

THE Hudson Times

February 13, 2025 ♦ Volume 3 – Issue 6

A FREE Weekly Publication



An amendment of a nearly \$1.3 million budget cut was proposed and failed at the Hudson School Deliberative held on Saturday morning,

Push for Further School Cuts Fails at Deliberative Session

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School District held its Deliberative Session on Saturday morning, Feb. 8, and saw the formal presentation to the public of the 2025-26 proposed school budget. It also featured a rather lengthy debate on why the proposed budget should be cut by nearly \$1.3 million.

"The School Board voted to send to the Budget Committee, the general fund operating budget of \$69,577,219," explained Budget Committee Chair James

Lawrence. "After careful consideration and review, the Budget Committee recommends a general fund operating budget of \$68,467,088."

That number is outlined by Warrant Article 1, which includes a default budget of \$68,864,328 if Hudson voters reject the proposed operating budget in March.

"The estimated tax impact is a reduction of 30 cents," said Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen, referring to the proposed budget and the tax impact

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Lowell Road Intersection Article Draws Questions at Deliberative

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Deliberative Session to debate the Hudson town budget saw extensive discussion over Warrant Article 10 and its \$2,533,000 commitment towards intersection improvements at Lowell Road, County Road, and Birch Street.

"The Planning Board did a study and there were recommendations for improving this area of Lowell Road," said Selectman Heidi Jakoby, who added the purpose of the improvements was to improve safety in what has been identified as one of the more accident-prone areas of Hudson.

\$2,042,400, or 80% of the appropriation would be covered through federal

grants, while the remaining \$510,600 would be covered using townwide corridor funds, avoiding any local tax impact.

"We have been proactive with this project, we're finalizing the design," added Town Engineer Elvis Dhima. "We're looking into getting the design completed with a federal permit, which is called a NEPA permit, and start looking into getting the right-of-way we need for this permit."

He hoped to have the project "shovel ready" in the near future. Selectmen Dillon Dumont had also been in contact with state officials to help get the project move forward.

"Are you stating in your presentation that there is no contract ready to be signed

that will appropriate the money necessary for this project?" asked resident Roger Coutu. "Is there one in the works?"

Dhima answered by saying there was no construction contract yet in place, although one was being prepared.

"I'd like to know what the expected traffic on Belknap would be if it becomes an alternative to using Central Street to go from the east to the south," said resident James Wilkins. "It should also take into consideration the culvert system in that area, which is known to be inadequate."

The Town Engineer did not expect an increase in traffic, emphasizing that the intent of the intersection

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Fire Personnel Pushes to Add More Firefighters in Article 7

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

First responders in Hudson continued to push for new measures to alleviate staffing shortages at the Feb. 1 Deliberative Session, including a measure to add four new firefighters/AEMTs to the fire department.

"Warrant Article 7 seeks voter's approval to hire four firefighters/AEMTs for a total first-year cost of \$527,686," said Selectman David Morin. "In 2020, the voters approved shift staffing of 11 per shift. We're looking to improve the shift staffing to 12 per shift with this article. It's the first step of a three-step

plan. The ultimate goal of the fire department is to increase staffing of 14 members per shift."

With the growing population in Hudson, members of the fire department warned they were they were struggling to keep up with busier calls. Article 7 would have a 10-cent impact on the tax rate and was unanimously recommended by the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee, and Fire Chief Scott Tice.

"We're asking to increase staffing because we have a high rate of multiple incidents, that is having more than one incident at the same time," Tice explained. "This depletes

our staffing and resources to respond to the subsequent calls, which reduces our safety or reduces our effectiveness."

He argued that trying to handle many simultaneous calls inevitably reduced their response time. The Hudson Fire Department had 2,012 calls within 55 minutes of another call in 2024, 1,113 of which happened within 25 minutes of another call.

"I can tell you that we've had several building fires in the last several years where we've had reduced resources and increased response times where, solely due to the good work of

continued on page 3

Unfinished Garage Draws Public Opposition at ZBA Meeting

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment met on Jan. 23 to hear an Equitable Waiver of Dimensional Requirement allowing a metal garage on an improperly placed concrete foundation on Fairway Drive.

"We hired a contractor to put in the foundation and the building, I guess the contractor wasn't familiar with the practices of this town. They put in the foundation initially, it was many months before he came into to the rest, and the fact that the garage was built on the foundation was merely an oversight," explained resident and applicant Brad Baker. "The surveyors informed me the contractors has screwed up."

According to him, he discovered the problem too late. Currently, only a "metal frame" was in place. He also had sketches of what the structure would look like when finished.

"I don't believe it's going to be a problem being seven feet to close to the road," argued Baker. "We're on a corner lot, almost nobody should be driving by, there's very few reasons for anyone to go by my house."

He worried it would cost "tens of thousands of dollars" or more to relocate the partially built garage, which would include possibly removing the completed concrete foundation before moving it back seven feet.

"Can you just walk through the chronology?" asked Board member Dean Sakati, who lives in the area. "It feels like it's been a year."

Baker admitted the project dragged on longer than intended due to trouble finding reliable contractors.

"The foundation permit was issued and the Board has heard numerous cases like this," noted Selectmen Liaison Dillon Dumont. "There's been plenty of

times, even since I've been here and it wasn't that long, that you've done equitable waivers for the same thing where somebody pours a foundation and what somebody puts on a piece of paper versus what was out in the field had discrepancies."

One neighbor emailed the ZBA, expressing support for Baker's request.

"I assure you, neither I nor my house guests, who are currently watching the home while I am away, have complained about the structure and I do not intend to," wrote resident Samantha King. "I do not mind about the setback."

However, not every neighbor supported Baker's garage, with one saying it the large structure was not "compatible" with the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

"While the structure is in clear violation of Hudson's town setback codes, it is also in clear violation of

Hudson's setback codes, it is also non-compliant with the town's building code number 334-16 as the design does not present a reasonable appearance in keeping with the neighborhood," argued Abutter Lynn Ashworth, who called the structure "an industrial-sized Quonset hut."

Dumont warned that the Zoning Board did not necessarily have jurisdiction to judge the look of a building.

"I'm not opposed to the addition of a garage, but what we are talking about here is a building that is very tall, and very wide," said abutter Richard Speer. "I believe that this building, where it is, in front of the property, will impact property values in the neighbor-

hood. It's large, it looks industrial, and it's close to the road, you can't miss it."

He also claimed other neighborhoods had been forced to move sheds to comply with zoning requirements. Zoning Administrator Chris Sullivan questioned this assertion, noting that one neighbor was explicitly given the option of a variance before voluntarily moving their shed.

"I remember when they did my garage, I think the inspection was done when they poured the pad for the garage. Wouldn't it have been flagged when that was seven feet from the setback?" asked resident Edward Thompson.

Sullivan responded by saying that was not neces-

sarily the case, and that a resident only needs a certified plot plan, not a full inspection to pour a concrete foundation. He added that inspectors are also more interested in how concrete pads are built, not their location.

