

The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS *for* NEIGHBORS *by* NEIGHBORS

MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

SELECT BOARD

Unanticipated Revenue The Board approved motions to accept the following in unanticipated revenue: \$25,283.66 in Special Block Grant Funding to be used for highways, \$35,897.35 NH in Special Block Grant Funding to be used for bridges, \$101,000.00 in Clean Diesel Grant Funding to be used to purchase the John Deere Grader (this is a reimbursement), \$17,255.00 in State of NH Department of Safety Search and Rescue Grant Funds for Police Department Search and Rescue equipment, and \$21,742.56 in State of NH Department of Justice Grant Funds for Police Department portable radios.

Town Owned Property Ann Eldridge, member of the Bradford Conservation Commission, appeared to ask the Board to retain two Town-owned properties, Map 4 Lot 7 and Map 4 Lot 9, that were authorized to be offered for sale via a warrant article that passed in 2021. Town took ownership of the parcels due to unpaid taxes. Ann said the Conservation Commission would like the Select Board to retain the lots for conservation purposes as the lots are located within the headwaters of West Branch of the Warner River, the land represents prime habitat for wildlife, and retaining the lots would avoid the challenges future sales could lead to. Consensus of the Select Board is that they support putting this article on the warrant.

Building Permit Walter Royal, Building Inspector, Richard Greene, Engineer, and Kevin Pestana, owner of Lot 21, Map 3, Ring Hill Road, appeared to discuss the safety of driveway access at a construction site. The Board agreed to sign a building permit after additional criteria

(Continued on page 16)

Tax Rate Explained

This is the single most common question posed in any community yet the answer is not always so well received. Sadly, elected town officials, committee members, and town employees are often the first line of citizen attacks when tax rates seem too high.

Tax dollars are a concern for everybody in that we only want to pay our fair share. This is also true of town employees, many of whom also own homes in Bradford. This means rising property taxes are a concern for everyone.

To that end, Bradford's Select Board, Budget Committee, and Department Heads want residents to know that there is a constant effort to find ways to hold budgets down. Whether it is with recent technology, restructuring current programs to run more efficiently, or making actual cuts in program dollars; the bottom line is continually being reviewed to improve things.

Breaking Down the Tax Rate

Bradford has four separate and distinct tax rates. The total 2023 tax rate for Bradford is \$27.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value and is broken down as follows:

- Town portion = \$11.07
- County = \$2.39
- Local School = \$12.57
- State Education = \$1.77

How the Tax Rate is Set

The tax rate setting is not a function of local government. Property tax rates are set each fall by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) located in Concord.

To do the calculation each city, town, and school district must send in its total assessed value, exemption and credit figures, the expected amount of non-tax

(Continued on page 5)

Town Positions open for the Election on March 12th, 2024

If you wish to run for one of the following offices, please sign up at our office on any of the following days during regular business hours - January 24th, 25th, 30th, 31st, Feb 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th and on Friday, Feb 9th between 3-5pm.

- Budget Committee – For 3 Years (2 Openings)
- Budget Committee – For 1 Year (1 Opening)
- Cemetery Commission – For 3 Years (1 Opening)
- Cemetery Commission – For 1 Year (1 Opening)
- Moderator – For 2 Years (1 Opening)
- Planning Board – For 3 Years (2 Openings)
- Scholarship Committee – For 3 Years (1 Opening)
- Selectman – For 3 Years (1 Opening)
- Supervisors of the Checklist – For 6 Years (1 Opening)
- Supervisors of the Checklist – For 4 Years (1 Opening)
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector – For 3 Years (1 Opening)
- Treasurer – For 3 Years (1 Opening)
- Trustee of the Brown Memorial Library - For 3 Years (1 Opening)
- Trustee of the Trust Funds – For 3 Years (1 Opening)
- Zoning Board – For 3 Years (1 Opening)

Description of Responsibilities – Available at Town Clerk's Office

February Haiku
 horizon glimmers
 orange, purple, pink,
 gray, blue sky
 February dawn

kb



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

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To receive The Bridge by mail,
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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

134 EAST MAIN STREET

Phone: 603-938-5900

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

(closed 12 Noon – 1 PM)

Friday: 8:30 AM – Noon

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Phone: 603-938-2288

Tuesday: 8 AM – 12 PM/ 1 PM – 4 PM

Wednesday: 12 PM – 5 PM

Thursday: 10 AM – 7 PM

Friday through Monday: Closed

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

From The Bridge

Excerpts from answers to the question, What form of government best serves Bradford, Town Meeting or SB2?

Find the rest of what these contributors have to say on Pages 11-13.

“I would like to try SB2 because we could cast our vote at any time during the election day and it would allow more people to participate in the voting process.”

~ Chris Frey

“The specter of Bradford becoming an SB2 town has risen once again. There is a petition circulating proposing a warrant article to change Bradford’s governing format from the current Town Meeting format to the SB2 format. This proposal appeared on the warrant in 2020 and failed.” ~ Sue McKeivitt

“In what way would Bradford as an SB2 town be different from the SB2 School District? Would the voters have a better chance of influencing an expenditure at the budget committee level? A chance to have a better understanding of the issues facing the town? A greater likelihood of seeing your old friends?... The answer is no and that should be the answer to the petition to separate us even more from the spot where decisions are actually made in Bradford.” ~ Brackett Scheffy

“If the residents abdicate their civic responsibilities away you can expect to be held hostage by those that will show up at the deliberative session and exert their will over the town unopposed to save themselves a few dollars. Take heed!”

