrigation fountain to decrease the bacteria levels in Hood Pond and make it safer to swim in.

“I think we’re losing a downtown gem,” Morgan stated.

Expanding on to the Net Zero Task Force’s efforts, Bourdon hopes to increase the performance of the Transfer Station’s solar sys-

tem to one megawatt, as well as introduce more electric car charging stations around Derry. Propositions were also made to open the Transfer Station’s services to outside communities to increase revenue, as it only takes \$.50 to process every \$1 worth of waste received by the station.

Finally, legislative propositions were made to start a fund to maintain significant buildings and grounds around Derry, bond the remaining \$1.9 million owed from the Exit 4A project, continue to build upon the town’s latest five year financial plan for tax stability, update the town charter over proposed amendments, and come to a conclusion on how to address the School Board’s reluctance to discuss a voter-approved referendum to make the school district a part of the town government.

## Town Council Briefed On Status and Future of Derry’s Credit Rating

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

As Derry continues to attempt to expand its economic development efforts and decrease its tax rate, it is also important to take into account the state of Derry’s credit rating. In order to give residents a sense of where Derry stands in this area, Chief Financial Officer Sue Hickey came before the Town Council during their meeting on Tuesday, July 17 to discuss the town’s credit prospects.

Present with Hickey was Bill Fazioli, an employee of PFM Financial Advisors who has worked in municipal finance for roughly

three decades and regularly works with Derry, and around a dozen other New Hampshire communities, on these matters so that the town does not have to go through the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank.

According to Fazioli’s presentation, the status of Derry’s credit rating was measured by the town’s resources, its ability and willingness to manage itself fiscally, and various trends observed within its financial history. Furthermore, the rating could be crucial to Derry’s economic development prospects, as well as play a role in the town’s general business dealings,

including insurance coverage and banking relationships.

However, Fazioli also noted that there were several global credit issues that local governments have had to face as of late. For Derry, as well as New Hampshire as a whole, there is the matter of the state’s aging population leading to a smaller work force, the rising costs related to pension and health care, deferred capital investments, aging infrastructure, cyber security threats, and even the risks of climate change causing major property damage. However, despite these risks, Derry has still man-

aged to maintain a strong credit rating, with Moody’s Investor Services giving the town an AA1 rating, while Standard & Poor gives Derry a AA+ rating. Not only are both scores the second highest available, second only to a AAA rating, but Fazioli also expects the Standard & Poor to grant Derry with a AAA rating during their next review because of Derry’s history of conservative financial management,

strong reserves, moderate debt burden, and expanding tax base.

“The town’s got a very, very strong credit rating. It’s obviously in a good spot”, Fazioli noted.

Council Chair James Morgan noted that he took much pride in how much progress Derry has made in this area and how much this has benefitted Derry’s long term planning. In order to show his appreciation, Morgan also had a set of custom

shirts made for the council and Hickey and her staff for their hard work to get the credit rating to this point and its potential for an upgrade in the future. Hickey would then respond that several unnamed cities in New Hampshire have actually contacted her office, asking how it is that the town has achieved this level of success. Being asked these questions also ended up filling Hickey with a similar level of pride.



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# Editorial

## Celebrate Your Town

August is just about here. The flowers are blooming, the garden is producing, fall sports practices will be starting yet there's still plenty of time to sit on the porch and enjoy the season.

It's the heart of summer even with the days getting shorter and if you can't help but catch a glimpse of fall some evenings and that means it's town festival time.

It starts with Hampstead's Summerfest, presented by St. Anne's Parish. Next up is Londonderry's Old Home Day celebration Aug. 15-19, followed by Sandown Old Home Day Sept. 7 & 8 also on Chester's Town Fair on Sept. 8 and Derryfest in Derry on Sept. 15.

Whatever the date or the name of the event, you're treated to a back-to-basics festival with games of skill or chance, talent shows, hearty food, parades, many games and activities, entertainment, all kind of displays and demonstrations and the newest emergency vehicles, and often fireworks. What's new is often what's old too, as long-ago games of tug of war and sack races catch the attention of today's youngsters. Look in

the pages of the next issues of the papers to get all the details of what's happening when.

Regardless of the hectic life we lead the rest of the year, the town festivals bring us together. They get us out of our homes and our backyards and into the town center, and slow us down to relax with our neighbors.

But celebrations don't come packaged and ready to go, they're the work of a multitude of volunteers and a variety of groups, all sharing a love of their real or adopted hometown, and a desire to make their town festival something everyone will want to schedule and come back to every year. That's the heart of what these old-fashioned summer gatherings are all about. And while our weekdays often require long hours in another community or state, summer encourages us to enjoy where we live.

So mark your calendar for your local festival and plan to celebrate or volunteer where you live. Make this the year to get better acquainted with your neighbors and your town history, and take part in a summer rite that is part of the heart of New England.



There are plans in the works to redevelop the property at 23 Crystal Avenue, located across from St. Thomas Church.  
*Photo by Chris Paul*

## Crystal Avenue Property

**continued from page 1**

However, this update to the old plan was only developed the day before the meeting, meaning that the new plans will have to receive their own meeting sometime in the future.

Although plenty will be happy to see the location developed into something more visually appealing, several residents had problems with a number of the proposals made to alter the property.

One resident, Steve Trefethen, owns properties that abut 23 Crystal Avenue. Although he also approves

of the property's development, he is fearful of the appearance of the property due to the downward elevation of part of the land, what kind of impact this would have on the church, and how the trees will look during the winter.

But representatives with Anagnost assured Trefethen that the development would increase the value of his own properties, and that the developers have been working closely with the diocese that controls the church to make sure this process goes smoothly.

Other residents also

shared concerns about the project, worried about how the trees would affect visibility of Crystal Avenue, and how the new entrance and exit for the property would affect traffic on the road; concerns that were shared by Board Member Mark Connors.

But the representatives assured those in attendance that their project would actually help to stabilize traffic on the road.

Regardless, no official decision was made on the project, as it is set to be revisited during the Planning Board's next meeting on Aug. 1.

## Tax Rate

**continued from page 1**

Although McKenna noted that the vagueness surrounding the law for these funds would most likely lead to the law being updated, he is unsure whether or not the aid will be expanded or if the funding, which focuses on Kindergarten spending, would simply be done away with. As such, councilor like Neil Wetherbee showed concern for the instability of such a funding avenue.

Perkins would then go on to argue that state legislation does not always favor Derry in terms of education. Councilor Joshua Bourdon would continue by wondering what would be the argument to saving funds instead of helping the tax

rate. McKenna noted that the district also has to face down an increase in retirees, collective bargaining agreements, and health insurance rates in the future and would like to be prepared for those costs. However, McKenna did not have the exact numbers for these potential costs on hand; something that Bourdon argued should be made available to the public.

Council Chair James Morgan would then have his say, arguing that the UFB was "over budgeting" and averaged at around \$3,000,000 annually. On top of feeling that the district should focus on averaging their underages, Morgan also felt that there was a lack of transparency concerning where funds for the district go, and noted that

the information that McKenna and Perkins were showing differed from the information that Morgan was given.

