

# THE Hudson Times

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A FREE Weekly Publication



**Hands of Hope** Alvirne High School students Shruthika Bangaru, left, and Madelynne Perron sort through donated items for the homeless knapsacks they were assembling last week. The AHS juniors are members of the newly formed Hands of Hope Club. See more on page 8. *Photo by Chris Paul*

## Selectmen Approve Purchase Ranger Drive 15-Acre Parcel

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at its most recent meeting to approve the purchase of a 15-acre parcel of land for conservation purposes, following a recommendation

from the Conservation Commission and town staff.

Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima explained that the opportunity arose during the review of a subdivision previously approved by the Hudson Planning Board.

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The Planning Board recently approved a subdivision in which the developer offered to sell a portion of the original parcel adjacent to the Ranger Drive Town Forest,” Dhima wrote in a memo to the Board.

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## Sidewalk Trust Fund Warrant Article Rejected by Selectmen

**ALEX MALM**  
HUDSON TIMES

A proposal to establish a Sidewalk Expendable Trust Fund was discussed during the most recent Board of Selectmen meeting.

“The Planning Board recommended to the Board of Selectmen the establishment of a Sidewalk Expendable Trust Fund at its December 10, 2025 meeting,” Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima wrote in a memo to the board.

Dhima explained that approving the warrant article would “allow the Town to accept and manage monetary contributions from developers in lieu of, or in support of, required pedes-

trian infrastructure improvements when on-site sidewalk construction is not feasible.”

He noted that the fund would create “a transparent and accountable mechanism for collecting developer contributions,” with specific procedures and criteria to be developed and approved by the Planning Board if voters authorize the article.

According to Dhima, money deposited into the fund would be used exclusively for “the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and repair of sidewalks, crosswalks, pathways, and other similar public improvements related to pedestrian travel.” He said priority would be

given to improvements along major corridors and nearby areas where pedestrian connectivity and safety could be enhanced.

Dhima also described the fund as a tool for the Planning Board when developers seek sidewalk waivers, allowing the Town to still receive funding for sidewalk improvements.

“Expenditures from the fund would be consistent with corridor improvement recommendations developed by the Planning Board and approved by the Board of Selectmen,” he wrote.

He added that establishing the fund would give the Town “greater flexibility to advance priority

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## New Colbea Gas Station Plan Returns to Planning Board

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board met on Jan. 14 to review a revised proposal for the Colbea Gas Station & Convenience Store on Lowell Road, marking the project’s return after its original application was denied last year. Attorney Chris Drescher and TFMorgan engineer Chris Rice presented the updated plan, which they said directly responds to concerns raised by both the Board and the public.

“The intended project before you this evening is a gas station and convenience store,” Drescher said. “This is a new application. We were here before for many,

many meetings. That was denied without prejudice, and we were given directives to fix a few things and come back.”

The new design removes two of the most controversial elements from the earlier proposal: a car wash and an entrance on Atwood Avenue. Both features drew significant opposition from abutters during the previous review cycle. The applicant also added a large fence between the site and the neighboring Stonewood School Daycare to address noise, safety, and visibility concerns.

Rice provided an overview of the surrounding area, emphasizing that the proposed use is permitted

within the business zoning district.

“To the north, there are two commercial properties – an office building and a minimart,” Rice said. “To the northeast is a single-family home, also in the business district. Across Lowell Road is Mickey’s Pizza and Subs. To the southeast is Centaur Plaza, which contains the Stonewood School Daycare, and further south is J.R.’s Auto Connection and a car storage area.”

The revised plan includes 12 fueling stations and four electric vehicle charging stations. A traffic study and noise study were completed during the earlier application process, and

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# Warrant Article Looks To Change Length of Supervisor of the Checklist Terms

ALEX MALT  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at its most recent meeting to recommend two separate citizen petition warrant articles for the March ballot. Both articles stem from concerns raised by residents about how local government functions and how statelevel decisions impact municipal budgets.

The first petition seeks to change the term length for the Supervisors of the Checklist, reducing the current sixyear term to a threeyear term, with one supervisor elected each year on a rotating basis. The Supervi-

sors of the Checklist are responsible for maintaining the town's voter rolls, processing new registrations, updating voter information, and ensuring compliance with state election laws. Because the role requires accuracy, training, and availability during election cycles, it can be difficult to recruit volunteers willing to commit to a sixyear term.

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont noted that while the sixyear term is the standard set by state law, the Legislature recently passed an amendment allowing towns to adopt shorter terms if they choose. The change was prompted

by concerns across the state that long terms discourage participation.

"The idea is that it's hard to find volunteers, and it can be even more difficult when the term lengths are for an extensive amount of time," Dumont said. He added that the petition gives Hudson voters the chance to decide whether a shorter term would help attract more residents to the position.

The second petition warrant article, titled "Protecting the Taxpayer," asks voters whether the Town should formally call on the New Hampshire Legislature to ensure adequate state funding for essential

services and avoid policies that shift costs onto local property taxpayers.

The article reads in part:

"New Hampshire thrives when state funding fairly supports local communities. Therefore, the residents of Hudson are asked: Do we call on the New Hampshire Legislature to protect local taxpayers by ensuring adequate state revenues for essential services, and by avoiding policies that shift costs onto local property taxpayers?"

The petitioners' explanation argues that recent state budgets have reduced or eliminated key revenue sources that municipalities

once relied on, including portions of state aid for education, public safety, and infrastructure. As a result, towns and counties have had to raise property taxes to maintain services such as schools, healthcare, county nursing homes, and road maintenance.

"These shifts burden working families, strain local budgets, limit flexibility, and undermine longterm community prosperity," the petition states. It argues that restoring municipal revenue sharing and preventing cost-shifting would "ease the tax burden on local property taxpayers and strengthen communities."

The article also directs the Select Board or Town Council to send the results of the vote to the Governor and Hudson's legislative delegation within 30 days, signaling the community's position on the issue.

Dumont clarified that the article is advisory only, meaning it would not be legally binding even if approved by voters. However, he said it essentially calls on the Board of Selectmen to issue a resolution reflecting the will of the community.

Both petition articles will now move forward to the March warrant with the Selectmen's unanimous recommendation.

