

Lyndeborough Views

Volume 9, Issue 1

“To Educate and Inform the Citizens of Lyndeborough”

March, April, May 2009

Election Edition—Know who is running for Town Office

Selectman—3 Yr

Andrew Roeper
Laurent Boisvert II
Arnold A Byam III

Town Clerk/Tax Collector—3 yr

Patricia “Trish” Schultz

Supervisor of the Checklist—5yr

No Candidates

Zoning Board of Adjustment: 3 Yr

Karen A. Grybko
Gary LeBlanc
David M. Roemer
Sharon Boisvert



Budget Committee: 3 Yr

Donald Guertin
Burton Reynolds
Laurent Boisvert II
James W. Button

Library Trustee: 3 Yr

Nadine Preftakes
Chase Wilson Roeper

Trustee of Cemeteries: 3 Yr

Lawrence S. Cassidy
Sharon Boisvert

Trustee of Trust Funds: 3 Yr

Sally J. Reynolds

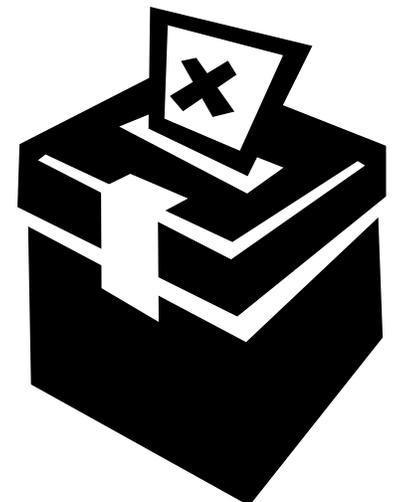


Town Elections

March 10th
Old Town Hall,
Center Road
8am to 7pm

Town Meeting

March 14th
Citizens' Hall
10am



Selectman Candidate: Laurent 'Larry' Boisvert II

How long have you lived in Lyndeborough? 55 Years

Your top three qualifications for the position of Selectman

1. Management Skills
2. Past Employment Diversification: Farming, construction, ski patrol director, real estate, forest management, sailing, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Research
3. Ability to recognize imaginative revenue building ideas

Volunteer activities in Lyndeborough:

Project flood damage repair in the town's village district.
Disaster ice storm road clearing in neighborhoods.
Safety and search rescue in the woods for alienated hikers.

Have you ever held any offices in town? Road Agent, 1979

What do you feel is the most important role as a Selectman in Lyndeborough?

Distinguishing the difference between the quality of goods and services purchased and its value on the community's needs.

If elected, what would be your top three recommendations or actions for the town?

1. Giving a supportive voice to all citizens' questions and responding in a timely manner.
2. Keeping residents informed of all and every issue of concern.
3. Assisting 'fixed income' taxpayers. Senior citizens are at the point that requires them to pay lower property income taxes.

How would you work with the other Selectmen to plan for the future of the town?

The overseeing that every department is being run efficiently and at its lowest cost possible is essential. The goal is to keep budget increases to a minimum.

If elected, what areas would you like to see a change in and how would you achieve those changes?

By assuring that all citizens, of the town of Lyndeborough, are treated impartially, in all decisions made by our town government, and by reviewing each department with a stamp of approval, we shall collectively achieve balance in the face of a recession.





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Selectman Candidate: Arnold “Arnie” Byam

How long have you lived in Lyndeborough:

I have been a resident of Lyndeborough for the majority of my life. I grew up here and have continued to live here for the past 50 years.

Top Three qualifications:

1. My father was a selectman for the town of Lyndeborough so I grew up with a political understanding of Lyndeborough and I also previously have held the office of Selectman.
2. Through my work as crew chief at Monadnock Survey, I have developed an understanding of how roads should be designed and maintained, along with how land should be used and taxed.
3. Finally I am a long time resident of Lyndeborough who completely understands the politics of the town and still would like to get more involved in it!

Offices Held in town:

Selectman
Budget Committee Member
ZBA Member
Assistant Fire Chief



Volunteer Activities in town:

Volunteer Fire Fighter for over 28 years
Volunteer at the Lyndeborough Annual Chicken BBQ

What do you feel is the most important role as selectman in Lyndeborough?

I feel that the most important role of the selectman in Lyndeborough is to work with the current town officials, department heads and committees to create affordable policies and budgets for the town of Lyndeborough.

Top three recommendations or actions for the town?

1. To keep taxes low due to the recent economic recession, so that residents are not struggling to pay yet another increase.
2. Make sure that the town is getting the best value for the amount of money that they spend on services.
3. To work on keeping the lines of communication between departments open so that we can all work together as efficiently as possible so that taxes are kept low for residents.

How would you work with the other selectmen?

