

# THE Hudson Times

January 8, 2026 ♦ Volume 4 – Issue 1

A FREE Weekly Publication



## Snow Much Fun

Dan Watt, of Raymond, enjoys some frozen exhilaration on Robinson Pond early Sunday afternoon. Recent snow and below freezing temperatures has provided local outdoor enthusiasts with the opportunity to enjoy some local recreation areas.

*Photo by Chris Paul*

## Resident Urges Planning Board to Weigh Tax Impact in Their Decisions

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board met on Dec. 10 to hear public input from a resident concerned about rising property taxes and their connection to local development decisions.

"I believe it's quite ap-

propriate, and I've received phone calls from people, to discuss property taxes with the Planning Board," said Jim Dobbins. "The Planning Board has a direct impact on residents' property taxes by the decisions that it makes here."

While the Planning

Board is not directly involved in setting property taxes or the town budget, it does oversee and review new projects, subdivisions, and site plans. The Board also plays a role in updating and drafting the town's Master Plan.

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## Selectmen to Hold Hearings on Solar Tax Exemption Cap

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen have scheduled two public hearings in January to consider implementing a \$20,000 cap on the assessed value exemption for solar energy systems.

The proposed modification to the existing solar tax exemption has generated significant public interest, with residents advocating for a balanced approach that protects homeowners while addressing concerns about large corporate installations.

The upcoming hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 13, and Tuesday, Jan. 27, beginning at 7 p.m.

Both meetings will take place in the Selectmen's

Meeting Room at Town Hall, located at 12 School Street, Hudson, New Hampshire. The public is invited to attend and provide comment on the potential ordinance change, which falls under the provisions of RSA 72:61 and RSA 72:62.

Leading up to the Public Hearing, public sentiment seems to favor a compromise, according to the comments made by residents during a public input session at the Nov. 25, 2025, Board of Selectmen meeting.

Several residents, many of whom installed solar arrays based on the original 100% tax exemption, urged the board not to eliminate the exemption entirely.

Homeowners highlight-

ed that the exemption was a crucial financial factor in their decision to invest in solar energy, helping to offset high electricity rates and installation costs.

"Would we have made the investment had we thought the exemption was unlikely to happen? Maybe, maybe not. It's hard to say now," said resident Craig Putnam during the November meeting. "But it certainly would have made it less likely that we would proceed with the project."

Putnam added, "I think it's likely that many of those residential property owners might not have proceeded with investing in a solar installation knowing their property taxes would go up."

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## Budget Committee Questions New Spending in Default Budget

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Dec. 17 meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee highlighted ongoing uncertainty over what should - and should not - be included in next March's default budget. After reviewing the latest figures, members raised concerns about several spending increases that appeared in the default despite questions about whether they qualified as required obligations.

"I just thought that the default budget, regardless of whether it's the school or town, is dictated by our say as we've read out loud, and it's supposed to be very definitive over what is allowed in and what's not

allowed in," said Selectmen Liaison Xen Vurgaropoulos.

Default budgets typically include only the previous year's approved budget plus any recurring or legally mandated costs, such as contractual salary and benefit obligations. But determining what qualifies as an obligation has not always been straightforward. According to Budget Committee member Shawn Jasper, that ambiguity has sometimes allowed questionable increases to slip into the default.

"Unfortunately, the RSA does not say what I think it should say," Jasper said. "At this point, it's really what the School Board and the town Selectmen decide

what's going to go in there, and there's not much we can do about it."

The New Hampshire Municipal Association provides guidance on how towns should calculate default budgets, but Jasper expressed doubt that the organization would intervene if a town or school district stretched the definition of "obligation."

"I don't see the Municipal Association being in a situation where they say, 'The town and the school district can't put those things in,'" Jasper said, adding that the default budget was intended to be the "painful" alternative when voters reject a pro-

**continued on page 5**

# School Board Approves Updated Health Ed and Exemption from Instruction Policy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

An agenda item during the most recent Hudson School Board meeting was the final reading of the District's updated Health Education and Exemption-fromInstruction policy.

"Consistent with state law and Department of Education requirements, health and physical education, including instruction about parts of the body, reproduction, sexuality education, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and related topics, will be included in the instructional program. Sexuality education shall include instruction relative to absti-

nence and sexually transmitted infections," the updated policy states.

The policy further explains that "Instruction or programming must be appropriate to grade level, course of study, and the development of students, and must occur in a systematic manner. The Superintendent will require that faculty members who present this instruction receive continuing inservice training, which includes appropriate teaching strategies and techniques."

The updated policy also outlines new notification requirements for parents and guardians.

"Parents/guardians shall be notified by school dis-

trict communication not less than two weeks in advance of use of the curriculum course material to be used for their minor child for instruction or program of human sexuality, human sexual education, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression," it states. "The notice shall identify and provide contact information for the principal or other staff member whom a parent/guardian should contact to arrange an opportunity to inspect the curriculum course material. However, no notice is required if a district employee is responding to a question from a student during class."

The policy also references federal and state requirements regarding access to instructional materials.

"In accordance with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, as a school district that receives federal Department of Education funds, and also in accordance with NH RSA 186:11, IXc, the Superintendent/designee shall develop procedures to allow the parent/guardian of a student to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their minor student," it states. The procedures must provide timely access to requested materials, and the notice must identify the appropriate

contact person for arranging review.

Under the section titled "OptOut Procedure and Form," the policy states that "Parents/guardians, or students over eighteen years of age, who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or sex education instruction for religious reasons or religious objections, are allowed to have their child opt out of such instruction. (Note: Per RSA 186:11, IXc, parents/guardians have additional optout rights under Board policy IGE.)"

"Parents/guardians who do not want their child to participate in a particular unit of health or sex education instruction for religious

reasons must complete a Health and Sex Education Exemption/Objectionable Course Material OptOut Letter/Form and follow the timelines in the OptOut Letters/Forms that are available from either the health education teacher or the principal. Optout requests must be submitted annually and are valid only for the school year in which they are submitted," the policy states.

Any student exempted under this policy may receive an alternative assignment that meets state health education requirements. The assignment will be provided by the health education teacher in coordination with the principal.

# School District Confronts Rising Technology Costs in Upcoming Budget

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on Dec. 11 to finalize its contribution to the upcoming school budget after several earlier discussions this month. SAU81 Superintendent Dr. Dan Moulis presented the district's technology spending plan, outlining significant cost pressures tied to hardware and software replacement.

"A couple of things that popped out to me," said

Committee member Kevin Walsh. "On page four, you talk about the tech equipment replacement, the switch replacement has an up to 46 percent discount. Is this the discounted price? Or is this the gross price and you're expecting to have a discount for the \$90,000?"

Moulis confirmed that the \$90,000 figure reflected the discounted cost, noting that even with the discount, replacing the district's obsolete servers had become

more expensive than anticipated.

"Those switchserver costs, in the last two years in particular, have increased exponentially," he said.

Staff laptops were another priority for SAU81, with officials expressing concern that many employee devices are now more than seven years old. These expenses come in addition to student laptop purchases, where Committee member Shawn Jasper

questioned discrepancies in the numbers.

"If you go into the detail on the IT for grade six, we're buying 250 laptops. In grade six, we have 160 students," said Jasper. "We're budgeting for 80 more laptops than we have students. There's something wrong there."

Board member Donna Boucher noted a similar issue for grade nine.

"It seems like it's overstated by at least a little bit, maybe a ten percent cushion sounds generous," added Committee member Bob Wherry.

