



The Town Crier



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**SOUTHERN NH
TOUR OF LIGHTS**

The Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights is returning to a town near you this holiday season. Residents are encouraged to decorate the exterior of their homes with festive lights this upcoming holiday season and then register your address with your local Parks & Recreation Department no later than Monday, December 5th. This will guarantee your home is included in the official list of homes on the Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights. This list will be published on December 9th.

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the People

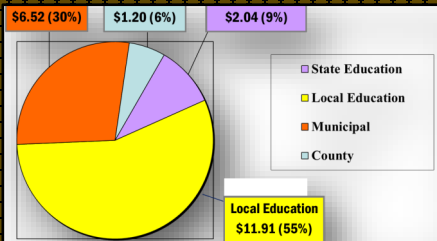
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Toy Soldiers at Liberty Park



Toy Soldiers north side of Library Park c2018

Last year at this time, as I drove south on Derry Road and passed Library Park I noticed crew from our Highway Department placing the toy soldiers on the north corner of the park. As I continued on my way to my appointment in Nashua, I recalled some of the history behind these and other decorations on the park. Perhaps it is no surprise how much these decorations are intermixed with Arthur Provencher and his vision to develop Benson's Animal Park into a theme park.

Each of these painted wooden soldiers stand 12 feet tall and they delight the holiday spirit in each of us with their red and blue uniforms with yellow diamond-shaped buttons. With their white belts they stand at parade rest with their bayonet-tipped rifles at their side. Each has the same plumed hat and facial expression. They can stand in any order but the soldier holding the flag should be in the center.

Continued on page 2



SUBSCRIBE NOW

BENSON'S
Christmas
in
New England

BENSON'S
ANIMAL PARK
 Rte. 111, Hudson, N.H.

Christmas in New England brochure c1980

BENSON'S
Christmas
in
New England

STROLL along paths all aglow with thousands of Christmas lights amidst the snow crested evergreens and the reflecting waters of our "Swan Lake".

BROWSE through new gift shops abundant in festive displays, ornaments, candles, and great holiday gift ideas.

ENJOY beautiful nativity scenes, animated Christmas displays, Santa's elves in their workshop, and other joyous and decorative holiday scenes.

DELIGHT your children with a visit with "Jolly Old St. Nick" and treasure the memory of their faces with a photograph as a decorative keepsake.

COME and **SHARE** the Christmas spirit with all your friends here at Benson's.

OPEN DAILY
4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 November 14, thru January 3, 1982
 Full details, call (603) 882-2481

Exit 3, Off I-93, or Exit 5-E
 Off Route 3 (Everett Turnpike)
 Rte. 111, Hudson, N.H. 03051

BENSON'S
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
FAMILY COUPON

50¢ Present this coupon at Benson's ticket window and receive 50¢ off admission price for each member of your family.
 (This coupon may not be used in conjunction with any other discount and or promotional offer).
 Good November 14, 1981 thru January 3, 1982

So, you ask: What does all this have to do with Bensons Park? During the Christmas seasons of 1980 and 1981 Arthur Provencher, then owner of Benson's Animal Park, decorated his park with hundreds of thousands of lights and decorations for the holiday season. These wooden toy soldiers were a part of that display. Even though some 35,000 people came to enjoy these sights and activities, that elusive break-even point could not be reached. His "Christmas in New England" lasted for only a few years.

Continued on page 3

The tradition of holiday decorations at Library Park was started by Mr. Provencher as a way of advertising the holiday events at Benson's Animal Park. Over time this tradition was continued by the town. The five toy soldiers were purchased by the Chamber of Commerce and donated to Hudson with a plaque "Dedicated to people of Hudson by the Hudson Chamber of Commerce December 1995. Our first photo shows a brochure, complete with a coupon of 50 cents, used by Mr. Provencher to advertise his 'Christmas in New England' tradition during the 1981 season. To obtain many of his lights and decorations, Mr Provencher purchased the complete inventory of a holiday decoration company in Connecticut.

Hudson resident, Lynne Mari, shares this C1965 photo of family members standing with a Toy Soldier at the North Shore Shopping Center in Peabody, Massachusetts. Left to right are Lisa, Diane, Michele, Mark, and Lynne. This center opened in 1958 as an open-air shopping center and has since become an enclosed mall. Based upon local memories it is likely that these 5 soldiers were obtained by Mr Provencher from the Peabody Shopping Center.



