

THE Hudson Times

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A FREE Weekly Publication



Wreaths Across Hudson Wreaths Across America volunteers sort out over 400 wreaths in preparation of the annual event happening on Saturday, Dec. 13. Wreaths will be placed on nearly 400 veterans' graves in Blodgett, Ford, Sunnyside, Old Center, Senter, Westview, and Hills Farms cemeteries and at the Poor Farm burial ground. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Clarity Sought on Tax Rate Due to School Funds Being Returned

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Budget Committee opened its Dec. 3 meeting with questions from Committee member Randy Brownrigg about the town's tax bill and the impact of funds returned by the School Board.

that the School Board sent back somewhere around \$4.1 million. Some of that was used for health insurance, and that went back to the town, and the town uses that money for however it gets used," said Brownrigg. "I'm trying to figure out where that money went to, and why they came up with

\$17.11 for the tax bill when there was no showing of how much money came back from the school system. I've been over the town side and the school side trying to figure out where that money had come back."

Brownrigg requested clarification. Town Admin-

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Staffing and Enrollment Trends Presented \$74M School Budget

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

On Dec. 3, the Hudson Budget Committee received its first presentation on the 2026–2027 school budget from the Hudson School District (SAU81). Superintendent Dr. Daniel Moulis outlined priorities for the upcoming year and explained key drivers behind the proposed spending plan.

"There are some key areas here that are outlined," said Moulis. "The first is finalizing a new five-year strategic plan for the district; rigorous and robust curricular opportunities that challenge and engage our students; a fiscal budget aligned to the district action plan focused on academic

excellence and interventions to support and challenge students; a transparent budget communicated consistently to the community; and lastly, educator and staff support to foster professional development and growth that builds educator capacity."

The proposed budget includes several notable additions:

- A math/reading interventionist for the Early Learning Center
- Full-time math/reading interventionists at Hills Garrison and Nottingham West elementary schools
- Shifting Hudson Memorial School's culinary teacher from part-time to full-time

• A full-time special education teacher at Hudson Memorial

Moulis noted that some items were removed during the budget process, including a part-time computer science teacher at Alvirne's CTE Center, a part-time behavior support position at Nottingham West, and a full-time interventionist at Dr. H.O. Smith. There was also discussion about adding a full-time Spanish teacher at Hudson Memorial.

Responding to past requests from the Budget Committee, Moulis included enrollment data showing a steady decline since 2016.

"Have we had any staff reductions to reflect the

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Cell Phone Policy Changes Reviewed by School Board

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

After hearing feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders, the School Board had a first policy reading on a revised Unauthorized Communication Devices policy during its most recent board meeting.

The policy came following state legislation which passed last legislative session requiring school districts across the state to adopt a bell to bell cell phone ban.

Under purpose it explains that the "district is committed to providing students with a learning environment free from disruptions. Use of personal communication devices for nonacademic means often

leads to disruptions in the learning environment for both individual students and the classroom."

"The school community should model cell phone use that abides by this policy, this includes students, teachers, staff, coaches, etc. Students and staff are allowed to use any available mobile communication device in the event of an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals," the proposed policy states.

It goes on to state that "For the purposes of this policy, a personal communication device is defined as any non-district provided internet/cellular or data capable device that can support voice or video calls,

texts, emails, or instant messages. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to cell phones, tablets, laptops, and smart devices. For ease of reference, devices provided by the district for instructional use shall be referred to as "district-owned" devices."

Under restrictions it explains that "Student use of personal communication devices is strictly prohibited from when the first bell rings to start instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic school day (referred to as "the school day"). The school day includes lunch periods, passing time, and recesses."

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HR Generalist Restored to Town Budget as IT Item Sees Cut

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The first December meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee saw its members work with Town Administrator Roy Sorenson to wrap up a few lingering issues regarding the town side of the budget, including a “housekeeping” matter related to the finance IT line. Sorenson recommended cutting a \$175,000 line item.

“That was the financial and budgeting software,” he explained, adding that he was “not very confident” with the originally proposed cost of the new software amidst rising costs. “I think we need to regroup

and do some more diligence on that, and it may be best suited for an item next year, or in the form of a warrant article, along those lines. The reason I say that is because some of the quotes we’ve received over the last two weeks, unfortunately are pretty well north of \$175,000.”

“Are you planning on introducing a warrant article for this software at a later time?” asked Committee Chair James Lawrence.

The Town Administrator indicated there would be no warrant article for the IT software until next year at the earliest.

“We have too much work to do before we get to

that point,” said Sorenson.

In keeping with a Board of Selectmen recommendation, the Budget Committee voted to reduce the IT item by \$175,000.

Committee member Shawn Jasper took advantage of the proposed cut to argue for restoring a \$133,377 HR Generalist position that the Budget Committee recommended cutting last month. Jasper originally supported cutting the HR position to limit spending.

“I was not opposed to the position; it was an issue to reduce the tax rate. This ends up with still a net decrease. I think having an HR person in this position

is important to a town of this size,” he said. Given the previous action, it’s something we can afford at this time.”

Committee member Kevin Walsh agreed with the proposal, adding that previous studies supported the inclusion of an HR Generalist for town staff.

“The big piece that’s missing obviously is the HR piece with the number of employees and the complexity of everything that’s going on in town,” argued Walsh. “I think this is a very prudent motion.”

The Budget Committee voted to restore the HR Generalist to the 2026-2027 town budget.

While concern over the impact new projects would have on the property tax rate persisted as Sorenson reviewed a few of the proposed warrant articles, Sorenson stated that a \$2 million plan for sidewalks along Derry Road to Alvirne High School would have no impact on Hudson. The vast majority of the expansion would be covered through state funding, with the rest coming from locally collected corridor fees.

“The Planning Board collects fees from developers when they do new projects in town, and we basically collect impact fees based on what we think the

impact will be on the big corridors like 102, 111, and 3A, which is Lowell Road,” explained Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima. “These corridors funds can then be used for projects related to improving the safety, efficiency, and things of that sort.”

He hoped to finish the sidewalk expansion by the end of next year.

“It’s a straightforward project,” said Dhima. “I think it’ll be a beautiful from the library common all the way down to the school.”

Corridor fees can only be used for new projects.

Cell Phone Continued from page 1

“Students participating in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, field trips or other activities shall abide by the rules and consequences established for personal communication devices set by the coach, instructor, sponsor or other designated supervisor for the activity,” the proposed policy states. “However, in no event shall personal communication devices (or any other device with photographic or recording capabilities) be

used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other location where such use could violate another person’s reasonable expectation of privacy.”

