

Londonderry Times

December 22, 2016 ♦ Volume 17 – Issue 50

A FREE Weekly Publication



Building Joy

Jackie Bettencourt and her daughter Trinity were busy Monday afternoon constructing a delicious home. Students and their family members at South Elementary enjoyed the annual holiday tradition at the school. See more photos page 9. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Chairman Expresses Concern About Stonehenge Project

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Residences at MacGregor Cut will receive closer scrutiny from the Town Council and Town Manager, after Chairman John Farrell initiated a discussion in the Dec. 19 Council

meeting.

Approval of The Residences at MacGregor Cut, a proposed apartment complex near the junction of Stonehenge and Hardy roads, was postponed after both residents and board members in the Dec. 7 Planning Board meeting expressed con-

cern about traffic, aesthetics and general quality of life in the area.

The complex would include 12 24-unit buildings, for a total of 288 units, along with a clubhouse, pool and shelter for school children wait-

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Running the Numbers on Senior Transportation

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

They want to get it right. The Londonderry Town Council once again addressed the matter of providing some form of transportation for its most valuable, and vulnerable, population.

In previous meetings, the board has discussed eliminating the funding line for CART, the Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation, and providing its own bus service instead. Other ideas floated include keeping CART and also starting its own service. The board directed Town Manager Kevin Smith to come back with stats on how many Lon-

donderry seniors actually use CART.

Smith came back with a 2015 survey by the Londonderry Senior Resources Committee which received 411 responses. According to the survey, at that time, 326 of the respondents used their own cars; 8 took advantage of the CART service; and 20 relied on friends or family to get around.

Smith reminded the Council of the services offered by CART, which include fixed "runs" to grocery stores and medical facilities including dialysis; on-demand rides with two weeks' notice; and a taxi voucher program that is currently

inactive. Smith also researched local medical facilities after a community member said they will pick up and deliver seniors. Parkland Medical Center does so, but schedules through CART; Southern New Hampshire uses Community Caregivers; and Elliot Hospital does not offer transportation, he said.

Smith also gave the Council an update on the offer of a free van. He said with the help of Administrative Support Coordinator Steve Cotton, the town has been able to secure a handicapped van to be donated by Ford of Londonderry. The van is fully

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Special Education Costs Rise to Nearly \$3.5 Million

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Pupil Services section of the School District working budget for 2018 is \$3,469,466, an increase of \$126,412 over FY 17. While board members pressed her to look for economies, Pupil Services Director Kimberly Carpinone said there weren't many places to look.

Carpinone presented her working budget in a budget session Tuesday, Dec. 13. She began by giving an overview of the five departments under the Pupil Services umbrella. In addition to Special Ed, these include nursing, children with 504 plans,

English as a Second Language and homeless children protected under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Running the numbers

Federal IDEA money comes back to the district via the state and can offset the expenses from the general fund, Carpinone said. The department receives \$1,042,000 for students 5 to 21 and \$15,000 for the LEEP preschool program.

All the Federal money goes for staffing, she said, and represents 12 percent of the Pupil Services budget.

Carpinone said that Londonderry is responsible for educating more than 100 children on the

autism spectrum and more than 70 with emotional or behavioral disorders, both of which are above the state average. She has also seen an increase in children with vision problems, deaf/hard of hearing students, and ESOL, with 26 Londonderry students not having English as their primary language and speaking nine differ-

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Kids by The Common Present This is the Stable



Preschool students at the Kids by the Common at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church performed the annual nativity story "This is the Stable" for family members at the church last week. About 24 students performed and sang during the play.

Photos by Chris Paul





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Londonderry Schools Present 2018 Budget Requests

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

They are doing more with less. Jason Parent, principal of Londonderry High School and Richard Zacchilli, principal of Londonderry Middle School, presented their FY 2018 budget requests to the School Board and Budget Committee in a Dec. 13 budget session.

Parent's 2018 working budget is \$515,174, an increase of \$25,674 from FY 17. The increase is largely due to a request for leasing a digital press, according to Parent.

Some of his lines are level-funded, while others fluctuate between being slightly higher and slightly lower, he said. He has agreed to reduce two staff members, based on enrollment. Parnt said he has reduced 18.4 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) over eight years, or an average of 2.3 each year.

The largest line item for Parent's budget is \$138,000 for Career and

Technical Education, paid to Manchester School of Technology and Alvirne High School. The school sends 115 students to the two CTE programs and the cost is 27 percent of Parent's budget.

He is asking for replacement texts for French IV and one business class, at a total of \$12,716.

Parent's programs include 14 AP classes with 526 enrolled; nine Career Pathways courses; 16 Running Start classes with 197 students enrolled; 11 courses with Southern New Hampshire University and 127 students; and eleven students enrolled in the Senior Project initiative.

LHS is one of the top 11 high schools in New Hampshire, was named a top school in the country by Business Week magazine, is a past New Hampshire High School of the Year, and boasts the highest number of New Hampshire Scholars in the state at 156. It has a 0.31 percent dropout rate, a 94 percent

participation in two-or-four-year colleges, and a 99 percent graduation rate.

"That figure still blows my mind," Board Chair Nancy Hendricks said.

Parent saves money by using more online programs, including correspondence with parents, and by buying generic and in bulk.

Revenues include tuition from Hooksett, which is poised to send 30 freshmen to Londonderry this fall. Hooksett brings in \$1 million in tuition, he said.

"The opportunities are endless and fabulous," board member Leitha Reilly said. But she wondered if LHS offered too many classes, and if it was worth it to have a small class.

Guidance Director Maureen O'Dea said students can request a course be added, and through Aspen, the staff will determine how much interest there is. "We won't run a class with fewer than 10 students," she said.

Reilly also passed on a question she receives from

constituents: "If enrollment is down, why do you have to spend so much?"

Parent said enrollment is flat, not down, and that the cost of supplies and materials has risen disproportionately.

Dr. Kim Lindley-Soucy, one of the curriculum directors, pointed out that a textbook that cost \$50 10 years ago is now \$150 or more. "We are looking at alternatives and working with vendors," she told the board.

Lindley-Soucy said she has gone to Amazon for items such as novels for English classes and been successful, though Amazon can't provide the number of textbooks

needed for classes.

"Basic commodities are going up," Superintendent Nate Greenberg agreed. While the Consumer Price Index is rising by 2 or 3 percent, textbooks and other supplies are going up 25 percent, he said.

Hendricks asked, "Is this budget so tight that if someone has an idea for a new class, we can't afford it?"

It is not that tight, Business Manager Peter Curro reassured her. "We have never said no to a program that has value."

Zacchilli is requesting a total budget of \$186,543, a decrease of \$2,260 from 2017. Most of his supply lines are level-funded, he said, and he is practicing

cost-avoidance with e-mail, online progress reports and Twitter. He is printing the school's quarterly newspaper in house, and the Recycling Club is working with the town to keep the school green and avoid waste.

He has 300 sixth-graders, 332 seventh-graders and 342 eighth-graders, he said, with nine teaching teams, three for each grade level.

Hendricks asked, "Should you see a spike in enrollment, are you comfortable with the staffing you have?"

He is comfortable with his current staffing level, Zacchilli said, though he would have to go to higher class sizes if any grade went over 350.

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Editorial

New Resolutions

As we pass through the darkest days of winter and head into the New Year, we traditionally take time to reflect on the year just ending, and resolve to do things differently in the days ahead; and there's plenty of room to do things differently.

We've gone through an acrimonious but decisive election on both the national and state levels. And just before Christmas, we've come face to face with the horror that lurks in the minds of men. We've seen whole segments of the country and the world devastated by all varieties of unusual storms, riots in the streets over an election, fatal shooting of police officers and adults across this country. It all seems very dark, but we must keep trying to find the light.

So while there's nothing wrong with the usual resolutions: exercise more, eat healthier foods, take more time for yourself, and pay more attention to loved ones. We suggest a little effort in a different direction as well, which in the long run may yield more lasting results.

After the deluge of negative advertising in the recent election, we could use a strong shift of attitude. What about a resolve to compromise instead of "my way or the highway," particularly in cases where voters turned down the "my way or the highway" side of things.

What about looking at all sides of an issue, rather than only the one that benefits one group? It's not easy to be opened minded, but it's worth the effort. And in politics, we don't elect "special interest" representatives. Our officials are supposed to represent all of us.

How about starting to talk about things too often left unsaid, such as anything to do with drugs.

And perhaps most importantly, how about listening to and working with people from all schools of thought to find ways to solve the problems that face us all - not just doing the same thing but taking a different approach for the greater good of the town and the residents in it. That means a willingness to be open to other views; we could very well learn something.

The start of a new year brings with it a chance to begin again. While it's human nature to focus on the horror, there's plenty of good that surrounds us. Taking that as our base, we can work together toward a bright future. May we suggest getting involved in town government, volunteering for boards, non-profits and so forth - participation that can make true difference.

Good luck with your resolutions, and from all of us at Nutfield Publishing to all of you, our best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Special Ed

Continued from page 1

ent languages at home. She has also seen an increase in children requiring one-on-one nursing services, from two to three, she said.

Another 225 require accommodations through the 504 program, she said.

Many special ed children require a self-contained classroom, she said, including 16 percent of Londonderry elementary students, 23 percent of middle school students and 35 percent of high school students.

