

Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS BY NEIGHBORS

Volume 28, Number 2

February 2017

Bradford Awards Evening

On January 23, 2017 the Town of Bradford and the Bradford Police Department hosted an Awards Evening. A reception was held at the Appleseed Restaurant on High Street in the Town of Bradford. Chief Jim Valiquet welcomed everyone saying, "I enjoy bringing people together to recognize the good things that happen."

Six individuals were recognized with Life Saving Awards, a Unit Commendation to the Bradford Fire Department and a Bradford Police Department yearly citation were also awarded.

France Hahn and Craig Alibrandi each received a Life Saving Award for their quick actions on August 23, 2016 when a New Boston man suffered a cardiac event. France and Craig administered CPR until first responders arrived. Without



John Reindeau with France and Craig

these efforts this would likely have been a fatality. However, John Reindeau is alive and healthy today and appeared at the Awards Evening to convey his gratitude. Det. Sergeant Edward Shaughnessy, Captain Carl Goldberg, Lt. Russell Steiz and EMT Felecia Starr also received Life Savings awards. Mark Goldberg accepted a commendation for the Bradford Fire and Rescue for the Lifesaving on August 24th.

(continued on pg 4)

Important Dates to Remember

Thursday, February 16, 6:30 pm*

Budget Hearing

Bradford Area Community Center Youth Room

*If needed, Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm

Bond Hearing

Bradford Area Community Center Senior Room

Looking Ahead

Saturday, March 11, 10 am - Noon
Candidates Forum

Tuesday, March 14
Voting for Town Officials

Wednesday, March 15
Town Meeting

Snowshoe For Scholarships

The Bradford Town Scholarship Committee is hosting a Snowshoe Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb 18th starting at 11 am. Whether you are a seasoned expert or are strapping on snowshoes for the first time, this event is for you. This fundraiser is all about having fun and raising money for a great cause.

Participants can expect to snowshoe on a guided tour on Finn's Trail followed by a delicious lunch. The trail starts at 241 County Road, from the home of Bliss and Mary Dayton and is a one mile moderate loop toward the base of Pickett Hill with northerly views over Alder Plains and the Sunapee Range.

(continued on pg 3)

Positions open for election for town officers at March 14, 2017 Town Election

Selectman for 3 years	1
Supervisor of the Checklist for 3 years	1
Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 years	1
Trustee of the Library for 3 years	3
Scholarship Committee for 3 years	1
Scholarship Committee for 2 years	1
Budget Committee for 3 years	2
Planning Board for 3 years	2
Planning Board for 1 year	1
Zoning Board for 3 years	2
Cemetery Commission for 3 years	1
Cemetery Commission for 2 years	1

PLEASE NOTE

Email Contact for the Bradford Bridge is

bradfordbridge345@gmail.com

Please delete

contact.us@bradfordbridge.com

File declarations for candidacy at the Bradford Town Clerk's Office during the following hours:

Wednesday, February 1st, 12-6pm

Thursday, February 2nd, 8- 12 & 1- 4

Friday, February 3rd, 8- 12 & 1- 5pm

Camila Devlin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector • TC@BradfordNH.org • 938-2288

The Bradford Bridge is actively looking for reporters to cover town events and news. If interested, please contact us at Bradfordbridge345@gmail.com

The Bradford Bridge



P.O. Box 463
Bradford, NH 03221
Ph.: 603-938-2941
bradfordbridge345@gmail.com

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Subscription Information: To receive The Bridge by mail, please send a \$25 check to cover mailing costs to the above address.

Advertising

The Bradford Bridge is a free community newspaper supported by advertisers. To place an ad, call Maureen O'Keefe at 938-2941. The firm deadline for all ads and articles is the 20th of the month.

Submissions

The Bradford Bridge is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Anyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Selectmen's Office Hours 938-5900

Mon - Thu: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
(closed 12 noon - 1 pm)
Fri: 8:00 am - noon

Town Clerk/ Tax Collector Office Hours 938-2288

Mon & Tues - Closed
Wed - 12 PM - 6 PM
Thu & Fri - 8 am - 4 PM
(closed 12 -1 pm)
2nd & 4th Sat - 9 am - Noon

Planning Board Circuit Rider Wednesday

call 938-5193 for appointment
*Town offices are temporarily
located at BACC*

From the Editor

It is no secret that I am a fan of the outdoors. This edition of the Bradford Bridge is a reflection of the desire to be outside.

I know, it's a hard sell in the middle of a New Hampshire winter which has covered the ground with all varieties of perilous frozen stuff. In these dark weeks, however, the best remedy for all of that stuff that piles up in one's head is to get outside and reap the benefits of the world that perseveres. All sorts of studies have identified getting outside as the preferred treatment for seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

There is a humorous "commercial" by NatureRX.org that asks, "Are you feeling tired, irritable, stressed out? Well, you might consider ... nature. From the people who brought you getting outside comes perscription strength nature, a non-harmful medication shown to relieve the crippling symptoms of modern-day life... Side effects may include spontaneous euphoria, taking yourself less seriously and being in a good mood for no apparent reason. So ask your doctor if nature is right for you."

There are a number of ways to get out in Bradford listed in these pages -- A kids fishing derby, a snowshoe fundraiser, the Parks and Recreation skating rink. Take in Bill Duffy's talk, "Greenland in Bradford." Take your camera out and record the wonders of winter, unseeable at any other time in any other place. Send us those pictures!! Read about Laura Ryder whose life work it is to connect people with nature. Read about the NH Kids in Nature Coalition and the many ways to give children the benefits of being outside.

Give nature a try. Even 10 minutes with your face in the sun can do wonders.

Kathleen Bigford, February Editor

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Highlights from Selectmen's Minutes

A complaint was received that a town plow had knocked over a mailbox. The individual wished to make the Select Board and Road Agent aware of the incident and request it does not happen again. The Road Agent has been informed.

The Board held a meeting specifically to review the 2017 budget, account by account, noting the reasons for significant increases and decreases. The Board agreed that the two line items related to the Henniker Rescue Service should be separated and labeled such that it stands apart from the budget for the Bradford FAST Squad.

After much discussion, the Board voted 3-0 to budget for a 2% wage increase to be based on merit and to hold the employee contribution for health insurance at 9%.

The Town of Bradford did not receive the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant for sidewalk work on West Main Street, however we are second on the waiting list should funds become available.

Tom French from the Henniker Rescue Squad met with the Board. The combined system is working well and it was agreed that getting together to talk things over from time to time is worthwhile. He will recalculate the most recent invoice to correct a problem with the method used. The result will decrease Bradford's share of the cost. Selectmen accepted a donation from the Friends of the BACC to the Parks & Rec Trust fund for the ice rink.

