Hudson Times

December 5, 2024 Volume 2 – Issue 49



LET THERE BE LIGHT Santa made his arrival to Liberty Park on Friday, Nov. 29, in a fire truck and promptly made his way to the light switch on the gazebo, signaling the start of the holiday season in Hudson. Following the illumination, he was whisked away to the Hudson Community Cen-Photo by Chris Paul ter, where he posed with families.

Hills Library Future Uncertain **After Basement Water Damage**

PAUL CONYERS HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees met on Nov. 20 and took up a discussion about the condition of the Hills Memorial Library building.

Flooding during some recent heavy rains led to water damage and mold in term solution. the basement.

basement of the Hills underwent extensive cleaning and mitigation, making it safe to enter.

During the Nov. 20 meeting, Library Director Linda Pilla raised the need for a concrete plan moving forward and having a long-

"I do have a proposal Following a special from Emmerson Builders

meeting in late October, the with regards to the rebuild, and that's going to come back for a decision," said Pilla. The building has had mold mitigation, it's had asbestos mitigation, it's has had flood damage mitigation."

Records and documents in the basement were removed following the initial discovery of mold.

Push for Future Fire Staffing After Unused Overtime Cut from Budget

PAUL CONYERS HUDSON TIMES

The Nov. 21 meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee opened with a memorandum from Fire Chief Scott Tice addressing earlier questions from the Committee over the Fire Department's proposed overtime budget.

"We have numerous vacancies in fire suppression that we're talking about. What the Chief had done was that he budgeted the vacancies, but he also budgeted the overtime to cover vacancies," explained Acting Town Administrator Steve Malizia. "It appeared that we had too much budgeted for overtime."

Cutting out unnecessary

the open positions would articles, not including two reduce the town budget by \$259.533.

"I really do appreciate the efforts of Chief Tice in taking the questions that this Committee brought forward to heart and actually putting pen to paper and doing the right thing, proposing a right sized budget in reducing the cost," said Committee Chair James Lawrence. "This is a pretty substantial reduction of the original amount that was requested."

The Budget Committee unanimously voted to remove the proposed overtime for unfilled positions at the Fire Department.

For the first time, the Budget Committee also overtime without removing began looking at warrant

collective bargaining contracts still under negotiations. There were no petition warrant articles, although these are expected at a later date. Citizen petitions for warrant articles must be filed by the second Tuesday in January.

Tice spoke for Warrant Article D, which asked for money to hire four new firefighters.

"This would be for Central Station to increase our staffing there with what I would hope would be a multi-year plan to put a company into service," he explained. "As our call volume has increased, the odds of an occurrence of having multiple calls at one time continued on page 6

Interim IT Director Hired an Promotions Approved

ALEX MALM HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, a number of votes taken during the Nov. 12 non public meeting were announced.

One of the personnel moves, included hiring Doug Bosteels as interim IT Director, with a salary of \$117,000.

The Town began a search to fill the IT Director soon after John Beike submitted his retirement letter during the summer. He retired effective Oct. 31.

Another hiring during the meeting was for Matthew Mailloux for the position of Truck Driver/ Laborer for the Department

hired effective Nov. 18, at a tion of Firefighters/EMT starting pay of \$24.25 per hour.

The Board of Selectmen also approved various promotions during the meeting.

It included promoting Lieutenant/Paramedic Gregory Rich to the position of Fire Captain Paramedic, a non-exempt position. He will be paid an annual salary of \$103,292.

Another promotion was to promote Master Firefighter/AEMT Ian Canavan to the position of Lieutenant/AEMT, with a starting salary of \$36.29 per hour.

The Board of Selectmen also made a number of hires for the Fire Department.

continued on page 3 of Public Works. He was Brendan Carey for the posi-

Elias Brodeur for the position of Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Aierle for the position of Firefighter/EMT and Clayton Legault III for the position of Firefighter/EMT.

They will all be paid an hourly rate of \$22 per hour to start, in accordance with the international Association of Fire fighters Local #3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief.

Also during the meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved the hiring of Sarah Chapin for the position of Part-Time Legal Clerk with a starting salary of \$23.09 per hour.

In other news, during Those hirings included the consent agenda, the continued on page 4

A FREE Weekly Publication

Conservation Aims to Buy New Equipment for Trail Maintenance

PAUL CONYERS HUDSON TIMES

At its third November meeting, the Hudson Budget Committee heard a presentation on the Conservation Commission's proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Town Engineer Elvis Dhimal and Conservation Chair William Collins were at the meeting to go through the numbers.

"Their primary goal has been to purchase property in town which can basically be utilized for conservation use. They've been very successful at that and continue to pursue

the same interest moving forward," said Dhima. "Their proposed operational budget is in line with the Board of Selectmen request, which is 1.5%, which equivalent to \$791."

Most of the Conservation Commission's operating budget covers small equipment and trail upkeep, and anything else needed to maintain park trails and land under their purview. Land purchases come out of a separate, designated fund.

Dhima also highlighted some of the accomplishments of the Conservation Commission throughout that 2025, including the creation of a smartphonecompatible GIS map for the parks. He added that the app is useful both for members of the public, and town staff looking to keep track of Conservation land.

"We do have a GIS map where you can go and see all the Conservation property in town," he said. "It's a great resource to have a better idea to what we have out there and where it's located."

"The boat launch project, there's nothing is the budget about that, but is

going forward?" asked Budget Committee member Kevin Walsh.

Dhima stated that the Commission was looking for a matching grant from the state to pay for the boat launch at Scobie Pond.

"It's basically a partnership between the town of Hudson and the Conservation Commission," said Dhima. "Hopefully we'll be successful with the grant application and in asking they're taxpayers in March if they're willing to do this, that's because it's a 50/50 match." Committee

Randy Brownrigg wanted to know what kind of new small equipment the Commission hoped to buy next year.

"Over the years we've been purchasing leaf blower, chain saws, anything to help trails," Collins explained. "Probably coming up in this year's cycle with the Conservation Commission we'll be talking about probably leaf packs for cleaning the trails."

