

The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS *for* NEIGHBORS *by* NEIGHBORS

MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PSNH Lawsuit An ongoing Property Assessment lawsuit with PSNH has been settled. Bradford is liable for a little over \$71,000 in tax abatements. Karen Hambleton, Town Administrator, is exploring what financial options exist to relieve the abatement burden.

Fuel Rates The board approved a motion to give Karen Hambleton fuel lock-in authority for 2021 to participate in with the Towns of Warner and Sutton.

Baler Repair The Board approved a motion to expend \$493.61 from the Recycling Revolving Fund to repair the baler at the Transfer Station.

Police Cruiser The new SUV police cruiser was picked up and discovered to be a gasoline powered vehicle, not a hybrid as expected. Jim Valiquet, Bradford Police Chief, asked the Board if the car should be returned and reordered. The Board approved a motion to keep the gasoline cruiser.

Fire Department Jeff LeBlanc has been hired as Fire Chief and will take command on August 16, 2020. Three members of the Department were promoted in rank; Elliot Brown was promoted to Deputy Chief, Steve Snyder to Lieutenant and Rob Steiz was promoted to Captain.

Donations The Board accepted \$645 in donations for new Town signs received from Harriet Douglass, the Cilley family, Naughton & Sons and Sandra True.

Intent to Cut Signed for Map 20 Lot 31, Map 2 Lot 71, Map 13 Lot 20 and Map 13 Lot 30.

(Continued on page 8)

Voting Procedures

NH Primary Election Day, Tuesday September 8th, 2020

8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Polls will be open at the Bradford Area Community Center,
134 East Main Street, Bradford, NH

This information is correct as of August 24, 2020. To be sure there is no confusion, if you have any questions, call the Town Clerk, 603-938-2288, for up-to-date answers.

Absentee Ballot Voting

If you do not have an absentee ballot: Get one from the Town Clerk at the Open Hours listed below. Fill it out and leave it there.

Open Hours -

Tuesday September 1st, 8am-12noon and 1-4pm
Wednesday September 2nd, 12-5pm *by appointment only*
Thursday, September 3rd, 9am-12noon and 1-6pm
Monday, September 7th, 3-5pm

If you have an absentee ballot: Hand deliver it to the Town Clerk to ensure arrival on time. Absentee Ballots will be accepted on Primary Day if delivered by 5pm.

If you need to register to vote in Bradford: You may register and vote on Primary Day, September 8th from 8am-7pm. Check with Town Clerk 938-2288 for required identification or information about signing a Qualified Voter Affidavit or Domicile Affidavit. A voter will not be turned away for lack of documentation.

If you have an absentee ballot, but would prefer to vote in person: Do not send the ballot back. If already sent back, but not yet processed, the ballot will be “spoiled” and you can vote in person. If the absentee ballot has already been cast, you will not be able to vote in person.

In-Person Primary Election Day Voting

On September 8, 2020, the Primary Election will be held in the Bradford Area Community Center, 8am-7pm, 134 East Main Street Bradford, NH.

Entrance to the polls will be in the back of the building.

We are asking voters to **please come one at a time** and not in family groups to limit the number of people in the building. Please make alternative arrangements for your child/children before coming to the polling place. Couples will be asked to socially distance in the hallway and polling area due to the limited space in the hallway.

Masks will be required to enter the building. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you. If you are unable to wear a mask for health reasons, please have the greeter get the Town Clerk.

(Continued on page 4)



The Bradford Bridge

P.O. Box 463
Bradford, NH 03221
bradfordbridge.org
bradfordbridge345@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audrey V. Sylvester, President,
Jeni Lauder, Treasurer, Mary Keegan-
Dayton, Secretary, Marcia Keller,
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Kathleen Bigford

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Caitlin Banaszak, Area Events

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Leah Cummings, Graphic Artist
Don Moss, Advertising Coordinator

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To place an ad, call
Don Moss at 938-2230.

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Jeni Lauder

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Harriet Douglass, Nola Jordan

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To receive The Bridge by mail,
please send a \$25 check
to cover mailing costs to:
P.O. Box 463 Bradford, NH 03221

SUBMISSIONS

Anyone is welcome to submit articles
and/or photographs of interest to the
community. We reserve the right to edit
submissions.

PRINTING

RC Brayshaw & Company, Inc.

Town Offices

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Phone: 938-5900

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
(closed 12 Noon – 1 PM)
Friday: 8:00 AM – Noon

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Phone: 938-2288

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8 AM – 12 PM/ 1 PM – 4 PM
Wednesday: 12 PM – 5 PM
Thursday: 9 AM – 12 PM/ 1 PM – 6 PM
Friday: Closed
2nd & 4th Saturday: 9 AM – Noon

*Town offices are temporarily located at
Bradford Area Community Center, 134 East
Main St. P.O. Box 436. Bradford, NH 03221*

From the Bridge

“An informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy.”

Thomas Jefferson

“Do all within our power to support an informed citizenry.”

The Bradford Bridge Mission Statement, July 1991

This is the season of decisions. Together with those we make daily to remain safe, three other major choices loom large: Which candidate(s) to support; how to best cast our ballots, and for those involved with education, how to make learning safe.

Leaving your decisions about candidates entirely in your realm, this edition of the Bridge gives the latest information about how to cast your ballot in Bradford. Many thanks to several people who collaborated to condense reams of information to make voting as smooth as possible. Chief among this crew is our Town Clerk, Melissa Cloutier, who wants all your questions answered accurately. Please do not hesitate to call Melissa, 938-2288, with questions about the elections in Bradford.

The process of choosing the best learning environment for a family is featured in “Kearsarge Regional School District Reopening Plan”, page 14. Read the thoughts of four families as they weighed the pros and cons of the available options.

Also in this edition,

- Sample ballots for both parties.
- Audrey’s musings about summertime activity from her front porch.
- Marilyn Kidder’s real estate update.
- Ann Eldridge’s Outside on Webworms.
- How the Meals on Wheels program is operating during COVID.
- How to recycle “bits” of metal in Bradford.
- Brown Memorial Library’s book and plant sale.

