

THE Hudson Times

July 9, 2026 ♦ Volume 4 – Issue 26

A FREE Weekly Publication



Closed & Treated

Areas of Robinson Pond were chemically treated on Tuesday, July 7, to control the growth of non-native aquatic vegetation. As a result the town closed the use of the pond. Two areas of the pond were treated with a herbicide, one near the public boat launch and beach; and the other was in the southern portion of the pond.

Photo by Chris Paul

Trustees Receive Resolution to Transfer Hills Building

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees received a formal update from Town Administrator Roy Sorenson on the future of the Hills Memorial Library Building, marking another step in the transi-

tion of oversight from the Library Trustees to the Hudson Board of Selectmen.

Sorenson reminded the Board that the shift has been in discussion for more than a year. "This is something we've been working on with the Board of Select-

men and Director Pilla for the past year," he said. "The Board of Selectmen will have exclusive authority for operations, maintenance, and things along those lines."

Because the Hills building is a historic property, its

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Purchase of Protective Gear From Target Funds Approved

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen approved two Fire Department requests during its most recent meeting, including the purchase of new particulate hoods funded through the Hudson Logistics Center Public Safety allocation and an authorization related to the regional hazardous materials district.

Fire Chief Scott Tice presented a proposal to use a portion of the Hudson Logistics Center Public Safety Money to purchase 52 particulate hoods, specialized protective gear designed to shield firefighters from soot, smoke residue, and other airborne

contaminants encountered during fire suppression.

In a memo to the Board, Tice explained that the department currently does not have particulate hoods in its inventory. "The department is seeking funding to acquire fifty two particulate hoods to augment our personal protective gear," he wrote. "Particulate hoods are specialized firefighting gear crafted to shield against harmful soot and airborne particles encountered during firefighting activities."

Tice noted that particulate hoods are now considered a standard component of modern turnout gear. "These hoods are an essential component of NFPA

1970 compliant turnout gear, providing substantial benefits in terms of health, performance, and operational efficiency," he said.

The funding request draws from the Public Safety allocation included in the Hudson Logistics Center Amended Site Plan between Target Corporation and the Town of Hudson. Under the agreement, Target is required to provide just over \$1,000,000 for Fire and Police Department training and equipment. The two departments previously agreed to an 80/20 split, with Fire receiving \$840,000 and Police receiving \$210,000.

As of the meeting, the Fire Department had al-

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Renewed Restoration Efforts Begin on Benson Park Lion's Pride Statues

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Advisory Committee met on June 18 with encouraging news about the long running effort to restore the park's historic Lion's Pride statues. After years of slow progress, the project has gained new momentum thanks to fresh volunteer involvement and a recent \$200 donation earmarked for repair work.

Committee Chair Sue Clement said volunteers have already begun hands-on restoration. "We are working on the Lions currently, we have some good volunteers who have started," she said. "First up is going to be cleaning it. They're also looking into

rebuilding one of the statue's poor tail, because the tail is no longer there. I've been sending pictures that I have, though I only have one or two, that show how long the tail was."

While restoration is underway, the Committee is still debating how best to display the statues once they are repaired. Most members favor keeping the Lions somewhere near the Elephant Barn, possibly on a seasonal basis to protect them from weather and wear.

Secretary Ellen Griffin floated the idea of a glass enclosure. "Should we put them in a glass window? So people can see them all the time?" she asked.

The Committee agreed

that constant exposure could invite problems. Past ideas, including placing the statues on the old Gorilla Cage or constructing a custom cage, were dismissed as impractical. Clement suggested a more naturalistic approach.

"An easy thing that I was thinking was having a nice little display around them where it looks like they're living in nature," she said. "We can make it look really cute. If anybody has any other thoughts, feel free to give us some information or if anybody wants to volunteer to help us do that."

Protecting the statues from rain, erosion, and curious visitors who might try to climb on them remains a

continued on page 3

Board of Selectmen Briefed on Earned Time Payouts

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen received an extensive update on employee earned time pay out during its most recent meeting, a routine but significant part of closing out the fiscal year. Town officials explained that earned time pay out; covering unused vacation, sick, and personal time; can create substantial financial impacts across departments, particularly when multiple employees retire or leave Town employment within the same year.

Finance Director Laurie May told the Board that she wanted to provide a clear snapshot of where the Town

stands as Fiscal Year 2026 winds down.

"This memo is to provide a snapshot of the funds paid out in Fiscal Year 2026 for money expended that is not accounted for in the budget," May wrote in her memo to the Board. She noted that earned time pay out are not budgeted in advance because they depend entirely on employee decisions and staffing changes, making them one of the more unpredictable financial obligations the Town manages each year.

May reported that the Town processed more than 70 earned time pay out this fiscal year.

"There were seventy

eight accrued time pay out during December and June," she wrote. "We had fifteen employees leave employment over the past year with a payout of \$148,041.02. In total, there were seventy eight pay out totaling \$479,699.82 that have been booked into the salary and benefit accounts within each department."

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that the Town was seeking authorization to withdraw funds from the Employee Earned Time Capital Reserve Fund if needed. He emphasized that the Town does not routinely rely on the reserve, but earned time pay out can create sudden

budget pressures that departments cannot absorb without assistance.

Sorenson said the goal was not to immediately withdraw funds, but to have approval in place should the final weeks of the fiscal year require it.

"I am requesting a withdrawal of up to \$485,000 from the Employee Earned Time Capital Reserve Fund, which currently has a balance of \$1,269,111.79 (through April)," May wrote. "I am not anticipating a withdrawal this large. However, we still have three payroll weeks to cover and a few weeks of Accounts Payable to close out the year."

Sorenson noted that this process is consistent with how the Town handles earned time pay out each year, ensuring that departments remain financially stable even when staffing changes occur unexpectedly.

During the discussion, Selectman Heidi Jakoby asked how employees accrue earned time. Sorenson explained that the Town has a formal accrued time policy that allows employees to accumulate earned time up to a set limit. He said Hudson offers two opportunities each year for employees to cash in their earned time, one in December and one in June, giving staff flexibility in how they

manage their accrued hours.

Sorenson described the benefit as a way to reward employees who manage their time responsibly and do not use all of it immediately. He added that the policy was reviewed earlier in the year by the Policy Subcommittee as part of its ongoing policy review process.

After discussion, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the request, giving Town officials the authority to withdraw funds from the reserve if necessary as the fiscal year closes.

The next Selectmen meeting is scheduled for July 14 at 7 p.m.

Hudson Restaurant Depot Project Passes Key Hurdle

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board moved one step closer to finalizing plans for a new Restaurant Depot on Lowell Road during its late-June meeting, where project representatives said all outstanding issues had been addressed and asked the Board for formal approval.

Project Engineer Keith Curran of Bohler Engineering returned to the Board alongside Larry Cohen of Restaurant Depot for what

they hoped would be the final review. Curran noted that the project had been continued at the previous meeting while peer review comments were pending.

"Last time, we got continued because we were waiting for the peer review comments," Curran said. "It's my understanding from the staff notes that those have basically been addressed. We're looking for formal approval tonight."

Curran confirmed that

the latest version of the site plan included no new changes beyond responses to earlier feedback from town staff and the Conservation Commission. Those adjustments included a waiver request to reduce the number of shrubs in the landscaping plan and clarifications related to slope design at the rear of the property.

Vice-Chair Jordan Ulery asked for clarification on conflicting recommendations from town

departments regarding driveway width and slope stability.

"With the driveway width, I know the Fire Department had recommendations for this property," Ulery said. "Do you recall what those recommendations were and how they were different from Conservation's recommendations? And what was the justification for a two to one versus three to one slope?"

