

The Londonderry Monthly

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December 2014

Letter from the Editor:

Winter is here. And so are the holidays. As I haven't put away my summer clothes nor gotten out the winter ones – I'm 100% sure I'm NOT prepared for either!! But it is always gorgeous as the first flakes flutter down and blanket the yard and make me giddy with anticipation for all the preparations to be done at the house.

It has been suggested, (but not proven), that I go too far when decorating for Christmas and my husband has drawn the line at putting up no more than two trees (bah humbugger). So I bought some cute little faux trees that don't require his participation – HA! I can't imagine that there is such a thing as TOO MUCH holiday spirit or enthusiasm and admire the efforts put forth by others as I zip from one errand to another. My holiday addiction surges as I admire others creative efforts and can't wait to go home and do just a bit more, while sipping some wine and singing some Christmas carols. (But retail folks – can we please wait until AFTER Halloween before you start playing the Christmas carols??!!)

Holiday enthusiasm isn't necessarily reflected by those who have the most lights, biggest tree or spends the most money. Sometimes it's who gave the most time or cookies to their neighbors, community or

local charity. Sometimes it's the person who keeps loved ones in their hearts and prayers all year long instead of just during emergencies (but we've all been there). I think there is room in the world for all ways of celebrating the holidays – from minimalism to over the top. All are generous who contribute by helping those in need or who put a single candle in their window, or have a silent good wish for others. And with that spirit in mind I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Happy Holidays
Darcy Duval



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HALLOWEEN RECAP!

The community came out in full force to attend and support the sixth annual Haunted Firehouse at the Champion Fire Station in South Londonderry and the first ever Trunk-or-Treating sponsored by the First Baptist Church of South Londonderry. Both were hugely successful – wait lines for the haunted house were sometimes 30 minutes long – mostly all night long as screams came from inside continuously and rushes of smiling kids and families came running out. The BBQ at the firehouse ran thru hundreds of free burgers, dogs, candy and over 12 dozen cookies with hordes of costumed kids waiting eagerly. The parking space for Trunk-or-Treaters was fully packed until well past 9:30 with some of the cleverest Halloween decorations and costumes ever seen. Big thanks to Chris Blackey, Co-Pastor at First Baptist Church of South Londonderry and Firefighter with Champion Fire Department and all the Firemen at Champion for hosting a safe, great Halloween event.



BINGO in WESTON!!



Dave Johnson calling out from the Vintage Bingo Machine.

Every Monday night at 6:30PM, the Weston Rod & Gun Club sponsors BINGO Night to support the Weston Recreation Center.

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LONDONDERRY TREE LIGHTING

The Tree lighting ceremony is Friday evening, December 5th at the Mountain Market Place in Londonderry. Santa will be there giving out candy canes and hearing the children's Christmas wishes. There will be singing of Christmas Carols with Nordic Harmony and lots of goodies to eat and hot chocolate to keep us warm. Everything starts at 5:30, so bring the family and feel the Christmas spirit.

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SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY CHORUS TO PERFORM HANDEL'S MESSIAH!

On December 6th and 7th the Springfield Community Chorus, directed by Kenneth Olsson and accompanied by organist William McKim, will present Part One of the best-known masterwork by G. F. Handel, "Messiah." Composed in 1741 and first performed in Dublin, Ireland in 1742, Handel's renowned choral work has since been performed countless times and thrilled audiences worldwide. With a moving accompaniment, the performance is sure to awe and inspire both the audience and the performers. The venues for the performances are as follows.

- December 6th at 7:30PM at the First Baptist Church, 162 Main Street in Chester, VT.
- December 7th at 3:00PM at the First Congregational Church, 77 Main Street in Springfield, VT

The concerts are presented free to the community, however donations are accepted at the concerts to aid in covering costs of future events. Handicapped accessible.



FLOODBROOK HOLIDAY CONCERTS

We have a new format for our annual Holiday Concert this year. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 pm - Middle School (Grades 6-8) Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 pm - Snow date for Middle School Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 11, 1:15 pm - Day time Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 11, 6:30 pm - K-5 Holiday Concert

Friday, December 12, 6:30 pm - Snow date for the K-5 Holiday Concert

LADIES' NIGHT OUT WOMEN'S CHORUS To Perform Advent Concert in Weston

Weston, VT.....Rutland's premiere women's chorus, Ladies' Night Out, will perform an Advent Concert at The Weston Community Church on the Hill Sunday, November 30th at 3:30pm. As an Evensong offering, this concert will be perfect in this special place with its history and acoustics. There is a suggested donation of \$10.

The Weston Community Church on the Hill embraces a wide range of spiritual practices and offers a variety of events in the spring, summer and fall including inspirational speakers and music in the acoustically-sound 176 year old building.