The resignation of Meg Fearnley as the representative from the Conservation Commission to the Historic District Commission was accepted. Seth Benowitz was named to replace her.

Minutes of all meetings are on file at the Town Office and online at bradfordnh.org.

The public is welcome to come and try out this new, beautiful trail.

There are snowshoe events all over the world in 2017, and this is one of them. Bring your own equipment. Call 938-2868 to reserve a spot. Reservations are requested and you can pay at the door. The cost is \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. All levels of snowshoers are invited.

Participants are encouraged to come at 11 to warm up by the wood stove before the trek. The snowshoe guided tour starts promptly at 11:30. After the snowshoe, participants will enjoy hot soups and chili served for lunch at the Dayton's. Desserts and hot cocoa included. This is a great opportunity to get together with neighbors. All proceeds will go to the Town Scholarship Fund.

Originated in 1964, the scholarship fund has provided financial support each year to a Bradford resident who is pursuing post-secondary education. The Scholarship Committee is looking to build the fund principle so it will generate more income in the long term. If you cannot attend the Snowshoe Fundraiser but wish to donate to the fund, you can do so by sending your contribution to: The Town of Bradford Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 436, Bradford, NH 03221.

NOTICE

The subscription price of The Bradford Bridge will be raised for 12 issues from \$20 to \$25 per year due to the cost of stamps and envelopes. The increase will be effective when you renew your annual subscription.

Bradford Business Association

For anyone who missed the news, the Bradford Business Association (BBA) has become a subgroup of the Kearsarge Area Chamber of Commerce (KACC) and business members should join the KACC to be included in the next directory. Please visit www.kearsargechamber.org for more information. Several members have already joined and if you wish to host a Business After Hours, please let them know, too. The KACC did hold its Annual Meeting at the Hopkinton Library on Thursday, January 19th with a speaker from the New Hampshire Travel Council who discussed economic development activities in a number of towns as well as state-wide. There is an upcoming NHTC Expo and the KACC will work on ways to promote our members. The Fisher Cats are again donating two free tickets to every Chamber member for a game on April 24th which will also be a wonderful networking opportunity! Liaisons for member towns were selected and I will represent Bradford so events and members can be highlighted in the newsletter and elsewhere. We are keeping our www.bradfordnh.com website and we will continue to do the highway clean-up and other activities.

Submitted by Laura Hallahan

Sarah W. Chapin
Registered Pharmacist



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Awards Evening cont...

Officer Kevin Faria, and Dispatch-Justin Malcolm and Jennifer Dearborn received commendations for their actions during a domestic disturbance in the Town of Bradford on November 27, 2016. The officer exercised great restraint and control and prevented the situation from escalating any further. The Central New Hampshire Special Operations Unit responded and the event was successfully brought to a peaceful conclusion. Officer Neil Flanagan received the officer of the year award.

Local business and landmark, the Sturm Ruger and Company and their staff were recognized for supporting Bradford Law Enforcement. Staff from Sturm Ruger Co. met with a number of the agencies in the Lake Sunapee Area and generously offered replacement handguns and long rifles to each agency along with holsters. Bradford had planned a replacement and we were in the process of testing and evaluating the Ruger along with other hand guns. In the end we received 9mm American Pistols and 223 caliber rifles for each police car. We want to thank Sturm, Ruger Co. and their staff for the support to law enforcement in general and the direct support to law enforcement in the State of New Hampshire.

Submitted by Jim Valiquet

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938-2366



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Laura Hallahan
Holly Salera
Laura Squires

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Kid's Ice Fishing Derby

The Bradford Fish and Game Club hosts its annual Kid's Ice Fishing Derby on Sunday February 19, 2017 on Lake Todd. Children 15 years old and under are invited to compete but we invite the entire family to come out to the lake for a great day of fun on the ice. Free registration begins at 7:00 AM at the clubhouse at 89 Gillingham Drive, across the road from the lake.

Kids can start fishing anytime after registration but all fish must be back to the clubhouse by 1:00 PM for measurement. The Awards ceremony starts shortly thereafter. Breakfast and lunch are provided free of charge. Assistance to bore holes in the ice is available. Please see our website, bfangd.com for more information. We hope to see you there!



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Looking Back, February 1992

The February 1992 issue contained many newsworthy articles. Kathleen Bigford reported on the NH Superior Court decision in the school apportionment suit brought by the Towns of Bradford and Warner. The decision stated that the vote in 1988 not to change the tax formula is legal and constitutional and the current formula will stay in place.

At a Town Issues Forum, Selectmen assured voters that the decision will be appealed. Moderator Bracket Scheffy welcomed a large gathering to the Forum and encouraged discussion and questions. The first order of business was a surprise presentation made by Fred Winch on behalf of the Bradford Voters Coalition of a Distinguished Citizen Award to Tillie Wheeler for her lifelong contributions to Bradford. In addition to the plaque given by the BVC, Nancy Hibbard, President of the Bradford Women's Club presented Tillie with a bouquet of flowers. Tillie responded with thanks and noted that everything she did, she enjoyed doing.

Other issues addressed at the Forum included the current tax rate, where and how to increase the size of the library, and a discussion of the Community Cornerstone project. This program, established by the Governor's Council, encouraged local communities to identify and protect important aspects of their community. (*Bradford did, indeed, carry out this program and prepared a list of 21 Cornerstones, most, but not all, of which are still in place.*) The final presenter at the Forum was Public Safety Officer Parker McCartney who ended with the comment, "Blessed be they who volunteer. They shall be good for nothing."

The upcoming 1992 presidential primary was announced for February 18. The Bradford Cooperative Kindergarten and Preschool presented a program by

Master Talesman Odds Bodkin. Folk musician Harry Lowenthal presented a program of interactive music for children. Postmaster Mike Ripberger announced a plan to establish permanent house numbers.

The Conservation Commission hosted a slide show on the Bradford Bog presented by Professor Debra Dunlop.

Newcomers Sue and Dick Vitale were welcomed to Bradford. Audrey Sylvester's At Work-At Home column featured Oona Tropeano and her locally based company *Mercury Designs*.

Laurie Buchar's **SPORTS** covered a recent trip by The SEE Club (Seeking Environmental Education, which predated the current Project CLIMB at KRSD). The then leader of the group Warren Brook said that ". . . *the reason this non-credit extra curricular club works at achieving its objectives is because kids of all backgrounds and types are thrown together in situations that require trust and cooperation.*"

Compiled by Marcia Keller

Photos and Submissions for 2016 Town Report

It's that time of year. The Selectmen's Office is gathering information for the 2016 Town Report. If you have photos of the Town's faces, places or events that you would like to share, please forward them to administrator@bradfordnh.org. Old and historic photos are welcome too. Be sure to include the photographer's name (if known) so proper credit can be noted.