In 12 years of providing in-house special ed, the district has saved \$77.8 million, according to Carpinone, and is on target to save \$9.3 million in FY 18.

The LEEP (Londonderry Early Education Program) is also on the rise, with 108 children registered when school started in August compared to 122 on Dec. 13. "We have 18 more in process, including referrals, testing and IEP development," Carpinone told the board.

And since July 1, the new fiscal year, she has welcomed 52 new students with IEPs to the district, she said.

Out-Of-District

Though the district has brought several programs "home" and has seen a cost avoidance, some students still require or want out-of-district placement, Carpinone said. These include court-ordered placement, students with needs who move into the district, and charter school students. "We have 30 students currently out-of-district," she said, and that could change at any moment; "It's a volatile population," Carpinone said.

Board member Leitha Reilly asked for clarification on the out-of-district students. She wondered if Carpinone were responsi-

ble for all charter school students, or just the ones with special needs. Carpinone said she is responsible for providing services to Londonderry charter school students with IEPs, while the charter school is responsible for providing the accommodations for 504 students.

Going Into Detail

Carpinone has asked for an increase in the line for services to the deaf and hard of hearing, from \$20,000 to \$92,000, based on an increase in students in this population. Certified teachers for these needs and for the visually impaired are hard to find, so these services must be contracted out, she said.

She is requesting new furniture and equipment for the preschool. Current pieces are showing "wear and tear," Carpinone said.

She is also asking the district to consider adding a bus and monitor, noting that she doesn't want LEEP children to be on a bus for 45 minutes. The cost would be \$40,000 for the bus and driver and \$19,800 for the monitor, she said.

She is anticipating some savings as she has reconfigured the busing for Extended School Year, the summer program, cutting back to four longer days and eliminating Friday. "The kids were happy about that," she said.

She is also anticipating savings in the cost for older students who are transitioning out of the Londonderry system, at ages 19 and 20. "That population is decreasing," she said.

Revenues include Medicaid reimbursement and Catastrophic Aid, which kicks in after a student's expenses reach a certain point, Carpinone said.

Elephant in room

Board member Leitha Reilly observed, "Every one of these groups in Pupil Services is covered by law. You don't have a

lot of wiggle room."

But Reilly noted that people often stop her in the supermarket to ask about the high cost of education, and particularly special ed. "Where are some areas you can find economies that the government cannot dictate?" she asked. "Can you be creative, and provide the same level of service?"

"I do say 'no,'" Carpinone responded. "My staff can testify to that. Some parents ask for services that are not covered by FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education), and I say no then."

Items in her working budget that are not mandated by the Feds include the LEEP furniture and the new bus. "I made a philosophical choice with the bus," she said. And she's concerned about LEEP children being injured by older furniture and equipment, she added.

"Londonderry does an excellent job of educating its special needs students, and the testimony to that is the increasing number," member Jenn Ganem said.

Board chair Nancy Hendricks is also stopped in the grocery store. "I hear a lot - it's an enormous budget," she said. "Sometimes it sounds like we're pitting regular education against special education."

Parents will say things like, "How come you're not spending \$80,00 on my kid?" Hendricks mused. It's because "their kid" doesn't need it, she added, but "the sentiment is out there, whether or not you agree with it."

While acknowledging that Carpinone is "ferocious" about cutting costs, Hendricks urged her to wield the red pencil one more time.

But Hendricks added, "We have a moral obligation to these children."

Londonderry Times

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PLEASE NOTE: The Londonderry Times will not be publishing a paper on Thursday December 29. We will resume publishing on January 5, 2017. The publisher will be taking a small holiday respite. Thank you and have a happy holiday.

IT Department Looks To Keep District Current

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Information Technology or IT department of SAU 12 is asking for an increase of \$50,000 and change to continue to keep Londonderry in the digital age.

Brenda Colameta, and Brandon Weinert, district technology coordinator and network administrator respectively, appeared before the School Board and Budget Committee this past Thursday to discuss their budget requests for 2018.

The total budget request is \$762,650, an increase of \$52,327 over last year's \$710,323.

Business Manager Peter Curro said in equipment requests, "laptops have overtaken desktops," though desktops would always be around. The teachers and students like the flexibility and portability, she said.

Computers have a life span of five to six years, according to Curro. The staff is requesting \$300,000 to keep the current inventory up and running. Sometimes they can move an older unit to an area with less traffic and wear-and-tear, she said.

Colameta listed the functions her department supports, including the Aspen student information system, 12,000 accounts; the UNIS system for financial management and human resources, 800 accounts; School Messenger for notification and communication; Destiny for library and media management; Meals Plus for food service; Info Site, an internal system for staff; Google Apps, 4,000 accounts; and specific applications for several classrooms and student situations.

Technology requests have to be vetted, Colameta said. "If a teacher requests new technology, they have to fill out a request and indicate how they will use it to support student learning," she told the board and Budget Committee. "It has to meet curriculum goals."

The request is reviewed by their building administrator, and if it passes the principal, it goes to the district office, she said.

The IT budget requests include the following:

- 299 devices, mostly notebooks and laptops. Of these, 159 units are new and 130 will replace older units. The IT department wants to set up additional computer labs in the three elementary schools and add a sixth-grade lab at the Middle School.

- Increase speed by moving the infrastructure from Cat 5 to Cat 6 in one eighth-grade section of the Middle School. Most of North School and most of South School are now Cat 6 due to recent renovations, but she has received complaints from the eighth-grade area at LMS. "It is not cheap," Colameta said, noting that just outfitting the eighth-grade wing with Cat 6 is \$65,000.

- A new firewall. The current contract for the firewall is set to expire in September and the estimated cost is \$70,000. "This is a critical piece," Colameta said.

Board member Steve Young said he was baffled over the need to upgrade to Cat 6. With the use of more portable devices and an upgrade in WiFi last year, he wondered if

this were needed.

Curro said it is still necessary for other needs, such as streaming video. "But if we had to choose, we'd choose the firewall," he added.

Colameta said the WiFi, approved in a warrant article last March, has helped the district move closer to its BYOD or Bring Your Own Device policy, instituted last year.

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Riding in Style



Moose Hill Kindergarden student Braden Brown was treated to a ride from the Londonderry Fire Department earlier this month. Branen, a student from Mrs. Curro's afternoon class, was this year's PTA raffle winner. He's being helped out of the truck by Phil LeBlanc.

Photo by Chris Paul

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Rockingham Road Hazmat Spill Explained To Town Council

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Battalion Chief Jim Roger, the incident commander for the spill that closed part of Route 28 on Wednesday, Dec. 14, gave an update on the cleanup in the Dec. 19 Town Council meeting.

Roger reviewed the incident, which happened at 5:15 a.m. A truck containing both gasoline and diesel fuel overturned on Route 28 near Sanborn Road, leaking diesel and gas for about 150 yards.

The first of the first responders used Class B foam suppressant to con-

tain the vapors, Roger said, showing a slide of the white foam coating the roadside. It looked like snow but wasn't, he said.

"The firefighters kept the flammability low with the foam," Roger said.

The accident was originally thought to have punctured the tank containing diesel, but it was so severe it punctured the other four containers and 1,500 gallons leaked on to the swale, he said.

A unified command was established with the Londonderry Police Department, Roger said.

The State Police, Troop

B was also involved and is investigating the accident, according to Roger. Other respondents included the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environmental Services and even the EPA, which sent a representative up from its Boston office. The Salem Fire Department also helped out, and Eversource "had a great response," according to Roger.

The DOT responded with two truckloads of sand to create a berm, Roger said.

He praised the other departments involved, noting, "We had the utmost

cooperation from everyone."

It was not necessary to close North School or a nearby day care, Roger said, but traffic, including buses, was rerouted for much of the day. There were two private homes with private wells in the vicinity of the spill, but their water was sampled and "they are waiting for the results to come back," Roger said. There were no aquifers in the area of the spill.

The incident could have been "difficult, tragic," Roger said, but because of the parties involved, it was taken care of. "We were lucky be-

cause of the weather that day and the topography," he added.

A company called NRC has been awarded the contract for cleanup, and it is expected to take five weeks, Roger said. "It is a slow and meticulous process," he said.

Cleanup was still in the discussion stage and was expected to be finalized this past Wednesday, according to Roger. Eversource was also expected to de-energize the power lines on Wednesday.

Councilor Tom Dolan said he was pleased with the environmental cleanup

but asked about the cost.

Fire Chief Darren O'Brien said he expected the driver's insurance company to reimburse his department for 115 hours of overtime and the loss of three sets of Personal Protective Gear to contamination.

The estimated cost for the cleanup is \$1 million, which is expected to be borne by the driver and his insurance company, Roger said.

Town Manager Kevin Smith commended Roger for his handling of the incident and the regular updates he provided to Smith's office.

French, Philosophy And Woodworking Options Added

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry School Board has approved a variety of additions to the Londonderry High School course catalog, in order to meet the needs of its students.

Principal Jason Parent, Director of Guidance Maureen O'Dea and Curriculum Coordinators Kim Lindley-Soucy and Shawn Flynn appeared before the board in its Dec. 6 meeting to dis-

cuss the changes, which span several disciplines, including college credits.

