

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Hudson Public Library

Council on Aging

Department of Veteran's Services

Hudson Housing Authority

Hudson Cultural Council

HUDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, the Executive Assistant, and the Citizens of Hudson,
I hereby submit the 2021 annual report for the Hudson Public Library.

Trustees

A board of three Library Trustees, elected for three-year terms, governs the Library. They share the overall responsibility for the Library and are the policy-making body. Their responsibilities include appointment of the Library Director, securing library funds, oversight of the Library's trust funds and building. The current Trustees are Thomas Desmond, Chair; Christopher Capobianco, Vice-Chair, and Maryalice McCormack, Secretary.

Staff

The Library is staffed by Aileen Sanchez-Himes, Library Director; Lisa Aucoin, Assistant Library Director, Thomas Kenyon, Reference/Information Technology Librarian; Nancy DeVecchio, Circulation Librarian; Jillian Bennett, Children's Librarian; Susan Ramsbottom, Circulation Library Assistant; and Sara Moore, Children's Library Assistant. Melissa Caissie and Tracy Landry, PT Reference Librarians. Rosemary Best, Sophia Francolini, Linda Rahmberg, Tom Rouse, Diane Richmond, and Jenn Wheeler, PT Library Assistants. Helen Shaw, PT Technical Services Assistant. Andrea Bradford, Hannah Leckrone, Cynthia MacDonald, Brandon Proteau, Matthew Sprague, and Jessica Tripp, PT Library Pages.

Statistics

More than 22,766 patrons visited the library last year and borrowed 114,110 books, audiobooks, DVDs, music CDs, and other materials. The Hudson Public Library has 14,333 registered borrowers. The Library collection is comprised of 66,152 items; 53,657 in print, 10,083 in audiovisual format, 1,862 periodicals, 308 video games, and 242 miscellaneous items such as hotspots, e-book readers, tablets, trekking poles, puppet, etc. Fines returned to the town totaled \$63.61. The Library was open for approximately of 60 hours a week for a total of 3,130 hours during the year. In 2021, the Library purchased 4,772 books in the following categories: 930 nonfiction, 1,363 fiction, 1,711 children's books, 5 reference books, 97 large print, 594 young adult, 72 paperbacks. In the category of audiovisual materials, we purchased 875 various materials in the following categories: 132 Books on CD, 8 Playaways®, 305 DVDs/Blu-Rays, 122 music CDs, 77 video games and 231 e-books/e-audiobooks. Library staff members answered over 2,997 reference questions. The Library fulfilled 29,609 item requests (item holds) for both Hudson owned items and items owned by other libraries. Six thousand eight hundred and forty-one (6,841) patrons spent more than 5,372 hours doing searches on our 9 Internet computers. Our 20 museum memberships, funded by the Friends, were reserved 634 times by library patrons.

The digital collection provides 24/7 access to Consumer Reports, Hudson Sun (dates ranging from 1930-1979), Ancestry Library Edition, American Ancestors (NHEGS), Universal Class, Tumble Books, Mango Languages, Hoopla (a digital media service offering movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics, and TV shows), Freegal (a streaming and downloadable music service offering about 15 million free downloadable songs representing 40,000 music labels that originates in over 100 countries), 120,031 e-books, 39,722 e-audiobooks, 1,295 e-videos, and over 3,918 digital magazines through OverDrive's Libby resource sharing.

Grants and Donations

The Library received \$35,525.88 in State Aid to Public Libraries for FY21. Grants were awarded as follows: \$18,444.52 Library Incentive Grant; \$11,507.32 Municipal Equalization Grant; \$5,574.04 Non-Resident Circulation Offset Grant. The purpose of State Aid to public libraries is to encourage municipalities to support and improve library service to compensate for disparities in municipal funding capacities, and to offset the cost of circulating library materials to non-residents. Other significant donations and grants to the Library include:

- The Desmond Family donated \$5,000 to sponsor library programs.
- The Friends of the Hudson Public Library donated \$6,694.16 to provide library support services; \$3,809 for museum pass memberships, \$2649.16 for a new color copier/fax machine, and \$236 for programs.

- The Robert Lloyd Corkin Charitable Foundation donated \$1,500 with a matching donation from Cary & Nancy Corkin in the amount of \$1,500. The Robert Lloyd Corkin Charitable Foundation request that the donation be applied to monthly entertainment in the children's room.
- The Hudson Cultural Council awarded a total of \$800 to support a children's virtual workshop series; Playful Engineers with Jay Mankita.
- Three donations totaling \$675 was given to sponsor Explore Hudson Summer Reading 2021; St. Mary's Credit Union (Marlborough, MA) \$500, S&F Concrete \$150, Dave's Landscaping \$25.
- Four donations totaling \$145 was given in memory of Anne Gardner; \$20, \$25, \$50, and \$50.
- Individuals and families donated \$750 as supplemental library support; Janssen & Gotz \$500, Parker \$200, and Hossieni \$50.

Programming & Event Highlights

We have had a variety of programs throughout the year from author visits to general interest programs.

Book Clubs

- Wednesday Evening Book Clubs (2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month)
- Thursday Morning Book Club (2nd Thursday of the month)
- Thursday Evening Book Club (3rd Thursday of the month)

Local Authors

- The Lemon Grove Author Talk with Ali Hosseini.
- Don't Ask Me Where I'm From Author Talk with Jennifer De Leon.

Music/Art

- Gallery in the Pines Art Exhibit

General interest programs

- Armchair Travels with Steve Farrar
- Mullahy's Cheese Basics 101 with Katie Quinn
- Ferjulian's DIY Garden Bouquets
- Intro to Photography with Steve McGrath
- Explore Yoga @ Wood Park with Synergy Wellness
- Explore Zumba @ Wood Park with Jeniffer Williams

As a way to engage with our highly regarded community, the Library launched an Explore Hudson Summer Reading Program. Many of our program activities were in partnership with local businesses including, Ferjulian's, Mullahy's, Hudson Hives, Harvard Sweet Boutique, Reasons to be Cheerful, and Synergy Wellness. The Library's new logo was featured on the front side of this year's summer reading t-shirts with "Explore Hudson!" imprinted on the left arm sleeve. The logo was designed by Assabet Valley Regional High School student, Lance Parker.