Curran said he did not recall specific comments from Hudson Fire but explained the differing viewpoints. Conservation favored a two to one slope to reduce disturbance near the wetland, while the Town Engineer preferred a three to one slope for greater longterm stability.

"By going two to one, the footprint of the disturbance would be less and the edge of grading would be further from the wetland,"

Curran said. "The Town Engineer thought three to one was more stable and less likely to have erosion control issues."

Curran emphasized that the applicant was comfortable with either option and willing to add vegetation to stabilize a steeper slope if needed. Planning Board Chair Tim Malley said he generally favored the Town Engineer's recommendation but left the final decision to the Board's comfort level.

Board member James Crowley urged the applicant to choose the option that minimized disturbance to the wetlands and buffer zone. He also asked about expected traffic levels given Restaurant Depot's membership based business model.

Cohen explained that Restaurant Depot operates primarily as a wholesale supplier for restaurants, caterers, and nonprofit

groups, with very limited sales to the general public.

"A lot of our stores are open to the public, mostly in retail centers," Cohen said. "The ones that are open to the public see under 5% of sales to members of the public." He added that the model generates significantly less traffic than retailers like Costco, a point supported by a traffic study submitted with the application.

After reviewing remaining waiver requests, including one to reduce the number of docking spaces, the Planning Board voted to approve the site plan, clearing a major hurdle for the project.

The approval moves Restaurant Depot closer to breaking ground on its new Hudson location, which will serve as a wholesale hub for food service businesses throughout the region.



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Selectmen Approve Switching Town's Banking Services

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen were briefed on a change in banking services for the Town during its most recent meeting.

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that the Town will be switching to TD Bank.

"This memo serves as official notification that the Town of Hudson is transitioning its primary banking, depository, and treasury management services from Citizens Bank to TD Bank," Town Treasurer Barbara

Bouley wrote in a memo to the Board.

Bouley noted that the Town issued a request for proposals and evaluated which institution would best meet Hudson's needs moving forward.

"Following a comprehensive Request for Information (RFI) process and careful evaluation of municipal banking capabilities, TD Bank was selected to optimize the Town's interest yields, significantly reduce transaction fees, and provide updated remote deposit and fraud protection tools,"

Bouley said.

Sorenson told the Board that the Town expects a positive financial impact from the transition.

"We are expecting a \$1.9 million positive impact for the Town between no service fees and additional interest earned on all monies," Bouley said.

Bouley also explained that the transition will be phased in.

"To minimize disruption to daily operations, tax collection cycles, and payroll processing, the transi-

tion will occur in phases over 60 days," she said.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved authorizing the Chairman to execute the Cash Management Master Agreement with TD Bank as recommended by the Treasurer.

Another agenda item involved a donation.

"In 2022, the Town removed the pedestrian bridge near the overlook, also commonly referred to as the area by the pond, due to safety concerns," Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima

explained. "Because of budget constraints, and because the bridge is located adjacent to a Stateowned dam, the Town has not yet been able to replace it."

Dhima said that "Mr. Lacasse of M.R. Homes LLC, located in Hudson, New Hampshire, has generously offered to donate both the materials and labor needed to construct a new sixfootwide pedestrian bridge with an approximate span of twentytwo feet."

"This project will be completed in collaboration with the Department of

Public Works and the Engineering Department," Dhima said.

"The Town extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. Lacasse with M.R. Homes LLC for his generous contribution and support of this important community project," Dhima wrote in his memo.

The Board unanimously approved accepting, with gratitude, a donation of \$10,000 in labor and materials from M.R. Lacasse Homes LLC of Hudson for a pedestrian bridge at Benson Park.

Board of Selectmen Discuss Annual Water Restrictions

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Board of Selectmen meeting, an agenda item focused on giving the Development Services Director the authority to implement Tier 2 or Tier 3 water restrictions, if necessary, between June 24 and October 1, 2026.

"This is something we do every year," Develop-

ment Services Director Elvis Dhima said during the meeting.

Dhima explained that the goal is to allow the Town to adjust water restrictions if there are changes in water supply operations.

"The Town of Hudson water customers are currently advised to water their lawns on an odd/even

schedule between 12:00 AM and 7:00 AM, in accordance with Tier 1 requirements," Dhima wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. "Tier 1 restrictions take effect automatically each year from May 1 through October 1. These restrictions do not apply to private well owners."

Dhima noted that if necessary, "the Town may

implement Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions in response to extreme weather conditions, major water main breaks, or other unforeseen circumstances during periods of high water demand."

"Tier 2 would require mandatory odd/even lawn watering, while Tier 3 would prohibit all outside water use," he explained.

Dhima emphasized the importance of being prepared.

"Being prepared to implement Tier 2 or Tier 3, if needed, is an important precaution and is consistent with practices used in previous years," he said. "These measures help ensure the Town can continue to provide adequate domestic

water service and fire protection throughout the water district."

Dhima also noted that in his 12 years with the Town, they have never had to implement Tier 2 or Tier 3.

"If Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions are implemented, customers will be notified through the Town's Red Alert notification system by text message, email, and phone call," Dhima said. "Any restrictions will remain in effect until further notice."

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved authorizing the Development Services Director to implement Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions, if and when necessary, between June 24 and October 1, 2026.

A memo from the Water Department included the following tier descriptions:

- Tier 1 – Voluntary odd/even days lawn watering restrictions
- Tier 2 – Mandatory odd/even days outdoor water usage restrictions
- Tier 3 – Total ban on outside water usage (not in effect at this time)

Outside watering, where applicable, is recommended between 12:00 AM and 7:00 AM for Tier 1, mandatory for Tier 2, and not allowed under Tier 3.

Exceptions may apply. Residents can contact the Hudson Water Department for more information or visit the Town website or Facebook page.

Statues

Continued from page 1 priority. Still, Clement said she is optimistic. "I'm just excited that now we have money, and we have somebody who's starting to work on them," she said. "I have a good feeling that by the end of this year we'll have it done."

The Committee also heard an update from Jan Horvath on the covered bridge replacement project. Horvath recently met with Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima,

DPW Director Jason Twardosk, and other staff to review the site and discuss foundation needs.

"I had my first meeting with Elvis where I made a real measurement of the landscape and how we would like to have the DPW build a foundation for the bridge," Horvath said. A walkthrough revealed areas of water collection and erosion. "We should consider some drainage there so the water won't erode the side of the foundations. I am going to mention these

things when I talk with Jason."

Horvath plans to develop a preliminary budget to estimate the cost of the bridge before presenting the project to the Board of Selectmen. "I hope we can take money from the Capital Fund," he said, a suggestion that received support from other Committee members.

The Benson Park Advisory Committee will meet again on Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m. in the HCTV Meeting Room.



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Editorial

The Importance of Public Trust

As a community, we cannot stand together without trust. It is the foundation of every relationship we have with one another, and it is the foundation of every relationship we have with our government. In a representative democracy, we entrust our power to others. That makes maintaining public trust not just a goal, but a responsibility, one that must be taken seriously by anyone who serves in the public sector.

Public trust is built when officials demonstrate competence, reliability, honesty, and integrity. These aren't abstract concepts. They are everyday behaviors: showing up prepared, communicating openly, following the rules, admitting mistakes, and making decisions based on what is best for the community rather than personal interest. Integrity is especially important. It means consistently adhering to strong moral and ethical principles. Communities with high integrity have low corruption, because corruption is simply the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.

Trust doesn't come from one action or one meeting. It comes from a pattern of behavior. And while many factors influence how much confidence the public has in its institutions, the public sector has a unique ability and obligation to shape how accountability works in practice. Accountability is not punishment. It is answerability. It is the expectation that those who hold power will explain their decisions, justify their actions, and accept responsibility for the consequences.