As we strive to fulfill our mission to keep you informed, we are grateful to local businesses for their continuing support of this publication. Please buy local.

And, as you ponder your choices remember to enjoy the shifting of the seasons.

All the Best,

*Kathleen Bigford, Editor
And everyone who makes
this publication possible*



Letters to Our Editor:

To the Editor:

Cinde Warmington is on the ballot on September 8th for Executive Council District 2, and I urge voters to support her. Cinde came to Henniker this past winter to talk with me and other activists about her ideas for the Executive Council, and to hear about our local issues. I was struck by her intelligence and breadth of knowledge about both statewide and local concerns.

As an Executive Councilor, Cinde will be a strong advocate for progressive ideals like protecting Planned Parenthood, promoting clean energy, energy efficiency, and public transportation to tackle the climate crisis, ensuring health care access for every person in our state, and emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic with stronger health and economic justice safeguards than ever before.

Cinde also has an impressive vision for the Executive Council, and the dedication and persistence to realize it. She has ideas for transforming the way the Council reviews state contracts, proposing communication with agencies months earlier than happens now. She's talking about coordination with the legislature and the strengthening of a Democratic caucus, in ways that no one has tried before. She's done her homework by talking to current and former councilors and state agency heads, and she knows that this can be done. No one else in this field is putting forward the same bold, deliverable plans she is.

On September 8th, choose Cinde.

*Rep. Rod Pimentel
Merrimack District 6*



Town of Bradford - New Fire Chief

The Town of Bradford is pleased to announce that Jeffrey LeBlanc will serve as its new part-time Fire Chief. Jeff is an experienced fire and emergency services officer and is currently serving the towns of Plainfield and Deering. He also teaches Fire Science at the Lakes Region Community College in Laconia. Jeff joined the Bradford Fire Department on August 16, 2020.

Lake Sunapee VNA Foot and Flu Clinic Update

NEW LONDON, NH – Many community members have come to rely on Lake Sunapee VNA for its regular Foot Care Clinics and annual Flu Clinics held throughout the area. Though the pandemic has created challenges to operating these clinics, things are looking up.

Foot Clinics, all of which were closed in March, are slowly beginning to re-open with appointments now available at COA Chapin Senior Center (call 526-6368) and Claremont Senior Center (call 526-4077).

Lake Sunapee VNA does plan to offer Flu Clinics this year, but there will be fewer than usual, and they may look quite different. "We are working hard to identify locations that will provide a good, safe flow for people and possibly even drive-thru service," says Jim Culhane, President & CEO. "We anticipate starting the Flu Clinics in late September this year and will publicize the dates and locations as soon as our plans are finalized."

For current clinic dates and information, visit lakesunapeevna.org/calendar

One Morning at a Time on the Front Porch

Encased in a COVID-19 bubble, I notice little things that amaze and add joy to life patterns that now have been disrupted. Disruptors include: the daily news, extreme heat, power outages, chores, boredom, anxiety, energy level, procrastination, loss of humor, isolation, and missed connections with other human beings.

COVID-19 life is not quite a pull-off-the-highway experience, but it is definitely driving in the slow lane. From the cool comfort of the front porch or sun-filled back garden, summer's sights and sounds (even for a mini-second), entertain by changing the subject.

During a summer morning on the front porch, I watch Bradford traveling east into the rising sun and west into where the sun will set — a slow moving parade of everyday life. Who are these neighbors? What do they see and hear as they cycle, jog, walk dogs, navigate cracked sidewalks pushing strollers? Do they hear and feel the silence shattered when a truck hauling oversized machinery shifts gears up the little rise, or lawn mowers cut grass? Do they see butterflies fluttering high and low? Do they hear cricket's conversations, crows cawing, robins chirping, or miss the rooster's "cock-a-doddle-do," notice the hour when the church bell rings?

As a traveler in the slow lane, maybe you, as I have, discovered sights, sounds, colors in the natural and human world in a new way that amuses and entertains by changing the subject. Despite all the disruptors, we still have this wonderful place we call home.

Audrey V. Sylvester



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Voting Procedures

(Continued from page 1)

When you enter the building, you will proceed upstairs or use the lift if needed. A greeter will direct you to the voting area or to the Supervisors of the Checklist. A second greeter in the hallway will direct you to wait on one of the yellow “X’s” on the left side of the hallway or down the right side of the hallway for the Supervisors of the Checklist.

Because we are limiting the number of voters in the voting room, you will be invited to enter into the polling area one by one. When you enter the polling area you will hold your ID up for the ballot clerk to view. They will not touch your ID. You will then take your ballot and the pen provided and be directed to a voting booth. Please take the pen with you when done voting.

If you need to return to undeclared after voting there will be a form for you to fill out to do so.

Once you are done completing your ballot, you will deposit your ballot in the tabular machine and proceed out the back door, across the deck and down through the playground area.

Election staff will be doing everything they can to ensure the safety of everyone. Voting booths will be wiped down after each use. The ballot clerks will be behind a sneeze guard. All election officials will be wearing a mask.

If you arrive the day of the election and decide that you do not feel comfortable entering the building you will still be able to vote “curbside”. Please tell the door greeter that you would like to vote “curbside”; s/he will get the Town Clerk. Curbside voting is done using the absentee ballot voting process. You will receive a ballot request form to fill out and indicate which party ballot you would like. Then you will be given the ballot and an envelope. You can vote right in your car. Once you have filled out your ballot, you will seal it in the

envelope and the Clerk will take it back inside to the moderator. On the checklist you will be marked as AV for “absentee vote” since you were not in the building to vote.

Absentee ballots can be delivered to the Town Clerk by the voter themselves on election day if it is before 5pm, if the voter delivers the ballot after 5pm they will have to vote in person. Have the greeter get the Town Clerk to receive your ballot.