Toy Soldier at Peabody Shopping Mall c1958

As time progressed the soldiers were in need of repairs and paint. In February 2004 the soldiers were delivered to the wood shop at Alvirne High School where, under the direction of John Conrad, the Building Trades class repaired and painted the soldiers. When completed they were stored by the Highway Department for use in many seasons to come. Our second photo shows the five toy soldiers standing guard over the 2018 holiday season at the north end of Library Park.

Another remnant of Benson's is the traditional nativity scene tucked away behind Plexiglas in the old town trolley stop. This stop once provided a waiting place for travelers using the electric railroad from Nashua, through Hudson, to Hudson Center and on to Pelham. During the holiday season the stop is used to house the creche from Benson's. The Christmas in New England brochure is a part of the Benson's documentation at the Historical Society. The 2018 photo was taken by the author. ♦

For more stories about the history of Hudson, go to [Remember Hudson When ...](#)

Written by Ruth Parker, Historical Society Volunteer and (Honorary) Town Historian. Photos from the Historical Society Collection. Email: HUDSONHISTORICAL@LIVE.COM.

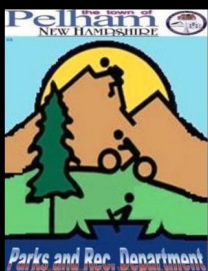
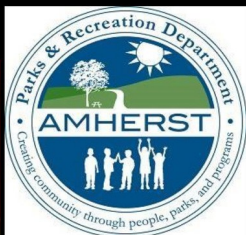
SOUTHERN NH TOUR OF LIGHTS

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The Southern New Hampshire Tour of lights is a free event and collaboration among 13 communities in Southern New Hampshire. All homes who register to participate in this free event will be entered to win a gift certificate to a local business in your area.

Contact your local Recreation Dept to register!

(Participating Departments Listed Below)





November Election Re-Cap

Attached are the statistics for the November 8th State General Election. We had 10,362 ballots cast, a 62.9% voter turnout. This was a record for a mid-term election. The check-in process with the Poll Pads went smoothly once the voters entered the building. Our Ballot Clerks processed averages of 460 voters per hour at the Community Center and 336 at Alvirne. The Supervisors of the Checklist staff was hampered by having only one Poll Pad at each location to register 610 new voters as well as name and address changes. We did have long lines into the buildings a number of times during the day, as well as parking issues at the Community Center. Chief Dionne and his Officers did a great job of managing those issues with help of DPW staff. There were no parking issues at Alvirne.

I must commend the hard working staff for their efforts. Many stayed after their shift was over to help with the heavy workload or came back at the end of the evening to help with closing the election.

I want to thank Wayne Madeiros and the Alvirne custodial staff for their assistance, and the Hudson Women 's Club for providing dinner for the workers at the Community Center, tabulating the write-ins, and counting the ballots pre-election.

The staff of the DPW efficiently set up and took down both polling places, especially at Alvirne where they came back at the end of the night so the cafeteria could be reset for the next school day.

We did have difficulty in keeping up with entering the Poll Pad slips onto the paper checklist. I will be looking at alternatives, allowed by law, to address this.

Paul Inderbitzen—Moderator

TIME	MACHINE COUNTS Ward 1	MACHINE COUNTS Ward 2	TOTAL
7-8	454	388	842
8-9	405	322	727
9-10	517	402	919
10-11	353	414	767
11-12	650	430	1080
12-1	691	284	975
1-2	550	286	836
2-3	342	299	641
3-4	403	287	690
4-5	417	366	783
5-6	469	424	893
6-7	505	239	744
7-8	218	222	440
TOTAL	5974	4363	10,337
AVE/HR	460	336	795



Town of Hudson Voter Participation at State Elections

Election	Date	Ballots Cast		Absentee		Voting Day Registrations		Total Checklist	%
State/ Presidential Election	Nov. 2024								
State Primary	Sept. 2024	R D							
Presidential Primary	Feb. 2024	R D							
State General Election	Nov. 2022	10,362		845		610		16,482	62.9
State Primary	Sept. 2022	R 2505 D 1047	3552	R 93 D 83	176	R 71 D 32	103	15,838	22.4
State/ Presidential Election	Nov. 2020	14,719		5198		1142		20,911	70.4
State Primary	Sept. 2020	R - 2618 D - 1810	4428	R-385 D-894	1279	98		19,236	23.0
Presidential Primary	Feb. 2020	R - 2979 D - 4260	7239	299		464		19,052	40.0
State General Election	Nov. 2018	9453		510		601		18,820	50.2
State Primary	Sept. 2018	R - 1531 D - 1286 L - 31	2848	101		90		18,145	15.7
State/ Presidential Election	Nov. 2016	13,535		1076		1221		18,558	72.9
State Primary	Sept. 2016	R- 1801 D- 780	2581	82		32		16,920	15.3
Presidential Primary	Feb. 2016	R -5300 D - 3560	8860	335		725		16,946	52.3
State General Election	Nov. 2014	8344		322		304		16,129	51.7
State Primary	Sept. 2014	R - 2005 D - 517	2522	78		81		15,813	15.9