I would work with the other selectmen by listening and observing what they are currently doing to create policy for the town. From there I will provide my opinions on the topics and offer insight to new ways of looking at these policies.

Areas that you would like to see change?

I do not feel that there needs to be drastic changes to any of our current policies, instead I feel that simple modifications may make these policies more beneficial to the town and residents of Lyndeborough.

Selectman Candidate: Andy Roeper

How long have you lived in Lyndeborough? 10 years in May

Your top three qualifications for the position of Selectman

1. As an incumbent, very familiar with all of the issues facing the board
2. As a taxpayer, a continuing interest in seeing that we have the best value for the dollar spent
3. I listen to all the various points of view and gather as many of the facts as possible before deciding. I do my best to make decisions based on what is best for the town in the long run, not my personal take or short term fixes that can cost much more over time.

Volunteer activities in Lyndeborough: Meeting House Committee, Conservation Commission, Heritage Commission

Have you ever held any offices in town? Selectman, Chairman of Meeting House and Conservation Commission.



What do you feel is the most important role as a Selectman in Lyndeborough? To insure that money is spent wisely and that people are treated fairly. Looking after our departments and personnel so that they are there when you need them. Being flexible enough to do what needs to be done so that things continue to run as smoothly as possible.

If elected, what would be your top three recommendations or actions for the town?

1. Continue to examine what actions may be taken to improve our tax base without sacrificing the unique aspects of the town.
2. Find or build a better space for the Police Department
3. Completion of the long term highway plan

How would you work with the other Selectmen to plan for the future of the town?

Continue to work on documenting all of our procedures and various job tasks so that there are less interruptions when someone leaves or is out for an extended period and also so that we can achieve the most efficiency practicable. Set realistic project goals and expectations and work at achieving a better completion rate. Work with all the departments and committees to refine a shared plan for services and facilities that both serve the needs of the town and are compatible with the budget – we all need to be able to afford to live here.

If elected, what areas would you like to see a change in and how would you achieve those changes?

While substantial progress has been made in getting information out to the public, I would like to continue to work on this, including improving the town website. We will need to find a place for the Police Department eventually, as has been documented, but the key will be finding a solution that is both affordable and practical. I would like to see progress on presenting a few options to the town with adequate time for discussion and revision. I would work towards better defining major road and bridge projects and also towards building a long term maintenance plan for our buildings and integrating both into the CIP (Capital Improvements Plan) for more even annual expenditure levels.

Any additional comments:

The last three years have certainly been an “adventure”. The issues with the Police Department were very time consuming and contentious and it would be good to see them through to a final outcome. In the Highway Department, changes were made and our service and capabilities have improved substantially. In the Town Office there have been many improvements along with the challenges of new personnel. Nature has tested our mettle thrice in three years and we have shown that we are up to the task. It would be nice to have a quiet period though the economy threatens to be its own storm with greater impact. In the mean time, the monthly Community Pot-Luck Suppers have been a great way to catch up with everyone and I would encourage folks to join in. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue the position of Selectman and would appreciate your support.

As always, I can be reached at 654-9831 or email andy@winmountainrestorations.com

School District Consolidation Frequently Asked Questions

By Dion Lewis

Why combine the districts?

By combining the districts of LCS, Wilton (FRES) and WLC, students and taxpayers may expect benefits. Students will benefit by increasing the ease with which curriculum may be aligned and by allowing greater access to (shared) resources. Taxpayers will benefit from improved (cost) efficiency under a more centralized governing structure. Furthermore, the State of NH would provide an additional 10% in aid for building projects if the districts consolidated.

Why is a more centralized governing structure more cost effective? Aren't costs based on the number of students?

No – except for SPED services, SAU services are performed based on the number of districts, not on the number of students. These include leadership, state and federal grant coordination and administration, business services (payroll, accounting, audit responses), curriculum coordination/implementation, assuring state/federal statutory compliance, student achievement assessment, on-going district assessments, insurance, hearings (including teacher/staff contract negotiations), litigation and court issues, school board operations, and annual budget/warrant article preparation. These SAU functions are replicated for each district under the current unconsolidated organization.

At the school building level (non SAU) costs are determined to some degree by the number of students, although this is not a direct relationship since many services must be provided irrespective of the number of students.

Would both towns [after consolidation] find it more difficult to pass needed school projects given the broader consensus needed?

The set of articles prepared by the consolidation committee were designed to provide each town protection on this issue. The set of articles established by the committee keep the responsibility for elementary school capital expenses within the town where the expenses occur. Thus there would be no reason for Lyndeborough residents to “weigh in” on needed Wilton projects and vice versa. For fairness, articles also specify that elementary students will continue to be educated in their own town school.

How will the departure of the Mascenic District affect SAU 63 operations?

