

THE Hudson Times

December 7, 2023 ♦ Volume 1 – Issue 6

A FREE Weekly Publication



CRAFTY TWINS

Friends, Sophia Ouellette and Leah Mellino, had a chance to build wreath ornaments at the second annual Winter Stroll and Festival of Wreaths at Hudson Memorial School on Sunday. The event, organized by the PTO, brought in over 90 wreaths to be raffled off as a fund raiser for the school. See more photos on page 8.

Photo by Chris Paul

Committee Looks to Boost Power Aggregation Enrollment by April

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Sustainability Committee opened its Nov. 20 meeting to welcome new Alternate member, Karl Huber, to his first official meeting. Huber already has experience working on the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee.

“We very much welcome Karl coming on

board,” said Committee Chair, Deb Putnam.

The Electric Aggregation Committee, a subcommittee on Sustainability, has begun its work with the Community Power Coalition of N.H. The Board of Selectmen approved the partnership and aggregation plan last October.

“The thing we’re working on is getting communi-

cation out early, to keep Community Power in the public eye,” said Committee member, Craig Putnam. “We have a tentative timeline for the enrollment process, it’s to be finalized, but at the moment, I have booked the community room in the Rodgers Memorial Library for the evening of Jan. 31 for our

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Selectmen Send Petition Warrant Articles to Ballot

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen reviewed and made recommendations on two separate petition warrant articles each signed by more than forty registered voters, during the Nov. 28 meeting.

“It will be forwarded to the warrant, the question is will you recommend or not recommend the warrant article,” Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, explained during the meeting.

One of the warrant articles reads:

“The Town of Hudson will conduct a study to determine the space needs for a new town hall. The

study will include a look at renovating the existing town hall versus building a new one elsewhere in town whether it be on land already owned by Hudson or land it would need to acquire. This study will include the costs of renovation versus buying land and building a new facility. A similar study was called for and not started in the 2020 Capital Improvements Plan.”

Selectmen, Kara Roy, said they already voted to do the study, so she felt it was redundant.

Selectmen, Dillon Dumont, asked if they knew that they were already working on it, and if they reached out to the resident

who filed the petition warrant article, if they would consider rescinding it.

Malizia said that they spoke with their attorney, who advised that they are not able to rescind it, and the only changes that could be made would be at the town’s Deliberative Session.

He also noted that the plan would be to use funds at the end of the year to pay for it, explaining that if they think they could afford it, they would pay for it.

The Selectmen voted unanimously to not recommend the warrant article.

Another warrant article states:

“Should the town
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Autumn Scott Resigns from Seat on the Planning Board

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen had several appointments to different boards and committees during its Nov. 28 meeting, including accepting the resignation of an alternate Planning Board member.

“This letter represents my formal notice to resign from my position as an alternate on the Hudson Planning Board, effective immediately,” Autumn Scott wrote in a letter.

Scott explained that she had resigned “due to several heavy personal matters, including a death in the family, that has kept me out of state for many weeks.”

“At this time, I must prioritize supporting my family and my personal mental health and am unable to continue in this role,” she wrote. “I sincerely apologize for any inconveniences caused by my absence.”

Selectmen, Dillon Dumont, noted that the process had begun by the Board of Selectmen to remove her from the board, and he thought resigning was the right way to go.

Chair, Marilyn McGrath, noted that there is responsibility that comes with being on a board. “If they take an oath of office, they have to adhere to that oath,” McGrath said.

Selectmen, Bob Guess-

ferd, who is the liaison for the Planning Board, noted that they made efforts to work with her. “The bottom line was we were finally able to communicate with her and this was the result,” Guessferd said.

The Selectmen also voted to re-appoint Normand Martin to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA).

Guessferd said the last time it came up, there were concerns over social media “and things like that with him.” He asked Dumont, who is the liaison to the ZBA, how he has been doing. Dumont said he’s been attending the meet-

continued on page 7

School Board Move Proposed Policy Changes To Second Reading

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board had several first readings regarding policy changes during the Nov. 20 meeting. One of the policies is in regard to non-public sessions.

"The School Board may meet in non-public session for any of the purposes set out in RSA 91-A:3," the proposed policy reads. "Non-public sessions may only occur after a duly noticed public meeting has been called to order and before that meeting is adjourned. Once the public meeting has been convened, the School Board may enter non-public session at any time during such meeting if a majority of the board, by roll-call vote, find that sufficient grounds under 91-A:3, II exists. A non-public session may occur during a duly notice meeting irrespective of whether a non-

public session appeared on either the meeting notice or meeting agenda." The policy also states that a motion for a nonpublic session needs to state the matter(s) that will be discussed and the statutory reasons for entering it. "The School Board shall record minutes of all non-public sessions, and such minutes shall be made available and or "sealed" in accordance RSA 91-A:3," the proposed policy reads. "Required content and availability regarding minutes of non-public sessions are described in School Board policy BEDG Minutes." It was also noted in the policy that the School Board is required to have the superintendent present or a designee unless it's about the superintendent's employment.

The School Board voted to send the policy to a second reading.

Another policy was

regarding public gifts/donations. "Gifts from organizations, community groups and/or outside individuals, which will benefit the Hudson School District, shall be encouraged," the proposed policy reads. "A gift shall be defined as money, real or personal property, and personal services provided without consideration." It was explained in the policy that any groups or people who are considering giving a gift should discuss it with the school principal or superintendent in advance. "The Hudson School District or Board reserves the right to refuse any gift that does not contribute to the achievement of the Hudson School District's goals, or in which the ownership of the gift would tend to deplete the resources of the Hudson School District," the proposed policy states. "In determining whether a

gift will be accepted, consideration shall be given to the Hudson School District policies, and objectives (with particular emphasis on the goal of providing equal educational opportunities to all students) and adherence to basic principles outlined in the regulation (KCD-R) that accompanies this policy." Also, as part of the policy the "superintendent may accept gifts subject to the terms of this policy in the amount of \$5,000 or less."

