

# THE Hudson Times

August 1, 2024 ♦ Volume 2 – Issue 31

A FREE Weekly Publication



**Police Praise** Runners at the Hudson Community Fun Run Series received ribbons from members of the Hudson Police Department last week. This was the first week the races have taken place since before the pandemic with runners two and up competing. *Photo by Chris Paul*

## Firefighter's Memorial Set to Move to Benson Park

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Committee met on July 19 to hear an update on the relocation of the Firefighter's Memorial in Benson Park. Selectman, David Morin, was at the meeting to give a presentation on how the long-planned project was progressing.

"There is a committee which includes the Fire Department, the Public Works,

and the developer that is working on this," Morin explained. "Right now, we're kind of in a period where we have to wait 30 days because there is a chance that someone can challenge a decision by the Planning Board, so nothing will be taking place until the 30 days is over."

The immediate plan was to get an architectural drawing of what it would look like when ready.

"If you go up to the 9/11 Memorial, right across from it there's a grassy area, and that's where the Firefighter's Memorial will be placed," said Morin. "The company Hudson Monument, which actually built the Memorial originally, will actually be the ones who will be relocating it."

Public Works and the Hudson Fire Department will be in charge of overseeing the project. **continued on page 3**

## Selectmen Look at Possible Cost of Infrastructure Study

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the July 23 Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting one of the agenda items was in regard to the citizen's petition warrant article regarding the Comprehensive Infrastructure Study.

"At the July 9, 2024, Board of Selectmen meeting, Selectman Jakoby requested that an item be placed on the Board's agenda to discuss petition warrant article #29 for a comprehensive infrastructure study that was approved by the voters at the March 2024 annual meeting," Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

The citizen petition warrant article stated the

following:

"Should the Town of Hudson complete a comprehensive infrastructure study independently run by a qualified third-party contractor unrelated to the Town of Hudson or the Nashua Regional Planning Commission? This study will include the following:

1. Comprehensive traffic study and impact for the entire town to include all developments being built and approved to be built.

2. Emergency services review of staffing, equipment, and training needed based on the facilities and anticipated demand from all the development. This includes, Police, Fire, and DPW.

3. Impact on our schools based on the high-

density housing and the housing development under construction.

4. Sewer and water needs for the town.

5. Review the current impact fees assigned to developers based on this study.

6. The study results are expected to be used to upgrade and improve the Master Plan,

Zoning ordinance, Land Use regulations, and to determine the impact to budgets/taxpayers and equipment/facilities/staffing needed to function."

Voters in Town voted 1,789 to 1,325 in support of the citizens petition warrant article.

Jakoby explained that she wanted to bring it forward to see "what action if

**continued on page 2**

## Hudson Old Home Days at Hills House Begins Aug. 8

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The annual Hudson Old Home Days will take place this year starting on Thursday, Aug. 8, and continue through Sunday, Aug. 10.

The fairgrounds are located at the historic Hills House again this year and will feature a number of family-friendly events throughout the festivities.

Once again, the major attraction will be the carnival rides and midway, brought by Fanelli Amusements.

There will also be crafts, foods, games, and other attractions available for four days of family fun.

Below is a list of the events planned, according to the Hudson Old Home Days website.

The event is free admission, but there is a per-ride cost for the carnival rides.

### Schedule of Events Thursday, Aug. 8

Starting on Thursday, Aug. 8, the Carnival Rides, sponsored by Fanelli Amusement, will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. The rides will feature an Adventure Slide, Bear Affair spinier, Berry Go Round, Chop-A-Rama Helicopters, the Cliff Hanger, Dragon Wagon, a Bungee Jumper, the Hurricane, a Ferris Wheel, Merry

Go Round, Train Rides, Rond Up, Bumper Cars, Tempest, the Twister and more.

Families can purchase wristbands or tickets for the Carnival Rides on-line to save time and cost at <https://fanelliamusements.com/events>.

A 30-Ride Pre-Sale group of tickets will cost \$30.99 if purchased before Thursday, Aug. 8. A 50-Ride group of tickets will cost \$50.99 99 if purchased before Thursday, Aug. 8.

A pre-sale Unlimited Ride Wristband can also be purchased at the website. Wristbands are \$30.99 each **continued on page 12**

# UNH Plan for Fisher Cat Monitoring Project at Benson Park

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The July meeting of the Benson Park Committee included a presentation from Will Crispen and Frank Shinost of the University of NH's Wildlife Modeling and Management Lab.

"We are working on a project to monitor fisher

cats in the state of NH. With recent population trends, there are signs that the population of fisher cats is starting to dip in the state and that has given rise to enhanced monitoring efforts," said Crispen. "We are working with NH Fish and Game to hopefully live trap fishes, fit them with

GPS collars, and then monitor their survival and hopefully determine main causes of mortality."

According to the pair, NH Fish and Game needs more information on why the decline is happening to develop a more comprehensive plan on how to move forward.

"What is the proposal?" asked Acting Chair, Judy Brouillette. "You guys have permits from the state in order to come and do live trapping, and what would the expectations be?"

Baited cage traps will be set in the evening and checked every morning.

"Right now, we're thinking that we wouldn't do it for any longer than two weeks in one location," said Crispen. "Once a fisher is captured, a team would assemble, including our field vet, and collar the fisher, which we would release on the same day."

All work would be done on-site, with reversible sedation included in the process to reduce stress on the animals. The collars will allow the team to remotely monitor the situation.

The Committee agreed to make or ask for signs in Benson Park to warn members of the public while trapping is ongoing in an

area. There was some concern that the site of traps around the park might come off as alarming.

"We're going to have a little card on the front of the trap and will be pretty prominent, the traps have to be pretty camouflaged with natural debris to have any success, so it'll be on the front with our contact information, and that it's there for research purposes," Crispen explained.

Shinost added that Fish and Game already engage in camera trapping across the state, including at Benson Park, which has had a camera trap in place for the past two years.

"At some locations, other landowners have asked us to do the same thing and we've posted placards at a trail head," said Shinost.

"I'm assuming it's not going to be a main trail," said Brouillette.

The pair confirmed that the traps were most effective away from high-traffic

areas.

"Is this something you can film?" asked Committee member, Gary Williams. "Why'd you pick Benson and not just a state park?"

He was informed that filming might be impossible due to strict regulations in the approval process.

"Benson was picked because of the cameras we have set up," answered Crispen. "One of them is here at Benson Park, and it got fisher detections."

"Would it be possible post-study to maybe put up a poster with a QR code so it can link, and people can read about what you did at Benson?" asked Sarah Petkiewicz.

The two promised to look into it, noting that their reports would be public information, although they added it was a multi-year project, likely to run through 2027.

The Benson Park Committee unanimously voted to endorse the project.

## Infrastructure Study

Continued from page 1  
any," they should take on the study.

It was noted during the discussion that there was no appropriation made as part of the warrant article, meaning there isn't any funding for it.

Selectman, David Morin, said they need to determine what they are looking to accomplish as part of the study before they do anything.

"I understand the intent of it, but I think we need a scope before we do anything because I think

this is going to be big money," Morin said.

Jakoby said she wanted to see what the next steps are whether it's to develop a scope or something else. She said if there is a cost for the scope, then she suggested that it could potentially be what they ask for during the next election.

Jakoby wanted to make it clear to the residents that the board is taking action on the infrastructure study.

Jakoby said, "I think if we explain the delay in the

process and what we've decided, that's all the residents can ask for." She added, "We brought it to the table, we're taking action and continuous updates at each of our meetings, that would be great."

