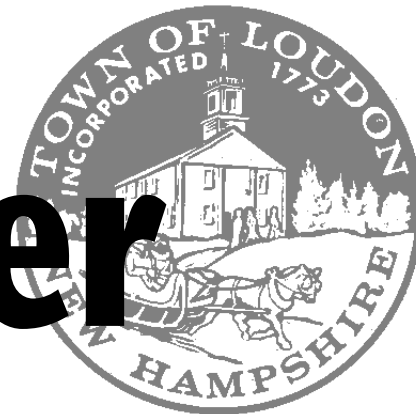


# The Loudon Ledger

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## July 2005 Volume 7, Issue 7

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### Mission Statement...

*To provide a comprehensive source of information and education about business, government, and community organizations within Loudon in order to facilitate and encourage informed citizen participation.*

## Lightning Strikes Town Hall/ Freewill Baptist Church

By Debbie Kardaseski

Sunday, June 12, 2005 was another hot and humid day. Loudon had begun to feel like the tropics, with oppressive heat during the day and thunderstorms packing torrential rain every afternoon. Even those who had wanted an end to the wet Spring and a beginning to a sunny Summer, were complaining about the heat and humidity.

Early Sunday evening a particularly violent line of storms blew through the area, leaving behind washouts where there had never been problems before, flattened shrubbery, and power outages. Many people remarked about a couple of nasty lightning "snaps" that seemed to hit close by. Mike O'Brien, Clough Hill Road, was about to find out just how close!

Around 8:30, Mike looked out his window to see flames shooting out the front of the Town Hall/Freewill Baptist Church. He immediately called 9-1-1, grabbed his camcorder, and, followed closely by his family, headed out the door.

Captain Robert Bottcher arrived first on the scene and immediately called in a third alarm, adding to the second alarm asked for by Fire Chief Jeff Burr, Sr. before leaving his driveway because he knew this was not going to be an easy fire to handle. The building was old, dry, and timber frame construction with no firewalls. Old church buildings usually burn to the ground.

A Loudon engine arrived right behind Chief Burr. The Chief knew he was facing a "make or break" situation and ordered all 1,000 gallons of water in the engine immediately applied with the deck gun to the front of the building where the flames had broken through. This quieted things down and gave the Fire Department enough time to get hoses laid out, the trucks in position, and water to the building. In addition to Loudon's Fire Department, over 100 firefighters and 25 pieces of apparatus from the following towns helped

Fire — cont. on 3



This was the scene Sunday evening, June 12, 2005 as a fire started by a lightning strike burns in the Loudon Town Hall/Loudon Center Freewill Baptist Church. (Photo by Leona Dorsch)

## NH International Speedway/Town of Loudon Scholarships Presented

The following Loudon students were recipients of the New Hampshire International Speedway/Town of Loudon 2005 Scholarship Awards, which totaled \$62,500.

### MERRIMACK VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Samuel R. Moore entering Colby Sawyer College, \$5,000  
Colby E. Powelson entering Clarkson University, \$2,500  
Tabor R. Powelson entering Clarkson University, \$2,500  
Brian J. Rice entering Clark University, \$2,500  
Michael J. Trombley entering Saint Joseph's College of Maine, \$2,500

Amanda J. Wells entering Brandeis University, \$2,500  
Helena LeClerc entering Southern NH University, \$1,500  
Matthew D. Moore entering University of NH, \$1,500  
Emalee C. Drake entering Worcester Polytechnic Institute, \$1,000

Nora C. Jones entering University of Maine – Orono, \$1,000  
Elizabeth M. Rand entering NH Technical College, \$1,000  
Tyler D. Strachan entering Plymouth State University, \$1,000  
Scott M. Sylvester entering Norwich University, \$1,000

### BISHOP BRADY HIGH SCHOOL

Kathleen M. Tibbetts entering Ithaca College – NY, \$1,500

### CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL

Timothy O. Sacco entering Plymouth State University, \$1,000

### HOME SCHOOL

Lauren A. Lahar entering NH Technical College, \$1,500

### COLLEGE STUDENTS RECEIVING AWARDS

Kristen B. Dolloff, Mount Holyoke College, \$2,500  
Robyn A. Kopka entering University of Hartford, \$1,500  
Christopher C. Sittig, Fitchburg State College, \$1,500  
Peter Stonis, Northeastern School of Theology and Missions, \$1,500

Christine L. Vincent, Northeastern University, \$1,500

Robert W. Buzzell, NHTI, \$1,000

Kyle C. Cayer, NHCTC – Laconia, \$1,000

Zachary S. Christy, West Virginia University, \$1,000

Corey J. Clark, University of Maine - Orono, \$1,000

Candace K. Cunha, Saint Anselm's College, \$1,000

Gregory M. Dlubac, Hobart and William Smith College, \$1,000

Scholarships — cont. on 4