Parent reminded the board that LHS's focus is in making all students college- and career-ready, with 21st-century skills. The school has more than 250 course offerings, he said.

Flynn spoke to one of the proposed courses, Entrepreneurial Woodworking. The course is part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

initiative, with a twist: students run their own woodworking businesses. Learners focus on building custom wood products to service a client's needs, Flynn said, and they learn how to be a designer, woodworker, business owner and salesperson. They will draw on clients from the LHS community.

"The experience is basically running a small business," Flynn said.

Proceeds from the business will be handled

through the Student Activity Fund, he said.

The course can also be used to fulfill a mathematics requirement, according to Flynn.

Flynn also presented the Honors Option for Biotechnology, a more rigorous course for students interested in pursuing a career in biotechnology. The introductory biotechnology course will remain for learners who want an overview of the subject, he said.

Lindley-Soucy presented the Honors Option for Philosophy, which would allow students to challenge themselves with more rigor and the reading of primary source documents. As with Biotechnology, the introductory course would remain for those who want an overview.

In addition, Lindley-Soucy said, the school is applying for dual enrollment credit for Honors French IV. Currently, she said, students

in Advanced Placement French Language and Culture have the opportunity to earn six credits from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). The new program would allow students in Honors French IV to earn six credits from SNHU, she said.

Flynn presented a proposal to allow juniors to take Introduction to Business, a course until now limited to freshmen and sophomores. Flynn said that many students don't recognize an interest in business until they are juniors, and that freshmen have limited room in their schedules for electives.

There is no budgetary impact from the new course, honors options, arrangement with SNHU or expanded enrollment for the business course.

O'Dea said that 10 Londonderry students are taking 27 courses at Nashua Community College. Three seniors are taking all their courses at

NCC, and two are on track to graduate with associate's degrees along with their high school diplomas, she said.

Board member Leitha Reilly observed, "This is a nice menu of offerings in targeted areas. You have been listening to what the students want."

Board Chair Nancy Hendricks agreed. "I was happy to hear about the Entrepreneurial Woodworking," she told the administrators. "I've been hearing for years, we don't offer enough courses in the trades. I would like to see them write business plans, and learn marketing and advertising."

Flynn speculated that once Entrepreneurial Woodworking hit the ground, other teachers would create similar experiences for their students.

The board voted 5-0 to approve the new course options and the program of studies for 2017-18.

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Funding For Communications Upgrade Being Explored

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The town is exploring several funding options in order to pay for a communications upgrade for Police, Fire and Public Works.

The estimated \$4,200,000 is a lot to ask from taxpayers, Councilors have agreed in previous meetings. Recognizing the need, they have looked at bonding, leasing and phasing it in. In the Dec. 19 Town Council meeting, they discussed other options with Town

Manager Kevin Smith and Fire Chief Darren O'Brien, whose department has been heading up the project.

The discussion focused on removing some deferrable items from the budget and funding others with a 75/25 ratio, taking some of the Unassigned Fund Balance that was going to those projects and funneling it into the communications infrastructure instead.

Funds for sewer expansion and the sidewalk at Moose Hill were removed, while Roadway

Maintenance, Capital Reserve for Fire Equipment, Capital Reserve for GIS, Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund and Capital Reserve for Pillsbury Cemetery Expansion could reduce the amount they were taking from the UFB, raising more by taxation and leaving enough money in the UFB to fund the communications infrastructure.

The original cost of fully funding these projects and several others through the UFB was estimated at \$1,842,000. The allowable

usage for Londonderry's UFB is \$2,339,240, leaving a balance of \$497,240. With Smith's 75/25 plan, the amount for these projects drawn from the UFB would be \$841,500, leaving \$1,497,740 in the fund. Smith said \$1 million of that could be used for the infrastructure.

"It is possible to do that," Smith told the board.

The change in proportions would require \$162,500 to be raised through taxation for Roadway Maintenance, with \$487,500 from the UFB; \$41,000,

taxation, fire equipment, \$123,000, UFB; \$7,000, taxation, GIS, \$21,000, UFB; \$45,000, taxation, Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund, \$135,000, UFB; and \$25,000, taxation, Pillsbury Cemetery, \$75,000 from UFB.

The upgrade is needed because several areas of town experience "dead spots" for emergency communication, and also because some departments, notably Public Works, are using equipment that is outdated and may no longer be supported.

Board members have

expressed concern that only one price quote was obtained, from the Motorola Company. "This is still a lot of money," board member Jim Butler said. "You had only one quote from one dealer - that does not sit well with me."

But Motorola holds the service contracts for most of Southern New Hampshire, O'Brien said.

Representatives of the three departments along with Smith were scheduled to meet with a Motorola rep on Tuesday.

School District Budget Allows Music Students To Play On

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Andy Soucy's favorite page in the School District budget workbook is page 188. "That's where we show how many students are involved in performance," he said. At Londonderry High School, that's 32 percent of the student population. "Most of them are on the honor roll, and 50 percent are also in some kind of sport," Soucy told the School Board.

Soucy presented his FY 18 budget requests to the board in a Dec. 13 budget workshop meeting. His \$66,000 budget covers music instruction and equipment for 1,700 students, and the board

encouraged him and his staff to keep doing what they're doing.

As with other SAU 12 departments, Soucy's staff salaries and benefits are in the personnel line.

He is requesting several pieces of new and replacement equipment including a bass clarinet, tenor sax, concert tuba and double French horn. He would also like to obtain an acoustic upright piano, noting that the only "good" piano on the district is one grand piano. Other instruments have been donated over the years, and "sound awful," he said.

He would also like to pick up some camcorders, noting that that

would allow band and other music instructors to help children critique their performances. "That's important - and it's sometimes painful," Soucy said.

His band uniforms are on a replacement schedule, Soucy said. "We ask for 10 each year - we get a better price that way," he said.

He is asking \$7,200 for repairs, including piano tuning; \$350 for conference fees; \$2,500 for equipment for the three elementary schools combined; \$11,000 for the middle school; \$11,500 for the high school including drum heads and color guard flags; \$3,240 for

dues and fees; and \$17,000 for transportation, including buses and truck rentals. For the marching band season, it is impossible to transport all the gear in the back of a bus, he told the board.

"That is what it takes to keep this show on the road," Soucy said.

The transportation line is for taking the students to play at events such as Celtics and Monarchs games, he said. For trips such as Disney World and the Rose Bowl, everybody pays out of pocket, including chaperones. "Some of the kids get jobs just so they can go on the trips," he said.

His staff starts working with interested eighth-graders in May, he said, so by the time football season comes, they are ready to take their places with the marching Lancers.

Board member Jenn Ganem asked about damaged equipment. Soucy said he has a contracted service which stops by each week to see if anything needs repairs. But he's never lost an instrument, nor had to call in an insurance company to replace one.

Budget Committee mem-

ber Tim Siekmann ran some numbers and observed that for the 1,700 students in performance programs, their share of Soucy's \$66,000 comes out to \$37 per student. But Soucy explained that the budget also covers students who are enrolled in general music classes as part of the curriculum.

"That is a low number for the program you give us," Siekmann said of the \$66,000.

Soucy credited his staff for the program's success.



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Technology Helps School District Keep in Touch

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry School District has two new tech tools to help keep parents informed of everything from a school concert to a natural disaster.

Business Administrator Peter Curro and Technology Coordinator Brenda Colameta appeared in the Dec. 6 School Board meeting to discuss the innovations, SafeStop and School Messenger, with an eye toward implementing them in January 2017.

Curro explained that SafeStop deals with specific buses and incidents. "It will alert parents about significant issues in their child's bus route," he explained. This could include an accident, a weather delay, or a delay because of someone else's accident.

Users must download the SafeStop app, and will be alerted by text mes-

sage when there's an issue, Curro told the board. In addition, the service has a GPS tracker and parents can track their child's bus as it makes its way through the route.

Parents must register for SafeStop, Curro said, and it is available at no cost to the parents.

Curro emphasized that SafeStop is for middle-to major issues. "If Bus A is going to be two minutes late, it won't say anything," he said. "If Bus A was in an accident or is being delayed by an accident on the route, they will get a notification."

The service is already in the budget for FY 17 and 18, he said.

School Messenger is part of the contract for the district Web page and sends out messages to a broader audience, Curro said. These can be anything from an emergency notification to a reminder

of a school concert.

Colameta said School Messenger won't replace the district's tweets, Web page or LEO television station, but will provide voice mails or e-mails in the event of a building lockdown or other crisis.

"There are different levels of notification," she said.

These updates and alerts are automatically sent to parents beginning in January, she said. The system uses the child's contact information in Aspen, so she advised parents to make sure the information is up-to-date. There is also a text messaging option, she said.

Superintendent Nate

Greenberg asked what the receiving time would be for a message and Colameta said it depends. If it's a no-school emergency or the like, it goes out instantly, she said, where a concert or game reminder would wait its place in the queue.

Curro wrote in a memo, "We sincerely

hope these services improve communication between parents and the School District, especially when there is an emergency or an event requiring real-time communication."

The board approved the two notification systems by consensus.

Stonehenge

Continued from page 1

ing for the bus. The complex will be 50 percent workforce housing, with the other 50 percent at regular market rate. The project is being developed for First Londonderry Association LLC and is planned for 65 acres off Stonehenge Road.

