

# THE Hudson Times

August 15, 2024 ♦ Volume 2 – Issue 33

A FREE Weekly Publication



**TUGGED IN** Hudson Planning Board member, Tim Lyko, finds the water during a Tug-of-War contest between Town Board members and the Hudson Police. The contest took place on Saturday afternoon during the Hudson Old Home Days celebration. See more photos inside. *Photo by Chris Paul*

## Budget for School Facilities Study Put Under Scrutiny

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The latest meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee saw a barrage of questions about a recent facilities study designed to examine local issues related to elementary and middle schools in Hudson. Lavallee Brensinger Architects conducted the analysis in 2022-early 2023. The study was completed in March 2023.

“They met with facilities, they met with building-level principals, and administrators to walk through our buildings: size of rooms, size of spaces, to look at all of that information,” said School Board Chair, Maureen Dionne. “The purpose of it is for the Board to utilize that information to consider any future needs of the district.” The idea was to make it

easier for the School Board and the town to make informed decisions. Any future buildings or expansions would require approving a related warrant article. “The facilities study is really a piece of the School Board and the school district, looking at all of education in Hudson,” said Dionne. Committee member, **continued on page 8**

## Event Spending at School Seen as Matter of Concern

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The August meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee saw School Board Chair, Maureen Dionne, answer questions related to school spending, including those related to the Challenge Day held two years ago, something Budget Chair Bill Cole wanted to know more about following input from residents.

“Challenge Day was held in September of 2022. It was an event held at Alvirne High School for grades nine and ten. An outside organization that was brought in held a number of activities held over the course of four days that really helped foster team building and a positive com-

munity experience for those new students at Alvirne,” explained Dionne. “The total cost was \$19,100.54 and it was paid for by the Alvirne Trustees, that was not a budgetary line item.”

Cole emphasized his belief that the funding source of any school event was irrelevant to the Budget Committee.

“If there’s a dollar in the town of Hudson, whether it’s collected or spent, it comes under the Committee,” he said. “Whether it comes from the Trustees or the state or federal government, this Committee doesn’t care. I heard it came from the Trustees, as far as I’m concerned, that’s potentially public funds.”

Normally, funding from

the Alvirne Trustees is classified as “unanticipated revenue” that must be approved by the School Board.

Dionne claimed parents were sent information about the company holding the event and that parent participation was welcomed. Parents were also allowed to opt out of the event.

“Are you able to identify the group that ran it?” asked member, Bob Wherry.

Dionne did not have the name of the company in her notes, although she promised to send that name to the Committee. Challenge Day events are often run under a non-profit organization. **continued on page 3**

## Cautious Optimism for Finding Permanent Town Administrator

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on Aug. 7 with a report on the town’s hiring process for a permanent Town Planner, a process that has stalled over the past few months.

“There has been little to no movement on that hiring process,” said Selectmen Liaison, Heidi Jakoby. “It’s been a very long time and there seems to be some difficulty finding candidates. I would like the Board of Selectmen to take a better look at that hiring process.”

Budget Chair, Bill Cole, expressed his concern over the length of the hiring process.

“We’ve been doing this

what, six or seventh months now?” Cole asked. “What do you think, as a member of the Board, the problem is to get the process moving?”

He also wanted to know why the Nashua Regional Planning Commission was not helping out.

It was not immediately clear why the NRPC did not have more involvement. Interim Town Planner, Jay Minkarah, is the Executive Director of the Commission as such the Town of Hudson pays an hourly rate to the NRPC for his services. Jakoby suggested using a recruiting firm or another form of outside assistance to help Hudson fill the spot, noting that the Town Planner is not the only vacancy

they needed to fill. The Town Administrator position is also vacant, although the Board of Selectmen was already working with an agency to find someone interested in working for Hudson.

“They have a number of candidates which they are doing telephone interviews with as we speak, and they should have the top candidates that they’re recommending to us by next week for us to then interview,” said Jakoby. “We hope to have interviews as soon as the next couple of weeks if that’s at all possible.”

Despite skepticism over the long wait, Jakoby said she was “optimistic” that the **continued on page 2**

# School Board Unable to Provide Early Default Budget

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

At its latest meeting, the Hudson Budget Committee tried to push forward with its term-long goal of getting more information for the upcoming default budget from the town and SAU 81. There have been limitations in getting exact numbers earlier than last year.

"This Committee voted unanimously to request the default budgets from the town and the SAU earlier than we traditionally

received them, ahead of the budget process itself," said Vice-Chair, James Lawrence III. "I'm happy to say that the town has provided substantial information on how they calculate their default budgets in addition to some actuals of the default budget they had ready to submit to us."

However, he also got an email from the School Board reporting that SAU would not be able to send over the default budget immediately.

"Is it at all possible to

get some, if not all of the default budget ahead of the budget process?" Lawrence asked.

The Vice-Chair was informed that more accurate SAU numbers should be available by Oct. 9.

"It's available as soon as the rest of the budget documents are available," said SAU Business Administrator, Jen Burke. "We try to do it about a week before the School Board starts their budget preliminary discussions."

A perennial spending member, Rich Weissgarber.

He was informed that Michaud would receive a 15% increase in his current salary as Assessor while serving as Interim Town Administrator rather than receiving a full second salary.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to meet again at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 4, in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

item was staffing, an issue that came up several times in the most recent budget debate. The school district has struggled to fill many open positions, and the issue is expected to come up again when discussing budgetary line items towards the end of the year.

"Can you quickly inform the Committee the process that you will follow to determine those line items for the default budget of SAU, to determine what staff is included or not included in that calculation?" asked Lawrence.

According to Burke, only staff included in the previously approved budget of a prior year are included in the default.

"Any new positions, any changes in positions, anything like that are excluded in the calculations of the default," she explained. "Any position that are eliminated, fully eliminated in the process, are then subsequently

removed from the default as well."

Benefits are a separate issue, and the School Board was waiting for the NH Retirement to release its rates for the year. Legally, those rates must be included in the default calculation.

Obligations related to possible out-of-district placement of special education students moving into the district represented another cost the School Board could not know before a key cut-off date in September.

"The town provided a nice summary of the default budget explanation. Is it possible to obtain something similar in terms of what the town provided in their explanation of the default budget process?" wondered Committee member, Bob Wherry.

Burke promised to share personal notes outlining her process in building the default budget.

"There was a time that if an operating budget was not approved and you went to the default, that was a significant hardship possibly to the town or the school. Those days are long gone," said Chair, Bill Cole. "For the school, the operating budget has been less than the default budget the last two years."

He wanted to know why this was the case.

"The default budget only changes in the budget process under very specific circumstances. So, it's the operating budget that is typically what gets adjusted based on discussions by the Board, discussions by the Budget Committee, and then any discussions during deliberative session," Burke explained.

