



# The Hooksett Bridge

South Hooksett, Hooksett Village & Hooksett, New Hampshire

Vol. 2, Issue 4

March-May 2025

FREE

## Villages at Head's Pond

*A decades-old plan is set to reshape Hooksett*

By **Tony LaCasse**  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – More than three decades after it was first envisioned, The Villages at Head's Pond, a 428-unit master-planned community, is set to bring transformative growth to

Hooksett. This long-awaited project, covering 1,300 acres, has been fully approved for years but remained dormant. Now, with an active push toward development and a market ready for expansion, Hooksett is poised for significant change.

Unlike most large-scale

housing developments, The Villages at Head's Pond does not require additional town approvals. This is because of a vested development agreement between Manchester Sand & Gravel (MS&G) and the Town of Hooksett, recorded on Dec. 24, 2014, in the Merrimack

County Registry of Deeds. The agreement, along with zoning changes adopted in 2003, secured the project's indefinite approval under the regulations that existed in 2007, meaning the development is not subject to Hook-

See *DEVELOPMENT* Page 4

### *Hometown Hero* **Chet DuPont**

HOOKSETT – In every community, there are individuals whose quiet, unwavering dedica-



DuPont

tion to helping others creates a lasting impact. In Hooksett, that person is Chet DuPont, a man who, despite his humility, has become a beacon of kindness and generosity. While he never seeks recognition, those who have encountered his warmth and selflessness know that his efforts extend far beyond simple good deeds.

Judi Munroe met DuPont at Hooksett Old Home Day while

See *HERO* Page 7



Hooksett Fire Chief Steven Colburn speaks to the residents at the deliberative session of Town Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1. Many people lined up to question the need for two new fulltime firefighters. (Ginger Kozlowski photo)

## Taxes vs. ability to pay

*Hooksett town, school deliberative sessions set stage for March 11 vote*

By **Ginger Kozlowski**  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – While voters at the deliberative session of Town Meeting reduced the cost of just one

warrant article, their frustrating over rising taxes was made clear.

More than 100 people attended the five-hour meeting on Feb. 1 at Cawley Middle School, easily four or five

times greater than they typically turnout of recent years.

"Hooksett is rapidly becoming unaffordable," said Alan Brennan, standing to protest the cost of the town's operation budget - more than

\$25.4 million. "There is no fiscal restraint."

"Where were cuts done?" asked Ray Miclette.

Town Administrator An-

See *HOOKSETT* Page 7

### In this issue:

- Hooksett Library - Page 8
- Voter Guide - Pages 10-15
- Business - Pages 16-19
- Real Estate - Pages 20-23
- Clubs and Groups - Pages 24-27
- Allentown/Pembroke news - Pages 28-31

## PUBLISHER'S PAGE

*Big changes ahead as Bridge updates website*LETTER FROM  
THE PUBLISHER

**Tony LaCasse**  
*Founder*  
*The Hooksett*  
*Bridge*  
*Community*  
*News LLC*



As winter settled in, I took the time to reflect, to create, and to truly think about the future of The Hooksett Bridge. It was a season of deep contemplation, sitting with myself and asking the difficult but necessary questions: How does this newspaper move forward? Should it continue in print, transition solely to digital, maintain both formats, or was it time to close up shop altogether?

I share this with you because I value open, honest, and transparent communication—in both business and personal life. The Hooksett Bridge is more than just a newspaper to me; it is an extension of my family, and I genuinely care about what you, my readers,

want. Your feedback is invaluable in helping me determine the best direction for this publication.

Previously, I announced that the last issue would be the final print edition unless enough readers were willing to contribute to mailing costs. The response to this experiment was eye-opening: only five people sent in checks for the annual \$14 mailing fee. While I recognize that multiple factors could have influenced this low response rate, it was a clear indicator that demand for a print version was minimal. That said, if you strongly prefer a print edition, I want to hear from you! Please email me at [publisher@thehooksettbridge.org](mailto:publisher@thehooksettbridge.org) to share your thoughts on the paper, what you like, what could be improved, and whether you prefer print or digital news.

While I do believe print has value, digital media remains the most cost-effective and accessible medium. To enhance our digital presence, I have partnered with Creative Circle Media, a Rhode Island-based company specializing in newspaper websites.



**As the Hooksett Bridge transitions to an online presence, the Suncook coverage will be split to dedicated website. See the new content at [www.thehooksettbridge.com](http://www.thehooksettbridge.com).**

Over the past two months, they have worked with me to build a brand-new website for The Hooksett Bridge – a modern, sleek platform where you can find everything in one place.

Some exciting new features include:

A community calendar where anyone can post local events.

E-editions of past and current issues, all available online.

A subscription option for those who want news delivered to their inbox.

Community links to valuable local resources.

Digital advertising opportunities for businesses looking to reach a hyperlocal audience.

Newly designed logo/masthead for The Hooksett Bridge and The Suncook Times

This expansion allows us to provide even greater value to the small businesses that already advertise with us, and we are eager to welcome new businesses looking to reach the Hooksett community.

Another major change with

this issue is that The Hooksett Bridge will now be exclusively dedicated to Hooksett news. The Suncook section, which previously covered Pembroke and Allenstown, will no longer be included in the print edition. Instead, Pembroke and Allenstown now have their own independent news source: The Suncook Times. This new publication is launching as a digital-only newspaper, with the potential to move to print if demand supports it. If you want to see a print version of The Suncook Times, please support it by advertising online so we can grow the publication and eventually bring it to print.

You can visit [www.thehooksettbridge.com](http://www.thehooksettbridge.com) to explore our new website. At the top of the page, you will find a direct link to The Suncook Times, where you can access news for Pembroke and Allenstown.

Looking ahead, 2025 will be a year of planting roots in our communities and solidifying our place as the trusted local news source for Hooksett and beyond. We remain the only news company dedicated exclusively to serving Hooksett and we are committed to delivering news, events, real estate updates, and business insights to keep our community informed and connected.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of this journey. I look forward to hearing from you and working together to shape the future of our local news.

With gratitude,

Tony LaCasse

Publisher,  
 The Hooksett Bridge  
[publisher@thehooksettbridge.org](mailto:publisher@thehooksettbridge.org)

## THE HOOKSETT BRIDGE

*Connecting the communities of*  
*Hooksett, Allenstown and Pembroke*

Published quarterly

Owner/Publisher- Tony LaCasse

Editor - Ginger Kozlowski

Reach us at [publisher@thehooksettbridge.org](mailto:publisher@thehooksettbridge.org)  
[www.thehooksettbridge.com](http://www.thehooksettbridge.com)

Content contributions (stories, photos, etc.) are welcomed at [editor@thehooksettbridge.org](mailto:editor@thehooksettbridge.org) at least two weeks in advance of publication. Photos must be at least 150 dpi at 6 inches wide. We do not accept letters or opinion pieces.





Mention this ad and get  
**\$500 OFF** on  
**FUJITSU** mini-split A/Cs

## **WE LOVE *THE HOOKSETT BRIDGE***

and feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful community publication. Thank you Tony LaCasse for this opportunity!

**Why community matters to Steve Labbe, owner of Paradigm:** "For me, living and working in Hooksett sets the tone and completes me as a human."

**Our coaching and gifts** are what we want to share with you! Let's create a beautiful experience together! For more info, visit: [paradigmph.com](http://paradigmph.com).

**We save you money and time.** For services, call Steve on his personal cell phone at **603-235-7931**. We look forward to hearing from you!



**GOOGLE  
GUARANTEED**  
Professionals that are licensed,  
pre-screened, and insured.



*Suppliers of*  
**THE PORTLAND GROUP**

## DEVELOPMENT

*Continued from Page 1*

sett's current zoning or site review requirements.

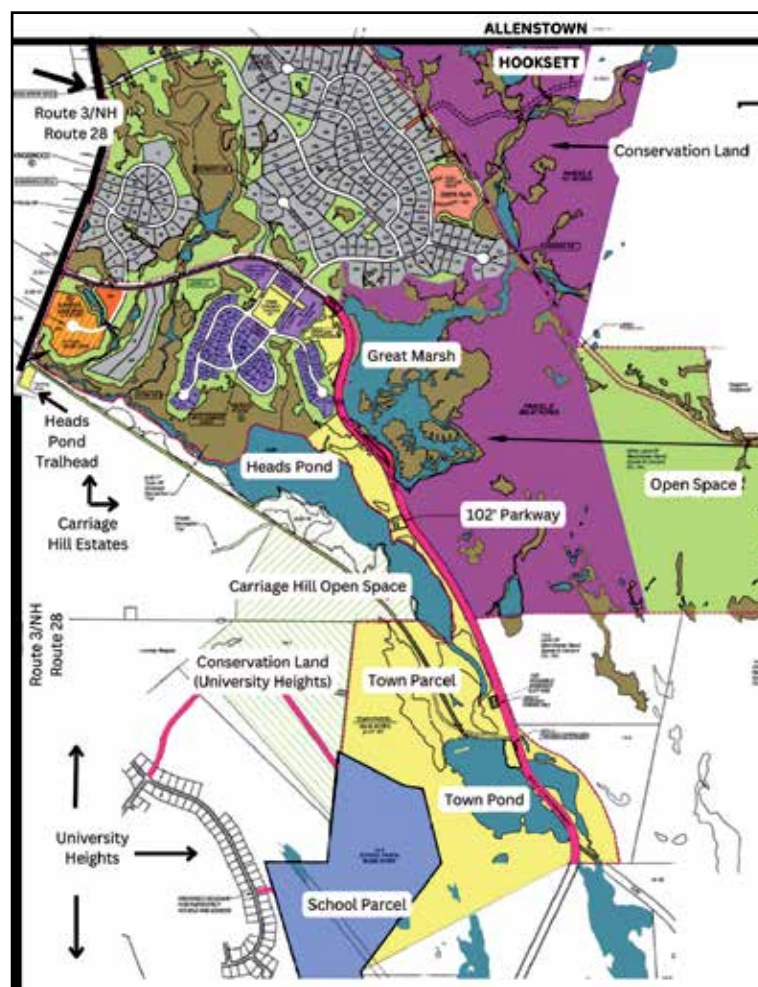
For years, the land designated for The Villages at Head's Pond remained untouched. The project was initially stalled due to economic conditions, including the 2008 housing market crash. MS&G, a subsidiary of Boston Sand & Gravel, had secured approvals but had no immediate plans to construct homes. As the economy recovered, the town continued to grow, and the need for housing in southern New Hampshire became more urgent. Now, with an active effort to sell the project to developers for \$14 million, the vision for The Villages at Head's Pond is moving closer to becoming a reality.

#### A well-planned vision with public benefits

The origins of The Villages at Head's Pond date back to 2003, when the Town of Hooksett rezoned 3,500 acres of MS&G-owned land, laying the foundation for large-scale residential and mixed-use development. By 2007, MS&G worked with town officials to finalize a lot-line adjustment, formally setting aside 1,300 acres for The Villages at Head's Pond.

The development agreement signed in 2014 required MS&G to complete a series of obligations by 2015 to secure its vested approval. These commitments were significant and went beyond traditional development projects, ensuring that Hooksett would benefit from major land donations, infrastructure investments, and conservation efforts before a single home was built.

To preserve open space and provide recreational opportunities, MS&G donated 610 acres to the Town of Hooksett, including land for a 214-acre town park, the protection of a town pond, and the preservation of the Great Marsh and



**This map of the planned Villages at Head's Pond show where homes would be built on undeveloped land north of Head's Pond and east of Route 3/28. Areas in yellow are town property. Areas in reddish-purple are conservation land. (Courtesy graphic)**

surrounding uplands. This land is intended to be conveyed to Bear Paw Regional Greenways or another approved conservation entity. In addition to these recreational and conservation spaces, MS&G agreed to create a 3-acre town common, which must be completed before the 50th certificate of occupancy is issued in Phase 2B of the project.

The development also took future educational needs into account. MS&G designated 80 acres of land for the Hooksett School District to serve as a potential site for a future high school, should the town's voters choose to pursue it. This decision provides long-term flexibility for Hooksett's education system, ensuring that as the town grows, it has the land available for necessary infrastruc-

ture.

Highway improvements were another critical component of the agreement. MS&G was responsible for constructing road upgrades along Route 3/NH Route 28, ensuring that traffic generated by the development would not overburden the town's existing infrastructure. Additionally, because portions of the land contain wetlands, MS&G worked with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) to secure wetland permits, allowing for the necessary dredging and filling required to build roadways and provide access to developable upland areas.

With these obligations met, the project was vested indefinitely under Hooksett's 2007 zoning, site review, and

subdivision regulations. This means that despite the town's evolving planning and zoning requirements over the past 18 years, The Villages at Head's Pond is approved to proceed exactly as originally designed.

#### Aligning with growth and community needs

Unlike many large-scale housing developments that focus solely on adding homes, The Villages at Head's Pond was designed to integrate seamlessly with Hooksett's long-term growth strategy. The project incorporates conservation land and recreational opportunities while ensuring that its impact on local infrastructure is managed through pre-planned road, water, and sewer improvements.

MS&G has already, according to their marketing website, constructed a 1.1-million-gallon water tank to ensure adequate supply for future residents. Additionally, sewer capacity was pre-purchased for the first phases of development, allowing new homes to connect to town services without immediate expansion of existing sewer facilities, as long as Hooksett sewer can solve the current capacity issues of the sewer infrastructure near that site.

The project itself consists of 428 residential units, with a mix of housing types designed to accommodate a wide range of homebuyers. The master plan includes traditional single-family homes, high-density townhouses, and village-style homes designed to create a walkable, community-oriented neighborhood. The inclusion of a town common, parks, and preserved open spaces helps establish a true village feel, making it more than just another subdivision.

With the property now actively marketed for development, it is expected to generate significant tax revenue for the town. Once fully built out, The

Villages at Head's Pond could bring in an estimated \$3.69 million in annual property tax revenue, benefiting town services, schools, and infrastructure.

#### What comes next?

Now that all necessary approvals, land commitments, and infrastructure obligations have been met, The Villages at Head's Pond is officially shovel-ready. The only remaining step is for a developer to purchase the land and begin construction.

Town officials have incorporated the project's development into Hooksett's 2024 Master Plan, recognizing it as a key part of the town's future growth. However, while the town is prepared for the project's arrival, its impact on local roads, schools and services will need to be carefully managed as construction progresses.

The sale and subsequent build-out of The Villages at Head's Pond mark a defining moment in Hooksett's history. With over 30 years of planning behind it, this development will forever change the fabric of the town, bringing new families, businesses, and opportunities while preserving significant portions of land for public benefit.

For Hooksett, The Villages at Head's Pond is more than just a housing development—it is an investment in the town's future, a strategic balance of growth and conservation, and a carefully planned expansion that aligns with the community's long-term needs.

As developers express interest and potential buyers come forward, Hooksett is on the brink of a major transformation. Whether the town embraces this growth or debates its impact, one thing is certain: The Villages at Head's Pond is no longer a vision of the past—it is the future of Hooksett.

Stay with The Hooksett Bridge for coverage of this project.



# No changes to warrants at Hooksett School District Meeting

By Ginger Kozlowski  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – The 220 voters attending the deliberative session of Hooksett School District Meeting on Feb. 7 were largely supportive of the spending presented, making no changes to the seven warrant articles which will go to a general vote on March 11.

Nevertheless, there was a lot of discussion on almost every article, making for a three hour meeting.

There was an attempt to reduce the general operating budget of nearly \$45 million by \$126,66, the cost for modular classrooms.

It was pointed out that the operating budget is a bottom-line budget, so line items cannot be adjusted. The change failed on an emphatic voice vote.



School Board Vice Chair Jillian Godbout explains a warrant article at the deliberative session of School District Meeting. (Ginger Kozlowski photo)

“My taxes have doubled since I bought (my house),” said Mike Dullen a member of the PTA, who nevertheless supported the full budget. He noted that revaluation of property has had a lot to do with the increase and that Hooksett historically has a large amount of surplus left in its budget each year.

“We lost seven staff members last year by ending up at the default itself. Special education matters. These kids deserve the opportunity,” he said.

School Board member Evelyn Baker defended the budget.

“The school board worked very hard on this budget. We are above state averages” on state testing scores, she said.

Article 2 would fund a number of renovations to Hooksett Memorial School, which serves students in Grades 3-5. Rather than the

larger bond presented last year meant to make repairs at all three of Hooksett’s schools, which failed, this year voters are asked to support a nearly \$6 million bond to address issues at Memorial School only.

“Our goal is to spread it out,” said SAU 15 Superintendent William Rearick, referring to the long-term plan. “We heard (voters’) concerns about financing.”

The estimated tax impact of this warrant article is listed as 17 cents per thousand of valuation. That translates to \$85 on a \$500,000 home for the first year. The cost of the bond would be lower in ensuing years.

Alan Brennan questioned who owns the schools and criticized the architecture of flat roofs so common on school buildings.

School Board Vice Chair Jillian Godbout answered that flat roofs are not out of the ordinary and that they only received one bid to do the work necessary on the school. All three schools are owned by the school district.

Article 8, \$58,005 to buy new desks, chairs, and other items led to some back-and-forth between the budget committee and the school board. Amy Tremblay of the school board said they were simply trying to be transparent with voters. This article is listed to have a 2 cent tax impact, or \$10 for a \$500,000 property.

An video explaining the conditions of Hooksett Memorial School can be found on the school’s website at <https://memorial.sau15.net>.

Voters will have their say at the polls on March 11 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Cawley School.



 CONCORD HOSPITAL  
**The Family Place**  
Maternity | Gynecology | Pediatrics

***Our patients have spoken and the reviews are in:*** The Family Place at Concord Hospital makes for a five-star experience. Whether it's our One-Room Maternity Care option, complimentary services like lactation support and post-partum counseling, or our caring and ultra-dedicated staff, you can expect nothing but the best during your stay with us.