McKenna defended the district by saying that they have worked to limit over budgeting while factoring in new retirees. But Morgan would note that he simply wants the two sides to work together in order to better inform the council, as if the council knows more about the district financially, they can better answer the questions of Derry residents and potentially alleviate many issues in town.

"You don't have adversaries here; you have allies," Morgan stated.

The council hopes to continue this discussion sometime in the fall.

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# Enthusiast of Mount Washington Set To Present For Derry Public Library

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Mount Washington has been a cornerstone in New Hampshire's history and landscape since the days of the first settlers. Many thrill seekers and climbing enthusiasts have trekked to the top of the 6,288 foot tall rock spire to admire its beauty and come to respect its harsh conditions. But one man is looking to show people that the mountain is far more than that, as journalist Dan Szczesny is currently presenting his newly released book, *The White Mountain*, to communities

across the state and beyond that delves into his yearlong stay at the mountain and the experiences that he obtained along the way. And residents who are interested in hearing his stories may want to stop by the Derry Public Library on August 1 at 6:30 p.m., which is when his next presentation of the book will be taking place.

Being born in Buffalo, New York, Szczesny spent most of his journalism career in New Jersey, a far cry from the hilly forests of New Hampshire. Eventually, he moved to New Hampshire when he met climbing legend Jim

Gagne, who said that he was climbing Mount Washington as practice for a larger climb in Alaska. From that point on, he developed a fascination with the mountain, visiting since 1999 and admitting to traveling to it up to 35 times last year alone; something that he attributes to his time spent in the state.

"You get involved with outdoor activity pretty quickly", Szczesny noted.

Szczesny also admired the accessibility of the mountain to newcomers, even though it can lead to some rather perilous situations for unprepared novices. But that is far from

the only thing that his book covers. Rather, the book discusses not only his time on the mountain, but the history behind it as well, as it has grabbed the attention of European writers for centuries. He also delves into how the mountain is about much more than simply climbing and hiking; how it has touched the lives of many people inside and outside of New Hampshire. Furthermore, it expands upon his own contributions to the journey, from dressing as poet Walt Whitman, to climbing the mountain while reciting poetry, to cooking for the scientists who occupy

the mountain's observatory for a week.

When asked about what he hopes to really accomplish with *The White Mountain*, Szczesny notes many of the books written about Mount Washington tend to only focus on one single element of the mountain and expand upon it for the entire book. He wanted to take it even further, and decided to cover the mountain as a whole instead. Of course, this is not his first venture into writing about mountains, as this will be Szczesny's seventh book about the topic, also detailing the likes of mountains in Alas-

ka and Nepal in prior projects. On top of his books, he has done over 70 presentations across six different states to both detail his experiences on Mount Washington and reminding children about the importance of spending time outdoors. He will even be doing an interview for New Hampshire Public Radio on the same day as his presentation at the Derry Public Library.

"This is basically how I make my living", Szczesny stated.

For more information about Szczesny and his work, visit [danszczesny.com](http://danszczesny.com).

# Conservation is Key: New Hampshire Enters Drought Season

NOELLE TARDIFF  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The New Hampshire Drought Management Team, coordinated by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and composed of state and federal agency representatives and stakeholders, met on Thursday, July 19, to discuss drought conditions and impacts.

Currently, the U.S. Drought Monitor categorizes 62% of the state, mostly in the southern half, as moderate drought and the remainder of the

state as abnormally dry. Based on this development, the team agreed that the most important recommendation right now is for the public to be mindful about outdoor water use and conserving resources.

Recommended steps to take include reducing or eliminating landscape watering, limiting any watering to between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m., and suspending the washing down of large outdoor surfaces such as cars, homes and driveways. Currently, 47 community water systems have imposed outdoor water use

restrictions and the number is expected to increase as drought persists.

Dr. Mary Stampone, New Hampshire State Climatologist, confirmed that drought conditions are not as severe as they were at this same time of year during the 2016 drought, but she said this drought has come on just as quickly and is more widespread.

"The development of the drought," she explained, "is a result of below average rainfall in the late spring and early summer coupled with high temperatures, while the

2016 drought was compounded by an early spring and a less-than-average snowpack."

Dr. Stampone also made it clear that while rain is in the forecast for the upcoming week, there is an equal chance of above or below average rainfall and a likelihood of above average temperatures for the upcoming month, meaning that drought conditions may continue through August.

Homeowners on private wells and many smaller community water systems can be more susceptible to the impacts of drought, as they often do not have the resources larger water systems have to manage drought, such as full-time staff, the technology to track water source levels, or a diversity of water sources on which to rely.

Also, finances for well improvements or to drill a new well may be very lim-

ited; therefore, during a drought, these water users need to curb water use early. Conservation tips and drought emergency guidance for homeowners on private wells, community water systems, municipalities and the public may be found on the NHDES Drought Management webpage. Go to the "A-Z list" at [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov) and scroll down to Drought Management.

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# Sonshine Soup Seeks Support: Current Donation Needs

GABBY GUERARD  
NUTFIELD NEWS

While many families gather for dinner around their kitchen table, a separate group gathers within the community instead. They too create an atmosphere much like a big family dinner, where members of the community chat, reconnect, and share stories. Both groups are composed of ordinary people, yet, there is one main difference: the latter group would not be able to receive their meal, had it not been for hundreds of volunteers and donations.

The Sonshine Soup Kitchen (SSK) offers a place for individuals and families in need to eat a nourishing meal in an uplifting environ-

ment five nights per week. On average, the Kitchen serves between 30 to 50 meals each day, to between 20 to 40 people. However, the experience is about much more than just food; it's about acceptance.

According to the website, the organization provides a, "free meal served in a loving, safe, uplifting atmosphere. We strive to provide healthy, balanced meals. There are no requirements for coming into our dining room and eating, except for sobriety and good behavior. We will serve a meal to anyone who enters, no questions asked." Doors open for meals at 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Though to do so, SSK depends on help from the

community, which comes in the form of donations and volunteers. Because the organization is a soup kitchen, its needs differ from food pantries. For example, the organization accepts fresh produce, canned foods, and eggs, however is unable to accept expired or opened items of any kind, breads, frozen items, dessert items, or anything that has not been prepared in a commercial kitchen.

Additionally, SSK asks that donations are dropped off during open office hours, in order to both thank the contributor, and most importantly, to ensure that the provided food is able to be of use. Open office hours are Monday through Friday from 1 - 6 p.m.

"Our guest safety is our No. 1 priority," said the organization. "We are unable to accept food that has been left outside while we are closed."

The organization also accepts donations for casual clothing and personal care items for those in emergent need, through its clothing closet. Donations of clothes that are clean, gently worn, and ready to wear are always welcomed. While the small space only holds a limited amount of clothing, surplus items are given to the Marion Gerrish Thrift Store. The clothing closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 - 5 p.m.

