

The Londonderry Monthly

Volume 6 Number 9

September 2015

Letter from the Editor:

Labor Day originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters. In the late 1800's during the height of the industrial revolution, the average American worked 12 hour days, 7 days a week to eke out a basic living. These conditions gave rise to discontented workers and labor unions, holding strikes and rallies which sometimes grew violent. Leading to the first Labor Day parade on September 5, 1882 when 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in NYC. Hence Labor Day, to recognize the contributions of men and women in the US workforce, but modernly seen as a chance to celebrate the last weekend of summer.

So thank you to all that came before who rallied and fought for this truly American Holiday. And to honor that tradition I hope you all have a wonderful long weekend – even if it is just to relax in your own back yard or “labor” in your garden.

As usual, things are HAPPENING in our little piece of paradise! I hope you will all check out the town's website – it is chock full of information, meetings and events all citizens should be aware of – please plug in this link <http://londonderryvt.org/> to be plugged in! Happy Labor Day!

Darcy Duval

Breakfast at the Colonial House & Inn to Benefit the First Baptist Church of South Londonderry's Rebuilding Project

Colonial House Inn & Motel is hosting a breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, September 5th from 8:00 to 11:00AM to benefit the First Baptist Church of South Londonderry's Rebuilding Project, after their previous building was destroyed five years ago by a fire. They are almost completely done with the exterior of the building and continue to raise funds to finish the interior.

Colonial House Inn & Motel is located at 287 Route 100 in Weston. The cost of breakfast will be \$12 per person. For more information, call [802-856-7266](tel:802-856-7266)

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, September 27, 2015
4:00 PM

"SHARE THE HARVEST"

A Community Event at Pingree Park
Presented by West River Farmers Market

Join us to celebrate the local harvest with a Scrumptious Supper, Live Music & More!

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Rep. Oliver Olsen will be hosting a community forum on education and property taxes on Monday, September 14th at 6:30PM at Flood Brook School.

Rep. Olsen will also have two special guests participating in this forum - Rep. Shap Smith, Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives and Rep. Dave Sharpe, Chairman of the House Education Committee.

It goes without saying that property taxes are fresh on the minds of many people in our community. This forum will address questions about the steep property tax increases we have seen this year.

With the passage of Act 46 earlier this year, there are major structural changes coming to Vermont's education system over the next several years, with the goal of creating a more efficient system that provides better education opportunities at a cost we can all afford. In addition to addressing questions about this year's tax increases, this forum will provide a high level overview of the current state of Vermont's K-12 education system (both governance and finance) and a walk through of the transformation of Vermont's education system that is envisioned under Act 46.

Rep. Oliver Olsen
Tel: 1.802.585.5435

INVASIVE ATTACK IN LONDONDERRY

The Londonderry Conservation Commission is conducting an invasive plant attack and you can be part of it. You'll help the community while also learning how to deal with harmful species on your own land. It happens Tuesday, September 8 beginning 9:30am at the Prouty Land on Route 100 (just north of West River Tennis). The LCC's recent inspection of the Prouty Land, one of the town-owned properties, has revealed an infestation by several invasive species including Japanese barberry, glossy buckthorn, honey suckle, burning bush and knotweed. These are plants that do not belong in this part of the world and are harmful to the natural environment.

We'll begin with a talk by Dan Healey of Long View Forest who will give a short workshop on invasive plants and their control. He will then lead the group through the property, conducting a variety of control measures to attack the identified plants. This will be a great opportunity for landowners to better understand the challenges they face from harmful non-native flora that may exist on their own properties.

There is a rain date of September 15. For more information please call Mark Wright at 375-3544.

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FOUR WEEKS TO BETTER HEALTH

Presented by Liz Harrison, the Community Health Team Coach at Grace Cottage and a Board-Certified Clinical Nutritionist
MONDAYS SEPT. 14, 21, 28 and OCT 5th
5:30-6:30pm

This informative nutrition series uses simple, basic steps to improve your life and well-being. It is not necessary to attend all four sessions - which are as follows:

- Sept 14 What is good nutrition?
- Sept 21 The effect of sugar and processed foods on our health
- Sept 28 Shopping for and cooking healthy foods
- Oct 5 The importance of exercise, sleep and vitamins

THE FALL GARDENING SERIES

Presented by the Windham County Extension Master Gardeners.
WEDNESDAYS SEPT. 16, 23, 30
1:30-2:30pm

The line-up of presenters and topics has not been established. Please check the web-site at www.neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org and click on *The Meeting Place* for more details.

