

The Londonderry Monthly

Volume 7 Number12

December 2016

Letter from the Editor:

I will begin this letter with begging for your forgiveness. I have taken a new job and am commuting to Rutland, BBoro & Burlington. I have not been able to keep up with the Monthly as it, and you, deserve. I will be back in Londonderry sometime in the new year and promise to be back to timely and informative service! So please accept my apologies and bear with us while this old dog learns some new tricks!

Now I want to wish you all the Merriest of Christmas and Happiest of Holidays in the coming weeks!! It is a wonderful time of year when we can help out the various charities in town, make gift choices for loved ones, decorate with abandon and celebrate love, joy, our fellow man and each other. It can also be a time of stress, budget concerns and crazy-making. So please – be kind not only to others, but yourself. Nobody will remember how much you did or didn't spend on them. Nobody cares if there is 1 pie or 3. The new troll doll will be played with for 30 minutes and cast aside – but the memory of baking cookies with Mom or Grandpa will last forever. The moments that last forever aren't things but experiences. Try to enjoy your time – however you choose to spend it.

I also want to thank so many people (you know who you are) for making this year (and every year) a success for Londonderry. There are so many people who work (read: volunteer) tirelessly to contribute to the workings of our small town. Now some are paid, most not. But without whom – Londonderry wouldn't work. Most often your work is anonymous and goes unrecognized. And perhaps you prefer it that way. But it is very much appreciated and respected and I hope that you know how grateful we are for your efforts!

**DON'T FORGET FRIDAY DEC 9
@ 5:30 TREE LIGHTING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
@Mntn Marketplace**

Wishing you all a joyful season and a toast to the new year!



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SOUTH LONDONDERRY FREE LIBRARY DECEMBER 2016

Twelve-year-old **Piper Chapman** is offering Kids Storytime and Crafts on Saturdays for 3 to 5 year olds from 10:30 to 11:15. Children are welcome to come to a fun storytime and some craft making with this **exceptional little girl**.

On Saturday, December 10th at 10:30 Casey Junker Bailey will present Simple Gifts for children of all ages. In honor of the holidays, everyone is invited to make handcrafted gifts for the special people in their lives. There will be a visit from Santa and children will be given one free donated book of their choice.

Your library is a cozy place to be and we would like more people to utilize it. If you would like to instruct others how to knit, play bridge, meditate, have a book group meet here or teach anything else you are good at and would like to share you would be most welcome to use our library space.

Many libraries now have Maker-Spaces – if you have a talent to teach children or adults how things work or to make things – that would be great. Please call the library at 824-3371 with your ideas.

Holiday books for children are now on display for you to check out as well as many other new books. Don't forget to check out Esther Fishman's art exhibit too while you are here. Library hours are: Mondays – 10 to noon & 1 to 5; Wednesdays – 10 to noon, 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 pm; Fridays – 10 to noon & 1 to 5 and on Saturdays we are open from 10 am to 1 pm.

See you at the library!
Mary K. Butera
Librarian Director

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(reprint due to edit error Please Read Entire Article)

Londonderry Snowboard Sculpture

The rumor is true! Londonderry has been selected as the home for a monumental sculpture! No other town in the world can stake this claim. The piece is in honor of Jake Burton and snowboarding – an industry which had its inception right here. A whole new sport - an Olympic sport - was started! In 1977 Jake produced his first commercial snowboards on Main Street, Londonderry in an old building (since burned) which stood next to the Vermont Butcher Shop. Londonderry is the home of Ross Powers, Olympic gold medalist, as well as many great snowboarders. Everybody knows a snowboarder! This will be hugely unifying and a source of pride, especially for the young people of the area. Business people can relate to the struggle and perseverance it takes to keep a dream going.

An area -wide celebration is planned for the unveiling, scheduled for December 2017. This is going to be a big CELEBRATION! Get involved! Londonderry Arts and Historical Society will host an historic exhibit of local snowboarding (loan us your relics, please!!!)

The cast bronze sculpture, by Jason Dreweck, will be approximately 30' long x 16' high x 9' wide. The piece depicts a sequence of snowboarders doing a back-flip on a large "S" curve. (See the picture of the model below with a full sized snowboarder beside it on the left for scale.)



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At this writing, the site planned for the sculpture is the Genser property (the Outlet Barn) at the intersection of Rt 100 N and Rt 11. The project has received unanimous support from the Select Board and we are going ahead with getting full clearance from VTRANS. There will be earthwork, landscaping and many ways people can contribute in kind.

