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FEATURED

## A peek inside Haverhill's time capsule

Here's what's being sent to the future

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Amanda Sabga

AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo Arthur Veasey and Kelvin Brooks place an old and a new photo of downtown Haverhill into the time capsule during the ceremony.

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HAVERHILL — It's time travel — Haverhill style.

On Wednesday, creators of a time capsule to be opened in 25 years announced what the capsule will contain.

When the people of Haverhill open the capsule in 2041, they will see a brick from the old Woolworth building, a 2016 Hillie T-shirt, and photos of downtown White's Corner as it looks now and as it looked in 1892.

They will see photos of students who wrote letters to be placed in the capsule and a copy of the June 15, 2016, Eagle-Tribune with the front-page headline "Greetings, citizens of Haverhill 2041."

Merrimack Street Venture Properties, developer of the downtown Harbor Place project, and the Team Haverhill civic group organized the time capsule project. It was proposed by Greater Haverhill Foundation member Sally Cerasuolo-O'Rorke.

The time capsule will be buried on the first floor of the Harbor Place commercial building, which replaces the old Woolworth building at White's Corner and several other structures along Merrimack Street. The project will bring in a UMass Lowell satellite campus, businesses and dozens of apartments.

After visiting three schools to gather ideas for what should be placed in the capsule, Team Haverhill invited the public to vote for its favorite choices.

At a ceremony on Wednesday in the Pentucket Bank Community Room, Tim Jordan, a member of Team Haverhill and the Greater Haverhill Foundation, announced the items that received the most votes through an online poll responded to by nearly 500 people.

Those items include a current photo of the downtown and a photo of White's Corner as it looked in 1892; a copy of The Eagle-Tribune's edition from this week noting the planned unveiling of the time capsule items; a brick from the old Woolworth building, which was demolished to make way for Harbor Place; a Market Basket receipt showing the cost of food today; photos of students in Kerri Alves' second-grade class at Tilton School, Maria Godfrey's sixth-grade class at Hunking School and the Haverhill High School Class of 2016; a Hillie T-shirt; a "Free Brady" T-shirt; and a \$20 bill with the image of Andrew Jackson.

Lisa Alberghini, president of the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston's Planning Office for Urban Affairs which partnered with the Greater Haverhill Foundation to build Harbor Place, addressed the crowd at the ceremony, saying, "History defines us."

"Haverhill has a rich past and has an even brighter future," she said.

Jordan talked about meeting with students in Tilton, Hunking and Haverhill High classes who suggested items to be included in the time capsule. He introduced three students whose letters were chosen to be included in the capsule.

Hunking teachers Godfrey and Eileen Paquette brought their entire classes to the unveiling, while Tilton Principal Bonnie Antkowiak brought a few students, including second-grader Aulani Melendez, who read her letter to her future self aloud to the crowd.

Aulani wrote that she loves living in Haverhill because of all the parks it has, including her favorite, Swasey Field because it has a new water spray pad and new baseball fields.

Aulani asked her future self, "Do I have a husband? Do I have kids?" Aulani also wondered if she would get to see her teacher Alves when the time capsule is unveiled in the future.

Haverhill High School 2016 graduate Elizabeth Duchemin addressed her letter to "Dear Citizens of 2041." In the letter, she predicted there will be flying cars and holograms and that fossil fuels will be scarce. Her wish for the future was that there would be no wars.

Duchemin, who said she will be 42 when the time capsule is opened, told people of the future that if Donald Trump is elected president this year, she hoped he did not "run this country into the ground."

Jordan jokingly told the crowd that comments about Trump "do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Greater Haverhill Foundation."

Hunking sixth-grader Shantel Sanchez addressed her letter to "Dear future me." She asked her future self if she remembered how to do the "Dab" — a current style of dance that is popular.

"Now that you're all grown up, I hope our life is going well," Shantel wrote. "I hope you grew up to be what you always wanted to be, even though I don't know what I wanna be now."

Items to be placed into the time capsule also include a portrait of EZ-Way Cleaners co-owner Peter Carbone, his daughter Carolyn Leverett and her sons Parker, 5, and Landon, 7, and Carbone's father, Atillio Carbone, who built and ran the Skateland roller skating rink.

The capsule will also contain a photo of Parker and Landon Leverett wearing construction helmets and standing in front of the lunch counter at the Woolworth building before the counter was removed in preparation for the building's demolition.

The capsule will include a photo of Mayor James Fiorentini standing in the downtown.

"In 25 years, I'll be at a nursing home," Fiorentini told the crowd, "so get my son to send me an ambulance."

The top five time capsule items voted by the public:

1. Photos of downtown as it looks today and how it looked in 1892
2. Copy of The Eagle-Tribune's June 15, 2016 edition
3. A brick from the Woolworth building
4. Market Basket receipt showing cost of food
5. Heartbeat of Haverhill calendar

Here are other items voted by the public to go in the time capsule:

6. Business card from Haverhill's oldest business, Haverhill Bank
7. Photos of the Merrimack River and old steamboats
8. Photos of Kerri Alves' Tilton School class, Maria Godfrey's Hunking School class and Haverhill High's Class of 2016
9. Hillie 2016 T-shirt
10. Photo of Mayor James Fiorentini downtown
11. "Free Brady" T-shirt
12. A penny and a \$20 bill with President Andrew Jackson's image
13. NECC Alumni Magazine
14. Program from Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce's 100th anniversary dinner

**15.** Photo of the team that created Harbor Place, including state Rep. Brian Dempsey

**16.** A flash drive by HC Media featuring a video of the ceremony announcing items for the time capsule

**17.** Letters from students at Tilton, Hunking and Haverhill High schools