As part of the proposed policy it states that “If digital devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, the district is responsible for providing district-owned devices. As part of school district’s practice, students are allowed to bring their own personal device (i.e. laptop computer, tablet) to be used for educational purposes. This practice is still

allowed, however if the personal device is not used for educational purposes and for personal communication then section D “consequences and violations” of this policy will apply.”

“While it is best practice that these devices are not brought to school, if these devices are brought to school, they shall be kept with the power turned off in a student’s assigned locker, backpack, or handbag,” the proposed policy states. “The district will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device

brought to the school.”

Under consequences and violations it explains that “Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in disciplinary action.”

“The school reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a student’s personal electronic device subject to the limitations of RSA 189:70, if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has violated board policies, regulations,

school rules, or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal electronic device,” the proposed revised policy states.

One of the major changes that was made to the proposed revised policy was to get rid of a verbal warning at the recommendation from the high school administration.

As part of the revised proposed policy it states:

“Consequences for violations of this policy will be pursuant to the District Student Behavior Standards. Additionally:

1. First Offense: Documented written warning

with student securing their device into a predetermined location and referral to school administration to formalize the written warning.

2. Second Offense: Secure the device for the remainder of the school day (office). Family contact.

3. Subsequent Offenses: Secure the device for the remainder of the school day (office), administrative detention, and request for family meeting.”

The school board approved sending the proposed revised policy to a second policy reading.



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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.

Sustainability Committee Reviews Progress on Transfer Station Composting

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee met on Nov. 24 to hear an update from Department of Public Works Director Jay Twardosky on the recently launched composting project at the Hudson Transfer Station.

"The composting operation we've been having at the Transfer Station went pretty well," reported Twardosky. "They've pulled back a little bit for now because they've got 2,000 yards of compost on the ground already, and there's quite a bit more, so we've got to move that pile first."

Composting has long been a priority for the Sustainability Committee, which has explored proposals to expand direct composting services for residents through local providers.

"That's a very important topic - composting and recycling," said Sustainability Chair Karl Huber. "It makes a big difference."

With several years' worth of leaves and yard waste accumulated, the project was seen as critical to freeing up space at the

Transfer Station.

"How much composting do you feel is left for them to go through?" asked Committee member Chris Thatcher.

Twardosky estimated about 6,000 yards remain.

"The pile itself may be a little bigger than that. There's a lot of waste that's not going to be in the compost pile," he explained. "I figure, once it's all said and done and we get through the full pile, we'll get about 4,000 yards of good composted material, probably 1,000 yards that still needs more composting, and probably 1,000 yards of debris that's got to be disposed of."

Some finished compost will be available to Hudson residents for use in gardens and flower pots.

"You've got this abundance of good compost that's going to be available in the spring, I'm guessing. Is there a plan for how much the residents can get, how often, and all of that?" asked Alternate Craig Putnam. "Or is it too early to say on that?"

Twardosky said it was "too early to say," noting that samples are still being

tested for nutritional value. He added that limits will be set to prevent residents from "backing up with trucks and just putting yards of compost in, because it will be free."

Along with metal and cardboard, compostable yard waste is one of three materials that can be disposed of at the Transfer Station without a pass.

"Are we thinking about it with cardboard?" asked Huber, raising concerns about recycling challenges. "I know we're all running into scenarios where our residents are throwing out cardboard, trying to recycle. We all get the Amazon

deliveries and anything else - there's so much more that ends up inside with the regular trash."

Cardboard can be composted under the right conditions, but common packaging add-ons like tape, labels, and adhesives do not break down easily.

"Everybody really needs to break those boxes down, flatten them out," said Twardosky. "If you find yourself with too much cardboard, give DPW a call. Not businesses, but for residents only. We do have the means of getting it off your hands for you and recycling it."

The Sustainability Ad-

visory Committee will meet 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room.

OBITUARY

Lorna F. McNeil



Lorna F. McNeil, 92, of Hudson, passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 29, 2025. Born on March 5, 1933, in Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland, Canada, she was one of twelve children born to Adolph and Millie O'Quinn and was predeceased by all eleven of her siblings.

Lorna was predeceased by her husband, John McNeil in 2004 and her daughter, Denise Currier (McNeil), in 1996.

In 1959, Lorna met the love of her life, John McNeil, while he was stationed at the U.S. Air Force base in Newfoundland. She moved to the United States in 1960 after their marriage. The couple first made their home in Salem, MA, later moving to Nashua, NH. In 1972, they settled in Hudson, NH, where they raised their family and lived together until John's passing in 2004.

Lorna devoted many years to being a homemaker, lovingly caring for her family. After her youngest child reached high school, she began working at RDF Corporation in Hudson, where she remained for several years until her retirement. She enjoyed long car rides with her family, knitting, puzzles, and was also a member of a bowling league for a time.

Lorna was the proud mother of four, grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of four. She is survived by three of her children: Cheryl McNeil of Hudson, NH, John A. McNeil and his wife Laurie of Hudson, NH, Scott McNeil and his wife Victoria of Hudson, NH. Her beloved grandchildren: Jessie Currier of Hudson, NH, Nicole Currier and her partner Nate Lamoureux of Henniker, NH, Patrick McNeil and his girlfriend Jordin Olson of Nashua, NH, Liam McNeil of Hudson, NH. Her cherished great-grandchildren: Khloe Lamoureux of Henniker, NH, Jackson Lamoureux of Henniker, NH, Sawyer Briggs of Hudson, NH, and Finn Briggs of Hudson, NH. She also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews residing in Newfoundland and throughout Canada.

A private graveside service will be held in St. Patrick Cemetery in Hudson.

Lorna will be remembered for her warmth, her quiet strength, and her deep love for her family. Her legacy lives on in all who knew and loved her.

OBITUARY

James Joseph Michael Martorana



James "JJ" Joseph Michael Martorana (McNamara) passed away suddenly on Nov. 17, 2025. Born on Dec. 5, 2004, JJ was a bright, spirited, and deeply loved young man whose presence touched the lives of many.

JJ was the beloved son of his late mother, Gina LeBlanc, and his stepfather, Jason LeBlanc of Deerfield NH, father James Martorana Jr, and his stepmother, Jamie Martorana of Hudson, NH. JJ had many siblings whom loved and cared for him deeply and will cherish the memories made together throughout the years.

He was especially close to his grandparents, the late Stephen McNamara and Maria McNamara of Deerfield NH who played a significant and guiding role in his life. Their influence and love remained with him always.

JJ's memory will be carried forward by family and countless others whose lives he touched. He was loved more deeply than he ever realized, and his absence leaves an immeasurable void.

He will be missed immensely, and cherished forever. Private services held.

