

The Londonderry Monthly

Volume 4 Number 1

November 2013

The Rebirth of the Monthly

Welcome to 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. Our article submission deadline is the 23rd of each month.

Letter from the Editor:

Upon this special occasion of the re-launch of the Londonderry Monthly – a newsletter about the community for the community – and the Thanksgiving holiday, I wanted to use this space to ponder the many positive aspects of life here in Londonderry. Since we bought and then moved here full time, I have been awestruck by the work and involvement of so many people in so many areas – most often unpaid and unacknowledged. The local government and town boards, the fire and rescue, the efforts to renew and rebuild after hurricane Irene, the garden club's good-works, the ongoing progress in the re-building of the church, the parks and

recreations activities and on and on. Please don't be offended if you have been left out – I'm new here. 6 years as a "flatlander" and only about 4 years full time. I am always bowled over by the generosity in spirit and time donated by so many, for so many. I want to "give thanks" and applaud those that do and encourage the rest of us to step up and join in. There is no limit to the difference we can make by coming together to support each other and admire our accomplishments and continue to volunteer and support our town's many needs. I'm thankful to be a part of such a beautiful community with so much spirit and so many good people.

- Darcy Duval -

DID YOU KNOW? The West River Farmers Market has moved to the Floodbrook School cafeteria every Saturday 10-2pm thru Dec 28th!!

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

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Overview of Act148, Universal Recycling Law, passed in 2012

Over the next 7 years, it will become illegal everywhere in VT to throw away mandated recyclables (see list below,) as well as leaf and yard debris, clean wood scraps, and food scraps. The law will be phased in gradually, allowing time for development of services and infrastructure. On the following dates, these materials will be banned from the landfill:

July 1, 2015: Mandated recyclables: aluminum and steel cans; aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans; glass bottles and jars from foods and beverages; PET and HDPE plastic bottles and jugs; corrugated cardboard; white and mixed paper; newspaper, magazines, catalogs, paper mail, and envelopes; box board; paperbags.

July 1, 2016: leaf/yard debris and clean wood debris

July 1, 2020: food scraps

While the Londonderry Transfer Station now can recycle many things, it currently cannot accept food scraps. There are plans to start a pilot program at the Transfer Station to accept this material. Many people compost at home but many cannot for a variety of reasons. Even folks who compost at home do not put meat, bones or dairy products into their compost bins.

The Transfer Station will be able to take all of these materials once the pilot program is in place. More news about this program will be in future issues.

Thanks to Helping Hands at Pingree Park

The Londonderry Parks Board would like to thank our local Lang McLaughry Real Estate office for helping to clean up the batting cage at Pingree Park's Little league field. On a beautiful fall morning Alison Cummings, Lee Brown, Sharon Emmanuel, Bobby Waite and Bob Ray showed up at the Park ready to work. Jessica Citera was absent that day but has been volunteering to help the Park for several months. The batting cage net was rescued from brush and the whole area was cut back. The batting cage is now ready to be set up in the spring and put to good use. This show of support for our community is greatly appreciated by the Parks Board and everyone at the Town Office.

Thank you to Glebe Mountain Gardens and Chaves Excavating for donating the labor and materials for the next stages of the project. Through the generous donations of our community members and local businesses, almost half of the \$25,000 fund raising goal has been met. The Parks Board will continue to work toward this goal throughout the (cont'd on page 3)

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winter, and will keep the community informed as our plans develop. If you have any interest in volunteering for Pingree Park Revitalization Project please contact the Londonderry Parks Board at londonderrytownparks@gmail.com or call 802 824 3356.



According to the Hunger Free Vermont website:

“One in five Vermont children experiences hunger or food hardship... lack of affordable housing, low wages, high unemployment, a decrease in the number of local, affordable grocery stores, and lack of public transportation all contribute to hunger and food insecurity in Vermont.”

So, 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, your neighbors and their families will be most thankful, too.

Neighborhood Connections:

As the days get shorter and the nights cooler, it is important to note that Vermont food assistance (3 Squares) will be decreasing and the nutritional needs for some of our neighbors will be in demand. On November 1st, 2013, most, if not all, Vermont households will see a decrease in their 3Squares benefits due to the end of the American and Recovery Act (ARRA) which was passed in 2009 to stimulate the economy. Individuals will see a decrease of \$11.00, 2 people will see \$20.00 less, 3 people will see a decrease of \$29.00 and a family of four will see have \$36.00 less to spend at their local market.

The unveiling of a special mural on Main Street in Londonderry

On Saturday, October 26th at 3pm the new mural – “Barn Dancing in Vermont” – was unveiled at Butch Jelley’s Deli on Main Street in Londonderry. Painted by renowned and local muralist, Kimberly Ray, the mural memorializes an historic Vermont tradition which continues today – where residents throw open their barn doors, invite neighbors in and dance into the wee hours. In this spirit, the public was invited to witness the unveiling, enjoy some hot cider and chat with members of the community. The mural is a donation (cont’d on page 4)

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from the area's Blue Flames Steel Band to The Londonderry Arts & Historical Society. Framing at Butch Jelley's Deli is a gift from R. H. Adams, Inc.



