

THE Hudson Times

January 25, 2024 ♦ Volume 2 – Issue 4

A FREE Weekly Publication



Quick Freeze Hudson residents were able to take advantage of the freezing temperatures over the past week to break out the skates and take to the ice at Robinson Pond over the weekend. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Palmer Center Plans for Open House on Jan. 31

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board heard a presentation regarding the Palmer Career and Technical Education Center at Alvirne High School, and specifically the CTE ambassadors' program during its Jan. 8 meeting.

Career Development Coordinator, Rich Paiva, explained that they have had some questions about what the ambassadors do

and how they go about doing it. Paiva explained that they do a lot of public relations and marketing for the CTE center and the programs that are offered.

For example, one of the things that they do is help to educate other students about what the center is, and the different opportunities available for students. "Peer education is a big part of what they do," Paiva said. Another example is speak-

ing at different career days and helping with different community events. "They will help out with a lot of different events," Paiva said.

Paiva stated that in some cases they also assist with lessons at area schools. Last year, veterinary and health science students helped five classes at Hudson Middle School with their frog dissection lessons.

Some of the accom-
continued on page 8

Budget Committee Skeptical of Hudson Boulevard Study

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

Possible funding for the study of a long-delayed circumferential highway was the contentious topic at the Budget Committee's most recent public hearing.

If approved, the town would spend \$200,075 on engineering design and feasibility studies, about 20% of the total cost, with the rest coming from state and federal funding. Should the Hudson Boulevard project be deemed feasible, the project would still need to be separately planned and paid for by Hudson at a later date.

"I have a long history of not voting in favor of projects which don't exist, or at least haven't existed for the

last 50 years, certainly don't exist today, and certainly won't exist 50 years from now," said Vice Chair, Bill Cole. "To waste \$200,000 of the taxpayer money seems ludicrous to me."

Selectmen, Dave Morin, defended the Article, pointing out that "the state is willing to cover 80% of this" and that it is nothing more than a feasibility study, adding that the Board of Selectmen supported it only "to see if this roadway is feasible, and if it can be done."

After decades of debate over whether to build the highway, Morin hoped that a feasibility study might bring an end to the discussion.

Shawn Jasper stated that "Back in the 90's it [the cir-

cumferential highway project] was not permitted due to wetlands by the Clinton Administration at that time."

The question of "who owns the land adjacent to the Hudson Boulevard," was a concern to committee member, Kathy Leary, as the number of curb cuts, cross streets and businesses along this round may make it less efficient.

Most of the property on the right-of-way for the road is owned by the state, with the possibility of having the land sold back to the town of Hudson as surplus if a study finds the highway unfeasible, is the assumption of Jasper. The Circumferential Highway feasibility study was approved by the School Board. **continued on page 6**

Public Comment Changes Approved by School Board

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board had its second reading for a policy change regarding public comment during its Jan. 8 meeting.

The biggest change is tabling any of the unused time for public comments until the end of the meeting, which is based on a state requirement to allow 30 minutes for public comments.

One of the items of contention was whether or not the proposed language would make it so they have to wait until the end of the scheduled meeting time, even if there is still no one present for public comment.

School Board Chair,

Gretchen Whiting, explained that if their meeting was scheduled to go into a non-public session at 8:50 p.m. and someone came at 8:45 p.m., they would have to allow the individual their time to speak as part of public comment.

However, if someone was to come at 9 p.m., then in that case they wouldn't be allowed to speak, since the scheduled meeting is over.

School Board member, Ethan Beals, questioned why they put scheduled times down for their agenda items, noting that if it would make it more difficult under the policy changes, he would be OK with eliminat-

ing it.

"I don't know if we're doing ourselves favors there," he said.

Business Administrator, Jen Burk, said they use it as a way to let people know tentatively when they are going to be discussing certain agenda items.

Beals proposed changing the language to table the remainder of the time until the end of the public meeting, and if there aren't enough speakers to fill the 30 minutes of public comment, the School Board would be able to close public comment.

"That works," Superintendent, Dan Moulis said.

Another change is how
continued on page 2

Firefighters Achieve Support for New Training Officer

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

Brian Clarenbach, President of the Professional Firefighters of Hudson organization, was at the January 11 public hearing for the Budget Committee to express his support for Warrant Article 6, which covers the union contract recently negotiated between the town and its firefighters.

"We have agreed upon a fair contract that will make our department's pay and incentives competitive with other area departments," he said. "In recent years, the

pay and incentives of the Hudson Fire Department had fallen behind."

He claimed the old pay scale had made it hard to fill open positions.

"This contract includes mechanisms to aid both in recruitment and retention of qualified and experienced firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and dispatchers," said Clarenbach. "We are asking for your support to ensure that we have a strong fire department that remains able to serve you in your time of need."

There was a question

concerning community service requirements in the new contract.

"There's a unique term in the contract that calls for community service, apparently there's been a decrease in voluntary participation by the Fire Department. I was wondering how that came about in the negotiations, it's not in any other contract that I've heard of," Budget Committee member, Kevin Walsh, asked while openly wondering why such a clause was needed.

"They're all busy. As

this year went by with so few fighter fighters, they had too much time working," said Selectman Liaison, Dave Morin. "With the agreement, we both understand how important community relations are."

The charity section of the contract and the pay increase were designed to encourage firefighters to participate in community events like Old Homes Day and to restart their tradition of holding open houses to educate the public.

The Budget Committee unanimously voted to rec-

ommend Warrant Article 6.

Warrant Article 7, or funding for a Fire Captain Training Officer, provoked a little more debate.

"I will be voting against this, as I will all additional staff," said Committee member, Shawn Jasper. "I do not think at this time, with what we're looking at with contracts and with the budget, I don't think this is something that should be supported. I do believe there's a need, but sometimes the needs of the voters outweigh the needs of the administration in town."

Clarenbach described the Fire Department as lacking vital experience, saying that "50% of the firefighting staff has been on less than four years."

"We lost over a quarter of our Fire Department over the last year, which took a lot of our experience away," argued Morin. "This position is very important, and I believe we should support it."

Fire Chief, Scott Tice, has stated he would choose to have a Training Officer over four new firefighters.

The committee voted to recommend Article 7.

School

Continued from page 1

people can address the School Board on specific topics.

"Requests to address the Board on specific matters (i.e., a request to have a matter placed on an agenda) should be presented to the

Superintendent and the School Board Chair no less than fourteen days prior to the next board meeting and must set forth the specifics of the subject to be address," the policy reads. "The determination whether to place the matter on the agenda will be made consistent with Board Policy

BEDB."

There was also language added for meeting disruptions.

"Any comments which do not adhere to the above, or which disrupt the official business of the Board may be ruled out of order by the Chair. Repeated disruption may result in the individual

being asked to leave the meeting," the policy reads. "Obscene speech, comments threatening bodily harm, or other unprotected speech will not be tolerated. Comments which do not adhere to the above provisions may be ruled out of order by the Chair. Repeated violations may result in

the Chair terminating the speaker's privilege of address, and possibly deeming the violations a disruption to be treated as discussed in section C below."

