

# THE Hudson Times

November 23, 2023 ♦ Volume 1 – Issue 4

A FREE Weekly Publication



## CLASS ACT

Jack Mallett and Makena Daggett play East and Glory in the romantic comedy “Almost, Maine” on Friday night. The performance was by Alvirne High School’s Class Act at the school’s gymnasium over the weekend and featured nine acts. See more photos pages 8 and 9. Photo by Chris Paul

## Selectmen Agree to Settlement Over Sam’s Club Abatement

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen heard a proposal to agree to settle a dispute between the town and Sam’s Club over an abatement decision. It was explained by Chief Assessor, Jim Michaud, that the company appealed the abatement denial decision for 2022, to the Board of Tax & Land Appeals. At

that point, he said “they don’t order you to settle they order you to talk about settling.”

“I join Attorney, Dave LeFevre, in recommending that the Board of Selectmen approve the attached settlement on the above referenced property,” Michaud wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. “This property had an assessed

value of \$14,553,400 for the 2022 property tax year and, with that year’s median assessment ratio of .942, the implied market value of the property was \$15,449,469, approx. \$114 per SF for the 135,792 SF property.”

He said “the value of \$114 a square foot for the property is not believed to be sustainable in a tax tribu-

**continued on page 4**

## Selectmen Send Solar Farm Project to Warrant Article

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the Oct. 24 Board of Selectmen meeting, the board was in favor of selecting Kearsarge Energy from Boston MA as the vendor for the proposed project to add solar panels to the old landfill property, should voters approve the project in March.

It was explained by Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima, at the meeting that they could use portions of the West Road Landfill site, to install solar panels, make money, and save money on the town’s electric bill. He said the town could save and make about \$4.47 million for the 25 years of the contract, with a 15-year addi-

tional lease option available bringing that number up to \$8.45 million. Dhima stated that they would essentially be using all the prime land at the landfill, which is about six or seven acres.

During the meeting questions were raised about what would happen to the Southern NH RC Club, which has used the space for over two decades. The Selectmen ultimately agreed to table the decision until the Nov. 14 meeting, to allow the RC Club to look back at their records and answer some specific questions raised by the Board of Selectmen

Eight people spoke in favor of allowing the RC Club to continue to use

Wagner Field and for a compromise to be reached.

Harry Peters, during public comment, said he has been a part of the club for years and they aren’t against solar. “We’re not here to stop the solar farm, I’m here to try to come up with a solution so we can coexist together,” he said. He also noted that in addition to improvements made to the site by the club, the club also donated over \$16,000 over the years to the Hudson Recreation center, per the recommendation of Darrell Wagner.

Wendy Wagner Anderson, the daughter of the field’s namesake, Darrell Wagner, gave a statement,

**continued on page 2**

## Hudson Town Planner Announces Resignation

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson is in search of a town planner, with current Town Planner, Brian Groth, announcing his resignation from the town, effective Nov. 30.

In a letter to Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, Groth said he would be taking a job with the NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs. “I have enjoyed working with you and the rest of the team here,” Groth wrote in his resignation letter. “I hope to continue to be a resource to the community in a different role with the NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs. During

the next four weeks I will do everything possible to facilitate the transition.”

With the void, until the town can find a new planner, Malizia asked during the Nov. 14 Board of Selectmen to be able to use the services of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission “to provide temporary assistance as needed until Mr. Groth’s replacement is hired.” Malizia added that he expects it will take a couple of months before a new planner is on board. Depending on the amount of work needing to be done, they could use the services for 30 to 40 hours a month.

Selectmen, Dillon Dum-

ont, said “There will be a lot of work ahead with zoning ordinances and putting together ordinances. Selectmen, Bob Guessferd, who currently serves as the liaison for the Planning Board, said they are involved in an important process of working on the master plan and “it’s important we have coverage,” he said.

The Selectmen ultimately approved using Nashua Regional Planning Commission services until a new town planner is hired.

Malizia during the meeting said, “Typically with a position like this I like to have a committee,” saying that they are able to

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ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Chair and Vice Chair positions are selected in March following the elections and are elected by the Board of Selectmen.

Roy and Guessferd were the two votes against sending the warrant article to the ballot, with Morin, Dumont, and McGrath voting in favor.

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# Planning Department to Continue NRPC Membership

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

At its third November meeting, the Budget Committee heard from Hudson Town Planner, Brian Groth, on upcoming expenses from the Planning Board and the Planning Department.

"The Planning Department has its salaries, and we also carry the town's dues for the National Regional Planning Council [NRPC]. Apart from that, our budget comes in at around \$5,000 per year," said Groth. "Planning Board has a few items, but they're primarily just the cost of doing business like postage."

Budget Committee Vice Chair, Bill Cole, focused on NRPC membership, proposing to cut the \$19,941 allocated to the Planning Department for organizational dues to \$0.

"My belief is that the NRPC continues to be no value whatsoever to the town of Hudson, or the citizens of Hudson," said Cole.

Membership in the organization is not a new debate in Hudson.

"This is something that has been brought up, pretty much every year for 40 years, and it has never successfully been cut, and I think there are good reasons

for that," said Budget Committee member, Shawn Murray, who once served as Selectmen representative to the NRPC. "When you come together in a larger group, you get a discount, you get a value to that."

According to Groth, NRPC dues go towards annual services like a tax map update program, the town energy aggregation program, and other services, saving the town more money than dues paid to the organization. He also claimed that membership made it easier to get state and federal funding for town projects.

"If you disagree on the ways the NRPC is headed, being a member provides this town representation on the commission," said Groth.

The Budget Committee overwhelmingly voted to continue funding NRPC membership dues.

Police Chief, Tad Dionne, and Captain, David Cayot, were at the meeting to answer questions about the proposed budget for the Hudson Police Department.

"My staff and I focused primarily on recruitment, retention, safety equipment, and the new expansion to the police facility while try-

ing to keep the same standard of excellence," outlined Cayot.

Inflation has increased the cost of supplies, and the Department is looking to replace old safety equipment. Other costs were related to bodycam storage and additional hours of legally mandated training. There are five vacant positions on the force, due to several retirements and resignations in 2023.

"The professional services were increased by the Board of Selectmen, what was included in that?" asked School Board Liaison, Gretchen Whiting.