VERMONT'S FARM LEGACY

presented by Gregory Sharrow, Director of the Vermont Folklife Center. This is a VT Humanities Council event.

THURSDAY SEPT 17th 6:30pm

In Vermont, the cultural legacy of farming has strongly influenced the identity of Vermonters. It is these distinctive traditions, which have persisted even with the decline in farm numbers, which help make the state unique. Gregory Sharrow will explore the fabric of Vermont's past farm culture and probes its relationship to Vermont today.

MEDICARE 101 with Marguerite Mason

TUESDAY SEPT 29th 10am - 4pm

New to Medicare? Getting ready to enroll? Marguerite Mason, certified to offer Medicare Insurance Assistance, will answer your questions in a scheduled appointment. Get one on one assistance from Marguerite - who has helped so many in our area figure out the ins and outs of Medicare as well as Part D insurance plans. She will address Part D in an October 15th session of one on one appointments. Again, check out the web-site for more information.

These events take place at The Meeting Place @ Neighborhood Connections. Call 824-4343 to register.

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Pingree Park

From toddlers to seniors, everyone had a great time at this year's Pingree Park Family Fun Day on August 16.

The Londonderry Town Parks Board wants to thank the community for its support. This event continues to be a success thanks to all who donate prizes, food, equipment and time, and those who attend.

The board has accomplished its first phase goals of acquiring and installing new play equipment, resurfacing the tennis court and installing the practice board, and adding the new basketball backboards and nets.



The second phase is in progress. The dog park is now open, located past the lower ball field. A walking trail has been completed with help from participants in this summer's Youth@Hope SERVE program.

The board is working with Fairpoint and Green Mountain Power to schedule power installation in the park, which will conclude the second phase of work. Power is expected to be operational by spring of 2016.

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TOWN HALL:

Londonderry Town Office, 100 Old School St, South Londonderry

JOB OPENING: The Town of Londonderry seeks a part time professional administrator who is a highly motivated, energetic, self-starter to work under the direction of the Select Board. Good communication skills, both verbal and written, and computer skills are required. Related experience is preferred. The job description and further details can be found on the town website, londonderryvt.org. The Town of Londonderry provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics. Resumes are being accepted by the Select Board. Interviews will be scheduled. Questions can be directed to Select Board members whose contact information can be found on the directory page under the Town heading at londonderryvt.org.

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed on September 7th for Labor Day. The Clerk's Office will also be closed on September 21st and 22nd so the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Treasurer can attend the annual Vermont Municipal Clerk & Treasurer's Association Training so we can serve you all to the best of our abilities.

The flu shot clinic will be at the Londonderry Town Office on November 6th! (time to be determined)

Londonderry Solid Waste Group

- Notice of 2nd Public Hearing

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

7:00 PM

Londonderry Town Office, 100 Old School St, South Londonderry

The Londonderry Solid Waste Group will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, September 9, at the Londonderry Town Office**, 100 Old School St, South Londonderry **at 7PM** to solicit comments on the draft Solid Waste Implementation Plan for the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston and Windham. The Plan is intended to guide these towns in implementation of the Universal Recycling Law, Act 148.

The full text of the plan may be accessed at <http://londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/solid-waste-plan/> or reviewed at the town offices of the above towns. Comments may be submitted prior to this public hearing to Esther Fishman, Londonderry SW Group Recycling Coordinator, 100 Old School St, S. Londonderry VT 05155 or londonrecycle@vermontel.net.

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First Baptist Church of South Londonderry Construction Update

A fire destroyed the building five years ago that First Baptist Church of South Londonderry had been meeting in and worshipping in since 1832. While it was a difficult time for the community to say goodbye to a building that had stood on the hill for generations, they have learned over the past few years how a church isn't always defined by a building. Even though the members and friends have learned this valuable lesson, they also look forward to the day they will again have a building to be a center for ministry and a meeting place that they can open up to the community. The members and friends longed for a new building that would be reminiscent of the previous building but would be more accessible

and more efficient than the previous one. They longed for a building that would be used not just on Sunday mornings but throughout the entire week by the community. They were excited to see what the new building would become.

Their plans included a brick exterior and stained glass windows that would remind them of another building that stood in the same place. Their plans also included more usable space and new features, such as showers for groups to use. They dreamed about a kitchen they would be able to cook community dinners in. After years of planning and preparing, they broke ground on the new building in July of 2014.