~ Jason Grey

“Let’s not abandon this time-honored, yet still relevant, method of running our small town in the manner we alone think is best. You know, as Rebecca Rule has said, ‘Once you lose Town Meeting, you will never get it back.’

Think about voting No on SB 2.” ~ Laurie Buchar

“Voting blind is too easy and democracy is hard.” ~ J Ann Eldridge

“Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Bradford, NH on the second Tuesday of March,” will appear on the 2024 warrant for the annual Bradford Town Meeting.

Passage requires a 3/5 majority vote of those voting.

Honestly, I was expecting more reactions to this important question. Six voices. That is all. In this tiny sample the opinions fall strongly on the side of holding on to the tradition of governing Bradford with Town Meeting.

Clearly and respectfully stated opinions on this important topic and others are welcome at bradfordbridge345@gmail.com or PO Box 463, Bradford, NH 03221

Kathleen Bigford, Editor

Land Acknowledgement Statement – We are on the unceded land of Nd’akinna which has long served as a site of meeting for Abenaki people from Pagôntegok (Contoocook), O’quasskikonaquan (Newbury) and beyond for thousands of years. Nebizonbik (Bradford Springs) provided healing waters and people exchanged goods at the village site behind Lake Massasecum, calling this land home. The town of Bradford honors, recognizes, and respects these Abenaki, as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we gather today. In that spirit, today we will begin by acknowledging that we are guests in this land. We need to respect and help protect the lands within our use and share of the bounty with our Abenaki partners today.

Soul Source to Close March 2nd

It has been a wonderful experience to have started a business. However, after a year and a half I have decided to close Soul Source in Bradford, NH. The original intent of Soul Source was to create a revenue stream for a non-profit that would provide nutritional education in a community setting. It became clear in May of 2023 that I would have to hit certain targets for this venture to work. Given the remoteness of the chosen location for Soul Source, the economic climate, the weather that changed vacation patterns and attitudes, we did not meet those targets. The countless people I have met along the way will stay with me for a lifetime. Bradford is an engaged community with much future promise and I'm sad not to be part of that going forward.

Store hours through February will be Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 11am-4pm. The last day the store will be open is March 2nd. Thank you all for a memorable experience at Soul source, I wish everyone the best.

*Christine Frost, Owner,
Soul Source, SoulSourceNH.com*



Be Informed!

Surprised by your last property tax bill? Wondering why the taxes increased by more than 25%? Want to be more informed about the upcoming Town budget request before the Town Meeting? Please join the Budget Committee for coffee, cookies, and conversation. This year's public hearing on the budget will be held on Thursday, February 8 beginning at 6:30 pm. Please join us at the Bradford Area Community Center or online via townhallstreams.com! We are planning a brief presentation. Your input into the presentation will help us prepare for the Town Meeting. Department heads will also be available to answer your specific questions. Hope to see you there!

Kim Firth

February Weather

On average, February is the United States' snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service. If you're on "Team Snow" here are a few things you can do that just *might* make that fluffy white stuff fall from the sky!

- * Wear your pajamas backwards.
- * Eat ice cream for dinner.
- * Sing by an open freezer.
- * Do a snow dance on your front yard.
- * Stack coins on the windowsill.
- * Brush your teeth with the opposite hand.
- * Place a spoon under your pillow.

While not scientifically proven, some of these time-honored snow day rituals can be fun to try. Why not!? Let us know your results and send us photographs of all the fun things you like to do outside in the winter. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
bradfordbridge345@gmail.com



Bradford NH Presidential Primary Results

Total Ballots Cast 707

Republican Votes
Donald Trump 238
Nicki Haley 217
Other Candidates 23
Total Republican votes 478

Democratic Votes
Dean Phillips 34
Other Regular Candidates 15
Joe Biden Write in Votes 159
Other Write in Votes 21
Total Democratic Votes 229



TOWN OF BRADFORD

NEW HAMPSHIRE 03221



OFFICE OF
SELECTMEN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm, and if needed,

on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Bradford Area Community Center

134 East Main Street, Bradford, NH

For the purpose of open disclosure and discussion on the proposed 2024 budgets prior to the Budget Committee's recommendation of the same, per RSA 32:5.



Kudos for KRES-Bradford and KR-PreSchool

Believe it or not, we are past the halfway mark for the 2023-24 school year. Just as the school year marches on, so do we feature the grades in progression in this column. This month we see what is happening in 2nd grade. There are more 2nd graders than any other grade in our school (known as a bubble in population), so there are three classrooms bursting with 8-year-old energy. We have two new 2nd grade teachers to augment the incredible team of professionals at KRES-Bradford. Let's hear their thoughts about their work.

Sarah Warner: "I am very excited about teaching 2nd grade this year at KRES-Bradford. My family and I relocated to NH in June from Idaho. I've spent 20 years teaching in primary classrooms. I have always loved working with young children, as I am drawn to their natural curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Second grade is an exciting year for students as they are working hard to understand and define themselves. They are beginning to grasp the concept of autonomy and starting to take more risks in their learning. Teaching 2nd grade students has been enjoyable as they are able to work independently, yet also possess the social skills to work cooperatively with their peers to explore new ideas and construct knowledge. And at home I have two very active children, my daughter Lillian who is 16 and my son Wesley who is 13."