Similarly, if you represent a local organization and would like to submit an update of your 2016 activities for the Town Report, please forward it to administrator@bradfordnh.org. Please include photos of your organization's 2016 events as well!

Submissions must be received by February 7th.



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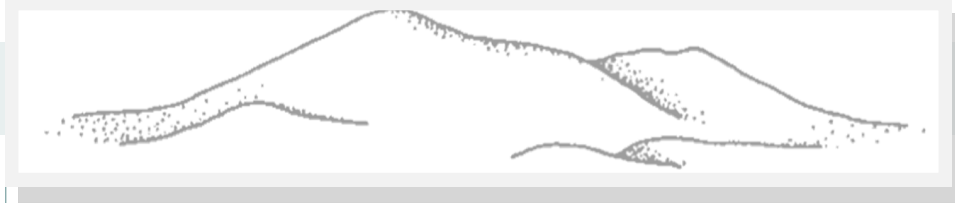
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KEARSARGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT—SAU #65

February 2017 NEWSLETTER



Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "The only way to have a friend is to be one." Emerson certainly had the right idea. The challenge for all of us is to learn how to be a friend to others. What we know about kids, and this is certainly true of the kids at Sutton Central School, is that they want to HAVE friends. The art is in teaching our students how to BE a friend. Hoping that friendship will just come one's way is a huge roll of the dice. By giving kids some strategies that allow them to "take that first step" toward being a friend is easy for some and more challenging for others. In the real world, this is true for all of us. ~ Each class sets aside 15 minutes each day for a morning meeting greeting each other, listening to a classmate share a favorite story or experience, participating in a game, discussing the day's schedule and plans, and learning about similarities and differences among each other. ~ Each class participates in a mindfulness activity two or three times per week, which consists of thinking of yourself as well as others, considering what role your actions play in relation to the people around you, learning how to find calm in stressful situations, how to be a better listener, how to be in control of your body, voice, and emotions, and learning to be considerate of others. ~ Each teacher devotes time and effort to incorporate grit into our student's daily school routine, which is learning how to identify challenging goals and meeting those goals, learning how to overcome obstacles and accepting failure without giving up too easily, and learning how to achieve success when success may not come easily. The idea of grit comes from the work of Dr. Angela Duckworth at the University of Pennsylvania and encompasses a portion of the day for each teacher and student to work on the emphasis of preparing for the real world within the safety net of guidance and structure provided by the teacher. ~ The work we do at Sutton Central School reminds me of the sign that I see each day on my way to school. The boundary markers when entering the town of Sutton say "Enter here to be and find a friend." I don't know that the Sutton town leaders had Emerson in mind when they decided on using this statement to welcome people to town but they certainly touched on a great way to welcome people to our community. Who knows, maybe Emerson borrowed the phrase from the town of Sutton? What we are doing is honoring what our town leaders had in mind by teaching the kids at Sutton Central School the value of friendship. Thanks for reading!

Respectfully submitted: Steve Potoczak, Principal - Sutton Central School



**2/01 KRMS PTO MTG—
6:00 PM**

**2/01 4TH GRADE
MUSIC CONCERT—6:30
PM @ KRES AT NEW
LONDON**

**2/01 FAMILY LUNCH—
SIMONDS SCHOOL
@12:15 PM ~ PTO
MTG. 6:30 PM**

**2/06 REPORT CARDS
GO OUT**

**2/07 PTO MEETING—
6:00 PM @ KRES AT
NEW LONDON**

**2/08 8TH GRADE
PARENT NIGHT @
KRHS—7:00 PM**

**2/08 4TH GRADE NEAP
TESTING-SUTTON
CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**2/09 KRHS & KRMS-
MATH MEET**

**2/09 & 23 SCHOOL
BOARD MTGS 6:30 PM
@ KLC**

**2/11 DANCE TEAM
INVITATIONAL**

**2/15 CHIPS MEETING-
KRES AT BRADFORD
AND SUTTON PTO
MEETINGS—6:30PM**

**2/17 KRMS ACTIVITY
NIGHT—7:00 PM**

**2/18 KRHS WINTER
DANCE—7:00 PM**

**2/21 4TH GRADE NEAP
TESTING-KRES AT NEW
LONDON**

**2/20-2/24 KRHS
WINTER CARNIVAL**

**2/27-3/03—NO
SCHOOL-WINTER
BREAK**

FROM THE STATE HOUSE

by Beth Rodd and David Woolpert

The 165th session of the General Court has begun and your new State Reps., Beth Rodd (Bradford) and David Woolpert (Henniker) will be representing you in Merrimack District 6. The first session day of the year was on Thursday, January 26th.

Beth is a member of Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee while Dave's committee is in the State-Federal Relations Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee.

There are 20 – 21 committees in the Legislature and each of the 400 representatives is assigned to a committee based on their interests, backgrounds and education. As a former Social Worker (and now in a 5th House term) Beth finds the social, criminal and economic issues that come before the committee relevant to her background and interests.

To date, Criminal Justice has considered a bill to form a committee to legalize prostitution, a bill to require corroborated evidence to determine a rape conviction and a bill to consider a fetus after 8 weeks, a "person" in regard to certain criminal acts. These bills are all in sub-committees and at a date in the near future, the committee will vote ITL (Inexpedient To Legislate), or "OTP", (Ought to pass). Some bills will be amended and all will go to the House Floor each Thursday for a full body vote.

The key issues before the State-Federal Relations Committee deal with whether the U.S. Constitution should ever be amended and, if so, is it time for New Hampshire to call for a national constitutional convention to revise the way the U.S. election campaigns are funded. If you have any interest in a particular subject in the Legislature or any committee, please let us know. If you would like a tour of the State House or want to testify on a bill, we

can arrange it. In March, all the bills that have passed in the Senate and House will be sent to the other body on "crossover day" and will go thru the second hearing for confirmation or be killed. As the year moves on, we will give you monthly updates on bills of particular interest and we always seek your involvement and thoughts on them. The website <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/> contains extensive information about the NH House of Representatives and the NH Senate. Thank you for your interest in your government and the issues that affect all of us.

Rep. Beth Rodd, cell, 603-731-8584, home 603-938-2692

Rep. David Woolpert, cell, 603-848-3490, home (603)428-7533

Town of Bradford Notice of Public Bond Hearing

Thursday, February 16, 2017
7:00 pm

Bradford Area Community Center
Senior Room
134 East Main Street
Bradford, NH

Pursuant to RSA 33:8-a, a public hearing will be held to hear components on the proposed issuance of the following bond:

Bond for the purpose of the historic renovation of the Bradford Town Hall to include a full foundation, sprinkler system, alarm system, new heating system, and a full electrical upgrade. The amount of the bond is to be determined, but is estimated at \$750,000.