"They're not out there with a GPS confirming the points," said Dumont.

Board members tried to focus on the facts of the request, asking whether poor knowledge of the setback regulations was enough to justify a waiver and how much the high cost of relocation would factor into a decision. Eventually, the ZBA decided "the process wasn't followed," voting to deny relief in a three-to-one vote.

Firefighters

Continued from page 1

our people and some luck, those incidents did not turn out to be much worse than what they were," said Tice. "I hope you will consider this."

Former Fire Chief Shawn Murray agreed, saying the Hudson Fire Department had been "under-staffed for many years."

"Currently, the engine company located at the Central Fire Station on Library Street is stationed by a crew of two firefighters," President of the Professional Firefighters of

Hudson Brian Clarenbach. "This creates a dangerous situation, as it forces our members who, when they arrive on the scene of a fire have to choose between abandoning a pump on the truck and having no one there to troubleshoot any interruptions in their water supply going to our hose lines."

He also framed the problem as a safety issue for residents and firefighters. National standards typically recommend four firefighters per apparatus, something Hudson has

struggled to achieve.

"On the night of Jan. 13 of this year, I had two ambulance units and a fire truck at my home. It took a lot of resources to take care of the incident that happened there," said resident Norman Martin. "Having more staff will help alleviate some of these issues, especially when you have sick people out there who depend on the Hudson Fire Department."

No residents spoke against the article or proposed any amendments. Warrant Article 7 will appear as presented on the March ballot.

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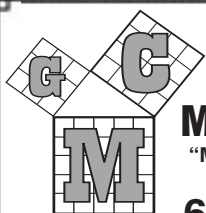
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Editorial

Presidents Day Promotes Democracy

Many Americans associate Presidents Day with nothing more than a long weekend since schools are often closed to observe the holiday. Though its significance is taught in said schools, it seems that so many still don't fully comprehend what Presidents Day stands for, and yet some businesses take advantage of the holiday to move and sell more items.

Two great American leaders were born in February, and a big part of this national holiday celebrates them and what they did for our country.

The main focus of Presidents Day is on the lives of the past United States presidents; George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. These men have served as examples for future generations for hundreds of years. Their actions and messages are preserved and followed to help keep our nation strong.

These two presidents in particular, are celebrated together every February not just for their shared birth month, but also for their demonstration of strength during turbulent times in our nation's history.

George Washington was a model for "Integrity, self-discipline, courage, absolute honesty, resolve, and decision, but also forbearance, decency, and respect for others". Not everyone agreed with Washington's viewpoints and qualities, but many honored, respected, and trusted him nonetheless. Washington did not need to tell his fellow new Americans how strong and capable of a leader he was-his actions spoke of that for him.

Abraham Lincoln came from a poor

family, but he fought his humble beginnings and persevered in his way of life until he became President of the United States. He received little formal teaching; instead, he educated himself on the command of the English language, developing a way with words that would humble speechwriters of today.

These two men served as examples for future generations, along with their actions and messages that should be preserved and followed to keep our nation strong.

During a time when a large national party had intentions to reject the Irish Catholics and Germans pouring into the country, Lincoln voiced praise for immigrants. When southern leaders threatened secession, he stood firm against the expansion of slavery.

With everything they have done to consider, it's a pity to see how the holiday has changed from a holiday meant to honor these great men, reduced to great deals. This isn't to say that there is anything wrong with getting a deal or enjoying a long weekend on a national holiday, but we at Nutfield Publishing believe that Presidents Day deserves recognition for keeping the virtues of two great leaders alive.

We should not forget that as a Nation we should be grateful to live in a Country that allows us freedom; a voice in our government and a choice of our leaders. Keep in mind that Presidents Day weekend means so much more than a great deal.

"We The People" Done!

THE Hudson Times

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Letters

Greetings Hudson Voters!

To the editor,

I am Donna Boucher, a current Hudson Budget Committee member, and I am looking forward to the election on March 11 for the opportunity to continue to serve our community for a one year term as a Hudson Budget Committee member. I was appointed last spring as a result of a resignation from the committee. I participated in a training in Manchester, NH sponsored by the NH Municipal Association for various positions in municipalities including Budget Committee members, which proved to be very helpful for my new role in town government. Since Budget Committee members cannot act on their own, collaboratively working together to oversee, not control the budget requires the thoughtful ideas of minds that envision common objectives. I believe that I possess this mindset, and will be an asset to continue with the Hudson Budget Committee.

Previous to my appointment on the Hudson Budget Committee last year, I served as a library trustee for the Hudson Library Board of Trustees. I served two three year terms and participated as Chairperson for two years and as Treasurer. I learned a lot about managing budgets while serving as a library trustee as well as presenting a budget to the Hudson Budget Committee and the Hudson Board of Selectmen.

Professionally, I have worked as a nurse in various

specialties for my entire career. I had worked in Hudson as a nurse paraprofessional for eight years. I have earned a Bachelors in Nursing degree, and am currently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration in Organizational Management.

I have been consistently involved in town governance since moving back to my hometown in 2009, and had been active with Pack 21 and Troop 21, serving as Treasurer while one of my sons was a Scout. Recently, I participated as a Hudson poll worker for the

Presidential election. I am happy to be involved with my community, and would be honored to remain on the Hudson Budget Committee for another year!

Thank You
Donna Boucher,
Hudson

Running for Cemetery Trustee

To the editor,

Hudson has been my home for nearly a decade. It's where my wife and I am raising our two wonderful daughters, where we've built friendships, and where we've grown to love the history and traditions that make this community so special. As a veteran, a father, and someone who values service, I want to give back in a meaningful way. That's why I'm running for Cemetery Trustee - because I believe in honoring our past while ensuring a well-maintained and sustainable future for our cemeteries.

Cemeteries are more than final resting places. They are a part of our town's history, a place where families go to remember and reflect. They should be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. As a former Marine who served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, I understand duty, responsibility, and respect for those who came before us. My experience in management and technology equips me with the skills needed to ensure our cemeteries are cared for responsibly and with long-term sustainability in mind.

If elected, I will ensure our cemeteries are properly maintained and cared for. These spaces should be well-kept, accessible, and treated with the respect they deserve. Families should feel confident that their loved ones' final resting places are in good hands, and I will advocate for responsible upkeep and improvements where needed.

Additionally, I will focus on financial responsibility and long-term planning. By managing resources wisely, we can ensure our cemeteries remain well-maintained for generations to come without unnecessary financial burdens on the town. Thoughtful budgeting and planning will allow us to protect these spaces with care and foresight.

This role isn't just about managing land; it's about preserving our community's legacy. I take that responsibility seriously, and I would

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Election Letters

It has been a longstanding policy of Nutfield Publishing to not publish campaign letters in the newspaper on the week prior to the town and school election. Reason being: It does not give those affected by a letter published the chance to rebut any inaccuracies in the statements made. The only letters pertaining to the March 11 election appearing in the March 6 issue will be to correct inaccuracies made in letters/articles in prior publications.

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.

