

THE Hudson Times

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Wreath Day Efforts

Courtney Marshall, a representative of the New Hampshire Black History Trail placed a wreath at the grave of George Hazard at the Hills Farm Cemetery, a Civil War veteran who served in what was described on his stone as a "colored regiment". A number of volunteers were laid wreaths on Saturday, Dec. 13, at a number of Hudson cemeteries during the annual event. See more photos page 5.

Photo by Chris Paul

Surge in ADU Applications Anticipated as State Law Expands Size Limits

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

At its final meeting of 2025, the Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) discussed preparations for an expected increase in Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) applications in 2026. Demand for ADUs

has grown statewide, prompting passage of a law allowing units up to 950 square feet. The Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC) recently recommended aligning Hudson's regulations with the new state standard.

"ZORC's been pretty

busy," said Zoning Administrator Chris Sullivan. "We're getting too many people coming in with non-conforming proposals."

Although the RSA permitting ADUs is now law, details are still being finalized. Hudson voters will

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District Cell Phone Policy Approved by School Board

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board has officially adopted a revised Unauthorized Communication Devices Policy, following a recent state mandate requiring all school districts to implement a "bell-to-bell" cell phone ban.

The updated policy aims to create a learning environment free from distractions. It states:

"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 indi-

vidual students and the classroom."

The policy emphasizes that the entire school community—including students, teachers, staff, and coaches—should model appropriate cell phone use. It also clarifies that mobile devices may be used during emergencies that threaten the safety of students, staff, or others.

For clarity, the policy defines a personal communication device 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. District-owned devices refer to those provided by the district for instructional use."

Key Restrictions

Students are prohibited from using personal communication devices from the first bell until dismissal, including lunch, passing periods, and recess.

"Students participating in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, field trips, or other activities shall abide by the rules and consequences established by the coach, instructor, sponsor, or supervisor," the policy states.

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Concerns Raised Over Wetlands and Asbestos at Bockes Road Development

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The December meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission focused on a conditional use permit application for 1 Bockes Road, where plans call for a 12,000-square-foot multi-tenant retail building. The proposal sparked questions from nearby residents about environmental and safety impacts.

"The wetlands - the plan across the street shows grading into a 75-foot wetland buffer. That buffer exists to prevent runoff, erosion, and flooding from reaching nearby homes. I have questions for why the encroachment is being allowed, and what mitigation would be required to protect

the wetlands and properties around them," said resident Steven Cotroneo, who urged a third-party environmental review. "Any change to the grading or drainage on the parcel can shift the water flow during storms or snowmelt. How would the runoff be prevented from being directed towards our homes?"

Cotroneo also raised concerns about well water protection and the potential disturbance of an adjacent site containing sealed asbestos.

"Will the town require professional environmental testing before the ground disturbance begins?" he asked. "How will the safety of families, pets, and local wildlife be ensured during

the process?"

Town Civil Engineer Don Kirkland explained that asbestos burial sites are regulated.

"There's a license for anyone that wants to inspect a site such as this where there's buried asbestos," said Kirkland. "If they were to disturb or remove this asbestos, one of those people would have to be on site."

Conservation Chair Carl Murphy noted that the asbestos site is well documented by the state, while Selectman Liaison David Morin added that past development applications and state records provide resources for residents seeking more information.

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Superintendent Presents Updated Default Budget Figures to Committee

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on Dec. 10 to continue its review of the SAU81 2026–2027 budget. Superintendent Dr. Dan Moulis attended to provide updated figures, including a revised calculation of the school district's default budget.

"You'll note that the default budget is dialed down, decreased a bit more. The top part of this default calculation goes through all of the reductions that would be removed from the FY27

default," explained Moulis. "The additions at the bottom of the default calculation include the contractual employment salaries through health insurance, dental insurance, teacher retirement, etc."

The revised figures also addressed transportation and special education costs.

"This default budget is different than the default budget we have on our books?" asked Committee member Randy Brownrigg. "These are the new numbers?"

Moulis confirmed that

the updated default number is \$73,478,275, reflecting adjustments for health insurance costs and other contractual obligations. He acknowledged some uncertainty about which items should be included in the calculation.

"The question that I have - and probably the only one I'll ask you about - is relative to the positions that were eliminated in the budget," said Committee member Shawn Jasper. "The language of the default law is very specific to removing

the positions that were eliminated, and that's not reflected here."

Moulis responded that some eliminated positions were accounted for in the reformatted version and promised further verification.

"I will verify this," said Moulis.

Committee member Kevin Walsh noted that what qualifies as a "repeating" or "contractual" obligation is not always clear.

"There are some things in the default I would consider default budget items

that you might consider to be reoccurring. Like every year, we buy grades six and grade nine new computers, and there's a bunch of computer carts and things like that," said Walsh. "We realize this is a journey, not a destination. We're looking for a continuous ability to slice and dice the data that we need to make sure folks have a good idea of what's going on with the budget."

Walsh recommended making the budget easily accessible on the SAU81 website.

The committee also dis-

cussed public hearing dates ahead of the March election.

"I've been contacted by some folks out there regarding the public hearing date," said Walsh.