Questions should be addressed to the Selectmen's Office at 603-938-5900.

Area Events

CONCORD, NH – Works by Bradford artists Ann Eldridge and Gary Kalajian will be on display at The League of NH Craftsmen *Setting the Standard* exhibit. This is a multi-media, fine craft exhibition that showcases the work of master craftsmen who are jurors for the League. Other area artists included in the exhibit are: Sharon Lindstrom of Newbury, Peter Block of New London, and Ted Blachly of Warner. The exhibition is on display at The Gallery at The Craft Center and headquarters on 49 South Main Street in Concord from January 13 to March 24, 2017. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm, during the exhibition only.

WARNER, NH -- MAINSTREET BOOKENDS

Sunday, February 5 at 2 pm - Join Sue DeLuca, certified educator of Infant Massage through the International Association of Infant Massage, in an introductory workshop on the many benefits families receive through learning the techniques of Infant Massage.

Sunday, February 12 at 2 pm - Please join us in The Gallery for the - 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Concert With the Dustin Hill Chamber Players - A fun and playful musical event with wonderful local musicians - FREE ADMISSION

Sunday, February 19 at 2PM - Lines - Líneas - Linee - Zeilen - строки - David M. Carroll, author, naturalist and artist, will present a reading and discussion of poems and prose-poems written in English and the four languages he pursues: Spanish; Italian; German; and Russian. Discussion, comments, and questions from the audience will be most welcome.

Sunday, February 26 at 2 pm - Help us to welcome NH author Diane Les Becquets and the premiere of her paperback edition of *Breaking Wild*.

Bradford Parks & Rec News!

The Ice Rink in Bradford is open for skating. If you like to skate, check it out. Please remember that this is a community rink and use it responsibly. Do not leave anything on the ice when you leave and please do not go on the ice if is not ready. We plan on putting up a green flag if the ice is good and a red flag if it is not, please be respectful of that.

Jim Valiquet and a handful of volunteers have put a lot of time and work into the ice rink. If you would like to be on the list of volunteer helpers to maintain the ice for the next 5-6 weeks please email Jim at jimvaliquet@tds.net. To all high schoolers that need volunteer hours and like to skate, this is your opportunity.

Enjoy the rink and please share your feedback with Bradford Parks & Rec on Facebook! Our next meeting is February 9th at the Bradford Area Community Center at 4:30pm.



Belanger Home Improvements
Call John 938-2858



Bradford Community Church

PO Box 57, Bradford NH
603-938-5313

Bradford Community Church Happenings

Worship & Kingdom Builders (Sunday School) every Sunday at 10
Tuesday mornings at 9:30 Mom's Group
Thursday evenings at 6:30 Bible Study-Book of Exodus
Youth Group meet every Sunday at 11:30 am *

*except for the First Sunday as the youth group travel to Concord to meet with the Rise Again Homeless Mission on the first Saturday of the month to give out clothing to refugees and the homeless. Accepting donations of winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarfs to give out.

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Greenland in Bradford

The Bradford Conservation Commission will host a talk on Greenland on Thursday, February 9 at 7pm at the Bradford Area Community Center. Bill Duffy, cartographer, photographer, geologist, and Bradford resident spent much of August on the Nuussuaq Peninsula scouting a possible route for the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) in northwest Greenland.

Located 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle, Nuussuaq is a remote, barren, and beautiful place with 6000' mountains and deep glacially-carved valleys holding emerald-green lakes. The peninsula includes several small ice caps and hundreds of glaciers in various stages of retreat.

Come see Bill's photos of icebergs, glaciers, and barren wilds and hear about navigating glacial moraines, wading ice-cold streams and his liaison with six Greenlandic teenagers, a Danish counselor with a rifle, a Maine geologist, and a Greenlandic matron out to prove something to her husband – Bill's companions and guides on the hike.

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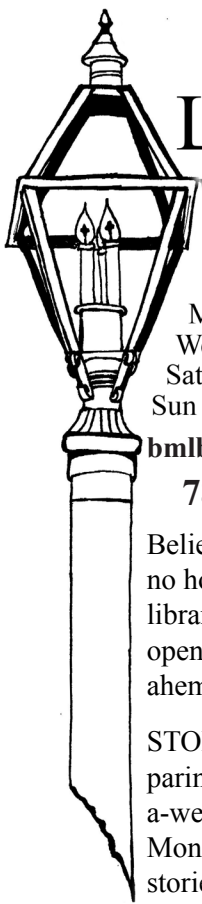
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LIBRARY LANTERN

By: Meg Fearnley

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 Sun 11:00am - 3:00pm

bmlbradford@gmail.com

78 W Main St

Believe it or not, there are no holiday closings at your library in February! We are open all regular hours... ahem, weather depending.

STORY TIME: We are paring back to a once-a-week story time every Monday at 10am. Although stories are geared to

the preschool level, all ages are welcome. The Wednesday slot had little or no attendance. Please let us know if there is a time that would work better for you. That would be a big help for future planning.

RETOLD: This new program has taken off in recent weeks. Join us every Wednesday evening from 6 until 7 for Retold, a program where a book is read out loud. Don't worry if you have missed previous sessions, our reader will start each week with a quick synopsis. Bring a pillow, snacks or enjoy a cup of tea, courtesy

of the library. The current book is *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be* by Farley Mowat.

BOOK DISCUSSION: All are welcome to join the monthly book discussions. Attend one occasionally or come each month. On Wednesday, February 15 at 7pm we will talk about *Woodburner* by John Pipkin. This historical novel centers on an incident in Henry David Thoreau's life before he wrote *Walden*. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk.

DROP-IN GENEALOGY HELP: Come by the library any Monday evening between 5:30-7:30pm when we offer help with your genealogical research using our Ancestry Library Edition research tools. In 2016, library patrons looked at 1,448 documents using this great program. Help us get even more use out of our Ancestry subscription in 2017!

ONGOING BOOK SALE: Don't forget to visit our downstairs book sale area. New items are coming in each week. All videocassettes are FREE, we just weeded out all our children's VHS tapes so come and get 'em!

AN IMPROMPTU COLLECTION: Come see our newest art display, with works loaned by library staff and patrons. Rotating exhibits can be seen anytime the library is open.

Sweet Beet Market
Saturdays
9:00am to 4:00pm
11 West Main Street
Bradford 603-938-LEAF
www.kearsargefoodhub.org
603leaf@gmail.com

Report: Kearsarge Regional School District, Annual Meeting: Deliberative Session
 by Kathleen Bigford

On January 7, 2017 KRSD voters came together with members of the KRSD School Board and the Municipal Budget Committee to discuss the 2017 Warrant. There were very few questions and comments about most of the articles. Discussion of Article 1 which contains the recommended amount to be raised by taxes was lengthy because it could be confusing to voters.

