

COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENTS

REAL ESTATE

Vol. 1, Issue 1

April-June 2023

FREE

# New hyperlocal newspaper in Hooksett

The Hooksett community now has a new resource for staying informed and connected with what's happening in town. The Hooksett Bridge Community News LLC has launched a hyperlocal newspaper dedicated to covering news, events, real estate, and economic development in Hooksett. The paper is the brainchild of Tony LaCasse, a local real estate advisor with a passion for bringing the community together. The Hooksett Bridge aims to be an all-inclusive source of information, covering everything from town board and commission updates to school activities, local sports teams, and non-profit organizations.

LaCasse's goal is to "connect the community," which is reflected in the newspaper's name. The Hooksett Bridge pays homage to the bridges in Hooksett Village that connect the community both physically and figuratively. Through the newspaper, LaCasse hopes to foster a sense of civic pride and preserve the historic charm of the town.

The Hooksett Bridge will be published quarterly, with editions running from January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December. The paper will be available in print at select locations around town, including businesses, the library, town hall and all Hooksett



Hooksett Bridge owner and publisher Tony LaCasse

schools.

For those who prefer a digital copy, the newspaper offers an email list for electronic ver-

sions. Those interested should email [thehooksettbridge@gmail.com](mailto:thehooksettbridge@gmail.com) with the email address to receive the online version, and let us know that you would like to be added to the online email list.

The Hooksett Bridge news team consists of owner, publisher, and sales department Tony LaCasse; longtime and respected former Hooksett Banner editor Ginger Kozlowski as editor; Aloyo Yen in the financial department; and Katherine Rivera as graphic designer and ad department. The paper is also seeking writers, photographers, and reporters on a volunteer basis.

The Hooksett Bridge is not intended to be a moneymaker

but rather a community benefit. The paper's goal is to break even while offering local businesses the opportunity to advertise at a reasonable cost and providing young writers and creatives the chance to showcase their talents.

All ads are for a year-long contract and are by far the best pricing in print marketing anywhere in the state! You will be able to find the community news throughout town, and online exclusively on The Main Street Man Facebook page and by subscribing to the email list.

Please send in any of your community news stories, events, hometown hero nomi-

*Continued on Page 13*

## 'Best of the Best' to be recognized by Kiwanis Club May 9

After a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hooksett Kiwanis Club's 12th Annual Community Leaders Recognition Event is set to take place on May 9.

This year's event will be held at the Dining Center at Southern New Hampshire University, located at 2500 N. River Road, on the Hooksett/Manchester town line.

Since its inception in 2010, the Hooksett Kiwanis Club has

recognized over 100 individuals, businesses, and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the Hooksett community. This year, the event had over 20 nominations in six different categories.

The Community Impact Award went to the Hooksett Public Library, while Southern New Hampshire University was recognized as the Large Business awardee. Corey's Closet, a small business

in Hooksett, was named the Small Business awardee. Steve Colburn, a municipal employee, was recognized in his category, while Melanie Godbout received the Educator award. Abbie Aumann and Tony LaCasse were named the Youth Volunteer and Adult Volunteer awardees, respectively.

At the last event, held on April 16, 2019, Hooksett Kiwanis held its 10th Annual Community Leaders Event at

the Executive Court in Manchester. Over 225 people attended to honor Community Leader winners for 2018. Virtually all winners during their acceptance speech mentioned how grateful they were for their awards and how wonderful it was to be part of the Hooksett community. The keynote speaker was Kiwanis New England-Bermuda District Governor Elyse Denorfia.

The winners from the 2018

event were Carley Crain for Youth Volunteer of the Year, Edward Hickey Jr. for Adult Volunteer of the Year, TD Bank for Small Business of the Year, New England's Tap House Grille for Large Business of the Year, Maryann Boucher for Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Margaret Collins for Middle School Teacher of the Year, Police Chief Janet

*Continued on Page 14*

## Chamber of Commerce News

The Hooksett Chamber has been very busy so far in 2023! As a growing nonprofit here in Hooksett, we have been hosting networking and educational events every month to connect our members and support them to grow and thrive! Here are a list of events we've already done so far in 2023 and ones that we have planned in the near future:

- Zoo Health Club Ribbon Cutting
- Hooksett Winter Carnival
- Business Before & After Hours:
- Under Your Skin Massage – January
- Unbound Dance Academy – February
- Reliable Coatings – March
- Educational Events:
- Business Resources with Hooksett Library – February

- Office Organization with Living Simplified – March
- Beautify Hooksett Clean-up – April

### Upcoming events

- Educational Workshop on Cyber Security with Summit - May 18, noon-1 p.m.
- Cornhole Tournament co-sponsored with Merrimack County Savings Bank - June 10, 3-6 p.m.
- Business After Hours w/ Dude's Barbershop - date to be announced

If you are interested in membership or an updated list of events, please visit our website at [www.hooksettchamber.org](http://www.hooksettchamber.org).

- Tyler Halstead, president  
Hooksett Chamber of Commerce



The Riverwalk Trail starts by the dog park, near Hooksett District Court, and runs partially by the Merrimack River. New funding recently approved by voters will allow it to connect to a trail in Allentown. (Courtesy photo)

## Phase 4 of Riverwalk Trail passes, grant money allowed to remain

The Hooksett Conservation Commission has announced the final phase of the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail, a 126-acre trail system along the Merrimack River that has become a regional destination for hikers, outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists, and educators.

The final phase, which is set to begin this year, will consist of over 7,000 linear feet of trail and will form a regional connector to Allentown, where the town plans to extend its own trail system. This trail system has been made possible in part by an \$80,000 Regional Trail Program Grant from New Hampshire State Parks.

Dan Tatem, Senior Associate with Stantec, has overseen the trail design and construction since Phase I in 2015. He said there is much work to be done before construction can begin this spring, including obtaining wetland permits through DES, completing survey work and topo maps, and receiving bids for construction.

The Hooksett Riverwalk Trail first opened in 2016 and has since protected the natural

beauty of the Merrimack River and surrounding area. The conservation easement is held by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The trail system also boasts historical and cultural signage along the trail providing information regarding Hooksett's brick-making history for over 100 years on the property.

The trail's completion marks a significant milestone for the Hooksett and Allentown communities, as it will serve as a great economic and cultural driver for both towns.