Committee Chair James Lawrence proposed Thursday, Jan. 8, and Wednesday, Jan. 14, with Thursday, Jan. 15, available if needed. Jasper suggested focusing the first hearing on the town budget and the second on the school budget. Lawrence agreed to update the town calendar with the information.

Selectmen Approve Early Closures for Town Offices on Christmas Eve

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen recently discussed a request to close the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office and the Sewer Department early on Christmas Eve.

The original proposal asked the board to "authorize the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office & the Sewer Department to close at 1 p.m., Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2025, as recommended by the Tax Collector."

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that the same request was approved last year and noted that it

has been a common practice in previous years.

"The office closed at 1 p.m. in 2019, 2020, and 2024. In 2021, 2022, and 2023, Christmas Eve was either on a weekend or the federal holiday recognizing Christmas," Tax Collector Christine Strout-Lizotte wrote in a memo. "The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office and the Sewer Department will be closing early at 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025. The clerks will be using Earned Time for the early closure."

Strout-Lizotte noted that employees who choose to stay may do so without

using earned time.

"As in past years, we respectfully request the support of the Board of Selectmen for this early closure," she wrote.

The Assessing Department submitted a similar request.

"The Assessing Department will be closing early at 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025," Chief Assessor James Michaud wrote in a memo. "The office staff will be using Earned Time for the early closure."

Strout-Lizotte reported that the Tax Collector's Office had only 14 customers on Christmas Eve

last year.

"We didn't have a lot of business that day," she said during the meeting.

This led to discussion about extending the early closure option to all non-essential Town Hall employees, effectively closing Town Hall at 1 p.m. Soren-

son confirmed that employees leaving early would use earned time and that the offer could be made uniformly across departments.

"I think it would be fair to offer it uniformly," said Board Chair Dillon Dumont.

Employees who prefer

to work the full day may do so. The board ultimately approved giving Sorenson authority to close Town Hall early on Christmas Eve based on operational needs.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.

Cell Phone

Continued from page 1

It further prohibits the use of devices with recording capabilities in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any location where privacy could be compromised.

While students may bring personal devices for educational purposes, misuse will trigger disciplinary action under Section D: Consequences and Violations. Devices brought to school must remain powered off and stored in lockers, backpacks, or handbags. The district will not be responsible for loss,

damage, or theft.

Consequences for Violations

The revised policy eliminates verbal warnings, based on recommendations from high school administrators. Instead, consequences include:

1. First Offense: Documented written warning; device secured in a designated location; referral to administration.
2. Second Offense: Device held in the office for the remainder of the day; family contact.
3. Subsequent Offenses:

Device held for the day; administrative detention; family meeting requested.

Students are also prohibited from recording audio, video, or taking photos of others without permission. Unauthorized distribution of media may result in disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to inspect personal devices under RSA 189:70 if there is reasonable suspicion of policy violations.

Superintendent Dan Moulis noted that the district will communicate these changes before the holiday break.



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Alvirne High School Evacuated and Released after Fire in Classroom

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

Students and staff at Alvirne High School were evacuated last week during a fire that was started in a classroom on Thursday, Dec. 11.

A statement was released from the School District on the day of the fire, saying,

"Alvirne High School safely conducted an evacuation procedure on Thursday morning after a fire was ignited in a first-floor classroom.

The procedure was initiated at approximately 8:15 a.m., which prompted all students and staff to quickly leave the building and gath-

er in the school's parking lot. The Hudson Fire Department was immediately contacted about the incident and swiftly arrived on scene to contain the fire. All students and staff then walked to gather indoors at Hills Garrison Elementary School, which is located a couple of hundred yards

from Alvirne."

The district added, "The Hudson Fire Department quickly extinguished the fire, and the building was deemed safe to reoccupy. No students or staff were harmed throughout the duration of the incident. To ensure that the building could be properly cleaned,

all students were dismissed early, at 10 a.m.

Alvirne students resumed classes as normally scheduled the following day.

The Hudson Police Department released the following, "We want to inform parents that a small fire occurred inside a class-

room at Alvirne High School this morning. The fire was quickly extinguished, and all students and staff are safe.

Out of an abundance of caution, the area was cleared while emergency personnel ensured the scene was safe."

Planning Board Reviews Conceptual Plan of Restaurant Depot on Lowell Road

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board met on Dec. 10 to review a conceptual design for a proposed Restaurant Depot facility at 273 Lowell Road.

"I'm here to really solicit some initial feedback," said Greg DiBona of Bohler Engineering, who presented the plan. "This piece of property is really along the frontage of where the Hudson logistics development is under construction now. That looks like it's making some good headway, and there's a new access road that's servicing that development."

DiBona explained that one of Restaurant Depot's

driveways would connect to the new access road, taking advantage of the nearby development. The front of the property is currently wooded and undeveloped.

"For those who are maybe not familiar with what Restaurant Depot is, it's a national chain that offers wholesale products to a specific club membership. You have to be an affiliated restaurant, have a restaurant license, etc., to shop there. It's not open to the public, it's not a retail type of use, but it's also not a warehouse - it's something in between," said DiBona. "A couple of the things we want to get feedback on are how this type of use would be considered and what

parking requirements would maybe be considered for this."