As indicated in the Consolidation Study Report (January, 2008), the Mascenic District funded 58.5% of the SAU office costs. With the departure of Mascenic from SAU 63 and because Mason (formerly of the Mascenic District) may continue to be a part of SAU 63, virtually all of the same (non-SPED related) services will be needed.

Could the Mascenic split have been avoided?

Perhaps. If the districts of LCS, FRES, and WLC had been organized in a more efficient way (consolidated into one district) then it's likely that Mascenic representatives would have considered the arrangement more equitable and might not have sought their own stand-alone SAU.

How will combining districts affect the control I have over my elementary school?

Board access will not change and the Cooperative District posts board meeting minutes on-line for easy access and welcomes public participation. The existing co-op board includes 3 Wilton representatives and 2 Lyndeborough representatives. The modified set of articles for consolidation would establish a 9-member co-op board and continue the one vote Wilton majority with 5 representatives from Wilton and 4 from Lyndeborough.

Why do the Articles of Agreement for the co-op need to be modified?

Currently the co-op is set up for grades 7-12 only and so they must be modified; if any of the (pre-existing) elementary districts wish to join. This is also an excellent opportunity to verify that the funding formula (currently based on 100 percent ADM) will ensure long-term fairness.

Will the co-op funding formula change? If so, why change it?

Yes, the formula will change to a hybrid formula for long-term fairness. The costs of a Cooperative School District can be charged to its member towns based on the total number of students from each town, on the total taxable property values in each town, or some combination of the two. There are perfectly logical arguments for each alternative; many people see one choice or the other as “obviously the right choice.”

WLC has always apportioned its costs based entirely on the number of students. By coincidence, the ratio of the number of students from Wilton and Lyndeborough has always been almost the same as the ratio of their property valuations, so the choice of formulas has not really been an issue.

So why change it? The balance between student and property value ratios could easily change in the future. At that point, we could suddenly have winners and losers, and maintaining objectivity in the funding formula discussion would be more difficult. A hybrid formula, based half on student numbers and half on property valuation, would moderate the effects of future shifts in student or property ratios allowing for adjustment to the formula without creating winners and losers. Preserving the feeling that everyone is being treated fairly is key to making the co-op system work, and a hybrid funding formula should contribute to that feeling.

How do other SAU districts manage?

SAU 63 is unique in that it is one of the few multi-districts of our size in the state (serving four districts). Further, SAU organizations that serve 2-3 districts of similar sizes maintain a larger number of SAU staff (see Consolidation Report, January 2008).

Continued on Pg 6

(Continued from page 4)

What is the process for consolidating the districts of LCS, FRES and WLC?

All school boards have agreed to move forward and bring district consolidation before the voters. After approval by the WLC school board, an amended set of governing articles (Articles of Agreement) developed by a planning committee (with membership from each of the two towns) will be provided to the NH State Board of Education. Upon State approval, the articles may be voted on at the Annual District Meeting in March 2009.

Editorial

Dear Wilton and Lyndeborough Voters:

The consolidation of our school districts in Wilton and Lyndeborough is ready for voter approval. For two years the benefits of bringing the elementary districts of Wilton and Lyndeborough into the cooperative WLC district have been studied. More recently the articles that define how best to bring the two towns together, with a large consensus and common goal, have been established.

Residents of Wilton and Lyndeborough had the opportunity to discuss the articles at a public hearing on February 19th and can vote for consolidation at the district meeting held at WLC on March 6th at 7PM.

Please do not miss this opportunity to vote for consolidation to gain greater cost efficiency and improved educational quality in our schools.

Dion Lewis, WLC School Board



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Lyndeborough Community Supper

There is a free and very tasty potluck supper at 5:30 pm on every second Saturday of the month at Citizens' Hall. That means you could put the following dates on your calendar:

March 14th

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th



Come one and all!

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES Schedule of Events – May 24, 2009

Time	Location
9:30 am	Memorial Day Observance with the Lafayette Artillery Co. at Lyndeborough Center Church
10:45 am	Procession to Center Cemetery for memorial service, prayers, and rifle salutes
11:15 am	Procession to South Cemetery for memorial service, prayers and rifle salutes
1 pm	Memorial Day procession and parade in South Lyndeborough. Memorial service, prayers, rifle salutes at Heroes' Stones, band concert, and guest speakers on the Village Green. The Lafayette Artillery will fire the cannon at the end of the services.

9 am – 1 pm

Plant, book and bake sale at the Village Church sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Proceeds from the book and bake sale will benefit the library addition fund. The plant sale will benefit the Garden Club. Donations of books, plants or baked goods are appreciated. Please plan to stop by and support all the organizations.