To best help SSK, the organization asks the public to reference the "Needs

List" on the website before gathering items to donate. This list indicates which items are needed the most at any given time, and is updated accordingly. The current needs for July are as follows: brown rice, tomato sauce, canned chicken, paper towels, napkins, disposable salad bowls, copy paper, supermarket gift cards, Amazon gift cards, men's and women's socks, toothpaste, deodorant, and soap.

Although those items are specific to this month, SSK is always in need of those who are willing to donate their time by volunteering. The program is run almost entirely by volunteers, who help in a number of ways, from cooking and serving

meals, to delivering and picking up various items. Anyone who is at least 12 years of age may volunteer, and is encouraged to call SSK at 603-437-2833 during office hours to be scheduled.

Monetary donations of any amount are also always welcomed. Donations may be dropped off during office hours or mailed to the office at 6 Crystal Ave. in Derry, with checks made payable to the Sonshine Soup Kitchen. Online donations are also welcomed through the use of GuideStar, PayPal, or Amazon. Visit the website at [sonshinesoupkitchen.org](http://sonshinesoupkitchen.org) for more information on how to donate and volunteer.

# Furry Friends Fetch Funds, Foster Families at Humane Society

GABBY GUERARD  
NUTFIELD NEWS

For many households, pets are more than just animals. They are a friendly face to come home to after a long day at work. They are a buddy to cuddle with when someone feels lonely. They are a motivator to be active. They are an intricate part of the family.

However, not every pet gets to sleep in a soft bed, or eat out of a big bowl. Some pets wander the streets alone at night, scrounging for their next

meal. Longing to find a safe home, and a family to love.

The Greater Derry Humane Society (GDHS) is determined to help put an end to that. The non-profit has worked around the clock to help rescue cats and dogs in the community and match them with forever homes. Though, the organization cannot do it alone; GDHS is seeking help.

Last year, GDHS reports rescuing 121 dogs and cats, all of whom were either strays, surrendered by families who could no longer

keep them, transported from other rescue organizations, or even from the Derry Animal Control. However, board member Paula Dunlavy explained that while the actual rescue is important, it's afterwards when people become "real heroes."

Unlike many rescue facilities, GDHS is unique in that it does not have a shelter to hold the animals. Instead, the organization relies on foster homes. It is there that a rescued animal may decompress in a safe environment, until being adopted.

This allows the pet an opportunity to become better trained and socialized, to learn to trust humans in a home environment, and to

allow caretakers to learn more about their personality. Meanwhile, the fostering process provides the companionship of animals without the financial burden, as well as the chance to see how a pet will fit into a particular family's lifestyle.

"Foster homes are always needed, and we are always asking for them at every opportunity," said Dunlavy. "We can't take animals in, without a safe and comfortable place for them to go."

Even though foster homes are the key to being able to rescue an animal, monetary donations are the most important need for the organization. Knowing that animals can require exten-

sive care, especially following the initial rescue, GDHS provides food, necessary veterinary care, medications, and supplies to foster homes. Because the organization takes in pets who can require diagnostics such as x-rays, ultrasounds, bloodwork, hospice care, and many other expensive medications, veterinary costs make up roughly 68 percent of all GDHS expenses.

The organization currently has several GoFundMe fundraisers set up for animals like Alice and Anzlo, who are in a legal custody case, Shep, who has inoperable cancer, Sarabi, who is beginning heartworm treatments, and Charlie, whose injuries have resulted in the loss of all four legs. For more information about the animals in need, as well as updates for events, adoptions, and available animals, visit "The Greater Derry Humane Society, Inc." on Facebook. Additional donations may be submitted to the website.

Despite the challenges, Dunlavy explained that the

process of rescuing animals and matching them with their dream home is extremely valuable.

"We have received dogs and cats that are in terrible shape, and with medicine, good food, and a happy foster home, they are completely transformed," she said. "It's rewarding when you can see the excitement and love on an adopter's face after they sign the adoption agreement."

GDHS is run entirely by volunteers, who donate their time, money, and resources, because they love animals. To become a volunteer, foster family, or adopt a pet, information and the appropriate applications may be found on the website at [derryhumane-society.com](http://derryhumane-society.com). Questions may be directed via phone at 603-434-1512 or via email to [contact@derryhumane-society.com](mailto:contact@derryhumane-society.com). GDHS will also be represented at Londonderry Old Home Day, which runs from Wednesday, Aug. 15 to Sunday, Aug. 19, as well as at Derryfest, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 15.

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# Summertime Sadness: Knowing the Signs of Depression/Anxiety in Your Child

MELISSA BETH RUIZ  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The start of summer vacation is a joyous time for just about every student, as it heralds a good two and a half months off from homework, tests, quizzes, and all of the ups and downs that school brings. But what brings joy to many, may not be as much of a saving grace for others.

Now that school is out and families have more time to be together, parents may be better able to catch on to any changes in mood or behavior in their children and teens, and more importantly, be able to help them through any changes that could lead to dangerous consequences.

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, about 5 percent of children and teenagers in the general population suffer from depression at any given time. According to the CDC, up to 3 percent of children ages 3-17 show signs of anxiety disorders. If left untreated, these conditions can negatively impact children's development into adulthood and can even lead to substance abuse, or thoughts of suicide.

As children approach puberty, mood fluctuation is common amongst boys and girls alike, so it can be difficult to distinguish between what is par for the course and what are signs of bigger problems.

"Things parents should look for to distinguish

depression from normal teenage moodiness is the severity of symptoms," said Sandra Norton, Clinical Director of the Children's Department at the Center of Life Management in Derry. "The more pronounced the symptoms, the more likely that the problem is depression (or anxiety).

Norton further stated to watch for actions that seem "out of character" in children and teens, and to monitor for how long these behaviors last. According to Norton, any decline in mood and/or behavior that consistently lasts for two weeks or longer may indicate depression or anxiety, as well as a decline in functioning in several areas of their life, such as school, home, or friendships.

Norton also mentioned that the most common signs that a child or teenager may be suffering with depression are irritability, anger, and agitation, but symptoms can also include appearing generally sad, expressing feelings of hopelessness, frequent crying, loss of interest in activities, withdrawal from friends and family, decline in academic or extracurricular performance, changes in sleeping and eating habits, lack of motivation, difficulty concentrating, and thoughts of death or suicide.

Norton went on to say that a child or teenager who is depressed may also develop anxiety, and that depression can lead to anxiety and vice-versa because of nega-

tive thoughts, damaged self-esteem, weakened self-confidence, and not feeling secure or safe. Separate signs to watch for that could indicate an anxiety disorder in a child or teenager include excessive worry, trouble sleeping or restlessness through the night, difficulty concentrating, irritability, and inability or refusal to engage in usual activities.

Older children more often exhibit the more apparent signs of depression and/or anxiety, such as sulking, speaking negatively, getting into trouble at school, etc, but Norton mentioned that some more subtle signs that younger children may show include pretending to be sick, refusing to go to school, or clinging to a parent.