He noted that while guidelines exist for warehouses and retail, there is no clear direction for a business like Restaurant Depot. The preliminary plan includes a 100-foot residential buffer.

Board members asked questions about the internal layout of the site.

"How are the internal workings?" asked Chair Tim Malley. "Is there online order fulfillment that happens out of individual branches - where people order online and you ship it out to them?"

DiBona said Restaurant Depot uses pallet storage,

where restaurants purchase large quantities of goods, comparing the setup to IKEA, where customers buy items directly from the floor. He noted that the company does not offer shipping but does provide pre-order and pickup services.

"Is there extra storage up above that, at night, they have to go up and bring down lower for people?" asked Alternate Board member Todd Boyer. "It'll help us determine whether or not you're wholesale or retail."

DiBona did not have all internal details but said the building height would be about 36 feet. Customer traffic is relatively pre-

dictable.

"What the data shows is that a facility of this size does around 50 trips in and out," said Shaun Kelly of Chappell Engineering, referring to similar Restaurant Depot locations. "It's basically a customer arriving every two to three minutes and a customer leaving every two to three minutes."

Factoring in customers and employees, the team estimated that 176 parking spaces would be ideal, sized to accommodate minivans and SUVs.

External site changes include a proposed septic system and drainage work that would temporarily affect the 75-foot wetland buffer zone.

"It'd be a wasted opportunity not to install a municipal sewer connection to this parcel," said Board member James Crowley, who also recommended a noise study and a comprehensive traffic study. "I think there ought to be a section with a traffic study that really looks at the Lowell, Dracut, and River Road intersection."

Town Planner Brooke Dubowik noted that the site appears to be outside the town's sewer district, and the applicant said no nearby connections are easily accessible. Board members agreed that a traffic study will be essential as the plan moves forward.

Exciting Training Milestone Hit by Hudson Firefighters

Last week, over the course of four intensive days, the remaining half of our department successfully completed the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fire Ground Survival & Fire Fighter Rescue Program at the New Hampshire Fire Academy & Emergency Medical Services. The first half of our team completed this vital training in November, meaning our entire department is now certified.

This achievement was made possible through an Assistance to Firefighters Grant, which focuses on the health and wellness of our members. Without this grant, such advanced training would not have been feasible within our existing budget. We are grateful for this support, which strengthens both the safety and effectiveness of our team.

The program was led by IAFF Master Instructors from across the United States and Canada, including experts from right here in New Hampshire. Its primary goal is to equip firefighters with life-saving survival skills-critical for self-rescue in situations

where they may become lost, trapped, or run out of air during a fire. Additionally, the training covers how to package and transport a downed firefighter and remove their gear once outside a structure. Every skill taught is based on real-world incidents where fire-

fighters tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.

An added benefit: our members who completed the course are now certified to teach these programs internally, ensuring we can sustain and expand this essential training for years to come.

With this milestone, our organization is better prepared to meet the demands of an ever-changing environment. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient department committed to continuous improvement and safety.

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Editorial

'Tis the Season for Kindness, Hope, and Connection

The holidays are here, casting a warm glow across our towns. Lights sparkle along familiar streets, music hums softly from car radios, and stores buzz with anticipation. We picture a classic New England Christmas-snow on rooftops, laughter spilling from cozy homes, hearts full of hope and generosity. For many, it truly is a season of joy.

But let's be honest: it isn't that simple for everyone. While the holidays can feel magical-a time for traditions, gatherings, and giving-they can also bring stress, loneliness, and even sadness. Behind the glow of holiday lights, some of our friends and neighbors are struggling. The pressure to create the "perfect" holiday-buying gifts, hosting parties, keeping up with social media-can feel overwhelming. For those facing financial strain or mental health challenges, this season can be especially hard.

I've heard from people worried about making ends meet or feeling isolated. It breaks my heart because the holidays should never be about who spends the most or who has the most picture-perfect celebration. They're about connection, kindness, and remembering what really matters.

If you're feeling the weight of the season, you're not alone. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) offers simple ways to ease stress:

- Reach out to loved ones. A quick call or text can brighten someone's day.

- Find small joys. A favorite song, a walk outside, or baking cookies can help.

- Say no when you need to. Your well-being matters more than meeting every expectation.

- Volunteer. Helping others can lift your spirits and remind you of the good in the world.

And if you know someone who might be struggling, reach out. Sometimes a kind word or an invitation can make all the difference.

Of course, there's still room for holiday fun! Bake that extra batch of cookies and share them with a neighbor. Write a card to someone you haven't seen in a while. These small gestures cost little but mean so much. They remind us that the season isn't about money-it's about goodwill and community.

At Nutfield Publishing, we're grateful for the businesses and residents who support our work and for readers who take time to stay informed during the holiday rush. We encourage everyone to shop locally and support what makes our towns special.

So as you wrap gifts and plan gatherings, take a moment to breathe. Enjoy the lights, the music, and the simple joys. And remember: the greatest gift you can give is kindness and hope.

From all of us, we wish you peace, health, and happiness this holiday season-and a new year filled with promise.

