

# THE Hudson Times

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Governor Kelly Ayotte had a brief conversation with Alvirne junior Julia Coelho on cell phone use during her tour of the Wilbur E. Palmer Career and Technical Education Center last week. Ayotte posed for a selfie with Coelho before resuming the tour.

*Photo by Chris Paul*

## Governor Kelly Ayotte Tours Palmer Center at Alvirne

**ALEX MALM**  
HUDSON TIMES

New Hampshire Governor Kelly Ayotte stopped into Hudson last week, on Friday morning, Nov. 21, for a tour of the Wilbur E. Palmer Career and Technical Education Center at Alvirne High School, where she noted that bringing back the trades in the granite state has been a focus of her administration.

A number of school officials escorted Ayotte through the halls and classrooms of the Palmer Center, including CTE Director Dr. Eric Frauwirth, who led the way. Also attending were Superintendent of Schools Daniel Moulis; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Jessica Benson and School Board Chair, Maureen Dionne.

One of the first questions raised in

**continued on page 8**

## Budget Committee Weighs Tax Rate Impact and Debate Spending Cuts

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on Nov. 17 to review the potential tax impact of the proposed town budget following adjustments to alternative revenue sources and an announcement from the Department of Revenue Administration that Hudson's 2024 tax rate will be \$17.11 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, up from \$16.45 per \$1,000 last year.

"What we're proposing without the warrant articles is an eight-cent increase per thousand," said Committee member Shawn Jasper while reviewing figures with Town Administrator

Roy Sorenson.

Although not finalized, proposed warrant articles could add another 38 cents to the tax rate if approved by the Board of Selectmen and voters. These figures do not include the school budget's impact.

Selectmen Liaison Xen Vurgaropoulos compared current spending trends to the past decade.

"In the last 10 years, the increases to our budget have been approximately \$1 million or less every year. Compare that to COLA, the Cost-of-Living rate, and I think we do pretty well," he said. "Prices aren't going to stay the same every year, so regardless, something is going to go up. I get that

we're charged with keeping it down, but we have a responsibility to look at the whole picture."

Vurgaropoulos noted Hudson's tax rate remains lower than many other Southern New Hampshire towns and emphasized that municipalities have little control over inflation.

Committee Chair James Lawrence expressed concern about rising costs.

"From my perspective looking at this budget, I see a town that actually has an increase year-over-year that is considerably over what the economic indicators say inflation is currently at," said Lawrence. "Many residents may have difficulty

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## Delays in Warrant Article Details Creates Budget Process Frustration

**PAUL CONYERS**  
HUDSON TIMES

Budget season moved forward as the Hudson Budget Committee wrapped up presentations on various elements of the town budget. However, members expressed frustration over the lack of information on upcoming warrant articles, many of which remain unfinished.

"I thought we were going to receive draft narratives for each of these articles," said Committee member Kevin Walsh.

Bill Cole pressed for clarity on warrant articles tied to new staff positions, including one proposing four additional firefighters.

"I want to see a draft, a narrative that shows what

Chief Tice is trying to tell us in his warrant article," said Cole. "I think that's a pretty simple document."

Fire Chief Scott Tice reported that the department is close to filling current vacancies, excluding two anticipated retirements, but could not predict how long it would take to fill new positions.

"I don't understand why we can't get those overviews now," added Vice-Chair Kim Rice. "What's that going to hurt?"

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that drafts would only be available after review by the Board of Selectmen.

"We don't have these other than they're in concept form," said Sorenson.

Cole pressed for a timeline.

"Would you tell me, looking at the schedule, when that's going to happen?" he asked, noting the unusually late timing for new budget details.

Committee Chair James Lawrence confirmed that updates would not come until the Dec. 3 meeting, originally scheduled to address the Hudson School District budget.

"The warrant article process is taking longer than we thought it would," admitted Lawrence.

Committee member Shawn Jasper also requested more details on town revenue for the 2027 budget.

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# Selectmen Review Town Finances Through October

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, members received an update on revenue and expenditures through the end of October.

Hudson Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that by the end of October, the town was about one-third of the way through the FY26 fiscal year.

“Currently, we should be at 33%. If you’re looking at the calendar, that’s obviously through October,” Sorenson said.

He noted that spending percentages were higher than expected: 44% for the general fund, 56% for the sewer fund, and 41% for the water fund.

“Obviously, these numbers are higher,” Sorenson said. “We’ve talked about

this before because of your encumbrances.”

Sorenson reported that the general fund has approximately \$2.7 million encumbered, the sewer fund about \$414,000, and the water fund just under \$700,000.

One major encumbrance in the general fund is for legal services. Sorenson told the Selectmen that a purchase order is in place and will be spent down as

needed.

Other encumbrances include engineering contracts, which Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima secures in advance, and the solid waste contract.

On the revenue side, Sorenson said collections were at 32% through October.

A key positive highlight is motor vehicle revenue, which totaled \$2,414,782 compared to \$2,320,582 at

the same point in FY25.

One area lagging behind is ambulance billing, but Sorenson explained that this is due to reconciliation delays.

“We do have to do some reconciling of the ambulance billing, which finance is in the process of getting caught up on,” Sorenson said.

Cable franchise fees continue to decline, down

about \$2,000 compared to FY25 at this point.

However, interest on investments remains strong, with \$184,427 collected so far compared to \$165,490 in FY25.

“Investment continues to do well, our interest on investment,” Sorenson told the Selectmen.

The next Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

## Hudson School Board Reviews Financial Year-to-Date Report

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board was recently briefed on the district’s financial report through Oct. 31, providing an update on revenue projections, expenditures, and anticipated fund balances for the current fiscal year.

Hudson Business Administrator Jenny Graves explained that revenue numbers for FY26 - the current

budget year - were revised to reflect more accurate projections. Graves noted that revenue forecasting has been a key focus since she assumed the role earlier this year.

At a previous meeting, Graves discussed moving away from overly conservative estimates, which historically contributed to large year-end fund balances.

“One of the main reasons for last year’s signifi-

cant fund balance was excess revenue from conservative budgeting,” she said.

By adopting more precise projections, Graves said the district can now report to the Department of Revenue Administration with greater confidence.

“This MS-24R is really our official revenue estimate,” Graves explained.

According to the updated report, the district is on

pace to have approximately \$2,000 in excess revenue. The total anticipated revenue estimate is \$65,655,976 - \$139,218 more than originally budgeted, driven largely by investment income. Graves noted that if the original conservative estimates had remained, the district would have projected over \$100,000 in additional revenue.

On the expenditure side,

Graves reported that the district expects to save more than \$1 million compared to appropriations for FY26. The General Fund budget was set at \$67,043,930, while current projections show expenditures totaling \$65,634,198 - resulting in an estimated savings of \$1,409,732.