Moulis said he would verify the numbers, explaining that the district follows a "refresh cycle" for essential equipment like laptops, which creates an ongoing annual cost.

"We do try to shop

around to see where we can get the best vendor," he said. "We do try to buy those in a little bit of a bulk package, because we do get a little bit of a discount."

Committee member Randy Brownrigg questioned whether students truly needed laptops at home. "Do the students really need a computer to do all the work? Why can't they do all of this work at school?"

According to Moulis, much of the homework is now posted and submitted electronically, making laptops a necessary and flexible tool for students.

Committee Chair James Lawrence noted that the total technology request was approximately \$2.5 million, including personnel, hardware, and software costs. Acknowledging that salaries represent a signifi-

cant portion of the budget, Moulis said one technical position had been removed from the 2026-2027 proposal.

"You say that you're reducing your staff, but I'm looking at your actuals from FY2025, and I'm looking at what your proposed budget is going in for this particular budget cycle, and you're about \$100,000 more than you were then. Was there some kind of shift in the salaries on your team?" asked Lawrence. "I would've assumed that if you remove a body from there, you'd see the number go down."

The Superintendent admitted he was not entirely sure why the number was higher and promised to review the figures again to determine the cause of the increase.



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# Conservation Commission Aims to Strengthen Coordination with Other Boards

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Conservation Commission met on Dec. 8 to review a draft of its annual work plan and outline a schedule for upcoming workshops. Chair Carl Murphy said he wants 2026 to be “more deliberate” for the Commission, while Commissioner Chris Cameron presented an extensive list of priorities tied to Hudson’s zoning code.

“My thoughts were to review some of the town standards that impact the applications we review,” explained Cameron, who raised the possibility of increasing collaboration with

other town officials. “We’ll talk with them, find out what the goals are of the Planning Board, what the goals are for town staff, and we’ll see if we can find out any alignment with conservation goals.”

Vice-Chair Ken Dickinson added that the Commission is “working on refining our process, like what we do in the workshop, for instance,” noting that the group has previously struggled to follow up on older ideas.

Cameron said he wants to focus on applications related to subdivision regulations, a common request in Hudson. Open space

preservation remains another major priority for the Commission.

“When you say ‘subdivision,’ what exactly are you talking about?” asked Selectman Liaison David Morin. “You guys have a focus, and that’s on conservation. When you say ‘subdivision,’ you make it sound like you want in on the plan.”

Morin reminded the Commission that its mandate is defined by state law, emphasizing its role in reviewing environmental impacts, particularly those involving wetlands. He noted that groups like the Zoning Ordinance Review Com-

mittee (ZORC) are responsible for making changes to Hudson’s zoning code. Cameron responded that the Conservation Commission has struggled to make its priorities heard by ZORC.

“We haven’t had any traction with ZORC,” said Cameron. “I just don’t think ZORC allows enough time or flexibility to talk about a lot of the things we might want to propose.”

He added that many conservation-related suggestions have been rejected by ZORC for various “technical reasons.”

Commissioner Kathryn Griswold acknowledged that the Commission does

not always have a full understanding of how ZORC operates. “I attended ZORC meetings, but made it clear I was not voting; I was just there for informational purposes and to understand the process,” said Griswold.

She noted that the Conservation Commission has two representatives on ZORC and suggested a more structured approach. “We could make our workshops general ZORC preparation workshops,” she said. “Why don’t we just make sure that we have ZORC workshops on the calendar, and when we go to those workshops, we have a very

streamlined focus.”

Any proposed zoning changes would ultimately need voter approval, and any recommendations from the Conservation Commission would require at least a majority vote - though members agreed that consensus is preferred.

“Moving forward, obviously all are invited to attend these workshops and to discuss what we want to put forth,” said Murphy, who scheduled a ZORC workshop for the third week of January.

The next meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room at Town Hall.

# Rodgers Memorial Blends Old & New Technology Heading Into the New Year

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees met on Dec. 17 to close out 2025 and look ahead to the coming year. Reviewing

recent usage numbers, Trustee Chair Karen Bohrer was surprised to learn that several “legacy” services remain popular with Hudson residents.

“Did we really send 159

faxes just in November?” asked Bohrer.

Library Director Linda Pilla confirmed that not only was the number accurate, but it was typical.

“This is a number that I’ve been trying to track for a while, and that’s about average,” explained Pilla. “It’s an incredibly useful service to our patrons. People will come in, and that’s the total number of pages, not individual documents. These are not internal faxes. It’s always the documents that are so much easier to send by email, but where you just can’t - like health insurance companies, health companies, and legal documents where they want to fax, they don’t want to scan.”

The library’s newest

copier machines still include the ability to send faxes through overland phone lines.

“It is funny the way that technology ages out,” said Pilla. “Faxes are still being used.”

The library has no plans to phase out fax services anytime soon.

Even as Rodgers Memorial maintains popular legacy technologies, Pilla emphasized that the library remains committed to staying current with newer trends.

“We have a library cell phone for social media,” she said, noting that having a dedicated device allowed the library to launch its own TikTok account. “The goal is not to use the phone as a phone. It’s not going to be

used as a phone. It’s really being used as a method to allow our social media to not be associated with individual staff members’ personal phones.”

Library staff also use the dedicated phone for scheduling and coordinate with the IT department on best practices for managing social media accounts.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Library organization continued planning a new fundraiser following the end of their regular used book sales at the Hill Memorial building.

“They want to discuss what would be appropriate for the Hudson Friends,” said Bohrer, who noted that the group would explore fundraising ideas in the coming weeks.

Despite limited funding, the Friends remained active during the holiday season, assisting with decorating and later removing decorations. They also provided food for the library’s teen programming.

“They’ve also discussed providing treats to the library staff on a monthly basis,” added Bohrer. “Sweets were mentioned, although that was as specific as they got.”

The Board agreed to send liaisons to future Friends of the Library meetings to improve coordination between the two groups.

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m.

## OBITUARY

### David Robert Jelley



David Robert Jelley, 86, of Hudson, NH, passed away peacefully on Nov. 1, 2025. He was born on Jan. 3, 1939, in Boston, MA, to Vesta Darby of Tewksbury, MA. In 1960, he married his beloved wife, Ruth Cowgill, with whom he shared 65 years of love and devotion.

David was educated in Tewksbury, Lowell and Dracut schools and graduated from Dracut High School class of 1956. He attended Providence Bible Institute and Lowell State Teachers College.

David proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1958 to 1962 and later rejoined as a reservist with the Seabees, retiring in 1998 as a First Class Petty Officer. His 24 years of service reflected a lifelong commitment to duty and integrity. David was also a life member of The Retired Enlisted Association, Naval Enlisted Reserve and Fleet Reserve Associations.

Following his military career, David pursued his passion working as a librarian for MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Raytheon, and GTE Laboratories before serving as Library Manager at Osram Sylvania until his retirement in 2010. He also dedicated many years to the Hudson community, serving as a trustee of the Hills Memorial and Rodgers Memorial Libraries, and as a long time member of the First Baptist Church of Hudson.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ruth Jelley; his daughter and son-in-law, Paul and Pamela Dawkins of Hudson; his son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Sandra Jelley of Monroe, NC; his favorite granddaughter, Brittny, and her husband, Timothy Cerato of Londonderry; and his cherished great-granddaughters, Avery and Logan Cerato of Londonderry. He also leaves his sister, Virginia Andersen of Mineola, FL, and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister, Marilyn Cymbura; William and Mildred Jelley of Pelham; and his mother, Vesta Darby of Tewksbury.