The town, LAHS, and Burton Corporation are not being asked for contributions. Jason has teamed up with LAHS as the local non-profit to handle donations. He will be soliciting funds on a national level. Let's show our support and make this happen! Watch for lift ticket deals to support the piece. There are various levels of support with pavers, plaques and limited edition maquettes (scale models) among the additional options. Donations to the sculpture fund go to the creation/ delivery/installation/ upkeep of the piece and do not benefit LAHS directly. Please make checks out to Londonderry Arts and Historical Society with "sculpture fund" in the memo and mail to LAHS, PO Box 62 , Londonderry 05148.

Any questions... call Mimi Wright 824- 6560. Further information about the sculptor can be found at www.jasonDreeck.com



FIFTH ANNUAL LONDONDERRY TREE LIGHTING DECEMBER 9th

The 5th Annual Londonderry Community Tree Lighting is Friday, December 9th at 5:30pm at The Mountain Marketplace. The event is sponsored by Susie Wyman and The Londonderry Rotary.

The Nordic Harmonii will lead the audience in singing Christmas carols and Santa will appear to hear children's wishes. Immediately following, the community is invited to an Open House at Neighborhood Connections where cookies and hot chocolate will be served. For more information, contact Susie Wyman at 824-3537.



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FRIDAY DECEMBER 9th at 6pm OPEN HOUSE AFTER LONDONDERRY TREE LIGHTING

We will be serving cookies and hot chocolate in The Meeting Place after the Londonderry Plaza's Xmas Tree Lighting. Santa will be making an appearance and there will be elves and reindeer, so bring the little ones for some holiday cheer!

THURSDAYS DECEMBER 8, 15 & 22 9:30-11am MOM, POP & TOT PLAYGROUP

Pre-schoolers, bring your Mom and Dad to Neighborhood Connections so you can play with other toddlers! Regina, our Community Nurse, is arranging fun activities.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10th SHOP FOR GOOD AT MARIMEKKO IN MANCHESTER

Marimekko has beautiful clothes and accessories plus children's clothing! Shop that day and 10% of the sales will benefit Neighborhood Connections. This is an all day open-door event with light refreshments. Special to the event, the store will be offering an additional 15% off storewide EXCEPT for children's apparel which will already be on promotion. So come on out and Shop for Good!

MONDAY DECEMBER 12 10-11am BEEKEEPING FOR HOMEOWNERS with Carol &

Steven MacLaury from Peabody Mountain Apiaries

Want to help your vegetables, flower and other garden plants thrive? Interested in helping these pollinators in their time of crisis? January is the time to order your bees, so Carol and Steven MacLaury will discuss how to get started!

Friday December 16th 10-11am JOB CLUB with Don Tetler

Don Tetler will be here to help Vermonters apply for a new or better-paying job. If you or someone you know is looking for a job, Don will offer help filling out applications, creating a resume, will give interviewing tips and offer advice on starting a new job off on the right foot.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21st WRAP FOR GOOD AT ORVIS FLAGSHIP STORE IN MANCHESTER

Come on out and shop this day at the Orvis Flagship Store and have our volunteers wrap your presents. Neighborhood Connections keeps all the donations from wrapping that day. Last year was very profitable for us!

****DONATE****

The Giving Tree tags are here! We have 15 tags listing a gift wish from particular children. Wrapped gifts, along with the tags are due back at Londonderry's Second Congregational Church by Monday, December 12th. If you would like to fulfill a child's Xmas wish, come by our offices to pick out a tag.

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Christmas Eve Service at First Baptist Church of South Londonderry

First Baptist Church of South Londonderry will be holding a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th at 6:00pm. The church currently meets at the Londonderry Town Hall, which is located at 139 Middletown Road in South Londonderry. This family friendly service will include singing Christmas carols, reading about Jesus' birth, and listening to a meditation. At the end of the service, they have the tradition of sharing the light of Christ by giving candles out and sharing the flame with one another. All are welcome to join in on this most special service. Call 802-856-7266 or visit firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org for more information.

First Baptist Church of South Londonderry

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th at 6:00pm

Londonderry Town Hall
139 Middletown Road in South Londonderry

For more information:
firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org
802-856-7266

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Your Invitation to join in the Winter Festival of Lights.

The goal is to have all the buildings of our town dressed up in **WHITE LIGHTS** for the winter months. December- February. Outline buildings, rooflines, decorate windows with white candles, snowflakes, snow people etc.

Purpose: First: *It is for us! To brighten our spirits and pride in our Village.*
Second: There are thousands of travelers who zip through our Village without even noticing us, on their way to the Ski Mountains. So, let us make an impression and welcome them by lighting their way to their destination all winter and create a memory of our Village that they will take back with them.

Contest: So stringing up white lights is not the only goal here. We are also going to have a contest for the best decorated buildings. Even if you live out in the woods you can participate. Let us know that you want to be included. Photos will be taken for those who wish to participate. Photos will be **displayed at the Mountain Marketplace in Londonderry** (Jet Rt 100 and Rt 11) for all to see and vote on.