Services for Children

Children from infancy to seventh grade enjoyed the materials and programs offered by the Children's Department. Jillian Bennett, the Children's Librarian, reports that 2,874 attended 128 Children's Room programs this year. These programs include crafts, hands-on activities, literacy and entertainment programs including but not limited to Baby, Toddler, and Preschool Storytimes, Music and Movement, Outdoor Yoga, Tween Book Club, Take & Make Crafts, StoryWalks®, and special performers. The children's librarians provided readers' advisory, offered assistance to children, parents, and teachers in accessing library databases, and use of the library's print and digital collection.

Children were engaged through a variety of different programs including interactive music, craft activities, virtual STEM workshops, virtual and outdoor storytimes, a Hodge Podge character visit, and a visit with the Grinch. We were awarded a grant from the Hudson Cultural Council to host a Playful Engineers STEM series for preschoolers and early elementary school aged children.

The children's summer reading program is an important event in our programming calendar. We had 262 youths participate (97 Birth through 2nd Graders, 124 3rd through 6th Graders, 41 Teens). Special events and activities included: Music with Mr. Vic, a visit to the American Heritage Museum, Reasons to be Cheerful Ice Cream Making, Serendipity's Jewelry Making, Harvard Sweet Boutique Cookie Decorating, Ferjulian's Summer Bouquet Making, Hudson Hives Bee & Beekeeping Program, Animal Adventures, T-Shirt Tote Bag Making, Shrinky Dink Keychain Crafts, and CD Scratch Art. Other activities included community engagements such as a visit to Hudson's community garden, a trip to the local fire station, and a scavenger hunt around the town to see all the places that Squirrel the Puppet has visited. We also had weekly crafts for ages 3 and older including a community puzzle project, paper swans, ice cream cone craft, nature frames, cardboard flower vase, and popsicle firetruck crafts. The end of the summer reading program was held at the Hudson Elks Lodge and was attended by 76 children and parents. Scott Jameson led his interactive magic show at this event. Explore Hudson's Red Fox participants (birth-grade 2) read 3,246 books and Blue Heron participants (grades 3-grade 6) read over 2,155 hours. Teen (grades 9-12) participants read over 625 hours.

The summer reading program builds on the work children have done in their school classroom and provides an authentic reading experience for each child. The data shows that participation in the summer reading program helps reduce the loss of reading skills known as "the summer slide".

Library Outreach

We focused on our outreach efforts in the community, including participation in the Hudson Farmers' Market, Juneteenth Celebration, and RecFest. This community engagement helped connect with approximately 400 individuals.

Twice a month, the Library continues to offer Door-to-Door services with the help of a dedicated volunteer. Door-to-Door services are available to Hudson residents who are unable to visit the Library's physical location.

The Children's Librarian and staff have been reaching out to the schools. Besides collaborating on the Summer Reading program, they visited nearly 200 Kindergarteners to share an eventful summer filled with reading and exploring Hudson.

Building & Furnishings

The Children's Room suffered a seven-month closure due to a steam pipe leak. Though there was significant damage to the walls and carpeting near the Children's Room elevator, all the circulating materials were salvaged. The timeline for reopening the Children's Room was primarily due to material shortages and shipping delays. The affected area received repairs to the steam pipe, new walls, paint, carpet, and end panels to display materials.

C/W MARS Network

While the residents of Hudson enjoy the items in our collection, they also take full advantage of our membership in the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing Network (C/WMARS) consisting of over 150 member libraries. Our patrons are enthusiastic users of the online patron services provided by the network and regularly request materials from Hudson and other libraries. In 2021 patrons visiting the Hudson Library borrowed 18,369 items from other libraries. As a consortium, CWMARS circulates more than 9.4 million items annually to more than one million registered borrowers. We offer a shared online computer system and combined collections of 7.9 million items.

Libraries provide access to technology, producing a greater variety of services than ever before. Patron technology use continues to be essential as more than 3,200 users accessed the Internet via the Library's Wi-Fi and computer desktops. Borrowers can reserve books online any time, day or night, to be picked up/returned at the most convenient library location all across the state. Audiobooks are becoming increasingly available in downloadable formats as well as on compact discs. Reference resources can be searched by entrepreneurs, teachers, and students from home or office computers, greatly expanding the reach of the Reference Department. System wide holds can be set in motion automatically, supported by a fast, state-funded delivery. Our delivery traffic for this past year was 29,609 items.

Technology Updates

The Library received 20 Wi-Fi hotspots from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Each hotspot offers Internet access for up to ten devices. They are available to borrow for up to two weeks at no cost.

The Library is also pleased to provide its first ever self-checkout station. Self-checkout offers patrons the option to avoid waiting in line to check out most materials. It allows patrons to independently check out books, audiobooks, music CDs, magazines, etc.

The Library renewed its mobile printing subscription. Mobile printing allows patrons to print from mobile devices whether they are in or away from the Library. Once the print request is sent, patrons have approximately 24 hours to release and retrieve the print job at the Library.

We currently have the Hudson Sun newspapers on 359 rolls of microfilm dating back to 1883. In order to allow easier access to the patrons of Hudson, we have decided to digitize the collection. It will take a few years but we currently have the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's online. It can be accessed on our website at www.hudsonpubliclibrary.com.

Friends of the Library

The Friends is an organization dedicated to providing volunteer service and financial support to the Library. Membership is open to anyone interested in helping to further the goals and services of the Library. Activities include participating during Hudson Fest, the Lobster and Meat Shoot, Summer Book Sales, and the Fall Book Sale. The Friends usually meet once a month in the Library and welcome new members.

These fundraising activities and membership dues, provide the means for the Friends to sponsor many ongoing programs, museum passes, the copy/fax machine and all of our children's summer reading entertainers. We are grateful for their support and hard work.

The officers of the Friends are: Leah Litin, President; Lili Veruki, Treasurer; Patti McMunn, Secretary; and Gerry Gault, Book Sale Coordinator. The Friends wish to thank the following people and businesses for their support: the VFW, for providing free book sale space; Walter Watson Storage Plus and Hair Designs for free book sale storage space. After books are donated to the library, Gerry Gault and other volunteers take the donations to a small, temporary storage space where they are sorted by categories, labeled and re-boxed by another group of Friends. The boxes are then taken to a permanent storage area where they are kept until it is time to move them (approx. 500 boxes) to the VFW for the sale. The book sale is accomplished with the hard work and dedication of about 20 Friends along with volunteers from the Boy Scouts, the Boys & Girls Club, Hillside School, and Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School's JROTC. This three-day book sale is the Friends key fundraising event of the year.