"This investment will be a great payoff for our town in terms of economic benefits for years to come," said Cindy Robertson, HCC Chair. "Allentown is ready and willing to make a commitment to a trail connector. We are fortunate to have this collaboration between towns."

The Hooksett Riverwalk Trail is not only a recreational area but also a significant part of the area's history. Hooksett and Allentown residents will soon have a natural recreation corridor that will enhance the quality of life in both towns for

years to come.

This project will also benefit the recent revitalization and redevelopment of the Historic China Mill complex on the Suncook and Merrimack rivers, which is located near the trail system. The completed Hooksett Riverwalk Trail will provide a link between the mill complex and the surrounding areas, allowing visitors to explore the area's rich history and natural beauty.

The Hooksett Conservation Commission is an active organization dedicated to preserving land and wildlife habitats, and to providing public access and educational opportunities on town-owned conservation lands. The commission hopes to begin work on the final phase of the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail this year and expects it to be completed by the end of the year.

For more information, contact JoCarol Woodburn, HCC Vice Chair, at [jocarolg@gmail.com](mailto:jocarolg@gmail.com) or 713-408-4362, or Bridgette Grotheer, staff assistant at [bgrotheer@hooksett.org](mailto:bgrotheer@hooksett.org) or 603-289-0279.

**Advertise in The Hooksett Bridge!**  
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## THE HOOKSETT BRIDGE

*Connecting the community of Hooksett*

Published quarterly

Owner/Publisher- Tony LaCasse

Sales Department - Tony LaCasse

Editor - Ginger Kozlowski

Financial Department- Aloyo Yen

Ad department/graphic design - Katherine Rivera

Reach us at [thehooksettbridge@gmail.com](mailto:thehooksettbridge@gmail.com).

Content contributions (stories, photos, etc.) are welcomed at [thehooksettbridge@gmail.com](mailto:thehooksettbridge@gmail.com).

Photos must be at least 150 dpi at 8 inches wide.

We do not accept letters or opinion pieces.

# The Spot Eatery soon to open at Granite Hill Plaza

Hooksett is getting a new breakfast and lunch spot, and it's called The Spot Eatery. The new eatery will be located in the Granite Hill Plaza on Route 3 (Hooksett Road) in the heart of Hooksett. The owners of The Spot Eatery are local residents, Sarah and Jill Lucas.

The mother-daughter duo have always dreamed of opening a smaller breakfast and lunch cafe in town. Sarah, who is in her late 20s, has some experience in the restaurant industry, having worked at Tuckers Breakfast & Lunch and the 99 Restaurant. She is excited and proud to be co-owner of The Spot Eatery with her mom, who has many years of experience in restaurant management, including opening CR Sparks in Bedford.

"Our anticipated open date is May 6," said Sarah Lucas. "We want to make sure everything is in tip-top shape before we open our doors. Thank you



The Spot Eatery, soon to open at the Granite Hill Plaza, will be run by Jill Lucas, left, and her daughter, Sarah Lucas, right. Between them in the photo is Sara's father. (Courtesy photo)

for your support and patience. We are getting more and more excited to open!"

The Spot Eatery will focus on a healthier menu with a younger vibe, offering options such as avocado toast, vegan

and gluten-free options, and locally roasted coffee. Sarah also wants to create a fun and welcoming "insta" aesthetic inside the space for social media moments.

The cafe

hopes to attract the college kids at SNHU.

Jill, on the other hand, will be in charge of baking and running the business. She plans

to offer her famous "Nana's Cookie Jar" cookies at the eatery, and customers are sure to come back for more.

The Spot Eatery fills a void in the Hooksett community, as the only other locally owned independent coffee shop and cafe in the same space closed its doors last year. The opening of The Spot Eatery is a welcome addition to the town, and Hooksett residents are excited to have a new breakfast and lunch spot close to home.

The cafe will be open for breakfast and lunch, serving up delicious food in a cozy atmosphere. The family-owned and operated business is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit of Hooksett residents, and we wish them all the best in their new venture. Be sure to check out The Spot Eatery when it opens in the coming weeks!

## Find The Hooksett Bridge at these convenient locations:

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hooksett Library              | Cawley Middle School              |
| Hooksett Town Hall            | Memorial Elementary School        |
| American Legion               | Underhill Elementary School       |
| Starbucks                     | Ocean State Job Lot               |
| Dunkins                       | Mobil Gas                         |
| The Spot Eatery               | BrookRidge Club House             |
| Merrimack County Savings Bank | New England TapHouse Bar & Grille |
| Post Office                   | R & R Wholesalers                 |
| The Cake Fairy                |                                   |

Or receive a PDF of the paper by requesting to be on our email list at [thehooksettbridge@gmail.com](mailto:thehooksettbridge@gmail.com).

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## Hooksett Kids Klose

Dear Hooksett Community,  
We are happy to report that visits to the Kids Klose continue to be steady, and we are grateful for the ample donations of clothing and support from our volunteers. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of families in need in our community.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 292 for their contribution to our annual clean-up effort. Their hard work and dedication have left the showroom sparkling clean and ready for the next round of visitors.

However, we still need assistance from a Kiwanis member to help us maintain

the log book of visitors to the closet. This will require a commitment of one hour every Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:30 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Michele Howe at 603-315-0998.

The Kids Klose is a free clothing outlet available to the Hooksett community thanks to the support of Hooksett Kiwanis. We are located inside the Hooksett Town Hall at 35 Main St. Hooksett, NH 03106. Please continue to spread the word and consider making a donation to support our efforts.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Hooksett Community Kitchen to host free dinner May 16

The Hooksett Community Kitchen invites you to our upcoming free community dinner on May 16 at the Hooksett Congregational Church from 6-7 p.m. Join in for a delicious meal of Italian chicken, vegetables, mashed potatoes, and brownie sundaes, and enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends.

The Community Kitchen's mission is to gather and share

food and friendship, and this event is open to anyone in the community and surrounding areas. Invite your friends and family to join us as well.

Want to help? They are looking for volunteer guest chefs for future community dinners. If you or your group are interested in contributing to its mission, call 603-485-9009 or email [boxrlov@comcast.net](mailto:boxrlov@comcast.net).



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## Hooksett fourth-graders return to Head School for history lessons

Fourth-graders at Hooksett Memorial School can now return to their field trips to Hooksett District #1, also known as the Head School.

The Head School is a one-room schoolhouse that was built in 1839, and it operated as a schoolhouse until 1912. The Hooksett Head School Society was established in 2009 with the mission of preserving Hooksett's early education.

