

# THE Hudson Times

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A FREE Weekly Publication



**Slick Sledding** Zoella Marippa takes a spill in the slick conditions at Benson Park during the annual Cardboard Sled competition. A number of contestants participated in the yearly event, but recent warming and overnight rain made for some messy contions. See more pages 8-9. *Photo by Chris Paul*

## Benson Park Capital Fund Being Redefined in New Warrant Article

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Advisory Committee met on Dec. 18 to discuss the structure of a proposed warrant article aimed at clarifying the scope of the Benson Park Capital Reserve Fund. With debate over next

year's budget already underway, committee members sought guidance on how best to approach the fund's purpose and future use.

"A suggestion was made by the Town Engineer to add \$25,000 toward the fund for other buildings,"

said Committee Chair Madden, noting that the original request had been for \$10,000. Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby emphasized that the main goal for next March is to narrow the scope of many reserve funds in Hudson.

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## Budget Committee Rejects School District Agreements

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee voted against recommending several tentative collective bargaining agreements between the School District and its employee groups.

The votes came during the Committee's most recent meeting.

One of the warrant articles states:

"Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the PSRP AFT Local #6245, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO for the Hudson School District full and part-time cafeteria personnel, full and part-time paraeducators and kinder-

garten classroom assistants and full and part-time licensed practical nurses and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

2026–2027: \$363,639  
2027–2028: \$326,978

and to further raise and appropriate \$326,639 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid at current staffing levels?"

The estimated tax rate impact for year one is seven cents and six cents in year two.

The vote was 4–6 against recommending the warrant article.

The second tentative agreement was not recommended on a 3–7 vote.

"Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and AFSCME. Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the AFSCME Local 1906 for the Hudson School District Principals, Assistant Principals, Special Education Coordinators, School Counselors, Dean of Academics, Department Heads, School Psychologist, Director(s) of School Counseling, Athletics, Career and

**continued on page 5**

## Planning Board Says Data Center Proposal Needs Clearer Definition

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board held a public hearing on Jan. 7 to discuss several proposed warrant articles that would amend the zoning code. One of the most debated proposals was Amendment 4, which would add "Data Centers" as a permitted use in industrial zones. Supporters argued that the zoning code lacks a clear definition and needs to be updated to reflect technological growth.

"More and more, all you're hearing about [is] AI and data centers and what they draw utility-wise and all that," explained Board member James Crowley, who spearheaded the war-

rant article. "I just thought, let's get something on the books."

He argued that "economics" would ultimately drive zoning decisions without clearer guidelines for potential new projects. Any proposed data center would still require a special exception from the Zoning Board.

"I would be a bigger fan of putting forward an amendment that actually would ban them or block them from ever being built in this town," said Board member Victor Oates. "If I was a patient, big tech person and there was a plot of land that wasn't being utilized for what it was originally for, it'd probably take me about seven to ten years

to get work with the state and get everything in place for a giant hyperscale facility over on that piece of property."

He criticized the strain large data centers can place on local electricity and water infrastructure.

"Can we, as a town planning board, put forth an amendment to ban them?" asked Board member Julia Paquin. "Can we actually not allow something like that in our town?"

Associate Planner Ben Witham-Gradert confirmed that New Hampshire municipalities can choose to disallow certain types of construction, including data centers. However, he noted

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# Planning Board Voices Support for Windham Road Rezoning Petition

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

The March 10 election is set to include a single petition warrant article related to zoning, as resident Donna Boucher seeks to change several parcels between Windham Road and Central Street from Business to Residential 2 zoning.

"We urge support for the petition to rezone the parcels from 7 to 27 Windham Road on the southern side of the street," said Boucher, who presented the request during the Hudson Planning Board's Jan. 7 public hearing. "This change would align the zoning with the existing residential use on both sides of

the road, and reinforce the established character of our community. The current business zoning designation is out of sync with how the area is actually being used."

She stated that the area was "entirely residential," and that the business designation created unnecessary confusion.

"We have gathered signatures from all property owners of the affected lots, as well as a majority of residents across the street from the identified parcels in support of that zoning change," added Boucher. "We firmly believe that residential zoning will help maintain property value stability, and contribute to the town's long-term tax base."

Most signatures on the petition came from Windham Road residents, and several members of the public attended the hearing to voice support.

"It's not a business zone, and we don't want it to be," said resident Nancy Sudsbury. "It was zoned business, we don't know why, but everybody in that zone agrees that they don't want it to be business, they want it to be residential."

Planning Board members generally supported the request.

"Zoning should align with how it's being used," said James Crowley. "To me, it all makes sense. Change the zoning, match the use, although I don't

know what it'll do to your property values."

He recommended contacting the Town Assessor for more information on how the change might affect property values.

"I want to commend the residents for taking the initiative and taking control of their neighborhood and getting this put together," added Board member Victor Oates. "A lot of people put together petition warrant articles and certain things don't line up as they run into problems. This was well put together."

"This is common sense," said Alternate Todd Boyer. "I think it makes sense."

Without much debate, the Planning Board unani-

mously voted to support the rezoning request.

The Board also received an application from Tim Lyko, who expressed interest in filling an open Alternate position. As Vice-Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Lyko has been active in town government and previously served on the Hudson Planning Board.

"I'm sure none of you are surprised to see me here tonight. I've been patiently waiting to get back on the Planning Board. I was on it last year and I really enjoyed it," said Lyko. "I was waiting to get back on and I thought the Alternate position would be a good spot."

Lyko would serve a

three-year term as an alternate.

"Does this affect your duties on the Zoning Board?" asked Selectman Liaison Bob Guessford.

Lyko stated that it would not be a problem and that he would recuse himself when necessary.

"If I vote on something for Zoning, I cannot vote on it for Planning," he said.

While there was some concern about having someone serve on both boards, Lyko's application received overwhelming support from the Planning Board.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is set Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room at Town Hall.

## Zoning Board Reviews Decision-Making Standards in Training Session

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) met on Wednesday night, Jan. 7 for a training workshop where NH Municipal Association (NHMA) legal services counsel Jonathan Cowal presented an overview of the ZBA decisionmaking process.

"You are members of NHMA, and one of the things that we offer to members is to come out and do what we call these on-demand training programs," explained Cowal. "NHMA is a non-profit organization, we're member based."

He reminded members that the Zoning Board is a quasijudicial body, required to justify decisions by applying specific landuse laws to each case.

"Every type of decision the ZBA makes is going to be a quasi-judicial decision. What that means is that you're sort of acting as both a judge and a jury. You're hearing two sides of an issue and you're going to rule on one or the other. You're required to notify specific people whose interests are going to be affected by the decision-making process. You have to weigh evidence that you hear, you have to decide if you believe expert opinion or you believe layperson opinion," said Cowal. "Those are the types of decisions that ZBAs make."