**Santa's
WORKSHOP**

**THE HAMMER & STAIN
CANVAS ROADSHOW** DIY WORKSHOP

& the

**Hudson Recreation Department
Present..**

HOLIDAY

WOOD WORKSHOP

**Sunday 12/4
5:00pm-8:00pm
@ the Community Center**

**Come join us for a fun DIY SIP and SIGN Night!
You pick the project to hammer, stain, &
personalize!**

**Registration is required for this event by 12/1
If you would like to bring your child, it's Recommended for 12+
Log onto our website to register & select your sign!**

@ www.hudsonnh.gov/recreation

Questions? Contact Chrissy @ cpeterson@hudsonnh.gov





**Join us at the historic Hills House,
211 Derry Road, Hudson, NH
11 AM Saturday, December 17th**

WREATH DAY CEREMONY 2022

Help us thank our Veterans and their families for their sacrifices, and honor & remember those Veterans who are not with us this holiday season

The Hudson Historical Society will be providing warm drinks & baked goodies after the ceremony and tours of the house.

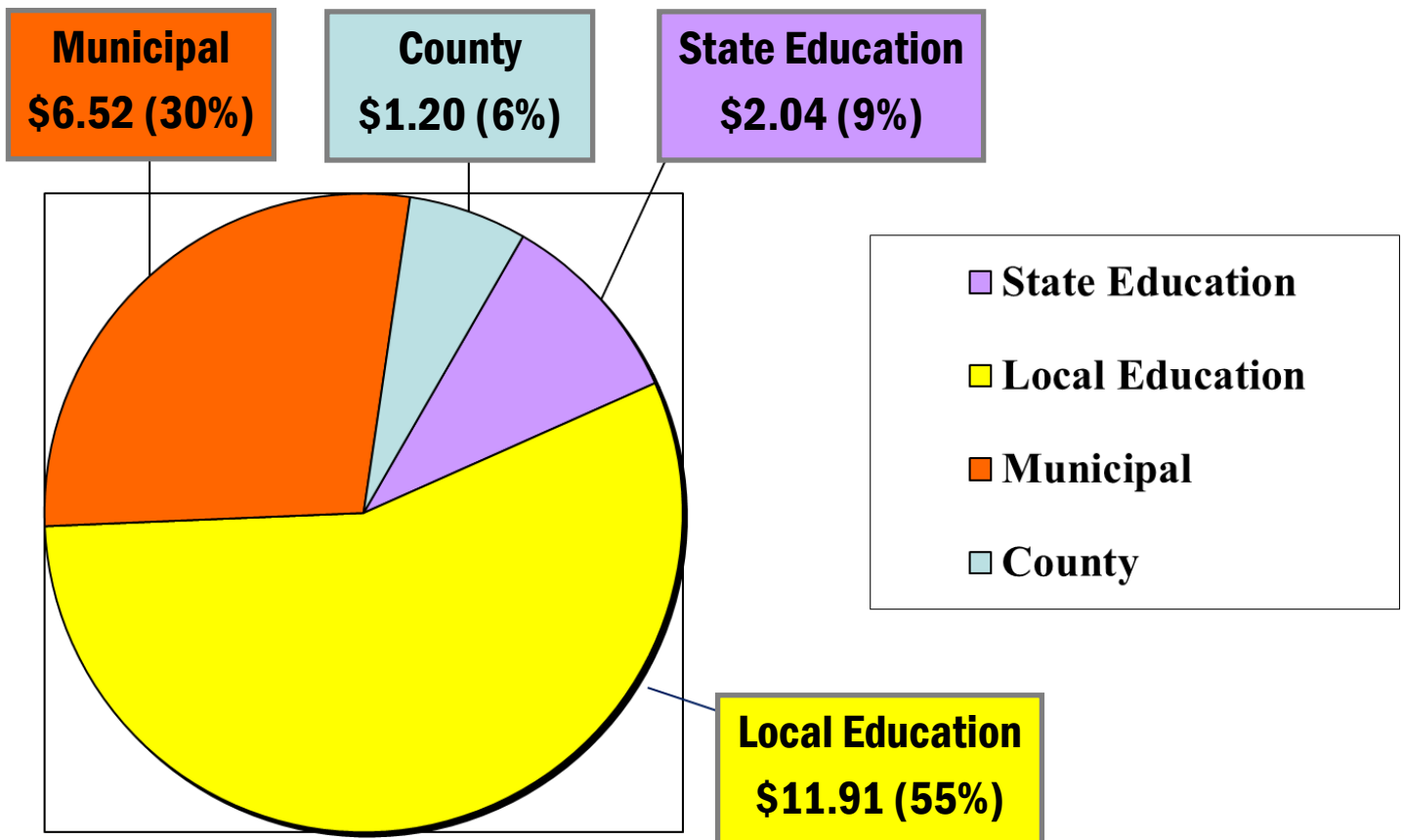




Property Tax Rates Explanations

A Revaluation is the process of performing all of the necessary Market Analysis and Valuation steps to determine accurate and equitable values for all properties within a municipality. The purpose of a Revaluation is not to raise taxes. It is to create an equitable distribution of the property taxes, based on market value, required to meet the needs of local schools, government and the county. The Revaluation will be completed for the final property tax bill of 2022. At this time, we are still waiting for the State to send us the tax rate for Hudson.

To better get an idea of how your tax money is spent, please refer to the most recent chart below from 2021:



Education Costs Represented 64% of Total Property Taxes in 2021



Greetings!

The Town of Hudson offers a variety of property tax relief programs for property taxpayers.

The tax relief programs are driven by state law (state statutes, aka, RSA's – Revised Statutes Annotated) subject to certain areas that are able to be adjusted locally per tax credit and tax exemption.

The adjustable areas would be the amount of the tax credits, the amount of the exemptions, the qualifying income and asset criteria's for exemptions. The sources of definitions used here would come from; State laws, administrative rules, and the State of NH Assessing Standards Board "Assessing Reference Manual for Taxpayers, Selectmen, and Assessors" – [Understanding NH Property Taxes](#). The advice offered in this communication is not to be considered legal advice.