According to Norton, only in the past two decades has depression in children and teenagers been taken seriously, and diagnosis can be difficult as normal behaviors vary from one childhood stage to another. It can be hard to tell whether a child is just going through a temporary phase or if he or she is truly suffering from depression or anxiety. Norton urged parents to work closely with their children's teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses, or any other adults who may see them on a

regular basis to help to make recommendations to be seen with your child's pediatrician or an outside agency to provide mental health support if need be.

It is still a common misconception that because children and teens do not typically have the same mental load that adults have to bear, it means they cannot be depressed or anxious. While there are many cases where the death of a loved one or a traumatic event such as abuse are what it takes to trigger these issues, there are a number of other factors that contribute to depression and anxiety in the younger generation.

"Issues such as peer pressure, academic expectations, and changing bodies can bring a lot of ups and downs for teens," said Norton. "But for some, the lows are more than just temporary feelings - they're a symptom of depression."

Norton listed the following factors that may increase the development or triggering of depression: Having issues that negatively impact self esteem, such as obesity, problems with peers, long-term bullying or academic difficulty, having been the victim or witness of violence, such as physical or

sexual abuse, having other conditions, such as bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, personality disorder, or eating disorder, having a learning disability or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), having ongoing pain or a chronic physical illness, having a physical disability, having certain personality traits such as low self-esteem, being overly dependent, self-critical, or pessimistic, abusing alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs, or living in an unsupportive environment.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Norton agreed that social media can be a contributing factor in the development of mood disorders in young people, as it can be a source of social comparison, cyber bullying, and isolation. Even though children are often communicating through the use of social media, it is often while they are physically alone in their room, which can still lead to feelings of emptiness and loneliness. Furthermore, applications such as Snapchat and Instagram and the use of filters and photoshop, while often used for fun, can create unrealistic images of young people and their peers, which in Norton's

words could create a false image of self, leading to poor body image. It could also indicate that the youngster is unhappy with his or her appearance and feels the need to alter it.

Knowing the signs and risk factors, parents who suspect that their child or children may be exhibiting symptoms of depression and/or anxiety can help by showing a genuine interest and desire to understand their children's feelings, says Norton. Parents who listen without judgment and who make an effort to put themselves in their children's shoes will have better luck getting through to their young ones than parents who overreact, Norton also said. If a child is unable to talk with a parent about his or her issues, even short-term counseling can be beneficial to a child going through life stress.

Parents who suspect their child/ren may be experiencing mental health distress can contact the Center for Life Management in Derry at (603) 434-1577, or at (603) 432-2253 after hours or on weekends. For more information on their services and providers, visit [www.centerforlifemanagement.org](http://www.centerforlifemanagement.org).

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# Conservation Commission Hosts Walk to Showcase Derry's Beauty

ALEX GUITTARR  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Derry residents have been lucky enough to play witness to an amazingly beautiful summer thus far. Barring a few rainy days, the perfect temperatures and crystal clear skies have helped to compliment New Hampshire's natural beauty. But what we see from our backyards or on the side of the

road really does not do the true beauty of the state justice. In order to fully appreciate it, residents should look into taking advantage of one of Derry's many conservation areas scattered across town. One such property, the Albert W. Doolittle Conservation Area, was the focus of a recent Conservation Walk on July 21.

Sponsored by Derry's Conservation Commission,

as well as the Go Green Derry subcommittee, the 94 acre conservation area was located on Faith Drive, a quiet suburb that holds a hidden gem of a hiking area.

Leading the walk was Conservation Commission Chair James Degnan, who led fellow nature-enthusiasts through the various trails of the property.

Named after Albert W. Doolittle, who was a mem-

ber of the commission for over two decades, the land was purchased back in 2006 by Arthur and Diane Caras in order to keep the undeveloped land protected. It was then officially made a trail later that year when Charlie Jones, a Boy Scout from Troop 405, cut through various vegetation from Faith Drive down to the bulk of the trail to make a navigable path. He would then produce a trailhead sign for the entrance.

The property once served as open pastureland, and while there is still some pastureland located on the outskirts of the trail, it mostly

gives a home to a variety of oak, pine and hickory species', as well as rich productive soils. The area also has some historical significance, as it once housed a portion of the Chester & Derry Electric Railroad, operating from 1891 to 1928. But what really interests the commission about the land is Manter Brook. Found deep within the forest, the water flowing through the brook accounts for roughly 70 percent of the water that goes to Beaver Lake. Furthermore, the wetlands on this parcel help to cleanse the water as it makes its way to the lake. Thus, as

with other conservation properties, the commission works closely with the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) to maintain the area by monitoring water quality, harvesting certain timber, and protecting the habitat for wildlife.

"SELT does a great job with not only obtaining, but maintaining the parcel", Degnan noted.

If any residents are looking to visit one of these beautiful patches of land, visit [derrynh.org](http://derrynh.org) and click "Conservation Commission" through the "Government" tab for more information.

## Kids Coop Presents High School Musical



Kids Coop Theatre's production of High School Musical will be performed at the Derry Opera House on Friday, July 27 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, July 28, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The cast of 38 members ranging in age from 12 to 18, are from a total of 12 area towns. Tickets will be available online and at the door. For more information visit [kids-coop-theatre.org](http://kids-coop-theatre.org). To purchase tickets online, visit the website, then select "Buy Tickets Now." *Photos by Chris Paul*

## Ponds

continued from page 1

and reports the results to the New Hampshire Environmental Services.

"Besides continually checking the water and hoping for good results, there is not much else that can be done to resolve the issue," says Eric Bodenrader, director of Derry Parks and Recreation. "We just have to let nature run its course," Bodenrader said Tuesday.

Although the beach advisory is only a warning and not a ban on swimming, visitors have been largely deterred from visiting Hood Pond this summer season, according to the parks and rec director.

"Due to a shortage in visitation to the beach, Hood Pond is not currently being staffed with life guards. The town has shifted its focus and its funds to Gallien's

Town Beach, where turn-out this summer has so far been fantastic," said Bodenrader.

Greater Derry residents that are curious as to when Hood Pond will again be deemed safe for swimming can check the beach inspection program page on the New Hampshire Environmental Services website, or they can call the Derry Parks and Recreation office. Warning signs will also be posted at the entrance of the beach until it is no longer under advisory.

Until water conditions improve at Hood Pond, Bodenrader invites Derry residents to enjoy the many other summer activities the town has to offer. Gallien's Town Beach on the corner of Route 102 and Pond Road is considered the town's prime summer destination. There is a sandy beach, a concession stand, bathrooms, a fishing dock, picnic tables,

and is staffed with life guards. It is open only to Derry residents and their guests, who can purchase both daily passes and season passes. Pricing information for the passes is available on Derry's parks and recreation website.

Open to the general public, the Derry Splash Pad at Don Ball Park on Humphrey Road is another place families can go to beat the heat this summer. There, water is sprayed, sprinkled, and dumped from various playground equipment.

The full list of the town's summer activities is available on the Derry parks and recreation website, and events are posted frequently on the department's Facebook page. The town will continue to test Hood Pond on a regular basis and will post green signs at the beach as soon as the water is once again safe for swimming.