He emphasized that Board members must recuse themselves when appropriate, such as when they might hear the same case on another board or when they

have a conflict of interest. He also advised members to avoid posting opinions on official matters, noting that many overturned landuse decisions stem from social media activity.

"Does that apply for cases that have already been voted on?" asked Chair Tristan Dion. "What about a Board member, whether it be this Board, or another one, discussing the outcome of their previously voted on case or their thoughts about it?"

Cowal said it could be a problem if comments were made during the 30day appeal window, but not if "long past" a case.

He outlined the ZBA's defined jurisdiction, which includes hearing administrative appeals, granting variances, special exemptions,

tions, waivers for dimensional requirements, waivers for building on private roads, waivers for agricultural uses, variances for the disabled, and certificates of approval for junkyards. The NHMA encourages Zoning Boards to help the public navigate the process as easily as possible.

Board members asked for clarification on several issues, including how to weigh expert testimony. Selectmen Liaison Dillon Dumont noted that some factors, such as property value impacts, can be subjective.

"If the Board hears testimony from an appraiser, or somebody who is an expert on home values, and the Board has a different opinion as that appraiser, how do they work through

that?" asked Dumont.

Cowal said members may use their own judgment but must give "appropriate weight" to expert opinions while considering potential bias.

"Typically, when we have a case brought before us, the expert opinion would be somebody part of said case, part of the applicant's case," noted Dion. "But just because somebody is getting paid for their opinion, that doesn't mean they're wrong."

Other questions focused on when a member should recuse themselves.

"If you're on a board whether it's Planning or Zoning, and somebody is going to open up a Fisher Plow shop near the end of Hudson, and a member has their own Fisher Plow deal-

ership, do they have to excuse themselves?" asked Board member Tim Lanphear. "It could be a competitor."

Cowal explained that recusal follows the "juror standard," meaning members should step back when they cannot be impartial, especially when financial impacts are involved.

"If there's a chance the granting or denying of a request could have a financial impact on my business, and I sit on the ZBA, I'd want to at least get that out there," said Cowal. "Be transparent with it."

The next meeting of the Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room at Town Hall.



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# Budget Committee Splits on Several School District Warrant Articles

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Budget Committee voted on whether to recommend a series of school district warrant articles during its most recent meeting.

One of the articles considered was the window replacement project at Hudson Memorial School.

The warrant article states:

"Window Replacement at Hudson Memorial School Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$135,000 to replace fifty-two windows at Hudson Memorial School? This is phase eight of eleven phases of the Hudson Memorial School Window Replace-

ment plan. This is a special warrant article."

There would be an estimated tax rate impact of three cents.

The Budget Committee voted 9-1 not to recommend the article.

One of the few warrant articles receiving support was the fire alarm panel replacement at Alvirne High School.

The Budget Committee voted 8-2 in favor of recommending it.

The warrant article states:

"Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$180,000 to replace the fire alarm panel at Alvirne High 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 estimated tax rate impact if approved.

The Budget Committee voted 4-6 not to recommend the warrant article regarding the science lab renovation project at Hudson Memorial.

The warrant article states:

"Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$125,000 to upgrade one Science Classroom/Lab 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.

On a 5-5 vote, the Budget Committee voted not to recommend the warrant article related to an HVAC vehicle.

The warrant article states:

"Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$62,000 for the purchase of one District Wide Facilities HVAC Vehicle? The sum is to come from June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation."

no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article."

There would be no estimated tax rate impact.

On a 4-6 vote, the Budget Committee voted against recommending a warrant article to increase funds in the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund.

The 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."

tional taxation."

There would be no tax rate impact.

On a 2-8 vote, the Budget Committee voted against recommending the warrant article to increase funds in the Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund.

The 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."

## Benson

Continued from page 1

"Many of the capital reserve funds that we have in town have really brief definitions of their use," said Jakoby. "One of the

first ones we took on was the Benson Park Capital Reserve Fund. What we're doing is strictly going to be to better define that fund. It's not going to be requesting any funding this year."

She described the revised warrant article as a



### OBITUARY

### Scott Berton McLain

Scott Berton McLain, age 90, of Londonderry, NH, passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 29, 2025.

Scott was born in Jefferson, NH, and proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He spent most of his life as a dedicated resident of Hudson, NH, where he built both his career and his family.

Scott had a diverse and accomplished professional life. He was a high school teacher at Nashua High School, owned and operated Hudson Driving School for many years, worked as a sheet metal fabricator, and later contributed to the high-tech industry. He also worked in research and development at the MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory, reflecting his lifelong curiosity and commitment to learning.

Scott is survived by his beloved wife, Raelene, with whom he shared 68 years of marriage. He was a devoted father to his four children: Vicki and her husband Martin, Debbi and her husband Chris, Daniel and his partner Sharena, Scott and his partner Annette. He also leaves behind 13 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren. He also survived by his sister, Susan McLain Garrett, of Los Angeles, California, his brother, Charles McLain and his wife Wanda of Weare NH and many cherished nieces and nephews. Scott was predeceased by his brother Harold "Buzz" McLain.

Scott greatly enjoyed sailing with his wife and friends, cross-country skiing, spending time with family, and reading. He will be fondly remembered for his engaging storytelling drawn from a lifetime of experiences, as well as for his unwavering loyalty as a Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan.

A time of visitation was held on Tuesday, Jan. 6, followed by a Service of Remembrance at Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home. A private burial will take place at the NH State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH.

Scott's life was marked by service, curiosity, family devotion, and a deep appreciation for the stories that connect us all. He will be deeply missed.

"reaffirmation" to clearly define the lot, property, and purpose of the Benson Park Fund.

"We're being clear that this fund is not only the Hazelton Barn, but it's the Train Depot, it's the gorilla cages, it's the property - it's everything under that lot - so that it's much clearer for the future and much clearer for the residents," explained Jakoby. "It also gives opportunity for anyone who wants to support the park to add to that fund. The town can also take donations directly, so we're really clear where that money is being spent and so you, the taxpayers, know where that money is."

Finance Director Laurie May reminded residents that, per town policy, dona-

tions between \$500 and \$10,000 in cash or other personal property must be approved by the Board of Selectmen, and the donation's purpose must be included when requesting approval.

Emphasizing that the financial health of Benson Park relies heavily on donations, the Advisory Committee welcomed a potential contribution from the Lions Club, which expressed interest in helping restore and display two historic stone lion statues.

"I have a date - we're going to talk about possibly them helping us with restoring the lions, which we currently have back at the park," explained Committee member Sue Clement. "We now want to get those lions

out on display for everyone to see. Right now, they're hidden, and they need to be fixed."

Alongside restoration efforts, the committee debated how best to protect the Benson stone lions from weather damage and vandalism. Both statues are original to Benson's Wild Animal Farm.