He also emphasized the need for a chainsaw to clear large trees and the pack for clearing leaves member from the trail, which are a next April at the earliest.

slipping hazard for hikers. Collins wanted to spend a little extra for "professional" equipment he hoped would last longer.

The Commission Chair emphasized that volunteer work for Trail Clean-Up Days was particularly important to keep the parks in good shape during the warmer months. He stated that he had enough small equipment like saws and clippers for minor maintenance work, instead of asking for more volunteers during future Trail Days. The first volunteer day will likely happen

Fire Department Proposes Mosquito-Borne Disease Program

LEX MALM HUDSON TIMES

One of the warrant articles reviewed by the Hudson Board of Selectmen, during its most recent meeting, was in regards to a proposal to fund a town mosquito-borne disease program.

The proposed warrant article states:

"Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to fund services for a mosquito control program for the town?"

The estimated tax rate

impact would be one cent.

"The purpose of this warrant article is to request \$40,000 in funding for a town mosquito-borne disease program which would provide services for the surveillance and control of disease bearing mosquitoes," Hudson Fire Chief wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

It was explained by Tice that beginning in FY16 through FY23" funding for a mosquito-borne disease program was able to be supported within the fire departments operational budget."

funding had to be reallocated temporarily, and ever since, they haven't been able to get the funding approved.

"Due to continued inflation and rising costs, combined with the budget parameters set forth for FY24, funding for this program was re-allocated within the fire departments operational budget to provide for the emergent needs of the department. During the budget presentation for FY24, reinstating funding for this program was not approved by either the Board of Selectmen or the Budget Committee," Tice England given the positive

Board of Selectmen.

Tice explained during the meeting, that they have had a number of human cases of triple E in southern NH.

"In the State of NH, mosquitoes transmit infections including Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EFFV), West Nile Virus and Jamestown Canyon Virus," Tice wrote in the memo to the Board of Selectmen. "The NH Department of Health and Human Services for this year (2024), found that there is an elevated risk for EEEV infections in New

Tice explained that the wrote in a memo to the mosquito samples identified. NH has also experienced a human deaths from mosquito-borne disease this year."

> Also as part of his memo to the Board of Selectmen, Tice outlined what the funding for the program would provide in terms of services such as:

> • All State permit and mapping, including permit application, GIS treatment maps, full disclosure of all proposed pesticides, and submission to the State.

• Larval surveillance. · Larval mosquito treat-

ment. • Adult mosquito surveillance and treatment.

Arboviral monitoring.

• Reports of surveillance data and treatment control activities and locations.

· Recommendations for control measures.

Tice ultimately said they want to give the voters in Town a chance to decide if the program should be funded or not.

"We put this warrant article request forward to provide an opportunity for our citizens to decide if this program should be funded," Tice said.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Dec. 10 beginning at 7 p.m.





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Selectmen Approve Release of Capital Reserve Funds

Hudson Times

During the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, one of the agenda items was in regards to releasing funds from the Capital Reserve Funds.

"The first application is for reimbursement for Hudson's share of capital expenses for the Nashua Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Sewer Utility," Acting Town Administrator Steve Malizia wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. "This reimbursement request is in the from the Police Safety

Nashua Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Reserve Fund that was established for this purpose."

It was explained by Malizia that the second application was for the police department.

"The second application is for reimbursement for Police Department Tasers," Malizia wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. "This reimbursement request is in the amount of \$35,293.32 and is coming

amount of \$342,068.95 and Equipment Capital Reserve funds. is coming from the Sewer Fund which was established for this purpose."

> It was also noted by Malizia that the "Trustees of Trust Funds have requested that the Board approve all disbursements from capital reserve funds." " The Board of Select-

> men are the agents to expend for these capital reserve funds and there are sufficient funds in the capital reserve funds to make these disbursements," Malizia wrote in the memo.

> The Board of Selectmen approved releasing the

During the meeting, the Board of Selectmen also received an update regarding its revenue and expenditures

Malizia explained that they are continuing to do well with their revenue, saying they are at 55% in revenue from interest so far this year, despite not being benign halfway through the year yet.

The Board of Selectmen also reviewed a proposed warrant article related to the Drainage Capital Reserve Fund.

states: "Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 which will be added to the Drainage Capital Reserve Fund previous-

ly established in March 2024?" If approved by voters

the anticipated tax rate impact would be two cents. The Board of Selectmen

approved sending the warrant article forward.

In other news, the Board of Selectmen reviewed a proposal for a grant.

Hudson Police Chief

The warrant article Tad Dionne, explained that they received a grant from the Office of Highway Safetv FY25 Motor Vehicle Enforcement Grant for a total of \$14,038.75.

PAGE 3

It was explained by Dionne, that the money would be used to help pay for traffic enforcement, and also to replace three radar units.

The Board of Selectmen approved accepting the grant funding during the meeting.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is set for Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

fills

continued from page 1

"It looks good, it's clean, it smells wonderful," confirmed Trustee Chair Mimi Guessferd after a tour of the Hills basement.

A rebuild to fix water damage and mitigate the risk of future flooding is still needed.

"Do we put the money into repairing it if we tee. The historical library

haven't resolved the outside source on why the rain came in?" asked Trustee Margaret St. Onge.

It was unclear whether full-scale repair work could be funded in the immediate future.

Trustee Karen Bohrer raised the possibility of mothballing the Hill Building following a suggestion from the Budget Commit-

still sees limited use as a meeting place for some local governing bodies and a location for the Friends of the Library to hold its book sales.

"I love the Friends, the Friends do so much for the library and I want to see membership of the Friends expand and for them to do more, but I also think that keeping the Friends of the Library in this building,

whether or not our decision down the road is to mothball the building, maybe that's not the best use going forward," said Bohrer. "If we don't move ahead with turning this building into something that can continue to be used by the entire community, including the Friends of the Library, maybe the Friends should find another spot."

need to consult with everyone in regular use of Hills, including the School Board.

"I know when we brought this up when trying to get feedback out from the town, we put the question out there and there was no response," said Guessferd. "What is our pleasure with regard to this moving forward?"