Letters

Morin Defends Rec Director

To the editor,
After reading the article in Volume 3, Issue 47, I am aghast.

The selectmen Dave Morin should have his priorities of Hudson Taxpayers first. It seems he is compromised.

A raise for any town employee should be within the "Cost of Living" increase and not based on a supposed "deserved" compensation.

The Board of Selectmen should consider their professional standards and use proper justification methods for all Town expenses, including compensation.

Not everyone would agree that the Recreation Director is doing a outstanding job.

Shawn Jasper should be applauded for wanting to review the amounts being spent.

It is hard to beleive that we have a big and beautiful Senior Center that can only be used for events sanctioned by the Director.

If Dave Morin is going to stoop to childish pranks like wearing a custom Tee shirt that belittles others, he should be the one appolo-

gizing and hopefully stepping down.

We have a huge buget crisis of overspending and this needs to be addressed in a serious forum.

Everyone is tired of the continuous tax increases and when the residents of Hudson hear of this behavior, we all feel disapointment in the Selectmen as a group.

We should all remember that the elected officials can be replaced for poor performance!

Regards,
Eric Dunkle
Hudson

Hudson School Taxes

To the editor,

My Hudson school taxes are +94% over the last 10 years and +45% over the last 5 years, which is a 7% CAGR over the last decade. My Town portion is similar at +95% but this letter will focus on the school portion. Keep in mind that the inflation rate is +37% over the same 10-year period. I understand that contracts, health benefits and one time infrastructure expenditures can drive tax rates higher than inflation rates but overall, things simply do not add up. A few key facts to keep

in mind:

- Enrollment was 3717 in 2015 and 2875 in 2025; 23% decline; 4175 in 2010.

- Budget was \$48.5 Million in 2015 and \$69.7 Million in 2025; +44% increase

- Staffing numbers appear to be the same from 2015 to 2025.

- The School Board is proposing a \$74 Million budget for the new year with another decline in enrollment overall.

- Hudson has 19% of school age kids attending private school's vs a state average of 9%.

- State of NH has approved school vouchers effective 2025 school year.

We cannot continue to have declining enrollments (-23%) and rising budgets (+44%) without a revenue plan. The current growth in our CIR Development (Commercial, Industrial, Retail) in my opinion is not carrying their fair share of the impact to our towns rising costs. We need to get more of the burden off our residents. What is the plan to get there by this school board? This is a total town issue that needs discussions with all boards and leadership involved to create a plan.

James Dobens
Hudson

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

Bockes Road

Continued from page 1

"I'm sure there's a very good map of where everything is and where the asbestos would be," said Morin. "This town is full of asbestos. We've gotten pretty good at treating it."

Project Manager Chris York of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. addressed concerns about wetland buffer impacts.

"There's a number of comments from the first meeting and from the site walk in terms of adding

mitigation out there," said York. "We took the building and shifted it over as far as we could to the west to make sure that all impervious surface was outside of the buffer zone. All that we're doing is grading inside the buffer zone."

York explained that the plan minimizes grading and includes removing and adding trees and shrubs within the buffer zone. A recent revision also eliminated snow storage from the buffer following a Conservation Commission request.

"We're lifting the site up

to get out of the asbestos," York added. "It's an area that's just going to be used for truck deliveries, store deliveries, and for the trash truck to get around."

The design incorporates catchwater and drainage basins to manage runoff. After reviewing comments, the presentation, and a prior site walk, the Commission voted to recommend the conditional use permit with additional stipulations, including requirements for the seed mix in the wetland buffer zone.

THE Hudson Times

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send e-mails to: hudsontimes@nutpub.net

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Volunteers Help to Lay Wreaths at Hills Farm Cemetery



Dozens of volunteers ventured out on Wreath Day, Saturday, Dec. 13, to help place hundreds of wreaths at veterans graves. Pictured are some of the volunteers placing the wreaths, supplied by Hudson's Wreath Across America representatives at the Hills Farm Cemetery behind the Hills Chapel on Derry Road. Students, scouts, veterans and servicemen took part in the event.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Sustainability Committee Discusses Bringing Pumpkin Smash Back Next Year

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee met on Nov. 24 to review its Pumpkin Smash event, which happened early last month.

"I was there, we all had a very good day, the weather was on our side, we had great support, and we had a bunch of different people showing up," said Committee Chair Karl Huber. "The Alvirne Sustainability Club was out there and they helped us tremendously. I included a picture of that whole team and how they were helping us breaking

apart the pumpkins while making sure nobody got hurt."

Children and adults smashed their post-Halloween Jack-O-Lanterns with everything from sledgehammers to hockey sticks. Following positive feedback from attendees, there was already talk of repeating the event in 2026, possibly with a working trebuchet.

"The kids had a great time breaking up the pumpkins," said Huber. "It was truly an enjoyable event, and with the committee members there, there was nothing but great comments

from everyone."

Member Jake Keller also took a survey to gauge interest in initiatives related to sustainability efforts in Hudson. All pumpkins at the event were composted.

"I've talked to four different people at events throughout this point and the results are pretty similar throughout," said Keller. "The most common response was the same as all of the others: weekly recycling, or just more common recycling."