Friends of Benson Park member Natalie Newell announced an important milestone for the park.

"2026 is the 100th anniversary of Benson's Wild Animal Farm opening to the public. It opened in 1926," said Newell. "We're going to plan some events around the centennial for Benson Park."

While no concrete plans

have been finalized, Newell and Clement mentioned a poster design contest as a possible event. Jakoby suggested organizing a community-wide commemoration.

"I don't know what that might look like, but it would definitely be appropriate for this committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator on how we as a town need to recognize this significant milestone," said Jakoby. "I'm thinking of ways to celebrate the community and to really bring everyone out."

The Benson Park Advisory Committee is set for Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Hudson Cable Access Center.



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# Editorial

## King's Dream Today

Each in January, our nation pauses to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a leader known for his moral clarity and unwavering commitment to justice reshaped the course of American history. His "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered 63 years ago on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, remains one of the most defining moments in the struggle for civil rights. It was a moment that would forever change the U.S. of America.

After the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, King stood before a sea of 250,000 people gathered below the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

King's words challenged Americans to confront the realities of racial inequality and to imagine a nation that lived up to its founding ideals. His message was not complicated, nor was it wrapped in political calculation. It was grounded in the simple but profound belief that every person deserves dignity, opportunity, and justice. While our country has made undeniable progress since that summer day, the dream he described is still not fully realized.

What made King extraordinary was not a desire for attention or personal glory. In fact, he often expressed discomfort with the spotlight. His goal was never to elevate himself, but to elevate the message - a message rooted in faith, humility, and a deep understanding that true leadership requires substance over spectacle. In an era when public discourse is often dominated by personali-

ties rather than principles, King's example feels especially relevant.

He believed in peaceful resistance, even when confronted with hatred and violence. He understood that responding to anger with more anger only deepens division. If he were alive today, facing the tensions and polarization of our current climate, there is little doubt he would continue to advocate for nonviolence, dialogue, and moral courage. His approach was not passive; it was powerful. It demanded discipline, conviction, and a belief that change achieved through peace endures longer than change won through force.

Nearly six decades after King shared his dream with the world, the challenges he spoke of still echo across our communities. Inequality, intolerance, and injustice persist in different forms. Yet the endurance of his message reminds us that progress is possible - but only if we choose to pursue it. King often said that the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice, but he also reminded us that it does not bend on its own. It bends because people push.

As we honor Dr. King this week, we are called not only to remember his dream, but to carry it forward. His life was cut short, but his vision lives on in those willing to stand for fairness, compassion, and unity. Now, more than ever, we are challenged to follow his example - to be steady voices for good, to refuse to give up, and to work toward an America that finally fulfills the promise he so boldly imagined.

# School Board OKs Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

One of the agenda items during the most recent Hudson School Board meeting involved a proposal to accept unanticipated revenue.

In a memo to the School Board, Hudson Business Administrator Jenny Graves explained that "RSA 198:20-b provides that ... any school district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the school board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year."

"The School District adopted the provision of this law at the annual district meeting on March 6, 1992," Graves wrote. "The reason for this is that, while every attempt is made in developing budgets to esti-

mate the amount of local revenues, much of what will be available and received is unknown at that time. This process allows the School District to take advantage of rebates, grant and private donation opportunities that occur during the year which were not or could not have been anticipated in advance. In addition, district policy KCD on Public Gifts/Donations, requires that."

Graves further noted that "district policy KCD on Public Gifts/Donations, requires that the Board take action to accept gifts valued at \$5,000 or more. A gift in this policy shall be defined as money, real or personal property, and personal services provided without consideration."

During the meeting, Graves explained that the district had applied for rebates.

"John Pratte, Facilities Director, applied for rebates through Liberty NH's Efficiency Program for work done at each building for

HVAC controls project started in FY 2025," Graves told the School Board.

The rebate amounts were:

- \$1,350 for Hills Garrison School
- \$1,000 for Nottingham West School
- \$1,891.35 for Alvirne High School
- \$1,000 for Library Street School
- \$1,019.25 for Dr. H.O. Smith School

The total rebate amount was \$6,260.60.

The School Board unanimously approved accepting the unanticipated revenue.

In correspondence, the School Board was also briefed on two travel requests, both of which were approved: \$2,980 for the Texas Music Educators Conference in San Antonio, Texas, and \$1,950 for the NAEA Convention in Chicago.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

# Data Center

Continued from page 1

that such bans are "infrequently done" and can be difficult to implement.

"To wholesale ban an entire category, regardless of scale or regardless of intensity, is tricky to do," he added.

The amendment would also establish a legal definition for data centers.

"Having a definition helps us in getting this ball started," said Alternate Todd Boyer, though several

Board members questioned whether the proposed definition - "a facility used to house and operate comput-

er, telecommunication, or data storage systems" - was too vague.

"I don't think this definition really defines much. I think it may actually limit certain things that would be allowed," said Paquin. "I'm concerned that the definition isn't adequate, because it's very small. I agree with having something on the books, I just don't know if this would be an adequate thing is my concern."

With no active proposal to build a data center in Hudson, Board Chair Tim Malley questioned whether the amendment would have

any practical effect.

"I don't think the reality of a data center coming into the Town of Hudson with our current electrical rates and power structure is plausible," said Malley. "I definitely don't see it as an urgent thing."

Selectman Liaison Bob Guessford agreed that more discussion was needed, saying it was likely unwise to add an "undeveloped" idea into the zoning code.

"If we can get some more definition behind it, we can address it," he said. "I think we have to do something, but not necessarily today."

# THE Hudson Times

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# Budget Committee Rejects Employee Benefits Capital Reserve Fund Proposal

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

One of the warrant articles discussed during the most recent Hudson Budget Committee public hearing was Warrant Article 11.

The article concerns the creation of an Employee Benefits Capital Reserve Fund.

The warrant article currently states:

"Shall the School District establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c said sum to come from the

called the 'Employee Benefits Capital Reserve Fund' for the purpose of funding the cost of negotiated employee benefits including but not limited to: health insurance reimbursements, assessments, changes in coverage, or policies chosen by employees, and such other benefits that are from time to time negotiated or become contractual obligations of the District, and further to raise an appropriate \$1 to be added to the fund,

June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, and to name the School Board of agents to expend this fund?" (Majority vote required)

There would be no estimated tax rate impact for the warrant article.

Hudson Superintendent Dan Moulis explained during the meeting that the purpose of the article is simply to establish the reserve account. Any future funding would come forward like other reserve

accounts and would require voter approval through a warrant article.

"This is to set and establish the fund to start," Moulis explained during the meeting.

Budget Committee member Kim Rice said she was not in support of the proposal.

"I feel like this is just another pot of money sitting there waiting to be spent with no transparency and no accountability," she explained during the meeting.

ing.