As of now, the anticipated accessible fund balance is projected at \$1,439,985.

Graves cautioned that these figures are preliminary, emphasizing that this is her first year managing the district’s finances.

She also noted that other districts often begin financial reporting for revenues in late September, when numbers are more accurate for state reporting. Graves suggested Hudson consider doing the same next year.

## School Board Reviews Draft Warrant Articles Ahead of March Vote

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board recently held a preliminary review of several potential warrant articles that may appear on the March ballot. While no decisions were made, the discussion provided an

early look at proposals aimed at improving school facilities and strengthening reserve funds.

One draft article would allocate funds to upgrade science labs at Hudson Memorial School.

“Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise

and appropriate a sum of up to \$125,000 to upgrade two Science Classrooms/Labs at Hudson Memorial School? This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is

a special warrant article,” the draft states.

Another proposal involves replacing the fire alarm panel at Alvirne High School, a critical safety upgrade for the district.

The Board also reviewed a draft article to add funds to the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund, which was established in September 1999.

“Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$150,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund established in September 1999?

This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation,” the draft reads.

A similar proposal would increase the Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund, approved by voters in March 2024 and established in August 2024.

“Shall the Hudson School District vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$150,000 to be added to the Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund approved by voters in March 2024 and established in August 2024?

This sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation,” the draft states.

Other potential warrant articles would address tentative agreements for collective bargaining contracts, which voters would be asked to ratify. In addition, residents will also vote on the district’s operating budget in March.

Members emphasized that these articles are still in draft form and subject to change before the final warrant is approved.



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# School Board Votes to Withdraw Early Graduation Policy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board recently held its second policy meeting to address the withdrawal of the district's early graduation policy, a move that received unanimous approval.

"The Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma. Parental involvement for students under the age of 18 is required," the policy stated. "The high school principal shall approve such requests if he/she deter-

mines that all state and local graduation requirements will be met and that early graduation is related to career and/or educational plans of the student making the request. Upon approval by the high school principal or dean of academics, the minimum 4-unit requirement per year for enrolled students shall be waived and the student shall be awarded a high school diploma."

The Board voted to withdraw the policy during the meeting.

Also on the agenda was a travel request from Hud-

son Memorial School.

"I am writing to request the permission of the board for a group of students and two chaperones to attend the New Hampshire Teen Institute's Leadership in Prevention Program at Camp Cody in Freedom, NH," wrote Hudson Memorial School Principal Keith Bowen in a memo.

"This is a weekend-long retreat scheduled for February 13th, 14th, and 15th. Students will be provided transportation by bus to Camp Cody on the morning of February 13th and be

picked up by parents at noon time on Sunday, February 15th after presenting their action plan to an audience of parents and peers from all over NH."

Bowen noted that Hudson Memorial students have attended the program for seven years.

"The program is an opportunity for our leadership students to work together, identifying and planning to address an issue in their community," Bowen wrote. "This weekend program has resulted in wellness days planned and coor-

dinated by the students, as well as a courtyard cleanup."

Bowen said the school received a scholarship to cover the cost of the trip.

"The eight students who will attend will be accompanied by two HMS staff members.

Upon return from the event, the attending students will work with the current leadership students to facilitate their plans," Bowen wrote. "In the past these students have coordinated Red Ribbon Week and Kindness Week, positive notes to teachers and to

6th graders, courtyard cleanups, as well as hosted wellness days—where they facilitated presentations to their peers on issues such as bullying, vaping and mental wellness."

Bowen emphasized the program's impact.

"The leadership skills they gain from this weekend and the subsequent participation in the group have had a long-term impact on many of the students," Bowen wrote.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

## Hudson Library Faces Book Supply Challenges Amid Wholesaler Shutdown

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees met on Nov. 19, where Library Director Linda Pilla addressed an unexpected challenge affecting book availability.

"One of the big things that came up in October was that one of the major book wholesalers has been closed down," Pilla explained. "In the scramble for libraries around the nation who have used Baker & Taylor as their primary supplier, the supplier that we use, which is Ingram, has been totally swamped. We have explored some alternatives—we've opened an account with Barnes & Noble. Their discounts are not quite as good, but they're actually pretty darn good, and their turnaround

time is substantially faster. We're going to be placing some orders during this interim period."

Pilla noted that Ingram is working to meet the surge in demand, but the shortage is unlikely to resolve quickly.

"They're trying to gear up to meet the new demand," she said. "The discount that we typically get from Ingram is around 40%. I believe the maximum we can get from Barnes & Noble is 35%, and of course, the larger your order, potentially the larger the discount. Our orders are to try and make sure we have the new materials coming out."

Ensuring patrons have access to new titles remains a top priority.

"We're the discounts overall for everything?"

asked Trustee Ali Rafieymehr. "Or are they just for a particular group or category of books?"

Pilla clarified that the discount applies to physical books only. Digital resources, such as audio-books and e-books, follow a separate process and remain unaffected by the shortage.

Aside from the supply issue, October was described as a "normal" month for the library, with preparations underway for holiday programming.

Treasurer Margaret St. Onge also addressed linger-

ing financial obligations tied to the old Hills Memorial Library building.

"I think there are rumors going around, but the bills for the Hills Library are still in our budget," said St. Onge. "We are still paying the water bill; we are still paying the heating bill and the electric bill. We have not walked away from paying the bills."

She emphasized that despite relocating operations, the Trustees will continue covering costs until another town body or organization assumes responsibility—a timeline

that remains unclear.

The move has had ripple effects. The Friends of the Library announced they will not offer their annual scholarship this year due to limited funds.

"They're just deferring it for one year," said Pilla. "It's a tight year for them because they're not having their book sales."

Previously, the Friends raised money through book sales at the Hills building, but flood damage and the end of library operations there made future sales impossible.

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees will meet next on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. at the library

## OBITUARY

### Mary-Gail DaCosta

Mary-Gail DaCosta, 71, of Hudson, NH, passed away peacefully on Nov. 19, 2025, at Mass General Hospital.

Mary-Gail was born in Lowell, MA, on Sept. 14, 1954. She graduated from Keith Hall and went on to attend Northern Essex and St. John's Nursing School. She worked as a nurse at Saints Memorial Medical Center and later furthered her education, earning both her BSN and MBA from Rivier University.

She loved vacationing with her family, especially the island of St. Maarten, gardening, doing puzzles, bird watching, and was a voracious reader.