Composting company Black Earth helped with the event. It was unclear how

many pumpkins were smashed and composted.

"There was a decent amount of pumpkins between the ones we picked up from Smith Farm, and people brought a lot of their own pumpkins in coolers and different things," said Committee member Chris Thatcher.

Members also debated ways to include the Alvirne Sustainability Club in Advisory Committee activities in the future.

"Why don't we send an invitation to Katie Murphy and the Alvirne Sustainability Club to have them become ambassadors to this committee and let them become a part of it," suggested Huber. "They enjoyed it when they presented to

us a couple of meetings ago. They're knowledgeable on the topic of sustainability, and they were there. They were even up at the top of the street, flagging people to come and join."

Alternate Craig Putnam wanted to know how an ambassador position would work.

"Are there any issues here? Do it have to be a person who can be an ambassador or can it be a rotating kind of thing?" asked Putnam.

Selectman Heidi Jakoby stated that there was no reason why a club could not serve as a collective ambassador.

"We've often had a student representative on various committees," said Jako-

by. "The School Board has a student representative, and the only limit on that student representative is that he or she is excused by 8 p.m. just out of courtesy for the fact that they have school."

Following a conversation with Murphy at the event, Thatcher indicated that the Alvirne Sustainability Club would be interested in greater cooperation with the Advisory Committee.

"It'd be great for the school system to start integrating with some of the different committees," said Thatcher.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is set to meet on Monday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room.

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Surge in ADU

Continued from page 1

decide on a warrant article next March to incorporate the changes locally. The goal is to reduce the number of applications requiring ZBA review.

"950 square feet is the standard, so we're following the state and saying 950," said Selectman Liaison Dillon Dumont.

Board member Dean Sakati noted that the law sets a minimum standard, preventing municipalities from restricting ADUs to less than 950 square feet if they meet zoning requirements. The ZBA would still have authority to grant variances for larger units.

"We just had one member with one that was almost 1,150 square feet,

and we granted," Sakati said. "It was a basement, basically."

Sullivan confirmed that such requests are common.

"I think it's a great option, even if you want to build it out," said Board member Tristan Dion. "If you have your parents or grandparents living on your property, instead of having them stuck in the basement, it's a little nicer to give them their own space. Especially if you're building a new garage at some point, having an above-garage ADU is now more feasible."

Despite streamlined rules, board members expect ADU applications to rise in 2026.

"I expect to see probably a slew of more in this

coming year," said Dion.

The trend reflects statewide efforts to address housing costs by expanding ADU options. Before the March vote, the ZBA is also planning a training workshop to review legal standards for variance decisions.

"We've got Thursday, Jan. 8, where we've got a ZBA training workshop for the ZBA decision-making processes," said Dion. "That's being done by Jonathan Cowal, legal services for the NH Municipal Association will be presenting."

As a quasi-judicial body, the ZBA is limited in the reasoning it can use when ruling on variances or appeals.

The next ZBA meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room at Town Hall.



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Conservation Commission Resignation Leaves Open Seats, Bylaws Reviewed

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Conservation Commission met on Dec. 8 following the resignation of Alternate Commissioner Linda Krisciunas.

"Her workload has changed, and she would be unable to make a lot of the meetings, site visits, and trail workshop days," said Chair Carl Murphy. "She was great to have on this board, she provided valuable input and she'll be missed."

Members thanked Krisciunas for her contributions throughout 2025. Her departure leaves the Commission without any alternates

and raises questions about how many open positions need to be filled.

"If you've got five, and you can have an alternate fill in when somebody is out, then you still have a board of five," explained Selectmen Liaison David Morin.

Murphy and other members discussed reviewing the Commission's bylaws to confirm whether the board should have five regular members or more. State law allows New Hampshire municipalities to appoint up to seven regular members to conservation commissions.

"There has to be more up in the files, in the

archived and scanned files," said Vice-Chair Ken Dickinson after debate over whether the online copy of the bylaws was complete.

"You guys have been operating with five people for a long time," noted Morin. "Somewhere, there's got to be a reason why you only have five, because after the five, you had the alternates -they weren't put in as regular members. There's got to be something, somewhere, and I would probably find that before you make any regular moves."

Morin added that the Board of Selectmen would need to appoint new mem-

bers if the bylaws allow more than five.

"We'll do a little research and see if we can get some background information. I don't think it's anything we can resolve tonight," said Murphy. "That being said, we still need alternates."

Commissioner Kathryn Griswold offered to reach out to someone she thought might be interested in serving. Residents who want to volunteer as alternates are encouraged to contact the Commission through the town website.

Public outreach remains a priority for the Commission, which is

seeking members to help manage its social media presence, particularly its Facebook page.

"What's allowed and not allowed so I can make sure that no one's getting in trouble or anything?" asked Commissioner Chris Cameron, who volunteered to assist.

Morin reminded members that official town pages must go through the Selectmen's office.

"You've got to be a little careful, since you're a town organization," said Morin. "You're a town board. You can't go rogue."

Griswold clarified that the Commission's social

media is primarily used to promote meetings, events, programs like the Trail Challenge, and work days.