Hannah Duval: "This is my first year in the Kearsarge district. I live in the district, but I have been teaching in Weare for the past 9 years. I was in 2nd grade for 8 of those years, so second grade is my comfort zone. Second graders are settling into the routine of school, but they still have a lot of young, natural curiosity. I love seeing kids transition into readers in 2nd grade. The 'big math' of 2nd grade includes some amazing strategies for adding and subtracting within 1,000. Once kids realize they can comfortably work with numbers that large, they gain a lot of confidence in their skills. It's fun to 'stretch our brains' and try these 'big kid

strategies'. My husband and I have two kids who aren't in school yet, but we live in Warner so they will go to Simonds in a few years. My son Hayden is 4 and my daughter Lucy is 8 months. We have a big fluffy Akita named Revy."

The third classroom is in the experienced hands of Marcie Stockwell, a 17-year veteran teacher at KRES-Bradford, teaching for 20+ years in the district. She has also taken on a new challenge by switching from Kindergarten to 2nd grade this year. She has taught 2nd grade in the past but the curriculum has changed, inspiring new approaches and ideas. She enjoys the shifting challenge of dealing with different ages. Kinders require much more verbalization and hands-on guidance, whereas 2nd graders read verbal cues and work independently. It's thrilling to see how far the older children can go when developing paragraphs and studying popular subjects like animal habitats and Natives of the Northeast. Mrs. Stockwell delights in her multi-age family as well, which includes 3 children, 2 daughters-in-law and a precious grandchild.

Growth and learning are both supported and encouraged in the staff as well as the students at KRES-Bradford. There are multiple opportunities for these professionals to hone their craft through workshops and continuing education. In fact, every teacher completes a recertification program every three years through ongoing professional development. No wonder our students are psyched to learn

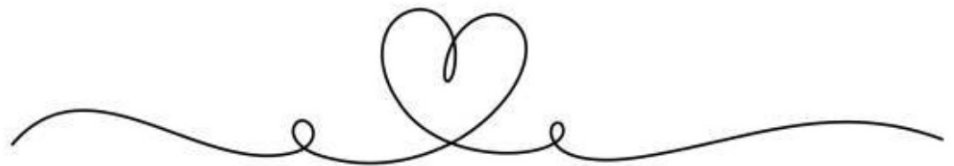
as the adults around them are exercising the same privilege and keeping it fun to boot. We can all benefit by emulating the local staff and students. Try stretching your brain today.



KRES-Bradford kids witnessed the installation of the "Only Ski-Through Lighthouse in NH" at Mt. Sunapee this month at their weekly Winter Activities Program. Such fun to watch the skiers improve their skills and confidence while enjoying our natural landscape!

(See more info about the lighthouse and the 75th anniversary of Mt. Sunapee at boston.com.)

Laurie Buchar



at Newbury Harbor

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Tax Rate Explained

(Continued from page 1)

revenue and its budget. The school district and county also send in their respective budgets and the legislature sets the state education figure.

Once the DRA receives these items, the tax rate is calculated by dividing the total of the budgets by the total taxable assessed value of the town.

For example, if the total of all the budgets is \$100,000 and the total taxable assessed value of the town is \$1,000,000, then the tax rate would be \$10 ($100,000 \div 1,000,000 = .10$ or \$10 per thousand). Though this example is oversimplified, it does provide a realistic model of the process.

Taxpayer Responsibilities – Get Involved

Property tax rates across New Hampshire are at an all-time high, and Bradford is no exception. So, what can citizens do to help hold our tax rates down?

Each town, city, and school district's legislative body determines its own budget. In Bradford this is the residents voting at Town Meeting. The budgets and warrant articles presented at Town Meeting are developed in Select Board and Budget Committee meetings held in the fall and winter. Expenses against the budget are monitored throughout the year by both the Budget Committee and Select Board in meetings that are open to the

public. Each year the Budget Committee is required to hold a public hearing before the Town Meeting to give residents an opportunity to ask questions about the budget to be presented at Town Meeting. This year, that hearing will be held on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 pm at the BACC. The same is true of the Kearsarge Regional School District where a "deliberative session" was held in January.

The Town's Boards and Committees welcome your ideas as they navigate the challenge of providing the Town with services while keeping costs under control. To get involved, attend Board or Committee meetings, run for Town office, or attend public hearings and ask questions. We all need to do our part in making our community work.

You can also

✓ Review your property record card(s) for data accuracy. The assessed value is only as good as the accuracy of the data on the card. To view or request your property card, contact the Selectmen's Office at 938-5900.

✓ Check to see if one of these tax credits or exemptions apply to you. Elderly Exemptions, Blind Exemption, Veterans Credit. Information on Exemptions and Credits is available in the Select Board Office.

*Kathleen Bigford,
Karen Hambleton*



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Highway Department Update

It's been a funny winter up until this point not much snow, rain instead, and the warmer weather didn't let the ground freeze so it was a challenge for plowing dirt roads. The ground has frozen at this point which makes plowing much nicer. I guess on a good note we are saving material, fuel, overtime etc which is a good thing.

