

# Pumpkin Smash and Button-Up Workshop for November

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Sustainability Advisory Committee met on July 28 to go over early plans for their participation in fall events, including a Pumpkin Smash event scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

"That's not really that far away," said Chair Karl Huber.

The Advisory Committee intended to work with Black Earth Compost, which specializes in such events, with the goal of removing "pumpkins from the trash" by adding them to compost piles following Halloween. Committee member Deb Putnam was looking at The Farm at Alvirne to find a field that

could serve as a good location for the Pumpkin Smash. She was initially worried that a community garden could interfere with the heavy trucks Black Earth was expected to bring in.

"At that time of year, by November 8 the community garden will have been put to bed for the winter," said Putnam. "They can turn right into the community garden with their carnival truck."

She added that the area had more than enough parking to accommodate Hudson residents and stated they ran into trouble when trying to hold the event in 2024 when the Sustainability Committee started planning too late in the year.

"November 8 is like the prime date for booking the carnival truck," said Putnam. "The concept presented, and one I was all for, has been to reach out to the Scouts, reach out to departments about making catapults, and making this a fun event."

She hoped to make it "the first of hopefully many events that is enjoyable for both parents and children."

"It looks like it's a good, community event, and would be during a nice time of the year," said Huber. "It looks like the biggest thing this committee needs to worry about or vote on is the authorization to spend \$300 on the carnival truck."

Looking at a picture of

a similar event sent from Black Earth, Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby wanted a few more details about the Pumpkin Smash before approving any money.

"The carnival truck is set up so somebody can launch pumpkins at targets with sticks so the kids can knock them down," said Putnam. "The truck is there for an hour-and-a-half so people can smash their pumpkins any way they want."

She confirmed that the truck was available, as the Sustainability Advisory Committee unanimously voted to dedicate up to \$300 towards the event.

Another event the Advisory Committee wanted to prepare for is the Button-Up

Saturday New Hampshire Workshop set for Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Rodgers Memorial Library's Community Room.

"Are you receiving fuel or electric assistance? If so, attendance to this workshop is highly recommended as you can get started on 100% of weatherization improvement through the NHSaves program," said Putnam. "This is going to be our fourth Button-Up Workshop over the years."

NHSaves is a collaborative effort of several statewide electric and natural gas utilities. The workshop is free; registration is not required. The goal of the Button-Up is to connect residents with state and

local resources, including an "energy audit" designed to save energy and reduce costs related to heating and electricity.

"It's a great time of year to do it. It's getting cold out, and people are already starting to focus on things like the oil bill," said Committee member Jake Keller. "A personal goal of mine is to get people I've seen at Old Home Days and National Night Out to get to the Button-Up, especially people receiving fuel assistance. These are our neighbors, these are for people who have fallen on hard times for some reason."

Members agreed that public outreach was extremely important.

## District to Replace Financial Software with ERP Pro in Two-Phase Rollout

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

One of the agenda items at last month's Hudson School Board meeting was a proposal to purchase a new financial software system.

New Business Administrator Jenny Graves explained that, before her

arrival, a working group led by Finance Director Melissa Van Sickle had been reviewing options.

"I would like to give her a special thank you for carrying us to where we are today," Graves said during the meeting.

Graves noted that the district received bids for

five different products, although some were far outside their targeted price range. Ultimately, the working group - which included staff from various departments across the district - recommended School ERP Pro.

One of the selling points, she said, is that the program has a large market share among New Hampshire public school districts. Another advantage is

that it would integrate Finance and HR modules, eliminating the need for the district's current separate HR software, Frontline Education.

"As part of this plan, we would no longer need Frontline Education," Graves explained, adding that it would save money over time by consolidating systems.

Phase one of the implementation is expected to

begin in August and run through March, with all modules - except Time & Attendance - up and running by then. The total cost is \$166,253, but with a \$56,644 credit from the district's current software provider, MUNIS, the net cost for the FY26 budget would be \$109,609.

Phase two, covering the Budget Time & Attendance module, is scheduled for April to May 2026 at a cost of \$34,110, also charged to the FY26 budget. This would complete the project.

Graves also asked the working group to identify specific features that made

ERP Pro stand out from the competition, which helped support their recommendation.

The School Board unanimously approved authorizing the district to contract with Tyler Technologies for the implementation and annual subscription of School ERP Pro, at a phase one contractual price of \$166,253. The administration will return to the board with a project update and a request to proceed with phase two.

The next Hudson School Board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 18 at 6:30 p.m.



**Breault Law  
& Mediation**

**Family Law • Estate Planning**

238 Central St., Unit 13, Hudson, NH  
www.breaultlaw.com  
603-821-9052  
fax: 866-656-0472  
amy@breaultlaw.com

**Advertise in the  
Hudson Times**

**CALL 537-2760  
ads@nutpub.net**

**Local News • Locally Owned**

**It's YOUR car,  
YOUR choice of repair shops.**

**Lifetime warranty on all repairs**

**We meet by accident -  
crash in for quality repairs**

**Family owned & operated for 39 years**



SPECIALIZING IN COLLISION REPAIR

1 ROCKINGHAM ROAD  
RT. 28, LONDONDERRY, NH 03053  
TEL: 603-432-5245 • FAX: 603-432-0191  
WWW.BROTHERSAUTOBODYNH.COM

**Dumont-Sullivan  
Funeral Homes &  
Cremation Services**

50 Ferry St.  
Hudson, NH

370 Main St.  
Nashua, NH

**603-882-9431**

www.dumontsullivan.com