Basement flooding was The Trustees would only the latest maintenance

Loaner Rental Cars (when available)

issue for Hills, which has also seen leaks related to roof damage in recent years. The Trustees agreed to contact the School Board to get their input on the matter.

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. in the Hill Memorial Library.

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Editorial **Remembering a Day That Brought Us Together**

Before Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was just an American Naval Base in Hawaii. But that fateful morning would be forever etched into the minds of citizens all over the country. Only a few hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan formally declared war against the US. It was the day that brought Americans together like 911.

The sentiment Americans felt after the news of the attack spread and is best summarized by the words of fleet Chaplain William A. Macguire, "Don't say we buried our dead with sorrow. They died manfully. They were buried manfully. And we will avenge their deaths, come what may".

Pearl Harbor infuriated Americans and motivated an undivided decision to enter into World War II. On Dec. 8, 1941, the US joined the Allied Powers.

Before the events that took place at Pearl Harbor over 82 years ago, there was a division in our country, and not all Americans supported the efforts of World War II. After the attack, those who were skeptical began to see things differently and the support for the war became unanimous. The attack ensured America's entrance into the war, provoking a joint effort by all, at home and overseas.

The States became United that morning over three-quarters of a century ago, and everyone had a part to play in the war efforts. Civilian employees helped to load and clean weapons, wounded men fought on, doctors from miles away rushed to tend to the wounded, blood donations were needed and donors stood in line for almost seven hours to do their part.

The outcome of World War II may have been entirely different, had the US not joined the Allied Powers. The US implemented the draft and all men ages 18 to 45 were included, providing over 16 million troops to the front lines. All automobile factories in the US stopped production of cars and began manufacturing only vehicles and planes for the war. Women went to work in factories to make war supplies, and some even joined the armed forces. Without the US providing so many troops and supplies, the Allied Powers may not have won.

Although the attack on Dec. 7, 1941, may not be our proudest day, there were many positive outcomes resulting from it and these effects are often overlooked.

We can look back on this day and be proud that we live in a country where people forget themselves and do whatever it takes to help each other in a time of need, uniting towards a common goal. Without the combined efforts all of those years ago, we could be living in a very different world today. Pearl Harbor changed the course of history, and it is on the 7th day of December that we reflect and say a prayer for those lost, and those who continue to defend our country to this day.



PAUL CONYERS HUDSON TIMES

The November Meeting of the Benson Park Committee saw its members discuss the outcome of their final Clean-Up Day of 2024 on Oct. 26.

"Everything looks so clean and neat. This is the best it's look in the fall that I can remember in a long time, a really great job,' said Natalie Newell from the Friends of Benson Park organization. "We're doing our fall membership appeal for the Friends of Benson Park, if anyone would like to become a member we have individual, family, senior memberships, and corporate memberships."

She encouraged anyone interested in donating or joining to visit the Friends website.

"Were starting to get more and more businesses," added Committee Chair Judy Brouillette. "They're thinking about us and are coming here to donate their time."

Due to winter weather, no further Volunteer Clean-Up Days are expected until the weather improves next spring. The Benson Park Committee agreed to continue coordinating with the Friends for volunteer work, focusing on food donations to feed participants of park Clean-Up Days.

Newell also outlined the Friends' largest ongoing

Promoti

Continued from page 1 Board of Selectmen gave

approval to the Salvation Army. "The Salvation Army of Rd., Nov. 16, through Dec. Nashua is seeking approval from the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen to hold our annual kettle campaign this Christmas season," a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

project, with the planned opening of a Benson Museum and Discovery Center.

"It's going to be an exciting venue for family fun, we'll have the ability torment it for birthday parties, special occasions, animal education, as well as the memorabilia from the old days when it was a zoo or amusement park as Benson's Wild Animal Farm," she explained.

An opening date for the Museum and Discovery Center will depend on the availability of funding from grants and donations.

Newell officials got permission from the Department of Public Works to open a program of picnic table donations in place of benches at Benson Park. Currently, no further bench donations are being accepted at the park, despite a waiting list. She was waiting for a quote on six picnic tables made from recycled plastic. According to Brouillette, there was some interest in a table donation, although many donors preferred a bench.

"We had to put a stop on having benches, because it gets to a point in the main part of the park that you have too many," she explained. "We really don't need anymore park benches inside of the park. We do however need some in the dog park, we need more

Market Basket, 212

Walmart, 245 Lowell

Sam's Club, 7 Walmart

"The kettle campaign is

Salvation Army's

Blvd., Nov. 16, through

Lowell Rd., Nov. 12,

through Dec. 24, 2024

following:

24, 2024

The

Dec. 24, 2024

seating in there."

Recently, resident Alec Yoksh contacted the town asking whether it was possible to dedicate any bridges in Benson Park. Yoksh hoped to dedicate a bridge to former Hudson resident Brett Reed, who unexpectedly passed away last September.

"When Brett was part of the Eagle Scouts, his final project was the building of two bridges over by the Old Lady in the Shoe," wrote Yoksh in a message to the Committee.

According to Brouillette, the charter of Benson Park limits where the town can place a memorial.

"You can have a memorial plaque if you buy a tree, one of the memorial trees. But you cannot have these plaques and monuments put in other areas of the park," she said. "However, we do have the plaques, and it's really just signage, that goes on the benches and things of that sort. My thought was, that if the family was willing, that we could have one of those medal plaques put onto the bridge so that it educates people that the bridges were donated."

The Benson Park Committee agreed to see if Yoksh was interested in an educational plaque instead of naming the bridges after Reed.

The locations are the organization," the memo stated. "Funds go towards running programs, social services, utility and rent assistance, and food for those in need. The Salvation Army serves those in Nashua, Hudson, and the surrounding towns."

> The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

information, it is available at a number of drop-off locations throughout the town. Nutfield Publishing, LLC

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The Hudson Times is a weekly publication covering Hudson related news and

Santa Claus Comes to Town on a Hudson Fire Truck





Old Saint Nic made his yearly arrival to Liberty Park on Friday, Nov. 29 and was greeted with dozens of families. The annual event has Santa delivered to the Town Common in a Fire Engine where he meets children and flips the switch that lights up the park that was decorated by Hudson Department of Public Works staff. After the illuminating event, the man in red was taken to the Hudson Community Center where families were able to get photos taken with him. *Photos by Chris Paul*



also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to hudsontimes@nutpub.net.