Board of Selectmen Chair, Bob Guessferd, said he suggested they talk to Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, first to see what his idea is for getting a scope of work done for the project.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m.

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# Selectmen OK Contract for EMS Training

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, one of the agenda items was a request from the Fire Department to award a contract for its EMS training.

Fire Chief, Scott Tice, said they recently finished their two year contract and they went out for requests for proposals.

“In May, we put out a request for proposal for a two-year contract to provide Emergency Medical training I education to members of the department,” Tice wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. “This two-year contract coincides with the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) relicensing requirements for our members. It will cover the fiscal years FY25 and FY26.”

He said there were two different bids, one from Critical Knowledge Inc for a total of \$37,820, and the other was from Emergency Education Consultants, which was for a total of \$21,539.

Tice noted during the meeting that they have worked with both vendors in the past couple of years, noting that the previous administration for the Fire Department decided to make the switch to Critical Knowledge Inc in 2023, which was the most recent contract they had.

“Over the past several years we have had the opportunity to work with both vendors for this training, each bringing feedback from the floor and with CKI completing the training for FY24,” Tice wrote in the memo to the Board of Selectmen. “With the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received from the floor regarding their EMS training with CKI, we feel it is the department’s best interest to retain them as our EMS training provider. While they are the more expensive option, we feel their delivery of servic-

es and positive impact on the membership warrants the expense.”

It was also noted by Tice that the contract is funded through the EMS Revolving Fund.

One question raised was what the difference is between the two quotes.

Tice said they were “fairly consistent with what they were going to provide,” but said they were looking to go with Critical Knowledge Inc. because of the feedback they have received internally.

Selectman, David Morin, said the firefighters

are happy with the instruction they have been receiving along with the schedule for the training.

“They’re very happy with the instructors,” Morin said.

One concern raised by Board of Selectmen Chair, Bob Guessferd, was that he thought they should’ve had more information about why they felt they should go with the higher bidder.

The Board of Selectmen ultimately approved awarding the contract to Critical Knowledge Inc. for a two-year period.

## Memorial

continued from page 1

ing the process. While there is no exact date, Morin hoped to start the relocation in August, having the Memorial in place “by wintertime.” Physically moving everything to Benson Park is expected to take a month or longer, as concrete needs to be broken at the old site before being repoured.

“The only thing that will be added is a tree, there’s a tree that stands behind the Memorial and that’s dedicated to the victims of 9/11,” said Morin. “The big tree that’s there now won’t be moved, because they were afraid it wouldn’t make it, so they’re going to purchase another tree to plant within the

Memorial itself.”

The idea was to add as little as possible, with an emphasis on relocation only, not the construction of something new.

“Is there a cost to the town to move this?” asked Committee member, Gary Williams.

Morin confirmed there would be no cost to Hudson. The relocation was covered as part of the agreement approving the Central Gas development near the corner of Lowell Road and Central Street following concerns from town officials and members of the public that it would make a noisy memorial even noisier. There was also a proper-

ty line issue that was resolved by relocation. The hope was that moving the Memorial to Benson Park would be easier for everyone.

“The Memorial is in a great spot where it is now, people get to see it, but the problem is, with all the noise there, when we have our firefighter’s ceremonies, we can’t hear anything,” said Morin.

Acting Chair, Judy Broquette, was happy to see progress being made, adding that “this has been talked about for quite a while now.”

Morin promised to come back for another update at the next meeting.

## OBITUARY

### Christopher James Stone



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Christopher James Stone, 66, of Hooksett, NH. Chris passed away peacefully in his sleep at home after a long-term illness on July 25, 2024.

Born in Newburyport, MA, in 1957, Chris dedicated his life to the service of others through his work as a pharmacist. For over 30 years, he was a trusted and respected figure in NH’s pharmacy community. He owned and operated Peters Pharmacy in Nashua, NH, for more than 20 of those years, where he built lasting relationships and served his community with unwavering commitment and care.

Outside of his professional life, Chris loved his family and the outdoors, whether he was taking his kids four-wheeling through the woods, boating on the lake, camping in the White Mountains, or cruising in the Caribbean. He had a love for motorcycling, particularly his classic Honda, and was simultaneously thrilled and entirely at peace during a ride. After taking up skiing as an adult to spend more time with his family, he became the most enthusiastic of them all. He cherished his time boating on Lake Winnepesaukee, where he made countless memories with family and friends.

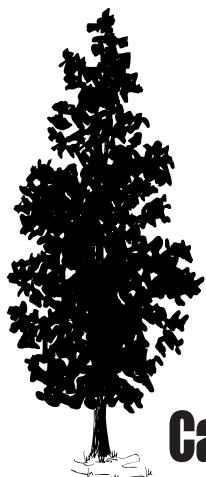
On a sunny day, he could often be found enjoying a Mike’s Hard Cranberry Lemonade, embracing simple pleasures. A varsity football player at Newburyport High School, Stoney was an ardent Pats fan and longtime season ticket holder who got to see the dynasty win time and time again in his life.

Chris’s legacy lives on through his loving family. He is survived by his two daughters, Caroline of Amherst, NH, and Shannon of Sausalito, CA; his son Michael and daughter-in-law Katie of Brooklyn, NY; his ex-wife of 20 years Claudette (Bouchard); his sister Barbara and brother-in-law Harold “Buster” Tarbox of Groton, CT; his brother Jeff and sister-in-law Pam of Newburyport, MA; and his sister-in-law Susan of Newburyport, MA.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Barbara (Murphy) and his brother Mike. Chris’s dedication to his family was evident in his drive to provide the best for them, and he leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and devotion. Chris will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His impact on the community and his family will be remembered with fondness and gratitude. Always ready with a joke or a hilarious story of his adventurous youth, his passing leaves a larger-than-life-sized hole in our lives.

A memorial service to celebrate Chris’s life and honor his memory was held at Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, on Wednesday, July 31. Private services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The 44/14 Fund - Jeff Stone Foundation ([www.4414fund.com](http://www.4414fund.com)) in Chris’s name. To share an online message of condolence, please visit [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com). The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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# Editorial

## The Role of the Free Press in a Democracy

The idea of freedom of speech is something that has been touted by democratic societies since its inception, and the United States of America is no different.

We run on a specific governmental structure that is put in place by the people, for the people, and is meant to defend the rights of those within the society by allowing the people to participate in the decision-making process as well as be the watchdog for the government.

The three branches of the government are in place for one purpose - our founders never again wanted to live in a country where the government had absolute power, like a country with a monarch or dictator who rules supreme. Democracy is the framework of our society, but there is a greater force that holds it all together: the power of free speech.

That's where a free and independent press comes in.

The First Amendment in the Constitution protects the press under freedom of speech, and it is the press' role to bring the people of the United States accurate, unbiased, and trustworthy news. Without it, the government has a far greater chance of becoming corrupt, because no one knows enough to ask the right questions.

Thomas Jefferson, who was a draftsman of the Declaration of Independence,

illustrated the purpose of the free press perfectly to Marquis de Lafayette in a letter: "The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary, to keep the waters pure."

But the question still exists: what happens when the press isn't independent?

We see it today, from big presses to small - billionaires buying out newspaper franchises and small local papers there are many examples. Small independent papers are disappearing altogether because of lack of funding, ultimately putting a hold on what keeps democracy in place.