In representative government, accountability takes two forms. The first is electoral replacement: citizens vote out officials who are not acting in their interest. The second

is rational anticipation: officials govern responsibly because they understand the consequences of failing to do so. Even when citizens don't know every detail of what their representatives do, accountability still works if those representatives believe they will be held responsible for their choices.

Accountability also requires transparency. Without proper accounting practices, without good records, without clear communication, accountability cannot exist. When information is hidden, delayed, or selectively shared, trust erodes. When information is open, timely, and complete, trust grows.

But accountability must be balanced. Overemphasizing performance metrics or public rankings can create defensive behavior, discourage honesty, and undermine the very trust those tools were meant to build. The goal is not to create fear; it is to create confidence. The public should feel confident that their government is acting in their interest, and officials should feel confident that transparency strengthens their relationship with the community.

At the local level, trust is even more personal. Residents know their officials. They see them at meetings, in grocery stores, and at school events. When trust breaks down here, it breaks down face-to-face. And when trust is strong, it strengthens the entire community.

Public trust is not automatic. It must be earned, protected, and renewed. It requires accountability, honesty, and a commitment to serving the public, not just when it is easy, but especially when it is hard. Our community deserves nothing less.

Hills Transfer

Continued from page 1
upkeep has long required coordination and funding across multiple departments. Sorenson noted that the FY 2027 budget is already set, meaning the Town and Library will continue working together during the transition year.

"When you talk about operations and maintenance, obviously there are budget items," he said. "We'll have a partnership with Director Pilla moving forward as far as any cost throughout FY 2027. That's not to say the Library Trustees or anyone else won't be invited back, that relationship still exists. We have ongoing discussions, and I'll have to talk to the schools next, as well as the Historical Society."

The Board then read into the record a formal resolution outlining the transfer of responsibility. Trustee

Chair Mimi Guessferd delivered the statement, which establishes July 1, 2026 as the effective date for the transition.

"Now, therefore, may it be resolved that effective July 1, 2026, the Hudson Library Board of Trustees shall transfer and surrender all oversight, maintenance, and operational responsibilities associated with the Hills Memorial Building to the Town of Hudson acting through its Board of Selectmen and designated administrative staff," Guessferd read. The resolution also states that all existing agreements and service arrangements will transfer to the Town, and that the Trustees will make available any FY 2027 library budget funds necessary for the building's care through June 30, 2027.

Library Director Linda Pilla expressed gratitude for

the Town's willingness to assume responsibility and for the collaborative process that led to the decision. "It's been a pleasure to go through this process, and it feels wonderful to get it done," she said. "Even in just the conversations we've had, I know the Hills building is going to be in good hands with you and with the Board of Selectmen. Thank you very much."

Sorenson thanked the Trustees for their stewardship. "Thank you for overseeing the building as long as you did. I think it's a valued asset to the town. I love the old buildings, historical buildings," he said. "We'll move forward with appreciation and stewardship into the future."

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees will meet next on Wednesday, July 15 at 6 p.m. in the Hudson Cable Access Center.

Target Funds

Continued from page 1
ready allocated \$257,487.60 of its share.

During the discussion, Selectmen asked about the expected life span of the hoods. Tice said they typically last about 10-years, depending on usage and exposure.

The Board unanimously approved releasing an amount not to exceed \$5,980 from the Hudson Logistics Center Public Safety Money for the purchase.

In another agenda item,

the Board considered a request related to the Southeastern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District (SNHHMAD). Tice explained that the district is governed by both an Operations Committee and a Board of Directors. Each community's Fire Chief serves on the Operations Committee, while an elected official or Town Manager/Administrator represents the community on the Board of Directors.

"The District holds an

annual meeting each year in June to conduct the business of the District," Tice said. He noted that when the Town's designated representative is unable to attend, the Town may authorize the Fire Chief to vote on its behalf.

The Board unanimously approved authorizing the Fire Chief to act as the Town of Hudson's proxy and vote on any matters before the SNHHMAD Board of Directors at any meeting where an elected official or the Town Manager/Administrator is unavailable.

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603-537-2760

send e-mails to: HUDSONTIMES@NUTPUB.NET

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Owner/Publisher – Debra Paul • Art Director/Manager – Chris Paul

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BOS Approves Exploring Options for Transfer Station

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, an agenda item focused on a proposal to seek potential partnerships for the use of part of the Town's Transfer Station.

"The purpose of this memo is to update the Board on the Town's continued efforts to identify

opportunities at the Transfer Station that may help offset operating costs and make better use of existing Town assets," Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima explained in a memo to the Board.

Dhima noted that part of the property is already designated for the Town's solar farm, but additional land remains available for poten-

tial use.

"Over the past several years, the Town has pursued two grant opportunities to support a potential recycling center at the Transfer Station," Dhima said. "Unfortunately, those grant applications were not successful. However, staff has continued to look for other ways to advance this concept, including potential

partnerships with private-sector vendors or other third parties."

He explained that the goal would be to find a partnership that could reduce Town costs, potentially in exchange for leasing a portion of the property. Dhima also emphasized that the Town's intent is not to invest capital funds into any proposed project.

"Staff has recently become aware of a possible opportunity that may be beneficial to the Town. At this time, no commitment is being requested," Dhima said. "Staff is requesting authorization to issue a request for proposals, or similar solicitation, to determine what options may be available and whether any proposal could provide a financial or operational benefit to the Town."

During the meeting, Dhima said the Town simply wants the chance to see what proposals come in, while acknowledging that it is possible none will be viable.

"I feel like we're at the point that maybe we should just put this out there and see what we come back with," Dhima said.

He stressed that issuing an RFP would not obligate the Town to move forward with any partnership.

"Issuing a proposal would not obligate the Town to enter into any agreement. Any responses received would be reviewed by staff and brought back to the Board for discussion and possible further action," Dhima explained.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved authorizing Town staff to prepare and issue a request for proposals for potential partnership opportunities related to the Transfer Station, and to return to the Board with the results and any recommendations.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for July 14 at 7 p.m.



Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Club Awards Scholarship Recipients

The Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Club awarded scholarships to outstanding seniors from both Campbell High School and Alvirne High School. Alvirne's recipients were Tyler Dozois, Sloane Whaley, Victoria Suppa, Aiden Nehiley, Samantha de Silva, Abigail Conroy, and Logan Sharland. Incoming Club President Alexandra Segura presented at the Alvirne Awards Dinner. The Hudson-Litchfield Rotary Club funds these scholarships annually as part of its longstanding commitment to supporting local students.

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Planning Board Approves Bond and Driveway Waiver

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board worked through a pair of straightforward requests at its June 24 meeting, beginning with a driveway waiver for a Highland Street property. The Board acknowledged early on that the town lacks a clear process for evaluating such waivers.

"We really don't have a formal way set up to look at the driveway and waive that 50 foot requirement," said Chair Tim Malley. He noted that town staff had recommended approval and sug-

gested that future ordinance updates might allow the Department of Public Works, Engineering, and the Town Planner to handle similar requests administratively. "However, we don't have that yet, so they brought it to the Planning Board."

With no formal presentation and only staff notes to guide them, Board members focused on whether the request met the intent of the ordinance. The applicant sought permission for a driveway approximately 58 feet long, eight feet beyond the current limit.

Board member James Crowley expressed concern after visiting the site. "I wish the guy luck, because I went out there to the property to take a look and it seems like he wants to pave the full retaining wall, but it looks like there's still a lot of gravel and dirt that's going to wash away," he said. "This looks like a rather expensive solution that I don't think is going to solve the problem."