# Default Budget Warrant Article Supported by Two of Five

ALEX MALT  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen were divided at their most recent meeting over whether to recommend a citizen petition warrant article that would change who determines the Town's Default Budget. The proposal mirrors a similar petition submitted to the Hudson School District and has sparked discussion across multiple boards in recent weeks.

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson outlined the petition in a memo to the Selectmen.

"Attached please find a Petition Warrant Article to

adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14b to delegate the determination of the Default Budget to the Municipal Budget Committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14," Sorenson wrote. He emphasized that because the petition met all statutory requirements, the Selectmen were obligated to place it on the ballot.

"As this is a valid petition, the Board of Selectmen are required to forward the article to the warrant," he wrote.

The same petition article was also presented to the School Board, prompting questions about how

shifting responsibility for the Default Budget might affect the annual budgeting process. During a previous School Board meeting, Superintendent Dan Moulis explained that the change would give the Budget Committee authority over determining "what is calculated in that formula for the Default Budget," rather than leaving that responsibility with the district administration.

The Budget Committee also discussed the petition at its most recent meeting. Because the article does not involve appropriating money, the Committee is not required to make a recommendation.

Even so, member Bill Cole made a motion for the Committee to take a position.

Committee member Shawn Jasper, however, objected, arguing that voting on a nonmonetary article could set an inappropriate precedent. Jasper also disclosed that he authored the petition and plans to speak to it at the Deliberative Session. The motion to recommend the article ultimately failed.

Budget Committee member Kim Rice expressed strong support for the proposal, saying she was "wholeheartedly" in favor of it.

When the matter came

before the Selectmen, opinions were similarly mixed. Board Chair Dillon Dumont voiced concerns about shifting control of the Default Budget to the Budget Committee.

"I think the Budget Committee in controlling both of these articles can possibly be a little selfserving," Dumont said, suggesting that consolidating authority over both the operating budget and the Default Budget could create conflicts.

Selectman Heidi Jakoby took the opposite view, arguing that the Default Budget should be the same regardless of who calculates it.

"Whether or not the Budget Committee does it, they should have the same number no matter what," she said. "I would be in support of this going forward."

The Board ultimately voted 3-2 not to recommend the warrant article. Jakoby and Selectman Xen Vurgaropoulos voted against the motion, signaling their support for the petition.

The article will still appear on the March ballot, where voters will decide whether the responsibility for determining Hudson's Default Budget should shift from town staff to the Budget Committee.

## American Legion Hudson Post 48 HOSTS A VALENTINES DAY DINNER AND DANCE

Saturday, Feb. 14 from 5 to 11 p.m.

Dinner will be served from 5 - 7 p.m., followed by DJ Mike from 7 - 11 p.m., at American Legion Hudson Post 48

37 Central Street, Hudson NH.

Donation of \$15 per Person or \$25 per Couple  
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# Board of Selectmen Split on Planning Board Warrant Article

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen spent considerable time at its most recent meeting discussing a citizens petition warrant article that would fundamentally change how members of the Planning Board are selected. The proposal, which will appear on the March ballot, asks voters whether Planning Board seats should shift from elected positions to appointed ones.

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont summarized the intent of the petition early in the discussion.

"The petition moves it from an elected to an appointed," Dumont said, noting that the question has surfaced several times over

the years as the town has debated the best structure for one of its most influential landuse boards.

In a memo to the Board, Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that the petition met all legal requirements and therefore must be forwarded to the warrant.

"Attached please find a Petition Warrant Article to see if the Town will vote to amend the method of selection for Planning Board members by changing Planning Board positions from elected to appointed," Sorenson wrote. Because it is a valid petition, he added,

"the Board of Selectmen are required to forward the article to the warrant."

The warrant article reads in part:

"Change Planning Board Membership from Elected to Appointed To see if the Town will vote to amend the method of selection for Planning Board members by changing Planning Board positions from elected to appointed positions, identical to how the Planning Board was structured in the past. If adopted, all future Planning Board members shall be appointed by the Hudson Board of Selectmen in accordance with RSA 673:2 and RSA 673:5, with terms established pursuant to state law. Current elected members shall serve out the remainder of their elected terms, after which vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Selectmen."

The proposal immediately drew mixed reactions from the Board.

Selectman Xen Vurgaropoulos was unequivocal in his opposition, arguing that the change would reduce voter control over an important governing body.

"He feels it takes away rights from residents for them to be able to choose who they want in office," the minutes reflected. "That's my simple answer," Vurgaropoulos said.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chair Bob Guessford said the issue was more nuanced. While he acknowledged the value of voter choice, he also noted that Planning Board members often need specialized knowledge in areas such as land use, engineering, zoning, and

development review.

"There can be arguments made on both sides," Guessford said. "That would give us some ability to put people in place who have that certain skill set."

Even so, Guessford said he had not reached a firm conclusion. "There's arguments on both sides of this that are worthy to think about," he said.

Selectman Heidi Jakoby reminded the Board that she had previously supported the effort to make Planning Board seats elected and believed the town should continue with that structure.

She said the change to elected positions was intentional and reflected community sentiment at the time.

Dumont, however, reit-

erated that he had opposed the shift to elected seats from the beginning. He noted that he himself was originally appointed and later became the first person elected under the new format.

In the end, the Board remained divided. After discussion, the Selectmen voted 3-2 not to recommend the warrant article. Jakoby and Vurgaropoulos cast the dissenting votes, maintaining their opposition to changing the current system.

The article will still appear on the March ballot, where voters will ultimately decide whether Planning Board members should continue to be elected or return to being appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

## Ranger Road

Continued from page 1

Dhima said the Conservation Commission quickly

recognized the value of the parcel, which would expand the existing conservation

area and protect additional open space near the Town Forest.

"The Conservation Commission reviewed this opportunity and voted to proceed with the acquisition to expand and protect the existing conservation area," he wrote.

Dhima told Selectmen that town staff had already worked with the property owner to finalize terms and were seeking authorization to complete the purchase.

"If it gets approved, we can move forward with closing it," Dhima said, noting that the transaction was straightforward and ready to proceed.

He also emphasized that

the purchase would not impact taxpayers. Funding will come from the Conservation Commission Cash Flow Account, which currently holds \$809,729.73.

