

The Londonderry Monthly

Volume 9 Number 1

January 2018

Letter from the Editor:

Many things happened last year – some thru hardship and loss, some thru beautiful examples of love and compassion. Here's to focusing on a better 2018. Let us thank mother nature (so far) for the arctic air she has frozen us with, giving all the mountains and resort economy an early boom. I'm so happy for the businesses and hope it keeps going with great gusto til spring. I, on the other hand, may try hibernating.

January is a great month for do-overs. You know that old adage “if at first you don't succeed, try, try again”? Did your apple crumble stink last year? Either learn how to do it properly with a new (or old) recipe and enjoy eating your mistakes or ditch them forever and try pie instead. Didn't lose those 5-10-20-30 pounds you promised yourself you would lose? Do-Over! Now is the perfect opportunity to re-assess your goals and your strategy for meeting those goals. There is a certain amount of success in the failure of trying. AT LEAST YOU TRIED. If you wanted to lose 30 pounds and only lost 10 – oh well – if you keep at it in 3 years you will have lost the 30! I find people so hard on themselves and others. I think we need to ease up a bit. What is that song by Faith & Tim – Humble and Kind – let's try that this year. A pat on the back for the 100 bulbs that got in the ground is much nicer than a slap for killing the rosemary plant. My life is littered with failures. I have probably spent more money on about-to-be-dead rosemary plants than I have on any other herb. Yet I currently have another dying one in my window. Sigh. Back to my failures. My failures are what keep me going, keep me “trying”, teach me how to do things differently, approach problems or people better (hopefully). Or sometimes, cut my losses and move on. They also keep me humble. But they also highlight my successes. When I look at my friends – our social garden so to speak, our children, our families and the love and support we have from such an amazing variety of wonderful people – I sigh with pleasure and gratitude at a life that is full. If these incredible people can like me, or love me even – with all my faults – I'm hopefully doing something right. There is a comfort in loving your friends and family – warts and all – and knowing that they return the sentiment – or return like weeds and never give up on me. So get in there and keep trying – but also give yourself credit for things done well. Happy New Year – Darcy

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**First Baptist Church of South Londonderry
Thanks the Community for Helping to Rebuild**



First Baptist Church of South Londonderry has been rebuilding after their previous building was destroyed by a fire in August of 2010. With the help of a matching gift donation, they are making the final push to finish the building project and start using the building. When the members of the church prepared to rebuild, they wanted to have a building that they could share with the community. What they did not realize was that it would take a community to rebuild the church building. Over the last seven years, many people, organizations, and companies have volunteered time and materials to make the building a reality.

The first two years were mostly spent in determining how to move forward, dealing with their insurance company, cleaning up the site, finding a place to meet, and making plans for a new building. They want to thank the Town of Londonderry for providing a space to meet, as well as Daniel Pratt of Robert Carl Williams Associates for getting involved early on in helping with their insurance claim and going on to design the whole church building.

The next two years were spent on purchasing the adjoining property. This land was needed for a new driveway, to meet setback requirements, for added parking spaces, for drainage, and to get their final permits approved by the Town and State. They acquired the land in the summer of 2013. That fall the land was cleared, the house was taken

down, and the hill (over 6,500 yards of fill) was removed. At this time they want to give credit to a few people and companies that not only made this possible, but have continued helping with untold amounts of donated work and materials to make building our church a reality. First and foremost, Raymond Smith Excavating tore down the house, put in the driveway, built the

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retaining walls, dug the foundation, dug the drainage, donated materials, and trucked materials out. Scott Howe of Big Rock Gravel removed the fill, as well as donated stone and surpac. Cobb Lumber cleared trees, did site work, as well as donated large stones, gravel, and top soil. And finally Jeremy Brodney of Brodney Enterprises did all of the engineering and surveying for the church building as well as the layout for the water storage tanks, drainage, and handicap access to the building. First Baptist Church is thankful for everyone who helped in the beginning stages of building.

Bids for construction of the building went out in the spring of 2014. First Baptist Church awarded the contract to Russell Construction Services of Rutland on June 15th, with work starting immediately. They want to thank John Russell for saving them tens of thousands of dollars in value engineering, for their guidance, and for their quality of construction. First Baptist Church knew that they didn't have all of the money needed to complete the project, but they decided to move forward completing what they could afford. Russell

Construction completed the whole exterior of the building and framing of the interior. Their work was completed by October of 2015, though Russell Construction has continued to make themselves available for advice. During the construction of the exterior, Doug Friant of Vermont Timber Works provided the timber frame entrance and interior timbers way below cost. Doug even delivered the timbers, supervised, and assisted us in putting them up.