Others felt the request was reasonable. "Yeah, it's an unusual arrangement, but it's allowable with the 50 foot driveway," said Ed

Van der Veen. "I have no problem with an additional eight feet."

Because the 58 foot figure was listed as an approximate measurement, Board member Tim Lyko suggested approving the waiver for a driveway "not to exceed 60 feet," ensuring the applicant would not need to return for minor adjustments. "I would hate for it to be too short, have them be 'I wish I had one more foot' and have to come back here," he said.

Based on staff recommendations and brief testimony from the applicant's

representative, the Board voted overwhelmingly to approve the waiver.

The Planning Board then turned to a bond establishment request presented by Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima for the Taybre subdivision on Alvirne Drive. Dhima recommended approval of a performance bond to guarantee completion of on-site water and road improvements.

"The proposed bond amount of \$124,230 has been reviewed in detail by the Engineering Department and is considered ade-

quate to cover the remaining improvements," Dhima wrote in a letter to the Board. He added that the submitted \$150,000 Letter of Credit was sufficient and included an additional \$25,000 required for water infrastructure guarantees once the water main is transferred to the Town.

With no objections raised, the Board voted to approve the performance bond for up to \$150,000.

The Hudson Planning Board will next meet on Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Conference Room.

Selectmen Briefed on New Municipal Financial Software

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

During his report at the end of the most recent Board of Selectmen meeting, Hudson Town Administrator Roy Sorenson updated the Selectmen on the working group tasked with

evaluating options for new municipal financial software.

Sorenson noted that the Town's current financial software is "antiquated," and that a working group has been formed to develop a request for qualifications

(RFQ) to solicit proposals.

"The Board of Selectmen (BOS) have organized an RFQ 202602 Municipal Financial Software Working Group to explore software options that best fit the needs for Hudson and which are user-friendly and readily implemented," Sorenson wrote in his report.

He explained that the goal is to have a recommendation ready in time for the Board to decide whether to move forward with a warrant article.

"The group has been tasked with producing a

proposal back to the BOS (October 13th) for consideration in time for the FY 2028 Town Warrant," Sorenson said.

Sorenson described the project as a strategic investment for the Town.

"This procurement represents a strategic investment in technology intended to improve operational efficiency, strengthen financial controls, enhance reporting capabilities, and increase transparency throughout municipal operations," he wrote. "Current objectives include consoli-

dating financial and operational processes, reducing manual workflows, eliminating duplicate data entry, improving access to information, and providing staff with modern tools that support informed decision making."

He added that the working group has set internal benchmarks for its timeline and is making good progress.

"The group's doing a great job. We've had some active participation with the document," he said.

Sorenson said he will continue to bring updates to the Board "as we get along in the process."

Also during his Town Administrator report, Sorenson provided the Board with Police Department sta-

tistics for the month of May.

For May, there were 2,610 calls for service.

Community calls included:

- 48 motor vehicle complaints
- 22 alarms
- 20 suspicious activity calls

- 39 citizen assists
- 88 welfare checks
- 52 mental health calls

Enforcement activity included:

- 767 motor vehicle stops
- 77 arrests
- 6 drug arrests

Reports taken:

- 241 total reports
- 41 accidents
- 62 thefts
- 43 assaults
- 10 criminal threatening
- 11 criminal mischief

OBITUARY

Carlton H. White, Sr.



Carlton H. White, Sr., 94, of Hudson, NH, died Thursday July 2, 2026 at his home with his family by his side. He was born on Oct. 16, 1931 in Lake Placid, NY, a son of the late Harold White and Almada (Conners) White. He had been a resident of Hudson since 2012, formerly living in Derry, NH for over 40 years. He was graduate of Lake Placid High School prior to attending Clarkson College in Malone, NY and then business school in Syracuse, NY. He was a US Air Force veteran serving during the Korean Conflict era. Carl had been employed in financial services for 32 years, following in banking with Derry Bank & Trust and it's subsequent bank names, retiring in 1996. He was a member of the American Legion Lester Chase Post #9 in Derry and a member of the Lions Club. Carl was an avid golfer and a member of Hoodcroft Country Club since it opened in 1971.

He is survived by six sons, Carlton White, Jr. of Middleborough, MA, Richard White of Derry, Jim White of Plant City FL, Lynn White of Moultonboro, NH, William White of Goffstown, NH, and Glenn White of Londonderry, NH; two daughters, Paula Josephson of Hudson, and Diana White of Manchester; 22 grandchildren; 33 great grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews. He was one of six.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, July 8, from from 9 - 11 a.m., in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 15 Birch St., Derry. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., in the funeral home. The burial will follow in the Forest Hill Cemetery in E. Derry.

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ZBA Discusses Possible Updates to Home Occupation Rules

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment spent its June 25 meeting taking a closer look at the town's land-use ordinance, with Associate Planner Ben Witham-Gradert asking board members to share any concerns or outdated provisions they've encountered while reviewing cases.

Gradert opened the discussion by inviting candid feedback. "Have there been any pain points you've had or any parts of the rules you thought were unfair, didn't

make any sense, or cases that made you think, 'Why are we even hearing this?'" he asked. "If there are parts of the ordinance that feel out of date or need revision, this is the time to talk about it."

Board member Zachary McDonough pointed to the town's home occupation rules as an area in need of modernization, especially given the rise of remote work and online businesses.

"That's the use of the home for e-commerce type situations where there's no business other than digital

occurring," McDonough said. "The ordinance seems outdated now that so many people work entirely from their computers. It functions no differently than me scrolling through Facebook."

Gradert agreed that the Planning Department has wrestled with the wording for years. "Reading it strictly as written, working at home for gain can be interpreted as Home Occupation," he explained. "That's not how we apply it day to day, because that would mean remote work quali-

fies. We've had to take a grey interpretation for now."

To address the ambiguity, the Planning Department has been reviewing how neighboring communities regulate home based businesses. Many use a tiered system that distinguishes between low intensity home work, traditional home occupations, and full mixed-use situations that require site plan review.

Under such a system, thresholds would be based on how much of a home is dedicated to nonresidential use and the intensity of that use. A quiet software business, for example, would be treated differently than a visible or noisy machine shop.

"Currently, our ordinance is very restrictive about how much of a home can be used for Home Occupation," Gradert said. "The number is still up in the air, but my thought is somewhere around a third. If you're using more than 35% of the structure for business instead of living there, it's getting close to mixed-use."

The idea of thresholds raised questions about enforcement. Selectman Liaison Xen Vurgaropulos noted that a small home business could expand significantly without notifying the town.

"Say I start out selling five things and then suddenly I get bigger and bigger," he said. "You're saying

there are thresholds, but how are we monitoring that? They could grow without notification."

Gradert acknowledged the challenge. "That would be almost a full-time job, somebody having to drive around and monitor all of them," he said. "Generally speaking, when someone's business gets too big or too onerous, we get a complaint pretty quickly."

The discussion is expected to continue as the Planning Department refines potential ordinance language. The next meeting of the Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment is scheduled for Thursday, July 23 at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Conference Room.

PMA's Julie Savoie Named 2026 Catholic Teacher of the Year

Presentation of Mary Academy's longtime second grade teacher Julie Savoie has been named the 2026 Saint Jean Baptiste de la Salle Catholic Teacher of the Year for New Hampshire.

The honor was announced Friday evening, June 19, at the Recognizing Excellence Awards Gala hosted by the Diocese of Manchester. The award celebrates educators who exemplify faith, dedication, and excellence in Catholic education.