The policy also states "The Board Chair may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if the speaker does not follow the above

rules of order. Repeated violations or disruptions may result in the intervention of law enforcement, with the potential for criminal charges."

Following the discussion, the School Board unanimously approved the changes to the policy.

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Overlooked Funds Added to Upcoming Recreation Budget

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Budget Committee met on January 11 for a public hearing on what to recommend for general fund warrant articles before the February deliberative sessions.

Committee member, Kevin Walsh, was happy to report some money coming into the general fund that had been missed due to some unnoticed paperwork.

"It appears that on the non-tax revenue, we received information from the Recreation Department that they increased their rev-

enue by \$20,165, which we did not add into the revenue side," said Walsh.

A series of votes added the funds to the Recreation Department's basketball, supervised play, soccer, common activities, and adult softball budget line items.

Vice Chair, Bill Cole, expressed his "continued opposition" to several items in the general fund operating budget including the hiring of a new assistant town administrator, using a no-bid contract for Hudson's legal services, and membership in the National Region-

al Planning Council.

Despite the opposition, the Budget Committee voted to recommend Hudson's general operating budget for 2025. They also voted to recommend the sewer fund, the water fund, town paving, and the public works union contract without much debate.

Funding to fulfill a contract for police equipment replacements also got the Budget Committee's recommendation.

"It's for our new tasers, it's part of our contract. The other is body-worn cameras that will cost about \$69,000

this year," said Police Chief, Tad Dionne.

Warrant Article 19 will include a new capital reserve fund that would be dedicated to repairing and replacing drainage-related infrastructure projects.

"This is a hybrid between engineering and public works. Basically, we've put a lot of effort into sewers, water, roads, and bridges. The one thing that has not received any attention or what it needs to receive is a drainage pipe," said Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. "This fund, if it's raised by the voters, will

address drainage pipes, culverts, things of that sort, things that are undersized, things that were failing during the last flood, things of that sort."

Another new proposed revolving fund was Warrant Article 24, designed to provide a stream of revenue for maintaining fire alarms and master box systems in Hudson's municipal buildings.

"100% of the revenues received from related residential and commercial permit fees shall be deposited into the fund, and the amount shall be allowed to accumulate from year to

year," read Committee Chair, Normand Martin.

Currently, the fire alarms are monitored by the Fire Department and outside the town budget. Fire Chief, Scott Tice, warned that there was "not enough money" to keep up with repairs to the aging system.

A Deliberative Session for the Hudson 2025 Budget is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, at 9 a.m. Hudson Community Center. A Deliberative Session for the School Budget is scheduled for February 10 at the same time and in the same place.

School Board Approve Purchasing Policy Being Changed

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board had a second policy reading, to change the policy for payment procedures during its Jan. 8 meeting.

The policy, which was approved by the board, reads:

"All payments of District funds must be authorized by the District Treasurer. However, pursuant to RSA 197:23-A, the Treasurer shall authorize any payment upon order of a majority of the School Board or upon orders of two or more members of the School Board whom a majority of the Board has empowered to authorize payments.

Moneys drawn on the District's general fund or any special fund (with the exception of an activity fund) will require the signature of the Treasurer. Payments drawn on activity funds will require dual signatures from the building principal or assistant principal and an administrative assistant to the principal or assistant principal. The activity advisor shall not be an authorized signor.

All payments or disbursements involving Federal Grant Funds shall comply with the provisions of Board Policy DAF.

Electronic signatures, including computer generated signatures, may only be

used as provided under Board policy EHAC. Electronic or digital payments may be made after approval or pre-approval by the Board and by the Treasurer.

Functions of the Treasurer may be carried out in the Treasurer's absence by a duly appointed Deputy Treasurer or Acting Treasurer. The Treasurer is authorized to delegate approval authority to the Business Administrator to make payroll related electronic payments, provided such payments have been previously authorized by the School Board.

The Board strictly prohibits any person from signing a blank check, and

physical (paper) checks will be pre-numbered."

School Board Chair, Gretchen Whiting, said essentially, they will be able to designate two members from the School Board to review the manifest, and then have two backup members.

"That way we don't have to worry about finding three people on a weekly basis," she said.

Business Administrator, Jen Burk, said it's ultimately similar to creating a sub-committee to handle the manifest.

It was noted by Whiting that they would have to vote again during the reorganiza-

tion meeting in March, in order to decide who would be the board members authorized to approve the manifest, and who would be the alternates.

In other news, the board also discussed a proposal to hire a company for audited services. Burk explained that the board requested that they go out for bid.

"Unfortunately, I only received one response," she told the board.

Asked if it was a surprise to only receive one bid, Burk said one company told her they were already booked up and didn't have the staff to take on any more clients.

"I was a little surprised by that response," she said.

Whiting said it would be \$23,900 for financial statement audits in year one along with an additional \$3,125 for single audits. In year two, the cost would be \$25,095 and \$3,250, in year three, it would increase to \$26,350 and \$3,375.

There are also two one year extension options, which would be \$27,700 and \$3,500 for the first year of the option, and \$29,085 and \$3,625 for year two.

The School Board ultimately approved awarding the contract to Plodzick & Sanderson, P.A.

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Editorial

Here's Your Chance

Deliberative sessions are the times specifically set aside under the SB2 form of government to discuss and potentially change warrant articles. Residents don't vote on whether or not to approve the warrant article at deliberative session – they vote instead to send the article to the warrant, and on Election Day, they vote the warrant article up or down.

But at these sessions, voters can amend most warrant articles, so long as they do not change the subject matter.

Depending on who's in the audience, school budgets, for example, can be amended up or down before they go to the March ballot. That's why you often hear the fear expressed that some group will "pack" the deliberative session and "force" their views on everyone else.

There's no force. It's up to the registered voters who show up. If the turnout is poor and few people are present to promote or defend their views, the majority of those in the room will have their way.

To participate, all you need do is to register to vote, attend deliberative, pay attention as the moderator explains the rules, read the proposed warrant articles, listen to public comment, and vote on any changes or send the article as is to the war-

rant.

The articles on the warrant hit you where you live, and as New Hampshire residents, we have the right to express our views in a forum specifically designed for that purpose, and to change articles if we have the votes.

Voters are clearly in the seat of power. That's why it's so important not only to attend, but also to stay for the whole session. In some towns, that means about two hours. In other towns, it can take a whole day. In the grand scheme of things, it's not such a time-consuming commitment to make.

Plan to attend, and play a role in one of the most participatory forms of democracy alive today. We can wave the flag and claim to be patriotic all we want; if we really believe in democracy, the deliberative session is the place to be.

For your calendar: Hudson School Deliberative is at 9 a.m., Feb. 10, in the Hudson Community Center, 12 Lions Ave., and the Town Deliberative is at 9 a.m. Feb. 3 also in the Hudson Community Center, 12 Lions Ave.

Consider throwing your hat in the ring, if you want to play an even more active role, Friday, Feb. 2, is the final day to file to run for elected school district or town office.

Letters

Recordings at Public Meetings

To the editor,

I am very thankful that the Hudson Cable Department records so many of the town's meetings. This is an easy way for residents to be present, hear, and see the town at work.

