



The Littleton Weekly Record

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025

LOCAL

Littleton Community Center Awarded \$1M Grant

FREE



Slim Pickins Closes, Leaving Void In Nightlife, LGBTQ+ Community



- Community Honors Industrial Park Visionary
- Commission Adopts Inclusion Resolution

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NORTH COUNTRY

Littleton Community Center Awarded \$1M Grant

NBRC Also Awards Franconia Children's Center a \$500K Grant

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

As it advances a remake of its historic carriage barn, or annex, into a new community gathering place, the Littleton Community Center (LCC) has been awarded a \$1 million catalyst program grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission.

In mid-June, the area was fenced off and the parking lot closed as the major renovations get underway, including an upcoming lifting of the structure so its old foundation can be removed, a new foundation installed, and a new floor put in.

The federal funding will go toward revitalizing the carriage house by repairing the roof, addressing foundational and structural deficiencies, completing needed drainage and

other work on the grounds, and installing an energy efficient HVAC system, gutters, security and fire systems, and internet and audio visual utilities to allow the community center to host large events of up to 100 people.

According to the NBRC narrative, the project seeks to expand business use of the community house and increase tourism through heritage experiences. It will also create a new meeting/performance space, remodel the third floor into rentable offices, and establish guided tours of the carriage barn and main house, which are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

By preserving the historic properties and enhancing community infrastructure, the nonprofit LCC seeks to support economic development, cultural engagement, and long-term

sustainability in Littleton.

The LCC was awarded the grant in large part because of NBRC's focus on economic development, community engagement, sustainability, and other elements, said Barbara Buckley, LCC executive director.

The \$1 million grant will go toward a total \$2.088 million multi-phase project.

The LCC must provide a match and will lay the groundwork for a fund-raising campaign.

"The board is still trying to figure out how to plan strategically for how to match the grant," Buckley said Wednesday. "That's all in the discussion stage at this point."

The grant award was announced by the NBRC last week.

In their own announcement, the LCC's board of directors said they are happy to announce

the funding and are grateful to everyone in Littleton and surrounding communities who voiced their support for the grant.

The money, said Buckley, will allow the LCC's board to address three important needs in the Littleton area.

"First, the project will address Littleton's significant need for rental space," she said in the announcement. "Currently, Littleton has a 1.7 percent vacancy rate for office space. We will use funds to improve the third floor of the LCC house to create office spaces for rent. We will also install an HVAC system throughout the building creating a comfortable environment."

Secondly, the project will address the need for a medium-sized meeting and recreation space in Littleton.

"The grant will enable us to move on to Phase 2 of the carriage barn restoration and

parking lot resurfacing," said Buckley. "When the work on the carriage barn is complete, it will be home to a meeting and recreation space for 100 people. We will host conferences, weddings, concerts, and many other events, both public and private. With a large meeting room, caterer's kitchen, HVAC and WiFi systems, the opportunities for fun and collaboration are endless."

Thirdly, those events will bring visitors to town who will shop and eat on Main Street and beyond, utilize hotels and hire businesses that provide catering and entertainment, said Buckley.

"We are looking forward to establishing partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide the best experiences for the local community and our guests," she said. "Several community members have expressed joy and relief that the carriage barn is going to

be saved. They recall Girl and Boys Scout meetings, library book sales, and meetings of the Littleton Grange, and 4-H Club. We are excited to use this grant to preserve a treasured part of Littleton history and to provide a space for making new memories for decades to come."

Both community center buildings were constructed in 1884 as part of a private residence and were donated and dedicated to the town in 1919.

During a visioning session in October to gather public input for potential uses of the annex, the LCC board of directors said they would soon be submitting the NBRC grant application.

Because of its deficiencies and safety issues, the annex has been closed since 2011.

Its first floor offers nearly 2,600 square feet of space and the second floor 300 to 400 square feet.