A memorial service will be held in January. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Hudson or the Alzheimer’s Association. The Cremation Society of New Hampshire has been entrusted with arrangements. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information please visit [www.csnh.com](http://www.csnh.com).



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# Editorial

## A New Year, A New Chance to Strengthen Our Community

As we welcome another New Year, Nutfield Publishing is proud to mark a milestone that still feels both humbling and extraordinary: twenty-six years of serving our communities through local journalism.

When the very first issue of the Londonderry Times went out on Jan. 1, 2000, it was a modest monthly paper - printed with hope, mailed with determination, and built on the belief that local news matters. Over time, that monthly paper grew into a biweekly, and eventually into the weekly publication thousands of residents now rely on.

The New Year naturally invites reflection. We look back at what we've built, what we've learned, and what we still hope to accomplish. For us, that reflection always circles back to the same truth: a community thrives when its residents are informed and involved. That is why we work tirelessly to cover town and school district meetings, decisions, debates, and discussions - whether they are headline-worthy or quietly consequential. Many stories appear first, and sometimes only, in our pages. And while no newspaper is perfect, we take pride in the fact that in more than two decades, only a handful of corrections have ever been needed each year.

Accuracy, clarity, and timeliness are not just goals for us - they are promises. We care deeply about the quality of what we produce because we know our readers depend on it.

But a strong community requires more than a strong newspaper. It requires participation.

It is easy to sit behind a keyboard and

criticize what happens at Town Hall or within the school district. It is far harder - and far more meaningful - to step into the arena yourself. To ask questions. To listen. To serve. To help shape the decisions that affect your taxes, your schools, your neighborhoods, and your future.

In mid January, the filing period for public positions opens once again. Every year, seats go unchallenged. The same names appear on the ballot not because they are the only ones who care, but often because too many residents assume someone else will step up. Or they believe the process is too complicated. Or they simply feel their voice won't matter.

Yet we've all seen what happens when people stay silent: frustration spills onto social media, especially when tax bills arrive. We hear the familiar refrains "If you don't like it, move," or "A yes vote means higher taxes." Neither sentiment moves us forward. Real progress occurs in the middle ground, where people show up, speak respectfully, ask thoughtful questions, and work toward solutions.

Budget hearings and deliberative sessions are coming in January and February. Attend them. Bring a neighbor. Share your perspective. Listen to others. Democracy is not a spectator sport, and your presence truly matters.

From all of us at Nutfield Publishing, thank you for reading, for caring, and for being part of this community. We wish you a healthy, hopeful, and engaged New Year and we look forward to covering the stories that shape it.

## Citizen Petition Warrant Article Comes Forward Regarding Default Budget

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

A citizen petition warrant article has been brought forward regarding how the Default Budget for the Hudson School District is created.

During its most recent meeting, the School Board held a brief discussion on the petition, which reads:

"We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Hudson School District, do hereby petition the Hudson School Board to place the following question on the March 2026 ballot: 'Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14b to delegate the determination of

the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?'"

Hudson Superintendent Dan Moulis explained that the district's practice is to take the wording from citizen petition warrant articles exactly as submitted.

"That's why you see the exact language transferred from one document to another as petition," Moulis said during the meeting.

One question raised by the Board was what the practical effect would be if the Budget Committee, rather than the School District, were responsible for

determining the Default Budget.

Moulis said his understanding was that the change would shift the decisionmaking authority for what is included in the Default Budget and "what is calculated in that formula for the Default Budget."

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

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

## Solar Cap

**Continued from page 1**  
So, our suggestion to the BOS is as follows. If you feel the town must move away from the 100% exemption, then thread the needle by capping the exemption amount at a value that will cover the typical residential array."

Residents broadly supported the idea of "threading the needle" with a cap value high enough to cover a typical residential system, but low enough that major corporations would not heavily benefit. Speakers argued that homeowners take on the upfront costs and risks of installation, and in return benefit the entire town by reducing the load on the power grid.

Resident Becky Odierna said, "I invested in 2017. I have still not seen complete returns on my investment yet. I invested under the

security of knowing that this was put in place in 2015 and that we would be exempted from taxes. I don't feel that middle class homeowners should be penalized for trying to make their homes more energy efficient. I think it benefits the entire town when homeowners do that."

Doug McKenzie said, "Frankly, it was a financial decision for us. The electric rates in New

Hampshire are some of the highest in the country, and they're going up rapidly. So, for us, it was a hedge against potential energy cost increases. And when looking at the numbers, knowing that there was an exemption in place was a huge factor in that decision. What's the solution there, whether or not we keep the exemption in place or put a cap there, I really don't know, but I'm obviously strongly in favor of not

reversing that decision."

He added, "I just think that it's not right, knowing that a lot of people made decisions based on that. And again, that would certainly change the economics of how that investment pays off for itself."

Resident Joan Zinkawich added Good evening. "I've had a small solar array for about the last 10- to 12-years, and it's given me a really good return. Plus, I get what the electric company doesn't need, they sell it back to me and give me a check three of four times a year. It's not a big check, but it's something to get back. I just want to say I agree with what all my neighbors have been saying."

The upcoming meetings represent the two opportunities for the public to formally comment on the specific \$20,000 cap proposal.

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](mailto: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.

## Have an Announcement?

This service is provided free of charge to Hudson residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Hudson Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net).

# THE Hudson Times

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# Alvirne Freshman Raises Funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital

An Alvirne freshman was busy during the holiday, raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through a Christmas Eve Floral Fundraiser.

The support of the Hudson community helped the local 14-year-old give back through creativity and compassion.

The young Olivia Tschrintzis turned creativity into compassion this holiday season by organizing a Christmas Eve floral centerpiece fundraiser to benefit

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The fundraiser was part of her involvement with the Fitness For A Cure Team. Fitness for a Cure is a community-powered fundraiser founded in 1999 by St. Jude supporter Sherri Sarrouf, bringing the fitness community together to raise money and awareness for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. What began as a single event has grown into a long-standing tradition, raising more than \$9.7 million to

help ensure families at St. Jude never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food.

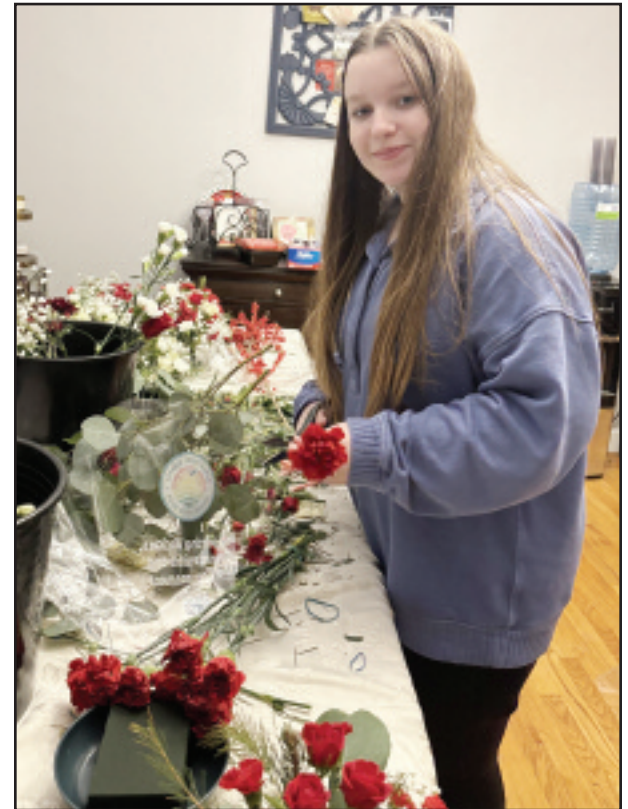
Olivia designed and hand-crafted festive floral centerpieces, a skill she learned while taking a Retail Floristry class at Alvirne High School this year. She personally delivered the arrangements to supporters throughout the community on Christmas Eve. Proceeds from the fundraiser were donated directly to St. Jude Chil-

dren's Research Hospital, supporting its mission to advance research and treatment for children battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

"This project meant a lot to me," said Olivia. "I wanted to do something meaningful during the holidays that could help children and families who are going through really hard times."