"The Superintendent will advise the Board in advance of acceptance if possible, or if after acceptance, at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Gifts in excess of \$5,000 may only be accepted by the Board," the proposed policy states. "Additionally, pursuant to RSA 198:20-b, III, gifts in the amount of \$20,000 or more shall require the Board to hold a

public hearing regarding any action to be taken with the gift. For gifts of less than \$20,000, the Board will post notice of the gift in the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting and will include notice in the minutes of the meeting in which the gift is discussed. The acceptance of all gifts will be made in public session. If there are more than two weeks between the donation notification and the next board meeting, acceptance is at the discretion of the Superintendent. Item will be on the agenda of the next board meeting. Once a gift is accepted it becomes property of the school district and can't be returned without the school board's approval and is subject to the same controls and regulations as are other properties of the Hudson School District. The Hudson School District may be responsible for the

maintenance of any gift it accepts."

"At the time of acceptance of the gift, there will be a definite understanding with regard to the use of the gift, including whether it is intended for the use of one particular school or all schools in the Hudson School District," the proposed policy states. "The Board will make every effort to honor the intent of the donor in its use of the gift but reserves the right to utilize any gift it accepts in the best interest of the educational program of the Hudson School District. In no case shall acceptance of a gift be considered to be an endorsement by the Board or the Hudson School District of a commercial product, business enterprise or institution of learning."

The School Board voted to send the proposed policy to a second reading.

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Library Director Looks into Simplifying Museum Passes Program

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Trustees of Rodgers Memorial Library met on November 15 to welcome Lisa Weber, who replaced Flo Nicolas, who recently resigned. Margaret St Onge was also seated as the Trustee's new Alternate member.

The Board was looking for ways to get residents to use more museum passes.

"We have a terrific collection of museum passes available for library card holders," said Linda Pilla. "It always saddens me when the passes don't get used

because we've paid for them, and they're available for Hudon residents."

Pilla also looked into possibly creating a "standby program" where passes would be available for pick-up by anyone, cardholder or not. She hoped to make the process "sufficiently attractive and easy" for residents to get their tickets.

"You can go to the Museum of Fine Arts and see the John Singer Sargent exhibit for \$10. It's normally \$34," added Weber.

The Friends of the Library holds a monthly book sale in the basement of

the old Hills Library building called Second Hand Prose on the second Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The nonprofit is also looking into hosting a massive book sale at Rodgers Library, although no date has been set.

The aging Hills building has seen roof damage from weather throughout the year, with water leaking into the interior.

"Apparently, some of the clay tiles that run along the ridge are cracked," said Pilla. "The building is a hundred years old; we're going to do what we can."

Library officials do not have the funding to completely re-tile the red clay roof, but hope to stop the leaks in the short term. It is unknown how much a complete overhaul will cost.

"For now, we maintain the building," promised Trustee Chair, Mimi Guessford.

The Trustees clarified an updated employee policy on how they conduct themselves when representing the library. Specifically, the policy prohibits anyone from using their position at the library from using that position to advocate for one

political party, politician, or partisan stance. The library also has a strict social media policy of what can be posted using the library's name.

"As the Director, I don't want to do anything that would cause any embarrassment to the library. There's no good place for libraries in politics," said Pilla. "That's why this board exists, to remove the running and selection of books away from the normal political process. It puts it into the hands of the people who choose to be solely involved in the run-

ning of the library and not in the running of the town."

Guessford agreed with the policy, saying "We should not be approving anything political, or recommending anything, endorsing anything. We can't tell people to endorse anything."

The Trustees of Rodgers Memorial Library are scheduled to meet every third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Hills Memorial Library Building. There is no meeting scheduled for December.

Highland Street Child Care Expansion Wins ZBA Approval

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Zoning Board of Adjustment heard a variance request for an expanded group childcare home at 135 Highland St., at its Nov. 16 meeting. The residence is already home to SAMA Child Care, and Ausama Mohamed Ali and Soukayna El Bouayadi were at the meeting to make their request. Bouayadi runs the daycare business from the couple's home, which was allowed via a special exception last February.

"This childcare facility

is already licensed by the state of NH, demonstrating its compliance with stringent state regulations that prioritize the wellbeing and safety of children," said Ali. "Increasing the facility's capacity will not result in any adverse consequences, instead it will help address growing demand for child care services in the community."

He promised to follow all safety standards for the business, including staff-to-child ratios and traffic management while promising that the facility was already prepared to accommodate

new clients. The presentation emphasized the high demand for more daycare capacity in town.

"I take care of five children now, including my son," said Bouayadi. "I receive a lot of calls from New Hampshire and out of state. My waiting list is ten people from NH and five from out of state. I had to tell them I could not accept more than the maximum capacity. I'm here to get more kids so I can help more families."

Neighbor, Bernadette Daigle, of 127 Highland St., expressed her concern

with the daycare with a letter to the ZBA, Sewage in the area is served by a single pump station, and one Daigle was worried would struggle to manage increased use from a larger facility.

"The daycare business, if approved, should be considered an additional household, they should be responsible for more yearly dues," said Daigle.

Currently, the pump station is maintained using dues from surrounding homeowners, all of whom agreed to support the daycare if their request was met.

Bouayadi was open to paying more for the operation of the pump station but

did not want to pay twice as many dues compared to surrounding homeowners, noting that the daycare was not in use for 24 hours per day.

"This Board cannot hold the applicant's feet to this," said Vice Chair, Normand Martin, in response to the letter. "This is a civil dispute. To approach the applicant and make this Board agree to terms, we can't do that."

Many questions from the Board focused on how the town ordinance governs business and home occupation. Martin called a variance "improper," as Bouayadi would need to hire at least one employee, blur-

ring the line between home and company under Hudson Zoning laws.

"Under a home occupation special exception, you can't have staff, it has to be the occupants or the home. If you're going to hire staff, you need to move to a different location," Martin argued. "I'm adamant about it."

Despite the concerns, the ZBA voted to grant the variance four-to-one.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will have its last meeting of 2023 on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Community Development Conference Room.

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Editorial

Remembering a Day That Brought Us Together

Before December 7th, 1941, Pearl Harbor was just an American Naval Base on Hawaiian territory. That fateful morning would be forever etched into the minds of citizens all over the country. It was a day that brought Americans together.

Only a few hours after the Japanese attacked on Pearl Harbor, Japan formally declared war against the United States.