In the public comment portion of the Dec. 19 meeting, Farrell read a letter outlining his concerns.

Farrell wrote that when he first interviewed for the Planning Board in 1999, it was in honor of his late father, who had held a similar position in their home town. "I wanted to follow what he had done to help protect the community and shape its future," Farrell wrote,

adding, "The real question was what kind of Londonderry we want. While change may come, it needs to be managed."

Farrell reminded the board and television audience that New Hampshire is under "Dillon rule," which means the town is not allowed to create laws that are stronger than the state RSAs.

When the state mandated workforce housing seven or eight years ago, Farrell wrote, Londonderry was forced to adopt ordinances at the local level. The first ordinance they drafted was challenged by several abutters, denied by the Town Council and sent back to the Planning Board. The Planning Board drafted a second ordinance which did not meet the state

requirements, and was overturned as "unenforceable," Farrell wrote.

The current Town Council worked with the Planning Board and the town now has a workable and enforceable ordinance, but the "barn door" was already opened, according to Farrell. He repeated his question, "What kind of Londonderry do we want?"

The Residences at MacGregor Cut are the proverbial square peg in a round hole, Farrell wrote. He wrote, "These areas and neighborhoods weren't built for this situation, no matter what the traffic study says."

He called on his four fellow Councilors to direct Town Manager Kevin Smith to work with Town Attorney Michael Ramsdell to analyze and review all possible legal remedies, including purchas-

ing the land themselves.

In public comment, resident Martin Srugis said, "I don't live there, but I drive through there all the time. The project is not suitable for an AR-1 (agricultural-residential) zone."

The Wallace Farms subdivision was different, Srugis said, because it has a quick turn-out to Route 28. But the feeder roads to Stonehenge and Hardy, along with the two roads themselves, are already overloaded, he pointed out.

Another issue is school buses, Srugis said. The bus would have to stop on the right, and children from the complex would have to cross an already-busy road.

The board agreed by consensus to direct Smith to work with Ramsdell to uncover the options.

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Gingerbread Houses Abound at Local Elementary Schools



Students at North and South Elementary Schools had a chance to build gingerbread houses with their families over the course of the last week with supplies being brought in by students. Supplies that didn't make it onto the houses were gobbled up by the builders.

Photos by Chris Paul

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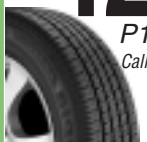


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Volunteers Make Wishes Come True "On Their Own Time"

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Nikki Epperson rearranged a tableful of toys so one more item could be squeezed in. It was a below-zero morning a week before Christmas, but Epperson wasn't fazed about the cold or her to-do list. "This," she said, "is the closest I will ever come to being Santa for somebody."

Epperson and other volunteers, from a range of backgrounds, converged this past Friday on Pinkerton Academy's Shepard Gym to sort toys, clothing and food for recipients of the Greater Derry Salvation Army's holiday compassion efforts. The Army, along with the community, made sure dozens of local families had a happier holiday, and the Friday volunteers made sure it was done efficiently.

Lt. Kathryn Bender, an officer with the local

Corps, circled the room with a clipboard, keeping things moving with about 20 people. The Derry Fire Department helped load the donations in trucks that morning, she said, and 14 volunteers from Eversource showed up at Pinkerton. In addition, the morning shift included cadets from Pinkerton's Junior ROTC program, Salvation Army board members and members of the congregation.

Dozens of plastic garbage bags lined one wall, and Bender explained that these were the fruits from the "Angel Tree" tag drive around the community. Community members picked up tags with specific requests and returned the gifts and tags to the Army headquarters, she explained.

But wait, there was more. In addition to their specific requests, Bender said, families who had

filled out applications could come to the Shepard Gym and "shop" from a range of other donated items. "Some of these are from Toys For Tots, some were donated items," she said. "They can come in, and pick out one or two items from the tables," she said.

There were 10 tables filled with toys, with placards giving the appropriate age groups. In addition, several tables featured children's, teen and adult-sized clothing. Tables in the stage area held piles of winter coats and jackets, and along one wall, volunteers filled cardboard cartons with everything a family needed for a holiday meal – or two. Free gift wrap was also provided, standing sentinel in their holiday colors.

"It is awesome, amazing, so great," Bender said of her first Christmas in Derry. "I love Derry. It's

such a giving community."

Many of the items still had tags attached, including a tiny pink tutu and a princess dress with its own fake-fur jacket. A table for boys held a pogo stick, a skateboard, a regulation basketball and an assortment of monster trucks, while another held a soccer ball, basketball and a refractor telescope with a tripod.

Donations ranged from a small boys' first bicycle to a snowboard. A table for tween girls held make-up, craft kits and Barbies. Princess items reigned on another table, and a table for babies and toddlers boasted a Fisher-Price "piano."

"It is amazing," Nikki Epperson said, "that so many people came here, and that it all came together so quickly."

Suzanne Fumarola and Amy Schmitz-Howard wore pale-blue Eversource t-shirts as they unloaded

girls' toys to a brimming table. "It's my first time doing this, and it's a lot of fun," Fumarola, of Chester, said. "I'm helping wherever the need is."

Schmitz-Howard, a resident of Manchester, said she was enjoying the morning. "There are wonderful toys, and it's a great family feeling," she said.

"It puts smiles on little kids' faces," Ken Slater, a member of the Advisory Board, said. He expressed surprise as always at the quality of the donated items.

He praised the other volunteers, noting that the Derry Fire Department was "incredible. They're also going out this weekend to man the kettles," Slater said.

Tina DiBona was helping for her fourth year. "I like to be part of the community and provide someone's Christmas spirit," she said. She said she was glad that Eversource had stepped up. "Otherwise,

we might be here till 6 p.m.," she said.

DiBona left the toy sorting to others and was deployed for the last-minute shopping needed to fill the food baskets. "We usually give turkeys, but this year it was more economically feasible to give hams," she said. Other food box items included stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potato mixes, lots of canned vegetables, and boxes of the little Halo oranges.

The DiBona family was out in full force and member Krystyna said she had helped last year. "I like the chaos that brings it all together," she said as she restacked a pile of boys' jeans. "Tomorrow they'll all come in, and when you see the joy in their eyes, you know they don't realize the chaos that led up to this."

Nutfield Publishing will be spotlighting volunteers in a new series, "On Their Own Time," running throughout 2017.

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Lady Cagers Advance to 2-0 With Edging of Nashua North

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Very often if a basketball team gets outscored by its opponent in three of a game's fourth quarters, the final outcome is a loss for the squad in question.

But an dominant second quarter performance helped the Londonderry High School girls' hoop squad push its season record up to 2-0 with a 56-53 defeat of the host Nashua North Lady Titans in the Gate City last Tuesday evening, Dec. 13.

day evening, Dec. 13.

Lady Lancers' coach Nick Theos was pretty unhappy with his team's effort in the first quarter, which ended with the locals facing an eight-point deficit of 19-11.

But Londonderry turned on the proverbial jets in the second period and netted 26 points to North's paltry four, so the locals carried a 37-23 lead to halftime and they were rolling on a head of steam.

The home-standing Lady Titans outscored their guests by a 17-9 tally in quarter number three to leave the score at 46-40 in Londonderry's favor after three stanzas had been completed. And coach Theos' troop had versatile sophomore

Amanda DeAngelis cap off an excellent personal night by helping her side to the slim success in the fourth.

The talented guard/forward finished the evening with 19 points, 10 rebounds, and two steals, and senior standout Kelsey Coffey contributed a dozen points - including a pair of three-point buckets - seven boards, and two swipes. Sophomore guard Emmy Dumaresq also threw down nine important points and dished out four assists for the winning side. All in all, the Lady Lancers had eight players tally points, and the locals sank a total of seven three-pointers.

"We were awful in the first, giving up almost 20

points," lamented coach Theos. "It looked like we hadn't practiced since last Thursday, which we hadn't. But once we straightened out the defense, our offense took off and we outscored them 26-4 in the second quarter to grab the lead, and we never let it go."

Speaking of the big night enjoyed by DeAngelis, the LHS leader said, "Amanda was good, but scary as it may sound she can be better. She works so hard on the offensive end, I'm glad she got results tonight. Most of her points came in the paint or on fast-breaks.

And on the night on which his team kept its Division I record perfect in the early going, Theos

looked forward to the bigger picture.

"Two and zero is a good start for us, but we need to keep improving. I think we will," he said.

This week's busy schedule had the Londonderry bunch hosting the Spaulding High Lady Red Raiders from Rochester on the evening of Tuesday the 20th, after Londonderry Times press time, and then playing at Bedford High against the always-tough Lady Bulldogs two nights later. And then the evening after that, Friday, Dec. 23, the Lady Lancers begin their involvement in the North Andover (Mass.) Holiday Tournament with a contest at Andover High School.



Talented Lady Lancer sophomore Amanda DeAngelis scored 19 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in her team's slim victory over Nashua North.

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Londonderry High Wrestling Crew Continues Strong



Lancer senior Tyler Byrd dominated his 145-pound opponent during his squad's dual meet against Nashua South's Purple Panthers. Photo by Chris Paul

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

While having its annual holiday tournament slated for last Saturday, Dec. 17 cancelled due to a snowstorm was certainly a disappointment for the Londonderry High wrestling squad, the Lancers haven't had a lot to be disappointed about early in their 2016-17 season.

