

# The Londonderry Monthly

Volume 4 Number 2

December 2013

## The Rebirth of the Monthly

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the re-launch of The Londonderry Monthly, a newsletter for the citizens of Londonderry and South Londonderry and an information tool to better serve the community. If your group or organization has community news to share, and you would like to submit an article for publication, please contact us via email at [derrynews@aol.com](mailto:derrynews@aol.com). Our article submission deadline is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month.

## Letter from the Editor:

I would like to thank the many well wishers, the outpouring of kind words and contributors in response to our “new” Monthly. The appreciation makes the effort totally worthwhile. During the Holiday Season it isn’t always easy to focus on others, maintain patience, or remember to thank those in the background and to give just a little bit more. But I would like to take this opportunity to remind us all to keep the spirit of giving in our hearts and minds during this special season of many wonderful holidays. Hopefully you will find all sorts of ways in the coming weeks to celebrate the beauty of our town and the many festivities the area

provides, whether taking a walk on the trail or singing Christmas Carols with your community. Please be good to yourself and those in need around you. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

- Darcy Duval -

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



**Peru Church Children’s Christmas Pageant is on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6PM!!** Do not miss this now famous event – country cuteness to the highest degree.

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**SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting!!** Complete with Santa, Caroling and Goodies! December 6 at 6 pm @ Mountain Marketplace.

The Nordic Harmoni Chorus will be singing at the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Mountain Marketplace in Londonderry December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6PM, sponsored by Jakes Restaurant & Tavern, Clarks IGA, Marketplace Art Gallery, Nordic Harmoni, Neighborhood Connections, Wantastiquet Rotary Club, Londonderry Hardware and Brown Enterprises, among other individual supporters, with special thanks to Suzie Wyman.

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The RED FOX INN along with the parents, students, staff and board of the West River Montessori School want to invite you to the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silent Auction VT Cheese, Wine, & Craft Cider Social**. It is an event not to be missed!

Over 100 exceptional auction items ranging from \$20 to \$1,200 have been donated to the silent auction with a total value of more than \$11,000. You are guaranteed to be caught up in the friendly bidding contest on everything from a dinner out to a weekend getaway!

Some Awesome Auction items are from Lee & Steve Brown, Jamaica Cottage Shop, Express Copy, Taylor Farm,

Stratton Mountain Market & Deli, Lotus Moon Tiffins, Zippy Chics, The Pantry, Homestead Landscaping, Jakes Café, Frogs Leap Inn, SoLo Farm & Table and many more . . .

For over 30 years the WRMS has been a safe, fun and highly respected preschool for children. Now is the time to see old friends or meet new ones from one of our community's greatest assets.

The fun filled evening will begin at 6:00pm on Thursday, December 5th 2013, Red Fox Inn, Winhall Hollow Rd, Winhall, VT. \$25.00 at the Door. All proceeds to benefit the WRMS. (registered 501c3 non-profit org.). For more information email [wrmsabc@gmail.com](mailto:wrmsabc@gmail.com) ~ 802 824 5033 [www.westrivermontessori.org](http://www.westrivermontessori.org)

## Sounds of the Season Springfield Community Choir

The Springfield Community Choir is pleased to announce the "Sounds of the Season" Christmas concerts on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Chester in Chester and on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm at the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, UCC in Springfield VT.

The choir is directed by Ken Olsson for his third year. He comes with extensive experience in directing, accompanying and performing. The concerts are free to the public, though they do ask for donations. The performance will be a wonderful experience for all.

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## SOLO (S. Derry) NEWS:

Speaking of giving, our very own South Londonderry Champion Fire Dept. will be starting a fund drive to offset the cost of a new fire truck. Champion #5 is a private engine company and 501-C-3 registered for those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation. This firehouse was begun in the early 1880's and has had a long illustrious history devoted to the preservation of life and property in the town.

I have become a new volunteer this month and can attest to the time given to emergency calls (38 this year so far), training (the men have logged in 1,195 HOURS of training this year) and community service by this Department. They are part of a Tri-Mountain group of 8 neighboring towns that provide mutual aid when in need and cover for each other when they are already out fighting fires. These men give all year, they ask nothing in return except to have the proper tools required to accomplish their volunteer efforts on our behalf. So now it's our turn to give back to these deserving Firemen. We hope you will consider what your family's safety and property are worth and the sacrifice these men make to fight these fires, mother-nature and other disasters, and please make a donation to achieve our common goal of safe fire protection for both the Firemen and our community.