She noted there were significant cuts to the originally proposed numbers last year, putting the operating budget below the default budget.

## Administrator

Continued from page 1  
role of Town Administrator would be filled "before the end of September."

Town Assessor, James Michaud, was picked to serve as Interim Town Administrator for the time being. The search for an Assistant Town Administrator has been suspended until the role of Town Adminis-

trator is filled. There was a question regarding the cost of having people covering open positions on an interim basis.

"Typically, when we put somebody temporarily in a position, we'll pay them the salary of that position for a period of time. Is that what we're doing for the interim?" asked Committee

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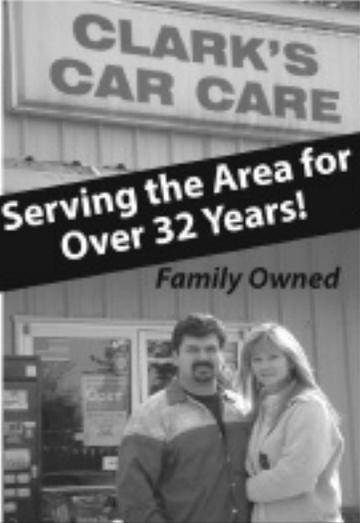
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# School Board Approve Tobacco Policy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the Aug. 5 Hudson School Board meeting the Board unanimously approved an updated policy on “Prohibitions Regarding Use and Possession of Tobacco products, E-Cigarettes and E-Liquids in and on School Facilities and Grounds.”

As part of the updated policy, it states that “State law prohibits the use of any tobacco product, e-cigarette, or liquid nicotine in any facility or upon any grounds maintained by the district.”

“Students and minors are further prohibited from possessing such items in or upon any facility, school vehicle, or grounds owned or maintained by the district,” the proposed policy states.

The updated policy states that “No student shall purchase, attempt to purchase, possess or use any tobacco product, device, e-cigarette, e-liquid, or liquid nicotine in any facility, in any school building or vehicle, or anywhere on school grounds maintained by the district.”

It also states as part of the amended policy that students are also subject to the provisions of D.2, which states “Enforcement of the prohibition against students shall initially rest with building principals, or their designees, who may also report any violation to law

enforcement, for possible juvenile, criminal or other proceedings as provided under state law. Additional consequences may be administered pursuant to printed student conduct rules.”

Under the employees’ section of the updated policy, it states that “No employee shall use any tobacco product, device, e-cigarette, e-liquid, or liquid nicotine, in any facility, in any school building or vehicle, or anywhere on school grounds maintained by the district.”

“Initial responsibility for enforcement of this prohibition shall rest with building principals, or their designers,” the updated policy states. “Any employee(s) who violate(s) this

policy is subject to disciplinary action which may include warning, suspension or dismissal. Violations may also be referred to appropriate law enforcement and/or other appropriate agencies for criminal or other proceedings as provided under state law.”

As part of the updated policy, it also states that the “Superintendent shall establish administrative rules and procedures to implement this policy, which rules and procedures may be building level and/or district wide. Rules and procedures relating to student violations and resulting disciplinary consequences should be developed in consultation with building principal(s).”

“The Superintendent, working with the building

principal(s), shall provide annual notice to employees, students and parents of the pertinent provisions of this policy (e.g., student or staff handbook) along with applicable administrative regulations and procedures, which may include prescribed consequences for violations of this policy,” the updated policy states. “Such notice should include information that violation of this policy could lead to criminal or other such proceedings.”

It also states that “Signs shall be placed by the district in all buildings, facilities and school vehicles stating that the use of tobacco products is prohibited.”

The next School Board meeting is slated to take place on Aug. 19.

## School Events

**Continued from page 1**  
zation of the Challenge Day name. Alvirne did not have a similar event in 2023.

Budget Clerk, Kevin Walsh, took charge of a subcommittee tasked with overseeing a \$7.75 million exaction payout from Target as part of the agreement related to the construction of that company’s Logistics Center at the site of the old Green Meadow Golf Club.

“What the subcommittee is going to do is to understand the process and the authority to receive the

funds, how they’re going to be received, and what the plans are to expend those funds,” Walsh explained.

He wanted to maintain accountability in seeing how those funds might be spent by the town while getting an idea of what the Target project would look like while keeping an eye on reports from the Fire Department regarding public safety at the upcoming complex.

“We don’t know, and I think it’s fair to say nobody knows how that money is going to come in,” said

Walsh.

At least part of the payout from Target for “public safety” is supposed to go to the Fire Department. The Budget Committee hoped to find out whether that money might go towards new equipment, maintenance, training, or some combination of those.

“It’s pretty safe to say that this is going to get really messy if we don’t get a handle on it,” Cole warned, encouraging the Budget Committee to scrutinize the money. “The first thing we need to identify is how this money is being accepted.”

## OBITUARY

Virginia Walsh



Virginia Walsh, 81, passed away Friday, Aug. 9, 2024 at the Southern NH Medical Center in Nashua after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ginny was born on May 18, 1943 in New Britain, CT, a daughter of the late Theodore and Florence (Humason) Skinner. Ginny was also predeceased by the love of her life and husband of 44 years, Thomas Walsh, and her brother Richard.

Ginny loved her family, and enjoyed any opportunity or event where she could see her kids and grandchildren. She loved traveling, shopping, roses and restaurants but most of all, the beach. She single handedly kept the card business afloat, promptly sending cards for all occasions with personal note in her wonderful penmanship (and if you were lucky, a fresh \$2 bill). She enjoyed quality baked goods (scones were a favorite) and kept the cleanest house you ever saw. An avid sports fan, she always had the game on (especially golf). She cherished her dog Dublin (who was her daughter’s dog until Ginny moved in and fixed that).

Ginny’s legacy is of self-less love, kindness, dignity and strength. She taught us how to be the best versions of ourselves.

Born and raised in New Britain, CT, Ginny was a dedicated daughter who always put her family first. In the mid 1960’s, she began working for the Hartford Electric Light Company where she met Tom. Married in 1968, she couldn’t start her family fast enough. After living for several years in Pittsfield, MA, where they made and maintained many friendships, Ginny and Tom moved the family to Nashua, NH in 1980. Ginny was always the most diligent worker. When the kids were old enough, she started working full-time at Southern NH Medical Center. A staple in the central supply department for over 30 years, she was able to make connections and friends all over the hospital. She often found an excuse to spend extra time in the nursery, so she could see the new babies. She was very proud of the vacation home she and Tom purchased in The Villages and thankful for all the great friends they made in Florida.