Lot Line Adjustment Paves Way for Future Development on Melendy Road

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The January 22 meeting of the Hudson Planning Board heard a presentation from Project Engineer Allison Lewis of Keach-Nordstrom Associates and property owner Denise and Leroy Thompson for a Lot Line Relocation Plan on Melendy Rd.

"In 2019, there was a two-lot subdivision approved here. What was created was a large lot in the front with larger frontage on Melendy Road. That con-

tains the existing house and the existing art studio and then a smaller rear lot," explained Lewis. "Tonight, we are seeking a lot line adjustment, and we're looking to create a smaller line in the front."

This adjustment would split the home from the art studio, so both would be in separate parcels. Board members had a few questions on the proposal.

"These lots were originally proposed to be served by private water and septic. Is there water or septic serv-

ice to that existing studio?" asked Board member James Crowley.

According to Lewis, the septic system was only attached to the house, although the property owners were in the process of getting state permits needed to attach the studio to the septic system. The divided property would also have access to well water.

"On the plan it doesn't really get into whether the purpose is residential or duplex or whatever," noted Crowley. "Is there any plan

at this time?"

Lewis stated there was a long-term goal for the land beyond simply moving the lot line.

"In the future, they are planning on constructing the duplex to the rear," she said.

The Zoning Board originally granted a variance to the lot during the original subdivision, allowing the two lots to use a shared driveway. According to Interim Town Planner Jay Minkarah, that variance would remain in place with

a lot line adjustment.

"How would that be handled around maintenance?" Board member Victor Oates, referring to the driveway. "Both lots are operated by the same family is my understanding. Should that change would they need to come back before the Board? My concern is, how does that work? Is that a future matter that wouldn't be impacted at this time?"

The Interim Town Planner stated there would probably need to be a separate arrangement to ensure everyone still had access to the driveway.

"If both lots are under separate ownership, there has to be a joint access easement," said Minkarah.

According to Lewis, the issue came up during the original subdivision and is

in the paperwork in case one or both lots change hands.

"I noticed that on other subdivisions we did with long driveways, the fire department got involved," said Crowley, who wanted to know if they should get the opinion of first responders before voting on the plan.

Vice-Chair Jordan Ulery argued this was not required, as the fire department had already given its opinion on the driveway during the original subdivision of the land.

The Board unanimously approved the lot line adjustment without further debate.

The Hudson Planning Board is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

Letters

Continued from page 4

be honored to serve as Cemetery Trustee.

I humbly ask for your support and your vote. Let's work together to ensure Hudson's cemeteries remain a place of dignity, history, and remembrance for years to come.

Sincerely,
Daniel Barthelemy
Candidate for Cemetery Trustee
Hudson

Community Power

To the Editor,

I am a resident of Hudson, and I am writing to express strong support for Community Power in NH.

Hudson Community Power has made a significant impact in our community. With this program, residents have saved \$365,000 since

going live in March 2024 through the end of November. This initiative allows us to create local energy solutions and put decision-making power in the hands of our communities. Not only does this help reduce costs, but with the right policy framework, it can also foster economic development by encouraging market-based development of local energy resources.

The Energy Forward Act and related bills will preserve and expand competition in NH's electricity market, increase customer choice, and reduce costs for NH homes, businesses, and communities. Hearings are coming up on several important bills. Please reach out to our legislators and ask them to support the following bills.

Priority Bills:

- HB 760 – Protect the competitive market by stopping the monopoly cost shift
- HB 755 – Enables true competition in NH's elec-

tricity market for distributed energy in a way that lowers costs for everyone

- HB 759 – Allows community-scale generation projects to serve Community Power and competitive supply customers

Related Bills:

- HB 761 – Expands access to customer energy storage

- HB 460 – (Heard in House Committee on 1/27) Requires enhanced regulatory scrutiny over utility investments in distributed energy until true market competition is enabled

I believe that expanding local energy markets and increasing competition is essential for ensuring that our state's energy future is sustainable, equitable, and resilient. By supporting policies that promote Community Power and competitive supply, we can ensure that more communities across NH can

enjoy the same benefits.

I ask our residents to please continue to support legislation that will further expand market competition and local energy markets for our state. Please also reach out to our representatives in Concord and ask them to support these bills. Your engagement on this important issue will help optimize our energy system to lower costs for all homes and businesses.

Below are the email addresses for the House Members representing Hudson.

Dillon.Dumont@gc.nh.gov
Cathy.Kenny@gc.nh.gov
Andrew.Prout@gc.nh.gov
Jeremy Slottje (no email address found)

repulery@comcast.net
Robert.Wherry@gc.nh.gov
Kimberly.Rice@gc.nh.gov
Sincerely,
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BOS Approves Expenditures For Lowell Road Intersection

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

One of the agenda items during the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting was about the proposed improvements for the Lowell and County Road intersection.

It was explained previously to the Planning Board that the Board, in 2019 “initiated an assessment and evaluation of Lowell and County Road improvements which resulted in multiple scenarios, including the building a new road segment from Belknap Road to Lowell Road.” “We are currently working on finalizing the design and state permit-

ting for \$181,300 by utilizing Corridor I and Corridor II funds,” Town Engineer Elvis Dhima wrote in a memo.

“We are in the process of pursuing federal funding for the construction phase and making our case that this project is a shovel-ready project and the Town will cover the expenditures for the design, permitting, and the necessary right of way. We have completed the design and are ready to start the purchase of the right of way and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which is a federal law/permit required to be completed prior to receiving

federal funding.”

Dhima requested that the Planning Board recommend to the “Board of Selectmen to utilize corridor funds for the right of way and NEPA permit at this time.”

The Planning Board previously recommended the expenditure of up to \$100,000 for expenditure and purchase of right of way using funds received after August 2018 on account Zone I Traffic Improvements and Zone II Traffic Improvements.

In addition, the Planning Board previously recommended the expenditure of up to \$65,000 for com-

pletion of the NEPA permit using funds received after August 2018 on account of Zone I Traffic Improvements and Zone II Traffic Improvements.

At the Jan. 28 Board of Selectmen meeting, Dhima explained that the assessment and evaluation for road improvements for the intersection “resulted in multiple scenarios including the building a new road segment from Belknap Road to Lowell Road.” “We are currently working on finalizing the design and state permitting for \$181,300 by utilizing Corridor I and Corridor 2 funds,” Dhima said.

“We are in the process of pursuing federal funding for the construction phase and making our case that this project is a shovel-ready project and the Town will cover the expenditures for the design permitting and the necessary right of way.”

Dhima explained that they have completed the design and are ready to “start the purchase of the right of way and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which is a federal law/permit required to be completed prior to receiving federal funding.”

“The Engineering Department’s recommendation

to the Board of Selectmen is to approve this expenditure,” Dhima wrote. “This project is 100 percent funded by corridor funds, collected by Planning Board for capital projects like these.

The Planning Board recommended the approval of expenditure up to \$165,000 for the NEPA permit and Right of Way cost determination and purchase.”