Although, I do not understand why the chairperson at each of these meetings does not require everyone who speaks to be at a microphone. I feel that all answers to questions need to be appropriately recorded. It is not only the responsibility of the chair, but of all members of the committees, to ensure responses to questions put to individuals in the audience are not answered until that individual is at a microphone. This has most recently occurred at the

Budget Committee Public Hearing on Jan 11, 2024. It has also occurred at the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and I am sure at many other meetings.

Beyond the recording, it is the responsibility of the chair, and all present committee members to ensure that they can be heard in the room where the meeting is being held, especially by those furthest away.

At the Planning Board meeting held in Hills Memorial Library, Jan. 10, it was very difficult for the public in attendance to hear all members of the committee. Every now and then some members would speak up and project to the back of the room. For most of the meeting, it seemed that the members disregarded the public and spoke softly to one another. Personally, I

moved my chair forward and still had difficulty hearing. Other members in the audience to whom I spoke were very frustrated.

I ask all citizens of Hudson to require more of our public officials. Hospitality is an essential part of any meeting. The chair is the host of the meeting, the one to welcome all who are in the room, and the one to ensure that every person understands what is about to happen. As the host, it is important to explain how a guest (the public) can communicate their inability to hear or see what is being presented.

Every member of this town is important and should be able to hear, see, and speak at all public meetings, unimpeded.

Heidi Jakoby
Hudson

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

Correction: In our Jan. 18 issue of the Hudson Times, the article "Planning Board Chooses Not to Recommend Three Petition Articles" stated that Jay Minkara is the interim Town Manager this was incorrect he is the interim Town Planner.

Town of Hudson Open Elected Positions

The town of Hudson recently released the Open Elected Positions that will be voted on in the March Elections.

The filing period for Town/School Election starts on Wednesday, Jan. 24 until Friday, Feb. 2, 2024

Anyone interested in declaring

candidacy for these positions shall file with the Town Clerk during regular business hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Interested candidates must be registered voters in Hudson.

On Feb. 2, the last day of the filing period, the Town Clerk's office will be open until 5 p.m., per RSA 652:20.

OPEN TOWN POSITIONS:

Selectmen: Two Three-Year Term seats will be open
Budget Committee, Three, Three-Year Term seats open
Cemetery Trustee: One, Three-Year Term seat.
Code of Ethics Committee: One, Three-Year Term
Library Trustee: Two, Three-Year Term seats
Town Moderator: One, Three-Year Term position
Planning Board: Three, Three-Year Term seats
Supervisor of the Checklist: One, Two-Year Term position
Trustees of the Trust Fund: One, Three-Year Term seat/

OPEN SCHOOL POSITIONS:

School Board, One, Three-Year Term seat available.

Elections for for these positions will be held March 12.

THE Hudson Times

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Candidates Supported at the First in the Nation Primary



The First in the Nation Primary took place on Tuesday, Jan. 23, and candidate supports were camped out at the Hudson Community Center. The center is one of the two polls in town. The other polling place is at Alvirne High School. The Hudson Times will be posting the results of the Primary on our facebook page.

Courtesy photos

School Board Gets Briefed on Alvirne JROTC Program

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board received an update about the district's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps aviation program during its Jan. 8 meeting.

Senior Instructor Chris Cole explained that it's a federally funded program, but not specifically a military program, despite what some think.

"It's a citizenship program, it is not a military recruitment program," he said, explaining that the goal is to work with students, known as cadets, on developing "soft skills" like teamwork, leadership, and decision making to name a few.

"That's what we're really focused on day to day," Cole said.

Cole said that currently the program has 75 students with 60 of them being Hudson students, and the rest coming from area schools.

Cole explained that currently Hudson students are able to begin the program as freshman with ROTC 1 and then as sophomores are able to take ROTC 2, and so on as they progress throughout the grades.

However, he explained that for area school students, they currently come as juniors.

"For area students it's compressed," Cole said.

Cole said that they are looking at potentially bringing in sophomores from area schools. He said one of the big parts of the program is giving back to the community.

"We do a lot of community service around Hudson," Cole said.

One of the questions raised during the meeting was about growth of the program, and what the ideal number of cadets would be for the program.

Cole explained that he would be requesting to be on the School Board agenda in the near future to discuss it, since they found out that they would be placed on probationary status due to not having the minimum number required.

"We are below that federally mandated 100 threshold," Cole said, explaining that it's an issue nationally due to the covid-19 pandemic, and other reasons. Cole said that they were supposed to get offi-

cial notification before Christmas but did not receive it at the time of the meeting.

During the meeting, a number of students were recognized for their efforts, including Ryan Burke a junior at Alvirne, who received a Remote Pilot Badge, along with Jack Owens, a Londonderry senior who earned his Remote Pilot Badge as well.

Brandon Adamson, a Londonderry senior earned his Remote Pilot badge, and an Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy scholarship alternate.

James Martell, a junior at Alvirne earned his Remote Pilot badge, and is an Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy scholarship

select, and an Air Force Recruiting Service Aim High Flight Academy scholarship alternate.

Sophia Berube, a junior at Alvirne, is an Air Force Recruiting Service Aim High Flight Academy scholarship select. Calli Hrycuna, a junior at Souhegan, is an Air Force Recruiting Service Aim High Flight Academy scholarship alternate.

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MARKETING, NATURAL RESOURCES, VETERINARY SCIENCE, WELDING & FABRICATION

School Board Changes Its Policy For Sealed Minutes

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board had a second reading for policy changes to its meeting minutes policy during its Jan. 8 meeting.

It was explained previously by Superintendent, Dan Moulis, that the biggest change is in regards to when sealed minutes have to be reviewed after legislative changes were made to RSA 91A.

The new policy has language which states:

“Sealed minutes related to discussions in non-public sessions under RSA 91-A:3, II(d) shall be made available to the public as soon as practicable after the transaction has closed or the board has decided not to proceed with the transaction.

Sealed minutes must either be reviewed within each ten-year period or unsealed no later than the expiration of ten years following the date they were sealed or last reviewed. Minutes sealed prior to

October 3, 2023, must be reviewed and/or unsealed by October 3, 2033.”

It was explained by Moulis that their legal counsel recommended for the district to keep an inventory of the sealed minutes, and periodically they would go to the School Board to be reviewed. At that point, he added that they could decide to reseal the minutes for a period of time.

Moulis said they also spoke to the New Hamp-

shire School Board Association who told the district that the policy would be for minutes both retroactively and future sealed minutes.

“For non-public sessions beginning January 1, 2022 the Superintendent is directed to maintain a list of all sealed minutes for non-public sessions,” the policy reads.

Moulis told the School Board they are going to create a procedure for the board to review the sealed minutes.

“It’s going to be a process and procedure we’ll have to work through,” Moulis said.

Another part of the policy also states “Under RSA 91-A, the School Board, and each of the School Board’s committees is required to keep minutes for every “meeting” as defined under 91-A:2, I. As used below, “board” shall mean and include the district School Board, and each such board committee.”

The policy also outlines

the minimum requirements for the content of minutes which includes the names of the members participating, people appearing before or addressing the board (members of the public who do not address the board, and are there as attendees only, do not need to be identified); a brief description of each subject matter discussed, identification of each member who made a first or second of any motion, and a record of all final decisions.