"It's ready to go," Dhima said.

The Board of Selectmen then voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Map 159, Lot 28, approximately 15 acres, for an amount not to exceed \$90,000, plus up to \$2,500 in closing costs. All funding will come from Conservation Commission accounts.

### Board Accepts Donations

In addition to the land purchase, the Board of Selectmen accepted two donations presented during the

meeting.

### \$350 Donation from Sparkling River Condo- minium Association

Fire Chief Scott Tice informed the Board that the Sparkling River Condominium Association raised \$350 during its annual holiday raffle and chose the Hudson Fire Department as the recipient.

"They selected the Hudson Fire Department as the

recipient to show their gratitude for the services we provide to the community," Tice wrote. He requested that the Board formally accept the donation "with our heartfelt thanks."

The funds will be deposited into the Fire Department

ment's General Donation Fund.

### Pet Oxygen Mask Kit Donation

The Board also accepted a donation of a Pet Oxygen Mask Kit, valued at \$125, made possible through the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Charities (MVMA) Pet Oxygen Mask Program. The kit was donated by Hudson resident Jaye Morin.

"The MVMA has established a Pet Oxygen Mask Program that equips fire departments with lifesaving equipment to aid in saving pets during fires," Tice wrote. Upon acceptance, the MVMA will ship the kit directly to the department.



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Jane was employed by Sanders Associates for many years as well as Bourque Jewelers and Cardin Jewelers in Nashua, NH.

In her younger years she enjoyed playing the piano, going to Saturday night dances and going to her children's sports games.

In her later years she enjoyed sewing in her sewing room with her sister in-law Pat and daughter Joan. She introduced Joan to this hobby and she will always be grateful for that.

A time of visitation was held on Tuesday, Jan. 20 with a Service of Remembrance & Prayer Service in the Dumont Sullivan Funeral Home. A private burial will take place at a later date.

# Editorial

## Your Voice Matters, Here's When to Use It

For those of you who stayed home while your elected officials worked hard to craft the budgets... for those who chose not to speak during the recent public hearings... we trust you're comfortable with the decisions that were made.

If you're not, the good news is this: the Deliberative Sessions are coming.

This is your chance to shape what goes on the ballots - where residents can discuss, debate, and even amend most warrant articles before they appear on the March 10 ballot. These sessions are not symbolic. They are moments of influence, and they belong to the people who show up.

### Mark Your Calendar

Hudson (both at the Hudson Community Center):

- Town Deliberative: Saturday, Jan. 31 at 9 a.m.
- School Deliberative: Saturday, Feb. 7 at 9 a.m.

These dates are your chance to speak up - whether to suggest improvements, question spending, defend a program you value, or simply listen and learn.

Why do deliberative sessions matter? Because it's the only time residents can amend warrant articles that affect the budgets. Budgets can be adjusted up or down. Language can be clarified. Priorities can be reshaped. All of it happens in a room where every registered voter has equal standing.

There's no "force" involved - only participation. If turnout is low, a small group can steer the outcome. If turnout is

strong, the community's full range of voices is heard. The power rests entirely with those who attend. So don't miss it.

A chance to lead is also upon us. If you've ever felt like you could make a difference - frustrated or unheard about decisions made without your perspective - there's another path: run for office.

The filing period for elected positions starts on Wednesday, Jan. 21, and runs through Friday, Jan. 30 at 5 p.m. in Londonderry. Hudson's filing period closes at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 30.

Serving as an elected official on any board or committee requires time, patience, and a willingness to listen - but it also gives you a direct hand in shaping your town's future.

Those with personal agendas need not apply.

If you care deeply about your community, can find common ground, and are willing to put in the work, your town needs you.

Democracy only works when we show up. In towns like Londonderry and Hudson, where populations are small enough for individual voices to matter, the deliberative session is one of the purest expressions of local democracy.

Attend. Stay for the full session. Listen. Speak. Vote on amendments. Help shape the articles that will appear on the March 10 ballot.

Your local newspaper is always here to publish your letters and help your voice reach your neighbors.

Change begins with action.

# Driver Arrested After a Pursuit Leads Police Through Three Towns

A Merrimack woman was arrested after barricading herself in a vehicle following a pursuit that began in Londonderry, went through Hudson and finished in Manchester.

At 1:06 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, State Troopers responded to assist members of the Londonderry Police Department after they encountered a suspicious vehicle parked near Citizens Bank on Route 102 in Londonderry.

When Londonderry officers attempted to speak with the driver, she fled, and a pursuit ensued westbound on Route 102 toward Hudson. The driver pulled into the Circle K Gas Station at the Londonderry/Hudson town line.

Members of the Londonderry and Hudson police departments attempted to stop the vehicle, a 2016 Volkswagen GTI, from leaving the gas station, but the driver drove down an



Heather Lewis

embankment, hit a guardrail, and got onto Route 102 back in the direction of Londonderry.

The driver then entered Interstate 93 northbound from Exit 4, at which point State Troopers took over the pursuit and deployed tire deflation devices in an attempt to stop the vehicle. The driver continued northbound, taking the left ramp onto I-293. The driver then attempted to drive northbound in the southbound direction of I-293, but a Trooper used his cruiser to stop the vehicle. The driver then refused to get out of

the vehicle.

The interstate was closed in the area for approximately two hours while Troopers and officers from the Londonderry Police Department attempted negotiations with the driver. Ultimately, a State Police K-9 and less-lethal munitions were deployed before the driver was taken into custody.

The driver was identified as Heather Lewis, 34, of Merrimack. She was transported to Elliot Hospital to be treated for minor injuries.

Lewis has been charged by both the State Police and the Londonderry Police Department for multiple counts of felony reckless conduct with a deadly weapon, disobeying an officer, resisting arrest or detention, criminal mischief, and operating after suspension. Lewis was arraigned in Manchester District Court this week.

## Colbea Gas

**Continued from page 1**  
several variances were granted at that time.

Vice Chair Jordan Ulery asked whether those variances were still valid under the new application.

"The variances run with the land," Drescher said, adding that he believed they remained in effect. Ryan Callahan of Epsilon Associates confirmed that the noise study was comprehensive and available on the town website for public review.