Savoie has been teaching and guiding students at PMA for nearly 26 years, shaping the hearts, minds, and faith of countless children through her compassion and commitment to learning. Known for creating a classroom where every child feels valued and



Julie Savoie

encouraged, she inspires students to grow academically, spiritually, and personally.

"This prestigious honor

reflects what our school community has long known," said PMA administrators in a statement. "Mrs. Savoie is an extraordinary educator whose faith, dedication, and genuine love for her students make a lasting impact each and every day."

Her influence extends far beyond her classroom walls, leaving a lasting impression on generations of PMA families. Colleagues describe her as a teacher who leads with kindness and purpose, embodying the mission of Catholic education in both word and action.

Hudson Times

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Ovation Theatre Company to Present “Alice by Heart”

From the company that brought you Legally Blonde and The Hunchback of Notre Dame, get ready for back-to-back summer blockbusters, as Ovation Theatre Company presents Alice by Heart and Anastasia, over consecutive weeks.

Ovation Artistic Director Meg Gore is excited to bring both of these shows to the stage. “Our summer shows at Ovation tend to be very competitive, so we had the ambitious idea this summer to rent out the Derry Opera House for two weeks in a row and produce two contrasting shows in order to provide more opportunities for a wider range of ages. This has also allowed us to build a supportive community between the

two separate casts and creative teams, and to offer a great deal to audience members to come to both shows at a discounted rate.”

The first of the two shows is Alice by Heart. In the rubble of the London Blitz of World War II, Alice Spencer’s budding teen life is turned upside down, and she and her dear friend Alfred are forced to take shelter in an underground tube station. When the ailing Alfred is quarantined, Alice encourages him to escape with her into their cherished book and journey down the rabbit hole to Wonderland. As they travel through the tale, Alice by Heart explores the poignancy of first love, coming to terms with loss, and finding the courage to move forward. This musical encourages us all to celebrate the transformational power of the imagination, even in the harshest of times.

Ovation Artistic Director Meg Gore is excited to bring both of these shows to the stage. “Our summer shows at Ovation tend to be very competitive, so we had the ambitious idea this summer to rent out the Derry Opera House for two weeks in a row and produce two contrasting shows in order to provide more opportunities for a wider range of

ages. This has also allowed us to build a supportive community between the two separate casts and creative teams, and to offer a great deal to audience members to come to both shows at a discounted rate.”

Amanda Armillay’s character transforms from a Red Cross nurse into the iconic Queen of Hearts. “The Queen is a crazy, outlandish character in the original story. Transforming from the nurse into the Queen of Hearts gives her a little more gravitas. She is trying to keep these kids safe and healthy, but then she transitions to more of that crazy ‘Off with their heads’ vibe.” Armillay is convinced that audience members less familiar with this musical will love it. “This show is so whimsical and fun and the music is gorgeous and all of the cast members are incredibly talented. It also has a great message about growing up and moving through some really difficult things. Everyone can relate to that.”

Alice by Heart is led by Director Tim Gore, Music Director Becca Crivello, Choreographer Jillian Mastroberte, Associate Music Director Jake Doble, Assistant Director Alli Zenga and Stage Manager Connor Burns.

The Alice by Heart cast includes Hannah Carroll and Charlotte Latour of Londonderry; Kyle Daly and Federico Mills of Derry; Lyss Peddle of Windham; Levi Freilich of Hampstead; Amanda Armillay of Hooksett; Jennah Gunawan of Manchester; Samson Carter of Merrimack; Declan Corbett, Raylyn Paul and Meg Roscoe of Nashua; Alyssa Meyers and Daniel Lewis of Bedford; Clara Curtis of Brentwood; Nicholas Metz of Exeter; Brett Branscombe of Newmarket and Charlotte Feole-Lundy of Merrimack, Mass.

Alice by Heart will be presented on Friday, July 17 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, July 18 at 1 and 7 p.m. at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry).

Tickets for both summer shows are on sale at ovationtc.com. Tickets for adults are \$25 through July 9 and \$28 beginning July 10; for students/seniors, tickets are \$22 through July 9 and \$25 beginning July 10. With Anastasia shows July 23-25, Ovation is offering a 10% discount for a pass that includes 1 ticket for each of the two summer shows.



Members of the Ovation Theatre Company have been busy rehearsing Alice by Heart and Anastasia as they prepare to perform the musical at the Derry Opera House starting July23. Photo by Chris Paul

See additional photos on page 9.

SUMMER KIDS SERIES

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Wild Robot (2024) Universal 7/27/26 and 7/29/26	Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024) Universal 8/3/26 and 8/5/26	Despicable Me 4 Universal 8/10/26 and 8/12/26

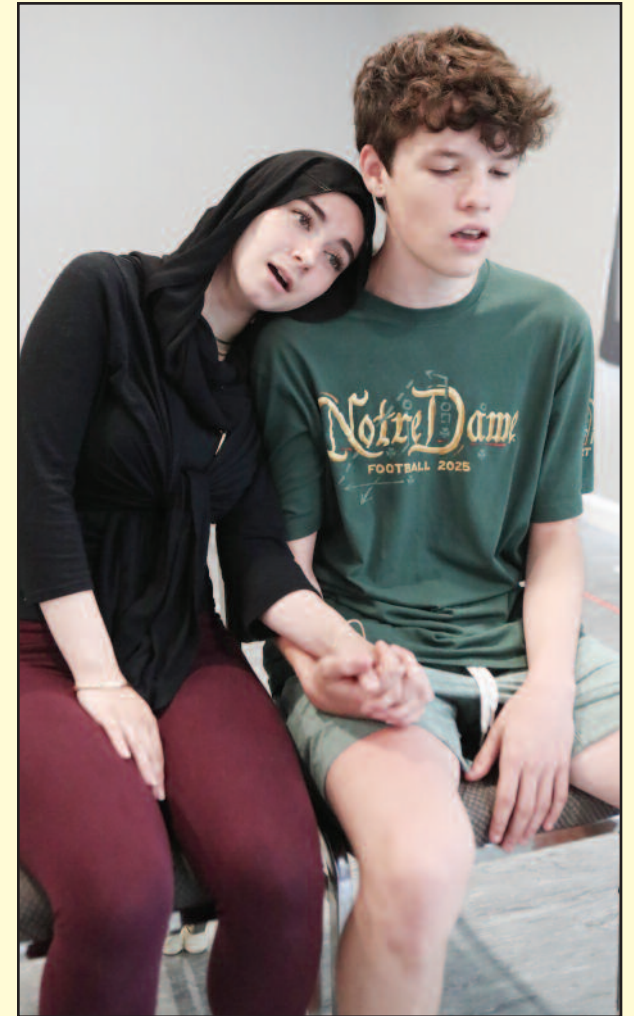
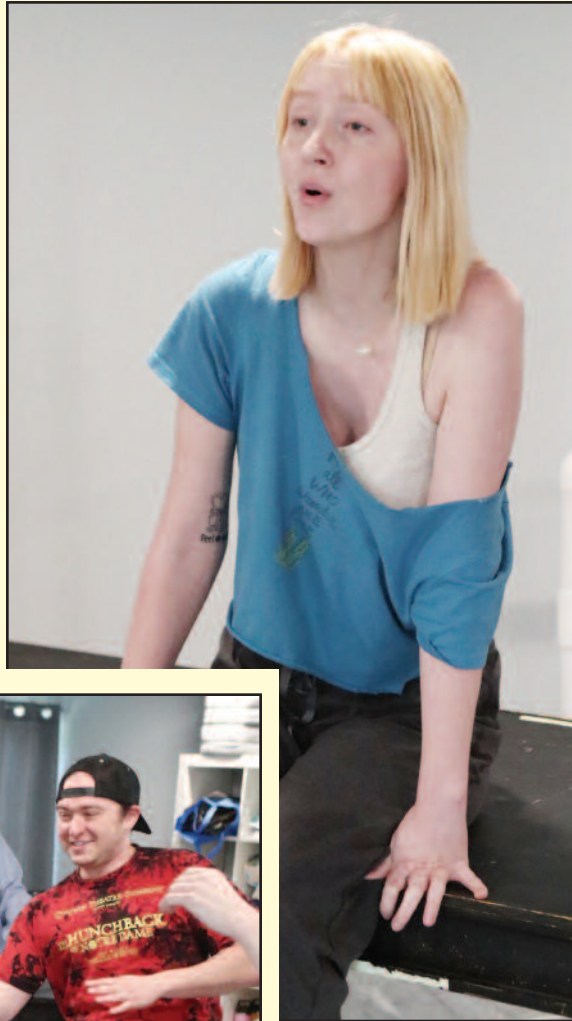
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HUDSON SPORTS