The society provides a living history experience for students that transports them back in time to the 1840s, where they can learn about life in one-room schools and practice penmanship, arithmetic, and reading. The program is designed to complement the school curriculum using the New Hampshire state standards.

The Head School Society's program offers two options for students: a half-day program that includes a two-hour academic program at the Head School, and a full-day program that includes a two-hour academic program at the Head School and a 1.5 hour "nooning" program at the Hooksett Town Hall, where students can experience historic toys of the



The Head School has resumed programs for fourth-graders in town to learn about the one-room schoolhouse. (Courtesy photo)

1800s.

Hooksett Head School Society members include current and retired educators who have taught in the Hooksett School District, and the program is led by former Hooksett teacher Ruth Knowles and retired town librarian Vickie Desharnais.

The Head School living history program is an important and memorable experience for Hooksett children, as they can learn about how life used to be like in the town and ex-

perience it in person at an authentic Hooksett schoolhouse. However, if the society is not able to find other like-minded individuals who are interested in promoting and teaching the program to Hooksett students, the program might have to shut its doors. If you are a former school teacher, educator, PTA member, history enthusiast, or just someone who is interested in learning more, please reach out to Ruth Knowles at [rknow5@comcast.net](mailto:rknow5@comcast.net).

## Recycling pays off for Hooksett taxpayers

Although the town of Hooksett does not offer curbside recycling, some residents have found that recycling can pay off in a big way.

According to town officials, Hooksett residents who participate in recycling can earn some serious cash. For example, cardboard and mixed paper can fetch \$50 per ton, and residents produce around 23 tons of these materials per month. Mixed plastics can be even more valuable, with rates around \$180 per ton. Hooksett residents generate about 1.5 tons of mixed plastics per

month.

In addition, Hooksett diverts approximately 23.5 tons of light iron per month, with rates increasing from \$52 per gross ton in September to \$54 per gross ton in October. Glass may not bring in any revenue, but diverting it can cut in half the cost of trash disposal. Hooksett residents currently divert about 1.5 tons of glass per month.

While many items can be recycled, there are some materials that cannot. These include black plastics, plastic bags, flower pots, cups with liquid,

totes, hangers, binders, bubble wrap, Styrofoam coolers, Amazon envelopes, kids toys like sleds, pools, and ride-ons, motor oil bottles, and toy packaging made from white foam (even if it has the recycling symbol). Town officials advise residents to rinse any food containers before recycling them.

It's also important for residents to remember not to put banned materials in their trash bins, such as yard waste and demolition materials. Hooksett residents can do their part to help the environment and earn some extra cash.

# Community groups team up for townwide cleanup

On Earth Day 2023, the Hooksett Kiwanis Club, along with other community organizations, led a townwide cleanup effort to make the area more beautiful and clean. With the help of Hooksett Lions, Hooksett Area Rotary, Hooksett Boy Scouts, the Conservation Commission, the Hooksett Heritage Commission, Fellowship Church Granite State, The Main Street Man, Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corporation, Hooksett American Legion, and other neighbors, the townwide cleanup effort was a huge success.

The cleanup effort was organized into teams with specific locations, and each team had a captain. The locations included Clay Pond, Benton Road, Riverside area, Zapora, Auburn Road, Dale Road, Route 3A, Cross Road, South Bow, Whitehall Road from Cawley to the Candia line, and Donati and West Alice roads. Each team worked diligently from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to collect trash, debris, and junk that had been littering the town.

Hooksett Kiwanis had expected 20 teams and approximately 100 volunteers, and the turnout exceeded their

expectations. The cleanup effort was a huge success, and the town looked cleaner and more beautiful as a result.

The cleanup effort had a special emphasis on the Historic Hooksett Village area, including The American Legion, Robie's Country Store, Veterans Park, and Lambert Park. Volunteers collected a lot of trash and debris along the shores of the Merrimack river, and much focus was brought to the doggie bags that dog walkers tie or throw to the trees and bushes in this area. Beer bottles and other trash were prevalent in the Veterans Park and Lambert Park areas. Volunteers made a concerted effort to clean up and open up these park areas along the riverfront.

After the cleanup effort, there was a volunteer party held at Historic Lambert Park with fresh wood-fired pizzas provided thanks to the New England TapHouse Bar & Grille in town. The cleanup effort was a huge success, and it was all thanks to the many captains mentioned above and the many volunteers young and old who came together to "Team Up to Clean Up" Hooksett.



The Hooksett Conservation Commission cleaned up the Clay Pond area of Hooksett. (Courtesy photo)



Corey's Closet cleaned up around Benton Road and their store. (Courtesy photo)

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## Hooksett Garden Club welcomes new members

The Hooksett Garden Club is a group of enthusiastic gardeners and plant lovers who are dedicated to beautifying their community. Founded in 1997, the club has been actively involved in various gardening projects around town for over two decades. With a focus on community beautification and education, the HGC has several ongoing projects that benefit the town of Hooksett.

One of their most prominent projects is the library gardens, a continuing effort to beautify the Hooksett Public Library with perennials, shrubs, a butterfly garden, and annual planters. The garden is a work in progress, with new plantings, a new stone path meandering throughout the garden, and eventually, new signage. In 2021, the garden became a Certified Monarch Waystation, highlighting the club's commitment to creating a healthy environment for pollinators.

Another ongoing project is the town welcome areas, which includes the "Welcome to Hooksett" sign at the town's southern entrance on Hooksett road and the kidney-shaped "Point Garden" located at the intersection of Route 3A and Main Street known as the Point. The club also places seasonal plantings in the granite water trough, a large container located on Main Street in front of the Historical Society.

In 2011, the club collaborated with the town to initiate the Bridge of Flowers project, which involved placing 13 flower boxes on the Hooksett Memorial Bridge. Today, the flower boxes have an irrigation system that waters them automatically three times a day and an automatic fertilizing system. In May each year, Garden Club members plant the 52 flower boxes, and they are put

on the bridge around Memorial Day. The club also decorates the town with wreaths during the Christmas season.

Aside from their ongoing garden projects, the HGC also hosts two fundraisers each year. The June Plant Sale is the first fundraiser of the year, where members contribute perennials from their gardens to sell at the event. The Annual Wreath Sale is the club's second major fundraiser, where members sell wreaths in October to support the club's activities and community beautification efforts.