Board member Victor Oates raised concerns about sight lines at Atwood and Birch Streets, questioning whether the traffic study adequately addressed the issue.

"You show that Atwood and Birch have poor line of sight, yet the driveways don't seem to have any issues in the traffic study," Oates said, expressing skepticism about the study's thoroughness.

One engineer suggested

that drivers tend to be more cautious in that area, but after discussion, the applicant agreed to make one driveway rightturn only. Several Board members, however, doubted whether such restrictions would be effective.

"The right turn in, right turn out doesn't work," said Alternate Todd Boyer. "People ignore it. We have no way to enforce it."

Public input played a major role in the original denial, and several abutters returned to comment on the revised plan.

Stonewood School owner Patty Langlais said she appreciated the removal of the car wash but remained concerned about the timing of the fencing installation.

"I'm thrilled there's no car wash, but my very big concern is the fencing and the buffer," Langlais said. "I want the new fencing you're promising put up before any construction starts. That is abutting my playground. The kids, by law, need to be outside every day."

Resident Martha LaChance echoed the call for stronger buffering, saying additional fencing would help protect nearby homes and businesses.

Abutter Brian Sojka asked for a guarantee that a car wash would not be added in the future.

"Looking at the plans, it looks like they could possibly go forward with the car wash and vacuum stations in the future," Sojka said. "I want an assurance that these two items will not be happening."

The applicant reiterated that there are no plans for a car wash or vacuum stations and that adding either would require a new application and another full review by the Planning Board.

Several residents also repeated a longstanding complaint that Hudson already has too many gas stations, a concern that has surfaced in multiple development hearings over the past few years.

# THE Hudson Times

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# Lions Club Offers to Help with Lions Pride Restoration Project

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Advisory Committee continued its work on the Benson Park Lion Pride Restoration Project at its January meeting, outlining next steps for restoring the park's historic 2,000 pound stone lion statues. The statues, which once stood at the entrance of Benson's Wild Animal Farm, are considered some of the most iconic artifacts connected to the park's past.

"The Lion's Pride is original to Benson's Wild Animal Farm, which opened in 1926," said Committee member Sue Clement. "Following the closure of Benson's Wild Animal Farm in 1986, an auction was held where a Hudson family purchased the lion statues and displayed them on their front lawn for 38 years."

The family donated the statues back to Benson Park in 2024, but the restoration process has been slow due to several logistical challenges. The statues are extremely heavy, require specialized handling, and have been kept out of public view to prevent vandalism. Funding has also been a concern.

"The cost of an onsite evaluation would be approximately \$200," Clement said, noting that she had contacted a professional restoration company to determine what work would be required.

Committee member Nathan Muir recently presented the project to the local Lions Club in hopes of securing support. The organization responded enthusiastically.

"They did end up approving a check for \$200

for the initial evaluation," Muir said. "The conclusion we all collectively came to was that we'll see, based on the results of the evaluation, what the total costs might be. We also talked about looking at different options for contractors aside from Treffler, or if we could find certain volunteers to do it."

Muir said "the whole Lions Club is onboard," and he expressed optimism that the group may continue to support the restoration effort as it progresses.

The Committee also celebrated the success of Benson Park's first community event of 2026 - the annual Cardboard Sled Race, held on Jan. 10. Despite cold temperatures and less-than-ideal weather, turnout was strong.

"Everybody went home with an award," Clement said. "It wasn't

the best weather, but that's what happened to us last year. The kids had fun, they went flying down that hill, and in the end, there was lots of fun and excitement. We had a lot of people come out to watch."

Friends of Benson Park Board President Natalie Newell thanked volunteers for their efforts.

"It wouldn't have happened without all of your hard work," Newell said. "It was amazing."

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is set for Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.

made in lieu of sidewalk construction as authorized by the Planning Board during the site plan or subdivision approval process; and further to designate the Board of Selectmen as the agents to expend from said Fund."

The Board of Selectmen ultimately voted 4-1 not to move forward with the warrant article.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is set for Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.



The Benson Lion's Pride statues that were donated in 2024 are in need of some restoration before being displayed.

Photo by Chris Paul

No injuries were reported, though Committee member Jan Horvath suggested adding safety nets in the future.

"The first guy who went down was really fast," Horvath said. "A net would add safety over there."

The Committee also discussed plans to install three new signs identifying park buildings listed on the New Hampshire Register of Historic Places. The signs will be mounted on granite posts and placed in front of the train station, the kitchen, and the Hazelton Barn.

"We did have somebody call in who was interested in doing that donation - having the posts and putting the historical signs out," Clement said.

Installation is expected to take place in the spring, coinciding with the start of Volunteer Cleanup Days and other seasonal park activities.

## Sidewalk

**Continued from page 1**  
pedestrian projects in a coordinated and cost-effective manner," particularly in areas where off-site improvements better serve the public interest.

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont said he did not support adding additional fees, arguing that such costs ultimately fall on the end consumer.

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## Have an Announcement?

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# Conservation Commission ReElects Officers, Outlines 2026 Plans

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Conservation Commission opened its first meeting of 2026 by reelecting its slate of officers, with all incumbents returning to their roles. Chair Carl Murphy, Vice Chair Ken Dickinson, and Secretary Chris Cameron were each nominated and unanimously elected to continue for another year.

"I'll do my best to support the Chair," Dickinson said after his reelection. "We've got a good group,"

and it'd be good to keep things moving forward. We can refine a few things, but overall I think we're headed in the right direction. Not every group has been this active in the past with the number of people we have now. I wish we had more, but there's a long list of vacancies for elected positions, and I haven't even seen the list for nonelected ones."

Dickinson said he hopes to see more residents get involved in 2026.

"It'd be a welcomed

presence," he said. "It's our duty - Carl's and mine - to help bring the other Commissioners to a higher level of education and understanding."

With officers confirmed, the Commission turned to its goals for the year. Murphy presented a draft list of projects and priorities, noting that several members had contributed ideas.

"I generated a pretty extensive list of things we can put on our agenda for this year," Murphy said.

"It's not inclusive, but it's a good start. Does anybody want to add to it?"

Dickinson proposed revisiting a previously discussed plan to build a trail connecting the Musquash Conservation Area to the Colburn Town Forest.