As newspapers disappear, there is a greater chance that government written newsletters will crop up to push an agenda, be it political (which it is more often than not), or intended to create a false image. These sorceresses of information created by governments are subject to the views and opinions of those who wish to control the narrative, rather than those of us who wish simply to educate citizens.

For democracy to continue to survive in the era of fake news, and conglomerates controlling news sources, the small, locally run newspapers must continue to do their job: ask questions, do research, and do their best to report



## HAWK APPREHENSION

It took some time, but while Hudson Police Officer Matthew Horton was at Market Basket, he was called to duty to help rescue a hawk that had flown into the store. The hawk was then transported to the Millstone Wildlife Center in Windham for treatment. *Photo credit to Jason Spurls from the Hudson, NH Residents' page.*

## Selectmen Accept Resignation of HCTVs Jacqueline Lemay

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

One of the agenda items during the July 23 Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting was related to the resignation of the Hudson Community Television Production Coordinator.

"I am writing to formally resign from my position as Production Coordinator at Hudson Community Television, effective July 26," Jacqueline Lemay wrote in her resignation letter.

She explained that the decision "has not been easy, as I have truly enjoyed my time at HCTV and appreciate the opportunities for professional growth and development that I have experienced here."

"However, after careful consideration, I have decided to prioritize furthering my education as I finish attending classes at Rocky Mountain College for Art & Design as well as taking on new career opportunities," Lemay wrote in the letter. "I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition and am

willing to assist in training a replacement or providing any necessary information to help ease the transition process. I am grateful for the support and guidance I have received from you and the entire team during my tenure here."

She added: "I sincerely appreciate the opportunities I have been given at HCTV and am grateful for the experience of working with such a dedicated and talented team. I look forward to maintaining our professional relationship in the future."

HCTV Production Coordinator, Mike Johnson, along with Selectmen, noted that she has been a big help with HCTV for many years.

"She's done amazing work," Board of Selectmen Chair, Bob Guessferd, said. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the resignation.

The Board of Selectmen also unanimously approved making Christopher

Cameron an alternate member for the Conservation Commission, with his term set to expire in December 2025.

Votes taken during the July 9 nonpublic session were also announced at the meeting.

One of the actions taken was to hire Hailey LaPlant as a Part-Time Provisional Call Firefighter, which is an unpaid position with no benefits.

Another vote taken was approving the promotion of Lorrie Hammond-Weissgarber to the position of Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen with an hourly rate of \$32.32 per hour, beginning July 14. Guessferd recused himself from the vote.

It was also unanimously approved to post and advertise for the Administrative Aide II position in the Board of Selectmen's/Town Administrator's office.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m.

# THE Hudson Times

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# BOS Get Update on End of Year Expenditures, Revenue

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the July 23 Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, one of the agenda items was in regard to a proposal to approve a water line extension agreement.

“The Planning Board recently approved a site plan listed with municipality water line,” Hudson Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima, wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. “This project includes approximately 325 linear feet of proposed 8-inch main connecting to the existing 8-inch mains locat-

ed on Webster Street.”

Dhima explained that the project would include the installation of approximately 325 linear of eight inch main and one fire hydrant.

It was explained by Dhima that if they approved the extension that it would have no cost impact for the town.

“This project will be at no cost to the town and was recommended by the Municipality Utility Committee on July 16, 2024,” Dhima wrote in a memo. “The proposed water line extension will provide

domestic and fire protection for this development, and we can accommodate this request.”

Dhima said that his recommendation was to approve it.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the water line extension agreement during the meeting.

The Board of Selectmen also received an update from Hudson Finance Director, Lisa Labrie, regarding the end of the year revenues and expenditures.

Labrie said while they

still need to have their audit completed, she said most of the overage in expenditures is for earned time payout, saying they could afford it this year, so it was previously approved by the Board of Selectmen to pay it out this year, mainly for those retiring in August.

She also noted that they had some overage in the fire department due to overtime and benefits related to it.

For the solid waste contract, Labrie said they “had a fairly large overage,” saying that they had more tonnage than they weren’t expecting. She said moving

forward they are going to try to include more of it in the budget, so they don’t run into the same situation again as they did this year.

“The revenues have been very good in some areas,” Labrie said.

On the revenue side, Labrie explained that they had higher than anticipated revenue from the meals and rooms tax.

“It’s not something you can count on,” she said.

Labrie also said they received a reimbursement from NH Retirement for the amount of \$195,000, along with the town continuing to

do well with interest revenue.

“I think we’re going to finish the year strong so far,” Labrie said, pending something being found during the audit.

Hudson Board of Selectmen Chair, Bob Guessferd, said it was a positive outlook.

“That’s good news,” he said about the expected end of the year expenditures and revenue.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m.

# Selectmen Give OK For Keeping Fire Department Vehicle

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson Fire Chief, Scott Tice, was in front of the Board of Selectmen during its most recent meeting with a proposal to retain one of its vehicles, after it was determined an additional vehicle would be needed for the Fire Department.

“The Fire Department has been approved to purchase a new staff vehicle in FY25,” Tice wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. “During my budget presentation, I stated that we would be removing Vehicle 37, a 2016 Ford Explorer from our fleet when we took delivery of the new vehicle. At that time, I neglected to take into account the need for a vehicle if the Training Captain position was approved.”

Tice explained during the meeting that their current fleet includes a “Shift

Commander’s vehicle, one vehicle for each Chief Officer, a spare command vehicle which is the backup for the three Chief Officers, the Shift Commander, and is also used by the duty crew for department physicals and general shift work.”

“Inspectional Services has two vehicles which their staff share for inspections,” Tice wrote in a memo. “We have the utility pickup, which is used for plowing, moving equipment, as a third vehicle for 3D when needed, and for fire alarm work.”

Tice said during the meeting that without keep-

ing the vehicle, they would have one person each shift that wouldn’t have one.

“I believe we need one more vehicle for the Training Captain to use to adequately fulfill his duties,” Tice wrote.

It was explained during the meeting by Tice that he was originally concerned with the longevity of the vehicle but after examining it more closely they think it will be OK.

“My intent was to remove vehicles from service before they became maintenance problems,” Tice wrote in a memo. “While this vehicle has

110,000 miles and did raise a concern, we had this vehicle assessed and it seems to be in good condition. I have been told that while the mileage is getting high, it should not be as big of a problem as I was concerned about, as the majority of these miles have been on the highway. I recognize this is a reversal of my previous position, but this is the only option to provide a

vehicle to the Training Captain.”

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously during the meeting to allow the Fire Chief to retain the 2016 Ford Explorer.

The Board of Selectmen also approved a donation of \$166 worth of donated equipment from Abbott Towing for the Fire Department.

“The value of this dona-

tion is approximately \$166.00 based on the pricing we found online for these products,” Tice wrote in a memo.

He said the equipment “will be utilized in part for training, auto extrication and technical rescue.”

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m.

**Hudson Times**

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# Freedom Energy Pitches Group Net Metering Proposal

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Sustainability Committee opened its July meeting with a presentation from Howard Plante of Freedom Energy Logistics. Plante was at the session to outline Hydro Group's group net metering options for residents.

"Group net metering is a program enacted into law by the state legislature in 2016, and what that allowed was for renewable generators such as hydro facilities and new solar farms to be able to get paid the standard offer rate as opposed to just putting their generation up

onto the grid and getting paid the wholesale cost," he explained, adding that the wholesale cost led to lower profits for renewable suppliers. "The hydro or solar facility registers as a group net metering what we call a 'host.'"