Mary-Gail is survived by her mother, Barbara Ryan; her beloved husband of 46 years, Anthony (Tony) DaCosta; and her children, Erica DaCosta her husband Brian Harper and Stephanie Naylor her husband Ken Naylor. She is also survived by her grandchildren - Lilly, Hayden, MacKenzie, and Sloane - along with loving nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Ryan, and her brother, Kenneth Ryan.

Friends and family were invited to a visitation at Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, on Sunday, Nov. 23. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Nov. 24 at St Jude Parish. Interment was held at St Patrick Cemetery in Hudson. To share an online message of condolence, please visit [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com) The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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# Editorial

## Thanksgiving: A Time to Pause, Reflect, and Give Back

When schoolchildren are asked what Thanksgiving means to them, they typically respond with thoughts of food or being thankful - not shopping.

Yet, Black Friday dominates the headlines, pushing us toward early Christmas deals instead of focusing on family time. Retailers have blurred the seasons for years, with Santa displays appearing before Halloween has ended.

Is getting first in line for a discounted TV or a pair of socks really what defines the holiday spirit? Should consumerism overshadow our sense of gratitude? While we all appreciate a good sale, especially in today's economy, Thanksgiving should be about slowing down, sharing a meal, and appreciating what we have.

Norman Rockwell's portrayal of families gathered around the table may seem like a distant image, but most of us still take a few hours to connect with loved ones. That time is precious. It reminds us of life's simple blessings - a roof over our heads, food in the fridge, clothes in the closet, and yes, even the technology that keeps us connected.

We may not have everything we desire, but we enjoy freedoms that we may take for granted - the right to speak freely, worship, and vote. We also have family and friends who fill

our lives with laughter and love.

Thanksgiving is also a reminder to look beyond ourselves. Many in our communities lack the comforts we enjoy. Food pantries are in dire need of donations, and homebound residents often go days without human contact. Even small gestures - like dropping off cookies, sharing a meal, or offering a ride - can make a significant difference. These acts help build the caring, compassionate community we all wish to live in.

It's easy to focus on what we lack or to be overwhelmed by the negativity that surrounds us daily. Instead, let's concentrate on the good - the people and moments that truly matter. Gratitude is not just a feeling; it's an action. As John F. Kennedy said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

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This season, take a break from the holiday rush. Spend quality time with those you cherish. Give thanks - and give back. That's the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

## School Board Approves New Policy for Earning High School Credit

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board has approved a new policy, IK Earning of High School Credit – Achievement of Competencies, which outlines how students can earn high school credit by demonstrating mastery of academic standards and competencies.

According to the policy, "A high school credit is an acknowledgment that a student has met or exceeded all of the academic standards and other requirements associated with that credit. In virtually all respects, those standards and requirements are identified as 'competencies' developed by the state or the district as learning targets within a subject area that represent key content-specific concepts, skills, and knowledge."

Students will be awarded credit upon achieving proficiency—or, in some cases, mastery—of the competencies tied to a course. In addition to traditional coursework, credits may be earned through alternative learning opportunities such as Extended

Learning Opportunities (ELOs), Learn Everywhere programs, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and other approved pathways.

Under Credits Awarded Upon Demonstration of Achievement of Competencies, the policy states:

"Credits are earned when students demonstrate achievement of competencies for the course and are not awarded based on class time, age, or enrollment status."

Evidence may include portfolios, out-of-school achievements, or assessments approved by the district or the New Hampshire Department of Education.

The policy also details Learning Opportunities – Methods of Achieving Competencies, which include:

\* Traditional coursework and assessments

\* Transfer credits from approved schools

\* Home education programs evaluated through portfolios or assessments

\* Extended learning opportunities under Board policy IHBH

\* Online or remote learning under Board policy IMBA

\* College credit through dual or concurrent enrollment

\* Learn Everywhere programs approved by the state

\* Co-curricular activities

\* Certain 7th and 8th grade coursework meeting district standards

The policy further addresses Interdisciplinary Credit, allowing students to earn credit through achievement of competencies across multiple disciplines or domains.

Under Learn Everywhere, the policy explains that successful completion of a state-approved program results in a certificate redeemable for high school credit. Credits earned through Learn Everywhere will appear on transcripts but will not affect GPA negatively. The district will accept Learn Everywhere credits for up to one-third of graduation requirements, with the option for students to petition for more.

The next Hudson School Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

## Tax Rates

**Continued from page 1**

accepting a budget with these types of increases. We may be at risk of voters approving a default budget.

You may look at the numbers and say they aren't too far apart, but there are consequences to that happening."

Lawrence urged "reasonably prudent" changes, a sentiment echoed by Bob Wherry.

"We have medical costs rising, electricity costs rising, and I think there are people who are going to be forced to make hard decisions with what little discretionary income they have left," said Wherry. "I think it's our job to try and protect

them."

Committee member Kevin Cole proposed cutting \$3 million from the proposed town budget without specifying where reductions should occur.

"Take it off the top, and let the town figure out how to deal with it," said Cole.

Jasper opposed across-the-board cuts, advocating for targeted reductions. He suggested eliminating a new HR position costing \$133,300.77.

"It was a change from the assistant town administrator to HR Generalist," said Jasper. "I'm not opposed to the idea; I'm opposed to the increase at this time."

Sorenson confirmed the position was new and iden-

tified as a priority in a staffing study three years ago.

"We do not, and never have had a human resources person at Town Hall," said Sorenson. "It was one of the most requested positions via the employees."

After debate, the Committee voted to recommend cutting the HR position. Other suggested cuts included limiting overtime at the Fire Department and reducing a Police Department software maintenance item.

The Hudson Budget Committee will meet again on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room at Town Hall.

# THE Hudson Times

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# Annual Tree Lighting Happening on Friday, Nov. 28



Hudson Lions Club will be hosting Santa's Arrival on Friday, Nov. 28, following the Christmas Tree Lighting scheduled for 4 p.m. at Library Park. The Hudson Fire Department will be transporting Santa to the Hudson Community Center at 12 Lions Avenue shortly after the Tree Lighting. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with free activities for children until 6 p.m. Bring your camera to capture the moment with Santa.

Archive photos

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## Conservation Commission to Review More Minor Permit Requests Under New Rules

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Conservation Commission met on Nov. 10 to hear a presentation from Associate Planner Ben Witham-Gradert, who outlined recent changes that will expand the Commission's role in reviewing small-scale conditional use applications.

"Just recently we had a small rules change from the Planning Board that will impact the Conservation Commission," explained Witham-Gradert. "What this recent change does, in practicality, opens up single-family and two-family

dwellings to pursue conditional use permits. Previously, only businesses could realistically do them."

The change means the Commission will likely see more requests from homeowners seeking minor property changes that affect wetland buffers. These smaller cases will now be overseen by the Minor Site Plan Review Committee.