The annex was originally

See Grants, Page 6



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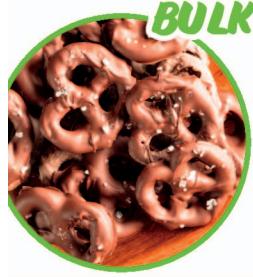
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GRAFTON COUNTY

County Commission Adopts Inclusion Resolution, Commissioner Defects To GOP

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

In a split vote in June, after being first proposed nearly two years ago, the Grafton County Commission adopted an inclusivity resolution similar to those adopted by several North Country towns, seeking to protect others from discrimination and harassment and to be welcoming to all.

More recently, one member of what had been an all-Democratic three-member Grafton County Commission defected to the Republican Party, after voicing concerns about the direction and priorities of the Democratic Party.

Resolution

On June 10 at the county complex in North Haverhill, Commissioner Martha McLeod, a Democrat from Franconia, requested that the county's proposed non-binding resolution be brought back for discussion, at the request of a state representative, according to the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Katie Hedberg, a Democrat from Plymouth, voiced support and said that as the county seeks to grow and attract others, such initiatives are important, and the resolution welcomes people without a particular political bent.

Commissioner Wendy Piper, of Enfield, who this week announced her switch to the Republican Party, said the resolution did not receive her support last time and will not receive it this time because of her primary concern that it is "unnecessarily divisive." Piper disagreed with Hedberg that it didn't have a partisan tone.

According to the discussion, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire and North Country Pride requested that Piper's disagreement be made public.

Piper cited the last sentence regarding the county modeling respectful dialogue and asked McLeod to join her to ensure the commission does not embarrass the county through disagreements that might become

personal.

Piper also cited the second paragraph, "for those who want to marginalize others for being different from themselves, through prejudice and bigotry," and said two years ago she felt it could be perceived as targeting and marginalizing those who hold religious beliefs, and those religious beliefs might cause opinions that can be unfairly perceived by others as prejudice or bigotry. Piper said she still feels that way.

The resolution, she said, includes "value tags" and "hot button" language. Piper said she represents all of her constituents, not just those who voted for her, and words such as "welcoming communities" might evoke a response in those people.

The point was made during the last commission term that the commission is obligated to follow the New Hampshire Constitution, which encompasses much of what the resolution seeks and was amended to include sexual orientation, said Piper, who added that the res-

olution is a symbolic statement with no binding effect.

Regarding the resolution's words about the county welcoming all, Piper asked if the county and its residents extend the same courtesy to diversity of opinion that they do to sexual orientation, gender identity, race, or religion.

McLeod said she and Hedberg are trying to make division a non-issue; what they have now is a question about that in the county, and it is important to make the statement now.

After making changes to the wording, McLeod and Hedberg, with Piper voting nay, voted to adopt the resolution.

It reads:

"Whereas Grafton County welcomes all people regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that makes us who we are.

Whereas, Grafton County has a responsibility to all its residents to keep them safe from discrimination, harassment, or from those who want to marginalize others for being different from themselves through prejudice or bigotry.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Grafton County Commissioners that Grafton County will welcome all to our county and that our county services, amenities, and properties are available to all who live here and to our visitors passing through, following guidelines and policies that apply equally to all persons.

We are committed to promoting a secure, welcoming, and safe environment.

We are committed to modeling respectful dialogue."

The commission first discussed the idea of an inclusivity resolution in late 2023, shortly after and partly in response to a former Littleton Select Board member who, that August, had voiced opposition to an LGBTQ+ and Diversity mural on private property in town.

That controversy also inspired other local towns to adopt resolutions.

County Departures From Democratic Party

On Wednesday, Piper, a four-term commissioner, had an op-ed in the Union Leader explaining why she recently decided to leave the Democratic Party, stating she is "joining a significant number of others who have made the same decisions."

"When I was growing up, the Democratic Party supported middle class and working families, such as the one to which I belonged," wrote Piper. "I was raised primarily by a single mother, and our homes included trailers and trailer parks. My mother worked hard for her money, and I knew at the time that any tax dollars taken from her pocket to support those perceived to be worse off economically impacted her ability to put food on our table. The class divide has only become sharper."

Globalization and the financialization of the economy have further concentrated wealth, and in the face of those economic policy changes, one must ask what Democrats are doing to address the challenges, she said.