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the recommendation.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Sustainability Committee Deems Holiday Lights Recycling Program a Success

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Sustainability Committee met on Jan. 27 to review the impact of their 2024 Holiday Lights Recycling Program.

“It was a great success this year. I put together a Google spreadsheet, and the numbers are pretty impressive,” announced alternate Craig Putnam. “We collected a total of 512 pounds of holiday lights this year, which is more than double last year’s collection, so congratulations to everyone,

it was a great program.”

He tracked the results of each recycling location, finding that the town hall was the most successful, collecting 174 pounds. Furthermore, 150 pounds of holiday lights were collected at Rodger Memorial Library, with 98 pounds collected at the Senior Center. Boy Scout Troop 20 helped by collecting 22 pounds of holiday lights, mainly removed from recycled Christmas trees as part of their own fundraiser. Other light recycling locations

were set up at Shepard’s Hill, the Lion’s Club, and the Community Center.

The Committee also found itself in possession of “absolutely brand new, unused, unopened boxes of lights.” There was talk of distributing the unused lights as needed, starting with the Department of public works.

“What I’d like to do is reach out first to the DPW,” said Chair Deb Putnam. “A couple of the strings are the larger bulbs, which might be of use to them and their outdoor displays. Then we have other little boxes that might be of use to the senior center and their Christmas stuff. Whatever

thoughts we may have, we want to be equitable in offering them to departments.”

Committee members gave every indication they hoped to repeat their success with the program at the end of 2025. Committee member Jake Keller wondered if the Committee should encourage residents to buy longer-lasting holiday lights.

“Do you think that it would do any good to provide education to the residents of Hudson on the drop-off areas?” asked Committee member Jake Keller.

Roughly half the lights turned in for recycling were

non-LED incandescent bulbs.

“I think with the incandescent, even one box was really heavy. It was the old lights, and they were losing their paint on the inside,” said Deb.

The Chair agreed to expand public outreach on the holiday lights program when it comes up again during the latter half of 2025.

“I think clearly, this is a successful program,” said Committee member Chris Thatcher. “I’ll be starting discussions a little earlier this year.”

The DPW also announced the release of its 2025 Solid Waste Brochure for the Transfer Station, which is available on its website to all residents.

“This is available to you all 24/7. Nobody needs to post on Facebook ‘Is trash pick-up going to be today?’” said Deb. “It’s all available to everyone.”

The brochure outlines details related to trash and recycling collection in Hudson, including a full calendar of curbside collection dates.

The Transfer Station will be fully open on Feb. 22, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday. Cardboard, metal, and yard waste collection is expected to resume in April.

The Hudson Sustainability Committee is scheduled to meet again on Monday, February 24, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

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Selectmen Approve Police Department Grant Funds

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, one of the agenda items was in regards to the Operation Underground Railroad Rescue Grant.

"The Police Department is requesting to meet at the next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14, to request approval to accept the awarded Operation Underground Railroad (OUR) Rescue Grant," a memo to the Board of Selectmen stated. "OUR Rescue is a 501 (c)(3) that works with Law Enforcement Agencies in the United States by provid-

ing tools, training, and technology to enhance their capabilities in enforcing human trafficking and child exploitation laws. This grant will provide \$10,784 to upgrade the police departments current legacy Cellebrite system to the new Cellebrite Inseyets Online Pro."

It was explained by Hudson Police Capt. David Cayot that they have a line item to pay for the rest of the cost, that the grant wouldn't cover.

"The police department does have a line item designated currently for Cellebrite," he said.

In a memo it stated that

the "Hudson Police Department will be responsible for \$4,000 of the cost which will be paid from 5677-269 which has \$4,800 in the line designated for Cellebrite."

One question raised by Selectman Kara Roy, was how it would be impacted by an Executive Order from the President, freezing funds for things like grants.

It was pointed out that the organization is a private non profit entity so wouldn't be impacted.

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

During liaison reports,

Morin asked what the status was for finding the Town's next finance director.

"Do we have a status of where we are with the finance director," Morin said.

Board of Selectmen Chair Bob Guessferd said "I believe that the period for the applications is closed," saying that he didn't have a more current status.

Acting Town Administrator Steve Malizia said that they are currently going through the IT director process first.

Guessferd said he agreed however that it's important to keep the public updated on the progress.

For the Benson Park Committee, Selectman Kara Roy, explained that the committee "put together rather quickly a cardboard sled race, on Feb. 16, at 1 p.m."

"It sounds like a lot of fun," Roy said during the meeting.

Roy explained that people can do it as a group or individually, and that there will be different prizes for things such as most creative.

It was noted during the meeting, that those who participate would create their cardboard sleds in advance of the event.

During old business, the

Board of Selectmen announced two different votes taken during the Jan. 14 non public session.

One of those votes was to adjust the recreation director salary by 32 percent "to better align with industry market rates in NH."

The other vote was to adjust Department Head salaries by five percent to "better align with (the) new Town Administrator salary."

Both of the motions were approved.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Feb. 12 beginning at 7 p.m.

Town Moderator & Town Administrator Return for Final Deliberative Session

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Town of Hudson's 2025 Deliberative Session kicked off on Feb. 1, with Honorable Paul Inderbitzen moderating for another year.

"You will act as a legislative body to determine the final form of all the warrant articles that will be voted on at the March 11 election. All the articles, by law, must be placed on the ballot," said Inderbitzen, outlining the process. "Article 1 is the election of officers, which will happen in March."

Inderbitzen and the now-retired Town Administrator Steve Malizia agreed to return for a final set of public hearings to help run the Deliberative Session. Selectman Dave Morin thanked the pair for their help.

"These two have come back and done an outstand-

ing job and have pretty much saved the Town of Hudson so we can have this and the people can voice their opinions here," said Morin. "I'd just like to thank them and give a round of applause for all the work they do."

The first item on the agenda was Article 2, which proposed a general fund operating budget of \$38,791,101 and was unanimously recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. If rejected by voters, a default budget of \$37,177,866 would go into effect for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The

projected tax rate for the budget is \$5.31 per \$1,000 of assessed value, a 34-cent increase over the 2024-2025 budget.

"The Board of Selectmen originally directed all department heads to submit budgets of no more than a 1.5% increase exclusive of labor and benefits costs," said James Lawrence, Chair of the Budget Committee.

Resident Roger Coutu called for an additional \$36,753 in spending to fund a part-time custodian in the police department.

"The police station was originally 14,000-aquare

feet. The addition added 5,720-square feet to that," said Coutu. "This equal 41% more square feet then we had."

He claimed the addition of another custodian for a larger building was a "necessity," only cut due to the initial 1.5% spending limitation.

"That new building is immaculate, and the present full-time custodian has the added responsibility of larger shower rooms, larger locker rooms, more offices to clean, and he's the go-to guy if the air conditioning goes down. He saves the

town a lot of money," said Coutu.

Without much discussion, the amendment was overwhelmingly approved, bringing the new general operating budget to \$38,827,854.

Article 3 covered the sewer fund operating budget of \$2,457,392, with \$2,514,684 as the default. The fund is covered through user fees, meaning it would not have an impact on the town tax rate.