Here's what happened. The original budget contained an expenditure of \$350,000 to replace the wastewater treatment plant at the high school with a septic system. In December 2016 alternate funding for this project was found. Due to legal requirements and budget procedures the warrant could not be changed. At the recommendation of the school board all present at the meeting unanimously passed an amendment to the warrant.

Therefore, this year's KRSD ballot will show three budget options. Two of the options will be the same because the School Board and Municipal Budget Committee final budget amounts agree. The third option, agreed upon at the deliberative session, will be \$350,000 *less than the other two options*. This is why you may be seeing signs to "Vote for Option 3."

Look for Andrew Pinard's KRSD report in the March edition of the Bradford Bridge.

Brackett L. Scheffy Counselor At Law

General Practice of Law Including:

Estate Planning--Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney
 and Probate Avoidance
 Estate Administration
 Real Estate and Contract Matters

PO Box 285, Bradford, NH 03221

BrackettScheffy@tds.net

938-5600

Obituaries

Eugene W. Baer III

Eugene W. Baer III, of Middletown, RI, formerly of Lake Massasecum, NH, died on December 5, 2016. Hewas born July 4, 1922 in Glen Rock, NJ, the son of the late E. W. Baer Jr. and Dorothy Clauss. “Gene” was the husband of Catherine C. Casey.

He lived in Allentown, PA where he enrolled in Lehigh University working nights at Bethlehem Steel Corporation. During World War II he served in the Navy for 2-1/2 years as an electronics technician. He had the distinction of assisting civilian scientists in the development of the “BAT” guided bomb. After the war Gene returned to Lehigh University and graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics. He attended Brown University for graduate studies.

His lifetime work and employment was at the Newport Naval Underwater Systems Center. He retired in 1985. Gene began his career in 1951 as an Electronic Engineer in the Research and Development Department, and head of the Range Data Section, Test and Evaluation Department and Instrumentation and Measurements Branch. He received a Superior Achievement Award. In 1961 he was reassigned to the Advance Study Group as a General Engineer—involved in the signal processing acoustics of targets and wire guidance. Gene was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Acoustic Society of America, and Sigma Xi.

His main hobby was mountain climbing and hiking, a “recreation” in which his children also participate. Gene takes pride in the fact that his son at 3-1/2 years of age climbed Mount Madison in New Hampshire (5,363

feet). Gene was a member of the “4000’ club” climbing all 4000-foot mountains in New Hampshire.

He is survived by three children: Cindy Baer and her husband Steve Haas, Gwen LaFave and her companion David Buzzell, and GB Baer; and five grandsons. He was buried, with military honors, in St. Mary’s Churchyard. Donations, in his memory, may be made to St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 324 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871. For additional information: www.memorialfuneralhome.com.



Dr. Edythe Craig

Dr. Edythe Lee Craig died Jan. 24, 2017, following a brief stay at Sullivan Health Care in Unity. She was 97 years old. For the past four years, Edythe was a resident of Horseshoe Pines Assisted Living in Goshen, and prior to that she was a Bradford resident.

Born in Malden, MA on Dec. 4, 1919, she was the daughter of James W. and Florence (Butterworth) Lee. She graduated from Reading High School, ninth in her class of 133 students. She studied pre-med at Boston University and in 1943 graduated from the Massachusetts College of Osteopathy with a D.O. degree at a time when very few women received this level of education. Edythe received her medical license in 1947.

In 1944, she married Parker E. Craig and settled in Rockland, MA, where she raised four sons. From 1967 to 1979 she was a physician at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Bridgewater. She moved to New Hampshire where she was a

physician at the New Hampshire State Prison. Edythe was a staff physician at the Maxfield Clinic in Newport from 1986 to 1999 and concluded her career as a volunteer administrative assistant at the Bradford Area Community Center.

Edythe’s faith and community involvement were very important to her. She was a church member of the Reading Baptist, North Abington Baptist and First Baptist Church of Bradford. She attended the First Baptist Church in Newport. She was active in the Rainbow Girls and the Patrons of Husbandry (Grange) on the Pomona, state and national level; member of the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire, serving as a trustee and delegate at various times, and, in 1999, was president of the Central Association. She was past president of the American Osteopathic Association in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and represented her profession on the National Commission of Correctional Health Professionals.

Edythe had a passion for life and loved riding motorcycles, traveling, and adventure. She enjoyed knitting and making things for her family and friends. She kept a sharp mind, completing crossword and other puzzles, well into her 90’s. In 2011, Edythe was awarded the Boston Cane as Bradford’s oldest resident.

Edythe is predeceased by her husband, Parker, in 1995, and son, Carl, in 2011. She is survived by three sons, Lee Craig and his wife, Joan, of Hanson, MA, David Craig and his wife, Deborah, of Corralitos, CA, and Paul, and his wife, Debra, of Newport; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Edythe was a daughter, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, doctor, church member, community leader, and volunteer. She loved life, her family and her God. She will be missed by all.

Craig Cont...

Memorial contributions may be made to Bradford Fire and Rescue, P.O. Box 203 or the Bradford Community Church, P.O. Box 57, both in Bradford, NH 03221.

Jean Dineen

Jean Dineen, 73, of Boscawen, died on Dec. 28, 2016, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. She lived a full life serving others and will be greatly missed. Jean was well known for her quick humor and eagerness to provide help to those in need.

She is survived by three children: Debra Morgan and her husband, Doug of Glastonbury, CT; Janet Dineen of Concord; and Frank Dineen of Boscawen; a sister, Eleanor Dombrowski and her husband, Frank Dombrowski of San Antonio; six grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

Jean was born in Lynn, MA and graduated from the Peabody High School. She was the class "songbird" and performed with an orchestra. She worked for a New England Tel and Tel company. Jean and her former husband, the late Frank Dineen, moved to Bradford in 1970.

Jean was a graduate of the Concord Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1976 and earned a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Jean retired from a career of almost 25 years at Concord Hospital where she was well known for her work in the ICU, CCU and Emergency Room. She was a founding member of the Bradford Rescue Squad and spearheaded fundraising for Bradford's first ambulance. She was instrumental in helping save many lives with the rescue squad and received a citation from the Governor for her efforts during the Hopkinton State Fair.

Jean became a realtor with ReMax Connection and received a great deal of pleasure from helping homebuyers. She served as the President for the Capital Region Board of Realtors

for three terms and was selected as the Region's Realtor of the Year in 2008. With them, she successfully advocated for real estate laws and raised monies for local charities.

Jean enjoyed traveling with her best friend, Linda Hutton and rooting for the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots.