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Editorial

Ethics in Government: Charting the Right Course

When we talk about ethics in municipal government, we're really talking about the foundation of trust between officials and the people they serve. Ethics, by definition, is "the moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity." For government to function effectively, honesty, integrity, and accountability must be more than ideals—they must be daily practice.

The general public expects elected, appointed, and paid officials to act for the common good of the town. That expectation is not optional—it is essential. "Trust is the key word to describe the appropriate relationship between officials of a town and their constituents." Officials earn the privilege of serving only by maintaining that trust. Once broken, it is difficult to restore.

Transparency is central to sustaining trust. "Open meetings and open records are of central importance to the public's perception of how the government operates." When the government operates behind closed doors, it risks alienating citizens and eroding confidence in the process. While some confidentiality is necessary to protect sensitive matters, secrecy should never become the norm. If officials are frustrated by public suspicion, they should ask themselves: "If what they are doing is what is best for all, why shut the public out of dialogue?"

Accountability goes hand in hand with transparency. Officials must take

responsibility for their actions—or inactions—by explaining decisions clearly and allowing residents to understand how conclusions were reached. Doing the town's business in public view is not a burden; it is a duty. Naming who is responsible and answering questions openly are simple steps that build confidence.

Citizens, too, have a role. Democracy is not a spectator sport. "We the People... are the protectors of our local government." Residents must stay informed, ask questions, and participate. Our vigilance ensures that ethical standards remain intact. When citizens disengage, the door opens for decisions made without oversight—and that weakens the very fabric of local democracy.

The degree to which officials are willing to be held accountable speaks volumes about their commitment to good governance. Preserving and encouraging local self-governance is critical—not just for today's decisions, but for safeguarding democratic institutions for generations to come.

The question is, what can you do? Attend Town Council meetings. Read agendas. Ask questions. Demand transparency. Ethics is not an abstract concept—it is the daily practice of fairness, openness, and responsibility. When government and citizens work together under these principles, trust flourishes, participation grows, and the community thrives. That is the right course—and it starts with you.



Warming Hands

It's that time of the year at the Rodgers Memorial Library for the Mitten Tree.

The library is currently accepting donations of hand-made or newly purchased mittens, hats, and scarves.

For additional information those interested can contact the library at (603) 886-6030.

Courtesy photo

Benson Park Committee Weighs Options for Historic Bridge Replacement

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The November meeting of the Benson Park Advisory Committee brought renewed discussion on plans to rebuild a long-removed bridge at the park. While the idea of constructing a "covered bridge" gained traction, members debated what the original structure looked like and what design would best honor its history as they reviewed old photographs.

"There was no roof on it," said Natalie Newell, Chair of the Friends of Benson Park. "I don't think there was a cover. It had wooden sides, and you could look over it."

Committee member Jan Horvath posed the central question: "Do we want a covered bridge? Or just an open bridge?"

Committee Chair Jack Madden suggested replicating the old design as closely as possible.

"By looking at a photo of the bridge, we can get a sense of what the length was. There was another photograph where four people are standing beside one another, and you can get a sense of what the width was," Madden explained.

"It's clear that it was not used for carrying automobiles or light trucks over it. The biggest thing that might've gone over it would've been a tractor hauling a trailer full of mulch or something like that."

The Committee plans to work with the Department of Public Works for assistance and hopes to avoid an "H-24" designation, which would trigger stricter regulations and higher costs. Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby recommended consulting Elvis Dhima, Director of Development Services, for guidance on foundation work.

"I would recommend talking to him sooner rather than later and at least letting him know what you're thinking," said Jakoby. "If what I've learned about culverts and things, what's underground is important."

The proposed design is based on a pre-approved plan from the U.S. Forest Service.

"The biggest thing is that whatever we come up with and get approved, we have to get a structural engineer to sign off on it," Madden noted. "I don't know how much that would cost,

to have a structural engineer review the plans and stamp them. It probably should slide through easily, since the engineer would just be verifying something that somebody else has already worked."

A timeline for the bridge project remains uncertain.

As Hudson advisory committees work to finalize their charters, Jakoby asked Benson Park members to define their core mission.

"We're giving you an opportunity as the Board of Selectmen to decide what you want your charge to be," said Jakoby. "For you all, you're looking at meeting regularly to maintain the sustainability of the park, or whatever words you want to use."

The Advisory Committee described itself as the "stewards" of the park, including its historic buildings. Madden reminded members that once the charter is finalized, the next step will be updating the park's master plan, last completed in 2019.

The next Benson Park Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Cable Access Center.

THE Hudson Times

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Volunteers Sort Wreaths to be Placed on Saturday, Dec. 13



Volunteers gathered early on Tuesday, Dec. 9, to unload the truck delivering 100's of wreaths for the upcoming Wreaths Across America Ceremony

The National Wreaths Across America Day is being held on Saturday, Dec. 13, with over two million volunteers and supporters gathering to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 5,200 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

In Hudson, Wreath Day activities begin at 11 a.m on the grounds of the historic Hills House on Derry Road.

Following the ceremony, volunteers will be placing wreaths on the graves of nearly 400 veterans' graves at a number of local cemeteries and at the Poor Farm burial ground.

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School Board Advances Policies on Summer Learning and Library Material Review

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board recently reviewed two proposed policy revisions during its latest meeting, including updates to the district's Summer Activities policy.

The revised policy emphasizes the importance of continued learning outside the classroom.

"The Hudson School Board recognizes that student learning is an ongoing process and that it is important for students to engage in learning activities even when not attending school," the policy states.

It encourages students to plan summer activities that support learning, such as reading lists, education-themed camps, extended learning opportunities, career readiness programs, or other activities that promote academic growth.

"Whether or not summer activities are organized by the district, if the activity can be applied to an approved graduation requirement, students may achieve identified district and graduation competencies toward high school credit as provided in Board policy IK," the proposal adds.

Students wishing to earn

competencies through non-district summer activities should consult with the Dean of Academics to ensure alignment with graduation requirements. The School Board voted to send the policy to a second reading without changes.

Reconsideration of Instructional Materials and Library Resources

The Board also reviewed revisions to its policy on reconsidering instructional materials and library resources.

"Parents/guardians of students currently attending the Hudson School District who disagree with their

child's school on its selection of library or instructional materials and who wish a particular book or other instructional material to be reviewed must submit a 'Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials' or 'Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources' form to the building principal," the policy states. Forms are available

at each school's main office.

Upon receiving a request, the principal will acknowledge it in writing and notify the Superintendent or designee, who will initiate the steps outlined in procedure KEC-R.

"Parents/guardians who have concerns about or objections to specific course material that their child is

enrolled in should refer to Board Policy IGE," the policy adds.