"Despite calls by national leaders to return to 'kitchen table' issues, state Democrats remain focused on such issues as gender identity and support for undocumented immigrants," said Piper. "Whatever happened, I wonder, to the days of Bill Clinton and African-American Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who argued for tighter borders? They recognized the need to fill American jobs with American workers; working people were their base. This is called economic nationalism, and there's nothing scary about it."

Democratic solutions to income inequality are equally ineffectual, she said.

Under a decade of Republican leadership, New Hampshire

ranks first in the nation for child well-being and lowest for child poverty, fourth highest in median household annual income, first for healthiest state in the nation, first for safest state, and 11th for lowest in combined state and local tax burden as a percentage of family income for the bottom 20 percent of our families, said Piper.

"In the face of this decade-long record of Republican success, New Hampshire Democrats remain committed to the status quo," she said. "My former party continues to advocate for the growth of government and redistribution instead of boosting the growth of the economy, which benefits all. Rather than onshoring jobs that provide a living wage (what FDR used to call a 'family wage'), they propose nominal increases to the minimum wage. The enormous class divide that defines our time has been demonstrated by populist uprisings across the globe: Brexit in the United Kingdom, MAGA here at home, and of course, the 'yellow-jacket' protests in France. For anyone willing to see it, such movements demonstrate the disenfranchisement felt by working people in the face of trade and economic policies that have left them behind."

Piper is not the only elected Grafton County official to switch to the Republican Party.

According to a Valley News story on Thursday, Kelley Monahan, the county register of deeds since 2011 who had been another longtime Democrat, is making the switch after becoming disenchanted with her former party, which she said has strayed from the ideals and commitment it had to working-class families.

Over the last two decades, Grafton County has shifted to a Democratic majority, with a large majority on the delegation and commission.

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ON THE COVER

Tori Fullam, center, and Cassandra Augstein, right, react during karaoke at Slim Pickin's on Wednesday, June 25, 2025. The self-proclaimed dive bar located at the intersection of Main and Meadow Street in Littleton, N.H., closed last week after a two-year run. (Photo by Paul Hayes)



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Court Rules For Lenders Who Say Contractor Stiffed Them

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

A Grafton Superior Court judge has ruled in favor of a California lending company and an equipment leasing firm in Colorado that claim a Littleton contractor stiffed them.

On June 3, the judge issued a \$69,818 judgment in favor of QuickBridge Funding LLC, of Irvine, California, which filed its action for registration of a foreign judgment against Dave Reilly Construction LLC in the New Hampshire court on April 25.

Including a California post-judgment interest of 10 percent, the total due is \$74,140.78, according to records.

A judgment against Reilly for default of payment had been entered in California in August 2024, according to the company's filing.

QuickBridge offers small business loans and lines of credit.

On Oct. 9, Pawnee Leasing Co., a lender in Ft. Collins, Colorado that specializes in equipment leasing, filed a complaint for contract damages against Reilly, who in May 2023 had entered into an equipment finance contract to buy a 2010

CAT skid steer, but failed to make payments and is "in serious default," according to that company's filing.

In its affidavit for damages, the company told the court that the principal owed by Reilly is \$44,136.06 and the total amount due, including other costs, is \$46,743.23.

Pawnee's attorney in New Hampshire, Daniel Proctor, asked the court for judgment in favor of Pawnee and a court hearing.

On March 10, Grafton Superior Court Judge Jonathan Frizzell entered final judgment for Pawnee Leasing Co. in the amount of \$44,136.06 and other charges agreed to in the contract in the amount of \$2,227.02, as well as court costs and service fees. The judge also awarded the company attorney's fees in the amount of \$11,034.

According to the case summary, Reilly failed to appear for a May 19 hearing on Pawnee's petition for periodic payments. A warrant was then issued for his arrest. Bail was set at \$1,000 bond.

A hearing was held on June 16, and a review hearing is scheduled for Oct. 15.

Reilly, who is representing himself in court, agreed to pay Pawnee's attorney a minimum of \$800 a month until the judgment is paid in full, according to court papers.

Grants

Continued from Page 2
built for horse stalls and carriage storage and stored hay on the second floor.

The last remodeling was completed in the 1950s, when the annex was converted into a teen center.

