

The Londonderry Monthly

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April 2016

Letter from the Editor:

OHMYGOD – is it over yet??? I can't be the only person in Londonderry that feels enough is enough!!! I love winter but this one stunk. Please let spring be here and only spring showers to bring May flowers!! Easter weekend was a blessing of sun and warmth and bulbs popping up everywhere – it was so beautiful. I am focusing on the positive and planning on no more winter!!!

And to focus on the positive – welcome to the Vermont State Police!!! I have seen them out and about and patrolling all over. Regardless of our personal opinions, it has been voted on and approved and they are here for our benefit – so let's try to improve relations and safety instead of hindering their efforts. I hope you will give them your support and thanks for already cleaning up our streets of some heavy drug trade and accidents. Contrary to popular belief they are not just handing out speeding tickets willy-nilly. During the first week they stopped 36 vehicles and handed out 34 warnings – yes just warnings. VSP have also been spending time helping with traffic before and after school drop-off at Flood Brook School as well. I for one am hopeful that my malfunction junction will be a safer place than last year. After 5 accidents in as many months (the final one removing my stone steps at great force) maybe we can get people to slow down even it's just to avoid a ticket!

Darcy Duval

WEST RIVER FARMERS MARKET 2016 Opening Day May 28th

Along the river's edge at the dam
and intersection of Route 11&100

Over 40 Local Vendors
Every Saturday 9 to 1
Memorial Day to Columbus Day
Rain or Shine

Your best option for great local
produce & plants, cookies &
crafts, meats and music!
Fantastic food & fun at a family-
friendly outdoor marketplace
accepting EBT.

Come early and often to support
your local farmers, producers &
artisans who bring their very best
directly to you!

Check out weekly offerings and
events at

www.westriverfarmersmarket.com

The Londonderry Monthly

OUR NEW MONTHLY INTERVIEW

CHIEF JEFF DUDA, CHAMPION
FIRE CO # 5

Chief Duda sat down with us recently to discuss his promotion to Fire Chief after the recent retirement of Chief George Lang. Mr. Duda hails from Detroit MI, moving to VT in 1989, to Londonderry in 1991. For many years Jeff Duda was an area plumber and gas fitter. But most recently he has become the Pipeline Superintendent for Blue Flame Gas, and runs the largest propane gas facility in Vermont, The Stratton Propane System which provides all the propane fed heat and hot water systems for the resort and mountain homes. He is a member of PGANE – Propane Gas Association of New England as an emergency responder for flammable gas emergencies and accidents.

Chief Duda has always been enthralled with volunteer fire service. He was a member of the volunteer fire departments in East Dorset, Peru and Londonderry before joining South Londonderry in 1997. He became the Captain in 2001, Assistant Fire Chief in 2013 and now the Chief in 2016.

Chief Duda believes that there are many goals to accomplish in his new position. One very important ongoing task is to get his crew trained to the best of their abilities and reach their personal goals within the department. “The safety of my members is the utmost priority.” Of approximately 15 active fire fighting members, 11 have obtained their Fire Fighter Level 1 status. Four of those 11 members have advanced Fire Fighter Level 2 certification, including Chief Duda. “The education and training you

receive outside of our organization from the state fire safety services is the basis of what you need for a successful career in fire service”.

Fire safety is clearly a priority for the Chief. Increased fire safety standards required by law have resulted in more equipment, more training and more complicated safety procedures to follow. The firemen have had to adapt to the changes in construction and housing materials – fires that used to take 15-20 minutes to be devastating, now take as little as 3-4 minutes due to lighter construction and toxic or plastic materials. The knowledge base required to understand the types of fires constantly grows as well. To meet these new challenges and be prepared for what they bring is an ever changing agenda.

Along with all the new equipment requirements, higher standard of safety and education, constantly evolving communication devices, comes a hefty price tag. It is a constant challenge to come up with funding for all this. Chief Lang was instrumental in starting the Grant Writing process for the department and Chief Duda would like to continue that effort. But the Grants are drying up and harder to come by with so many more people trying to get a piece of the grant pie. The Chief will be starting a Wish List Program in hopes that people that have the means will donate some items on the list. “We are going to be vigorous in fund raising and unapologetic in trying to provide the town and the people with the best and safest fire service we can.”

