Hudson Times

August 21, 2025 ◆ Volume 3 – Issue 32

A FREE Weekly Publication



Halftime Heat A very hot week of Band Camp came to a close on Friday, Aug. 15 for the Alvirne Marching Band. This year, the halftime show theme is "Motown in Motion" and will be performed at the first home game on Sept. 5. See more Photos page 8 and 9. Photo by Chris Paul

Wildlife Study At Benson Compiles **Results After Its First Three Years**

PAUL CONYERS HUDSON TIMES

from the University of New Hampshire was a special guest at the August meeting of the Hudson Conservation

tive underway in the area.

"When we started, we Professor Rem Moll were working with NH Fish and Game to monitor and study wildlife, and we have had a research site in Benson Park since 2022," Commission to present a explained Moll. "Accurate project on a UNH Wildlife population estimates are Monitoring camera initia- fundamental to wildlife

management, but wildlife populations are difficult to monitor, especially mesocarnivores, or the small-tomedium-sized carnivores like coyotes, fishers, red foxes, and bobcats."

Typically, the state used trapping data to monitor the continued on page 7

David Cayot Officially Named Hudson's New Police Chief

ALEX MALM HUDSON TIMES

The town of Hudson has a new Police Chief, following a vote during the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting.

The vacancy came after the retirement of longtime Police Chief Tad Dionne, who retired effective the end of July.

Dionne publicly recommended Hudson Police Captain David Cayot to fill the role as Police Chief, who had been serving as the acting chief since Dionne retired.

Cayot also earned the recommendation of Town Administrator Roy Soren-



David Cayot was recently named Hudson Police Courtesy Photo

"We have heard public input on the validity of Mr. Cayot's candidacy notwithstanding Chief Dionne's attached memo," Sorenson wrote in a memo ahead of the July 22 meeting. "As the Town Administrator, I

would request that each of you respectively have a formal conversation with Mr. Cayot before the next meeting where we might announce him as the next Chief. I have no reservations on his abilities and/or character and believe that the search for the next Chief begins and ends with him. The period in between meetings should be used to certify my opinion, through your own observations, moreover finalize salary and benefits associated with this personnel action."

At the Aug. 12 meeting, Board of Selectmen Vice Chair Bob Guessferd made clear that every member of

continued on page 2

Officials Move Forward with \$500K Robinson Pond Grant Application

ALEX MALM HUDSON TIMES

One of the agenda items during the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting was in regard to a possible grant from the NH Department of State Parks.

"I'm excited to announce an opportunity for the Town of Hudson to enhance public recreation while fulfilling our municipal obligation," Town Engineer Elvis Dhima explained. "The New Hampshire Department of State Parks is offering funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program, and we are ready to apply for a \$500,000 grant to construct a new recreational boat launch at Robinson Pond."

year officials tried to make recreation and environmenimprovements to both the tal stewardship." beach area and boat launch through a grant, but voters Dhima that after the failed rejected it.

"Last year we went for a grant for a million dollars. Unfortunately, we could not get it through the warrant article because we were off by a couple hundred votes." Dhima explained during the

benefits if they go for the last year. grant and are successful.

"This project not only improves access to one of our most valued natural resources, but it also earns the Town credit toward our MS4 stormwater permit compliance, due in 2026," Dhima explained in the Dhima added that last memo. "It's a win-win for

It was explained by vote, he went back to the State to make the case for being able to apply to just have the boat launch done.

"We would love to go for the boat launch only this year," Dhima mentioned to the State.

Dhima shared that they Dhima also added that received positive feedback there would be multiple on the boat launch project

> 'The Conservation Commission is taking the lead on design and permitting, and this grant would help bring the project into the construction phase," Dhima wrote. "The grant requires a 50 percent match, meaning the Town's share would be

> > continued on page 3

Budget Committee Appoints Representative to Town Hall Committee

HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on August 6 to discuss several outstanding issues following a midsummer break.

"The Board of Selectmen over the summer, since we took the break of not meeting for the month of

July, requested that we send forward a member of this committee to represent the Budget Committee on a new Town Hall Advisory Committee," said Chair James Lawrence, who appointed Budget Committee member Bill Cole to serve as representative. "There is the need for an alternate

Committee Donna Bouchet volunteered to serve as an alternate. The design phase for the renovations was approved by the Board of Selectmen last April, following the approval of a warrant article to fund the project.

According to their web-

studied chemistry at UNH. but said after graduating right after 9/11, he decided he wanted to become a police officer.

"I kind of had a calling that wasn't to go work in a chemistry lab at that point," Cayot said.

He explained that he has worked through every division of the police department and has worked closely with Dionne over the years.

Cayot said he has been married for 21 years, has two sons, one in high school and one soon starting at UNH.

sory Committee was established to "develop a strategic plan" for the renovations with "a focus on fiscally responsible solutions" following cost concerns.

"That Town Hall Committee is what we've really been focusing on," reported Selectmen Liaison Xen Vurgaroppulos. "This is my first budget season, obviously I'm new, but I look forward to this."

After looking through appointees from other Londonderry Boards, Budget Committee member Kevin Cole wanted to know why the Board of Selectmen had two full-time appointees on the Town Hall Committee, as opposed to one member and one alternate.

"The charter was created to have two Board of Selectmen members to vote, so two full-time members," explained Town Administrator Roy Sorenson. "The breakout was one appointee per committee as

Budget Committee member Randy Brownrigg wanted to know what power the Town Hall Committee would have.