Hosting usually requires partnering with a city or town like Hudson, which acts as a proxy for the generator. As with any standard net metering set-up, group net metering involves having renewable generators sell extra energy back into the grid using proxies who promise to have a certain usage available to use that

surplus electricity.

"Where Freedom Energy Logistics comes in is we are the administrator of the program for both the generator and for, in this case, the town of Hudson," said Plante. "We do all of the filing with the state on an annual basis that goes to the Department of Energy and the Utility. We also coordinate payments between the members and the hosts."

Specifically, he singled out hydropower as a source of group net metering for Hudson due to the already existing source of hydropower available to the town. There's what he

called a "three-tiered payment structure" in a group metering contract. These include a month-to-month contract, a five-year contract with a slightly higher payout to the town, and a combined 20-year hydro/solar group net metering contract.

The contracts have no cost associated with them, although committing to a longer-term contract can potentially interfere with local solar generation.

Committee members had a few questions on the proposal.

"Could the School District be a member and the town of Hudson be a mem-

ber separately?" asked Chair, Deb Putnam.

She was informed that was possible, as school districts are allowed to participate in group net metering, although individual residents cannot.

"Where does the money come from?" asked Alternate member, Craig Putnam, referring to the kWh intermittent payouts Hudson would receive during times of surplus energy generation. "It's coming from somewhere."

"Essentially, it's coming from the rate payers, because we're all paying into this program," said Plante,

adding that he did not feel the amount was high enough to impact ratepayers.

"Is virtual net metering the same as group net metering? Or are those two separate types of metering?" asked member, Chris Thatcher.

Plante told Thatcher the terms were effectively the same in practice. Virtual net metering participants are not physically connected to the generator.

The Committee made no commitments but promised to go over the group net metering plan before sending it to the Board of Selectmen.

# Planning Board Approve Funding for Belknap Road Extension

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board came together on July 24 to discuss funding for a possible extension to Belknap Road.

"The Planning Board in 2019 issued a preliminary assessment off Lowell, Country Road, and Belknap. The issue was access from Belknap to County Road to Lowell Road. So, in 2019, we hired VHB to look at what could be done to improve the conditions out there," explained Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. "Four different concepts were provided. One of them was really converting Coun-

ty Road to a one way, the other three were more long-term solutions."

The Town Engineer favored extending Belknap to Lowell Road while using the existing traffic light on Lowell and Birch before COVID-19 delayed implementation.

"Here we are, five years later, talking about the same thing," said Dhima. "We have a significant amount of funds on Corridor I and Corridor II, Lowell Road is part of those corridors."

With continued calls to improve traffic safety in the area, he wanted to see if the Planning Board was interested in using existing fund-

ing while moving forward with the stalled engineering and permitting process needed to make an extension happen.

"In the last year there have been 14 vehicle accidents at the intersection of County and Lowell Road south end," added Board of Selectmen member, Dave Morin. "The plan that's been presented to the Board of Selectmen, closing one lane of County Road, we haven't had a huge amount of input, but the input we have received was against it."

The worry was that closing a lane of County Road would cause other problems without fixing the

underlying issue.

Members of the Planning Board were generally receptive to the idea, although member, James Crowley, suggested making the southern part of County Road one way.

The extension would involve the construction of a culvert, leading to questions as to whether the project might intersect with nearby culvert issues near T-Bones.

"Is there going to be two culverts, or is there only going to be the one," asked Alternate, Todd Boyer. "Is there a plan on temporarily shutting down County Road currently?"

Dhima answered by

saying there would "only be the one," as he did not want to get involved in what was essentially a separate, private matter.

"We're not going to get involved with the existing culvert under the parking lot under T-Bones," he said. "I don't know what the solution is, they've hired their own engineering firm, I've done all I can to get them in the right direction."

As for shutting down County Road, Dhima was still waiting for a second public hearing on the matter. What feedback he received generally opposed closing the road, even temporarily.

"I think it's a horrible idea," said Chair, Tim Malley. "I think all you're going to do is force that traffic to go through that plaza over there."

While opposed to the idea of a road closure, the Planning Board agreed that the extension was a good idea, unanimously voting to allocate \$200,000 in Corridor funds towards the project. Engineering proposals for the extension are expected to begin within a few weeks.

The Hudson Planning Board is set to meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 14, in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

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# Hudson Fire Department to Host an Open House on Sept. 28

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, one of the agenda items was in regard to a request from the Fire Department announcing the department's upcoming open house.

"I am excited to announce that the Fire Department will be hosting an open house on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m." Hudson Fire Chief, Scott Tice, wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

He explained that it would be the first open

house they have been able to have "in quite some time."

"We have not hosted an open house in over ten years, and I am looking forward to bringing this event back for our community," Tice wrote in the memo. "We had planned an open house back in 2019 but unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans and the event had to be canceled."

It was explained by Tice that they were looking to be able to have a road closure in order to help with traffic concerns during the event.

"As we had planned in

2019, School St., would be closed off to traffic from the entrance on Chase Street to the intersection of Library Street," Tice wrote in the memo. "We will be utilizing School St., Central Station, and the parking lot at Town Hall for the majority of the activities. All apparatus will be staged on School St., alongside the Early Learning Center."

Tice explained that the open house "will be an interactive event for kids and adults of all ages."

"We will be incorporating activities to coincide with this year's Fire Pre-

vention theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" Tice wrote in a memo.

He stated that specifics are still in the process of being finalized but wrote "we anticipate Smokey Bear, Sparky, a Hazard House, Side-by-Side Burn Trailer, Hazard Kitchen and a K9 Demo for this event."

"We are working on... several other activities that will run throughout the duration of the open house," Tice wrote. "You will soon see us advertising for the open house as the event draws near and details are

finalized."

It was noted by Selectman, David Morin, that when they used to have the open houses in the past, they would usually draw large crowds.

"We look forward to having the opportunity to interact with the community

and have some fun," Tice wrote in a memo to the Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the request for the closure of School St., from Chase St., to Library St., on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

## Plans Develop for Family Fun Day

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Committee met on July 19 and discussed, among other things, processing a \$100 to help repair the Old Lady in the Shoe, along with the possible acceptance of a donation of giraffe statues from Committee member, Gary Williams.

While the cash donation was accepted by the Board of Selectmen, the statue donation had been stalled temporarily.

"We talked about holding off a little on it, just until we find some additional information," said Acting Chair, Judy Brouillette.

The Committee was also waiting for confirmation on where to place the two lion statues that were donated. The likely location

will be Benson Park's grassy area near the southwest end of its Office Kitchen building, though members still wanted confirmation from the Department of Public Works.

"I did see an email that went out to Jay [Twardosky] for the DPW, and they wanted to make sure that the location was okay," said Brouillette. "We're just waiting to hear back on that. We're still in the process of and moving forward in regards to that."

There was some discussion about what to have underneath the statues, like rocks or mulch.

The next Volunteer Clean-up Day for Benson Park is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"One of the things we did

at the last volunteer clean-up was redoing the paths, the walkways, and I know we have many more that still need to get worked on, I think the Butterfly Garden," said Committee member, Sue Clement. "So, we're going to work on that."

Natalie Newell gave an update on the Friends of Benson Park's upcoming Family Fun Day.

"We are planning our fourth annual Family Fun Day Saturday, Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.," said Newell, who asked the Department of Public Works for help loading and unloading animals for the event's petting zoo. "We are looking for volunteers out there from Hudson or Greater Hudson, anyone who would like to help us on Family Fun Day, please

shoot us an email, info@-friendsofbensonpark.org."