Despite the cold weather and holiday season, the Commission plans one final trail work day for 2025 on Saturday, Dec. 20. Volunteers will meet on Hinds Lane near the entrance to the Gumpus Pond Conservation Area to work on a connecting trail between Musquash and Gumpus Pond.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room at Town Hall.

Fire and Police Seek Staffing Boost Through March Warrant Articles

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on Dec. 3 to review several warrant articles slated for the March 2026 ballot. Among the most significant proposals was a request to hire four additional firefighters/EMTs.

"This is a \$590,629 warrant article. The background is to maintain adequate staffing levels and to ensure continued delivery of high-quality emergency services," explained Town Administrator Roy Sorenson. "This request will only be pursued if an application for the SAFER grant is not approved."

The Staffing for Ade-

quate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant is a federal program that provides funding directly to fire departments.

"Is there an expected timeline as to when you will get notice if this SAFER grant is approved?" asked Committee Chair James Lawrence.

Fire Chief Scott Tice responded that the department likely would have been notified by now and does not expect to receive the grant.

"They were due to be awarded by Sept. 30. The only reason we had a question as to whether we were going to get it or not is that they had the government shutdown right at that time," said Tice. "They've been

back to work for plenty of time now and there's been no more awards that have come out. We did not get the grant."

Committee members Bill Cole and Shawn Jasper requested more detailed call and dispatch statistics for Hudson's fire stations.

"I can tell you in 2024, which was the last time we had the numbers because this is not a generative report we have at this point - it's a manual process, so it's literally going call-by-call - but for 2024 our average incident time was 25 minutes," said Tice. "In 2024, within 25 minutes of a call, we had a second call 1,113 times, and within 55 minutes of one call, we had

a second call 2,012 times."

Tice promised to provide a more detailed report, including call patterns by time of day.

"When you do this report for us, can you kind of tell us when all these calls come in - during the day, in the evening, at night - so we can look at this report and figure out what's going on?" asked Committee member Randy Brownrigg.

The Fire Chief confirmed that breaking calls down by time of day would not be a problem.

The Hudson Police Department also proposed adding staff through warrant articles, including a part-time prosecuting attorney.

"This is a \$90,275 ask," explained Sorenson. "The Hudson Police Department currently manages its prosecution duties through existing legal and administrative staff. They're responsible for preparing cases, coordinating with the court system, and representing the department in court proceedings."

Police officials cited

growing complexity in legal processes and the added burden of managing digital evidence from body-worn cameras as reasons for the request.

"Is this attorney a specialist for the police department, or just a general lawyer?" asked Brownrigg.

Chief of Police David Cayot said the department does not yet have a candidate in mind.

"If this is approved, we would then advertise," said Cayot. "We would be looking for someone with experience prosecuting cases."

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Community Gathers for Wreath Day at Historic Hills House



Hudson's annual Wreath Day Ceremony was held at the Hills House on Saturday Dec. 13, orchestrated by Christina Madden. After the ceremony, which included veterans and servicemen from all branches of the military presenting wreaths, over 400 wreaths were laid by volunteers at veterans graves throughout the town at a number of cemetery. Those burial sites had been marked with flags earlier in the month.

Photos by Chris Paul

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HUDSON SPORTS

Bronco Girls' Basketball Win Home-Opener Over Crusaders

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Girls' Basketball team started the winter sea-

son last week with a home victory over the Manchester Memorial Crusaders, marking the second straight year the team began the year

with a win over that opponent.

The Lady Broncos 2025-26 roster reveals a lot of experience with the six seniors listed, but they are also joined by three freshman, two sophomores and no juniors.

One significant hole in this year's line-up is the absence of Courtney Anderson, who would have been the team's only junior and a major offensive asset.

Anderson and family moved north, to the lake region, and she will be playing at the Prep School Proctor Academy.

In the game on Friday night, Dec. 12 the Broncos came out with some opening night jitters, scoring just 13-points and trailed the Crusaders 13-14 after one quarter, but the Broncos rallied a bit in the second quarter and limited their opponents offense, outscoring the Manchester squad 15-7, for a 28-21 lead going into the locker room at the half.

Coming out of the

break, Alvirne had another 15-7 quarter to stretch their lead to 15-points, with 43-28 shown on the board after three periods.

The Broncos made it three-straight periods of holding Manchester to just seven-points and finished the nights scoring 13-points in the fourth for the hard-fought victory.

Senior Lexi Floyd led her team in scoring with 22-points. Floyd had five three-pointers in the game, two in the second and third, and one in the fourth quarter.

Fellow senior, Julia Adams finished with 13-points and sophomore Adrienne Chipfunde had one, three-pointer and two baskets for seven-points in the home opener.

The Alvirne squad finished the 2024 regular season at 9-9 and went 10-8 in 2025, where they made it to the first round of the NHIAA State Championships, but fell to the Blue Devils in Salem 43-29 as the eleventh seed.

Frank Girginis returns



Broncos senior, Lexi Floyd, led the AHS team in scoring with 22-points including five three-pointers.

as head coach and is looking forward to the season.