Money is not the only way to donate to the cause. Human capital is just as valuable. If you would like to become a Volunteer Fireman, please contact the Fire Chief, George Lang at [gklangC1@comcast.net](mailto:gklangC1@comcast.net). If you would prefer to just volunteer on a project by project basis please contact me at [duvdar@aol.com](mailto:duvdar@aol.com).

I'm sure the Londonderry Phoenix Fire Dept and the Londonderry Rescue Squad would welcome the support as well. As a community, supporting the town's volunteer emergency service departments is very important. We would hate to wake up one day and find them gone. Please show your appreciation and donate any way you can.

## Pingree Park Revitalization Moves Forward

The first weekend in November a group of Londonderry residents volunteered to demolish the old playground equipment at Pingree Park. On a beautiful Saturday morning Curt Cowles, and his three children Emily, Sam and Maggie; Mike Arace and John Gometz joined several members of the Parks Board to make room for the new playground, scheduled to open in the spring of 2014. The volunteer efforts that continue to help move this project along pay tribute to all of the helping hands that built Pingree Park.

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Two weeks after demolition day, the Parks Board received notice that the Pingree Park Revitalization Project was awarded \$22,000.00 from a Buildings and General Services Grant through the State of Vermont. The Board is still working to raise the required 1:1 matching funds for the grant. Fund raising efforts have brought the current total of matching funds to \$15,902.20. Community support behind this project has been vital, and makes installing new playground equipment a reality. Many thanks to all those who have helped make this possible.

The Parks Board still has more work to do. They continue to look into Fund Raising and Grant opportunities to complete the rest of the Revitalization Project, which includes resurfacing the tennis court, building a dog park and installing power and security. The Parks Board will be sponsoring a Valentine's Day Sweetheart Dance at Magic Mountain to benefit Pingree Park. If Londonderry is blessed with a nice snowy winter, keep your eyes peeled for some fun outdoor activities in the Park.

If you have any interest in getting involved with Londonderry's Town Parks please contact the Park's Board at [londonderrytownparks@gmail.com](mailto:londonderrytownparks@gmail.com). If you would like to contribute to the Pingree Park Revitalization Project, please make your donation to:

Londonderry Town Park Fund  
100 Old School St.  
S.Londonderry, VT 05155

## Green Mountain Club Manchester

The Green Mountain Club maintains and is steward for the Long Trail, the oldest long distance trail in the US, going from the Massachusetts border to the Canadian border along the high points of the Green Mountains. In this area the trail is on USFS land, but the maintenance is done by local volunteers, as is the maintenance on the entire trail.

During the winter season we schedule a number of group snowshoe hikes. We welcome non members to join us. Our calendar of events can be found on our website [www.gmcmanchester.org](http://www.gmcmanchester.org).

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## FRONT PORCH FORUM

FPF is a free Vermont-based project that offers an easy method for town residents to connect with each other on a frequent basis. They talk about lost pets, trade garden tips, and offer household items they no longer need.

Londonderry residents can now sign up for our new local Front Porch Forum (FPF)! As a modern-day cross between community bulletin boards and virtual town greens, FPF provides an easy way for our residents to connect with neighbors. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly. Visit [FrontPorchForum.com](http://FrontPorchForum.com) to learn more.

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Because the service is moderated and real names accompany postings, the discussions remain civil, engaging, and relevant. In times of need, such as during and following natural disasters, a Front Porch Forum becomes even more powerful.

More than 60,000 households across Vermont already use their neighborhood PPFs to find roofers, give away strollers, rally volunteers for pie suppers, trade equipment, and describe wildlife sightings. Common topics also include school budgets, town office candidates, local events or starting a food shelf.

Each new forum starts in “registration” mode and becomes fully functional once 100 residents sign up. This threshold will help it kick-off with a variety of interesting topics.

FPF and the Vermont Council on Rural Development’s Vermont Digital Economy Project are teaming up to bring this service to all Vermonters for free. Vermont’s Congressional delegation played a crucial role in getting this project funded and off the ground in our state.

## **GRAFFITTI BE GONE!**

On behalf of the Town, Londonderry Planning Commission has received a permit from VTRans to allow mural painting on the concrete retaining wall in front of the former Shoe Barn. The LPC has developed this project, originally envisioned by the local Rotary Club, in an effort to erase the unwelcome graffiti that appeared here a couple of years ago, causing an unsightly blight on our village and Main Street.