As an advisory board, the Conservation Commission provides recommendations to the Planning Board. While the Planning Board is not required to follow those recommendations, it cannot legally act on a conditional

use permit until the Commission has reviewed it.

"Historically speaking, our Planning Board has always given credence to Conservation Commission decisions and recommendations. Very rarely do they ever choose not to follow through on them, although in theory, they are allowed to. That is their right," said Witham-Gradert. "Like

other land-use boards, the Conservation Commission also has the opportunity to have a seat at the table at the ZORC meetings."

The Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC) is responsible for

reviewing and updating Hudson's zoning laws.

"My understanding is that this is for smaller things like garages or decks or sheds, things like that. Would something like an inground swimming pool, would that come under this domain? Or would that be more comprehensive?" asked Commissioner Kathryn Griswold.

According to Witham-Gradert, pools typically fall under the minor plan process.

Conservation Chair Carl Murphy asked for details on how the process would work for residents.

"For an exercise, I'm a resident of Hudson, I come in, I want to put a shed in, and there's a wetland buffer impact," said Murphy. "Walk me through the steps for how that works through the town."

Witham-Gradert explained that any change would require a zoning determination, outlining steps for obtaining a conditional use permit if the shed intrudes on a wetland buffer.

"When we give you that determination on the conditional use process, we'll say 'Hey, here's the conditional use permit application, you

can take home a copy with you, here's our business card, get in contact with us,' and that's how we get the ball rolling for an applicant on what the process is, what boards they'll need to go to, and what approvals they'll need," he said. "They'll come in here with their conditional use permit, and the Commission will decide if a site visit is appropriate or not for something like 10 feet of incursion."

The Minor Site Plan Review Committee will consider the Commission's recommendations rather than the full Planning Board.

## Delayed Campello Street Subdivision Gains Planning Board Approval

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Planning Board met on Nov. 12 to hear a presentation from Engineer and Land Survey-

or David Jordan regarding the proposed Campello Street subdivision plan for 36 Campello St. The project includes the construction of 11 lots on the prop-

erty along with a private roadway.

"There were questions on this Board as to whether the plans and the application we submitted was in

performance with a court decision, and whether we were entitled to request waivers associated with this plan," said Jordan. "Tonight, we're here again to request approval of this development plan."

Jordan noted that the Town Administrator supported several requested waivers, including a narrower-than-required right-of-way, pavement width, cul-de-sac radius, and berm sloping, among other changes.

"I don't particularly know why we need a right-of-way here," said Board Chair Tim Malley. "It's not a town-owned road, there's really no need for a right-of-way on private property. I'm sure they're going to get easements for the water and sewer connections, so I think this is just more of a flaw on our current system."

The applicant still wanted the waiver recorded, noting that the application had been in limbo for some time.

"We comply with the

open space development regulations in terms of lot size, area, and all of the associated requirements that go along with that," said Jordan. "Our alteration of terrain application has been submitted and is pending with the state. We are also subject to a shoreland permit, which we do have in hand."

No one stepped forward for public input on the plan at the meeting, though several abutters had previously expressed concern about the length of the private road. Board members also shared comments.

"I appreciate what you've done here," said Board member James Crowley, noting that the revised plan addressed some earlier concerns. "When I look at one of your drawings on the roadway plan and profile with water

and sewer service pipes, they don't show up. Your plan filed a water and sewer pipe. I think on the first plan we saw it was there."

Jordan acknowledged

the discrepancy and promised to correct the drawings. Vice-Chair Jordan Ulrey requested that wetlands in common areas be clearly marked for safety.

"In the past, in wetlands areas that have been in common areas, we have asked that they be delineated in some fashion," said Ulrey. "Assuming there's going to be kids there, they should be aware that's a hazardous area. Parents should be aware of that."

Jordan agreed to install placards and assured the Board that none of the waivers would negatively impact drainage or runoff into wetlands, addressing prior concerns about groundwater contamination.

After further discussion, the Planning Board voted to approve the subdivision application, including most requested waivers.

The next Hudson Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room at Town Hall.

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# School Board Approves Updated High School Graduation Policy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board has approved a revised policy outlining high school graduation requirements during its most recent meeting.

"In pursuit of its goal of ensuring that all students reach their learning potential and are prepared for post-secondary and career opportunities, students must meet or exceed the district's academic standards, required credits, and additional graduation requirements set forth in this policy to obtain a diploma," the revised policy states.

It explains that high school credits are awarded

when a student achieves proficiency relative to a locally defined graduation competency. As described in Board policy IK, graduation competencies and credits may be earned through multiple pathways, including extended learning opportunities (ELOs), CTE programs, transfer credits, dual/concurrent enrollment, home education programs, remote instruction, and other alternative learning opportunities.

Additionally, beginning with students entering ninth grade in 2026-27, required credits may include competencies earned in more than one subject area.

Under Graduation and

Diploma Requirements, the policy notes: "Recognizing that graduating students have diverse interests and aspirations for life after high school, the School District offers its graduating students the following diploma options to best suit the individual student's needs."

Alvirne Diploma – The standard diploma awarded to any student who earns a minimum of 24 credits, including those listed in Section C, and completes all additional requirements outlined in the Alvirne High School Program of Studies.

Alvirne Diploma with Distinction – Awarded to

students who graduate with a weighted GPA of 3.3 or above, earn a minimum of 28 credits, and complete all additional requirements in the Program of Studies.

Alvirne High School Core Diploma – Awarded to students who earn a minimum of 20 credits as specified in Section C and complete all additional requirements outlined in the Program of Studies.

For early graduation, the policy states: "The School Board supports early graduation as a means to earn a high school diploma."

Parental involvement is required for students under 18. The high school prin-

pal must approve requests if all state and local requirements are met and early graduation aligns with the student's career or educational plans. Upon approval, the minimum three-credit-per-year requirement will be waived, and the student will receive a diploma.

The revised policy also includes state requirements, such as passing a civics exam and the U.S. Citizenship Test.

"The district will develop a competency assessment of the United States government and civics, consistent with pertinent and applicable law," the policy states. "This assessment will be administered as part

of the high school course in U.S. and New Hampshire history and government. Students must attain a passing grade to receive a diploma or graduation certificate."

The district will also administer the 128-question civics naturalization exam developed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Students must earn a grade of 70 percent or better to graduate. The exam may be modified for students with disabilities in accordance with their individualized education program.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

## Budget Committee Reviews Public Works and IT Requests Amid Rising Costs

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on Nov. 13 to hear presentations from Public Works Director Jay Twardosky and the town's Information Technology team, as both departments outlined budget needs and warned against further cuts.