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NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

Londonderry VT

LEARN THE MINDFUL WAY TO SELF-COMPASSION

As the light wanes, dark thoughts and moods sometime intrude. Learn how to apply mindfulness to counter the low-energy blahs that can visit us when the days become short. Cheryl Wilfong, who has a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology with a concentration in Mindfulness, will steer this four session course at The Meeting Place @ Neighborhood Connections beginning Tuesday, December 2nd from 1pm – 2:30 and continuing each Tuesday throughout the month. The series is being generously sponsored by The Green Mountain Pharmacy, located in Londonderry's Mountain Marketplace.

Mindfulness enables us to develop the capacity to consciously disengage from distressing moods and negative thoughts. By sharing coping strategies, participants will also develop and increase self-compassion and compassion for others.

There is no charge for this series, but reservations are necessary. Call 824-4343 to reserve your seat today. Neighborhood Connections is a community-based organization serving individuals and families in the mountain towns of south-central Vermont, with particular emphasis on those most vulnerable. We respond to community-identified needs with a range of social services and health-related programs, working closely with public and private resources at federal, state and local levels. Check out our web-site at www.neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org.



DR. DELORES BARBEAU RECOGNIZED AS FAMILY PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Delores Barbeau, physician with the Springfield Medical Group and co-founder of Neighborhood Connections has been recently recognized as Family Practice Physician of the Year by the Vermont Chapter of Family Practice Physicians. This distinction was designated by her peers.

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



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the Peru Congregational Church at 6 PM, featuring Pastor Margaret & the Peru Community Choir directed by Dr. Roger Fox.

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GNAT TV

Greater Northshire Access Television, our local cable access TV station (Channel 8), is a non-profit community media center and broadcast TV station; broadcasting to 7000 homes in eleven towns and online at: www.gnat.tv GNAT's mission is to provide public access to media technologies, equipment, training and information for our regional community.

GNAT is available to help get news and information out about the on goings, activities and events in Londonderry, Weston, Peru, Landgrove, Stratton, Winhall, etc. GNAT's Digital Community Bulletin Board is available to anyone in the community wishing to share (non-commercial) information with the public. Send your announcements (who, what, when, where) to: bulletinboard@gnat-tv.org. You can also create a "Video Press Release". GNAT will help you create short video announcements for your community event, non-profit organization or cause. You can go to the GNAT Studio or GNAT will come to you. It's fun, free and easy! For more information, e-mail Garrison Buxton, Field Production Coordinator: garrison@gnat-tv.org, visit: www.gnat-tv.org, or call the studio at 802.362.7070.

Do you have only paint, stain and varnish to recycle?

Many paint stores now take back house paint (including stain and varnish) year-round during their regular business hours as part of the PaintCare program. If the only household hazardous waste you have for recycling or disposal is paint, finding a place to take it is now easier and more convenient in our community. [Note: these sites do not accept non-paint products such as thinner, solvents, spackle, pesticides, or cleaning chemicals.]

The Vermont Paint Stewardship Program is run by PaintCare, a nonprofit organization funded by a nominal fee on the price of new paint. Residents and most businesses from any part of the state may use any PaintCare retail location. PaintCare also offers a pick-up service if you have at least 300 gallons of unwanted paint.

There is no charge when you drop off your paint or have it picked up. To find participating drop-off locations, learn more about the pick-up service, or find out which products are accepted, please visit www.paintcare.org or call (855) 724-6809.

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TRANSFER STATION NEWS!!

Effective January 1, 2015

Transfer Station *and*
Recycling Center Hours

Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri., Sat.
9am to 4pm

Pilot program – Sunday hours
10am to 2pm

We are starting a pilot project to open the Transfer Station and Recycling Center on Sundays beginning January 1, 2015 from 10am to 2pm. An attendant will be running the trash collection. We are looking for volunteers to man the Recycling portion. Training will be available. If you can help, please email londonrecycle@vermontel.net or call 824-3306.

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West River Farmer's Market
continues indoors at Flood Brook
School Saturdays 10 -1pm

Loaded with fresh local produce and
much more!
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South Londonderry Free Library

Winter is here so this is a great time to visit your library and check out books, magazines, video DVDs or audio books. The library has lots of best-sellers as well as old favorites for adults and children.

Some new books include: Make it Ahead: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook, Proof Positive by Vermont author, Archer Mayor, Edge of Eternity by Ken Follett, Gray Mountain by John Grisham, Personal by Lee Child, Deadline by John Sandford and many others.

People who have been in this area in the 1970s and 1980s might enjoy the memoir of Matt Carroll who was owner of a fun pub in South Londonderry called The West Bank and who was principal at Flood Brook School for a number of years. The title of the book is Who Quinn Became.

Recent acquisitions for children are: Duck and Goose Find a Pumpkin, Benjamin Bear, Hooray For Fish! Gaston, Frozen – based on the popular movie - and a bunch of Maisy books by Lucy Cousins.

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