Franconia Children's Center

A few miles away, the non-profit Franconia Children's Center, founded in 1978, was

awarded a \$428,630 NBRC catalyst grant.

The money will help the daycare center — which is one of four centers within a 30-mile radius that accept children under the age of 3 and have a service area that includes 73 employers — to purchase the building it has rented for more than a decade and make the renovations needed to bring it up to current codes and standards.

Without acquisition, the trust that owns the building would

have sold the property and displace the childcare center, said NBRC representatives, who added that an important childcare resource in the Franconia area can now be preserved.

The NBRC grant will ensure long-term sustainability, expand childcare capacity by nearly 50 percent, and support critical health and safety improvements, reduce operational costs, and enhance employee retention through increased wages and benefits.

"By securing the building and modernizing infrastructure, FCC aims to strengthen early childhood education, support working families, and promote economic stability in the region," said NBRC representatives.

The \$428,630 grant will go toward a total \$857,259 project.



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VANESSA KNOTT



Vanessa Irene Knott, 92, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2025, at Country Village Nursing Home in Lancaster, New Hampshire, where she had lived for many years. During her time there, she made many dear friends and was a beloved part of the community. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Vanessa was born in Holland, Vermont, and was one of 10 children. She was predeceased by her parents, George and Ellen (LaBounty) McKenney, her grandparents, and her siblings: Doris Little, Gladys Plant, Rossy Baraw, Marion Wheeler, Mildred McKenney, Ruby Stanton, Geneva Ovitt, two infant sisters, and her brother, Edwin McKenney.

She was also preceded in death by her two husbands, George Anderson and Joseph Knott; her children, Barbara Knoll, Cecil and Douglas Anderson and her grandchildren, Daniel Lane Jr., Jennifer Lane and Derek

Lane.

Vanessa is survived by her daughter, Pearl Lane of Gilman, Vt.; her grandchildren, Crystal Lane of Gilman, Vt., and Amanda Putvain of Coventry, Vt.; and six great-grandchildren: Conner and Daniel Putvain Jr., Deklin and Garrett Chilafoux of Coventry, Vt., and Logan Lane and Levi Paquette of Gilman, Vt. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews who held her close in their hearts.

Vanessa's greatest joys came from time spent with her family and friends. She loved visits with loved ones, playing bingo, working on puzzles, and doing word search books. Her kind heart, gentle spirit, and quiet strength left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

A graveside service will be held at Lakeside Cemetery in Island Pond, Vermont, on Saturday, July 12 at 1 p.m. for all who wish to attend.

DOROTHY LORNA (THOMAS) STEVENS



Dorothy Lorna (Thomas) Stevens born November 11, 1938, to Nellie Mae Thomas and Lavern Harry Thomas passed away peacefully at her home on June 29, 2025, surrounded by family and loved ones.

She was predeceased by her sister Florence Coy and her brother Bradley Thomas. She is survived by her sisters Dale Pond and Harriet Mooney as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

Dorothy is lovingly remembered by her daughters Tracie L. Stevens of Littleton, Tonia L. Stevens of Woodland, Ga., and Tallya J. Pillsbury of Campton, N.H.

Dorothy was a proud grandmother to six grandchildren: Joshua Parker and wife

Erin, Jesse Parker, William Shanks and wife Mikaela, Lexie Willey, Kelsi Towle and her husband Pete, and Connor Pillsbury. She was also blessed with four great-grandchildren who brought her endless happiness.

Dorothy was a spirited soul with a vibrant personality, quick wit and wonderful sense of humor. She brought joy and laughter to everyone she met and was deeply

loved by many.

In accordance with Dorothy's wishes, there will be no formal services. A private celebration of life will be held for family at a later date to honor her memory and the love she shared so generously.

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Slim Pickins Closes, Leaving Void In Nightlife, LGBTQ+ Community

BY PAUL HAYES
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Two days before Slim Pickin's closed for good, Cassandra Augstein was preparing to say goodbye.

For the past two years, the Main Street bar and restaurant was more than a place to grab a drink or a bite to eat — it was a gathering spot where people

could be themselves. Known for its quirky decor and welcoming atmosphere, Slim Pickin's offered a kind of unfiltered comfort that's increasingly hard to find.