"This budget you have in front of you is what I think is the least amount we

need to work efficiently and not have to cut any services," said Twardosky. "I had two out-of-budget requests, half of them were approved. I asked for \$40 thousand for overtime, and the Board of Selectmen approved \$20 thousand."

Committee member Kevin Walsh questioned whether reduced overtime funding or limited access to a \$100 thousand overlay

account would impact operations.

"Would \$100 thousand make a difference to keep you on track?" asked Walsh.

"Currently, right now on a regular road like Wason Road, to do just the regular overlay, it's \$126 thousand per mile," said Twardosky, noting that wider roads could cost up to \$400 thousand per mile,

even before factoring in inflation. "We all know asphalt doesn't go down in price."

On road maintenance, Shawn Jasper asked about progress on the town's repavement program.

"How are we doing on the road re-pavement program? I want to make clear that I think you're doing a good job on that," said Jasper.

Twardosky explained that Hudson is on a "30-to-40-year cycle" and admitted the program is "not where it should be," but said the department is stretching funds as far as possible without burdening taxpayers or compromising quality.

IT Director Doug

Bosteels and Senior Specialist Vin Guarino followed with their department's budget presentation, citing rising costs as a major challenge.

"Our numbers don't really degrade due to the nature of our business. A lot of our subscriptions only seem to increase in price, unfortunately," said Bosteels.

The IT budget included a request for two devices for a storage array. Walsh asked if the department could function with one unit instead of two.

"The nature of the business for that is our infrastructure, in the way that our devices talk to each other. Those two devices have to communicate with

each other," explained Bosteels.

Committee member Bob Wherry asked about cloud storage.

"Is everything on-site then, or are you using any cloud?" he said.

Bosteels confirmed that some files—but "none of our data"—are in the cloud.

"It's mixed," added Guarino. "The cloud isn't always cheaper, and there are some applications, like the police and fire dispatch software, that would be in the cloud, but most other services would be here. Telestaff is in the cloud right now, but we have other applications that are internal and external, so it's kind of a mixture."

## Warrant

Continued from page 1

"Regarding the revenue, there's not any major significant changes versus '26, other than we did raise the motor vehicle fees," said Sorenson. "That continues to be the largest driver in revenues each year. Everything else mimics what we had."

Walsh suggested raising vehicle permit fees slightly

to generate an additional \$200,000 in revenue, potentially reducing the property tax rate by about four cents per \$1,000 assessed.

"Is it good or bad to do what we're doing?" asked Randy Brownrigg, warning that higher fees could reduce registrations and jeopardize the estimated \$6.5 million expected from permits.

"I do not recall motor vehicle receipts ever going

down year-over-year," said Jasper, supporting the proposal. "We raised it last year and still exceeded the estimate."

Sorenson cautioned against raising fees "too fast," noting that missing revenue targets would mean higher property taxes next year.

The Budget Committee ultimately voted to recommend an increase in vehicle registration fees.



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At left, Gov. Kelly Ayotte speaks with Alvirne Principal Steve Beals at the Barnyard Café. Above, Ayotte talks with Julie Nelson and CTE Director Eric Frauwirth about the Dental Program. Photos by Chris Paul

## Ayotte Tour

Continued from page 1

the beginning of the tour was how the school was adapting to the newly established “bell-to-bell” ban on cell phones across the state.

Frauwirth told the Governor that the ban has had its challenges, but students usually put phones away when they are asked to.

The first student Ayotte was approached by during her tour of the facility was junior Julia Coelho who talked with the governor

about the ban and asked about the locking pouches being used in some schools.

The governor said that the ban is “very do-able” without the pouches, but said that the way schools control cell phone use is left up to individual districts.

She added that she has a son, who’s a senior at Bishop Guertin, and she feels that the ban gives students a break from having to immediately react to what’s going on outside of school and keeps them focused on learning.

She also stressed that teachers shouldn’t have the burden of policing student’s cell phone use in class.

The tour had the Governor visiting a number of classrooms in the Palmer Center, including: Health Science and the newly added Dental Hygiene Program; Welding and Fabrication; Heavy Duty Construction; Engineering; Veterinary Science; the Alvirne Farm; and the Culinary Arts at the Barnyard Café.

While at the the Dental Hygiene, Ayotte spoke with Dr. Julie Nelson about how Alvirne is one of just two school’s in the state to have a dental assistant program.

Nelson said that the pro-

gram is just beginning and they had three students last year taking advantage of the program and current have two. Nelson said her hope is to have a maximum of six.

She was also working on ways to help students get accredited for jobs right out of high school to which Ayotte expressed an interest in helping her achieve that.

The tour concluded at the Barnyard Café, where members of the Gateway Adult Day Center were visiting the school for a function in the dining hall.

At the Barnyard, she met with Alvirne Principal Steve Beals and further discussed some of the schools many amenities.

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# School Board Reviews October Discipline Report, Approve Coaching Nominations

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board was recently briefed on the October discipline report for schools across the district, offering a detailed look at suspensions, detentions, bullying incidents, and new policy enforcement. The report compared current figures to last year's data, highlighting areas of improvement and concern.

At Library Street School, one out-of-school

suspension was issued in October—one more than last year during the same month. Dr. H.O. Smith reported no suspensions for October, continuing its trend of low disciplinary action.

Hills Garrison School recorded 10 in-school suspensions, up from six last year, but reported no out-of-school suspensions. Nottingham West had two out-of-school suspensions, compared to none during

October last year. The district also reported one bullying incident that was confirmed as "Found."

Hudson Memorial School saw a notable decrease in detentions, issuing 21 in October compared to 43 during the same month last year. The school reported six out-of-school suspensions and 15 in-school suspensions, compared to 10 and 16 respectively last year. One bullying incident was reported

and confirmed.

New this year is data on personal communication device violations, following a district-wide policy banning cell phone use during the school day. The policy stems from state legislation passed earlier this year. Hudson Memorial recorded two violations in October under the new rule.

Alvirne High School reported 281 detentions in October, an increase of 67 compared to last year. The

school issued 16 in-school suspensions and 11 out-of-school suspensions, compared to 13 and 21 last year. Alvirne also recorded 22 personal communication device violations, reflecting the district's stricter stance on cell phone use.

In addition to reviewing discipline data, the School Board approved several coaching nominations for Alvirne High School. Appointments include Var-

Shyla Francoeur, Cheer Assistant Coach Angela Auger, Jr. Varsity Cheer Coach Jessica Siefert, Wrestling Assistant Coach Raymond Gendreau, Unified Basketball Head Coach Jessica Toomey, Assistant Hockey Coach Brett Pearson, and Assistant Hockey Coach Daniel Tanner.