Rather than be angry at Tom’s passing in 2012, Ginny instead was thankful for the wonderful life they built, the successes of their kids, and the love and many laughs they shared. Now their journey continues.

Ginny’s family would like to thank the team at Foundation Oncology and the staff at SNHMC for the wonderful compassion and care they gave Ginny and her family during her illness.

Ginny is survived by a son and daughter-in-law Greg and Cheryl Walsh of Brentwood, NH, a daughter and son-in-law Carrie and Christopher Dawe of Nashua, NH, and a son and daughter-in-law Kevin and Angela Walsh of Nashua. Her seven beautiful grandchildren; Kelsie, Lindsey, CJ, Ryan, Kylie, Aiden, and Sheridan as well as her 5 grand-dogs whom she adored. She is also survived by her brother, Robert Skinner of Torrington, CT, and brother-in-laws John H. Walsh of Newington, CT and Edward and Ethel Walsh of Phoenix, AZ, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins who loved her so.

Ginny loved floral and bright colors. In her honor, please feel free to wear them at the services this week.

Visiting hours were held on Wednesday, Aug. 15 at the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Immaculate Conception Church, 216 East Dunstable Rd., on Thursday, Aug. 16 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to SNHMC, 3 West Oncology, PO Box 2014, Nashua, NH 03061. 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

## Be Prepared to Vote

We at the paper welcome letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, but if you are sending an endorsement letter your limit is 350 words. We print as many letters as possible but will not run letters from the same person every week to be fair. Please e-mail your letters to the Londonderry Times at [londonderry-times@nutpub.net](mailto:londonderry-times@nutpub.net) or Hudson Times at [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net).

All letters must include the writer's name, address, and phone number for verification; name and town of residence will be printed. Londonderry Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

We are writing this with the Primary Election on Sept. 10. in mind. The national conventions that are happening are great, but just as important are the state elections. Locally, people should focus on contested primaries, with plenty of candidates seeking a seat in the State House, as well as a contested race for Governor. While the big decisions are made in the November election, don't downplay the primary!

Take advantage of the opportunities you have here in New Hampshire to get to meet the candidates out and about this time of year. If you cannot meet all of them, it is easy to call them up, send them emails, and ask

them questions that matter to you. Be specific in your queries, and find out their goals and how they plan to achieve them, that you might receive specific responses.

The time is now to learn about all your choices and to find the candidates that you align best with your views, to decide which of these hopefuls can earn your vote.

Remember every candidate is going to smile broadly, shake as many hands as possible, and promise wonderful things. Don't get sidetracked by the packaging; base your vote on substance. If what you get are platitudes, you may want to look elsewhere.

It's become a cliché that voting is a right and a privilege that people in other countries fight and die for; a right that we often ignore. Our chance is coming up to show that we've changed our lackadaisical ways, and we've committed to getting off the couch and into the voting booth.

Your vote counts, but it means so much more if you cast it after making an educated decision, not one based on inflammatory rhetoric or because someone told you to.

We're at the center of political campaigns that can change the face of our state and our nation. And there's no excuse good enough to justify sitting this one out.

# THE Hudson Times

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# Letters

## Response to Editorial

To the editor,

Thank you for your very well written editorial on Freedom of the Press in the Aug. 1 issue. It was a great read.

America's free and truthful free press is essential to our democracy.

I'm grateful to live in Hudson where I'd like to think that there's always room for free expression of

ideas.

Proudly displayed at the end of the Circumferential Highway getting off of the Hudson Exit #2 on Lowell Road are a number of political signs from all parties, all races. I was saddened and disgusted to see red paint in an "X" recently on a Trump sign.

Equally saddened and disgusted when a Kamala Harris sign was torn down and stolen.

I see now that both the Trump sign and Harris sign have since been replaced.

C'mon people of Hudson, let's celebrate the peaceful display of any candidate and party signs.

Vandalizing, tearing down or stealing political signs is against the law.

Let's do better Hudson.

Thank You.

Mary Palmer

Hudson

The Hudson Times welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Hudson Times at [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net). All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. The Hudson Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content, length, and frequency. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

## School District Looking to Hire Ahead of Start of School Year

**ALEX MALM**  
**HUDSON TIMES**

At its most recent meeting, the Hudson School Board received an update regarding how the school district is doing with hiring so far this summer.

"The district has been busy hiring," Superintendent Dan Moulis told the School Board during the meeting.

At the time of the Aug. 5 meeting, he explained that they currently have eight teacher vacancies across the school district.

"Currently there are eight teacher vacancies," Moulis told the School Board.

While he said they wished they had all the vacancies filled with just a couple of weeks left before school starts, he explained that they are in a much better position than when he started two years ago, when the school district had over 20 open positions at the same point in the summer.

Last year was also worse, Moulis noted, saying at the same time last year they were in the "high

teens" for the number of open positions.

Out of the openings, Moulis said that there are three teacher openings at Hudson Memorial School one being a seventh-grade teacher position, and the two others being special education teacher positions.

For Dr. H.O Smith Elementary School there is one teacher position open, and one district special education position open.

He also noted that there are three open positions at Nottingham West.

Moulis said one of the critical shortage areas right now is for special education teachers and positions noting that they are also looking to be able to hire for para educator positions across the district telling the Board that they are still "with multiple vacancies across all our schools."

He said as of last count, there are 13 full-time para educator positions they are hiring for still and 24 part-time para educator positions they have still open for a total of 37 vacancies.

In other personnel news the School Board approved the nomination of Alvirne High School Boys JV Soccer coach Mateusz Kawalko for a total pay of \$2,450.

Also during the meeting the School Board received an update from Moulis regarding a number of voter approved projects taking place this summer.

Moulis noted the old Checkers Kitchen project at Alvirne High School may be going into the start of the school as they expected saying "that's an ongoing project."

He also noted that the science labs may be done by the beginning of the school year, but it is dependent on when the plumbing work will be done.

For the roof replacement project at Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School Moulis said it is expected that it will be done before school starts.

The next School Board meeting is slated to take place on Aug. 19.

# Second Public Hearing For Lowell Road Set For Aug. 13

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen held a public hearing during its July 23 meeting regarding possible temporary changes to Lowell Road.

“At their meeting on July 9, 2024, the Board of Selectmen voted to hold a public hearing on July 23, 2024 to take comment from the public regarding a recommendation from the Highway Safety Committee to enact a temporary restriction of traffic at the southern intersection of County Road and Lowell Road by utilizing jersey barriers to restrict the exit of vehicles from County Road to Lowell Road southbound,” Hudson

Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima, wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

It was explained previously by Dhima that the intersection has been a concern for a while.

“The Lowell and County Road intersection (southern intersection by Mikey’s Pizza) has been an ongoing discussion point in the past and continues to come up at the Highway Safety Committee,” he wrote in a previous memo.