The Hooksett Garden Club meets monthly at the Hooksett Public Library, with programs that are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. The club is a member of several garden club organizations, including the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc., and New England Garden Clubs, Inc., which provide members with many educational and social opportunities.

## Farmers Market returns to Hooksett; community group needs your help

The farmers market is coming back to Hooksett, and it's coming back strong. Led by Hooksett Community Center Group President Chris Morneau, Terry Veilleux, Alden Beauchemin, and local real estate advisor and community advocate Tony LaCasse, along with a team of local farmers and vendors, the community market will take place once again starting in June. And it's coming back not too far from where it originally started back in 2013.

The first market will be held on Father's Day Sunday, June 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Hooksett American Legion.

The day will be filled with fun activities for the whole family, with plenty to see, do, and enjoy. The market will join with the Hooksett Area Rotary Club for their "Dunk a Dad"

fundraiser and chili contest, also to be held in the village on the American Legion property.

The group in charge of putting this market and event on is dubbing the Father's Day festivities "Father's Day Festival in The Village." This will kick off the next three community markets that will run through September. Members of the committee are actively looking for local talent to play at the markets, and for local vendors and artisans to set up tables and tents at the community market.

If you're interested in being a vendor, a space is \$15, and you must bring your own table, tent and setup. You must arrive early and have proof of insurance prior to the event date. Applications can be found by emailing Terry Veilleux of the Hooksett Community Center Group at [terryveilleux@msn.com](mailto:terryveilleux@msn.com).

The community markets will take place on the third Sunday of every month from June through September, from noon to 3 p.m. The first market will run from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. due to the festival.

"We're excited to bring back the farmers market to Hooksett," said Chris Morneau, president of The Hooksett Community Center Group. "It's been a long time coming, and we're happy to be working with local farmers and vendors, as well as community advocate Tony LaCasse, to create a fun, family-friendly event that everyone can enjoy."

So mark your calendars and get ready to enjoy a fun-filled Father's Day Festival in The Village. And if you're interested in becoming a vendor or helping out, don't hesitate to reach out to Terry Veilleux at [terryveilleux@msn.com](mailto:terryveilleux@msn.com).

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# Economic development is strong in Hooksett

The town of Hooksett has announced several economic development projects that are currently in progress.

One of the major projects is the creation of a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, which aims to make it financially viable for developers to bring public water and sewer to the west side of the river. The primary focus is to first bring public water and sewer to Exit 10, then up to Exit 11.

Another project is the development of PortOne, for which site work has been bonded and the Excavation Bond has been released. TFMoran is also currently exploring a proposed commercial subdivision at the Richie Brothers site at Exit 11.

The Marmon facility is reportedly moving quickly and aims to be fully operational by February, in line with their DOD contract. S

Shaw's Plaza has undergone a fresh paint job.

There have also been dis-



The future site of Marmon Aerospace & Defense. (Christine Carignan photo)

cussions around the possibility of a lot line adjustment for a defense contractor at the end of Petersbrook Drive. This would enable them to acquire

more acreage for their facility. Additionally, the Granite Hills shops have been approved for a small pad site for a bank, which has reportedly been ac-

quired by someone.

Manchester Rowing Alliance has acquired 30+ acres of prime riverfront land in Central Hooksett abutting the Hooksett

Sewer Department and Hooksett Memorial School. This is thanks in part to developments and developers interested in exit 11. Dedicated Manchester Rowing parents have also pledged around \$50,000 for this acquisition. The nonprofit is taking its mission to the next level by building a community boathouse in Hooksett. Manchester Rowing Alliance welcomes students from area high schools such as Londonderry High School, Pinkerton Academy and Manchester Memorial High School.

The town is eagerly anticipating the arrival of public sewer on the other side of the river, which is expected to bring in more development.

Overall, there are many exciting economic development projects underway in Hooksett, and the town is hopeful that these initiatives will continue to drive growth and prosperity in the area.



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# REAL ESTATE

## Hooksett single-family residence market growing

By **Tony LaCasse**  
*Hooksett Bridge*

The Hooksett single-family residence market has been experiencing growth in median sales prices and volume of closed sales, according to the local market update for March 2023. However, the increase in days on market until sale and decrease in inventory could indicate that the market is becoming more challenging for buyers.

Recent data shows that in March 2023, there were 10 closed sales with a median sales price of \$554,950, which is a 24.7% increase compared to the median sales price of \$445,000 in March 2022. The year-to-date data shows that there have been 28 closed sales with a median sales price of \$547,500, a 5.7% increase compared to the median sales price of \$518,000 in the same period in 2022.

However, the days on market until sale have increased by 188.2% from 17 days in March 2022 to 49 days in March 2023, indicating that homes are taking longer to sell. The inventory of homes for sale has decreased by 25% from 31

in March 2022 to 23 in March 2023, which could further contribute to the challenge for buyers.

Despite these challenges, Tony LaCasse, a real estate expert with Keller Williams Metropolitan, predicts that the recent interest rate drop that happened in early/mid-April will create some breathing room for many buyers who have been squeezed out of the market due to the lack of affordability. Economists are also predicting that interest rates will likely stay stable if not drop some more into the summer, which is good news for buyers.

LaCasse notes that with the spring market in full swing, many more homes for sale are expected to become available. In Hooksett alone, he has seen four new construction developments that include condos, 55+ residences, and large “traditional” Hooksett homes (expanded colonials).

If you are looking to buy or sell a home in the Hooksett NH area, you can reach out to Tony LaCasse at 603-716-5769, who can provide you with more information and expert advice on the local real estate market.