The sentiment Americans felt after the news of the attack spread is best summarized by the words of fleet Chaplain William A. Macguire, "Don't say we buried our dead with sorrow. They died manfully. They were buried manfully. And we will avenge their deaths, come what may".

Pearl Harbor infuriated Americans and motivated an undivided decision to enter into World War II. On December 8th, 1941, the United States joined the Allied Powers. Before these events took place at Pearl Harbor, the country was divided and not all Americans were supportive of the efforts of World War II. After the attack, those who were skeptical began singing a different tune, and the support for the war became unanimous. The attack ensured America's entrance into the war, provoking a joint effort by all, at home and overseas.

The states truly became united that morning, and everyone had a part to play in the war efforts. Civilian employees helped to load and clean weapons,

wounded men fought on, doctors from miles away rushed to tend to the wounded, and when blood donations were needed donors stood in line for almost seven hours to do their part.

The outcome of World War II may have been entirely different, had the United States not joined the Allied Powers. The United States implemented the draft where all men from age 18 to 45 were included, providing over 16 million troops to the front lines. All automobile factories in the United States stopped production of cars and began manufacturing only vehicles and planes for the war. Women went to work in factories to make war supplies, and some even joined the armed forces. Without the United States providing so many troops and supplies, the Allied Powers may not have won.

Although the attack on December 7th, 1941, may not be our proudest day, there are many positive outcomes and effects that are too often overlooked. We can look back on this day and be proud that we live in a country where people are able to forget themselves and do whatever it takes to help each other in a time of need, to unite toward a common goal. Without our combined efforts, we could be living in a different world today. Pearl Harbor changed the course of history, and it is on each and every December 7th that we reflect and say a prayer for those lost, and those who continue to defend our country to this day.

THE Hudson Times

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Letters

Selectmen Vote to Not Recommend Public Input

To the editor,

Public input to a town's development decisions and post development impact is extremely important to effectively manage a town's resources, quality of life, and services provided to its residents.

The recently introduced warrant article to guarantee public input in all town board meetings was voted on by the Select Board to "not recommend" (4 to 1) without fully understanding the real context and purpose of the article. Selectmen McGrath, Morin, Dumont and Guessford voted to not recommend and Selectmen Roy supported. While our Board of Selectmen allow the public input on issues affecting the town to start each meeting, the Planning Board does not. The only input the Planning Board allows is for a project currently on the table, but not for input on decisions made and the accountability to those decisions after the fact. What are the leaders of these boards afraid of? Afraid of the truth and impact to the residents these decisions have caused?

We have serious traffic, department staffing, and development issues knocking on our door. Some are already in our house. This should not come as a surprise, but it will to many residents when it hits their taxes. Not allowing or supporting a general public input session for each of our

elected town board meetings, or at least not recommending to support this warrant article is a disservice to the town's residents. Shame on you. This is just reinforcing in my mind and many others that the only way to get our town back on track in the short term is through warrant articles, and the longer term through elections. For the chair of the Board of Selectmen to question why a board member would support this warrant article demonstrates the lack of understanding many of our town leaders have.

How does that entrance to Hudson look today coming over the Sagamore bridge? This is just the beginning. It is time to put on the brakes and study the impact all the approved developments will have as well as those currently being submitted. The Planning Board does not want to hear it and the Select Board has not acted. For our Select Board members to not recommend the warrant article to allow overall public input goes against our core principles. More to come.....

James Dobens
Hudson

Senior's Lock Box Program

To the editor,

At the most recent meeting at the Senior Center, on Nov. 28, with a Hudson Police Department officer, it was decided to launch the Hudson Lock Box Program in late January 2024.

As previously stated in an earlier Hudson Times edition, this is a program that has been instituted in many cities and towns and has saved many lives in the process. We are very happy that we will be offering a similar program to Hudson residents.

This program will give Hudson residents the opportunity to obtain a secure lock box unit for their home. This unit will provide a process for the Police to access a residence if an emergency situation occurs and you are unable to give them access.

More details will be coming available in a later Hudson Times edition. We are very grateful to the Hudson Police Department for guiding us in this process.

Please keep bringing the new Hudson Times publication into your home as the weeks go forward. We now have many locations throughout Hudson that this free weekly newspaper can be obtained. Please share this information with your friends and family.

Everyone is welcome to contribute to this new publication with information about events or activities that would be of interest to all readers. Please send any of your suggestions or concerns to the editor at hudsontimes@nutpub.net

We are so happy to have this opportunity to keep Hudson residents informed with the happenings in our wonderful town.

Kathy & Steve Martinek
Hudson

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

Have an Announcement?

This service is provided free of charge to Londonderry 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 Londonderry Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to londonderrytimes@nutpub.net.

Wreath Day Ceremony to Take Place at the Hills House

The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16 at Hills House starting at 11 a.m.

Remember – Honor – Teach.

These three words: Remember-Honor-Teach are the hallmark of Wreaths Across America. Remember the Fallen...Honor those who serve...Teach our children the value of Freedom.

This is the fifth year Wreaths Across America, Hudson, NH has participated in this national event which includes over 4,000 locations nationwide and overseas. Following the ceremony in Hudson, previously registered volunteers will proceed to seven Hudson cemeteries and honor each veteran by placing a wreath at their gravesite. The volunteer will state the name of the veteran and say a few words about his/her service. By the end of the day, nearly 400 veterans buried in Hudson will be remem-

bered. Wreaths are also placed at the several veterans' monuments throughout the Town.

The 2023 Annual Wreath Day Ceremony will take place at the Hills House, 211 Derry Road on Dec. 16 at 11 AM. This is a solemn and moving tribute to our veterans with representatives of each branch of the Armed Forces presenting a wreath in honor of the veterans of their branch of service, as well as for POW/MIA and the veterans interred in the two cemeteries in Town where we aren't allowed to place wreaths – St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Cemeteries.

This ceremony starts before the actual wreath laying, which starts at noon, and offers everyone the opportunity to honor our veterans on Wreath Day.

Why do we have Wreath Day and place wreaths on veterans' graves in December? We understand that we have Memorial Day in the spring and Veterans Day in

the fall, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedom. In many homes, there is an empty seat at the table for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We gather on Wreath Day to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We honor them and their families for the sacrifices they make each day to keep our country safe from terrorism, hatred, and injustice.