If you need to register to vote on the day of election, you will see the Supervisors of the Checklist. There will be additional people to help with this process to limit the time needed at the Checklist table. Please have all documentation ready for registering. This includes proof of identity, proof of domicile and proof of citizenship. If you do not feel comfortable coming into the building on election day to register to vote please have the greeter at the door get the Town Clerk.



INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS
 1. To vote, fill in the oval (s) opposite your choice (s) like this .
 2. To write-in a candidate not on the ballot, write the name on the line provided for the office and fill in the oval opposite the write-in line like this .

ABSENTEE BALLOT AND OFFICIAL BALLOT
 FOR
BRADFORD DEMOCRATIC
 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION
 September 8, 2020

SAMPLE

For Governor Vote for not more than 1	For State Senator Vote for not more than 1	For County Attorney Vote for not more than 1
Dan Feltes <input type="radio"/>	Jenn Alford-Teaster <input type="radio"/>	Robin A. Davis <input type="radio"/>
Andru Volinsky <input type="radio"/>		
For United States Senator Vote for not more than 1	For State Representatives Vote for not more than 2	For County Treasurer Vote for not more than 1
Jeanne Shaheen <input type="radio"/>	Tony Caplan <input type="radio"/>	Kathleen G. Donnelly <input type="radio"/>
Tom Alciere <input type="radio"/>	Rod Pimentel <input type="radio"/>	
Paul J. Krautmann <input type="radio"/>		For Register of Deeds Vote for not more than 1
For Representative in Congress Vote for not more than 1	For Sheriff Vote for not more than 1	Susan Cragin <input type="radio"/>
Joseph Mirzoeff <input type="radio"/>	Michael Labrecque <input type="radio"/>	For Register of Probate Vote for not more than 1
Ann McLane Kuster <input type="radio"/>	Keith Mitchell <input type="radio"/>	Jane Bradstreet <input type="radio"/>
	David A. Croft <input type="radio"/>	Erica S. Davis <input type="radio"/>
For Executive Councilor Vote for not more than 1		
John D. Shea <input type="radio"/>		
Emmett Soldati <input type="radio"/>		
Jay Surdukowski <input type="radio"/>		
Craig Thompson <input type="radio"/>		
Cinde Warmington <input type="radio"/>		
Leah Plunkett <input type="radio"/>		

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS
 1. To vote, fill in the oval (s) opposite your choice (s) like this .
 2. To write-in a candidate not on the ballot, write the name on the line provided for the office and fill in the oval opposite the write-in line like this .

ABSENTEE BALLOT AND OFFICIAL BALLOT
 FOR
BRADFORD REPUBLICAN
 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION
 September 8, 2020

SAMPLE

For Governor Vote for not more than 1	For Executive Councilor Vote for not more than 1	For County Attorney Vote for not more than 1
Nobody <input type="radio"/>	Jim Beard <input type="radio"/>	Paul Halvorsen <input type="radio"/>
Chris Sununu <input type="radio"/>	Stewart I. Levenson <input type="radio"/>	
Karen Testlerman <input type="radio"/>		For County Treasurer Vote for not more than 1
	For State Senator Vote for not more than 1	
For United States Senator Vote for not more than 1	Ruth Ward <input type="radio"/>	For Register of Deeds Vote for not more than 1
Corky Messner <input type="radio"/>		
Gerard Beloin <input type="radio"/>	For State Representatives Vote for not more than 2	For Register of Probate Vote for not more than 1
Don Bolduc <input type="radio"/>	Thomas A. Dunne <input type="radio"/>	Scott Maltzie <input type="radio"/>
Andy Martin <input type="radio"/>	James B. Parker <input type="radio"/>	
For Representative in Congress Vote for not more than 1		For Delegate to the State Convention Vote for not more than 1
Eli D. Clemmer <input type="radio"/>	For Sheriff Vote for not more than 1	Charlotte Antal <input type="radio"/>
Steven Negron <input type="radio"/>	Dennis A. Crawford <input type="radio"/>	Jordan Dunne <input type="radio"/>
Matthew D. Bjelobrk <input type="radio"/>	James S. Valliquet <input type="radio"/>	
Lynne Ferrari Blankenbeker <input type="radio"/>		



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The Washington Area Artisans Annual Arts Fair

The Washington Area Artisans, a loosely governed and eclectic group of makers, is again holding their annual arts fair this year entirely outdoors under tents at the East Washington Mill Pond from 10am – 4pm, October 3-4 and October 10-11.

This year features ten artisans with a varied palette of offerings.



Faye Graziano's "Kitchen Chicken"

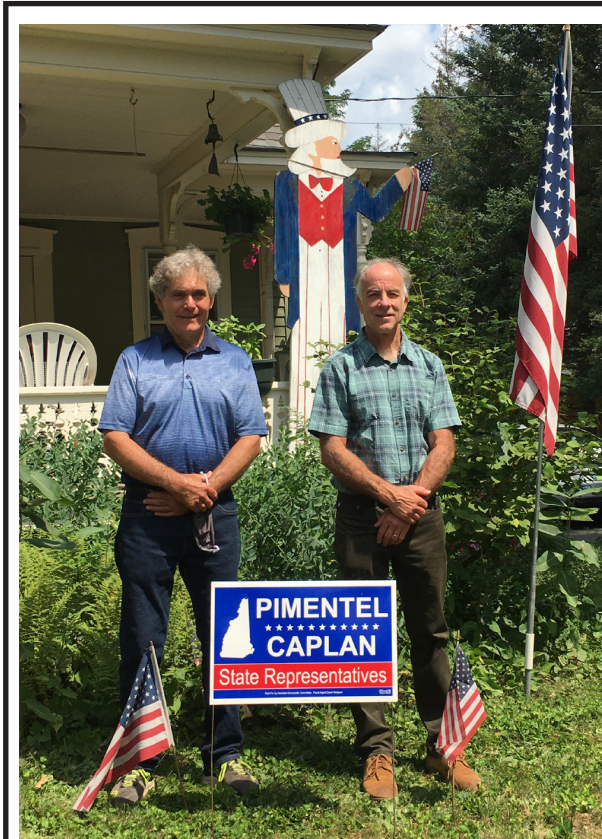
Three are residents of Bradford – Faye Graziano with original fabric creations, Michelle Marson with baskets and jewelry often remade from found objects, and Ann Eldridge who does handprinted etchings of nature studies.