We are working on small projects, repairs to equipment, we built an addition on the sander shed to house the sander we purchased last year that goes in the #7 ten wheeler, and made minor repairs on vehicles during winter along with trying to trim/cut brush when the weather allows. I have been working with the Select Board and Budget Committee to get final numbers for 2024 needs and projects. As usual, we may not always agree but are willing to compromise. I know it's tough to ask for money for road projects when taxes keep increasing, however, the need is there, for sure, to improve the infrastructure of the town roads which benefits everyone in the long run.

I also realize the road projects are more than what the taxpayers can handle all at once. That's why we have worked closely with Central NH Planning (CNHP) implementing a seven-year plan to help Bradford move forward allowing road improvement. If funds are allocated, we follow recommendations from CNHP, Road Committee, Select Board/ Budget Committee, Capital Improvement Program committee and, of course, the tax paying voters who ultimately have final say.

We have been working with GN Fencing out of Goffstown and they have repaired the fence at West Main by the Fire Station. All the brush was cut and cleaned up as well. I hope you all noticed. I think it looks great. I guess that's what I have for now, it seems like I'm forgetting something "oh well." Can't forget plowing and sanding of course.

As always, if anyone has questions or concerns please call or email and I will get back to you.

*Steve Hall, Road Agent
Bradford Highway Department
highway@bradfordnh.org*



Fire & Rescue Department Update

The Fire Department has been busy for January. To date the Fire Department has responded to 16 calls for service. Most have been medicals calls. We have been busy with life safety inspections with the Town Hall and new commercial building in town. We have 17 active members on our roster, and we have had a 100% run attendance and reporting. We are expecting the new Henniker ambulance contract to be signed and go into effect this year.

January 1, 2024, we kicked off the New Year helping Parks and Recreation with the polar bear plunge at French's Park.

We have several folks wrapping up their EMS training. Two are completing the Advanced EMT and we have two more taking their EMT and one wrapping up his EMR.

The street addressing program is still progressing with several signs purchased per month. This has been instrumental in helping us as well as other services locate the correct address. Contact Bradford Fire & Rescue for the application to purchase a street address sign for \$20.

Our biggest concerns going into the winter months is proper smoke and CO detectors. Make sure every floor has a working and in compliance detector. A detector is good for 10 years.

Also remember to clear out any heating device vents. The blockages could restrict the emission of exhaust and cause a backup CO into the building.

We are also concerned about our lakes, rivers and stream. With warm temperatures and flooding over the past few months it has caused the ice not to form completely. Please test the ice thickness before venturing out onto the ice, 2" or less stay off the ice, 4" for ice fishing or skating, 5"-6" for snow machines, 8-12"+ for vehicles.

*Bryan Nowell, Fire Chief
Bradford Fire & Rescue
(603) 938-2231, firechief@bradfordnh.org*

Please visit us on Facebook at Bradford NH Fire rescue. Also

The Bradford Trail Map has been updated. Find a copy at Brown Memorial Library.



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Police Department Update

Understanding of the 2024 Police Department Budget

You are reading the February edition of the “Bradford Bridge” which only means one thing, town meeting is right around the corner. With that being said, I want to take a moment to break down the Police Department budget request for 2024 in hopes that it will provide clarity and transparency.

Before getting into the budget, I want to take a moment to thank the members of the Budget Committee and Select Board. These groups worked very hard for a couple months pawing through our department budget, asked questions to better understand it, did research to see if alternatives existed and finally made cuts or additions based off the above. I feel they did an excellent job weighing two very important factors: what can town residents afford or be willing to accept and are the services being performed by this department acceptable and cost effective.

At the start of the 2024 budget prep, the department budget started out at \$637,507. As of January 11th, after meeting with both the Select Board and the Budget Committee, the Police Department budget request for 2024 was down to \$627,271. That number is up \$28,245 from 2023 or roughly 4.5%. Where does the increase come from?

- Every 5 years the Merrimack County Sheriff Office dispatch center must do a mandatory hardware and software upgrade. The cost of this upgrade was broken out amongst all the towns they provide dispatch services to and that number ended up being \$9,579 per town. Important to know that last go around for the upgrade, MCSO paid for the entire upgrade out of their budget.

- Due to rising costs of healthcare, and without adding anything to our existing plan, we saw an increase of \$8,694

- The Select Board agreed to a 3% increase for town employees. The total increase for our department is just under \$9,600.

- An officer was promoted to a supervisory role. The increase in budget for this is just over \$3,000.

- The on-call line item was raised \$1,100. This is to allow for a little overlap between day and evening shifts so that officers can safely, and effectively, pass on all pertinent information to the oncoming officer. Currently this is done by the officers but on their own time and due to scheduling and rotations, it is typically the same two officers 4 times a week each. I feel it is very important that employees have a good balance between work life and home life and this change needed to be instituted.

As you can see from the above, there are no luxuries hidden in those increases. A large chunk, a one-time dispatch upgrade fee is a big percentage of the increase. That will fall back off after 2024 and that line item will go back to normal. Without that increase, we would sit around a 3% increase. Had there not been an increase in health benefits and we would be around a 1.7% increase.

I will be the first to say that I understand taxes went up on the recent tax bills.

Those same increases, some more and some less, can be found in just about every town around us in the Kearsarge area. Some of it can be attributed to the school, some to the county and some from town services. With that in mind, some things that we had planned for 2024 were scrapped from the budget with the thinking that this may not be the year to go for it.

- The initial preparation of the budget had some equipment items in it that would have been replacements for equipment already in the field. Those were removed.