Solar and Veterans Tax Credit forms can be applied for now for the 2023 property tax year. Deadline To Apply April 17, 2023.

Elderly & Disabled applications will have to wait until the end of the 2022 calendar year as those exemptions have annual income and asset requirements measured on a calendar year basis, January 1st would be the 1st date to file those with complete documentation backup. Deadline To Apply April 17, 2023.

Tax Exemption and Tax Credit application form links:

- [Permanent Applications for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions](#)
- [2023 Financial Application for Elderly Exemption](#)
- [2023 Financial Application for Disabled Exemption](#)

There are also tax credit programs for veterans. A tax credit is defined as an amount of money that shall be deducted from the person's tax bill. That is to say it is a dollar amount deducted directly from the taxes owed by the individual who is receiving the benefit of the tax credit.

Tax credit links for veterans:

- [New Hampshire Revenue Forms](#)
- [Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions](#)
- [New Hampshire Veterans' Resource Directory](#)
- [2021 NH Veterans Data Snapshot](#)

For a complete description of all local property tax relief programs, please visit our [Assessing Page](#).



A RECIPE FROM TOWN HALL

Ravioli with Arugula, Tomatoes & Pancetta

- 1 lb. cheese ravioli
- 6 oz. thinly sliced pancetta, chopped
- 1 (15 oz.) can diced tomatoes, drained
- 3 tbs. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt, plus extra for seasoning
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper, plus extra for seasoning
- 3 cups arugula
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced fresh basil leaves, divided
- 2 tbs. butter, room temp

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the ravioli and cook for 7-9 minutes until tender, then drain.

In a large nonstick skillet over medium heat, add the pancetta and cook stirring frequently, until crispy, about 8 minutes. Remove to paper towels to drain.

Add the tomatoes, olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper and cook for 2 minutes until tender. Add the arugula and 1/4 cup basil and cook until wilted, about 30 seconds.

Stir in the butter and melt. Add the ravioli and cooked pancetta and toss until coated. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Transfer the ravioli to a large serving bowl. Garnish with the remaining basil and serve.

