

## Loudon Communications Council Update for Town Report 2009

Since 1998, the Loudon Communications Council has served as a Town of Loudon organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive source of information and education about local businesses, government, and community organizations in order to facilitate and encourage informed citizen participation. Every year since its inception, the Council has seen significant growth in its list of regular contributors to the *Loudon Ledger*. Each issue includes minutes from the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Library Trustees, as well as minutes and reports from other organizations such as the Conservation Commission and Historical Society. There are regular articles from the Police Dept./Code Enforcement, with special attention to publicizing DARE Pizza Night and the department's Annual Blood Drive. The Council runs articles submitted by Town organizations including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Young at Heart, Loudon Churches, Recreation, LYAA, Old Home Day, the School District (high school, middle school and elementary school), Recycling, American Legion, and Loudon Lions Club. In some instances, we also include information from certain organizations outside of Loudon, such as the Community Action Program or Visiting Nurse Association when they are providing services to Loudon residents. We regularly publish information about Emergency Preparations, Fire Safety, and Town Meeting (including warrant articles and a budget overview) as well as Health Updates and Wildlife Education.

Recently, we have seen increased interest in the Council's website ([www.loudonnh.org](http://www.loudonnh.org)), which also provides a useful source of information where visitors can find calendars of Town events, policy documents and regulations, downloadable applications for permits and services, meeting minutes and archived copies of the *Ledger*. Currently, the website includes a comprehensive review of proposed planning and zoning amendments to be offered at this year's Town Meeting. As with the *Ledger*, the website also provides an inexpensive venue for local businesses to advertise, one factor we consider especially important in the current economic climate.

The Communications Council remains exempt from federal income tax as a publicly supported organization, as described in the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Maintaining tax-exempt status requires us to receive at least one-third of our total support from governmental units and from contributions made directly or indirectly by the general public. While a substantial portion of our operational expenses are covered by advertising revenues, advertising revenue cannot be a principal source of total support; otherwise, the Council would lose its status as a tax-exempt organization. We appreciate the continuing financial support that the Town of Loudon provides to maintain this important community resource.

Because the Council members are all volunteers, we depend very heavily on community involvement, as do all the other community organizations. We are especially grateful to those members who serve now and have served in the past as Treasurer, Secretary and Webmaster (or in our case, Webmistress) – jobs that require

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continuing commitment and attention to detail. Thanks to our volunteer “delivery team,” that picks up bundles of the *Ledger* from the printer, delivers them to the mailing service, returns to collect the “extras” that don’t get mailed, and then delivers them to various businesses throughout town. We also owe a debt of gratitude to all the men and women who have volunteered to serve as members of the Council throughout these last eleven years. Without them, none of this would be possible. Finally, no report would be complete without acknowledging our sincere appreciation for the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our Communications Coordinator and Ad Salesperson.

The Loudon Communications Council’s meeting schedule, mission statement and submission guidelines can all be found in *The Loudon Ledger* and at [www.loudonnh.org](http://www.loudonnh.org). If you have a suggestion, an article you’d like to submit, a regular feature you might volunteer to write, or if you would like to participate in Council meetings, we would love to hear from you. We welcome everyone who is interested in participating.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Ann Steele, Chair  
267-6509