Library Director Outlines Early Plans for a Pavilion

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees had its first meeting of 2024 on January 17, with a reminder from Selectmen Liaison, Kara Roy, on some noteworthy dates for Hudson’s upcoming election.

“If you want to declare a candidacy for any of the open slots, there are several, and they can be found on the town website at HudsonNH.gov, and you can declare your candidacy between January 24 and February 2 during normal business hours in the Town Clerk’s office,” Roy announced. “The election is March 12, and that’s the important date because you need to get out and vote!”

Trustee Chair, Mimi Guessferd, mentioned two open spots for the Library Board, one to fill a now empty spot left by the recent resignation of Vice Chair, Flo Nicolas, and one to fill the spot for Treasurer, Donna Boucher, who is due to step down at the end of her term next March.

The project to build a pavilion on library grounds ran into problems after the original plan to professionally design and build the structure proved too expensive. The Trustees had been hoping to do some of the work themselves to save money.

“I have been overwhelmed with the amount of stuff I don’t know in regard to building a pavil-

ion,” admitted Library Director, Linda Pilla. “What we’re looking at is a piecemeal project where we would handle the steps, and it’s beyond my skillset.”

She approached Gary Rodgers for help, who asked to be made Clerk of the Works for the pavilion project, which would give him the authority to speak for the Board of Trustees for matters related to construction.

Pilla got a rough quote for a pavilion sized 20 by 36 feet and a set of basic drawings. She also raised the possibility of looking into other bids.

Despite a complex bidding and construction process, the Director was

eager to see the library pavilion move forward.

“When we had COVID, and we did our summer reading program, we rented a tent for the parking lot so we could do a lot of our program outside, and it was incredible how much use that space got,” said Pilla. “Just having a space that was outside that we could do book groups in or we could do crafts that

were a bit smelly, just doing them outside made it apparent it would be an incredible benefit to the library.”

The pavilion would be available as a venue for non-library events.

“This is not a project I feel like we have to do immediately,” said board member, Erin Henderson, who wanted to know some of the details on planning and

staffing. “I almost want to slow down.”

Board members generally agreed on taking it slow, and no immediate action was taken on nominating a Clerk of the Works.

The Library Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on Wednesday February 21, at 6:00 pm in the Hills Memorial Library Building.

Budget

Continued from page 1

ty study is part of the most recent draft of the Transportation Master Plan under its official name The Hudson Boulevard proposal.

“The original intent was to build a highway at first, but that was too expensive. So, the idea now is to build a boulevard, basically a two-way street, just like Albuquerque Avenue in Lichfield, maybe with a multi-use path for pedestrians/recreational use,” explained Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. “The intent of this project is to provide

relief to the south end from Lowell Road to 111.”

Originally, the plan was to have a bridge bypassing several roads in town while the modified Boulevard proposal will be at grade, with collecting traffic from side roads, and will have 5 crossings, according to Dhima. Many details would be up to the state.

“Is it new that the town has to pay for any of it?” asked Committee member, Leary.

The Town Engineer said if the road is found to be feasible, Hudson would need to pay for a percentage of it, although the exact numbers were unclear.

Dhima seemed to think state and federal funding for up to 90% of the cost was a possibility.

Skeptical members of the Budget Committee were unconvinced with the apparent uncertainties.

“All this is going to do is take another million dollars and put it in the pocket of some third-rate consulting company!” said Cole.

Despite support from the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee voted against recommending funding for a Hudson Boulevard feasibility study.

The topic will appear as Warrant Article 10 in the March election.

PLEASE HELP with Jason Stecchi's Aftercare



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Sticker Shock Raises Doubts About Proposed Donation Webpage

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Committee looked over the state of its finances at their January 18 meeting.

"We have available a total of \$907.44, having spent only 17.5% of our budget for the year," announced Committee Chair John Madden. "This budget is not for maintenance, this is for office supplies, printing, and meals for the volunteers who work

on the volunteer days."

Efforts to establish a donation page for Benson Park on the town website ran into problems over the prospect of a \$100 per month fee for every new account added from Hudson's vendor Invoice Cloud.

"This is new, it was just discovered, with the town account with another department," said Madden. "That's one of the things we're going to have to look at, whether they're going to

enforce it or whether. We'd have to burn \$1,200 of everything we donate before we can get any money. That's pretty steep."

The push to set up a donation page came after the Board of Selectmen asked the Benson Park Committee to look into new ways to generate revenue.

"I'll look into it to see if we can find an alternative," promised Selectman Liaison Dillon Dumont. "It doesn't make sense to pay that for donations."

Three years ago, the National Regional Planning Commission and Conservation Commission (NRPC) announced a plan to create

a digitized map of the park trails in the area, including those for Benson Park. Recently, the Committee received an initial print-out of that map.

"This is like a first draft," said Madden, promising to talk with the Conservation Commission on what they can improve. "They have a QR code that will help you navigate and find your way around."

When complete, codes will be posted around the park for hikers, although it was unclear whether the new maps would replace Hudson's current maps.

Ten donated benches are now in place at Benson

Park.

"Some of them are not in the exact, intended location until spring," announced Committee member John Leone.

After a successful donation program, Leone raised the possibility of asking for new donations for more durable picnic tables once the weather improves.

There was some confusion on the wording of the park's Adopt-A-Spot plaques set to be installed. Vice Chair Judy Brouillette proposed definitive standards to ensure all future signs would use relatively similar wording.

"For the families that

are adopting the spots, there really isn't a criteria for how many words can be put on there or things like that," said Vice Chair Judy Brouillette. "I think that's one of the things we should probably do moving forward."

Terms for Madden and Leone will expire next April. Both men were committed to seeking appointment for another three-year term on the Benson Park Committee.

The Benson Park Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hudson Cable Access Center.

OBITUARY

Jean Yves "Frenchy" Pelletier



Jean Yves "Frenchy" Pelletier, 81, of Hudson, NH, passed away at home on Thursday Jan. 11, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. He was born on April 18, 1942 in St. Rose, Quebec, Canada, a son of the late Joseph and Noella (Blanchette) Pelletier. He worked as an equipment operator for International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 4 where he continued to be a proud member even after retirement.

He worked the track at Star Speedway in Epping for many years, working the scales and loved the races. He also was a lifetime member at Club National and the Lafayette Club, both in Nashua. He participated in many different Cribbage Leagues and tournaments all over Southern NH. He mostly enjoyed and took pride in working outdoors and tending to his vegetable and flower gardens. He was so proud to share the fruits of his labor with neighbors, friends and family. He enjoyed cooking, canning and sharing his homemade Gorton (French-Canadian Pork Spread) with everyone.

He is survived by his partner Joan Killingsworth of 20 years, his two children, Tina (Pelletier) Sargent and her husband Dan of Derry, NH, and Tony Pelletier of Manchester, NH; four grandchildren, Jacob, Hayley, Emily and Alex; two sisters, Odette (Pelletier) Dube, and Denise (Pelletier) Lemay; as well as nieces, nephews and extended family.

