

The Londonderry Monthly

Volume 5 Number 3

April 2014

Letter from the Editor:

Despite some of the remaining snow banks blocking our view, SPRING IS HERE!! Despite the oncoming “mud season” we are about to suffer through - a small price to pay – we will soon see the bounty of greenery that grows in abundance in Londonderry. Despite all that I am eager to enjoy the first signs of spring!

What I love most about spring is how social everybody becomes after being cooped up all winter. People are out walking their dogs, riding bikes, and waving to neighbors on their daily stroll. DIYers are sprucing up their homes and planning their spring projects. Watching everybody emerge from their winter cocoon and eagerly anticipating BBQ season and ready to get going with batteries charged is an exciting time.

It is with this fresh spring eagerness that I look forward to the coming months and watching all the wonderful changes that take place in our beautiful town. Just as soon as I get the Christmas lights down.....

Darcy Duval

West River Trail Run - June 2014

Partnering with the Friends of the West River Trail, the trail run is a fundraiser to support The Collaborative, a local non-profit that works with youth, parents and community to prevent youth substance use and increase healthy decisions. The West River Trail Run starts at the South Londonderry Depot on Route 100 and ends at Jamaica State Park. Individuals and relay teams of three are welcome to participate in the 11.5 mile run.

The West River Trail follows the remains of the historic West River Railroad, a narrow gauge short line that ran from South Londonderry to Brattleboro from the late 1880's to 1936. Loaded with passengers, mail and freight (including livestock) for daily round trips along the steep banks of the West River, the WRRR became known as "36 miles of trouble" as it often encountered treacherous conditions along the challenging route causing lengthy delays and even derailment. About 18 miles of the original WRRR bed is now in use as a safe and scenic alternate transportation path, linking communities and public land in the West River Valley.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for this event: please contact The Collaborative at 802-824-4200 or westrivertrailrun@thecollaborative.us for further details. For registration and event details, go to <http://thecollaborative.us/westrivertrailrun/>. Registrations ends June 6th.

The Londonderry Monthly

NeighborWorks H.E.A.T.

Windham & Windsor Housing Trust is partnering with NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, to bring the NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad services to homeowners in Windham and Windsor Counties. The program helps customers of all income levels.

NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad customers save heating fuel or cord wood each year. Their homes are less drafty and more comfortable in both the winter and summer. The NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad makes it easy to complete home energy improvements. The program offers: 1)discounted home energy check-ups (audits) \$100 (normal cost is \$300-\$500), 2) information about the benefits associated with home energy improvements; 3)hassle-free scheduling with contractors; 4)on-staff, certified Energy Advisors who provide guidance about the proposed work; and 5)support with determining how to pay for efficiency investments.

Energy improvements incorporate new technology that generally includes air sealing and blown-in insulation to tighten the “thermal envelope” of your house. Energy improvements also address indoor air quality, and increase the safety, value and comfort of your home. Affordable financing is available, regardless of income.

Call to see how you can save a mountain of green and improve your comfort. To speak with WWHT NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad Outreach Coordinator call Bruce Whitney at 802-246-2111. To schedule an audit or find out how you can save money call Lori toll free at 877-205-1147 ext. 227. Visit www.heatsquad.org.

Are you ready to Plant?!: Community Seed Swap & Potluck that was held Sunday March 9th, 2014; 5 to 8 pm at the South Londonderry Train Depot was just Wow! What a wonderful event! By all accounts people thought it was great and want to continue with similar gatherings. Thank you all who came out to share a wonderful evening of food, friends, music, seeds, and fun. Thank you to Emmett Dunbar Anjali Farms and Gosia Mosiej for their talks about seeds and growing food in these changing times, as well as Dan, Paul, Bob, & Kim for jamming out smooth tunes. Plant your hearts out and get ready for a solid growing season!

Garrison & Alison Buxton
Questions? Email: info@adhocart.org

Planning Commission Welcomes New Member

The Select Board recently appointed Joshua Wengerd to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission. Josh grew up in rural Ohio and moved to Vermont with his wife Nicole in 2010, in search of a community where they could grow roots and become a part of something. Since settling in Londonderry, both have been actively engaged in volunteer service to local non-profits. Josh owns and operates Re-Design Construction Inc and in the past year, the Wengerds completely renovated an historic building damaged by tropical storm Irene as their home and place of business. The Town appreciates that Josh has chosen now to offer his time, talents and enthusiasm to the Town. Thank you, Josh!

The Londonderry Monthly

Rescue Squad Thanks Community Members

On behalf of the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS), we want to thank our friends and neighbors for their generosity in purchasing raffle tickets to support our Annual Benefit.