Volunteers

Volunteers and Senior Tax Workers play an important role at the Library. This year our dedicated volunteers contributed more than 208 hours to help us with the processing of new library materials, shelf reading, assisting with the summer reading games and activities. Not included in this number are the incalculable hours spent by the Friends of the Library in their many fundraising tasks that directly benefit the Library. The Trustees and staff truly appreciate the dedication and enthusiasm of the volunteers, who contribute so much of their time and expertise.

In Conclusion

The Trustees and staff greatly appreciate the support the Library receives from the Executive Assistant, the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the other municipal departments. Most importantly, however, I want to thank the people of Hudson who continue to support our Library with their tax dollars. I hope that our services, collections, and programs have helped you and added value and enjoyment to your lives.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Hudson Public Library and its staff,

Aileen Sanchez-Himes
Library Director

PARK COMMISSION / DIVISION OF RECREATION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Park Commission/Division of Recreation aims to provide the residents of Hudson with comprehensive recreation programs for those of all ages. The Division of Recreation strives to continually expand and enhance recreation facilities while keeping abreast of ever-changing trends and community needs. The Division of Recreation advocates for the preservation of open space and the natural features of Hudson that define its character, identity and link to the past.

As part of its routine functions, the Park Commission and Division of Recreation staff plan, promote, and implement a wide range of recreation programs for the community (including various large-scale special events such as REC Fest (formerly Pumpkin Fest/RECTober Fest) and an Annual Golf Tournament, among other events). The department schedules the use of over 30 parks/playgrounds/town facilities, processes general Use of Town Property Forms on behalf of the Town of Hudson, conducts Park Commission meetings, serves on various boards & committees and attends meetings as necessary in order to perform our duties. As a means of continuing education, the Recreation Administrative Staff attend both the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association and New England Park Association Annual Conferences, participate in various recreation specific workshops as well as the Central Mass Recreation and Park Association Regional meetings throughout the year. The Division of Recreation coordinates various services with other Town agencies, as well as, both private and non-profit organizations to better serve the community. The Park Commission/Division of Recreation recommends and implements rules and regulations for the use of town property under their jurisdiction and collects fees for programs and services administered by the department. The Division of Recreation advertises programs, services and events throughout the year using limited brochures, flyers and written notices, as well as the Recreation Department website (www.hudsonrecreation.org) and social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram... which have proven to be the most effective mode of communication among program participants and those in the community.

Each year the Division of Recreation advertises part-time, seasonal employment opportunities in order to staff various programs. As part of this process, the Division of Recreation Administrative Staff screen, interview and make recommendations for hiring employees. Additionally, the Administrative Staff update employee manuals, conduct meetings with staff regarding programs and events, and train employees in various areas (including Lifeguarding, CPR/AED, First Aid and other program specific areas as needed).

Throughout 2021, the Park Commission/Division of Recreation prepared an operating budget and capital improvement plans in order to make both long- and short-term recommendations for facility renovations and upgrades. The FY22 Budget did not include any requests for Capital Projects. As in years past, the Division of Recreation coordinated various projects throughout the year. Projects were coordinated and/or completed with the assistance of the Department of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Hudson Public Schools, Hudson Light & Power and various Private Contractors. Key 2021 projects include: Centennial Beach Renovation Project (95% project completion per plans, which included full site renovation with the installation of two (2) new buildings and complete parking lot installation; Improvements to the Warren Chamberlain Rink (to improve spectator viewing areas); Full renovation of the Riverside Baseball field practice pitching areas; Installation of swings mats across all playground swings areas (both Town and School); Fencing upgrades at the Hudson Skate Park; and improvements to the Farley School Playground (which included the replacement of the existing swings and additional repairs to the original playground structure).

While Covid-19 continued to impact all programs and events, the Division of Recreation was still able to safely run modified and virtual programs, as depicted in the report below and all in-person program offerings were planned and modified around the Covid-19 state and local restrictions. The department worked collaboratively with the Hudson Health Department to implement the Bench Donation Program created in 2020; partnered with the Hudson Land Trust and Green Hudson on a Community Wide Clean Up during the fall of 2021; and work closely with the Community Development Department to assist with the construction oversight of the Hudson Riverwalk Project. Additionally, new programs were added throughout the year to keep the community engaged. New programs included: Creative Coding and an expansion of the Unified Sports programs offerings to include Soccer and Noodleball.

Moving forward...

As we begin to move beyond the Covid-19 pandemic, Hudson Recreation hopes to get back on track and push through priority projects that were identified by the Park Commission immediately prior to the start of the pandemic and revisit policy updates that were unfortunately placed on hold. These priority projects include: collaborating with the Department of Public Works to improve athletic field maintenance programming; the completion of the Moulton Field and Playground Renovation - Design Phase; and continuing the process of evaluating how to best develop a dog park to meet our community's needs. One positive takeaway from the pandemic is that Hudson Recreation is now better suited than ever to pivot or adapt at any given time to continue to delivery programs, services and project oversight to meet the Park Commissions goals and objectives. The Park Commission/Division of Recreation will strive to keep our community members engaged, connected and safe as we move forward from the global pandemic we experienced over the last two years. We look forward to opportunity to continue to serve the Town of Hudson, however that may look in the years to come.