During the review process, the material will remain in use unless the committee votes to remove or restrict it. The Board approved sending the revised policy to a second reading.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

\$74M Budget Continued from page 1

continued downward trajectory?" asked Vice-Chair Kim Rice.

Moulis said reductions have occurred, including eliminating a teaching team at Hudson Memorial and

several positions at Alvirne High School. Some positions remain in the budget with allocations of \$1.

Committee member Shawn Jasper requested historical staffing data for context.

"The budget's going up, student population's going

down, and we don't have any understanding of what our staffing has been doing," Jasper said. "It's one thing to look at the numbers as they exist now, but that doesn't give us any real context."

Rice added, "We want to see that downward trend to reflect these numbers. Will you be able to bring that information?"

Moulis promised to provide whatever data he could "readily make available."

The operating budget is still in development, but early figures put it at just over \$74 million. Several members noted that the default budget appeared close to the proposed operating budget. Moulis explained that increases stem from contractual obligations and rising benefit costs.

"The health insurance increase that is going to be realized now that we have that number is 21.37%. That is a driver of both the proposed budget and the default," he said.

Committee Chair James Lawrence requested a summary of the total proposed school budget following a brief discussion on formatting.

OBITUARY

Francis "Frank" X. Bogan



Francis "Frank" X. Bogan, 89, of Hudson, NH passed away on Thursday Dec. 4, 2025 after a period of declining health.

He was born June 23, 1936 in Roxbury, MA, son of the late Daniel and Elizabeth (Murphy) Bogan.

Frank was the devoted husband of Florence (Cozzatti) Bogan of Hudson with whom he shared 67 years of marriage.

Frank was employed for many years with Trans Gas. He loved to work in his garden, fixing cars and tractors, cutting firewood, and will always be remembered for his contagious laugh and making jokes.

Besides his beloved wife, Florence, his loving family includes a son; Francis Bogan, Jr., a daughter; Beth Ann Jones, a son; Edward Bogan, a grandson; Darrell Jones and his wife Nicole Jones as well as three great grandchildren; Cameron Jones, Reagan Jones, and Chloe Jones.

A time of visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., with a Service of Remembrance starting at 12:30 p.m., in the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Ferry St., Hudson, NH. Burial will be private. To share an online message of condolence, please visit www.dumontsullivan.com. The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Homes in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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School Board Reviews Policy on Instructional Resources & Planning

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board recently reviewed a proposed update to its policy on Instructional Resources and the Instructional Resources Plan during its latest meeting.

"The Hudson School Board is responsible for ensuring that each school has a developmentally appropriate collection of resources aligned to all learning and grade levels in the school," the proposed policy states.

The revision outlines criteria for selecting instructional resources to ensure quality learning experiences:

1. Enrich and support the curriculum
2. Stimulate growth in knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic value, and ethical standards
3. Provide background information for informed judgment
4. Present various viewpoints on important issues
5. Represent diverse

religious, ethnic, and cultural groups contributing to American heritage

6. Remain current
7. Depict cultural diversity and pluralism accurately and without bias
8. Match appropriate skill levels of students

"Instructional resources should include materials from a variety of media, including books, online and other print materials, equipment, and technologies that support the curriculum and meet the learning needs of

all students," the policy states. Selection must ensure materials are age-appropriate, provide quality learning experiences, and align with district goals.

Resources should be organized and accessible to students, staff, and parents, with circulation policies designed to maximize use. The policy also emphasizes integrating key concepts across curricula, including:

- Efficient and effective information access
- Critical evaluation of

sources

- Proper citation and avoidance of plagiarism
- Accurate and creative use of information
- Appreciation of literature and creative expression
- Ethical behavior in information use
- Understanding the role of information in a democratic society

Under the Instructional Resources Plan section, the policy directs the Superintendent or designee to maintain a written plan for

developing, organizing, acquiring, maintaining, and updating curriculum and learning resources.

"The plan should be presented to the School Board no later than Sept. 30 of every third year beginning in 2026," the policy states.

The School Board approved sending the proposed policy to a second reading.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

School Board Advances Policy on Parental Objections to Course Material

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board recently reviewed a proposed revision to its policy on

parental objections to specific course material.

"The School Board recognizes that there may be specific course materials

that parents/guardians find objectionable," the proposed policy states.

Under the revision, par-

ents who object to specific material in a course their child is enrolled in may notify the building principal in writing and request alternative instruction.

"The alternative instruction must be mutually agreed upon by the building principal and parent/guardian and be sufficient to enable the child to meet state requirements for education in the particular subject area," the policy explains. Parent names and reasons for objections will not be public information.

School staff will make reasonable efforts to accommodate alternative instruction within existing schedules and resources.

"Alternative instruction may be provided by the school through approved independent study or another method agreed to by the parent/guardian and the

building principal," the policy states. "Any cost associated with the alternative instruction shall be borne by the parent/guardian."

The policy clarifies that parents do not have the right to appeal to the School Board. Those wishing to challenge the appropriateness of instructional material may submit a request under Board Policy KEC.

The revision also addresses federal and state requirements for parental access to instructional materials.

"In accordance with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights statute and NH RSA 186:11, IX-c, the Superintendent shall develop procedures to allow parents to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum," the policy states. Access must be provided within a

reasonable time after a request.

Additional provisions apply to instruction on human sexuality and related topics.

"Per RSA 186:11, IX-c and Board Policy IHAM, parents are afforded additional rights regarding instruction on human sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, including the right to receive a minimum of two weeks' advance notice of any curriculum material to be used," the policy states. Notice will be delivered through district communication. No notice is required when a teacher responds to a student's question during class.

The School Board approved sending the policy to a second reading.

The next School Board meeting is Dec. 15.

Budget Committee

Continued from page 1

istrator Roy Sorenson said he had already responded to an email on the topic.

"We do have a posting on the website explaining the breakdown of the tax rate," Sorenson noted, adding that the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) sets the base tax rate. He clarified that the School Board returned \$3,568,588 according to its paperwork. "Whatever part of that they said they were going to return or whatever their original vote was to return it, that's a question you'll need to ask them. I don't have that answer."

Sorenson added that the Hudson School District's impact on the town tax rate was "down 13 cents" and that savings were realized

through returned funds and spending cuts.

"Unfortunately, in the year we're in, the county tax also went up by 18 cents. Basically, it negates any type of gain we would've gotten from the schools. Typically, your county tax rates may go up by four or five cents if you look at the past three years," said Sorenson. "We don't get a check from the school to the town to say 'Hey, here's \$3.6 million, do as you please.' That's not how it works."

The School Board remains in contact with the Financial Department on details regarding the returned money. Brownrigg expressed concern about transparency.