Family members, friends, and community supporters praised Olivia's dedication, noting the time and effort she put into every arrangement and delivery. Her initiative reflects the spirit of giving and highlights how young people can make a powerful impact when they combine passion with purpose.

Olivia's Christmas Eve fundraiser serves as a reminder that compassion knows no age and that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.



To support Olivia's Cure event in March 2026, visit: [www.stjude.org/get-involved/find-an-event/dinners-and-galas/fitness-for-a-cure.html](http://fundraising.stjude.org/goto/Livvy2026)

For more information about the Fitness For A

## New Spending

Continued from page 1  
posed budget.

Committee Chair James Lawrence agreed that the authority ultimately rests with the School Board.

"We may feel that some of these items may not have been calculated in accordance with the state statute. The authority to calculate this default budget squarely resides with the School Board," Lawrence said. "We can ask them to take a look at it, and I'm going to formally ask Mr. Kilgour to take these items into consideration, but it takes action on their part to resolve it."

Among the items flag-

ged as questionable were \$50,000 for a summer STEM program, increases to the school transportation budget, and higher health-care costs.

"If you have a transportation contract which is signed that says, 'This will be the increases for 2026-2027,' that's different. You don't have a signed contract for your health insurance that says, 'This will be the cost,'" Jasper said. "By the time we get done, our recommendation is going to be lower than the default budget since we're so close to begin with."

This is not the first time

the default budget has been criticized for being too close to the proposed annual budget.

"I would like the School Board to really, really look at this much better. I find it hard to believe that the default budget is just shy of \$1 million lower than the proposed budget," said Vurgaropoulos. "This is the default. It means we failed. This is what we get, but as written, it still says they get everything, the way I see it. I don't think this is a good default budget in my opinion."

School Board member Dan Kilgour said he would bring the disputed line items to the Board for further review.

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# Selectmen Approve Appointments and Personnel Moves

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, members considered a number of appointments to various boards and commissions in town, continuing their annual process of filling expiring terms and ensuring that key committees remain fully staffed heading into the new year. These appointments, while often routine, play an important role in maintaining continuity across the town's volunteer-driven boards.

One of the appointments was for the Conservation Commission, where Carl Murphy sought reappointment as his term is set to expire in December 2025. Murphy has been an active member of the Commission and currently serves as its chair, a role that requires coordinating site walks, reviewing development ap-

plications, and helping guide the town's environmental priorities.

Board of Selectmen liaison to the Conservation Commission, Dave Morin, expressed strong support for Murphy's reappointment, noting his leadership and steady presence on the Commission.

"Carl presently is the chairman of the Conservation Committee," Morin said during the meeting. "He's doing a very good job. There was a little bit of discussion last night, and he's looking forward to being reappointed."

The Board unanimously approved Murphy's reappointment, extending his term through December 2028. Selectmen noted that maintaining experienced members on the Conservation Commission is especially important given the number of development proposals expected in the

coming year.

Another Conservation Commission appointment considered that evening was for longtime member Ken Dickinson, who was also seeking reappointment. Dickinson has served the town for more than two decades and is widely regarded as one of the Commission's most knowledgeable members, particularly on wetlands and land-use issues.

"Same with him," Morin said. "He's been 20 years plus, and he has a lot of information. That's his career. So, he would like to also be appointed."

With no additional comments offered, the Board unanimously approved Dickinson's reappointment, also through December 2028.

Following a nonpublic session, the Board reconvened to announce several personnel decisions. One

was the unanimous approval of hiring Ava Malley as a Police Telecommunications Technician at a starting salary of \$25.05 per hour, based on the Police Chief's recommendation. Telecommunications technicians play a critical role in dispatch operations, handling emergency calls and coordinating communication between officers and other agencies.

Another action item involved the retirement of K9 Ice, effective Dec. 10 at 7 a.m., and the sale of Ice to K9 Handler Daniel Donahue for \$1. The symbolic sale is a common practice in many police departments, allowing retiring K9s to remain with their handlers as family pets after years of service.

The Board also unanimously approved continu-

ing the Townfunded HSA highdeductible plan contributions through Fiscal Year 2029, or until a new health insurance provider is secured. Selectmen noted that maintaining the contribution helps provide stability for employees while the town evaluates longterm insurance options.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13.

## Planning

Continued from page 1

"My town taxes are up 95 percent over the last ten years. They're up 45 percent over the last five," claimed Dobbins. "Over the past decade, we're looking at a 37 percent inflation rate for the town, but a tax rate that's up 95 percent, so we have a little bit of a discrepancy. My understanding is that this year the town is using \$1.3 million in cash reserves to lower the property taxes and minimize the impact. Now, that's just kicking the can down the road."

He went on to say that town growth was not enough to justify the increased taxes and questioned why rates continued to rise so sharply.

"What is this board doing to truly understand the infrastructure needs and costs on the plans it approves and the revenue needed to cover those costs for the next five, ten, twenty

years?" asked Dobbins. "Increased costs are being driven by CRI development: commercial, industrial, and retail, not population. When was the last time this board did a comprehensive review on impact fees for these types of developments? Are the rates sufficient to cover the costs that they're creating? Are they increasing at or above my tax increase rate? Please tell me you don't use a simple inflation rate, as my 95% tax rate increase does not equal a 37 percent inflation rate. Residents lose and developers win. The state allows us to set our own impact fees as a town."

As is typical for public comments related to non-agenda items, the Planning Board did not directly respond to Dobbins' remarks. However, Board member James Crowley later noted that the Planning Board should place more focus on community development when discussing new projects, including the impact those projects might have

on local infrastructure.

The meeting also saw several deferrals for expected presentations, including a site plan for a proposed new car wash at 9 Morgan Road. Erik Poulin of Jones and Beach Engineers apologized for the second deferral of the plans.

"We have no intention of wasting the Board's time or any member of the public's time," said Poulin. "With that, we do respectfully request a continuance on this application."

He asked to make a new presentation at the Planning Board's Jan. 28, 2026, meeting - a date also set for a 12,000-square-foot, multi-tenant retail building at 1 Bockes Rd. Due in part to high public turnout related to the retail building, Planning Chair Tim Malley announced that the Planning Board would relocate the meeting.

"We will be relocating this meeting to the old library," said Malley. "It has a much larger room capacity."

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# Planning Board Reviews Schedule & Prepares Zoning Amendments

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The December meeting of the Hudson Planning Board focused on outlining the Board's schedule for the upcoming year and reviewing zoning amendments expected to appear on the March ballot. No changes were anticipated for the dates of regular Board meetings.

"It's pretty standard, these are all our second and fourth Wednesday of the month, with one of them off due to a holiday falling on a Wednesday we are closed," said Town Planner Brooke Dubowik.

Vice-Chair Jordan Ulery recommended keep-

ing an eye on the federal holiday schedule in case any dates shift. Chair Tim Malley suggested adding a third January meeting on Jan. 7 to hold a legally required public hearing on several proposed zoning amendments.