(cont'd on page 3)

The Londonderry Monthly

Chief Duda is actively engaging with people and inviting them to become new members. Finding people who have the time to participate is sometimes difficult. “The commitment level of our members is intense – the guys with families, full time jobs, community obligations – they all still find the time and enjoy it.” The rewards of volunteerism and belonging to a “family” or “brotherhood” is clearly worth it to these members.

The Chief believes they have a strong relationship with the community and also work hand in hand with the Highway Department and the Emergency and Technical Squads to better serve the needs of the town. But to continue communicating with the town and the public is a priority. “We have an annual Halloween Party and trunk-or-treat event at the fire house for the kids and their families that has become a huge success and we look forward to that. We go every year to Flood Brook School and the West River Montessori School to teach fire education and safety to the kids. We are planning an open house at the fire station as a thank you to the community for their support in approving the funds for our new fire truck. We will show the new Smeal fire truck off and have some burgers, dogs and refreshments and a tour of the fire house. We are planning this on Saturday May 7th from 10-2 and hope people will come and ask questions and get to know us.”

Check out our FB page under South Londonderry Fire Department!

Chief Duda at Smith Fire



Below Chief Duda, on the right, attending Jr. Fire Fighter James Gallagher's (center) graduation from the State Cadet program with his father Champion Fireman Dennis Gallagher (left).



The Londonderry Monthly



A MATTER OF BALANCE with Neal Carter 8 MONDAYS BEGINNING 4.4 1:30-3:00pm This 8 week program, sponsored by Senior Solutions begins April 4th with Neal Carter , the program's master trainer. We are all concerned about falling. And as we get older, a fall may have more serious consequences. A Matter of Balance is a research-based program which will examine different ways to overcome a fear of falling and learn how to prevent them. During these sessions, you will come to view falls as controllable; learn simple exercises to increase your strength and balance; explore thoughts and concerns about falling and develop the tools necessary to avoid falls. **Call 824-4343 to register or e-mail me if you want to attend.**

INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGE with Mary Ives TUESDAYS, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19 2-4pm
Come and learn the basics of bridge! Mary Ives has offered to teach 3 sessions of Bridge for Beginners.

AUTHOR ISA OEHRYS @ NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS APRIL 14 2pm
Isa Oehry shares her extraordinary and mysterious adventure which began innocently enough under the light of a full moon. As if some unseen force orchestrated her journey, yet protected her from harm, she was drawn to and experienced incredible adventures - some precarious enough that she marveled at having survived at all. Her

true story inspires us to look beyond the obvious and keep our minds and hearts open for the unseen and previously unheard. As she takes us along on her journey she invites us to reconsider our own understanding about all that surrounds us.

APRIL 21 Becoming a First Detector + Program Opportunities with the Urban & Community Forestry Service
Learn about opportunities to help identify pests and how to help maintain the health of our forests. Presented by Gwen Kozlowski from the First Detector program and Elise Schadler, Director of the Urban Community & Forestry program.

THE SPRING GARDENING SERIES with the Windham County Master Gardeners THURSDAYS, April 28th, May 5th and May 12th @10am
APRIL 28th - Color in Your Early Spring Garden with Cheryl Wilfong
Cheryl has more than 50 perennials blooming right now in her early spring garden. Grow your own colorful spring garden! Cheryl will share perennials from her garden with us!



**The Town Clerk's Office
will be closed April 27th for
training**

The Londonderry Monthly

EXCHANGE STUDENT HOSTS NEEDED

PAX-Program of Academic Exchange is searching for families in the Burr and Burton Academy communities to open their home and heart to one of our fantastic students. These two kids are winners of the prestigious Kennedy Luger Youth Exchange scholarships, and will be from Middle Eastern and African countries. Host families get to choose a student that they are interested in, so this results usually in a pretty good fit! This is a brand new program for southern Vermont and BBA; these kids are eager to become parts of their communities and host families.