"We're not seeing that as revenue, and I guess

we're just not seeing the trail of how that money comes back. I don't know if it's revenue or expenses or what," he said. "I don't see where that money comes back."

Committee member Shawn Jasper explained that school-related funds are separate from the town budget.

"It goes to reduce the taxes, and it's reported on the forms to DRA," Jasper said, noting that the figures appear on state forms, not local budget documents. "So, you're not going to see it in any of the town or school district."

Further discussion was tabled as the tax rate may change slightly during the budget process.

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.



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Capstone Project Meets Goal for Children's Hospital



Senior Abigail Conroy, above, surpassed her goal of \$1,000 in donations during the Hudson Winter Fest Capstone event.



Alvirne High School senior Abigail Conroy held a "Hudson Winter Fest" Capstone fundraising event on Saturday afternoon Dec. 6, at the American Legion Post.

Conroy's project was to raise money for the Boston Children's Hospital and was able to surpass her goal of \$1,000 in donations during the event.

There were many activities at the festival and featured a number of musical performances throughout the afternoon.

The Capstone is a mandatory, culminating senior project where students design and complete a real-world project, demonstrating skills from the Hudson School District's "Portrait of a Graduate," like critical thinking, research, and communication, culminating in a public presentation to the school and community to show their readiness for life after high school.

Photos by Chris Paul

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OBITUARY

Mary-Gail DaCosta



Mary-Gail DaCosta, 71, of Hudson, NH, passed away peacefully on Nov. 19, 2025, at Mass General Hospital.

Mary-Gail was born in Lowell, MA, on Sept. 14, 1954. She graduated from Keith Hall and went on to attend Northern Essex and St. John's Nursing School. She worked as a nurse at Saints Memorial Medical Center and later furthered her education, earning both her BSN and MBA from Rivier University.

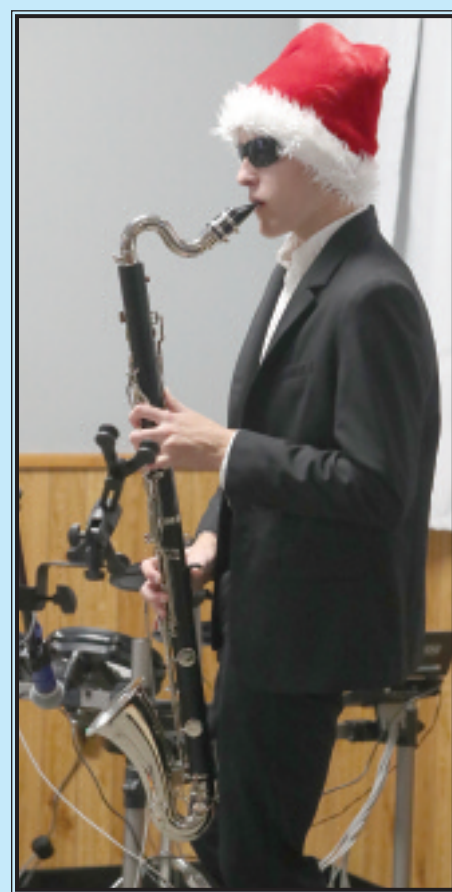
She loved vacationing with her family, especially the island of St. Maarten, gardening, doing puzzles, bird watching, and was a voracious reader.

Mary-Gail is survived by her mother, Barbara Ryan; her beloved husband of 46 years, Anthony (Tony) DaCosta; and her children, Erica DaCosta her husband Brian Harper and Stephanie Naylor her husband Ken Naylor. She is also survived by her grandchildren - Lilly, Hayden, MacKenzie, and Sloane - along with loving nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Ryan, and her brother, Kenneth Ryan

Friends and family attended visitation hours at Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, on Sunday, Nov. 23. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Nov. 24 at St Jude Parish, 435 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry, NH.

Capstone Project Meets Goal for Children's Hospital



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Hudson Cable TV Proposes Change to Revolving Fund

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Dec. 3 Budget Committee meeting saw discussion on several warrant articles related to funding town departments next March, including one from Hudson Community Television regarding the franchise fee that funds the local station.

"This is to modify the Hudson Community Television Revolving Fund, and the background for this is when the revolving fund for PEG, or public education and governmental operations was established in 2015 when the town voted to allocate 80% of the cable franchise fee rev-

enue to HCTV, and 20% to the town's general fund," explained Town Administrator Roy Sorenson. "With the continued trend of losing money with the growing shift towards streaming as the primary way people consume content, cable franchise fee revenue has declined significantly."

The warrant article would end the 80/20 split, sending all franchise fee money directly to HCTV, allowing the station to maintain its budget for the next two years. Currently, the franchise fee responsible for sending money to the HCTV Revolving Fund comes from cable television plans, not streaming

subscriptions.

"If this goes to 100% to HCTV, if you're looking ahead, there will be an impact to the budget," said Sorenson. "The revenues are declining, and at some point, they may go away all together, there may eventually be HCTV in the operation budget."

Director of Community Media Mike Johnson conceded that the change was a temporary fix and that a longer-term solution would be needed.

"HCTV has been funded by this franchise agreement for years," said Johnson. "What's happening right now, and this isn't just happening to Hudson,

this is nationwide, we're losing anywhere from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per quarter. As a department head, it's been very hard for me to plan for my department's future in that aspect, and that's just due to trends away from cable television as everybody is streaming now. As Comcast loses subscribers, we also take a hit."

HCTV had been actively seeking other ways to close its growing deficit, including an underwriting program in which local businesses pay for limited sponsorships.

"We're not allowed to due advertising per se on our station, but we can do

thank you messages for businesses," said Johnson. "We're hoping to do around \$14,000 in revenue. It sounds small, but that little but can help make up that difference for us."

Selectman Liaison Xen Vurgaropoulos expressed his support for the warrant article.

"He's pretty much just breaking even if we give him this," claimed Vurgaropoulos. "If the franchise underwriting works out well, he may be able to put away a little bit."

Members of the Budget Committee had a few questions, with Shawn Jasper asking if they should adjust the estimated revenue in

the upcoming budget.

"It's small, it's around \$70,000, but it's still going to impact the revenues," said Jasper. "I just think it's important when we do the explanation at town meeting talking about the budget that if this passes, this will happen."

Sorenson recommended against trying to adjust the revenue, noting the warrant article may not pass, and that \$70,000 was relatively small when compared to the rest of the budget.

"I think the revenue will offset on its own," said Sorenson. "The impact will be in 2028 when you have to realize that number."

Health Education & Instruction Exemption Policy Moves Ahead

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board recently reviewed a first reading of the revised Health Education and Exemption from Instruction policy during its latest meeting.