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# DERRY SPORTS

## Derry Senior Legion Finishes Up With Three Victories

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

One of the tests of a good team is the way that squad responds to putting forth a disappointing performance.

The Derry Chase Post 9 Senior American Legion baseball squad produced a real stinker of an effort in a 3-1 loss to Londonderry Post 27 team on Thursday, July 12, just a few weeks after the Derry crew had 10-run-ruled that squad in a no-hit pitching performance from George Welch.

However, the Chase Post side showed its resilience and talent by rebounding from that awful effort with three lopsided and closed out its 2018 regular season.

The locals beat Dover by an 11-6 score in Derry on Monday, July 16, and walloped Portsmouth in both ends of a double-header on Thursday, July 19 to finish up with a strong 12-4 regular season record and the second seed in tough District B.

The Derry team will now make a run at a state championship when they play in the New Hampshire Senior Legion tournament at Manchester's Gill Stadium starting Friday, July 27. Derry

and the number three seed from District A - the 6-9 Weare team - play game one of that tourney at 11 a.m.

In the twin-bill at Leary Field in Portsmouth, the Derry squad claimed victories of 9-4 and 8-0 over the host Portsmouth Booma Post 6 bunch to end the regular season with a three-game winning streak rolling.

In game one, Derry busted a scoreless tie by scoring twice in the top of the third, only to watch its host score single markers in the bottom halves of the third and fourth frames to knot the score and two more in the bottom of the fifth to collect a 4-2 lead.

But the locals were nowhere near ready to quit, as it showed by scoring three times in the top of the sixth and four more times in the top of the seventh to grab a 9-4 success.

Portsmouth bashed out 11 hits against Derry pitching, but the locals' offense smashed out 10 and took advantage of three errors in collecting the victory.

"Jake McGill, Richie Marique, and Connor Jenkins had two hits apiece, and Ryan Simard had a big three-run double in the top of the sixth inning to give us the lead at 5-4," said coach

Mike Lynch. "Frank Gulezian hit a deep solo home run to left field in the top of the seventh."

Pitcher Welch - who is bound for Saint Joseph's College of Maine next month - was credited with another hurling victory.

The Derry crew was challenged even less by its opponent in the nightcap, with the locals sprinting out to a 6-0 lead in the latter half of the first and adding two more runs in the bottom of the fourth to claim a 8-0 win.

Southpaw pitching stalwart, David Unkles, gave the Derry side a masterful performance in going six innings and allowing just two hits while striking out nine.

"Frank Gulezian had three hits while Christian Allaire and Jacob Unkles each had two. Unkles also had three RBI," said Lynch, who had plenty of reasons to feel good about his team's efforts that evening.

"In the first game we really had to grind, especially on the mound. The score wasn't evident of how most of the game went, but one thing these kids have shown this summer is that they aren't willing to quit just because they are down a few runs late. Our pitching was-

n't as shut-down as normal, but our offense backed us up enough to win the game, and that's what we need going into the state tournament now that we have officially clinched a spot. In the second game, David Unkles was nails, as he has been all summer. He came in and was challenging all night while our offense didn't wait around to jump on Portsmouth to get an early lead. A lot of guys had good nights at the plate, which I hope we can carry going into next weekend," said the coach.

In kicking off the state tourney by playing Weare on Friday morning, the locals tee it up against an opponent which dropped six of its final eight regular-season contests in finishing well below the .500 mark at 6-9.



Derry Senior Legion second baseman Christian Allaire and his teammates will have their hands full in the state tourney this coming weekend. *Photo by Chris Pantazis*



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Ex-Pinkerton Baseball Stars Play in Futures Summer League

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Since building impressive legacies as all-state baseball stars at Pinkerton Academy, Connor Donahue and Joey Murphy have gone on to still more success in college ball at schools in states which neighbor New Hampshire.

And University of Massachusetts at Amherst senior Donahue and Saint Joseph's College of Maine senior Murphy are both testing their mettle in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League this summer, going up against some of the top college baseball talent in the nation.

Pitcher Donahue plays for the Martha's Vineyard Sharks' squad, which through its first 39 games of the 2018 campaign had posted an excellent record of 27-12.

The Hampstead resident - who played ball at Worcester (Mass.) Academy after graduating from Pinkerton in the spring of 2014 - had pitched in 15 games for the Sharks to that point in the season with one start and 14 relief appearances. The 6-foot-4, 220-pound righty had



Connor Donahue

struck out 18 would-be hitters in 20 1/3 innings to that juncture and compiled a 5.31 earned run average with no decisions.

Among Donahue's strongest performances for his FCBL squad was a four-inning stint against the Worcester Bravehearts in which he allowed two earned runs and struck out three.

The big hurler and business major - who also played ice hockey at PA and was a member of coach Casey Kesselring's 2012 state championship squad - also had a strong two-inning appearance in a 12-1 thumping of the Seacoast Mavericks.

Two-time New Hamp-



Joey Murphy

shire high school all-state baseball pick Donahue appeared in 14 games - all in relief - as a junior for a 2018 U-Mass Amherst team which struggled its way to a 15-29 finish. The hurler posted an 0-1 record with a 5.84 ERA, but he held opposing hitters to a relatively-light batting average of .265 and struck out 20 of them.

His former Pinkerton teammate Murphy is playing this summer for the North Shore Navigators' squad of Lynn, Mass. - the town of his birth - in the Futures League, and he has been a strong force on a weak team which went 14-25 in its first 39 contests.

The skilled infielder -

who was named a New Hampshire all-stater multiple times during his Pinkerton days before graduating in the spring of 2016 - appeared in 28 of those Navigators' games and batted at a strong .326 clip with 13 stolen bases, 11 runs batted in, and six doubles.

The sure-handed and speedy Murphy drove in three runs in a win over Worcester and smacked three hits in battles with those Bravehearts and the Nashua Silver Knights as well.

Murphy was also a key

player in his junior year at Saint Joe's in Standish, Me., during the spring, along with his teammate and fellow Pinkerton grad Chris Gerossie.

That dynamic duo helped the Monks' squad to an excellent 29-13 record and a tremendous 17-1 home mark for coach Will Sanborn.

Starting shortstop Murphy hit at a .336 clip in 40 games - with 39 starts - for his college crew, leading the team in hits with 49 and stolen bases with 30. He also finished second to Gerossie in runs scored (30)

and third in total bases (59).

The Derry resident - who is majoring in business and sports management - wound up being named a Great Northeast Athletic Conference First-Team selection for the 2018 campaign.

While Murphy's former fellow Pinkerton Astro Gerossie has now graduated from the Maine school, the talented infielder will be joined by 2018 Pinkerton All-Stater George Welch on the Monks' squad for Murphy senior's year.

Area Youngsters Excel in Week Four of Fun Runs

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

Speedy, and spirited young runners from Londonderry and Derry managed some top finishes during week four action of the 43rd season of the Greater Derry Track Club's summer fun runs at Londonderry High School on the evening of Monday, July 16.