- Our uniform line item was lowered 15% in hopes that the new uniforms purchased over the last two years will last a little longer.

- External vest carriers were removed from the budget.

- The gasoline line item was lowered about 10% based on our usage from 2022 and 2023 in hopes that gas prices will remain stable.

I have said this before and I will say it again, I am very proud that as a department we cover every hour of every day of the year, including every holiday when most are off and spending that time with families. I do not mention that as a bad thing, again we as a whole take pride in covering this town and understand that it is the sacrifice we signed up for. It was easier to just say yes to it at the time but much harder to walk out the door for work on Thanksgiving or Christmas when the rest of the family is walking out the door to spend that time with family, not going to lie :)

We are only able to accomplish this because of your support and for that I say “Thank you.” Rest assured that if you call for the police, short of us being tied up on another call, you will get a Bradford Officer who is familiar with the town, what is happening in the town, has a vested interest in making sure the proper solution is reached and will be here ready to respond if, and when, you need them again. You will always get a familiar face who cares about you and this town. And we do that with less of a budget than some towns around us who do not provide the same amount of coverage.

Ed Shaughnessy, Police Chief

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

428-3441

Maple Street, Henniker



Town Hall Update

The Town Hall Project continues to wind down, albeit more slowly than hoped. Most of the punch list items have been addressed and various bugs worked out. Final inspections of the mechanical and sprinkler systems were conducted on January 4th and all operated as they should. With the exception of a couple of small items, the mechanical, electrical and sprinkler systems are ready for use.

The main elevator and the small lift to the stage on the second floor were inspected and tested by the State of New Hampshire on January 17th. To test the main elevator, it was loaded with 1500 pounds of weight, then operated. Both the elevator and lift passed their inspections and were given certificates for operation. Also on the 17th, employees were given instruction on how to operate the building's new mechanical systems.

What is left to be done? About one to two days of work. There are a few more areas requiring paint touch ups, a broken globe on one of the auditorium lights needs to be replaced, the new door hardware for the historic front doors needs to be installed as do fixtures in the bathrooms (paper towel holders etc). Lastly, a few adjustments to the security alarm system are needed.

The Select Board has not yet set a date for a reopening celebration. Watch the Town's website and FaceBook page for a reopening announcement once a date is chosen. If you have any questions about the renovation, please reach out to the Selectmen's Office (938-5900) or administrator@bradfordnh.org.

Karen Hambleton



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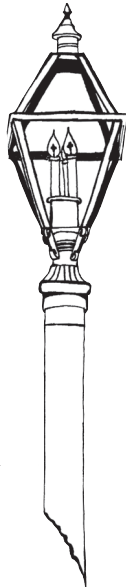


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bmlbradford@gmail.com

Library Hours:
 Monday 10:00am – 6:00pm
 Wednesday 10:00am – 6:00pm
 Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

What's happening at the library in February?

Monday, February 5th at 10:30am. The Yum Yum Shop. Kindergarten readiness.

Come shop at the Yum Yum Dairy Bar! This fun activity helps youngsters grow their early math and money skills in preparation for preschool and kindergarten. Handouts will be available for parents to help them supplement the activity at home. This program is run by Kathy Stoughton and will happen directly after

our Monday story hour.

Saturday, February 10th at 11:00am.
 Valentine's Day Craft with Anne Kratz. Make and take Valentine's and small flower bouquets.

Monday, February 26th at 4:00pm.
 Junior Book Group: *Fantastic Mr. Fox* / Roald Dahl.

Wednesday, February 28th at 7:00pm.
 Book Group: *The Children's Bible* / Lydia Millet.

Storytime is every Monday at 10:00am.
 Children and parents/care givers are always welcome.

New art exhibit through Bradford Art Group featuring the art of Carol Belliveau. Exhibit will be at the library from January-April 2024.

Carol Belliveau paints lively, colorful paintings from her heart and soul. Her creativity is apparent when you see the wide variety of paintings she has created.

Weather Closure: A reminder to our patrons that the library closes when the Kearsarge Regional School System closes.

Ellen Barselle, Director

Legislative Update from Sherry Gould

2024 Looks to be a productive year for the NH House Committee of Executive Departments and Administration (ED&A). We have 66 new House Bills to get through this year, which is more than members recall happening in recent history. Fourteen of the 66 are related to the retirement system, seven of those will have hearings the second week of January. Some of the balance are bills the committee has dealt with in the past, so they should be able to be processed more easily. There are two bills regarding Native Americans and one to REMOVE (not REPLACE) Columbus Day. Those bills always elicit a lively discussion. This year residents who are Native American have agreed to work together on the two bills, so there should be some forward movement for them. A review of the balance of the list did not show anything that should be wildly controversial. There are a few regarding merging boards under licensing that bring some heated discussion, however I believe an arrangement that everyone can live with will be found.

There are another 34 Senate Bills that will cross over to our committee on crossover day and we will process them as well. We will be busy!

Here is a link to see all bills for the year and you can select which committee you are interested in seeing from either body:
https://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/legacy/bs2016/

Any residents from Bradford, Henniker or Warner who have any interests in bills that will be heard in the ED&A Committee are encouraged to reach out to me anytime via either email or telephone. I welcome the input of the public and of course you can come to a hearing to be heard, or if that is not possible, I'm happy to hear your interests and I do pass those on to the committee.