"This warrant article, the sewer fund, is a special revenue fund, and all costs are paid by the sewer users

and not property taxpayers," said Selectman Heidi Jakoby. "It is recommended by both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee."

There was no discussion around Article 3, which advanced to the ballot without any amendments.

The general election for the warrant articles, including the town budget, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025. The polling location for Ward 1 is at Hudson Memorial School, and the polling location for Ward 2 is at Alvirne High School.

Hudson Times

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Various School Warrant Articles Forwarded To Ballot

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

Several warrant articles were moved to the ballot, without much debate, during the 2025 Hudson School District Deliberative Session last week.

One of the warrant articles is related to the Fire Alarm Panel Replacement at Hudson Memorial School. The warrant article states: "Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$75,000 to replace the fire alarm panel at Hudson Memorial School? This sum is to come from the

June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article." The estimated tax rate impact would be an increase of \$0.

Another warrant article moved to the ballot is related to the emergency alert beacons for the district. The warrant article states: "Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$63,800 to add additional emergency alert beacons throughout the district? This sum is to come from

the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article." The warrant article, if approved by voters, would have an estimated tax rate impact of \$0.

The science lab at Hudson Memorial School Warrant article was moved to the ballot during the Deliberative Session. The warrant article states: "Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$225,000 to upgrade two Science Classrooms/Labs

at Hudson Memorial School? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article." There would be no tax rate impact if approved by voters.

A warrant article on the ballot will be in regards to increasing funds in the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund. This warrant article states: "Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to

\$150,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund established in September 1999? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation." There would be no tax rate impact increase if approved by voters.

On the ballot, there will also be a warrant article that if approved would, increase funds in the Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund. This warrant article states: "Shall the Hudson School District

vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$150,000 to be added to the Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund approved by voters in March 2024 and established in August 2024? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation." There would be no estimated tax rate impact increase if approved by voters.

Voters will have the chance to vote on the various warrant articles on March 11.

Lowell Road

Continued from page 1 improvements was solely to make traffic safer, not redirect it. He promised all culvert work "would be done in compliance with state and federal requirements" and would not be an issue.

There were fewer questions over Article 12, which

proposed raising \$40,000 to fund a mosquito control program in Hudson.

"In NH, mosquitos transmit infections including Triple E, West Nile, and the Jamestown Canyon virus," explained Selectman Dave Morin. "The NH Department of Health and Human

Services found an elevated risk in 2024 of Triple E infections given the positive mosquito samples identified. Funding of this program would provide services such as surveillance and larval mosquito treatments, including permitting and reporting the recommendations for other control methods."

The tax impact for Article 12 was one cent.

"We had this program in Hudson until several years ago," noted Fire Chief Tice, who added the old program had its funding redirected following a dry summer. "A contract company would come in and look for the larvae. There are certain types of mosquitos that carrying different types of diseases and they would be targeting those."

The program would also

include trapping fully grown mosquitos to test them for mosquito-borne infections and spraying to keep mosquito numbers down.

"The type of spray they're using, is there any impact on our wildlife, on our birds and stuff?" asked resident Nancy Sudsbury.

Tice responded by saying all materials followed EPA guidelines to avoid harm to people and animals.

"This material they use

is specific to those types of mosquitos and mosquito larvae," he said. "The weather doesn't impact their usefulness."

The general election for the warrant articles, including the town budget, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025. The polling location for Ward 1 is at Hudson Memorial School, and the polling location for Ward 2 is at Alvirne High School.

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School Budget

continued from page 1



Resident Craig Powers prepared an extensive proposal on why the School District budget should be cut to \$67,577,219, nearly \$1.3 million below what was being proposed. *Photos by Chris Paul*

compared to the 2024/2025 budget. "The default tax rate is a reduction of 19 cents."

The Budget Committee overwhelmingly approved the proposed budget, but it was unanimously rejected by the School Board.

"The cost per pupil in Hudson is \$18,577 for 2024, where it was \$17,375 in 2023. This is significantly under the state average, and lower in comparison to other surrounding communities," said School Board Chair Maureen Dionne.

New Hampshire's average per-pupil spending rate is \$21,545. Despite spending cuts compared to the originally proposed budget, several members of the public pushed for lower spending levels, including a

proposed amendment lowering the operating budget to \$67,577,219.

Resident Craig Powers spoke in favor of the proposal with a very extensive slide presentation on why the cuts should be made. He said the purpose of the amendment was to create "an environment in Hudson that maximizes the opportunity of achieving academic excellence."

He also expressed concern over the growing tax rate, saying local taxpayers were "getting crushed financially on all fronts."

"What the School Board proposal is, writ large, is a 10.4 percent increase over the budget two years ago," said Powers, noting that some of the spending increases from earlier years

reflected COVID-era federal funding that no longer exists. "The federal money is drying up, and any legacy, lingering scope that was covered by that is now finding its way into the general fund."

Combined with higher salary bids to fill perpetually empty positions, he argued the school budget was consistently being set too high and that increased spending did not lead to "an increase in some evident achievement."

"Is what has been tried working or not?" asked Powers. "If not, what do we need to stop doing, continue doing, and start doing?"

He claimed no teachers would be fired even with the proposed cuts.

During the presentation for the amendment, one resident asked why this was being presented here and not during public hearing.

Powers responded that he tried to get it on the School Board agenda, but was denied.

Worried about the tax rate, several attendees agreed with the proposal.

"Every year we seem to budget as though we're going to fill all of those positions and then no one's going to retire and the salaries remain the same. I think that concerns me a great deal," said resident Ted Trost. "I'm not saying don't fill the open positions, I just ask that we accurately forecast the spending that we expect to have, don't expect to fill all positions."

However, support for cutting the school budget was far from universal, with resident Joyce Wise urging people to be "cautious with what we decide to cut." She worried that already overworked teachers may decide to leave SAU81,

which currently suffers from high turnover.

"As we keep turning teachers over, it doesn't make for student achievement and success," she argued. "I'm very cautious when I hear that we want to cut the budget like that and that cut is going to come from educators."

Resident Gretchen Whiting worried the proposal to cut the budget could only come from salaries and benefits.

"I am adamantly opposed to this reduction, it will end up hurting the entire school district," said Whiting. "By reducing the salaries and benefits you are reducing the positions that are needed. Whether or not they are filled, they are needed, and by reducing those positions, you are reducing the support the teachers give themselves."

"What it comes down is what we get from our budget is we keep the lights on



Hudson Superintendent Daniel Moulis, at right, answers questions by residents on the budget.

and we make progress going forward," School Board member Gary Gasdia. "At some point, you have to say if we want to stop teachers from leaving, yes we have to pass their contract, but we also have to ease their burden."

After extensive debate,

the amendment to reduce spending to \$67,577,219 was defeated. A separate amendment to increase spending by \$75,000 to support extracurricular activities was also defeated. The original \$68,467,088 proposal will appear on the upcoming March ballot.