"The last day to hold the first public hearing on those amendments is Jan. 12, while our first meeting is set for Jan. 14," explained Dubowik. "Jan. 14 will be the second public hearing."

Discussion then turned to the zoning amendments recently compiled by the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC).

"Compared to prior

years, we have a relatively small number of items being proposed. Through the ZORC meeting process, we have come up with five, which is the voted number for, that are being put forward," said Associate Planner Ben Witham Gradert. "I will note that the first two are more or less required to go forward as they will bring our current ordinances into compliance with state law."

The required changes include allowing detached Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) up to 950 square feet and permitting family group daycares anywhere in town.

"What happens if the voters vote this down?" asked Board member James Crowley.

Gradert responded that a rejection would not significantly affect local regulations.

"The discretionary parts will not go through, and our text would remain the same, but state law does just override local law," he said. "In the state of New Hampshire, the state is the ultimate authority, and they give the municipalities power."

He added that Hudson residents can already add an ADU that complies with state specifications, even without the expected

update to the town's zoning regulations.

Other proposed changes unrelated to state law include reduced setback requirements, adding "data center" as a principal permitted use, and tying growth management practices to the most recently updated Hudson Master Plan.

Some changes, such as the setback reduction, were considered practical.

"If you look at the neighborhoods that are already established, most don't even meet some of these standards," said Dubowik, noting that the Zoning Board consistently grants variances for most

setback requests.

Other proposals were described as "futureproofing," including the addition of a data center use.

"Data centers tend to be different from other industrial uses," explained Gradert. "They're characterized by long periods of high noise due to cooling required, as well as very intense utility usage, both electricity and water. That's why it's proposed that they'll only be in the industrial districts."

He emphasized that no data centers are currently proposed for Hudson and that an application is unlikely in the near future.

## Memorial and CTE Center Outline Budget Needs, Program Updates for 2026-27

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

Hoping to continue their oversight of Hudson school spending, the Hudson Budget Committee met on Dec. 12 with Superintendent Dr. Dan Moulis and Business Administrator Jenny Graves for a presentation on proposed spending at Hudson Memorial School.

"Successes and opportunities that Principal Bowen wanted me to call out improved academic outcomes, curricular alignment work, and there is now an academic accelerated program at Hudson Memorial," said Moulis. "Principal Bowen is asking for bike racks, display cases, and he also had a sports netting along the wood line for the soccer program, they're losing lots of soccer balls in the brook that is beyond the field there."

Hudson Memorial currently has 593 students and

93 staff members, according to Oct. 1 enrollment numbers. The school recently completed or is close to completing several expansions, including a new science lab. The proposed 2026-2027 budget does not include significant staffing changes.

"The only staffing request I have here that is new is moving the parttime family consumer science teacher to fulltime," said Moulis. "Overall, the proposed budget for Hudson Memorial School compared to FY 2027, there is a decrease of \$8,898.46."

After reviewing school programs, Budget Committee members raised several questions.

"Could you give a couple sentences about kickboxing at this particular school?" asked Committee member Bill Cole, who noticed a few thousand dollars set aside in the physical

education line item. "It's one thing to play with hula hoops and volleyballs, it's another to be doing martial arts without proper supervision."

Moulis explained that kickboxing is part of the physical education curriculum, along with crossfit and strength training. Hudson Memorial does not have a certified martial arts instructor, but he noted that teachers hold "wellrounded certification across all physical education domains."

He and Graves also reviewed the numbers for Alvirne High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center for 2027.

"We're now including three diploma pathways for students that will include the core diploma, the traditional diploma, and now new, the distinguished diploma," said Moulis,

adding that Alvirne participates in a dual enrollment program with the local community college. "We're also adding two new elective courses within the CTE department to provide computer literacy options, and serve as feeder courses for our accounting and marketing programs."

Enrollment at the CTE Center is complex: while there are 613 students total,

many come from surrounding towns. A staff of 142 oversees Alvirne and the CTE program.

The presentation also included a proposal to add a Smart Hall Pass system.

"What is the Smart Hall Pass?" asked Committee Chair James Lawrence.

Moulis described it as an electronic hall pass system that is becoming increasingly common in large

er high schools.

"Do we have the total salaries and benefits costs for the associated personnel for Alvirne and the CTE?" asked Lawrence.

Graves said they did not have the exact numbers available at the Dec. 12 meeting. Staffing costs are expected to remain a major factor in the overall 2026-2027 school budget.

## Buy-a-Brick & Show Appreciation

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your life? Preserve a memory and show your appreciation to someone who impacted your life. Bricks purchased for the library's walkway help Friends of the Library support library programs and events and provide museum and educational venue passes. FOL will engrave your pur-

chased bricks with two lines (\$55) or three lines (\$80) with your special message. The order form is on the Rodgers Memorial website and click on the Friends page. The bricks are placed in the RML Walkway twice a year and will become an enduring legacy.



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# Annual Cardboard Sled Race Takes Place Saturday



Photos taken during the 2025 Cardboard Sled Race which took place in March. *Photos by Chris Paul*

**CHRIS PAUL**  
HUDSON TIMES

There will be lots of winter fun taking place at Benson Park this weekend.

The Friends of Benson Park and the Benson Park Advisory Committee are scheduled to hold the annual Cardboard Sled Race at Benson Park on Saturday, Jan. 10.

The Cardboard Sled Race will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on the hill near the gorilla cage.

There is an Entry Fee of

\$10, which goes back to the park's renovations.

Free hot cocoa will be served to all, courtesy of the Hudson Lions Club.

There will be three Age Divisions racing.

- Elementary: Pre-K to 10-years.

- Junior: 11 to 17-years

- Adult: 18 to 100-years

Sleds will be judged in three categories also.

- Best Race Time: Timed run down the hill

- Most Innovative: Design, durability, and rule compliance

pliance

- Best Theme: Creativity, color, and costumes

There will be First, Second, and Third-Place prizes awarded in each age category.

A total of 10 awards will be handed out, including a special award for the "Best Self-Destruction" on the course!

## Sled Design Rules

Materials allowed: cardboard, tape, and paint only. Bottom taping is allowed and decorations encouraged.

Costumes are also welcome and bribing the judges is also encouraged.

Must have at least one

rider per sled

Any illegal materials will equal immediate disqualification.

All participants will be asked to sign a liability release at the Red Elephant Barn before racing.

After registering and donating, sleds will receive a number determining run order.

Also at the event, participants can visit with the Little Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe, who may invite you inside to see her holiday decorations.

Snow date, if needed to reschedule, will be on January 17, same times.

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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Admirals Secure First Home Win with 13-2 Blowout

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne-Milford Admirals hockey team came into the new-year looking to secure their first win on their home ice and did that quite easily with a 13-2 lopsided victory over the short-handed Bishop

Brady-Merrimack Valley squad.

It didn't take long for the Admirals to get on the board, scoring just two and a half minutes into the first period. Milford junior Dylan Macleod put the first goal of the night past the Brady-Valley goaltender

Ronan Heatherman on a break-away, assisted by Alvirne junior Nathan Ricci.