"Is this going to be a voting committee?" asked Brownrigg.

The Town Administrator confirmed that would be the case while reiterating its status as an advisory committee without the power to make binding decisions without approval from the full Board of Selectmen.

"The Committee membership is going to be a Budget Committee member, which is Mr. Cole, plus an alternate. There's a Planning Board member, that will be Mr. Oates, and there's an alternate for there as well, two Selectmen as well as two staff members: myself and Mr. Dhima from engineering," Sorenson explained. "There's a meeting coming up on Aug. 21, it'll be the first meeting."

A member of the gener- meeting room.

al public will also be appointed to the Advisory Committee.

With budget season rapidly approaching, there has been discussion whether a proposed state law, House Bill 475, could impact how towns like Hudson calculate default budgets by changing how salary and benefit reductions that occur as a result of position turnover are included in the

"That ended up being vetoed, so we don't have to worry about that now, but it may well get resurrected," warned Committee member Bob Wherry. "There are some who would like to see such things come about."

Typically, default numbers include the previous year's budget plus any recurring fixed costs, mainly staff salaries for the town and school district.

The Budget Committee is set for Wednesday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton

Police Chi

Continued from page 1 the Board of Selectmen had the chance to meet with Cayot.

"We've taken the time, the due diligence, to interview him, to talk to him," he said.

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont said the process began about two months ago when they learned that Dionne would be retiring.

"It is more than evident that you have earned the respect of your fellow officers, this board, the town administrator, and the com-

munity," Dumont said during the meeting.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to name Cayot Police Chief effective immediately.

Cayot said he appreciated the support he has received from the Board.

"I also appreciate the support I have received from the men and women of the Hudson Police Department," he said.

He explained that he began with the Hudson Police Department on July 1, 2002.

"I actually came straight out of college," Cayot said.

He explained that he

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Budget Committee Reviews Waste Costs, Revenues, Donations Before Audit

PAUL CONYERS HUDSON TIMES

The August meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee saw its members scrutinize several miscellaneous budget items during Town Administrator Rov Sorenson's latest presentation on revenues and expenditures. A few categories saw spending exceed the original allocation, such as solid waste, which came in at 101% of the budget.

"That's around weren't that great," admitted Sorenson. "They didn't hit the mark this past year, but at the same time they were close."

Shawn Jasper inquired about the increase in costs, despite the total weight of waste materials appearing to be slightly lower, according to the 2025 tonnage report.

"It seems a little strange," said Jasper, who noted that the tonnage report was probably not detailed enough to draw a solid conclusion.

Sorenson promised to a get more detailed numbers \$150,000 impact to your in the coming weeks. budget because the numbers Despite questions from the Budget Committee over several categories exceeding 100% of predicted spending, the Town Administrator emphasized that

under budget and that several revenue sources were above what had been projected originally.

"Motor vehicle permits came in above what was projected, building permits as well," said Sorenson. "General property taxes saw the same thing; it beat its mark and was at 104%."

Committee member Kevin Walsh wanted more details on projects at least partially funded through donations, as opposed to being funded through fees, grants, or property taxes. He also wanted more information on the number and type of building permits, making it easier for town

member most categories came in officials to track year-by- specific project. That projyear growth.

> "I have a question about the Rec Department's project on Industrial Drive. It doesn't show up here, but \$150,000 there's \$160,000 worth of donations that have been received, as well as in-kind donations that have been shared with things like gravel. How do you account for that?" asked Walsh. "Are those accounted for separately?"

Sorenson indicated that donations were accounted for in the "unanticipated revenue" section of the budget.

"It's classified as donations, and it's set aside for a

ect itself will be set aside in Jasper. "I was just wonderthe books separately, and the revenue specifically to that," he explained. "It can't go anywhere else, in other words. It's not across the whole budget."

Money coming through donations did not appear in the "revenue" section of the presentation.

"It's accounted for separately. It isn't even under the purview of the actual budget itself," said Sorenson. "It's a bookkeeping measure."

Other sources of revenue, including ambulance billing, were not yet accounted for.

"Do you know where

we are on billing?" asked ing if we're actually way down on revenue, and if there's a lot out there."

Sorenson conceded that his department was still behind on billing, asking for patience from the Budget Committee. He hoped to get the numbers in before an expected audit in Septem-

"That is our goal," he

All spending related to warrant articles is balanced out. According to the report, the total town spending for the 2025 fiscal year was likely to be around 1.6% under what was allocated.

Hudson Selectmen Approve Contract for Compost Management

ALEX MALM **HUDSON TIMES**

During the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, one of the agenda items concerned a proposal to handle the compost that has accumulated over the vears.

It was explained by Hudson Town Engineer Elvis Dhima that the Public Works Department has accumulated a significant amount of organic material over the years.

He explained that they are now having issues managing the piles and need to develop a solution. "The

Public Works Department selected contractor is struchas accumulated approximately 6,000 cubic yards of matured compost over the years, which is now ready for processing," Public Works Director Jason Twardosky wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. Dhima explained that they issued a request for proposals to have someone manage it.

"In accordance with past practices, the Town issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for compost processing services," Twardosky wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. "Compensation to

tured as a percentage-based share of the finished compost product, with no cost to the Town. The remaining portion of the processed compost will be retained by the Town for municipal use and made available to residents."