Dionne answered that professional services refer to maintenance contracts related to fire suppression, air conditioning, and security for Hudson police stations. The cost of those contracts increases yearly, especially with a larger building on Constitution Drive following a special needs report in 2019. Utility costs are expected to rise with the new space.

Still, Cayot was optimistic about the expanded facilities, saying "Everything will be done by May 2024, we're on time and on budget."

## Questions Raised Over Long-Term Profitability of Recycling Program

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The recycling program is an issue for Hudson from a budgetary standpoint according to the Hudson Budget Committee and the Department of Public Works.

"Recycling is expensive, there's really no revenue in it right now," said Department of Public Works Director, Jay Twardosky, at the Nov. 15 Budget Committee meeting. "Most of the recyclables are too dirty to use in recycling plants in the US, and a lot of the

increase is contractual obligations."

The market for recycled goods has struggled since the COVID-19 pandemic despite initial hopes of making it revenue-positive for the town.

Cardboard recycling covers hauling fees and is revenue neutral, while metal recycling brings in a small amount of revenue while plastic has been a problem. Until recently, much of the recycled plastic was sent overseas, a practice now more difficult due to new restrictions from China.

According to the Director, any rejected material at the recycling plant goes into the landfill and "is an extra cost because the trucks travel twice as much." He estimated it would cost around \$250 to take a rejected barrel of goods to the landfill. Mattresses have additional permit fees.

"If we didn't do any recycling, or we only recycled cardboard and metal, would those lower overall town costs for this line?" asked Committee member, Shawn Jasper.

Twardosky confirmed it would save money, although the current contract fixes the recycling program for the next three years. He didn't give an analysis of what the program might look like by focusing solely on metal, paper, and cardboard.

The Budget Committee recognized the program has been popular, and that much of what goes to the Hudson Transfer station is recycled. Twardosky also noted that recycling can be more efficient with a full-staffed recycling center for discarded items.

"There are communities that do well with recycling, but it's not single stream, they have an actual recycling center, they have people making sure everything is sorted, and they have someone acting as a broker to make sure they're getting the best money there is," said Twardosky. "But that's a cost in itself."

Currently, there are no plans or anticipated funding to overhaul Hudson's recycling system, and the Budget Committee has focused on spending reductions when possible.

"I know politically or

socially, it's probably popular," said Jasper. "But the reality is, most of this stuff is going into the landfill after all. It would be nice if there was a market for at least something, but I've seen and can imagine that people are throwing so much stuff into this recycling stream that has no business being recycled."

While the Committee asked about the feasibility of breaking the recycling contract early, no action was taken. No changes to the recycling program are anticipated in the immediate future.

## Planner

**Continued from page 1**  
help determine the best candidates to send to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration. "The purpose of the interview committee is to vet the final candidates for the full Board of Select-

men's interview and selection," Malizia wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. He recommended having two Selectmen, the Planning Board Chair, and himself.

Guessferd said since he is the liaison for the Planning Board, he thought it

made sense for him to be on the committee. Dumont also asked to be on the committee, both were approved by the rest of the Selectmen.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Nov. 28 at 7 p.m.

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# Editorial

## Being Thankful

When schoolchildren are asked what Thanksgiving means to them, they usually say something about food or being thankful, they don't tend to say shopping.

It has become normal to cram in the turkey and head out to shop so you can buy Christmas gifts early, rather than go to Grandma's for Thanksgiving dinner and sharing family time. Celebrate Thanksgiving, and all other holidays with family and friends. We can all use a sale, especially in this economy, but we can also use a break from work and a chance to relax and enjoy time with family or friends. That's the heart of Thanksgiving, and that experience helps us realize what we really are thankful for. We should fill this country's vision of the Norman Rockwell images of big families crowded around the Thanksgiving dinner table, which most of us still do to some extent.

This time of year is for giving thanks and focusing on the little things we take for granted such as a roof over our heads, food in the refrigerator, clothes in the closet, a computer, or a cell phone to keep us in touch with the world.

We may not have the money we think we need, the job we want, or the house we desire, but we have our families and friends, who fill our lives with love and laughter.

Especially at this time of year, we are called to look beyond our homes, to consider those who don't have the

comforts we take for granted, and to help in any way we can. Whether it is with donations of food to pantries, whose needs are increasing all the time, or to neighbors living alone and perhaps homebound, who often go without human contact for days on end. Even something small like baking a batch of cookies and dropping them off, it is the thought that matters. These are things that make an amazing community charity, caring and compassionate for each other in our town.

It's easy to focus on what we don't have or to think about only of the negatives that bombard us every day. Try to focus instead on all the good that has come our way and that realization that takes us back to appreciating the people who play important roles in our lives.

We're thankful for those who support us in our effort to bring you your newspaper every week. We ask that you support our advertisers and encourage other businesses to advertise. We are the PBS of print and we need readers like you to help us in our efforts to maintain and grow our advertising in order to be able to continue our work for you every week. We encourage our readers to take time this season to break from the hectic pace of the holidays and enjoy being close to the family and friends you hold dear.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John F. Kennedy

# THE Hudson Times

*The Hudson Times is a weekly publication covering Hudson related news and information, it is available at a number of drop-off locations throughout the town.*

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# Letters

## Thankful to Publishers

To the editor,

This Thanksgiving I am most thankful for Deb and Chris Paul, the owners of Nutfield Publishing. In March, after my run for the board of selectmen I reset my goal to bring a local paper back to Hudson, NH. Through much research and networking I met Melanie Plenda, the Director of Granite State News Collaborative. Thankfully, Deb Paul had shared Nutfield Publishing's goal to expand into Hudson. Our two goals came together and in just a few weeks the Hudson

Times was in print!

As an advocate of the Hudson community, a person who helps to connect people, I have assisted with finding stories and doing some fact checking. Deb and Chris's investment, knowledge, experience and professionalism have made the Londonderry Times a respected source of local news as it will for the Hudson Times.