The locals won their first dual-meet and got a top-three finish at the Blue Devil Classic at Salem High School during the first week of the season recently. And the LHS crew continued its superb start with a 55-24 thrash-

ing of the Nashua South Purple Panthers at home in the Londonderry Middle School gymnasium Wednesday, Dec. 14.

The hosts won no less than 10 weight class bouts thanks to the work of Craig Santos at 138 pounds (fall at 2:56); Tyler Byrd at 145 (fall, 1:41); Andrew Chase in the 152-pound bout (22-12 major decision); Vinnie DeSignore at 160 pounds (fall at 3:29); Colin Reardon at 170 (fall at 3:45); Taylor Dyer in the 182-pound division (forfeit); Ben Psaledas at 195 (fall, 1:37); Jake Holmes at 285 pounds (fall just 54 seconds in); Brandon Drake

at 113 pounds (fall at 3:16), and Dave Donnelly at 132 (7-1 decision).

The 55-24 was actually not as close as the score indicated. There were three forfeit wins for Nashua South in the 106, 120 and 126 weight classes which netted their opponents 18 points.

The LHS contingent stepped into this week looking at a road match at Manchester Central High School this Wednesday, Dec. 21, after Londonderry Times press time, and the locals will once again be participating in the huge Lowell (Mass.) Holiday Tournament after Christmas.

Lady Lancer Gymnasts Excel at Weekend Competition

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After plowing its way past the competition nearly a week before on its own equipment in its home gymnasium, the Londonderry High School girls' gymnastics squad took to the road this past Sunday, Dec. 18 and enjoyed con-

siderable success at Spaulding High in Rochester.

The defending state champions tallied a team score of 131.50 to best five opponents including Windham (127.15), Pelham (123.65), host Spaulding (114.65), Dover (112.1), and Salem (111.9).

"Only having two practices between our last meet and this one, our girls had to step it up for this spring-floor meet," said LHS coach Heather Tuden. "We definitely had some falls where we normally wouldn't, but we still kept our team score above a 130. Each meet teaches us a little more about the team and what we need to work on and where we need to improve."

And the Lancer coach had plenty of reasons to be pleased with the individual work of quite a number of her athletes in the meet.

"We had strong vault performances from Maddie Croteau, Cassidy

Williams, and Chelsea Pinet, solid uneven bar routines from Seana Kelly, Cassidy Williams, Maddie Croteau, and Tara Nigro, while Cassidy Williams, Suzie Moore, Tyla Kelley, and Chelsea Pinet all had clean and tight (balance) beam routines, and Cassidy Williams, Suzie Moore, Chelsea Pinet, Camille Lamont, and Taylor Mackenzie danced it up on floor."

Londonderry, which was competing in the meet without one of its standouts due to injury and with another hampered by the flu and only competing in a few events, had Williams finish a strong second in the all-around.



Suzie Moore was one of the stalwarts who stepped up in a significant way during her LHS team's recent road meet in Rochester. Photo by Chris Paul



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High School Swim Squads Excel in Home Pool Again, Going 3-1

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School swim teams both put forth impressive performances in their second home meets of the young 2016-17 season last Friday night, Dec. 16.

Veteran LHS coach Chrys Ewen saw both her Lancer males and her Lady Lancers tally impressive 3-1 records against four opponents. Those marks left the Lady Lancers grasping a fine, 6-3 overall record while the LHS guys were certainly nothing to splash at with a 5-3 overall record.

GIRLS

The LHS ladies just pummeled three opponents in besting Campbell of Litchfield by a 128-10 margin, Conant by a 121-41 score, and Pelham by a 112-38 tally. The only

opposing squad to get the better of the local crew was the one from that seafaring community of Portsmouth (92-76).

First place performances were delivered by Anna Gruchot in the 200-yard freestyle (time of 2 minutes, 12.57 seconds), Emily Buttafuoco in the 100-yard free (58.91), and the 400-yard freestyle quartet of Gruchot, Buttafuoco, Madison Martin, and Jasmine Brown (4:14.16).

Second places were snared by Buttafuoco in the 200-yard individual medley and Gruchot in the 50 free, and thirds were claimed by Martin in the 200 free and the 100-yard butterfly, the 200 medley and 200 free relay teams, Maeve McPhail in the 200 IM, Caitlynn Mahan in the 500 free, and Caroline Russell in the



Emily Buttafuoco



Jack Stuart

100-yard backstroke.

BOYS

The Lancer males lost by a small margin to the Portsmouth High Clippers (87-78), but they still made it an extremely productive night by handily defeating Pelham (100-

60), Conant (98-66), and Campbell (129-18).

Jack Stuart claimed an individual victory in the 200 free (2:11.47), and Chris Byrne wound up being unbeatable in the 200 IM (2:33.65).

Second places were

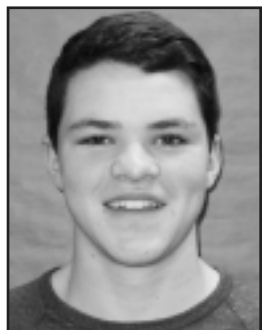
delivered by Brian Parrott in both the 100 fly and the 100-yard breaststroke and the LHS 200 free relay quartet. And thirds came from the 200 medley relay team, Minsoo Kim in the 100 fly, Mike Hession in the 500 free, and the

squad's 400 free relay quartet.

The two LHS teams will be back in their own home waters for their final pre-Christmas event this Thursday night, Dec. 22, hoping to further improve their records.

Athletes of the Week

For the Week of Dec. 5



Jack Stuart, Senior,
Boys' Swimming

This battle-tested veteran standout has put forth solid performances in his team's first two meets and qualified for the state meet in the 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley, and 500 free.



Anna Gruchot, Senior,
Girls' Swimming

The skilled and seasoned stalwart has enjoyed an excellent start to the 2016-17 season with qualifying swims in the 50 freestyle, the 100 free, the 200 free, and the 200 IM.

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With veteran coach Peter Bedford returning to his duties as the head man with the Londonderry High varsity ice hockey squad this winter, nothing could have been better for the Lancers than to jump out of the gate with a solid victory.

And coach Bedford's bunch claimed just that with a hard-fought and dramatic, 3-2 edging of the host Hanover High Marauders in the Upper Valley last Wednesday, Dec. 14.

First-period goals by Merrill Neiman and Bryan Murphy sent Londonderry out to a 2-0 lead, but by the close of the second

stanza the score was knotted up at 2-2.

The Lancers played extremely well in the third period but had to pull out the dramatic victory, which was provided by Mike McCormick's goal with just 16 seconds remaining in regulation time.

"I felt really good about the first period, we played an uneven second, but we outplayed them in

the third, only allowing two shots, and we managed to pull out the win," said coach Bedford. "This was a good learning experience for the kids."

Londonderry had its home-opener at the Tri-Town Ice Arena in Hooksett slated for this past Saturday the 17th cancelled due to the snowstorm that day, and no makeup date has been announced yet.

Hence, the Lancers were set to return to action this Wednesday, Dec. 21, after Londonderry Times press-time, on their home sheet at the Tri-Town rink against the visiting Bishop Brady Green Giants. Brady began its 2016-17 season with a 5-2 defeat of the Nashua South/Pelham contingent, so a Lancer win could be a challenge to collect.

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LHS Tracksters Tally Fourth Places in Opening Meets of Season

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High boys' and girls' track and field squads both claimed modest fourth place finishes in their first New Hampshire High School Division I Winter Track League meets of the 2016-17 season at the Universi-

ty of New Hampshire in Durham this past Sunday night, Dec. 18.

The Lancer males notched a team score of 28 to finish behind the dominant meet victors from Pinkerton (106), second place Portsmouth (45), and third place Wincunnet from Hampton (42).

The Lady Lancers tallied a team score of 33 in finishing fourth behind victorious Pinkerton (78.50), second place Portsmouth (70), and the Nashua South Lady Purple Panthers (48).

GIRLS

Veteran coach Sue Johnson's LHS contingent received an event win

from Gretchen McGrath in the 600-meter run (time of 1 minute, 40.44 seconds), second places from Lexy Freire in the 55-meter hurdles and the Lady Lancers' 4x400 relay quartet, and a third place from Kalin Gregoire in the 1,500-meter run.

BOYS

Veteran mentor Matt

Smith's Lancer guys collected a trio of second place finishes, with Declan Hotter winding up there in the 1,000-meter run, Chris Zaino finishing as the runner-up in the 1,500, and Nathan Seeley getting the second spot in the 3,000-meter run.

The Londonderry High contingents won't see

competitive action again until after Christmas - in league meets on Dec. 29 to be precise - when both crews will be competing in the Leverone Field House on the campus of Dartmouth College.

The LHS teams will return to that same facility for the Dartmouth Relays on Jan. 7.

Curriculum, Library And Sports Reviewed at School Board

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry School Board and Budget Committee reviewed mostly level-funded requests from the curriculum, library/media and athletic departments.

In the Dec. 8 budget workshop, Assistant Sup-

erintendent Scott Laliberte and Athletic Director Howard Sokolov presented the three budgets, with modest requests and increases.