### Local Market Update – March 2023

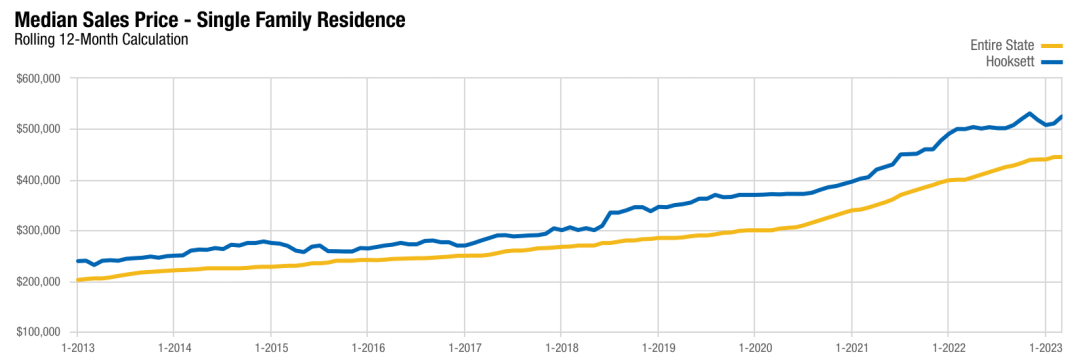
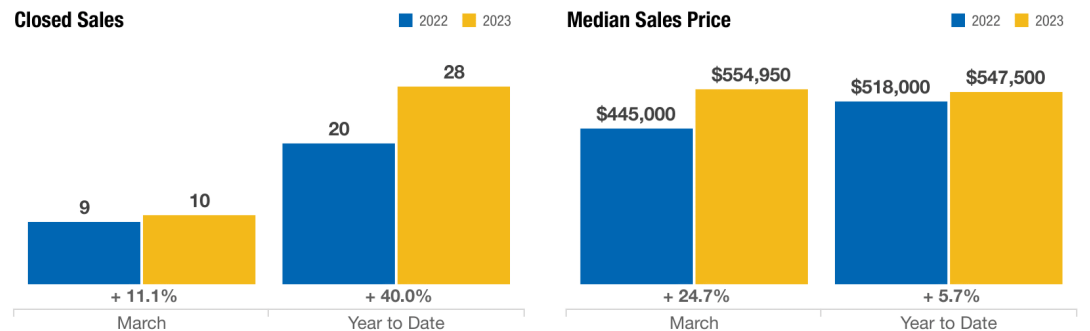
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### Hooksett

Single Family Residence Key Metrics	March			Year to Date		
	2022	2023	% Change	Thru 3-2022	Thru 3-2023	% Change
Closed Sales	9	10	+ 11.1%	20	28	+ 40.0%
Median Sales Price*	\$445,000	\$554,950	+ 24.7%	\$518,000	\$547,500	+ 5.7%
Median List Price	\$492,450	\$594,900	+ 20.8%	\$474,900	\$569,900	+ 20.0%
Volume of Closed Sales	\$4,245,227	\$5,534,900	+ 30.4%	\$10,547,812	\$15,992,700	+ 51.6%
Days on Market Until Sale	17	49	+ 188.2%	17	35	+ 105.9%
Pending Sales	14	7	- 50.0%	26	25	- 3.8%
Months Supply of Inventory	0.6	0.5	- 16.7%	—	—	—
New Listings	16	8	- 50.0%	31	23	- 25.8%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	8	6	- 25.0%	—	—	—
Percent of Original List Price Received*	102.1%	97.7%	- 4.3%	102.4%	99.0%	- 3.3%

\* Does not account for sale concessions and/or downpayment assistance. | Percent changes are calculated using rounded figures and can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.



A rolling 12-month calculation represents the current month and the 11 months prior in a single data point. If no activity occurred during a month, the line extends to the next available data point.  
Current as of April 5, 2023. All data from New Hampshire REALTORS®, Inc. and Northern New England Real Estate Network. Report © 2023 ShowingTime.

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# REAL ESTATE

## Property reassessments coming; review your property card

The Hooksett Assessing Department is set to conduct a full value property reassessment in 2023, in compliance with state law (RSA 75:8-a), which mandates cities and towns to reassess property values at least every five years.

The purpose of the reassessment is to ensure that property assessed values reflect current market values in the state, as real estate market values fluctuate over time. The 2021 assessment ratio in Hooksett is currently 73.8% of the current market value, which falls outside the range of 90% and 110% mandated by state law.

As the Assessing Department prepares for the upcoming reassessment, taxpayers are encouraged to review their Property Record Card (PRC) to ensure that the data is accurate.

rate. Taxpayers can access their PRC online from the assessing page at [hooksett.org](http://hooksett.org).

In the event of any discrepancies, taxpayers are advised to call the Assessing Office to schedule an inspection. Ensuring that all data is accurate and up to date will help make the reassessment process smoother for all parties involved.

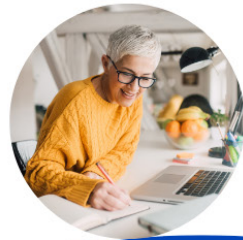
ing that all data is accurate and up to date will help make the reassessment process smoother for all parties involved.

Taxpayers who have any questions regarding the reassessment process can reach out

to Jon Duhamel at the Assessing Office at 603-268-0078.

The reassessment is an essential process in ensuring that property values are assessed fairly and accurately, reflecting current market values. The Assessing Department urges all taxpayers to take an active role in reviewing their PRCs and reporting any discrepancies to ensure that the reassessment process is as smooth and accurate as possible.

Assessing Department urges all taxpayers to take an active role in reviewing their PRCs and reporting any discrepancies to ensure that the reassessment process is as smooth and accurate as possible.



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### Install, maintain your CO detector

The Hooksett Fire Department reminds residents about the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) and the importance of taking necessary precautions to prevent CO poisoning in their homes. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 150 people in the United States die every year from accidental nonfire-related CO poisoning.

The Hooksett Fire Department encourages residents to install and maintain CO alarms to provide early warning. It is recommended that CO alarms be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area on every level of the home.

It is also important to use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, and vents.

# REAL ESTATE

## Top five home buying tips

Buying a home for the first time can be an exciting, yet overwhelming experience. With so many factors to consider, it's important to have a clear idea of what you're looking for in a property. Here are the top five things to look for when buying a home for the first time.

### Location, location, location

When it comes to real estate, location is everything. Whether you're looking for a bustling city center or a quiet suburban neighborhood, the location of your home is crucial. Consider factors such as proximity to work, schools, public transportation, and local amenities when choosing the right neighborhood for you.

### Affordability

One of the most important things to consider when buying a home is affordability. Determine your budget beforehand and stick to it. Look for properties that fit within your budget and avoid taking on too much debt. Additionally, consider the overall cost of owning a home, including property taxes, maintenance, and repairs.

### Size and layout

The size and layout of your home will greatly impact your daily life. Consider the number of bedrooms and bathrooms you need, as well as the

overall square footage. Additionally, think about the layout of the home and how it will suit your lifestyle. For example, if you enjoy entertaining, an open concept living area may be ideal.