Track Club Kicks Off 40th Year of Kids Summer Fun Runs

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Greater Derry Track Club's popular Kids Summer Fun Runs are underway for their 40th season, bringing hundreds of young runners and their families to the Londonderry High School track each Monday evening.

Although the opening week was washed out by rain, the season officially got underway on Monday, June 29, when 420 participants, ranging in all ages, took part in the weekly event.

The series begins each week with 50-yard sprints for the youngest runners, ages 2 and 3, before pro-

gressing to longer races for older participants. Results are recorded each week for runners ages 9 and older, with season-ending awards presented to the top finishers in each age group.

The Summer Fun Runs continue every Monday evening at the Londonderry High School track. Registration begins at 6 p.m., with the first races scheduled to start at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Week One Boys Results

Boys 9 (600 meters): Parker Rizzo of Londonderry finished first, followed by Colin Runey of Windham in second and Owen Quinlan of Londonderry in third.

Boys 10 (600 meters): Joshua Tiney of Sandown claimed first place, Max Gagnon of Londonderry finished second, and Jason Sylvester of Nashua placed third.

Boys 11 (Cross Country Mile): Will Runey of Windham took first, Liam Kobisky of Derry was second, and Luke Lefebvre of Windham finished third.



Boys 12 (Cross Country Mile): Tommy Mane of Windham earned first place, T.J. Santosuosso of Derry was second, and Jaden Duncan of Londonderry finished third.

Boys 13 (Cross Country Mile): Andrew Solovyev of Hudson placed first, with Brandon Kuncik of Derry finishing second.

Week One Girls Results

Girls 9 (600 meters): Natalie Fell of Danville took first, Zoe Edwards of Londonderry finished second, and Emerson Rowe of Londonderry placed third.

Girls 10 (600 meters): Skylar Ianneta of Derry finished first, Penelope Lynch of Londonderry was second, and Macie King of Pelham placed third.

Girls 11 (Cross Country Mile): Sasha Solovyeva of Hudson earned first place, Mackenzie Bonia of Hooksett finished second, and Adria Dufour of Londonderry placed third.

Girls 12 (Cross Country Mile): Finley Darsney of Derry was the division winner.

Girls 13 (Cross Country Mile): Corinne Tinkham of

Litchfield finished first, followed by fellow Litchfield runner Ava Miller in second.

Week Two Boys Results

Boys 9 (600 meters): Parker Rizzo of Londonderry finished first, followed by Oliver Capone of Londonderry in second and James Allaben of Windham in third.

Boys 10 (600 meters): Joshua Tiney of Sandown claimed first, Aiden Capone of Londonderry finished second, and Micah Scadding of Deerfield placed

continued on page 11



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Fun Runs

continued from page 10

third. Boys 11 (Cross Country Mile): Sam Smith of Londonderry took first, Liam Kobisky of Derry was second, and Jackson Kobisky of Plaistow finished third.

Boys 12 (Cross Country Mile): Tommy Mane of

Windham earned first place, T.J. Santosuosso of Derry was second, and Cameron Sirois of Atkinson finished third.

Boys 13 (Cross Country Mile): Andrew Solovyev of Hudson placed first.

Week Two Girls Results

Girls 9 (600 meters): Natalie Fell of Danville took first, Zoe Edwards of

Londonderry finished second, and Olivia O'Neil of Londonderry placed third.

Girls 10 (600 meters): Grace O'Connor was first, Skylar Ianneta of Derry finished second, and Penelope Lynch of Londonderry was third.

Girls 11 (Cross Country Mile): Sasha Solovyeva of Hudson earned first place,



Adria Dufour of Londonderry was second, and Mackenzie Bonia of Hooksett finished third.

Girls 12 (Cross Country



Mile): Finley Darsney of Derry was the division winner.

Girls 13 (Cross Country Mile): Corinne Tinkham of

Litchfield finished first, followed by fellow Litchfield runner Ava Miller in second.

Hudson Water Utility Changes Prompt Chamber Educational Session

The Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce will host an educational Lunch 'n Learn on Tuesday, June 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering residents and business owners a chance to learn about Hudson's updated backflow testing process before it takes effect on July 1. The session will be held at the Chamber office at 71 Lowell Road and will be presented by New England Backflow Inc., a certified backflow testing and prevention company.

Hudson Water Utility recently announced that while annual backflow test-

ing requirements are not changing, the process for scheduling and submitting inspections will shift beginning July 1. Letters have already been mailed to property owners who may be affected. Under the new system, commercial properties and certain residential properties with testable backflow prevention devices will now be responsible for choosing their own New Hampshire-certified tester, arranging the inspection, and submitting the completed report to the Town.

Commercial properties with required devices must

continue annual testing, but now have the flexibility to select their own tester and schedule at a convenient time. Residential properties are affected only if they have systems that pose potential crossconnection risks, such as irrigation systems, private well connections, or other plumbing setups that could allow contaminants to enter the public water supply. Standard residential nontestable devices do not require annual testing.

Backflow prevention devices are designed to stop water from flowing back-

ward into the public system, preventing contaminants from entering drinking water. The Lunch 'n Learn will explain how these devices work, why annual or semiannual testing is required, and what property owners need to know to stay compliant under the new rules. Presenters will also discuss common causes of water contamination, how backflow prevention protects homes and businesses,

and what services New England Backflow Inc. provides for those who need assistance.

Chamber officials say the goal of the session is to help property owners understand their responsibilities and avoid confusion as the new procedures roll out. With the updated process taking effect July 1, organizers say now is the ideal time to hear directly from experts and ask ques-

tions before scheduling inspections.

Registration is required and can be completed through the Chamber's website, by emailing info@hudsonchamber.com, or by calling the Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce at (603) 8894731. Those needing help understanding the requirements or arranging testing may also contact New England Backflow Inc. for guidance.

Meeting of The Friends of the Library of Hudson, NH



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, July 21

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Meeting in person at the

Rodgers Library Community Room

Register at: <http://events.rodgerslibrary.org>



Topics: National Night Out, Brick Orders, Library Project!
Come join us, all are welcome.

TOWN OF HUDSON, NH BLASTING NOTICE

Maine Drilling & Blasting is scheduled to resume blasting operations at the following location:

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and continue through 12/31/2026



Yankee Brass Band to Bring 19th Century American Music to Benson Park July 23



The Yankee Brass Band will perform at Benson Park's Mallory Gray Amphitheatre on Thursday, July 23.



Hudson will step back in time later this month when the Yankee Brass Band arrives for a special outdoor performance at Benson Park's Mallory Gray Amphitheatre on Thursday, July 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. If weather becomes an issue, the concert will move indoors to Hudson Memorial School. The event is free and open to the public, and organizers expect a large turnout for what will be one of the most unique cultural events of the summer.