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HUDSON SPORTS

Broncos Boys' Basketball Battle Bulldogs to 72-67 Win

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Boys' Basketball team had what could be considered their best win of the season, holding off the division's number two team for their ninth victory of the season.

In the Friday night, Feb.

7 game, the Broncos took on the Bedford Bulldogs, in Hudson, where a big effort in the fourth quarter gave them a 72-67 victory over one of the league leaders.

The win also marked Alvirne's sixth consecutive victory and the ninth this season.

Earlier in the week, the Broncos dismantled the

Nashua North Titans by a score of 65-38, in Nashua.

In the dramatic home win over the Bulldog's, AHS came out of the gate a bit cold, but warmed up quick trailing 19-13 after one quarter, but turned it around in the second for a 34-32 lead going into the halftime break.

In the third quarter, Bedford was able to edge out the home team 19-17 to tie the game at 51-points heading into the final period.

In the fourth, the Broncos persevered in scoring and stayed out of foul trouble for 21-16 result and a five-point victory.

This was Bedford's third lost of the season, putting them one game behind one behind the Portsmouth Clippers (11-2) for the Division I top spot.

Junior forward Garrett Hall finished with 23-points to lead the game in scoring. Most of those scores were taken right to the baskets, but also included two, three-pointers and three foul shots.

Senior guard Evan Bettencourt put up 17-points in the win, he had seven for two and went 3-3 at the line.

Senior guard Sam DeWitt scored 13-points, including three, three-pointers, while senior forward Alex Valenzuela finished with 11-points.

Senior guard Gabe Conrow put up two timely three-pointers in the first half for six-points.

In the Broncos win over the Titans in Nashua on Tuesday night, Feb. 4, Alvirne scored 22-points in each of the first two periods for a 44-16 lead and easily handed their opponents their tenth loss of the season.

Hall was the scoring leader in this one also, putting up 21-points.

DeWitt was the only other Broncos player to hit double digits, getting 15-points with four, three-pointers, one for two-points and going 1-1 at the line.

Junior Sean Chipfunde had eight points on two threes and two foul shots.

Bettencourt had six-points and Conrow finished with five for the 27-point victory.

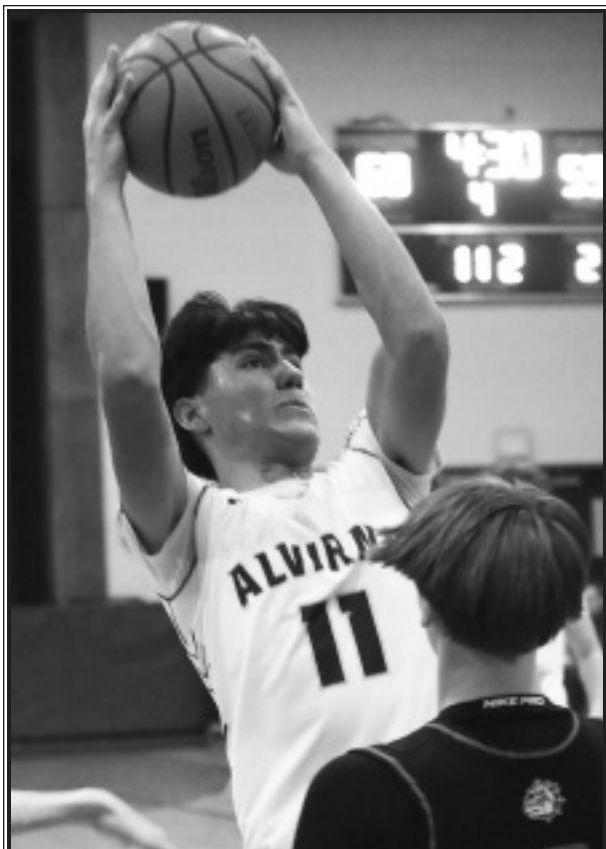
With their latest wins, the Broncos sit at 9-4 and are tied with two other



Junior forward Garrett Hall had big game against Bedford, scoring 23-points to lead all players in the Friday night game at AHS. *Photos by Chris Paul*

teams for fourth-place in the standings.

The Broncos are scheduled to take on the Manchester Central Little Green on Tuesday, followed by a tussle with the Tomahawks on Friday night, Feb. 11. Both games are at home and both start at 6:30 p.m.



Senior forward Alex Valenzuela finished with 11-points in the 72-67 win over the Bedford Bulldogs.

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Admirals Clinch Playoff Spot with Two Big Victories

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne-Milford High School Hockey team added two wide-margin victories to the season's tally and put themselves at 10-3 and in fourth place in the Division II standings.

The Admirals started their week with a 9-2 route over the Timberlane Regional High School Owls, then finished the week, beating up Bishop Brady-MV for the second time this season, this time with a 7-2 result.

Overall, the Admirals squad outscored their opponents 16-4 last week and the victories gave them five consecutive wins.

In the seven-point win over Timberlane, on the road, Wednesday, Feb. 5, the Owls were spotted a one-goal lead in the first period, but the visitors stormed back with four goals in the second period and five in the third for the overwhelming victory.

Alvirne sophomore goaltender, Mason Komarek made 15 saves on 17 shots to help preserve the victory. Meanwhile, the Admirals finished with a staggering 52 shots at the Timberlane net-minder.

Trailing 0-1 after the first, it didn't take long for the Alvirne-Milford squad to even things up in the second.

Alvirne junior, Brandon Callahan, tied the game at 14:22 in the second period with an unassisted goal.

A little over a minute later in the period Milford senior, Logan Howard, gave his team a 2-1 lead with another unassisted goal scored at 13:04, marking his first varsity goal of his career.

Junior Mason Tomkins added a solo shot to the back of the net at 7:43 in the second for a 3-1 Admirals lead.

Just 40-seconds later, Alvirne junior forward Brandon Ganas put in his fist of the night in at 7:03, with the assist going to Alvirne sophomore Cam Cook, notching a 4-1 lead for the Admirals.

The Owls managed to get one back before the period ended, but that would be all the scoring the visitors would allow.

In period number three, Ganas scored his second of the night at 7:51, assisted by senior Bryce Larco and Callahan.

Milford senior, Braydon Atwood, added to the lead with a shot at 6:45 in the third, assisted by freshman Brandon Hiltz, making it a 6-2 Admirals lead.

Milford sophomore Dylan MacLeod scored the seventh goal by the Admirals, assisted by Ganas at 3:50.

Alvirne sophomore Evan Pargas made it 8-2 at 2:49, assisted by Larco and Callahan.

With 1:40 left on the clock, senior Logan Howard was the eighth Admiral to score, assisted by freshman Ryan Sutton.

The win improved the Admirals season record to 9-3 and clinched a playoff spot.

Three days later, at home on Saturday, Feb. 8, the Admirals improved their season record up to 10-3 with a 7-2 win over Bishop Brady-Valley.

Komarek made 16 saves on 18 shots in the net for the Admirals while out shooting Brady 45-18 on offense.

This was the second win of the season over this opponent, winning the first time 6-3, on Jan. 15.