Looking for something a bit different to do this fall? All Covid-19 protocols will be observed for safety of participants and visitors. Rain or shine! (Hopefully shine, although at this writing we could sure use some rain.)

From Bradford, take the East Washington Road to the stop sign just over the town line. You'll see the picturesque Purling Beck Grange on your right and the Mill Pond just ahead on your right.

For updates and further information, look for Washington Area Artisans on Facebook.

Ann Eldridge



Rod (left) and Tony (right)
Candidates for New Hampshire State Representatives
Merrimack County District 6 - Henniker and Bradford

Rod Pimentel Anthony Caplan

Rod Pimentel is a resident of Henniker where he lives with his wife Iris and owned a small business. He recently completed his first term as a NH State Representative, graduated from UNH, and served in the Marine Corps. Rod and Iris raised their three children in NH where they were educated in our public school system.

Rod is concerned with the environment, the high property tax burden, and the plight of small businesses. He is a life long advocate for social justice and will work for the people in his district as well as the people of NH.

Tony Caplan taught high school Spanish for 20 years in New Hampshire. Before working as a teacher, he graduated from Yale University and worked as a journalist for the Associated Press and United Press International. His wife and he raised three kids in Henniker. Tony has been Chair of the Henniker Energy Committee and is Chair of the Henniker Democratic Committee. Tony's running to be a state representative to make NH a state for his kids to live in and bring up their kids. Tony wants a strong community for families, business owners, small farmers, people of all ages, in short, everyone to thrive.

We Support

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery
Rebuild New Hampshire's Economy
Provide Access to Affordable High Quality Healthcare and Provide for Testing
Broadband Expansion
Paid Medical and Family Leave

A Fair and Equitable Redistricting Plan;
Protecting our Elections and every NH Citizen's Right to Vote

Policies that will take bold steps to avert the Climate Change Crisis and Policies to Increase Energy Efficiency

Protecting Women's Reproductive Rights

An Educational System that will assure that NH schools are safe, that no child is discriminated against and that every child receives a good education.

Developing a State Budget that protects NH's vulnerable populations, our communities and essential services

Real Estate Update

It is almost unbelievable that we are nearly 6 months into living with the presence of COVID 19. School is about to start with everyone's fingers crossed, hoping that New Hampshire residents will stay true to our successful behaviors which have resulted in a declining number of cases and a low infection rate. That will surely give the schools a better chance to remain open under safe conditions for all.

The real estate market has definitely been influenced by COVID in some ways, but also, a classic supply and demand situation is very much in play and driving the market. The two are intertwined, but even without COVID, I think we would be seeing a lot of buyer demand.

Just looking at the statewide NH Association of Realtors data for July 2020 vs. July 2019, the number of closed sales is up 6.4%, the median sales price is up 13.3%, the total \$ volume of closed sales is up 22.4%; correspondingly, the month's supply of housing, the number of new listings and total number of homes for sale are all down significantly. Looking at comments from the experts, most expect this market to continue into at least the first half of 2021 and perhaps beyond.

It is clearly still a sellers' market. But seller or buyer, it is a tricky market, and now more than ever, whether you are selling or buying, it's best to have an experienced agent on your team.

Recent Real Estate Sales in Bradford (6/17/2020-8/20/2020)

During this time frame, there were 8 single family home sales, ranging in price from \$235,000-\$399,000, down one from last year during this time, but at that time the price range was \$139,000-\$259,000. At the present time, there are 6 homes on the market, priced from \$259,900-\$1,400,000. In addition, 9 homes are under contract or pending.

Marilyn Kidder, Broker



Jenna Sievers

September Agent Profile

We are happy to announce a new addition to our office! Jenna and her family have been a part of the Lake Sunapee Community as part-timers for 15+ years. Like so many others whose summer Lake House magically becomes the Ski House in December, weekends turned into long weekends, which turned into weeks, and summers and before you know it... Last June, when the opportunity presented, the decision to live here full-time was an easy one.

"I love taking advantage of all this area has to offer – hiking, biking, skiing, boating, tennis, gardening, exploring the smalltown fairs, farmers' markets, Old Home Days, local music, theatre, arts and literary happenings!

Give me a call, whether you are a first-time home buyer, new to the area, looking for a get-away or ready to list that vacation spot and find your full-time dream home! I look forward to meeting you and helping to guide you through the process of buying or selling your home!" Jenna Sievers

"We'd like to picture your house here!"

The local real estate market is still 'hot' and buyers are still very active. It is not unusual for us to see multiple offers on properties. If you have been considering selling (and you have some place to go!) this would be a great time to talk with us about the prospects for your property in today's market. No obligation at all!



If you're considering selling or buying, give us a call and put "The Best Team in Town" to work for you!

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THIS IS A TINY AD
 Make **CHILLY DILLIES**: 3 small pickling cucumbers, cut into spears or rounds. Place into a pint jar, add 4 sprigs dill + few onion slices. Make brine: ½ cup water, ½ cup cider vinegar, 2 clove garlic, 1½ tspn kosher salt, ¼ tspn sugar, ¼ tspn peppercorns, ¼ tspn mustard seed, pinch red pepper flake. Simmer brine mix, cool, pour into jar, close lid tight & shake. 2 days in fridge. Great summer snack!