Over the past year, they have watched in amazement how their dreams of the new building were coming to fruition as the foundation was being poured. Quickly the walls came up and the roof was put into place. The building was closed up for the winter so that the church could stretch the funds they had by not having to heat the unfinished building. In the spring the builders came back and quickly installed the windows, but it wasn't until the siding and brick work was nearly finished that the community started to get excited about what was happening on the hill. The members and friends of the church look forward to the fall, when the exterior of the building will be completed and they can landscape around the building. At that point they will be able to focus on completing the interior.

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In order to be cost effective, First Baptist Church will be working directly with volunteers and construction workers to complete the building project. They continue to raise money for its completion. They had adequate insurance; however, with current commercial building codes, they are raising funds to help with the added expense. They are grateful for those who have made generous contributions and donations towards the new building already.

For more information about the building, volunteering opportunities, and fundraising efforts take a look at their website firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

Bone Builders meet FREE at the Twitchell Bldg every Monday & Wednesday at 9:30 AM **SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE. Labor Day, the last big holiday of the Summer 2015, falls on Monday September 7th. WE WILL NOT MEET ON THAT DATE and will not re-schedule this session.**

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS @ FLOODBROOK

The kids are back to school early this year on August 26th. Now is the time to be conscious of their safety and back on alert for kids walking, riding their bikes and getting on and off the school bus. Please **SLOW DOWN** to accommodate the little ones!!

We would like to thank Londonderry's 2nd Congregational Church who provides food for the kids "backpack" program and additional food for those in need. And thank you to the Peru Congregational Church for providing extra supplies as well. The school, while full on backpacks, could always use extra clothes in good condition (pants & shirts) for grades K-4th for accidents, playground mishaps etc. Perhaps a few winter coats or snowsuits too.

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

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South Londonderry Free Library

If you would like to join the wonderful world of books, the South Londonderry Free Library is in need of volunteers. You could manage the circulation desk 2, 4 or 6 hours per week or just fill in for others on a temporary basis. There is always something interesting to do at your House of Books.

We are in the process of “automating” the library so there are a myriad of tasks involved to make this happen. Right now I am withdrawing books from the collection that are obsolete or have not been taken out in 10 or more years. These books need to cards pulled, typed up, and then emailed to the Department of Libraries. Eventually they are boxed-up and sent to Better World Books. Perusal of these books is welcome if you think some should remain on the shelves.

Library Hours are: Mondays - 10 to noon & 1 to 5 pm; Wednesdays – 10 to noon, 1 to 5 & 7 to 9 pm; Fridays – 10 to noon & 1 to 5 pm; and on Saturdays we are open from 10 am to 1 pm. If you are free during any of these hours per week, please call Mary at 824-3371. Thanks for your interest in the Library!

Mary K. Butera
Librarian/Director

Town of Londonderry Beautification Committee

Londonderry looks beautiful! The bridge boxes on three of the town’s bridges are in full bloom and offer a colorful welcome to all who pass through or stop to visit our town. Thanks to the many Londonderry Beautification Committee volunteers who have been watering and trimming the plants, we will be enjoying the bountiful blooms until Jack Frost nips at their foliage. The town triangle, at the intersection of Rtes. 11 and 100 across from Clark’s IGA, has also been carefully tended by volunteers who have weeded and spread mulch around the perennials that have provided a full season of attractive flowers. Later this autumn committee volunteers will be planting bulbs for next year’s dazzling spring display. Fluttering and snapping in the breezes above our busy thoroughfares are the American flags that the Rotary and the Beautification Committee purchased and installed earlier this summer. Who could ask for a more eye-pleasing enhancements to Londonderry’s main streets?

*editors note: Yes, Londonderry does look beautiful thanks to the Beautification Committee and all the volunteers and donations that made this happen. Thank You!

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Get Your Imaginations STARTED for the South Londonderry Haunted Firehouse and Trunk-or-Treating

Last year's DECORATED TRUNKS were INSPIRATIONAL!!! AS WERE THE COSTUMES!! LET'S DO IT AGAIN!! The community is invited to attend the Sixth annual Haunted Firehouse at the South Londonderry Fire Station (60 Main Street) on Saturday, October 31st 5-7pm This year will include trunk-or-treating next to the fire station sponsored by the First Baptist Church of South Londonderry. The firehouse will be open starting at 5:00pm on Halloween night for kids and adults alike. There will be free food and drinks, gathered around the camp fire as well as tours of the fire station. Kids of all ages are welcomed to walk through the haunted portion of the firehouse.

For adults who enjoy Halloween as much as kids Dressing up and Decorating trunks or the car is FUN (but not mandatory). Those that like to have trick-or-treaters but live on one of the many remote rural roads can use this opportunity to treat lots of kids, only from car trunks instead of from front doors. Members of the community are invited to park their cars next to the firehouse and set up at 5:00pm, open their trunks, and hand out treats to children.