Painting by Kim Ray at Jelley's Deli. Pic by Becky Newell

Wastewater Solutions for Vermont Communities: Technical and Funding Options. Tuesday October 29, 2013 Londonderry hosted a talk by Lynnette Whitney, a Professional Engineer and Pollution Control Design Chief for the Dept. of Environmental Conservation or the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, on wastewater solutions for Vermont communities. The evening also was part of a monthly Full Commission meeting of the Windham Regional Commission, 35 people were also in attendance.

The focus of the talk was about solutions both technical and funding for towns like Londonderry concerned with the future viability and vitality of its village centers with regard to septic and wastewater. Located along the West River, Londonderry has long had some concerns with the replacement of existing septic fields and what future failure would mean to existing businesses and residences in terms of their use. Lynnette offered some potential solutions for treatment of wastewater on a small community basis and offered some information on funding sources for those solutions. For those unable to attend the talk, more information will be available at the town offices or through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING RENOVATION

The Planning Commission (PC) is exploring the possibility of improving and expanding the town office building space.

Last summer, a youth group from Pennsylvania took on the project of cleaning out and removing unnecessary walls in the downstairs of the town office building. The space provides the opportunity to essentially double the usable office space in the building.
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The PC surveyed all of the building users and developed a preliminary specification of what would be needed for office space and facilities (bathrooms, etc.)

The PC contracted Chris Cole Consulting to study the feasibility of such a project.

This included exterior drainage, septic capacity, building structure, access for handicap, among others. The contract is in three phases, (1) feasibility, (2) preliminary design concepts and (3) final design. We have completed phase one and determined that the project is feasible using much of the existing systems and at a reasonable cost.

The main design ideas include an elevator or lift between the two floors (for handicap accessibility), improving the existing stairway, two offices downstairs, a reconfigurable larger room for cubicles or other space and Men and Women's bathrooms downstairs. Upstairs would remain; essentially as it is now The Town clerk's office and vault, the select board's meeting room and the lister's room.

The PC is reviewing and modifying some of Cole's suggested design concepts for further review by the users, select board and ultimately townspeople. Candidate concepts will be able to be reviewed at the town office building when available. If this project goes forward, it would probably happen over a five year period.

SELECTBOARD NEWS

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 are entering budget planning time and that will be a portion of our time at upcoming meetings. We encourage input and your attendance at our meetings or contacting your select board members if you have concerns. To further communications, the town website, londonderryvt.org is being updated on a regular basis. Please visit the site for current announcements and town event listings. We are in the early stages of an extensive revamping of the site to improve navigation, information updates, and valuable town links. If you have input, please contact Paul Gordon at 824-5235 or email gordonpj@myfairpoint.net.

SOLO (S. Derry) NEWS:

The South Londonderry Fire Dept, Champion #5 hosted a terrific and terrifying haunted house and BBQ for Happy Halloweeners. Undaunted by the rain, young and old came to trick or treat at this annual festivity. Thanks to all for a great night.

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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.

Community News and Information

“AFTER THE FLOOD: Vermont’s Rivers and the Legacy of Irene”

**FILM SCREENING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7pm November
14th @ The Depot (route 100, SoLo)**

Joe DeFelice, area filmmaker, latest 1 hour-long documentary educating the public on the state of Vermont's rivers following the devastating floods of Tropical Storm Irene.

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Londonderry Renewal: Rebuilding for Us - After The Flood (ATF)

MEETING @ TOWN HALL November 21st @ 7PM

Doors open @ 6:45, light refreshments

Londonderry citizens are encouraged to come together to discuss the future use of two properties affected by the 2011 flood and now scheduled to be transferred to the Town. Four possible options will be presented in detail. These options were developed during an intensive workshop in August 2013 led by the Center for Creative Solutions at Marlboro College, Michael Singer Studio, and Windham Regional Commission, with multiple participants from the community. Visual displays of the workshop and the options are now available to the public at the Mountain Marketplace next to the Pharmacy, the Town Office, and on the Town's website, in addition to The Pantry and The Garden Market. Please come to this public meeting as YOU will be voting in March on how to proceed; your informed participation is very important. For more information please visit www.londonderryrenewal.org.

Revitalizing Our Villages and Downtowns Begins with YOU!!!

**Our next Village and Downtown Revitalization workshop is on Designing the
Village and Downtown Environment**

When: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 6:30-8:30 PM

Where: Town Office, 100 Old School Street, Londonderry VT

Join us for an evening workshop aimed at informing you about enhancing and improving the physical appearance of a downtown and village center by addressing all design elements to create an appealing environment. Presenters will include Richard Amore, Planning Coordinator, Agency of Commerce and Community Development; Chris Campany, Executive Director, Windham Regional Commission; and Michael McDonough, retired architect with over 30 years of experience with planning and development.

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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