Judging: Date: December 9-10 The community will be voting for the winners of the contest. Each photo will be numbered to coordinate with a box for each contestant. **Ballots will be cast as a can of food for each vote.** The box with the highest number of cans will win and have the bragging rights for the year.

Foods: All the can goods collected on **December 9 & 10** will be **donated to the Food Pantry** by December 16th to help other members of our community during this Holiday Season. So **EVERYONE** in our community will benefit from this effort.

Location: Mountain Marketplace in Londonderry at the **Santa Village** we are creating for Children to visit Santa on Saturdays. We will be in the storefront between the Art Gallery and Peoples Bank. (Thank you to Kim & Bob Ray & Bobby Waite)

Sponsor: WE are the newly formed **GOLDEN TRIANGLE GROUP**. We are committed to creating interactive community activities to bring pride, spirit, fun and community cooperation to this unique area of Mountain Villages. We need and welcome your ideas and talents to make this venture work for all. The more participants that help out and lend an occasional hand, the better the outcome for the community. All are welcome.

FYI: Golden Triangle comes from the 3 Ski Mountains in our area. The Mountain Villages we include in our foot print are: Londonderry & South Londonderry, Jamacia, Bondville, Peru, Rawsonville, Winhall, Stratton, Windham, Landgrove, Weston & Andover. So here we are to liven things up a bit and have FUN to benefit all.

Contact Info. Facebook page is **GOLDENTRIANGLEVT**.
Email: goldentrianglevt@gmail.com

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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

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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.

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

THERE IS STILL TIME!!!!

The holiday season has arrived and we are asking if you couldn't find it in your hearts, budgets or pantry to make a donation to those in need down at People's Bank. People's has three ways you can donate, there are food boxes to fill for our local food pantry - if you have some staples laying around your kitchen that you could bring or if you want to shop down at the plaza and drop off at People's Bank conveniently located next door, the food is donated here locally (no perishables, no fresh or frozen). There is also a giving tree with gift tags - you select a gift tag, purchase and wrap that gift and return to the bank for a needy child to receive. Or if you prefer, there is a mitten tree - buy (knit!) a hat or mittens to be donated, for winter is coming.

Nothing feels better or brings the meaning of Christmas into focus like doing something kind. This community relies on the generosity and concern of each of its citizens to help in any way they can. So give yourself the gift of sharing your good fortune with others.



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Please find below a reprint of Oliver Olsen's letter regarding School Choice

Hi Folks,

A quick update for you all.

First of all, a huge thank you to everyone who reached out to our local legislators. I know that they received a deluge of email from folks about this, which had a tremendous impact. Unfortunately a few of our local senators are not exactly supportive of school choice, but a number of legislators did step up to the plate and expressed concern about these rules to the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules (ICAR). I was at the ICAR meeting on November 14th, and addressed the committee on many of the points I had already articulated in a letter that I had sent to ICAR and the SBE at the end of October. At one point during the ICAR meeting, a member of the ICAR board commented about how they had already heard from 20% of the Senate, all registering strong opposition to the rules.

THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF IT WERE NOT FOR YOUR EFFORTS!

In the end, ICAR passed a motion to **OPPOSE** the proposed rules, and sent them back to the SBE with instructions to cure the numerous procedural defects with their filing

The SBE initially responded by promising to charge forward at full speed, but they have since assumed a much more constructive posture. There have been numerous conversations over the past few weeks, and a consensus is emerging that the most egregious rules will be pulled out. As a show of good faith, the SBE agreed to cancel a public hearing that it had inconveniently scheduled to occur two days before Thanksgiving, and have schedule a

series of public engagement meetings in St. Johnsbury and Burr & Burton (see attached invitation) in December. The meeting in Manchester will be at 6PM on December 12th. In addition to these meetings, a small group of folks from the SBE and key stakeholders from independent schools will be meeting to try and iron out a compromise.

This is all to say that things are looking much more positive. The strong show of public opposition to these rules and constituent outreach to legislators helped persuade ICAR to oppose this rulemaking, and all of the opposition has helped put school choice and independent schools in a much better negotiating position with the SBE.

That said, until the SBE takes formal action to update these rules (which is unlikely to happen until their next board meeting later in December - after the two public stakeholder meetings), it is critically important that folks from our community make it to the meeting in Manchester to formally register opposition to the rules as they are currently drafted. We need to keep the pressure on, and ensure that the public record shows strong opposition to the current draft of the rules. If nobody shows up and nobody opposes the rules, the board could come back at a later time and try to reinstate some or all of the problematic rules, and reasonably state that nobody complained about them at their public meetings.

I will be putting together some talking points that address some of the specific problems with the current draft, and will share those.

In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Oliver Olsen