Twardosky explained that the RFP was advertised on the Town website, in the Union Leader, "and was directly sent to four vendors." "A mandatory prebid meeting was held on July 10, 2025, and was attended by representatives from two contractors,"

Twardosky explained in the

Dhima explained that they received bids from S.K. Construction and Mayer Tree Service, Inc. "The bid packages were reviewed and evaluated by both the Department of Public Works and the Engineering Department," Twardosky wrote.

During the meeting, it was explained that "S.K. Construction's submission was deemed incomplete," noting that several required documents were missing, including the bid proposal form, special exemption form, Indemnification Agreement, and W-9 Form. "They were disqualified," Dhima said during the meeting.

Dhima explained that the proposal from the other bidder, Mayer Tree Service, Inc., would provide a percentage of the final compost to the Town. "Mayer Tree Service, Inc. submitted all required documentation and has proposed to provide 10% of the final compost product to the Town of Hudson - again, at no cost to the Town," Twardosky wrote in a memo.

Dhima explained that this would address the Town's issue while also providing a product for municipal use. "It's a good project, it's a good thing," Dhima said during the meeting.

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont explained that he hopes the Town will be able to use the product effectively.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved awarding the Compost Management Services Contract to Mayer Tree Service, Inc.

Continued from page 1

\$250,000, which will be proposed through a warrant article for voter consideration in March 2026."

Dhima also noted that it would not only help im-

prove the pond, it would also help with requirements.

"This is a great opportunity to invest in our community's quality of life while fulfilling important regulatory requirements," Dhima wrote

It was also noted during the meeting that even if they

are approved for the grant, they would have to go to the voters for approval in order to raise and appropriate the funds needed for the matching grant.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved allowing Dhima to apply for the grant.

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Editorial

Making Public Business Public

What are "ethics"? The word may seem straightforward, but ask five people and you'll likely get five different answers. In local government, ethics isn't about abstract philosophy - it's about trust, transparency, and accountability.

We reject the notion that "anything goes" when a potential conflict - or even the appearance of one - arises. Some officials dismiss such situations as "nobody's business." They are wrong. In a democracy, the public's business is exactly that - the public's.

Every board meeting, committee discussion, and public hearing belongs to the people. Our job, as a newspaper, is to report accurately on what happens in those rooms so residents know how their tax dollars are being spent. That responsibility doesn't stop when topics get uncomfortable. That's when it matters

The public should have every opportunity to question what is happening or has happened, and to receive answers openly. Letters to the editor remain one of the most effective tools for citizens to raise concerns. When officials refuse to respond to legitimate press inquiries, they send a troubling signal about their commitment to transparency and they disrespect both the press and the public it serves.

We know that being related to

someone on an issue doesn't automatically mean you share their opinions. People can and do think independently. But relationships - especially family ties - can raise legitimate questions. When a matter calls for recusal, the most honorable choice is to step aside and explain why. Far from being a weakness, such openness earns respect and strengthens public trust.

In communities with formal ethics policies or committees, the standard should be even higher. Appearances matter. A potential conflict should be acknowledged before it becomes a controversy.

It's important to note: reporting that people involved in a decision are related is not "bad press." It is simply providing the facts. Our role is not to protect reputations or to spin narratives - it is to inform. Residents can then make their own judgments.

A healthy democracy depends on a vigilant press. That means covering taxpayer-funded salaries, ordinances, contracts, policies, and procedures with equal diligence. Accountability is not hostility - it's the foundation of good governance.

We will continue to shine light on the public's business, because sunlight is still the best disinfectant. The work of boards, councils, and committees is not theirs alone. It belongs to the people. And the people have a right to see it clearly.

Town of Hudson Sets 9/11 Event, Appoints Title VI Coordinator

ALEX MALM HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, an agenda item concerned approving the annual Sept. 11 event in Town.

Hudson Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that they were seeking approval to host the annual event at Benson Park

"Attached is a draft program for the Town of Hudson's annual 9/11 Observance. This year, September 11th falls on a Thursday," Sorenson wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

Sorenson also noted that a rain date should be considered, which the Selectmen agreed with. The Hudson Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the annual Town of Hudson 9/11 Observance on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Benson Park

with a rain date of Friday, September 12, 2025.

Also during the meeting, one agenda item concerned appointing Town Engineer Elvis Dhima as the Title VI coordinator for federally funded projects.

"The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is in the process of implementing a new requirement that will apply to all agencies utilizing federal funding," Dhima wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. "This requirement, which falls under civil rights compliance, mandates that each agency designate a dedicated Civil Rights Coordinator / Title VI coordinator."

Dhima explained that it is a new program but one that has been in development since 2020.

He also noted that one of the most recent federal projects completed was the widening of Lowell Road.

"This requirement was

prompted by the Town's recent and ongoing federally funded infrastructure projects, such as the Lowell Road widening and the Melendy Road bridge replacement," Dhima wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

Dhima explained that the coordinator position could be changed in the future.

"Once the position is formally established, it may be reassigned or delegated to other staff members already working on federally funded projects and familiar with associated compliance requirements," Dhima wrote.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved appointing Dhima as the Title VI coordinator for federally funded projects.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated for Aug. 26, beginning at 7 p.m.

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Hudson Times

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Alvirne Marching Band Steps Off in Its First Parade











The Alvirne High School Marching Band kicked off their season with a rather warm march down Mammoth Road at the annual Londonderry Old Home Day Parade on Saturday, Aug. 16.