The Hudson Times is now in its fourth week and I am honored to have many volunteers helping distribute 2000 papers around town for easy pick up. The warm welcome of so many

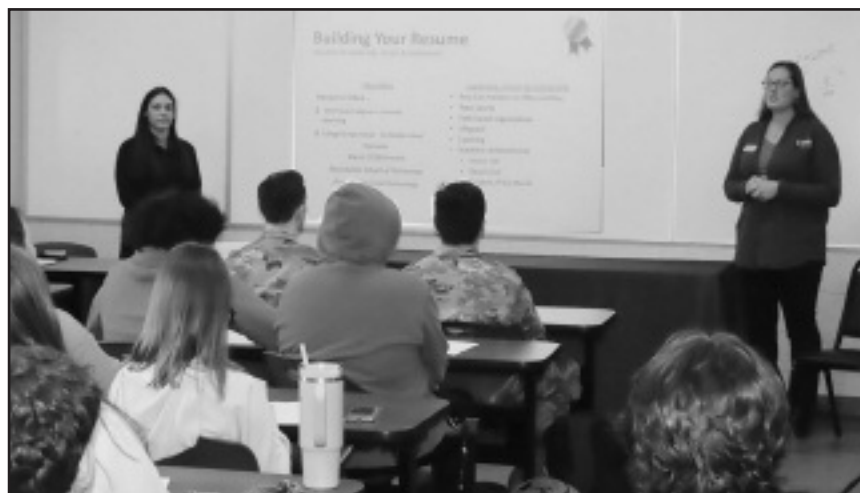
residents and businesses has been uplifting and encouraging.

As Deb indicated in her first editor's letter, the Hudson Times is our paper and we together can make it great. Please share your events, write an article or a letter to the editor. Together we have brought local news back to Hudson.

I continue to be grateful for the Hudson community and especially for Deb and Chris Paul. Have a happy and safe Holiday season!

With sincere thanks,  
Heidi Jakoby  
Hudson

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



Seventh graders at Hudson Middle School took part in the monthly "Exploring Your Future" Series which highlighted construction careers for the month of November.

The Alvirne High School CTE program invited some industry partners who helped promote Construction Career Day at Hudson Memorial School on Nov. 14. The seventh graders got a preview of all the career paths in the Construction field.

A number of companies took time out of their schedules to talk and promote careers with our middle schoolers.

They were: Lewis Builders Development, Inc., Pennichuck Water, New Hampshire Good Roads Association, Eversource Energy, Manchester Community College NH, A.J. LeBlanc Heating, Inc.

The group also had several Human Resources professionals come in to present a lesson on Job Search Skills to

some of the school's Economics classes.

The program leaders were very appreciative of all the expertise and time that was donated over the course of the two-day session from the experts in the Human Resources field.

Several of the groups industry partners got the opportunity to present to all of our Economics classes regarding job search skills. Students got a first-hand look at the job interview process, resumes, as well as the what to do and what not to do out in the professional world.

Thanks also goes out to: McGovern Automotive Group, Palmer & Sicard, Inc., Pennichuck Water, Silverstone Senior Living, Ballentine Partners, LLC, UNH Cooperative Extension, Concord Group Insurance

A special shout out to the Manchester Area Human Resources Association (MAHRA) for their Pre-Employment Skills presentation.

# Lots of Holiday Events Taking Place Throughout Hudson

A number of holiday-themed events will be taking place in the town of Hudson as Christmas nears.

The following is a list of events the Hudson Times has been made aware of.

## Tree Lighting and Santa's Arrival

On Friday, Nov. 24, the annual Tree Lighting and Santa's Arrival will take place at the Town Common and the Hudson Community Center, Lions Avenue.

Santa first arrives at the Hudson Town Common at 4 p.m. for the Tree Lighting then the Hudson Fire Department will transport Santa to the Hudson Community Center for photos with families and fun kids

activities until 6 p.m.

There will also be a Donation Box at hall to donate new winter hats, mittens or gloves for children in need.

## HMS Festival of Wreaths

On Saturday, Dec. 3 the annual Hudson Memorial School's Winter Stroll and Festival of Wreaths events will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. at One Memorial Drive.

Last year's event had over 50 custom-made wreaths won as raffle items.

The event is free to attend and raffle tickets can be purchased for the wreaths on display. Baked goods and concessions as well as free face painting and games for kids will also

be taking place

## Tour of Lights

Sunday, Dec. 4 is the deadline to register your Hudson address for Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights. This is a collaborated event hosted by the Hudson Recreation Department and 12 other Southern New Hampshire Recreation Departments.

Are you someone who loves to decorate the exterior of your home during the holiday season with festive lights? If so, we encourage you to participate in this free collaborated event alongside 12 other N.H. towns. To have your address displayed in the Tour of Lights, log onto our

website and register your Hudson address by Dec. 4. <https://hudsonnh.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

A full list of registered addresses will be posted at [hudsonnh.recdesk.com](https://hudsonnh.recdesk.com) by Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Those registering his or her address in Hudson will be entered into a chance to win a gift card to a local restaurant. Email: Chrissy at [cpeterson@hudsonnh.gov](mailto:cpeterson@hudsonnh.gov) with any questions.

## Caroling at The Inn At Fairview

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, Caroling at The Inn at Fairview - Memory Care Assisted Living will take place from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. in Hudson. This event is hosted by Pack 21 Hudson Cub Scouts.

## Hills House Open House

On Saturday, Dec. 9, there will be a Christmas Open House at historic Hills House from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The historic Hills House, at 211 Derry Road will be decorated for Christmas and is a must see. Light refreshments will be served. The event is being sponsored

by the Hudson Historical Society and donations appreciated.

## Memorial School Winter Concerts

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, Hudson Memorial School Winter Chorus Concert at the Alvirne High School Gym, 200 Derry Road, Hudson, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The sixth and seventh grade choir with take place at 6 p.m. and the eighth grade Choir, Swing Choir and AHS Choir will take place starting at 7 p.m.

## Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, Dec. 16, Wreaths Across America will take place starting at the historic Hill House, 211 Derry Avenue starting at 11 a.m. This event is to Remember the Fallen and Honor Those Who Serve. Hudson VFW Post 5791 and Auxiliary's will be helping Hudson cemeteries to remember and honor our veterans by laying Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our community's fallen heroes. Please help honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible

by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you. At this time, Wreaths Across America, Hudson, does not need volunteers to place wreaths on Wreath Day, but appreciate the residents willingness to help honor Hudson Veterans on Wreath Day. Residents are welcome to attend the ceremony at the Historic Hills House. This is an outside ceremony, with restrooms, snacks and hot drinks available inside the Hills House after the ceremony. There is plenty of parking, but no chairs, so bring a folding chair if you need one.

## Bell Ringing

Also on Saturday, Dec. 16 the Hudson Lions Club will take part in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Market Basket from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## AHS - Winter Band Concert

On Monday, Dec. 18 Alvirne High School - Winter Band Concert will take place from 7 to 8 p.m. at the AHS Gymnasium.