The next Hudson School Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

# Selectmen Consider Fire Department Alert System Warrant Article

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

A potential warrant article discussed during the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting focused on funding an alerting system for the fire department.

"We currently have a system now where the firefighters are alerted to a call by bells and the lights coming on in the station, which are the bright lights," Hudson Fire Chief Scott Tice explained. "This has been shown to cause stress on the firefighters - physiological stress, emotional stress."

Tice said that over a full career, the adrenaline rush caused by the current system can have cumulative effects.

He told the Selectmen that both the United States

Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association "are recommending what they call a ramping system."

Under the proposed system, lights would be red instead of the bright white fluorescent ones currently used.

"They would come on low, start low, and increase in intensity," Tice said, adding that sound alerts would also start at a lower volume and gradually increase.

Ultimately, Tice said the goal is to keep firefighters healthier long term.

"The idea is to not startle the firefighters - that adrenaline rush - to reduce the long-term physiological stress on the heart and on the nervous system," Tice said.

process the information when the firefighters are getting that jolt, particularly in the middle of the night. They've got the adrenaline rush. They're not concentrating on what the pre-alert is, what the type of call is. And they're finding with these types of systems, they're better able to process the information."

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont expressed surprise that alarms could be an issue.

"I would've never, never expected the alarm like that to be an issue," Dumont said.

Tice explained that research supports the change.

"This is just research that has been out there that has come out publicly. It's in the 2024 version of NFPA 1550 on station facilities,"

Tice said. "It's also the recommendation of the U.S. Fire Administration."

He also noted that switching to the new system would not negatively im-

pact response times.

The potential warrant article would be for \$255,000, with an estimated tax rate impact of 4.9 cents.

No decisions were made

on the warrant article during the meeting.

The next Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.

# Hudson's Year-End Tax Rate Set

On Nov. 14, the Town of Hudson released the 2025 property tax rate, which now stands at \$17.11 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This represents an increase of \$0.66 per thousand compared to the 2024 rate of \$16.45. The components of the 2024 and 2025 rates are presented below with taxes being due Dec. 22.

2024 Tax Rate:	
Municipal	\$4.97
School - Local	\$9.30
School - State	\$1.24
County	\$0.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16.45</b>

Increase/Decrease	
Municipal	+\$0.60
School - Local	-\$0.13
School - State	+\$0.01
County	+\$0.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>+\$0.66</b>

2025 Tax Rate:	
Municipal	\$5.57
School - Local	\$9.17
School - State	\$1.25
County	\$1.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17.11</b>

The Hudson tax bill has four components. The Board of Selectmen controls the "Municipal" portion of the tax rate (\$5.57). If you have questions on the

"Municipal" portion, please contact the Town Administrator's Office at (603) 886-6024. If you have payment questions, please call the Tax Collector's office at (603) 886-6003. If you have questions on your property tax assessment, you should contact the Assessing Department at (603) 886-6009. For any other tax-related questions as they pertain to the School (603) 883-7765 or County (603) 627-5602 rate please contact them directly.



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# School Board Reviews October Discipline Report, Notes Policy Changes

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board recently received a detailed briefing on the October discipline report, outlining trends and changes across the district's schools.

At Library Street School, one out-of-school suspension was recorded - an increase from zero during the same month last year.

Dr. H.O. Smith School

reported no suspensions for October.

At Hills Garrison School, there were 10 in-school suspensions, up from six last October. No out-of-school suspensions were issued.

Nottingham West School saw two out-of-school suspensions, compared to none during the same month last year. The school also reported one

bullying incident, which

was confirmed as "Found."

At Hudson Memorial School, discipline numbers showed improvement. The school issued 21 detentions - 22 fewer than last October's 43. There were six out-of-school suspensions and 15 in-school suspensions, compared to 10 and 16, respectively, last year. One bullying incident was reported and confirmed.

New this year is data on personal communication

device violations, following a district-wide ban on cell phone use during school hours. The policy stems from recent state legislation passed at the end of the last legislative session. Hudson Memorial recorded two violations in October.

At Alvirne High School, discipline numbers were mixed. The school issued 281 detentions - 67 more than last year. In-school suspensions totaled 16,

while out-of-school suspensions dropped to 11 from 21 last year. Alvirne also reported 22 personal communication device violations.

In addition to the discipline report, the School Board approved several coaching nominations for

- Varsity Cheer Head Coach: Shyla Francoeur
- Cheer Assistant Coach: Angela Auger

- Jr. Varsity Cheer Coach: Jessica Siefert
- Wrestling Assistant Coach: Raymond Gendreau
- Unified Basketball Head Coach: Jessica Toomey
- Assistant Hockey Coaches: Brett Pearson and Daniel Tanner

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

## The Great Christmas Debate: Real or Artificial Trees?

Baking cookies, watching movies, singing carols ... the holiday season is celebrated in a variety of ways and each family has its own traditions. For those families that put up a Christmas tree every year, there is a debate that they've all had at least once: Artificial or the real deal? The debate around the better tree has continued for years, with some arguing for the convenience of fake trees and others staunch proponents of the tradition and visceral sensation of having a real evergreen. In the end, most points come down to personal preference, but one consideration that could sway the vote is the environmental impact. Does one come out ahead of the other in the sustainability category? Let's break

down how you can be sustainable with your tree this season while also partaking in your favorite holiday traditions.

### Adventure to the attic for your artificial tree

People who like the hassle-free tradition of taking the tree down from the attic can point to the environmental benefit of reusing their trees over many years. By using the same tree over and over again, you can prevent waste and help limit the overconsumption of products during the holidays.

However, artificial trees are made from plastic and metal materials and cannot be recycled. While a thrifty family could find creative ways to re-purpose it after it's outlived its use as the family tree,

eventually the tree or its components will end up in a landfill. Aside from difficulties with the disposal of artificial trees, their production can contribute to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and waste in the way they are manufactured, packaged and shipped. It's estimated that 80% of artificial trees worldwide are manufactured in China, according to the National Christmas Tree Association. Imagine all the emissions it takes just to ship your tree across the ocean.

### Are evergreens really THAT green?

So, if fake trees aren't ideal for production or disposal, that must mean that real trees are better... right? Unfortunately, the answer is more complex

than a simple yes or no. Having a real tree for the Holidays means that trees must be cut down every year. Luckily, most trees come from Christmas tree farms and are planted with the sole intent of eventually being harvested. Plus, more trees being planted contributes to more trees releasing oxygen and absorbing greenhouse gases.