Hudson's Wreath Day Ceremony is an outside one-half hour ceremony, so bring a folding chair if one is needed and dress warmly. All are invited. Following the ceremony, snacks and hot drinks will be available inside the Hills House, providing an opportunity for attendees to view the



The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 16 at Hills House starting at 11 a.m. *Courtesy photo*

downstairs of the House which has been decorated for the holiday season.

Location Coordinator, Christina Madden and sponsor, Hudson Memorial VFW Post 5791, thank the many organizations and individuals who help with

this project, including, the Hudson Police Dept., Hudson Fire Dept., Town of Hudson DPW, American Legion Post #48, Alvirne High JROTC, Hudson Historical Society, the Knights of Columbus, local Boy and Girl Scouts, Town of Hud-

son Selectmen, Hudson Community TV, the active duty and retired service members who take part in the Wreath Day Ceremony, and all our faithful volunteers and their families who place wreaths on the graves starting at noon.

Warrant

Continued from page 1

require any public board, committee, or general public meeting, to include time for public input regarding anything that board or committee has control over at the start of each meeting? This will offer consistent and reliable opportunities for citizens to express their thoughts, insights, concerns, thanks, and ideas, which will foster understanding and transparency."

Dumont said his concern is about land use boards,

saying there could be comments made during public comment that could bias board members, before public hearings. "A public input prior to the meeting could create a problem," he said.

Chair, Marilyn McGrath, also agreed with Dumont. "All of the items could be prejudged by the public input," she said. Roy said they could ask for an amendment to be made at Deliberative Session to have it after public hearings, in the case of land use boards.

Selectmen, Bob Guesser, said if they change it

to after public hearings, he would be more amenable to supporting it, or possibly having different language for land use boards.

The Selectmen ultimately voted 4-1 to not recommend the warrant article, with Roy being the only vote against.

When asked to give a reason for her vote, she said, "Because I think it's important for public input. Do I think there should be some changes to the language, yeah, but us cutting off citizens from telling us what they think is just bad business."

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Selectmen Send Benson Park Renovation Warrant Article to Ballot

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen was asked to approve a one-time funding from the NH Department of Transportation during its Nov. 28 meeting.

It was explained by Hudson Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, in a memo to the Board of Selectmen that the amount for fiscal year 2024 would be \$155,234.38.

"This payment is based

on the passage of House Bill 2 which divides and distributes a \$10 million one-time payment between all New Hampshire municipalities," Malizia wrote in a memo. "This is similar to a one-time payment we received in September 2022 from Senate Bill 401."

Malizia said he reviewed the funding with Hudson Public Works Director, Jay Twardosky, and said, "if the Board of Selectmen accept the funds,

the Public Works Director will dedicate these funds to additional paving this year." He added that they needed to have a public hearing first in order to accept the funds, which they did during the Nov. 28 meeting. The Board of Selectmen unanimously accepted the funds.

In other news, during the meeting, the Board of Selectmen were presented with a warrant article request. "At their meeting

on Nov. 16, 2023, the Benson Park Committee voted to approve a request for a warrant article to add \$10,000 to the existing Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund," Malizia wrote in a memo to the Board of Selectmen. He noted that last year voters approved a similar warrant article at the 2023 Town Meeting for the same amount of money. While the committee made the request, it was noted by

Malizia that the Board of Selectmen ultimately must decide whether they want to forward the warrant article to the ballot. "It's always up to you if you forward it to the warrant or not," Malizia said during the meeting. It was also noted by Malizia that the Capital Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$76,940. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved sending the warrant article to the ballot.

It was also announced

during the Nov. 14 non-public session, that the Board of Selectmen hired Owen Sullivan as a mechanic within the Department of Public Works, with a salary of \$25.56 per hour.

The Selectmen also approved hiring Gordon Graber as a police officer with a starting salary of \$33.33 per hour.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled to take place on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.

Scout to Build Kiosk Near Pelham Road

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Conservation Commission met on Nov. 13 to hear a presentation from Christopher Darbe of Troop 20, who wanted to build a kiosk on Conservation land near Pelham Rd.

"It's about eight feet tall, four feet wide, and there's a 3x4 foot area for maps, information, and flyers," Darbe explained. "I expect it to cost around \$200, and I'll do a carwash to raise the money. I think it'll be done in early Summer of 2024."

The Commission was receptive to Darbe's proposal, as Secretary, Ken Dickinson, even asked whether the scout "would consider doing more than one" kiosk.

"It might be kind of difficult to do more than one, but if I'm going along and

feel I can do more than one, I definitely will," promised Darbe. "I want to see how one goes, then make a decision."

Overall, the Commissioners approved the Eagle Scout project and wished Darbe luck, with Chairman, Bill Collins, adding that the town needs more kiosks on public land.

"We've benefitted quite a bit from Eagle Scouts over the years. We've got some fine bridges out there, along with some other things you guys have done," said Collins. "I look forward to this."

Wetland scientist, Steve Riker, gave a presentation on behalf of resident, Christine Floyd, for a restoration plan at 78 Highland St. The project would require a conditional use permit. The owners of the land previously filled in the wetlands in

2018 and were told to put together a plan to restore the area.

"I became involved in 2021. Our task was to put together a restoration plan that would satisfy DES [Department of Environmental Services] and the town of Hudson," said Riker. DES has since given its approval for a plan. "I'm here tonight to take care of local permitting that's needed."

He hoped to get a letter of recommendation from the Conservation Commission for his restoration plan. Only the Planning Board can give conditional use permits. His idea was to bring an excavator to the property, stripping the former wetland of material before having it reseeded.

"This restoration would improve and restore the current wetland function

and values that occur on this site. It will help with erosion and sedimentation," said Riker.

The goal was to get the new wetlands as close as possible to what they were before being filled in. Riker warned this would be tricky in some areas.

"Is there a proposed vegetation for the buffer zone?" asked Vice Chair, Carl Murphy.

Riker confirmed the plan was to use a mix of grasses and flowers native to New England as a part of the restoration process. He also promised that no runoff would be redirected to neighbors.