Henniker Veterinary Hospital

Small Animal & Equine Practice

Alyssa J. Brust, DVM
 Robert A. Brust, DVM
 Amy C. Jones, DVM
 Brittany Y. Paquette, DVM
 Olivia J. Lattanzi, DVM

House Calls Available
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 Maple Street, Henniker

Recycling Bits

On your next trip to the Bradford Transfer Station and Recycling Center you will notice two newly labeled barrels for scrap metal. These new labels will help residents in several ways.



First, the labels help to clarify what scrap metal is. Aluminum foil and pans, cat food cans, and small pieces are all considered scrap metal. This scrap

metal, which generally consists of low-grade metal, is melted down and made into other low-grade metal items.

Second, by collecting and keeping this low-grade scrap metal separate from the other metals and aluminum that we collect the Transfer Station is able to market the high-grade metals and aluminum at higher prices. These better revenue sources help to bring more income into Bradford's general funds, with a small portion

being designated to the revolving recycling fund.

Third, is the fact that if this scrap metal is simply discarded into the compactor container, Bradford would have to pay for more frequent shipping of its municipal waste, thus increasing the cost of doing business at the transfer station.

Mining aluminum to manufacture aluminum beverage cans and items is destructive and toxic to the environment. Aluminum beverage cans are made out of high-quality aluminum and can be melted down and made directly into sheet stock, which is used to make more beverage cans and other high-quality aluminum products.

Recycling aluminum cans is a vital link in this process. The COVID situation has led to a shortage of aluminum beverage cans. The shortage of these cans has resulted from manufacturing workers in the United States being isolated at home during the pandemic. In the meantime, the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) is marketing our recycled aluminum beverage cans to China to be made into sheet stock that is shipped back to America. When the workers here get back to work, they will have sheet stock on hand to begin manufacturing aluminum beverage cans again.

Three barrels are set out on each side of the compactor to collect aluminum beverage cans. Three barrels are set out on the end of the compactor to collect steel cans. There is also a barrel to collect copper, brass, lead and another barrel to collect electrical cords.

Just another "bit". Ken and I thank the residents for their commitment to recycling and for their cooperation with the procedures we have put in place to function safely, efficiently, and without closures during this COVID situation.

*Lois Kilnapp, Manager,
 Transfer and Recycling Center*

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Town Board Reports

(Continued from page 1)

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Membership Chris Frey was appointed to the Budget Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Internet Expansion The committee discussed the need for internet and cell coverage expansion, especially with the potential post-COVID urban flight. Matt Monahan from Central New Hampshire Regional Planning will follow up on the State's Broadband Expansion initiative.

Master Plan Committee member Laurie Colburn encouraged the committee to attend the September 8, 2020 Planning Board meeting as they will be discussing short term objectives from the Master Plan. A Table of Uses was on the Master Plan objectives and she felt that expressing support to pursue this objective would be beneficial as it would clearly outline what types of land uses would be supported and make it easier for property owners to understand Bradford when looking to purchase property whether for business or residential pursuits.

PLANNING BOARD

Subdivision Rules Pam Bruss, Planning Board Chair, noted that the Planning Board Subdivision rules and procedures need to be updated because any lot under five acres needs the State's approval.

Lot Line Adjustment Gerald H Martin II of 121 Forest Street, Map 7, Lot 68 gave an update to the Board regarding his application for a lot line adjustment. Mr. Martin stated that the septic and test pit area needs to be updated on the map. The Surveyor is covering all de-

tails from the previous Planning Board meeting. Mr. Martin is in the process of requesting a flood map amendment from FEMA, and is awaiting all proper materials to move forward.

Training The Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment are allotted one free training course. The Board will think of topics and try to schedule a course for the end of September.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Project Review The committee reviewed project forms submitted by the Highway Department and the Fire Department.

Streaming The committee agreed that moving forward, meetings will be streamed and available to attend remotely.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Communication The Board approved a motion to accept and submit a letter drafted by ZBA member Ken Parys to the Planning Board regarding Lake Massesecum.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Appearances Ken Milender of the Warner River Local Advisory Committee came before the Commission to discuss the Warner River Corridor Draft Management Plan and the expansion of Naughton Recycling.

Land Donation Two wetland parcels behind Pearl Town Forest have been donated to the Town for conservation purposes.

KEARSARGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Propane Busses The School Board was unanimously in favor of moving forward with an idea presented by the Transportation Committee to switch over to propane powered buses for a one year trial, at no cost to the district.

Masks The School Board approved the purchase recommendation for a 6 month supply of KN95 masks, 300 clear plastic face shields and 20K non-surgical masks totaling \$115,000.

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

- OPEN -
Wednesday-Sunday
Check online for hours



Sweet Beet Market

More Than Veggies...

Thank you farmers!

We are so grateful for the folks who have committed themselves to growing food for our community. We know how hard you're working this time of year. Thank you for your dedication!

Please wear your mask and come visit us to enjoy the bounty!

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Bradford, NH

kearsargefoodhub.org • sweetbeetmarket@gmail.com   #NHEatsLocal

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- 21st: Certified Angus Steak Tips in onion gravy
- 28th: Chicken Piccata

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Bradford Newbury Sutton Youth Sports

Bradford Newbury Sutton Youth Sports



Last year the community lost an integral part of the BNSYS family, "Bo" Raymond."

In honor of "Bo" and his father, Edward Raymond Sr., our softball field is now known as Raymond Memorial Field.

On behalf of the BNSYS board and directors, I would like to thank the Raymond Family for their dedication to our program from the beginning days.

Special thanks to Roberge Signs in Bradford for the beautiful hand carved signs which now memorialize all our fields.

Ed Shaughnessy

BNSYS is a NH based non-profit organization that provides quality sports opportunities to area youths, while reinforcing the concepts of sportsmanship and team participation.