Jim Lavacchia — Public Works Department



In your role as Board or Committee member, you will review various Town topics and issues assisting the Board of Selectmen in making informed decisions and formulating policy.

CURRENT OPENINGS

Board/Committee	Member	Alternate
Benson Park Committee	1	2
Cable Utility Committee	3	0
Conservation Commission	0	1
Lower Merrimack River Advisory Committee	1	0
Sustainability Committee	2	2
Zoning Board of Adjustment	0	1

To find out more, simply click on the name of the Board or Committee of interest. For an application, click [here](#).

We're HIRING

Thank you for your interest in joining the Town of Hudson Team.

Paper applications are available at the Town Administration Office or online. You can email, snail mail, or apply in person. Applications are accepted only in response to listed vacancies.

We appreciate your interest with the Town of Hudson.

CURRENT OPENINGS

POLICE PROSECUTOR — Police Department

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF — Fire Department

FIREFIGHTER/AEMT — Fire Department

FIREFIGHTER/MEDIC — Fire Department

Winter Water Tips

The Water Utility would like you to keep I mind as the weather gets cooler some simple suggestions.

Remember to turn off your outside faucets from the inside shut off. If you are heading south or out of town for the winter, make sure to leave the thermostat in the house set at 55 degrees, or, have the pipes winterized and water shut off at the street.

When temperatures drop to below 20 degrees, to help keep your pipes from freezing, leave an outside wall faucet (usually kitchen sink) dripping cold & hot water so it's warm.

Sincerely, The Water Department

Meeting Calendar

December 2022

[Cable Utility Cmte.](#) **12**
7:00 pm
[Conservation Comm.](#)
7:00 pm

[Board of Selectmen](#) **13**
7:00 pm

[Planning Board](#) **14**
7:00 pm

[Benson Park Cmte.](#) **15**
7:00 pm
[Budget Cmte.](#)
7:00 pm

[Sustainability Cmte.](#) **19**
7:00 pm

[Municipal Utility Cte.](#) **20**
7:00 pm

[Library Trustees](#) **21**
7:00 pm

Click on any meeting to view the agenda for the specified date.

TOWN HALL CLOSED **26**

[Planning Board](#) **28**
7:00 pm

[Trustees of Trust Funds](#) **1**
3:30 pm

[Hwy. Safety Cmte.](#) **7**
8:30 am
[Budget Cmte.](#)
7:00 pm

[Zoning Board](#) **8**
7:00 pm

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Have Something to Say? Send Us a Comment!



NEWS & Announcements

Contact Us:

- Administration 886-6024
- Assessor 886-6009
- Board of Selectmen 886-1224
- Fire Department 886-6021
- Finance Department 886-6000
- Human Resources 595-6518
- Information Technology 886-6000
- Inspectional Services 886-6005
- Land Use 886-6008
 - ◇ Engineering
 - ◇ Planning
 - ◇ Zoning
- Police Department 886-6011
- Public Works 886-6018
- Recreation Department 880-1600
- Rodgers Memorial Library 886-6030
- Sewer Utility 886-6029
- Town Clerk 886-6003

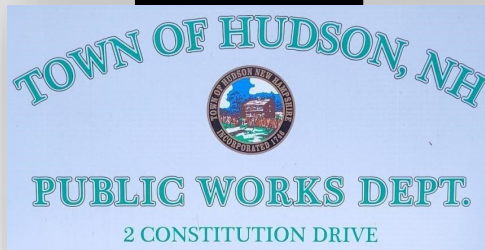
Board of Selectmen:

- Kara Roy**
- Bob Guessferd**
- Marilyn McGrath**
- David Morin**
- Brett Gagnon**



BASKETBALL LEAGUES & OPEN GYMS FORMING NOW

Interested in playing in a league or for fun? Sign up now for winter participation!



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WINTER HOURS

Starting December 5, 2022, the Public Works Department hours will be changing.



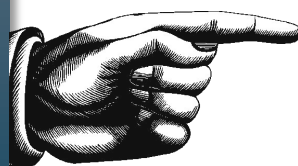
BLASTING NOTICE

As approved by the BOS at their June 14, 2022 meeting and in accordance with Hudson Town Code 202-18 Notification, blasting notices have been provided.



CURBSIDE LEAF PICKUP

Curbside leaf pickup will take place Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 7am.



hudsonnh.gov

For ALL current News & Announcements