Laliberte said the total requests on the Curriculum line are \$580,400. This has increased by \$110,000 over last year due to the

phasing-in of a new elementary math program.

Laliberte told the board and Budget Committee that the elementary schools have not been using a consistent district-wide math program, but that teachers have been pulling from various sources. "It is inconsistent, and hard when we hire a new teacher," he said.

The Middle School has for several years been using Math In Focus, and the administration would like to see the K-5 version implemented on the elementary level, he said.

The total cost of implementing the program all at once would be \$260,795, Laliberte said, adding that he does not recommend that route. He recommends implementing the program in kindergarten and grades 3-5, he said, noting that in the pilot programs, grades 1 and 2 had trouble with the program because they didn't have it in kindergarten. "This program is strong

on numeracy and number sense, and our current first-and second-graders didn't get enough of that in kindergarten," he said.

It would cost \$112,000 to launch the program for Kindergarten and grades 3-5, he said.

Laliberte said the district would also save on professional development because the middle school teachers are already using Math in Focus and could train their peers. He also doesn't plan to purchase any of the manipulatives that go with the program, because the district already has appropriate manipulatives.

In addition, Laliberte said, the district will save money on standardized testing because the state has mandated that they use the SATs for the juniors' standardized test in math and reading. The state will pay for those two subjects, he said. While the district still has to budget for the writing portion of the test, it will

be \$3,700, and the district saves \$21,600 on the reading and math.

Laliberte level-funded most of the rest of this budget, saying, "We will live with what we have."

Laliberte also spoke to the library/media budget of \$197,682. The \$10,000 increase in this budget over last year is due to an increasing need for online subscriptions and digital resources, he said. While students still read books and the district still buys them, more and more research projects are being done online, according to Laliberte. The increase includes a subscription to Turn It In, a digital tool where teachers can search a data base of research papers to learn if a student has plagiarized someone else.

"I don't think we should nickel-and-dime

the library budget," board member Dan Lekas said.

Sokolov was the star of the evening, with a \$97 increase over last year's athletic budget. He is requesting \$368,011 for his 79 teams and 106 coaches. This includes \$1,814 for game officials, \$15,000 (a \$2,000 decrease) for repairs and maintenance, \$66,700 for rental including ice for hockey and a pool for the swim team, \$30,000, high school, general supplies and \$20,000, middle school, general supplies. He will also spend \$16,440 on replacement equipment at LHS and \$40,930 for dues and fees.

"I think we should give Howard a standing ovation," Hendricks said.

Further budget meetings were planned for Tuesday, Dec. 13 and Thursday, Dec. 15.

OBITUARY

Steven J. Oriani, Jr

Steven J. Oriani, Jr., 87, of Manchester died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016 in Mount Carmel Nursing Home in Manchester.

He was born in Boston, Mass on Sept. 1, 1929, a son of the late Steven J. and Corinne (Gandolfi) Oriani, Sr. Mr. Oriani had been a resident of Manchester for the past several years, formerly living in Londonderry for many years. He was U.S. Army veteran serving during the Korean War. He had been employed as a truck driver with the Teamster's Union. He was an avid woodworker.

He is survived by three sons, Robert Oriani of Londonderry, James Oriani of Salisbury, NH, and David Oriani of Londonderry; four grandchildren; three great grandchildren; his brother, William Oriani of Texas; his sister, Phyllis Guidoboni of Epping; he was predeceased by two sons, Edward Oriani, and Steven Oriani, III; and his wife Eleanor (Limosani) Oriani in 2015.

Following cremation, he will be buried next to his wife in Holy Cross Cemetery, Gilcrest Road, Londonderry in the Spring. The Peabody Funeral Homes of Derry and Londonderry are assisting the family with arrangements. To send a condolence or for more information, please visit, www.peabodyfuneralhome.com

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Transpotation

Continued from page 1

handicapped-accessible, according to Smith and Cotton.

Smith said in his opinion, the town has seen "relatively low usage by CART. If we are going to provide a service, we should own it."

The town service could be more flexible and more attuned to Londonderry needs, according to Smith.

Councilor Joe Green has advocated for keeping CART and starting a

Londonderry-centric service. He pointed out that 411 survey respondents were only 1.58 percent of Londonderry's 26,000 people, and asked seniors to come forward with their opinions.

But he added that one man told him, "You have meetings at 7 p.m. Some of us are already asleep."

Council Chair John Farrell said, "in a perfect world, we would have our own service and it would have more flexibility, expanded hours and a 48-hour 'on demand' window

instead of two weeks. Can we do all that within \$26,000 (the amount budgeted for CART)?"

"No matter what, we are going to own it," Green said, pointing out that if the town withdraws from CART, it still has an obligation to provide transportation.

Councilor Tom Dolan observed, "With our changing demographics, CART no longer provides adequate transportation for Londonderry." But he wanted to see a "problem statement," he added.

Dolan and Councilor Jim Butler advocated a slow start, with Butler saying, "We want to do the best we can for seniors, and not just 'jump in.'" He listed issues such as training, insurance, and finding out how many drivers will be needed.

Dolan suggested capping the amount at the current CART allocation "and see what that provides us. It will reduce our risk."

But Green was willing to go all-in, saying he would like to see a warrant article for another \$30,000 for Londonderry's own bus service, and that if the Council doesn't agree, he will present his own petitioned warrant article.

"Until we run a transportation system, we won't know how much it costs," Green pointed out.

"It's not unreasonable to ask Londonderry to support its aging community," Green said.

But Dolan's view was

that \$26,000 in the budget, plus a warrant article for \$30,000, would confuse voters. He suggested putting \$56,000 in the budget and relying on Smith to see if he could make the program work. "I trust our Town Manager not to just spend the money because it's there," Dolan said.

Cotton said the donated van is a 2013 Freightliner that has been used mostly for highway driving, and has a Mercedes diesel engine. He said Londonderry Ford is ready to go.

While Green said he believes the town needs both and that he will start the citizen petition, Dolan said he could not support both.

And Green said, "If this is on the ballot, it will pass," noting that seniors "do come out in the daytime."

In the public comment portion of the meeting, community member and

CART board member Martin Srugis said, "Is it really a 'free' van? There are maintenance costs, finding a backup driver, where are you going to keep it. It's more than just accepting a van."

Srugis said in a previous meeting that when Salem withdrew some of its funding, it affected other CART towns negatively. Councilor Jim Butler asked if that meant Londonderry was "subsidizing" the other towns, and he said his first duty was to Londonderry and its seniors. Srugis said it wasn't subsidizing, but that there is a finite amount of money to go around.

Srugis agreed to bring a CART "numbers person" to an upcoming meeting. Farrell said, "We have a long working relationship with CART, and it's our duty to see their response."

The next Council meeting is Monday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Moose Hill Conference Room.

Matthew Thornton Helps Wishes Come True



Connor Koza and former Miss New Hampshire Holly Blanchard, kicked off the school's Make-a-Wish fund raiser last week during a school assembly. Connor, who attends the school and is a Make-a-Wish Ambassador, raised funds because of his experiences with his sister Kaitlyn Koza, a sixth-grader at LMS who was a recipient of the program. Connor and the student council raised a little over \$850 last year and this year they raised \$1100. Connor coordinated a Make A Wish Committee that met every Monday for the past month. They collected raffle items, wrapped them and made riddles for each item. The riddles were taped onto the raffle items so that the children had a clue as to what was inside the wrapping. Raffle item names were drawn on Dec. 19, and the raffle items were delivered.

Photos by Chris Paul



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- PROVIDER ON CALL - IS IT STRESS OR AN ADJUSTMENT DISORDER

There are many definitions of stress. A good way to think about stress is that it is a feeling that may occur in response to positive or negative situations in which your body's natural response, biological and psychological, is to be in a heightened state of readiness, allowing you to perform well under pressure.

People can experience stress in different degrees, from mild to severe. "Just enough" stress can be a good thing and indeed critical to survival. However, when this stress response fails to switch off and reset itself after a challenging situation has passed, or if it worsens to the point of distraction, it can lead to more significant psychological problems and even worsen some medical conditions. That is the point at which an adjustment disorder or more severe problems can develop.

An adjustment disorder is a severe emotional reaction to a stressful event that has occurred in your life such as the death of a loved one or being diagnosed with a disease. It is a type of stress-related mental illness that can affect your feelings, thoughts and behaviors. Adjustment disorders are characterized by:

- Having emotional or behavioral symptoms within three months of a specific stressor occurring in your life
- Having serious symptoms involving severe distress or an inability to function well in your daily life

People may experience depressed mood, anxiety, disruptive behavior or other problems. Generally, there is an improvement within six months of the stressful event coming to an end. Taking good care of your emotional needs, talking to a trusted

friend or family member, and avoiding isolation are important in recovery. If symptoms persist, it may be helpful to talk to your doctor about what treatment options may be right for you.

As a Family Practitioner for over 20 years in Southern New Hampshire, I have treated new borns to individuals in their Golden Years. My staff and I believe that prevention is the best cure. And we like to do it the old-fashioned way, by listening and caring for each patient as if they were our own family. At the same time, we do not ignore the innovations that are taking place in medicine and participate in the EPIC electronic medical records in conjunction with the Elliot Hospital.

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AROUND TOWN

Around Town Policy: This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group 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. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m.