Host families come in all different shapes and sizes! Single parents, families with young children and/or teenagers, empty nesters or retirees are all encouraged to host. The host family's primary responsibility is to provide a bed, it need not be their own room, three meals a day and the love and support you would offer any teenager living in your home. You can hope for world peace or invite it into your home and table! Travel the world without leaving home.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our program and our students, please contact Kimberly Eckhardt at 802-824-3792 or email at keckhardt08@gmail.com. Kimberly is the local community coordinator for PAX, and is here for supervision and support for both host family and student during their entire stay.

I also invite you to watch this youtube video of our student here on exchange last year.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DDBROT5RRo>

2016 Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife

Woodland Cooperator Training

Do you love Vermont's woodlands? Enjoy seeing birds and other wildlife and want to learn how a healthy forest can enhance wildlife habitat, provide recreational and timber benefits? Are you interested in reaching out to others in your community? Then join us for the Coverts 3-day Woodland Cooperator Training. It will allow you to connect with resource professionals and other landowners just like you while learning how you can improve your woodland. Cooperators also learn to share what they have learned with neighbors, friends and in their communities. The training program is offered in the spring and fall. The spring dates are May 20-22 and will take place at the Farm and Wilderness Camp, Plymouth, VT. The fall dates are September 9-11 and will be held at Kehoe Conservation Camp in Hydeville, VT. **Space is limited so register now!** To learn more, see a sample agenda or download an application visit our website at www.vtcoverts.org. You can also contact us by calling the Executive Director, Lisa Sausville at 802-877-2777 or email lisa@vtcoverts.org.

The Londonderry Monthly

MIGHTY LONDONDERRY

The Londonderry Community Resilience Organization, renamed Mighty Londonderry, has been in existence for almost a year. Three of us – myself (Bruce Frauman), George Mora, and Dick Dale attended a state-wide workshop in May of 2015. Our primary goal is to break down barriers between various organizations in Londonderry so we can work together in order to help the town become more resilient in times of emergency, which means both mitigation of potential hazards and an active and effective crisis response.

Working with Londonderry's Emergency Management Director, Kevin Beattie, we chose our first project. Kevin had written an Emergency Preparedness Register Questionnaire in 2014, but did not have the means either to distribute it or to collate results. Kevin's questionnaire was designed to compile a list of residents with particular needs, especially in an emergency such as a flood or power outage. Mighty Londonderry chose to take on the task of creating an inventory of needs, as well as resources, within the town. The goal is to have a better overview of our strengths and vulnerabilities so that in future emergency situations our emergency response teams and townsfolk alike can work smoothly together to address any crisis.

After gaining approval for this initiative from the Londonderry Select Board, an Emergency Preparedness Inventory was written and distributed through the town office, Neighborhood Connections, the Baptist and Congregational Churches, and both fire departments. To preserve privacy, this initial form only asked for contact information and asked if residents would like to have their emergency information included in the inventory. We also offered to meet with residents to discuss an emergency plan and offered information about VT-Alert (<http://www.vtalert.gov/>). In spite of wide

distribution, only a few forms were returned on paper or digitally.

Mighty Londonderry then wrote a Core Data Form asking for contact information and about Basic Emergency Needs, Medical Needs, and Resources Available and Willing to Provide in an Emergency. This form was distributed by hand at town meeting on March 1, 2016. 38 forms were completed and returned. Residents had many reasons for declining to fill out the forms. Many said they were already on a fire department or rescue squad, so felt they were already doing their part. Others applauded the idea of preparedness, but felt we had 'done fine' in other emergencies, so did not see the need. A few said their needs (and resources?) were 'nobody's business'.

And yet, a similar form was included in this year's packet received by Kevin Beattie for the Local Emergency Management Plan: the state of Vermont now expects towns to collect information about the needs of its residents and those with resources willing to help in an emergency situation. Kevin is especially concerned about his ability to reach those in need during long power outages; heat may not be available, medicines may not stay refrigerated as required. Those who have received but not yet filled out the Core Data Form can still return it to the town office. A PDF of the form is available from the town website's main page (<http://www.londonderryvt.org>). This can be downloaded and filled out either by hand or electronically and returned to the Town Office or MightyLondonderry@gmail.com. A PDF of the form is also available for download on the Londonderry Community Forum Facebook page (select the 'Files' tab).