Photos by Chris Paul





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Selectmen Back \$60K in Fire Station Floor Repair Projects

The Hudson School Board reviewed a proposal for the Fire Department floor renovation project during its most recent meeting.

"The Hudson Fire Department has been working through the formal bidding process for the Apparatus Floor Renovation project at the Leonard A. Smith Central Fire Station. A request for proposal (RFP) was developed and advertised," Hudson Fire Chief Scott Tice wrote in a

memo to the Board of crete repairs. "The RFP Selectmen. included two sections that could be bid together or separately: the removal and replacement of the existing floor drain system and the epoxy coating of the floor surface. In the RFP, we allowed vendors to propose either or both aspects of the work, as they are specialists in the concrete field."

It was explained that when they held the bid opening, they received only one formal bid by the deadline for the epoxy work, but no proposals for the con-

It further explained that since the bids were higher than the budgeted amount, they were looking to reject

"In the weeks since the opening of the bids, we have solicited numerous local contractors who specialize in these processes, and we have received estimates and options to accomplish the repairs," Tice explained.

For the floor drain repair, the lowest bid came from Jet Concrete, LLC,

board to allow the Fire Chief to contract with Jet Concrete, LLC, to repair the floor drains at the Leonard A. Smith Central Fire Station in an amount not to exceed \$23,565." Tice wrote.

Tice also explained that after reviewing the bids, they "found the estimated square footage was overstated by about 500 square feet, leading to a potential savings of \$2,500-\$4,000 depending on the product and vendor."

"We would ask the vendors and received estimates from two reputable sources, but they exceeded our budget for the project. To stay within budget, we would need to compromise on the quality, durability, and warranty of the products," Tice wrote. "With funding of \$25,000 available for the floor drain project and \$19,000 available for the resurfacing project, we plan to reallocate funds from the building maintenance budget, expecting savings from

"We contacted more fire extinguisher maintenance and the diesel exhaust removal system to cover the remaining balance of \$16,008."

It was noted by Tice that they were looking to award that bid to Epoxy LLC to repair the apparatus bay floor surface and install an epoxy coating at Central Fire Station in an amount not to exceed \$36,443.

The Board of Selectmen approved both proposals during the meeting and rejected the bid from Elite Garage/Superior Surfaces.

Seek Representation For Advisory C

One of the agenda items during the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting was in regard to the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee.

"In recognition of the Town of Hudson's shared responsibility in the protection and management of the Lower Merrimack River, and in support of the New

Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP), I move that the Board of Selectmen take steps to identify and nominate up to four individuals to serve as representatives on the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory (LAC)," Town ministrator Roy Sorenson wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

It was explained as part of the memo that the "representatives shall be residents of NH and reflect a broad range of interests, including but not limited to local government, business, conservation, recreation, agriculture, and Committee riparian landownership." "Their

participation will ensure that Hudson has an active and engaged voice in the stewardship of the river corridor, as outlined in the LAC's 2023 updated management plan," Sorenson wrote in a memo. "As of now, Hudson is currently unrepresented on the committee."

It was explained by Sorenson that once they identify who the Board of Selectmen would be appointing "the names of the nominated individuals shall be submitted to the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee for formal appointment to three-year terms."

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont explained that he received an email about it from Sydney Gendreau, from the Water Division NH Department of Environmental Services.

In the email she explained that "In June of 1990, the State Legislature designated the Lower Merrimack River as a protected river under the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP)."

service contracts related to

"Designation calls for protection and management of NH's outstanding rivers through a two-tiered approach: state protection of instream values combined with local management of riparian lands," Sorenson wrote. "Shortly after the river's designation, the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was formed to give the local communities a voice in the management of the river that flows through their cities and towns."

It was explained that Hudson currently is unrepresented on the committee and was looking for help from the Board of Selectmen to help fill the seats.

It was noted by Sorenson that having representation would be contingent on getting interest from the community.

"Obviously we would have to receive interest," he explained.

Selectman Heidi Jakoby said that she thinks it's a great way for people who are interested in the Merrimack River.

"I think this is a really important way that if you have an interest in the Merrimack River to volunteer your services," she said.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved nominating up to four resident representatives to serve three-year terms on the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee.



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Sixth Annual National Night Out Sees High Attendance

HUDSON TIMES

returned for its sixth year on August 5. The free event was a collaboration between Rodgers Memorial Library and the Hudson Police Department.

"We're so excited to have participated with the Hudson Police Department for so many years to provide this absolutely delightful community outreach," said Library Director Linda Pilla.

the Library Trustees to the staff and the Friends of the Library nonprofit, Rodgers Memorial took pride in the event.

"We're happy to see so many people turn up," said Reference Librarian Mark Stawecki.

The Hudson PD praised long-standing the event, posting that they "had a great time at National Night Out" while looking forward to it again in 2026.

Entertainment for the Town Administrator.

Night Out included live music, a petting zoo with National Night Out live animals, games, a climbing wall, a dunk tank, and food trucks. In addition to the police, the Hudson Fire Department was also in attendance, with their popular Touch-a-Truck setup. which allowed children to explore and interact with some of Hudson's firefighting vehicles.

"Any opportunity we get, and it's the same thing with Old Home Day, we love to take the chance to do some community outreach and to help people. The kids love hanging out and getting to do the Touch-a-Truck part of it," said probationary firefighter Elias Brodeur. "It's a wonderful night out."

