



THE BRADFORD BRIDGE

PROFIT

Meet Your Neighbor
Tillie Wheeler
See page 11

Volume 8, Number 1; Issue 79

January 1998

KRSD Budget Hearing

In line with the requirements of the Charter for Official Ballot Voting approved by voters in the Kearsarge Regional School District last March, the Budget Hearing on the 1998/99 budget was held in December. Aside from the majority of School Board and Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) members, approximately 25 people were in attendance, including school district personnel and selectmen from two of the seven towns. A total of five Bradford residents attended.

The total budget is nearing \$17 million. The School Board proposed a budget of \$16,640,173; the budget proposed by the MBC is \$16,547,955. Additional warrant articles, which cover the teachers' contract, an aides salary agreement, and several other issues, total \$296,421 recommended by the School Board and \$223,871 recommended by the MBC. Income and reimbursements from local fees and state and federal sources are expected to be \$1,444,401; the balance to be raised by the local property tax. An inquiry was raised about \$80,000 for computers that is contained in the operating budget beyond the five-year computer upgrade that was approved in past years by separate warrant articles.

BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE

Bus transportation to the school meeting will be available from the Bradford Elementary School. The bus will leave the school at 8:15 am on Saturday, January 10.

Bernie Lamach, Bradford's MBC representative, stepped down from that role to speak as a private citizen. He commented that, while the school budget accounts for 67% of Bradford's taxes, nearly 80% of that school budget is determined by

Filing period for declaration of candidacy ends January 30

Seventeen town offices are to be filled by election at Town Meeting on March 10. Anyone interested in running for office must file a declaration of candidacy with the Town Clerk between Friday, January 23 and Friday, January 30. Her office hours are: Friday, January 23, 8:00 am to noon; Monday, January 26, 2:00-7:00 pm; Tuesday, January 27, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; and Friday, January 30, 8:00 am to noon and 3:00-5:00 pm.

Town offices open for election:

- Moderator for 2 years (1); \$1.00 fee
- Selectman for 3 years (1); \$1.00 fee
- Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years (1)
- Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 years (1)
- Trustee of Brown Memorial Library for 1 year (1)
- Trustee of Brown Memorial Library for 3 years (2)
- Scholarship Committee for 3 years (1)
- Budget Committee for 3 years (2)
- Planning Board for 1 year (1)
- Planning Board for 3 years (2)
- Zoning Board for 2 years (1)
- Zoning Board for 3 years (2)
- Cemetery Commission for 3 years (1).

Sewer and water study update meeting

On Wednesday, January 21, 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, representatives of Provan and Lorber will hold an informational meeting concerning their feasibility study for town sewer and water. They will provide a status report and seek public input. All interested residents are invited to attend.



Winter Carnival parade, ca 1934. Photo taken at intersection of Route 114 and Main Street at Lafayette Square. Carnivals were held each winter and there was always a parade, ski jumping and racing and skating, usually on Lake Todd. Left to right: Margaret Colby, Audrey Sargent, Ruth Brown, Eleanor Wright, Lena Gaudreau, Donald Dwinells, Wesley Wells, Richard "Champ" Wright. photo courtesy of Allene Hamilton.

Revolving Loan Fund Committee revising loan criteria

The Revolving Loan Fund Committee met on 10 December. After a lively discussion, an initiative was voted to revise the basic loan criteria to qualify more businesses and to simplify the application requirements. Niel Cannon, the Capitol Regional Development Corporation representative, will solicit changes from each member and integrate them into a new proposed policy for the committee's consideration.

As part of the revised approach to making loans available to more local businesses, a portion of the total available funds is to be set aside for use as "incubator" level funding. That is, smaller start-up companies which typically could not qualify for the larger loan could become eligible for loans on the order of perhaps \$5,000, with a significantly reduced application process as well. The incubator

Living in Bradford

Annual School District Meeting

**Saturday, January 10
9:00 am
High School**

Under the new Charter format, this meeting replaces the former March Annual School Meeting.

It is important that residents attend and participate.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

The December meeting of the ZBA was devoted to a discussion with Code Enforcement Officer Chip Meany. Past instances where ZBA decisions had not been adequately transmitted to town building and planning officials were discussed. It was agreed to address the matter by sending copies of the Notice of Decision to those agencies as well as to the applicant.

For future permit applications, questions of how to handle setbacks, especially along the lakeshore were discussed. Meany was advised that denial of a permit application must be the first step in the process, with an appeal to the ZBA for relief available to any applicant not satisfied.

The process for notifying an applicant when a granted special exception or variance is considered null and void when no permit action has been initiated within the stated twelve-month period was clarified. The Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for notifying the applicant when the time period has passed. The tabulated case history file of past ZBA decisions will document the date of granting to trigger a letter from the Code Enforcement Officer.

Proposed amendments to the ZBA's Rules of Procedure were reviewed and the first reading was approved unanimously by the Board.
--Marcia Keller

Bradford Newbury Workshop

The Bradford Newbury Workshop will meet on Thursday, January 15 at Friendship House in S. Newbury. The program will be a slide presentation by Amanda Hatch, a New Hampshire 4-H exchange student who spent six months in Denmark. The meeting will begin at noon with a Danish potluck lunch. Amanda's program will begin at 1:00. Guests are welcome. For information, call 938-5482.

BBA announces holiday decorating contest winners

First prize winner of the Bradford Business Association Holiday Decorating Contest is Mel Pfeifle, Top of Ring Hill Road. The Pfeifle's tree can be seen from almost every location in Bradford.

Second prize winners were Allan and Janet Clark of Cheney Hill Road; third prize winners were the Tremblays of Cressey Road. Notable in the residential entries was the entry by the Wall and Paine families on High Street, with the focus being a decorated tree on Lake Todd. Be sure to drive by. The judges were also asked to nominate the best decorated street, which resulted in a tie between West Main Street and High Street.

Taking first place in the commercial exterior category was the Rosewood Country Inn on Pleasant View Road. This is a perennial favorite. The first place winner for commercial interior category was Foxchase, with their impressive Dickens' village display. Both commercial winners will receive Paul Revere bowls.

Many thanks to our judges, the Selectmen from Warner, and Perley Strout, who was their chauffeur for the evening. Special thanks to those who entered the contest.

Seniors informal roundtable discussion

Bradford resident Lynn Smith will lead an informal roundtable discussion concerning seniors issues on Saturday, January 17, 1:00-3:00 at Ann Hallahan's real estate office. Interested seniors and families and others involved with elderly issues are invited to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify problems faced by seniors in this community and to attempt to come up with solutions. Smith described the goal as "How can we help elders so they don't get lost or feel isolated?" This effort is part of her master's research project, to identify alternative programs for the elderly.

News from the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's office

TOWN CLERK

November 7. Ashley Paige Niederriter was born in New London to Meredith and John Niederriter.

November 28. Charles Kane and Marie A. Menard were married in Bradford.

December 6. Mark Supplee and Samantha Perry were married in Bradford.

TAX COLLECTOR

1997 tax bills are now accruing interest at 12% and will continue to do so until the end of March, when the tax lien takes place. After that, the interest rate will change to 18%.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 2:00-7:00; Tuesday, 8:00-5:00; Friday, 8:00-noon.
Phone: 938-2288, 938-2094.

Sue Pehrson, Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Supervisors of the Checklist

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, January 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm to make additions and corrections to the Checklist. Change of party registration may be accepted at this time.

Bradford Bridge Subscriptions

For those wishing to receive the Bradford Bridge by mail, the annual subscription price is \$12. To subscribe, please send a check to the address below.