The proposed policy emphasizes compliance with state law and Department of Education require-

ments, stating:

"Consistent with state law and Department of Education requirements, health and physical education, including instruction about parts of the body, reproduction, sexuality education, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and related topics, will be included in the

instructional program. Sexuality education shall include instruction relative to abstinence and sexually transmitted infections."

The policy further specifies that instruction must be age-appropriate, aligned with the course of study, and delivered systematically. Faculty presenting this instruction will receive continuing in-service train-

ing, including strategies and techniques for effective teaching.

Parental Notification and Curriculum Access

Under the revised policy, parents/guardians must be notified at least two weeks in advance when curriculum materials related to human sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or similar topics will be used.

"The notice shall identify and provide contact information for the principal or other staff member

whom a parent/guardian should contact to arrange an opportunity to inspect the curriculum course material," the policy states. "However, no notice is required if a district employee is responding to a question from a student during class."

The policy also aligns with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment and NH RSA 186:11, IX-c, requiring procedures for parents to inspect instructional materials promptly upon request.

Opt-Out Provisions

Parents/guardians - or students over 18 - may opt out of specific health or sex education units for religious reasons or objections. Students who opt out will receive an alternative assignment sufficient to meet state health education requirements, provided by the health education teacher in coordination with the principal.

The School Board voted to advance the revised policy to a second reading, scheduled for Dec. 15.

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School Board Briefed on New Clubs, Approves FFA Travel Request

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board met on Dec. 1 and reviewed a memo from Alvirne High School Principal Steve Beals outlining several new student clubs formed this school year.

"Since the start of the school year, several new club requests have been filtered through me based on student interest," Beals wrote in his memo. "I have used a consistent process in meeting with interested students, securing a club

advisor, and receiving both written and spoken details of what the club goals are before approving at my level."

Beals emphasized that none of the new clubs require funding at this time.

"Each of these clubs have volunteer staff participating with them and therefore there are no funding requests at this time to determine the long-term validity of each activity," Beals explained.

The following new

activities were approved:

- Hands of Hope – Student activism club. Advisor: Sharon Wagner.

- Royal Flush – Learn-to-play card game club. Advisor: Sarah Compagna.

- Together Everyone's a Miracle – Uplifting club for those with debilitating illness or disease. Advisor: Melanie O'Toole.

- Warhammer – Gaming club that builds its own miniatures. Advisor: Kaitlyn Abbott-Rose.

- Club America – Empowers the next genera-

tion of bold, free-thinking high school leaders. Advisor: volunteer Kim Allan.

- Rock Climbing – Indoor and outdoor activity club. Advisor: Tu-Anh Duang.

"I always enjoy supporting student interest in new clubs and activities to allow them greater connection with one another and the school," Beals wrote.

FFA Leadership Camp Approved

The School Board also considered a travel request

for Alvirne FFA students to attend the NH FFA Winter Leadership Camp, scheduled for Jan. 16 - 18, 2026, at Camp Brookwoods in Alton, NH.

According to the proposal:

"At this event, FFA members have the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops and activities to acquire career and leadership skills. These activities are led by the NH State FFA officer team and are aimed at teaching students how to be more effective

members in their chapter, school, and community. Students will also have the opportunity to meet and interact with a National FFA Officer who will be attending this year."

The cost per student is approximately \$70, covered through fundraising and family contributions. Attendance is typically limited to 15 students and one advisor.

The School Board unanimously approved the request.

Selectmen Approve Speedway License for 2026 Season

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen has approved a

license for Hudson Speedway to operate as a motor vehicle racetrack for the 2026 season, following

inspections and recommendations from town officials.

Hudson Town Administrator Roy Sorenson

explained that inspections were conducted as part of the application process.

"The premises have been inspected and the Inspectional Services Division and the Police Chief have provided a list of conditions that must be met by the applicant," Sorenson wrote in a memo to the Board.

The license is valid through the end of April, based on insurance requirements.

"The application is only applicable for races through the end of April as dictated by presented insurance," Sorenson noted.

Hudson Police Chief David Cayot outlined several conditions for approval in addition to existing town

regulations under Chapter 264 of the Hudson Town Code:

1. Parking Restrictions: Owners must ensure patrons are advised - via signs and announcements - of no parking on Old Derry Road, Robinson Road, Putnam Road, and Senter Farm Road. Patrons and race teams should be urged to exit via Robinson Road to Route 102 after races.

2. Police Detail: A minimum of two police officers will be assigned to the racetrack, paid by the owners. Officers will arrive 30 minutes before the first race to inspect parking and remain until the final race concludes. If Hudson officers are unavailable, the detail will be offered to Mutual

Aid Agencies.

3. Alcohol Compliance: All laws and ordinances regarding the proper and safe service of alcohol must be followed.

Board Chair Dillon Dumont praised improvements at the Speedway under its new ownership.

"I think seeing what the new owners have done there truly is fantastic," Dumont said, noting the addition of a driver training school. "I think that's just a great space there."

The Board unanimously approved the license with all conditions required by the Police Chief and Inspectional Services Division.

The next Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.



Medical Training

Hudson Fire Paramedics completed a practical review of creating an airway using a surgical technique, cricothyrotomy, when no other means of ventilating is possible. Lt. Zach Whitney lead the didactic portion and then he and the departments Medical Control Doctor, Dr. Ohman from St. Joseph's Hospital, supervised the actual technique which was done on a swine trachea due to its similarity to the human anatomy. This type of technical training is required of all of the paramedics at Hudson Fire.

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Wreaths Across America Scheduled to Hold Wreath Day Ceremony Dec. 13

CHRISTINA MADDEN
SUBMISSION

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. More than two million volunteers and supporters will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 5,200 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

In Hudson, Wreath Day activities begin at 11 AM on the grounds of the historic Hills House on Derry Road with a solemn ceremony that features the presentation of ceremonial wreaths for each of the Armed Services, the Merchant Marine,

POW/MIAs, and for the over 600 veterans interred in St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Cemeteries where we are not allowed to place wreaths on individual veterans' graves. Following the ceremony, starting at noon, registered volunteers will begin placing wreaths on the graves of nearly 400 veterans' graves in Blodgett, Ford, Sunnyside, Old Center, Senter, Westview, and Hills Farms cemeteries and at the site of the Poor Farm burial ground.

Location Leaders at those cemeteries will conduct a brief ceremony, give instructions on how to place

wreaths, and then hand out wreaths to the volunteers. Our Hudson volunteers, many who have been involved since 2019 when Wreath Day was first observed in Hudson, consist of schoolkids, Scouts, church groups, families with children, and individuals from all walks of life, some of whom place wreaths at a family member's grave. They say the veteran's name aloud and thank them for their service, then place the wreath, straighten the bow, and fluff the branches. Scouts and veterans render a hand salute.