"We talked about that maybe two years ago, and it came out as a low priority with everything else we tackled in 2025," he said. "I think it's a pretty easy thing to do. It would only require a letter to the landowner. I can draft that or work with

Carl to get something ready within the next month. It wouldn't take much physical labor - it's open woods with little understory - and it'd be an important linkage."

He added that the project would fit naturally into the town's existing trail network.

Dickinson also highlighted the need to continue work on the town's open space inventory.

"That lends itself to being a workshop, or a series of workshops," he said.

said. "We can present the findings as we go."

The Commission agreed to hold more workshops throughout 2026, focusing on open space, land conservation, and coordination with the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee.

Murphy said he is looking forward to a busy year.

"I look forward to 2026 - spending more time in the woods, maintaining trails, trail signs, and maybe making a few more new trails," he said.

# HCTV Underwriting Program Could Launch Next Month

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Cable Utility Advisory Committee met on Jan. 12 to review progress on a proposed underwriting program that could bring new revenue to Hudson Community Television (HCTV). Committee Chair Mike O'Keefe said the goal is to create a sustainable funding stream by partnering with local businesses.

"This is a program we're trying to get off the ground to infuse some additional revenue into the operations here," O'Keefe

said. "It would involve members of the business community underwriting some of our broadcasting."

Underwriting would allow businesses to sponsor programming in exchange for brief, paid acknowledgments during broadcasts - a model used by many community media outlets.

Director of Community Media Mike Johnson said the policy has undergone extensive review.

"We are near the end of the creation of this policy," Johnson said. "It's gone through the Board of Selectmen for a first read,

the School District's attorneys, the School Board, and the policy subcommittee. This is going to be something that takes HCTV into the future; it's going to be part of our workflow in every production we do."

The policy will be designated HCM/001 - Hudson Community Media 001.

Johnson explained that the program will operate on the town's fiscal year, running from July through June, but HCTV hopes to begin accepting underwriters as early as February.

"We'll be starting early this year," he said. "If an underwriter comes on board early in the year, we're going to discount that month. We don't want to discourage someone who's interested midyear from joining us."

Committee members asked how flexible the program would be once it launches.

"Once this has started, say starting July 1 of this coming year, will people have to sign up for a full year?" O'Keefe asked. "Will you continue to offer partial years?"

Johnson said the plan is to focus on annual con-

tracts but emphasized that shorter, lowercost options could remain available if there is demand. A tiered pricing system is expected in the future, but not during the initial rollout.

"Right now, it's just a matter of negotiating with people who want to do this?" asked Committee member Pete Lanzillo.

"Eventually, we're going to set tiers - different monies for different things?"

Johnson confirmed that tiers are part of the longterm vision, noting that the program must remain accessible to small businesses.

"We're going to stick

with this first policy, get it off the ground, and keep developing it," he said.

Johnson also described new technology that will support the underwriting program, allowing HCTV to integrate sponsor messages more seamlessly during live broadcasts.

"With an SDI to NDI converter, we can take the video feed over the network back to the studio," he explained. "If a game goes to break, you're not just watching an empty scoreboard - we can play videos with thank you messages to the underwriters."

Test runs of the new system have already begun.

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# Resident Questions Increased Default Budget at Public Hearing

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee opened the town side of the 2026 budget for public input at its Jan. 8 public hearing, drawing strong interest from residents concerned about rising costs and the impact on taxpayers.

Resident Alex Woodyard was among the first to speak, expressing frustration over what he viewed as a lack of clear information about the town's default budget.

"I'm disappointed that there was not more information provided to the public here tonight," Woodyard

said. "My concern primarily pertains to the default budget that is posted and shared in the warrant article - most notably the change between the budget approved for the current fiscal year and the budget proposed for next fiscal year. I'm very concerned that the default budget shows a \$4 million increase."

Calling the increase "extreme cost growth," Woodyard asked for a clear explanation.

"I would like someone to explain this to me," he said. "This is being unfairly passed to the voters, the residents, and the taxpayers of the town."

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson responded by directing residents to the detailed breakdown available in the town's online budget book.

"The difference between the FY 2027 default budget versus the actual budget in 2026 is roughly \$2.4 million," Sorenson said. "You can see how we compose the default budget - the detail is all there.

There are certain things we take out, and certain things we add in. We had onetime items come out, contracts stay in, and we have to look at debt service and insurance premiums."

Health insurance in-

creases - a contractual obligation that affects both the proposed and default budgets - have been a recurring concern throughout the past year.

The town's general operating budget, which funds all municipal departments, will appear as Warrant Article 2 on the March 2026 ballot.

Rising costs were not limited to the town side. Resident Jim Dobens pointed out that the Hudson School District's default budget is also higher than its proposed operating budget.

"The School Board really doesn't want the budget

passed - they want the default budget passed, which is obviously \$1.1 million higher," Dobens said. "I and many other residents are looking for answers about the real issues impacting our schools and rising school taxes."

The school district's general operating budget will appear as Warrant Article 1 on the March ballot.

Budget Committee member James Lawrence reminded attendees that the committee has no authority to alter default budget numbers.

"The default budget is set by state law," Lawrence said. "We don't have the

authority to make changes."

While residents raised concerns about both town and school spending, there was no public comment on the remaining warrant articles tied to specific appropriations.

The next meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 4, in the Buxton Room at Town Hall. The Town Deliberative Session will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at 9 a.m. in the Hudson Community Center, followed by the School Deliberative Session on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 9 a.m., also at the Community Center.

## Plans Made for 2026 Easter Egg Hunt at Benson Park

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Advisory Committee met on Jan. 15 to discuss upcoming events for 2026, with the highlight being a proposal from Inner Dragon Martial Arts to host a large community Easter egg hunt at Benson Park. Representatives from Inner Dragon said the park would be an ideal location for an event that has grown steadily over the past several years.

"Throughout the many years at Inner Dragon, we've done an Easter egg hunt," the representative said. "It's been six, seven, maybe even eight years now, and we usually do it

the Saturday before Easter. We have 200 to 400 kids show up. We set up a landing page so everyone registers, we track how many kids are coming, and we make sure we have enough eggs. We do social media, print ads, we have the Easter Bunny come, we take pictures - last year we had cotton candy and hot dogs."