Graveside services will be held in the spring. The family has requested memorial contributions be made in the name of Jean Dineen to support a special recognition tribute at Concord Hospital. Contributions can be mailed to Concord Hospital Trust, 250 Pleasant St., Concord, NH, 03301 or made online at ch-trust.org.



Richard Holmes Messer

Richard "Rick" Holmes Messer, 70, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 6th, 2017 at his home in Bradford. Rick, a lifelong resident of Bradford, was born in New London on May 25th, 1946, to Robert A. Messer and Vivian Woodman Messer. He graduated from Simonds High School and attended Keene State College before serving four years in the Army National Reserve. While in the Reserves, Rick achieved the highest academic standing in his class and was an honor graduate from the Construction Machine Operator course. He also earned the highest grade of marksmanship.

After college, Rick joined his father-in-law, Leonard F. Wheeler, in the excavation business before starting his own company, RHM

Construction Inc. in 1979, in which he was still very active until his death. Both of his sons, Rob and Roy "Joe", worked with him at various times, with Joe joining him full time in 1985. The developments at Oakledge, Mountainside at Newbury, Forest Brook, Allwood, Woodview Heights, Wildwood Dr., South Brook Circle, and Sunset at Newbury were just a few of Rick's amazing accomplishments. He was well respected in business and in life, and formed many lasting relationships along the way.

Rick spent many years serving the Town of Bradford on the Planning Board and the Road Study Committee.

In Rick's earlier years, one of his greatest loves was being on the Kennebec River in his Grady White, trolling for stripers or blues. He, along with members of his family, have spent a week at the Hambrecht cottage on the Kennebec for the last forty years. Another great love of Rick's was sugaring in the spring. It took an enormous amount of time and work, but it was a family business that was passed down from generation to generation, and he was always the first one out checking the taps and the last one to leave after evaporating. He practiced many other family traditions, such as haying the fields in the summer, and logging timber in the winter.

Most of Rick's days were spent working, but in his spare time, one would find him mowing and taking care of his lawns, which were a passion of his, and God forbid if anyone drove on them. He had an innate love for the land that had been in his family for many generations, and received great satisfaction and enjoyment sitting on his porch gazing over the fields.

Rick is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Kathie (Wheeler) Messer; two sons, Robert W. Messer of Bradford, and Roy J. Messer and his wife, April, of Newbury; four grandchildren: Darienne, Caitlyn,

Messer cont...

Bristol, and Remington Messer. He also leaves his sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Mike Radulski of Mason, NH; sisters-in-law, Janet Wheeler Peterson of Vinalhaven, ME, and June Wheeler Chism of Bradford, NH; stepmother Marjorie Messer of Bradford; stepbrother and wife, Richard and Alicia LaPorte of Newbury; stepsister Doreena and Jim Jillson of Merrimack; and several young men whom he treated as sons over the years. He leaves nieces Jaki, Julie, Jolene, and their families, all of Maine, as well as cousins and many, many great friends.

Rick was pre-deceased by his parents, Robert A. and Vivian Messer of Bradford; his sister Sandra Toomey-Messer of Rochester, and his brother-in-law, Ronald Peterson of Vinalhaven, ME. Rick was dearly loved, and will be remembered and terribly missed by those who knew him. A celebration of life will be held in the spring, with arrangements made public by Holt-Woodbury Funeral Home at a later date. You may share your memories with the family at www.holtwoodburyfh.com

Richard Fortune

Richard Fortune, 88, of Warner, died Dec. 31, 2016, after a period of failing health. He is predeceased by his wife, Ruth S. Fortune. He is survived by five children, Leonie Gagnon and her husband, Bill of Concord, Richard Fortune of Warner, Susan Dean-Jones and her husband, Douglas, Tedd Dean of Concord and Jeanne Schwab of Raytown, MO, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Born in Boston, Dick grew up in Bradford and stayed in the Bradford/Warner area all his life. He owned and operated an excavating business. Graveside services will be held in the spring.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHAME on you who threw the beer can into the ice rink. Do you think so little of your town? The volunteers who built this rink did not do it for themselves but for you. The statement you have made makes me very sad.

To take away your shame, you should chop the can from the ice then volunteer helping to keep the rink skateable.

Jane Johnsen

To the people of Rural Route 1, Bradford,

By this time most of you are probably aware that I am no longer delivering your mail. My plan was to notify everyone during the Holidays of my retirement starting January 1st. Before I could do that, I managed to tear the Achilles tendon in my right leg and was forced to begin my retirement early.

Let me take this time to thank everyone for making my job a little easier on a daily basis, and a special thanks to you that have expressed your appreciation for my efforts during my fourteen years as your carrier. I look forward to seeing you around town (or on the lake) once I'm back on my feet.

Thanks Again,
Dave Janvrin,
Rural Carrier Retired

To the Editor:

We are once again approaching Town Meeting, which will provide another opportunity to approve the restoration of Town Hall. Substantial progress was made in the last year thanks to contributions from members of the community who stepped up to move the project forward. Bob Lincoln, Tom Dunne, Brett Wilson, Jordan Dunne, Will Kranz, and Carl Rubchinuk contributed their time and skills to put the ground floor into working shape while greatly improving the building's appearance. Chris Mock and the Lumber Barn contributed materials.

On another front, concerning the long-term survival and utility of Town Hall, nine donors furnished all the funding for the project advisor, Scott McKenney, who scoured the restoration plan for ways to cut costs and obtained fresh bids from local contractors. Besides three anonymous donors, those who contributed to this important effort are Dick and Marcia Keller, Brackett and Connie Scheffy, and Sandra and Harry Wright. If there were other contributions of which we are not aware, thanks also to those concerned.

Let's back up these contributions with a solid vote at Town Meeting to restore Town Hall.

Respectfully,

Michele and David Halsted

See a thorough update of the Town Hall news on the following page...

News from the Town Hall Restoration Oversight Committee

The Town Hall Restoration Oversight Committee (THROC), with the assistance of Scott Mckenney, project advisor, has obtained prices for the restoration project described in last November's Bridge. Quotes are in hand to lift the building, pour a full foundation, install a sprinkler system, alarm system, new heating system, and a full electrical upgrade. Gathering a few additional figures and calculating the overall cost will be completed before the bond hearing on February 16, 7 pm at the BACC.

Project costs have been substantially lowered to focus exclusively on basic needs and reflect the townspeople's strong desire to keep the costs as low as possible. The first floor and a new basement are the essential elements to ensure that Town Hall will be of use to the community for many years to come. Much

work has been done over the past year on the first floor under the guidance of the Selectmen. Bob Lincoln has been consistently on the job and helped organize the many volunteers (too many to mention here, but all are greatly appreciated) who contributed their time and talents to the task. The work they have done will not have to be done again and this has helped to further reduce the overall cost of the restoration.