Despite the event's success. many residents, as well as a few town officials, were attending for the first time, including Hudson's new



"I must say, I'm pretty amazed at not just the turnout, but what's being offered here at the commu-

nity," said Administrator Roy Sorenson. "You can really see the community pride and what a great event

Town committees, like the Sustainability Advisory Committee, had booths at the event, allowing them to connect with residents.

"We're looking to see how we can help the town become more energy efficient," explained Advisory Committee member Jake Keller, who oversaw a booth giving away pieces of sidewalk chalk and small tovs to families.

Sustainability organizations had a sizable presence at the event, as seen with Alvirne High School's Sustainability Club.

"Some of our future projects will end up including composting and possibly solar panels," said Phoenix, who is a member of the school club. "Maybe later in the year, we'll do a Christmas light drive, where we'll take all of the broken Christmas lights that you can't just throw away in safety hazard, and collect them at the school."

As the town of Hudson planned to wrap up summer with several events, some organizations used the opportunity to promote their own events.

"We're really happy to announce that we have our Family Fun Day coming up. This is our fifth annual! It's September 20, mark it on your calendars. It's going to be a lot of fun!" said Natallie Newell and Karen McLavey from the Friends of Benson Park. "We're looking for volunteers, you will get a 2025 volunteer tshirt if you sign up, it's a free souvenir. To sign up as a volunteer, just go to our Friends of Benson Park website. You can click on the volunteer button."

Everyone was looking forward to what the 2026 National Night Out would

Wildlife

Continued from page 1

mesocarnivore species. Moll's program aimed to create what he called an "alternate source of data" for Fish and Game by setting up automatic wildlife cameras at key locations across the state, including Hudson.

"The study has been ongoing. I have a number of graduate and undergraduate students with a team approach to research projects so everybody gets to dip their toes in," said Moll. "We put cameras on a tree or something similar, and it's a passive infrared sensor, so it detects heat motion and takes an image. We compare what we get from cameras to what we call 'scent stations,' or a meter-diameter circle of sand that has a lure on it, and you can get the tracks of the animals."

After reviewing the initial results of the study, it was found that scent stations were not always reliable. The Benson Park camera had at least a few confirmed detections of bobcats, fishers, and foxes. Information gathered from the cameras is used to estimate population density and habitat relationships. Early results also indicated that gray fox and fisher populapared to some of the other

"Why did you pick Benson for this study?" asked Commission Chair Carl Murphy. "Is the habitat at Benson conducive to a wide variety of animals?"

According to Moll, UNH officials chose Benson Park randomly after it was found to meet certain environmental requirements. The southeastern part of the park was found to have greater animal

"I was a little surprised to see how high the bobcat number was," said Vice-Chair Ken Dickinson, after looking through some early

tions were "patchy" com- results. "Did you consider putting anything right on the Pelham-Hudson border in the Musquash Conservation Area? There's probably more water and a longer stretch of the stream. You might be able to get a higher count on certain species and it'd be good to see the difference between what Benson Park has and Musquash right at the confluence of a couple of the swamps."

Moll was interested in

the comparison but reiterated the randomized nature of the study design.

The initial results of the Wildlife Monitoring Program are scheduled to wrap up this year, as Moll eventually wanted permission to continue the study in Hud-

"We have an agreement to continue with Fish and Game for five more years, pending funding, though it looks like it'll come through," he said, adding

that a recent decline of the fisher population was particularly concerning. "We also just started a fisher project where we capture live fishers and put GPS collars on them to see where they go."

Although no decision could be made on the matter at the August conservation meeting, there were no objections to an extension of the project for Benson



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Band Camp Finishes with Summer Scorcher Show













The Alvirne Marching Band had their first performance of their halftime show on a very hot Friday afternoon, Aug. 15. This year's theme is "Motown in Motion" with songs including Dancing in the Street, Ain't No Mountain High Enough, You Keep me Hanging On and a Medley of Stevie Wonder songs. The show's first performance will be at the Broncos first home game on Sept. 5.

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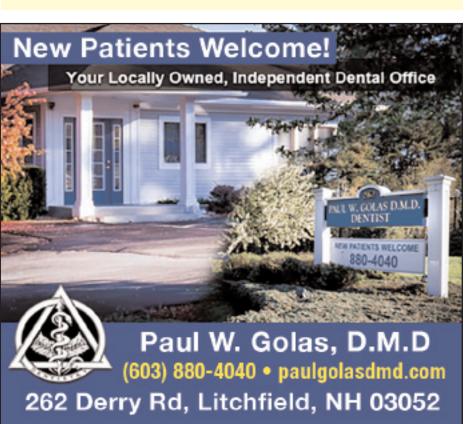
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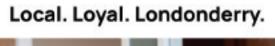












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Water Wisely: Simple Ways to Save Water This Summer

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

We're in the dog days of summer, and you know what that means: long days, hot temperatures and thirsty lawns. It's easy to see why outdoor water use spikes this time of year. Whether you're nurturing a backyard garden or just trying to keep the grass green, those extra gallons can add up quickly. But using water wisely doesn't mean giving up your green space - it just means being mindful of how much water you're using and taking a few easy steps to save water outdoors.