Friends of Benson Park also promised to send a sign-up sheet to the next Volunteer Clean-up Day.

"All the volunteers will get a tee-shirt," said Newell. "We're also looking for area company sponsors, anywhere from \$100 for a bronze sponsor, \$250 for a silver sponsor, and \$500 for a gold sponsor. They would be able to put up a table at the event, and their logo will go up on the tee-shirt for the volunteers so they'll get some press there, and also on our social media post as a sponsor."

The event will have a tent with ice cream and snacks, but no food trucks are allowed under the current park deed, which requires state action to change.

## OBITUARY

### James Arthur "Jim" Gardner



James Arthur "Jim" Gardner (Lt. Col. USAF, Ret.), 98, died Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at home in Hudson NH, surrounded by his loving family. A decorated World War II veteran, he served the U.S. in the Navy, Coast Guard and US Air Force.

He was born Nov. 27, 1925, in Washington D.C., son of the late Frederick and Mary (Reed) Gardner. Jim was husband to the late Rose (DeFranco) Gardner, with whom he shared 72 years of marriage.

Jim enlisted in 1943 directly from high school into the U.S. military, beginning a career of active and reserve duty and civilian service for the Navy, Coast Guard and US Air Force spanning five decades. During his service, he saw action in World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War and was recalled to service during the Cuban missile crisis. Jim flew more than 11,800 hours as a pilot and command pilot, and thousands more as an enlisted crew member. After retirement from active service, Jim was a logistician in the Air Force's Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) program, representing both U.S. and NATO interests.

A mainstay in his church and community, Jim was a life member of the Knights of Columbus (4th Degree), American Legion Post 48, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5791, Reserve Officers Association, Commemorative Air Force, and Air Force Association (AFA). He and his wife Rose traveled with their trailer all over the U.S., and they were able to visit many relatives and military friends around the country. Jim was involved for many years with the Hudson Seniors, and was a Eucharistic Minister, most recently with St. John XXIII Parish in Hudson.

Jim Gardner's loving family includes one son and three daughters: Dr. James A. Gardner, II, and his wife Dr. Jennifer L. Gardner of Sudbury, MA; Angela G. Murphy and her husband Jim Murphy, of Nashville, TN; Dr. Mary E. Gardner of Springfield, MA; and Rose Larson and her husband Bill Larson of Attleboro, MA; eight grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Mary Mazze, brother-in-law Charles DiFranco and his wife Anne of Bedford, NH; and sisters-in-law Marie DiFranco and Mary "Mickey" DeFranco, as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers; Neil Gardner and Fred Gardner, and was brother-in-law to the late Carmelo DeFranco, Paul DiFranco, Sam DeFranco, Ann Farinelli, Joseph DiFranco and Dorothy Firl.

Visiting hours were held on Wednesday, July 24 in the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, July 25 in St. Kathryn's Catholic Church. Burial was held at the NH State Veterans Cemetery, 110 DW Hwy in Boscawen, NH, the same day.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations be made in Jim's memory to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org) or the American Diabetes Association at [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) Those choosing to send floral arrangements are asked please refrain from including lilies as there is an allergy concern. To share an online message of condolence, please visit [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com)

The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home on Hudson is in charge of arrangements.



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# Fairview Senior Living Folks Get Chance to Dunk CEO



Employees and residents of the Fairview Senior Living community enjoyed some fun activities thanks to the efforts of The Fairview Fun Force team. On Wednesday, July 24, the group orchestrated an exciting Dunk Tank event complete with ice cream sundaes being served. The first victim of the Dunk Tank was Fairview CEO, Steve Pazulski, pictured above, who took the plunge several times before giving up his seat to other staff members.

The Fairview Fun Force aims to unite staff across all departments through engaging activities and events throughout the year. This dynamic committee fosters a sense of camaraderie and joy among team members, enhancing the workplace environment and celebrating shared experiences.

*Photos by Chris Paul*



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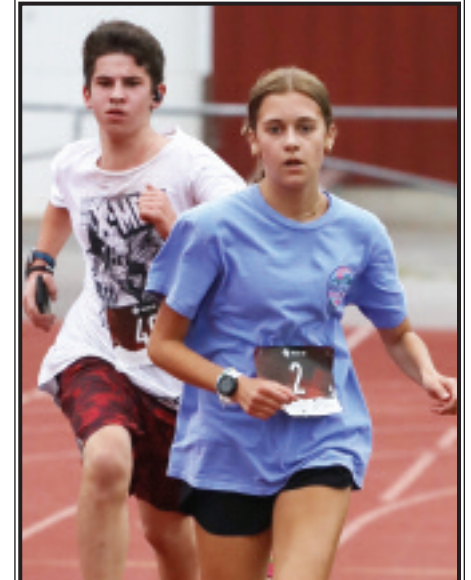
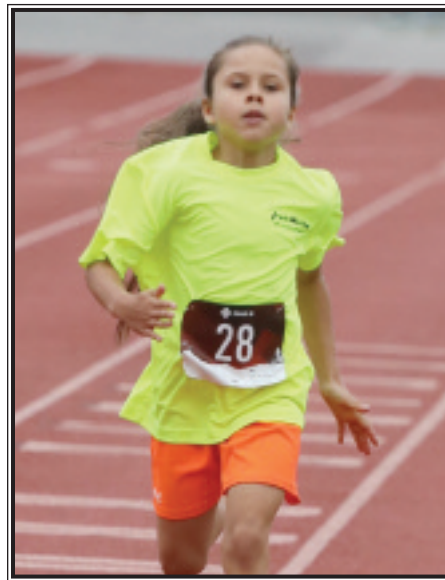
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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Community Fun Run Series Off and Running Again



Runners of all ages enjoyed the re-established Community Fun Funs on Wednesday night, July 24 at the Alvirne High School track. The series was put on pause during the Covid-19 Pandemic and started up again this year thanks to the efforts of Matthew Simpson and Kris Nichols Melanson. The race series, featuring five race divisions ages two-years and up, will continue each Wednesday night, starting at 6 p.m. until Aug. 14. Refreshments and ribbons are given out to all the participants. *Photos by Chris Paul*



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# HitDawgs Teams Finish Summer Seasons with Two Championships

**BLAKE SANTANA**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson HitDawgs had a busy week this week, wrapping up their summer tournament season with six games amongst the three age groups, with 8U going 1-1 and finishing second in the 603 Classic, 9U going 0-1 and finishing fourth in the Conway Classic, and 10U going a perfect 3-0 and winning the Conway Classic.

8U began their week on Tuesday evening, taking on Hollis-Brookline in the semifinals of the 603 Classic in Londonderry, beating a tired team on their second game of the evening 12-2 in five innings via the mercy rule after Hollis-Brookline had beaten Dover 8-7 in their first game immediately prior. They fell behind 2-0 early on after the Jr. Cavaliers put up a pair in the first inning with a pair of RBI groundouts, the first by Greyson H and the second off the bat of Bren B. Hudson then responded with a five-spot in the second inning on an inning that saw

four hits and four walks with Hudson not recording an out and the inning ending on a five-run scoring cap. RBI in the inning were credited to Hunter S (2), Lucas F, Chase S, and Andrew B. The 8U HitDawgs added another run in the third on a bases-loaded hit by pitch that gave Nick Pinsonnault an RBI, as well as four in the fourth on three bases-loaded walks by Nicholas C, Chase S, and Nathan L and an RBI single by Cam Hughes to make it 10-2. They put the nail in the coffin for the game in the bottom of the fifth inning when a two-RBI single by PJ J put them ahead by 10 in the home half of the fifth, inflicting the mercy rule.