[concordhospital.org/thefamilyplace](https://concordhospital.org/thefamilyplace)

# Conservation Commission is preserving Quimby Mountain

HOOKSETT – The Conservation Commission had a busy fall schedule in preparation for upcoming projects. One of its largest undertakings is the development of a stewardship plan for the Quimby Mountain Conservation Area.

The property consists of 97.65 acres situated along the town-designated scenic road, Goffstown Road. This area will gain even more recognition with the development of a wildlife rehabilitation facility soon to be constructed next door.

The development of this property provides important benefits for the town. It directly serves Hooksett residents, especially those on the west side, with a beautiful open space. As the highest point in Hooksett, a trail system to the top will provide amazing views for hikers.

Also, having a thorough understanding of this property will provide tremendous advantages as we embark on a Natural Resources Inventory for the town, as requested in the Master Plan.

The stewardship plan will guide

our next steps on the property with the following goals:

- An ecological assessment to help us understand the natural resources such as wetlands, habitats, and ecosystems including endangered and threatened species.

- A forest inventory to assess the composition and health of the trees and plants.

- Wetlands and water resource assessments to identify sensitive areas, and other features of the topography.

- A trail management plan that will determine the best placement of trails to optimize recreation with conservation goals in mind. Our experts will also advise on the best options for a parking area.

- And finally, the plan fulfills a legal obligation as laid out in the conservation easement held by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways.

“Our goal is to make this area a key destination over the next few years for the local community and visitors. Stewardship planning will give us further understanding of the natural resources on the property and guide future trail

development, management, and use,” said Alex Walczyk, Town Council representative for the Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission is contracting with Moosewood Ecological for this effort.

Jeffrey Littleton, owner and principal ecologist, is widely respected throughout New Hampshire for his broad expe-

rience in land stewardship planning. He also has intimate knowledge of Hooksett, having prepared the stewardship plans for both the Head’s Pond and Clay Pond Headwaters conservation areas. He has engaged Meadowsend to handle the forestry inventory.

– JoCarol Woodburn Chair, Hooksett Conservation Commission

## Hooksett Town Administrator - Andre Garon

### Changes made to Hooksett Town Council structure

With last year’s town vote, there was a major change in the Hooksett Town Charter and Rules of Procedure. The first change is the elimination of districts. The second change is reducing the number of councilors from nine to seven.

While the elimination of districts took place July 1, 2024, the reduction in councilors is not taking place until July 1, 2025. At the town vote March 11, Hooksett residents will be able to select their new councilors as follows:

- Three seats for a three-year term ending 6/30/2028.
- Two seats for a two-year term ending 6/30/2027.
- 2 seats for a one-year term ending 6/30/2026.

Councilor Keith Judge is not running for one of the seven councilor vacancies this year, so he has been chosen to be our Councilor spotlight. Councilor Judge moved to Hooksett with his family of six daughters in 2020. He desired to become more involved in the process of Hooksett Town government, so he ran for Town Council in 2022 and was voted in for a three-year term.

His day job is at a union as a contract negotiator. He found this role became difficult if not impossible for



Garon

fellow town officials and residents to not consider during dealings with his as a town councilor. Since he always steps aside and refrains from voting where a union conflict could be presented, he feels that he is able to perform the

duties of councilor with no conflict of interest.

His goal was and remains to see Hooksett as a family town as he states over 50 percent of the town makeup is families. He is a family man himself and enjoys spending time with his family, which includes watching and cheering on his daughters (ages 6 to 22), whether it be lacrosse, soccer or dance. In fact, he enjoys the athletic aspect so much that he has been an HYAA basketball coach to youth girls for years.

While Councilor Judge is not running in this March election because he was unable to meet the filing vacancy due to his work travel obligation, he says he plans to run in the future. We thank Councilor Judge for his service to the Town of Hooksett and wish him the best.

## Greater NH Pest Control

**Family owned & Operated**

**Residential & Commercial**

**Ants, Ticks, Mosquitoes, Hornets, Wasps, Stink Bugs, Asian Beetles, Roaches, Mice, Rats & More!**



Licensed  
&  
Insured

**Located in Hooksett, NH**

**603-851-3931**

tom@nh-pest.com

**www.NH-PEST.com**



**Pest Free  
Guarantee**

- We won't sell you services you don't need
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!

**NO CONTRACT REQUIRED**

**SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS**

## Advertise in The Hooksett Bridge!

**Email [publisher@thehooksettbridge.org](mailto:publisher@thehooksettbridge.org)**



HERO

HOOKSETT

Continued from Page 1

representing her new dental office in town. As she wandered through the event, she was drawn to the Hooksett Kind table. Their conversation immediately resonated, centering around a shared passion for spreading kindness in a world that often feels otherwise. What she didn't know then was how profoundly DuPont would impact her life.

Shortly after meeting him, Judi's dear friend of 42 years, Karen, was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. As she supported Karen through her battle, she found DuPont quietly stepping in, ensuring Karen knew she was surrounded by love and support. DuPont and his wife, Deb, who attend the same church as Karen, collected more than 70 cards of encouragement, helped promote a GoFundMe campaign to assist with Karen's financial

struggles, and made frequent visits to her at home and in the hospital. His presence brought comfort not just to Karen, but to Monroe as well. When Karen passed in early January, DuPont helped organize a touching memorial service, ensuring her life was honored with the dignity and love she deserved.

DuPont is the driving force behind the Hooksett Diaper Bank, which he runs out of his own home, ensuring struggling families have access to essential supplies for their children. He also founded the online community Hooksett Kind, which has grown to more than 2,000 members, each one a Kindness Warrior inspired by his leadership. Through this platform, DuPont facilitates community aid, fundraising efforts, and positive engagement, believing that "kindness has no borders."

A Hometown Hero, to Monroe, is someone who helps

others even when it's inconvenient, someone who does good without seeking recognition, and someone who inspires others to see the potential for goodness in their community. Chet DuPont embodies these qualities effortlessly. Whether it's through emotional and spiritual support, financial aid, or simply being a steadfast friend, DuPont has enriched the lives of so many in Hooksett and beyond.

At his core, DuPont is a man of integrity, honesty, and humility. He places the well-being of others before himself and finds fulfillment in the joy of giving. His selfless acts have rippled through the Hooksett community and beyond, touching countless lives. In addition to his local work, his compassion has extended internationally, as he has traveled overseas to aid those less fortunate several times throughout his life.

Continued from Page 1

dre Garron responded: "We did tighten the belt."

Hooksett is currently operating on a default budget. If voters decide to say no to the current proposed operating budget, the default would reduce the amount to be raised by taxes by close to \$1 million.

Moves were made to zero-out several articles, but none were successful. Article 4, \$2.8 million for improvements to Martins Ferry Road and North River Road generated a long discussion, with a 41-61 vote to leave the decision to the town on March 11.

"It's important that we keep this town running," said Germano Martins, a member of the Hooksett Budget Committee. "People who live there will lose 911 response."

Because that article was not recommended by the town council or budget commit-

tee, some said it should be zeroed-out and other sources of funding, possibly through Southern New Hampshire University, should be considered.

The one article that was reduced was Article 17, funding for a mapping system. It was cut in half to \$37,500.

A similar cut to Article 20, which proposed raising \$100,000 for a police equipment capital reserve fund, was restored when it was brought back for reconsideration later in the meeting. A 50 percent cut had passed on a vague hand vote, but later was restored to the full amount when Hooksett Police Chief Justin Sargent pleaded for the money.

You can view a video of the entire meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-Kzm-9dXKM0>.

Voting will take place Tuesday, March 11, at Cawley Middle School.

WE'LL MAKE YOUR HOME SHINE!

WATERBOYS

PRESSURE WASHING

Residential • Commercial

Rely on expert services for your home! We take our commitment to your needs seriously and work with determination and drive to help you achieve and exceed your goals.

• Soft Wash House Washing

• Soft Wash Roof Cleaning

• Gutter Cleaning & Brightening

• Concrete Cleaning & Sealing

• Wood Deck & Fence Restoration

• Vinyl Fences

• Residential Window Cleaning

10% OFF

Any Service

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Exp. 03/31/25.

603-275-1224 • [www.waterboysnh.com](http://www.waterboysnh.com)





Paul A. Pouliot & Associates

Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisory Practice

"For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

—AFRICAN PROVERB

Tom Lavery

Associate Financial Advisor

(603) 296-0030

[ameripriseadvisors.com/tom.lavery](http://ameripriseadvisors.com/tom.lavery)

Not FDIC or NCUA Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value

Paul A. Pouliot & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, located at 116 S River Rd, Bldg E in Bedford, NH. The Compass is a trademark of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser. Securities offered by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2025 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

Ameriprise

Financial





# Hooksett Public Library is back after last year's flood

HOOKSETT – On Aug. 3, 2024, the Hooksett Library experienced unexpected and significant flooding during a roof replacement project that affected the first floor and parts of the lower level. This unforeseen event challenged us to respond quickly and decisively to restore our much used services and community space.

In the months since, library staff and partners have been working tirelessly to expedite renovations, despite the expected and unexpected hurdles related to contractor availability and insurance funding approvals.

## Swift response to ensure continued services

Immediately following the flooding incident, the library prioritized remediation efforts to mitigate further damage. In addition removing flood-damaged furniture, carpeting, ceiling tiles, and equipment, it was necessary to enlist the professional services of specialists for asbestos abatement in a couple of flood-affected spaces.

By Aug. 12, we were able to move almost half of the library's collections to the Village Depot Room downstairs, making them available to patrons for browsing and borrowing. We also had to move our staff to the Hebert Room downstairs. Our smart lockers remained accessible throughout the renovation process, ensuring 24/7 access to library materials.



Library Director Heather Rainier and Adult Services Librarian Jane Martina are shown in the adult stacks and lounge. The public can now enjoy the refreshed environment of the library. (Courtesy photo)



The Children's Room at the Hooksett Public Library. (Courtesy photo)

## Renovation milestones and improvements

We are pleased to share that the new flooring – a com-

bination of durable carpeting and LVT flooring – as well as painting projects have been completed, significantly re-

talizing our library spaces.

These improvements have not only restored the affected areas but have also enhanced the overall ambiance, creating a brighter and more welcoming environment for our patrons and staff.

## Enhancing sustainability and energy efficiency

Taking advantage of the closure during renovations, we upgraded to energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the library. This investment has already yielded a noticeable reduction in electricity usage, aligning with our commitment to environmental sustainability and cost savings.

## Teamwork and community support

Reshelving our collections

back upstairs onto the reconfigured shelving units has truly been an all-hands-on-deck effort. Library staff have worked diligently alongside and practically on the heels of contractors to ensure that full browsing and borrowing services were restored upstairs.

Patrons will experience a whole new browsing experience when they see the redesigned spaces with a bookstore-like vibe.

We understand that the recovery process has taken time, and we deeply appreciate your patience and support. Our goal has always been to create a space that better serves our community, and we are excited to welcome you back to an improved and revitalized library.

## Looking ahead

We are also delighted to announce that in-person children's programs will resume during the first week of March. We are working hard to reinstate in-person programs for adults in the coming weeks.

Stay updated on our progress and upcoming events by visiting our website at [hooksettlibrary.org](http://hooksettlibrary.org). Your support has been instrumental in our recovery, and we cannot wait to share the enhancements that will enrich your library experience. Thank you for standing with us through this journey! Together, we are building a stronger community space for the Hooksett community.

– Mark Glisson

Financial Planning  
Retirement Planning  
Investments  
401(k)  
IRA

**Derik W. Paquette, CPFA®**  
Financial Advisor

Direct 603-315-7356  
[derik.paquette@psfinancialgroup.com](mailto:derik.paquette@psfinancialgroup.com)  
[www.psfinancialgroup.com](http://www.psfinancialgroup.com)

Paquette & Shaw Financial Group, LLC is not a broker dealer  
Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC



176 Rt. 101 Unit B2  
Bedford, NH 03110  
603-488-5745

*Please  
recycle this  
newspaper.*

## Noteworthy Neighbors

Pinkerton Academy high school senior and long-term Hooksett resident varsity cheerleader **Kiareese “Kiki” Perez** has been accepted to and committed to the University of Louisville in Kentucky and will be trying out for the

D1 varsity cheerleading team in the spring. Kiki received an annual \$12,000 renewable merit scholarship and is majoring in criminal justice. Kiki has a long-term goal of becoming a detective and working for the FBI one day.



# Plourde Sand & Gravel auctioned

By Michael Frascinella  
Hooksett Bridge

Two properties owned by Plourde Sand & Gravel were auctioned on Jan. 16, with an Allenstown property going for \$2.4 million and a Hooksett property going for \$3.2 million.

McInnis Auctions oversaw the bidding on the two Plourde properties in a chilly equipment garage at the Route 3A Hooksett property across from

the state rest stop.

About 20 people attended but only two actually offered bids. Ernest Thibeault of Allenstown Aggregate and a lawyer, Marc van Zanten, did most of the bidding. Van Zanten represented Greenlake Asset Management, a national company specializing in commercial real estate loans.

It went through three rounds of finger-numbing bidding before the final bids were accepted. At the last minute

of bidding on the Allenstown property, Thibeault kept looking back at his associate who was on the phone with someone, and suddenly decided not to outbid van Zanten, who offered the final bids on both properties.

At the end of the auction, van Zanten did not know what the buyer planned to do next. As recently as Feb. 10, van Zanten said “nothing has been finalized yet.”

## Hooksett water second best in country for taste

HOOKSETT – The Hooksett Village Water Precinct has proudly received the silver place trophy in the highly competitive Great American Water Taste Contest, a prestigious competition recognizing the best-tasting drinking water in rural communities across the United States.

The 26th Great American Water Taste Test contest, held at the Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C., brought together 43 of the top water systems from across the nation to be judged by a panel of industry experts.

Criteria for evaluation included clarity, aroma, and, most importantly, taste. Hooksett Village Water Precinct’s

exceptional water quality stood out among numerous entrants, earning the recognition of second-best in the country.

“This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team in ensuring the delivery of clean, safe, and great-tasting water to our community,” said Todd Smith, Chair of the Hooksett Village Water Precinct’s Board of Water Commissioners. “We take great pride in our water quality and are honored to be recognized on a national stage.”

The contest is an annual event organized to celebrate and highlight the importance of high-quality drinking water in rural communities. Participation in the contest provides an

opportunity for water systems to showcase their commitment to excellence and the vital role they play in public health and community well-being.

Hooksett Village Water Precinct serves over 3,000 residents and businesses in Hooksett, ensuring reliable and high-quality drinking water. This recognition further solidifies the precinct’s commitment to maintaining superior water standards for its customers.

For more information about the Hooksett Village Water Precinct and its services, please visit [www.hooksettwater.org](http://www.hooksettwater.org) or contact Superintendent Mike Heidorn at 603-485-3392 or [mikeh@hooksettwater.org](mailto:mikeh@hooksettwater.org).

## Hooksett Police offer free women’s self-defense course

HOOKSETT – The Hooksett Police Department is hosting a free Rape Aggression Defense class for women on Tuesday nights in March. The four-week course will take place at the Hooksett Safety Center, 15 Legends Drive, from 6 to 9 p.m. on March 4, 11, 18 and 25. A backup snow date is scheduled for April 1, if needed.

This hands-on self-defense program is open to all women, regardless of residency. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and sneakers and

bring water. The course is designed to teach practical defensive techniques in a supportive and empowering environment.

All ages are welcome,

though participants under 18 must have parental consent.

To register, email [kflynn@hooksettpolice.org](mailto:kflynn@hooksettpolice.org) to be added to the class roster.



**BARRETT INSURANCE**  
THE PEACE TO YOUR PROTECTION

1330 Hooksett Rd., Suite 1  
Hooksett, NH 03106  
P (603) 668-0686  
Licensed in NH, ME, VT

## Valentines for Vets



Jaelynn Breton is the president of Cawley's Builders Club. The club members made cards and filled first aid kits for them. She delivered Valentines for Veterans to the American Legion in Hooksett. (Courtesy photo)

## Cemetery Commission is looking for volunteers

HOOKSETT – The Hooksett Cemetery Commission is looking for volunteers!

Spring is right around the corner, which means more volunteer opportunities with Friends of Hooksett Cemeteries! Stay tuned for announcements regarding dates for spring tidy-ups in our cemeteries. The Cemetery Commission will be working hard this summer to beautify our cemeteries and make long overdue repairs. If you are interested in volunteering, email [hooksett.cemeterycommission@gmail.com](mailto:hooksett.cemeterycommission@gmail.com) or use the QR code.



We encourage Hooksett residents and cemetery visitors to familiarize yourselves with the cemetery rules and regulations so we can keep our cemeteries clean and safe.

**Anchorage**  
APPRAISAL GROUP  
Your Home. Our Priority.

**Ken MacIntosh**  
Director of Real Estate Appraisal

603-249-6069 Mobile

[ken@anchoragenh.com](mailto:ken@anchoragenh.com)  
[anchorageappraisalsnh.com](http://anchorageappraisalsnh.com)

306 Riverway Place  
Bedford, NH 03110

ELECTIONS 2025

# Meet the Candidates

## HOOKSETT

HOOKSETT LIBRARY TRUSTEE

**Michael Kotlyarsky**  
Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** Hello, I am Michael Kotlyarsky and I am running for the post of Library Trustee. I have been a resident of Hooksett for over five years. I moved to

Hooksett in August 2019 from Brooklyn, NY where I lived since 1990 after I immigrated from the part of the then-existing Soviet Union, which is now Ukraine.

My original education was in Electrical Engineering and my career developed as a software engineer in the financial area. My five children range from 16-year old twins attending the Pinkerton Academy to 23. The family in which I grew up and my own family place a lot of importance on wide and varied reading as an important factor of education and character development. It would like to help advance the culture of reading for the residents and especially the children of our town.