We would also like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to our local businesses and special friends for their donations of the raffle prizes that helped to make the Benefit a great success.

- Clark's IGA
- Bean Group Stratton Real Estate
- New American Grill
- Okemo Mountain Resort and Tater Hill Golf Club
- Garet Holmes-Spirer
- The Vermont Country Store
- Londonderry Butcher Block
- Forbes Construction
- Bob and Sally Waite
- Marijke Westberg
- Stratton Sports Center C
- Jake's Restaurant
- The Pantry
- Bromley Mountain
- Bruce Thomas Construction
- Stratton Mountain
- First Run Ski Shop and the Boot Lab at Stratton Mountain Resort
- Landgrove Inn
- Karl Pfister Sleigh Rides
- Martha and Bud Stevenson
- Grandma Millers
- Bromley Market
- Snow Angel Alpacas
- Dale Malekoff
- Lasser Ceramics
- Re-Design Construction

- Johnny SeeSaws
- Marge and Bob Fish
- Christie and Doug MacKenzie

LVRS raises funds within the community each year in order to continue to provide FREE ambulance and rescue services to the tri-mountain towns of Bondville, Jamaica, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, South Londonderry, Stratton, Weston, Windham, and Winhall. The funds raised will cover the squad's operating expenses, training, ambulance maintenance and replacement, and the purchase of equipment and supplies.



LVRS REMINDER

Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad is ready to serve 24-7. Early response can save a person's life. Minutes can be wasted trying to find the correct driveway that a (Response Team) is trying to reach. Your driveway or mailbox must be clearly marked with your house number on BOTH sides of the box. If no mailbox is available, a sign with reflective letters should be affixed 7 to 8 feet off the ground. Low signage will not be visible during the winter months due to accumulating snow. Attach your numbers to a post or tree that is adjacent to the driveway and is clearly visible from both directions on the town road.

The Londonderry Monthly

Southern Vermont Unveils Regional Branding Efforts at the Vermont Travel Industry Conference.

Manchester, VT- The Southern Vermont region will unveil their new branding effort at the State of Vermont Travel and Industry conference in Manchester on April 3rd at the Equinox Resort and Spa in Manchester. The collaborative marketing effort, Strengthening Southern Vermont, aims to increase awareness of the region as well as promote visitation and growth in the working population.

"It is really exciting to be launching a program that unites a number of different economic development entities in Southern Vermont behind one regional message." said Laura Sibilgia, Director of Economic Development at Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation. "By working together, we are able to really promote the region as a whole, showcasing the unique Vermont experience to both tourists and potential future workforce for the area."

The Southern Vermont campaign will include both the Bennington and Windham county regions and will feature a regional website, print and digital advertising as well as presence at local events throughout the region. The conference presentation will showcase regional research results, marketing strategy and Southern Vermont branded creative. To view the agenda and register for the conference, please go to <http://www.vtic.org/>.

For more information, please contact Laura Sibilgia, Director of Economic Development at Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, 802.257.7731.

Telephone: 802.262.2626

VERMONT
Humanities
COUNCIL

www.vermonthumanities.org

**Alfred Hitchcock
and the Art of Suspense**

**Friday, May 2
at 7:00 p.m.**

**South Londonderry
Depot Visitors Center**
34 West River Street

Hitchcock famously said "Some films are slices of life; mine are slices of cake." His career spanned forty years and many film eras. Film expert Rick Winston will discuss the evolution of Hitchcock's craft, exploring his favorite themes, his relationship with his collaborators, and his wry sense of humour no matter how grisly the subject matter. By drawing on twelve film clips, starting with his 1925 silent *The Lodger* and continuing through to his Hollywood classics such as *Notorious* and *Rear Window*, Winston will illuminate the arc of Hitchcock's brilliant career.

Free, accessible to people with disabilities, and open to the public.

Call Sharon Crossman at (802) 824-6246 for more information.

A Vermont Humanities Council event*
hosted by the Friends of West River Trail, Inc.

*Under grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or the Vermont Humanities Council.

CHAMPION #5 THANKS YOU!

South Londonderry Fire Dept thanks each and every one of you that has contributed to our Fire Truck Fund Drive! We have raised over \$35,000, not enough to cover the \$450,000 cost of a new fire truck but a great start and the donations continue to trickle in! We appreciate your support!

The Londonderry Monthly

Londonderry Transfer Station/Recycling Center Trash Sort By Esther Fishman

In October our hauler Trevor Mance of TAM Inc. and I performed a trash sort of 15 randomly chosen 33 gallon trash bags that were brought to the transfer station on a Saturday. The results were pretty messy but pretty interesting too.