Hudson then played Londonderry in the 603 Classic 8U Championship on Wednesday. The HitDawgs season didn't end the way they had hoped, falling 10-9 to Londonderry in the finals in a game that seemed like they were destined to emerge victorious. Hudson had a 9-2 lead over the Jr.

Lancers heading into the bottom of the third inning, but Londonderry chipped away, cutting the deficit to 9-5 going into the fourth and then hung a five-spot on Hudson in the home half of the fourth to take the lead 10-9, never turning back and sending the HitDawgs home with a second-place finish in the tournament.

The 9U squad came into the week having wrapped up their 603 Classic run, but still having a legitimate shot at the Conway Classic crown. They took on Salem Blue in the tournament semifinals on Thursday, unfortunately falling just short in extra innings, losing 10-9 to a tough Salem team that would finish as the runners-up in the tournament. Hudson struck first in the second inning when Landon Horman stole home, giving the HitDawgs a 1-0 lead. Salem would respond in the bottom of the third, scoring a run on a wild pitch to tie the game at 1-1. Hudson got two back in the top of

the fourth, as Landon Camire and Wesley Michellides picked up RBI singles for Hudson. The HitDawgs then extended their lead even further when Horman doubled in the fifth, scoring two more runs, and Luke Martel scored on a wild pitch before AJ Slazenik grounded out, scoring Horman on the play.

Hudson's 7-1 lead would be cut to 7-4 by the end of the fifth, but they still held the lead while being three defensive outs away from the finals. Salem, however, battled back, putting up three runs in their half of the sixth, two of them coming with two outs. Hudson then got two runs in the top of the eighth, after a scoreless seventh, when Luke Martel and Logan Martineau scored on an error, once again putting the HitDawgs three outs away from a trip to the finals. Salem had other ideas, however, as they put up three in the eighth to win the ballgame 10-9 and send the Blue Devils to the finals.

Like 9U, Hudson's 10U team concluded its 603 Classic tournament over the weekend and just had the Conway Classic left to play. In Tuesday's game, 10U beat a tough Methuen squad 5-4 in the quarterfinals. Hudson scored all five of their runs in the first two

innings with runs scoring on an RBI double by Timmy Flemming, an RBI single by Chase Olsen, and an RBI groundout by JT McGrail that put them up 3-0 through an inning and then a two-RBI single by Andrew in the second to give the HitDawgs a commanding 5-0 lead that they would never look back on. Methuen would score a run in the fifth off JT McGrail and then three more in the sixth, while getting the tying run as close as third base before Chase Olsen and JT McGrail managed to combine to catch the runner coming home to end the ballgame.

The HitDawgs took on Reading in the semifinals on Thursday in the late-night 7:30 PM time slot. Hudson took care of business over Reading with ease, winning 12-1 in four innings after scoring four runs in each of the second, third, and fourth innings on nine hits all told with the help of six walks. JT McGrail led the way for Hudson, picking up four RBI and scoring another run. He was also 2-2 with two doubles and a walk on the night.

In the finals, Hudson took on the host Tewksbury, and the HitDawgs continued to ride their momentum, winning 7-2 and wrapping up their season win-

ning five of their final six games. The 10U HitDawgs took a 3-0 lead in the first inning thanks to a pair of RBI singles by Carter M and Cam Warrick, and a Jackson Dupont RBI walk. Hudson added another run in the fourth when Carter walked again, then two more in the fifth on a Gabe Aguilar two-RBI triple and a passed ball that Aguilar came in to score on to make it 7-0. Chase Olsen was also excellent on the mound, throwing 85 pitches through five innings, allowing two runs on four hits while also scattering three walks and striking out five. William Dauer came in to finish off the ballgame, pitching a perfect sixth inning on 10 pitches, getting three groundouts to seal the championship for Hudson.

All in all, the HitDawgs picked up a pair of championships this summer, with 11U winning the 603 Classic in Londonderry last week and 10U winning the Conway Classic. The HitDawgs also finished second in two tournaments, with 9U finishing second in the SVI tournament and 8U finishing second in the 603 Classic. Hudson also sent three teams to States this year with 11U finishing third in States, 9U finishing seventh, and 8U finishing tenth.

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# Hudson Post 48 Wraps Up Regular Season With 16-3

BLAKE SANTANA  
HUDSON TIMES

Post 48 finished up their regular season slate with three wins this week, beating Londonderry 10-1 on Wednesday, Salem Navy 11-1 on Thursday, and Londonderry again 5-2 on Friday, finishing their regular season at 16-3 overall, 15-3 in divisional play, earning the second seed in District B on a tiebreaker against Salem Gold.

Hudson opened their

week with a 10-1 win over Londonderry in their final road game of the regular season. Hudson was helped by another near perfect start by PJ Millette, who allowed just one run on one hit while striking out ten batters and walking two. Hudson got RBI from Jasper Workman, PJ Millette, Memphis Beach (5), Harry Leinson, Gavin Baviello, and Reilly Hughes.

On Thursday, Hudson

took on Salem Navy and picked up an 11-1 victory. Hudson was led by RBI from TJ Dembrowski, Jasper Workman (2), PJ Millette, Chase Fuller, Memphis Beach, Ethan Buja, Gavin Baviello (2), Orion Goulet, and Cole Baker. Post 48 also benefited from more excellent pitching by Cam St. Clair and Jasper Workman, who combined to allow just one run in five innings of work, scattering three hits and a

walk while striking out three Salem batters.

Post 48 wrapped up their regular season with a quick 5-2 win at home over Londonderry after falling behind 2-0 through four innings, the bats woke up in the fifth as Jasper Workman singled to center driving in a run and then scored on a wild pitch to tie the game at 2-2. Hudson then grabbed three in the sixth on a two-RBI single by Holden Olsen, immediate-

ly followed by an RBI single by Cam St. Clair to make it 5-2 Hudson, which is where the game would go final.

Hudson needed three pitchers, Ethan Buja, Memphis Beach, and Harry Leinson to take care of business with Leinson allowing the two Londonderry runs before giving way to his bullpen.

Hudson will play their first game of the tournament on Wednesday at 4:30

PM against Lebanon in an elimination game. If Hudson loses to Lebanon, their season is over. If they win, they would play the winner of Bedford and Salem Gold on Thursday at 7:30. If Hudson wins that game, they make their way into the finals at 1:00 PM on Saturday. If they lose Thursday, they would have another chance on Friday at 6:00 PM to get into the Saturday afternoon finals.

## Old Home Days

Continued from page 1

and can be used only Thursday and Sunday. Note: The Bungee ride and Bumper Cars are not included with wristband.

“Free Family Game Night” under the Community Tent will take place from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Games will include: Pie in the Face Game, Plinko, Connect Four and many more games to enjoy.

The band “Tainted Hearts” will be playing under the Band Tent from 7 to 8 p.m. for free entertainment by a local youth group rocking the Old Home Days Stage.

The rock band “Day to Attend” will be playing under the Band Tent from 8

p.m. to 10 p.m.

### Friday, Aug 9

Day Two of the Hudson Old Home Days Event will feature Carnival Rides from 5 to 11 p.m.

“Free Gift Card BINGO” will be under the Community Tent from 5 to 11 p.m. Join the fun and win gift cards donated by sponsors that donated gifts.