FINANCIALS

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Budget | FY21 | FY22 |
| Recreation Salaries | \$321,703.00 | \$354,688.00 |
| Recreation Expenses | \$69,533.00 | \$67,305.00 |
| Town Meeting Approved Articles | FY21 | FY22 (no requests) |
| Splash Pad Chemical Control Systems | \$10,000.00 | |
| Assabet River Rail Trail Kiosk Replacement | \$10,000.00 | |
| Revolving Fund & Gift Account Balances | 1-Jul-20 | 1-Jul-21 |
| Recreation Programs Revolving | \$137,330.44 | \$223,892.60 |
| Recreation Gifts & Donations | \$15,205.62 | \$21,401.00 |
| Hamilton Children's Recreation Program Gift | \$50,366.00 | \$50,366.00 |
| EMPLOYMENT | 2020 | 2021 |
| Part-Time Seasonal Staff | 31 individuals | 66 individuals |
| Volunteers (throughout year) | 10 individuals | 10 individuals |
| SOCIAL MEDIA | 2020 | 2021 |
| Facebook (likes / followers) | 1965 / 2156 | n/a / 2500 |
| Twitter (followers) | 26 | 78 |
| Instagram (followers) | 318 | 488 |
| FACILITY SCHEDULING | 2020 | 2021 |
| Total Hours Scheduled | 3181 | 7902 |
| Use of Town Property Forms Processed | 37 | 46 |

PROGRAM STATISTICS (*denotes # of participants registered, prior to program cancellation due to Covid-19)

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Fall / Winter Programs: | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 |
| Youth Basketball Instructional Program | 278 participants | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| Unified Basketball Program | 56 participants | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| Elks Hoop Shoot | 50 participants | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| Winter Baseball/Softball Clinics | 113* participants | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| G.G. E-Sports | n/a | 112 participants |
| Unified Soccer | n/a | 16 players / 8 Partners |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Spring / Summer Programs: | 2020 | 2021 |
| RECKids Day Socialization | cancelled - Covid-19 | 181 |
| <i>RECKids special events & field trips:</i> | cancelled - Covid-19 | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| <i>Total RECKids special events and field trips participation:</i> | cancelled - Covid-19 | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| Youth Swim Instruction (4 sessions) | cancelled - Covid-19 | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| Guard Start/Lifeguard Training | cancelled - Covid-19 | 34 Lifeguard participants |
| Youth Tennis Instruction (5 sessions) | 194 participants | 129 participants |
| Adult Tennis Lesson (1 session) | 6 participants | 0 participants |
| Track & Field | 43 participants | 44 participants |
| Field Hockey Clinic | cancelled - Covid-19 | n/a |
| Archery Lessons | cancelled - Covid-19 | n/a |
| Skyhawks (Golf Lessons) | 10 participants | 6 participants |
| Skyhawks (Flag Football) | 10 participants | 0 participants (HYFC ran) |
| Skyhawks (Ultimate Sports) | 10 participants | 18 participants |
| Kids' Test Kitchen (in-person/virtual) | 12*/14 participants | 13 participants (all virtual) |
| Unified Noodle Ball | 41* participants | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| Babysitting Course | 20* participants | 22 participants |
| Home Alone Safety Course | 30* participants | 35 participants |
| CPR/First Aid Courses | 26 participants | 36 participants |
| Counselor In Training (C.I.T) | cancelled - Covid-19 | cancelled - Covid-19 |
| Creative Coding | n/a | 10 participants |
| G.G. E-Sports | n/a | 18 participants |
| | | |
| Total Transactions Processed (through RecDesk) | 617 | 787 |
| | | |
| Centennial Beach Parking: | 2020 | 2021 |
| Resident Day Passes | 0 passes | 921 passes |
| Resident Season Passes | 0 passes | 658 passes |
| Non-Resident Day Passes | 0 passes | n/a per Park Commission |
| Non-Resident Season Passes | 0 passes | n/a per Park Commission |
| Total Income | \$0.00 | \$22,755.00 |
| | | |
| Special Events & Activities: | 2020 | 2021 |
| Recreation Golf Tournament | 72 golfers (Oct 2020) | 144 golfers |
| Wood Park Concerts | cancelled - Covid-19 | 5 concerts |
| Cellucci Park Concerts | cancelled - Covid-19 | 3 concerts |
| REC Fest Attendance (formerly RECTober Fest) | cancelled - Covid-19 | est. 1500 (no fee) |
| REC Fest Vendors / Food Trucks | cancelled - Covid-19 | 17 / 2 |
| George Chiasson Memorial Fishing Derby | cancelled - Covid-19 | cancelled - Covid-19 |

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert D. Bowen, Chairman – Hudson Park Commission

Michael C. Chaves Sr., Park Commissioner

James D. Roan, Park Commissioner

Steven L. Santos, Director of Recreation

HUDSON COUNCIL ON AGING - ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

In FY21 the Covid -19 pandemic continued to drastically change the delivery of services and programming at our Senior Center. This required staff to become more creative and innovative in an attempt to provide the necessary services in the safest possible way to our seniors.

All Senior Center staff continued to work full time. However due to the pandemic some activities were suspended, others were not. We transitioned some programs to zoom for those who had the technology to do so and Cable TV for those who did not. With the introduction of the vaccine, return to 'normal' operations became more hopeful. By mid2021, senior centers were returning to some in-person operations and continued adaptations for safety, including mask-wearing, limiting capacity, fewer walk-ins, and increased hand sanitization availability. As things improve we will be offering hybrid programming so we can continue to offer classes/programs on line for those who are not ready to come to the center.

During this challenging time, we have fostered stronger community partnerships. We continue to work with Town Departments to ensure that we move forward in a safe manner, prioritizing the health and well-being of our residents and staff.

Staff

Our Senior Center has a dedicated staff consisting of; a Director, Administrative Secretary, a full time Social Service Advocate (Outreach), and a part time Portuguese bi-lingual Social Service Advocate, (30 hours a week) a full and part time bus driver, all funded by the Town of Hudson. Additional part time driver is funded partially by the Town of Hudson, our State Formula Grant and a COVID CARES grant through BayPath Elder Services.

Social Service

At the beginning of this pandemic we were very busy making phone calls checking in on seniors regarding their overall well-being. As the pandemic continued it was evident these phone calls became very important. We continue to make these calls of support. Regardless of the pandemic, we have been very busy providing a myriad of social services, 5374 duplicated service units for 1084 individual elders in our community. Some of the social services provided include, Community Case management, SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs for Everyone on Medicare) appointments, Fuel Assistance, SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) and Farmer's Market Coupons. We assisted 611 individual seniors with Medicare issues over 2100 times. (more than one appointment was needed) We happily helped the Hudson Board of Health register seniors online for their first COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Hudson High School. CVS in Hudson also asked for our help to register seniors for the vaccine and booster shots. This has been popular with seniors who do not have the technology to do the on-line registrations.