Additionally: We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at www.nutpub.net. Please send items to calendar@nutpub.net.

Christmas Eve

Christmas celebrations will be Dec. 24 at 5 and 11 p.m. and Dec. 25 at 11 a.m. at Londonderry Christian Church, 372 Mammoth Road. The public is welcome and child care will be available during the two Christmas Eve services.

Send tree out in style

The annual Christmas Tree Burn sponsored by Londonderry Boy Scout Troop 521 will be held Saturday, Jan. 7, at Mack's Apples in Londonderry. Treres will be collected from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The troop requests that trees not be left any earlier.

At dusk a bonfire will be lit and a concession stand opened. The Tree Burn began as an Eagle Scout project more than 20 years ago. For more information, contact Joanne Iovino at joanneiovino@gmail.com.

Blizzard Basketball Tournament

A Lancer Nation three-on-three basketball tournament will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, at Londonderry High School. Registration deadline is Jan. 5 and cost is \$50 per person. Divisions include 3rd and 4th grade, 5th and 6th grade, 7th and 8th grade and high school. Both girls and boys

teams are welcome. For more information or to register online e-mail lancerbasketballnation@gmail.com. To register, send a registration form and check to LNB BA, P.O. Box 1268, Londonderry NH 03053.

Learn about country estates

"Exemplary Country Estates of New Hampshire" will be the topic of a program to be held Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Leach Library. Cristina Ashjian will be the speaker. Ashjian is an art historian and independent scholar, and is currently chair of the Moultonborough Heritage

Commission. She holds a master's in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, and a Ph.D. in Modern Art and Architecture from Northwestern University. The program is free and sponsored by Friends of the Leach Library. Light refreshments will be served.

Missing Ring

One of our readers contacted us reporting a girl's ring found in the Londonderry Walgreens parking lot on Thursday, December 15th around 6pm. If you or someone you know is missing a ring, please contact the Nutfield Publishing office at (603) 537-2760 and we will forward the message to the reader and help you retrieve it!

Lions Tree Sale

The Londonderry Lions Club has opened its annual Christmas tree sale. The trees, fresh from Vermont, are available at the Lions Hall, 256 Mammoth Road. Trees range in size from 6 feet to 13 feet. A limited number of deliveries are available depending on Lions' availability and their trucks. Proceeds benefit Lions' charities. The sale is open Thursday and Friday, 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The sale is open every week until all 400 trees are sold or Christmas Eve, whichever comes first. For more information e-mail tomcooper6171@gmail.com.

STEPS to present "Godspell"

The STEPS Theater Co. will present "Godspell" Thursday, Jan. 12 to 14 through Saturday, Jan. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Derry Opera House. STEPS is Specialized Theater Enrichment program, a local theater group for ages 12 to 18. For more information or to order tickets, visit www.stepsnh.org

Brighten a Life with Hospice

Volunteers are sought for Amedisys Hospice in Londonderry. Volunteers can make the life of a patient a little brighter by reading together, playing a board game or doing a puzzle or by simply visiting and sharing valuable time. Amedisys Hospice has an immediate need for volunteers in Rockingham County, Manchester and Concord. For more information contact Patty Cooper at

patricia.cooper@amedisys.com or 421-0414.

Learn about Outstanding Aviator

Bob Hoover, regarded by many as the greatest aviator of his time, will be the subject of a program at the Aviation Museum in Londonderry. The presentation will be Thursday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. For more information contact Jessica Pappathan, Executive Director, at 669-4820 or jpappathan@nhahs.org

VA Bingo

On Dec. 26 Post 27 will be playing bingo with patients at the VA Hospital in Manchester from 7-8:30 pm. Pizza and diet soda will be served as well as providing \$150 in prize money. Anyone interested in helping out can sign-up at the Post. For more information go to www.alpost27.com or call 437-6613.

VFW Christmas

In conjunction with the local VFW Post #8214 Auxiliary, LHS Art students in Mimi Johnson and Suzanne Hjlem's classes made ceramic pocket charms and art

cards to be sent by NH Operation Care For Our Troops at their November Nashua/ National Guard Armory Christmas Stocking Overseas Troop Packing. LHS Faculty and the VFW Post Auxiliary members hail the extraordinary efforts of the LHS students. These donations will go directly to troops in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. NHOTC does 4 overseas troop shipments yearly. For more info on this story please email dharmon@londonderry.org

Winter Session Programs

The Children's Room at the Leach Library will be offering the following programs: Craft Time, Shake, Move & Read, and Toddler Time. Winter Session 1 will run Jan. 11 through 19. These dates include a break for the winter holidays. Advance registration is required and began on Monday, November 28. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

Holiday Library Hours

The library will close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 24, and re-open at 9 a.m.

Continued on page 17

Carson Continues to Serve Dist. 14

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A Londonderry Republican is once again Senate President Pro Tempore.

Sharon Carson, senator for District 14 which covers Hudson, Auburn and her home town of Londonderry, was named to the post earlier this month by Senate President Chuck Morse, R-Salem. She will also continue chairing the Judiciary and Executive Departments & Administration Committees, as she has for several years.

Upon her appointment, Carson issued the following statement: "I am extremely honored to be named to the Senate's leadership team by Senate President Chuck Morse and to be chosen to serve as President Pro Tempore again for the 2017-18 Legislative Session. I am also pleased to serve as chair of both the Senate Judiciary and Executive Departments and Administration Committees for the next ses-

sion."

Carson concluded, "In all of these roles, I look forward to working closely with my Senate colleagues and my constituents to address important issues facing our communities and our state."

She has been serving in the Senate since 2008.

She has also served in the New Hampshire House including three terms on the Education Committee, the last as the Senior Republican Policy Adviser. She has also served on the House Ways & Means Committee, the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

Senator Carson was also a two-term member of the Rockingham County Delegation's Executive Committee as the Chair of the Registry of Deeds.

Carson was born in Maine and raised in Connecticut. She graduated

from Mount Wachusett Community College with a degree in laboratory technology and earned her bachelor's and masters' degrees in American History from the University of New Hampshire. She was awarded a doctoral scholarship from UNH, has taken and passed her doctoral exams in American History, and is currently working on her dissertation.

She is also an adjunct faculty member at Nashua Community College where she has taught a variety of classes in history and political science. The Senator retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Sergeant First Class.

Carson is married and has two daughters. Her legislative priorities include supporting small business growth and creating a business friendly environment, supporting veteran's issues, balancing the budget, and advocating for transparency and efficiency in state government.



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry School District School Board/SAU 12 School Board will conduct a public hearing on the Proposed FY2017-2018 School District General Fund Operating Budget and all other warrant articles at the Londonderry Town Office, Moose Hill Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, New Hampshire, on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 7:00PM. The public is invited to attend.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY PLANNING BOARD

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a Public Meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH to consider the following:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Application acceptance and Public Hearing for a formal review of a proposed 83 lot conservation subdivision, Lorden Commons Phases 2, 3, and 4 - 17 Old Derry Road, Map 16, Lot 38, Zoned AR-1, Lorden Commons, LLC (Owner) and Chinburg Properties, Inc. (Applicant)

Public hearing on a waiver request to Section 6.01 of the Londonderry Site Plan Regulations to allow the issuance of a certificate of occupancy prior to the placement of the final wearing course pavement for "Trail Haven Estates," formerly "Whittemore Estates" on an approved 2014 site plan and on an approved 2015 site plan amendment at 73 Trail Haven Drive, Map 12 Lot 59-3, Zoned AR-1, Londonderry Lending Trust (Owner) and Advanced Design Construction (Applicant)

Around Town

Continued from page 16

on Tuesday, December 27. The library will also close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 31, and re-open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

LEEP Preschool

The Londonderry School District's Londonderry Early Education Program (LEEP) inclusion preschool is accepting applications for the current school year. Londonderry children who turned 3 by Sept. 1 are eligible. Programs for 3-year-olds meet from 8:45 to 11 a.m. two or four days per week; prekindergartners meet from noon to 2:30 p.m. three

or four days per week. Tuition is \$145/month for the two-day/week preschool and \$195/month for four days/week. Prekindergarten is \$180 for three days/month and \$195/month for four days/week. For details, call Kathy Kelley at 437-5855, ext. 7223 or kkelley@lonodnderry.org or Kim Speers at kspeers@londonderry.org. The LEEP handbook is online at moose.londonderry.org.

Movie Time

Come to the library on Thursday, December 8, from 3:15 - 5:15 p.m. for our Young Adult Movie Time program. All participants in grades 6 through 12 will enjoy the 2016 epic adventure movie The

Jungle Book, along with popcorn and beverages. In addition, there will be a raffle for fun door prizes at this special event. No sign up is necessary.