At the trash sort we found that by weight, which is how we are charged for disposal, 34% of what was in those bags was trash. Another 25% was food scraps. The other 41% was made up of things that could be recycled at the transfer station like cans, mixed paper, glass, bulky plastics, corrugated cardboard and redeemable bottles and cans. If the 25% food scraps were composted only 34% or 1/3 of those bags was actual trash. Less trash translates directly to less disposal and transportation costs, less trash in the landfill, less methane gas produced and more recycled materials available to be made into other products rather than mining raw materials. Please contact me if you would like a personal trash sort to find out what you can do to reduce your trash and increase your recycling.

We also have a take away area or as one resident suggested a "Take It or Leave It" area. If you would like to take advantage of this service, please check with Keith or Steve before leaving anything. There is a fee associated with this service because, after an appropriate amount of time, if

nobody wants what you've left; it would need to be disposed of as trash.

We will start a food scrap collection program at the transfer station this spring. Even if you compost at home you may not put meat, bones and dairy in your bins. We will be able to take all of those materials. We will have countertop buckets as well as five gallon pails with screw top lids available for sale for your collection convenience.

Please join my email list for notices of Electronics Collection Events (Sat. May 17, 2014), Hazardous Waste Collections (Sat. June 7 and Oct. 4, 2014) and other changes or happenings at the Transfer Station/Recycling Center. My email is londonrecycle@vermontel.net.

	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>% WGT.</u>	<u>% Volume</u>
<u>Mixed Recyc.</u>	19.2 lbs	35 gal	.11	.19
<u>Redeemables</u>	13.3 lbs	24 gal	.08	.13
<u>Trash</u>	56.7 lbs	68 ga.	.34	.36
<u>Food Scraps</u>	41.0 lbs	11 gal	.25	.06
<u>Textiles</u>	10.0 lbs	11 gal	.06	.06
<u>Mixed Paper</u>	12.6 lbs	18 gal	.07	.10
<u>Dirty Paper</u>	14.4 lbs	20 gal	.09	.10

The Londonderry Monthly

Pingree Park Revitalization Project Ready to spring into Action

Spring has sprung, and with it has come exciting news for the Pingree Park Revitalization Project. The Vermont Country Store's Weston Community Action Team's generous donation to this project has helped it reach an important fund raising goal. The project is now eligible to collect the entire \$22,000.00 matching fund grant from the State of Vermont, and with that work will begin at the Park this spring.

Town Meeting Day also bolstered the momentum of the Revitalization Project. Our State Representative, Charles "Tim" Goodwin presented a Concurrent House Resolution recognizing the past and present work at Pingree Park. After some discussion about the current status at the Park, the Voters at Town Meeting approved an \$8,000.00 appropriation for the Town Park Fund. The Parks Board plans to use the bulk of that money as matching funds for additional grant applications.

As the snow melts, the Parks Board is preparing for both work and fun at Pingree Park. The new playground equipment has been ordered and will be arriving at the end of May. David Chaves Excavating is generously donating the site work to prepare the playground area. The date for the community build of the new playground is May 30th and 31st. These two days will be a great opportunity for community service. The Parks Board is

looking for about 40 volunteers for both Friday and Saturday, with rakes, shovels, wheel barrels, and an assortment of power tools. There is a need for people of all skill levels and any length of time that can be offered is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Parks Board at 824 3356 or email Londonderrytownparks@gmail.com. The tennis courts will be resurfaced in June. The date will be announced as the weather improves.

The Second Annual Family Fun Day is planned for Sunday, August 17th. This fundraiser will celebrate the progress that has happened over the last year and help us continue to improve the Park. There will be food and fun from 11am to 3pm for everyone. More details about the day will be announced as summer begins.

The Londonderry Parks Board would like to thank the entire community for their support of this Project. Thanks to all of the area businesses and individual citizens who have contributed to this wonderful Town Park. With your help Pingree = Pride.

The Londonderry Monthly

SHOE BARN WALL

The spring equinox has passed, April is here and the 2014 thaw is easing forward. With spring on the horizon, art students at Flood Brook are busy working on their mural design for the Shoe Barn wall. During the month of April, local Londonderry artist Garrison Buxton will be working with the students on their designs in preparation for painting the mural in May.

We would like to thank Vermont Public Radio (VPR) for their coverage of this project and how a Vermont town is proactively cleaning up and beautify its surroundings in creative and collaborative ways. See the piece here: <http://digital.vpr.net/post/eyesore-artwork-londonderry>

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.

Article Submission Information

The Londonderry Monthly is a community building and communications project of the Town of Londonderry. 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.