He will forever be missed by all and to know him was to love him; his personality was bigger than life.

There are no calling hours. A Celebration of Life will be held at Club National, 127 Pine St., Nashua NH on Sunday Feb. 18 from 2 - 5 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Home Hospice and Health, Nashua NH, www.hhhc.org/how-to-help/memorial-gifts.

How to Follow a Bill and Share Your Thoughts with NH Lawmakers

ANNMARIE TIMMINS
NEW HAMPSHIRE BULLETIN

Lobbyists, advocacy groups, and state agency heads are not the only ones who can influence the fate of legislation at the State House. The public can, too. Here's how to find bills, stay up to date on hearings and votes, and tell your lawmakers your thoughts and concerns.

Find a bill: Visit the Legislature's website, gencourt.state.nh.us, and enter a bill number if you have it from the home page. If not, use "advanced search" to find legislation by topic, sponsor, House or Senate committee, or something more general, such as all bills that include state spending.

Follow a bill: Click on

the bill number and choose "introduced" to read the bill and "docket" for the date of public hearings, votes taken, and amendments to the bill. To get the latest information on a bill via email, choose the "subscribe" button. You can also "subscribe" to a topic, such as education or elections, from the Legislature's homepage. Both chambers publish a calendar of upcoming hearings and floor votes. Find links as

well as the option to subscribe on the Legislature's homepage under "calendars and meeting schedules."

Weigh in on a bill: There are two primary ways to share your thoughts with lawmakers. From a bill's homepage, the sponsors' names are hyperlinked to their legislator page, where you'll find their contact information. You can upload written testimony to a full committee or just

indicate whether you oppose, support, or are neutral on a bill from the Legislature's home page, under "meeting resources."

Listen to debate: The House and Senate broadcast their committee hearings and full sessions via their YouTube channels. Visit YouTube. Find the links on the Legislature's homepage, under the links for House or Senate streaming video.

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Benson Park Committee Finds New Volunteers for New Year

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Committee solidified some of its 2024 plans when meeting Nathan Muir, a new applicant for one of two vacant spots.

"I'm basically just looking to get out in the community and help Benson Park along and keep it alive," said Muir. "I helped in the dog park. We had some asphalt millings that we put out due to rainwater runoff. I'm helped with that and am just really interested in helping Benson out and keeping it looking nice."

Chairman John Madden thanked the new applicant for the help, noting that the Benson Park Committee has had a lot to do in the past year. Muir will need to appear before the Board of Selectman for confirmation.

Student Tyler Ohanian also expressed interest in volunteering his time to keep the park in good shape,

although he was unable to make it to the meeting.

"We do have plenty of volunteer opportunities," said Madden, who looked forward to meeting Ohanian in the near future. "Volunteer days will start on the third Saturday in April."

The Friends of Benson Park nonprofit indicated they were looking to volunteer to help with a capital project for the park.

"For anyone who isn't aware, the Friends of Benson Park was founded many years ago with the intent of being a fundraising facilitation body," said John Leone, Committee member and Chairman of the nonprofit. "We voted to set aside a modest amount of money for brainstorming ideas."

One idea was to purchase a replacement tractor for the park, although the Chairman had a list of ideas he promised to bring to their next meeting.

The Friends will go over

all ideas next spring.

Progress was made on finding a lead paint inspector for Hudson's old train station.

"There are three companies who have expressed some interest, the most recent one is American Environmental Testing Services of New England. They're based up in Bedford," Madden announced.

"These companies are doing risk assessments and identification of lead; they provide a report with suggested ways you might want to ameliorate lead."

He emphasized that lead removal was a separate process that would come later with a different company, comparing the

process to the 2022 asbestos removal project.

Concerns over chipping paint on the exterior windows and the inside of the station have been a problem for some time. The Chair was still waiting for responses from other contractors before making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on how

to move forward.

Madden read a report on some "minor vandalism" found in train station window vents. While he felt there was no "nefarious intent," he did inform the police and got help from Public Works to fix the damage.

"I want to thank everyone involved for helping."

Palmer

continued from page 1

plishments and achievements Paiva pointed to during the 2022-2023 school year included having 422 visitors at the Palmer open house, giving seventh grade tours for Hudson Middle School students, giving a fifth-grade tour at Nottingham West, and a fifth grade tour for Hills Garrison students. He noted that they began the fifth-grade tours last year.

In total, Paiva said the

ambassadors gave tours to over 900 Hudson and area school students, families, and community members, to highlight the center.

School Board member, Ethan Beals, explained that he wants to see more students taking courses at the center, even if it's just one course.

Superintendent, Dan Moulis, encouraged the CTE ambassadors to let the School Board or district administration know about any ideas they have. "Those ideas please share with us," he said.



Students work in the Welding & Fabrication area at the Wilbur H. Palmer Career & Technical Education Center at Alvirne High School. *Courtesy photo*

It was announced by Paiva that they would be having an open house on Jan. 31 beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. He added that they want people to check out

the center whether they have students in the district or not.

The next Hudson School Board meeting is slated to take place on Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

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HUDSON SPORTS

Tyler Jean, Red Raiders Storm Back to Beat Admirals

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

In a season in which the Admirals have struggled to find consistency, Saturday proved to be the biggest example. For the first time in nine total games, the Admirals dropped a game in which they held a lead at some point in the contest, having led 1-0, 3-1, and 4-3 at different points in the game before Spaulding would tie it up each time, scoring the game-winning goal with 33.8 seconds remaining in the third period, making it a 5-4 final.

This loss drops the Admirals to NHIAA .500 at 4-4-1, still being the second-best nine-game start in Admirals team history, only behind the team's first season as a co-op program in which they went 4-3-2 in their first nine games in a season that the team finished 8-8-2 and earned a spot in the playoffs as the 8th seed.

Alvirne-Milford came out of the gates solidly with Landon Briand breaking the seal with his third goal of the season just 3:42 into the first period of action, and that is where the game stood after his team played

lockdown defense in front of the suddenly red-hot senior netminder Trent Scarbro.

Scarbro managed to push his shutout streak to a whopping 94:07 between goals from Zach Grigg of Dover and Drew Tremblay of Spaulding, who scored two minutes into the second period, meaning he hadn't allowed a goal in over two full contests worth of hockey.

Alvirne-Milford would respond back quickly, however, with Brandon Ganas and Cade Bouchard both getting goals of their own in fairly quick succession to make it 3-1 in favor of the visiting Admirals with 7:42 to play in the middle frame.

Second-period scoring wouldn't stop there as Trevor Brennan found the back of the net on the powerplay with just over 24 seconds left to make it 3-2 Admirals heading to intermission.

In the third period, it

seemed as if Alvirne-Milford felt content with just killing the final fifteen minutes off the clock and heading for the bus and a win. The Red Raiders, however, had different plans, as Braydon Roy found the back of the net for the second Red Raider goal in just 1:15 of action, scoring 50 seconds into the third.

The Admirals wouldn't go down without a fight, however, as with just over 11 minutes to play in the third period, junior defenseman Ryan Ricard found the back of the net on a wrist shot that was initially ruled no-goal and then called a goal moments later. This was not only his first goal in NHIAA action, but it gave his team a 4-3 lead with a chance to come out of Rochester with a huge win.