Moulis said the main reason for establishing the fund is to provide a way to offset unexpected bills that may arrive after the budget is approved.

He pointed to the current year as an example, when the district received an unanticipated assessment bill from School Care for approximately \$1.3 million,

noting that the fund would give the district a mechanism to pay for unanticipated benefit-related costs.

"It could be health assessments, changes in coverages, or policies chosen by employees," Moulis explained during the hearing.

Budget Committee member Randy Brownrigg said he does not support the warrant article as written but likes the idea of having such a fund available when unexpected expenses arise.

The Budget Committee voted 2-8 not to recommend the warrant article.

# Budget Committee Takes No Position on Citizen Petition Warrant Article

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

A citizen petition warrant article has been brought forward regarding the creation of the Default Budget for the School District.

In addition, a similar petition warrant article was submitted for the Town budget.

For the school district petition warrant article, it

states:

"We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Hudson School District, do hereby petition the Hudson School Board to place the following question on the March 2026 ballot.

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget commit-

tee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?"

Hudson Superintendent Dan Moulis explained during a recent school board meeting that it was his understanding that the district takes the wording from citizen petition warrant articles exactly as submitted before placing them on the ballot.

"That's why you see the

exact language transferred from one document to another as petition," Moulis explained during the meeting.

One question raised was what the effect would be if the Budget Committee, rather than the school district, were responsible for creating the Default Budget.

Moulis said his understanding was that it would give the Budget Committee the authority to determine "what is calculated in that formula for the Default Budget."

School Board Chair Maureen Dionne said she would like to confirm with legal counsel whether a public hearing is required for the citizen petition warrant article under the RSA.

At the most recent Budget Committee meeting, it was explained that because the petition warrant article has no monetary value associated with it, the Committee is not required to make a recommendation.

However, Budget Committee member Bill Cole made a motion for the Committee to vote on it.

Committee member Shawn Jasper argued they should not vote on it since it has no monetary value and expressed concern about the Committee taking a position.

The motion to make a recommendation failed.

Jasper explained during the meeting that he is the one who wrote the warrant article and plans to discuss it at the Deliberative Session.

Budget Committee member Kim Rice said she was "wholeheartedly" in support of it.

## Budget

Continued from page 1

Technical Education and Music and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

2026-2027: \$235,082

2027-2028: \$(69,800)

2028-2029: \$223,251

and to further raise and appropriate \$235,082 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and

benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid at current staffing levels?"

The estimated tax rate impact would be five cents in year one, none in year two, and four cents in year three.

The tentative agreement between the District and the Teamsters was not recommended on a 2-8 vote.

The warrant article states:

"Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Teamsters Local No. 633 of NH for the Hudson School District Custodians, Electricians, Plumbers, HVAC Technicians,

Groundskeepers and Maintenance Staff and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

2026-2027: \$56,405

2027-2028: \$102,272

2028-2029: \$118,749

and to further raise and appropriate \$56,405 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement that would be paid at current staffing levels?"

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# Planning Board Backs Most Zoning Amendments for March Ballot

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

At its first meeting of 2026, the Hudson Planning Board began reviewing Zoning Amendment Warrant Articles for the upcoming March election.

Amendment 1, which would bring Hudson's town code in line with a new state law allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), was considered relatively straightforward, though it raised questions about why such an update was necessary.

"If it's a state law, what's the point of having it on the books?" asked Board member Victor Oates. "It's like you're putting it in there just to reinforce

things, making the list of codes thicker than what it has to be."

According to Associate Planner Ben Witham-Gradert, the change was important "from a convenience standpoint" for residents.

"It's a lot easier when someone comes to the counter with an inquiry when I can say, 'Hey, make sure your proposal conforms to everything from A to subsection N, that's the immediate list you need to know,' as opposed to telling them to check the state RSA and to also check our regs and make sure there's no crossover," explained Gradert, who confirmed that state law would always

override local zoning regulations. "This does also make it easier from an enforcement perspective."

Noting that Amendment 2 was also being presented to reflect recent changes in state law, Oates reiterated his belief that such warrant articles were redundant.

"We could be referencing the state law rather than what we're doing here, which is pretty much pointless," he said.

The Planning Board voted six-to-one to recommend Amendments 1 and 2.

Not every proposal was tied to state law. Amendment 3 proposed small setback reductions for front and side yards.

"I think this is appropri-

ate for the town because it's going to make the TR more uniformed in nature by having the houses set at a similar setback," said Alternate Todd Boyer.

Concerned about potential unintended consequences, Oates asked for more clarity on the proposal's purpose.

"The public should better understand the mindset of the Planning Board pushing forward such a change," said Oates. "Is it to promote broader development? Is it to promote tearing down houses in the TR zone so you can get more houses put together?"

Gradert explained that the request came from the Zoning Board after a "dis-

proportionately large percentage" of waiver requests from older homes in the TR zone, many of which predate Hudson's zoning regulations.

"Many of them are either right on the current setback, or are just in the setback to some capacity," said Gradert. "What this essentially does is allow homeowners to do reasonable expansions to their home without getting too close to the street, limiting the amount of variances that have to come before the ZBA."

Amendment 3 was unanimously recommended by the Planning Board.

Amendment 5 aimed to simplify regulations related

to the town's growth management strategy by tying growth management practices to the latest version of the Master Plan.

"I kind of pushed for this. Basically, what it comes down to is that what we have written is outdated, maybe going back to 2006," explained Board member James Crowley. "I was trying to get a direct link to the Master Plan. Also, I was hoping to give it more teeth."

If approved, Amendment 5 would eliminate roughly 10 subsections from the town code. Without much debate, the Planning Board unanimously voted to recommend the proposal.

## Library Highlights Youth Programs and Addresses HVAC Repairs

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees met on Dec. 17 to review the success of their teen, tween, and children's programming. Library Director Linda Pilla highlighted the popularity of "a dinosaur-themed Dinovember" event.

"We had dino-chess, dino story time, and I think there was a dino wedding, a dino Olympics, we had a dino symphony, and all kinds of stuff like that," said

Pilla. "It's a lot of fun and the kids loved it."

Vice-Chair Lisa Weber asked for more details about a laptop program designed to support younger patrons.

"What is going on with one of your pictures where there are a bunch of kids with laptops, and it looks like the younger kids are at the laptops, not the older students," noted Weber.

Pilla explained that the laptops were used for a Minecraft challenge.

"All of the players are in

the same closed environment, they're all in the same place interacting with each other," explained Pilla. "This was the first time we'd offered this. I think all of our people were using laptops owned by the library, and it was a great success."

The Library Director also expressed interest in expanding collaboration with local schools.

"We want to provide a program that would give the teachers an enrichment

opportunity without adding to their work," said Pilla. "It's easier for the schools that are located next to the library of course, but we really want to expand with what we can do with all of the schools in Hudson."