Now the PC proposes to work with talented local professional artists Garrison Buxton, Alison Buxton and Jaime Townshend of Springfield VT, together with Casey Junker-Bailey and her young artists from Flood Brook School, to create a positive change for the community.

As soon as weather permits, the sponsoring artists will start to clean up the graffiti and prepare the surface for its first fresh, colorful design to brighten the intersection of VT Routes 11 and 100 and our Main Street. Since this spot is quite vulnerable to the impact of seasonal road maintenance, the plan approved by the Select Board and VTrans provides for repainting with a new mural design on a recurring basis to keep this very visible spot looking well.

Supported by local grants, the PC expects this project will help build community collaborations and participation as it improves the general appearance of the place where we live and the road we travel day to day.

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## **PACE: Property Assessed Clean Energy**

An exciting new program may be available to Londonderry homeowners in 2014. Commonly known as PACE, short for 'Property Assessed Clean Energy', this program allows homeowners to access low interest financing for energy improvements they may wish to make to their home.

These potential improvements include energy efficiency measures such as building insulation, new windows and doors, hot water heater replacement, new heating and cooling systems, and whole home ventilation systems. Renewable energy systems, including solar electric, solar domestic hot water, small scale residential windmills, and micro hydro are also eligible for PACE financing.

There are numerous advantages of PACE financing as compared to a short term bank loan or home equity loan. First, your energy improvements can be financed for up to 20 years. Your payments are structured similar to your property taxes, are paid as an assessment. If you sell your home prior to this assessment being completely paid off, your responsibility ends and the payments continue to be paid by the new property owner.

The main objective is for homeowners to immediately make energy improvements without paying for them upfront, and to realize a reduction in their heating, cooling, or other utility costs in excess of their assessment payments!

This program is supported by the state, and is administered by Efficiency Vermont. Individual towns must vote to join this program at Town Meeting prior to any financing becoming available to homeowners. Approximately 35 to 40 Vermont towns have already joined, and we hope Londonderry town residents will vote in favor of PACE in March. There is no cost to the town, or to any residents who do not take advantage of this program.

In early 2014, public meetings will be held to further explain how PACE will work in Londonderry, and to describe in more detail all the energy improvements that can be financed. Meanwhile, feel free to contact me for more information.

Bob Borella  
Energy Coordinator,  
Town of Londonderry  
bob@friendsofsun.com

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## Windham Region to release Comprehensive Plan for Economic Development (CEDS) December 5th in Marlboro

Since 2011, Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) has been compiling research and data, engaging the regions employers, municipalities and residents and working with national leading CEDS consultants ViTAL Economies to create a comprehensive plan for long term regional economic growth in Southeastern Vermont. That plan will become the region's federally recognized CEDS and will include 52 projects submitted from throughout the region. The CEDS will also serve as the region's blueprint for mitigating the economic impacts of the planned closure of Vermont Yankee in December 2014.

The December 5th CEDS release is slated to begin at 4:30 in Ragle Hall at Marlboro College. In addition to presentations by Frank Knott of ViTAL Economy and SeVEDS board members, Vermont Agency of Commerce Secretary Lawrence Miller will address the region regarding its economic development efforts and how they relate to state efforts.

**This meeting is open to the public, but those planning to attend are kindly asked to rsvp for refreshment planning purposes.** Light refreshments and a cash bar will be provided after the meeting from 6-6:30. To rsvp please go to

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/se-vermont-ceds-release-and-seveds-annual-public-meeting-tickets-8496975683>

### Why should I attend?

Residents, businesses, non-profits, educational institutions and municipalities have worked long and hard to create this plan to grow the Windham Region economy - come and celebrate this very significant collaborative effort and learn about the work ahead!

Following this release, there will be a 30 day public comment period before the CEDS is finalized and submitted to the US Economic Development Agency for approval. The completed CEDS will be available for download after the release at: <http://seveds.com/windham-region-comprehensive-economic-development-strategy-ceds/> ;

More information on the public CEDS process, the SeVEDS effort, the regional VY planning and CEDS projects can be found at

[www.SeVEDS.com](http://www.SeVEDS.com)

Laura Sibia  
Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation

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**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](mailto:derrynews@aol.com). For your reference, our article submission deadline is the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 member.

## 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](mailto:londontown@vermontel.net).

## Community News and Information

Your select board meets the first and third Mondays at the Twitchell Building (Town Office) at 7:00 pm. There is always a time for visitors and concerned citizens to address the board. We encourage input and your attendance at our meetings or contacting your selectmen if you have concerns. If you have input, please contact Paul Gordon at 824-5235 or email [gordonpj@myfairpoint.net](mailto:gordonpj@myfairpoint.net).