He also noted previously that there have been 14 accidents at the location since 2020.

“It’s been seeing significant accidents,” Dhima said, noting that there haven’t been any fatalities there.

At the meeting, Dhima explained that the Board of Selectmen ultimately had a couple of different options, one would be to take the matter under advisement, or they could hold a second public hearing.

One question raised was when the temporary changes would go into effect, should they decide to move forward with the proposal.

Dhima explained that they could pick a time period for when it would go into effect and that they could advertise in advance that they were going with the temporary changes through different ways like having a segment on HCTV as an example.

“There’s no deadline for this,” he told the Board of Selectmen.

Dhima explained that they wouldn’t be making any physical changes to the road, even if they were to approve the temporary measure.

It was noted by Selectman, Heidi Jakoby, that even if they were to decide to go with the temporary changes, and then it is determined that it’s not working, that they could always go back to the way it was before.

Selectman, David Morin, and others agreed that they thought they should have a second public hearing in order to give the public another chance to

attend.

No one from the public attended, leading to questions about whether or not they should give the public another opportunity to weigh in on the matter, before they decide to make temporary changes or not.

“I don’t think we have to vote tonight,” Board of Selectmen Chair, Bob Guessferd, said.

One resident, Brenda Collins, who wasn’t able to attend the meeting, wrote a letter to the Board of Selectmen, which was read during the meeting.

“I am a strong proponent of a permanent and long-term solution to this highly trafficked main throughfare of the Town of Hudson,

which would include extending Belknap Road to Lowell Road and convert the existing three-way intersection to a four-way intersection,” the letter stated in part. “I am not in agreement with the effectiveness of a temporary fix utilizing jersey barriers. A temporary stop gap of the southbound flow of cars out of County Road on to Lowell Road will inevitably push traffic to another section of the Town that would unavoidably create an alternate safety issue as well as create a more confusing situation.”

It was unanimously approved by the Selectmen to have a second public hearing on Aug. 13.

# Hudson School Board Receive Update on Title IX Policy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson School Board meeting, the School Board received an update from Superintendent, Dan Moulis, regarding updates to the federal Title IX policy.

It was explained by Moulis that as part of the federal policy update, it requires complete revisions to a number of different policies the school district has in place currently.

One example he pointed to is the need for some new policies including one regarding the harassment of students and one regarding the harassment of employees, explaining that they

used to be part of the same policy.

“It does parse out employees and students,” Moulis told the School Board.

Moulis explained during the meeting that the new and revised policies will go to the Policy Committee first for review, and then will go in front of the School Board for a first reading.

While it’s usually the case that they would have

two different readings for different policies Moulis explained that due to the “time crunch” of having to get the policies approved under the new Title IX provision, they have the chance to waive a second reading “in order to have them in place for the start of school.”

Moulis noted that the new federal policy went into effect Aug. 1, and that many other school districts

waited to get legal advice first. He said that in the meantime their current policies will remain in place, and that many other school districts are in the same situation.

School Board member, Gary Gasdia, asked about the mandate, and Moulis explained that it was due to a federal update that was made this year.

“This is the most significant revision in the last four years,” Moulis said, noting that the previous

update was in 2020.

He said that the policies are required by law.

“These particular policies are required by law to be updated,” Moulis said, explaining that the NH School Board Association came out with its updated model policy last week, and said that it is similar to the revisions that their own legal counsel is recommending.

School Board member, Grace Kennedy, raised the question of how the com-

munity could provide feedback.

It was explained by School Board Chair, Maureen Dionne, that they don’t have public input for the Policy Committee similar to other sub committees but said that people could attend the School Board meeting and provide public input or they could email the School Board with their comments.

The next School Board meeting is slated to take place on Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

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# Questions Raised on Academic Eligibility Policy For Co-Curricular Activities

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the Aug. 5 Hudson School Board meeting, one of the agenda items was in regard to a review of the district's academic eligibility for co-curricular activities.

As part of the proposed policy, it stated that "No pupil who has failed to pass four (4) units of work\* during the school's previous marking period\*\* shall represent the school in any interscholastic contest. Students must be enrolled in a minimum course load as stated in the student handbook. Fourth quarter grades

determine fall eligibility. Academic Make-ups: A student may regain eligibility by making up academic deficiencies, failures, or incompletes of the regular school year through academic/credit recovery programs completed prior to the first date to play in a sport as listed in the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association Handbook. Teacher aide, office aide, and driver education do not count as units when determining eligibility. All incoming freshmen are academically eligible for participation in the fall."

Some of the notes

included as part of the proposed policy included the following:

1. Grading Period: Not less than six weeks.
2. Previous Grading Period: Indicates the last prior grading quarter of the school year (not semester grades)
3. Passing Grade: As determined by the NHIAA individual member high school.
4. Incompletes: Incompletes are not to be considered passing grades for purposes of eligibility.
5. Students receiving service under I.D.E.A., 89:313, R.S.A. 186:C and

related State Board of Education regulations, to include students receiving service pursuant to Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, may be declared academically eligible by their principal provided that all other eligibility requirements are met.

It was explained by Superintendent, Dan Moulis, that himself, along with Business Administrator, Jen Burk, and Athletic Director, Karen Bonney, met recently to make changes. He explained that it mirrors the updates made by the NHIA which the school district belongs to,

and that it would be going into the handbook for both athletics and for co-curricular activities.

While no decision was being made, and the policy wasn't required to be voted on, some School Board members raised objections to the way it was worded.

School Board member, Gary Gasdia, explained that he was concerned with the number of classes students would be able to fail and still be eligible to participate in sports and activities.

School Board Chair, Mauren Maureen Dionne, also agreed.

Burk noted that most

students take five or six classes and that they "would need to pass at least four of those five or six," to be eligible.

Still Dionne said she thinks it's supporting "mediocrity" in allowing them to compete or participate in activities while failing classes.

"I do not support the way this is written at all," she said.

Moulis said they will rework the policy and bring it back to the Board.

"I just think this sets the bar too low in my opinion," Dionne said.

# School Board Approve Letter of Engagement For Audit

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the Aug. 5 School Board meeting, one of the agenda items was in regard to a letter of engagement from Plodzick and Sanderson to commence auditing for fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

"You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hudson School District, for the fiscal years ended June 30,

2024, June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Hudson School District's basic financial statements," the engagement letter from the company stated.

Business Administrator, Jen Burk, explained that they approved going with the company earlier in the year.

"This just confirms the plan for them to conduct the audit over the next three years," Burk told the board.

She noted that they went out to bid and reached out to

nine firms and Plodzick and Sanderson was the only company who responded.