The very solid crowd of youthful athletes competing that evening brought to 499 the number of race registrants who had participated through the first four weeks, with the July 16 kids' registration offerings of non-perishable food providing an impressive tally of some 280 more pounds of food being divided and donated to the St. Jude Food Pantry of Londonderry and the Saint Thomas Aquinas Food Pantry in Derry.

"For very hot Monday

evenings, the turnout has been great," said GDTC race director Colleen Falardeau.

Collecting top-three finishes in the nine-year-old divisions that Monday night were Londonderry boys Josiah DelSignore (second) and Nathan Smith (third) and young Londonderry ladies Addison Doyle and Annabelle Ackerson (second and third respectively).

In 10-year-olds' competition, Eve Klok of Derry was one unbeatable girl, with Londonderry lasses Leah Griffin and Jaya Kelly taking second and third respectively. Among the males, Derry's Sebastian Herr bagged the second spot.

In 11-year-olds' action, Derry boys Bryson Hooke and Jacob Hall finished 1-2, and on the girls' side of the ledger Londonderry ladies Lilianna Cawthorn and Jaielynne Kelly were first

and third respectively.

In races among the 12-year-olds, Bailey Yager of Derry snagged second place in boys' action and Michaela Horan from Londonderry placed second among the girls.

And among the 13's, Amelia Hernandez of Derry was tops in girls' competition.

The GDTC Summer Fun Runs are being held every Monday through Aug. 6 at Londonderry High, with that one aforementioned item of non-perishable food serving as each runner's registration fee.

As the GDTC puts it, "all children ages two to 92 are welcome to come and run, and everyone is a winner."

Registration begins at 6 p.m. each race night, with the runs commencing at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the Greater

continued on page 11

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# GDTC Squad Faces Uphill Climb in Defense of Grand Prix Crown

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

It has been stated countless times that the only thing tougher than becoming a champion is remaining a champion. And the members of the Greater Derry Track Club's running team which is taking part in the annual New Hampshire Grand Prix Race Series this year can certainly attest to that.

The local club had its 2017 squad win the Grand Prix crown after engaging in a truly spectacular team battle with the Nashua-based Gate City Striders throughout the year of races.

The locals notched a tally of 1,313 points in the 2017 series to take the title, with Gate City second with 1,285 and the Upper Valley Running Club of Lebanon third with a tally of 941. All in all, some 12 teams took part in the 2017 series. The spirited series began back in 1994, and GDTC teams have won a handful of titles since then.

The Striders appear to be serious about winning the 2018 title, and through the first four Grand Prix races the Nashua-area side was faring extremely well.

Gate City had amassed an impressive total of 766 points through the first four races of the 2018 Grand Prix campaign, overcoming the early lead which the Upper Valley crew had taken by winning series race number one on its home turf in Lebanon back in early March.

And with those first four races completed, Upper Valley sat in second place with 543 points, some 40 better than the 503 which the GDTC crew had notched.

In the series-starting, Lebanon Shamrock Shuffle 5K on March 10, the host Upper Valley squad finished first quite handily thanks to its team point tally of 227. Gate City was second with 163, and Greater Derry was third out of eight competing club teams with 135.

The locals had some 29 runners take part in that first 2018 race, with Derry resident Rich DiSalvo pacing the charge by scoring 10 points himself. Other significant contributions were made to the GDTC effort by Mike Dufour from Londonderry and Nick Gregory, Carolyn Morgenstern, and Caryn Pepin of Derry.

The Greater Derry club had 25 runners take part in the second Grand Prix race - The Nashua Soup Kitchen 10K - on April 8, with a total of 10 teams taking part in that event on the Gate City Striders' home turf.

And the Nashuans overtook first place in the Grand Prix series by scoring 225 points to Upper Valley's 138 and Greater Derry's 122.

The Greater Derry side's performance featured nine-point efforts from DiSalvo and Morgenstern, eight important points from Dufour, seven from talented Derry teenager Luke Brennan, and six from Gregory. Their fellow Derry resident Pat Crothers was also good for a handful of points.

The series events then moved to Windham on June 10 for the Windham Rail Trail Alliance Fast 'n Flat 5K, in which the Greater Derry squad boasted some 31 competitors.

However, Gate City's Striders once again bagged the most points with a tally of 202. The locals were second (157), with Upper Valley a distant third (88) out of six total running clubs which competed.



After winning the prestigious 2017 Grand Prix Championship the members of the Greater Derry Track Club who run in those challenging races presently find themselves trailing two tough opponents in the 2018 Grand Prix series standings with a handful of races to go between now and October. *Courtesy photo*

DiSalvo and former Pinkerton Academy running stalwart Amy Bernard - who teaches and coaches girls' cross-country at that Derry school - both bagged nine important points for the GDTC side. Teen Brennan finished seventh overall in 17 minutes and 14 seconds to notch eight important points for his crew.

Other significant contributions were in turned in to the local contingent by Londonderry residents Breanne Piazik, Colum Creed, and Mike Jean, and Derry residents Gregory, Andrew Fongemie, Jon Schmitz, Matt Lynch, and

Marie Checket.

The June Grand Prix race was held on the 23rd in the state capital in the form of The Capital City Classic 10K, with Greater Derry's competing squad consisting of some 17 runners.

Gate City ended up winning its third event in a row with a tally of 176 points, with Upper Valley (90) and Greater Derry (89) battling it out for runner-up honors among some 11 competing squads.

DiSalvo and Brennan combined for 16 points between them, with additional contributions coming from Jim Peters of Derry

and 71-year-old Charles Morganson of Derry, as well as their fellow Derry resident Priscilla Camarda.

The rest of the 2018 Grand Prix events include the Bill Luti Memorial Race in Concord, the Epsom Old Home Days Race, the Half-Way to Saint Patrick's Day 5K in Manchester, and the CHaD Hero Half-Marathon in Hanover between the end of July and mid-October. And the GDTC squad has its work cut out for it if it intends to successfully defend its 2017 title.

Watch this space in next week's paper for the results of the Luti race.

## Fun Runs

continued from page 9

Derry Track Club lead stretching exercises and offer running tips prior to races, and each age group runs a different distance.

Two and three-year-olds run approximately 50 yards, four to six-year-olds run 200 meters, seven and eights run 300 meters, 9-10-year-olds

cover 600 meters, 11-13-year-olds run a cross-country mile, and 14's and older run the open mile.

Everyone gets a participation ribbon compliments of the Derry Recreation Department and a commemorative T-shirt at the end of the program courtesy of the Greater Derry Track Club. Water, Gatorade, and watermelons are supplied each

week. At the end of the series prizes and medals are given for participation in this healthy event.

While they are co-sponsored by the Derry Recreation Department, the races are open to children from any town or city. In week one, youngsters from Hudson, Litchfield, Salem, Windham, and numerous other towns took part.