Water Wisely

On average, the typical American family uses about 300 gallons of water each day. If you think that sounds like a lot, wait until you hear this – in the summertime, those numbers can increase by two to four times. By using less water, you can help conserve your local community's water supplies, put less strain on your well and potentially save on your water and

- Timing is everything: The best times of day to water your lawn or garden are in the early morning and the late evening. By watering your plants when the sunlight and heat aren't as intense, less water evaporates and your plants and clogged sprinkler heads soil will retain more of it.
- Use technology mindfully: Sprinkler systems that run on a timer can provide convenience, but be sure to stay on top of it rather than "setting it and forgetting it." Check the weather forecast and adjust your system accordingly if you see a storm coming. Better yet, replace your clock-based controller with a controller that uses local weather data or soil moisture levels to tailor the watering schedule to your lawn's needs.
- Don't over water: Just because the weather is hot doesn't mean grass automatically needs watering! A simple way to check if your grass is thirsty is by stepping on it. If it springs back into place, you can skip the watering that day. Soil moisture sensors can also show the amount of mois- you're watering your yard -

discourage overwatering.

Sprinkler Spruce-up

Just like your car and home, your irrigation system needs regular maintenance. Common issues like cracks in pipes, broken or and leaking connections can waste a lot of water. According to EPA, keeping these four steps in mind can help simplify the process when it comes to maintaining your irrigation system:

- Inspect: Check your irrigation system for signs of damage, leaks or water waste. Are broken or missing sprinkler heads causing overflowing or flooding on parts of your lawn? for common issues and how to resolve them.
- Connect: Examine joints where sprinklers connect to piping. If joints are leaking, it could be a sign of too much water pressure. If water is pooling or certain areas of your lawn are soggy, it could indicate that there is an underground
- Direct: Make sure

sidewalk! Redirect sprinklers as needed so they are only watering the landscape.

• Select: It's estimated that as much as half of water used in the United States for landscape irrigation is wasted due to overwatering. EPA recommends

ture at the plant's roots to not your house, driveway or using WaterSense irrigation habits can help conserve controllers to help make irrigation scheduling more

By making a few simple adjustments and staying alert to how you use water, you can help your lawn stay hydrated in a more sustainable way. Smart watering your community's or well's water supply while also lowering your utility bills. So, this summer, take a moment to check in on your outdoor water use. You might be surprised at how small changes can make a big impact.



Lion Ron Boisvert Scholarship Awarded

The Hudson Lions Club awarded Aidan Flaherty of Hudson, with a \$2,000 check from the Lion Ron Boisvert Scholarship Fund for Continuing Education in the Medical Field. Aidan Is a Pre-Med Student at the University of Central Florida. Pictured from left, Past Council Chair Roger LaTulippe, scholarship chair, recipient Aidan Flaherty, Lion Pauline Boisvert, spouse of deceased Lion Ron Boisvert. Ronald Boisvert was an active member of the Hudson Lions Club from 1983 until he succumbed to cancer at age 68 in 2006. Although quiet in demeanor and a man of few words, he went about volunteering behind the scenes. Ron received the Lions International President's Certificate of Appreciation for his volunteerism efforts. Courtesy photo



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Hudson VFW Post 5791 Hosts Annual Veterans Picnic

Ninth Annual Veterans Appreciation Picnic FREE for ALL New Hampshire veterans and their families at the Hudson VFW, at 15 Bockes Road, Hudson, NH on Saturday September 13, 2025 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hudson Memorial VFW Chapman wants to make picnic an event for the Post 5791 will be hosting its this the best Veterans Appreciation Picnic that the post has sponsored. "I'm hoping to get a good turnout this year and give veterans of all ages a chance to connect with other vets in a relaxed fun atmosphere. All veterans can bring their Post Commander Chuck families, so that makes the

whole family."

The event is open to anyone who has served in any branch of the U.S. military. Veterans don't have to be a member of the VFW, American Legion or any other veterans' organization to attend.

This is just a recogni-

tion of your service and an opportunity to meet your fellow Veterans. Vets are encouraged to bring their families. There is a large fenced-in picnic (weather permitting) and a large hall if the weather is bad. In addition to a picnic lunch, there will be horseshoes & bocce, and a corn

prizes, plus games and activities for the kids.

Veterans are automati-

cally entered in a drawing for free door prizes! Several Veterans Ser-

vice Organizations (VSOs) will be on hand to distribute information and speak with Veterans about the services

This is a non-political event, but government officials are invited to attend so they can show NH's veterans that state and local officials are interested in and aware of veterans' issues. Governor Kelly Ayotte is scheduled to attend.

9/11 Fund Admin Says N.H. A.G. Engaged in Clear YDC Conflict of Interest

INDEPTHNH.ORG

Men and women who survived physical and sexual abuse as children at the hands of state employees inside the Sununu Youth Services Center - then called YDC - say the new rules for the YDC Settlement Fund betray their trust all over again, and they are not alone.

Several survivors who stayed their civil lawsuits against the state and opted to undergo the settlement fund process are now suing over the change in law that led to the ouster of Fund Administrators John Broderick and his deputy Judge Diane Nicolosi. This week, New York attorney Deborah Greenspan, who served as a deputy Special Master for the Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, filed an affidavit calling out the state's conflict of interest.

"I am aware of no relevant circumstances wherein

fund, settlement fund, or the like, allows an interested party in the underlying dispute to serve as a settlement administrator aimed at resolving said dispute or to veto the determinations of the settlement administrator," Greenspan wrote. "Such a construct would go beyond the appearance of impropriety and create a clear conflict of interest, undermining the fairness and legitimacy of the settlement process."

As survivor Andrew Foley states in an affidavit filed in court, the same system that helped cover up his abuse for decades will now decide what it should pay in compensation.