She noted that she was working with school officials to ensure library resources remain easily accessible for students and staff.

With winter weather underway, the Board of Trustees discussed ongoing maintenance needs for the library's HVAC system following recent issues.

"The system heats up, and sometimes it doesn't stay warm enough long enough. As it heats up and

cools down there's a buildup of condensation. The metal that they make

heat exchangers out of, unless you go all out for super high-end units, it's one of the points of weakness," explained Pilla. "On

two of our smaller units, the heat exchangers have gone out, and on one of those machines, the blower motor needs to be replaced."

She added that the \$12,000 cost of repairing the HVAC units was manageable using already appropriated funds.

"I saw that the proposal is only good until this past money. Do the maintenance people have a problem with that?" asked Board member

Margaret St. Onge. "After that date, does the price go up?"

Director Pilla did not believe the price would increase but promised to confirm and update the Trustees.

"Are these the original units?" asked Trustee Lisa Weber.

She was informed that most HVAC units at Rodgers Memorial Library are original.

Without further debate, the Trustees unanimously approved the maintenance request.

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees is set for Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at 6 p.m.

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# Language of Employee Benefits Warrant Article Discussed

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson School Board meeting, members spent time reviewing and discussing the wording of a warrant article that would establish a new "Employee Benefits Capital Reserve Fund," a proposal intended to help the district better manage future costs associated with negotiated employee benefits.

The draft warrant article reads:

"Shall the School District establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1c called the 'Employee Benefits Capital Reserve Fund' for the purpose of funding

the cost of negotiated employee benefits including but not limited to: health insurance reimbursements, assessments, changes in coverage, or policies chosen by employees, and such other benefits that are from time to time negotiated or become contractual obligations of the District, and further to raise and appropriate \$1.00 to be added to the fund, said sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, and to name the School Board as agents to expend this fund?" (Majority vote required)

The intent behind the article is to create a dedicated reserve account that

would allow the district to set aside funds for benefitrelated expenses that can fluctuate from year to year. These include changes in employee health insurance plans, adjustments in coverage, or other contractual obligations that arise through collective bargaining agreements. Establishing a reserve fund is a common practice in many districts as a way to stabilize budgets and avoid unexpected spikes in annual operating costs.

During the discussion, one of the primary questions raised by the Board involved the phrase "Majority vote required," which appears at the end of the

article. While many warrant articles implicitly require a simple majority unless otherwise specified, the inclusion of the phrase on only this article prompted concerns about consistency and voter clarity.

Hudson Business Administrator Jenny Graves explained that the district had sent the draft language to its legal counsel for review, noting that the creation of this particular capital reserve fund was new territory for the district. When the language was returned, the "majority vote required" notation had been added by counsel.

"They had reason why they wanted us to have

that," Hudson Superintendent Dan Moulis said during the meeting, indicating that the district would seek further explanation.

School Board Chair Maureen Dionne said she wanted to understand the legal basis for including the phrase, pointing out that having it appear on only one of the district's warrant articles could confuse voters.

"I think saying 'majority vote required' on one and not the other 11, I think people are going to be reading, 'Why? Why would a majority vote be required on one warrant article when that is not the case?'" Dionne said.

Moulis noted that the district would follow up

with legal counsel to determine whether the language is required under RSA 35:1c or other statutes governing capital reserve funds. If it is required, he said, the district would request a clear explanation so the Board can communicate the reasoning to the public.

The estimated tax rate impact for the article is zero, as the proposal calls for transferring \$1 from the June 30 fund balance to establish the account.

After discussion, the School Board voted 4-1 to recommend the warrant article.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

## School Board Recommends Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreements

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board voted during its most recent meeting to recommend two warrant articles related to tentative collective bargaining agreements, one with the district's paraeducators and support staff and another with the Teamsters representing the district's maintenance and facilities employees. Both agreements will appear on the March ballot for voter consideration.

The first warrant article concerns the tentative agreement reached between the Hudson School District and the Paraeducators, Support Staff, and Related Personnel (PSRP), AFT Local #6245. The bargaining unit includes full and parttime cafeteria workers, paraeducators, kindergarten classroom assistants and full and parttime licensed practical nurses and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year."

Under the proposed agreement, the district would need to raise and appropriate \$363,639 for the first year of the contract, covering the 2026 – 2027 school year. The second year of the agreement, 2027–2028, would require

reads:

"Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the PSRP AFT Local #6245, AFTNH, AFLCIO for the Hudson School District full and parttime cafeteria personnel, full and parttime paraeducators and kindergarten classroom assistants and full and parttime licensed practical nurses and the Hudson School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year."

The second warrant article recommended by the Board involves a tentative collective bargaining agreement between the Hudson School Board and Teamsters Local No. 633 of New Hampshire. This bargaining unit includes custodians, electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, groundskeepers, and maintenance staff - employees

\$326,978. These figures reflect negotiated adjustments to salaries and benefits for the employees represented by the union.

District officials noted that the estimated tax rate impact would be seven cents in the first year and six cents in the second year. The School Board emphasized that these increases are tied to maintaining current staffing levels and ensuring competitive compensation for positions that are essential to daily school operations.

The second warrant article recommended by the Board involves a tentative collective bargaining agreement between the Hudson School Board and Teamsters Local No. 633 of New Hampshire. This bargaining unit includes custodians, electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, groundskeepers, and maintenance staff - employees

responsible for the upkeep, safety, and functionality of school facilities.

The warrant article states:

"Shall the Hudson School District vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Teamsters Local No. 633 of NH for the Hudson School District Custodians, Electricians, Plumbers, HVAC Technicians, Groundskeepers and Maintenance Staff and the Hudson School Board which calls for the

following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year."

If approved by voters, the first year of the contract (2026–2027) would require \$56,405 to be raised and appropriated. The second year (2027–2028) would require \$102,272, and the third year (2028–2029) would require \$118,749.

The estimated tax rate impact for the Teamsters agreement would be one cent in the first year and two

cents in both the second and third years. Board members noted that these increases reflect the rising costs of skilled labor and the need to retain qualified staff in positions that directly affect school safety, building maintenance, and daily operations.

Both agreements were recommended by the School Board and will now move forward to the March ballot, where voters will determine whether the negotiated cost items will be funded.

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# Cardboard Sleds Compete at Annual Benson Event



The Friends of Benson Park held the annual cardboard sled races with the help of the Hudson Lions Club on Saturday, Jan. 10. Although the conditions weren't ideal, a number of families gathered at the park after constructing and decorating their cardboard cruisers for some fun on a very slick hill. Prizes and trophies were given out in a number of categories

Photos by Chris Paul



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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Broncos Beat Panthers in Nashua, Get Clipped at Home

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Boys' Basketball team began last week with a solid 67-63 win across the river at Nashua South High School, but then fell to the Portsmouth Clippers by a score of 76-65 on their home court to end the week at 3-2.