As part of the letter, they will also audit "the Hudson School District's compliance over major federal award programs for the periods ending June 30, 2024, June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026."

"We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter," the engagement letter stated.

It was explained as part of the engagement letter that the "audits will be con-

ducted with the objectives of our expressing an opinion on each opinion unit and an opinion on compliance regarding the Hudson School District's major federal award programs."

"The objectives of our audit of the financial statements are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and - therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance

with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists," the letter of engagement read.

"Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements," the letter stated.

According to the letter of engagement, the objectives of the compliance

audit "are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to form an opinion and report at the level specified in the governmental audit requirement about whether the entity complied in all material respects with the applicable compliance requirements and identify audit and reporting requirements specified in the governmental audit requirement that are supplementary to GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, if any, and perform procedures to address those requirements."

The School Board unanimously approved the signing of the engagement letter.

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# Drug Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools Policy Approved by Board

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board approved the District's updated Drug Free Workplace and Drug-Free Schools policy on Aug. 5.

As part of the policy, it states that "All district workplaces are drug- and alcohol-free."

It states that all individuals are prohibited from:

- Unlawfully manufacturing, dispensing, distributing, possessing, using, or being under the influence of
- any controlled substance or drug while on or in the workplace, including employees possessing a "medical marijuana" card.
- Distributing, consuming, using, possessing, or

being under the influence of alcohol while on or in the workplace.

"For purposes of this policy, a "controlled substance or drug" means and includes any controlled substance or drug defined in the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 812(c), or New Hampshire Controlled Drug Act RSA 318-B," the policy states.

It explains that as part of a "condition of employment, each employee and all contracted personnel will:

- Abide by the terms of this policy respecting a drug- and alcohol-free workplace, including any administrative rules, regulations or procedures implementing this policy; and
- Notify his or her

supervisor in writing of his or her conviction under any criminal drug statute, for a violation occurring on district premises or while performing work for the district, no later than five (5) days after such conviction.

The policy also goes on to state that "In order to make employees aware of dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the district will endeavor to:

- Provide each employee with a copy of the district drug- and alcohol-free workplace policy;
- Post notice of the district drug- and alcohol-free workplace policy in a place where other information for employees is posted;
- Establish a drug-free

awareness program to educate employees about the dangers of drug abuse and drug use in the workplace, the specifics of this policy, including, the consequences for violating the policy, and any information about available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, reentry, or other employee-assistance programs.

As part of the updated policy, it explains that "An employee who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action; up to and including termination of employment. Alternatively, the Board may require an employee to successfully complete an appropriate drug- or alcohol-abuse, employee-assistance reha-

bilitation program."

"The Board will take disciplinary action with respect to an employee convicted of a drug offense in the workplace, within 30 days of receiving notice of a conviction," the updated policy states. "Should district employees or contracted personnel be engaged in the performance of work under a federal contract or grant, or under a state contract or grant, the Superintendent will notify the appropriate state or federal agency from which the district receives contract or grant moneys of an employee/contracted personnel's conviction, within 10 days after receiving notice of the conviction."

It also states that the

"processes for disciplinary action shall be those provided generally to other misconduct for the employee/contractor personnel as may be found in applicable collective bargaining agreements, individual policies, School Board policies, contractor agreements, and or governing law. Disciplinary action should be applied consistently and fairly with respect to employees of the district and/or contractor personnel as the case may be."

Under implementation and review, it states that the "Superintendent is directed to promulgate administrative procedures and rules necessary and appropriate to implement the provisions of this policy."

# School Board Approve Change In Teaching Position

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the Aug. 5 Hudson School Board meeting, Superintendent, Dan Moulis, asked for permission to be able to move one of the vacant first grade positions to a kindergarten position.

Moulis explained that they hired 12 teachers so far for first grade, but they are concerned about the number of students they may have enrolled for kindergarten before the end of the year.

He said right now, they have 182 kindergartners enrolled, which would be 16-17 students per class.

Moulis explained that

they have kindergarten assessment screening coming up and expected that they would have close to 18 more students before the end of the summer.

He explained that if they get to around 200 students then it would increase the number of students per class which they are looking to avoid, by moving the vacant first grade position to a kindergarten position. With 200 students they would have approximately 19 students per classroom.

One question raised was would they have enough space for that many teachers.

Moulis explained that

there is one classroom they use as an Occupation therapy/ physical therapy room, and said there is a smaller room that is more of a conference room that could be used for OT/ Pt.

"It is smaller," Moulis said about the space for OT/PT but said it meets the requirements needed. "The space that we have looked at is a good space," he said.

It was also noted by Moulis during the meeting that they budgeted for one classroom assistant for every other classroom but said they haven't found anyone for those positions at the time of the meeting.

Moulis explained that they wouldn't be able to wait until the next meeting to decide on what to do and said that it was essentially his last opportunity to get approval from the School Board. He explained that if they stay at 182 students for enrolment then they will be OK.

"This is my last stop," he said.

The School Board unanimously approved the request during the meeting. School Board member, Ethan Beals, said the Administration could use its best judgment when deciding whether or not they should flex the position.

The School Board also received an update regarding various conference travel requests that were approved by the Adminis-

tration. The total for the eight different conferences and workshops approved was just over \$14,000.

## OBITUARY

**Richard John Niquette**



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Richard John Niquette of Litchfield, NH. He died at age 76, on Aug. 9, 2024, peacefully at his home located in Litchfield NH. Richard went to be with the Lord and his wife of 51 years Kathy June Niquette who passed away June, 16th 2024, she called him home.

Born Nov. 14, 1947, in Nashua, NH, he was the son of the late George Emile Niquette and Lorraine Gabrielle (Ricard) Niquette.

He is survived by three children: a daughter, Tracy N. Sherwood, and her husband, Dustin Sherwood of Goffstown, NHe and a son, Anthony M. Niquette, of Litchfield, NH and a daughter, Monique Jean Slater of Winter Garden, Florida and a grandson Aiden R. Chretien. Two sisters, Carol Spillane of Cordova, TN, Judy Deschenes of Litchfield, NH. Along with grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Richard attended Bishop Brady High School. He was very social when he was younger and his main priority in life was providing for his family. He loved dining out and the casino. He loved spending time with his family.

There will be a small celebration of life held at the families discretion. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in Richard's loving memory may do so to the charity of their choice.