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Affordable Family Dining, Wed - Sun, 5:00-9:00
"A Must Visit" - Manchester Union Leader, 8/30/96

Member, Bradford Business Association

938-2100

Bradford Area Cooperative update,
by Diane Gadoury

Well, here is the first of the year and we're getting closer to spring, but first the membership of the Cooperative will need to take care of some very important matters. On December 12, I mailed to all members (with addresses that are on file) a package that allows them to be prepared for a Cooperative meeting, to be held on Monday, January 12, 7:30 pm at Bradford Elementary School.

We ask that all members try their very best to attend this meeting. After all, the Steering Committee is working on your behalf as well as our own. If for any reason a member has not received word of the January 12 meeting, please notify me at 938-2482. I will be happy to get a copy to you.


Ice Day cometh, Sunday, January 18

Muster Field Farm, North Sutton, will celebrate Ice Day on Sunday, January 18, 9:00 am to 3:00-ish; thaw/rain date is January 25. There is no admission charge.

In 1799, blocks of natural ice were transported by clipper ship from New York City to Charleston, South Carolina for the first time. Ice was a precious commodity and by 1830, ice houses were standard farm buildings.

Our volunteer sawyers will demonstrate ice cutting by hand and gas-powered saw on Kezar Lake in North Sutton. The harvest of block ice will be stacked in sawdust in the Waters Ice House, c1890, at the Farm Museum to be used at our summer events. There will be coffee, cocoa and homemade soups served up in the Ryder Corner Schoolhouse, c1810. Other activities include sleigh rides through the woods, ski touring and snowshoeing on our new trails, and sliding on Lover's Lane.

Bundle up and come enjoy this historic look at your American heritage.



Septic System Designs
Test Pits, Perc Tests
Site Assessments
Land Planning
Permitting

ROBERT C. STEWART, Jr.
938-2256 Main Street



Henniker
pharmacy

Actors Studio Theatre Group being formed by Moon Mountain Arts

An energetic, exciting season is planned by the Moon Mountain Arts Committee.

Our tentative schedule includes a Barbershop Quartet in March. In May, Andrew Pinard will direct a play with a local cast. Vaudeville will come to Bradford in July. A good old-fashioned Country Dance will be held at the casino in August. The season will close with a Christmas play in December.

Moon Mountain Arts is forming an Actors Studio Theatre group. Anyone interested is invited to come to an organizational meeting on Saturday, January 17, at the Town Hall at 10:00 am. A production staff is urgently needed. We need people who can help with building sets, painting, lighting, stage managing, and production supervisors. These jobs will be needed for the May and December plays. If you are interested in joining us, but are not able to attend the meeting, please call Deb Lamach at 938-2095. Our organization depends on this staff. Actors and actresses of all ages are also asked to please come and show us support. There have been many inquiries about a theatre group in town and MMA will try to fulfill that wish.

We are very fortunate to have a lot of acting talent in Bradford and nearby communities. Our hope is to gather an interested group who will bring a lot of enjoyment to town. *Town Meeting* and Dickens' *Christmas Carol* were very well received. We know that the interest is there. So come join us for the fun.

--Lu Signorino, MMA Committee

MAGNIFICENT Views



BRADFORD. Three season cottage on Rowe Mountain. Magnificent views of the mountains, Lake Massasecum. Nice level 2-acre lot, with blueberry bushes. House is rustic, but makes a nice vacation retreat. Could be winterized. Dormitory space upstairs sleeps many guests. Nice screened porch. Nice gravel road for walking, horseback riding and enjoying the country life. **\$59,900**

E. Harris Realty
Route 114 Bus. 938-5141
Bradford Res. 456-3542

Bradford Economic Opportunities Committee activities

At the Committee's monthly meeting on 11 December, the group decided to focus on the top three projects selected by the townspeople's straw votes. The voting, recorded during the three presentations made in October and November, identified the top three preferences as 1) the Bradford Green; 2) sewer and water; and 3) the business park. These selections were clearly favored in the voting and will serve as the initial projects in the development of a Bradford Action Program.

It was agreed that additional definition (and clarification for voters) is required for the remaining projects. In particular, the plans for a new library need refinement as to location, whether to integrate with other town offices in a single facility (such as the old Central School), or at a site dedicated solely to a library. These decisions are essential before inclusion in the Bradford Action Program can be accomplished.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee agreed to the following actions. John Harris will take responsibility for development of BEOC-proposed Town Meeting warrant article(s) for the Selectmen's consideration. Carol Adams will investigate the potential for Community Development Block Grant funding of any projects and whether it is feasible to meet their late-January grant application submission requirements. Don Johnsen will confer with David Blake, owner of Blake's Garden Center, concerning an initial plan for the layout of the Bradford Green. Blake, who is a professional landscape designer, is involved in similar projects for other New Hampshire towns. He has volunteered his services and those of a college student to review the various characteristics of the property and develop a preliminary plan for the Bradford Green site.

Merrimack Farm & Country Store

Bradford, NH 938-2211

Happy New Year to You & all of Mother Nature's family

We have:
Bird food
Deer food
Turkey food
Bunny food
Squirrel food
etc. etc. etc.

Letters

To the editor:

To respond to many of my constituents who have asked about what to expect from the recent Supreme Court decision regarding school finance, I respond as follows:

Obviously, there will need to be changes, and something must be accomplished in the next session beginning January 7. Many of our priorities will change, but two issues will remain at the top: school finance and utility deregulation. Both of these issues affect our economic attractiveness and well being.

I believe we have an opportunity to not only respond to the Court's decision, but also to affect some inequities. Specifically, I would support measures that:

- provide a mechanism for equaling funding support across the State and provide for equal opportunity of education.
- provide a homestead exemption for property taxpayers on their primary residence.
- provide up-front building aid so that school districts save on the financing costs of new construction.
- provide uniform property tax relief to older citizens for their primary residence so they might be more able to continue living at home.
- not expand gambling or "sin" taxes to pick up the load for education. In difficult economic times, we've found that these taxes drop more drastically than does the economy.
- continue our local control of schools through locally elected boards and budget committees.

As an elected Representative, I am pledged to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Hampshire. We must strive to fulfill this requirement even though we might differ on some precepts. I will work hard to keep you informed and to represent your interests.

Thank you.

Rep. Bernard D. Lamach, Merrimack 3

428-7076

Wright Travel

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Henniker Mini-Mall Nancy Wright
Main St., Henniker Manager

To the editor:

In the November issue, I was interested to read the article about Carr's Store by Clare Bensley. I remember when there was a post office sub-station there. My first paying job was picking up mail at Carr's Store and delivering it to Ada Rand. About 1935, when I was in the 5th or 6th grade, we attended school where the Town Hall is now located. We were allowed an hour for lunch and many of us walked home for this. On my way home to High Street, my job was to stop at Carr's Store and ask Mr. William Carr if there was any mail for Mrs. Rand. If she had mail, I immediately back-tracked to her house. If she had a letter, she would give me two cents when it was delivered. On the rare occasion that she received a package, I would receive a nickel. How lucky I thought I was when she had mail, but then I had to run home quickly to eat and get back to school by 1 p.m.

I remember the location of the boxes well, and the fact that Mr. William Carr was always there to give me any of her mail. I don't recall if other customers had access to their boxes by themselves or not.

In talking to my brother, Donald, he reminded me that he took over this assignment after I had done it for a year or two. I think that he left for Mt. Hermon School about 1938, so it was prior to this. Also, since the new school, next to Cilley's, was open then, he would have checked the box after school. Then it was too far for us to walk home at lunch time.

Lois Ayer Heyer

Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter news

On Friday, January 9, the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter will present a slide program entitled "Birding at Cumberland Island" at 7:30 pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Gould Road, New London.