Real trees obviously have the upper hand over artificial ones when it comes to reducing emissions. Even though these trees are being cut down to adorn your homes, there are plenty of tree farms that use sustainable methods with the understanding that trees are cut down and new ones grow to replace them, which helps

conserve resources. The National Christmas Tree Association says that, for every one tree harvested, three more trees are planted to ensure a constant supply. So, when looking for a real tree consider purchasing from a local tree farm; to extend the environmental benefit even further, look for the overlooked, less appealing trees that might be wasted otherwise.

Real trees also have a better disposal method since they are both biodegradable and compostable. There are many services that allow consumers to recycle their real trees for lumber, mulch, compost or other purposes. Some people even feed their trees to goats. According to the National

Christmas Tree Association, there are over 4,000 local holiday tree recycling programs throughout the U.S. Check with your town to see if there are any Christmas Tree recycling programs nearby.

### What's the consensus?

So, when push comes to shove, which is more sustainable – artificial or real trees? With the benefits of reducing emissions and waste, real holiday trees are the more sustainable option overall. Regardless of your holiday traditions and what kind of tree you decide to put up, you can learn ways to get the most of your tree and reduce the effects of waste disposal and overconsumption during the holiday season.

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# Rising Costs Leave Typical N.H. Family with Less Per Year Than 10-Years Ago

NICOLE HELLER  
NHFPI SENIOR POLICY  
ANALYST

A new analysis from the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute found that the typical New Hampshire family has lost major ground over the past decade, as the cost of basic necessities has risen substantially faster than household incomes. According to the study, the typical four-person New Hampshire family's disposable income – the amount left after paying for only a few of the essentials (food, housing, child care, health care, gasoline) – has dropped by \$17,349 since 2015.

The report draws on two decades of publicly available federal and state data to model household budgets for median-income families in 2005, 2015, and 2024. NHFPI used consistent inflation adjustments to compare how the cost of housing, child care, health care, food, transportation, and energy have changed relative to income over time. By holding household characteristics constant and adjusting for regional costs, the analysis isolates long-term shifts in affordability rather than short-term price changes.

Key findings from the

In 2024, a median income household with a family of four fell nearly \$1,900 short annually when covering only core household expenses, including housing, child care, food, gasoline, and health care, with nothing left for student loan payments, clothing, vehicle payments, or other everyday family costs. Because this analysis reflects the median household, half of New Hampshire families have even less income available to meet these essential expenses. Ten years ago, a New Hampshire family with the median household income would have had an inflation-adjusted surplus of about \$15,400 after those same basic needs – money that could be saved, invested, used for other typical expenses, or used for emergencies.

"Ten years ago, a typical family could cover the basics, pay for other essentials, and still have a modest cushion for emergencies and savings," said Nicole Heller, Senior Policy Analyst at NHFPI. "Today, that same family is falling short. Not because they're earning less, but because the cost of living has grown so much faster than incomes."

study include:

- Family budgets flipped from surplus to deficit over the past decade. Over the past decade, the income left over for a typical New Hampshire family after paying for only a few basic expenses – housing, child care, food, gasoline, and health care – has dropped by \$17,349.

- Prices of luxuries have remained stable, while prices of essentials have risen sharply. While prices for many luxuries like certain types of clothing, recreation, and technology have remained relatively stable or even declined since 2005, the cost of essentials such as food, housing, and health care has risen sharply. For example, the price of a television or toys, listed as recreational commodities in the Consumer Price Index, decreased by 96 and 64 percent, respectively, between 2005 and 2024. At the same time, necessities like medical care, food, and housing costs increased.

- Housing costs have soared. The monthly mortgage payment for a median-priced home has more than doubled since 2015, rising 164 percent, while home prices overall have surged

275 percent since 1999. A typical family buying a median-priced home in 2024 would need an income of \$157,500 to avoid being cost-burdened, about \$57,700 more than the state's median household income.

- Health care is consuming more income. Average family health insurance premiums (employer and employee share) rose 121 percent since 2005, reaching \$26,119 in 2024 – roughly the price of an entry-level new car each year. Deductibles are up 323 percent over the same period.

- Child care remains one of the largest expenses. Care for two children under age five costs about \$30,000 per year or roughly 30 percent of median household income. Over a

typical childhood, a family could spend nearly \$300,000 on care for two children.

- College costs and student debt add further strain. Tuition at New Hampshire's public colleges has risen about 60 percent since 2005 and remains among the highest in the nation. At the same time, Granite State graduates have the highest average student-loan balances in the U.S., making it even harder for young families to build savings or afford housing while also paying off student loans.

- Energy and food costs continue to climb. Home energy costs have nearly doubled since 2005, while food prices in the Northeast are up 72 percent, outpacing overall inflation. A healthy food plan for a family of

four now costs about \$11,900 annually.

- Rural families face added pressures. Households in Coös and Sullivan Counties have seen the slowest income growth since 2009, making them especially vulnerable to rising costs.

"The squeeze families are feeling isn't a matter of personal budgeting – it's a structural affordability crisis," said Gene Martin, NHFPI Executive Director. "When families can't afford to live and work in New Hampshire, it threatens the long-term strength of our communities and our overall economy."

You can read the full study, *Affordability Eroded: Changes to the Cost of Living in New Hampshire*, at [www.nhfpi.org](http://www.nhfpi.org).



## D.A.R.E Graduate

The Hudson Police Department sent a huge congratulations to MPO/SRO Dan Donahue. On Nov. 21, SRO Donahue graduated from the D.A.R.E. program. Donahue was among 22 graduates from all around New England and New York as part of D.A.R.E class 36. Donahue will now bring his skills to the Hudson School District to assist the children of Hudson in making good decisions, resisting drugs and alcohol.

Courtesy photo

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# AROUND TOWN

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

## Open House at Hills House

Celebrate the season at the Hudson Historical Society's Holiday Open House at the beautifully decorated Hills House, 211 Derry Road. Step back in time and enjoy Victorian holiday décor, festive photo opportunities, and community cheer. Event Dates: Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Gingerbread House Contest winners announced); Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Wreaths Across America Ceremony kicks off the day); Sunday, Dec. 14 from noon - 4 p.m. (Open House). All events are free and perfect for holiday photos. Don't miss this chance to experience the charm of Hills House during the holidays!

## Santa's Arrival

Hudson Lions Club will host Santa's Arrival on Friday, Nov. 28, following the Christmas tree lighting at Library Park at 4 p.m. The Hudson Fire Department will transport Santa to the Hudson Community Center, 12 Lions Ave. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with free activities for children until 6 p.m. Bring your camera to capture the moment with Santa.

## Friends of the Library

The Hudson Friends of Library will be meeting on Dec. 16 at 6 p.m., in Rogers Memorial Library's community room to discuss upcoming events and continue work on new fund-raising avenues. The work of FOL is vitally

important to the community and library programs and events. Please register for the meeting on the RML website Event Calendar.