*Rep. Sherry Gould, Merrimack District 8
 3210 State Route 114, Bradford, NH 03221
 (603) 938-2613, sherrygould@tds.net*

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You may now find paper copies of *The Bradford Bridge* at these locations around the community.

In Bradford

- Bradford Post Office
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- Pizza Chef
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
- Brown Memorial Library
- Appleseed Restaurant
- Bradford Market
- Lumber Barn
- Transfer & Recycling Center
- Sweet Beet Market
- 5 Acres Garden Center & Pet Supply
- Mountain View Senior Center

In Warner

- New Hampshire Telephone Museum
- Sugar River Bank
- MainStreet BookEnds
- Pillsbury Free Library

In Newbury

- Meg's Cut Above
- Bubba's
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
- Newbury Library

In Sutton

- North & South Sutton Post Offices
- Sutton Free Library

In Henniker

- Henniker Pharmacy
- Henniker Farm & Country Store

Or, find a digital copy at www.bradfordbridge.org



THE MILESTONE TEAM



Looking Back and Looking Forward

Real estate is always a good topic of conversation with most folks. Everyone wants to know what is going on with sales in their community and what that might mean for the value of their own home.

Here's a look at what sold in Bradford in 2023. There were 15 sales, as compared to 32 in 2022. Considering the scarcity of inventory which has been plaguing buyers over the last few years, 2022 was a banner year in Bradford. One of the reasons for that might be that a good number of the available homes were, generally, more affordable to active buyers than those in surrounding area communities.

While some properties still sold over asking price, it's a smaller number, as is the amount over asking. In the heat of the market brought on by big demand and a short supply of inventory, some of the overbids were incredible and helped create a rise in the average prices of homes.

So what will 2024 bring? Most experts think supply will start to loosen up... the "life goes on" theory. Rates will drop some more, probably in late spring. Prices will still rise, but at a much slower pace and smaller percentage. There will still be a large and eager pool of buyers. Both buyers and sellers will continue to be well-served by working with professionals.

2023 PROPERTY SALES	ASKING	SELLING
24 Hogg Hill Road	\$179,000	\$162,000
17 Cilley Lane	\$269,900	\$220,000
12 West Main Street	\$233,100	\$238,000
3031 State Route 114	\$285,000	\$247,500
204 Shore East Drive	\$275,000	\$247,500
115 Baker Hill Road	\$280,000	\$299,000
40 Oakdale Road	\$299,900	\$299,900
100 East Main Street	\$349,900	\$365,000
32 Old Warner Road	\$379,000	\$369,000
189 Cressy Road	\$379,000	\$396,500
132 Sunset Hill Road	\$400,000	\$400,000
114 East Main Street	\$425,000	\$410,000
31 Maple View Drive	\$375,000	\$426,000
17 Fairgrounds Road	\$574,000	\$557,000
39 Woodview Heights Rd*	\$1,299,000	\$1,299,000
Average List Price: \$336,62 / Average Sold Price: \$331,243 Longest Days on the Market: 258 / Shortest Days on the Market: 0 *Not included in the averages		

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Call for Opinions - Answered



What form of government best serves Bradford, Town Meeting or SB2?

In January we asked for letters and articles about this important topic. Here is some background.

There is a petition circulating to change the way Bradford governs itself from the “town meeting” format to the “SB2” format.

Presently and for the past two centuries Bradford has made decisions about town governance with the “town meeting” format. On a day in March, residents vote by paper ballot to elect town officials and enact ordinances. Usually the next day, residents gather in person to vote on additional items, mostly budgetary in nature.

“SB2” is the governing format used by the Kearsarge Regional School District. It was instituted by the state legislature in 1995 because of concerns that modern lifestyles had made it difficult for people to attend traditional town meetings. SB2, Official Ballot Referenda, is a form of town meeting that has two sessions. The first session, deliberative session, is for explanation, discussion, debate and amendments to the proposed operating budget and warrant articles. The second session, voting session, allows voters to cast an official ballot to pass/fail proposed articles. Residents vote in an SB 2 election at a polling place throughout the



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OFFICE OF
SELECTMEN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bradford Select Board will hold a public hearing on Monday February 19, 2024 at 5:00 pm at the Bradford Area Community Center.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the petitioned warrant article: “Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the (Town of Bradford, NH) on the second Tuesday of (March),” This article will be voted on by ballot at the Kearsarge Elementary School - Bradford on March 13, 2024.

day. They may also vote by absentee ballot.

How does a town adopt SB2? From the NH Department of Revenue Administration: The local governing body must hold a public hearing at least 15 days prior to the question being voted on, (RSA 40:14, IV). The question as worded in RSA 40:14, V, “Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the (Town of Bradford, NH) on the second Tuesday of (March).” is placed on the warrant for the annual meeting. Passage requires a 3/5 majority vote of those voting.

In Favor of Changing to SB2

I am one of the people who has been gathering signatures to change Bradford to the SB2 method of town meeting governance. Under SB2 the budget and warrant articles are presented at a first session, usually at the end of January, where questions can be asked, and amendments made and voted on by those present. This becomes the town meeting warrant and on election day, in March, each voter is given a paper ballot on which they vote yea or nay on the operating budget total and yea or nay on each warrant article. If the operating budget is not approved then the previous year’s budget becomes the default budget. It takes a 60 % vote to become an SB2 town and a 60% vote to revert to a traditional town meeting.