The Hudson Conservation Commission is scheduled to meet again on Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

OBITUARY

Dean Kolden



Dean R. Kolden, 85, of Hudson, NH passed away peacefully and comfortably on Nov. 18, 2023 surrounded by his family.

Dean, originally from Richfield, MN captured his high school hockey team. He went onto graduating from Mankato State University majoring in Biology. After serving in the Army National Guard, he embarked on a 25 year career with Quaker Oats retiring as a District Manager of the Northeast. Being the ultimate salesman and not being able to sit still, he started his second 15 year career with Swedish Match/General Cigar only retiring from there after a second stroke.

His real passion was his family. He loved spending time with his wife Mary at his second home in North Conway. There are so many memories that will ever be cherished of times spent there. He would tell you that his joy in life was to watch his grandchildren play hockey, lacrosse, basketball, soccer and baseball. He would not miss a game and could always be counted on to bring them to practice at all hours of the day and night.

Dean is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary, and three children: Troy and his wife Diane of Hudson, NH, Erik and his wife Andrea of Hudson, NH, and Anne Coletti of Largo, FL. He was also so proud of his grandchildren, Cory, Austin, Shayna, Kaelyn, Eireann, Gehrig and Larsen, and great grandchildren Tyler, Mason, Olivia and Brady. He spent special times at Lake Amelia in Villard, MN with his brother-in-law Mike McHugh and his wife Tammy, sister-in-law Kathy, nieces Kelly, Lindsey and his nephew Tom.

Dean's family will be celebrating his life on Friday Nov. 24, from 4 - 8 p.m., at Troy and Dianas 3 Redwood Rd., Hudson, NH 03051. Family and friends are welcomed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Dean's loving memory to Brookhaven Hospice of NH at www.brookhavenhospice.com.

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Central Gas Site Application Delayed After Extensive Debate

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Planning Board debated a Central Gas Site Plan at 77 Central St., during their Nov. 29 meeting before hearing a scheduled presentation on the application. The proposed gas station has been before the town several times since July. Planning Board member, Victor Oates, opened with a motion to put a temporary hold on the process.

"After doing some re-

search on this development, I feel a pause is crucial for several reasons," said Oates. "We must ensure that the proposed development aligns with all controls, particularly concerning environmental protection."

Oates cited state law RSA-67421, which gives towns the power to adopt land use controls for the purpose of sustainability. He also argued that the gas station would run afoul with several long-term goals in

some upcoming warrant articles to be put before the voter next March and recommended consulting the town attorney before moving forward with the gas station plan and worried that the development would run into legal issues.

"I have reviewed this with the town attorney," said Town Liaison, Brian Groth, who argued that suspending the application at this point in the process would not be in keeping

with the law and that RSA-67421 was not applicable before the petition period has closed on an application. "I would not recommend violating state statute."

The Board voted down the hold, deciding in a five-to-two vote the application had to be heard before taking such action.

Oates was formally asked to recuse himself from the Planning Board by the Central Gas applicant over concerns regarding bias, who was convinced it would not be "a fair hearing," with Oates on the Board for any presentation on the topic. Any recusal by a Board member would be

voluntary.

The debate then moved to whether or not the application should be considered a regional impact before acceptance.

"There's have been significant growth in towns east of Hudson," said Board member, James Crowley, who predicted more traffic during the construction of a gas station at the Central Street intersection. "I feel Hudson is obligated to notify these surrounding towns and the city of Nashua of a regional impact."

"The proximity to aquifers or surface waters is a qualification for regional impact, never mind poten-

tial traffic," Oates added.

A four-to-three vote declared the project a regional impact due to possible changes in traffic flow to the nearby intersection. This meant delaying the planned presentation to give proper notice.

"We have to notify other communities so they can come to the meeting and actually hear the presentation," said Crowley.

The Planning Board will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall. The Central Gas Site Plan is scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at, 7 p.m. at the same location.

Aggregation

continued from page 1

public information session." The goal is to have every resident looking to participate in the aggregation plan by April 1 of next year.

The Electric Aggregation Committee will hold a regular meeting in the Rodgers Memorial Library on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Recently, Sustainability Committee Member, Kate Messner, attended the Local Energy Solutions Conference and was impressed by the potential of renewables.

"My big takeaway was that for the longest time, utility companies were one way: they provided the power, and we paid," said Messner. "Now with renewables coming into the picture, we're talking two-way power exchanges and communications."

She was referring to the ability of many renewables to provide electricity back

to the grid, calling it a "paradigm shift" in power.

Renewables have been relevant for Hudson with a recent vote from the Board of Selectmen to move forward with a solar farm installed near Hudson's transfer station. The solar installation will need approval through a public vote.

Member, Chris Thatcher, has been working to keep the Sustainability Facebook group up-to-date, something that has fallen by the wayside in the past.

"I would say we might want to consider a Facebook page and not a group," said Thatcher. He had given members of the public an easy way to communicate with the Committee. "The page will do more getting information out there."

The newest member was curious as to what role the Sustainability Committee had with the town's Master Plan. Currently, town officials are in the

process of updating the Plan for the first time in 15 years.

"Is the Committee involved in the Master Planning?" asked Huber. "I've looked at the Master Plan, and it's quite old. I think this Committee should have a significant say in what the Master Plan is doing."

Selectmen Liaison, Bob Guessferd, told Huber to contact the Planning Board and to attend public hearings for Master Plan proposals, saying "We'd love to have you involved." At least one chapter is expected to reflect sustainability goals. He wanted to see the Plan become a "living document" and encouraged members of the Hudson residents to attend public hearings.

The Sustainability Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, with plans to hold the next meeting on Monday, Jan. 22, 2024.

I PASS AS WHITE

My Dad wrote a book in the 1950's. The Manuscript was found in 1998 after he passed. His name was William Pointer, more known as Tex Pointer. His story is about the past, present and the future of what hate, ignorance and racism can do to a nation. He was known as a White skinned Negro.

He decided he just wanted the same opportunities others had and made the decision to pass as white. But, he vowed to strike a match for the Negro at every opportunity that he could. He never gave up on his race.

The book portrays his life, segregation and many statistics from the times.