Speaker Bob Quinn, seasonal editor of New Hampshire Bird Records, has worn many "hats" in his service to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and is also recognized statewide as a birding authority. His program will acquaint us with those species which frequent this Georgian National Seashore.

The public is welcome and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Fred Sladen, 526-4321.

The Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter will sponsor a birding trip to Plum Island and the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge near Newburyport, Mass., on Saturday, January 10, to look for snowy owls, water birds, and winter migrants. Meet leader Gary Stansfield, 863-8737, at the Warner Park and Ride, Exit 9, I-89, at 8:00 am. Dress warmly and bring lunch and binoculars. --Phyllis Curtiss

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Charter Middle School organizational meeting

On Wednesday, January 14, at 7:00 pm, all Kearsarge parents, educators, and innovators are invited to attend an informational and organizational meeting at Pillsbury Free Library in Warner to discuss the possibility of establishing a charter middle school.

Susan Holland, Director of the Josiah Bartlett Center's NH Charter School Resource Center, will make a presentation and answer questions. Mary Mead will discuss her vision for a charter school. Anyone with questions is invited to call Mary at 456-3262.

Bradford-Newbury Kindergarten and Preschool news

BNKP has had a wonderful holiday season thanks to those who took part in our fund-raising activities. The BNKP students visited the Kearsarge Indian Museum just before Thanksgiving and presented a spirited holiday music show the week before Christmas.

Cobble Pond Farms accommodated the BNKP Thanksgiving Pie Sale which, despite snowy weather, provided a much-needed boost to this year's fund-raising effort. Thank you Cobble Pond Farms and a special thank you to Tracy Barker for baking twenty-four pies for the event.

This year's BNKP Santa's Outlet was a tremendous success due, in large part, to the graciousness of the KRES Parent Teacher Council, which permitted us to set up shop at the Christmas Book Fair held at the school on December 13. Thank you to those who made the event so successful and so much fun. Three lucky kids won the Beanie Babies donated to BNKP. They were: Trevor Fairbank, Alea Paddock, and Alison Boisvert. The following week, Chief Sims of the Bradford Police Department drew the name of the winner of the handmade quilt by the grandmother of preschool student Tyler Roberts. The winner was Wanda Rohloff of Windsor, VT. Thanks for your help, Chief Sims, and thank you, Tyler, for having such a wonderful grandma and helping your school.

On December 18, BNKP families and town-folk were treated to a holiday sing by the students of BNKP, accompanied by Kathy Lowe, the BNKP music teacher. Preschoolers and their upperclassmen shared the stage and took turns stylizing such favorites as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, We Are the Elves, Jingle Bells, and Must Be Santa. It was a special way to kick off the holiday vacation.

As the third set of batteries wear down on the latest noisy toys and the New Year fast approaches, the students look forward to starting the Mt. Sunapee Ski Program next month and returning to class. BNKP wishes the Bridge and all its readers happy holidays and a bright new year. --Mark Fairbank

Friends of BML sponsor Internet program

The Friends of Brown Memorial Library will feature an evening program, "Find What You Need on the Internet: A Live Demonstration," by William Hatt from Bradford, on Wednesday, January 21 at 7:00 pm in the library. Computer whiz Howard Brooks will be part of the presentation. Speaker Hatt encourages everyone attending to bring a list of topics to research. Friends President, Audrey Sylvester, said, "Whether you want to look up family genealogy, history, or your favorite author, our speakers will show you how to access the information through all levels of searching."

Since retiring as Associate Professor of Physics at New England College, Bill Hatt has taught a variety of continuing education workshops for all levels of learners, including Elderhostel courses in astronomy, meteorology, and the history of Count Rumford.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 938-5948.

Prior to the talk, the Friends will hold a organizational meeting at 6:00 pm in the library to continue planning 1998 programs and discuss fund-raising ideas.

Friends contribute to Library Building Fund

The Friends have made a \$500 contribution to the Library Building Fund. Funds were generously donated by the Friends membership.

BWC Update

Once again, I'd like to thank everyone who made our annual "Holiday Crafts and Antique Fair" such a success. The Fair is an important fund-raiser for the BWC.

Thank you to all the BWC members who worked so hard making the Chili and Chowder for the festival. We had a great attendance and our best year ever.

ATTENTION: All boys and girls who had their picture taken with Santa on December 13 at the Town Hall. The pictures are in and posted at Dodge's Store. They can be picked up anytime that Dodge's is open.

The membership meeting will be held on January 20, 11:30 am, at the Church Vestry. This month will be a little different. We plan to have a "Chinese Auction." I'd like everyone to bring one item (or more), used, new or old, that you don't want anymore. These items will be numbered and raffled. Just think, you may find that special item you've been looking for right here at the auction!

The Chinese Auction will also feature lunch from the Little Chinese Restaurant in Newbury. There will be a choice of a few complete meals at a minimal cost.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting. Don't forget to bring your item to be raffled, or we can't have an auction.

A very Healthy and Happy New Year to all!!!! --Doris Tremblay

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Bradford Historical Society news

The Bradford Historical Society has received the newly published *Merrimack County Telephone Company ... the First Hundred Years*, by Dick Violette. Bradford was a great part of the establishment of the telephone system. The book, all five pounds of it, is full of illustrations of your friends and neighbors. We have it available, as well as copies of *200 Plus, the History of Bradford*. Call 938-5386 for information.

The Old Post Office can be opened by appointment during the winter months ... call 938-5386.

Alternative Health and Personal Growth Workshops, Warner

On January 7, the Workshop will address the topic "Therapeutic Touch, Hands that Heal." Diane Murphy and Kathy Simonton, nurse healers, present the energetic body work technique of Therapeutic Touch. Through discussion and demonstration, discover the abilities available in your own hands.

The Workshop series is being held in Warner at the Pillsbury Public Library, 7:00-9:00 pm, with a suggested \$5 donation at the door.



Church News

from Lynne E. Hubley

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, January 4. Sunday School will resume on January 11.

Immediately following the worship service on January 4, we will participate in the "Unhanging of the Greens."

The American Baptist Women will meet on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 pm. The program will be entitled, "The Volcano Within." Pastor Lynne will lead us in a program on anger.

The Computer Club will meet on Wednesday, January 7 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the vestry. This will be a "Bring Your Own Software" night.

Our Wednesday evening support group will continue on Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm in the pastor's study. We will be choosing our next book to study.

Bible Study will resume Thursday, January 8 at 7:30 pm at the parsonage. We will continue our study through the Proverbs. Coffee and munchies are always served.

Our youth groups will meet at the church at 12:45 pm on Sunday, January 11, and travel to the home of Tom and Judy Marshall for a Winter Wonderland party. We will be ice skating, enjoying a bonfire on the lake, toast-

ing marshmallows, and playing hockey if people have hockey sticks. Pick-up time back at the church is 3:15 pm. This is for grades 4-12.

On January 18, we will have youth group at the church. Grades 4-6 will meet from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Grades 7-12 will meet from 3:00 -4:30 pm. The program is entitled "Boy, have I got a story for you." Youth are invited to bring their favorite story -- scary, funny or wacky. We will also be creating "ad-libs" with Bible stories.

Our Food Pantry will be open Wednesday, January 21, from 6:00-7:00 pm. We greatly appreciate everyone in the community who made donations toward our Christmas baskets. Thirty-four baskets were delivered to needy families in Bradford. Thank you for your generosity.

Our Men's Fellowship group will meet at the home of Walter Simonds on Route 114 in Sutton on Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30 pm.

A Chocolate Bonanza will be held Friday evening, January 23, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Folks are invited to bring their favorite chocolate dessert. After indulging in chocolate, we will be playing Hollywood Squares and other games, such as Pictionary and Balderdash.