After starting the season

at 2-1 back in December, the team had to shake off the school vacation and get back to Division I work on Tuesday night, Jan. 7 as they headed to Nashua to take on the Purple Panthers, a team that was holding the same 2-1 record heading into the contest.

Both teams started out fairly even, with the Broncos scoring just one point

more than their opponents. Alvirne had a 14-13 advantage heading into the second, but they widened that gap to 10-points after outscoring the Panthers 24-15 and took a 38-28 lead heading into the halftime break.

In the third, the Bronco fell flat, scoring just seven, while Nashua put up another 15-points to close their deficit to just two-points before the final quarter started.

In the fourth, the Broncos outdistanced the Panthers by just two-points for the eventual 67-63 win.

Alvirne had four players hit double-digit scoring, with senior guard Luke Norse leading the team with 18-points. Norse excelled at the foul line in the forth quarter, getting fouled five times and hitting seven of ten foul shots.

Senior forward Sean Chipfunde was also heavily fouled, getting 17-points with eight of 12 from the line, one, three-pointer and three for two-points.

Senior center, Garrett Hall finished the game with 15-points, getting four in for two along with making seven foul shots.

Junior forward Angel Kangar had 11-points in the

win, going 7-8 at the line and three two-point baskets.

Senior forward Jacoby Durham had six-points in the game.

Shooting in two of the four quarters proved to be a big issue when the Broncos returned home on Friday night, Jan. 9, against the Portsmouth Clippers.

The Broncos fell behind early in the first quarter, but was able to right the ship before the second period. Leading 18-12 to start quarter two, it looked as though the Broncos had the game under control, but that's where the wheel fell off.

Alvirne hit just one basket in the second, but thankfully their defense kept them in the game. They were outscored 2-14 in that period and their outside shooting was far from rewarding, making countless attempts from outside the arc with no returns on the scoreboard.

The shooting didn't get much better in the third, with the Clippers outscoring their host 24-10, opening up a 48-30 lead.

In the fourth, the Broncos put on a show to keep the fans in the game, with Hall putting in two, three-pointers and five baskets, helping his team get 26-



Senior center, Garrett Hall had nearly half the Broncos points against the Clippers, scoring 26-points.

points in the final period, but unfortunately the visitors kept the pace to win by ten.

Hall had most of the Alvirne points, scoring 26, including four, three-pointers; five, two-pointers and going 4-6 at the line.

Chipfunde had 12-points in the loss and

Durham scored eight in the second half.

The Broncos are scheduled for two games this week, the first at home against the Salem Blue Devils (2-4) on Tuesday, Jan. 16, followed by a road game next door at Londonderry High School against the 4-3 Lancers.



Broncos senior guard Luke Norse led the team with 18-points at Nashua South. Photos by Chris Paul

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# Admirals Hockey Start 2026 With Three Consecutive Wins

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

After suffering two losses to end 2025, the Alvirne-Milford Admirals hockey team put those games behind them and opened the new year by rattling off three consecutive victories.

Under the leadership of new head coach Kathy Griswold, the Admirals began the month of January with an overwhelming 13-2 victory over Bishop Brady,

igniting two more wins last week.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, Alvirne-Milford earned its second home-ice victory by battling out of a first-period tie and shutting out the Goffstown Grizzlies in periods two and three for a 5-2 win.

Alvirne senior Kian Corcoran had a solid game in goal, stopping more than 30 shots from the Grizzlies' offense. The Admirals put

just over 20 shots on their opponent's net.

Alvirne senior Brandon Callahan scored the first goal of the game, putting his team on top at 13:35 of the first period. Callahan got past a defender at center ice and broke to the net for the unassisted goal.

Three minutes later, the Grizzlies tied the game, followed by a 2-1 go-ahead goal by Goffstown at 7:38.

The tying goal for the Admirals came off the stick of Milford freshman Luke Green with just five seconds left in the opening period. Green was all-alone in the Goffstown zone after a pass from Alvirne senior Brandon Ganas slipped through two defenders.

The Admirals regained the lead with nine minutes left in the second period on a breakaway goal by Milford senior Chris Bozza, assisted by Alvirne sophomore Aiden Hiltz and Alvirne junior Evan Pargas.

Callahan added his second unassisted goal of the game with just 16 seconds left in the period to give the Admirals a 4-2 lead heading into the final frame.

The final goal of the contest came with just under five seconds remaining in the third period on an empty-net goal by Milford freshman Jameson Thurrott, assisted by Callahan and Milford junior Dylan MacLeod.

Despite the win, Griswold noted several areas that still need improvement moving forward, saying, "I have a laundry list of problems to address, and getting more pucks on net is one of them."

The victory put the Admirals above .500 for the first time this season at 3-2, as they headed into game six of the young season at the Methuen High School rink against Timberlane-Pelham.

The home team entered the contest with just two wins, four losses and a tie. The Admirals handed Timberlane-Pelham its fifth loss of the season with a 9-4 win, despite allowing several goals in the second period.

Alvirne junior Ari Scarbro started in net and played lights out through the first period, helping her team to a 2-0 lead after one. Bozza and Ganas scored the first-period goals, with assists going to Tomkins and Hiltz on Bozza's tally.

Milford freshman Gavin Briand took over in net for the second period, where Timberlane scored three times. Those goals were answered with two by the Admirals, giving Alvirne-Milford a 4-3 lead heading into the final period. Callahan scored both second-period goals, assisted by Green and Ganas.

The Admirals exploded

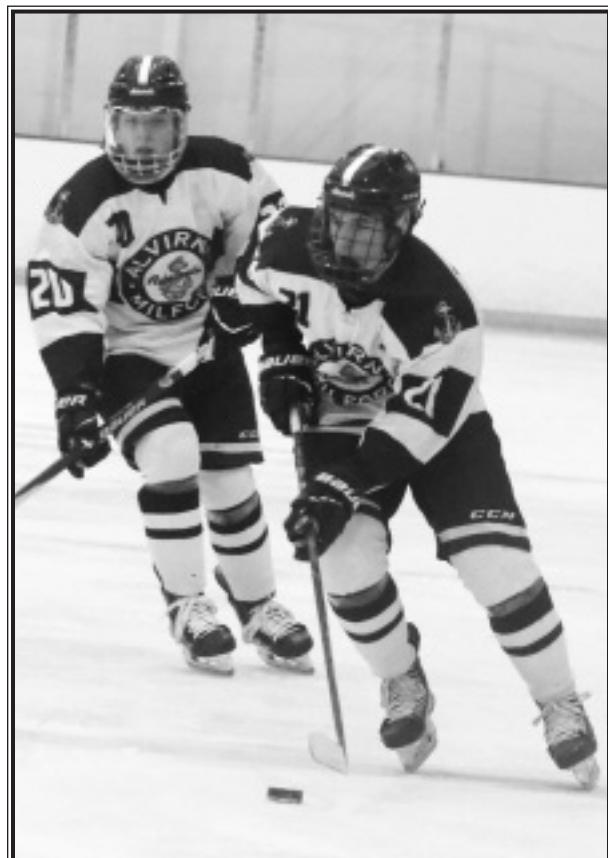


Alvirne senior Brandon Callahan scored the first goal against the Grizzlies. *Photos by Chris Paul*

for five more goals in the third period to secure the five-goal victory. Alvirne junior Mason Komarek played the final period in net, allowing just one goal to help seal the team's fourth win of the season.