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Memorial School PTO Holds Second Annual Wreath Festival



The second annual Winter Stroll and Festival of Wreaths at Hudson Memorial School on Sunday, Dec. 3, featuring 90 wreaths to be raffled off to those attending. The event was organized as a fund raiser for the middle school and also featured crafts, a bake sale, face-painting, games, and a visit from Santa Claus. Wreaths were donated from throughout the community and the number of donations spiked up from 50 that were raffled off last year.
See next page for more photos.

Photos by Chris Paul



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HUDSON SPORTS

Admirals Fall to Nashoba Tech Vikings in Pre-Season Start

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne-Milford Admirals hockey squad dropped the puck on their season on Saturday, Dec. 2, against the Nashoba Tech Vikings. Although this game did not factor into NHIAA DII Standings, there was a lot to unpack, as the young team was able to get their skates moving in high school action for the first time since the end of February.

In a game that aired both on HCTV Channel 8 and Anchor Down Sports' Facebook, Alvirne-Milford fell by a final score of 5-3, although the score is far from telling.

The first period was one of a high volume of scoring, with the Admirals tallying first on a goal from Brandon Callahan to make it 1-0 early on.

Unfortunately though, the ice would tilt toward the

Vikings after Callahan's goal. Nashoba Tech would go on to score the next four goals, all in relatively quick succession. While a couple of the goals were uncharacteristic for last year's all-state honorable mention, Trent Scarbro, it is better to have these things happen in the preseason, than when games count towards the standings. Trent did face an onslaught of shots in the first, stopping 16 of 20 shots he saw.

Another thing the first period showed Alvirne-Milford fans is that this team is not afraid to throw the body around and play a physical brand of hockey.

Through one period, the score was 4-1 in favor of the Vikings.

Coming out to start the second period, the Admirals clearly had the upper hand; whether it was from a locker room pep talk from the coaching staff, or perhaps

just getting their feet under them and being able to control the pace of the game.

At the halfway mark of the period, after Scarbro faced 25 shots in the first half of the game, he was pulled in a planned move for Kian Corcoran, as head coach, Dave Thibeault, planned to get not only all four lines rolling in this game, but also split the time between his two goalies as evenly as possible.

Braydon Atwood tallied the lone marker for the second period on a wrister from the point that beat the Nashoba netminder on his glove side to cut the lead down to 4-2 in favor of the Vikings.

In the third period, the Admirals and Vikings would both score a goal. James Nemeth got the puck in the net late for Alvirne-Milford after Nashoba tacked on an insurance goal with just about five minutes



The Alvirne-Milford Admirals hockey team had their first pre-season game on Saturday, Dec. 2, against the Nashoba Tech Vikings. Photo by Blake Santana

left in the game.

After coming in, in relief for Trent, Kian stopped 13 of the 14 shots he faced, all while making acrobatic saves, one after another, as it seemed very few of the shots he did see were from low-quality chances, although he didn't see the sheer number of shots Scarbro did, he had an excellent night in his own right.

Overall, the Admirals left some things to be desired, but played well for the first game of the season. Especially when it came to the physical aspect of the

game. The score does not tell the full story. This game very well could have ended with a score of 3-2 in favor of the good guys. The Admirals have a lot to be proud of coming out of their first game played together as a team in the 2023-24 season.

The game served as a game where the Admirals got the metaphorical rust off, so to speak, and they will gear up for Lebanon-Stevens-Mascoma on Monday, December 11. That game will air live on Anchor Down's YouTube Live. Coverage will start at

6:30 PM at James Campion III Arena in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Admirals had three players scoring "Stars."

Our first star of the night was center Brandon Callahan. Callahan scored his first goal in an Admirals uniform tonight, as well as being a constant offensive presence.

Our second star of the night was goaltender, Kian Corcoran. Finishing off the game in net for the second half, he was excellent between the pipes, stopping all, but one shot he faced,

continued on page 11

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Scouts to Help with First Christmas Light Waste Collection for Holidays

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

At the latest meeting, Sustainability Committee Chair, Debra Putnam, announced that the Hudson Transfer Station will next be open on Saturday, Dec. 30, after the holidays, 8 a.m. to noon. 2023 passes will still be needed, and the Transfer Station opens in April.

No passes are required for yard waste, metal, and cardboard drop-offs, which can be brought in every Saturday, with the Station open for the same hours. There are no more hazardous waste collections until Springtime, although the Sustainability Committee is plan-

ning for a holiday light collection.

"How do we re-route items, pull them out of the waste stream, and get them recycled?" asked Putnam. She previously asked Committee member, Chris Thatcher, to come up with a plan.

"We have a prototype box for drop-off locations, and we have a draft paper that will go with it, something we can post on social media and pass out as well," said Thatcher. "These will be located in the library, Town Hall, and at the house of a representative from the Rotary Club."

The Town Hall and

library locations will have a phone number to call when collection boxes are full. In past years, residents would bring trees with lights still on them, to the Transfer Station, something the town hopes to avoid with a light collection.

"We'll take care of collecting and recycling," said Putnam. The plan is to use small, personal boxes for Sustainability's first holiday light collection. "We're literally starting small, literally!"

The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts were asked to participate, with Kristen Sullivan of 15 Lorraine Street coming to the meeting as a representative from

Troop 20 to offer help for the collection.

"I work with Troop 20 in Hudson, we have a girl troop and a boy troop, they meet at the same place," Sullivan explained. "We have some scouts looking for service hours."

One possibility raised was having scouts at the last Transfer Station collection day to help residents remove lights from trees. However, the main plan was to have Boy and Girl Scouts collect personal light waste

to pass on to Committee members for recycling.

Troop 20 does a separate Christmas Tree pickup every year.

"The pickup is typically the two Saturdays after pickup, the public can sign up through the troop, in the past it's been \$7 or with a donation. We will take your Christmas tree away," said Sullivan. "We have a couple of places we take the trees, including a farm in Litchfield where they mulch the trees down."

She offered her email address: ksullivan@gmail.com to anyone interested in tree drop-offs. Hudson residents looking for more information can also send messages to Troop 20 through their Facebook page.

The Sustainability Committee promised to collect more contact information and post it on the town site.

"I saw this as a good way to make inroads and connections with local Troops," said Thatcher.

Admirals

Continued from page 10

including a couple of excellent sequences in the final frame.