Alvirne-Milford played much of the remaining period well, being content with getting the puck deep in the Spaulding end and killing time off the clock until

Brandon Ganas got called on a five-minute major penalty for boarding with 9:09 left in the game.

Trevor Brennan would capitalize on his second goal of the game with 4:47 left in regulation, marking the first time the Admirals allowed two PPG in a single game all season, and more importantly, making it 4-4.

Both teams had chances to take the lead as time wound down in the third, although it would be Tyler Jean who got the game-winning goal with 33.8 seconds left on a juicy rebound that Scarbro couldn't seem to find to make it 5-4 and give the Red Raiders a come-from-behind victory.



Alvirne-Milford senior goal tender Trent Scarbro
Photo courtesy of Luca DeRosa

Hudson Times

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Bronco Gymnastics

The Alvirne High School gymnastics program had one girl competing over the weekend as an Independent participant during a meet between Londonderry High School and Timberlane. On Sunday, Jan. 21, sophomore Leanna Carroll competed in two events, getting an 8.3 on the Floor and an 8.4 on the Vault events.

Photos by Chris Paul



Broncos Girls' Basketball Get Two Wins, Boys Suffer Loss

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Girls' Basketball team tacked on two more wins between this week and last to up their record over the .500 mark at 5-4 as they hit the halfway point in the Winter season.

The Lady Broncos only had one game last week, taking on the Trinity High School Pioneers at home on Friday night, Jan. 19, beating them quite handily by a score of 71-41.

The 30-point win put the team at 4-4 with junior forward, Ella Hartson, leading the way for her team with 20-points.

Senior guard, Rachel

Allard, had 19-points in the victory, while freshman forward, Courtney Anderson,



Courtney Anderson

put up 14-points.

On Monday night, at home, the Broncos got their fifth win of the season with a close 47-43 victory over the Manchester Memorial girls.

The home team finished the first quarter with a 17-10 lead, but were only able to score eight points in the second quarter, allowing the visitors to get back into it with a 25-20 score at half-time.

In the third period, the Broncos added 10-points, but a Manchester 14-point surge brought the score to within one, at 35-34.

In the final period of the game, the Broncos held on and claimed a four-point victory.

Anderson came away with 20-points and Hartson finished with 13-points.

On the Broncos Boys' Basketball court, Alvirne suffered its fifth loss of the season and moved the team to 3-5.

The Hudson squad traveled to Manchester on Friday night, Jan. 19, where they lost to the Trinity High School Pioneers 57-37.

The win gave Trinity their sixth victory of the season and they now sit at 6-3.

Both Alvirne basketball teams will take on the Londonderry High School Lancers this week.

The boys will travel to the LHS gymnasium on Wednesday night, Jan 24, for a 7 p.m. start and the Lady Broncos will be at home starting at 6:30 p.m.

Both Lancer teams are coming off tough losses to Pinkerton Academy.



Senior guard, Rachel Allard, had 19-points in the victory over Trinity.
Photos by Chris Paul

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2024 Means Renewed Energy, Environment Debates for NH Lawmakers

HADLEY BARNDOLLAR
NH BULLETIN

New Hampshire lawmakers will spend the next several months vetting and voting on more than 1,000 bills, many of which could impact the state's course on climate change, the environment, and energy policy.

The Granite State has cemented itself as an outlier in New England in terms of climate action and planning. It remains the only state in the region without a statutory requirement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lags behind in terms of renewable energy production. Over the last few years, lawmakers have found themselves at a standstill, generally unable to move forward with any substantial policy.

Meanwhile, NH experienced historically high energy prices during the last two years, spurring a laser focus from some lawmakers on bringing down costs for ratepayers and exploring more creative ways for utilities to procure energy.

Here's a summary of a handful of energy- and environment-related bills the House and Senate will take up during the new legislative session.

Electric Vehicles

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation is currently in the throes of planning for more than \$17 million it will receive over the next five years from the federal National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program. And last year, the Department of Environmental Services held listening sessions about the state's growing EV infrastructure, with a focus on residents

and businesses in disadvantaged communities.

Despite the federal support, state lawmakers have not found harmony on electric vehicle legislation, and last year, House Republicans voted down an effort to evaluate the future of electric vehicles in the state.

Introduced this year, House Bill 1510, sponsored by Rep. Rebecca McWilliams, a Concord Democrat, would establish a commission to identify barriers to electric vehicle sales and use in the state, as well as solutions to address them.

House Bill 1472, also sponsored by McWilliams, would dedicate \$3 million from energy efficiency funds to develop a pilot "cash on the hood" program for point-of-sale electric vehicle rebates to buyers.

Meanwhile, in the Senate, Hampstead Republican Sen. Regina Birdsall has introduced Senate Bill 430, which would create a commission to study the impacts of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices "on first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property protection."

Old Growth Forests

With increasing concerns around continued climate change impacts, scientists are pointing to the importance of the state's old growth forests, which are highly effective at capturing and storing carbon.

House Bill 1423, sponsored by Rep. Tony Caplan, a Henniker Democrat, would direct the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to identify all old growth and mature forests on public land in the state. A fiscal note attached to the bill says more than 1.5 million acres of forestland are under public management in NH, assuming "under public management" means all federal, state, and locally owned land.

Landfills

After the last legislative session concluded without any meaningful action on landfills, despite numerous attempts, lawmakers have returned this year with several related bills.

Sponsored by Rep. Linda Massimilla, a Democrat from Littleton, House Bill 1132 would require those siting new solid waste landfills to identify brownfields within the state that could serve as their location – as part of the public benefit requirement analysis. Brownfields are defined as former polluted industrial or commercial sites.

Rep. Peter Bixby, a Dover Democrat, is sponsoring House Bill 1145, which would prohibit the private ownership of any new solid waste landfill.

House Bill 1620, sponsored by Rep. David Rochefort, a Littleton Republican, would suspend the approval of new landfill permits by the

Department of Environmental Services until 2031.

Contamination

Lawmakers this session have filed several bills aimed at holding polluters accountable and ensuring those impacted have the ability to be compensated. Many of the bills come in response to the closure of Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics in Merrimack. The state has attributed widespread PFAS pollution in five communities to Saint-Gobain.

House Bill 1415, sponsored by Merrimack Democrat Rep. Nancy Murphy, seeks to address PFAS facility liability by holding them to federal regulations for closure, removal from service, or decommissioning.

House Bill 1089, sponsored by Rep. Suzanne Vail, a Nashua Democrat, would remove the statute of limitations for civil actions for damages resulting from PFAS exposure.

Not specific to PFAS, House Bill 1613 would establish a specific trust fund for money from soil and water contamination court settlements, and House Bill 1477 would direct the Department of Environmental Services to develop an environmental surety bond program for businesses that "pose a sig-

nificant risk to the state's public natural resources."

Nuclear Energy

As NH debates a clean energy future, a handful of Republican lawmakers appear to be throwing their weight behind nuclear energy as a viable non-carbon emitting source. Seabrook Station is one of only two nuclear plants currently operating in New England.