Free meals

The following free meals are offered in January: Jan. 8, Dinner at Church of the Transfiguration, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; Jan. 15, Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 5 to 6:15 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-0004; Jan. 19, Dinner at West Running Brook Middle School, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry, 432-1350; Jan. 21, Dinner at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 63 East Broadway, Derry, 434-4767; Jan. 29,

Breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 9 to 10 a.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; Jan. 27, Spaghetti Supper at First Parish Congregational Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 47 East Derry Road, Derry, 434-0628; and Jan. 29, Lunch at St. Jude Parish Community, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., 435 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 432-3333. In addition, the Sunshine Soup Kitchen serves a free meal every weeknight from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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Dancers Unite to Help

The Melissa Hoffman Dance Center will hold its annual Make A Wish performance Jan. 29, 2017. The dance center has donated more than \$100,000 to Make A Wish, which grants wishes to terminally ill children. Local dancers 6 and older are invited to participate. Those interested should download the application form and return it by Dec. 15. Mandatory rehearsals are Jan. 14, 21 and 28. The form may be downloaded at

<http://melissahoffmandancecenter.info/make-a-wish-2017/>. Business owners may also donate an item for the raffle. Tickets to the event are \$15 each. For more information write to mhdcdance@comcast.net.

Medieval Times

On Monday, Jan. 9 from 4 to 5 p.m. the Leach Library will present Medieval Times. All participants will leave with a metallic crown and plush dragon. The program is open to 90 participants of all ages. Advance registration for this program is required and begins at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Wednesday - Dec. 14

1:57 a.m. Motor vehicle stop results in arrest on Orchard View Drive near Taco Bell. Matthew Harlow, 41 of Raymond was charged with Driving after Revocation or Suspension.
5:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident investigated at Rockingham Road at Convenience Plus.

12:28 p.m. Complaint reported at Buttrick Road at Liberty Energy

3:54 p.m. Assist Londonderry Fire Dept. with Transportation to Hospital from Action Blvd.

5:57 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle results in citation issued at Mammoth and Litchfield Road intersection.

5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Investigated on Mammoth Road. Vehicles involved: Audi A5, Toyota Corolla, Volkswagen Beetle and Honda Element.

8:30 p.m. Disturbance investigated at Manchester Boston Regional Airport terminal on Airport Road.

Thursday - Dec. 15

1:05 p.m. Traffic hazard removed on Mammoth Road near Robin Hood Drive.

1:12 p.m. Traffic hazard removed on Betty Lanen near West Road.

5:10 p.m. Suspicious activity investigated on Hardy Road.

8:38 p.m. Assisted citizen at the Stumble Inn on Rockingham Road.

9:25 p.m. Traffic hazard removed on Trolley Car Lane

10:12 p.m. Traffic Hazard removed from South Road and Kendall Pond Road.

Friday - Dec. 16

4:28 a.m. Violation of Protective Order investigated at Fieldstone Drive.

9:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident at Perkins Road and Rockingham Road between Mazda CX9 and Ford Explorer.

1:23 p.m. Juvenile Offenses reported Londonderry High School.

2:14 p.m. Burglary investigated at Olde Country Village Road.

2:44 p.m. Larceny/forgery/Fraud reported at Home Depot on Nashua Road.

4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident investigated on Nashua Road near McDonald's

Subaru B9 Tribe, Mercedes E-Class.

Saturday - Dec 17

12:08 a.m. Suspicious activity reported and arrest made at Convenience Plus on Rockingham Road. Kevin Labelle, 24 of Derry charged with Driving After Revocation or Suspension and a Bench Warrant
8:20 a.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Dept with Transportation to Hospital from Fieldstone Drive.

10:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident on High Range Road.

10:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Pine Hollow Drive.

10:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Royal Lane.

10:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Ridgemont Drive

10:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Pendleton Lane.

10:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Bayberry Lane.

10:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Adams Road.

10:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Copperfield Lane.

10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Capitol Hill Drive.

10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Constitution Drive.

10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Mercury Drive.

10:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Reed Street.

10:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Devonshire Lane.

10:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident reported on Pettengill Road near Raymond Wieczorek Drive.

10:31 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle reported on Bartley Hill Road.

10:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident reported at Stonehenge and Hardy Road intersection.

10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Hall Road.

11:11 a.m. Traffic Hazard reported on Gilcreast Road.

11:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint at Elwood and High Range Road.

11:39 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle on Gilcreast Road.

12:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident on Hardy Road and West Parish Drive.

12:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Pleasant

Drive.

12:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on William Drive.

12:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Hemlock Street.

12:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Catamount Road.

12:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Sparhawk Drive.

12:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident on Stonehenge Road at Rockingham Road.

1:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Lori Lane.

1:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Adams Road.

1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Check on Hall Road at High Range Road.

2:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Yorkshire Lane

3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Willow Lane.

3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Winterwood Drive

3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Capitol Hill Drive.

3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Mercury Drive.

3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint Action: Services Rendered Sandstone Circle.

3:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint Action: Services Rendered Holly Lane.

4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Mammoth Rd near Shasta Drive.

5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident reported at West Road and Morway Drive.

5:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Calla Road.

6:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident on West Road near Elwood Road.

7:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident at Manchester Boston Regional Airport on Airport Road.

11:07 p.m. Criminal Mischief reported on Sherwood Road.

Sunday - Dec. 18

3:15 a.m. Disturbance reported at Manchester Boston Regional Airport on Airport Road.

8:18 a.m. Assault investigated on West Road.

11:19 a.m. Criminal Mischief reported on Pettingill Road at UPS.

1:20 p.m. Weapons Offenses reported on Wiley Hill Road.

2:40 p.m. Traffic Hazard reported on Litchfield Road.

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Resident's Christmas Lights Display Illuminates 'The Kings'

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Brendan Sevin pointed to a spot on his neatly-shoveled sidewalk and said, "Be careful. There's a wire under there."

Make that dozens of wires. But Sevin isn't counting.

Sevin is the showman behind the master Christmas lights display at 3 King Edward Drive. His efforts light up "The Kings" and draw visitors from around the region. This year he's added a playlist of music synchronized to his blinking lights, for a Christmas feast for the ears as well as the eyes.

Sevin has been doing lights displays ever since he had his own home. It's in the blood, he explained as he relaxed at his dining-room table. "My parents decorated all the time." He spent his early years in Louisiana, where "lights were everywhere," he said. When the family moved to Laconia his father decorated their home there, winning community lights competitions.

Sevin began decorating with the older incandescent bulbs, but switched to LED a couple of years ago. They are longer-lasting and easier on the electric bill, he explained.

How many bulbs does he string? "I wish I knew," Sevin said with a laugh.

His lights circle his windows, drape the trees in his yard and form glorious arches. But Sevin wanted more, and began to explore the idea of synchronizing his lights to music. His brother-in-law got to talking to Josh Letourneau, the mastermind behind Letourneau's Lights in Litchfield, and urged Sevin to contact Letourneau, who led him in a master class on lights and music.

Sevin has been listening to Christmas carols since this past February, and working on his playlist. "It takes forever," he said cheerfully, "to pro-

gram the songs." He timed every beat to a blinking light, using a program called Beat Wizard, which points out where the beat is, he said. He uses an FM transmitter and a software controller to run the show. "It uses 16 extension cords," Sevin said. He also uses another controller for the eight floodlights that illuminate his front lawn. Lights are controlled through 32 independent channels for the "regular" lights along with eight for the floodlights.

Though Sevin is not an engineer, the program wasn't hard to "get," he said, citing Letourneau's tutelage. It was more a matter of time and timing. He had hoped to be up and running by Thanksgiving night, but finally got the last cord plugged in by sunset on Black Friday. "Next year we're starting mid-October," he said.

But he was done in time for his inaugural event, a "Santa meet" on Sunday, Dec. 11. He opened his property for 2 1/2 hours for cocoa, cookies, a bonfire and Santa visits, and saw "a huge turnout," he said.

Christmas is the season of giving, and throughout Holiday 2017, Sevin will be accepting donations for Make-A-Wish, though his display is free.

"People have been generous so far, and it is great to see," he said.

Sevin's display is lively without being tacky. He doesn't have any figural items, blown-up or solid. "I like to focus on the lights," he said, though acknowledging that different lights enthusiasts have different tastes. Josh Letourneau uses mostly white lights, while other designers have augmented their lights with plastic blow-up figures or the old-school blow mold Santas and Frostys. "I like to focus just on the lights and animation," he said, noting that when it works, "The whole house seems to dance with it."

Sevin chose mostly upbeat songs for his



Brendan Sevin has set up a spectacular Christmas lights display at 3 King Edward Drive this season complete with synchronization holiday music. Photo by Chris Paul

playlist. "I have a picture in my mind, something you can build a show around," he said. He has some holiday staples in the mix, but really likes groups such as the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. "I like their 'Wizards of Winter' — almost everybody does that one," he said.

Sevin's neighbors are on-board with the display, he said, and don't mind the "light-peepers" who come to gawk. "A lot of people drive by, but they're not annoying," Sevin said. "Some stay for 10 minutes; some stay for the entire 45 minutes of the show."

His children, 11 and 8, love the display, he said, and his wife Kelly is totally behind him. "She's already asking me, 'What are you doing next year?'" he said.

With a larger yard and unlimited budget, Sevin said, he still wouldn't do anything too over the top. "I like clean lines, straight lines," he said. He'd like to build what he calls a "mega-tree," a 15-to 20-foot Christmas tree with spiraling lights, and he'd also like to put in more "leaping arches."

The whole display is activated by computer and goes on and off automatically, Sevin said.

Though he spends a fair amount of time on the roof, Sevin hasn't had any accidents, he said. "But I'm knocking on wood," he added with a smile. "I stay in the center — my brother-in-law goes over to the corners."



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