While there are already

enough volunteers signed up to place wreaths, what the Hudson Wreath Day Ceremony can use most are more citizens to take one half hour of their Saturday morning to attend the Wreath Day Ceremony. The ceremony brings together active and reserve service members, veterans, Hudson Police and Fire officers, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who volunteer their time to put together a moving tribute to our Nation's veterans. Attendance at the ceremony not only honors veterans and their families, but also acknowledges their willingness to make the ceremony meaningful and reverent. If you plan to attend, please dress warmly as this is an outdoor ceremony and bring a folding chair if you cannot stand for thirty minutes. After the ceremony, the Hudson Historical Society will be serving baked goods, hot coffee and hot chocolate, tours of the house, and use of their bathroom facilities. WAA Hudson NH Cemeteries thanks the Historical Society for welcoming us and allowing us a place to hold our ceremony where there is ample room for attendees, plenty of parking and refreshments after the ceremony.

Why do we have Wreath Day and place wreaths on

veterans' graves in December? We understand that we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedom. In many homes, there is an empty seat at the table for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We honor them and their families for the sacrifices they made and continue to make each day to keep our country safe. On Wreath Day, we show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America as we remember the Fallen, honor those who serve and their families, and teach the next generation the value of freedom.

How did Wreaths Across America begin?

In 1992, Maine wreath maker Morrill Worcester had a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering a boyhood experience at Arlington National Cemetery, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. Arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed

at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

The annual tribute went on quietly until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated the web. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to share their stories and thank Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501c (3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The yearlong mission of the organization is simple: Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. You can help in many ways. Visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org to learn more.



Ornament Making Members of the Hudson Historical Society recently held their "Old Fashioned Ornament" making event. The group found it to be a success with many members of the community coming to the Hills House to create handcrafted ornaments. *Courtesy photo*

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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.

Trails Challenge

The Hudson Conservation Commission is seeking help to design a patch for the Hudson Trails Challenge. This patch will be awarded to hikers who complete hiking the over 20 miles of trails in Hudson's conservation areas and forests. The contest is open to residents of Hudson, NH ages 5-17. Please limit your submission to 5 colors. One submission per artist. The top 4 designs will be eligible for an award and recognition. Submissions are to be returned to the Circulation Desk by Jan. 31.

Wreath Day Ceremony

Hudson will pay tribute to its fallen heroes during the annual Wreath Day Ceremony

on Saturday, Dec. 13, beginning at the historic Hills House on Derry Road. Volunteers will start setting up at 10 a.m., with the formal ceremony scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Following the ceremony, the Hudson Historical Society will host pastries and hot drinks inside the Hills House for participants and guests. At noon, wreath-laying will begin at cemeteries across town. Location leaders will conduct briefings between 11:45 a.m. and noon.

Friends of the Library

The Hudson Friends of Library will be meeting on Dec. 16 at 6 p.m., in Rogers Memorial Library's community room to discuss upcoming events and continue work on new fund-raising avenues.

The work of FOL is vitally important to the community and library programs and events. Please register for the meeting on the RML website Event Calendar.

Open House at Hills House

Celebrate the season at the Hudson Historical Society's Holiday Open House at the beautifully decorated Hills House, 211 Derry Road. Step back in time and enjoy Victorian holiday décor, festive photo opportunities, and community cheer. Event Dates: Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Wreaths Across America Ceremony kicks off the day); Sunday, Dec. 14 from noon - 4 p.m. (Open House). All events are free and perfect for holiday photos. Don't miss

this chance to experience the charm of Hills House during the holidays!

Wreaths Across America

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, in Hudson, Wreath Day activities begin at 11 a.m., at Hills House on Derry Road with a solemn ceremony. Following the ceremony, starting at noon, registered volunteers will begin placing wreaths on the graves of nearly 400 veterans' graves in Blodgett, Ford, Sunnyside, Old Center, Senter, Westview, and Hills Farms cemeteries and at the site of the Poor Farm burial ground.

Buy-a-Brick and Show Gratitude

Preserve a memory and help the Friends of the Library support programs, events, museum and entertainment venue passes, and scholarships. FOL will engrave your purchased bricks with two lines (\$55) or three lines (\$80) with your special message. The order form is on Rogers Memorial Lib-

rary website click on the Friends page. The bricks are placed in the RML Walkway twice a year and will become an enduring legacy. For an inanimate object, each brick can speak volumes.

Karaoke and Dancing

American Legion Post 48 will be hosting DJ Mike on Friday, Dec. 19, from 6 - 10 p.m., in the Foxhole at 1 Fulton St., for Karaoke and Dancing. This event is open to members and bona fide guests 21+. For more information, please call 603-889-9777.

Drop In Stitchers

If you love to craft, whether it be quilting, knitting, crocheting, rug making or plastic canvas, you will LOVE this Rogers Library group! This group will meet on Fridays at 9:15 a.m.

Christmas Storytime

Come and listen to "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with the Hudson Historical Society at the Hills House, 211 Derry Rd., on Friday, Dec. 12 & 25 from 6:30 -

7:30 p.m. Kids will be gifted with a fun "Christmas box". Limited seating. Registration required by Dec. 6. Please email the Society at Hudson-Historical@live.com with your name and number of attendees. Free admission.

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 Rogers Memorial Library.

Baby Lapsit and Playtime

On Thursdays come to the Rogers Library at 10 a.m., for interactive stories and songs for babies and their caregivers followed by playtime.

Explorers Storytime

On Fridays at 1:30 p.m., Rogers Library will have songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers.

Teen Hangout

On Weekdays at 2:30 p.m., middle and high school

continued on page 14

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Buy a Talking Brick for a Unique Present with the Library

MELINDA HUEBNER
SUBMISSION

Talking bricks? Sure! Think of all the history bricks of old buildings could tell. Brick mill buildings that hummed and rumbled to produce fabric, thread and yarn. Brick sidewalks that have watched progress parade. None of this would happen without someone's dream. "Brick by brick, we lay the foundation

of our dreams." (Source Unknown) This quote reflects the significance of bricks not just as a building material, but as a metaphor for the challenges and achievements we face in life. They encourage us to take small, consistent steps toward our goals and to build resilience in the face of adversity. For many of us there were people that stood by us and encouraged us

along the way. Buy-a-brick from the Friends of the Library (FOL) and have it engraved with the name of someone that made an impact on your life. Brick purchases help Friends of the Library support programs and events and provide museum and educational venue passes. FOL will engrave your purchased bricks with two lines (\$55) or three lines

(\$80) with your special message. Find the order form on the Rodgers Memorial website under "About Us" tab, which is under Friends of the Library Memorial website under the Friends of the Library tab. The bricks are placed in the RML Walkway twice a year and will become an enduring legacy.