THISTLE AND SHAMROCK INN



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Silk Farm Audubon Center January Programs

Audubon Center programs are held at the Silk Farm Audubon Center, 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord. Programs are designed with a focus on families, preschoolers, or adult education. Preregistration is required. There is a cost for participation; reduced fees are available to Audubon Society members. For more information, call 224-9909, ext. 333.

New Year's Resolution Wildlife Hike (Family); Sat., January 3, 1:00-2:30 pm.

Did you make a resolution to get more exercise this year? Or to get the family out of the house? Here's a way to get started on the right foot at Audubon's Deering Wildlife Sanctuary.

Snow & Ice (Preschool); Thursday, January 8, 9:30-11:00 am.

Learn how snow and ice can help animals and also provide us with ways to enjoy winter.

Tree & Twig Identification (Adult); Saturday, January 10, 10:00-3:30

Learn how to identify trees in winter. Program will run, snow or shine. Be prepared to carpool, weather permitting.

Beginning Bird Carving (Adult); Saturday, January 10, 9:00-4:00, and Saturday, January 17, 9:00 - noon.

Designed for beginners with little or no experience, participants will complete a stylized carving of a classic shorebird decoy. All wood, materials, and tools will be provided.

The Snake Story (Family); Saturday, January 10, 1:00-2:00 pm.

Learn what snakes need to survive, meet our live snakes, and help us draw pictures of them for a new snake exhibit.

Dogs ... of the Wild (Preschool); Thursday, January 15, 9:30-11:00 am.

Foxes, coyotes, and wolves are related to our pet dogs, but they live in the wild. Discover how these wild dogs find their food and make their homes in the forests and fields.

Birding All Year Round, or 200 Species by the Year 2000! (Adult); Saturday, January 17, 1:30-3:30 pm.

Do you want to see more than 200 species of birds in New Hampshire in one year? Follow this carefully planned schedule to achieve that goal!

Martin Energy

*** * COAL * ***

Ask about our new & used stoves
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938-5531

**Voters Guide
What is the Charter for Official Ballot Voting?**

Editor's note: This explanation was prepared by the school district to describe this year's school budget approval process. Please read Mike Hague's column on page 12 for additional information.

The Charter for Official Ballot Voting, approved by KRSD residents on March 11, 1997, changes how residents vote on ALL warrant articles which raise and appropriate funds for the Kearsarge Regional School District. Money issues include: 1) proposed operating budget; 2) bond issues and notes; 3) collective bargaining agreements; 4) some petitioned articles; and 5) some special articles. This is the first year that the district has implemented the Official Ballot Voting for school district issues.

In the past, voters from the seven towns gathered at the high school on a Saturday morning to discuss, debate, amend, and finally vote on the warrant articles submitted by petition, by elected school board members, and by the Municipal Budget Committee. Articles having to do with raising and appropriating funds for the school district were always decided by a vote at this Saturday meeting.

The charter establishes two sessions of the KRSD Annual Meeting. The first session, to be held Saturday, January 10, will be similar to past Annual School Meetings in that warrant articles will be explained, discussed, debated, and possibly amended. What is different this year is that the only votes taken in this first session will be to AMEND the original articles. This includes petitioned articles placed on the warrant by 25 or more residents.

The KRSD Annual School Meeting will re-convene and continue in its second session when the polls open in each of the KRSD towns, as usual on the second Tuesday of March. The "official ballot" will contain all the original articles having to do with raising and appropriating funds, as well as all the amended articles from the first session, held January 10. The final vote on all articles to raise and appropriate funds to run our schools will take place at the polls on March 10, 1998. This voting will be conducted under the same polling rules for hours and procedures as for town elections. The articles will be decided by the majority/plurality of the total votes cast on the article. In other words, the option with the most votes wins.

Ice Cream's Not the Only Thing That Comes in Cones (Preschool); Thursday, January 22, 9:30-11:00 am.

Cones come in different shapes: they can be tiny or huge, heavy or light. Discover how important cones are to the forest and how we can turn them into games and projects for mid-winter fun.

Bears on Our Doorstep (Family); Saturday, January 24, 10:30 - noon.


Bring a true story (or stories) of wild animals you've encountered in New Hampshire to share. We'll transform the stories into a book to take home.

Who Goes There? (Preschool) Thursday, January 29, 9:30-11:00 am.

Learn to look at tracks and other animal signs to figure out what critters have walked by or found a meal.


A Tale of Turtles (Family); Saturday, January 31, 1:00-2:00 pm.

While turtles in the wild are hibernating, the turtles at the Silk Farm Audubon Center are still active. We'll study these box turtles and their lifestyles and then design and construct a new exhibit for them.



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BOOK REVIEW

by Pauline Dishmon

100 IRISH LIVES

by Martin Wallace
Barnes & Noble Books
New Jersey, 1983

Most of the men and women described in this book were born in Ireland and spent most of their lives there. Many are what might be termed Anglo-Irish, while others, like Saint Patrick, had no Irish ancestry, yet is probably considered the most famous Irish person. This review provides a taste of the mixture cited in this concise book.

JONATHAN SWIFT, 1667-1746

A wealthy uncle sent this famous writer to Kilkenny College. In 1686, he graduated from Trinity College, Dublin. In 1694, he took holy orders and the next year became a curate. As his religious life influenced his writings, in 1713 he became dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. His *A Modest Proposal* suggested bitterly that Ireland's wretched and impoverished children might be sold to feed the rich. His major work was *Gulliver's Travels*, a satire. W.B. Yeats wrote, "Swift haunts me; he is always just round the next corner."

MAUD GONNE MacBRIDE, 1865-1953

This lady was the apple of W.B. Yeats' eye. Together they founded the Association Irlandaise in Paris. While she was the object of the poet's love in so many of his poems, she continually rejected his marriage proposals. In 1900, she founded the Daughters of Ireland. Three years later, she married Major John MacBride, who had formed an Irish brigade to fight with the Boers. In 1918, she spent time in Holloway Prison in London.

J.M. SYNGE, 1871-1909

An asthmatic child, John Millington Synge became a well-known writer and accomplished violinist. His plays, *Riders to the Sea* and *The Playboy of the Western World*, are considered his finest works. The latter opened at the Abbey Theatre in 1907.

Other interesting figures in this book of 100 characters are: Grace O'Malley, Oliver Goldsmith, Charles Stewart Parnell, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Sean O'Casey, Michael Collins, Eamon de Valera, and James Joyce.

Legislative Report

by Representative
Barbara Conner French



I want to start by saying I hope all of your holidays were special and I hope we are all headed for a great 1998!

Work is continuing in both the House and the Senate on the state-level family and children's resource center bill, which I briefed you on in the November issue. I urge all of you to let your Representatives and Senators know where you stand on this important bill, which would establish and coordinate a primary prevention and wellness approach for issues such as school dropouts, welfare, teen pregnancy, and a myriad of other issues within local communities.

The Osteoporosis Council is off to a good start. It is continuing to meet to develop materials and programs to carry out the goals of prevention and education regarding osteoporosis.

I am also co-sponsoring several Senate bills regarding health care. One would expand Medicaid coverage for dental care; another would require health carriers offering any managed care plans to have a consumer advisory board. The most important voices in any debate on health care issues are those of consumers and this bill would ensure that their voices be heard.

As I informed you in the November issue, one of the most important bills coming before the House this session is Democratic Leader Peter Burling's bill to provide health coverage for some, if not all, of the children who currently have no health care coverage. At present, approximately 19,000 of New Hampshire's children are not covered. Of this group, about 1,600 are receiving coverage through the Healthy Kids Corporation, which began in 1994 and has had great success in improving the health status of these children. A great number of children, however, cannot be covered by Healthy Kids because their parents cannot afford even the reduced premiums provided by this program. This is clearly a very serious situation. The Democrats and their Republican supporters mean to change it by drawing down available federal dollars to buy the necessary insurance.