Nutrition

The Meals on Wheels Program and their many volunteers continued to deliver meals to Hudson seniors. I am proud of the Meals on Wheels volunteers who delivered 13,885 meals from July1, 2020 to June 31, 2021. This program is essential to many seniors and these wonderful volunteers did not let them down. In FY21 we continued the "Grab and Go" meal program, handing out just over 1000 meals. Every month seniors could drive to the center and pick up a special meal. This gave us an opportunity to see the seniors as we handed them their food. This has become very popular with seniors and staff.

Socialization and Recreation

Socialization and Recreation continued to look different for the Senior Center in FY 21. Due to Covid-19 guidelines we were limited as to how we could offer programming. Despite these challenges we were able to provide 475 seniors with a variety of activities over 1960 times. These activities include grab and go floral craft projects, special grab and go lunches and dinners utilizing Hudson restaurants and Assabet Technical High School, 7 zoom fitness classes which include (Stretch Class once a week, Strength Training twice a week, Flex and Tone Chair Yoga once a week, Chair Pilates once a week, Back to Basics Chair Pilates once a week, and Parkinson's exercise class once a week), shredding event, and outdoor Bingo at the Elks Pavilion, zoom meetings with staff. Also, we were able to provide many seniors a "little holiday surprise" with the help from others who contributed items for our holiday surprise gift bags. We are so grateful for the help of so many people to make that possible.

Total events that include community education, professional services, recreations/socialization and wellness served 702 individual seniors over 5600 times (duplicate number).

DayBreak, our Social Day Program 2021

In FY 21 our DayBreak Social Day Program, (for senior with mild cognitive impairment) was on hold from July 1, 2020 until June 2021 when we restarted the program.

To recap the program, Hudson, Marlborough, and Northborough Senior Centers have been collaborating on the DayBreak (Social Day and Respite) program since 2019. This program originated at the Hudson Senior Center and expanded to Marlborough and Northborough as a direct result of our collaboration in helping to make our communities Dementia Friendly.

The DayBreak program is tailored to individuals experiencing social isolation, mild cognitive impairment, physical challenges, or unable to attend the traditional activities at the Senior Center or other programs due to the need for supervision. DayBreak provides opportunities for seniors to maintain social contact with people while reducing isolation and promoting their social skills. Socialization and peer support are provided through enjoyable activities. Lunch is also provided. DayBreak also supports the caregivers who are dealing with the physical and emotional demands of the daily care of loved ones. DayBreak provides caregivers an opportunity to re-engage in other activities that could promote a healthier state of being.

The loss of this program was especially hard for both the caregiver and participant. Caregivers who utilized DayBreak at all three Senior Centers have lost up to 9 hours of respite a week. Participants lost the socialization and activities that helped with cognition and mobility. We were thrilled to restart this program in June of 2021.

Pre-pandemic we had 48 people enrolled in our DayBreak program between the 3 communities. When DayBreak started again in June 2021 only 22 participants between all three communities were able to return. With the help from the MetroWest Health Foundation grant, we look forward to providing the services and support DayBreak offers to both caregiver and loved ones.

Community Education with the help of Hud TV

Community education classes are being offered remotely through zoom. Some of the classes are recorded and shown on Cable TV. Hud TV offered the Senior Center air time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 11am. This allowed us to show the educational and entertainment programming to those who may have cable access but do not have the technology to participate remotely in a zoom class. Some of our programming in FY21 include, The Christmas Truce, Retirement Life, Registry of Motor Vehicles service updates, Dental Options for seniors, Cooking as Self Care with Mass Councils on Aging, The Mediterranean Diet, Holiday seasonal songs and more.

Trips

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, we did not offer any trips in FY21.

AARP Tax Preparers

In FY21 the wonderful AARP tax preparers started in March 2021 instead of Feb 2021 due to covid concerns. They still were able to help 106 seniors with their 2020 tax returns at the Hudson Senior Center. This program provides a valuable service to Hudson seniors. We appreciate their expertise and time spent helping so many people and look forward to working with them again!

Transportation

Our senior transportation program had to stop on March 24, 2020, and restarted in August 2020. During the early summer months, we had both our buses outfitted with Plexiglas to protect drivers and riders, hand sanitizer for riders and cleaning materials drivers need to clean in-between riders. Under the guidance of our BOH (Board of Health) we were limited to one person on the transit van at a time, and two people on the larger bus at a time. As Covid-19 cases improved in the spring of 2021, we were able to take more people on the bus as approved by the BOH. In FY21 approximately 65 people used our transportation service for over 900 round trips. Due to Covid-19 people still seem hesitant to use the bus even with all the safety protocols.

The COA Board and Friends of Hudson Seniors

The Board Members of the Council on Aging have been so supportive during this challenging period. Not only have they met every month for their COA Board meetings, via zoom, but happily attended additional meetings to provide advice regarding critical decisions affecting the Senior Center, senior citizens and staff during this difficult year.

The "Friends of the Hudson Senior Center Inc." continued to provide financial support and encouragement. Their hard work continues to support not only Hudson seniors, but the senior center staff in their efforts to serve the Hudson senior population in the best way possible. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate all that they do for Hudson seniors.

The Council on Aging would like to "Thank" the Board of Selectmen, Executive Assistant and Finance Committee for their continued support each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Desmond, COA Chair
John Gill, Vice Chair
Nina Smith, Treasurer
Melissa Esteves, Secretary
Charles Corley

Janet Saluk
Edward Silveira
Anthony Monteiro
Diane Durand

Janice Long, Director

HUDSON COUNCIL ON AGING - ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

In FY21 the Covid -19 pandemic continued to drastically change the delivery of services and programming at our Senior Center. This required staff to become more creative and innovative in an attempt to provide the necessary services in the safest possible way to our seniors.

All Senior Center staff continued to work full time. However due to the pandemic some activities were suspended, others were not. We transitioned some programs to zoom for those who had the technology to do so and Cable TV for those who did not. With the introduction of the vaccine, return to 'normal' operations became more hopeful. By mid2021, senior centers were returning to some in-person operations and continued adaptations for safety, including mask-wearing, limiting capacity, fewer walk-ins, and increased hand sanitization availability. As things improve we will be offering hybrid programming so we can continue to offer classes/programs on line for those who are not ready to come to the center.

During this challenging time, we have fostered stronger community partnerships. We continue to work with Town Departments to ensure that we move forward in a safe manner, prioritizing the health and well-being of our residents and staff.