### Condition of the property

Before making an offer on a home, it's important to assess the condition of the property. Hire a home inspector to thoroughly inspect the home for any potential issues such as plumbing, electrical, or structural problems. This will give you a clear idea of any repairs or renovations that may be needed in the future.

### Resale value

While it may seem premature, it's important to consider the resale value of your home. Even if you plan on living in your home for many years to come, unexpected life changes may require you to sell your property. Look for a home in an up-and-coming neighborhood with strong property values and features that will appeal to a wide range of buyers.

In conclusion, buying a home for the first time requires careful consideration of many factors. By keeping these top five things in mind, you can find the perfect home that meets your needs, fits your budget, and provides a solid investment for your future.

## Home-buying workshop May 4 at library

Attention home buyers!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming interactive buyer workshop on Thursday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hooksett Public Library. This event is the third part of a four-part homeowner series hosted by Hooksett's own, The Main Street Man, a local real estate advisor focused on clients and the community.

"Buying a Home in a Seller's Market" is an excellent opportunity to learn from real estate industry professionals.

The workshop will cover various topics ranging from lending and mortgages to home inspections, the homeowners insurance process, as well as the closing and title process. If you have been wanting to buy a home, have been looking and striking out, waited out the market and are coming back, or for any other reason, this workshop is for you!

The Main Street Man Real Estate Team will be hosting the event, and Rich Szollar of Title Mortgage Solutions, Jenna

Roberts of Summit Home Inspections, Michelle and Hunter Gendron of Kenna-Gendron Insurance Agency, Tracy Lurvey of Signature Escrow & Title, and Tony LaCasse of Keller Williams Metropolitan will all be on hand to guide you through the buying process in this seller's market.

Active participation is encouraged as this is an interactive event. Take this opportunity to learn from the experts and get your offers accepted in a seller's market!



## Support your community newspaper!

## Advertise in The Hooksett Bridge

The Hooksett Bridge will be published quarterly on the first of August, October, February and May.

The deadline for ads to be placed is two weeks prior to publication.

For pricing, email Aloyo Yen at [thehooksettbridge@gmail.com](mailto:thehooksettbridge@gmail.com).

Veterans are eligible for a 10 percent discount.

Hooksett Chamber of Commerce members are eligible for a 10 percent discount until Aug. 1.

**Say you saw it in  
The Hooksett Bridge!**

# Pinkerton Key Club builds Clothes Closet

Pinkerton Academy's Kiwanis Key Club is making great strides in their latest project, the Clothes Closet. The club has collected a ton of clothes and shoes, and recently gained permission to use a loft/closet area in the gym that the JROTC uses to practice.

Although the administration denied their request for an unused locker room in the Hackler Gym, they are still trying to get permission to use the space.

For now, the group will be painting, dusting, mopping, and decorating the loft area to make it more appealing to students in the upcoming weeks.

The welding teacher has also agreed to help build clothes racks for the room, with her students doing this as part of a "project-based learning" assignment.

While the group is still looking for clothes racks and hangers to help organize the space, one of their biggest challenges is figuring out the logistics of how to open up the room during school hours so that students can go there under supervision to look for clothes. The group is still working on this issue.

In addition to their Clothes Closet project, the Pinkerton Key Club is planning a car wash and a bake sale or lemonade stand soon. The car wash



**Pinkerton Key Club members set up the school's clothing closet earlier this spring. Students at Pinkerton Academy can shop at the store, where everything is available for free. (Courtesy photo)**

has received approval from Pinkerton to do on a Saturday in the parking lot, with the bake sale or lemonade stand to be held at sports games at Pinkerton.

The group voted for next year's officers and is now developing a solid plan and timeline for next year. The group wants to ensure they have sufficient fundraisers planned throughout the year, with a goal of raising enough funds

for anyone in Pinkerton's Key Club who would like to attend the New England and Bermuda District Convention next year.

Sandra Guide, the Pinkerton Academy Kiwanis Key Club Advisor, is proud of the club's progress and looks forward to seeing their future accomplishments.

- Sandra Guide,  
Pinkerton Key Club advisor

## Cawley students mark History Day

David Cawley Middle School is proud of the hard work and dedication that the seventh-grade students put into the National History Day program. This year's theme of "Frontiers in History" provided an excellent opportunity for the students to dive deep into their chosen topics and explore their significance within the context of history.

The school-wide competition held on March 10 showcased the students' impressive research skills and creativity. Judges from various backgrounds were impressed with the quality of work presented by the students. The finalists selected from this competition will move on to the state-level competition at Plymouth State University on April 15.

David Cawley Middle

School congratulates Isabella Fleming, Eden Shea, Maggie McAuliffe, Kara McIntyre, Lilah Dugas, Emma Tilton, and Maxine Ryan-Jacobson on being chosen as finalists. These students have demonstrated exceptional skills in research, critical thinking, and presentation. We wish them the best of luck as they move forward to the next level of competition.

If these students are selected at the state level, they will have the opportunity to showcase their work at the National History Day finalist competition in Washington, D.C., on June 15. David Cawley Middle School is proud of their accomplishments and we look forward to seeing their continued success in the future.

## New hyperlocal newspaper - cont.

*Continued from Page 1*

nations, neighborhood news, and community photos by the deadline (two weeks prior to print date every quarter) to *the hooksettbridge@gmail.com*.

The Hooksett Bridge Community News team is so adamant on becoming a valued resource for the greater Hooksett small business community that we are offering ALL Hooksett Chamber of Commerce Members a 10% discount on any ad they place in the newspaper within the first 90 days of the launch of the paper! This deal is for a limited time only and is for chamber members only. Membership will be verified prior to discount being applied.

Nonprofits will be allowed one free business card sized advertising a year as a courtesy for doing great work for the Hooksett community! Nonprofits must be located in and/or impact the Hooksett com-

munity to qualify for this special promotion.

We would love to hear from you regarding how you feel about this new Hooksett-focused publication so that we can get better, and just hear the good word! If you like what we are doing for the community please let us at The Hooksett Bridge know! You can write to us via email, post to the Hooksett Community Group on Facebook, or an old fashioned hand-written note and drop it in the mail to P.O. Box 235 in Pembroke, NH! We would love to hear from you.

The Hooksett Bridge is a testament to the importance of community and the power of hyperlocal news. With this new resource, Hooksett residents can stay informed, connected, and proud of their town. Hooksett Strong. Connecting the community one story at a time! The Hooksett Bridge.