Billed as "not NOT a gay bar," the venue quickly became a haven for the local LGBTQ+ community. But its reach extended far beyond that — drawing in anyone looking for a space free of judgment, where appearances, backgrounds and identities



Amy Mons, left, and Cassandra Augstein, right, sing during karaoke at Slim Pickin's on Wednesday, June 25, 2025. The self-proclaimed dive bar located at the intersection of Main and Meadow Street in Littleton, N.H., closed last week after a two-year run. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

didn't matter.

"It really was a place for everybody, and everyone could come and feel welcome and not worry about what they were wearing or who they were with," said Augstein, 27, on Wednesday, June 25. "I think I've already cried like three times this week. I can't stand the fact that

it is closing."

The bar's eclectic calendar — featuring karaoke, hardcore music shows, dance parties and even "antifascist trivia nights" — and casual dive bar atmosphere helped create a strong sense of community among regulars and newcomers alike.

Augstein, who also ran the

bar's karaoke nights, said those events captured the same spirit of openness and expression that defined Slim Pickin's.

"I love doing the karaoke. I feel like it really brings out a different side of people," she said. "I've seen people who you wouldn't think jump out and give this insane performance."

Located in a converted gas station at the intersection of Main and Meadow streets, Slim Pickin's officially shut its doors after midnight Saturday.

Earlier this month, the owners announced the closure on social media, citing "life changes and a need to move on."

Landlord Jared Sullivan said the closure would leave a void in the town's cultural life.

"I'm wicked bummed out," he said. "Before Slim Pickin's, the only other option I had for a tenant was a company that wanted to use the space for storage. I could do that — that's fine — but who wants a storage building on Main Street in Littleton? I don't want that. I want it to be a place for people, for community. I'm going to work to figure that out."

Sullivan said he saw the bar as an important part of the town's nightlife and a step toward making Littleton more appealing to younger people. He hopes someone else will step forward to reopen the space in some form.

Inquiries can be sent to Main-AndMeadow@gmail.com.

Slim Pickin's opened shortly before the town was plunged into a heated debate over LGBTQ+ visibility, when former Select Board member Carrie Gendreau opposed three Pride murals installed downtown.

Morgan Hill, who ran the bar's antifascist trivia nights, said Slim Pickin's offered LGBTQ+ residents a rare refuge.

"It totally came to exist at a time when existing as a queer person in public in the North Country felt really fraught, because of needlessly divisive local politics," Hill said.

Hill, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, co-owns a new Lancaster-based event venue, Mead Hill, that will continue Slim Pickin's' mission of providing inclusive spaces.

"Ultimately that's what we're doing at Mead Hill — trying to create another space where we can have events and gatherings," Hill said. "We totally intend to pick up that mantle as best we can."

On Wednesday night, Slim Pickin's drew a crowd that reflected the diversity it welcomed.

Sam Newland, 24, of St. Johnsbury, works in Littleton and has been going to the bar since shortly after it opened.

See **Nightlife**, Page 9

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

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COURT NEWS

Man To Serve At Least 3 Years For Sex Assault Against Child

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

A Littleton man convicted of sexually assaulting his great-granddaughter will serve at least three years in New Hampshire State Prison after being sentenced at Grafton Superior Court.

On June 27, following a jury trial in late May, Henry White Sr., 79, was convicted of one special class felony

count of aggravated felonious sexual assault and one special class felony count of felonious sexual assault against the 9-year-old girl, whom, for purposes of sexual arousal or gratification, he touched inappropriately and had her touch him inappropriately during one incident between July and August 2022.

According to the case summary, White was given a sentence of three to six years to stand committed for the first count and a sentence of three to

six years fully suspended on the condition of good behavior for the second.

The sentence, however, carries reductions from the maximum or minimum through earned time credits.

The court also authorizes White to file a petition to suspend the incarceration component of his sentence if he has a terminal illness and needs hospice. Any petition must include two separate affidavits by physicians attesting to his condition.

In addition, White is required to register as a sex offender, pay \$10,000 in restitution for the victim's counseling, and complete a sex offender treatment program.