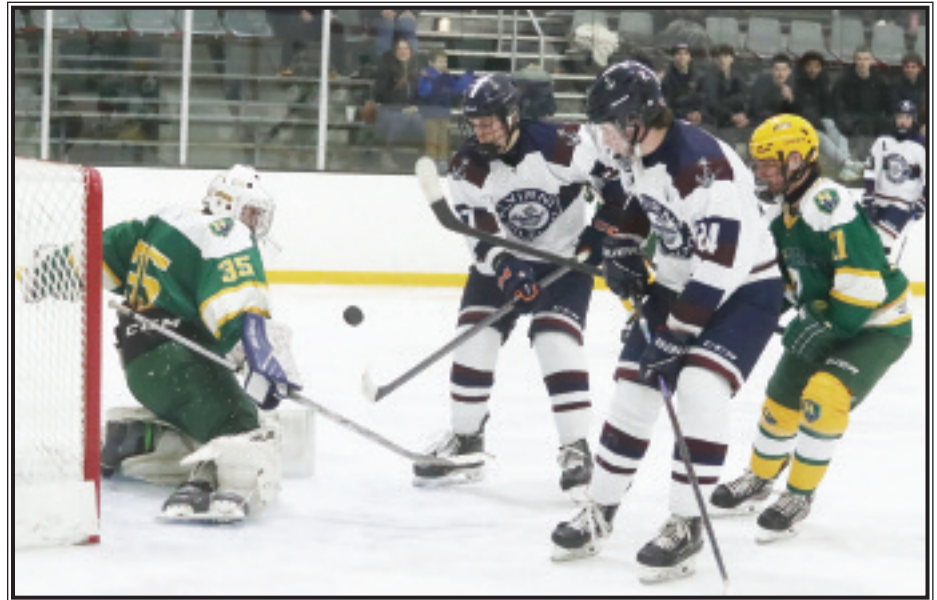
Goal number two came just 24 seconds later with AHS senior Brandon Callahan scoring, assisted by junior Evan Pargas and Milford senior Mason Tomkins.

Tomkins followed up with two goals of his own to make it 4-0 with less than a minute in the period. His first was at 13:04, unassisted, and his second of the night was tallied at 14:14 with Luke Green and Callahan getting the assists.

The final goal of the opening period came off the stick of Alvirne senior Brandon Ganas, with his first of three-goals that evening. The AHS forward had an unassisted shot go in with just 30-seconds left in the first to give his team a 5-0 advantage.

The scoring continued in the second period, with the Ganas scoring two more before their opponents finally responded.

Ganas had his second of the night 1:30 into the period, assisted by freshman Jameson Thurrott.



The Admirals offense kept Brady-Valley goaltender Ronan Heatherman very busy on Saturday, scoring 13 goals for the team's first home win this year.

Ganas made it 5-0 with an unassisted shot into the net at 8:06 in the second period.

The two goals scored by Bishop Brady-Merrimack Valley came in succession, nine-minutes into the period, but that would be all Alvirne junior goalie Ari

Scarbro would give up in the contest.

Senior Chris Bozza and sophomore Aiden Bradish scored to help end the second at 9-2. Pargas had the assist for Bozza and Callahan and Ricci assisted Bradish.

The Admiral scored

four more times in the third period for the 11-goal win.

The first was scored by Thurrott, unassisted; the second went to sophomore Riley McCarthy, assisted by Brandon Hiltz and Bozza; Tomkins had his third of the game; and Hiltz scored the

**continued on page 10**



Milford senior, Mason Tomkins, had three goals in the lopsided win at home over Bishop Brady-Merrimack Valley last weekend. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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# Broncos Basketball Look to Get Back On Track After Break



The Broncos boys' new head coach and Alvirne Alumnus Sam Bonney-Liles.

**CHRIS PAUL**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Basketball teams have just played a combined seven games so far this season with the Bronco boys' getting two victories out of three games and the girls suffering three-of four losses to start this winter.

The Broncos boys', under the leadership of new head coach, Sam Bonney-Liles, began its season with two victories followed by a 30-point defeat, at home, to end 2024.

The team's first win of the season came in the first game, with a 39-28 win at Manchester Memorial.

The second victory was

in the home opener when they beat the Goffstown Grizzlies 60-57.

The team will start 2026 on the road, at Nashua South (2-1) on Tuesday, Jan. 6 followed by their third home game, on Friday night, Jan. 9, against Portsmouth (4-0), starting at 6:30 p.m.

After winning their first game of the season, the Lady Broncos have dropped three in a row and started the new year with a 23-61 defeat at Pinkerton Academy.

They will try to turn things around this week with road games at Nashua South (4-0) and Portsmouth (3-1).



Adrienne Chipfunde

## Hockey

Continued from page 9  
final goal of the night.

There was only one penalty called in the game. Bishop Brady-MV was called for hooking in the third period.

The victory put Alvirne-Miford at 2-2 this season under the new leadership of Kathy Griswold, who was happy with the result, saying, "It was one of those games where you really

have to work to stay disciplined."

Leading up to the game the team played three games in a Holiday Tournament hosted by the Merrimack-Hollis Brookline-Derryfield at the Conway Arena in Nashua.

On Monday, Dec. 29, the Admirals defeated Timberlane 8-1 in a two-period contest.

On Tuesday, Dec. 30, The Admirals battled back from a 4-1 deficit in the first half and scored three in the

second to tie the host Merrimack-Hollis Brookline-Derryfield 4-4.

Goals went to Hiltz, in the first half, and MacLeod, Ganas and Bozza in the second. Assisted were delivered by Bozza, Ganas, MacLeod and Green.

In the final game of the tournament, Alvirne-Miford came away with a 3-2 victory in a nail-biter against the combined team from Nashua North and South.

The winning goal came

off the stick of MacLeod, with 1:15 left in the game with Green getting the assist.

Callahan had the team's second goal of the contest, to tie the game with 18:12 remaining.

Milford senior Landon Briand had the assist.

The Admirals first goal was scored by Hiltz, assisted by Ganas.

The team is scheduled for its third home game of the season on Wednesday, Jan. 7, against the Goffstown Grizzlies (3-2), starting at 5:50 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan 10, they will be on the road, taking on Timberlane-Pelham, who started the week at 2-4.



Alvirne senior Brandon Ganas had three goals in the win over Bishop Brady-MV.

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# Town Officials Commit to Preserving Historic Benson Park Buildings

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The December meeting of the Benson Park Advisory Committee focused on new plans to protect several historic buildings at the park. Over the past few months, multiple town departments have been working on longterm preservation efforts.

"We're creating a team approach to talk about winterizing our historic buildings, what kind of maintenance needs to be done to ensure they'll make it through any weather that comes up, and to continue to maintain them," said Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby. "In the new year,

Mr. Sorenson, Mr. Dhima, and Mr. Twardosky and I will be meeting to discuss a further plan of action moving forward that I hope to let all of you know about by February. We're talking about it and it's a concern we're addressing."

One of the older office buildings has experienced roof deterioration over the past year.

"A lot of people were very worried that we might lose a building," said Committee member Sue Clement.

Jakoby assured both the Advisory Committee and the Friends of Benson Park that the town is committed to preserving all

historic structures within the park.

"We're excited about the fact that we own these historic buildings and excited about the fact that we get to care for them as a town and a community," said Jakoby. "To do that, we have to make plans, we have to be proactive, and we have to understand what we can do and when we can do it."

Several buildings at Benson Park have been officially listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, prompting the Advisory Committee to order three signs.

"We were able to order

the signs," said Chair Jack Madden. "Sue has managed to get a volunteer who's interested in mounting them on a granite post."

It is not the first time the volunteer has contributed to the park.

"He did the stone for the Little Old Lady in the Shoe, he did all of that engraving, and then he did a granite bench as you come into the park," said Clement. "He has said he would be interested in donating his time and the granite to Benson Park."

Sign installation will likely take place once the weather improves in the spring.

"I feel like it's important to get it put out there so people are aware even if they're driving by in their car," said Clement. "It's important that they know this building is a historical building. It's not a building you can go into: hands off."