## HOOKSETT EVENTS CALENDAR

**Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**  
Saturday, May 13  
Hooksett Town Hall/Pantry  
35 Main St  
12-5 p.m.

**Hooksett Community Kitchen**  
Congregational Church  
5 Veterans Drive  
Monday, May 18, 6 p.m.

**Memorial Day Parade**  
Hooksett Village

Monday, May 29  
Noon-2 p.m.

**Fathers Day Festival**  
American Legion  
5 Riverside St.  
Hooksett, NH  
Sunday, June 18  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Chamber of Commerce  
Cornhole Tournament**  
Saturday, June 10, 3-6 p.m.

Merrimack County Savings  
Bank  
360 Londonderry Turnpike

**Garden Club Plant Sale**  
Saturday, June 3  
R & R Wholesalers  
1371 Hooksett Road

*Have an event? Let us know.  
Send your event information  
to thehooksettbridge@gmail.com.*

## *'Best of the Best' to be recognized by Hooksett Kiwanis Club May 9 - cont.*

Bouchard for Municipal Employee of the Year, and the Salvation Army – Hooksett Division for the Community Impact Award.

The event will feature a grand buffet dinner, which will cost \$35 per person. The menu will include baked haddock, chicken piccata, and pasta primavera, with gluten-free options available. Access to the event is a short walk from the rear parking lot, with limited handicap parking available adjacent to the building.

To attend the event, interested individuals can register on the Hooksett Kiwanis Club's website, with tables of eight available for reservation with full payment and a list of all names. The community is invited to join in celebrating and recognizing the outstanding contributions of these community leaders.

### **Hooksett's Community Impact Award**

This year's recipient of the Hooksett Kiwanis Foundation Community Impact Award is the Hooksett Public Library. The library has been a part of the town for many years and has been in its current location at Mount St. Mary's Way for about 25 years. Its mission is to provide quality, high-demand materials, programs, information, and technology to the community.

The library has made a significant positive impact on the Hooksett community through its various programs and services. The staff, led by Director Heather Rainier, is knowledgeable and friendly. The library offers programs ranging from infants to seniors and provides complimentary meeting space for various groups such as Kiwanis, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and many others.

The volunteers, trustees, and Friends of the Library all work together to provide a valuable service to the commu-

nity. Not only does the library offer a vast selection of hardcover and paperback books, but it also provides books to download, wireless printing service, 3-D printing, a photography group, an art group, storytime for children, and numerous family events such as Touch a Truck, Easter Egg Hunts, Santa Visits, crafts, and more. Additionally, the library offers a wide variety of classes and educational programs for people of all ages.

The Hooksett Library was recently selected as the New Hampshire Library of the Year, and many individual staff members have been recognized for their tireless efforts to make the library the best it can be.

The Hooksett Kiwanis Foundation is proud to honor the Hooksett Public Library with this year's Community Impact Award for their longstanding and significant positive impact on the Hooksett community.

### **Hooksett's Large Business of The Year**

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) has been selected as the Hooksett Kiwanis Large Business of the Year award winner for 2023. SNHU is not only an educational center but also a cultural hub for Hooksett, Manchester, and the greater New Hampshire region. It has been a vital resource and partner for the community, contributing to various initiatives that benefit the local community.

One of SNHU's significant contributions to the Hooksett community is its student teacher intern program, which has helped support the town's educational system. Additionally, SNHU has become a resource for local youth athletic programs, lending its sports fields and athletic facilities to the community.

Over the years, SNHU has made significant progress

in making a college education more affordable for students by reducing tuition rates by \$10,000 in 2021. As a non-profit and tax-exempt property, the university has provided fire equipment, including a fire truck and training site, to both the Hooksett and Manchester fire departments.

During the pandemic, SNHU worked closely with health officials, the Hooksett Police Department, and New Hampshire National Guard, volunteering its Hooksett facilities as a regional COVID-19 vaccination site. Thousands of people, including many Hooksett residents, were vaccinated at the site.

Recently, SNHU announced its Global Days of Service, a two-month-long movement where alumni, students, employees, and their families come together to strengthen local communities through service. This initiative shows the university's commitment to giving back to the community and making a positive impact.

Overall, SNHU has proven to be a valuable asset to the Hooksett community, and the Kiwanis Foundation is proud to present them with this year's Large Business of the Year award.

### **Hooksett's Small Business of The Year**

Corey's Closet is a small business with a big mission, and the winner of the Hooksett Kiwanis Small Business of the Year for 2023 award.

Founded by John and Brenda Sliwerski, the non-profit thrift store is committed to empowering young adults with developmental disabilities by providing them with employment opportunities, job training, and skills that will help them become competent and confident members of their community's workforce.

Named after their son Co-

rey, who has a unique chromosomal disorder, the Sliwerskis were motivated to create a business that would provide meaningful employment after high school.

Corey's Closet employs job coaches who work closely with employees to sort, tag, and price donations from the community, which are then sold in the store. The store offers a wide range of goods, including clothing, home furnishings, and more, all at an affordable price for members of the community. All money raised from the store goes back into its programs, which allows for the store's expansion and the creation of more jobs as the store grows.

Corey's Closet recognizes the importance of service work and creating a sense of community and equity for those with a variety of disabilities. The store also provides an opportunity for members of the community and local colleges to volunteer, building a bond between local businesses and community members.

Corey's Closet is a testament to the power of business to positively impact the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, and to the potential of the business community to make a difference in the world.

### **Hooksett's Municipal Employee of The Year**

Hooksett's current fire chief, Steve Colburn, was recently awarded the Hooksett Kiwanis Municipal Employee of the Year award, and it's no surprise why. Chief Colburn has had a long and successful career in Hooksett spanning over 20 years, and he currently serves as the town's emergency management director in addition to his role as chief of the fire department.

Throughout his years as a firefighter, Colburn has ex-

celled as a leader and has many accomplishments. He has served as a fire instructor and mechanic at the state Fire Academy and as fire inspector, managing the department's fire prevention, inspections, and investigations. Colburn excelled in this role, quickly becoming an industry leader in his field. As the inspector, he worked closely with many town residents and businesses, becoming the 'face of the department.'

Colburn initiated and oversaw the department's COVID-19 response, an unprecedented responsibility and far from easy. This included ensuring that the firefighters had the necessary personal protective equipment, providing training on COVID-19, and oversight of department pandemic operations. He ensured that personnel were maintaining their own safety while responding to COVID emergencies in the community.