(cont'd on page 7)

The Londonderry Monthly

Most of those who joined Mighty Londonderry find they have other priorities. We are essentially now a committee of two – Bruce and Dick, with David Plants offering valuable insight in our meetings. The distribution and collating of this information is more than two people can reasonably accomplish. Mailings and door-to-door outreach take money and manpower. We will continue to work with Kevin and the Select Board to do what we can to help make Londonderry even more resilient, especially in times of emergency. We are open to ideas about how best to accomplish this, and encourage anyone who might be interested to join our ‘team’. We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm at the Twitchell Building (the town office building). Our e-mail is MightyLondonderry@gmail.com, or you can contact Bruce Frauman directly at bfrauman@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

SOUTH LONDONDERRY FREE LIBRARY

Jan Gordon is currently exhibiting her colorful quilted wall hangings in the Janeway Wing of the Library from now through May 27. This show can be viewed anytime during library hours.

Jan has been exploring the world of fabric and quilting for over 16 years. She took quilting courses to perfect some of the techniques using bright contrasting colors and intricate decorative patterns. Some of the amazing results of her object d’art will be on display.

“Wall hangings are the perfect size to work on a creative technique and perfect in a reasonable amount of time.” Jan said. She feels her art work is like any other art form – to be enjoyed by the viewer. Jan has won awards for her work at fairs and shows and her quilts are for sale at the Londonderry Farmers’ Market in the summer.

She invites all to stop by the South Londonderry Free Library and see the exhibit. Library hours are: Monday – 10 am to noon & 1 to 5 pm; Wednesday – 10 am to noon, 1 to 5 & 7 to 9 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm. The Library phone number is 824-3371.

While you are here, check out some of our new books: *EVEN DOGS IN THE WILD*, by Ian Rankin, *THE ENEMY INSIDE* by Steve Martini, *TIME AND TIME AGAIN*, by Ben Elton, *MY LIFE ON THE ROAD* by Gloria Steinem, *OUTLINE* by Rachel Cusk, *THE ROAD TO LITTLE DRIBBLING* by Bill Bryson, *CRIMSON SHORE* by Preston & Child, *BOOKS TO DIE FOR* by John Connelly and Declan Burke, *FAR FROM TRUE* by Linwood Barclay and *MAPLE: 101 SWEET AND SAVORY RECIPIES*. For Children: *MY WILD FAMILY*, *EL DEAF0*, *FINDING WINNIE* and *FIRST DAY AT ZOO SCHOOL*.

A bunch of children had a great time on Easter Saturday making silly paper hats and nests for eggs or jelly beans. Casey Junker Bailey hosted another fun project for all. She will present a Saturday program at 10:30 featuring April showers. Please call for the date.

See you at the Library!
Mary K. Butera
Librarian/Director

The Londonderry Monthly

JOB OPENING – ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont, is seeking applicants for the part-time position of Zoning Administrator (Administrative Officer). The ZA administers the Londonderry Zoning Bylaws, works with the Development Review Board, acts as Floodplain Administrator and reports to the Select Board. The opening is immediate and entails approximately 8-10 hours per week. Please contact Town Administrator Stephanie Thompson at 802-824-3356 or townadmin@londonderryvt.org for more information.

4th Annual West River Trail Run

11 Miles of Trouble
South Londonderry to Jamaica State Park
Saturday, June 4th, 2016
(it's National Trails Day!)
Relay teams, single runners & and walkers of all ages welcome!
New this year: 5K Fun Run!
For more information
<http://thecollaborative.us/westrivertailrun/>
Co-sponsored by The Collaborative and Friends of the West River Trail Inc. and local businesses Sign Up Today!
802.824.4200
or westrivertrailrun@gmail.com

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

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.