The 2025 event featured more than 3,000 hidden eggs, and organizers hope to expand the experience even further by partnering with local businesses.

"If we partner with Benson, we'd talk to the Chamber of Commerce and have smaller businesses donate baskets," she said.

"If they donate baskets, maybe we can sell raffle tickets and the money will go back to you. It's a great event."

Committee members expressed enthusiasm about bringing the hunt to Benson Park, though they noted that the exact location within the park would need careful consideration.

"I know in the past, because my kids participated years ago, we did it in the field next to the big pond," said Committee member Cindy Clement. "Another option is the upper section of the park near the Elephant Barn. It's a big field, and you could use that whole space."

She suggested decorating the area with Easter-themed displays to make the event more festive.

Alternate member Harry Schibanoff asked when the last Easter egg hunt had been held at Benson Park. No one could recall one taking place after 2019, making the proposed event a potential revival of a once-popular tradition.

Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby noted that the upper field might be the best option.

"I think that's great -

"If you're looking at

400 kids, I would think the larger field would work best," she said, adding that the upper area tends to be drier in early spring.

The Inner Dragon representative also expressed interest in collaborating with the Friends of Benson Park, potentially opening a Benson Park Store during the event and encouraging donations toward ongoing park projects, including the restoration of the iconic lion statue.

Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby noted that the upper field might be the best option.

"I think that's great - let's get the whole commu-

nity involved," Clement said. "The more the merrier. Let's write everything down and we'll go from there."

She reminded organizers that events with more than 50 participants require paperwork through the Department of Public Works, and a separate permit would be needed for the proposed raffle.

A tentative date of Saturday, March 28, was suggested for the egg hunt, with a rain date of Saturday, April 4.



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# Hands of Hope Club Finds Ways of Giving to the Community



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**CHRIS PAUL**  
HUDSON TIMES

A newly established group of students at Alvirne High School are showing that there is hope for the younger generation.

The "Hands of Hope" club is a group that is looking to expand as they gain experience in helping the less fortunate.

The club's spokesperson, Irish David, describes the group as an activism

based student organization dedicated to supporting the local community through service and awareness projects.

Over the past few weeks the five-member group has been gathering donated health and beauty aids from local businesses to make up knapsacks for the homeless.

They met last week, in Sharon Wagner's Biology classroom, to sort through the items collected and fill

small knapsacks.

Wagner, who acts as the club's advisor, had given the team the idea of "Nora's Knapsacks" after seeing what her mother had done in neighboring Londonderry.

The Hickory Woods senior community had established the organization a few years earlier to provide much-needed goods to veterans and the local homeless.

The students also are donating time at the Hudson Community Food Pantry each week, directly helping those in need Hudson.

son.

A future plan of the club's will mainly focus on fundraising for a flashing stop sign at a dangerous intersection in the town of Hudson.

The five-member group is made up of David, Madelynne Perron, Ameera Qureshi, Shruthika Bangaru and Avarie Ascolillo.

Anyone wishing to help the group can donate or give suggestions by contacting them through emailing Shruthika at Bangarushruthika@gmail.com or Irish at Irishkate-david15@gmail.com.

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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Broncos Deliver Losses to Blue Devils and Lancers

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Boys' Basketball team was very productive last week, winning at home

and away and putting their season record at 6-2 as they head toward the halfway point of the schedule.

The Bronco were able to deliver the Salem Blue Dev-

ils and the Londonderry Lancers their fifth losses of the season after bouncing back from a 56-66 loss to the Portsmouth Clippers the week prior.

The Alvirne boys began their week at home, on Monday night, Jan. 12, hosting the Blue Devils, where an extremely strong fourth quarter catapulted the hosts into a 76-65 win.

The Broncos started the game with a slim lead after the first quarter by outshooting Salem 12-9. Their visitors were able to close the gap 19-17 in the second to trail by one, making it 29-28 at the half.

Coming out of the break, the Blue Devils were able to even up the contest at 46-a-piece by the end of the third period.

In the fourth, the Broncos pulled away from their visitors with one of their best quarters of the season, scoring 30-points, with senior center Garrett Hall being responsible for much of the offense, scoring 18-points with three from outside the arc. Hall was scoreless in the third and had just four-points in the first half.



Ulysses Kangar goes up for two in Londonderry. He had 35-points in two games last week.

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On defense, AHS held SHS to 16-points in the final period for the 11-point win.

Hall had 22-points in the victory and junior forward Ulysses Kangar had 20-points, with two, three-pointers, six for two and went two-for-four at the line.

Senior forward Sean Chipfunde finished with 15-points, including two, three-pointers, three for two-points and went 3-3 at the line.

Senior guard Luke Norse had 11-points, two coming from outside the arc and senior forward Jacoby Durham had seven-points in the team's fifth victory.

Alvirne finished the

**continued on page 11**



Garrett Hall had 22-points to start the week, but had trouble scoring at LHS.

Photos by Chris Paul

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# Admirals Keep Month of January Perfect with Two Wins

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne-Milford High School Hockey team added two more victories to their season tally and remain perfect in the month of January with four consecutive wins.



Junior Dylan MacLeod had two goals and an assist in the Admirals two games last week.

Since the start of 2026 the Admirals are proving to be a force to be reckoned with as they have outscored their opponents 31-10 in January. The latest wins coming from a 9-4 win over the Merrimack-Hollis-Brookline-Derryfield con-

tinent to start the week and then celebrated the team's first shutout victory, a 3-0 win over Somersworth-Coe-Brown over the weekend.

The Admirals hosted the Warhawks of Merrimack-Hollis-Brookline-Derryfield on Wednesday night, Jan. 14, at the Skate3 Arena in Tyngsboro, Mass., where three goals in the final period led to a 4-2 victory.

The Alvirne-Milford squad got on the board first with Alvirne sophomore Ryan Sutton knocking one in on a rebound in front of the net at 12:37 of the first period. Sutton was assisted by Milford freshman Luke Green.

The one-point lead would hold up until 8:45 in the second period, when the Warhawks put one past the Admirals goal tender Alvirne senior Kian Corcoran on rebound shot in front of the net.