After the game Girginis said, "We have a group of seniors that have plenty of experience playing at the varsity level."

He added, "Where the

spotlight might not be on any one of them individually together as a whole it can be. This group has put in an enormous amount of time and effort in their four years, but their senior sea-

continued on page 11



Broncos senior, Julia Adams, tallied 13-points in the season home-opener against Manchester Memorial on Friday night.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Hudson Historical Society Recipient of 2025 LCHIP Grant

LYNNE MARI
HUDSON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Governor Kelly Ayotte welcomed 2025 New Hampshire Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) recipients to the New Hampshire State House on December 9, 2025 to acknowledge more than \$3.5 million in matching grants to support 31 land conservation and historic preservation projects across the state. These awards will help communities restore historic landmarks, conserve working forests, and protect the natural and cultural resources

that define New Hampshire's character.

The Hudson Historical Society has been awarded a \$72,875 grant to support critical repairs to the original wood windows at Alvirne Hills House, an architect-designed building constructed in 1890 for Dr. Alfred K. Hills and his wife, Ida Virginia. This spacious Shingle-style summer home is an important piece of Hudson's heritage. The Hills House was bequeathed to the Hudson School District, which still owns the property, and has served as the home of the Hudson Historical Society since 1966.

Many of the building's windows are currently inoperable, fragile, contain loose glazing, and have broken sash ropes. The planned work will address these deficiencies while preserving the building's historic integrity and character.

The Historical Society will match the grant dollar for dollar, ensuring that the Hills House remains a viable resource for decades to come. Once complete, the restoration will allow the building to continue serving as a center for local history and community engagement.



Gov. Kelly Ayotte with 2025 LCHIP recipients.

Photo Credit: LCHIP

NH DMV to Raise Vehicle Registration and Title Fees on Jan. 1

The New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles (NH DMV) will implement increases to state fees for vehicle registrations and titles effective January 1, 2026. Town and city clerks across the state are urging residents to renew before December 31, 2025 to avoid paying the higher rates.

According to the DMV notice, any registration renewal not processed by Dec. 31, 2025 will be subject to the new fee schedule

beginning Jan. 1. That includes in-person renewals at local clerk's offices and transactions received through the mail.

Residents who received January renewal notices should take special note: those notices do not include the new pricing. If payment is mailed and received after Dec. 31, 2025, it will need to be adjusted to reflect the new fee increase. Payments that arrive after Dec. 31 in the incorrect amount will be

returned, delaying completion of the renewal.

In addition, the DMV's online renewal system will be temporarily unavailable from December 30, 2025 through January 5, 2026 while the agency installs the updated fees. During that time, residents will not be able to renew registrations electronically and should plan to renew early or visit their local clerk's office before the shutdown begins.

The timing of the change means the end of December will likely be busy for municipal clerks as drivers try to beat the deadline. Officials recommend residents renew as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the final week of December, to avoid lines and ensure payments are processed before the increase takes effect.

While the DMV has not detailed the specific dollar amounts for each vehicle class in the announcement provided to municipalities, the guidance is clear: renewals completed on or before Dec. 31, 2025 will

be assessed at the current rate, and renewals processed on or after Jan. 1, 2026 will reflect the new, higher fees.

Key Points for Residents:

- Deadline to avoid higher fees: Renew by Dec. 31, 2025.

- Mailed payments: January notices do not include the increase; payments received after Dec. 31 must match the new fees or they will be returned.

- Online renewal downtime: 12/30/2025–1/5/2026 (no online renewals during this period).

- Plan ahead: Expect

heavier volume at clerks' offices in late December.

Residents with questions about their specific renewal amount or timing should contact their local town/city clerk or visit the NH DMV website for updates. As always, bring your renewal notice, proof of residency if required, and payment to ensure a smooth transaction.

With fee increases taking effect on New Year's Day and online services briefly offline, renewing early is the surest way to save money and avoid delays.

Broncos

Continued from page 10

son is gonna be their biggest challenge. I'm confident they know what and how we have to do it.

On the younger players Girginis said, "I think we

also have a great group of underclassman that can contribute and help right way. I am excited to see what they can do. They are chopping at the bit to get out there. Overall, we might not shine in one particular area, but if they all bring what they're good at and we

play together as a team, the light will shine on us all."

The team is scheduled for two games this week.

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, they will head to Goffstown to play the 0-1 Grizzlies, followed by a game in Keene on Thursday against the 1-0 Blackbirds.

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Alvirne Calf Club Greet Children Waiting for Santa



Residents waiting at Alvirne High School to see Santa's Sleigh Ride through Hudson were treated with an extra gift. Members of the school's Calf Club brought in a pair of festive young cows to entertain children.

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.

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.

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 Rodgers Memorial Library 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.

Zentangle Wreath Class

Join Diane for a two-hour class at the Rodgers Library to create a wreath shape using the Zentangle Method and the tangle Foundabout on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m. & Wednesday, Jan. 7 at noon.

Elementary Name Snowflakes

On Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 5:30 p.m., students in grades 1-5 are invited to create a cut paper snowflake using their name at the Rodgers Library.