One of the hot issues in the state over the past couple of years has been electricity deregulation. Talks are on-going and proposals are being bandied about -- among them even a buyout offer of PSNH lines and distribution network by the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. The ultimate goal is to promote and protect consumers' interests, most notably by introducing competition and lowering our highest-in-the-nation electric rates. Lost

in all the astronomical numbers and figures is the fact that deregulation is only a part of a state energy plan, which includes promoting renewable energy, energy conservation, and protecting the environment.

While I was writing this column, the New Hampshire Supreme Court handed down a decision that will have a tremendous effect on our state and will probably occupy much of the attention of the House. The Supreme Court, on December 17, ruled that the state's practice of funding public education through property taxes was unfair and therefore unconstitutional. In their decision, the majority of the Justices stated that, although property taxes were local in the sense that they are collected district by district, they are actually a state tax in that they have been authorized by the legislature "to fulfill the requirements of the New Hampshire Constitution." Chief Justice Brock wrote that, as a result, the state has shifted most of the responsibility for supporting public schools to local school districts. I will strongly support a system that provides a fair, equitable tax structure and meets the constitutional requirement that we provide an adequate education. This means that, among other things, the Legislature will have to define an "adequate education." While much of the discussion thus far has centered around the financial effect of the decision, I will work to ensure that the children aren't forgotten in the solution.

As the House session starts up again, I will bring you up-to-date information on all of these issues and others. Again, I encourage you to call me to share your input on these important issues.

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BRADFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Timber harvesting field trip

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is sponsoring a timber harvesting field trip to an active logging site on the Kidder/Cleveland Tree Farms, located in Wilmot, Sutton, and New London. The event will be held on Saturday, January 17, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The fee is \$5.00. To register, call Trish Churchill at 224-9945.

This field trip will give landowners the tools to conduct a careful timber harvest based on the Society's experience in managing more than 27,000 acres in New Hampshire. The trip will address common questions about logging practices, such as how trees are selected, marked, and harvested, why a landowner should have input from a forester, and why they should have a logging contract.

Trip leaders will be forester Brooks McCandlish of New England Forestry Consultants, Inc., landowner William Kidder, logging contractor Fred Avery, and Society education specialist Dave Anderson.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1901 that has helped protect more than one million acres in the state. The Society has on-going programs in land protection, environmental education, advocacy, and sustainable forest management.

Cloakroom of dreams, by Jack Rivers

"Whatever the mind of man can conceive, it can achieve." W. Clement Stone, the successful insurance entrepreneur and author of best-selling books on positive thinking, tells us. My uncle Joe had it more simply: "Never say 'Can't'" was his motto.

At 21 years of age and after more than a month cooped up in the U.S. Navy's boot camp at Newport, Rhode Island, all I knew was that I wanted to meet some girls and go out on a date. There were a couple of days of liberty coming up on the last two Sundays of our two-month stay at Newport, but how to meet the girls?

Opportunity struck at last. There was a dance on the base for those who had been there for six weeks or more. I didn't qualify to participate, but I was able to get a volunteer job working in the coat room. It was early December and everybody wore coats, so I would at least get to see the other half with and without their coats, which may only be crumbs, but sounded pretty good to me at this point.

I mean, my shipmates were great and it was enchanting to watch the nighttime running lights of the destroyers riding at anchor on wintry Narragansett Bay as I paraded around the barracks in my new uniform and shiny boots on fire watch. But, really, there had to be more to life than this.

The big night arrived. The coats came off and I hung them up with loving care, but everybody else got to do the dancing. Then came the long, boring period when nobody was

leaving or picking up coats. They say "an idle mind is the devil's workshop." It was.

I passed the time writing my name and base address on slips of paper and putting them in the girls' coat pockets, sort of like a calling card. All this was back in the early 50's, before ads in the newspapers and computer dating. We had to make do any way we could.

The following week the letters began to pour in. I was getting more mail than anyone else in my platoon... and all from girls! One said she had found my address in her coat pocket when she went to church the next day. All wondered how the address got there and if they had met me the night of the dance.

The screening process was immediately set in motion. Soon a winner was chosen, a date arranged, and the meeting took place. She was a lovely lady, but not exactly the goddess of love and beauty I had expected. Doubtless, her expectations of my superior qualities were found somewhat lacking. But I will say this: she sure could write one hell-of-a-letter!

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*From the kitchen of
Lesley Marquis*

I have to admit I'm glad the holidays are over and I can get back into my old routine. I enjoy the early evenings and the slow time midweek. I don't even mind if it snows, as long as I'm snuggled under my afghan with a good book.

Here's a quick and tasty recipe for a winter supper.

SPEEDY BEEF STROGANOFF

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 2 Tbsp vegetable oil | 1 lb top sirloin, cut in 3/4-inch cubes |
| 1 lb mushrooms, sliced | 1 large onion, thinly sliced |
| 2 Tbsp flour | 1 1/2 cup beef broth |
| 1/2 cup dry red wine | 1/2 cup sour cream |
| 1 1/2 tsp paprika | 1 clove fresh garlic, minced |
| 12-oz pkg egg noodles | |

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Sprinkle beef with salt and pepper. Add steak to skillet and brown on all sides. Transfer steak to bowl. Add mushrooms, garlic and onions to skillet; saute until brown. Mix in flour. Add broth and wine; boil until thickened. Reduce heat to low and return steak and any collected juices to skillet. Mix in sour cream and paprika. Stir until heated through. Do not boil. Season with salt and pepper. Serve over cooked noodles.

GLIMPSES, selected by Milly Kittredge from Bradford Historical Society materials

January 1898. Mr. C.E. White, local Sash and Door Mnfg., secured a contract to furnish frames and sash for the Newport shoe shop (the building once on the corner of High and Main St.). It will give employment to several men for some time ... Mr. White is a hustler and we are glad to hear of his success.

1898. Please indicate your support (by subscription) of the street lights for the last six months ... a decided improvement to our community, let us not discourage their continuance.

1898. School budget for the year, \$950.51. Includes Dog Tax and Literary Fund. Total of 62 students, three terms of 24 to 28 weeks of school, depending on the district.

Did you know ... facts gleaned from the new Master Plan

Did you know that the population of Bradford grew 26% between 1980 and 1990, an increase of 290 year-round residents. The greatest increase, of 93%, was in the 35-44 age group. And the second largest increase, 46%, was ages 0-6. The only age bracket to see a decrease was ages 14-17, with a 16% drop. However, consider that between 1970 and 1980, our population increased 64% or 436 residents.

1996 Master Plan adopted

After three years of arduous, detailed and, at some times, frustrating effort, the Master Plan Update Committee presented its product to the Planning Board for a final review. The Master Plan, itself, was then presented to the residents of Bradford at a statutorily required public hearing, held December 12, prior to actual adoption by the Planning Board.

In response to a question at the hearing about the purpose of a master plan, the statement that introduces the plan was read: "The Master Plan is a guide for the future development of the community to be used by the Planning Board in carrying out its planning duties. It is a living document to be used to meet the challenges of future change and, consequently, is never complete or 'cast in stone.' As recommendations within the Plan are implemented and changes occur within the Town, the Plan will need to be reviewed and updated."

This document is, in fact, an update and substantial revision of the 1986 Master Plan, drawing much of its natural resources material from that plan. The Planning Board felt that, since there has been little change in the natural conditions described in the 1986 Master Plan, the results should be incorporated in this Master Plan with deep appreciation for the extensive work done at that time.