Staff

Our Senior Center has a dedicated staff consisting of; a Director, Administrative Secretary, a full time Social Service Advocate (Outreach), and a part time Portuguese bi-lingual Social Service Advocate, (30 hours a week) a full and part time bus driver, all funded by the Town of Hudson. Additional part time driver is funded partially by the Town of Hudson, our State Formula Grant and a COVID CARES grant through BayPath Elder Services.

Social Service

At the beginning of this pandemic we were very busy making phone calls checking in on seniors regarding their overall well-being. As the pandemic continued it was evident these phone calls became very important. We continue to make these calls of support. Regardless of the pandemic, we have been very busy providing a myriad of social services, 5374 duplicated service units for 1084 individual elders in our community. Some of the social services provided include, Community Case management, SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs for Everyone on Medicare) appointments, Fuel Assistance, SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) and Farmer's Market Coupons. We assisted 611 individual seniors with Medicare issues over 2100 times. (more than one appointment was needed) We happily helped the Hudson Board of Health register seniors online for their first COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Hudson High School. CVS in Hudson also asked for our help to register seniors for the vaccine and booster shots. This has been popular with seniors who do not have the technology to do the on-line registrations.

Nutrition

The Meals on Wheels Program and their many volunteers continued to deliver meals to Hudson seniors. I am proud of the Meals on Wheels volunteers who delivered 13,885 meals from July1, 2020 to June 31, 2021. This program is essential to many seniors and these wonderful volunteers did not let them down. In FY21 we continued the "Grab and Go" meal program, handing out just over 1000 meals. Every month seniors could drive to the center and pick up a special meal. This gave us an opportunity to see the seniors as we handed them their food. This has become very popular with seniors and staff.

Socialization and Recreation

Socialization and Recreation continued to look different for the Senior Center in FY 21. Due to Covid-19 guidelines we were limited as to how we could offer programming. Despite these challenges we were able to provide 475 seniors with a variety of activities over 1960 times. These activities include grab and go floral craft projects, special grab and go lunches and dinners utilizing Hudson restaurants and Assabet Technical High School, 7 zoom fitness classes which include (Stretch Class once a week, Strength Training twice a week, Flex and Tone Chair Yoga once a week, Chair Pilates once a week, Back to Basics Chair Pilates once a week, and Parkinson's exercise class once a week), shredding event, and outdoor Bingo at the Elks Pavilion, zoom meetings with staff. Also, we were able to provide many seniors a "little holiday surprise" with the help from others who contributed items for our holiday surprise gift bags. We are so grateful for the help of so many people to make that possible.

Total events that include community education, professional services, recreations/socialization and wellness served 702 individual seniors over 5600 times (duplicate number).

DayBreak, our Social Day Program 2021

In FY 21 our DayBreak Social Day Program, (for senior with mild cognitive impairment) was on hold from July 1, 2020 until June 2021 when we restarted the program.

To recap the program, Hudson, Marlborough, and Northborough Senior Centers have been collaborating on the DayBreak (Social Day and Respite) program since 2019. This program originated at the Hudson Senior Center and expanded to Marlborough and Northborough as a direct result of our collaboration in helping to make our communities Dementia Friendly.

The DayBreak program is tailored to individuals experiencing social isolation, mild cognitive impairment, physical challenges, or unable to attend the traditional activities at the Senior Center or other programs due to the need for supervision. DayBreak provides opportunities for seniors to maintain social contact with people while reducing isolation and promoting their social skills. Socialization and peer support are provided through enjoyable activities. Lunch is also provided. DayBreak also supports the caregivers who are dealing with the physical and emotional demands of the daily care of loved ones. DayBreak provides caregivers an opportunity to re-engage in other activities that could promote a healthier state of being.

The loss of this program was especially hard for both the caregiver and participant. Caregivers who utilized DayBreak at all three Senior Centers have lost up to 9 hours of respite a week. Participants lost the socialization and activities that helped with cognition and mobility. We were thrilled to restart this program in June of 2021.

Pre-pandemic we had 48 people enrolled in our DayBreak program between the 3 communities. When DayBreak started again in June 2021 only 22 participants between all three communities were able to return. With the help from the MetroWest Health Foundation grant, we look forward to providing the services and support DayBreak offers to both caregiver and loved ones.

Community Education with the help of Hud TV

Community education classes are being offered remotely through zoom. Some of the classes are recorded and shown on Cable TV. Hud TV offered the Senior Center air time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 11am. This allowed us to show the educational and entertainment programming to those who may have cable access but do not have the technology to participate remotely in a zoom class. Some of our programming in FY21 include, The Christmas Truce, Retirement Life, Registry of Motor Vehicles service updates, Dental Options for seniors, Cooking as Self Care with Mass Councils on Aging, The Mediterranean Diet, Holiday seasonal songs and more.

Trips

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, we did not offer any trips in FY21.

AARP Tax Preparers

In FY21 the wonderful AARP tax preparers started in March 2021 instead of Feb 2021 due to covid concerns. They still were able to help 106 seniors with their 2020 tax returns at the Hudson Senior Center. This program provides a valuable service to Hudson seniors. We appreciate their expertise and time spent helping so many people and look forward to working with them again!

Transportation

Our senior transportation program had to stop on March 24, 2020, and restarted in August 2020. During the early summer months, we had both our buses outfitted with Plexiglas to protect drivers and riders, hand sanitizer for riders and cleaning materials drivers need to clean in-between riders. Under the guidance of our BOH (Board of Health) we were limited to one person on the transit van at a time, and two people on the larger bus at a time. As Covid-19 cases improved in the spring of 2021, we were able to take more people on the bus as approved by the BOH. In FY21 approximately 65 people used our transportation service for over 900 round trips. Due to Covid-19 people still seem hesitant to use the bus even with all the safety protocols.

The COA Board and Friends of Hudson Seniors

The Board Members of the Council on Aging have been so supportive during this challenging period. Not only have they met every month for their COA Board meetings, via zoom, but happily attended additional meetings to provide advice regarding critical decisions affecting the Senior Center, senior citizens and staff during this difficult year.

The "Friends of the Hudson Senior Center Inc." continued to provide financial support and encouragement. Their hard work continues to support not only Hudson seniors, but the senior center staff in their efforts to serve the Hudson senior population in the best way possible. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate all that they do for Hudson seniors.