Public Hearing on Fire Department Fees Set For Dec. 10

LEX MALM HUDSON TIMES

PAGE 6

Board of Selectmen meeting, the Selectmen were presented with a proposal to apply for grant funds for the Fire Department.

requesting permission to (SAFER) grant will be apply for two grants," Hud- opening in the coming son Fire Chief Scott Tice months," Tice said. "We are wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen.

have received notification programs."

"that the FY2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant would help the department. At the Nov. 26 Hudson (AFG) application period is open until December 20, 2024."

"Additionally, we anticipate that the FY2024 Staffing for Adequate Fire "The Fire Department is and Emergency Response asking for the Board to approve our request to apply He explained that they for funding through these

OBITUARY **Donna Brady**



Donna Brady, 66, of Hudson, NH, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024. She was born Dec. 18, 1957 in Woburn, MA, daughter of Margaret (Lienhard) Fisher of Wilmington, MA and the late Douglas A. Fisher. She was also prede-

ceased by a sister; Jacki Flynn.

Donna was an avid golfer who enjoyed cooking for family and friends as well as watching cooking shows on tv. She loved going to concerts, especially Kenny Chesney and Eric Church but her greatest joy came when spending time with her family.

Besides her mother, Margaret, her loving family includes a son; Scott Greenland and his wife Katie of Hudson, NH, a daughter Amy Douglas and her husband Justin of Yuma, AZ, three grandsons; Eric Hoyt, Mason Douglas, Logan Douglas, a granddaughter; Makenna Douglas, a brother; Douglas Fisher and his wife Lori of Chichester, NH, a sister; Susan Fisher of Derry, NH, nieces and nephews; Erin Nolet and her husband Paul, Macayla Fisher, Dustin Cole, Daniel Cole, Kevin Cole, Duvall Galopim, Isabella Galopim, Theresa Fisher Gangi, Mitch Flynn, and Ivyrose Flynn as well as numerous Cousins and extended family. All services are private. To share an online message of condolence, please visit www.dumontsullivan.com. The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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www.dumontsullivan.com

"These grants provide funding for personnel as well as fire related equipment and activities," Tice told the Board of Selectmen. " We are currently assessing our risks and the eligible items within the AEG funding opportunity to determine what would be most beneficial to the department."

It was explained by Tice, during the meeting, that they were simply looking for permission to be able to apply for the grant funding.

"The proposal this evening is simply for permission to apply for these grants," Tice wrote in a memo. "Prior to accepting

Board of Selectmen would have the opportunity to hold a public hearing and decide whether we want to accept the funds."

On a unanimous vote, the Board of Selectmen approved allowing the Fire Department to move forward with applying for the grant funding.

Also during the meeting, the Board of Selectmen were asked to approve a proposal from the Fire Department to be able to change the fee schedule.

"At the March 12, 2024 town election, Warrant Article 24 was passed which established a Fire Alarm/ Master Box revolving fund," Tice wrote in a memo to the board of



Claire Brault, 91, of Nashua, NH passed away peacefully at the Community Hospice House in Merrimack on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024. She was born Aug. 21, 1933 in Nashua, daughter of the late Arthur and Mathilde (Brodeur) Gagnon Caron.

Claire was employed for many years in the banking profession, holding positions at Indian Head Bank as well as Bank of NH (TD Bank) where she held the position of Branch Manager. She enjoyed reading, knitting, sewing and traveling but her greatest joy was found when spending time with her family.

Her loving family includes a son; Arthur Brault and his wife Marge of Amherst, NH, a daughter; Celia Bourbeau of Nashua, NH, a daughter; Michelle Hewittand her husband Steve of Derry, NH, a granddaughter; Valerie Heinzen-and her husband Dave of Russellville, AR, a granddaughter; Sarah Clarke and her husband Corey of Nashua, NH, a grandson; Sean Fulton of Deerfield Beach, FL, a grandson; Russell York of Broomfield, CO, a great granddaughter Miranda Heinzen of Russellville, AR, a great grandson Ryan Heinzen of Russellville, AR, a brother; Arthur Gagnon of New Milford, CT, a brother; Roger Gagnon and his wife Joy of Northfield, NH as well as a long time friend; Ron Barrett of Nashua, NH.

A time of visitation will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., in the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Ferry St., Hudson, NH. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., that same day in the Parish of the Resurrection, 449 Broad St., Nashua. Burial will follow in St. Francis cemetery, Nashua. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Claire's loving memory to the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org. To share an online message of condolence please visit www.dumontsullivan.com. The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

Tice said that the grants any grant, if awarded, the Selectmen. "We have final- Connection Permit Fee: ized the changes that we are \$750.00 (Plus Materials) recommending to Hudson Town Code § 205-4 Fire Department fees for this purpose."

U

ital Dialer)

Municipal Fire

Alarm Monitoring Annual

Fee: \$250 (per Master Box)

Annual Fee: \$150 (per Dig-

men are in agreement with

the suggested changes, we

would recommend schedul-

ing a public hearing in

accordance with RSA

41:14-b for the December

10, 2024 meeting," Tice

approved sending the pro-

posal to a public hearing.

The Board of Selectmen

wrote in a memo.

V. Municipal Fire Alarm

"If the Board of Select-

Tice said they were Digital Dialer Monitoring looking for approval to change a number of fees.

"We are asking the Board of Selectmen to adopt the following changes, which have been highlighted in the attached copy of Town Code and are outlined below," Tice wrote in a memo.

The fees they are looking to add are the following: T. Municipal Fire Alarm Monitoring System Initial

has increased, and we find

ourselves quite often with

two or three calls happening

that the Hudson Fire

Department was already

stretching its resources and

personnel and that what he

called mutual aid, where

EMS and firefighting

equipment were needed at

the same site, was a signifi-

would add one new fire-

fighter per year over the

next few years based on

what the town could sup-

port. Committee member

Shawn Jasper supported the

The warrant article

cant problem.