Many changes have occurred in the population and physical environment of the Town. That prompted the need for the current revision, beginning with a townwide survey in

1995, followed by a questionnaire to all town departments and service organizations, followed by several public meetings. All this formed the basis for the Goals and Objectives that are the foundation for this Plan.

A relatively few comments and questions were raised by the 30-plus in attendance, based on the very short time period prior to the hearing when limited copies of the document were available for review. As the Master Plan states, it "...serves as one piece in the planning process. It is meant as a guide to assist the town in its revision of municipal regulations and ordinances conforming with the principals set forth in this Master Plan." In that vein, the Board was reminded that the Master Plan should be long on principles and short on specifics, as the implementation will be determined by future public hearings and, in the case of any zoning changes, by a vote of the Town.

The Planning Board took the comments under advisement, made minor modifications to the draft, and on December 23, adopted the 1996 Bradford Master Plan.

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Meet Your Neighbor by Audrey V. Sylvester

Born at home in the Melvin Mills section of Warner in 1914, Matilda Anderson Wheeler (Tillie) has watched New Hampshire change. When she was growing up with three brothers (Gordon, Carl and James), farms were everywhere. She lived on one. Neither Tillie nor her mother ever milked a cow. "No, I never did," she said. Men's work was milking and farm business; women's work was cooking and raising children. Tillie walked to a nearby one-room schoolhouse through sixth grade. When she attended high school, she rode the train to Warner. Briefly attending Plymouth Teachers College taking courses in elementary education, she enjoyed the experience which she described as "one where more learning happened in the dormitory than in the classroom."



After marrying Clarence Wheeler in 1935, the young family made several moves before making a home of the Old Sutton Road house, which she has occupied for 49 years. Clarence, who was manager of the Merrimack Farmers' Exchange, created quite a stir when he paid \$5,000 cash for the house and four acres in 1948. Tillie was annoyed that she was away at a typing course at New England College on the day Clarence accepted "a few hundred measly dollars" from the State Highway Department for a portion of their land to build a new section of Route 103. She was resigned, "They wouldn't have given much anyway."

As the four Wheeler children grew older, Tillie began working outside the home: selling Avon products for 12 years and working at Dodge's Store when Ralph Dodge was the owner. She became an early member of the Bradford Women's Club, serving as its president from 1971 to 1973 and again from 1983 to 1985. In those days, women wore hats and gloves to meetings; proceedings strictly followed Robert's Rules of Order. To provide hot lunches for school children, the Club raised money with Whist card parties, showcased book reviews; presented speakers; and once, gave

a play for the members' entertainment. Tillie played the "funny little part of the maid."

Acting in high school and Melvin Mills Grange plays, as well as giving monologue performances (as did her mother), Tillie has always felt comfortable in front of an audience. She loves the stage and is especially fond of acting in Shakespeare plays. When Moon Mountain Arts held auditions for the play, *Town Meeting*, Tillie's talent was re-discovered. The part of an old lady who knew a thing or two seemed tailor-made for her. In real life, Tillie has learned a thing or two. Would she offer advice? Answering without much hesitation, she said, "I don't know ... I don't think I want to dish out advice." As a neighbor dropped by to borrow a can of evaporated milk, Tillie, who always keeps evaporated milk on hand for chowder, was willing to give a bit of advice. When the neighbor said she always had used milk in her chowder, Tillie urged, "Use evaporated milk; it'll be better."

Wheeler holiday traditions continue. Christmas dinner is roast pork with potatoes roasted with the meat, Swedish meatballs, made-from-scratch plum pudding soaked in rum, which is ignited to a blue flame when served, pecan pie, cranberry sauce; and in the Christmas stockings, a bottle of stuffed green olives. Tillie remembered that, years ago, her mother would make a great bowl of cranberry sauce. "Every bit would be eaten. Now I open a can of cranberry sauce and some of it is left. It's no longer a luxury; you can eat it every day of the year." She noted that today there are heaps of gifts, an unthinkable amount when Christmas presents were ordered from Montgomery Ward and Sears catalogues.

A long-standing member of the Bradford Conservation Commission, Tillie is very involved in town affairs. No longer the Commission's Chairman, her committee work includes working on trails and creating wetlands maps ... whatever comes up that relates to conservation. Tillie thinks the town is fortunate to have so many intelligent, capable new people moving into town who are willing to help.



with Jessica Fillmore for *Town Meeting* play

It's been many years since Tillie pulled down black shades to cover windows during World War II. Back then, gas was rationed, sugar was hard to find, and social life was an evening of canasta, bowling or horn pouting. She thinks life has picked up speed and is more complicated. She said, "It should be simplified with all this technology. Instead, it all takes longer. You don't do anything without a hassle. Take my refrigerator, for example. I was supposed to get a \$30 rebate. On July 3, I applied for it. After five months of calling, I found out the computer had made a mistake. It was only \$30, but I earned it."

Today, Tillie is a wise woman with four grown children, twelve grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She is busier than ever. Does Tillie Wheeler have a favorite chair? No, she has no time to sit down.

Report on Kearsarge Regional School District by Mike Hague, Bradford School Board Rep

School District Meeting

The Annual School District Meeting, first session, will be held on Saturday, January 10, at 9:00 am at the high school. Please come and join the deliberations on the warrant articles so that you can make informed choices. The second session of the School Meeting will be voting at the polls in Bradford on March 10 on all articles to raise funds to run our schools. The Charter for Official Ballot Voting, approved last year, makes this new process happen. The new process is explained in detail in the *Voters' Guide*, on page 7 of this *Bridge*. If you have any questions, please contact me.

The *Kearsarge Chronicle*, mailed to every district household, has a detailed accounting of the budget and warrant articles. If you need more information or do not have a copy, again please contact me. I will try to fill in the background and context of this budget, since the details and process are covered elsewhere.

The School Board and Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) worked together for many weeks to fashion a joint operating budget; in the end, they could not agree on a final figure. The operating budget of \$15,860,173 proposed by the Board is about 3.3% higher than last year. Most of this increase is due to higher student enrollment, even though cost per student is down slightly. The MBC wants a budget of about \$92,000 less, cutting funds from teaching and maintenance supplies, new initiatives for the strategic plan, and counting more on savings from having senior teachers leave (replaced by lower salaried beginning teachers). I believe we already have a bare bones budget with a small increase and, unlike other businesses, a standard 5% budget cutting in certain areas affects student education, not the production of widgets (or products for sale).

Included within the operating budget is approximately \$84,000 for new computer equipment. In past years, computer expenses were contained in a separate warrant article. But since technology is a continuing educa-

tional requirement, the Board and MBC feel it is better placed within the operating budget. The computer money is about half the amount approved last year. About 72% of the total budget is for salaries and benefits. One of the largest increases this year is for health care insurance, up about \$150,000. Football was approved as a varsity sport after careful deliberation about its effects on the fields and on other sports, but it will be funded entirely by private funds.

Warrant Articles

In addition to the operating budget, nine other warrant articles seek to raise money for the funding of your school district. The collective bargaining agreement for teachers is \$166,053 (last year's was \$290,000), for aides, it is \$22,818 (\$27,162 for last year). Both agreements are recommended by the Board and MBC.

Special education costs, help for kids with learning problems, are very difficult to predict, especially the costs of placements of some students in out-of-district facilities. The budget includes a 2% increase in special education for next year. However, the district is in the hole for \$23,550 for this year, so an article asks for that deficit appropriation. To help prevent that from happening again, other articles ask to establish a trust fund for special education cost overruns. \$10,000 would be appropriated for that fund and up to \$20,000 would come from any operating surplus. The MBC does not recommend those two appropriations.