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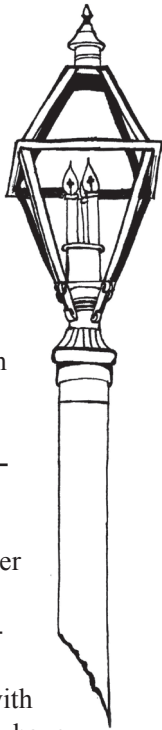
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Library Lantern



Brown Memorial Library

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Library Hours:

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Wednesday 11:00am – 7:00pm
Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

From the Director's Desk:

It has been an exquisite summer full of good weather and outdoor activities. I can't remember a summer with such little rain and so many days filled with blue skies and sun. I hope you have enjoyed some of what our beautiful area has to offer over the last several months.

Looking on to the end of summer, I am preparing to send my children back to school. Sarah is going into 3rd grade and Jonathan into 6th. One of the never-ending discussions my husband and I had this summer, along with politics, was whether we would send our kids back to school in the fall. Neither of the choices presented seem particularly good, and parents everywhere are trying to determine how they will work and educate their kids. Tough choices.

I am pleased with the decision to reopen the library. Patrons have expressed how happy they are to have us open again.

Patrons have also been very respectful with our request to wear masks in our building. I thank everyone for helping us to remain safely open. Please know I like your opinion and feedback on books you've read and movies you've watched. I am also open to suggestions of books you look forward to reading or authors you'd like to see more of on the shelf.

We are in the process of weeding and digitizing the library circulation. If you see open areas on shelves we are working on clearing and moving books around. So far, the process has been smooth but it will take time. I look forward to offering our town and other libraries an easier way of interacting with our library.

Inter-library loan (ILL) is still on hold. Book group will be on hold until ILL resumes. Adult and children's programming is also on hold until further notice.

We are holding a Labor Day plant and book sale. It will be on Saturday, September 5th from 9:00-2:00pm. Please come by and support our library. Get a few perennials to put in before the freeze and stock up on some gently used books!

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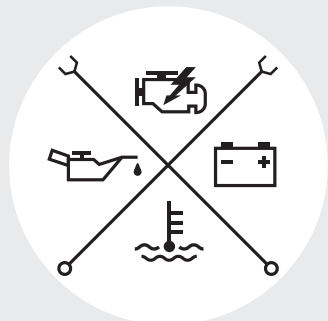
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-OUTSIDE-



Fall Webworms

This year's news events have been more than a little distracting. That may be why I wasn't paying much attention to trees with adornments that looked like tattered brown paper bags of cotton candy. I dismissed them as forest tent caterpillars – I'd seen a few this year. Even though quieter voices in my head pointed out that the silken nets weren't properly set in the forks of branches like tent caterpillars but sprawling raggedly along limbs. Like fall webworms do. But it wasn't fall. (And they aren't worms but caterpillars – offspring of butterflies and moths.)

Wasn't June kind of early for webworms? Not this year. I'm guessing there was something about this past winter that suited them. The parent moths of these furry yellowish caterpillars may have chewed their way out of their protective winter coats early, smoothed out their fluffy moth finery, and sailed off in the night like miniature snowy owls to early spring trysts. The females then laid masses of eggs on

the undersides of new leaves, carefully protecting them with a coverlet of white fuzz from their own abdomens. And then the eggs hatched.

Fall webworms come in two varieties and by some opinions, they are separate species. I'm seeing the more destructive red-headed biotype and not the black-headed. The redheads work together in jolly communities comprised of several or many neighborly but unrelated egg masses, the black-headed maintain the nuclear family approach. Webworm protective silk webbed bivouacs should be condemned for their unattended dead bodies, dead leaves, scatterings of frass, and the eggs of parasites. But they plead no time for housecleaning. Unlike the forest tent caterpillars that set out from their tidier nests and forage several times a day, webworms construct around their food source, expanding their protective netting as they munch - working and eating together like tiny Amish communities at a post and beam event.

And that food source might be nearly

any kind of tree or shrub. Webworms are among the most polyphagous of insects – a good word that means indiscriminately eats most anything. This is why, with our help, they now occupy the entire northern hemisphere. And now, at the end of August, they wander about at night exploring new food sources, like the tassels on my corn. They will be looking for potential wintering sites where they will build pupae housing that will protect them while they rearrange themselves into adult moths for spring emergence.

Last night's insomnia sent me out to watch for something I'd read about. And there it was – a brief, perfectly syncopated twitching of dozens if not hundreds of caterpillars. Who started the rhythm, and why? How was the timing of start and stop and the beat communicated? Some grad student has yet to totally figure it out.

Most trees in most years can withstand the fall webworms. They don't normally appear in force until late summer/early fall when the leaves have completed their photosynthetic missions and these insects fortunately don't touch next year's buds. Coupled with increasing drought summers though, some plants might be in trouble.

The too-numerous webworms are a plague but then anything of too many and too crowded conditions are themselves plagued by disease and predators. (Our species is not excepted.) You must have heard the cooing of cuckoos all summer. They specialize in fuzzy insects. Their abundance is one indication that other lives have been, unlike me, paying close attention all along.

Ann Eldridge



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Meals on Wheels Drivers Deliver Hope and Connection

As Dean Westover pulled up to the modest home in Newbury, he reviewed his protocols. Facemask, check. Gloves, check. He unloaded the package of food from the back of his car that included three frozen meals, as well as snacks that could last for a while, and surveyed the home. All was quiet. He approached the house hoping he would find his client well, exchange a few words of reassurance and encouragement, and be on his way after removing his protective gear and using his hand sanitizer.

Such is the twice weekly routine during COVID for Dean, a Meals on Wheels driver employed by the Community Action Program of Belknap and Merrimack Counties. Dean, and four other drivers, navigate out of the Mountain View Senior Center in Bradford, which provides over 400 meals to recipients in the Kearsarge region. A spry 86-year-old retired commercial pilot, Dean is tall and lanky with a paternalistic air. He is the senior of the drivers, but the others are not far behind.