The Fire Chief warned

at the same time."



request, but wanted more detail from the Fire Department.

"I know that the department, at least 20-odd years ago, kept really good records about when our calls are occurring and when those were. All I'm going to ask that you provide to us and to the voters a lot more detail about when you're having the multiple calls and when you're having these shortages," he said. "I'm pretty sure you can make a much better case by pulling out the data and showing us."

Tice promised to get those details before deliberative session early next year.



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Law Firm Hired for Communications Tax Appeal

ALEX MALM HUDSON TIMES

At the Nov. 26 Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board of Selectmen reviewed a proposal to hire a law firm.

"The Assessing Department is recommending that the BOS approve the attached "engagement letter" with Donahue, Tucker, Ciandella ILLC (DTC) for that firm to represent the Town as Special Counsel on the Consolidated Communications tax appeal case," Acting Town Administrator Steve Malizia wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. "The litigation of the valuation of this property type is highly specialized and the subject firm, DTC, has recent current and prior experiences with this specialized appeal."

The engagement letter reads in part "This marks

Are you having problems

with your romantic partner?

the engagement of Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella. PLLC to act as special counsel to the Town of Hudson in connection with the tax assessments on Consolidated and relating to the tax abatement appeal of Consolidated pending at the Merrimack County Superior Court. This engagement also extends to any appeals taken from the Superior Court matter."

"If the firm is engaged by other municipalities for work involving Consolidated Communications tax assessment matters during the pendency of this engagement, then there will be a proration wherever possi-

Hudson Times

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ble, which will include such municipalities from the date of their engagement. Our fees for this engagement, described below, will be prorated among Hudson and other municipalities, where appropriate, for common work involving this engagement," the letter stated. "If there are legal fees that are not common to the "Group" any such fees will he billed solely to the municipality for which they are attributable, lithe Firm is engaged by other municipalities for work involving Consolidated tax assessment matters during the pendency of this engagement, then the proration will include such municipalities from the date of their engagement."

It was explained by Malizia that "DTC has been representing communities in the (predecessor to Consolidated ownership) Fair-Point litigation since 2013. In that capacity, they have assisted over 30 municipalities. In Tax Years 2011 and 2020, they worked with municipalities following the Supreme Court's decision in the so-called "test cases" to bring about a resolution to the appeals."

"The firm is very active in the ultra vires arguments

related to the taxation of the public rights of way and the need for compliant pole licenses," Malizia said.

> It was also explained by Malizia that "After all those cases above were settled, FairPoint (now' Consolidated) started bringing new appeals. The communities involved in those appeals are significantly fewer than before."

> "DTC is presently representing Salem, Windham, Plaistow. Lincoln, and Enfield," Malizia said. "Those communities have been sued for a variety of tax years and mixture of tax

(UPP;K)

years between 2021 and 2023. Hudson would make a sixth community and one other community that DTC worked with in PSNH has also been sued, but has not vet signed on.

In that regard, we gain an "economies of scale" on this appeal by splitting the litigation costs with these other communities, similar but a smaller count than in the current Eversouree appeals."

The Board of Selectmen ultimately approved signing the engagement letter during the meeting.







Lions Host Santa Visit at the Hudson Community Center





Families flocked to the Hudson Community Center on Friday night, Nov. 29, after the annual Tree Lighting on the Town Common. Members of the Hudson Lions Club hosted Santa's Arrival where residents could have pictures taken with Santa, enjoy making crafts and each child was given a gift bag as they entered the hall. *Photos by Chris Paul*



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Besides visiting with Santa, children had lots to do during the Santa Arrival event hosted by the Hudson Lions Club. There was a craft area set up by the Hudson Times, cookie decorating by the Lions, games available from the Library and much more.



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Wreaths Across America Hudson, Announces Schedule for Wreath Day

CHRISTINA MADDEN SUBMISSION

The 2024 National Wreaths Across America Day is on Saturday, Dec. 14. This day is a time to remember, honor, and teach by laying wreaths at the graves of veterans at 4,700 participating locations across the U.S. and abroad. Volunteers in Hudson, NH have been participating in Wreath Day since 2019. Hudson's Wreath Day begins with the Wreath Day Ceremony at 11 a.m., on the grounds of the Hills House at 211 Derry Road. The ceremony includes the solemn presentation of Ceremonial Wreaths for each of the armed services, the Merchant Marine, and POW/MIA. In Hudson, two additional wreaths are presented by the Knights of Columbus for the several hundred veterans buried in St. Partick's and Holy Cross Cemeteries where wreath laying is not allowed. Hudson Memorial VFW Post 5791 and Auxiliary is the official sponsor of the Hudson event. They are joined in putting on the ceremony by the Hudson Police and Fire Departments, Scout groups, HCTV, and Historic Society volunteers. The half hour ceremony is open to everyone, is free and is not part." Madden stressed

political. Since this is an outdoor event, warm clothing is a must and a folding chair for those who cannot stand for a half hour is recommended as there is no seating available.

The Hudson Historic Society has graciously allowed Wreaths Across America, Hudson NH Cemeteries to use their building and grounds for the ceremony starting in 2022. Co-Location Coordinator Christina Madden is appreciative of the Society's help. "There is plenty of parking, plenty of room for attendees, and after the ceremony, plenty of baked goods, coffee and hot chocolate, so it is an ideal location for us to hold the Wreath Day Ceremony. We previously held the ceremony in one of our eight participating cemeteries, but quickly discovered that this wasn't ideal. Parking was a big issue, and this limited the number of people who could attend. We want as many people to help us begin Wreath Day because while everyone would like to place a wreath, we have more volunteers than wreaths. Attending the Wreath Day Ceremony is a very important way to honor our veterans and a way for everyone to take



that volunteers have already been registered and assigned to a cemetery for the wreath laying which begins at noon. "What we really hope is that folks show up for this brief but meaningful ceremony to honor our veterans. Most of the Wreath Presenters are either active duty or National Guard members. They volunteer their time and travel to the ceremony. It is important for them to see that we honor and remember those veterans who went before them."