**Barbara Davis**  
Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** I have been a Hooksett Library Trustee for the past 19 years, serving as Treasurer throughout. With a degree and

professional background in accounting, my skills have been invaluable in budgeting and financial activities. During my tenure, the library has evolved significantly. My focus has always been on meeting the community's needs while balancing available funds. I'm proud of initiatives like the Lego Lend, our Library of Things, and other programs. A highlight was when the Hooksett Library was awarded Library of the Year for New Hampshire. In addition to being a Trustee, I serve on the board of the Friends of the Hooksett Library.

Upon retiring, I restarted the ongoing book sale, which helps the Friends financially support the library for extras not covered in the budget. I've been an active library user since childhood, continuing when we moved to Hooksett 42 years ago. I'm married with two grown sons who

enjoyed story hour at the library when it was on Route 3. I've also served as Treasurer for the PTA, Memorial Booster Club, and currently for the Hooksett unit of the Salvation Army. I am passionate about ensuring our library remains a welcoming and resourceful place for everyone. I ask for your support on March 11th and encourage everyone to visit the library to see what a wonderful place it is. It truly is the gem of Hooksett. Thank you.

**Tammy Hooker**  
Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** The Hooksett Public Library is more than just a building with books; it's a vibrant hub where people of all ages come together

to learn, grow, and connect. As a patron for over 25 years, I am dedicated to ensuring our library continues to be a cornerstone of our community. My journey as your Library Trustee over the past 19 years has been incredibly rewarding. Together, we've achieved so much, and I am excited about the possibility of continuing this journey with you. Here are a few highlights that I am particularly proud of:

**Community Engagement:** Whether working with Boy Scout Troop 292, the Hooksett Salvation Army, or Friends of the Hooksett Library, I aim to foster a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and heard.

**Strategic Planning and Innovation:** I am committed to exploring innovative solutions to enhance our library's services and reach, ensuring we meet the evolving needs of our community.

**Financial Stewardship:** Managing our library's resources responsibly is crucial. I am dedicated to ensuring that every dollar is used effectively and efficiently to benefit our community. Some of my proudest moments include being named NHLTA Trustee of the Year in 2019, receiving the Kiwanis Volunteer of the Year award in 2017, and our library being awarded Library of the Year by the NHLTA in 2013. Thank you for considering my candidacy for re-election. Warm regards, Tammy Hooker

**Pamela McMahon**  
Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** My name is Pamela McMahon, and I am running for Library Trustee. For nearly 20 years, I have been a proud resident of Hooksett, raising my

two sons while staying actively involved in our community through school, sports, and town activities. As a middle school teacher at a public charter school, I have worn many hats in education. A lifelong learner, I am passionate about fostering growth, enrichment, and a well-rounded life.

Coming from a single-income household, I am acutely aware of the impact of the rising cost of living and the burden on taxpayers. I recognize the library as a vital resource that supports educational and recreational needs. As a teacher, I know the importance of providing resources and opportunities for learning, and I am dedicated to ensuring that our library continues to thrive. My goal as Library Trustee is to make thoughtful decisions that consider accessibility and financial sustainability, finding a healthy balance for our community. Thank you for your support. Sincerely, Pamela McMahon

HOOKSETT TOWN CLERK  
**Karina Towne**  
Incumbent

**Why I am running for this office:** As many of you may already know I have been Town Clerk since January of 2023. Over the past 2 years I have learned the ins and outs of the Town Clerk's office and have run many smooth elections along with our Moderator, Supervisors of the Checklist, Deputy Clerk and Town Clerk Assistant. For those of you that don't know me, I'd like to share a bit about myself. My husband Adam and I are lifelong residents of Hooksett attending its elementary and middle schools as well as our 2 children who are now 18 and 13. Over the past 12 years I have spent much of my time volunteering on various boards, at our schools and events throughout the town. When I set my heart and mind on something, I put my all into it, going above and beyond. I plan to continue to bring that dedication as well as the level of service and to represent the best interest of all residents in Hooksett. I am determined to continue to provide the residents

of Hooksett with my positive attitude, experience and ensure that I am an asset to our town. Please consider voting for me on March 11th

HOOKSETT TOWN COUNCILOR  
– 1 YEAR

**Jeffrey Nyhan**  
Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** While I tend to shy away from talking about myself, I wanted to take a moment to share a bit about my background and why I'm running

for election. I'm married with two children, and I grew up in Manchester before moving to Hooksett in 2020. After graduating from college, I began my career as a government contractor, followed by a position as Director of Security for a local college. In 2014, I made the decision to pursue further education, earning an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) in 2016. Since 2018, I've been a local business owner. When my family and I moved to Hooksett in 2020, we quickly immersed ourselves in the community.

Over time, I felt it was the right moment to contribute more directly, and I have served on several nonprofit boards and commissions throughout my adult life. When the opportunity to fill a vacant councilor position arose, I applied, was appointed, and have thoroughly enjoyed serving the town. It has been a rewarding experience to contribute to our community in this capacity. Why am I running for election? -I believe Hooksett must grow in a responsible and sustainable way. -It's essential to reduce the tax burden on our residents, ensuring affordability for families. -I am committed to building stronger relationships with our town partners to foster Hooksett's growth and success. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to continuing to serve our town.

**Timothy Tsantoulis**  
Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** I am looking for the opportunity to continue my service to Hooksett and to meet the challenges that



NH communities face. We are at a point where sound fiscal leadership is paramount while we continue to provide the residents of Hooksett the services they expect. With the State of NH returning less funds to our communities, it is imperative that we look for ways to minimize impact on our property taxes. I plan to continue using my experience as a Town Councilor to further seek innovative ways to operate in an efficient manner. Working with the Town Administrator and providing advice and consent as per our charter, I believe that we can achieve positive results moving forward. I am asking for your vote on March 11, 2025. I further hope that you recognize and understand the importance of prudent decisions when addressing the various warrant articles on the ballot. Together we can continue to keep Hooksett the type of community that people strive to live and work in. Thank you in advance for your support.

### David Smith

Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** Hello Hooksett Town residents, I would like to see the newly elected town counselors use a conservative view /

approach to help slow tax hikes and unneeded spending. It's time to spot blanket spending. As a small business owner for over 30 years and I understand the importance of cautious spending to control over head. If I'm elected, I will work in the town residences best interest to control spending and reduce the tax burden were the budget allows. I've lived in Hooksett since 2011 and have seen uncontrolled spending not in the residents best interests. I will work hard to hold department heads accountable for their budgets and necessary spending to help reduce tax increases. Please show up and vote on March 11th to help control and lower taxes in our Great Town of Hooksett. Thank you, David Smith

HOOKSETT TOWN COUNCILOR  
– 2 YEARS

### Alexander Walczyk

Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** My name is Alexander Walczyk and I'm running for a two-year Town Council seat. As a Town Councilor at Large

since June 2017, I'm deeply committed to the betterment of Hooksett. My public experience includes serving on the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Recycling and Transfer Committee, and as Chairman of the Hooksett Youth Achievers and the Board of Assessors. I've been instrumental in numerous key projects:

- A 1MW+ Solar Array on the old landfill, expected to significantly reduce electricity costs for town buildings and schools.

- Drafted a Solar Energy System Exemption to encourage more solar energy adoption.

- Contributions to drafting a town-wide parking ordinance that improves safety, especially around school bus stops.

- Enhancing Lambert Park with a pavilion. I'm committed to making Hooksett an even better place to live, work and enjoy. My goals for the future include:

- Expanding access to outdoor recreation by creating and improving open spaces and trails that connect our community and promote well-being.
- Increasing public input and strengthening our economy by adjusting zoning changes to encourage responsible commercial development.

- Working with local institutions and community stakeholders to implement Hooksett's Master Plan. I believe in transparency and informed decision-making. I'm committed to listening to all perspectives. I'll ask difficult questions. If those questions cannot be immediately answered, I'll continue to follow up until I have enough information to make an informed decision. I am excited about the future of Hooksett and welcome the opportunity to contribute further to our town's progress.

### Yury Polozov

Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** I'm Yury Polozov, and I live in Hooksett with my wife and three kids. I've had the privilege of being elected twice to represent Hooksett at

the State House, and I've joined the Hooksett Planning Board as an alternate member. I'm running because I want to use my analytical mindset, developed through my work in IT, to address the rapid growth of budgets and taxes. With my experience navigating local fees, as well as county and state budgets, I believe I am well-equipped to make a positive impact and serve the community effectively.

### Randall Lapierre

Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** This town needs leaders who are positive problem solvers. We stand at the junction of several major transportation routes, making

Hooksett attractive to commercial and residential developers alike. While I chose Hooksett for my family because of its strong community and small-town feel, growth is inevitable. My approach as town councilor over the past four years has been to balance that growth with current residents' desires and needs to ensure a future that is beneficial to all. In my time on the council, we have extended services through public-private agreements, created advantages for development in underused areas of town, generated competitive wage scales for town employees, and restored the town's fund balance to an appropriate level. My goals for this term include increasing engagement with developers to ensure a future vision for Hooksett with responsible and sustainable growth, stabilizing the town's employment agreements to reduce the annual increases in operating budget, and consolidating popular capital reserve funding requests into a single warrant article to make voting on the town's budget more accessible and understandable. In my last term, we achieved the goal of eliminating town districts to make every council seat competitive and accountable to the entire town. Due to this change, we are now electing seven councilors to serve for various term lengths. Whether you vote by mail or come to Cawley Middle School on March 11, I hope you all take this chance to make your voice heard.

HOOKSETT TOWN COUNCILOR – 3  
YEARS

### Roger Duhaime

Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** I have been a Hooksett resident for over 50 years, ran a small business here for over 40 years and have raised my family here.

I could not be more proud to call Hooksett home. I have volunteered for the Hooksett Transfer Station, the Zoning Board, Town Council, the Economic Development Committee, I am a Knights of Columbus member as well as a Mason and was a

Big Brother with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters organization, so I understand the responsibilities and commitment to volunteering. I have traveled across the country and I appreciate Hooksett, the town I chose to call home. I am running for this position to maintain the charm and integrity of our town while helping to keep us financially viable with our inevitable growth.

### Lindsey Laliberte

Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** I am running for Town Council because Hooksett has become more than just a town to live in for my family. Hooksett is a

community, a village, part of our family! It has been several years since I was able to give back to my community by taking time to be on the school board. I was in a retail job that had me working nights and weekends, leaving little time for family. I am so excited to be in a new role, giving me nights and weekends to spend with family and friends. This allows me time to give back to the great town that is our community. I want to be the voice for my children, family, friends, neighbors, and those who can not physically get out to have their voice be heard. It's time we move Hooksett forward, embracing the changes and growth that are right for the community. In my day job, I work diligently to ensure the health and safety in pharmacy of all NH citizens. I do my absolute best for NH. I would do the same on the town council, working with others to ensure the best for Hooksett citizens. I will do my best for the town in both our growth and by being very financially aware. So, when asked the question, "why are you running and why should you be on the council"? I am running to be a rational, common sense voice of the community (not just my own), who will be a fiscally responsible leader, collaborating with others in the town. I am running because now is the time for a positive change for Hooksett.

### BaoChau Kelley

Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** BaoChau Kelley, known as Chau Kelley, is a dedicated leader with a strong background in business and

See CANDIDATES Page 12

**CANDIDATES - cont.**

community service. She holds a bachelor's degree in international business with a minor in finance and has professional experience as an office manager for International Institute of New Hampshire and a human resources assistant for General Cable Corporation. A proud resident of Hooksett for 25 years, Chau has been deeply involved in her community.

As the former vice president of external affairs for the Vietnamese American Community of New Hampshire, she worked to foster connections and opportunities for local residents. Chau believes in common-sense governance that prioritizes responsible spending, ensuring that low taxes remain a reality for Hooksett residents. She is a strong advocate for parental rights and strong families, public safety, economic growth, affordability, and government transparency.

Above all, she is committed to defending individual liberties and making Hooksett an even better place to live and work. Married for 25 years, Chau enjoys gardening, cooking, and photography in her free time. She is ready to bring her experience, dedication, and leadership to the Hooksett Town Council to ensure a bright future for all.

**Vincent Lembo Jr.**

Incumbent

**Why I am running for this office:** I have lived in this town for forty nine years in the same house. All of my kids came up through the school system and received a great education between Hooksett and Manchester school systems. I previously was a councilor about 12 years ago and then I retired from my job and the council and traveled around the country for 10 years, it was great. I was elected to the council last year for a 3 year term but with the change in the make up of the council all members of the council has to rerun this year so I am just looking to complete my commitment to the citizens of Hooksett who put their trust in me to represent them on the council.

**James 'Jim' Sullivan**

Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** I am seeking re-election to continue serving the citizens of Hooksett and will seek a three-year seat on the Hooksett Town Council.

During my many years on the council I have

worked to present good budgets based on need, voted on issues with the approach to what's best for the town, strived to adhere to the rules and protocols of the town and brought a team approach to making Hooksett a better place to live. Many good things have happened, and I am proud of what together we can do. My experience, background and diverse service to Hooksett I believe should earn your continued support.

My current volunteering positions in Hooksett- Town Council 11 years, School Board 23 years, Hooksett Historical Society since 2007, Hooksett Lions club, Planning board member, and Heritage Commission, as well as various school board sub committees. Previously, Bicentennial committee, Men's Club, Budget committee, Robies Preservation and Solid waste. I was named 2010 Citizen of Year. As a 58-year resident with Hooksett roots since 1918, community service has been a family hall mark. It is truly a great town with a strong history, one which we have face many challenges with the need for increased services, educational issues, and a growing community with new development and increasing population and unfortunately more demand on the taxpayer. Through it all I hope I have been a positive voice in making sure we have overseen these issues with the best of our abilities.

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD SEAT  
- 2 YEARS

**Michael Dullen**

Challenger

**Why I am running for this office:** I believe a strong public education system is the foundation of a strong society. Hooksett has a proud history of providing a high quality, inclusive, and accessible public education to all of our students, and that is something we need to continue to build upon. While building on this foundation, we must continue to be responsible and intentional in the spending of taxpayer funds. I want to be part of the Hooksett School Board to help bring continued transparency and fiscal control to the community.

I have served the HSD as president of the PTA, helping to raise funds to offset costs and bring fun activities and community connection to our schools, without an undo burden on the people of Hooksett, and I want to continue to bring that creative problem solving to our schools and our community. I would encourage anyone who has questions to reach out to me on Facebook at Michael Dullen for Hooksett School Board to see my position and views on our public education.

**Bethany Judge**

Challenger

**Why I am running for this office:**

I am a mother to 6 fantastic daughters 1 graduated, 2 at Pinkerton, 1 at Cawley, 1 at Memorial and 1 home with me! We have been Hooksett residents for 5 years. My daughter Anastasia was the first Cawley mascot "Captain Hawkins". We have had tremendous support from the schools and found outstanding teachers and staff at every level. I believe that while the current Hooksett School Board has done their best to work hard for our children there is still so much to do. I aim to be a fresh voice for our children, teachers and staff and continue the hard work. Having spent many years volunteering for and with children in many capacities, I feel I have a good outlook on how we as adults can really work to benefit all children and help them achieve their full potential.

I currently serve on 3 nonprofit boards, The Hooksett PTA as Cawley Liason, The Hooksett Youth Lacrosse board, and The MollyB Foundation as President. I approach every task with an open mind and a no quit attitude. Where there's a will there's a way and we can make each opportunity come to life for each child. I'm excited for the opportunity to help our community lead our children!

HOOKSETT SCHOOL BOARD SEAT  
- 3 YEARS

**Jonah Schulte**

Incumbent

**Why I am running for this office:**

My name is Jonah Schulte, and I am seeking re-election to the Hooksett School Board for a 3-year term. Over the past year, I have been

honored to serve our community by helping guide decisions that support our students while respecting the needs of taxpayers. My wife and I returned to Hooksett a few years ago with our three school-aged children, drawn to this town's sense of community and opportunity. Serving on the school board has strengthened my resolve to address the challenges facing our district. As education funding tightens, I remain focused on ensuring every child has access to the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

We don't need extravagance, but we must provide a strong foundation to prepare our students for the future. With over 25 years of experience as a software engineer and technical leader, I bring a unique perspective to problem-solving,

innovation, and long-term planning. I aim to balance fiscal responsibility with the needs of our schools, while exploring creative ways to generate additional revenue. Rising education costs affect us all, and it's essential to find practical solutions that keep costs manageable without compromising the quality of education. I believe education is a cornerstone of any thriving community. I am committed to listening to your concerns, making thoughtful decisions, and advocating for solutions that benefit all. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for Hooksett's children.

**Bob Barker**

Challenger

**Why I am running for this office:**

I'm Bob Barker, and I'm running for the Hooksett School Board. As the son of two public school teachers, education

has always been a passion of mine. I have spent most of my adult life educating myself or teaching others. Whether it was as an instructor in the military, volunteering as a tutor, or teaching engineering classes, education has always been a priority in my life. I want to bring that same passion for education to the Hooksett schools, while also bringing my executive business experience to ensure resources are being utilized as effectively as possible for the benefit of the children.

I'm a veteran who served 12 years with multiple combat tours. I've managed budgets in the private sector that are larger than the school budget. I'm also a dad of three young boys. The most important thing to me is that our children are prepared to be adults and that they have all the tools they need. I also believe we can streamline our systems in order to deliver on that goal with less waste for taxpayers. Elect me to the school board, and I'll fight for the kids and the taxpayers. That's the only way to balance the tradeoffs in order to deliver for both constituencies.

**John Ciempa**

Incumbent

**Why I am running for this office:**

John Ciempa, a lifelong Hooksett resident, lives with his wife, Mallory, and their three children. His two oldest attend Underhill,

while his youngest will start in 2026. A software and artificial intelligence



professional at IBM, John is also an active community volunteer coach and board member for the Hooksett Athletic Youth Association and the Hooksett Parent Teacher Association. Having attended Hooksett schools K-8 in the 1990s, John is dedicated to ensuring today's students receive a high-quality education. Seeking re-election, he remains committed to strengthening Hooksett's schools by focusing on four key priorities.