Let me offer an example of how a brick can talk. In

1912 my grandfather built his first grocery store in a small MN town. It was made of brick, all two stories. Those bricks represented my grandfather's dream, an income, answering the needs of the community, eventually, build his legacy. 2025 saw the demolition of that store with the parceling out of a brick to each surviving grandchild. My brick reminds me of all the long

hours of my dad's hard work, sacrifices he made, us three kids working at the store and learning valuable lessons and skills, and seeing a need and filling it. My brick is a storyteller and reminds me of the many lessons learned and friendships forged. The brick you buy could tell your story.

If a brick could talk, what would it tell you? You may be surprised.

'Tis the Season for Tech Turnover

The air is crisp, the evenings are dark and the vibes are cozy, which can only mean one thing – the holidays are upon us! For many families, the season of giving also brings a season of clearing out the old to make space for the new. And when those Black Friday deals come across your screen, it can be especially tempting to buy the latest gadgets for yourself or a loved one. When it comes to upgrading electronics, there are some important things to keep in mind if you plan to get rid of your old devices.

Deck the halls, not the landfills

How many of your

devices contain lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries? If the item is rechargeable, there's a good chance it does! Think about those hot-ticket gadgets that are commonly bought during the holidays: cellphones, laptops, tablets, wireless headphones and speakers...the majority of which contain Li-ion batteries! And these aren't the only electronics to think about – cordless power tools and lawncare equipment, toys, scooters, hoverboards, electric bikes and even personal care items, like electric toothbrushes and shavers, all likely contain Li-ion batteries, too.

When it comes to getting rid of old electronics,

you cannot simply toss them into the garbage or recycling bin. Rechargeable Li-ion batteries are banned from disposal in New Hampshire and should never be put in the trash or mixed with your recyclables. As of this past July, it is illegal for anyone to throw Li-ion batteries (or devices containing them) away under our state law (RSA 149-M:27). When crushed or damaged, Li-ion batteries can ignite and cause fires that burn hotter, longer and are very difficult to extinguish. Fires have been ignited in homes, garbage trucks and at transfer stations. But don't worry, there are safe ways

to recycle your unwanted electronics!

Recycle those rechargeables

Li-ion batteries must be recycled separately from the rest of your "traditional" recyclables (plastic, glass, cardboard, etc.) Some transfer stations have special collection boxes for Li-ion batteries, but it is always a good idea to call ahead and double check with your town's facility. You can also check some online resources to find battery collection locations, such as Call2Recycle.org or Earth911.com. By entering your ZIP code, you can find local municipalities and businesses that have drop-

off collection sites, including town transfer stations, and bigger stores like Best Buy, Home Depot and Staples locations. You can also check the list of computer and electronic recycling vendors on the NHDES website.

What about other batteries?

Just because Li-ion batteries are specifically called out in New Hampshire's state law, due to the potential fire hazard, it doesn't mean other batteries are completely off the hook. All batteries, even used ones, have the potential to carry a charge and cause a spark, smoke or fire. For this reason, it's important to learn

about managing other household batteries. Check out the Managing My Waste "Batteries" webpage www.des.nh.gov/news-and-media/blog/batteries for information about identifying different types of batteries and how to properly recycle or dispose of them. By recycling your electronics properly, you can ensure that this year's season of tech turnover doesn't go up in smoke.

If you have questions, please contact the NHDES Household Hazardous Waste program www.des.nh.gov/waste/household-hazardous-waste by email at hhw@des.nh.gov or by phone at (603) 271-2047.

Around Town

Continued from page 13

students ages 13+ are invited to enjoy the Rogers Library's teen space after school. Snacks, charging stations, video games, and crafts provided.

Movers & Shakers

Come to Rodgers Memorial Library on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., (except the third week of the month) for a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Movement, songs, bubbles, and stories for ages 1-3.

LEGO Racing

Build a vehicle from LEGO bricks and race it down a track at the Rogers Library on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. This event is for

ages 4+.

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.

Wreaths Across America and Open House

On Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 14 from noon - 4 p.m., Come see the beautiful Hills House, 211 Derry Rd., decorated in Victorian Christmas style! No registration required. Free admission

Adventurers Storytime

On Tuesdays at 10 a.m. (except the second week of the month), join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activi-

ties at the Rodgers Memorial Library. For ages 3-5.

Story Safari

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

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.

BINGO!

Bingo is back at the Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, every Tues-

day 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.

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.

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 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 email info@unitedway-nashua.org if you have any questions.

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 fixed-mount or handheld water-saving 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 Amy Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator - MtBE Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov, Phone: 603.271.8801

Hudson Times

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The Palmer Center at Alvirne High School

Adult Ed starts soon

Early registration helps ensure classes will run!

MONDAY NIGHTS: January 5, 12, 26, February 2, 9

3D Modeling in CAD: If you've ever wondered how to create your ideas digitally or in a 3D software, or print your 3D designs, Engineering teacher Colin Stone would love to show you how in Onshape. No experience necessary.
5 weeks 5:30 - 8 pm Tuition \$75

Welding 1: Learn the basics in this popular beginner's class taught by Hudson's own Dave Anger.
No experience necessary.
5 weeks 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Tuition \$100 (includes materials)

TUESDAY NIGHTS: January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3

Welding 2 Tig & Mig: (Pre-requisite Welding 1) In this course you will build on skills learned in Welding 1 and learn Tig and Mig welding.
5 Weeks 6 - 8:30 p.m., Tuition \$100
(includes materials)

Global Cuisine: Our own Chef Dave takes you on a culinary journey around the globe, to make delectable dishes from the continents of Asia, Europe and North Africa.
5 weeks 5:30-7:30 p.m., Tuition \$100
(includes all ingredients/supplies)

Woodworking with Doug: Discover the satisfaction of working with your hands in this beginner-friendly woodworking class. Designed for adults with little to no prior experience, this course introduces the essential tools, techniques, and safety practices needed to start building with wood.
5 weeks 6 - 8 p.m., Tuition \$60
(includes materials)

To register for classes, please fill out the form below, cut along dotted line and return with payment (made out to AHS) to Adult Education, The Palmer Center, 200 Derry Rd., Hudson, NH 03051

Please sign me up for the following classes

Monday Classes

- ☐ 3D CAD (\$75)
☐ Welding 1 (\$100)

Tuesday Classes

- ☐ Welding 2 (\$100)
☐ Woodworking (\$60)
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