House Bill 1465, sponsored by New Boston Republican Keith Ammon, would require the Department of Energy to coordinate continuing studies by various state agencies on the uses and development of nuclear energy, including advanced nuclear reactors.

Rep. Michael Vose, an Epping Republican, specifically names nuclear energy in House Bill 1644, which would require the DOE to initiate a proceeding and investigation of the benefits and considerations "regarding support for clean or non-carbon emitting power generation."

Meanwhile, Democrat-sponsored House Bill 1612 would require the Department of Health and Human Services to create a network of real-time monitoring stations to gauge the "movement, dispersal, and re-concentration of radioactive materials," and make the data available to the general

Utility Performance Incentive

Democrat-supported Senate Bill 320 would require the Public Utilities Commission to develop a performance incentive mechanism for the approval of electric and gas utility rates.

Sponsored by Sen. David Watters, of Dover, the bill would explore an alternative rate-setting mechanism of performance-based regulation, to incentivize utilities to improve their "operational efficiency, customer service, and overall performance, while also aligning their incentives with the broader goals of society."

Coyote Hunting

Among many animal-related bills filed this legislative session, two seek to change the way coyotes in the state are hunted.

Currently in NH, coyotes can be hunted year round, including at night from Jan. 1 to March 31, and there is no limit on the number that can be shot or trapped. House Bill 1100 would prohibit the hunting of coyotes during certain months to coincide with coyote pup rearing, and Senate Bill 346 would prohibit the use of dogs while hunting coyotes

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More Than Bread & Milk: Be Prepared For Weather

MELISSA RUIZ
HUDSON TIMES

When it comes to the weather in New England, as the old saying goes, “If you don’t like the weather, wait five minutes.”

Winters (and generally the weather year round) in New Hampshire can be unpredictable. When they’re good, they’re very good. However, when they’re bad...

The collective snowfall so far this season has not

been much to look at, however, we are only more or less halfway through the snowy months, and there is still time for the Granite State to get hit with a major snowstorm or two.

As every New Hampshire resident knows, while snow can create a beautiful landscape, large amounts of it can be dangerous. Heavy snowfall, especially when combined with high winds, hail, rain, etc can cause car accidents, power outages,

tree falls, and other hazards.

Families can end up snowed in for anywhere from one day to up to a week, depending on the severity of the storm. It’s a running joke that the masses scramble to buy all of the bread and milk their local supermarket has to offer when a major snowstorm is forecast, but there are additional measures that should be taken to ensure snowstorm safety.

Ready.gov, a national public service campaign designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, advises those who find themselves under a winter storm warning to stay off of the roads to avoid getting into an accident, stay indoors and dress warmly to avoid hypothermia or frostbite, prepare for power outages to ensure that families can still prepare food, have clean water, etc, use generators outside only and away from windows for safety, listen for emergency information and alerts, look for signs of hypothermia or frostbite if suspected, and to check on neighbors, especially the elderly, disabled, or those who live alone.

To stay ahead of the storm, Ready.gov urges area residents to prepare ahead of time by knowing their area’s risk for winter storms, with the understanding that extreme weather can leave communities without utilities or other services for considerable periods of time.

“Winterproofing” the home by keeping out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping should be done ahead of time, just before the winter season, but can be done anytime, provided the weather cooperates. It is wise to learn how to keep pipes from freezing and to install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and have battery backups if necessary.

Staying diligent to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and storms is crucial when it comes to being prepared. Signing up for community warning systems, and minding the Emergency Alert Systems and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration alerts can be helpful in staying ahead of the curve.

It is also wise to gather supplies such as food, water, batteries, candles, warm clothes, first-aid kits, etc in the event that a family needs to stay homebound for an extended period of time. Keep in mind each family member’s specific needs, including medications, and don’t forget the needs of any pets. Make sure to stay conservative with cell phone use to preserve battery in case they cannot be charged, or invest in a portable cell phone battery charger.

For those who travel and may be at risk of being caught in a storm in the car, having an emergency supply kit in the trunk could make a crucial difference in survival. Include in this kit jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable foods. Make sure to keep the gas tank relatively full.

Ready.gov stresses the importance of being aware of the signs of frostbite and hypothermia and to know how to respond to each to prevent permanent injury or death.

Frostbite can cause the

loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes, and signs include numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin. Should any of these symptoms be present, take the person to a warm room, soak body part in warm water, and use body heat to warm. Do not use massage or a heating pad to bring warmth to the area.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature, with a reading below 95 degrees Fahrenheit being considered an emergency. Signs include shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, drowsiness. Actions to be taken should any of these symptoms be present include taking the person to a warm room, warming the center of the body (chest, neck, head, and groin) first, keeping the person wrapped in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

As in any emergency situation, call 911 or your local emergency response department in the event someone should require additional medical attention or treatment.

The next time a major storm is predicted, be sure to also stock up on hot chocolate, board games, supplies for any hobbies, or whatever else may be needed to ensure that you and your family can also make the most of any extended time together.

For more information and resources on winter storm preparation, visit ready.gov.



Primary Issues

A Rollover Crash in front of Alvirne High School added to the traffic problems on Route 102 as residents were heading to the polls in the First in the Nation Primary on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 23.

Courtesy photo

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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.

Lacrosse Registration

Boys Lacrosse registration is Now Open until Jan. 31 for boys 7th-8th grade. Payment is due to register. Due to the lack of interest on the younger end Hudson recreation is running a pre-registration for boys 3rd-6th grade to see if a team can be secured. Payment is not due for this group only until the numbers are set for a team. A head coach will be needed. There is not currently a girls league. For more info or to register got to <https://hudsonnh.recdesk.com/Community/Program>

Comedy Show

Join the Hudson Recreation on Jan. 27 for their annual Comedy Night! Doors open at 7 p.m. and the Show

begins at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each. Two options to choose from purchase a full table of 8 (maximum and minimum) OR individual tickets. Held at the Community Center, 12 Lions Ave., Hudson. 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold until 8:15 p.m. BYOB food and drinks. <https://hudsonnh.recdesk.com/Community/Program>

Valentines Breakfast

There will be a Valentines Day Breakfast on Feb. 13, \$5 per person, at 10 a.m., in the Senior Center Function Room, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson. Don't forget to wear Red. RSVP required by Feb. 1.

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.

Coffee With The Cops

On Jan. 30 & Feb. 27 The Hudson Police Department joins the Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, for presentations on different subjects involving Community Policing. Coffee Will Be Served at 10 a.m. in the Function Room.

Fire Outreach

Hudson Fire Department will be at the Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, on Feb. 6 & March 5 for the Fire Departments Communi-

ty Outreach with Steve Dube at 10 a.m., in the Function Room. Coffee will be served.

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 A) low-income, and B) living in our Greater Nashua catchment 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. Please email info@unitedwaynashua.org if you have any questions.