Homeschool Math through Art

On Thursday, Jan. 8 at 1 p.m., Homeschool students ages 6-12 are invited to create a cut paper snowflake using their name at the Rodgers Library.

Dungeons & Donuts

Come play Dungeons & Dragons and grab a donut at Rodgers Library on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 9:30 a.m. All skill levels are welcome.

Technology Petting Zoo

On Thursday, Jan. 8 at 1 p.m., come at the Rodgers Library to explore and engage with a variety of fascinating gadgets.

Rodgers Readers Book Club

This Rodgers Library club will meet on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. This month there will be no required reading and will instead bring our own books.

Ice Cube Painting

Stop by the Rodgers Library to create a painting using ice cubes (water color and water) as your paint brushes on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. This program is for families with children.

Mystery Lovers' Book Club

This Rodgers Library club will meet on Monday, Jan. 12 at 12:30 p.m. This month's book pick is "Murder on the Iditarod Trail" by Sue Henry.

Genealogy Club

This Rodgers Library

club will meet on Friday, Jan. 9 at 1:30 p.m. This month's presentation is "Focusing Your Research: Building a Targeted Genealogy Strategy."

In Conversation with Author

Join the Rodgers Library on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. for this virtual discussion with author Heather B. Moore about her recent release, "Julia", the untold story of Julia Child.

How to Help When Someone You Love Uses Drugs

On Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m., Drs. Kate and Jonathan Peters will be at Rodgers Library to discuss steps and resources to help when someone you love uses drugs.

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. 25 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Kids will be gifted with a fun "Christmas box". Limited seating. Registration required

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.

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.

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.

Karaoke and Dancing

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continued on page 14

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Eversource Customers Expected to See Slight Bill Decrease Next Year

As the new year approaches, Eversource is informing customers that they can expect to see lower costs on their electric bill during the first months of 2026. The energy company recently filed multiple rate adjustments, including energy supply, that will take effect early next year, leading to a slight overall decrease for customers if approved by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

"Customers will see the delivery side of their bill go down in January and February, and the supply portion of the bill, which is typically the largest and most volatile due to market forces, is fortunately remaining stable with costs similar to what we saw ear-

lier this year," said Eversource Executive Vice President of Customer Experience and Energy Strategy Penni Conner. "Even though bills will be slightly decreasing, usage can increase during the colder months as we all spend more time indoors using appliances and lighting for longer periods, so we want to remind customers of the payment plans, assistance programs, and energy efficiency measures available that can help them manage energy usage and costs."

Due to rate adjustments in the first two months of the new year, the delivery portion of all customer bills will go down, resulting in an approximately \$2 or 2% decrease. The Default Service rate, which is the ener-

gy supply that Eversource purchases on behalf of customers with no markup or profit, will remain stable, changing in February from 11.2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 11.3 cents per kWh. Nearly 45 percent of all residential customers in New Hampshire receive their energy supply through a community power program or an alternative supplier and not through Eversource's Default Service rate, so this supply rate change does not affect those customers. When taking into account all rate changes, the typical residential customer on Default Service using 600 kWh per month is estimated to see an overall total bill decrease of \$1.22, or approximately 1%, com-

pared to their December bill. How a customer's bill is impacted by these rate adjustments depends on energy usage and weather conditions.

Eversource encourages all customers to compare the Default Service rate with other available options to choose the one that works best for them. Customers can learn more about supplier options and what to consider before switching on the Department of Energy's website www.energy.nh.gov/consumers/choosing-energy-supplier.

Help is available for customers who need it

Eversource encourages customers to enroll in one of the company's payment

plans or assistance programs if they need help with their energy bill.

- Customers that meet certain household income guidelines may qualify for a Discount Rate on their monthly bill through the Electric Assistance Program.

- Flexible Payment Plans are available to all customers, regardless of income, to pay their past-due balance over a period of time.

- Budget Billing Plans are also available and can help customers avoid seasonal spikes on their energy bill by paying a level amount each month based on their average annual usage.

- Energy Efficiency solutions and incentives are

available to help customers save money and energy.

- The New Start Program can help income-eligible customers reduce or eliminate their outstanding balance in as little as 12 months when they make on-time monthly payments and Eversource will make up the difference by eliminating or forgiving a portion of the total balance enrolled in the program – reducing the amount owed each month.

Regardless of financial need, customers are eligible for payment plans and are urged to visit Eversource.com for more information on the variety of available programs the energy company offers, which can help customers use less energy and manage energy costs.

Around Town

Continued from page 13

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.

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.

Movers & Shakers

Come to Rogers 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+.

Adventurers Storytime

On Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

(except the second week of the month), join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activities at the Rodgers Memorial Library. For ages 3-5.

Teen Hangout

On Weekdays at 2:30 p.m., middle and high school students ages 13+ are invited to enjoy the Rogers Library's teen space after school. Snacks, charging stations, video games, and crafts provided.

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

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.

Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? Overeaters Anonymous, no dues, no fees, no weigh-ins no diets. Meetings are on Tuesday's from 9 - 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Church 190 Meet-

inghouse 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)

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 Ser-

vices Email: Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov, Phone: 603.271.8801

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.

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Local News, Locally Produced

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SALES HOURS

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