The Yankee Brass Band, founded in 1987, is known for its historically informed performances using authentic 19th-century brass and percussion instruments—many of them rare originals painstakingly restored by their owners. The musicians volunteer their time each year, traveling from across

the country for a week of concerts that preserve the legacy of America's "Golden Age of Bands." Their concerts are immersive experiences: the musicians perform in full 19th-century attire, play period instruments, and present music exactly as audiences would have heard it more than 150 years ago.

This year's tour is especially meaningful. The band is performing during the United States' Semiquincentennial, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. Their 2026 theme, *Brass and Liberty: Music of a New Nation*, highlights the evolution of American band music from the Revolutionary era through the Civil War and into the rise of civic and professional ensembles. Although brass bands as we know them did not exist in 1776, the program traces

how American music rapidly developed in the decades that followed. The invention of the keyed bugle in 1810 and the introduction of valved brass instruments around 1815 transformed military and ceremonial music, and the band will honor this era with a performance of General Lafayette's March, commemorating the Marquis de Lafayette's 1825 visit to West Point.

The concert will also feature music from the Civil War, including selections from the Port Royal Band Books used by the band of the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment. The collection includes *Our Quick Step*, composed by Gustavus W. Ingalls and reconstructed for modern performance. Another highlight will be *Tenting on the Old Camp-*

ground, written in 1863 by Walter Kittredge of Reeds Ferry—now part of Merrimack. The Yankee Brass Band will perform the song just yards from the historic ferry site that inspired its name, making the moment especially meaningful for local audiences.

The band's program also includes music associated with the 26th North Carolina Band, a renowned Moravian ensemble whose regimental quickstep was commissioned by Confederate General W. W. Kirkland and based on Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. Following the Civil War, military bands evolved into civic and professional ensembles that became central to patriotic celebrations across the country. The Yankee Brass Band will honor this era with works by Patrick Gilmore, often called the "Father of the American Band," including his Famous 22nd Regi-

ment March. The concert will close with music by John Philip Sousa, who became leader of the U.S. Marine Band in 1880. Audiences will hear *Semper Fidelis* and Sousa's earlier trumpet and drum piece *With Steady Step*, performed on period instruments exactly as they were originally written.

The band's social media pages have been promoting the 2026 tour with behind-the-scenes photos of rehearsals, instrument restorations, and historical notes about the pieces being performed. Their followers have expressed excitement about the New England concerts, especially those tied to local history. Hudson's event is expected to draw families, history enthusiasts, musicians, and residents who simply want to enjoy a summer evening at Benson Park.

Organizers encourage attendees to bring lawn

chairs or blankets and arrive early to enjoy the setting at Mallory Gray Amphitheatre. The Yankee Brass Band's concerts often include brief historical commentary between pieces, giving audiences insight into the music, the instruments, and the stories behind the compositions. The band promises "a few surprises" in this year's program, along with a performance by some of the best brass players in the country.

For more information about the Yankee Brass Band, visit their website at yankeebrassband.org or follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/theyankeebrassband. The Hudson concert is expected to be one of the most memorable events of the summer, offering residents a chance to hear the music of America's past performed exactly as it once was—live, authentic, and steeped in history.



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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.

Patriotic Scarecrow Contest Voting

Come to the Hudson Hills House (211 Derry Rd., Hudson) on July 11 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., for voting in the Patriotic Scarecrow Contest. Schedule of Events: American Legion Firing Squad Salute - 10 a.m.; American Legion Band - 11 a.m. to noon. Hotdogs and popcorn will be served free to all attendees.

Summer Concert:

A concert by Joe Leary will be held at the Rodgers Library on Thursday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. With Joe's unique blend of acoustic classics, modern country stylings, and original music, you're in for a real treat. A concert for Rich

Araldi - The Songs and Their Stories will be held on Saturday, July 25, at 12:30 p.m., it will be an excursion through the great songs of the 20th century and the stories that make them that much more special.

Cookbook Club

This Rodgers Library group will meet on Monday, July 27, at 11:30 a.m. This month, each person will choose a cookbook from a collection within the library then choose a recipe from that book.

Read 'Em & Eat @ Friendly Red's

This group will meet on Monday, July 27 at 7 p.m., at Friendly Red's restaurant, the for July is "She's Not Sorry"

by Mary Kubica.

Tween Art: Pressed Flower Jar Lantern

Tweens entering grades 5-8 are invited to Rodgers Library on Tuesday, July 28, at 6 p.m., to create jar lanterns decorated with pressed flowers.

Family Art: Spiral Suncatchers

Come to the Rodgers Library on Wednesday, July 29 at 6 p.m., to create a suncatcher to hang in a window or garden with beads and wire. This event is for Ages 3+.

Lion Ron Boisvert Scholarship

The Hudson Lions Club

is now accepting applications for the 19th annual Lion Ron Boisvert \$2,000 Scholarship, awarded to a Hudson resident currently enrolled in a college level medical field program. Applicants must have completed at least one year of medical field coursework. Applications are available by contacting Scholarship Chairman Roger LaTulippe at scholarships@hudsonlions.org. Deadline to apply: July 31, 2026.

Preschool Water Play

Come to the Rodgers library on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., for a storytime full of music, movement, and bubbles for ages 1-3 and their caregivers.

Story Safari at Benon's Park

Come to Benson Park for songs, stories, and bubbles, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. All ages welcome. Meet near the playground. Bring blankets and chairs

Robinson Pond Volunteers

Did you know there is a

dedicated group of Hudson volunteers who sample Robinson Pond and its six tributaries every summer? These volunteers are part of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) and they are looking for volunteers to join their group. Samples are taken in the morning, once per month, from May to September. These samples are tested by the state for chemicals, nutrients, pollutants and bacteria. Lab fees are covered by the Hudson Conservation Commission. Won't you join these volunteers and help keep Robinson Pond safe for you and your family during the summer? If interested please contact: Robinson-PondNH@hotmail.com

Art in Bloom

Students entering grades 1-5 are invited to the Rodgers Library to make garden inspired art with Miss Tanya on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Teddy Bear Garden Party

On Friday, July 10 at 10 a.m., bring your favorite stuffed friend to the Rodgers Library lawn for songs, stories, and a snack.

Mystery Lovers' Book Club

This Rodgers Library group will meet on Monday, July 13, at 12:30 p.m. This month's book pick is The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective by Jo Nichols.

Teen Fairy Gardens

Create a whimsical fairy garden (or a haunted cemetery or Mermaid beach house or whatever else your can imagine) from the supplies available at the Rodgers Library on Monday, July 13, at 2:30 p.m.

Tween Animal Crossing

Tweens entering grades 5-8 are invited to the Rodgers Library for an Animal Crossing Party on Tuesday, July 14, at 3 p.m. We'll plant some seeds, **continued on page 14**

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

make a craft, have raffles, and more.

Crime & Cookies

The monthly meeting of the Rodgers Library true crime podcast club will be Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. This month we'll be listening to a variety of podcasts revolving around America's 250th.

Rolling Video Games

Students entering grades 5-12 are invited to the Rodgers Library to play video games in the air conditioned Rolling Video Games mobile video game theater on Thursday, July 16, at 5:30 p.m.

Lorax Interactive Movie

Come to the Rodgers Library on Friday, July 17, at 1:30 p.m., for a family-friendly animated adventure that is interactive with Props, Crafts, Snacks, Singing, Dancing and feel free to dress up for the movie.