(1) Budget and Funding: Advocating for responsible and transparent fiscal stewardship to maximize educational resources while maintaining a conservative, taxpayer-friendly budget amid fluctuating state funding and local tax revenues.

(2) Teacher Recruitment and Retention: Creating an environment that attracts and retains high-quality educators through competitive compensation and professional development opportunities.

(3) Student Curriculum: Ensuring the curriculum remains up to date with state standards, integrating technology effectively, and supporting enrichment opportunities to prepare students for the future.

(4) Community Engagement: Strengthening collaboration between the school district and the broader community to foster a strong and supportive educational environment. John's leadership and dedication ensure Hooksett schools remain a place where students thrive.

HOOKSETT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TREASURER

**Amy Boilard**  
Incumbent

**Why I am running for this office:** Hooksett hadn't had a Treasurer in a few years, so I volunteered. The Treasurer approves check runs and payroll transactions plus reconciles the Hooksett School district and the SAU 15 bank accounts monthly. I enjoy bookkeeping and numbers plus I can almost see my kids lunch money being deposited! How awesome is that. I would appreciate your support for a second term. Thank you, Amy Boilard

HOOKSETT SEWER COMMISSION

**Sidney Baines**  
Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** I have 30 years experience. I would like to see the last of the major upgrades get completed. This

upgrade is the complete force main from the Martins Ferry pump station to the plant.

HOOKSETT CEMETERY COMMISSION

**Marika Labash**  
Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** I am running for Hooksett Cemetery Commission because I am currently the Cemetery Program Coordinator for the State of NH Division of

Historical Resources and I would love to bring my expertise and years of experience in historic cemetery maintenance to our town. I have lived in Hooksett for 8 years and I began volunteering with the Commission in 2024. This past fall I piloted the Friends of Hooksett Cemeteries program and conducted two very successful work days at Martins Cemetery. In addition to the work that I do in Hooksett, I also volunteer with The NH Old Graveyard Association and I am a member of the NH Cemetery Association.

HOOKSETT TRUSTEE  
OF THE TRUST FUNDS

**John Ward**  
Incumbent, Statement requested.

HOOKSETT SEWER COMMISSION

**John Giotas**  
Challenger, Statement requested.

HOOKSETT BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Germano Martins**  
Incumbent, Statement requested.

HOOKSETT BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Ernie Bencivenga**  
Incumbent, Statement requested.

HOOKSETT BUDGET COMMITTEE

**William Lynch**  
Incumbent, Statement requested.

HOOKSETT TOWN COUNCILOR

- 1 YEAR  
**Gianna Valentino**  
Challenger, Statement requested.

**Get out and vote**

**March 11!**

ALLENSTOWN

ALLENSTOWN BUDGET COMMITTEE  
- 2 YEARS

**Jeffery Venegas**  
Incumbent, Statement requested.

ALLENSTOWN BUDGET COMMITTEE  
- 3 YEARS

**Julie Keane**  
Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** I've called Allenstown home since 2007. I regard running for a Budget Committee position as a solemn responsibility, recognizing its critical

role in financial stewardship and public trust, as voters expect us to manage the town's finances responsibly. I'm committed to transparency and actively support clear, accessible budget documents and regular public updates. I uphold fiscal responsibility by prioritizing needs over wants and ensuring the town operates within its means while fully funding essential services like public safety, education, and infrastructure.

I understand the importance of long-term planning, advocate for a balanced budget that includes reserves for emergencies or unexpected expenses, and be cautious about approving tax increases unless absolutely essential. I'm dedicated to collaborating with the town council, school board, and other committees to align priorities, avoid duplication of efforts, build consensus, and promote a cooperative budgeting approach. I pledge to stay informed about municipal finance and budgeting best practices, including state and federal funding opportunities that could benefit the town.

I will always make decisions based on data, evidence, and the community's best interests rather than personal or political gain. I'm committed to responsible budgeting, governance, and public service. Thank you for your consideration.

ALLENSTOWN SCHOOL BOARD  
- 1 YEAR

**Justine Newell**  
Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** Dear Residents of Allenstown, My name is Justine Newell, and I have proudly lived in Allenstown for six years with my husband

and our five children. All of my children currently attend ACS, while my older ones previously went to ARD and AES. During our time here, we've witnessed many positive changes, including the much-needed new school that benefits both our children and the community. I believe that as a community, we can achieve great things together. After several years of observing from the sidelines, I would be honored to collaborate with school administrators to implement further positive changes. While I don't have formal experience on a town board, I actively participate in a practice council at my hospital unit, where we discuss and address areas for improvement identified by our nursing team. Additionally, I serve as a charge nurse, and as a parent of students at the school, I believe my experiences can effectively translate to serving on the school board. My goal is to bring fresh perspectives and promote open communication, trust, and transparency within our community. I am confident that a strong school is essential for our children's success, and I am eager for the opportunity to serve on the school board and contribute to our shared goals. Thank you for considering my candidacy. Sincerely, Justine Newell

**Cheryl McDonald**  
Challenger

**Why I am running for this office:** As a U.S. Army veteran and 44 year resident of Allenstown, I believe that the school board should be representative of all residents. My lifetime experiences include contract negotiations and employee benefits which will be an asset for the upcoming teacher contract renewal. We must honor our commitment of providing the children of our community the best education possible to allow them to become productive members of society while keeping an eye on the fiscal limitations of our community. I ask for your vote on March 11th.

ALLENSTOWN CEMETERY TRUSTEE

**Cheryl McDonald**  
Incumbent

ALLENSTOWN TRUSTEE  
OF TRUST FUND

**Cheryl McDonald**  
Incumbent

ALLENSTOWN SEWER COMMISSION  
- 1 YEAR

**John T. Childs**  
Incumbent

**Why I am running for this office:** I currently

*See CANDIDATES Page 14*

CANDIDATES - cont.

serve on the Board of the Allenstown Sewer Commission. I am running this year to continue my involvement. I hope to continue using my business and marketing experience to support the outstanding management team at ASC.

ALLENSTOWN SELECT BOARD  
MEMBER

**John T. Childs**

Incumbent



**Why I am running for this office:** I have been a member of the Municipal Budget Committee for three years and currently serve as a Commissioner of the

Allenstown Sewer Commission.

We have a spending problem in Allenstown that is not sustainable for our average tax payers. My agenda as a Selectman would be enhanced oversight of the town operations, get the open audits of 2022-2024 completed and certified, ensure cost centers by department are corrected so we can evaluate performance vs. cost, maintain SB2 as our form of budgeting and try to achieve level funding until the full evaluations of Hillsbrook Village and 25 Canal hit the tax rolls.

**Laura Lambert**

Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** I moved here with my children about 17 years ago and settled into the town as a single mom. I struggled at times, but made it through

with some help from my community. I met my husband Eric here in town and we have 5 children and 2 grandchildren between the two of us. We raised our children in Allenstown, putting them all through the Allenstown/Pembroke school systems. We moved away for a short time, but the "home" feeling that Allenstown brings brought us back! I have been employed full-time with the United States Postal Service here in Allenstown/ Pembroke as a mail carrier for over 17 years. I run the food drive we do every year out of our office.

I also have been involved in and coordinated some community events, a few of those would include; Movie Night at the Fire station, providing food for the concerts in town and Reach the Beach in September at Bear Brook State Park.

I truly feel that getting people involved in their community gives them ownership in it, the saying "It takes a village," is such a true statement. People in numbers supporting one another, helping one another can move mountains! I am running for the Select Board because I feel we need to take a different view with a fresh set of eyes. I offer honesty and integrity, and am a huge advocate for bridging the gap between our boards and committees and our community. The more involvement and ownership from the community, the more people will care, come out and vote no matter which way we do it. I am working hard to be more informed, to understand how we got to where we are, (with our higher taxes) and how to make things better for our community. I will work hard for you!!

**Diane Adinolfo**

Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** Greetings Residents of Allenstown, My name is Diane Adinolfo and I am a candidate for the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Allenstown. I

attended local schools and obtained a degree in Quality Assurance Management and spent 41 years in various roles within Quality Assurance in medical device development and manufacturing organizations. As for my town experience and commitments, I've been on the Planning Board for 8+ years, the Zoning Board of Adjustments for 3 years, Budget Committee for the past 2 years, and I am one of the Assistant Moderators. I was also the interim Town Clerk / Tax Collector for 5 months. I also volunteer at the town hall working on various projects primarily in the town clerk's office.

I attend most of the Board of Selectmen meetings and frequently provide input. Collectively, between my work experience and my experience participating on local boards and committees, I have acquired the skills needed to understand the town processes and make a significant contribution. I am retired and I am prepared to do the work. I, like all of you, am concerned about rising taxes. One way to address this issue is to communicate with our State Representatives and monitor their participation and how they cast votes regarding town revenue. We must ensure that money is spent wisely, when needed and not compromise the safety of our citizens and the quality of education of our students. I would appreciate your vote on March 11, 2025.

Thank You, Diane Adinolfo

**Kris Fowler**

Challenger

**Why I am running for this office:** I have lived in town for over 40 years. I attended both the Allenstown Elementary and Armand R DuPont schools. I was also employed as a Paraprofessional at AES for 7 years. I have served the town for many years as a Supervisor of the Checklist and Ballot Clerk. I am running for this position because I want to work with the rest of the members to make Allenstown a great destination for families and businesses to call home. We can accomplish this goal as long as we work together as a team. I ask that you please vote for me on March 11, 2025. Together we can turn our amazing town into something to be really proud of and the envy of all. Thank you for your consideration and support.

**Roger Staley**

Challenger



**Why I am running for this office:** Hi, I'm Roger Staley, and I'm running for a seat on the Allenstown Select Board because I care about this town and its future. My family and I have put

down roots here, and I want to help make Allenstown a place where families and community members can thrive. I've spent my career leading teams, improving operations, and finding practical solutions to tough challenges. From managing budgets and logistics to tackling inefficiencies, I know how to get things running smoothly and make the most of available resources. I believe that same approach can benefit our town—focusing on smart spending, maintaining essential services, and planning for the future while taking care of today's needs.

Allenstown has a lot of potential, and I want to make sure we're moving forward in a way that benefits everyone. If elected, I'll work to improve infrastructure, support community initiatives, and ensure residents have a voice in the decisions that affect them. I also want to strengthen communication between the town and its residents, making sure people feel informed, heard, and involved in the process. Good leadership means listening, making thoughtful decisions, and ensuring the town's resources are used wisely. I'm ready to bring a common-sense, solutions-focused approach to the Select Board, and I'd be honored to have your support.

**David Boufford**

Challenger, Statement requested.

**Jim Rodger**

Incumbent, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE

PEMBROKE TRUST FUND TRUSTEE

**Chester Martel**

Incumbent, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE CHECKLIST SUPERVISOR

**Dawn Lynch**

Incumbent, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE TRUST FUND TRUSTEE

**Gerard Fleury**

Challenger, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE LIBRARY TRUSTEE

**Zachary Sawyer**

Challenger, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE LIBRARY TRUSTEE

**Paul Baldwin**

Challenger, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE SELECTMAN

**Sandy Goulet**

Incumbent, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE WATER COMMISSIONER

**Keven Brasley**

Incumbent, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE SEWER COMMISSIONER

**Arthur Little**

Incumbent, Statement requested.

PEMBROKE SELECTMAN

**Peter Gagy**

Challenger

Statement requested.

PEMBROKE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

- 3 YEARS

**Bryan Christiansen**

Incumbent, Statement Requested.

PEMBROKE TOWN CLERK

**James 'Jim' Goff**

Incumbent, Statement Requested.

PEMBROKE TREASURER

**Jillian McNeil**

Incumbent, Statement Requested.

PEMBROKE SCHOOL BOARD

Candidate information was not available  
by press time

**Your ad could be here!**  
**Support**  
**The Hooksett Bridge.**



HOOKSETT TOWN AND SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES

The following town and school warrant articles will be presented to voters on Tuesday, March 11, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Cawley Middle School. Please note that tax impacts listed do not add to the current tax burden but should be totaled from a starting point of zero. See the full wording of the articles at [www.hooksett.org](http://www.hooksett.org) for town articles and <https://memorial.sau15.net/> for school articles.

TOWN

**Article 3 - Bond for sewer expansion at Exit 10** - \$10M project. \$860,000 from existing TIF funds, \$7,040,000 in bonds to be issued. To be paid as TIF money comes in. **3/5 majority vote required.** Town Council recommends 7-1. No tax impact listed.

**Article 4 - Martins Ferry Road improvement bond** - \$2.8 M to reconstruct Martins Ferry Road and North River Road. Tax impact estimated at 2 to 4 cents per \$1,000 of property value (\$10 to \$20 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 5 - Town operating budget** - \$25,421,195. Default would be \$24,502,751. Tax impact: \$4.70 per \$1,000 of property value (\$2,350 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 6 - Non-union raises** – for town employees. Tax impact: 4 cents (\$20 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 7 - Mid-management union contract** – three-year agreement. Tax impact for first year is 4 cents (\$20 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 8 - non-monetary** (to allow reconsideration of Article 7 if defeated)

**Article 9 - DPW union contract** – three-year agreement. Tax impact: 2

cents (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 10 - Non-monetary** (to allow reconsideration of Article 9 if defeated)

**Article 11 - Auto Trash Truck** - \$391,000 for a new truck. Funds to come from Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund, no tax impact.

**Article 12 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – fire apparatus.** \$250,000 to be added to fund. Tax impact: 8 cents (\$40 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 13 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – DPW vehicles.** \$250,000 to be added to Public Works' Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 8 cents (\$40 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 14 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Town Building Maintenance.** \$200,000 to be added to fund. Tax impact: 6 cents (\$30 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 15 - Two full-time firefighters** - \$198,264 for salary and benefits for one year. Tax impact: 6 cents (\$30 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 16 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing - Drainage upgrades** - \$125,000 to be added to Drainage Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 4 cents (\$20 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 17 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing - GIS update** - \$75,000 to be added to Town Wide Digital Mapping Systems Capital Reserve Fund Tax impact: 2 cents (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 18 - One Full-time Assistant Finance Director** - \$133,132 for salary and benefits for one year. Tax impact: 4 cents (\$20 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 19 - One Full-time Building/Fire Inspector** – \$111,093 for salary and benefits for one year Tax impact: 3 cents (\$15 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 20 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Police Equipment** - \$100,000 for Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 3 cents (\$15 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 21 - Bailer and Dumpsters** - \$104,000 for new equipment. Paid for out of Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund. No tax impact.

**Article 22 - Dump Trailer** - \$87,000 for a new dump trailer for the Recycle and Transfer Division of Public . Paid for out of Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund. No tax impact.

**Article 23 - Fire Prevention Vehicle** - \$85,000 for fire prevention vehicle. Tax impact: 3 cents (\$15 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 24 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Fire** - \$80,000 for fire equipment. Tax impact: 2 cents (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 25 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Revaluation.** \$79,000 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 2 cents (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 26 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Fire Radios.** \$75,000 for replacement of fire radios. Tax impact: 2 cents (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 27 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Emergency Radio Communication** - \$50,000 for the Emergency Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund. 2 cents (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 28 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Parks and Recreation Facilities Development** - \$50,000 to be added to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Developemnt Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 2 cents (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 29 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Information Technology.**

\$40,000 to be added to the information technology Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 1 cent (\$5 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 30 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Automated Collection Equipment.** \$30,000 to be added to the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 1 cent (\$5 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 31 - Capital Reserve Fund-ing – Conservation Land** - \$30,000 to be added to the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund. Tax impact: 1 cent (\$5 on a \$500,000 property)

SCHOOL

**Article 2 - \$5,995,998 bond for repairs to Memorial School.** \$531,398 to be raised by taxation for first year's payment. Tax impact: 17 cents (\$85 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 3 - Operating budget of \$44,850,349.** Default budget: \$43,959,116. Tax impact: \$5,300 on a \$500,000 property.

**Article 4 - \$150,000 to be added to Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.** No tax impact, money to come from fund balance.

**Article 5 - \$100,000 to be added to the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.** No tax impact, money to come from fund balance.

**Article 6 - \$50,000 to be added to the Technology Expendable Trust Fund.** Tax impact: 2 cents. (\$10 on a \$500,000 property)

**Article 7 - \$100,000 to establish a Curriculum Capital Reserve Fund.** No tax impact. Money to come from fund balance.

# BUSINESS

## Hooksett's Cummings Printing celebrates 110 years

By Meghan Fuller Hanna  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT — Family-owned publication printer Cummings Printing celebrated its 110th anniversary last year, but it has no plans to rest on its laurels. Now led by its fourth generation, Hooksett's Cummings Printing is a company that honors its past while moving confidently into the future.

Cummings prints magazines, catalogs and specialty publications with runs of 1,000 to 150,000.

Its roster of clients includes all four of New England's professional sports teams and more than 30 schools and universities around the country. Locally, they print New Hampshire Magazine, Business NH Magazine, and Pinkerton Alumnus, the alumni magazine of Pinkerton Academy.

The company has 98 employees, many of whom are family — literally. Wander the halls and factory floor, and you are bound to encounter a father and son, a couple of brothers, a husband and wife, and even a cousin or two.

The loyalty and longevity of its workforce is one of the hallmarks of Cummings Printing. Between January and April of this year, six employees retired; they had a total of 180 years of experience between them.

### Honoring the past

The company traces its legacy back to George W. Cummings, a Union Cavalry officer during the Civil War, and the first Cummings to enter the printing industry in New Hampshire. After the war, he and his brother opened a printing and stationery shop



Cummings Printing moved into its Hooksett facility in 1993, and it now boasts state-of-the-art equipment to manage all aspects of the printing process, from printing and binding to boxing and shipping. (Meghan Fuller Hanna photo)

in Nashua, which they operated from 1866 to 1873.

It was George's youngest son, Lew A. Cummings, who established the company known today as Cummings Printing. The Lew A. Cummings Co. opened in 1914 in Concord, but a fire forced its relocation to West Central Street in Manchester in the 1930s.