To leave a message of remembrance or condolence, please visit the online guestbook at [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com) The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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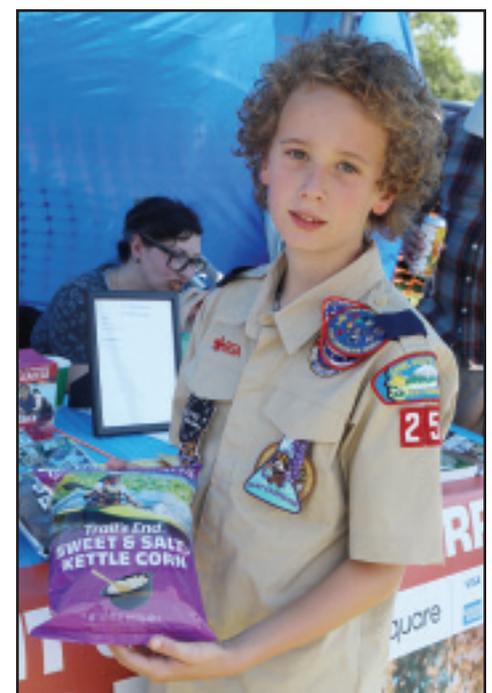
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The 2024 Hudson Old Home Days celebration had some difficulties dealing with the threat of Hurricane Debby, but overall the event had some pretty good weather. Saturday and Sunday's festivities enjoyed some of the best weather this summer. Pictured here and on the following page are some images of some of the many activities and performances that took place on Saturday.

*Photos by Chris Paul*

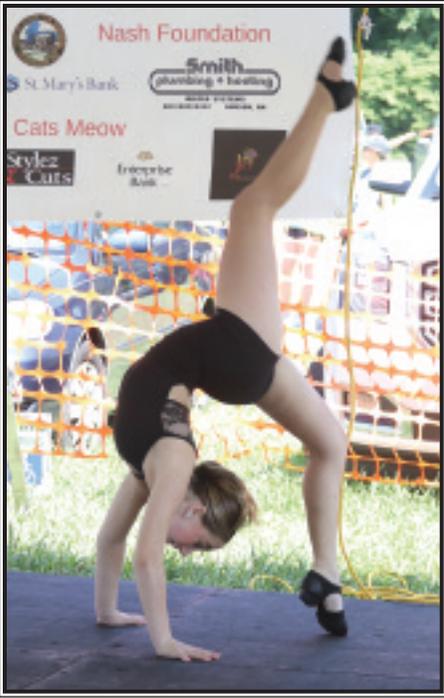
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# Memorandum of Understanding With HLYFC Approved

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the Aug. 5 Hudson School Board meeting, members of the Hudson –Litchfield Youth Football & Cheer, Inc Board were in front of the School Board to discuss the memorandum of understanding between the school district and the organization.

“This document is designed to establish the relationship between the Hudson School Board and Hudson –Litchfield Youth Football & Cheer, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “HLYFC”) as it relates to the use of the football field and lower soccer field located at Hudson Memorial School for the School Year 2024–2025,” the MOU states. “This relationship is intended to be of mutual benefit and enhancement of the athletic and recreational opportunities for the residents of Hudson and the students at Hudson Memorial School.”

One Board member Rob

Guilbeault explained that every year prior to the covid-19 pandemic, the organization and the school district would review the MOU and they wanted to re-establish the relationship.

“Just trying to start fresh again,” he said.

He also noted that they have more families now than ever before “it’s a huge part of the town,” Guilbeault said.

President Chris Morris said that they currently have four tackle football teams, two flag football teams, and two cheer teams, for a total of about 264 athletes.

As part of the MOU it states the following conditions:

1. The District reserves the right of first use of the field during school hours and for special events. HLYFC shall be given at least two (2) weeks’ notice of any special event falling outside normal school hours or school days. HLYFC shall have the second priority of field use after the Dis-

trict during the HLYFC season.

2. This memorandum of understanding is to be renewed ANNUALLY. Presentation to the first school board meeting in April required with a plan of record, including dates and maintenance schedule.

3. Meeting with Hudson School District facility department as well as Hudson Memorial School representatives prior to the beginning of the season to review the schedule and ensure there is no conflict with school activities.

4. No permanent improvements to the field may be made other than those listed below without prior approval by the Hudson School Board.

5. It is expressly understood by HLYFC that the Hudson School District has no financial obligation to HLYFC and makes no commitments as to funding or financial support.

It was noted during the meeting that there were no changes to the MOU between the last time it was reviewed and now.

As part of the MOU the organization is responsible for:

1. It is the policy of the Hudson School District that the provisions of RSA 193-

D: 2, the so called “Safe School Zone Act”, be carried out in all respects. This includes maintaining a safe and drug-free environment. No person shall at any time use drugs, alcohol or tobacco products inside any facility or anywhere on school grounds, including inside any vehicle parked on school grounds.

2. Any and all items belonging to HLYFC must be stored out-of-sight and area must be left clean after each event. Fertilizer or other hazardous materials cannot be stored on school premises.

3. Providing lighting required for HLYFC evening operations. Lighting storage will be a designated area agreed to by both parties.

4. Coordination of overseeding damaged and heavily used areas of field lawns after or before HLYFC season. The Hudson School District will agree to pay half the cost of repairs only after reviewing work proposals provided by HLYFC. The Hudson School District will not be responsible for payment if work is performed before district approval. Securing any permits for field improvements or construction of improvements/facilities, if approved

by the Hudson School Board, will be the responsibility of HLYFC.

5. Rental, placement and maintenance of portable toilets in the general field surrounding area. The toilets must be emptied on a regular basis, according to company standards. The toilets shall be removed within one week after the final game of HLYFC. HLYFC is responsible for repairing and cleanup and/or any damage to the toilet. Keys to the portable toilets will be given to Hudson Memorial School staff so that toilets can remain available for use during other functions.

6. Maintenance and fertilization of the field during the HLYFC season.

7. Removal of any graffiti on HLYFC equipment or temporary storage units.

8. Maintenance of HLYFC storage sheds, equipment trailers, or portable canteens. Portable equipment and trailers shall be removed within one week after the final game of HLYFC.

9. Minor maintenance of the irrigation system previously installed by HLYFC. Major maintenance issues will be reviewed by both parties to determine a plan of action for repairs. Coordination of winterization and start-up of the irrigation system is

also the responsibility of HLYFC.

10. Enforcing traffic/parking policies required by Hudson Memorial School and for proper fire lane clearances required by the Hudson Fire Department.

11. Removal of trash to prevent overflow of receptacle(s).

12. Submittal of proof of general liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence naming the Hudson School District and the Hudson School Board as additional insureds.

13. Ensure that member teams use proper, safe playing equipment.

As part of the MOU the School District is responsible for:

1. Supplying trash receptacle(s).

2. Approval of all major events and activity scheduling for the field consistent with current procedures.

3. Meeting with HLYFC representatives prior to the beginning of the season to review the schedule and ensure there is no conflict with school activities.