Five Scholarships

The Hudson Lions Club will be awarding four general

Hudson Local Election Dates

Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 - Last day to file declaration of candidacy with Town Clerk. Town Clerk's Office will be open until 5 p.m. [RSA 669:19; 652:20; 40:13, VII]
Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024 - Town Deliberative Session (First Session of Town Meeting) [RSA 40:13, III] 9 a.m. Hudson Community Center, 12 Lions Ave, Hudson
Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024 - School Deliberative Session (First Session of Town Meeting) [RSA 40:13, III] 9 a.m. Hudson Community Center, 12 Lions Ave, Hudson

Book Sale

The Friends of the Library of Hudson will hold the Second Hand Prose (SHP) Book Sale at Hills Memorial Library (Basement) the second Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Upcoming dates are: Feb. 11.

Movers & Shakers

Come to the Rodgers Memorial Library for this Toddler Storytime for kids that don't sit still for long on Wednesdays, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Songs, stories, games, and activities for ages 1-3.

Penguin Plunge

The Special Olympics of NH Penguin Plunge will take place on Feb. 10. The Alvirne team has already started to form and over the next two

continued on page 15

Book Donation Dates

The Friends of the Library of Hudson will hold a book donation day each month at Rogers Memorial Library. It's the Thursday immediately following Second Hand Prose (SHP). Upcoming dates are: Feb. 15. All day (9 a.m. - 9 p.m.). Books are dropped off in the library to a study room. Do not use the donation bin in the parking lot - the bin donations do not go to the friends.

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Robo Calls On The Rise According to Federal Commission

MELISSA RUIZ
HUDSON TIMES

Most anyone who has owned or operated a telephone has experienced the call of the often-dreaded telemarketer. And on the other side of the same token, more and more people owning or operating a telephone or cell phone today have been experiencing the call of the always dreaded phone scammer.

These days however, the trend in unsolicited sales and scam calls seems to have lost its human touch.

According to a report from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), nearly half of all cell phone calls made in the United States last year were spam phone calls made from automated systems, or "robocalls."

In this report, data from the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) National Do Not Call Registry was used to analyze which states had the most robocalls in 2019, finding that NH was the 9th hardest-hit state last year.

In 2019, NH residents filed 27,730 robocall complaints, over two thousand robocalls per every 100,000 residents.

Since 2015, NH has received the 11th most robocalls of any state.

Across the nation, spam phone calls have seen an average increase of fourteen percent since the middle of last decade, with NH seeing a slightly higher increase of eighteen percent in that time.

The FCC states that unwanted calls are their biggest customer complaint, making up around 60 percent of all of the complaints they receive.

And not even FCC staff is immune to the plight. Ajit Pai, Chairman of the FCC, has said, "I hate robocalls as much as you do. I get them myself on my mobile phone. I hear about them from my family and friends, and I know that customers want to reclaim their sanity."

This surge in robocalls is likely due to the fact that these calls are an inexpensive way for telemarketers and scammers alike to contact millions of people all over the world at one time via use of the internet.

According to the FTC, "If someone is already breaking the law by robocalling you without permission, there's a good chance it's a scam. At the very least, it's a company you don't want to do business with."

The FTC offers the following ways for those on the other end of a call to determine if the call is a scam:

- Calls with an automated message claiming the answerer has been "selected" for an offer, or that he or she has won the lottery. If a call like this asks for payment, the FTC says that it is a scam.

- Automated calls claiming to come from law enforcement or a federal agency. These calls may claim that the answerer may be arrested, fined, or deported if he or she does not pay a tax or debt right away. Legitimate members of law enforcement and federal agencies will not call for such matters, says the FTC.

- Robocalls claiming to be from the IRS asking for the answerer to confirm sensitive information, such as social security numbers,

etc.

- Calls that pressure answerers to make a decision about a product or service on the spot, or ask for payment through wiring money, putting money on a gift card, prepaid card or cash reload card, or by using a money transfer app.

The FTC says not to rely on caller ID to determine whether a robocall is a scam or not, as scammers have the ability to fake the number and even name that may appear on caller ID, even going so far as to make it appear that the call is coming from a government agency (otherwise known as "spoofing").

Although a robocall of any kind can be alarming and irritating, the FTC says that there are certain types of robocalls that are permitted. These include calls that are purely informational (messages about flights being cancelled, appointment reminders, etc), debt collection calls (not those trying to sell services to reduce a debt), political calls, calls from health care providers (usually a pharmacy reminding a customer of a prescription), and messages from charities (typically to members of a charity or previous donors).

The FTC urges anyone who receives an illegal robocall to hang up immediately and report the call to the FTC at donotcall.gov.

In the same vein as reporting robo-numbers to the FTC for data collection, a measure many people take to stop receiving these spam calls is to put their number on the Do Not Call

Registry. However, this does not always work.

The Do Not Call Registry tells telemarketers which numbers do not wish to be contacted. It is designed for legitimate businesses which follow laws set in place to protect customers. Unfortunately, this list does not apply to those taking part in illegal schemes.

In fact, according to the FTC itself, "Scammers don't care if you're on the Registry."

The FTC does not have the capability to block any calls, but the Commission does continue to work with other law enforcement agencies and encourages industry efforts to combat

robocalls and caller ID spoofing. It has led initiatives to develop technology-based solutions to help investigators track down and stop robocallers.

As if robocalls weren't enough, there has also been a rise in recent years in spam text messages, or robotexts. Much like their phone call counterparts, robotexts are messages generated through autodialing, says the FCC. These messages range from simple spam texts to messages used for phishing by identity thieves or to even install malware on a victim's phone.

The FCC urges people who receive suspicious text messages not to respond or

click any links provided from unrecognized numbers. Senders of unwanted text messages can be blocked by forwarding messages to 7726 ("SPAM"), depending on the phone carrier.

It seems there is still a ways to go until cell phone owners will be completely free from the constant call of spammers and scammers. In the meantime, the option to silence these calls and messages, even just for a moment, is just a button tap away.

For more information on robocalls and robotexts, visit ftc.gov/calls. To report an illegal robocall or robotext, visit consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.

Around Town

Continued from page 13

months will continue to grow. If you are interested in joining the team, apply online at <https://fundraising.sonh.org/..../Alvirn.../hs-penguin-plunge>. Donations to the team or an individual plunger can also be made on the page.

Drop In Stitchers

If you love to craft, whether it be quilting, knitting, crocheting, rug making or plastic canvas, you will LOVE this group! Meeting at the Rodgers Library on Fridays, Jan. 26 at 9:15 a.m. Welcome to old friends and new. If you're starting a new skill or brushing up on an old one or even if you just like to chat while pretending to work, this is a judgment free zone.

Candy Poker

Come to the Rodgers Memorial Library for a monthly game of Texas Hold' Em poker on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Play for candy and take your winnings home. Beginners welcome. If you haven't played before, you may wish to do a little online research first on how to play though we will certainly help you.

Read 'Em & Eat

Books & Booze @ Luk's is now Read 'Em & Eat @ T-Bones Great American Eatery! New name, same fun book group. Come on On Monday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m., to discuss books over good food and drinks! You can pick up a copy of the book from the library. T-Bones is located at 77 Lowell Rd., Hudson, NH.

January's book is The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles.

Tween Anime Club

Come watch anime and eat ramen at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Friday, Jan. 26 at 3 p.m. Drawing and coloring materials also available.

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

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