The two teams went into the second break knotted at one, but it didn't long for the home team to regain the lead in the third period. Just 10-seconds into the final period, Alvirne senior Brandon Ganas took a shot

from the right side during a man-advantage power-play. The wrist shot was tipped by Alvirne senior Brandon Callahan for the 2-1 lead.

One minute later, Alvirne senior Brandon Hiltz passed out front from behind the net to an open Dylan Macleod who scored for the 3-1 lead.

The Warhawks would get one back with six-minutes left, but that is as close as it would get.

The final goal came off the stick of Milford senior Mason Tomkins on a break-away goal with just 1:36 left in the game.

Corcoran had 13 saves in the first period, eight in the second and five in the third to help his team secure the victory.

Over the weekend, on Saturday, Jan. 17, the Admirals battled through the snow and the Somersworth-Coe-Brown Bearcats in Rochester to a 3-0 victory.

Tomkins picked up where he left off of Wednesday night, getting the first goal of the game in just a minute and a half in the first period. Tomkins was assisted by Chris Bozza and MacLeod, putting the Admirals up 1-0.

Ten minutes later, Hiltz



Freshman Luke Green helped to start the scoring last week with an assist.

Photos by Chris Paul

made it 2-0, with assists going to MacLeod and Alvirne sophomore Riley McCarthy.

The final goal of the game came at 9:52 in the third period with Ganas getting an unassisted insurance marker.

Corcoran was perfect

against the Bearcats, knocking away 30 shots, while the Admirals were able to tally 31 shots on the opposition.

The Admirals will be getting a break this week, but the Bearcats will have a chance to even the score in a re-match on Wednesday night, Jan. 28 at the Skate3 Arena when the Admirals get back to work.

Following that game, the Admirals will take on the Nashua South-North hockey squad on Saturday, Jan. 31.

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# Broncos Girls' Basketball Still Searching for Second Win



CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

After winning the first game of the season, back on Dec. 12, the young Alvirne Girls' Basketball team has been unable to put up enough points in a game to help secure their second victory of the season.

The Lady Broncos suffered two more losses last week, putting the team at 1-6 and trying desperately to right the ship.

The AHS team's Friday night, Jan. 16 game, at home to the Londonderry Lancers, was a very difficult one for Broncos fans and coach Frank Girginis to witness, as they fell 50-5, putting in just two-points by the half.

The Lancers were coming off their first defeat of the season, a 43-38 loss to the defending champion Bedford Bulldogs, so they were playing a very aggres-

sive game overall from the start.

Senior Taylor Small had two-points in the first half and senior Alexis Floyd put in three foul shots in the fourth quarter for all the offense the home team could muster.

One week earlier, at Portsmouth High School, the Broncos were able to put up 33-points in a losing effort to the Clippers. The host outscored AHS 47-33 on Friday night, Jan. 9.

Floyd had 11-points in the game, getting baskets in every quarter. Adrienne Chipfunde finished with six and Ochanya Adikwu had five in the loss.

Alvirne is scheduled to play the Timberlane Owls (6-3) on at home on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

On Friday night, Jan. 23 the Broncos hope to come away with a victory against the winless Crimson Tide.



Freshman Taliah Kraus attempts to break through the Lancers defense Friday. *Photos by Chris Paul*

## Boys' Basketball

continued from page 9

week in Londonderry, where a very strong first half led to another victory for the Broncos.

The Broncos had a 20-point lead by the end of the first half and maintained that advantage until the final buzzer.

The Londonderry

Lancers were held to just seven-points in the first quarter and were only able to score nine in the second and third period.

Meanwhile, the Broncos put up 19-point in the first, 17 in the second and 14 in the third.

The Lancers outscored AHS 15-11 in the fourth,

falling 61-40 in the end.

Chipfunde was the lead scorer in the game, getting 18-points, scoring in every quarter, with two, three-pointers, five for two and two foul shots.

Kangar finished with 15-points and went 5-5 at the foul line.

Durham had 14-points including five baskets for two and four at the foul line.

The Broncos will have a chance to up their season record to 8-2 this week with games against teams still search for their first win.

Alvirne was scheduled to play at Timberlane (0-8) on Tuesday night, Jan. 20 followed by a game at Alvirne on Friday night, Jan. 23, against the 0-8 Concord Crimson Tide, starting at 6:30 p.m.

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# Hudson Police Hold Promotion, Swearing-In & Awards Ceremony



The Hudson Police Department swore-in the newest members of the force Alex Borgetti, Cameron Feely, Steven Sanchez, Carlos Garcia and Daniel Sanchez.



A formal Swearing-In and Promotion was given to Police Chief David Cayot at the ceremony last week.

Last week, on Tuesday night, members of the Hudson Police Department recognized the dedication, professionalism and service of some of their members during a formal Promotion, Swearing-In, and Awards Ceremony held at the Hudson Community Center.

A formal Swearing-In and Promotion was given to Police Chief David Cayot at the ceremony as well as promotions to:

- Captain Patrick Broderick
- Lieutenant Alan Martotte
- Lieutenant Matthew

Flynn

- Sergeant David Glaser
- Sergeant Tyler Merrill

The department also swore-in the latest members of the department, swearing in police officers:

- Alex Borgetti
- Cameron Feely
- Steven Sanchez
- Carlos Garcia
- Daniel Sanchez

Swearing-In of Animal Control Officers

- ACO Bjarna O'Brien
- Assistant ACO Vicki Rackliff

Awards & Commendations were given to:

- Officer Cameron Feely

- Academic Award (Highest GPA in Police Academy Class)

- Officer Steven Sanchez & Officer Daniel Sanchez - Military Service Awards recognizing prior honorable service in the U.S. Military

• Officer Alex Horan - Letter of Commendation for an in-depth insurance fraud investigation

- Officer Brian Davenport, Officer Raymond Lafortune & Officer Matthew Horton - Life-Saving Award for rescuing a suicidal subject

• Officer Brian Daven-

port, Officer Raymond Lafortune, Dispatcher Madi & Dispatcher Figueroa - Recognition for the arrest of a home invasion suspect in progress

- Detective Matthew Blazon - Meritorious Achievement Award for a high-profile investigation in

collaboration with the DEA

- Sergeant McNally, Detective Blazon, Detective Collishaw & Officer Hoag - Commendation for the successful rescue of a hostage during a Special Operations Unit incident

Special Recognitions

- Officer Dan Donahue

& retired K9 Ice - Honoring years of dedicated service and the retirement of K9 Ice

- Detective Cassandra Avery - Recognition for 20 years of dedicated service to the Hudson Police Department

## Aviation Museum to Hold New Volunteer Open House

Would you like to be part of a community of people who enjoy airplanes and aviation? Would you like to make a difference, help a good cause and have fun doing it?