**DON'T FORGET:** The West River Farmers Market has moved to the Floodbrook School cafeteria every Saturday 10-2pm thru Dec 28<sup>th</sup>!! Great Hostess and Christmas gift shopping.

### **Neighborhood Connections:**

If your budget allows, please buy an extra non-perishable food item or two which can be donated to your local food shelf. Not only will the food shelves appreciate your generosity, but your neighbors and their families will be most thankful, too.

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## **AFTER THE FLOOD – Public Presentation & Discussion of Reuse Options for Buyout Properties**

On November 21<sup>st</sup> about 80 people gathered at the Town Hall to discuss possible future uses for 2 properties seriously damaged by Tropical Storm Irene. Owners of the properties housing the former Outlet Barn and Annex have accepted an option offered by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) known as the ‘Buyout Program.’ This program offers financial settlement to homeowners for eligible properties located within the flood plain, in exchange for transferring the property to the Town, with restrictions against future uses and development. Once the Town receives the property, which it may never sell or transfer, all existing structures are removed and the property is managed within the deeded restrictions, designed to mitigate future damage from flood events.

In early 2012 the Planning Commission started to wonder how our Main Street would look when the 5 properties enrolled in the buyout program became vacant lots, where homes and businesses long stood. With Select Board support, the PC began a project to explore potential future uses for these highly visible spaces to be owned by the Town in perpetuity. About the same time, Windham Regional Commission offered the Town a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to obtain professional assistance with this planning project, then named ‘After the Flood.’

The grant inspired and paid for an intensive 6 day workshop in August, conducted by Marlboro College Graduate School’s Center for Creative Solutions in collaboration with Windham Regional Commission staff. Five residents joined various professional participants and several town officials to study future possibilities for the buyout properties, within constraints of flood plain designation and community values. Since then, a task force has been formed to continue this initiative, now known as Londonderry Renewal – Rebuilding for Us, to help strengthen local resilience in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene.

Possible approaches for reuse presented at the 11/21 public meeting ranged from minimal regrading and reseeding to creating excavated areas to absorb high water from the West River and help protect our village and others downstream. Workshop participants also speculated on partial or complete removal of the old dam near the study site. There were many questions from the floor about the role of the Williams Dam in the scheme of this project and heartfelt comments about the value of this long standing historic feature and the various effects of the waterfall at this site. The PC stressed that the dam is not an integral part of the planning for the future use buyout properties.

A second public information meeting is planned for mid January, the focus being to discuss further the redesign options for the buyout properties to be presented in detail in a final report expected later this month. One specific goal of this overall initiative is to engage as many citizens as possible in this conversation to help inform decisions to be made about these new Town owned properties. All are encouraged to become informed participants. Find more at [www.londonderryrenewal.org](http://www.londonderryrenewal.org)

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## TOWN OF LONDONDERRY, VT

(Following is a copy of the 1979 ordinance now in effect.)

### **ORDINANCE CONCERNING PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1 AND MAY 1**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF LONDONDERRY, pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, Vermont Statutes Annotated Sections 1008, 11 and 12, and such other general enactments as may be material hereto, as follows:

1. That no persons owning, operating or controlling a motor vehicle, shall park, or cause to be parked said motor vehicle on any public highway within the Town of Londonderry at any time; provided however, that the foregoing shall not apply to motor vehicles owned; operated by persons attending the sick or injured, or attending church services.
2. Motor vehicles parked, or caused to be parked in violation of this ordinance may be removed by a police officer or by an employee of the Road Commissioner to a place of storage and that person owning or controlling said vehicles so removed shall be liable for all costs of removal and storage.
3. A person who violates any provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Fifty (\$50) Dollars; together with the costs of prosecution.
4. This ordinance may be referred to as the Londonderry Parking Ordinance of 1979, and in prosecution hereunder a copy of such ordinance, certified by the Town Clerk of Londonderry to be lawfully adopted and existing ordinance of the Town of Londonderry, shall be prima facie evidence thereof. An allegation that the act constituting the offense charged is contrary to a specified provision of such ordinance shall be sufficient reference thereto.
5. The prior parking ordinance adopted by the Selectmen of the Town of Londonderry December 18, 1978 is hereby repealed.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Londonderry on November 26, 1979.