Post pandemic, attracting new firefighters has been difficult, a problem seen statewide. Colburn has worked hard to show prospective applicants how great the department and Hooksett community is. He has also worked hard to keep the fleet of apparatus up to date and in showroom condition, making sure that the department is equipped to handle any emergency that may arise.

Colburn's dedication to his job and the community has not gone unnoticed. His leadership and accomplishments have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the town residents.

The Hooksett Kiwanis Municipal Employee of the Year award is a well-deserved recognition of his hard work and commitment to making Hooksett a better place to live.

### **Hooksett's Teacher of The Year**

Melanie Godbout is a re-

*'Best of the Best' to be recognized by Hooksett Kiwanis Club May 9 - cont.*

markable teacher who has devoted her career to the students of Hooksett. For 18 years, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that her fifth-grade students not only meet high academic standards but also have rich educational experiences that will stay with them for a lifetime. Her dedication to her students and the community has earned her the prestigious Hooksett Kiwanis Teacher of the Year award for 2023.

Godbout's commitment to education goes far beyond the classroom. She serves on numerous committees and takes on countless roles, always going above and beyond for the students, families, community, and staff of Hooksett. She is an active member of the Hooksett Education Association and has also been involved in programs such as Adopt A Family and Law Enforcement Against Drugs. Her leadership and involvement in the HMS Grading and Reporting Committee, as well as being the chair of the HMS Universal Team for Positive Behavioral Supports, have been crucial in the success of these programs.

Godbout's influence extends beyond her immediate community. She has graciously welcomed future educators to observe her classroom, hosting numerous student teachers from Southern New Hampshire University. Her willingness to foster future educators is an integral part of the long-term success of Hooksett Memorial School's students and education globally.

Godbout is a true inspiration to her colleagues and students. Her passion for teaching and dedication to creating a positive impact in the lives of her students is immeasurable. She is a role model for all educators and her recognition as the Hooksett Kiwanis Teacher of the Year for 2023 is a well-deserved honor.

**Hooksett's Youth Volunteer of The Year**

Abbie Aumann is a true inspiration to the youth of Hooksett, and she was recently awarded the Hooksett Kiwanis Youth Volunteer of the year for 2023 for her remarkable achievements in serving her community. As a freshman at Pinkerton Academy and member of the Future Business Leaders of America, Aumann has already achieved a lot as a volunteer and servant leader.

Aumann's journey as a volunteer began when she was elected president of the Cawley Builders Club in seventh grade, where she earned the Distinguished Club Officer award. She continued her community service as the president of the National Junior Honor Society, organizing the rededication of the Hooksett Lilac Bridge and giving a speech about its history. Aumann has volunteered at numerous events with the Hooksett PTA, the Hooksett Library, the Hooksett Youth Athletic Association, Hooksett Police National Night Out, and Valentines for Veterans, delivered to the Hooksett American Legion and Liberty House.

Aumann has also shown great leadership and initiative by hosting food and personal hygiene drives that benefited the Hooksett Food Panty and Hooksett Family Services. She even led an effort to prepare Christmas cards for first responders and 911 operators, spreading joy and gratitude in her community. As a volunteer with the HYAA Hooksett Twirlers, she teaches baton twirling skills to younger students.

Most recently, Aumann won the title of Miss Liberty's Outstanding Teen with the Miss New Hampshire Organization. Her Ccommunity service initiative, "Helping Hands, Happy Hearts," encourages volunteering in the community and promotes the

benefits of community service for both the person you are helping and yourself.

Aumann's dedication to serving her community at such a young age is truly remarkable, and Hooksett is lucky to have such a compassionate and driven youth volunteer in their midst.

The Hooksett Kiwanis Youth Volunteer of the year for 2023 award is well-deserved for Abbie's outstanding contributions to her community.

**Hooksett's Adult Volunteer of The Year**

Tony LaCasse is a shining example of a dedicated volunteer who truly cares about his community. Despite LaCasse's young age, he has made a significant impact on the town through his tireless efforts to bring people together and celebrate the rich history and culture of the area.

One of LaCasse's most recent accomplishments was organizing the Lighting of Hooksett Village, an event that brought together local businesses and community members to celebrate the holiday season. The event was a huge success, with families from all over Hooksett coming together to enjoy the festive atmosphere and spend time with one another.

LaCasse has also been a passionate advocate for veterans, organizing a Veterans Day Breakfast at the Hooksett Congregational Church that was attended by many local veterans and their families. His commitment to honoring the sacrifices made by these brave men and women has not gone unnoticed, and he has earned the respect and admiration of many in the Hooksett community.

In addition to his work with veterans, LaCasse serves on multiple committees and boards, including the Hooksett Kiwanis, Hooksett Heritage Commission, Hooksett Cham-

ber of Commerce, and his role as an alternate on the Hooksett Zoning Board of Adjustment. In this capacity, he has helped to ensure that zoning regulations are being followed and that the community's interests are being represented in matters related to land use and development.

He has been instrumental in getting the Kiwanis Key Club at Pinkerton Academy up and running, and has worked tirelessly to motivate members of the Cawley Builder's Club to become involved in community service through the Key Club program.

Through his efforts to profile various sites in Hooksett, such as the Stone House and the former Mount St. Mary's College, LaCasse has demonstrated a deep love and appreciation for the history and culture of his community. His dedication to Hooksett has been an inspiration to many, and he is truly deserving of the title of Hooksett's Adult Volunteer of the Year for 2023.

LaCasse's selflessness and commitment to community service are truly remarkable. He is a shining example of what it means to be a good

citizen and a caring neighbor, and his efforts have made a real difference in the lives of many in the Hooksett community. It is an honor to recognize Tony as the Hooksett Kiwanis Adult Volunteer of the Year for 2023.

"Congratulations to the winners of the 12th annual Hooksett Community Leaders Awards!" said Hooksett Kiwanis President Tom Lavery. "On behalf of Hooksett Kiwanis, I want to thank those recipients for their time, dedication, and volunteerism in making our community a better place. It's important to remember how lucky we are to have these individuals and organizations in our lives. They are an inspiration to us all, so please remember to congratulate and thank them for their volunteerism."

"I also would like to thank the Community Leaders Event Committee for their hard work and dedication. They were responsible for soliciting nominations, reviewing submissions, and establishing all the logistics to make the night another successful event," said Hooksett Kiwanis President Tom Lavery.



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