The improvements allowed voting to return to Town Hall last September and November. They also had a positive impact on the appearance of the ground floor and its readiness to accommodate town personnel. They do not, however, contribute to the longevity of the town-owned building, which is the principal focus of the restoration project.

One item that has been brought to the THROC's attention is the possibility of locating the Police Department in the basement of the Town Hall. The Selectmen are

in discussion with neighboring towns to share police facilities. It would not be prudent to consider spending many thousands of dollars now while these discussions are underway.

The LCHIP grant of \$105,000 awarded for Town Hall restoration plus donations from individuals and businesses provides the town with a conservative total of \$186,000 on hand to reduce the amount of the bond needed. Much of this will be lost if the basic restoration bond vote is not approved at the 2017 town meeting and the possibility of donations in the future if this happens may prove impossible.

Come to the Bond Hearing at 7 PM on Thursday, February 16 at the BACC. Review the plans and the projected costs and offer your comments. Then come to the Town Meeting on March 15th at 7 PM and VOTE!

--- by the Town Hall Restoration Oversight Committee

Notice of Public Hearing

Town Of Bradford Budget Committee

Thursday, February 16, 2017 at
6:30pm and if needed on
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at
6:30pm

Bradford Area Community Center Youth Room

For the purpose of open disclosure and discussion on the proposed 2017 budgets prior to the Budget Committee's recommendation of the same, per RSA 32:5.

ATTENTION: Residents of the town of Bradford, NH

The Bradford Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a public session on Saturday March 4th, 2017 between 7:00 and 7:30pm at the Community Center (Youth Room) to make corrections to the checklist and accept new registrations. No additions of corrections shall be made of the checklist after this session.

In order to register to vote you must be at least 18 years of age, present a valid photo ID and have proof of residency.

Supervisors of the Checklist
Judy Marshall, Jackye Pehrson,
Sandy Paul

Henniker Veterinary Hospital



Professional
Association

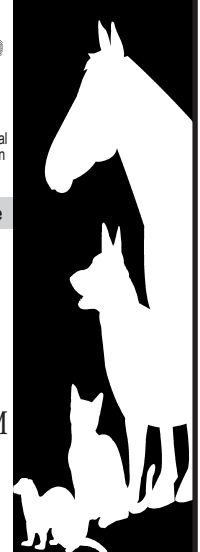
Small Animal & Equine Practice

Alyssa J. Brust, DVM
Robert A. Brust, DVM
Amy Jones, DVM
Samantha Mazzucola, DVM

House Calls Available

428-3441

Maple Street, Henniker



All events take place at the Bradford Area Community Center (938-6228) or the Mountain View Senior Center (938-2104) unless otherwise noted. Call to confirm dates and times in case there has been a change to the submitted information.

Wed. Feb. 1st

6pm Yoga
6pm RETOLD, BML
7pm Zoning Board

Thurs. Feb. 2nd

12pm Senior Dining
1pm Mahjong Group

Fri. Feb. 3rd

8:45am MVSC Fitness
11:30am 1st Friday Brunch
w/ raffle, prizes & Casey Miller

Mon. Feb. 6th

8:45am MVSC Fitness
10am Story Time, BML
1pm Bridge Group
5:30pm Selectmen's Meeting
5:30-7:30pm Drop-In
Genealogy Help, BML

Tues. Feb. 7th

10am Quilting Group
12pm Senior Dining
1:30pm Watercolor Group
12:30-4:30 Planning Board Office

Wed. Feb. 8th

1pm Knitting Group
6pm Yoga
6pm RETOLD, BML

Thurs. Feb. 9th

12pm Senior Dining
1pm Mahjong Group
4:30pm BACC/P&R
7pm Greenland Trip by Bill Duffy
(See article)

Fri. Feb. 10th

8:45am MVSC Fitness
1pm Mahjong Group

Mon. Feb 13th

8:45am MVSC Fitness
10am Story Time, BML
1pm Bridge
5:30pm Selectmen's Meeting
5:30-7:30pm Drop-In
Genealogy Help, BML

Tues. Feb. 14th**Happy Valentines' Day!**

10am Quilting Group
12pm Senior Dining w/ special guest!
1pm Mahjong
1:30pm Watercolor (downstairs)
6pm Rural Heritage Conn.
7pm Planning Board

Wed. Feb. 15th

6pm Yoga
6pm RETOLD, BML
7pm Book Discussion, BML

Thurs. Feb. 16th

11am- Noon BP Clinic, MVSC
12pm Senior Dining
1pm Mahjong Group
6:30pm Budget Hearing
7pm Bond Public Hearing

Fri. Feb. 17th

8:45am MVSC Fitness
9:30-11:30 Foot Care Clinic by
LSVNA @ North Ridge Apts.
Call for appt.
10:00 Friday at the Movies
12pm Senior Dining

Sat. Feb. 18

11am-2pm
Snowshoe & Lunch
Fundraiser for Scholarship Fund

Sun. Feb. 19

7am-1pm
Kids Ice Fishing Derby
Bradford Fish and Game

Mon. Feb. 20th**Presidents' Day Holiday**

Senior Center Closed
10am Story Time, BML
5:30-7:30pm Drop-In
Genealogy Help, BML
6:30-8pm Chess, BML

Tues. Feb. 21st

10am Quilting Group
12pm Senior Dining
1:30pm Watercolor
6:30pm Budget Hearing (if needed)

Wed. Feb. 22nd

10:30- 12pm BP Clinic at Warner
Senior Room provided by LSVNA
6pm Yoga
6pm RETOLD, BML

Thurs. Feb 23rd

12pm Senior Dining
1pm Mahjong Group

Fri. Feb. 24th

8:45am MVSC Fitness
1pm Mahjong Group

Mon. Feb 27th**NO SCHOOL**

8:45am MVSC Fitness
10am Story Time, BML
1pm Bridge
5:30pm Selectmen's Meeting
5:30-7:30pm Drop-In Genealogy
Help, BML

Tues. Feb. 28th**NO SCHOOL**

9:30-11:30 Foot Care Clinic
Warner Pharmacy
10am Stitches from the Heart
Quilters
12pm Senior Dining
1pm Mahjong Group
1:30pm Watercolor (downstairs)

**Abbreviation Key**

BACC-Bradford Area Community Center
BBC-Bradford Baptist Church
BML-Brown Memorial Library
FGC-Fish & Game Clubhouse
Gillingham Drive
KAP-Kearsarge Area Preschool
KRES-Bradford Elemen. School
MVSC-Mountain View Senior Ctr
TH-Bradford Town Hall
ZBA-Zoning Board of Adjust.
KLC- Kearsarge Learning Center

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SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE**

**Bradford Bridge
Advertising Rates**

Basic rate is \$8.00/column inch

One column inch (2 3/8" wide)

x 1" high	\$8.00
x 2" high	\$16.00
x 3" high	\$48.00

Two column inches (4 7/8" wide)

x 1" high	\$16.00
x 2" high	\$32.00
x 3" high	\$48.00
x 8.5" high	\$96.00

1/2 Page	\$120.00
Full Page	\$240.00

Other ad sizes as designed will be pro-rated Note: 10% discount allowed for local non-profits, paid-in-advance and 12 month ads.