Then you're invited to attend the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire's upcoming New Volunteer Open House, scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

At the museum's volunteer open house, you'll meet

current volunteers and learn about the many ways to help the Aviation Museum carry out its mission.

The Aviation Museum is specifically seeking volunteers to help carry out its educational programming to young people from preschool through high school ages.

The museum hosts field trips, school visits, and operates a popular 'Flights of Discovery' summer camp. In addition, the

museum welcomes families with young children to participate in hands-on activities in its classroom. Volunteers can help all these programs.

The open house will take place at the museum, which is located at 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry.

If you plan to attend, please send an e-mail to Christine Bates at cbates@nhahs.org or call her at (603) 669-4820 ext. 404.

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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.

## Tu B'shevat Seder

ETZ Hayim Synagogue will hold a Tu B'shevat Seder Family Program on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. Decorate pots and plant parsley for Passover and have a "fruit" seder. All are welcome to participate in this free event! Join to celebrate the Jewish New Year of the Trees.

## Family Pizza Shabbat

ETZ Hayim Synagogue will hold Family Pizza Shab-

bat on Friday, Feb. 6, at 5:30 p.m. A free pizza dinner will be followed by an intergenerational service for everyone. There will be kids' activities while adults enjoy a sermon with Rabbi Jonathan Biatch. Bring a nosh for the potluck oneg. Come to share in the mitzvah of L'Dor V'Dor, transmitting Jewish heritage and values across generations. RSVP by Feb. 5 to [office@etzhayim.org](mailto:office@etzhayim.org).

## Sunday Family Camp

ETZ Hayim Synagogue Sunday Family Camp will be Sunday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. - Noon for ages 4-6. February's class will focus on Purim in preparation for the holiday in March. Children will learn about the Purim story (using an age-appropri-

ate text) and how to celebrate this fun holiday. RSVP to [sarahjohnplater@aol.com](mailto:sarahjohnplater@aol.com) by Feb. 6 to ensure we have enough materials.

## 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.

## 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 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 Pruet through the Rodgers Library on Monday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

## Read 'Em & Eat @ Friendly Red's

Come discuss books over good food and drinks at Friendly Red's in Hudson on Monday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. January's book is "Cinder" by Marissa Meyer.

## Are You Smarter Than a Librarian?

Tweens and teens are invited to face off against the

**continued on page 14**

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# NHDES Announces Emergency Drought Assistance Program

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 dry-wells 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 drinking water when their wells are dry. Depending on household income and family size, EDAP will cover up to 100% 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/.../e](http://www.dwgtf.des.nh.gov/.../e) mergency-drought. 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.

# Granite Edvance Awards \$30,000 in 21 Scholarships

Granite Edvance, a NH nonprofit that helps students plan and pay for college and career goals, has awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 21 two-year and trade-school students for the spring semester.

"We're honored to support our community college and trade-school students as they reach for their goals," said Granite Edvance President and

CEO Christiana Thornton.

"In conversations with our partners around the state, we've learned that these scholarships can make a difference in helping a student take that first step toward furthering their education or staying enrolled. The scholarships also show our students that we believe in them and their future contributions to their communities and our work-

force."

Scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 were awarded to NH residents studying at two-year colleges and Title IV-eligible trade schools. Awardees come from a variety of ages and backgrounds and are pursuing a wide range of professional goals.

"Because of your generosity, I am able to contin-

ue my journey toward becoming a healthcare professional who leads with empathy, advocacy, and purpose," said Simran Dahal, who is pursuing an associate degree in nursing at Rivier University. "This support means more than financial assistance; it is a reminder that someone believes in my dream to give back and serve others with compassion. Thank

you for investing in my future and in the lives I hope to touch."

Scholarships for two-year and trade-school students are now being offered three times a year, to better support students in pursuing education goals throughout the year. The four-year scholarship program will continue to be offered on an annual basis.

The next scholarship

window, for two-year and trade-school students enrolling in the summer term, opens on Monday, Jan. 19. The fall term scholarship for both two-year and four-year students will open in mid-February. For more information, visit [granite-edvance.org/cover-the-cost/search-for-scholarships/granite-edvance-scholarships](http://granite-edvance.org/cover-the-cost/search-for-scholarships/granite-edvance-scholarships).

## Around Town

**Continued from page 13**

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 Wednesday, Jan. 28 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.

tion 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.

### 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.

### Buy-a-Brick and Show Gratitude

Preserve a memory and help the Friends of the Library support programs, events, museum and enter-

tainment 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 Rodgers Library at 10 a.m., for interactive stories and songs for babies and their caregivers followed by playtime.

### Movers & Shakers

Come to Rodgers Mem-

orial 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.

### BINGO!

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

### A Good Yarn

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

### Laptop Donation Program

United Way of Greater Nashua is reintroducing their Tech Connect United Laptop Donation Program. Donate your working laptops, tablets,

and smartphones, and they will in turn refurbish them for use by low-income individuals and families. The client recipients are low-income, and living in our Greater Nashua area. Devices can be dropped off at the United Way office located at 20 Broad St., Nashua between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays or by appointment email [info@unitedway-nashua.org](mailto:info@unitedway-nashua.org) if you have any questions.

### Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? Overeaters Anonymous, no dues, no fees, no weigh-ins no diets. Meetings are on Tuesday's from 9 - 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Church 190 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 Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: [Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov), Phone: 603.271.8801

### Clean Water Survey

Clean water is more than a resource; it's the lifeline of our community. Your voice holds the power to shape a healthier water future for you and for generations to come. Survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/VOWNOV2024](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VOWNOV2024). As an added bonus, when you complete the survey, you'll have the chance to enter to win one of 25 fixed-mount or handheld water-saving showerheads, making your contribution to clean water even more rewarding.

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