The band “Standard Tuning” will under the Band Tent free entertainment starting at 5 p.m. and running until 8 p.m.

Following that, the “White Street Band” will take the stage from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m.

### Saturday, Aug. 10

Day Three of the Hudson Old Home Days Event



Photo by SAS Photography

will feature Carnival Rides from noon to 11 p.m.

It will also feature a number of booths set up by local businesses, crafters, civic groups, food and games.

Under the Band tent from noon to 2 p.m. there will be the ‘Let’s Play Music Talent Show.’

Under Community Tent, from noon to 1 p.m. there will be Dance Demonstrations underway.

display is sponsored by “SL Chasse Steel” of Hudson.

### Sunday, Aug 11

Day Four of the Hudson Old Home Days Event will feature Carnival Rides from noon to 5 p.m.

The “Third Annual Craft” will take place under the Community Tent from noon to 5 p.m.

The “Windham Swing Band” is scheduled to be under the Band Tent from noon to 2 p.m.

The band “Off The Cuff” will take to the stage under the Band Tent, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cow Pie Bingo:

Two years ago Hudson Old Home Days committee brought back cow pie bingo.

Bingo squares will be sold for \$25 and based on the number of participants a grid of approximate num-

bers of entries will be constructed.

The cow was donated by Carriage Shack Farm of Londonderry and will be walked around the grid by Ava Malley.

Once the cow “pies” on a square that’s the winner. This is run 50/50 style with half going to the winner and half going to our scholarship fund.

The more people who buy squares the more fun everyone has rooting for their square(s).

People can buy as many squares as wanted and between 2 and 3 p.m. on Sunday, participants are pulled from a hat and assigned a random square.

Squares can be purchased at: hudsonoldhomedays.com to purchase as well as to see a copy of the rules.

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# “Six” Heads Off to the Derry Opera House Starting Aug. 1



Ovation Theatre Company will be back to the Derry Opera House stage with one of the newest and exciting Broadway hits, *SIX: THE MUSICAL – TEEN EDITION!* Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. From Tudor Queens to Pop Icons, the *SIX* wives of Henry VIII take the mic to remix five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a euphoric celebration of 21st-century girl power. This new original musical features talented young women from all over southern New Hampshire. The cast includes Debrah Hernandez of Chester; Chloe Orlando of Windham, Jennah Gunawan and Janet Sesay of Manchester, Esmé King Farbstein of Exeter and Annie Gorman of Stratham.

The show will be presented on Thursday, Aug. 1, Friday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Aug. 3, with all shows at 7 p.m., at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry, NH). Tickets are \$18 through July 26 and \$20 beginning July 27 and are on sale at [ovationtc.com](http://ovationtc.com).

Photos by Chris Paul



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# AROUND TOWN

**Around Town Policy:** This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of three weeks. The deadline for a submission is each Monday at 5 p.m. Please send items to [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net).

## Dungeons & Donuts

Looking for fellow Dungeons & Dragons players? Come and grab a donut at the Rodgers Library on Saturday, Aug. 3 and 17 at 9:30 a.m., to join in.

## Story Safari at Benson's

On Tuesday, Aug. 6, and Thursday, Aug. 8, at 10 a.m., come to Benson Park for songs, stories, and bubbles! Meet up near the playground. Bring blankets and chairs.

## Teen Pancake Dinner and Lawn Games

On Thursday, August 1, at 6 p.m., enjoy a pancake dinner and lawn games at Rodgers Library. For teens entering grades 8-12 only.

## Rodgers Readers

On Thursday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. come join in at the Rodgers Library to discuss "The Stars Are Fire" by Anita Shreve.

## Genealogy Club

Come to the Rodgers

Library on Friday, Aug. 9, at 1:30 p.m., for "Demystifying the Three Big Free Digital Sites for Genealogists: The Internet Archive and Beyond!" by Linda MacIver.

## Stitchers' Circle

On Saturday, Aug. 10, at 9:30 a.m., come and stitch/cross stitch, blackwork, embroider, knit, crochet, hand craft with Oonagh Williams at the Rodgers Library

## Book Sale

On Sunday, Aug. 11, at 11 a.m., Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. At Hills Memorial Library (downstairs), 18 Library St., Hudson. Books, CDs, DVDs, for all ages. \$2 or less.

## Meet and Greet

Friends of the Library will hold a Meet and Greet on Monday, Aug. 12, at 9 a.m., at Rodgers library. Come and meet the "friendliest" Friends in Hudson.

## Wildlife Encounters

On Thursday, Aug. 15, at

1:30 p.m., enjoy learning about seven live animals at this Junior Zookeeper Encounter at the Rodgers Library. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

## Characters & Cocoa

On Thursday, Aug. 15, at 5:30 p.m., come join this monthly group for writers to socialize and talk about the craft at the Rodgers Library. The emphasis will be more on discussion than workshoping.

## Mystery Lovers Book Club

This month's book pick for the Rodgers Library Mystery Book Club will be "The Bullet that Missed" by Richard Osman. Join in on Monday, Aug. 19, at 1 p.m.

## Afternoon Book Group

On Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 1:30 p.m. join in to this Rodgers Library book club discussion on "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt.

## Brunch Bunch

On Fridays at 11 a.m., Eat pancakes and talk about books you love or hate at Rogers Library. For students entering 5th-12th grades. Those attending will be divided by age (Tween 10-13 and Teen 13-18) if the group is large enough.

## Preschool Water Play

On Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Preschoolers ages 2-5 are invited to play with water tables and toys on the Rogers library lawn.

## Book Donation

The Hudson Friends of the Library will hold monthly book donation day Aug. 15 at Rodgers Memorial Library, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Donation days are always on the Thursday following Second-Hand Prose Day. Current fiction, non-fiction and children's books in good to excellent condition are gladly accepted. Books may be dropped off at the Rodgers Memorial Library study room. Do not use any outside donation bins.

## Benson Park Saturday Cleanup

Please join the Friends of Benson Park on the third Saturday of each month to make the beautiful park even more beautiful! Donate whatever time you can between the hours of 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tools are available but bring your own shovels, rakes, pruners,

loppers, etc. if you have them. Great people. Great fun. Great exercise. Lunch provided. Sign up online by going to the Friends of Benson Park website ([friendsofbensonpark.org](http://friendsofbensonpark.org)) and providing your email address in the "Contact Us" section.

## A Good Yarn

On Tuesdays at 5 p.m., (except Aug. 6) come to the Rodgers Library to Share tips, tricks, and stories while you work on your latest project and connect with fellow fiber enthusiasts. Bring your own supplies and stitch the evening away.

## Buy-A-Brick

Buy a memorial brick in honor of that special someone for this Friends of the Library fundraiser. Details are available at the Rodgers Memorial Library website [rodgerslibrary.org](http://rodgerslibrary.org)

## Dino the Therapy Dog

Every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., come meet Dino, the therapy dog at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to make new friends.

## Drop In Stitchers

Come to the Rodgers Memorial Library every Friday at 9:15 a.m. for this craft group. If you love to craft, whether it be quilting, knitting, crocheting, rug

making or plastic canvas, you will LOVE this group! If you're starting a new skill or brushing up on an old one or even if you just like to chat while pretending to work, this is a judgment free zone.