Genealogy Club

Learn how early census data was gathered, why accuracy and privacy evolved, and how understanding the process can help you better interpret

Elementary Paint-Along: Watermelon

Children entering grades 1-5 are invited to create a watermelon painting and enjoy some watermelon as a snack at the Rodgers Library on Monday, July 20, at 2:30 p.m.

Family STEM: Nature Boats

Families with children are invited to the Rodgers Library to create boats out of sticks and leaves on Tuesday, July 21, at 5:30 p.m.

Friends of the Library

This is the regularly scheduled meeting of the Friends of the Hudson Library it will be held on Tuesday, July 21, at 6 p.m., at the Rodgers Library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

American Revolution Trivia

Come to the Rodgers Library on Wednesday, July 22, at 2 p.m., for a lively afternoon of American Revolution trivia!

Wildlife Encounters

Enjoy learning about

seven live animals at this Junior Zookeeper Encounter at Rodgers Library on Wednesday, July 22, at 6 p.m.

Mr. Aaron's Musical Adventure

A thrilling musical adventure with award winning musician Mr. Aaron, who never fails to delight audiences of all ages will be held on Friday, July 24, at 10 a.m., at Rodgers Library.

White Lace on Black Zentangle Class

Come to the Rodgers Library on Monday, July 20, at 1 p.m., and Thursday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m., to work on black tiles, using white gel pen to add our tangles, creating a lace effect with white chalk highlights

Teen: Stardew Valley

Teens entering grades 8-12 are invited to play Stardew valley and eat snacks at Rodgers Library on Friday, July 24, at 2:30 p.m.

Family Art: Seed Mosaics

Ages 3+ can drop in at Rodgers Library to create a mosaic using beans and seeds on Wednesday, July

Continued on page 15

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New Law Puts School District Spending Directly to Voters

New Hampshire's school budgeting landscape is about to change, and communities across the state are preparing for a new level of scrutiny over administrative spending. With the passage of House Bill 564, signed by Gov. Kelly Ayotte on June 19, every School Administrative Unit will now be required to present its own standalone budget to voters. For towns like Londonderry and Hudson, where SAUs have historically operated inside the larger school district budget, the shift marks a significant departure from longstanding practice.

Supporters of the law argue that the change is overdue. They say administrative costs have grown too quickly and too quietly, shielded inside complex school budgets that most residents never fully see. Rep. Michael Vose, who represents Epping, has been one of the most vocal

advocates for separating SAU budgets. He has said that even in districts where administrators perform well, residents have no practical way to understand what the SAU spends on management. According to Vose, the administrative costs are "buried in the school district budget," making it "virtually impossible for the average person" to identify them. The new law, he argues, finally gives voters the ability not just to view those costs, but to vote on them directly.

Under HB 564, the SAU budget will appear as its own warrant article. If voters reject it, the SAU must adopt an "adjusted budget" that is level-funded at the prior year's amount. That adjusted budget cannot include pay increases, benefit increases, new positions, or new programs. For supporters, this mechanism is a way to force restraint. Eric Pauer, presi-

dent of the School District Governance Association of New Hampshire, believes the new system will make administrators think twice before expanding their operations. He has said that when school boards craft their budgets, they may be "a little less ambitious" now that voters have the ability to reject administrative growth.

Opponents see the situation differently. They argue that administrative budgets have grown because schools are dealing with more complex needs, including learning loss and behavioral challenges that intensified after the pandemic. They warn that forcing SAUs into level-funded budgets could prevent districts from responding to real problems. Rep. Megan Murray of Amherst has said the law erodes local control and disrupts a process that communities have relied on for decades.

Administrators also worry about timing. SAU budgets must be finalized early enough for districts to incorporate them into their own budgets, and some fear the new requirement will complicate the calendar and confuse voters.

For Londonderry, the change is straightforward but significant. SAU 12 serves only Londonderry, and its administrative costs have always been embedded inside the school district's operating budget. Residents have never voted on an SAU budget as a separate article. Next year, they will. The new process will reveal exactly how much the superintendent's office spends on administration, curriculum oversight, human resources, technology management, and central office operations. If voters reject the budget, the SAU will be forced to operate under a level-funded plan,

freezing raises and preventing new administrative initiatives. In a community where school spending is closely watched and often debated, the new transparency may be welcomed by some and resisted by others.

Hudson faces a similar shift. SAU 81 is also a single-district SAU, and its administrative costs have historically been part of the school district budget. Hudson's recent deliberative sessions have included spirited debate over spending, performance, and whether the district is delivering value for taxpayers. The new law gives residents a direct tool to influence administrative spending. A rejected SAU budget would freeze administrative salaries and halt new positions, a possibility that may appeal to residents who have pushed for tighter controls. At the same time, administrators will need to

justify any increases, knowing that voters now have the power to veto them.

The concerns raised by multidistrict SAUs do not apply to Londonderry or Hudson, but the broader statewide debate still matters. Some administrators worry that the new system could create instability if voters reject budgets without fully understanding the consequences. Others argue that the law will force SAUs to communicate more clearly and justify their spending decisions. The law also arrives alongside other efforts to increase voter involvement in school budgeting. Districts are already required to publish detailed reports on administrative pay trends before budget votes, and another bill, HB 1300, would require towns to ask voters whether to impose tax caps on school districts in upcoming general elections.

Around Town

Continued from page 14

15 at 5:30 p.m.

Teen Build-A-Bouquet

Teens entering grades 8-12 are invited to make their own mini bouquet using loose flowers and greenery at Rodgers Library on Monday, July 27, at 2:30 p.m.

Name That Tune Plus

In this amped-up version of Name That Tune, you'll guess songs and tackle fun facts about the artists and hits you love at Rodgers Library on Wednesday, July 29, at 2 p.m.

Sensory Cove with Community Autism Services

This event held at Rodgers Library is designed to provide parents and caregivers with accessible, evidence-based information about early childhood development and autism. It will be held on Wednesday, July 29, at 5:30 p.m.

Spoon Carving Workshop

Owl Eyes Wilderness Survival returns to Rodgers Library on Thursday, July 30, at 6:30 p.m., for an adult spoon carving class.

Pokemon Party

Grades 1-5, are invited to the Rodgers Library on Friday, July 31, at 1:30 p.m., for an exciting Pokémon Party! Registration is required.

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.

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.

Explorers Storytime

On Fridays at 1:30

p.m., the Rodgers Library will have songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers.

Inhouse Secondhand 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.

Benson Park Saturday Cleanup

Please join for Park Cleanup Day the third Saturday of every month to help keep Benson Park clean and beautiful. Donate whatever time you can between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tools are available but bring your own shovels, rakes, pruners, loppers, etc. if you have them. This is a great opportunity to serve the town, make new friends and enjoy the outdoors. Lunch will be provided. Sign up online if possible on the

Friends of Benson Park website (friendsofbensonpark.org) or simply come to the Elephant Barn at the top of the hill to sign in.

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.

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.

Prose Book Sale

Check out the Secondhand Prose sale area in the Children's Room of Rogers Memorial Library, running during normal library Hours. The book selection offers something for everyone, is re-stocked frequent-

ly and offered at the same bargain price as the big sale. Stationary featuring work of local artists, adorable tote bags, and handmade gifts are also available. The prices are extremely reasonable.

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.

Laptop Donation Program

United Way of Greater Nashua is reintroducing their Tech Connect United Laptop Donation Program. Donate your working lap-

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

Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? Overeaters Anonymous, no dues, no fees, no weigh-ins no diets. Meetings are on Tuesday's from 9 - 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Church 190 Meetinghouse Rd., Bedford, use the rear doors for access to the meeting room in the church basement. Contact Pat At 603-289-8476 Or Jane At 603-674-6540 With Any Questions (Not Affiliated With Any Private Or Public Organization)

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