The First Baptist Church then took on the task of completing the building without a general contractor, using as much volunteer labor and materials as possible and fundraising for the rest of the money needed. By finishing the building on their own, their goal was to be the best stewards of the funds they had left and the funds they were to raise.

The church took breaks over the winter months of 2015 and 2016, since the building was not heated. In the spring of 2016, Dustin Washburn of Southern Vermont Sprinkler Services was hired to put in the required sprinkler system. Frost Well Drilling put in the pump, expansion tank, and water softener. At this time, they hired Gary Barton and Taylor Barton of Barton Electric to do the electrical work, and they too have saved the church thousands of dollars and is working with Efficiency Vermont to get rebates. A lot of volunteer labor was used in the summer of 2016 including organizations and churches outside of the local community. SERVE, a group of youth and adults who come every summer from Hope Community Church in King of Prussia, PA, has done lots of projects over the years including painting, installing a deck, doing cleanup, and working on landscaping. Another group of men from Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, KY came and closed in their porch ceilings, built a deck and stairs, and installed interior timber frame. First Baptist Church is thankful for all of their hard work.

By the fall of 2016 fundraising efforts and grants came together, and they had the funds to move forward. They awarded the plumbing and heating contract to M&M Plumbing & Heating. They also came in and saved the church thousands of dollars in value engineering. They got the boilers in and working in December, and they had radiant heat in the basement floor for the winter. Jeff Duda of Blue Flame Gas donated his labor in hooking up propane lines in the building. Jerrid Smith and Dale Griswald installed the propane tank and lines at no cost.

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They hired Builders Installed Products to insulate the building, Green Mountain Drywall to do the sheet rocking, Bennington House of Tile and Carpet to help out with some of the flooring, Tile Slate Marble to tile the flooring in the entryways, and First Line Security to install their fire alarm system. They also hired Forbes Construction to do the window trim on their stained glass windows and chair rails. Many of these companies have given discounts, and the church is grateful.

Mark Wright, of Rugg Valley Landscaping, installed the plantings outside of their building. He donated 15 evergreen plants and 15 lilac shrubs, as well as all the work and supplies including compost, grass, and mulch. Barry Pearson Jr. of Shine Hill Painting helped out by painting the sanctuary at no cost. Payne Junker repaired their weathervane at a reduced cost. Others who have helped include David Stevens, Michel La Liberté, Wayne Blackey, Bruce Thomas, and Mark Miller. They would also like to give a special thanks to Larry Prouty who has been working at a reduced cost by using his carpenter skills to get the building finished.

They also want to thank church members and friends of the church for all of the work that they have done this past summer and fall. Every Saturday morning, as well as other times throughout the week, many people have been working on projects. While there is not enough space and time to mention the names of all who have helped us out with advise, labor and materials, First Baptist Church appreciates all the time and effort that they have put into the building.

First Baptist Church is hoping to start using the building for services in the very near future. They would like to thank everyone who has put the time and effort into making this building possible.

First Baptist Church could not have rebuilt without the donations from those in the community and beyond, and they will print at a later date a list of those who have donated money.

First Baptist Church is nearing the end of raising funds for their building for the added expense of meeting current commercial building codes. Donations towards the rebuilding project can be made online at their website below or mailed to First Baptist Church (PO Box 278 South Londonderry, VT 05155) with "building fund" in the memo. For more information about the building including a video tour, take a look at their website: firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR!!

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vermont
MAIN STREET
alliance



Main Street Alliance of Vermont

Business of the Year

2017

David Nunnikhoven

Grandma Miller's
Pies and Pastries

For your dedication to
positive policy change and
your leadership as an
MSA-VT member.

Thank you to the Community!

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During the summer, Jeremy became the sole caretaker for our 3 year old daughter Alyssa, when our infant son was diagnosed with a rare genetic bone disorder, Osteopetrosis [os-tee-oh-pi-TROH-sis]. This diagnosis sent Noah to Boston Children's Hospital for a Bone Marrow Transplant. I stayed with him in the hospital while Jeremy and Alyssa stayed home, visiting on weekends when possible. We finally returned home from Boston in October. Noah is doing well with his recovery, but has a long way to go.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our local community for the outpouring of help they have provided during these trying times. Neighborhood Connections helped coordinate Alyssa's enrollment in her school's summer program and helped Jeremy apply for childcare subsidy to pay for it. Thanks to this, Alyssa was able to attend full-time so that he could continue to work. I'm very grateful that Jeremy's boss was able to work with him on a schedule that could be mutually beneficial. Many friends and neighbors brought meals to the house, some cut the lawn, Series 11 held a raffle to help raise money for our family, Second Congregational Church donated money ... and many, many people have donated money, services, healing thoughts and prayers.

We can't thank you enough for being there for us in our time of need.