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Know Your Neighbor "Through Children's Eyes" By Nadine Preftakes

There are not enough words, or indeed, enough space to name and give credit to everyone who shared their homes, cooked meals, lent people wood and generators, distributed water, checked houses, cleared brush and debris along the roads, and were, quite simply, being good neighbors to each other both during and in the aftermath of the devastating ice storm in December. I have not found anybody who does not have a unique story or experience to share. However different each situation, the sum total of each experience adds up to a whole lot of caring. The ice storm was noteworthy, but how this community came together to help each other was incredible.

Initially, I planned to interview many of the people who helped our town through some difficult days, but instead chose to look at another perspective in the stories of the children. Their thoughts about what they did, what it was like for them, who helped them and who they helped are priceless.

I would like to thank the teachers of Lyndeborough Central School for helping the children to write down their stories, the parents for allowing me to share their children's words, and the children themselves for taking the time to tell me some of their thoughts.

Parker Coleman – Sixth Grade

This is my storm story. I had fun and I had to work, but we got through it. I had fun helping other people and hauling wood for my family. I had to work so we could be warm, and I had to work so we could leave our yard, but our family got through it and bonded a lot in the process.

I learned many lessons and helped some people. I learned that not everything relies on electricity and that we can all pull together in tough times. I also learned that it feels good to help people and have them help you. I helped my neighbors get their generator going. I also helped them by cleaning off their driveway. I helped my dad's friend get electricity by lending him our generator. That is how I helped during the ice storm.

Mitch McQuade – First Grade

My dad is the Fire Chief and boy did he have a LOT of calls! I saw a tree on a wire, a car off the road and power trucks zipping by our house. I played games, harassed my brothers and had fun being with my family, but the computer did not work.

Abigail LeBlanc – Second Grade

What if you and I were pioneers during the ice storm? We would cook on fires and read with candles and stay warm next to the fire. And now we should be thankful that we have electricity and that we don't have to cook another way.

Connor Melrose – Sixth Grade

The ice storm in December was lots of trouble and lots of fun for me. With no power or water there was not much to do or use. That was the longest ice storm I've ever seen. It was good in that I got to spend time with my family. Now I will tell you the good and bad things about the storm.

I'll start off with the good. The best was that I got to spend time with my family. Another good thing was that I got to go to a hotel. Last, but not least, we went out to eat almost every day.

I'll end with the bad. The worst was living in a 17^o house. Another bad thing was that I had to get firewood in the ice storm for the fire. Lastly, I did not like not being able to take showers. That was the good and bad about the ice storm. I guess the lesson learned is not to take things for granted.

Jonathan DiPietro – Sixth Grade

The ice storm wasn't as difficult as I thought it would be for us, but other people had a tougher time. None of us could get out of our road, and some of us didn't even have water. All of us had to pitch in if we wanted to live. After all, not all of us had generators.

Corey Burrell – Sixth Grade

During the ice storm we had to go get food at Dunkin Donuts. My Mom thought that we would have to go to a hotel, but a neighbor helped my Dad hook up a generator.

Annabelle Koutroubas – Second Grade

I wonder how the pioneers could read at night with those little candles and fires.

Joshua Pouliot – Second Grade

The pioneers were tired at night because they worked so hard during the day. I would love to be a pioneer.

Lexi Balam – Second Grade

How could people read with one candle? I am so glad we have electricity now.

Brianna Santana – Second Grade

We used a flash light to play in the dark. We cooked on a wood stove.

Spencer Oster – Second Grade

It was hard for people to get out of their homes. People used different stuff to get out of their driveways.

Adrienne Losee – Second Grade

It is hard for some people when they don't have power. Some don't have a generator. And some have a gas or wood stove and those don't really work. Those people that don't have generators, most of all they don't have water. They don't have heat either. They pretty much have candles and a wood stove and that's all.

Karac St. Laurent – Third Grade

I drew a lot of pictures and listened to a radio

Katya Lutz – Fourth Grade

I kept my little sister calm when the lights went out.

Orion Weissflog – Fourth Grade

I slept downstairs with my dog to keep her company in the dark.

Jacob Boette – First Grade

I had a Juniper bush that was all ice and I jumped on it!

Jaden Lemay – First Grade

A stick went through my roof, but my cousin let me borrow his toys.

Mackenzie Hayden – First Grade

I got to play with my cat Buffy and my rabbit Fluffy that I got for Christmas. And I got to go out for breakfast at the Yankee Chef!

Madeline Smith – First Grade

I got a lot of time to play with “My Little Ponies”!

Dalton Courtemarche – Fifth Grade

I felt like I was in the olden days and we were all like a little colony and we were all helping each other out. It felt good to be self-sufficient.

Cori Balam – Fifth Grade

I slept on the couch with my two dogs and my grandparent’s two dogs. I felt weird sleeping at someone’s house for a week, but we were family and I got used to it.