The third star was James Nemeth, who put his name in the goal column, as well as being a physical force as per usual for the Admirals.

Some honorable mentions who didn't get the nod of an official star of the night were Trent Scarbro, who stopped 21 of the 25 shots he saw, including some excellent saves to keep the game close, Braydon Atwood, who had the second Admirals goal, a wrist shot from the point that beat the Vikings' net-

minder high on his glove side, and the pair of sophomore defensemen, Mason Tomkins and Landon Briand. The duo did not find their way onto the score sheet on Saturday evening, but they played with both a physical side, as well as showing some strong shifts in the offensive zone.

Scott

Continued from page 1

said he's been attending the meetings, "he's shown interest in it," and he hasn't had issues with him or anyone else on the board.

Over the past few years, Martin had been criticized for making a number of statements on social media regarding the public and

their involvement in local issues while he was a member of the Board of Selectmen.

McGrath said, "I think he's paid his penance for the inarticulate and certainly questionable comment... at a selectmen's meeting when he was on the board of selectmen." She said she was on the ZBA with him before, when he was chair,

and added, "I thought that he did a very good job as Chair." "I think that time has long since passed," she said.

Selectmen, Kara Roy, was the lone vote against the appointment.

The Selectmen also reappointed Linda Kriscunas as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission.



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While many people still refer to the Bingo Hall at 14 Melendy Road in Hudson as “The Kiwanis Hall,” since January 2021, bingo in Hudson is played at Veterans Hall, owned and managed by Hudson Memorial VFW Post 5791. Bingo, seven nights a week, run by five different charitable organizations, is better than ever. The Hall, which has undergone refurbishment over the past two years, provides bingo players with an enjoyable gaming experience including a concession

stand with reasonable prices and delicious food, and a non-smoking facility.

In addition to the long-standing VFW’s own Thursday and Sunday bingos, the Salem NH Knights of Columbus Council 4442 continue their Wednesday and Friday games, Mondays are run by the Marion Gerrish Community Center, while Tuesdays and three Saturdays each month are run by Wolverines Youth Football.

Rounding out the month is the Hudson Lions Club on the second Saturday.

Each of these organiza-

tions rents Veterans Hall to raise money for their organization’s charitable efforts.

VFW Bingo raises money to help local veterans, agencies supporting veterans locally and nationally, and to help the Hudson community by supporting Hudson youth sports teams and community members in need. Wolverines Youth Football supports the Derry Wolverine Dream Foundation which awards community grants and scholarships. Marion Gerrish Bingo supports the Marion Gerrish Community Center

& Thrift Shop which provides meeting space to over 150 community groups, nonprofits, clubs, teams and groups in addition to running a thrift shop. The Salem Knights of Columbus 4442 supports the local community and Saints Mary and Joseph Parish with donations for scholarships and the food pantry, as well as participation in local community events such as blood drives, Salem Santa Fund, Christmas Parade and more. Last, but certainly not the least, the Hudson Lions Club Bingo funds all the great work Lions do in the

community, especially for the sight and hearing impaired. Bingo players can be confident that the money raised from bingo goes to worthy causes in local communities.

While paper bingo cards are still very much available for those players who prefer the tried-and-true bingo sheets and the colorful dauber, all bingo nights now offer the option to play bingo with electronic “bingo minders,” handheld computers which take the daubing out of playing bingo, allowing players to play other traditional games

at the same time as the bingo games are being called. Players can load many games on the tablet, and when they win, the computer tells them they have won. But for those who prefer daubing the paper cards, Veterans Hall bingo organizations will always provide that option.

The Veterans Hall Bingo venue strives to give all players a fun experience in pleasant surroundings.

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Friends of the Library Get in the Holiday Spirit



The Friends of the Library of Hudson NH were present for Santa’s Arrival at the Community Center on Friday night, Nov. 24, giving out a free book to all the children attending and a coupon for another free book at a future Second Hand Prose sale. Following that wonderful event, the “Friends” were at the library on Monday, Nov 27, decorating the majestic tree for Christmas. The next Second Hand Prose sale date is scheduled for Dec. 10 at Hills Memorial Library from 11 to 3 p.m.

Courtesy photos



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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.

Charity BINGO

On Dec. 9 the Hudson Lions Club will host bingo for Charity, at Veterans Hall, 14 Melendy Rd., Hudson. Doors open at 3 p.m., first game at 6 p.m.

Blood Drive

On Dec. 13 the Hudson Lions Club will hold a blood Drive with the Red Cross, the White Birch function hall, 222 Central St., Hudson, it will run from 1 - 6 p.m.

Book Sale

The Friends of Hudson Library hold the Second Hand Prose (SHP) Book Sale at Hills Memorial Library (Basement) the second Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. This month on Dec. 10.

Book Donation Dates

The Friends of Hudson Library hold a book donation day each month at RML. Upcoming dates are: Dec. 14. All day 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Books are dropped off in the library to a study room. Do not use the donation bin in the parking lot - the bin donations do not go to the friends.

Penguin Plunge

The Special Olympics of NH Penguin Plunge will take place on Feb. 10. The Alvirne team has already started to form and over the next two months will continue to grow. If you are interested in joining the team, apply online at <https://fundraising.sonh.org/..> /Alvirne.../hs-penguin-plunge. Donations to the team or an individual plunger can

also be made on the page.

Community Food Pantry

On Dec. 9 visit the Hudson Community Food Pantry at 23 Library Street on from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring non-perishable foods, unwrapped toys, and money! Help the Hudson-Litchfield - Rotary Club by donating to the Food Pantry. Your generosity can create a feast of hope for those in need. Let's turn hunger into a story with a happy ending! Checks can be made to "Hudson Community Food Pantry." Together, we can fill more plates and hearts.

Santa Claus is coming to Hudson

On Sunday Dec. 10 starting at noon. Santa's sleigh ride though Hudson is pre-

sented by The Hudson Recreation Department. Check out Santa's route you can track him during the route by going to www.facebook.com/Town-OfHudsonNHRecreationDepartment. For more information email Chrissy Peterson at cpeterson@HUDSONNH.GOV

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. The contest will be peer judged at the Multiple District Convention to be held Jan. 26 - 28 at the Westford Regency Hotel, Westford, Mass. 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.