Under state law, special class felony counts can carry a minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum of 30.

White's attorney, Theodore Lothstein, had argued for a prison sentence of one to five years, citing what he said is White's integrity, strong work ethic, strong personal character, no

prior criminal record, his age, and health issues.

Grafton County prosecutors argued for a prison sentence of four to eight years, with one year off the minimum upon successful completion of sex offender treatment, stating that White had a duty to care for the girl and was in a position of trust, but betrayed that trust.

The sentence, said prosecutors, is in line with similar cases.

Nightlife

Continued from Page 8

"It's a nice chill place. It's less about the beer, more about the camaraderie," Newland said. "It's not exclusionary. I know that myself, part of the queer community, they would come through here and find this place a very comfortable spot without prejudice or anything like that."

Another patron, a 36-year-old Massachusetts transplant who declined to give his name, said the space was more than just a bar.

"There's been a ton of really solid bonds that have been made here. It's kind of like the community house in a way," he said. "This is where people come to meet, get together, talk about what's going on in the community, what's going on in the world. It's more than just a place to throw back shots and pound beers."

He likened the environment to the punk scene he grew up in: "That's something you can't find at Applebee's or the 99s. You're just not getting that out of a chain."

Tori Fullam and Nilia Gonzalez, both 22, said they weren't sure what would take the place of Slim Pickin's.

"We don't really have a good spot like this in town where we can just come and hang out," said Fullam, who said it reminded her of bars near Southern New Hampshire University, where she went to college.

"It kind of just brings a whole bunch of different groups together," Gonzalez added. "It's like a place where you can just come

be yourself and hang out."

As the sun set, karaoke began. Augstein passed around the microphone, taking song requests and stepping in when others were shy. It was a final chance to enjoy the freedom that Slim's provided.

"[Slim's] gave people a place that they could come to that wasn't a family-friendly restaurant. They had a sticker back in the day where it said, 'It's us or Applebee's,'" she said. "It's like,

you can come here and you can be an adult — but you can still be kind of crazy and kind of wild."

Looking ahead, Augstein said she wasn't sure what comes next.

"My nights are gone. I'm gonna be at home just like, 'I have nowhere to go. I have nowhere to come play pool. I have nowhere to see all my friends together, having a good time,'" she said. "And that's rough. I really hope that something else pops up, because we need it in this town."

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Community Honors Industrial Park Visionary

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Bringing drive and foresight, Paul McGoldrick was a pivotal man at a critical time.

Not long after his arrival in town, Littleton's shoe industry economy would be on its way out, leaving what could have been a void.

McGoldrick was the catalyst behind the creation of the Littleton Industrial Park, which began in the mid-1970s with \$15,000 in seed money that had squeaked to town meeting victory by just one vote.

"The rest is history," said Ed Hennessey, a longtime friend of McGoldrick's who serves on the Littleton Industrial Development Corp. (LIDC). "Today, the industrial park supports nearly two dozen busi-

nesses that employ an upward of 1,500 area residents and generate an annual payroll north of \$60 million.

On Monday morning, on the Industrial Park Road bridge at Meadow Street that bears his name, friends, community members, and a state official turned out for the dedication of a new plaque that honors McGoldrick, who had served as president of the nonprofit, all-volunteer LIDC for more than 25 years and died a decade ago at the age of 80.

"Who was Paul?" asked Chad Stearns, the current LIDC president. "What did he do? Paul passed away in 2015 after quite a career in Littleton. He moved to Littleton in 1964 with New England Telephone. He really just fell in love with the area. A few years later, he started his own business in financial planning and life insur-



Town officials and community members turned out for a plaque dedication ceremony on Monday morning to honor the late Paul McGoldrick, the chief catalyst for the creation of the Littleton Industrial Park. Left to right: LIDC director Michael Ransmeier, former LIDC president Greg Eastman, Littleton Select Board members Linda MacNeil and Ed Hennessey, LIDC president Chad Stearns, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs' Benoit Lamontagne, and Littleton Town Manager Troy Brown. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

ance and he had that for almost 50 years."

As the shoe industry declined, McGoldrick and a group

of others put forth their vision for an industrial park.