Hannah Welch – Fifth grade

We had to look out for our neighbors and our neighbors had to look out for us. Even though the ice storm was bad, it brought my family closer together.

Breyanna Hilton-Wetherbee – Fifth Grade

Little Town, Big Storm, many people showed their kind side.

Zandra Morris – Fifth grade

My whole family felt different, and we all learned what it was like back in the day.

Jack Steele – Fourth Grade

We ate eggs off of the wood stove. We got power on Wednesday, and we yelled for joy.

Caio Cassarino – Fourth Grade

I had to help my Dad pick up all the sticks around my house. It looked like a war zone. I stayed outside for four hours every day. A branch almost hit my head. I was helping my Dad and some of his friends. It was a lot of fun, but it was scary too. I had to go out for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It took a long time to clean up the mess.

Andrew Houston – Fourth Grade

Gas was not cheap. We lost power for two weeks. It was fun having no power because it was peaceful.

Nick Ramsey – Fourth Grade

I had fun looking at all the icy trees.

Karissa Rowell – Sixth Grade

The best thing was being with my family even if they were scared, worried, mad or bored. Just being with them was the best thing ever.

Grace Munson – Sixth Grade

After the power came on, we started to help people still without power.

Valeri Kregos – Sixth Grade

When we got power back, I learned that you don’t need power to spend time with your family.

Chris Gaidmore – Sixth Grade.

It was fun. I had a blast.

Abbie Kemmerer – Sixth Grade

My mom made dinner on the woodstove. My brother’s friends came over, and they had a movie night using laptops. When one laptop died they’d take the movie and put it in another laptop and go to scene selection. It was really amusing.

Jeremy Cavarretta – Sixth Grade

This storm will never be forgotten because we were out of school for over a month.

Brady Patten – Sixth Grade

We played board games a lot. We all slept in our living room where our heat source was a fireplace. We cooked on a propane stove and even grilled outside one day. My sister and I had to carry water up a hill and over rocks to our house.

Travis Morris – First Grade

I had to shovel the ice on my walkway and porch.

Veronica Boyle – First Grade

I had a generator so I could still watch TV.

R.J. Humphreys – Fourth Grade

We checked on our neighbors. My mom helped the neighbors feed the horses across the street.

Colin Murphy – Fourth Grade

I hope I will never be as bored as I was again.

Naomi Lewis – Fourth Grade

One night we had to go to my friend’s house because our house was too cold. The first night we slept in her pink room. We chewed lifesavers and made sparks with our pants and a sock.

Ian Losee – Fourth Grade

I woke up my Dad and we started a fire and got buckets of water from a nearby river. Then I woke up my brother and sister. They helped too, but not as much.

Dylan Boot – Fourth Grade

The ice storm brought our family more together.

Kassandra Cavarretta – Fifth Grade

My family helped a man by giving him some wood. He was very nice and offered to give us the wood back as soon as he could get some.

Dillon Bauerle – Fourth Grade

For four days I had to break ice, cut down trees and move trees.

Nathan Green – Fifth Grade

The first day we had the ice storm we went down to the river to fill up this huge bucket of water to flush the toilet. Then everyone got a little hungry so my Dad told me to gather some sticks to start a fire and so we had s’mores that night. Then me, my mom and my sister hit the road for Florida.

Hans Kemmerer – Fourth Grade

Everyone in my class got power before Christmas.

Shannon Cullinan – Fourth Grade

We sat in my brother’s room until we heard another bang. We ran down the hall as fast as we could, as fast as a lightning bolt and as fast as a tiger could run! My mom woke up in a flash!

Mikayla Brown – Fourth Grade

I looked out the window and saw a huge tree on one of the cars in the driveway. I screamed so loud it woke up the next door neighbors and the ones up the road.

Continued on pg 12

SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 22, 2009

Lyndeborough's annual
celebration is almost here



Pancake Breakfast
Lunch BBQ
Antique Appraisals
Chicken Dinner BBQ
Lafayette Artillery
Encampment
Live Music

And more.....

Look for more information in the next Lyndeborough
Views, town web site and your local papers

EASTER BUNNY IS COMING TO TOWN

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of
Lyndeborough will be held at 11AM, Saturday
April 4, 2009 on the grounds of Center Hall on
Center Road.



The Easter Bunny
will arrive via fire
truck! Lyndebor-
ough's Fire De-
partment Auxiliary
is sponsoring the
hunt.

Inside Center Hall,
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Editorial

Lyndeborough Views,

We live in South Central NH. Recently while listening to the local TV station reporting about the Granite history of this area, it was mentioned that this area has one of the higher concentrations of Arsenic in the water supplies. The local TV station showed a map, highlighting the area West of Manchester to the Vt. border and South to the Mass border as the area of suspected higher concentrations of Arsenic.