## Sam's Club Abatement

continued from page 1

nal such as the BTLA. The key figure that brings us to the point of settlement is the low assessment ratio, brought about by sustained high market values and sales of residential properties."

"The settlement agreement, attached, stipulates that the 2024 assessed value will decrease from \$14,553,400 down to \$12,806,000 an implied market value per SF of \$107 per SF (using an estimated ratio of .88 for the 2023 tax year). This is a proposed reduction of \$ 1,747,400 in assessed value, an approx. 12% reduction," Michaud wrote in a memo.

Michaud said that as part of the "conditional part of the settlement, the taxpayer foregoes any abatement money for 2022 and 2023, NO, zero abatement monies being paid out."

"This agreement also

amends the existing Wal-Mart, 254 Lowell Rd., property settlement terms, favorable to the town, in that it bars both the Wal-Mart property, as well as the Sam's Club property, from appealing their settled assessment values for 2023 forward until the next revaluation, as long as our assessment ratio stays above 80%," Michaud wrote in a memo. "The current Wal-Mart agreement only bars Wal-Mart from appealing if our ratio stays above 90%, and we are already anticipated to be below that (approx. 88%) for the 2023 property tax year, the attached agreement modifies that in the town's favor."

Michaud said one of the benefits of agreeing to the settlement is that they risk avoiding any further legal litigation, and the fees associated with it. It was also

noted by Michaud they would not be able to appeal the 2023 assessed values or for future years, "as long as the assessment does not change from \$12,600,000, with protection in the instance of property construction/destruction and holding until the next town-wide reassessment."

He said, "For example, if they were to bring the 2022 and 2023 appeals to trial, there is no guarantee that Wal-Mart wouldn't take them to the Board of Tax & Land Appeals in future years, which then cost more for legal fees."

"The settlement proposal is recommended as being in the best interest of the town as it is proactive in nature and has substantiated financial benefits (avoidance risk) to the town," Michaud said.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the settlement agreement.



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# Assessing Department Requests Capital Reserve Funding for Evaluations

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Budget Committee met on Nov. 9 to continue their analysis of the 2024 Board Selectmen budget proposal for 2025. With a flood of information coming in over the past two weeks, the Committee asked Town Finance Director, Lisa Labrie, to review some of the numbers. She also clarified what the proposed default budget will be.

"It's just under \$500,000 for the default budget," said Labrie. "That's \$500,000 less than what is being pro-

posed."

A default budget means the amount of spending authorized for the past year when taking debt service, contracts, and other obligations into account. With fewer obligatory costs, several town officials hope to have a lower default budget than last year.

Chief Assessor, Jim Michaud, gave a presentation on the Assessment Department, where he has worked for the past 28 years. He also explained how spending relates to the yearly taxes for Hudson and

a request for the Office of Assessment's mandatory property revaluation.

"Overall, about \$50,000 in spending is equal to about a penny in the tax rate," said Michaud. "We're asking the Budget Committee to be in support of \$25,000 to put away in the capital reserve for future property reevaluation. We have to do it at least once every five years. We did it in 2022, and we're next scheduled to do it by 2027."

He added that his office has just enough money to do a property evaluation if

needed, but wanted extra money in a capital reserve fund in case of a significant market event that could impact property values. The Board of Selectman and voters approved a similar \$25,000 capital reserve request last year.

Annual funding estimates include abatement overlays or refunds to property owners for accidental tax overcharges.

The Assessment Department typically conducts a statistical evaluation of property values as opposed to what the Chief Assessor

called a comprehensive "boots on the ground" appraisal where his office physically visits a certain percentage of Hudson properties to determine value.

"It's been a long time since we've done a full revaluation, which would probably be what, well over \$1 million to do at this point?" asked Committee member, Shawn Jasper.

The Chief Assessor could not confirm exact numbers, but expected it would cost "quite a bit more" than the \$175,000 Hudson spent on its last

evaluation. Michaud added that a full, large-scale assessment could take over a year and would require at least seven field assessors. His office has intentionally moved away from that model, especially since the COVID pandemic.

The state of NH provides oversight on property assessment.

"We're not seeing errors crop up," said Michaud.

The Budget Committee is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Buxton Room.

# Public Works Request Funding for Snowplow Blade Replacement

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

At its Nov. 15 meeting, the Budget Committee heard from the new Department of Public Works Director, Jay Twardosky. The Director stated that his main goal for 2024 is to "get what we need to operate" in keeping with a desire by town officials to minimize additional spending, although he seemed worried

about the rising cost of essentials.

"The items I've requested like plow blades are all steel, the price of steel keeps going up," Twardosky warned. "As it is right now, our first order of plow blades this year, we've almost gone through the entire budget already, so we're asking for an extra \$8,000 over the \$17,000 for a total of \$25,000 for next

year. That should get us through a Winter with plow blades, and if we wear out the plows, it costs a significant amount more money."

He wanted to stock at least one set of replacement plow blades for each truck. The request would cover 100 new blades. Twardosky also requested funding for the sander replacement as Public Works looks to replace old sanders with

stainless steel replacements. Other costs included newspaper ads, small materials, administrative registration fees for training seminars, overtime during ice storms, and road maintenance costs related to snow removal and potholes.

Some items were unclear, and members of the Budget Committee had questions.

"Last year, you added \$200,000 to the street overlay account, I was curious, how many lane miles do we service," asked Committee member, Kevin Walsh. "What did that \$200,000 allow you to do more than you would have done without the \$200,000?"

"We have right around 360 miles of lane road in town, and it depends on

what we're doing to the road," answered Twardosky. Overlays can require regrading or milling asphalt or can be limited to more basic surface work. "It depends on exactly which treatment you're doing to the road, a full-depth reclean would be \$180,000 per mile while our one-inch overlay is around \$80,000 per mile."

Public Works did not have a list of upcoming projects, preferring to wait until after Winter to see what roads will be prioritized for work next year. The Department repaired 19 of the 22 streets it wanted to fix in 2023.

Committee member, Shawn Jasper, expressed concern that Hudson might struggle to keep up with

repairs under current spending levels. "Are we going to be able to keep the streets of Hudson in decent shape with just under \$1.1 million?"