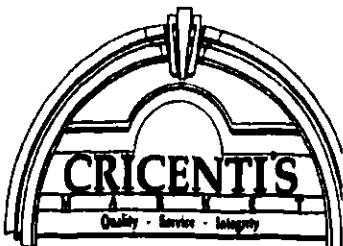
Other articles include a \$20,000 architectural study for addition or renovation of the crowded middle school. Enrollment increases are being felt throughout the district. An appropriation of \$9,000 is sought for a Ropes Course at the high school, with \$10,000 being raised by donations. The Ropes Course would be used by school and community alike. A \$10,000 appropriation, with any surplus up to \$20,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund, would help pay for any future expansions. The MBC does not recommend these appropriations either.

The Board and the MBC do agree about the need for more athletic field space at the middle school. An article proposes a \$35,000 appropriation to develop two athletic fields so that middle schoolers do not have to use the busy New London Outing Club fields for their intramural and interscholastic sports.

The last warrant article asks for voter guidance for the Board as they wrestle with developing a district kindergarten plan. Should we go with kindergarten in-district or with the private kindergartens, all using the same curriculum?

Where do we go from here?

"In this appeal we hold that the present system of financing elementary and secondary public education in New Hampshire is unconstitutional. To hold otherwise would be to effectively conclude that it is reasonable, in discharging a State obligation, to tax property owners in one town or city as much as four times the amount taxed to others similarly situated in other towns or cities. This is precisely the kind of fiscal mischief from which the framers of our State Constitution took strong steps to protect our citizens." With these beginning words, the State Supreme Court has changed the way we will pay for the public education of our children. Having seen many schools throughout the state, I believe our present funding system is unfair and now it has been ruled unconstitutional. As your representative on the School Board, I can see how the system often forces property owners into adversarial relationships with educators, instead of cooperative relationships. My hope is that now we can use our talents and energies to find an alternative that is just for everyone. Contact me for any information you may need or feedback you want to give me: 938-2722. lovmts@aol.com, 121 Marshall Hill Road.



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Library Lantern
by Maggi Ainslie

We thank the Friends of Brown Memorial Library for its substantial donation to the Library Building Fund, made in December. Their continued support is what helps to keep us going. Starting in January, we will be selling raffle tickets for a Victorian doll house, donated by Barbara Hall and assembled by Shirley Morse. Tickets will be sold through March 11th; the winning ticket to be announced at Town Meeting.

By juggling books around (which we have become very good at doing), we've set up a seven-shelf section of science fiction ... many titles donated by Rod Jones.

We're looking for someone to loan a large picture to hang over the fireplace/computer area. Call us if you have one to share.

Any items for the Thrift Shop can be brought to the library any time we're open.

Be sure to check the February Bridge for another fund-raising dinner coming up!!

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Then & Now

by Milly Kittredge

The Brick Mill



The Mill during its lumber mill days, 1920's

interlocking blocks known as Tooky Toys, a woodworking shop, a group residence, and a craft shop.

There was a large shed connected on one side, a sizeable house in the back, and across the brook on the corner of Main and High Streets was a large building which went through many changes until it was torn down in the 1930's.

Now the Brick Mill stands by itself as a pleasing square brick building, looking much the same as it did 195 years ago. The Harrises have given thought and care to renovating the Mill into living quarters. Many of the old pulleys, boards, flooring and machinery are intact.



The Brick Mill today

Ruth-Ann and John Harris hold an open house during the Christmas season because they feel the Mill is an old and valuable part of Bradford's history. Any townspeople who care to are welcomed to walk through. Many generations of Bradford people have been employed there, and there are stories we've heard and many we haven't from those with connections to the Mill. It is among the oldest buildings in town and the town is fortunate to have such gracious and appreciative caretakers.



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Selectmen's meeting in December

December 1. Selectmen accepted the invitation by the Warner Selectmen to judge their town's Christmas lighting contest. Warner Selectmen, in return, will judge Bradford's.

Payments to the school district increase on January 1 by \$3,900 a month, for a total monthly payment of \$133,700.

Town and Country Reprographics in Concord won the bid to print Bradford's 1997 Town Report. This year materials will be submitted electronically.

Fire chief Mark Goldberg announced that the Bradford Fire Department had been awarded a grant of \$400 to purchase helmet lights.

December 8. Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) Member Bernie Lamach met to discuss the school district's proposed budgets. He described the differences between the budget approved by the school board and the one approved by the MBC. He said the MBC started with the premise that the school budget should not increase more than the assessed evaluation of the district, 1.6%. However, they failed in that goal due to contract commitments, including the teachers' contract and the Honeywell building management contract. The final MBC budget is \$245,000 less than the one proposed by the school board. Selectman Joe Conway challenged the MBC assumption, asking why they did not work toward the goal of a flat budget. Bernie responded that, due to the contracts, it wasn't possible. Conway responded that he felt the school budget was out of control, with school management taking a "damn the taxpayer" approach.

Marcia Keller inquired whether the Selectmen planned to submit a warrant article to match funds already appropriated by the Lake Massasecum Improvement Association. These funds will be used, as they were last summer, to provide educational information and other support related to the milfoil problem in the lake. Selectmen agreed that they will present the article.

Keller offered to inquire of the Commissioner of the Dept. of Revenue Administration how to address the issue which raised Bradford's budget by \$200,000; namely, paying a penalty for receiving a commitment for Dept. of Transportation funds a year ahead of the expenditure. Selectmen accepted her offer.

Selectmen discussed a proposal to build a roof for the Town Hall handicapped access ramp. They agreed to put the project out for bid and pay for it in 1998.

The NH Municipal Association Property Liability Trust announced a reduction in Bradford's property liability policy through the year 2000. Bradford will get a 2.5% refund for 1996-97, a 5% reduction for 1997-98, then a freeze in rates through 2000.

Town employees and selectmen are meeting with representatives of the Tufts insurance company to explore ways to contain the increase in health insurance rates. The NH Municipal Insurance is up 45% for 1998. For comparable coverage, the Tufts policy will reduce the annual cost by \$4,600 from the increase projected by the old carrier.

The Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurses Association requested that the Bradford Selectmen support its efforts; the support had been budgeted until two years ago. Selectmen voted to submit a warrant article, enabling the community to determine whether to support VNA efforts.

December 15. Selectmen again discussed the school budget and its affect on Bradford's tax rate. They noted that even with the MBC's proposed 4.75% increase, the actual increase that must be raised by taxes will be between 12% and 16%. This is due to less revenue coming into the school district.

Cheryl Behr reported a complaint made by Dan Pugliese concerning the handicapped access ramp, which had water pouring off the Town Hall roof onto the ramp, causing an unsafe situation. He also expressed displeasure that the ramp was built "at the back door." Selectmen responded that the ramp had been there for more than five years. This year's construction involved bringing the ramp up to ADA standards and next year's budget will include money for a roof over the ramp.

December 22. No Selectmen's meeting.

December 29. A request by the road agent to purchase a sweeper attachment for the town tractor led to a discussion concerning the procedure for establishing the need for equipment expenses. Selectmen approved the \$2,400 purchase.

Larry Shultz met to discuss several issues. He began by complimenting the road crew, saying he's seen "phenomenal improvement" to County Road over the past five years.

He expressed concern over Canadian logging trucks speeding on Center Road and getting stuck in bad weather and blocking County Road. Selectmen responded that the speeding problem has been addressed and they'll address the issue of traveling the road during snowstorms.

Shultz stated that he had complained for years concerning junk on the property of Emile Busiere, located on the class VI section of County Road. Selectmen suggested Shultz contact the Code Enforcement Officer to deal with the situation.