The Committee also continued planning for its next major event, the 2026 Cardboard Sled Race.

"We have had the Lion's Club who has said they're going to come and join us and have free hot cocoa," said Clement. "I think we're up to 12 volunteers from Pelham High School that are going to come, and we do have the Boy Scouts as well that

helped us last year."

Anyone interested in participating must register, and there is a \$10 fee per sled. Prizes will be awarded for fastest sled, most creative sled, and most innovative sled.

"You can register through Facebook, our event page for the Friends of Benson Park. There's a link and you can also go to our website under the events," explained Friends of Benson Park member Natalie Newell.

The Cardboard Sled Race is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, from 1 to 3 p.m., with Jan. 17 reserved as an alternate date in case of heavy snow or rain.

## Budget Committee Seeks Clarity on Legal Costs and McKinneyVento Transportation

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

At its final December meeting, the Hudson Budget Committee wrapped up 2025 with a closer look at the SAU81 budget, focusing on several outstanding questions related to legal expenses and transportation services for special needs and homeless students.

"There's some other documents just from the law firm Soule, Leslie, Kidder," explained Superintendent Dr. Daniel Moulis. "The other law firm that we use is Wadleigh, Starr & Peters for special education."

Earlier in the month, the Committee requested additional information on legal spending after expressing uncertainty about how cer-

tain items were categorized and how they might affect the tax rate.

"In the budget you presented, are both the totals of these two law firms represented?" asked Committee Chair James Lawrence.

Moulis said the two figures were listed separately in the budget, noting that the district typically spends between \$25,000 and \$30,000 on legal costs related to special education.

"Some other special education information that the Budget Committee had asked for, including the special aid formula, I received that along with legal requirements for the consideration of outofdistrict placement," he added.

Committee member Kevin Cole and ViceChair

Kim Rice also sought confirmation that transportation funds were being used appropriately, particularly for services tied to special education and the McKinneyVento Act, which supports homeless students.

"To the best of my knowledge, I do know we're not using taxi services," said Moulis, who explained that SAU81 contracts with two bus companies to handle even nontraditional transportation needs. "Besides our two transportation providers, these are the only transportation providers I know of based on the information I have we're providing based on homeless students from McKinneyVento."

"As long as we're not giving money to taxi stands

in Nashua and vacant buildings in Manchester, I'm more than happy," said Cole. "Since there seems to be an interest, perhaps we can get a little more detail on what the requirements are for a homeless student."

Moulis outlined the criteria, noting that there are "multiple requirements," including the absence of fixed housing.

"There's also the category of 'doubled up.' If it's due to a loss of housing, or economic hardship, or a similar reason, then that would also fit into the category based on the McKin-

neyVento Act," he said. "The third category is hotels, motels, trailers, campgrounds, and the category there would be more towards lack of alternative accommodations than it would fit the homeless McKinneyVento category."

Cole added that transportation obligations can extend beyond Hudson's borders.

"If a homeless student going to school in Hudson relocates to another area, let's say Chelmsford, and they want to stay in the school system here, we are still responsible for the

transportation of that student," said Cole. "The whole point of the federal law, as I understand it, is to 'unstigmatize,' if you will, homelessness for any boys and any girls out there that want to go and get an education, and the requirements are very stringent."

Currently, around 30 Hudson students qualify under McKinneyVento. Due to the small number, privacy concerns make it impractical to determine how many - if any - are being transported from outside the district.

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# Benson Park Committee Interviews Volunteers to Fill Open Seats

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Advisory Committee met on Dec. 18 to interview volunteers interested in filling several open positions. Chair Jack Madden noted that there were up to four potential applicants, including a resident named Mr. Elliott, who already had a history of helping out at the park.

"I am very familiar with Benson's. We live right around the corner, and I am here all the time with my family," said Elliott. "My son had an interest over the summer in volunteering

because he does karate and it's big for them to do some sort of community integration with volunteer work. We did a few of the cleanups over the summer, and I just really enjoyed giving back to the community. When this popped up on the Friends of Benson page, I emailed you right away."

Committee member Sue Clement asked several questions, noting that Elliott was applying for the position of Secretary on the Advisory Committee.

"What particular areas, other than being Secretary and doing the notes, what

are the other things in the park that you would be interested in?" asked Clement.

Elliott said he was "flexible."

"I have a pretty extensive background in non-profit," he explained. "I do a lot of fundraising, a lot of different things like that."

Other Committee members agreed that Elliott would be a "great fit."

"Thank you very much for coming and talking to us," said Committee Chair Jack Madden.

Although no other applicants attended the meeting, another resident, Ellen

Griffin, expressed interest.

"She couldn't be at this meeting, but she's going to come to the January meeting and then introduce herself," said Clement. "There were two more, but they would be on a subcommittee. They're also interested in coming in, helping out, and doing fundraising and events at the park. I think those people would fit in great."

All new appointees will require approval from the Hudson Board of Selectmen.

With a limited budget, the Advisory Committee and the Friends of Benson

Park rely heavily on donations and volunteers. Reviewing the latest expenditures, Madden noted that the Committee had not yet needed to use any of its previously approved \$1,100 budget thanks to volunteer labor and direct donations.

This included ongoing work to replace an old bridge at Benson Park, which is progressing with help from volunteers, town officials, and a design based on U.S. Forest Service specifications.

"It's set up so that, basically, you put in the length you want, the width you want, and it calculates out

how much you can carry," explained Madden.

Committee member Jan Horvath has been in active contact with town officials to ensure the bridge meets all necessary safety requirements.

"I just made an appointment with the Director of Town Planning next week," said Horvath. "I will make the final specifications after that."

The Benson Park Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Hudson Cable Access Center.

# School Board Approves Updated Parental Objections to Specific Course Material Policy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board held its final policy reading on Dec. 15 for the District's updated Parental Objections to Specific Course Material policy.

"The School Board recognizes that there may be specific course materials that some parents/guardians find objectionable," the updated policy states.

Under the revised policy, "In the event a parent/guardian finds specific course material objectionable for a course their child

is enrolled in, the parent/guardian may notify the building principal of the specific material to which they object and request that the student receive alternative instruction. The alternative instruction must be mutually agreed upon by the building principal and parent/guardian and be sufficient to enable the child to meet state requirements for education in the particular subject area. This notification and request shall be in writing. Parent/guardian names and any reasons given for an objection to

material shall not be public information."

The policy further explains that "School district staff will make reasonable efforts, within the scope of existing time, schedules, resources, and other duties, to accommodate alternative instruction for the student. Alternative instruction may be provided by the school through approved independent study, or through another method agreed to by the parent/guardian and the building principal. Any cost associated with the alternative instruction shall be

borne by the parent/guardian."

The updated policy also clarifies that "Nothing in this policy shall be construed as giving parents/guardians the right to appeal to the School Board."

Parents who wish to challenge the appropriateness of instructional material may still do so under Board policy KEC.

The policy also incorporates federal and state requirements regarding access to curriculum materials. "In accordance with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights statute, as a school district that receives federal Department of Education funds, and NH RSA

186:11, IXc, the Superintendent shall develop procedures to allow the parent/guardian of a student to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for the student. The procedures will provide reasonable access to instructional material within a reasonable period of time after the request is received."

A separate section addresses topics related to human sexuality.

"In addition to the protections under this policy, per RSA 186:11, IXc and Board policy IHAM, parents/guardians are afforded additional affirmative rights with respect to instruction

or program of human sexuality, or human sexual education, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression, including, among other things, the right to receive a minimum of 2 weeks advance notice of any curriculum course material to be used with respect to such instruction or program," the policy states. Notice will be delivered through school district communication. No notice is required when a district employee responds to a student's question during class.