Happy Holidays from our home to yours!
Renée, Jeremy, Alyssa, and Noah Smith

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Pajala named to Vermont House

Londonderry independent will serve out remainder of Olsen's term



On Nov. 30, Governor Phil Scott announced the appointment of Kelly MacLaury Pajala of Londonderry, as representative for the Windham-Bennington-Windsor District, serving the towns of Jamaica, Londonderry, Stratton, Weston, and Winhall.

Pajala, an independent, will fill the vacancy left when Rep. Oliver Olsen, I-Londonderry, stepped down this month.

On his Facebook page, Olsen cited the increased demands of his out-of-session job — working for a multinational software company — made it impossible to juggle his legislative duties with his work schedule.

Pajala has served as town clerk for the Town of Londonderry since 2012 and, for three years prior to that, was the assistant town clerk in Weston. Pajala also owned her own business, Dancing Hands Creations.

“Kelly has demonstrated an impressive commitment to serving her community through her time as town clerk, as well as through volunteer and other civic commitments,” said Scott in a news release. “She’s shown a willingness to listen and be responsive to her constituents, and has an important understanding of the needs of her community.

“That, coupled with her business experience, will bring a valuable perspective to the State House, and I look forward to working with her.”

Pajala grew up in Weston and is a graduate of Burr & Burton Academy in Manchester. She holds a bachelor’s degree in women’s studies from Skidmore College.

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For years, she has participated in volunteer activities, including as the chair of the Londonderry Parks Board, as a member of the West River Farmers Market Board, the Little School Board, the Weston Planning Commission, and as a part of the Pingree Park Revitalization Project.

“I am so honored to receive this appointment from Governor Scott and for the opportunity to serve the people of the district where I’ve spent most of my life, getting to know the people, challenges, and strengths of this region,” Pajala said in a prepared statement.

“My years of service with the town have taught me it’s more important to listen than speak, to approach challenges with an open mind and to always be respectful,” Pajala added. “I look forward to bringing this approach to my new role as I represent the interests of the Windham-Bennington-Windsor District in Montpelier.”

The process for replacing an independent in the Vermont Legislature is different than that for replacing a Republican or Democratic member. County party committees normally make recommendations to the governor for appointments.

Since there is no independent party in Vermont, it was up to Scott to maintain the tradition of filling a vacated seat with a member of the same political affiliation, so he sought, with Olsen’s help, to appoint another independent from the House district.

For Olsen, it is the second time he has resigned from the Legislature. He was appointed to the House by Gov. James Douglas in January 2010 to fill out the remainder of the term of Rick Hube, the longtime South Londonderry Republican who died suddenly at age 62 in December 2009.

Olsen, then a Republican, won the seat in 2010. But didn’t seek re-election in 2012, citing family and career conflicts. Two years later, he ran again for his old seat, this time as an independent. He won in 2014 and was re-elected in 2016.

Originally published in The Commons issue #438 December 13, 2017.

CONGRATULATIONS KELLY!!!

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NEW ADMINISTRATOR ON BOARD

Our new Town Administrator/Zoning Administrator, Robert Nied, has joined us in his regular capacity as of November 1. He will be dividing his time between the 2 positions and will be keeping regular hours at the Twitchell Building, Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 4:30. We ask that a call for an appointment be made to assure his presence in the office as some of his duties will take him out of the office. He will be working with the Select Board, current Interim Zoning Administrator, Sharon Crossman, and office staff to become familiar with his responsibilities. Robert can be reached at the office number 824-3356 and by email at townadmin@londonderryvt.org.

WELCOME ROBERT!

PELLET STOVE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Green Mountain Home Repair, a program of the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, is pleased to announce a pellet stove replacement program for Windham County residents. Eligible homeowners will get a price reduction of \$2,000 to \$4,000 on the cost of purchasing and installing an approved pellet stove to replace an old wood stove, or kerosene or propane heater. Funding for this two-year program comes from the State of Vermont's Clean Energy Development Fund. Each new pellet stove replacement will decrease pollution, increase energy efficiency, and reduce homeowner's fuel usage. Loans are available to pay the remainder of the installation cost and all homeowners will get a complimentary home check up to review maintenance, health and safety concerns. Green Mountain Home Repair is partnering with Friends of the Sun, the Stove Depot, Shanahan Building Supplies, and Sandri Energy on this program. For more information and to check eligibility, call the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust at (802) 254-4604.