In 1954, the company moved to a bigger facility on Canal Street, and Lew's son, John W. Cummings, became the owner. In the late 1980s, John's son, Jack L. Cummings, took the reins and decided to expand the company once again.

"In 1993, my dad took a leap of faith and moved the company to Hooksett to this facility," said current co-CEO Chris Cummings.

Over the years, the Hooksett facility has grown from its original 65,000 square feet to its current 100,000 square feet. Jack stepped down in 2022, and his sons, Chris and Sam,



One wall of Sam and Chris Cummings' office features a revolving display of the more than 500 publications it prints each year, including many local titles like Business NH Magazine and Pinkerton Academy's alumni magazine. (Meghan Fuller Hanna photo)

now run the company.

They have taken over during a challenging but promising period in the printing industry. Post-COVID, there has been a lot of consolidation, and several of Cummings' competitors have gone out of business, including Trumbull Printing in Connecticut.

Sam Cummings noted that these closures provide new opportunities for companies like Cummings, but only if they continue to invest in new tech-

nology and machinery.

### Looking to the future

Several years ago, Cummings installed a \$9 million Komori 38D 32-page web press, which has become the workhorse of the Hooksett facility. In 2023, they purchased a new perfect binder as well as a new poly bagger. The new poly bagger can

package magazines and promotional items in a standard plastic polybag or a more environmentally friendly paper-based bag.

According to Chris Cummings, many of the company's customers want to move away from the single-use plastic of a polybag, and the new machine helps with that effort.

In fact, Cummings Printing has taken multiple steps to become more environmen-

tally friendly, from using all soy-based inks to purchasing sustainably-sourced paper. The paper they use has been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, a nonprofit organization created to protect the world's forests.

The company also recycles all of its consumable products, and the Hooksett facility is equipped with a regenerative thermal oxidizer, which prevents harmful pollutants from entering the atmosphere.

On the business side, the company continues to grow its client base as well, and both brothers insist that print is still a viable and vibrant market. As the world grows increasingly more digital, people need a digital detox, they said, and many are turning to books and magazines as a way to decompress.

"Print is a premium way to break through the noise," said Sam Cummings. He explained that many of Cummings' customers have found success with a combined print and digital strategy.

When you read something in print, you are more likely to remember it, he noted. And printed materials are often deemed more trustworthy.

For their part, the Cummings brothers remain optimistic about the future of both the industry and their company.

"We aren't going away," asserted Chris Cummings. "There is always going to be a market for print, we have a good niche of clients, and we plan to continue to invest."

Eventually, the family hopes a fifth generation will steer the company even further into the future.



## BUSINESS

*Locals find common ground at Diversity Gaming*

By Meghan Fuller Hanna  
Hooksett Bridge

HOOKSETT – At first glance, Hooksett's Diversity Gaming looks like a typical game store: Its aisles are crammed with role-playing games and books, board games, card games, and pop culture collectibles. One entire wall is covered in minifigures used in table-top games. But the retail store is only part of the draw.

What makes Diversity Gaming unique is the community it has created.

Store owner Erik "Opa" Oparowske has gone to great lengths to create an environment that is welcome to all.

"To us, Diversity is a place where people who have never spoken to each other find common ground in games" he explained. "This is a safe space for everyone. We don't talk politics. We don't talk religion. If you're playing a game, you don't need to discuss those things."

The footprint of the store is designed to cultivate community. In fact, the retail portion – the books, minifigures, and board games – occupies just 40 percent of the space. The other 60 percent comprises a large public game room and four smaller, private game rooms.

Diversity hosts about 60 events or games per week. On a typical night, you'll find eight to ten tables filled with people playing various table-top games. On the weekend, people play in four-hour increments in the morning, afternoon, and evenings.

There are four basic types of games people play at Diversity:

1) role-playing games like Dungeons & Dragons and



Diversity Gaming employee Candace Mosher helps customer John Hannah with his purchase. Diversity sells role-playing games and books, mini figures, card games, board games and pop culture collectibles. (Meghan Fuller Hanna photo)

Pathfinder;

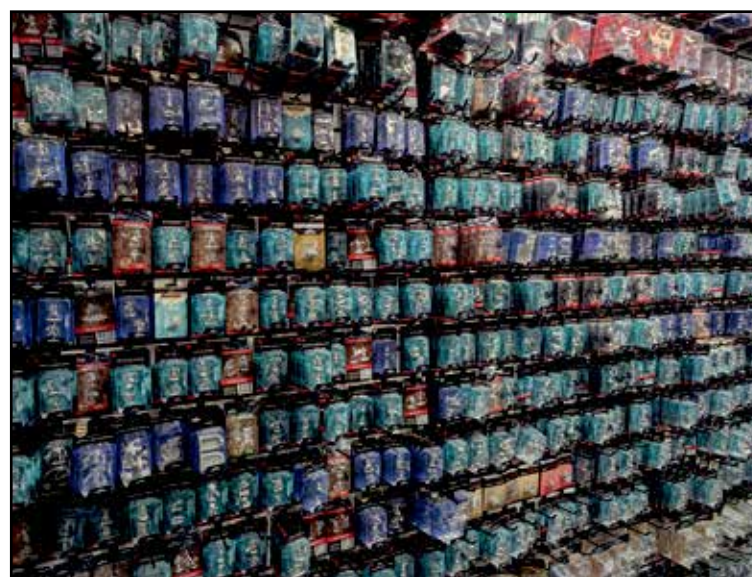
2) table-top war games like Warhammer 40,000;

3) card games like Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, and Disney's Lorcana; and

4) board games like Risk, Root, and The Red Dragon Inn.

According to Oparowske, customers are very loyal to their game stores, and Diversity's customer base is no different. Though the majority of people come from a 45-minute radius of Hooksett, the store has customers who drive in from Maine and Massachusetts on a weekly basis. Others visit regularly from Canada, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In fact, one Connecticut couple so enjoy their visits to Diversity, they booked one of the store's private rooms for the husband's bachelor party.

The four private game rooms are available for anyone



Diversity Gaming offers a wide array of non-electronic games and accessories. One entire wall of Diversity Gaming is covered in painted and unpainted mini figures designed for use in tabletop games. (Meghan Fuller Hanna photo)

to rent.

"We are open to anything appropriate," Oparowske confirmed.

He said that Diversity has hosted everything from birth-

day parties to bachelor parties, from homeschool groups to knitting groups. People will sometimes rent a private room to work remotely during the winter if their heating goes out

or in the summer when they lose air conditioning.

This sense of community is part of the culture at Diversity Gaming. In the last year alone, the store has quietly completed acts of kindness for people of all ages. Diversity hosted a game tournament that raised \$1,500 for the Alzheimer's Association. It provided Easter baskets for families in need, no questions asked.

And, when the Hooksett Public Library sustained flood damage last summer, the store stepped up to host the library's weekly kids' D&D sessions.

But perhaps its biggest service is simply being there for people who need a place to go, especially during the holidays. For the past five years, the store has been open on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to generous donations from customers and the community, Oparowske and his employees provide a full Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who walks through the door.

One year, they had so many donations, Oparowske was able to package up the leftovers to hand out to dozens of homeless people in downtown Manchester on Thanksgiving night.

Last November, Diversity Gaming celebrated its fifth anniversary in the Hooksett Village Shopping Plaza, and Oparowske just signed a lease to occupy this space for another five years at least. He is looking forward to doing more for the community, and he downplays any suggestion that he already does a lot.

"I just want people to have a safe place to be where they can enjoy the things they have in common with people they never would have talked to otherwise," he noted.



## BUSINESS

# Suncook startup Sports Visio tracks statistics for any team

By Meghan Fuller Hanna  
Hooksett Bridge

SUNCOOK – SportsVisio CEO Jason Syverson is an avid basketball player. He has played the game his entire life and continues to play in an adult league in Concord. A few years ago, he noticed “a gap in the market,” in the words of SportsVisio account executive Emmett Roy.

Syverson realized that game statistics compiled manually by human scorekeepers were limited, prone to human error, and did not necessarily offer a full, accurate account of the game. Basketball is fast paced; actions like steals, turnovers, and offensive rebounds can be critical to the outcome but often go unnoticed. This realization led to the creation of Suncook-based startup SportVisio.

The company’s first product is a basketball app, which gives players access to all of those often-overlooked statistics, plus box scores and easy-to-sort video highlights.

The company employs computer vision, a form of artificial intelligence, to track the performance of individual players during the game. This is the same technology that Tesla’s self-driving cars use to



The team behind SportsVisio’s basketball app touts its ease of use; simply film your game, upload the raw footage in the app, and receive your AI-generated stats and video highlights 24 hours later. (Courtesy graphic)

identify other vehicles and obstacles in roadways, said Roy.

But in SportsVisio’s case, “we have trained the algorithm to identify certain actions that happen in basketball,” he explained.

According to Roy, the SportsVisio app is easy to use. You simply film your game, even with a smartphone, upload the raw footage, and your

stats and video highlights will be available in the app within 24 hours.

“We provide all these stats, and nothing is missing,” said Roy.

The app is targeted to a variety of users. Student athletes and their parents use the app to track performance season over season and for college recruitment purposes. Coaches use it

to improve their team’s overall performance. Game data can also be accessed via SportsVisio’s Web platform, which some of their basketball league customer use as a marketing tool.

To date, around 800 teams around the world – from the US and Canada to Europe and South America – use SportsVisio’s basketball app. But one of those teams is a little closer to home.

Concord’s Trinity High School was an early adopter of the technology, and its feedback was instrumental in helping the company design its product, Roy reported. “Trinity has been with us from the start.”

The New Hampshire ties do not end there. In addition to CEO Syverson, much of the company’s management team lives in the Granite State, including the COO, product manager, and software lead. Several employees are graduates of UNH’s Entrepreneurship Center.

“SportsVisio has built its whole team around the NH area,” Roy confirmed. “This is where we built our network.”

In fact, the company’s highest profile employee also has close ties to the region.

Current Miami Heat star and New Castle, NH, native Duncan Robinson is a strategic advisor and brand ambassador, lending his expertise as both a professional basketball player and a student of the game. SportsVisio customers can watch Robinson’s 2013 championship game with Phillips Exeter Academy – where he shot 100% from the field – in the app.

For now, SportsVisio’s app supports basketball, but it has a volleyball option currently in beta testing. In the future, the company plans to offer soccer and baseball as well.

As with many technology companies, SportsVisio is stocked with experts in software engineering, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. Their resumes include tenures at Microsoft, IBM Research, BAE Systems, and DARPA.

But it is their shared passion for sports that really makes the company unique, said Roy.

“We are all athletes or ex-athletes and really passionate about sports,” he confirmed. “We are passionate about basketball and technology, and that is what drives innovation.”

*We buy, sell, and trade unique automobiles.*

**Phil Denbow**  
Proprietor  
603-566-8443

## JOANN fabric and craft store closing

By Tony LaCasse  
Hooksett Bridge

HOOKSETT – JOANN, the fabric and craft store in the Shaw’s plaza will close as the company files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Originally the company announced it would close 530 of its 800 stores nationwide, including all New Hampshire locations except for Hooksett, but later said it

could not find a buyer for the remaining stores. .

The company cited rising costs, declining demand, and unpredictable supply chain issues as reasons for the closures. Consumer spending on crafting has also slowed post-pandemic, leading to underperformance at many locations.

In a statement, JoAnn Fabrics acknowledged customer

support:

“Your overwhelming demonstration of how much everybody loves JOANN has meant more to us than you know. Although we regrettably will be closing some stores, we are grateful to continue our mission of inspiring creativity in our customers online and in stores across the country.”

A closing date was not announced by deadline.

<https://thehooksettbridge.com>



BUSINESS

Aubuchon Hardware to be replaced with a McDonald's

By Michael Frascinella  
Hooksett Bridge

ALLENSTOWN – The future of the one hardware store for miles around Allenstown is now coming to an end. The Aubuchon Hardware store has been a landmark enterprise for several decades and has served area residents with every need from nuts and bolts to shrubs and plants to pallets of wood pellets. It is now to be replaced by a McDonald's restaurant.

Aubuchon Realty sold the Allenstown Aubuchon property in April 2023 to 77 Turnpike Street LLC of Gilford for \$750,000, per the tax card. The building sits on a two-acre lot at the corner of Turnpike Street and Route 28 with 370 feet of frontage on Turnpike Street. With Hudson Quarry across the street, that is a very busy intersection and currently one without a traffic light.

When asked why his business name is the same as Aubuchon's address, the new owner, Spiros Athanas, said that it was based on just that. He confirmed that the current lease expires sometime in mid 2025.

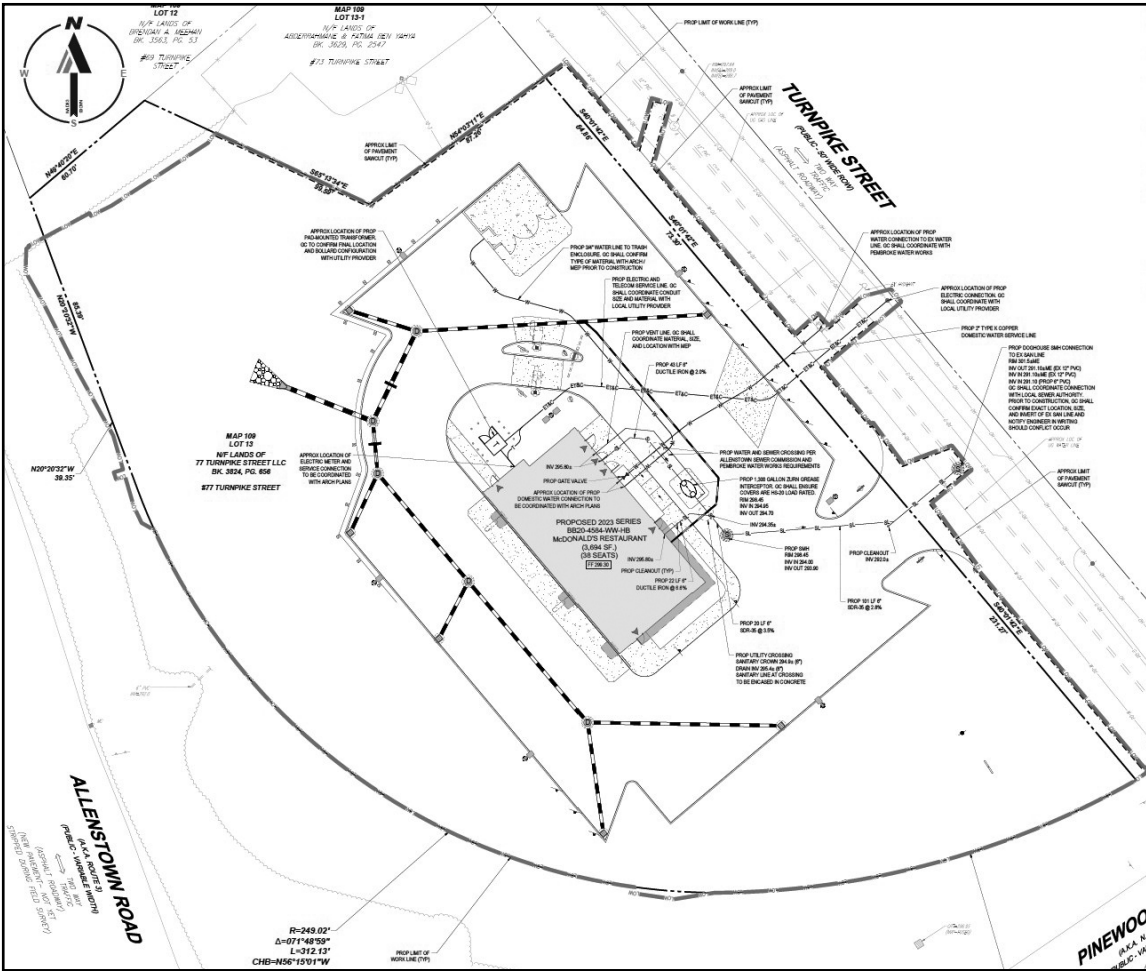
The town building inspector informed the selectmen on Oct. 21 that he had received a proposal from an engineering

company to replace the hardware store with a McDonald's restaurant. Recently the store manager stated that their lease runs out this summer but Aubuchon Corporation placed that property on its list of stores to be rebranded as Ace Hardware stores. He said that "right now, we are a tenant at will."

Athanas said that certain factors led to purchasing this property. Several months ago, he had discussed this with Derik Goodine, the former town administrator, who was positive about a possible McDonald's. Athanas had sold another property and, when Aubuchon Hardware became available, he decided it would be a good investment. He also said then that he was considering several options, one of which was a McDonald's.

This February the planning board received notice that McDonald's was ready to move forward with conversion of the property. The town called together town department heads to attend a Technical Review Committee meeting on Feb. 19 with McDonald's representatives.

**Preliminary site plan**  
They are planning a 38-seat restaurant with a double drive-through and an entrance on Turnpike Street.



Plans for a McDonald's restaurant are in the works, replacing Aubuchon Hardware. (Courtesy graphic)

Some of the impervious pavement will be replaced by pervious material to improve storm water drainage. A screen of evergreens will shield the abutters on the north side. A traffic study has been done but

some officials were concerned about traffic entering from and exiting to Route 28. A follow up technical review meeting may be needed. After that, there needs to be a meeting with the zoning

board to review the site plan and decide on variances for signage and other details. A planning board review is next in the process. A spring 2026 opening is tentatively planned.

Brick House opens March 8 for the 2025 season

HOOKSETT – Hooksett's favorite ice cream stop, The Brick House Drive-In, is gearing up for an early opening this year! Despite winter still holding on, the beloved seasonal eatery is set to open its doors on Saturday, March 8, welcoming the community back for another season of sweet treats and classic drive-in favorites.

"Despite all that fluffy

white stuff on the ground, opening day is quickly approaching! Mark your calendars because we will be opening for the season on Saturday, March 8th! See you all very soon," the Brick House owners shared in a recent Facebook post.