This year, the 2024 theme is "Live with Purpose," which is inspired by the volunteers who lead impactful work in their communities. "Work to prepare for Wreath Day begins several months before Wreath Day to make the ceremony and wreath laying happen in a respectful way, according to Madden. "We have a Fundraising volunteer Chair, Diana Anderson, who takes of the donation side of our WAA location and essentially 'keeps the books' and makes sure all donations get to WAA national and that we get credit for them. Jack Madden, Co-Location Coordinator, handles keeping the lists of veterans current and arranges for the wreath presenters for the ceremony. Other volunteers place flags at the veterans' graves for Veterans Day and Wreath Day so the volunteers know where to place the wreaths; some unload the wreath truck when it arrives with the wreaths; some help place the small flags on the ceremonial wreaths; some load up the wreaths on Wreath

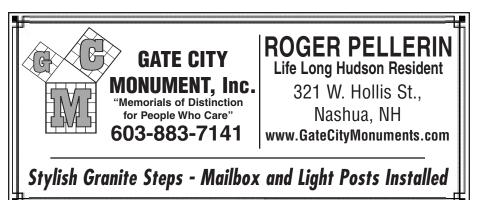


Day and drop them off at the cemeteries; others hang flags and place signs; others are Location Leaders, each assigned to be in charge of a cemetery on Wreath Day. These volunteers are truly 'living with purpose.' The willingness of people to volunteer for a job nobody sees them do in order to honor our veterans is touching and very encouraging." In addition, Madden notes that the Town of Hudson has been unwavering in its support for this endeavor. "Without the Town's support, we'd have a much more difficult time holding Wreath Day activities."

Wreath Day began when in 1992 Morrill Worcester and his business Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, had a surplus of wreaths toward the end of the holiday season. Years before as a young boy, Worcester visited Arlington National Cemetery in our Nation's capital. The experience reminded him throughout his life of the sacrifice some had made in order for others, including himself, to succeed and flourish. Worcester made plans to lay the wreaths in honor of our Veterans at an older, lessvisited section of Arlington National Cemetery. Volunteers stepped forward to help deliver and place the wreaths. Photos of the wreath at the graves in Arlington National Cemetery quickly went viral and more and more locations wanted to take part.

In 2007, the Wreaths Across America non-profit group was founded. Since then, the event has expanded to all 50 states and overseas to lay wreaths at veterans' cemeteries to remember our fallen heroes, honor those who serve and teach our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families. Wreaths Across America traditionally lay wreaths on the second Saturday in December.





Hudson VFW Post 5791 Raise Nearly \$10K at Gala Event



Charles Chapman, Post 5791 Commander, presents check to Laurie Wilshire, of the Nashua Children's Home. . In background are Kristy Baillgareon, Post 5791 Auxiliary President; Post 5791 members Jason Burket and Charlene Vance, the Gala Coordinator,

CHRISTINA MADDEN SUBMISSION

This year's Hudson VFW Post & Auxiliary Holiday Gala raised a total of \$9.814.00. Hudson Community Food Pantry & Nashua Children's Home each received a check for \$4,907 and over 2 boxes were filled with toys to support Toys for Tots.

coordinator, extends special thanks to our local business and organization donors: Countrybrook Farms, Hudson; Energy Efficient and the New England Investments, Inc, Merrimack; Greater NH Restaurants (T-Bones, CJs, Cactus Jack); Lobster Boat, Litchfield; Hannaford Super Market, Hudson; Hashem

Charlene Vance, event Jewelers, Manchester; Michael Timothy's Dining Group (Buckley's, Mike's Italian, Surf Seafood); Nashua Silver Knights; Patriots. Additional thanks to the Alvirne High School Junior ROTC, residents of Cold Springs Campground and all the individual donors who



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Charles Chapman, Post 5791 Commander, presents check to Carlos Pestinal, VP of the Hudson community Food Pantry. In background are Kristy Baillgareon, Post 5791 Auxiliary President; Post 5791 members Charlene Vance, Gala Coordinator, and Jason Burket. Courtesy photos

prizes, and lastly to our Gannon. Post & Auxiliary volunour wonderful Canteen for it in 2025 when the

teers, T & T catering, and this event yearly, so watch evening.

provided fabulous raffle Manger & Bartender, Mel Post hopes to raise even more money while having Post 5791 will hold a fun and enjoyable



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Santa Claus to Arrive by Helicopter at Aviation Museum



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welcome to meet Saint Nick in person during a two-hour midday stopover.

Santa Claus is coming to town, and he's arriving by chopper!On Saturday, Dec. 14, Saint Nick will land via helicopter at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, 27 Navigator Road in Londonderry.

Touchdown is scheduled for 11 a.m. outside the Aviation Museum. All are welcome to attend and join in welcoming the jolly old elf.

Families wishing to welcome the arrival of Santa's helicopter should be at the museum no later than 10:45 a.m. to park and then make their way to the landing observation area.After arriving, Santa will enter the museum, where he'll visit with children one-on-one.

depart by fire truck courtesy of the Manchester Airport Fire Department, which will whisk him off to his next appearance.Children who speak to Santa will be rewarded with goodie bags given out by Santa's helpers."It's become an annual tradition for Santa to visit us by helicopter, and we're pleased to continue it this year," said Jeff Rapsis, executive director of the Aviation Museum.

"This close to Christmas Eve, Santa prefers to travel by chopper because the flying reindeer are resting up for the big night on Dec. 24," Rapsis said.

Santa's visit will take place rain or shine on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If the weather prevents Santa's chopper from flying, he'll arrive by fire Santa will be available truck instead. The Aviation

Kids and families are until 1 p.m., when he'll Museum will be open free to visitors on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Following Santa's departure, regular admission prices will be charged from 1 to 4 p.m.

> The Aviation Museum's store will be open throughout the day so visitors can enjoy holiday shopping.

> Besides Santa's arrival, Saturday, Dec. 14 also marks the debut of this year's "Festival of Planes" exhibit inside the museum. The exhibit, which runs through Sunday, Jan. 19, includes more than 2,000 aviation-related toys, games, and other items that celebrate the enduring childhood fascination with flight.