The School Board unanimously approved the updated policy.

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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).

## Cardboard Sled Race

The Friends of Benson Park and Benson Park Advisory Committee will be hosting their Cardboard Sled Race on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 1 - 3 p.m., at Benson Park. Fee to enter is \$10 and includes a cup of cocoa. (Snow date Jan. 17) Race is at 2 p.m., with judging to follow after.

## 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.

## 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.

## Superspy Science

On Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m., Dr. Kathryn Harkup, writer, science communicator and vampirologist, will be discussing her book "Superspy Science: Science, Death and Tech in the World of James Bond." Virtually through the Rodgers Library.

## Adopt A Penguin

Come adopt a mini penguin stuffy and do penguin activities with your new friend at the Rodgers Library on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

## Afternoon Book Group

This Rodgers Library group will meet Tuesday, Jan.

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

## Nonfiction Book Group

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

## Family Candy Bingo

Families with children are invited to join the Rodgers Library for several rounds of candy bingo on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. Candy prizes will be awarded.

## Crime & Cookies

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

## How Librarians Became The Unlikely Spies Of WWII

Author Elyse Graham will discuss her new book

"Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II." Virtually through the Rodgers Library on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

## Craft Swap

Looking to clear out your craft supplies or find new materials for your next project? Join Rodgers Library for a Craft Swap on Jan. 21 - 24, contact the Library for more information.

## Tween Minute to Win It Games

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

## Vision Board Workshop

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

## Curious Kids: Winter

Explore learning centers with your preschooler at the

Rodgers Library on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m.

## Lego Club

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

## Cookbook Club

Prepare a recipe from this month's topic, then engage with others about your recipe adventures at the Rodgers 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 **continued on page 14**

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## Around Town

Continued from page 13

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 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.

### Retirement Planning Workshop

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

### Agents of Change

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

### Trails Challenge

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

### Buy-a-Brick and Show Gratitude

Preserve a memory and help the Friends of the Library support programs, events, museum and entertainment venue passes, and scholarships. FOL will engrave your purchased bricks with two lines (\$55) or three lines (\$80) with your special

message. The order form is on Rodgers Memorial Library website click on the Friends page. The bricks are placed in the RML Walkway twice a year and will become an enduring legacy. For an inanimate object, each brick can speak volumes.

### Ice Cube Painting

Stop by the Rodgers Library to create a painting using ice cubes (water color and water) as your paint brushes on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. This program is for families with children.

### Mystery Lovers' Book Club

This Rodgers Library club will meet on Monday, Jan. 12 at 12:30 p.m. This month's book pick is "Murder on the Iditarod Trail" by Sue Henry.

### Genealogy Club

This Rodgers Library club will meet on Friday, Jan. 9 at 1:30 p.m. This month's presentation is "Focusing Your Research: Building a Targeted Genealogy Strategy."

### In Conversation with Author

Join the Rodgers Library on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. for this virtual discussion with author Heather B. Moore about her recent

release, "Julia", the untold story of Julia Child.

### How to Help When Someone You Love Uses Drugs

On Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m., Drs. Kate and Jonathan Peters will be at Rodgers Library to discuss steps and resources to help when someone you love uses drugs.

### Family Pizza Dinner & Erev Shabbat Services

Join the Etz Hayim Synagogue for a free pizza dinner followed by potluck desserts (bring a nosh to share!) on Friday, Jan. 9, from, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Book Bubbe, Leslie Kirschman, will read a story, and Shabbat service will be led by Rabbi Jonathan Biatch with musical accompaniment by Irina, Religious School Director. All are welcome! Please RSVP to office@etzhayim.org by Jan. 8, to plan for pizza.

### Sunday Family Camp

On Sunday, Jan. 11, from, 10 a.m. - Noon, this Etz Haymin event will take place with the Theme of Tu B'Shvat. Learn about how trees help us and may even get to try some special Tu B'Shevat foods! Please RSVP to sarahjohnplater@aol.com by Jan. 9 to ensure enough materials for the artwork. Visit

www.etzhayim.org/learn/grades-0-1 for more information.

### Drop In Stitchers

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

### Baby Lapsit and Playtime

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

### Movers & Shakers

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

### 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 if you have any questions.

## 2026 Scheduled Meat Raffles at Hudson VFW

This year's meat raffles to benefit several local organizations have been scheduled. These meat raffles raise money for organizations and individuals that need help with fundraising. Hudson VFW Post 5791 donates the use of the hall, and after the cost of the meat is deducted, the organization receives the proceeds of the night's activities. A meat raffle is a great opportunity to have a fun night out, especially in the winter months. There is no admission charge; players only pay for each hand they choose to play. Typically, "hands" cost \$1 or \$2, and you can buy more than one hand for each

game. For \$35, you get one hand for each game. Usually, there are separate prize raffles as well, such as a TV, gift cards, or gift baskets. If you've never attended a meat raffle, you're in for a treat. Have fun while raising money for a good cause. Typically, the meat raffles begin at 7 p.m. **The 2026 schedule as it is now:**

Jan. 16, Scott Anderson Memorial Scholarship: Doors open at 6:30 p.m., meat raffle begins at 7 p.m., free admission. Other raffle prizes include a 55" Vizio TV, gift cards, and themed baskets. This fundraiser helps fund the Scott Anderson Memorial Scholarship presented by WGI

(Winter Guard International Sport of the Arts).

Feb. 20, Alvirne HS Air Force JROTC: This is always a fun raffle with the cadets helping out.

March 20, Alvirne HS Booster Club: The Alvirne Bronco Boosters is a non-profit NH Charitable Trust. The purpose of this club is to support and recognize Alvirne athletes!

May 15, Hudson Girls Softball: Help support this program for girls by attending the last meat raffle before the summer break!

Sept. 18, Hudson Lions Club: The Hudson Lions are much more than eye exams and eyeglass recycling. They work all year long to help Hudson

residents, including the popular photos with Santa Claus at the Town Rec Center following the annual tree lighting.

Oct. 16, Wreaths Across America Hudson NH Cemeteries: Every year, WAA Hudson NH Cemeteries organizes a Wreath Day ceremony on National Wreaths Across America Wreath Day in December to honor and remember all the of the veterans buried in Hudson's cemeteries. Volunteers then head to into the cemeteries to place over 400 wreaths on veterans' graves. This fundraiser raises money for administrative costs associated with organizing Wreath Day in Hudson.

## OBITUARY

### Scott Berton McLain



Scott Berton McLain, age 90, of Londonderry, NH, passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 29, 2025. Scott was born in Jefferson, NH, and proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. He spent most of his life as a dedicated resident of Hudson, NH, where he built both his career and his family.

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

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

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

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

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





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Thursday	9:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday	9:00AM - 6:00PM
Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00PM
Sunday	10:00AM - 3:00PM

## SERVICE HOURS

Monday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Wednesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Friday	7:00AM - 5:00PM
Saturday	8:00AM - 3:00PM
Sunday	CLOSED



# DISAPPOINTED IN YOUR FUEL PROVIDER?

Serving: New Hampshire | Massachusetts | Maine

## WE'RE ACCEPTING NEW CUSTOMERS!

— Palmer Customers Enjoy —

- Real People. Real Help. Every Time.
- 24/7 Emergency Service
- Loyalty Rewards Program
- Electrician and Plumbing Services



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**\$150**  
NEW  
CUSTOMER  
CREDIT\*

\*Some restrictions may apply  
License Number: MBE0005201

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