Delivering on Tuesdays and Fridays, the Meals on Wheels drivers each cover roughly 50-70 miles providing meals to over 20 clients. But they don't deliver just food, they deliver hope and connection. "For many of these people, I am the only person they see all week," says Dean. "A lot of them have stuff they want to get off their chest whether it is my business or not." Part therapist, part companion, part lifeline, the drivers become a cherished connection for an often-invisible popula-

tion right here in our communities.

It's Tuesday morning at the Senior Center, and the drivers have started to arrive to gather their deliveries. Elizabeth Labbe, director of the Bradford site, has packed the coolers for most of the drivers, putting the meals for those with special dietary needs in marked black bags. Tall and energetic, she wears a face mask whose straps disappear into her curly red hair. Elizabeth deftly navigates the kitchen and its freezers confirming that the needs of each client are being met.

Jay Hinnendael, a retired house painter who has been delivering meals for a few years now, pulls into the parking lot in his small pickup truck whose stickers sport big opinions. Wearing a facemask over his bearded face, he works efficiently getting his truck loaded so he can start his deliveries. Jay values the independence of the job, but he also knows how important his visits are to his clients. "They're always happy to see me. You can see the smile," he says.

Within an hour, the drivers' cars are loaded. The drivers are acutely aware of the tenuous existence of some of their clients, and they instinctively make an assessment with every visit – they are the eyes and ears of the community, looking out for the most vulnerable. Driver Jim Denoncourt, who recently turned 86 himself, recalls a visit before the pandemic when his client had fallen out of bed and was on the floor when he arrived. Following procedure, he reassured the client and called 911. His brief intervention made a big difference.

The pandemic has changed how drivers can interact with their clients. "People are scared," says Dean. "Some just watch TV all the time, and some don't even have a television. I try to calm them down." Meals are left at the door, and safety precautions are followed. Most clients are low risk because they stay at home. "They are aware of the virus," says Jay, "but they'll say, 'I've lived 98 years and seen everything.' They're not really worried, and neither am I."

It is not always easy in a community to know who is in need. And, often, those in need do not know how or are unwilling to reach out for help. "We struggle with the digital divide – poor internet access, low technical skills," says Elizabeth, "as well as lack of money." Referrals to the program are mostly grassroots. "Locals know who is in need; people find out about us mostly by word of mouth," she says. "Food insecurity is often invisible, and we need the outreach because people are often too prideful to ask."

With Elizabeth at mission control in the Senior Center, these drivers venture into their communities to build and reinforce a web of support that sustains those in need. And, often, what comes around goes around. "I delivered to a new client recently who is 98," says Jim. "I remember when he was a scoutmaster. I have admired him for a long time!"

These Meals on Wheels drivers have found a way to give back. And, in the meantime, they have learned that the true gift has been in the giving itself.

Elibet Moore Chase



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Town Sign Update

We are on our way to having four new Bradford town-line signs!

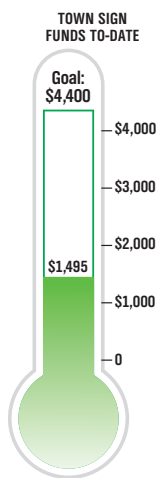


Contributions are coming in for our new Bradford town signs to be posted at the entry points to Bradford from Warner, Henniker, Sutton, and Newbury (see the full story in the August Bradford Bridge).

Show your Bradford pride by joining in on this collective effort spearheaded by the Bradford Community Gardeners. Donations of *any* size (tax deductible) are most appreciated. Check should be made to: Town of Bradford – Please add the note “**sign donation**” on the memo line). Mail to:

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Thank you – We hope to reach our goal of \$4,400 by the end of September so that the making of the signs can begin!



Bradford Community Church

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Our Sunday Services start at 10 am, in-house and live streamed. The first Sunday each month we hold a Communion Service. We do ask that masks be worn and we have pews marked off for the 6ft distancing.

At this time, we are unable to hold a Sunday school class. Interested families please contact the office for the weekly video and lessons to do at home.

For office visits, please call and leave a message and we will get back to you to schedule an appointment.

Teen Challenge will be here on Sunday, September 20 at 10 am to speak about their program. Teen Challenge is a life changing program giving hope, strength and courage through the power of Christ to addicts and their families. It helps to rebuild their self-worth and overcome life's struggles and become a productive member of society. Come hear testimonies on how this program has transformed lives.

The Bradford Community Food Pantry is open only on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. If you would like more information about this program or how-to sign-up, please call the church office.



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Kearsarge Regional School District Reopening Plan

A plan to reopen the Kearsarge Regional School District was approved at the August 6th School Board meeting. The 38-page reopening document outlines a 3-option approach for parents and community for return to instruction. The plan is based on input from KRSD administration, faculty, students, parents, the community in addition to information from the Center for Disease Control, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The core principles of the plan are:

Safety Creating opportunities for learning that account for the best available guidance from experts in the field focused upon the physical and social-emotional needs of students and staff.

Equity Creating opportunities for learning that provide accessible learning environments for families and students impacted by a wide range of resource availability.

Quality Creating opportunities for student learning that attempt to match or exceed the quality of instruction established through our normal professional practices.

Parents were asked to choose an option that best fit the needs of their family. The options are:

Option 1 At School: Remote Learning features a return to in-person instruction within the school building to provide instruction and supports for students.

Option 2 At Home: Remote Learning features a remote learning environment that is synchronized with the At School model. Remote instruction will occur at specifically determined times for providing core instruction.

Option 3 Homeschooling features a remote learning environment that supports learning apart from district enrollment.

This option requires a withdrawal from public school. And would formally exit any student from special education.

Here are the thoughts of a sampling of parents as they made their choices.

**At School: Remote Learning:
Jen Richard**


We have made the decision to have our children go back to school. It was not an easy decision for us to make and we wavered back and forth daily about it. The decision to have our kids go to school came down to a few factors 1.) My husband working in the School District would not be able to be here to help. 2.) I have been back at work since June and would not be able to have the time to do both. 3.) The most important reason was that when talking to our 2 older children who are 10 and 12 they were strongly against staying home.