Third-period goals were scored by Green at 10:07, assisted by Ganas; junior Evan Pargas, assisted by MacLeod; Landon Briand, assisted by Green and Ganas; and two goals by Ganas, with assists from Callahan, Green and Aiden Bradish.

The Admirals will look to continue their strong start to 2026 with a home game against Merrimack-Hollis-Brookline-Derryfield (3-3-1) on Wednesday, Jan. 14, followed by a road game against Somersworth-Coe-Brown (4-2) on Saturday, Jan. 17.



The Milford contingent of junior Chris Bozza, left, and senior Chris Bozza have been busy racking up the points this season and helping the Admirals to an impressive 4-2 start.

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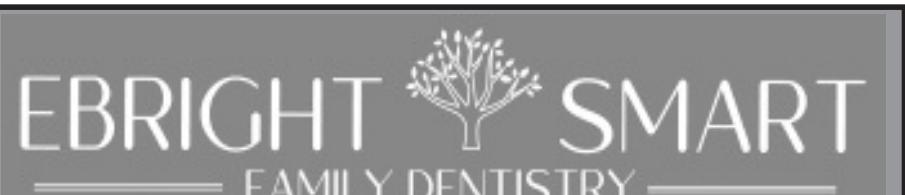
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# School Board Begins Discussions on 2026-27 School Calendar

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board reviewed a draft version of next year's school calendar during its most recent meeting.

Under the draft, the first day of school for all students would be Tuesday, Aug. 25.

The following week, there would be no school on Friday, Sept. 4, and schools would also be closed for

Labor Day, Tuesday, Sept. 8, Primary Day, would be a teacher workshop day, meaning no school for students.

In October, schools would be closed on Monday, Oct. 12 for Columbus Day. Friday, Oct. 9 would be an early release day followed by a teacher workshop.

For November, there would be no school on Tuesday, Nov. 3 for a teacher workshop, and

schools would be closed on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Thanksgiving break would run Nov. 25-27.

As drafted, the holiday break would begin on Christmas Eve.

In January, schools would be closed on Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King Jr./Civil Rights Day.

Winter break is scheduled for Feb. 22-26, and March 9 would be a teacher workshop day with no

school for students.

The draft places spring break on April 26-30, with Memorial Day, May 31, observed as a noschool day.

The last day of school is currently set for June 17.

Superintendent Dan Moulis explained that the draft includes three snow days instead of five to avoid pushing the last day of school into the following week.

One concern raised during the meeting involved

parent feedback about beginning the holiday break on Christmas Eve. Moulis said the decision was part of balancing the calendar to prevent the school year from extending further into June.

A question was also raised about whether a certain percentage of students must be present for a day to count as an official school day.

School Board Chair Maureen Dionne noted that two professional develop-

ment days are tied to election days, as two district schools are used as polling locations.

Another question was whether the district should consider holding a full five-day week before Labor Day instead of giving students the Friday off.

Dionne said the Board welcomes feedback from families and the public as discussions on the calendar continue.

## NHDES Announces Emergency Drought Assistance Program

CONCORD – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) announces it will reopen a program to help low-income homeowners experiencing water supply issues resulting from the ongoing drought. During this historic drought, nearly 250 residents have reported drywells causing insufficient drinking water in their homes. In response to these

widespread reports of dry wells, the Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission voted in November to approve a \$1,500,000 grant from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) to re-establish the Emergency Drought Assistance Program (EDAP).

Following the driest summer on record, all of

New Hampshire has been experiencing drought since August 2025, with several counties declared in extreme drought. Neither short- or long-term precipitation outlooks indicate drought relief in the coming months.

Drilling a new bedrock well can be very costly, creating a barrier for low-income households to access clean and safe drink-

ing water when their wells are dry. Depending on household income and family size, EDAP will cover

up to 100 percent of the total costs to mitigate drought impacts and provide reliable drinking water to qualifying residents.

Eligible costs under the program include rehabilitation or replacement of a residential well that is dry from drought, or if

feasible, the cost to connect the home to a nearby existing community water system.

To qualify for the program, applicants must provide income information, and verification by a licensed New Hampshire well driller or pump installer that the well has experienced irreversible water supply issues due to drought. More information

can be found on the EDAP website [www.dwgtf.des.nh.gov/funding-programs/emergency-drought-assistance](http://www.dwgtf.des.nh.gov/funding-programs/emergency-drought-assistance).

Private well-owners are encouraged to self-screen eligibility using the income limits provided in the application.

For more information, email [edap@des.nh.gov](mailto:edap@des.nh.gov) or call Marysa Boire at (603) 271-1355.

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# AROUND TOWN

**Around Town Policy:** This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of three weeks. The deadline for a submission is each Monday at 5 p.m. Please send items to [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net).

## Legion Meat Raffle

American Legion Hudson Post 48's Meat Raffle will be held at Post 48, located at 37 Central St. On the following dates: Saturday, Jan. 24, beginning at 2 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 21, beginning at 2 p.m.; Saturday, March 21, beginning at 2 p.m.; Saturday, April 18, beginning at 2 p.m. This event is open to the public. You must be 16+ to play. The proceeds from this event are to benefit the AlvirneFFA. Pre-buys are available in the Foxhole. For more information please call 603-889-9777.

## Legion Trivia Night

American Legion Hudson Post 48 will be hosting Trivia Saturday on the following

dates: Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5 - 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 28 from 5 - 7 p.m. At the Foxhole at 1 Fulton St. This event is open to members and bona fide guests 21+. For more information please call 603-889-9777.

## Adventurers Storytime

Come to the Rodgers Library for songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

## Legion Karaoke

American Legion Hudson Post 48 will be hosting DJ Mike on the following dates: Friday, Jan. 23, from 6 - 10 p.m.; Friday, March 20, from 6 - 10 p.m.; Friday, April 17,

from 6 - 10 p.m. In the Foxhole located at 1 Fulton St for Karaoke and Dancing. This event is open to members and bona fide guests 21+. For more information please call 603-889-9777.