Seven years ago when we built our house, we had the water tested from our 400 ft Artesian well and found that it was clear of all bacteria and was within specifications for all the minerals. We did not test for Arsenic at the time as it was an optional test.

Because of the news story, we recently had our well water tested again by Chemserve of Milford. The test results came back with a 0.056 mg/L level of Arsenic with the EPA guidelines calling for no more than 0.010 mg/L. Specific filters are available to remove Arsenic, so we had one installed. The level after installation of the filter is less than 0.003 mg/L of Arsenic.

Skillings and Sons installed the filter to our kitchen sink to provide clean drinking and cooking water. We would like to publicly thank them for the courteous and thorough service while correcting this problem.

We hope we have helped a family in the area. Many have heard of the possibility of the problem; this small filter helps make our home safe and salable.

Best regards,
CJ and Ruth Gorius
Lyndeborough

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Why Does LCS Need Three Classrooms for One Kindergarten?

By Fran Bujak, LCS School Board

Kindergarten is mandatory in the State of New Hampshire effective this fall! Failure to act now and you fail to take advantage of \$325,000 of State funding. Delaying the project will cost money every year by having to place our students in other temporary facilities or towns. Tuitioning our children out of town will require additional transportation, which will be costly. Construction costs in later years are likely to be higher than today, just like the cost of this project is higher than the identical one proposed two years ago.

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) committee, working with town department heads and the budget committee have accommodated the addition in the CIP. This will keep the increase in the tax rate to only a few cents per thousand for the LCS addition bond. Since this is possible, the School Board and the Budget Committee both recommend addressing all of the space issues at LCS at one time. By doing just one building project, thousands of dollars in taxpayer money will be saved. We will also eliminate the risk of being forced to fix one of these issues based on a student need or class size. At that point we would have no control over timing, pricing, State or Federal funding and would not have had the project funded in the CIP. This would cause a spike in the tax rate, which is an outcome we are trying to avoid.

The reasons why LCS needs the two additional classrooms is because two of the classrooms and the library in the existing facility do not meet current State standards. While we currently enjoy smaller class sizes, we are able to get by with these rooms. When this condition no longer exists, an addition or portable classrooms would be required. Existing special education space is inadequate and the library is too small, which requires classes to be split in half with half going to the library and half attending computer class. Complicating this problem will be the requirement to use the existing computer room as a hallway to get to the kindergarten classroom.

By adding the two additional classrooms all of these problems are resolved. The two smaller classrooms will be used for special education, as the library and as the computer room. In addition, quality construction will allow the new wing to be used as the town's emergency shelter while increasing the life expectancy for its primary use. The three classroom addition also corrects the current safety issue of wood storage lockers in the third grade hallway.

Also being addressed with this addition would be improved safety during parent pick-up and drop-off of students because of an improved traffic flow. The construction will include a handicapped accessible bathroom as part of the kindergarten addition addressing a current deficiency.

The LCS School Board and Lyndeborough Budget Committee are both recommending the voters of Lyndeborough approve this addition even in this challenging economic environment. Please support this addition so we can control local taxes in the decade to come.

The LCS School Board will conduct a question and answer session on the proposed addition to the LCS on Thursday, March 5th at 6pm at the school. A tour of the school will be provided.

Through Childrens Eyes....

Continued from Pg 9

Lorrie Blais – Sixth Grade

Another memory was my friend Alex's birthday party. We ended up having it without power and we had to roast hot dogs on the woodstove. I really feel bad for the people who didn't have power until around Christmas time. I hope this never happens again.

Grace Wight – Fourth Grade

It seemed like two hours to make a 2-minute bagel on the woodstove!

Ashley Humphreys – Third Grade

It felt like we were camping in our house. It was fun.

Alexandria Schoen – Sixth Grade

Living without power is hard. I learned how much I take for granted. I appreciate it more after a long day without power.

J.A. Tarbell Library Building Fund Final Push

We are almost there! An anonymous donor has agreed to match 25% of your gift from now until May 31st of this year. Any amount you can give or pledge will be greatly appreciated. Pledge forms are available at the library, from any of the trustees, at Town Hall, or by calling 487-3412.

We are also looking for volunteer help (sweat equity), which is as valuable as a financial contribution. Some examples would be: packing and storing books and/or equipment during construction, landscape help, site clean-up, etc. We plan to use local trades and craftsmen as much as possible on this project.

The plan is to break ground this spring and get the new addition underway. Your help is needed!

Thank you,

The Library Trustees and The Building Committee

LCS PTA Reminder to Vote and the School Expansion Information

Lyndeborough Central School (LCS) PTA would like to remind voters of the upcoming town vote, regarding the school budget. The PTA wants parents to be aware that typically, voter turnout does not include many of the parents of our school-age children; therefore your opinions may not be properly addressed. If you can possibly find the time to represent your family at this vote, please do so. *Every vote counts; if the school issue concerns you please find a way for each household member of voting age to turn out on Tuesday, March 10, 10 am to 7 pm at Lyndeborough Center Hall.*

Some facts to consider about the expansion:

The Lyndeborough Central School desperately needs an expansion.