The Bridge can help to design your ad. There is a \$25/ hr charge for this service.

Political ads must be pre-paid

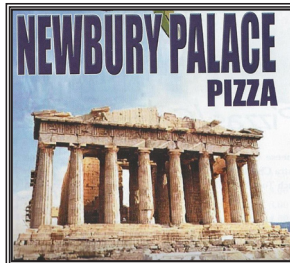
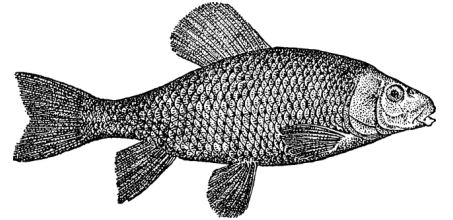
To ensure that your ad is printed as you (and The Bradford Bridge) wants it to appear, it must be submitted in "press quality" PDF format, at least 300 pixels per inch (ppi). The Bridge cannot be responsible for the reproduction of your ad if this format is not provided. Also, keep in mind that trying to fit too much text in a small ad can lead to less than satisfactory results. Firm deadline is the 20th of the month.

Please send to
bradfordbridge345@gmail.com.

Out an About

by *Kathleen Bigford*

Many of you are enthusiastic about recording the beauty that surrounds us. Therefore, I'd like to invite photographers to share images to be included in this article. Of course proper credit will be given. The most interesting photographs will be from Bradford and close-by places. An accompanying caption would be nice. One last request is to submit the images in .jpg or .jpeg format. Here is a nature's mystery. What is that black blob in the pine tree?



104 Route 103
Newbury, N.H.

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HOURS

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Friday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

938-5050

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Bubba's Catering is available for all occasions! 603-763-3290
976, Rt 103, Newbury, NH
bubbahmplt@tds.net bubbasbarandgrille.com

Ongoing Events

- Children's Storytime - Mondays 10am at BML
- Retold Story Hour - Wednesdays 6-7pm at BML
- Cemetery Commission - 2nd Thursday at 6PM Call 938-2119 for info
- Conservation Commission - 3rd Tuesday at 7PM, BML
- Fish and Game Club - 1st Tuesday 7PM at Fish and Game Club
- First Friday Bunch - 11:30AM at MVSC, reservations appreciated call 938-2104 for info
- Historical Society - Tin Shop, East Main Street, open by appointment. Please call 938-2078.
- Library Trustees - 1st Wednesday at 6:00PM BML
- Planning Board - 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7PM, BACC
- Rural Heritage Connection - 2nd Monday, 7PM, BACC
- Selectmen's Meeting - Every Monday 5:30PM, BACC
- Zoning Board - 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM, BACC

Warner Pharmacy
Old Fashioned Service. Modern Healthcare.

Cindy Snay, Owner/Pharmacist

11 East Main Street
Warner, New Hampshire
603.456.3556
Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm & Sat. 9am-1pm



What would George Washington be if he were alive today??

Find the words below in this **BEACH** inspired Word Find!



Really, really, really old!!!



- TOWEL
- SANDALS
- PALMTREE
- SEAGLASS
- WATER
- SHOVEL
- SHELL
- BOAT
- TRACKS
- OYSTERS
- STARFISH
- SALT
- CRAB
- DRIFTWOOD
- CLAMS
- TURTLE
- BUCKET

O	T	U	R	T	L	E	S	B	I	S	T	L	N
S	S	T	E	K	C	U	B	S	D	T	S	E	C
W	A	U	H	S	I	F	R	A	T	S	S	V	L
A	E	E	R	T	M	L	A	P	A	V	O	O	A
T	O	O	O	M	O	L	N	S	S	C	S	H	M
E	Y	D	S	S	T	T	L	I	C	L	L	S	S
R	S	R	D	K	O	T	B	E	A	S	S	E	S
H	T	I	L	T	T	A	C	D	H	L	E	O	T
S	E	F	E	R	R	K	N	T	A	S	A	S	B
L	R	T	W	C	A	A	A	C	S	T	G	E	O
W	S	W	O	B	S	E	C	S	H	S	L	S	A
K	R	O	T	C	L	M	A	K	L	A	A	P	T
A	O	O	A	R	A	L	T	M	S	O	S	T	T
E	U	D	A	H	T	K	S	H	A	A	S	V	I

Is there something you'd like to see in the Kids Bridge? E-mail us! thekidsbridge@gmail.com

Kids Outside NH Children in Nature Coalition By Kathleen Bigford

One of the most important gifts we can give a child is an enthusiasm for the outdoors.



Much has been written about how experience in nature is necessary for healthy child development. Many studies have shown that outdoor play gives children full use of their senses, improves health, encourages risk taking and creative problem solving, improves concentration, enhances self-esteem, and reduces stress.

Yet the places where children are allowed to roam on their own is one-tenth what it was in the 1970's. Limited access to nature, fear of strangers, popularity of video games, TV and computers, perceived safety risks and fear of lawsuits – the list of reasons is lengthy. Well-meaning but frightened parents, school systems and media are keeping kids out of

the fields and the woods. By moving childhood indoors, we are depriving children of a full connection to the world.

The NH Children in Nature Coalition was formed in response to research that shows kids are spending less time outside than ever before and that this “nature deficit” is having significant negative impacts on physical and mental development. The coalition strives to get children and families back outdoors to explore the natural world.

The Coalition web site – www.nhchildreninnature.org – is a rich source of information on this topic including an exhaustive list of “what to do + where to go.”

The Coalition website is definitely worth exploring, however, the best nature connections come during unstructured play. Due to the necessary structure in our every-day lives we have lost faith in the ability of children to entertain themselves.

In this part of NH the bounty of wooded land provides easy access to the natural world. To a child a backyard is a place of wonder. And our backyards are full of an array of wonders to keep children (and adults) captivated in all seasons.

Parents, please consider including the natural world in your child's routine. The consequences for our planet are far too great to ignore this necessary element of child development. By the way, all the benefits of time spent in nature apply to adults as well!

Thank you to Laura Ryder for inspiring this article and to Marilyn Wyzga author of “Leave No Child Inside,” New Hampshire Wildlife Journal Magazine.