## Teen Hangout

Middle and high school students ages 13+ are invited to enjoy the Rodgers Library's teen space after school, most Weekdays at 2:30 p.m. Snacks, charging stations, video games, and crafts provided. Connect the Library with any questions.

## Explorers Storytime

On Fridays at 1:30 p.m., (except Jan. 23) the Rodgers Library will have songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or

activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers.

## Meat Raffle

Meat Raffle to benefit the Scott Anderson Memorial Scholarship on Jan. 16, doors open at 6:30 p.m., raffle begins at 7 p.m. Additional raffle prizes include 55" Vizio TV, gift cards, prize baskets.

## Afternoon Book Group

This Rodgers Library group will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 1:30 p.m. This month's book pick is "The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland" by Jim DeFede.

## Nonfiction Book Group

This Rodgers Library group will meet Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. This month's discussion is "Founding Martyr: the Life and Death of Dr. Joseph Warren, the American Revolution's Lost Hero" by Christian Di Spigna.

## Family Candy Bingo

Families with children are invited to join the Rodgers Library for several

rounds of candy bingo on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. Candy prizes will be awarded.

## Crime & Cookies

The Rodgers Library will host the monthly meeting of the true crime podcast club on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

## How Librarians Became The Unlikely Spies Of WWII

Author Elyse Graham will discuss her new book "Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II." Virtually through the Rodgers Library on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

## Tween Minute to Win It Games

Play "minute to win it" games with your team at the Rodgers Library on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 5:30 p.m.

ect? Join Rodgers Library for a Craft Swap on Jan. 21 - 24, contact the Library for more information.

## Vision Board Workshop

Join Diane MacKinnon at the Rodgers Library as she walks you through the process of creating your own vision board on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

## Curious Kids: Winter

Explore learning centers with your preschooler at the Rodgers Library on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m.

## Lego Club

Come build an amazing creation with Rodgers Library LEGO bricks on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 5 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 31 at 10 a.m. The librarians will put your creations on display in the library if you wish.

## Cookbook Club

Prepare a recipe from this month's topic, then engage with others about your recipe adventures at the Rodgers

**continued on page 14**

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# United Way Launches 2026 Shoebox Project for Seniors

As the new year begins, United Way of Greater Nashua is once again focusing on one of the most vulnerable groups in our community: low-income, homebound seniors. Now entering its eighth year, the Shoebox Project for Seniors has provided meaningful support to more than 3,000 homebound seniors throughout the area. Each shoebox kit is filled with practical items and thoughtful touches that remind seniors they are seen, valued, and not forgotten.

In 2026, our goal is to pack 500 shoebox kits, making this one of the largest collections to date. The shoeboxes will be distributed to seniors served by Gateways Community Services, Meals on Wheels, AmeriCorps Senior Companions, and The Caregivers, reaching individuals who are often isolated and difficult to reach.

## How You Can Help

Community members are invited to donate items for the shoeboxes. A link to

directly purchase items can be found at the United Way website - <https://united-waynashua.org/event/shoebox-project-for-seniors-day-of-caring/> or selected from the list below:

- Exercise bands
- Puzzle books
- Healthy recipe books
- Note cards and greeting cards
- Stamps
- Magnifying glasses
- Pocket calendars
- Small stuffed animals
- Colored pencils and adult coloring books

- Combs and brushes
- Dental floss
- Facial tissue
- Hot chocolate, tea, and coffee bags
- Travel-size shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and hand cream

If your company, school, faith community, or civic group would like to host a donation box, United Way can provide flyers and a collection box to make participation easy.

## Why This Matters

Homebound seniors are

among the most isolated members of our community. Studies consistently show that social isolation increases the risk of depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, and other serious health concerns.

By participating in the Shoebox Project, donors help meet both practical needs and emotional well-being, offering warmth, encouragement, and human connection during the winter months.

## Donation Details

Donations may be dropped off at:

United Way of Greater Nashua

20 Broad Street  
Nashua, NH 03064

Drop-off dates:  
Monday, Jan. 5 through  
Friday, Jan. 30, 2026

Donations are accepted weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact United Way of Greater Nashua at [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org) or (603) 882-4011.

## Around Town

Continued from page 13

Library on Monday, Jan. 26 at 11:30 a.m., contact the library for more information.

### Creating a Modern Homestead

Join in the virtually chat with modern day homesteader, blogger, and author Victoria Puet through the Rodgers Library on Monday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m.

#### Retirement Planning Workshop

This workshop, provided by Wright Choice Financial Group, will help in understanding how to prepare financially and personally for life after work at the Rodgers Library on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m., and Thursday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m.

#### Agents of Change

Author Christina Hillsberg will discuss her new bestselling book "Agents of Change: The Women Who Transformed the CIA." Virtually through the Rodgers Library on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

#### Trails Challenge

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

#### Are You Smarter Than a Librarian?

Tweens and teens are invited to face off against the Rodgers Library's librarians in a few rounds of trivia on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m.

#### NH Special Education: A Basic Overview of the Process

This free workshop provided by the Parent Information Center in Nashua will outline information on the basics of the special education process including your child's rights, how the process works, and how to speak up for your child. It will be held at the Rodgers Library on

help the Friends of the Library support programs, events, museum and entertainment venue passes, and scholarships. FOL will engrave your purchased bricks with two lines (\$55) or three lines (\$80) with your special message. The order form is on Rodgers Memorial Library website click on the Friends page. The bricks are placed in the RML Walkway twice a year and will become an enduring legacy. For an inanimate object, each brick can speak volumes.

#### Drop In Stitchers

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

#### Baby Lapsit and Playtime

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

#### Movers & Shakers

Come to Rodgers Memorial 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.

#### Buy-a-Brick and Show Gratitude

Preserve a memory and

Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, every Tuesday afternoon. Slider cards will start being sold at 1:15 p.m., \$1.25 each. You must be registered at the Senior Center to play.

#### A Good Yarn

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

#### Laptop Donation Program

United Way of Greater Nashua is reintroducing their Tech Connect United Laptop Donation Program. Donate your working laptops, tablets, and smartphones, and they will in turn refurbish them for use by low-income individuals and families. The client recipients are low-income, and living in our Greater Nashua area. Devices can be dropped off at the United Way office located at 20 Broad St., Nashua between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays or by appointment email [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org) if you have any questions.

#### Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? Overeaters

Anonymous, no dues, no fees, no weigh-ins no diets. Meetings are on Tuesday's from 9 - 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Church 190 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)

#### PFOA Water Test

You can request a water sampling here: Southern NH PFOA Investigation Private Well-Testing Request Form Survey ([surveymonkey.com](http://surveymonkey.com)) Questions contact Amy Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator - MtBE Remed

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Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00PM
Sunday	10:00AM - 3:00PM

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Wednesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Friday	7:00AM - 5:00PM
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