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# Ex-Pinkerton Star Thompson Rejoins the NHL's Panthers

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
NUTFIELD NEWS

The professional ice hockey odyssey of former Pinkerton Academy Astro Paul Thompson took another twist in early July when the journeyman forward signed a contract to return to the Florida Panthers of the National Hockey League.

The 29-year-old former University of New Hampshire record-setter - who played New Hampshire high school hockey in his freshman and sophomore years earlier this century at Pinkerton and also played football and baseball at the academy - has so far skated in 24 NHL games and within the organizations of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Columbus Blue Jackets, New Jersey Devils, Panthers, and Las Vegas Golden Knights since being the Hockey East Player of the Year for the UNH Wildcats during the 2010-11 collegiate season.

Thus far Thompson, who grew up in Derry but was

born just across the border in Methuen, Mass., has tallied three assists in his 24 National Hockey League games. He made his NHL debut for the Devils against the Boston Bruins in early January of 2016, and then ended up playing some 21 games for the Panthers during the following season, notching his three assists.

The former PA Astro was snagged by the expansion Las Vegas Golden Knights - who made it all the way to the Stanley Cup finals this past spring - as a free-agent prior to their inaugural season. But Thompson spent the entire 2017-18 campaign with the Golden Knights' American Hockey League affiliate the Chicago Wolves, for whom he netted 24 goals and assisted on 14 others for 38 points in helping that team to the AHL Central Division championship.

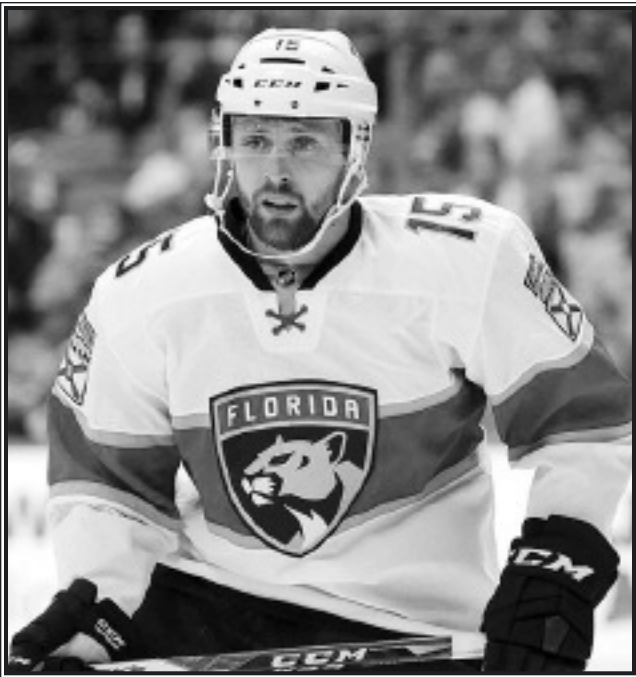
Panthers' president of hockey operations and general manager Dale Tallon - a standout for the Vancouver Canucks and Chicago Black

Hawks during his own NHL career - announced on July 2 that the Florida team had agreed to terms with Thompson on a two-year, two-way contract in making a potentially-important depth move for the 2018-19 campaign.

After playing his freshman and sophomore seasons for Pinkerton, Thompson made the switch to the New Hampshire Junior Monarchs of the Eastern Junior Hockey League prior to his junior year of 2006-07 at PA.

He had a truly stellar collegiate career at UNH which built up to that exceptional, award-winning campaign in 2010-11 and became the highest-scoring Granite Stater in the Wildcats' hockey program in 30 years. He was a finalist for the Hobey Baker Award, which is given to the top male hockey player in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, in 2011.

Despite his tremendous success at UNH the Derry man went undrafted by



Pinkerton Academy graduate and former Astro hockey star Paul Thompson is looking for his shot at a full-time NHL career back with the Florida Panthers. This will be the Derry man's second stint with the Florida organization.

Photo courtesy Florida Panthers

NHL teams, but in March 2011 he signed a two-year free-agent contact with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Thompson played for the minor league Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins of the American Hockey League until February of

2014, when he was traded to the Columbus Blue Jackets and played for that organization's AHL affiliate the Springfield (Mass.) Falcons during the latter part of the 2013-14 season.

That off-season the former PA Astro signed a free-

agent contract with the Albany (NY) Devils - AHL affiliate of the New Jersey Devils - and spent the entire 2014-15 season in Albany, scoring a stellar 33 goals.

He signed a two-year deal to remain in the New Jersey organization the following July, and finally got his chance to play in an NHL contest when the big club called him up from Albany early in 2016 when injuries hit.

Thompson tasted NHL action for the first time on a memorable Friday night in January of that year in New Jersey against Boston's Bruins with wife Kelsey and dad Paul Sr. in the stands.

To date, the talented winger has appeared in some 456 career AHL games and tallied 242 points on 128 goals and 114 assists. And the tastes of National Hockey League action which he has savored have made him work incredibly hard to get back there. He hopes his next trip up to the big show will be with the Panthers.

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# Town of Derry Looking for Workers for Upcoming Elections

The Derry Town Clerk's Office along with the Derry Town Moderator are seeking residents that would like to assist with the Primary on September 11, 2018 and during the Election on November 6, 2018.

Those interested would be working at one of the two polling locations in town.

Interested Derry residents should read each

position description and submit the Election Application Form found at [www.derrynh.org/town-clerk/webforms/election-application-form](http://www.derrynh.org/town-clerk/webforms/election-application-form).

Please note you must attend one of the following paid training sessions.

Each position pays an hourly rate of \$10.

Training Sessions will be held at the Derry Municipal Center on Monday, Aug. 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

and on Wednesday, Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Positions needed are:

## Assistant Moderator

- Assist Deputy Moderator or Moderator as needed
- Greet, direct, and assist voters and take photo ID as needed

- Monitor ballot box

- Process absentee ballots; and assist with vote count and securing election materials.

## Assistant Town Clerk

- Assist Town Clerk as needed

- Keep record of ballots given out

- Supervise the ballot clerks.

- Process absentee ballots with Moderator

## Vote Counters

- Count and record write-in votes

- Hand count ballots not processed by machine

- Total number of voters given ballots

## Ballot Clerks

- Verify voter's name and address and verify Photo ID

- Mark checklist as instructed

- Hand out ballot to voter

If any of these positions are of interest to residents, the town is looking to fill the following time slots:

For Assistant Moderator, Assistant Town Clerk, Greeter, and Ballot Clerks: 6:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. or until finished

For Voter Counters: 7:30 p.m. to completion of count on election night

The Election Application Form can be found on the town website at: [www.derrynh.org/town-clerk/webforms/election-application-form](http://www.derrynh.org/town-clerk/webforms/election-application-form).

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

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).