The Public Works Director gave a cautiously optimistic response, saying the town is "in a pretty decent spot" while noting that Hudson is not in a position to implement a comprehensive 20-year plan without a \$2 million budget, something he conceded was unlikely to pass and would probably not be needed.

"We're getting all the worst roads taken care of as much as we can," said Twardosky. "Roads are better today; we're heading in the right direction. We're in a lot better shape than quite a few surrounding towns."

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# Town Looks to Fill Town Planner, Firefighter EMT

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The Town of Hudson and the Board of Selectmen are looking to fill two important positions in the community.

Currently, they are accepting resumes for the position of Town Planner and for a Firefighter/Advanced EMT Private.

The Town Planner position will be vacant as of Nov. 30, when the current Planner, Brian Groth, will leave that post for a job at the NH Department of

Business & Economic Affairs.

The Planner would be working under the general direction of the Town Administrator, the Town Planner will be responsible for planning, organizing and directing the Town's planning function in support of the town's business requirements.

Duties include managing the Planning and Economic Development functions for the town, supervising the planning staff, reviewing subdivision and

site plan proposals, and preparing reports and recommendations for the Planning Board.

The job would also help to manage the Town's Master Plan and provides support for the Capital Improvements Program.

Candidates must possess a service orientated attitude and a thorough knowledge of the operations and functions of a municipal planning department.

The position requires a Bachelor's Degree in Planning or similar discipline, Master's Degree highly desirable, with a minimum of seven years related experience including at least three years in a supervisory capacity. American Planning Association member and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification preferred. Must be computer literate.

The salary range for this position is \$92,061 to \$113,565 plus excellent benefits.

Resumes must be submitted by Dec. 14, 2023 to: Town Administrator, Town of Hudson, 12 School Street, Hudson, NH 03051.

The Town of Hudson is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Hudson Fire Department is currently looking to fill a Firefighter/Advanced EMT Private.

Candidates would perform responsible Firefighter/Advanced EMT work for the town; engaged in fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical services.

The job works under

the direct supervision of a superior officer, who usually is present at all fire scenes and issues instructions concerning methods of firefighting and appropriate courses of action; Firefighter/AEMT is required to use initiative and judgment in carrying out assignments particularly in the absence of a supervisor.

1. Drives pumers, ladder trucks and water supply apparatus to scene of fire, positioning according to officer's directions, training, or pre-fire plan. Operates pump and adjusts valves to proper water pressure. Operates aerial ladder.

2. Drives ambulances, rescue trucks, forestry units, tankers and other vehicles as required.

3. As directed, makes search of building interior for rescue purposes.

Utilizes techniques of ventilation, applies knowledge of hydraulics and effective application of water for suppression of

fire.

4. Enters burning buildings with hose and other necessary equipment taking direction from officer-in-charge.

5. Performs advanced emergency medical care to persons involved in accident, fire or rescue incidents and/or requiring ambulatory services.

6. Performs Fire Prevention inspections, recording findings and issuing notice of violations.

7. Performs general maintenance on fire station grounds, equipment and apparatus.

8. Receives and provides training and general instruction from a senior officer in firefighting and rescue techniques and procedures.

9. Participates in pre-fire planning activities, indoctrinates the public on fire safety and emergency life rescue practices.

10. Operates as a dispatcher as assigned.

11. Performs other

related duties as required.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:

Ability to learn and perform a variety of firefighting and EMS skills, ability to learn and perform a variety of firefighting and EMS duties, methods and techniques. Ability to follow written and oral instructions.

Ability to work under physically and emotionally stressful situations. Ability to establish effective working relationships with supervisors, peers, the general public, and other Town Agencies.

The position pays between \$18.14 to \$24.58 per hour, depending on experience.

There is a application posted on the town's website at [hudsonnh.gov](http://hudsonnh.gov) for those interested in filing for the position. Questions can go to Deputy Chief, James Paquette, at [jpaquette@hudson.gov](mailto:jpaquette@hudson.gov) or by calling 603-816-3249.

## OBITUARY

### Ida R. Rossignol



Ida R. Rossignol, 89, former longtime resident of Litchfield, NH, died at the Hillsborough County Nursing Home on Nov. 16, 2023, after a period of declining health.

She was born in Nashua, NH, on July 21, 1934, a daughter of the late Henri and Aurore (Migneault) Boucher and after their deaths was raised by the late Alfred and Lydia Dionne.

Ida was raised and educated in Nashua. She married Wilfred Rossignol on Nov. 11, 1954, and had been residents of Litchfield since 1960. She enjoyed raising her family, watching her grandchildren and spending time gardening. She was a devout catholic and was a longtime member of the St. John the Evangelist Parish of Hudson.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her loving husband, Wilfred in 2015.

Survivors include her loving children and their spouses, Bobby and Dawna Rossignol of Litchfield, NH, Marie and Robert Griswold also of Litchfield, NH, Gloria Griswold of Merrimack, NH and Elaine and George Scanlon of Goffstown, NH, her seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday, Nov. 26, from 4 - 6 p.m., in the Dumont - Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Ferry St., Hudson, NH. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, Nov. 27, at 10 a.m., at St. John XXIII Parish in St. John the Evangelist Church, 25 Library St., Hudson, NH. All are invited to meet directly at church. Burial will follow in the St. Francis Cemetery, Nashua, NH. To share an online message of condolence, please visit [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com).

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Alvirne High School's Class Act drama students performed *Almost, Maine* over the weekend. Sixteen actors took to the stage in the school's gym to perform the romantic comedy.

*Almost, Maine*, a play by John Cariani, is comprising nine short acts that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical almost-town called Almost, Maine. It premiered in Portland, Maine in 2004, where it broke box office records and garnered critical acclaim.

Class Actors included: Ash Dolan, Nya Morgan, Jack Mallett, Makena Daggett, Logan Burke, Maddie Hyman, Dani Weaver, Jillian Boncore, Raegan Landry, Darian Lindsay, Wilbur Luckman, Cole Corleto,

Antoine Sheppard, Abigail Conroy, Joshua Smith, and Cora Moreau.

The Lead Director was Jen LaFrance; the Technical Directors were Lauren Denis and Claudia Torres; and the Scene Directors were Caleb Stuart and Julie Nelson.

The Stage Manager of the production was Gabriella Bunkartas. Other technical crew members were: Leah Sturk, Matthew Perez Lights, Madelyn Petkus, Madison Lockhart, Keira Stangroom, Lexi Lutter, Koi McCoy, Lili Johnson, Taylor Montgomery, and Brym Burns.