4. Mowing lawns, football field, and lower soccer field located on the grounds at Hudson Memorial School.

The School Board approved the MOU during the meeting.

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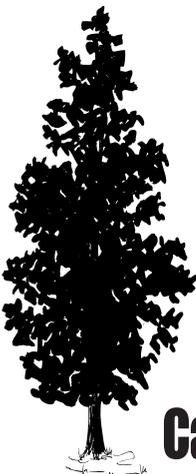
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# Amy Blackwell Named as Library Street School Principal

A familiar face is returning to Hudson School District, as longtime educator, Amy Blackwell, has been hired as Library Street School's next principal, as announced by Superintendent Dan Moulis Tuesday afternoon.

Blackwell is back at SAU 81 after she spent the first 22 years of her professional career in the district. After she held roles as both a fourth-grade and kinder-

garten teacher from 1999-2017 at Library Street School and Nottingham West Elementary, she became an Elementary Academic Interventionist from 2017-2020 at Hills Garrison Elementary and Nottingham West Elementary. Her final academic year in Hudson was 2020-21, where she served as a third-grade teacher for the district's Remote Learning Academy.

She ventured to Nashua

before the 2021-22 academic year, where she was hired as assistant principal at Amherst Street Elementary School. Following three years in the position, she makes the jump back to SAU 81 where she is set to lead the district's kindergarten faculty and staff.

"The Hudson School District is pleased to announce that Amy Blackwell will be the Principal at Library Street School," said



Amy Blackwell,

Moulis. "The district is fortunate to have her as the instructional leader for Library Street School. She will be working in the next few weeks to develop relationships with families, students, and staff as we begin the new school year. Please help us welcome her back to the Hudson School District."

Along with Blackwell's professional accolades, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

from Merrimack College and a Master of Education degree from Rivier University. She also garnered a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership from Southern New Hampshire University.

Blackwell is in place before the beginning of the new 2024-25 academic year, which is set to begin for all students on Monday, August 26.

# PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells Reinstated

House Bill 1649 was signed into law, allowing the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), while administrative rules are in the process of being adopted, to continue to provide rebates for water treatment or connection to public water systems as part of an effort to assist private well

users whose water supply has been impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination.

In response to this action, NHDES will reinstate the PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells for eligible applicants on September 9, 2024. At this time the department

continues to process rebates for applications submitted prior to the program suspension on June 10, 2024.

NHDES will release a new application form for submission starting on September 9, 2024. Highlights of the program terms include:

- Rebates up to \$5,000

to assist in the installation of a treatment system designed to remove PFAS or up to \$10,000 for a service connection to a public water system completed after September 30, 2019.

- Applicants are limited to owners of residential properties in the state of New Hampshire that use a drinking water well impact-

ed by PFAS and have not been offered or are not being provided alternate water, temporary or permanent, from a potentially liable third party.

- Provisions will be made available for income-qualified applicants to request rebates be distributed directly to a treatment installer or contractor.

Program specifics will be made available on the PFAS Removal Rebate for Private Wells [www.pfas.des.nh.gov](http://www.pfas.des.nh.gov) website as soon as possible.

NHDES looks forward to continuing to administer assistance to impacted private well users through this program.

## Facility

continued from page 1

Randy Brownrigg, indicated that Dr. HO Smith and Library Street Schools would likely need to be torn down and replaced sooner or later.

"How do we prepare for that?" he wondered. "That's going to be a lot of money. I don't know if you've been in Library, but that building is crumbling."

Dionne indicated that the release of information related to the study, public walkthroughs, and the formation of a special subcommittee next fall would make it easier for town officials to gain support for replacement schools. Brownrigg

was particularly interested in a walkthrough of the buildings.

Budget Chair, Bill Cole, was unhappy with the \$85,000 price tag behind the study.

"With all due respect, it's a document that's nothing more than a cut-and-paste of public information, and a couple, computer generated squares and rectangles where they say, might want to put a room," he said.

The Budget Chair wanted to know why the document did not include a state safety report. He was told some information related to that report was not publicly releasable.

"How long ago was the

last facility study?" asked Brownrigg.

There was a 2018 safety and security report on the schools, but the only earlier study anyone could think of was around 1998.

"What is the status of the facilities study right now? What is it being melded with and looked at in relationship to the taxpayers getting something for \$85,000?" asked Cole, who was informed that the study was still under review.

"\$85,000, and I have not seen progress on that study."

"With any significant capital improvement project, the organization does its due diligence. For example, the Hudson Police Department did a spatial needs study in 2019 and then the warrant article was 2022," said Dionne. "The

facilities study enables us to make informed decisions. That did not occur in 2023, we were just presented it in mid-to-late March of 2023 and those things take time to create a strategic plan, to engage our voters, to have listening sessions and things like that."

She stressed that a strategic plan for replacing

multiple buildings would take time.

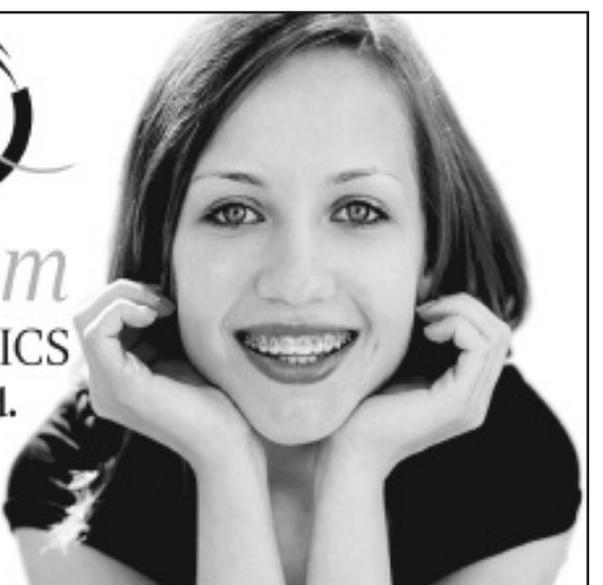
"The School Board, do they believe they got value from this report?" asked Selectman Liaison, Heidi Jakoby.

According to their Chair, the School Board was confident what they got from the study was worth the price.