Drop In Stitchers

On Friday, Dec. 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

Meeting Schedule: Town of Hudson and Hudson School District

Thursday Dec. 7:	Budget Committee	6:30 p.m.
Monday Dec. 11	Hudson School District	11 a.m.
	Policy Committee Meeting	
Monday Dec. 11:	Conservation Committee	7 p.m.
Monday Dec. 11:	Cable Utility Committee	7 p.m.
Tuesday Dec. 12:	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.

Wednesday Dec. 13:	Budget Committee	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Dec. 13:	Planning Board	7 p.m.
Wednesday Dec. 13:	Deadline for Zoning petitions to the Planning Board.	
Thursday Dec. 14:	Trustees of the Trust Fund	3:30pm
Thursday Dec. 14:	Zoning Board	7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 5:	Deadline for a bond article,
Tuesday Jan. 9:	The deadline for Town Warrant

Check HUDSONNH.GOV and sau81.org for agendas and locations

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, Dec. 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.

continued on page 15

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

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 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, or call 603-432-0004.

Intermediate Knitting Class

Registration required. Seating is limited to 10 participants only. On Dec. 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.

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

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.

Democrats Meeting

The Hudson Democrats 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 Dec. 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. Caretaker participates with child or children.

Songs & Snuggles

On Thursday, Dec. 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, Dec. 19, & 26 from 2:30 - 3 p.m.

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.

Home Energy Tips for the Winter Heating Season

With the home heating season approaching, the NH Department of Energy (DOE) and the NH Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) encourage NH families to discuss heating their homes this winter.

"While national policies have driven up the cost of heating fuel, it's important families know of the steps they can take to manage costs," said Gov. Chris Sununu. "While NH cannot control the cost of energy, we encourage families to apply for the assistance available this year."

"Granite Staters continue to see expensive energy bills driven by national energy costs," said DOE Commissioner Jared Chicoine. "It is important that NH families are aware of ways to stay warm, healthy, and safe this winter."

"Prepare your family for cold weather ahead of the winter season," said HSEM Director Robert Buxton. "Have a family plan to heat your home that includes backup sources if needed. Add supplies such as blankets and extra layers of clothing to your emergency kit to use during colder weather."

Home Energy Tips

- Call your fuel vendor

and ask about setting up automatic delivery. Automatic delivery adds convenience by eliminating the need to monitor your tank and can add peace of mind as winter weather approaches and prices shift.

- If you prefer paying for fuel on demand, make sure to keep an eye on your fuel gauge and call your vendor at least 10 days in advance of needing fuel.

- Call your fuel vendor and ask about fuel payment budget plans. Budget plans might help a household make heating costs more manageable. Families should make sure to clearly understand their agreement with their fuel vendor.

- Make sure your heating system receives professional maintenance each year.

- Clean any warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed and make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.

- Clean or replace filters on forced hot air systems regularly.

- Consider installing programmable thermostats to turn your heat up and down automatically to match the hours when you are home or away.

For more home energy tips, visit Energy Efficiency,

Managing Your Energy Usage, NH Department of Energy, Information on NH energy efficiency programs can be found at nhsaves.com.

Assistance Programs

NH has a variety of opportunities for households in need of assistance with home energy costs—both heating and electric. Learn more about assistance programs, including how where to apply, at CAPNH.ORG or by calling 211.

- The Fuel Assistance program provides benefits to qualified NH households to assist with heating costs throughout the winter season.

- The Electric Assistance Program provides eligible customers with a discount on their monthly electric bills all year.

- The Gas Assistance Program provides eligible customers with a discount on their natural gas winter heating bills.

- Utilities have other resources for their customers. Customers of Eversource, Liberty, and Unitil can learn more about Neighbor Helping Neighbor while customers of the NH Electric Co-op can learn more about Project Care.

Home Safety

- Remember to keep any exhaust vents on your

home clear of snow, ice, and other debris.

- Falling ice and snow can damage your gas meter when sliding off the roof. Be sure to clear snow and ice off your roof above your gas meter and other gas service equipment and keep the area around your meter and other equipment clear from snow and ice.

- Make sure that your

driveway and the path to the tank are clear of snow.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one meter) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater. Have a three-foot (one meter) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.

- Remember to turn portable heaters off when

leaving the room or going to bed.

- Burn a hot fire, not a smoldering fire, with clean and dry wood in woodstoves and fireplaces to prevent creosote build-up in chimneys. You want to reach 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit to make sure the gases burn efficiently and completely.

Santa's Helicopter to Land at the Aviation Museum

On Saturday, Dec. 9, Saint Nick will land via helicopter at the Aviation Museum of NH, 27 Navigator Rd., Londonderry. The land is scheduled for 11 a.m. outside the Museum. All are invited to attend and join in. Families wishing to see the arrival of Santa's helicopter should be at the museum no later than 10:45 a.m. to park and then make their way to the landing observation area. After arriving, Santa will enter the museum, where he'll visit with children one-on-one. Santa will be available until 1 p.m. when he'll depart by fire truck courtesy of the Manchester Airport Fire Department, to whisk him off to his next appearance. Children who speak to

Santa will be rewarded with goodie bags given out by Santa's helpers. In addition, elves from the Common Man Roadside will be on hand with free hot chocolate, coffee, donuts, and other goodies. Also, the museum's store will be open. Santa's visit occurs rain or shine on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. If inclement weather prevents Santa's chopper from flying, he'll arrive by fire truck.

The Aviation Museum will be open free to visitors on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Following Santa's departure, regular admission prices will be charged from 1 - 4 p.m. In addition to Santa's arrival, Saturday, Dec. 9 also marks the debut of the museum's

"Home of the Holidays" exhibit, featuring vintage World War II uniforms and posters on loan from the Wright Museum of World War II. The exhibit, which runs through Sunday, Jan. 14, also includes trees decorated with more than 1,000 aviation-related toys, a special exhibit of vintage Barbie dolls, and a selection of "hands-on" toys for young children to play with during their visit. Santa's appearance at the Aviation Museum is made possible by generous supporters including Manchester-Boston Regional Airport; Common Man Roadside; CR Helicopters of Nashua; Signature Flight Services; and the Manchester Airport Fire Department.



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