The Council on Aging would like to "Thank" the Board of Selectmen, Executive Assistant and Finance Committee for their continued support each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Desmond, COA Chair
John Gill, Vice Chair
Nina Smith, Treasurer
Melissa Esteves, Secretary
Charles Corley

Janet Saluk
Edward Silveira
Anthony Monteiro
Diane Durand

Janice Long, Director

Hudson Veterans' Services Annual Report 2021

Director's Report

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, the Executive Assistant, the Citizens, and the Veteran Community of Hudson, this report is submitted for the year ending 2021.

Veterans Benefits

Veterans Benefits are governed under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations 108. Benefits assist financially qualified veterans and their dependants based on income levels and in accordance with the Budget Standards Chart. The Town of Hudson is reimbursed 75% by the State for veterans' assistance payments issued by this office.

The Director of Veterans' Services is responsible for determining the eligibility of all cases processed through this office. The Director conducts interviews, establishes approvals, and conducts follow-up on veterans receiving assistance. Field investigations within the local community are also performed by this office to determine the recipients' continued eligibility to receive benefits.

Veterans' Services also includes assisting Hudson veterans in filing federal forms for benefits which include service-connected disability claims, non-service-connected claims, VA health care, requests for medals, requests for service records, bonus applications, burial assistance and other federal benefits such as counseling in vocational rehabilitation and employment.

Additionally, the Director acts under Power of Attorney for veterans researching and processing cases to the Rating Review Board (Department of Veteran Services), and prepares appeal cases to the Board of Veterans' Appeals on the veteran's behalf. The Director also acts as liaison between State and U.S. Representatives on behalf of veterans and their dependants.

Office

This department consists of one certified full time Director. This year the office had no additional assistance.

The Veterans office received a generous financial grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the ongoing maintenance of 1 vehicle.

In 2021, the department assisted 1,962 Veterans and family members' requests for Federal, State, and Local Veteran benefits, some of which included Burial assistance, Service-Connected disability, Aid and Attendance, Pension, VA Healthcare, Transportation, Annuities, and Exemptions in addition to State Chapter 115 assistance.

Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades and Ceremonies continue to be a long-standing tradition in Hudson. This year both parades were back and ceremonies were observed. The Veterans Office continues to provide military affiliated guest speakers and displays to educate and inform our citizens and youths regarding the sacrifices and courage of our military men and women. We welcome all to attend and recognize those Veterans who have passed and those who are living that have supported our great nation through their service.

HUDSON HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Hudson Housing Authority is authorized by and operates under the provisions of Chapter 121B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Founded in 1962, the Hudson Housing Authority manages and administers low-rent housing programs, which are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The operations of the Authority are supported entirely by rents, grants, or contracts with the state or federal governments. The Authority is governed by a Board of five commissioners. The Board of Commissioners meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Brigham Circle office at 8 Brigham Circle (or online via Zoom during the COVID-19 pandemic). The office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

Rental Assistance

The Hudson Housing Authority administers sixty-nine federal Section 8 Vouchers and twenty-seven Massachusetts Rental Vouchers. These programs provide participant property owners with a direct payment on behalf of the family. Family participants contribute no more than 40% of their gross monthly income toward the rent, with the Housing Authority contributing the difference. The combined budget for the rental assistance programs is over \$700,000.00. The Hudson Housing Authority Section 8 waiting list is open. Applicants may apply through the Section 8 Centralized Waiting List at www.affordablehousing.com. Applicants can expect a wait of several years for assistance. The Hudson Housing Authority Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program waitlist is currently closed.

Housing for the Elderly and Handicapped

The Hudson Housing Authority provides 218 one-bedroom apartments for elderly and handicapped persons at two locations, stated-aided Brigham Circle and federally-aided Norma Oliver Village.

While waiting lists exist for both programs, a local resident and veterans' preference is granted at Brigham Circle for those who live and/or work in Hudson. A local resident and veteran's preference is also granted at Norma Oliver Village. Applicants can apply to Brigham Circle through the centralized state public housing waitlist (CHAMP) at the following website: <https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/>. Applications are also available for both Brigham Circle and Norma Oliver Village at the Authority office at 8 Brigham Circle. Please note that there is no asset limitation at either development, and at the Brigham Circle development a wage exclusion adjustment may be possible for elderly persons. The eligibility criteria are outlined below.

Eligibility Criteria

State-aided (Brigham Circle)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Income Limits – One Person | \$70,750.00 |
| Two Persons | \$80,850.00 |
| Age 60, disabled or handicapped | |

Federally-aided (Norma Oliver Village)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Income Limits – One Person | \$47,000.00 |
| Two Persons | \$53,700.00 |
| Age 62, disabled or handicapped | |

Housing for Special Needs

The Hudson Housing Authority, in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Developmental Services, serves sixteen persons in two group homes. These programs provide educational and employment opportunities in a traditional residential setting.

The Authority continues monitoring the 40B developments Coolidge Greene and J Highlands at Hudson.

Capital Improvements in 2021

Brigham Circle

- Roof Replacement (667-1) \$148,994
- Site Lighting Upgrade \$ 10,050

Norma Oliver Village

- N/A

Housing for Special Needs (49 Washington Street)

- Window Replacement \$ 9,350

Housing for Special Needs (8 Irving Street)

- Back Deck Repair \$ 10,407
- Flooring Replacement \$ 9,207

Hudson Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Board Members

Term Expires

Chairman:

Bryan R. Johannes, 198 Lincoln Street

May 2024

State Appointee:

Vacant

May 2020

Treasurer:

Stephen Domenicucci, 9 Avon Drive

May 2026

Commissioner:

Sarah Cressy, 45 Pleasant Street

May 2023

Town Tenant Board Member:

Cynthia Janeiro-Ehlke, 111 Broad Street

May 2022

Jaclyn Beaulieu continues to serve as the Authority's Executive Director. The administrative office remains staffed by our dedicated team of Assistant Director Robert Milne, Program Administrator Madison Davies-Waterman, and Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Allison Carroll. Maintenance Supervisor Jon Orkiseski along with maintenance employees John Bucciaglia and Lucas Breton provide exemplary maintenance service for the Authority's properties.