Finally, Shultz said he believed the Town wrongly taxed his property at the top of the current use range. Selectmen discussed with him the difference between the assessor's classification of current use types of land, which considers grade, location, site quality, etc, and their authority to determine where in the range of DRA's allowable current use figures to tax property owners. Because of our relatively low tax base, Selectmen decided in 1995 to tax current use properties at the top of the allowable range. Shultz's recourse, according to the Selectmen, is to apply for an abatement.

Selectman Dick Vitale reported on a site visit to a Fairgrounds Road bridge with the Road Committee, Road Agent, and representatives of the engineering firm BACKillim. The engineer agreed to produce two alternatives for the bridge, one rehabing the existing abutments and the with new abutments for improved water flow. The proposals will be completed in time for the Road Committee's January 21 meeting.

Selectmen reviewed and concurred with a letter from New London Selectmen to Merrimack County expressing concern that the 1.9% county budget increase is actually a 12.8% increase due to lower revenues. Selectman Conway commented, "Just like the schools, the county has no fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers."

Selectmen agreed to provide bus transportation to the Annual School Meeting on Saturday, January 10. The bus will leave the elementary school at 8:15 am.

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GARDENING

by Fred Winch



The catalogs have weathered the storm of the Christmas mailings and they are spectacular this year; generally more use of color, many with slick paper, many larger size, and all with new or newer varieties.

Of the multitude I have received for '98, I picked three, which have come to my mailbox over a long time, as being outstanding for one or more reasons.

The first is the longstanding seed merchant, Burpee of Westminister, PA. This year it is larger in format, every page printed in color with their "picks" with color photos. New varieties to their catalog are highlighted and there are a super-abundance of them!

A new tomato, Fourth of July, similar to the bunch tomato featured in supermarkets the past few months, is the color illustration. It is advertised as ripening in 44 days from transplanting -- before the Fourth of July -- and to do so with "good flavor."

As if the corn crop is boring, what with yellow, white, and bicolor ears of corn we usually grow, there is a new 75-day corn highlighted in Ruby Queen, ruby-colored of course, with a packet of 75 seeds for \$4.75 (exclusive of course).

For many years, Burpee has been seeking a perfect white marigold and apparently they have it in '98 in French Vanilla, which rivals their previous first white. The catalog features many newer vegetables from cantaloupe to Swiss chard (the latter in a bicolor), but sadly for some of us with older favorites, some old stand-bys are missing.

Johnny's of Maine features "over 130 new items for 1998!" with a cover illustrating the new bicolored Swiss chard. His catalog write-ups feature excellent cultural instructions for each plant variety featured. Vegetables, as well as flowers, are Maine-tested for growth results, as well as flavor and hardiness. Many of the varieties featured have been developed or improved by this grower and descriptions as to results in this general area serve as guides for us Bradford gardeners. He, along with many seedsmen, have succumbed to the sunflower craze with

two pages of seeds of many colors, growth patterns, and habits for the person looking for the ideal for his use in 1998; packets range from 25 seeds for \$2.90 downwards. This company has grown rapidly the last few years.

Probably the J.W. Jung Seed Company, a family-owned business in Randolph, Wis., has changed more in the last two or three years than any other midwest garden supplier. Of larger format, the catalog is also printed on slick paper with color illustrations, some very striking, of all plant materials. This company also is in the plant zone we are and has emphasized plant material suitable to our growing conditions. One new spectacular plant, Yellow Crown Peony, is tucked away with a nice photo, and available, now, at \$69.98, "in limited quantities." There is an emphasis on hardy roses suitable to our area, many developed in Canada, as both bush roses or climbers (hardy to zone 3!), many for less than \$10.

Some of the newer varieties of vegetable and flower seeds are also available, but the old stand-bys have not been neglected. Fruiting plants are not neglected and hardy plants are featured, such as Red Free Apple, which has been bred as a tree not needing spray to produce good fruit. The only fruit tree not found in the catalog is peach ... Wisconsin is not suitable for peach culture.

These catalogs are worthy of a look as they are, I believe, leaders in the mail order plant world -- certainly they will stir the desires of local gardeners.

SCHOOL, continued from page 1

contracts, leaving only 20% of the total that can be negotiated or cut by the MBC.

The next session under the new Charter will be the Annual School District Meeting, to be held this year on January 10. This meeting will address explanations, debate, discussion, and votes to amend the original budget articles. Both the original articles and any amendments will be voted on at the town election ballot session on March 10.
--Milly Kittredge and Marcia Keller

LOAN, continued from page 1

funding concept will be developed and reviewed by the committee within the next two months. When all the changes are in place, the committee will actively promote the Fund with the Bradford business community and local entrepreneurs.

At the committee's next meeting, on Wednesday, January 14, Mr. Cannon will report on the success of current investments from the fund in terms of the number of jobs created for Bradford residents.

Bradford Country Square Dance

The Bradford Country Squares will host a Mainstream square dance on Saturday, January 10 at the Bradford Town Hall from 8:00 to 10:30 pm. Yikes Cameron will call and Sally Lennox will cue this celebration of "Winter Wonderland." Admission is \$4.00 per person. For more information, call 763-4792.

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 - ★ Planning a wedding in 1998? Stop by for a free consultation. Remember to plan ahead for this big occasion!
- Many thanks for your support during 1997. Our best wishes in 1998.

January Calendar

Monday, January 5

Cemetery Commission, 9:00 am; call 938-5386 for location

Selectmen's meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

Tuesday, January 6

ZBA, Town Hall, 7:00

Wednesday, January 7

PTC, Bradford Elementary, 7:00

Alternative Health, Pillsbury Public Library, Warner, 7:00-9:00

Library Trustees, library, 7:15 open to the public

Thursday, January 8

KRSD School Board, high school, 7:15

Bradford Economic Opportunities Committee, Town Hall, 7:30

Saturday, January 10

Annual School District Meeting, High School, 9:00 am

Monday, January 12

Selectmen's meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

Bradford Area Cooperative meeting, Bradford Elementary School, 7:30

Tuesday, January 13

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30

Wednesday, January 14

Revolving Loan Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

Charter middle school informational meeting, Pillsbury Free Library, Warner, 7:00

Thursday, January 15

Bradford Newbury Workshop, Friendship House, S. Newbury, noon

Bradford Economic Opportunities Committee, Town Hall, 7:30

Saturday, January 17

Moon Mountain Arts, organizational meeting for "Actors Studio Theatre," Town Hall, 10:00 am

Informal roundtable discussion for seniors and friends, Ann Hallahan's real estate office, 1:00-3:00

Sunday, January 18

Ice Day, Muster Field Farm, N. Sutton, 9:00-3:00

Monday, January 19

Selectmen's meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

Bradford Business Association, church vestry, 7:00

Tuesday, January 20

Bradford Women's Club "Chinese Auction," church vestry, 11:30. Lunch will be ordered from The Little Chinese Restaurant

Kindergarten parents, Town Hall, 7:00

Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7:30

Supervisors of the Checklist, Town Hall, 7:00-9:00

Wednesday, January 21

Internet program, sponsored by Friends of BML, Library, 7:00

Road Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

Sewer and water update meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

Thursday, January 22

KRSD School Board, high school, 7:15

Monday, January 26

Selectmen's meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

Tuesday, January 27

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30

Wednesday, January 28

Parks and Recreation Committee, Town Hall, 7:30

To list events for the month of February, call the Scribners, 938-2286.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE 5-channel Realist TRC 410 CB with mag antenna, no mic. \$10. Also Cobra emergency 40-channel S.O.S. mobile radio, new condition. \$35. Call 938-2258

FOR SALE. Harley golf cart and clubs for left-handed golfer. Call 938-5197.

To place a FREE classified ad, please call Beth Rodd at 938-2692.