**Hudson Times**  
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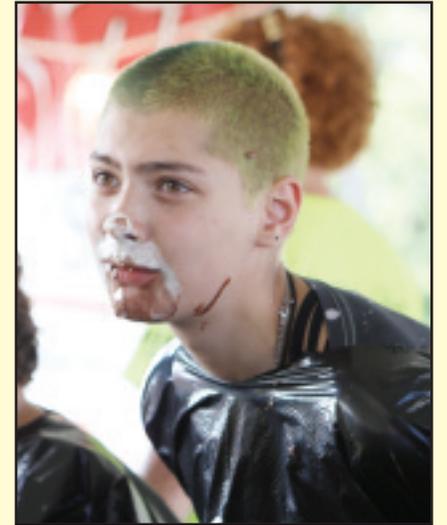
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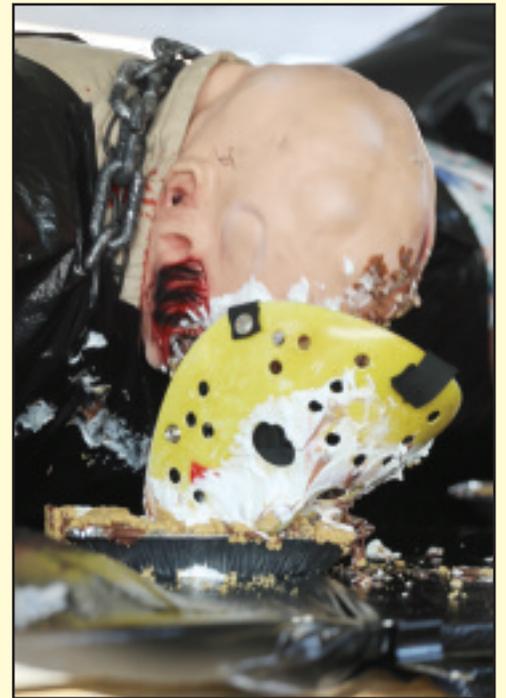
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# Old Home Days Pie Eating Contest Draws a Crowd



Contestants got more than they bargained for when they entered the Old Home Day Pie Eating Contest. Dozens of chocolate cream pies were devoured without the use of hands or utensils. Despite the use of garbage bags to keep things clean, chocolate and cream wound up everywhere during the adult and kids races. *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).

## Open House

Hudson Memorial Post 5791 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US is holding an Open House on Aug. 23 from 6 - 8 p.m., at the post home 15 Bockes Rd., Hudson. If you are a VFW eligible veteran, come check out our facilities and talk to Post Commander Chuck Chapman about what the post and the VFW have to offer you. If you are not an eligible veteran or not a veteran, but are

interested in touring the post, you're welcome as well. Find out what the post can do for your organization or check out the function hall. To check on VFW eligibility requirements go to [VFW.org](http://VFW.org), click on Join and then select Eligibility.

## Dungeons & Donuts

Looking for fellow Dungeons & Dragons players? Come and grab a donut at the Rodgers Library on Saturday,

Aug. 17 at 9:30 a.m., to join in.

## 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.

## Benson Park Saturday Cleanup

Please join the Friends of Benson Park on the third Sat-

urday 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., come to the Rodger 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

continued on page 15

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# Aviation Museum Open Extra Days for Last Week of Summer Vacation

## SUBMISSION

Looking for fun and family-friendly activities for the final week of summer vacation? Then look no further than the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

The museum will open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 21, and Thursday, Aug. 22 during the final week of summer

vacation for most N.H. public school students. (This is in addition to its regular open hours of Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.)

The Aviation Museum of N.H. offers activities and exhibits for kids of all ages; from our real Embraer cockpit which future pilots love to play in, to scavenger hunts and a collection of

aviation-themed toys that visitors are encouraged to interact and have fun with.

Knowledgeable volunteers, many of whom have years of experience in aviation-related fields, will be available to offer tours and answer questions from kids and adults alike.

The museum's Elite Flight Simulator will operate on Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. and again

on Thursday, Aug. 22 from 1 to 4 p.m., giving young pilots age 12 and up a chance to experience flying a single-engine plane. Simulator operators will be on duty; use of the simulator is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Families with children age 12 and under are invited to Story Time on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 10 a.m. Participants will enjoy reading

of several aviation-themed stories as well as additional activities. Afterwards, families may visit the Aviation Museum.

In addition, the Aviation Museum's parking lot is the closest the public can get to Runway 17-35 at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, making it a great location for plane-watching as the big jets come and go. The parking lot is free and

open to the public daily until 8 p.m.

Museum admission for children under the age of 6 is free, kids ages 6 to 12 are \$5. The museum also offers \$5 admission for veterans and families. Standard admission for adults (age 13 and above) is \$10.

The Aviation Museum is located at 27 Navigator Road, off Harvey Road, in Londonderry, N.H.

# New Hampshire is the 1st Safest State for Teen Drivers

## SUBMISSION JOHNFITCH.COM

A new study has revealed that New Hampshire is the 1st Safest State for Teen Drivers in America, in 2024.

This report by Johnfitch.com uses a 100-point scoring system to assess teen driver safety across US states. It considers factors like the percentage of traffic fatalities involving young drivers (aged 15-20), the proportion of teen drivers

(aged 13-19) in fatal crashes, teen driver deaths per 10,000 licensed drivers, and rates of impaired driving incidents (distracted, speeding, drunk). Data sources include the NHTSA for fatalities, FHWA for licensed teen drivers, and the US Census Bureau for population figures. This approach aims to provide a clear comparison of safety risks faced by teen drivers across different states.

### Key Findings

New Hampshire is reported as the safest state for teen drivers with a score of 23.56, involving young drivers at 6.16% of traffic fatalities.

New Jersey is at 2nd with a score of 27.20, seeing fewer fatalities involving young drivers (9.78% of traffic fatalities).

New York ranks 3rd, with a score of 29.33, and reports lower-than-average percentages of young driver fatalities (10.98% of traffic

fatalities).

Wyoming is reported to be the riskiest state for teen drivers, scoring 90.73 due to high fatalities involving young drivers (13.43% of traffic fatalities).

### Top 3 Safest States for Teen Drivers are:

#### 1. New Hampshire:

New Hampshire maintains its position as the safest state for teen drivers with a score of 23.56, thanks to its strict traffic regulations and responsible

driving behavior. It records lower-than-average percentages of fatalities involving young drivers (6.16% of traffic fatalities) and teen involvement in fatal crashes (2.94% of all drivers).

#### 2. New Jersey:

New Jersey ranks second-safest with a score of 27.20, attributed to stringent traffic laws and effective enforcement. The state sees fewer fatalities involving young drivers (9.78% of traffic fatalities) and lower

rates of teen involvement in fatal crashes (4.67% of all drivers).

#### 3. New York:

New York secures the third-safest spot with a score of 29.33, showcasing comprehensive traffic safety programs and strict law enforcement. It reports lower-than-average percentages of young driver fatalities (10.98% of traffic fatalities) and teen involvement in fatal crashes (5.34% of all drivers).

## Around Town

Continued from page 13

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 recipi-

ents 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@unitedway-nashua.org](mailto:info@unitedway-nashua.org) if you have any questions.

### Movers & Shakers

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

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 Aug. 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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