## Summer Block Party

A fun free event for all ages! Kids Crafts, Face Painting, Rock Wall, Bungee Trampoline, Inflatable Games, Live Christian Music and Stage Presentations. Free Burgers, Hotdogs, Snow Cones, Cotton Candy and more. Free Back To School Backpacks, door prizes and more! Come on over to MacGregor Park in Derry Sat. Aug. 18 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information call 603-845-6601 or visit [www.life-waychurch.net](http://www.life-waychurch.net)

## Election Volunteers

The Derry Town Clerk's Office along with the Derry Town Moderator are seeking residents that would like to assist on Election day on Sept. 11, 2018 and on Nov. 6, 2018 by working at one of our two polling locations. If you are interested, please read each position description and submit the following form. Please note you MUST attend one of the following paid training sessions. Each position pays an hourly rate of \$10. Training Sessions (held at the Derry Municipal Center) Monday, Aug. 20, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Assistant Moderator: Assist Deputy Moderator or Moderator as needed Greet, direct, and assist voters and take photo ID as needed Monitor ballot box Process absentee ballots Assist with vote count and securing election materials. Assistant Town Clerk: Assist Town Clerk as needed Keep record of ballots given out Supervise ballot clerks. Process absentee ballots with Moderator. Vote Counters: Count and record write-in votes Hand count ballots not processed by machine Total number of voters given ballots. Ballot Clerks: Verify voter's

name and address and verify Photo ID Mark checklist as instructed Hand out ballot to voter. If you are interested any of these positions, please take a moment and fill out the Election Application Form: [www.derrynh.org/town-clerk/webforms/election-application-form](http://www.derrynh.org/town-clerk/webforms/election-application-form)

## Summer Concerts

The Summer Concert Series at MacGregor Park starts at 7 p.m. every Tuesday night, this years talent includes: Pony Express, one of this area's top country bands on July 24; Groove Alliance is a 9-piece show band, known for their outstanding four-part harmonies, on July 31; Souled Out Show Band is an nine piece, HIGH energy band, featuring a outstanding lineup, on August 7; BeatleJuice is re-creating the full gamut of the Beatle's music, on August 14; This is the last of 2018 Summer Concert Series Thank you for attending!

## Garden Club Meeting

The Derry Garden Club will hold it's Aug. 3 meeting at The Robert Frost Farm, at 122 Rockingham Road, in Derry, from 10 to 12 p.m. The meeting will include a tour of the gardens on the grounds once occupied by one of America's beloved poets, Robert Frost. There will be a house tour as well as a brief presentation on New Hampshire Historic Sites. Members are encouraged to bring some perennials for swapping. Bag lunches will be provided. New members and guests are welcome.

## Democrat Meeting

The Derry Democratic Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at Marion Gerrish Community

Center at 7pm. On July 26 our guest speaker will be Mindi Messmer, candidate for US Congress. Any questions can be directed to DerryDems@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Free Meals

Please join us for free, family-friendly meals, served in a relaxed atmosphere. Meals are generally held as posted below, but may be rescheduled for holidays. Please call the facility to check on holiday times. We look forward to seeing you! On August 12, dinner will be served from 5 - 6:30 p.m., at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, 1 Hood Road, Derry. On August 19 dinner will be served from 5 - 6:15 p.m., at Etz Hayim Synagogue 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry. On July 27 and August 24 a Spaghetti supper will be served from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at First Parish Congregational Church, 47 East Derry Road, East Derry. On July 29, and August 26, Lunch will be served from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., at St. Jude Church 435 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. On July 21 and August 18, Dinner will be served from 5 - 6 p.m., at St Luke's United Methodist Church, 63 East Broadway, Derry.

## Win Tickets to Red Sox vs. Yankees

Etz Hayim Synagogue is raffling off two front-row seat tickets to the Red Sox v. Yankee game that will take

place on Friday, August 3, at 7:10 p.m. at Fenway Park. The cost of the raffle is \$10 for one raffle ticket; \$50 for six raffle tickets. Tickets include admission to the Royal Rooters Club, a private club for Red Sox season ticket holders and home to original memorabilia. The drawing will take place on Sunday, July 22, (your presence is not required for the drawing). To purchase raffle tickets, please contact the Red Sox raffle organizer at [redsox@etzhayim.org](mailto:redsox@etzhayim.org), or Dina Michael Chaitowitz at [d.chaitowitz@etzhayim.org](mailto:d.chaitowitz@etzhayim.org). Proceeds from the raffle will benefit Etz Hayim Synagogue and will in turn help to support the synagogue's many programs that are available for free to the surrounding communities.

## Tiny Tots

A storytime for ages 6 months - 2 years meets Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. at the Taylor Public Library. Space is limited so called the library at 432-7186 to register or with questions.

## Story Hour with a Craft

A story hour with a themed craft is available for children ages 2 - 5 years old on Wednesdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. at the Taylor Public Library. Space is limited so called the library at 432-7186 to register or with questions.

## Continuing Education Program

Programs are open to the public at no charge, except as otherwise indicated. Donations to the Etz Hayim Synagogue will allow us to continue to offer these and other programs, and are gratefully accepted. Thurs. Nights, at 7 p.m. Etz Hayim Synagogue, 11/2 Hood Road, Derry. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at [soreffs-15@aol.com](mailto:soreffs-15@aol.com) or 603 895-6120.

## Craft Class

The Taylor Library will be holding Craft classes on Wednesdays at 3 p.m., dates include Aug 1, and 8. Pre-registration is required to participate in the program.

## Tiny Tot Story Hour

The Taylor Library will hold Tiny Tot Story Hours on Fridays at 10 a.m., dates include July 27, Aug 3. This program is for little ones ages 6 months to 2 years old. Pre-registration is required weekly as space is limited.

## Lego Club

The Taylor Library will hold a Lego Club on Tuesdays at 1 p.m., dates include July 31 and Aug 7. Come and build something with us!

## Teddy Bear Sleepover

On July 26 at 6:30 p.m. bring your Teddy Bear, wear PJ's and come to a story hour and do a craft all at the Taylor Library. Your Teddy Bear will sleepover at the library

## Marshmallow Roast

A Story Hour and Marshmallow Roast with DPL will be held at the Taylor Library's Parking Lot on August 2, at 6:30 p.m.

## Greater Manchester Lyme Disease Support Group

Hosted by David Hunter this 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)

## Walking Together

A support group for widows and widowers meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., at the

Manse at Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. When we meet, we walk together our journey of grief. No need to do it alone. If you have any questions, please call 781-866-9976.

## Parents Support Group

Are you frustrated with your teenager or in need of support regarding your teenager? Does parenting your teenager mean you have new concerns about anger, defiance, motivation and trust? If so, you are not alone. Welcome to the club! Meet up with other parents at our Parents Support Group every Thursday night, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., at The Upper Room, 36 Tsienneto Road, Derry. Meet other parents experiencing the same situations. No pre-registration is required. There is no fee, and all topics can be discussed. Call 603-437-8477 with any questions.

## Lamplighters

A womans group with the goal of helping less fortunate woman and people in N.H. meets every fourth Thursday of the month 7 p.m. at Londonderry Presbyterian Church at 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

## Walk with Me

Are you losing or have lost someone? A child, a parent, a sibling or a friend? It can be a painful journey but you don't have to walk it alone anymore. Just come "Walk With Me". Meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

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