Class Act will be performing the *Velveteen Rabbit* on Dec. 15, then they work on their Spring musical "Honk!"

*Photos by Chris Paul*



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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Alvirne Boys' Soccer Take Step Forward, Make Playoffs

BLAKE SANTANA  
HUDSON TIMES

After a season in which the Bronco boys struggled to the tune of a 3-13 record,

expectations weren't exceptionally high for Alvirne's boys' soccer team, although there was certainly hope that the team would take a

step or two in the right direction moving forward.

The beginning of the season certainly did not start out the way the team was hoping, as they started out 0-5, with losses to the Portsmouth Clippers, Pinkerton Astros, Exeter Blue Hawks, Nashua South Panthers, and Windham Jaguars, being outscored 20-1 in that span, and frankly, being completely and totally outmatched.

Fortunately, the unfavorable early season schedule was not a death sentence for Alvirne, as they rattled off against the Merrimack Tomahawks and Winnacunnet Warriors by scores of 3-2 and 2-1, respectively. At 2-5 during this point in the season, things certainly could have been better, but they also could have been a lot worse, especially considering the team seemed to be finding its footing so-to-speak.

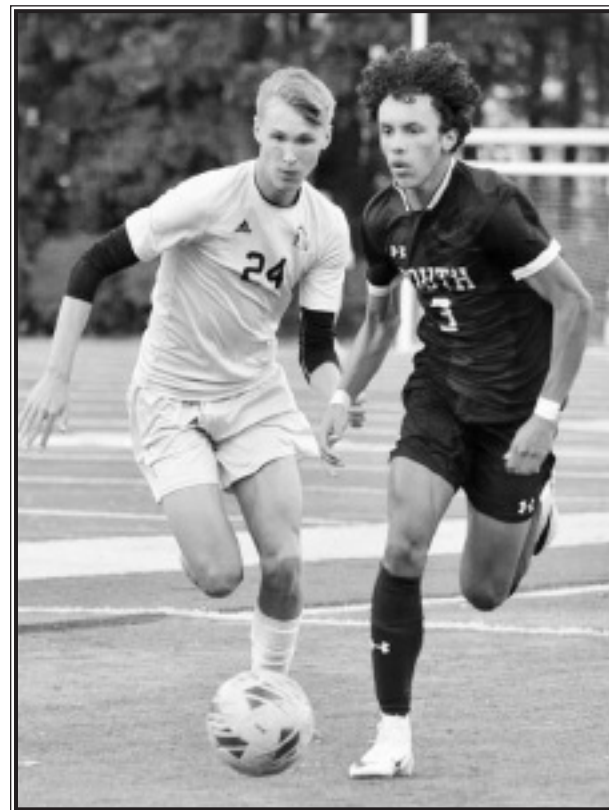
Trips to Hanover and Londonderry would spell trouble for Alvirne, as they lost both games 7-0 and 3-2 against the teams that would go on to finish as the 1 and 5 seeds with Hanover eventually falling in the championship game to Bedford and Londonderry being a first-round exit when they bowed out to Exeter at home in a 3-2 thriller.

Alvirne got back on track, however, winning their next three games against Timberlane, Keene, and Bishop Guertin and tying 1-1 with the Spaulding Red Raiders to move their record to 5-7-1 and all but clinch a playoff spot.

The following two games for Alvirne would both result in losses first at the hands of the Nashua North Titans 2-1, and then to the Dover Green Wave, also by a score of 2-1.

The Broncos finished their regular season at Veterans Memorial Field with a 0-0 draw against Salem and the Blue Devils, a game in which both teams had a number of opportunities to win, particularly the Broncos in overtime, as they hit two posts, and beat the Blue Devil goalkeeper, but missed the net high at one point in the extra frames.

Finishing the regular

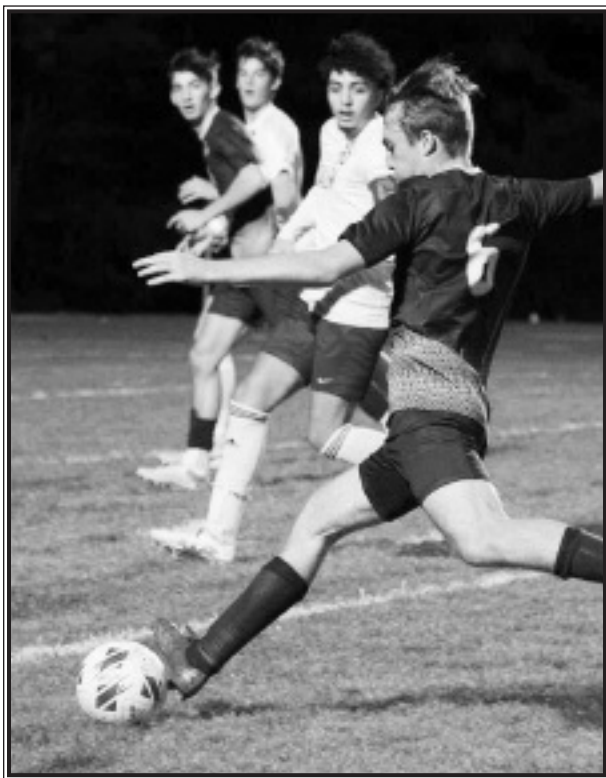


Shane Plumley

season at 5-10-1 may not have been ideal, but it was a step in the right direction, and it meant a playoff birth and a trip to Stellos Stadium as the number 14 seed to play the third-seeded Panthers.

While that game didn't go the way of the Broncos, there is no doubt that the team went in the right direction for the program, earning a ticket to the dance, despite going home early.

Without a doubt, this team will miss the seniors it is graduating, with the likes of both goalkeepers, Dylan Gagon and Owen Suprenant, Zach Proulx, Garrett Howard, and Derek Boulanger among those set to move on to bigger and better things come June of 2024. We wish all of our seniors the best of luck, and are looking forward to seeing the rest of the team next season.



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# A Year in Review: Alvirne Girls' Soccer Struggle in 2023

BLAKE SANTANA  
HUDSON TIMES

A year after making the Division 1 playoffs as an 8 seed and being eliminated on a questionable-call penalty kick goal in overtime at home against Concord, expectations were high for the Lady Broncos, even with the understanding that there were several major pieces from the 2022 season that had graduated.