A longtime Hooksett institution, The Brick House Drive-In is more than just a place to grab an ice cream cone, it's

a local tradition. Families, friends, and neighbors gather here year after year to celebrate the start of warmer days. While the weather may still be chilly, there's something about that first cone of the season that makes summer feel just a little bit closer.

For updates and menu offerings, follow Brick House Drive-In on Facebook.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Support your local businesses! Advertise here in the local business directory.

**REAL ESTATE**  
The Main Street Man & Associates at eXp realty  
603-716-5769

**NATURAL HEALTH/ MEDICINE**  
Heartsong Energy Healing  
1461 Hooksett Rd Unit C-9, Hooksett, NH 03106  
(603) 867-9836  
heartsonghealing@comcast.net

On Facebook: Hooksett Bridge Community News



# REAL ESTATE

## *Hooksett's legendary Santa*

*The legacy of Dick Marshall and the magic of 6 Lancelot Drive*

**By Tony LaCasse**  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – If you grew up in Hooksett in the early 2000s to 2010s, then you knew Santa Claus – and not just any Santa. You knew Dick Marshall, the realest, most jovial Santa Hooksett ever had. With his authentic white beard, twinkling eyes, and deep, hearty laugh, Marshall had a way of making every child believe in the magic of Christmas. But he wasn't just playing a role – he became Santa, dedicating his life to spreading joy, goodwill, and handcrafted toys to the children of Hooksett.

A master woodworker and a true community man, Marshall was more than just a local legend – he was a pioneer in the Santa world. He co-founded the New England Santa Society, a nonprofit dedicated to training, supporting, and uniting Christmas performers. This organization ensures that the joy, love, and inclusivity of the holiday season are celebrated year-round. His passion for community, giving back, and craftsmanship made him the ultimate Santa, and in 2021, he was honored as “Best Santa” by the New England Santa Society.

At the heart of his Santa magic was 6 Lancelot Drive, known to many as Santa's Workshop. According to his son-in-law, Hooksett resident George Tilton, at his peak, Marshall crafted over 800 wooden toys a year in his heated garage workshop, making holiday dreams come true for generations of children. His workshop, fitted with a wood-



Dick Marshall played a most convincing Santa Claus for many years in Hooksett. (Courtesy photo)



Santa's Workshop was in the garage of Marshall's home, now up for sale. (Courtesy photo)

stove, was a cherished stop for families every December, with lines of excited children stretching down the street just for a chance to meet Santa and receive a handmade gift.

As the event grew, the community came together. Lo-

cal business owners Ken and Dave Scarpetti of Profile Self Storage provided a larger space on Londonderry Turnpike to accommodate the overwhelming crowds. This wasn't just a Santa event – it was a town tradition, a beacon of holiday joy

that united Hooksett year after year.

Marshall's dedication to inclusivity in the Santa community was groundbreaking. His work helped shape Santa Camp, the New England Santa Society's summer gathering

that welcomed Santas from all backgrounds, races, genders, and beliefs. This trailblazing vision was highlighted in the HBO documentary “Santa Camp” (2022), where Marshall's heartwarming message of acceptance resonated nationwide: “It doesn't matter. God created no junk. Whether you are gay, white, Jewish, Black – it doesn't matter!”

This commitment to diversity and unity cemented his legacy, not just in Hooksett but across the country.

**Once in a lifetime opportunity – own Santa's Workshop at 6 Lancelot Drive**

Now for the first time since 1984 Santa's home is for sale. Santa's cherished home at 6 Lancelot Drive is on the market for \$535,000. This oversized split-level ranch, located in the sought-after Sherwood Forest neighborhood, is bursting with character, warmth, and history.

Step through the front door and immediately feel the embrace of this cozy home, where the Christmas spirit lingers all year long. Gather in the inviting living room and enjoy the wood-burning fireplace, perfect for holiday storytelling and fireside laughter just like Santa and Mrs. Claus did for so many years.

The beautifully updated kitchen, complete with gleaming granite countertops, newer flooring, and updated light fixtures, opens up to a sun-drenched sunroom. Picture yourself here on a winter morning, sipping hot cocoa and watching the snow blanket the beautifully landscaped

*See next page*



# REAL ESTATE

## MARSHALL

Continued from previous page

backyard – just the kind of place where Santa himself would have started his day.

Upstairs, the large primary suite is a true retreat, featuring a spacious walk-in closet with built-ins and a private deck where you can enjoy a morning coffee while listening to the birds sing. Two additional generously sized bedrooms provide plenty of space for family, guests, or a cozy home office.

Downstairs, the finished lower level offers a warm and inviting space with a propane stove that efficiently heats the entire home – so even on the coldest winter nights, you’ll be wrapped in warmth and comfort. The layout lends itself perfectly to multi-generational living, a growing trend that makes this home even more appealing.

And then, there’s the legendary two-car garage – Santa’s Workshop itself! This space, where so much joy was



A view inside the home that once hosted Hooksett’s Santa Claus, Dick Marshall. (Courtesy photo)

created, still has its separate chimney intact for the woodstove, should you wish to bring back the magic of a heated workspace.

Whether you envision a new workshop, a craft room, a studio, or a space to continue spreading holiday cheer, the possibilities are endless.

This home is also serviced by propane, a rare and efficient heating feature in this neighborhood, and boasts a fully fenced-in yard perfect

for keeping your four-legged family members safe and happy. Two driveways make hosting holiday gatherings a breeze and even open up the potential for rental income from the lower-level space with its own private entrance.

The warmth, charm, and magic of this home are truly one of a kind. Walking through its doors, you don’t just see a house – you feel a home. A home where laughter has echoed, where kindness has been crafted, and where the holiday spirit has lived on every single day. If you’ve been nice this year, this home could be the gift you’ve been waiting for – but hurry, Mrs. Claus is ready to sell before the snow melts!

For a private tour, contact Tony LaCasse, the exclusive listing agent with Tri-Town Realty at eXp, today!

Tony LaCasse  
603-716-5769 cell  
888-398-7062 Office  
tony@tri-townrealty.com

## New cabin development planned for Eagles Nest Emporium

**By Tony LaCasse**  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – The historic Eagles Nest Emporium property, located at 1501 Hooksett Road, is set for a major transformation with the planned addition of approximately 14 new cabins behind the existing ones.

The 10-acre property, situated in Hooksett’s flexible Performance Zone, was purchased by its current owner on April 26, 2024, for \$1.15 million. Recognizing a strong demand for small cabin rentals, the owner is moving forward with

expansion plans to accommodate long-term tenants seeking standalone, home-like rental options.

The existing cabins have already proven popular among long-term renters. A middle-aged couple, who has been renting one of the approximately 400-square-foot standalone studio cabins for the past two years, shared that the demand for long-term rentals at the property has significantly increased. Many tenants are opting for extended stays due to the convenient location, privacy, and affordability, making it an appealing alternative to traditional apartments.

The property, historically known as Eagles Nest Emporium and Indian Cliff, holds deep local significance. Originally, it housed a gift shop selling Native American wares, moccasins, and crafts, while the cabins served as lodging for tourists traveling north to the lakes and mountains during the 1960s and 1970s, a time when Hooksett Road was a major thoroughfare. Unlike many redevelopment projects, this one preserves the original historic cabins and the main lodge instead of demolishing them.

Site plans submitted for municipal review detail significant infrastructure upgrades, including sewer and drainage system improvements, erosion control measures, dedicated fire truck access routes, and new lighting and driveways to enhance accessibility. The project aligns with Hooksett’s ongoing growth, providing much-needed rental housing while maintaining the rustic charm of the property’s historic past.

Further details, including construction timelines and additional project impacts, are expected as the review process advances.

603.883.0711



The Sweeney Companies



Sweeney & Sweeney  
Sweeney Title Services, LLC

6 MANCHESTER STREET  
NASHUA, NH 03064

## REAL ESTATE

### Final phase of University Heights/Commons development re-energized

By Tony LaCasse  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – The long-planned final phase of the University Heights and Commons development is once again gaining traction, with developers revisiting previously approved plans for residential and commercial expansion. Originally approved as a vested project by the town of Hooksett in 2004, the development, located off Hooksett Road (Route 3) near Campus Drive, Blackwater Drive, and University Circle, is now in discussions for completion.

#### Gas station and commercial development moves forward

As part of the commercial zoning component of the

project, a new gas station and convenience store is currently under construction at the intersection of Route 3 and Campus Drive. While some residents have questioned the necessity of yet another fueling station in town, commercial development was part of the original master plan. The town had always anticipated some form of commercial development in this location, though many had hoped for alternative businesses that might better serve the needs of the growing community.

#### Future residential expansion: apartments and townhomes

The final phase also includes plans for multi-family apartment buildings off

Blackwater Drive and townhomes along University Circle. These additions would bring much-needed housing to the area, aligning with the broader push for residential development in Hooksett. However, the project has hit a roadblock due to limitations in the town's sewer infrastructure.

#### Infrastructure challenges: sewer capacity on hold

The expansion of housing in this part of town is currently stalled due to the limited capacity of the sewer system. According to Hooksett Sewer Superintendent Kenneth Conaty, the existing piping in this area is not sufficient to accommodate additional development. This issue has placed several approved projects in

limbo, sparking wider discussions about the town's ability to sustain growth given its aging infrastructure.

#### Conserved land and future trail development

One promising element of the master plan is the set-aside conservation land behind the Hooksett Public Library, which could see future recreational development. Hooksett resident Todd Ranier confirmed that the town's Conservation Commission is aware of this designated area and has plans to create additional trails and a parking area off Campus Drive. This would provide residents with expanded outdoor recreation opportunities, a positive aspect of the broader development.

#### What's next for Hooksett?

As development pressures mount, Hooksett finds itself at a crossroads. While there is strong demand for additional housing, infrastructure constraints pose a significant hurdle. The revitalization of the University Heights and Commons project reflects the broader trend of increasing investment in town, yet it also underscores the need for careful planning to ensure sustainable growth.

The future of Hooksett's development remains uncertain, but one thing is clear—residents and officials will need to navigate infrastructure challenges, community needs, and commercial interests to shape the town's next chapter.

### Hooksett sewer capacity constraints threaten future development

*Infrastructure limitations in Hooksett Village area put four major housing projects on hold*

By Tony LaCasse  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – Hooksett's future development may be facing an unexpected roadblock: its sewer system. At the Hooksett Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting on Feb. 19, Hooksett Sewer Superintendent Kenneth Conaty informed town officials that the sewer infrastructure in the Hooksett Village area has reached its capacity. This poses a significant challenge for four large-scale developments that were expected to bring hundreds of new residential units to town.

The Veterans Drive pump station, located next to the Lilac Pedestrian Bridge, is currently the only sewer pump station serving Hooksett Village. It handles wastewater from the Pinnacle neighborhood on the opposite side of the Merrimack River (Route 3A), extending north to

the Bow town line and east to the Allenstown border. With the current infrastructure, the station is unable to accommodate additional large-scale developments, creating a major bottleneck in town planning efforts.

Among the projects now facing delays due to sewer capacity issues is Brady Sullivan's proposed mixed-use development at the former Cigna property on College Park Drive and Hooksett Road. Originally planned to include 72 apartment units in a conversion of an office building, the sewer limitations mean the developer would only be able to move forward with 24 units under the current system. Another project, the final phase of University Commons, which includes townhomes behind the newly built gas station near Mount Saint Mary's Condos, is also impacted.

Perhaps the most significant development affected is

The Villages at Heads Pond, a massive residential project owned by Manchester Sand & Gravel. The project, encompassing 1,500 acres from the Allenstown line to the back of the Granite Hill area, was expected to bring substantial housing options to Hooksett. However, under current sewer constraints, Manchester Sand & Gravel can only receive 50 sewer connections, limiting them to just 50 housing units, whether townhomes or single-family homes. A fourth affected project is a proposed mixed-use development on the 40-acre Otterson property, located between the Carriage Hill neighborhood on Post Road and LaValley's Farm Stand on Hooksett Road.

Despite concerns about the sewer system's capacity, Conaty clarified that the issue is not with the town's wastewater treatment plant but rather with the sewer pipes themselves,

which are too small to accommodate additional development.

"We need to correct these situations before we get any further down the road," Conaty said during the meeting. He acknowledged that without a solution, no additional developments could move forward.

One potential fix under consideration is constructing a new gravity-fed pipeline that would direct wastewater from the Carriage Hill neighborhood and The Villages at Heads Pond directly to the town's main wastewater treatment plant on Egawes Drive, bypassing the overburdened Veterans Drive pump station. While this could relieve some of the pressure, no firm plans have been finalized.

Conaty also noted that discussions are ongoing and that he is actively working on solutions.

"I need to start reaching

out to some people and getting answers to some other things," he said. "Until that happens, nobody can have capacity."

He remained tight-lipped on additional details, stating that some options are still being evaluated.

With demand for housing in Hooksett continuing to rise, the sewer capacity issue has emerged as a significant challenge for town officials, developers, and residents alike. Until a long-term infrastructure solution is in place, these major projects will remain in limbo.

For more information on the sewer capacity situation and how it affects current and future development in Hooksett, residents and developers are encouraged to contact the Hooksett Wastewater Department. Superintendent Kenneth Conaty can be reached at 603-485-7000 or by email at [kconaty@hooksettsewer.com](mailto:kconaty@hooksettsewer.com).



# REAL ESTATE/BUSINESS

## Macey moves forward with subdivision on historic family farmland

By **Tony LaCasse**  
*Hooksett Bridge*

HOOKSETT – Longtime Hooksett landowner Lance Macey is moving forward with plans to subdivide his 8.6-acre Medium Density Residential-zoned property into four residential house lots. The property, which has been in his family since at least 1960 according to tax records, represents another step in a series of land developments Macey has undertaken following the sale of his family’s legacy property at 128 Merrimack St., widely known as the Stobie Farm.

The approved four-lot subdivision will consist of parcels ranging from 1.5,

1.6, 2 and 3 acres, creating an opportunity for new homeowners to establish roots in one of Hooksett’s most historically significant and scenic corridors.

Macey’s decision to move forward with the subdivision is backed by favorable market conditions, as evidenced by a December 2024 sale of another residential lot, where he secured approximately \$141,400 per acre – a strong price for raw land in the area. With this precedent, it is speculated that the upcoming house lots could be valued between \$175,000 to \$350,000, depending on size, location, and market demand. However, interested buyers should consult their exclusive buyer’s agent to determine current land values

and investment potential.

### Merrimack Street: A blend of history and rural charm

Merrimack Street remains one of Hooksett’s most unique and historically rich roads, transitioning from the Village’s traditional New England architecture into a picturesque rural landscape. The diversity in home styles and open land along this corridor makes it an attractive location for new homeowners seeking both charm and space.

This subdivision plan aligns with Hooksett’s ongoing residential growth while preserving the character of the surrounding area. As large lots continue to be subdivided across town, opportunities like these are becoming increas-

ingly sought after by homebuilders and buyers looking to customize their dream homes in Hooksett.

For those interested in purchasing land and exploring home-building options in Hooksett, Tony LaCasse of Tri-Town Realty at eXp is available for consultations. With extensive expertise in the local market, Tony can guide buyers through the land acquisition process, from evaluating market pricing to connecting with builders and new construction lenders.

For more information or a free consultation, contact Tony LaCasse at 603-716-5769 or email [tony@tri-town.realty.com](mailto:tony@tri-town.realty.com).

## Panera Bread, coffee shop coming to Hooksett, Dunkin’ to move

HOOKSETT – This will be the first in what is hoped to be an ongoing series of updates to the residents of Hooksett in regard to recently approved site plans, by the town of Hooksett Planning Board.

### Panera Bread

We are pleased to announce and welcome Panera Bread to Hooksett. At the planning board meeting held on Jan. 6, the board conducted a completeness review and held public hearing on a proposed development of a 3,200-square-foot 76-seat restaurant (Panera), 14,000 square feet of self-storage in three buildings, and an 833-square-foot coffee shop building pad.

The board worked with the owner of the properties at 1265 and 1271 Hooksett Road and the applicants to make site improvements to the old Kmart Plaza and granted approval of the site plan. Some of these improvements include expanded storage for the existing Cube Smart Storage, a future unspecified coffee shop building pad, substantial landscaping improvements on the property, addition of parking islands with landscaping, and an approximate reduction of 46,000 square feet in impervious areas on the property.

The addition of the parking islands will have the benefit of added safety, as this will deter vehicles from cutting

across the parking lot at high speeds. The additional landscaping, in the form of a mixture of deciduous and evergreen tree plantings, will serve both beautify the property and provide some shade and screening. There is no scheduled date for construction.

### New Dunkin’

The Dunkin’ located in the Irving station on Bell Avenue is moving to an adjacent blighted property located at 1090 Hooksett Road. At the regular planning board meeting held on Jan. 6, the board conducted acceptance, review and held a public hearing on a proposed Dunkin’ store, two retail pad sites, and site work to increase landscaping.


A site plan was presented to the board that incorporated many of the suggested changes given at the conceptual discussion. This property is in the Performance Zone and is subject to the “innovative land use controls” which give the planning board the authority and ability to provide some flexibility in zoning. The applicant agreed to increased landscaping in exchange for a reduction in parking spaces, agreed to incorporate an existing mature tree in the design, thus saving the tree, and a reduction in building square footage to accommodate these changes.

Additionally, the developer worked with and gave easement rights to the

state Department of Transportation for the future expansion of US Route 3 (Hooksett Road) in a forward-thinking

design approach.

– Jarrod Williams,  
*Hooksett Planning Board Alternate*



**TRUE CHOICE ENERGY**

**Residential & Commercial  
Reduced Electricity Supply Rates  
Solar Systems**

Referral programs for **substantial discounts** on residential electricity supply rates.

**Reduced** residential and business electricity supply rates.

Residential Solar Systems - programs with **no out of pocket cost** to the home owner.