"As I understand it, the State will now decide for itself how much my claim is worth. That is not a fair process. I should not be surprised by the State's betraval. My original instincts were correct - I cannot trust word," Foley wrote.

Greenspan is serving as an expert witness for the survivors, represented by Nixon Peabody attorney David Vicinanzo. The victims say the new law, which went into effect July 1, means state employees once again control their fate. More than 1,500 claims from survivors were filed with the Settlement Fund before the June 30 deadline, and before the law changed.

"Only after the 'vast majority' of the YDC victims had taken the bait and filed (Settlement Fund) claims, did the State move to unilaterally alter the bargain in fundamental ways ... The amendments move the administrator to the executive branch and provide the Governor and the Attorney General with unfettered power to control the administrator's decision

fair, impartial, and victimcentered claims process. The YDC victims were once again betrayed by the State," Vicinanzo wrote in a response to the State's motion to dismiss.

Under the new legal set up, the YDC Fund administrator can be hired or fired by Gov. Kelly Ayotte, and any decisions the administrator or his team make can be overruled by Attorney General John Formella. In one of several victim affidavits filed in Merrimack Superior Court, John Doe 334 expressed dismay that

state.

"On behalf of the State, the Attorney General now has the power to accept or reject my award also, again putting me at the mercy of the State," Doe 334 wrote. "If Attorney General Formella were to exercise his power in my case and reject or diminish the award that Administrator Nicolosi, a fair and impartial party, found to be the fair number to settle my claim with the State ... I would then be forced to decide whether to amend my complaint to include the sexual abuse

a victim compensation the State to live up to its destroying the promise of a he agreed to settle with the that I would be forced to disclose publicly in open court or, if I am still too traumatized and unable to do so, forego justice entirely. For the State to again have this authority over me undermines the whole point of the Settlement Fund process."

> Greenspan is expected to testify Tuesday in court for a preliminary hearing. Broderick is also being sought as a witness for the survivors.

> Correction: The name of the former deputy administrator of the YDC settlement fund is Diane Nicolosi.





Have an Announcement? This service is provided free of charge to Hudson residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Hudson Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to hudsontimes@nutpub.net.

Hudson Police Host Dunk-A-Cop at Alvirne High School







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Local Law Enforcement hosted a Dunk-A-Cop event on Thursday, Aug. 14 giving attendees the chance to dunk members of the **Hudson Police Department** by donating school supply items. The Dunk Tank was set up as well as a number of other organizations. Pens, pencils, folders markers and other basic school supplies were exchanged for softballs to Dunk-a-Cop throughout the four-hour event.

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.

Veterans Picnic

Hudson Memorial VFW Post 5791 will be hosting its Ninth Annual Veterans Appreciation Picnic FREE for ALL NH veterans and their families at the Hudson VFW, 15 Bockes Rd., Hudson, NH on Saturday Sept. 13, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event is open to anyone who has served in any branch of the U.S. military.

United Soccer Club's Hulks Program

Hudson United Soccer Club's Hulks Program for children ages 3-10. A fall soccer development program on Sundays from 8 - 9:30 a.m., at Freedom Field (190 Derry Rd). The cost is \$75 and includes a t-shirt. Visit the groups website or facebook to register. Hudsonnhsoccer.org. Any questions? Contact registrar@hudsonnhsoccer.org

Class of 1975 Reunion

A Reunion for the Alvirne and Pelham alumni class of 1975 will be held soon. If you are an alumni of the year and want more information go to the facebook Alvirne high school and Pelham high school class of 1975 page or email alvirne1975@gmail.com

Benson Park Saturday Cleanup

Please join the Friends of Benson Park for Park Cleanup Day the third Saturday of every month to help keep Benson Park clean and beautiful. Donate whatever time you can between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tools are available but bring your own shovels, rakes, pruners, loppers, etc. if you have them. This is a great opportunity to serve the town, meet new people and enjoy the outdoors. Lunch will be provided. Sign up online by going to the Friends of Benson Park website friendsofbensonpark.org and providing your email address in the "Contact Us" section.

Cookbook Club

On Monday, Aug. 25 at 11:30 a.m., prepare a recipe from this month's topic, then engage with others at Rodgers Library. This month's cookbook is "Good Lookin' Cookin'."

Teen Hangout

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 2 p.m. (except last week of month) at the Rodgers Memorial Library Teens are invited to relax in our teens only space. Snacks, games, crafts, and Nintendo Switch available. A different theme each week.

Preschool Water Play

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

Digital Navigators

On Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Digital Navigators provide personalized, one-on-one support to help you with your tech needs at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Dino the Therapy Dog

Every Tuesday at 4 p.m., come meet Dino, the therapy dog at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to make new friends.

Story Safari

On Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10 a.m., come to Benson Park for songs, stories, and bubbles! All ages wel-

Free Health Screening

Medical professionals from AFC Urgent Care Hudson will be holding a Free Health Screening at George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Rd., Hudson, to provide free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. Stop by any time between 10 a.m. - noon. No registration is necessary. Learn more at www.afcurgentcare.com/hudson or Call them at (603) 634-8614.

Adventurers Storytime

On Tuesdays at 10 a.m., join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activities at the Rodgers Memorial Library. For ages 3-5.

Movers & Shakers

Come Rodgers to Library Memorial Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and

10:30 a.m., for a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Movement, songs, bubbles, and stories for ages 1-3.