## Songs & Snuggles

On Thursdays at 10 a.m., enjoy time together with other caregivers and their babies to learn, play, and develop language and motor skills at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

## Laptop Donation Program

United Way of Greater Nashua is reintroducing their Tech Connect United Laptop Donation Program. Donate your working laptops, tablets, and smartphones, and they will in turn refurbish them for use by low-income individuals and families. The client recipients are A) low-income, and B) living in our Greater Nashua catchment area. Devices can be dropped off at the United Way office located at 20 Broad St., Nashua between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays or by appointment. Please email [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org) if you have any questions.

## Movers & Shakers

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. there will

continued on page 15

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# What is the Role of the Free Press in a Democracy

The idea of freedom of speech is something that has been touted by democratic societies since its inception, and the United States of America is no different.

We run on a specific governmental structure that is put in place by the people, for the people, and is meant to defend the rights of those within the society by allowing the people to participate in the decision-making process as well as be the watchdog for the government.

The three branches of the government are in place for one purpose - our founders never again wanted to live in a country where the government had absolute power, like a country with a monarch or dictator rules supreme. Democracy is the framework of our society, there is a greater force that holds it all together: the power of free speech and the press.

That's where the free independent press comes in. The First Amendment in

the Constitution protects the press under freedom of speech, and it is the press's role to bring the people of the United States accurate, unbiased, and trustworthy news. Without it, the government has a far greater chance of becoming corrupt because no one knows enough to ask the right questions.

Thomas Jefferson, who was a draftsman of the Declaration of Independence, illustrated the purpose of the free press perfectly to

Marquis de Lafayette in a letter: "The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary, to keep the waters pure."

But the question still exists: what happens when the press isn't independent?

We see it today, from big presses to small - billionaires buying out newspaper franchises and small

local papers there are many examples. Small independent papers are disappearing altogether because of lack of funding, ultimately putting a hold on what keeps democracy in place.

As newspapers disappear, there are more chances of government written newsletters will appear to push an agenda, whether it be political (which it is more often than not), to create an image, or personal. These sorceresses of information created gov-

ernments are subject to the views and opinions of those in control, for the newspaper whole truth, because they.

For democracy to continue to survive in the era of fake news and conglomerates controlling news sources, the small, locally run newspapers must continue to do their job: ask questions, do research, and do their best to report all sides of the story.

## Robo Calls On The Rise Again. What Residents Can Do

Most anyone who has owned or operated a telephone has experienced the call of the often-dreaded telemarketer. And on the other side of the same token, more and more people owning or operating a telephone or cell phone today have been experiencing the call of the always dreaded phone scammer.

These days however, the trend in unsolicited sales and scam calls seems to have lost its human touch.

According to a report from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), nearly half of all cell phone calls made in the United States last year were spam phone calls made from automated systems, or "robocalls."

In this report, data from the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) National Do Not Call Registry was used to analyze which states had the most robocalls in 2019, finding that NH was the 9th hardest-hit state last year.

In 2019, NH residents filed 27,730 robocall complaints, over two thousand robocalls per every 100,000 residents.

Since 2015, NH has received the 11th most robocalls of any state.

Across the nation, spam phone calls have seen an average increase of fourteen percent since the middle of last decade, with NH seeing a slightly higher increase of

eighteen percent in that time.

The FCC states that unwanted calls are their biggest customer complaint, making up around 60 percent of all of the complaints they receive.

Not even FCC staff is immune to the plight. Ajit Pai, Chairman of the FCC, has said, "I hate robocalls as much as you do. I get them myself on my mobile phone. I hear about them from my family and friends, and I know that customers want to reclaim their sanity."

This surge in robocalls is likely due to the fact that these calls are an inexpensive way for telemarketers and scammers alike to contact millions of people all over the world at one time via use of the internet.

According to the FTC, "If someone is already breaking the law by robocalling you without permission, there's a good chance it's a scam. At the very least, it's a company you don't want to do business with."

The FTC offers the following ways for those on the other end of a call to determine if the call is a scam:

- Calls with an automated message claiming the answerer has been "selected" for an offer, or that he or she has won the lottery. If a call like this asks for payment, the FTC says that it is a scam.

- Automated calls claiming to come from law enforcement or a federal agency. These calls may claim that the answerer may be arrested, fined, or deported if he or she does not pay a tax or debt right away. Legitimate members of law enforcement and federal agencies will not call for such matters, says the FTC.

- Robocalls claiming to be from the IRS asking for the answerer to confirm sensitive information, such as social security numbers, etc.

- Calls that pressure answerers to make a decision about a product or service on the spot, or ask for payment through wiring money, putting money on a gift card, prepaid card or cash reload card, or by using a money transfer app.

The FTC says not to rely on caller ID to determine whether a robocall is a scam or not, as scammers have the ability to fake the number and even name that may appear on caller ID, even going so far as to make it appear that the call is coming from a government agency (otherwise known as "spoofing").

Although a robocall of any kind can be alarming and irritating, the FTC says that there are certain types of robocalls that are permitted. These include calls that are purely informational (messages about flights being cancelled, appoint-

ment reminders, etc), debt collection calls (not those trying to sell services to reduce a debt), political calls, calls from health care providers (usually a pharmacy reminding a customer of a prescription), and messages from charities (typically to members of a charity or previous donors).

The FTC urges anyone who receives an illegal robocall to hang up immediately and report the call to the FTC at donotcall.gov.

In the same vein as reporting robo-numbers to the FTC for data collection, a measure many people take to stop receiving these spam calls is to put their number on the Do Not Call Registry. However, this does not always work.

The Do Not Call Registry tells telemarketers which numbers do not wish

to be contacted. It is designed for legitimate businesses which follow laws set in place to protect customers. Unfortunately, this list does not apply to those taking part in illegal schemes.

According to the FTC itself, "Scammers don't care if you're on the Registry."

The FTC does not have the capability to block any calls, but the Commission does continue to work with other law enforcement agencies and encourages industry efforts to combat robocalls and caller ID spoofing. It has led initiatives to develop technology-based solutions to help investigators track down and stop robocallers.

As if robocalls weren't enough, there has also been a rise in recent years in spam text messages, or robotexts.

Much like their phone call counterparts, robotexts are messages generated through autodialing, says the FCC. These messages range from simple spam texts to messages used for phishing by identity thieves or to even install malware on a victim's phone.

The FCC urges people who receive suspicious text messages not to respond or click any links provided from unrecognized numbers. Senders of unwanted text messages can be blocked by forwarding messages to 7726 ("SPAM"), depending on the phone carrier.

For more information on robocalls and robotexts, visit [ftc.gov/calls](http://ftc.gov/calls). To report an illegal robocall or robotext, visit [consumercomplaints.fcc.gov](http://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov).

## Around Town

Continued from page 13

be a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for long at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Songs, stories, games, and activities for ages 1-3. Registration is required. Please indicate how many will attend including adults, infants, and siblings. Caretaker participates.

### PFOA Water Test

You can request a water

sampling here: Southern NH PFOA Investigation Private Well-Testing Request Form Survey ([surveymonkey.com](http://surveymonkey.com)) Questions contact Amy Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator - MtBE Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: [Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov), Phone: 603.271.8801

### BINGO!

Bingo is back at the Senior Center, 19 Kimball

Hill Rd., Hudson, every Tuesday afternoon. Slider cards will start being sold at 1:15 p.m., \$1.25 each. You must be registered at the Senior Center to play.

### Teen Hangout

On Tuesdays in July at 2:30 p.m., the Rodgers Memorial Library will have a Teens only time for snacking, playing board games and video games, doing crafts after school, and just hanging out. Ages 13-18 only.

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