It all came down to a matter of mental well-being for our older children. Our middle child did well, but didn't enjoy online learning. Our oldest son, who is very social did not enjoy the online

learning and we had much difficulty in motivating him to get his work done. Our children just want to get back to some type of normalcy where they are able to participate in activities with other children. Things could change, but for us, for now, this was the difficult choice that we made.

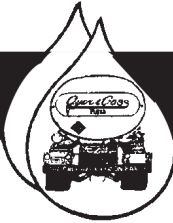
**At-Home: Remote Learning:
Leah Cummings**

Our son Bo starts Kindergarten this year. He will be learning from home and connecting with his teachers and classmates remotely. He will have "live" online lessons each day where we will sign in at the same time as every other Bradford Kindergartener (both the "at-home remote" and the "in-school remote" kids). I really appreciate the way this format connects kids from both groups and gives them a shared experience. In Kindergarten we will have three blocks of 15-20 minute lessons, so about an hour of on-screen learning each day. We will also have assignments to work on during the times we are not signed in for classes. We are really grateful for all of



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the dedicated teachers who are guiding us through this crisis year. Learning gives us all a sense of grounding and offers inspiration for our future! Our family has made some major shifts since the pandemic hit, as I know many have. We have found comfort in focusing on our children and being together outside. My husband, Adam, works full-time locally and I am self-employed working part-time with a flexible schedule. Bo is almost 6 and his little sister Liv is 3 going on 17.

**Home School:
Katie Olohan**

I'd like to start by saying that there is no right or wrong decision, it has to work for your family. It's very important during this time more than ever to support and respect one another because everyone has A LOT on their plate. For our family homeschooling is the best option. It will allow us to really go at our own pace and change things up if something isn't working. Since this pandemic has taken its course the only constant has been each other and we would like to keep it that way.

And a fourth option many valuable Kearsarge community members have chosen:

**Private School:
Caitlin Banaszack**

Private school is something I never really considered for my kids (especially for elementary school) but I also never considered raising them in the midst of a global pandemic! We have been excited for our oldest son to walk down the road for his first day of kindergarten at Bradford Elementary since we moved here two years ago. Unfortunately, that happy image of his first day of school started collapsing in on itself this spring and we quickly realized that his first day of Kindergarten would look nothing like what we imagined.

We did as parents do and sprang into problem-solving mode. Each family has a unique set of factors going into the decision-making process for their kids this fall. For our family, some of the major factors were as follows: Both my husband and I work, our son thrives on social interaction, his behavior is very noticeably negatively affected by screen time, and we also have a 2-year-old

whose needs we need to consider. We went searching for a solution that would allow him to have a safe in-person school experience that did not involve too much or any virtual component. We found a small private school that, because of its size, was able to come out with a very concrete and realistic school reopening plan that involves full regular classes and a "normal" Kindergarten experience for our son.

Like I said in the beginning, it is not at all what I imagined for him and it does involve some sacrifice on various levels, but for now we are going to give it a shot. My fingers are crossed that I will get to walk him down the road from our house to Bradford Elementary and see all of his friends together again on his first day of 1st grade next year. Sending love to all parents making these tough decisions right now!

Details and highlights of each plan can be accessed on the school website at <https://www.kearsarge.org/district/news/school-reopening-plan-approved>

And a follow up letter to the community dated August 14, 2020 can be found here https://www.kearsarge.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif731f/uploads/august_14_2020_covid-19_update_letter.pdf

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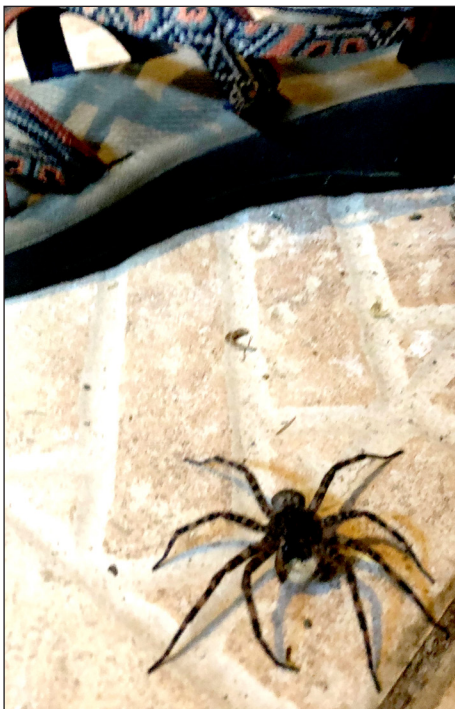
Out & About: Porcupines and Spiders

In the category of “Bravery in the Presence of Wildlife” we have . . .



Porcupines primary senses are smell and touch. Most of them aren't too disturbed by a flashlight (or headlights) unless you turn the light on yourself and they can see you. Thus, if you happen to be standing in the middle of their chosen route, they are quite apt to give you a good sniffing, as happened with this mother and offspring. The Mother, on the right, gave my right foot some attention and wandered off, the youngster was appalled, put its quills up and chattered nervously. It checked both left and right foot carefully before stopping for a snack and then following its mother's trail into the milkweed. Mumbling 'mmmmum muummm mum' as it went.

Ann Eldridge

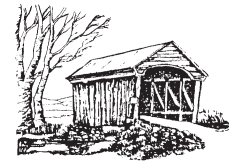


This is an inside Out and About.

Found in our entryway, *Amaurobius ferox*, sometimes known as the black lace-weaver, is a spider belonging to the family Amaurobiidae. Visible on her underside is the white sac which will be laid in a sheltered place. The female usually guards the sac until the eggs have hatched. This may be why she was not aggressive as this species has been known to bite people. The black lace-weaver is a matrifagous spider, meaning that the young devour the mother after hatching. First she lays a second set of eggs on which the newly hatched spiders feed. Then a few days later she actively encourages her offspring to devour her.

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. Please submit the images in .jpg or .jpeg format.



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