Despite expectations, the Broncos struggled out of the gate, being outscored 19-0 in their first three games against the eventual runners-up in the Portsmouth Clippers, Pinkerton Astros, and Exeter Blue Hawks.

After a tough start against a group of teams that would all go on to finish as a top-8 seed and host a playoff game, things got slightly easier on the schedule for the Broncos, with Nashua South coming to Alvirne. South would go on to win by a final score of 3-1. Four games and four losses, but they were all against teams that would finish in the playoffs.

It got easier on paper when the Windham Jaguars came into town. Unfortunately, Alvirne struggled to get much going, losing 4-2 in a game that they could have won. There was some momentum though. The Lady Broncos had scored three times in their last two games, and only lost by a combined 7-3 as opposed to

19-0 in their first three games. Things were getting better. An 0-5 start is far from a death sentence in a 16-game season.

Unfortunately for the Broncos, when they took to the road to play Merrimack, things would not get better, as despite junior keeper, Ashtyn Willard's, performance, limiting the Tomahawks to a lone goal, the Broncos fell 1-0 at the Back River Sports Complex.

The girls followed that up with a trip to the playoff-bound Winnacunnet Warriors out by the beach in Hampton. In that game, they scored their 4th goal of the season. Unfortunately, they'd allow five goals to the Warriors en route to a 5-1 defeat.

At that point, the Lady Broncos, would face another tough stretch of games, which included the likes of Hanover, Goffstown, Londonderry, and Timberlane—all of whom finished either in the playoffs, or within a game of the final spot in the case of the Lancers.

First, it was the eventual 7th-seeded Hanover Bears, who came into Alvirne and promptly shut out the Broncos 4-0. Then Alvirne would travel to Goffstown, and the Grizzlies trounced them 11-0, scoring three more goals than the Lady Broncos were able to muster all season. This dropped the Broncos to 0-9 and eliminated them from playoff contention.

The next game for

Alvirne would go slightly better, only ending in a 6-0 defeat at home against Londonderry, a team in which missed the playoffs by just a single game, as they finished their season at 6-9-1.

The eventual top-seeded Timberlane Owls were next on the docket for Alvirne, and for the fourth game in a row, the girls were unable to tally a goal in a 7-0 loss. Not how one would hope things would go, as the Broncos record sat at 0-11, and the team was just hoping for an opportunity to crack the goose egg in the win column.

Alvirne would then welcome in the Cardinals of Bishop Guertin to town, and things didn't go too well for them, being shutout for the fifth consecutive game by a score of 5-0. This, however, would be a turning point for Alvirne, as things would get better from there.

When the girls took to the road to face the Spaulding Red Raiders, there was a sense of hope in the air of picking up their first win of the season, as the 0-12

Broncos faced the 0-13 Red Raiders. Unfortunately, both teams were unable to snap their winless droughts, as the game ended in a 2-2 draw after two 10-minute overtime periods were unable to settle the score. Alvirne's winless streak bumped to 14 games, dating back to the playoff loss at home against the Crimson Tide of Concord at home last season, while the Red Raiders' streak moved to 15 games, with their last win coming on October 17th of last year in a 5-2 win over Manchester Memorial.

Alvirne's final two home games would be back-to-back against Nashua North and Dover, both of which they dropped 2-1 before closing out the season against the Salem Blue Devils with a 6-0 loss.

While the record finished at 0-15-1, things were not all bad for Alvirne Girls' Soccer, as this team was one of relative youth, only having seven seniors, meaning next year's team will have some more experience, even without the likes of Bri Peters,



Sam DaSilva

Annaleisa Rivera, and Sadie year of experience under Rodgers, who were definite her belt will help keeper, bright spots for Alvirne. Ashtyn Willard, her team to Hopefully having another victory in 2024.



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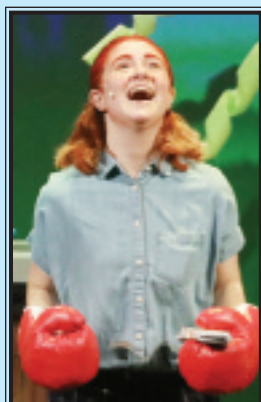
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# Kids Coop Theatre Perform The SpongeBob Musical



The Kids Coop Theatre group has kicked off its 27th season with a large cast of area children performing "The SpongeBob Musical," on Friday night, Nov. 17. SpongeBob was played by Ben Bertini, 14, of Derry and the 24-member cast of local actors ages 8 to 18 from Londonderry, Hudson, Derry, Chester, and Windham. Becca Antonakos-Belanger was the Director/Choreographer, Keith Belanger was the Music Director, and Mayson Gentiluomo was the Stage Manager.

*Photos by Chris Paul*

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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).

## Used Toy Sale

The annual St. Thomas Used Toy Sale will be held on Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Derry. This is the largest toy sale in New England! Beautiful gently used toys from dolls to games to ride ons and play sets and so much more are for sale at low, low cost. Arrive early for the best selection. All proceeds go to charity. Cash only. Bring your own bags.

## Toy Vouchers

Birth Right will be donating Toy Vouchers to families in need on Saturday Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the used toy sale at St. Thomas Church to benefit the churches outreach programs and St. Gianna's Place. This sale is an

annual event that provides an opportunity to start Christmas shopping while benefiting a worthy cause.

## Winter Stroll & Festival of Wreaths

Come see the holiday lights and decorations Sunday, Dec. 3 from 3 - 6 p.m., at 1 Memorial Dr., Hudson. Hot cocoa, apple cider, and treats will be available for purchase. The festival will be held indoors with each wreath being raffled off at the end of the event. Winners must pick up their wreaths by 7 p.m. Exciting activities will include face painting, temporary tattoos, hair tinseling, a scavenger hunt with prizes, games, DIY crafts, and a special visit from Santa! Please consider donating to Toys for Tots. All proceeds support the

HMS PTO. Sponsored by the HMS PTO and Ducharme Tree Service

## Diaper Donations

The Orchard Christian Church is looking for donations of diaper, wipes, and monetary donations to give to the Makeover Ministry's FREE Diaper Pantry in Manchester NH. Please drop off donations at Orchard Christian Church, 136 Pillsbury Rd. Londonderry, from Nov. 3 - Dec. 3.