The State of New Hampshire has mandated that all school districts provide public kindergarten. Because of the mandate, the State is offering to pay 75% of the kindergarten bond. The proposed school expansion will add three new classrooms, one of them a kindergarten. The proposed school budget includes the costs of the expansion. The new construction will alleviate 70% of the current maintenance problems with the existing building, which would require fixing regardless of the construction. The expanded area could become a viable Town Emergency Shelter. The plan also adds significant additional parking and a playground for the kindergarten.

In dollars, the total cost of the expansion, including furniture, equipment, site development, and architectural fees, is \$990,000.00. This figure is the promised maximum cap. If the project exceeds \$990,000 this year, the contractor will be responsible for the overage, NOT the town. If the price comes in under \$990,000, the town will pay the lower cost. The state is offering \$325,000 toward this cost, which means the town will be responsible for \$665,000. Another 30% of the remaining construction costs will be reimbursed by the state. If the town votes to consolidate districts, the state will increase the reimbursement to 40% of the remaining construction costs. **The increase to taxpayers for this proposal is 6¢ per \$1000 of tax base. As an example, if your home is valued at \$250,000, your taxes will increase by only \$15 for the year.**

Other factors to consider:

Some opponents to the budget want to tuition our kindergarten students to another [school] district. Frankestown, Greenfield, Mont Vernon and Wilton do not have room for our students, so the children would have to go to Milford. The tuition for each student would cost at least \$4,500 per kindergarten student for the year, and does not include busing. While this may seem like a cheaper solution, it is NOT a permanent solution.

It has also been suggested that the entire student body be tuitioned into other district(s) and LCS be closed. This would cost the town, on average, close to \$1,091,500 each year, and the cost would increase annually. If the student population jumped in any year by 15 students, which it has done in recent years, tuitioning could cost the town up to \$1.2 million **per year**. This figure does not address the increase in busing fees. Should the other district(s) decide to raise salaries and increase fees, we would have no control.

Finding a district that could accept 90+ additional students can prove to be a logistical nightmare. If, at any given time, the other district(s) decide they no longer have room for our students, the town would be forced to find other opportunities or try to re-open our school at much higher construction costs.

The State could withdraw its offer for financial aid after this year and the expansion could cost the taxpayers considerably more. Not only would the town have to cover the entire cost of the construction, the cost itself would increase significantly each year if the expansion does not pass. The window of opportunity for taking advantage of financial aid to decrease our tax burden is now.

This is an important decision that will affect all of our school children. **The PTA urges you to cast your vote on March 10 at Lyndeborough Center Hall on Center Road between 10 am to 7 pm.** If you have any questions please call Diane Bell at 654-9718, Sherry LeBlanc at 654-7261, or Sue Tussing at 654-9381.

A Question & Answer meeting about the LCS expansion will be held Thursday, March 5, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the LCS Multi-Purpose Room. Fran Bujack of the School Board will be on hand as well as members of the PTA.



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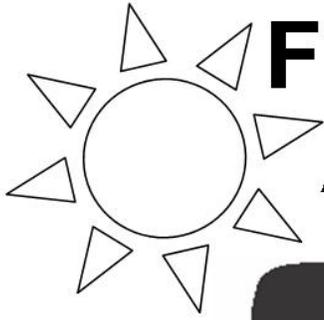
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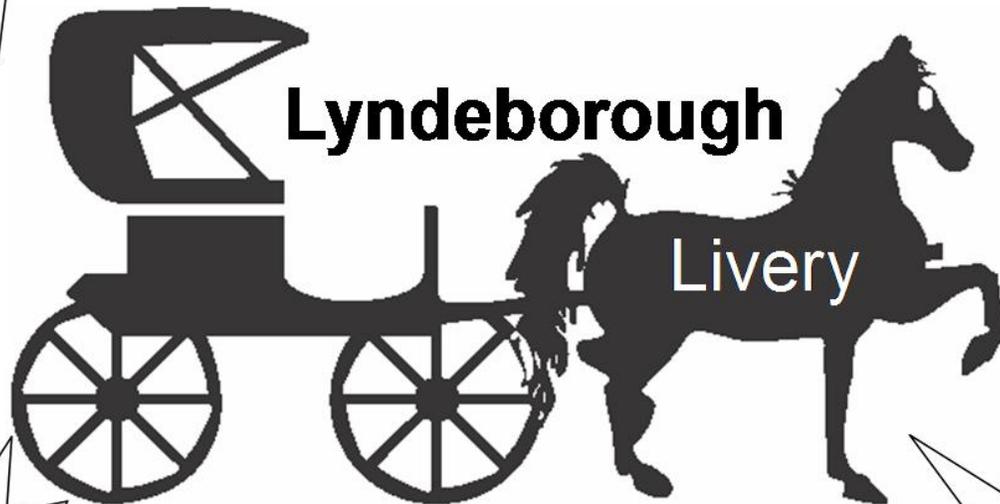
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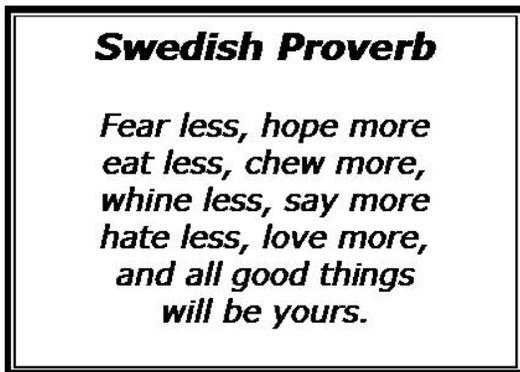
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Kitchen Views