For questions, contact Chris Blackey at [802-856-7266](tel:802-856-7266). Everyone is invited to come join the fun evening!



Cab Interior

Some pictures of the South Londonderry Champion Fire Co.'s new fire truck that is still in the process of being built! The expected arrival is October/November and we can't wait to see it!!! Congratulations Londonderry!



Chassis

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The following is the updated work plan from the meetings of the Ad Hoc Policing Committee that is an all-volunteer committee assembled by the Select Board to look into policing options for Londonderry. They have met twice – Aug 11th & Aug 27th and will continue to meet until a proposal is ready for the Select Board Nov 2nd meeting.

*Updated Work Plan
Ad Hoc Policing Committee
August, 30, 2015*

Commission from Select Board

1. “Study possible options for policing”
2. “Present a proposal for a possible policing plan for the town of Londonderry to the Select Board”

Proposal Due to Select Board

- Monday, November 2, 2015

Next Meeting Date

- Thursday, October 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Four Proposed Meetings

- Thursday, September 17, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Lt. Tim Oliver-VSP--[*confirmed*]
- Thursday, September 24, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Keith Clark-Windham County Sherriff-- [*to be confirmed*]
- Thursday, October 1, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.
 - (Chief Whitesell-Winhall PD--[*to be confirmed*])
- Thursday, October 8, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.
 - (Project Vision--[*to be confirmed*])

Committee Membership

1. Upon Rusty’s resignation, Darcy has moved from the alternate list to join our committee of nine (9) members.

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Identified Areas of Study

1. *Costs and options for contract policing services from:*
 - a. Vermont State Police
 - i. Visit by Lt. Oliver confirmed by Mike for September 17, 2015
 - ii. Mike to ask Lt. Oliver to please be prepared for detailed questions on costs.
 - b. Windham County Sheriff
 - i. Joel to schedule a visit by Keith Clark for September 24, 2015
 - ii. Joel to ask Sherriff Clark to please be prepared for detailed questions on costs.
 - c. Winhall Police Department
 - i. Marge to schedule a visit by Chief Whitesell for Thursday, October 1, 2015.
 - ii. Marge to ask Chief Whitesell to please be prepared for detailed questions on costs.
 - iii. Marge to contact Seth Boyd of Stratton Corp. regarding its experience with WPD
2. *Towns that contract with VSP, WCS or WPD for policing services*
 - a. Wendy to contact the town of Vernon regarding its experience with WCS
 - b. Maryann to contact the Town of Stratton regarding its experience with WCS and, perhaps, WPD
3. *Towns that have their own standing police forces.*
 - a. This inquiry may address the potential for a Londonderry Police Department
 - b. Neal will continue inquiry in this area which may include:
 - i. Conversations with the Town of Killington (newest town PD in VT) and the Town of Dorset (currently considering town PD).
 - ii. Rough cost projections for establishing and operating a town PD.
4. *Integrative policing methods*
 - a. Maryann to schedule a visit by a representative of Project Vision for October 8, 2015
5. *Use of Town Constables for policing services*
 - a. Based upon Dwayne's inquiry and discussion by our Committee at our August 27, 2015 meeting, it has been determined that this option is not a viable, appropriate or responsible choice of policing in the Town of Londonderry.

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6. Develop a list of questions for visitors
 - a. Committee members to consider a list of questions for policing agencies and perhaps add questions to a master list on Google Docs.

Initial Sketch of Committee Process

1. *August*
 - a. Volunteers to present findings of initial inquiry at our August 27 meeting (completed)
 - b. Committee to examine findings and determine course of further inquiry (completed)
 - c. Invite representatives of various policing agencies to Committee meetings in September (In process)
2. *September*
 - a. Study and evaluation to continue
 - b. Meet with representatives of various policing agencies at Committee meetings
3. *October*
 - a. Work to conclude study
 - b. Work to conclude evaluation
 - c. Work to find consensus on select board proposal(s)
 - d. Draft Committee findings and proposal
 - e. Submit proposal for discussion with select board
4. *November*
 - a. Meet with select board on November 2 to discuss proposal

Please contact Peter Pagnucco, Committee Chairman @ peter@pdrmediation.com or Maryann Morris Committee Secretary @ maryann.collaborative@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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.

The Londonderry Monthly is available online
You can get your copy of The Monthly online from the Town of Londonderry's website
www.londonderryvt.org