This year's holiday exhibit will be highlighted by a display of vintage aviation-themed board games as well as a pair of custommade mobiles hung with

model planes that will fly in formation overhead.

"Many aviation careers started with a special model or toy plane under a tree or given as a birthday present," said Jeff Rapsis, the museum's executive director. "Each year, we celebrate that connection by displaying aviation toys from our collection, some of which back to the days of Charles Lindbergh.

"The Aviation Museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for ages 13 and up; \$5 for ages 6-12, seniors 65 and over, and veterans/active military; kids 5 and under free.

For more information, visit www.aviationmuseumofnh.org or call (603) 669-4820. Follow the Aviation Museum on social media at www.facebook.com/nhahs

Class Act to Perform Mutually Assured Destruction

The Alvirne High School theatre group Class Act will be performing its first show of the year this weekend. Mutually Assured Destruction: 10 Plays About Brothers and Sisters, will be performed in Room 311 for three shows on Friday, Dec. written by Don Zolidis and 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7.

Show times are at:

Friday, Dec 6 at 6:30 number of eras. p.m. and Saturday, Dec 7 at 1p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The show will be performed in Room 311

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

The play is a comedy explores siblings squabbles in ten vignettes through a

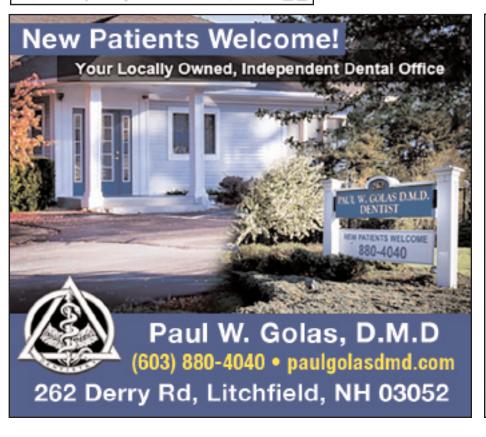
Each short play explores a distinct facet of brother

and sisterhood. Room 311 is a specially

designed theater space for shows like this one. Students have used the space during the whole rehearsal process, and the groups technicians have been able tions are welcome.

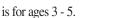
to practice lights and sound. The Class Act Unified Show will be on Dec. 10 at 4:30. a hot chocolate bar and snacks to follow show.

There is no admission fee, but Class Act will be collecting for the Food Bank. Non-perishable food items or monetary dona-





updates.



Hannaford Book Bin

Aye, me mattie! There be a treasure chest of books for the pickin' at Hannaford Grocery Store in November to benefit Friends of the Library. Find this 'book booty' chest near the checkout lines. Donate a book in good condition, take a book or do both. There be a slot nearby for monetary donations to support Friends of the Library programs. Tell them Captain Jack Sparrow sent ya'.

Book Donation Cancelled

The Friends of the Library must cancel their Dec. 12 Book Donation Day. Hopefully, donation days can resume in the future. Please watch for announcements in "Around Town" of the Hudson Times and Rogers Memorial Library website for

The Secondhand Prose Booksale, is cancelled for Dec. 8 due to water damage at Hills Memorial Library basement. Please watch for announcements in "Around Town" of the Hudson Times and Rodgers Memorial Library website for updates.

Book Sale Cancelled

Teen Hangout

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 2 p.m., (through Dec. 19) Teens are invited to relax the Rodgers Library teens only space. Snacks, games, crafts, and Nintendo Switch available.

Preschool Water Play

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

Library website rodgerslibrary.org

come meet Dino, the therapy dog at the Rodgers Memorial

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

Rodgers library lawn.

Brunch Bunch

is large enough.

Buy-A-Brick Buy a memorial brick in honor of that special someone for this Friends of the Library fundraiser. Details are available at the Rodgers Memorial

Dino the Therapy Dog

Every Tuesday at 4 p.m.,

continued on page 15

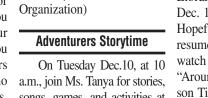
Adventurers Storytime

Dungeons & Donuts

Looking for fellow Dungeons & Dragons players? Come and grab a donut and play at the Rodgers Library on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 9:30 a.m.

Overeaters Anonymous

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from 9 - 10 a.m., at St. Eliza-

beth Seton Church 190 Meet-

inghouse Rd., Bedford, use

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the meeting room in the

church basement. Contact Pat

At 603-289-8476 Or Jane At

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songs, games, and activities at the Rodgers Library. This event

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Victorian Christmas

ful Hills House decorated for Christmas on Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., (in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at 11 a.m.) and Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fantastic photo ops throughout the house. All rooms will be decorated, several by Alvirne students of Mrs. Hill. Light refreshments, cookie decorating for the kids, and Free admission, donations appreciated.



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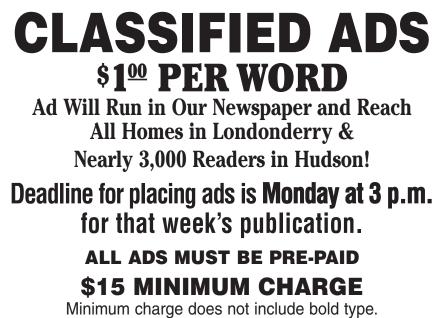
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The Great Christmas Debate: Real or Artificial Trees?

Baking cookies, watch- day traditions. ing movies, singing carols ... the holiday season is celebrated in a variety of ways and each family has its own traditions. For those families that put up a Christmas tree every year, there is a debate that they've all had at least once: Artificial or the real deal? The debate around the better tree has continued for years, with some arguing for the convenience of fake trees and others staunch proponents of the tradition and visceral sensation of having a real evergreen. In the end, most points come down to personal preference, but one creative ways to re-purconsideration that could sway the vote is the environmental impact. Does eventually the tree or its one come out ahead of the components will end up in other in the sustainability a landfill. Aside from difficategory? Let's break down how you can be sustainable with your tree this season while also partaking in your favorite holi-

Adventure to the attic for your artificial tree

People who like the hassle-free tradition of taking the tree down from the attic can point to the environmental benefit of reusing their trees over many years. By using the same tree over and over again, you can prevent waste and help limit the overconsumption of products during the holidays.