"If anyone knew Paul, he was the driving force when he

had something on his mind or wanted people to get involved in something or wanted something to happen," said Stearns. "He always wanted it for the benefit of the community."

After a half century in Littleton, the industrial park is on its fourth phase of expansion.

"Paul was there for the first three phases," said Stearns. "He had his life insurance business and his financial planning, but he probably put as much time into LIDC as he did his own business. I think we can see that today with all the businesses and the road infrastructure. Everything that is here, Paul had quite a bit to do with."

Before Monday's ceremony, Stearns did more research about McGoldrick and found another description of him — "dogged persistence."

"If he had something he wanted or was passionate about, there was no stopping him," said Stearns.

That's a sentiment that U.S. senators as well as funding partners would agree with, he said.

One story about McGoldrick revolves around when the industrial park was just taking off, when he was skiing on Cannon Mountain and was sharing a chairlift with the president of Burndy, the manufacturer of tools, connectors, and fittings in the industrial park.

"By the end of the ride, he had a meeting set up for Burndy to come here, and the rest is history," said Stearns. "Burndy was our first tenant."

"We sold the land to Burndy for \$50,000 and spent \$55,000 to put the road in," said Hennessey. "We were happy to do it."

When Stearns joined the Littleton Rotary Club in 2008, McGoldrick, a fellow Rotarian, was at his table during Stearns' second meeting. By the end of the meeting, Stearns began his contributions toward the Rotary Foundation's Paul Harris fellowship, which recognizes those contributing \$1,000 or more.

"He certainly had me in with my donation, but he matched my donation," said Stearns. "He gave a lot of time to every-



Paul McGoldrick (Contributed photo)

thing he was in, whether LIDC or the Littleton Area Rotary Club. He was a big part of getting the charitable fund started as well as the lobster fest."

McGoldrick was also a big advocate for the Mayhew Program, a local camp that serves at-risk boys in New Hampshire.

"He was persistent, but he was certainly giving at the same time," said Stearns. "He was just a great man."

Hennessey, a Littleton selectman, knew McGoldrick for the better part of 50 years and is proud to call him a great friend.

"He worked his tail off," said Hennessey, who pointed to the last line of the bronze plaque — "Paul McGoldrick wrote the recipe for community service."

"He worked for years to get the industrial park bridge in," said Hennessey. "They finally got the bridge in and thankfully dedicated the bridge in Paul's name. He used to say, 'I don't know how people can sleep at night if they haven't done something today to make the town better than it was yesterday.' And he lived that way."

I've known many people in my time who contributed a lot to this town, but I don't know anyone who worked tirelessly like Paul did ... The town should be very thankful."

McGoldrick was also a big advocate for the police department and its new police station on West Main Street.

"Many of you don't know this, but Paul was instrumental in our new police department," said Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith. "He was one of the driving forces in support of our PD and getting it moved to the lo-

See Honor, Page 11

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McGoldrick played a key role in driving economic development.

Benoit Lamontagne, North Country industrial agent and business retention and expansion specialist for the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs, said McGoldrick played a role in revitalizing Colebrook when Lamontagne and others were

Beyond the Littleton area,

trying to initiate economic development efforts there and were becoming discouraged that nothing was moving forward.

A vision there was also the creation of an industrial park.

A call was placed to McGoldrick.

Lamontagne said, "Paul drove up to Colebrook and sat us down and said, 'Look, you

don't just walk away from something like this. You have to keep plugging away at it.' He revived our whole economic development group up there. I'll never forget him for that."

Hennessey and Greg Eastman, a former LIDC president, thanked Art Tighe, of Foto Factory, who designed the plaque, and Wilco Direct for installing it.

The plaque is a way to educate those who don't know who McGoldrick was or what he did, said Hennessey.

Today, the Littleton Industrial Park is recognized as one of the most important economic centers in the state.

"He realized among many important aspects to a vibrant community were economic development and education,"

reads the plaque. "Paul also realized that a strong education training program is an important element of having a robust community."

In addition to McGoldrick's co-founding and leadership at LIDC, he was one of the founders of the Littleton Area Learning Center, which has been renamed in his honor.

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