My reason for bringing this forward is for greater voter participation. In 2020, 340

people voted in the municipal election/ presidential primary and 68 went to town meeting. In 2023 278 people voted in the municipal election and 104 went to the town meeting. This represents an increase but still less than 50% of the people who voted participated in our town meeting. There are countless reasons why people cannot attend the traditional town meeting, shift work, childcare, a sick person in the home, able to drive at night, etc. I would like to try SB2 because we could cast our vote at any time during the election day and it would allow more people to participate in the voting process.

*Christopher Frey,
Bradford, NH*

In Favor of Keeping Town Meeting

The specter of Bradford becoming an SB2 town has risen once again. There is a petition circulating proposing a warrant article to change Bradford’s governing format from the current Town Meeting format to the SB2 format. This proposal appeared on the warrant in 2020 and failed.

The current Town Meeting format is a one-day event where all warrant articles including the town budget are put before the citizens to approve, amend, and vote on.

RSA 40:13, Senate Bill 2, also known as the SB2 form of government, was instituted by the state legislature in 1995

(Continued on page 12)

Call for Opinions - Answered

(Continued from page 11)

because of concerns that modern lifestyles had made it difficult for people to attend traditional town meetings.

Under SB 2, a first session, called a “Deliberative Session”, is held about a month prior to the town election. This session is similar in many ways to the traditional town meeting. However, unlike the town meeting, while the wording and dollar amounts of proposed ballot measures may be amended, no actual voting on the merits of the proposals takes place. Residents vote in an SB 2 election at a polling place on election day. They may also vote by absentee ballot.

Currently, the Kearsarge Regional School District operates under an SB2 format.

Here is what I understand is driving this current attempt.

- Voters don’t understand the budget so are ill informed on what they are voting for.
- Low turnout at our meetings, and,
- Some are intimidated to vote openly against helping the road, fire, and police departments, fearing retribution.

Since 1996 of the 214 eligible towns, 73 have voted to be SB2 towns. Since adoption 3 have gone back to Town meeting format and 6 continue to try to do so.

Those who support SB2 say it’s more efficient and has greater citizen participation at the VOTING stage. Opponents say reduced participation at the deliberative session allows a smaller group to control the budget.

Data supports that more voters come out for the second “up or down” vote with SB2 towns. When voters do not approve the coming year’s budget proposal, the town is forced to adopt a default, or the previous year’s budget regardless of any mandatory increases that must be paid.

Regarding the current proposal to go SB2, my thoughts on why this should be rejected follow:

Lack of understanding about the budget. Assuming that’s true, given the history of fewer people attending the SB2 deliberative sessions where budgets are presented, it defies logic to think going SB2 will increase the public’s understanding. Those of us who don’t sit on the Budget Committee don’t know the finer points of where their decisions come from. So, we ask during the Town meeting why there might be a difference between the Select Board and the Budget committee recommendations. Once satisfied we are sufficiently well informed and vote our preference.

Regarding the low turnout at Town Meetings. We had 100+ people attend the 2022 Town meeting. For a town of 1600+ that’s quite the commitment. When there is something controversial on the warrant (e.g., funding the Town Hall restoration) the place is packed year after year. We have an incredible amount of volunteer participation on numerous town committees for a town our size who diligently work on their budgets to make Bradford as lovely as it is. I trust these folks. When they ask for any increase in their budgets, they realize the impact to their and my taxes. If what they are asking for is needed to better serve the town, I trust they have done due diligence in crafting their request.

If low turnout is really an issue, let’s move the meeting to May. No snowstorms to contend with, and daylight for those of us who won’t drive at night due to aging eyes. Other towns do it, so can we.

The fear of neighbors seeing a vote and retribution from service providers. I’m actually stunned that anyone believes this reign of terror exists here in Bradford. Anyone can ask for a secret ballot on numerous warrant articles if they are so intimidated. If that fear is the tenor in Bradford, we have a far greater problem than whether to be an SB2 town or not.

I am not casting dispersion on any who believe Bradford becoming an SB2 town will somehow benefit us. Those who believe any of the reasons stated above will hopefully research and inform themselves prior to changing our form of governance.

Please vote NO to becoming an SB2 town.

*Sue McKeivitt
Bradford, NH*

In Favor of Keeping Town Meeting

Greetings fellow Bradford voters. Here are a few words drawn from living in Bradford for about 50 post childhood years, being the Town Moderator (thank you, thank you for that privilege and pleasure) and being the Kearsarge Regional School District Moderator for about 20 years. During those years the School District went from the town meeting format to an SB 2 format. Observing the change in the School District method was interesting. Very interesting. Not exactly what SB2 opponents anticipated, but, as I said, very interesting.

About five minutes before I called the school meeting to order each year during SB2, I made a quick count of the number of voters attending the meeting. That was pretty easy, since there weren’t that many. I generally came up with around 125 attendees. Not too bad, but wait, who were they? Well, there were about 21 Supervisors of the checklist who were required to come. There were 9 School Board members, another 9 members of the School District budget committee – they all had to come, too – and various and sundry school district employees – they didn’t have to come but sometimes did, especially if an employment contract was being negotiated. But, a group such as usually turns out at our town meetings? Not so much; they all wanted to be there!