Brunch Bunch

On Fridays at 11 a.m., Eat pancakes and talk about books you love or hate at Rodgers Memorial 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.

A Good Yarn

On Tuesdays at 5 p.m., come to the Rodgers Memorial 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.

BINGO!

Bingo is back at the Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, every Tuesday afternoon. Slider cards will start being sold at

continued on page 15

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NH Found Most Dangerous Place in America to Drive on Labor Day

the NHTSA, New Hampshire leads the country with the highest Labor Day driving fatality rate at 17.09 incidents per 100,000 residents

The research, compiled by Law Offices of James A. Welcome, analyzed National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data on fatal motor vehicle crashes reported on Labor Day, to identify which states are the safest for drivers.

Drivers in New Hampmost cautious on Labor Day, as the state proved the most dangerous for drivers with 17.09 road fatalities per 100,000 residents on the holiday. Labor Day is New Hampshire's most deadly

According to data from public holiday, with just one population, making it the other state (Iowa) seeing Labor Day cause the highest number of traffic fatalities above all other holidays.

> Top 5 deadliest states for driving on Labor Day ranked by road fatalities per 100,000 population

> > New Hampshire - 17.09 Wyoming – 9.72 Arkansas-7.86New Mexico - 6.71 Mississippi - 6.31

Wyoming follows with shire will need to be the 9.72 incidents per 100,000 residents; however, Labor Day is not the most deadly holiday for driving in Wyoming, it's actually Easter. Arkansas has an average of 7.86 traffic fatalities on Labor Day per 100,000 third most dangerous state to travel in during the holiday. Despite its high ranking, Father's Day is Arkansas' most deadly holiday to drive on.

Rounding out the top five are New Mexico and Mississippi in fourth and fifth respectively. In New Mexico, there are an average of 6.71 deaths on the road during Labor Day per 100,000 residents, whilst in Mississippi, there are 6.31 road deaths per 100,000 residents on the holiday.

Commenting on the findings, a Law Offices of James A. Welcome spokesperson says: "It's a wellknown fact people travel to spend time with their friends and family on holigoing to be more traffic on ranked by road fatalities per the roads in the run up to a 100,000 population major event like Labor Day.

"But with that increased traffic comes increased risk as people are likely to be tired from the night before or from socializing and therefore may struggle to concentrate as well as they would do normally.

"If you are planning to travel during thid you need to be conscious of your condition and consider your safety on the road. Ask yourself, are you okay to be driving? Have you slept enough? Will the alcohol be out of your system? Only when the answer is yes to all of those is it safe to drive."

Top 5 safest states for

days, so, naturally, there's driving on Labor Day es per 100,000 residents.

Hawaii - 0.99 Massachusetts - 1.00 Rhode Island - 1.28 Utah - 1.63 New York - 1.80

On the other end of the scale, drivers in Hawaii experience the fewest deadly crashes on Labor Day, at only 0.99 incidents per 100,000 residents. However. Hawaiian drivers mustn't take this as a reason to be less vigilant on the roads.

Following Hawaii as the second-safest state for drivers is Massachusetts, which sees 1.00 road fatalities per 100,000 residents on Labor Day. In third is Rhode Island, with 1.28 fatal crash-

About the Study

Data on fatal crash incidents between 2016-2022 was sourced from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Researchers calculated average yearly Labor Day incidents for each state and adjusted the data to account for population differences, creating a standardized fatal crash per 100,000 residents metric for accurate state-tostate comparisons.

For more information about holiday travel safety and legal resources, visit: https://welcomelawfirm.com.

Story courtesy of: https://welcomelawfirm.com.

Around Town **Continued from page 12**

1:15 p.m., \$1.25 each. You must be registered at the Senior Center to play.

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 low-income, and living in our Greater Nashua Tuesday's from 9 - 10 a.m.,

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 appointmentt email info@unitedwaynashua.org if you have any questions.

Overeaters Anonymous

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St. Elizabeth Seton Church 190 Meetinghouse Rd., Bedford, use the rear doors for access to the meeting room in the church basement. Contact Pat At 603-289-8476 Or Jane At 603-674-6540 With Any Questions (Not Affiliated With Any Private Or Public Organization)

Clean Water Survey

Clean water is more than a resource; it's the lifeline of our community. Your voice holds the power to shape a healthier water future for you and for generations to come. Survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/VOWNOV2024. As an added bonus, when you complete the survey, you'll have the chance to enter to win one of 25 fixedmount or handheld watersaving showerheads, making your contribution to clean

water even more rewarding.

PFOA Water Test

You can request a water sampling here: Southern NH PFOA Investigation Private Well-Testing Request Form Survey (surveymonkey.com) Questions contact Amv Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator -MtBE Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov, Phone: 603.271.8801



No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13YH11096000

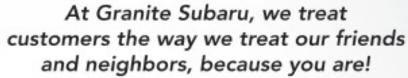
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SALES HOURS

Monday 9:00AM - 8:00PM Tuesday 9:00AM - 8:00PM 9:00AM - 8:00PM Wednesday Thursday 9:00AM - 8:00PM Friday 9:00AM - 6:00PM 9:00AM - 5:00PM Saturday Sunday 10:00AM - 3:00PM

SERVICE HOURS

Monday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Wednesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Friday	7:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday	8:00AM - 3:00PM
Sunday	CLOSED

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*Leapfrog Group is a national non-profit watchdog focused on health care safety, quality and affordability