## Tree Lighting

Santa's Coming, Join the fun on Friday, Nov. 24, for Santa's Arrival as he visits the Hudson Town Common at 4 p.m. for the Tree Lighting then the Hudson Fire Department will transport Santa to

the Hudson Community Center at 12 Lions Avenue, Hudson for a Photo with Santa and Fun Kids Activities until 6 p.m. Donate new winter hats, mittens or gloves for children. Donation box at hall.

## Lions Club Photo Contest

Which photo wraps up your feelings about Lions? Send your 8x10 matte finish photo to Robin Rodgers no later than Jan. 8, 2024.

Email: [robina.rodgers@gmail.com](mailto:robina.rodgers@gmail.com). The contest will be peer judged at the Multiple District Convention to be held Jan. 26 - 28 at the Westford Regency Hotel, West-

continued on page 15



**LIONS, BEARS & HUGS** Hudson Lions Club members PDG Jerry Vaccaro, Club president Kimberlee Fournier, PCC Celeste Ricupero, and ZC Linda Hedrick recently delivered 75 teddy bears to C.H.A.D Pediatric Hospital, in Lebanon, on Friday, Nov. 17. The bears were for the New Hampshire Lions Hugs & Cuddles project. *Courtesy photo*

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## Around Town

Continued from page 13

ford, MA. Prizes will be awarded for the top vote takers and a calendar will be assembled with 12 entries. Entry into the contest gives permission to use your photo for future MD-44 calendar fundraiser.

### Hanukkah Menorah Lighting

This year Chanukah begins on Thursday, Dec. 7, and ends on Thursday, Dec. 14. Visit <https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah> for a brief explanation of this holiday. Join at Etz Hayim Synagogue as they commemorate the victory of the Maccabees. On Friday, Dec. 8, Etz Hayim Synagogue will host a Second Night Chanukah menorah lighting, with pizza dinner and Family Shabbat Service. Pizza dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., (RSVP is required - email [Rabbi@etzhayim.org](mailto:Rabbi@etzhayim.org) to reserve your space). At 6:30 p.m., they will light their giant outdoor menorah and sing Chanukah melodies led by Rabbi Levy and Amy. Indoor menorah lighting and Family Shabbat service follows at 7:15 p.m. BYO menorah and 3 candles as we brighten the winter night. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at [www.etzhayim.org](http://www.etzhayim.org), or call 603-432-0004.

### Drop In Stitchers

On Friday, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, from 9:15 - 11:15 a.m., in the Community Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. If you're starting a new skill or brushing up on an old one or even if you just

like to sit and chat while pretending to work, this is a judgment free zone. Bring in that pair of socks you started in 1986 - you can finish them here. Make a new craft and some new friends.

### Adventurers Storytime, Stone Soup

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, & 12 from 10 - 10:45 a.m. in the Community room of Rodgers Memorial Library. Join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activities, for ages 3-5. Please bring one food item to add to the library's Stone Soup. Let the library know what you are bringing and please bring it prepared to go into the soup (peeled, chopped, etc). Children should be able to sit through a story. Siblings welcome. Registration required. Please indicate the number in your party when you register including adults and infants.

### Intermediate Knitting Class

Registration required. Seating is limited to 10 participants only. On Dec. 1, & 8, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Reading Area of Rodgers Memorial Library. Do you know how to knit and purl? How to cast on? Then you're ready to learn about knitting socks! Learn the basics of knitting a sock in this 4-week class. Please bring one (1) set of five (5) double-pointed knitting needles, wooden needles, not aluminum, size 4 (3.5 mm), no longer than 6" long.

### Mystery Lover's Book Club

On Monday, Dec. 18, & Jan. 22, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Children's Programming Room of Rodgers Memorial

Library. If you are looking for a book group where everyone joins in with the conversation and opinions are welcome, this is the place for you. Come and give it a try. This month's book pick is *The Maid* by Nita Prose.

### Afternoon Book Group

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 1:30 - 3 p.m., in the Community Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. This group will discuss *The man who invented Christmas: how Charles Dickens's A Christmas carol rescued his career and revived our holiday spirits* by Les Standiford.

### Seeking Donations

Meals on Wheels Holiday Gift Program is seeking donations by Dec. 1, they are looking for; \$10 Gift Cards to Local Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Dollar General, Pre-packaged Cookies & Fruit Snacks, Forever Stamps & Stationery, and Monetary Donations (to purchase items). Checks payable to Meals on Wheels & mailed to: PO Box 910, Merrimack, NH 03054. Items may be dropped off at our Admin Office located at 395 DW Hwy, Merrimack, or at any site location 603-424-9967 [hcmow.org](http://hcmow.org) Please help fill gift bags for the participants of the home delivered program.

### Rotary Club Meeting

The Hudson Rotary Club will meet at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 7:30 - 9 a.m., in the Community Room

### Democrats Meeting

The Hudson Democrats



**VILLANOVA BOUND** Congratulations to Hudson residents Alex Dumont on signing his National Letter of Intent to play College Division 1 Lacrosse at Loyola University in Maryland and Brady Dumont on signing his National Letter of Intent to play College Division 1 Lacrosse at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Both boys are USA Lacrosse All-Americans and play for Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua. *Courtesy photo*

will have a general meeting at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday, Jan. 11 (No Dec. Meeting) from 7 - 8:45 p.m., in the Community Room.

### Movers & Shakers

Toddler Storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Songs, stories, games, and activities for ages 1-3. On Wednesdays Nov. 29, Dec 6 & 13 from 10 - 10:30 a.m., and from 10:30 - 11 a.m., in the Community Room at Rodgers Memorial Library. Registration is required. Please indicate how many will attend including adults, infants, and siblings. Caretak-

er participates with child or children.

### Coiled Baskets

This program will meet in the Community Room of the Rodgers Memorial Library. This first class will be sharing space with Borderline Spinners. Signing up registers for all four weeks of classes Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 5:30 - 7 p.m., All materials provided. Registration is limited, so sign up now!

### Songs & Snuggles

On Thursday's Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14 from 10 - 10:30 a.m., in the Children's Programming Room of the

Rodgers Memorial Library. For babies age birth to 18 months and their caregivers. Enjoy time together with other caregivers and their babies as we learn, play, and develop language and motor skills. Registration required. Please let staff know how many people are in your party, including your baby.

### Dino the Therapy Dog

Come meet Dino, the therapy dog at Rodgers Memorial Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to be pet on the Library Lawn. On Tuesdays, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 19, & 26 from 2:30 - 3 p.m.

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