Commercial Solar Systems with **multiple tax credits and incentives**

**Contact TRUE CHOICE ENERGY to learn more.**

**The choice is yours!**

**Ted Donohue**  
**603-234-6694**  
**Ted@TrueChoiceEnergy.com**

**TrueChoiceEnergy.com**

# CLUBS AND GROUPS



Many local organizations donated to the Coats for Kids drive. (Courtesy photo)

## Firefighters organize Coats for Kids drive

HOOKSETT – Every year the Hooksett Firefighter’s Local 3264 organizes its Coats for Kids project that gives winter coats, hats and gloves to Hooksett students in need.

This year, their main sponsor was unable to help as they have in years past. Thanks to the overwhelming support of Hooksett organizations, They were able to overcome and have a great year.

All of these organizations were involved in the project, listed in order of their support: Apparel Impact, Fellowship Church – Granite State, Corey’s Closet, Amoskeag Main-

tenance Services LLC, Bright Light Chiropractic, Target in Hooksett, and The Home Depot in Hooksett.

These amazing organizations came together to help Firefighter’s Local outfit 73 students! This is one of the most important projects that the Local undertakes, and it would not be possible without the generous support of these wonderful organizations.

If any organization would like to help with next year’s Coats for Kids”, reach out to [iafflocal3264treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:iafflocal3264treasurer@gmail.com).



Grateful To All Who Voted. Your Support Is Appreciated, Thank You!



*Lily Flower Floral Designs LLC*

147 Main Street  
Suncook, NH 03275 (603) 419-0677

## Lions Club model train show set for April 27

HOOKSETT – The Hooksett Lions Club is planning its 28th Annual Model Railroad and Modelers Show, to be held on Sunday, April 27.

As in the past, modeler clubs and all train and modeler enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels, are welcome. The show will again be held at the David R. Cawley Middle School, located on NH Route 27 (89 Whitehall Road), Hooksett.

The Lions have made this a spring tradition, bringing together some of the best model train clubs from across New England, providing a place to display (and play) their miniature displays of model trains in various scales from the large G down to the miniature N. Some of the newest electronic controlled devices will also be in operation. Vendors will be selling their trains and accessories, both new and used.

There will be the Dining Car with great food, serving lunch and snacks. As in the past, there will also be a raffle with many items, along with a cash prize.

The Lions Club show has been successful for many years and has become one of the most popular shows north of Boston. All proceeds from the show will help the Lions to provide community services with those less fortunate.

The doors open at 10 a.m. and the show runs until 3 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and younger. Maximum family rate is \$15.

In a longtime Lions tradition, there will be a collection box for old reusable eyeglasses. For more information about the show, or about becoming a Lion, check Hooksett Lions Club on Facebook, or call 603-627-4662, or 603-485-3881.

### K Kid Valentines



The Hooksett Memorial K Kids prepared heartfelt Valentine’s Day cookies and delivered them just in time for Hooksett Police to enjoy on Valentine’s Day. They made the cookies to show their appreciation for all the Hooksett police do for our Community. The K Kids are sponsored by the Hooksett Kiwanis Club. (Courtesy photo)



## CLUBS AND GROUPS

### *Flipping for a cause*

#### Pancake breakfast helps Junior Honor Society

HOOKSETT – The annual David R. Cawley Middle School National Junior Honor Society Pancake Breakfast took place on Feb. 15 at Cawley Middle School. The breakfast brought together students, parents, and staff for a morning of delicious pancakes and community bonding.

The event featured multiple pancake options. Alongside the pancakes, there were also sides like sausages, as well as beverages such as orange juice, milk, chocolate milk, and coffee. The cafeteria was filled with laughter and conversation as attendees enjoyed their

meals.

The NJHS members did an excellent job organizing the event, ensuring everything ran smoothly. They took on roles from cooking, waiting and serving tables, to cleaning up afterward. The funds raised from the breakfast will go towards supporting various charities and organizations in the Hooksett Community, making it a successful and meaningful event for everyone involved.

– Emily Upton,  
Cawley NJHS historian

### HYAA Soccer looks for sponsors

HOOKSETT – The Hooksett Youth Athletic Association and Hooksett Soccer Club are seeking sponsorships from local businesses and community members to support youth soccer programs in the area. Sponsorship contributions help provide resources for young athletes to develop their skills while offering businesses increased visibility within the community.

By becoming a sponsor, businesses will receive recognition through Hooksett Soccer Club's social media platforms, reaching hundreds of local families. This is an opportunity to engage with the Hooksett community, demonstrate a commitment to youth athletics, and build positive relationships with residents. Sponsoring the program not

only helps promote youth sports but also enhances business visibility, creating a mutually beneficial partnership.

Sponsorship benefits include social media shoutouts and public recognition, helping businesses connect with families who value community involvement. This initiative supports young athletes, strengthens community ties, and provides a platform for businesses to give back while gaining valuable exposure.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities and how to get involved, visit the Hooksett Soccer Club's sponsorship page at: [www.hooksettsoc.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1455184](http://www.hooksettsoc.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1455184).

### Garden Club offers advice, classes

HOOKSETT – The Hooksett Garden Club's 2025 season is now underway, with monthly meetings offering a mix of expert gardening advice, hands-on learning, and community connection. Meetings are held at the Hooksett Congregational Church, located at 5 Veterans Drive, providing a welcoming space for gardeners of all levels, whether you're a seasoned expert or just getting started.

Each month, members can expect engaging programs featuring knowledgeable speakers, including Master

Gardeners, who share insights on everything from growing healthy plants to designing stunning landscapes. In addition to educational presentations, the club hosts summer garden parties at members' homes and gardens, offering a chance to tour beautiful local landscapes, exchange gardening tips, and enjoy social gatherings in a relaxed outdoor setting.

To learn more or to access a membership application, visit the Hooksett Garden Club website and navigate to the "Contact Us" section.

### *Valentines for Hackett Hill*



Hooksett Kiwanis and members of their six student-led programs prepared Valentine's Day gift bags for folks at the Hackett Hill Healthcare Center. The Community Service Committee led by Sandra Mack coordinated the work. (Courtesy photo)

### Moms' Night Out: Dance, laugh, in bed by 9 (ish)

HOOKSETT – Moms, get ready to dance the night away – without sacrificing your sleep! The highly anticipated "Please Leave by 9(ish)" event is happening Friday, March 21, from 6-10 p.m. at Granite State Tapas & Cocktail Lounge in Hooksett.

This isn't your typical night out. It's a high-energy dance party designed for moms who love a good time but also appreciate a solid night's rest.

Mark your calendars, grab your dancing shoes, and be ready for an unforgettable night – before bedtime!

**It's Complicated. We make it simple.**

End-to-End Design, Fabrication & Installation

**EQUIHOME.COM**



## CLUBS AND GROUPS

### Nathaniel Baron's journey to Eagle Scout: A mission of warmth and community support

By Tony LaCasse

Hooksett Bridge

HOOKSETT – Hooksett resident Nathaniel Baron has reached a milestone that only a select few achieve in their Scouting journey: earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. As a member of Scouts BSA Troop 292, Nathaniel's commitment to leadership and service has culminated in a heartfelt project that has touched the lives of many.

On Feb. 14, Nathaniel shared his Eagle Scout project with the Hooksett Community Facebook Group, expressing gratitude for the support he received in completing a service initiative aimed at providing warmth and comfort to elderly residents. His project? Handcrafting and delivering 50 blankets to the Bedford Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

"I want to thank the Hooksett community for their support with my Eagle project," Nathaniel wrote. "I was so excited to deliver my completed project to the beneficiary today. Bedford Nursing & Rehabilitation Center was thrilled with the 50 blankets that were made for their patients and the wish list items collected."

Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is no small feat. It requires years of dedication, earning merit badges, taking on leadership roles, and completing a community service project that makes a lasting impact. Nathaniel's decision to create blankets for nursing home residents reflects his compassion, initiative, and commitment to service, values deeply ingrained in Scouting.

With his project now complete, Nathaniel is



Eagle Scout Nathaniel Baron. (Courtesy photo)

preparing to submit his paperwork to the Eagle Board, the final step before officially earning the highest rank in Scouting America. His accomplishment not only brings pride to his troop and family but also serves as an inspiration to younger Scouts who aspire to follow in his footsteps.

Nathaniel's success story highlights the power of community support in helping young leaders make a difference. The generosity of Hooksett residents who contributed to his project, whether through materials, encouragement, or participation, played a key role in bringing warmth and kindness to those in need.

As Nathaniel prepares to take the next step in his journey, his Eagle Scout project serves as a reminder of the positive change that service, leadership, and community collaboration can bring.



Emma Danforth of Hooksett earned Eagle Scout rank last November. (Courtesy photo)

### Emma Danforth earns Eagle

HOOKSETT – Scouts BSA Troop 603 of Hooksett is proud to announce that one of its own has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Emma Danforth of Hooksett was awarded her Eagle on Nov. 6, 2024, by the Daniel Webster Council – Massabesic District Eagle Board.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America). Since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges. The Eagle Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages.

Emma's Eagle service project was creating Sunshine Bags for the patients of the So-linsky Center for Cancer Care at Elliot Hospital in Manchester. The bags included self-care items, activities, handmade blankets and handwritten notes of encouragement. Emma or-

ganized a car wash fundraiser, blanket assembly days, and bag assembly days with help from her fellow Scouts, friends, and family. The results of her efforts made 20 Sunshine Bags to help comfort those fighting cancer.

Emma is a product of a strong Scouting tradition here in Hooksett. She started out as a Cub Scout in Pack 292 of Hooksett and is a founding member of Scouts BSA Troop 603. Additionally, Emma also follows her two brothers as an Eagle. As part of her time in Scouting, she received leadership training through the BSA National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), has been an active member of the Order of the Arrow (a scouting honors society), and has held senior leadership positions in the troop. Emma continues as an active member mentoring her fellow Scouts.

For those interested in what Scouting can do for your youth, contact us at hooksettbsa@gmail.com. Scouts BSA Troop 603 serves youth (boys and girls) age 11-17. We have contacts with our local Cub Scout pack for the youth (boys and girls) age 6-11.

### Scouts BSA Troop 603 rises to the challenge at Super Klondike

HOOKSETT – Scouts BSA Troop 603 braved the frigid temperatures to take on the Super Klondike at Camp Hidden Valley. Competing against 74 sled teams from across New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut,

the Scouts put their skills to the test at nine challenging stations, all while cooking lunch in the great outdoors.

From first aid and bear bags to knot-tying, snow snakes, and pancake relays, the team of four Scouts showcased their resilience, teamwork, and spirit, earning an impressive seventh-place finish. Scouting isn't just about adventure, it's about leadership, teamwork, and life skills. If your family is looking for a fun, join the adventure: troop603mh.com



T: 617-221-7413

Hours: M-F: 8am-8pm

S-S: 8am-4pm

Home & Commercial Inspectors Serving New Hampshire, Massachusetts, & Maine

381 Daniel Webster Hwy  
Merrimack, NH 03054



## CLUBS AND GROUPS

### BSA plans many activities

HOOKSETT – Hooksett's Scouts BSA Troop 292 is ready for spring, with a busy schedule of adventures planned. Starting in March, they have a fun trip to Camp Wanocksett in Jaffrey with their new cross-overs from Cub Scout Pack 292, teaching the new Scouts the basics and working toward their first Scout rank.

In April they're heading to Cape Cod for a 50-mile bike trip on the Cape Cod Rail Trail while enjoying camping at a Scout camp on the Cape.

May will find them camping at a Connecticut state park while they explore the New England Air and Sub Force museums.

In June they plan a relaxing weekend at Pawtuckaway State Park for kayaking, fishing, swimming and fun evenings around the campfire.

For July they're planning a week-long trip to Maine's Acadia National Park, exploring the island and enjoying many activities.

August will be the traditional week at Hidden Valley Scout Camp.

In addition to all the outdoor fun, the Scouts also learn about giving back to the community through service projects. Some projects planned for the spring are a roadside clean-up for Earth Day, helping Kids Klostet prepare for the spring and summer season, replacing flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day, helping the Garden Club with their annual cleanup and plant sale, and helping the Hooksett Police at National Night Out.

Troop 292, Hooksett's original award-winning Scout troop, is open to all boys between 11 and 17 years old. Now is a great time to check out the troop and get in on the fun, adventure and learning opportunities!

The troop meets on Thursday evenings at Cawley School's cafeteria. Interested families are welcome to stop by any meeting and check out the troop.

You can also visit their website at <http://troop292nh.com>, on Facebook, or email [info@troop292nh.com](mailto:info@troop292nh.com).



Troop 10600 of Allenstown made this customer happy as they sold Girl Scout Cookies at the Brick House in Hooksett on Saturday, Feb. 8. (GSGWM photo)

### Now's the time for Girl Scout Cookies

HOOKSETT – Girl Scouts in New Hampshire are now making cookies available to everyone through cookie booths through March 16.

All proceeds from cookie sales stay with local troops to fuel inspiring experiences throughout the year, including

camp, amazing trips, service projects and much more.

Support your local Girl Scouts by ordering from a girl you know or by visiting [www.girlscoutcookies.org](http://www.girlscoutcookies.org) to find a booth near you.

If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to learn

how they're selling cookies. If you don't know a Girl Scout, see [www.girlscoutsgwm.org/](http://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/) cookie and use the Girl Scout Cookie Finder to find a booth and purchase cookies.

To find out more about Girl Scouts and cookies, visit [www.girlscoutsgwm.org](http://www.girlscoutsgwm.org).

### Explore Girl Scouts in Pembroke, Allenstown

HOOKSETT – At Girl Scouts, it's Your Year of Friendship – and adventure, discovery, and fun! Girls in grades K-5 and their caregiver are invited to explore what Girl Scouts is all about. Try out activities and see what Girl Scouts offers your family.

Come explore Girl Scouts at one of these events:

- Thursday, **March 6**, 6-7 p.m., at Allenstown Elementary School, 30 Main St., **Allenstown**. See more at <https://bit.ly/3Qofv4r>.

- Thursday, **March 13**, 6-7 p.m., at Pembroke Hill School, 300 Belanger Drive, **Pembroke**. See more at <https://bit.ly/3X8FINL>.

- Thursday, **March 20**, 6-7 p.m., at Strong Foundations School, 715 Riverwood Drive, **Pembroke**. See more at <https://bit.ly/42OJaes>.

RSVP to 888-474-9686 or [customercare@girlscoutsgwm.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgwm.org) – or just drop in.

Open to all in the area! Can't make it to the event? No worries! We host multiple in-person and virtual sign-up events throughout the year. You can also join anytime online at [girlscoutsgwm.org](http://girlscoutsgwm.org). Walk-ins are welcome.



Scouts BSA Troop 292 visited the USS Intrepid in New York City in December. (Courtesy photo)

» WILDLIFE REMOVAL «

Experienced, reasonably priced and licensed Wildlife Control Operator. Humane wildlife removals.

Skunks, porcupines, raccoons, woodchucks, possums.

Feel free to call for wildlife advice!

(603) 491-6044



# SUNCOOK

## Allenstown facing big increase in town operating budget

By Michael Frascinella  
*Hooksett Bridge*

ALLENSTOWN – A large turnout of over 100 residents attended Allenstown's deliberative sessions of Town Meeting and School District Meeting on Feb. 1 at the new Allenstown Community School. Officials from various town departments, including the Select Board, School Board, and Budget Committee, gathered to discuss the proposed 2025 budgets for the town and school district, as well as warrant articles.

### Town budget overview

The proposed town budget for 2025 stands at \$6,164,887, a 10.5 percent increase from the previous year's approved budget. This increase is mainly attributed to rising health insurance premiums, an additional firefighter, and employee plan changes. The proposed budget includes a \$648,512 hike, with an estimated tax impact of \$1.69 per \$1,000 of property value.

The sewer budget, funded solely by users of the system, saw a proposed increase of



To safeguard the new parquet flooring in the gym, they installed large sheets of smooth fabric that were very easy to walk on. At the tables in front of the stage sat an array of 22 officials for the town, SAU, school board, and budget committee. (Michael Frascinella photo)

\$79,952 to \$2,787,177. No tax impact is expected from this change.

### Town departments and key budget increases

Health insurance: A 14.8 percent increase (\$145,380) due to rising premiums and plan adjustments.

Highway Department: Road Agent Chad Pelissier highlighted a 24.7 percent rise

in trash disposal costs due to a new contract with Casella. He warned that a default budget could reduce town services, and the increased asphalt costs might affect paving projects.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Eric Lambert reported an 8.37 percent increase in the fire department's budget to \$871,521. He emphasized that a default budget could lead to

reduced emergency coverage.

### School budget

The proposed 2025-26 school budget totals \$13,950,191, reflecting a 2.1 percent increase from the previous year. School Board member Keith Klawes said they tried to keep the budget as level-funded as possible, despite rising costs, particularly in special education. The

increase will have an estimated tax impact of 9 cents per \$1,000 of property value.

Notably, a proposal to spend \$77,580 on an additional school bus was discussed, with Principal Shannon Kruger citing overcrowding as the primary reason.

### Warrant articles

Several town warrant articles were debated, including proposals to update the zoning ordinance and a vote on eliminating SB2, which would return final voting on the budget to the in-person meeting. Residents also expressed concerns about the sale of the old school buildings, with some questioning whether the proceeds would benefit the school district.

### Next steps

Residents are urged to review the full budget information available on the town website and attend the March election to cast their votes on the proposed budgets and warrant articles.

For more information on the town budget, school budget, and warrant articles, visit the Allenstown town website.

## Pembroke Town Warrants

By Tony LaCasse  
*Hooksett Bridge*

PEMBROKE – Pembroke is the only town in the tri-town area that follows the traditional Town Meeting format. Unlike its neighboring towns, Hooksett and Allenstown, which have adopted the official ballot law format, often called SB2 for the Senate bill that preceded it, which separates deliberation and voting, Pembroke continues to uphold the his-

torical method where residents vote on town and school issues in person during the deliberation process.