The Admirals got on the board first in this one, when Atwood at got one past the tender at 14:50 in the first period. Atwood was assigned by Alvirne senior Ryan Ricard.

After Brady-Valley tied the game at 1-1 later in the first, Ganas put his team up for good with 3:55 left in the first, assisted by Callahan and Tomkins.

The Admirals put up four more goals in the second period, starting with Atwood's second and third of the night at 14:44 and 10:31. The second was assigned by senior Logan Howard and the Hat Trick goal was unassisted.

Junior Landon Briand made it 5-1 with 2:31 left in the second, assisted by Cook and Tomkins.

The final goal of the period came at 1:19, with Callahan getting the score assisted by Briand.

Bishop Brady-Valley got their second of the

game to start the third period, at 14:34, and Atwood finished his team's scoring with an unassisted shot at 9:47.

The Admirals have just five games left in the regular season and are looking at starting this week with an easy game but finishing with a tough one.

On Wednesday, Feb 12, they were scheduled to take on the winless Portsmouth-Newmarket team, followed by a game with Oyster River (11-0-1).

This will be the first time the Admirals will face the Portsmouth-Newmarket squad, but in their first meeting with Oyster River, the Admirals were sunk 0-7. Both games are at home.



Alvirne junior forward Brandon Callahan had a goal and an assist in the Admirals win over Bishop Brady- MV last week.
Photo by Chris Paul

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Broncos Girls' Basketball Move to 7-6 with Titans Win

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Girls' Basketball

team had just one game to play last week, and were able to put up win number seven in dramatic fashion.

The Lady Broncos faced

the Titans from Nashua North High School on Tuesday night, Feb. 4, winning what turned out to be a 55-52 nail-biter in the fourth quarter, despite having what seemed to be a more-than-enough lead through three quarters.

Nashua came into the barn with a five-game winning streak behind them and a 7-4 season record, but the Broncos held them to just four-points in the first quarter, which proved to be critical at the end of the game.

The Alvirne girls outscored Nashua 14-4 in the first period behind baskets by senior forward Ella Hartson and sophomore forward Courtney Anderson.

The Titans were unable to score until the 3:33 point of the first, where they put in just one basket for one-point and trailed 10-1. The game went to 12-2 at the two-minute mark and 14-2 at 1:41.

Nashua North came rumbling back in the second quarter, outscoring the home team 19-15 and shaved the Broncos lead

down to six-points and 29-23 AHS lead.

Coming out of the half-time break, the Broncos were able to tame the Titans a bit with an 18-15 advantage and a 47-38 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

In the fourth, Nashua surged again, but Alvirne was able to hold their opponent off in the final seconds of the contest.

With just seven seconds left in the game, the Broncos were holding a slim 53-52 lead with seven-seconds left, Anderson threw an inbound pass to junior guard Haylie Christman behind the Titan defenders, who layed-up a basket for the three-point victory.

Anderson led her team with 23-points. The sophomore put up three, three-pointers, five for two and went 4-5 at the foul line.

Hartson was good for 11-points in the game, getting five for two and one foul shot.

Junior guard Alexis Floyd contributed seven-points, with one from outside the arc.

Adrienne Chipfunde came off the bench to hit two, three-pointers for six-points and Christmann finished with five-points.

The Lady Broncos are scheduled to take on the



Broncos sophomore forward Courtney Anderson led her team with 23-points in Alvirne's 55-52 victory over Nashua North last week. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Manchester Central-West at Merrimack with the Tomahawks (1-12) on Friday Feb. 11, followed by a game night, Feb. 11.

Senior forward Ella Hartson had 11-points in the win over the Titans last week.



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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.

Hudson Democrats

All registered Democrats are invited to participate in the Hudson Committee Caucus, to be held at the Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Rd., on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. To elect Hudson's Democratic Committee Officers and 7 At-Large Delegates to the NH Democratic Party State and Midterm Conventions. Get involved with your local Democrats. Attend the caucus, help elect our leaders, and join our efforts to support Democratic values in Hudson. For more info, contact Barbara Blue at 603-966-7428 or email bblue50@comcast.net.

Cardboard Sled Race

The Friends of Benson Park will be holding a Card-

board Sled Race on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 1 - 4 p.m., at Benson Park. This event is open to kids, adults, businesses, and groups. There is a minimum donation of \$10 per sled to enter. Registration at 1 p.m. (Waiver must be signed), only cardboard, duct tape, adhesive, paint & other decorative finish allowed. Awards categories for children & adults. No raindate. If no snow, there will be a judging contest on sled design & originality.

Youth Baseball Registration Is Open!

Hudson Youth Baseball registration is now open till Feb. 15 for youth aged 4-12. For more information or to register go to www.hudsonyouthbaseballnh.org. Have questions Contact [\[trar@gmail.com\]\(mailto:trar@gmail.com\) follow us at \[www.facebook.com/hudsonyouthbaseball\]\(http://www.facebook.com/hudsonyouthbaseball\)](mailto:hybregis-</p>
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Lions Club Scholarships

The Hudson Lions Club will award multiple scholarships consisting of four individual \$1,500 scholarships, two \$1,500 memorial scholarships, honoring Lion Al Rodgers and Lion George Philip Rodgers, a \$2,000 memorial scholarship in memory of Lion Joe Kasper, and a single \$1,500 scholarship for an Alvirne Leo's Club Member. Applicants must be a Hudson resident, graduating from any high school and have been accepted at a school of higher learning. Applications are available at Alvirne High School Guidance Department or by email: dgroger@comcast.net

or online at: www.NHLions/Hudson. Application deadline April 11, 2025

Sunday Family Camp

Etz Hayim Synagogue hosts a free monthly program for ages 4-6. This Month's Theme is Tu B'Shevat, on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m. - Noon, decorate a pot and then plant some parsley (to grow for Passover). The group will then participate in the Tu B'Shevat Seder with the congregation for the second half of our class. Please RSVP to sarahjohnplatter@aol.com by Friday, Feb. 14, to ensure enough materials for the project. The program is free, and no membership is required.

Tu B'Shevat Seder

On Sunday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m. - Noon. Join the Etz Hayim Synagogue to celebrate the "New Year of the Trees." Please bring one of the "Fruits of the Seven Species" to share (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates). All ages are welcome! RSVP to office@etzhayim.org by Friday, Feb. 14.

The Wars for Israel

On Thursday, Feb. 20, from 7 - 8 p.m., the Etz Hayim Synagogue presents The Wars for Israel, 1948-1973, by Robert Crawford. Sadly, the existence of Israel is a controversial subject for some people. It is helpful to know the facts about Israel's history. The Wars for Israel, 1948-1973 looks at three wars—the 1948 War for Independence, the 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War—that shaped the Israel we know today. Robert Crawford is the author of Call Retreat: The Johnson Administration's Vietnam Policy 1967-68. He has published two books of poetry, The Empty Chair (2011, Richard Wilbur Award) and Too Much Explanation Can Ruin a Man (2005). He received an MFA in National Security Policy Studies from George Washington University and worked for the Joint Chiefs of Staff Exercise Support Program. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool

Contemporary Stuff. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

Meat Raffle

On Feb. 15, at 2 p.m., The American Legion Post 48 will be hosting a Meat Raffle to benefit the Sons of the American Legion. You must be 16+ to play. The Post is located at 37 Central St prebuys are available call the Foxhole at (603) 889-9777 for more information.