## Legion Meeting

American Legion Post 48 will be holding its Next Monthly Membership meeting on Monday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m., followed by the Squadron at 6:30 p.m., at the Post located at 37 Central St. For more information on membership, please call 603-889-9777.

## Pearl Harbor Day

American Legion Post 48 is holding its Pearl Harbor Day Service at the post located at 37 Central St., on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. This

event will include a live firing by our Honor Guard. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 603-889-9777.

## Karaoke and Dancing

American Legion Post 48 will be hosting DJ Mike on Friday, Dec. 19, from 6 - 10 p.m., in the Foxhole at 1 Fulton St., for Karaoke and Dancing. This event is open to members and bona fide guests 21+. For more information, please call 603-889-9777.

## Wreaths Across America

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, in Hudson, Wreath Day activities begin at 11 a.m., at Hills House on Derry Road with a solemn ceremony. Following the ceremony, starting at noon, registered volunteers will begin placing wreaths on the graves of nearly 400 veterans' graves in Blodgett, Ford, Sunnyside, Old Center, Senter, Westview, and Hills Farms cemeteries and at the site of the Poor Farm burial ground.

## Used Toy Donations

St. Thomas Used Toy Sale is looking for donations of new or gently used toys for its upcoming Dec. 6 sale. Toy sale is at St. Thomas Church in Derry, NH, from 9 a.m. - noon. Drop Off locations: 5 Isabella Dr., Londonderry, NH, Drop off on driveway or porch; St. Thomas Church Derry NH, Drop off anytime; St. Matthew Church, Windham, NH, Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sundays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Hampstead Jewelers, Hampstead, NH, Drop off anytime; Edward Jones, Chester, NH, Drop off anytime. Proceeds go to charity. The toy sale benefits needy families and the community.

## 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 Lib-

rary 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.

## Victorian Tea

On Sunday Dec. 7, from 1 - 3 p.m., an "Afternoon Tea" will be served complete with cakes, and pastries at Hills House, 211 Derry Rd. Limited seating. Registration required by Nov. 22. Please email the Hudson Historical Society at [HudsonHistorical@live.com](mailto:HudsonHistorical@live.com) with your name and number of attendees. Free admission.

## Christmas Storytime

Come and listen to "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with the Hudson Historical Society at the Hills House, 211 Derry Rd., on Friday, Dec. 12 & 25 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Kids will be gifted with a fun "Christmas box". Limited seating. Registration required by Dec. 6. Please email the Society at [HudsonHistorical@live.com](mailto:HudsonHistorical@live.com) with your name and number of attendees. **continued on page 14**

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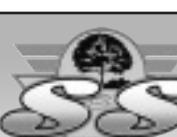
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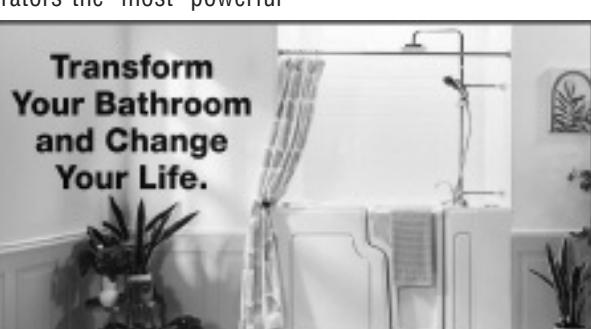
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# Around Town

Continued from page 13

attendees. Free admission.

## Old Fashion Ornament Making

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 7 - 9 p.m., at the Hills House, 211 Derry Rd., the Hudson Historical Society will be making traditional ornaments using all natural materials. This event is free and for adults only, materials will be provided, limited seating. Registration required by Nov. 28. Please email the Society at [HudsonHistorical@live.com](mailto:HudsonHistorical@live.com) with your name and number of attendees.

## Gingerbread House Contest

Hudson Historical Society will hold a Gingerbread House contest. To participate bring a completed House on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., with a completed registration form at the Hills House, 211 Derry Rd. If you want to participate but not build a house then come on Dec. 6 from 10 - 4 p.m. to vote on houses with the winners and their prizes being announced at the end.

## 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.

## Teen Hangout

On Weekdays at 2:30 p.m., middle and high school students ages 13+ are invited to enjoy the Rogers Library's teen space after school. Snacks, charging stations, video games, and crafts provided.

## Digital Navigators

On Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Digital Navigators provide

personalized, one-on-one support to help you with your tech needs at the Rodgers Memorial Library.

## 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.

## Explorers Storytime

On Fridays at 1:30 p.m., Rogers Library will have songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers.

## Movers & Shakers

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

## LEGO Racing

Build a vehicle from LEGO bricks and race it down a track at the Rogers Library on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. This event is for ages 4+.

## Dino the Therapy Dog

Every Tuesday at 4 p.m., come meet Dino, the therapy dog at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to make new friends.

## Adventurers Storytime

On Tuesdays at 10 a.m. (except the second week of the month), join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activities at the Rodgers Memorial Library. For ages 3-5.

## 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.

## Story Safari

On Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10 a.m., come to Benson Park for songs, stories, and bubbles! All ages welcome.

## Brunch Bunch

On Fridays at 11 a.m., Eat pancakes and talk about books you love or hate at Rodgers Memorial Library. For students entering 5th-12th grades. Those attending will be divided by age (Tween 10-13 and Teen 13-18) if the group is large enough.

## Wreaths Across America and Open House

On Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 14 from noon - 4 p.m., Come see the beautiful Hills House, 211 Derry Rd., decorated in Victorian Christmas style! No registration required. Free admission

## 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



## Santa's Helpers

The Professional Firefighters of Hudson IAFF Local 3154 in conjunction with the Hudson N.H. Fire Department, will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for their annual Toys for Tots drive through Dec. 12. Toys can be dropped off at the following locations: Central Fire Station, 15 Library Street; Station 4, 204 Lowell Road. To coordinate large drop offs, please contact: Primary Organizer- Dispatcher Adam Frederick- [afrederick@hudsonnh.gov](mailto:afrederick@hudsonnh.gov) or Assistant Organizer- Dispatcher Alyssa Anderson- [aanderson@hudsonnh.gov](mailto:aanderson@hudsonnh.gov). Courtesy Photo

Nashua area. Devices can be dropped off at the United Way office located at 20 Broad St., Nashua between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays or by appointment email [info@unitedway-nashua.org](mailto:info@unitedway-nashua.org) if you have any questions.

## Overeaters Anonymous

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

## Clean Water Survey

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

more rewarding.

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

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## Have an Announcement?

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).

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