However, artificial trees are made from plastic and metal materials and cannot be recycled. While a thrifty family could find pose it after it's outlived its use as the family tree, culties with the disposal of artificial trees, their production can contribute to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and waste in

tured. packaged and shipped. It's estimated that 80% of artificial trees worldwide are manufactured in China, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. Imagine all the emissions it takes just to ship your tree across the ocean.

Are everyreens really **THAT green?**

So, if fake trees aren't ideal for production or disposal, that must mean that real trees are better... right? Unfortunately, the answer is more complex than a simple yes or no. Having a real tree for the Holidays means that trees must be cut down every year. Luckily, most trees come from Christmas tree farms and are planted with the sole intent of eventually being harvested. Plus, more trees being planted contributes to more trees

the way they are manufac- releasing oxygen and absorbing greenhouse gases.

> Real trees obviously have the upper hand over artificial ones when it comes to reducing emissions. Even though these trees are being cut down to adorn your homes, there are plenty of tree farms that use sustainable methods with the understanding that trees are cut down and new ones grow to replace them, which helps conserve resources. The National Christmas Tree Association says that, for every one tree harvested, three more trees are planted to ensure a constant supply. So, when looking for a real tree consider purchasing from a local tree farm; to extend the environmental benefit even further, look for the overlooked, less appealing trees that might be wasted otherwise.

OBITUARY Pamela D. (Pow) Thompson

Pamela D. (Pow) Thompson, 75, of

Hudson, NH, passed away peacefully on

Nov. 25, 2024. Born on Oct. 27, 1949, in Manchester NH to Bruce Pow and Fredrica (Burnham) Bell. Devoted wife of 52 years to Stephen Thompson. Mother to Matthew (Monique) of Winchester, MA and Christopher (Hilary) of Nashua, NH. Grandmother to Susannah Thompson of Nashua, NH and Benjamin Thompson of Winchester, MA. Sister to Janet Seiler of High Springs FL, Buddy Pow (Carol) of Bedford NH, Gordon Pow (Pat) of Belgrade ME, Karen Pow of Alton, NH, and Andrea Conway (James) of Bedford NH. Aunt to many nieces, nephews and grand and great-grand nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and brother Clifton Pow.

Pam's greatest joy was a lifelong interest in children and education. She was a graduate of Manchester, NH schools and earned a BA in Education from the University of New Hampshire. She was a nursery and elementary school teacher and founded the organization HOTS, which supported teachers in the Hudson, NH school district. She was a Cub Scout Den Mother for both of her sons. Her many hobbies included quilting, crafting, travel, pride in her beloved NH, and following New England sports teams. She was a longstanding member of the GFWC Hudson, NH Chapter.

A time of visitation was held on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 3 - 6 p.m., in the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Pam's memory to: Friends of Aine, 226 Coolidge Ave., Manchester NH 03102 or online at www.friendsofaine.com.

better disposal method since they are both biodegradable and compostable. There are many services that allow consumers to recycle their real trees for lumber, mulch, compost or other purposes. Some people even feed their trees to goats. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, there are over 4,000 local holiday tree recycling programs throughout the U.S. Check with your town to see if there are any Christmas Tree recycling day season. programs nearby.

Real trees also have a

What's the consensus?

So, when push comes to shove, which is more sustainable - artificial or real trees? With the benefits of reducing emissions and waste, real holiday trees are the more sustainoption overall. able Regardless of your holiday traditions and what kind of tree you decide to put up, you can learn ways to get the most of your tree and reduce the effects of waste disposal and overconsumption during the holi-

OBITUARY Ila Cox



Ila Cox, 87, of Hudson, NH, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024 in Hudson. She was born in St. James, Barbados and was married to Keith Cox until his death in January 2003. She married

Eric Blunt, whom she had known since they were teenagers, a few years later.

Ila was determined and feisty. She loved to spend time with her family and spoke to her children, daughter-in-law and sister every day. She enjoyed watching old westerns and Perry Mason on TV.

She would tell anyone anywhere that her children, Ronald, Joan and Arlene are the best children in the world and that her grandchildren, Jeremy and Jennifer, are perfect. Mum was a devoted Jehovah's Witness. mother, gramma, aunt and great-aunt who loved to cook for her family regularly each weekend. She is the inventor of the "delicious spongy dumpling" which she added to her already outstanding homemade soup and stew.

Before the pandemic, mum regularly traveled back and forth to Barbados beginning sometime toward the end of December to April each year to spend time with Eric, enjoy the food and the weather. When in Barbados, she would speak multiple times per week with her NH family and loved ask how the weather was and say how nice and warm it was down there.

Ila was the third oldest of six children and made friends easily. In addition to her children Ronald (wife Laura), Joan and Arlene; grandchildren Jeremy (fiancé Becca) and Jennifer; and her husband Eric, she leaves behind her sisters Lenora Armstrong, Velma Walcott, Maxine King, many, many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, many friends and surrogate children. She was predeceased by her first husband, Keith Cox, her daughter, Judy, her mother, Dorothy Harris, and brothers Oliver Harris and Carl Burnett.

She will always be loved and missed every day.

A time of visitation will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. with a Service of Remembrance at 11:30 a.m. in the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Ferry St., Hudson, NH. A private graveside service will be held in Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford, MA.

Around Town **Continued from page 13**

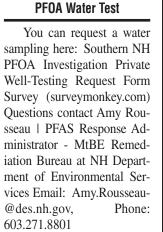
Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to make new friends.

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.

Drop In Stitchers

Come to the Rodgers Memorial Library every Friday at 9:15 a.m. for this craft group. If you love to craft, whether it be quilting, knitting, crocheting, rug making or plastic canvas, you will LOVE this group! If you're starting a new skill or brushing up on an old one or even supplies and stitch the if you just like to chat while evening away.



pretending to work, this is a

judgment free zone.

A Good Yarn

On Tuesdays at 5 p.m., (except Dec. 24) come to the Rodger Library to Share tips, tricks, and stories while you work on your latest project and connect with fellow fiber enthusiasts. Bring your own





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