The Hudson Housing Authority wishes to acknowledge the continued service of the Hudson Fire Department and Hudson Police Department. We also wish to thank Executive Assistant, Mr. Thomas Gregory, and the Board of Selectmen along with the departments of Council on Aging, Board of Health, Public Works, Town Clerk, Community Development and Veteran's Affairs for their continued support and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
HUDSON HOUSING AUTHORITY

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Sealer of Weights and Measures is responsible for inspecting all weighing and measuring devices on an annual basis to ensure accuracy as set forth by the Massachusetts General Laws relating to Weights and Measures. All commercial devices used in the sale of commodities and services to consumers within the Town of Hudson are inspected, tested, sealed and/or condemned each year based on the tolerances prescribed by state law. The Department's program of inspections works to promote and ensure protection for consumers and value and fairness to all commercial transactions.

The following devices were inspected and tested during 2021:

| Balances & Scales | | Adjusted | Sealed | Not Sealed | Condemned |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | 100 – 1,000 lbs. | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| | More than 10 lbs. Less than 100 lbs. | 3 | 157 | 6 | 2 |
| | 10 lbs. or less | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 3 | 164 | 6 | 2 |

One hundred fifty-seven scales were inspected and tested in the ten-to-one-hundred-pound class. Two devices were found to be incorrect and condemned. The condemned were calibrated to meet state law standards and sealed. Three scales in this category were adjusted to meet standards. Six scales were not sealed and deemed illegal for trade due to various circumstances. In the ten pound or less category, two balances and two digital scales were tested and sealed. In total, there were one hundred sixty-four scales & balances sealed.

| Weights | | Adjusted | Sealed | Not Sealed | Condemned |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Metric | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| | Apothecary | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 0 | 29 | 0 | 0 |

A total of twenty-nine weights across various units of measurement within metric and apothecary divisions in the ten pound or less category were tested and sealed. These weights are intended as standards for pharmaceutical balances.

| Liquid Measuring Meters | | Adjusted | Sealed | Not Sealed | Condemned |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Gasoline | 3 | 152 | 6 | 2 |
| | Vehicle Tank Pump | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| | Total | 3 | 163 | 7 | 2 |

Three gasoline meters in the liquid measuring category were found to be out of tolerance upon inspection and testing. The devices were calibrated to meet tolerance levels as prescribed by state law and sealed. Two gasoline meters were condemned, those of which underwent further investigation and were later replaced and sealed. In total, one hundred fifty-two gasoline meters were sealed. Eleven vehicle tank pumps were tested and sealed.

Various other miscellaneous inspections were also conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph T. Mulvey
Sealer of Weights and Measures

Hudson Cultural Council
2021-2022
Annual Report

The Hudson Cultural Council (HCC), appointed by the Board of Selectmen, was formed in 1983 in response to the creation of the arts lottery in Massachusetts. The Hudson Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCC) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting programs that include everything from artists to nonprofit cultural organizations, field trips, lectures, festivals and dance performances to expand access, improve education, promote diversity, and encourage excellence in the arts, humanities, and sciences. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. In addition to the state funds, the Town of Hudson also allots funds to the HCC. The HCC's role is to survey Hudson's cultural needs and interests, and to determine how public funds allocated by the Town and by the MCC will be dispensed.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The current active members of the Hudson Cultural Council are: Lawrence Fine, Peter Fiske, Lindsay Kelkres, Ellen Kisslinger, Cheryl Lombardo, Patricia Luoto, Doris Monteiro, Debbie Papa, Stephanie Plourde-Simard and Donna Specian.

Each fall the HCC reviews grant applications from individuals and groups proposing a variety of cultural offerings. Award recommendations are based on proposed projects' eligibility, the availability of funds, and Hudson's particular needs and interests. As part of the FY '22 grant allocation process the Council approved grants for organizations to use both in-person and virtual platforms in accordance with guidelines established in 2020 by MCC due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The amount to be awarded for FY'22 was \$14,500 (\$3500 from the Town of Hudson; remainder from MCC). There were 31 grant application requests totaling \$31,200 to be considered.

Grants were awarded to these 17 recipients during the 2021-2022 Grant Cycle:

Assabet Valley Camera Club: Close Up and Macro Imaging Using Unconventional Lenses and Photographing Birds—From Portrait to Flight

Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce: Market Music

Assabet Valley Mastersingers: Concert Season

C. A. Farley Elementary School: Culturally Diverse Assemblies

Discovery Museums: Open Door Connections

Forest Avenue Elementary School: Performance Arts & Music Applied to Poetry Appreciation

Howard Newman for the Hudson Senior Center: Musical Baseball Show

Hudson Division of Recreation: 2022 Summer Concert Series

Hudson Public Library: Step into History and Culture!

Hudson Public Library, Children's Room: STEAM Engineering with Jay Mankita

Henry Lappen for a Hudson Division of Recreation event: Henry the Juggler

Mercedes Murphy: Hudson Art Fest (HART—Holding Hands and Rising Up through the Arts)

Nashoba Symphonic Band: Nashoba Symphonic Band

Sounds of Stow: Sounds of Stow 2021-2022 Concert Season

Symphony Pro Musica: SPM 2021-2022 Season

Virginia Thurston Healing Garden: Visual Arts Therapy

Matt York for the Hudson Public Library: Songs and Stories – The Highwaymen

The HCC evaluates grant applications based on the following criteria:

1. Maximum impact (largest number of Hudson residents of all ages served, including the ratio of dollars spent to the number served).
2. Preference given to grants serving Hudson residents, and to programming by Hudson-based organizations and institutions. This could include but is not limited to the arts, nature, science and environmental education projects.
3. Community-wide events such as, but not limited to concerts, festivals, art shows, etc.
4. Programs which take place inside the town of Hudson.
5. Under-represented or marginalized communities or cultural disciplines in the Hudson community.
6. Collaborative projects between local cultural groups and community organizations.
7. New applicants and/or projects.
8. Applicant's track record: whether the applicant's prior HCC-funded project was (a) completed according to the original grant application (b) was successful, and (c) the applicant completed the required paperwork in order to access their grant funds in a timely manner.

The Hudson Cultural Council will be conducting its annual survey in the spring/summer, and will seek grant applications again in the fall. For local guidelines and complete information on the HCC see www.hudsonculturalcouncil.org or contact the council via email at HUDSONCULTURALCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org. Online applications will be available September 1, 2022 and will be due October 15.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K. Luoto, Co-chair
Donna Specian, Co-chair