by Emily Morgan

Here are a couple of easy, tasty dishes to help carry you through the last days of winter and early spring.

Quick Three-Bean Chili, From *Food and Wine Magazine*

This chili doesn't need to simmer to develop flavor, which instead, comes quickly from a little bacon. Makes 4 substantial servings. Freezes well, so consider a double batch.

2 Tbsp vegetable oil
3 slices of bacon cut crosswise into ¼-inch strips
1 onion, cut into ¼-inch dice
2 jalapenos, seeded and cut into ¼-inch dice
2 garlic cloves, minced
¼ cup chili powder

One 15-ounce can Great Northern beans, drained and rinsed
One 15-ounce can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
One 15-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed
One 28-ounce can diced tomatoes
2 cups chicken stock
Salt and pepper
Chopped cilantro and sour cream or yogurt for serving

In a medium soup pot or Dutch oven, heat the oil until hot.

Add the bacon and cook until the fat has been rendered, but not to the point that the bacon becomes crispy. Add the onion, jalapeno and garlic and cook over moderately high heat until the onion is softened, about 5 minutes. Add the chili powder and cook over moderate heat until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the beans, tomatoes and stock and bring to a simmer. Simmer over moderately low heat until thickened, about 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and serve with cilantro and sour cream or yogurt.

Chicken with Dark Beer, From *Cooking Light Magazine*

Makes 4 substantial servings

After I made this dish, I discovered that the sauce is great tossed with pasta, like penne or rotini. Add a green vegetable or a salad, and you have a full meal.

3 Tbsp flour
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp ground pepper
6 pieces bone-in chicken of your choice
(remove skins to reduce calories or leave on for more flavor)
2 Tbsp butter
1 Tbsp olive oil
3 Tbsp dry gin (You can get tiny bottles at the liquor store if you don't have any)
¾ cup chopped celery
¾ cup chopped peeled carrot

½ cup chopped shallots (about 3 medium)
*3 juniper berries, crushed
1 8-ounce package mushrooms, halved
3 sprigs fresh thyme
3 sprigs flat-leaf parsley
1 bay leaf
**1 cup dark beer
*¼ cup whole-milk Greek-style yogurt
2 tsp white wine vinegar
1 Tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley

*Available at Market Basket

**I found I could buy a single bottle at The Village Store

Combine flour, salt and pepper and sprinkle evenly over both sides of chicken pieces. Heat butter and oil in a large deep skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken pieces to pan; saute´ 5 minutes on each side or until browned. Remove pan from heat. Pour gin into one side of pan; return pan to heat. Ignite with a long match; let flames die down. Remove chicken from pan and keep warm.

Add celery, carrots, shallots and juniper berries to pan; saute´ until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms, thyme and parsley sprigs and bay leaf. Return chicken to pan, nestling into vegetable mixture. Stir in beer; bring to simmer. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 45 minutes (breasts may only take 35 minutes).

Remove herb sprigs and bay leaf and discard. Remove chicken to a plate and cover to keep warm. Place pan over medium heat; stir in yogurt. Cook 1 minute but do not boil as the yogurt may curdle. Remove from heat; stir in vinegar. Taste and adjust seasoning. At this stage, you can either serve the sauce on top of the chicken, according to the recipe, or you can toss drained, hot pasta with the sauce and serve as a side with the chicken. Sprinkle with chopped parsley.

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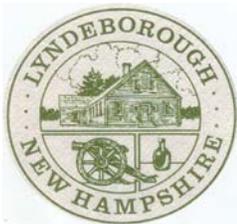
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