This process unfolds in two sessions:

March 11: Residents will cast ballots for town officials at the Pembroke Academy Gymnasium from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

March 15: The Town Meeting will take place at 9 a.m. at the Pembroke Academy Auditorium, where all warrant articles will be debated, amended

if necessary, and then voted on by those present.

### What's on the ballot?

On March 11, voters will select town and school officials, including select board members, town clerk, treasurer, and other positions. These elections are done via official ballot at the Pembroke Academy gymnasium.

Town Meeting on March 15 is where residents will debate, listen, learn and then vote on important town warrant ar-

ticles, covering topics such as the town and school budgets, major infrastructure projects, and public safety investments.

### Town warrant articles

**Article 3: \$10.4 Million PFAS water treatment project**

One of the most significant proposals this year is a \$10.4 million project to address PFAS contamination in the town's water supply. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are known as "forever chemicals" and have been

linked to serious health risks.

This project would include:

- Connecting Pembroke's water system to Concord Water for a cleaner source.

- Constructing a new well and treatment facility at Route 3 wellfield to filter out contaminants.

- Implementing ongoing water quality monitoring.

The project would be

*See next page*



# SUNCOOK

## Pembroke town warrants - cont.

From previous page

funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund and a PFAS Remediation Grant, requiring a three-fifths majority vote (60 percent) to pass.

**Article 4:** \$730,402 for an electric refuse truck

Pembroke's Public Works Department is proposing the purchase of an electric refuse truck as part of the town's transition to more environmentally sustainable municipal vehicles.

**Article 5:** \$152,000 for stormwater infrastructure at Memorial Park

This article requests funding to address erosion issues along the Merrimack and Suncook River banks to improve conservation efforts and public safety.

**Articles 6 and 7:** Property tax exemptions for elderly and disabled residents

These articles propose adjustments to elderly and disabled tax exemptions, helping financially vulnerable residents maintain their homes.

**Article 8:** Veterans' tax credit

If approved, this measure would extend property tax credits to veterans and their spouses as a way to recognize their service.

**Article 9:** \$75,000 for Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

This article would replenish the town's capital reserve fund, ensuring Pembroke can maintain and replace essential infrastructure equipment.

**Article 10:** \$55,420 for a new police cruiser

The Pembroke Police Department is requesting funds to replace an aging police cruiser and maintain effective law enforcement services.

**Article 11:** \$250,000 for a six-wheel dump and plow truck

This funding would replace an outdated plow truck, ensuring the town can effectively maintain roads during winter storms.

**Article 12:** \$190,000 for a 1-Ton Pickup Truck for Public Works

This vehicle would replace an aging pickup truck, allowing Public Works to continue efficient municipal operations.

**Article 13:** \$60,000 for a vehicle lift machine

Funding for a vehicle lift machine at the Public Works garage to improve maintenance efficiency and safety.

**Article 14:** \$66,648 for a new cardiac monitor for Pembroke EMS

This article seeks funding to replace a cardiac monitor that is vital for emergency medical response.

**Article 15:** \$65,000 for a Wood Chipper

Public Works is requesting a new wood chipper to replace an old and potentially unsafe unit used for town landscaping and maintenance.

**Articles 16 & 17:** Property tax exemptions for low-income and senior residents

These measures aim to ease the financial burden on vulnerable residents by adjusting property tax exemption thresholds.

**Article 18:** Petitioned resolution on Education Freedom Accounts (vouchers)

This non-binding resolution urges state lawmakers to reject further expansion of private school vouchers funded by taxpayer dollars. Proponents argue that taxpayer money should stay within public schools, while opponents believe in greater school choice.

## Allenstown School Warrants

ALLENSTOWN – Voters will have the opportunity to vote on 10 school warrant articles on March 11, as follows:

**Article 1** - Operating budget, proposed at \$13,950,101. If this article fails, the default operating budget would be set at \$13,975,134.

**Article 2** - To discontinue the Renovation/New Building Capital Reserve Fund and move \$137,580 in the fund to unassigned fund balance. No new taxation.

**Article 3** - Contingent upon passage of Article 3, transfer \$137,580 to the School Building Maintenance Capital

Reserve Fund from unassigned fund balance. No new taxation.

**Article 4** - Transfer \$75,000 from unassigned fund balance to the Special Education General Expendable Trust Fund. No new taxation.

**Article 5** - Transfer \$50,000 from unassigned fund balance to the Technology Replacement Trust Fund. No new taxation.

**Article 6** - Transfer \$50,000 from unassigned fund balance to the High School Tuition Trust fund. No new taxation.

**Article 7** - New bus - raise \$77,580 by taxation to fund

one additional bus through the Allenstown School District's transportation contract.

**Article 8** - Shall the Allenstown School District authorize the school board to sell Armand R. DuPont School property?

**Article 9** - Shall the Allenstown School District authorize the school board to sell the Allenstown Elementary School property?

**Article 10** - Shall the school district accept gifts and other property that may become available in the coming year?

## Allenstown Town Warrants

ALLENSTOWN – Voters will have the opportunity to vote on three town warrant articles and several zoning articles on March 11, as follows:

**Article 9** - Operating budget, proposed at \$6,164,887. If

this article fails, the default operating budget would be set at \$5,507,875.

**Article 10** - Sewer operating budget, proposed at \$2,787,177. If this article fails, the default budget would be set

at \$2,743,500.

**Article 11** - Shall the town rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) and return to traditional town meeting? A 3/5 majority is required to pass.

## Pembroke School Warrants

PEMBROKE – Pembroke School District Meeting will take place Saturday, March 8, at 9 a.m. at Pembroke Academy, 209 Academy Road.

Voters will have the opportunity to discuss, amend and vote on nine warrant articles, as follows:

**Article 2** - Operating budget, proposed at \$33,029,347 for the support of schools, payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district.

**Article 3** - School building capital reserve fund, proposed at \$155,000 for continuing work on capital improvement projects. This amount to come from unassigned fund balance,

no new taxation.

**Article 4** - Roof replacement, proposed at \$260,000 to replace the roof at Pembroke Academy, replace greenhouse paneling, and replace flooring districtwide. This amount to come from the School Building Capital Reserve Fund, no new taxation.

**Article 5** - To appoint the Pembroke School Board as agents to expend from the School Building Capital Reserve Fund.

**Article 6** - To transfer \$200,000 from unassigned fund balance to the Site Improvement Expendable Trust Fund, no new taxation.

**Article 7** - Track replacement, proposed at \$495,000 to

replace the track at Pembroke Academy and expend fund from the Site Improvement Expendable Trust fund, contingent upon approval of Article 6.

**Article 8** - To transfer \$25,000 from unassigned fund balance to the Equipment Installation and Labor Expendable Trust Fund, no new taxation.

**Article 9** - To transfer \$10,000 from unassigned fund balance to the Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund, no new taxation.

**Article 10** - To transfer \$10,000 from unassigned fund balance to the School Technology Expendable Trust Fund, no new taxation.

# SUNCOOK - News of Allenstown and Pembroke

## New banners along School Street honor Korean war heroes

By Michael Frascinella  
*Hooksett Bridge*

ALLENSTOWN – The length of School Street in Allenstown is soon to host two more Hometown Hero banners that celebrate local veterans. These 48x24-inch color banners feature a 2-foot wide photo of the veteran, name and rank upon discharge, region or war served, and sponsoring family. This increases the number of banners on display to 15. Banners are on display from May to November.

One new banner honors Donald Bergevin and was sponsored by his daughter, Brenda Macko, and the Bergevin family. Bergevin served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean era (1950-1953).

Another banner honors



Norman E. Boisvert and was sponsored by his son, Marc



Boisvert, and the Boisvert family. Boisvert was a Quartermaster3 in the U.S. Navy

during the Korean conflict.

The Allenstown banners were fabricated with loving care by Matthew Wiczahalek-Seiler, head of Concord for Hometown Heroes Banners (<https://www.concordforhometownheroesbanners.com>) working in collaboration with the Allenstown Economic Development Committee.

For the initial fee, the banners are displayed on local utility poles from Memorial Day to Veterans Day for three years and stored during the winter months. Banners can be displayed longer for a small fee. To sponsor a banner, contact the vendor.

## Band concert series planned

ALLENSTOWN – Three concerts are now planned for the enjoyment of residents and families at the new Community School. The bands will play on the performance stage inside the gymnasium while the Parent Teacher Organization will operate a food concession in the cafeteria.

May 17 features The Last Stand Country Band, 2-5 p.m.

June 22 will spotlight the Out on Bail Band, 2-5 p.m., a favorite from last year.

Aug. 9 will be a Battle of the Bands, time to be determined, featuring local youth bands competing for trophies and gift certificates. Concert duration depends on how many bands can be signed up.

– Michael Frascinella

[WWW.BIGBENPIZZANH.COM](http://WWW.BIGBENPIZZANH.COM)

WE DELIVER

Our Pizza Dough and Breads are baked here DAILY!

Big Ben

PIZZERIA

(603) 268-8300

139 Main Street - Pembroke

New York Style

PIZZA

We Use Only The FRESHEST & FINEST Ingredients.

2 Large Cheese Pizzas only \$19.99 + Tax

2 Small Cheese Pizzas only \$12.99 + tax

Say you saw us in THE HOOKSETT BRIDGE for these deals!



# SUNCOOK - News of Allenstown and Pembroke

## Police Chief Stark retiring

By Michael Frascinella  
*Hooksett Bridge*

ALLENSTOWN – Police Chief Michael Stark announced his retirement plans at the Jan. 27 Select Board meeting. He gave ample time to find a replacement since his end date is May 31.

He offered to help the Board of Selectmen select a candidate and recommended using a minimal hiring process.

He said, “I always hoped to retire while I still enjoyed the job and things were going well, so while I will miss the department, I think it’s the right time.”

During his time at the Allenstown Police Department, he has served with the Central New Hampshire Special Operations Unit as crisis negotiations team leader and executive board treasurer.

Before coming to Allenstown he was at the state Fire Marshal’s Office and the Concord Police Department. In 2007, he was hired as a police sergeant, was then promoted to lieutenant in 2013, and finally promoted to chief of police in 2019.

In January 2018, selectmen asked him to fill in as the interim town administrator. He efficiently performed those duties until Derik Goodine was hired in May 2018. As police chief, he led a department of 11 sworn officers and three civilian members.

Accomplishments included establishing a drone program, providing the officers with a better work envi-



Michael Stark

ronment, developing grant funding sources, managing the department budget, writing and implementing department policies and procedures, and managing IT, facility, and vehicle needs.

Since 2021, Stark has taught a criminal investigations course at Nashua Community College.

Stark said “I have always enjoyed seeing the whole community at the open houses – even people we have arrested. It showed me that the officers were doing a good job of policing the town and keeping people’s dignity while they did it.”

Lt. Beth Tower offered these words of praise.

“Chief Stark has been a tremendous asset and mentor at APD for nearly two decades. He has helped foster the development and success of the Allenstown PD in so many ways and we can’t thank him enough for all that he has done to make APD such a great place to serve the community. In his role as chief, his family-first attitude truly emphasized how much he cared about his officers, their families, and the overall well-being of his department. Chief Stark will be greatly missed!

The town is indeed grateful to Police Chief Michael Stark for his years of dedicated service upholding the values of service, integrity, respect, and professionalism.

## Pembroke Historical Society

By Jo-Ann Dupuis  
*Hooksett Bridge*

PEMBROKE – Have you ever wondered about the Civil War veterans buried in Pembroke’s cemeteries? Or what life was like in colonial Pembroke? How about the way fires were fought in the early days? For example, it is still a law in New Hampshire that each home must keep a bucket handy in the event of a fire. This is just a sampling of the interesting topics covered by the Pembroke Historical Society.

This past fall, the society offered a cemetery talk at Pembroke Street Cemetery on Civil War veterans buried there. They uncovered some fascinating life stories about people from town, such as the soldier who was with the U.S. Sharpshooters, an elite branch of the Union Army.

Future talks include “Vanished Veterans; An Illustrated Introduction to New Hampshire’s Civil War Monu-

ments and Memorials” in which historian George Morrison presents a diverse selection of New Hampshire’s monuments and their stories on Thursday, March 6.

Jeff Warner’s “Songs of Old New Hampshire” will be presented on Wednesday, March 26. Through ballads, love songs, songs from the lumber camps and the decks of sailing ships and textile mills, these songs offer views of pre-industrial New England.

On Tuesday, April 22, Dan Billin presents a talk on “The Last of the Granite State Rattlesnakes,” which were once so abundant that settlers could pay their property taxes with them.

All events are free to the public and take place at the Pembroke Town Library at 7 p.m. Check back at [www.pembrokehistorical society.org](http://www.pembrokehistorical society.org) as more events are added to its calendar.

The Pembroke Historical Society has a website with a growing collection of photos and oral histories.

## Crafty fun planned at Allenstown library

ALLENSTOWN – The library is planning an exciting Summer Reading program called “Level Up at Your Library,” with more details to come soon according to librarian Betsi Randlett.

The library will have crafts available for kids to take home and make every week during these months, and will offer monthly Spice Kits for adults. It has not yet been determined what March’s kit will be yet, but January’s kit was Black Sesame Seed. Each kit

contains a small amount of the spice, a description of the spice, and four recipe cards to try the spice with.

In addition to books and movies, families can borrow our Adventure Backpacks, which help teach engineering, technology, science, and math (STEM) concepts such as their Weather Science Backpack, and promote outdoor activities with the Hiking Backpack.

Take Out Available!

141 Main Street  
Pembroke, NH 03275  
603-881-6144  
[shirleyskitchen2023@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyskitchen2023@gmail.com)

.....➔

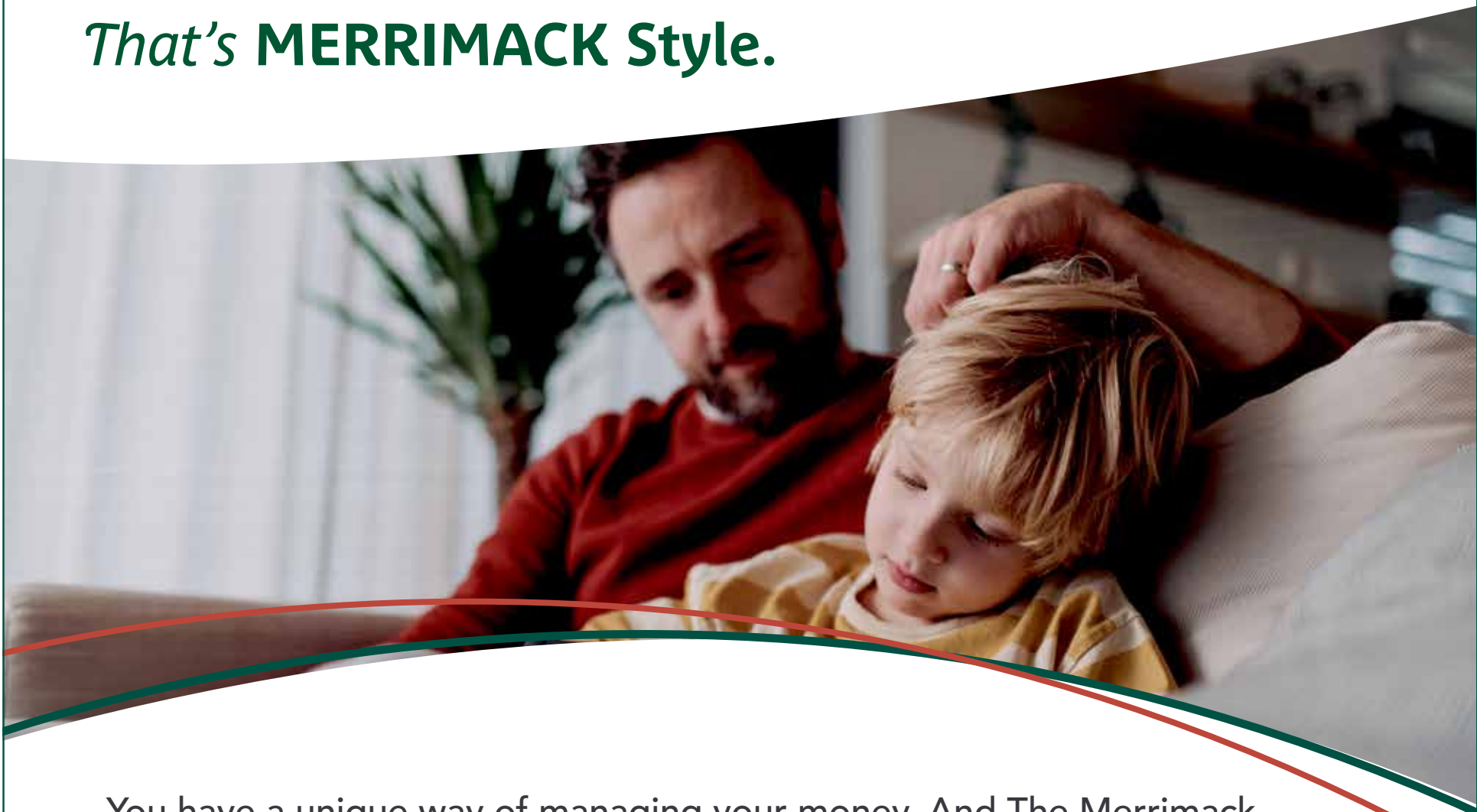
Scan QR Code  
for Menu!

You are entitled to (1) FREE coffee at  
Shirley's Kitchen.

This offer is valid until Aug. 15th 2024 you must bring  
this coupon to be redeemed

# Personal service, and account choices.

*That's* **MERRIMACK** Style.



You have a unique way of managing your money. And The Merrimack provides plenty of checking and savings account options, along with local, personalized service to help you achieve your unique goals.



**MERRIMACK**  
COUNTY SAVINGS BANK



\* Scanning this QR code may result in additional charges from your carrier or phone service provider.