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MONDAY JANUARY 29th 2:30pm SO YOU WANT TO WRITE A KID'S BOOK? - The Nuts & Bolts of Writing for Children with Steve Swinburne

Children's book author Steve Swinburne takes you from idea creation and blank page to printed book, covering (almost) everything you need to know about researching, writing and publishing a book for kids. In a humor-filled presentation, Steve uses storytelling and over 30-year experience in children's writing to teach you about research, first drafts, re-writing, proposals, pitching an editor or agent, illustration and photograph requirements, promotion, etc. Register for this workshop to learn the A-Z business of children's books. Whether you are a beginner or intermediate writer or only have a dream of writing a children's book one day - Steve will offer practical and useful advice.

TAI CHI with Doreen Fabiano will begin again this January. She will offer a 6 week morning series - time and dates still in the works, so stay tuned....



Results are in: Trash is Down, Recycling is UP!

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that trash disposal throughout the state decreased 5 percent, while the recycling rate has increased from 33 percent to 35 percent since the new recycling services and requirements went into effect in July 2015. Over the past year, the Vermont Foodbank has also seen an increase in fresh food donations and in 2016, they estimate over 4 million pounds of food will be rescued from producers and retailers in Vermont, a 60 percent increase over 2015.

For the last 15 years, Vermont's recycling rates have stagnated, with about two-thirds of our waste still being landfilled. The Universal Recycling law (Act 148 of 2012) aimed to change this by increasing convenience and providing incentives to recycle and compost more.

"Recycling makes sense environmentally and economically, and the Universal Recycling Law has reinforced that," said Paul Tomasi, director of Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD). "Recycling is simply what we do here in Vermont."

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The NEK District's Lyndonville recycling facility saw a 25 percent jump in recyclables during the first three months after the recycling requirements went into effect (July, August, and September 2015).

Beginning in 2015, the Universal Recycling law banned disposal of baseline recyclables and required solid waste transfer stations and haulers to collect these materials. Baseline recyclables include the statewide six: paper (mail, magazines, newspaper, office paper, paper bags, and box board); aluminum (cans, foil, and pie tins); cardboard; steel cans; glass bottles and jars; and hard plastic bottles and containers (#1 and #2).

"Act 148 is another step in the strong history and already robust ethic of recycling in Vermont. It is certainly a crucial element in the progression of the value of resource renewal and conservation across Vermont's economic and environmental landscape," said John Casella, CEO of Casella Resource Solutions.

Next summer (July 1, 2017) Vermonter's will have more options than ever to separate and compost their food waste, when the Universal Recycling law will ensure that all transfer stations that take trash also provide food scrap collection services.

Media Contact: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Josh Kelly (802) 522-5897 or josh.kelly@vermont.gov

Source: [Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

Speaking of RECYCLING....

2018 Annual Transfer Station Permit Stickers for 2018 are for sale **only** at the Londonderry Town Office. They can be purchased in cash or with check, in person or by mail with a self addressed stamped envelope addressed to:

Town of Londonderry
100 Old School Street
So. Londonderry, VT 05155

Resident sticker cost \$10, Commercial stickers cost \$25. The stickers are **required for entrance to the Transfer Station for both trash disposal and recycling.**

The Town Office hours are: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:30-4:00, Wed 10:00-5:00

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CONGRATULATIONS MAGIC!

For the second year running, Magic Mountain in Londonderry was named Best in Snow in North America by Liftopia, a ski and snowboard ticketing portal, according to a press release. Liftopia takes reviews from thousands of skiers who use its services to see which resorts are best in a number of categories, including Beginner Friendly, Family Friendly, Most Challenging and Least Crowded. The results are weighted by the number of users so smaller areas are not swamped by mega resorts.

Magic was ranked No. 4 in the Beginner Friendly category, No. 3 in Family Friendly and No. 1 in both Most Challenging and Best Value. Only two other areas in the East made it into the Top 10 overall and both of those are in Vermont: Mad River Glen was ranked No. 3 and Jay Peak No. 7.

“We’re proud and humbled to be in the company of such great ski areas,” said Magic President Geoff Hatheway, noting the presence of Alta and Snowbird in Utah and Mad River Glen. “It says a lot about the passion our customers have for skiing and for a place like Magic.”

Excerpted from article originally published in the Chester Telegraph December 20, 2017 by Shawn Cunningham

Article Submission Information If your group or organization has community news to share, and you would like to submit an article to The Monthly for publication, please contact us via email at derrynews@aol.com. For your reference, our article submission deadline is the 23rd of each month. Due to space limitations it is up to our discretion to edit any and all submissions and/or reject submissions. The articles and information enclosed do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Town of Londonderry or its board members

Bone Builders meet FREE at the Twitchell Bldg every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m

TOWN EMAIL LIST The town has established an Email/distribution list to send important and emergency information to town residents and property owners. If you have not submitted your email address, please consider doing so. Your information will not be shared with anyone. Call the town office at 824-3356 or email to londontown@vermontel.net