Karaoke

On Feb. 21, from 6 - 10 p.m., the Foxhole will be hosting DJ Mike for Karaoke and Music. This event is open to members and bona fide guests 21+. The Foxhole is located at 1 Fulton St.

Trivia Night

On Feb. 22, from 5 - 7 p.m., the Foxhole will be hosting Trivia Night. This event is open to members and

continued on page 14

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

bona fide guests 21+. The Foxhole is located at 1 Fulton St.

Legion Meet

The next Monthly General Membership Meeting for Post 48 will begin at 6 p.m., followed at 6:30 p.m., for Squadron 48 on March 3.

Pancake Breakfast

The American Legion Hudson Post 48 will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 23, from 8:30 - 11 a.m., with proceeds to benefit Veterans and their families.

Adventurers Storytime

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

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 Library.

Songs & Snuggles

On Thursday Feb. 20, and 27, at 10 a.m., come to the Rodgers Library for a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Movement, songs, bubbles, and stories for ages 1-3.

Movers & Shakers

Come to Rodgers Library on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., for a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Movement, songs, bubbles, and stories for ages 1-3.

Teen Hangout

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

Genealogy Club (Virtual)

On Friday, Feb. 14, at

1:30 p.m., a virtual presentation will be held with the Rodgers Library. Claire Smith will present "Piecing it Together: Discovering a Family Secret."

Afternoon Book Group

This Rodgers Library will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 1:30 p.m. This month's book is "I Pass as White" by William "Tex" Pointer.

Family Storytime

Come to Rodgers Library on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m., for songs, stories, and bubbles for families with children.

Characters & Cocoa

Come to Rodgers Library on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m., for a monthly support group for writers to socialize and talk about the craft.

Photographer Anthony Attardo

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., join Hudson photographer Anthony Attardo for an enchanting evening as he shares the stories behind his nighttime photographs of NH at the Rodgers Library.

Elementary Art: Penguin

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m., children in grades K-5 are invited to come to the Rodgers Library to create a mixed media penguin with paper, markers, and paint.

Cookbook Club

The Rodgers Library cookbook club will meet on Monday, Feb. 24, at 11:30 a.m. This month's cookbook is "Baking Yesteryear: the Best Recipes From the 1900s to the 1980s" by B. Dylan Hollis.

Spinning Tops

Come to Rodgers Library on Monday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m., for families with children. Color your own DIY top. Try spinning on a variety of surfaces. Battle against other tops.

Read 'Em & Eat

This Rodgers Library Book Club will meet on

Monday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m., to discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.

Tween Chocolate Olympics

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m., Grades 4-8 are invited to join the Rodgers Library for relay races, a donut eating contest, Hershey Kiss shuffleboard, and more! Prizes awarded.

Sustainability Series: Maple Sugaring

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m., come to the Rodgers Library to learn about the history, science, and methods behind tapping maple trees to produce delicious maple syrup.

Crime & Cookies: True Crime Podcast Club

This group will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., at Rodgers Library to discuss "Sweet Bobby," a multi-part investigation in search of one of the world's most sophisticated catfishers.

Pajama Storytime

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m., come to Rodgers Library for songs, stories, and bubbles. Wear your pajamas if you wish.

Straw Mazes

On Saturday, Feb. 22, at 10 a.m., families are invited to create their own straw mazes, making for a fun hand-eye coordination test at the Rodgers Library.

Pizza and Wire Tree

Thursday, Feb. 27, at 5:30 p.m., Teens are invited to the Rodgers Library for pizza and a wire tree craft.

Steve Blunt Sing-a-Long

On Thursday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m., Steve Blunt will share a concert full of fun, upbeat songs that will tickle the funny bone, warm the heart, and delight the imagination at the Rodgers Library.

Engineering Lab

On Friday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m., Families with children are invited to build a bridge, a tower, a city, a castle, or

whatever you can imagine using the blocks provided at the Rodgers Library.

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.

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 Meetinghouse Rd., Bedford, use the rear doors for access to

the meeting room in the church basement. Contact Pat At 603-289-8476 Or Jane At 603-674-6540 With Any Questions (Not Affiliated With Any Private Or Public Organization)

Brunch Bunch

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 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 Library website rodgerslibrary.org

Dino the Therapy Dog

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

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.

PFOA Water Test

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

A Good Yarn

On Tuesdays at 5 p.m., come to the Rodger Library to Share tips, tricks, and stories while you work on your latest project and connect with fellow fiber enthusiasts. Bring your own supplies and stitch the evening away.

VFW Meat Raffles for 2025

CHRISTINA MADDEN
SUBMISSION

Hudson VFW Post 5791 has announced its upcoming Meat Raffles for 2025. What's a Meat Raffle? Never been to one? Well, read all about the VFW's Meat Raffles and why they're held.

When you attend a Meat Raffle, be prepared to have fun! Before each "hand," workers walk around selling hands made up of three playing cards stapled together. The cost for each hand is \$1, although sometimes, a hand may cost \$2 for a more expensive cut of meat. You can purchase as many hands for each game as you want to. For \$35, you can purchase a hand for every game automatically. The Caller then starts turning over the cards from a deck of playing cards. The first person to have all three of their cards in their hand called, shouts "Raffle" and is the winner. Everyone else

groans because they didn't win. It's similar to bingo, but faster. Tip: bring some coins or tokens to mark your cards as they're called.

Meat Raffles held at VFW Post 5791 Post Hall, 15 Bockes Rd., Hudson, are for Non-Profit Organizations only. All money raised (after paying for the meat) goes to benefit that organization. You must be 16 or older to play, and they are held on the third Friday of each month except for July & August and November & December, when no raffles are held. The organization who benefits from the Meat Raffle must provide workers from their organization to distribute/sell and pick up cards. The prizes used to be only meat, but with higher prices, there are sometimes chicken prizes. There is also one hand which is a 50-50. The organization can also raffle prize baskets or run their own 50-50 to raise more money. The Post usu-

ally provides hot dogs and cupcakes free of charge, but players are welcome to bring their own snacks (no outside alcoholic beverages are allowed).

So far this year, on Jan. 17, the Alvirne HS JROTC benefited from a raffle. Coming up: Feb. 21, VFW District 6 benefits, with money going to prizes for scholarship contest winners and other charities; March 21, Alvirne Booster Club; April 25, (NOTE that this is the 4th Friday) the Hudson Lions Club; May 16, VFW National Home NH House; June 20, Wreaths Across America Hudson, NH Cemeteries; Sept. 19, not yet assigned); Oct. 17 Lacrosse Team. All raffle begin at 7 p.m., with doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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