Before SB came to the School District, I once had my picture in the Concord Monitor (alas, taken from behind – not my best side) facing a crowd of over three thousand voters!

In our town as in our school district, it is the staff and budget committees of each that really decide the proposed budgets. That’s where the action is and that’s where the voters want to be so as to influence the dollars. BUT – all caps – the next best opportunity is to show up at our town meeting where you

- would see all those friends you haven't seen for a year (not going to happen at an SB2 meeting – they didn't come),
- can vote on each budget line item (not going to happen at the SB2 school meeting – it would be “out of order”),
- can send a “message” to the Board of Selectmen (I never observed any messages aimed at the School Board or the School Budget Committee and you'd need 18 messages to make sure you got them all).

In what way would Bradford as an SB2 town be different from the SB2 School District? Would the voters have a better chance of influencing an expenditure at the budget committee level? A chance to have a better understanding of the issues facing the town? A greater likelihood of seeing your old friends?...

The answer is no and that should be the answer to the petition to separate us even more from the spot where decisions are actually made in Bradford.

*Brackett Scheffy,
Bradford, NH*

In Favor of Keeping Town Meeting

We all choose to live in the sticks for a reason. Mine is, in part, because I feel I may influence the well-being of my community through voting and volunteering. Only in a town the size of Bradford can each of us make that kind of impact. That is why I treasure the tradition of our annual Town Meeting.

Rebecca Rule, local author/comedian/historian says it far better than I can in her book “Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire.” Perhaps you have heard her speak about the value of down-home wisdom on the radio or in her presentation by the same name.

She writes “The chance to have our voices heard – that's central to town meeting. Whether or not the vote goes our way, there's satisfaction in voicing our side, laying out our perspective. Sure, most people have their minds made up before they enter the hall, but because we are all in the hall together there exists the possibility that somebody might change

somebody's mind. Oh, it's happened. A nudge and a wink from someone you respect; a quiet ‘slow down, let's think this over’ from someone who seems wise and logical; a passionate ‘you may not think you are hurting anyone with this, but you're hurting me’; and the ground shifts just a little. Maybe you won't vote for it. But maybe you won't vote against it either. Maybe you will just sit with your hands folded this once, because you're not as sure which side is right as you were when you walked through the door. These are the small miracles of town meeting.”

Some of you may remember when a bunch of us amateurs performed a reading of Rule's comic script on our very own Town Hall stage with much hilarity and subsequent appreciation of what it really means to talk things over with your neighbor. This ability – to hash things out – is not only a skill, but a privilege, we may have lost touch with in recent years of isolation.

A century ago, folks went to great lengths by sleigh to make it through the snow drifts and get to Town Meeting. They were certainly concerned about how their coffers were to be spent, but they were also overeager to regain a sense of camaraderie with their neighbors after being cooped up all winter long. Think of us as emerging from the pandemic, with rusty social skills but a deep abiding love for Bradford.

Nobody relishes going out on a sloppy March evening to sit on folding chairs in the school gym. But I have rarely witnessed more true consideration of all the facets of an argument than at Town Meeting. When people gather, listen, reconsider, and cooperate... that is when real democracy is at play. No wonder communication and community go hand in hand.

Let's not abandon this time-honored, yet still relevant, method of running our small town in the manner we alone think is best. You know, as Rebecca Rule has said, “Once you lose Town Meeting, you will never get it back.” Think about voting No on SB 2.

*Laurie Buchar,
Bradford, NH*

In Favor of Keeping Town Meeting

The Bridge article from last month outlined the SB2 format. If you find yourself thinking that SB2 doesn't sound all too dissimilar from the current process, rest assured you are in fact sane and understanding the points correctly! Then you may ask yourself why the change? The proponents of SB2 hope to take advantage of the fact that few will show up to the deliberative session (Less than a couple hundred show up to Town meeting). That way a small but focused group of people in attendance can make amendments to warrant articles and set the funding levels to zero. If you think that isn't a possibility, we only need to look at what happened in Grantham a year ago. A concentrated group took advantage of the fact that no one attended Town Meeting and slashed the school budget in half. It isn't hard to picture the same happening in Bradford. If the residents abdicate their civic responsibilities away you can expect to be held hostage by those that will show up at the deliberative session and exert their will over the town unopposed to save themselves a few dollars. Take heed!

*Jason Grey,
Bradford, NH*

In Favor of Keeping Town Meeting

I am strongly opposed to the SB2 method. Sure, getting to town meeting is a chore and possibly Saturday is a better time for it. But, facing neighbors and hearing discussion before voting is a far more considered vote than relying on hearsay that gets distorted in the telling. People with good social media skills can now also skew a vote. If there is a major debate, people do come out for the meeting. The school district gets very low turnout since they went to this method. Government is run by those who bother to show up for it. Voting blind is too easy and democracy is hard.

*J. Ann Eldridge,
Bradford, NH*

Micro Mama's Celebrates Solar!

Stephanie Zydenbos, Micro Mama's fearless leader, is an emblem of heart-centered food production as a community service. She was one of our very first partners here at Sweet Beet when we opened the farm stand back in 2015.

Micro Mama's fermented veggies quickly became a staple for our little farm stand, and continue to be as we've grown into a year-round, indoor market and cafe.

To Stephanie, food preservation is human preservation is land preservation (and we're inclined to

agree). From an initial investment of \$200 to get the business started, to now processing anywhere from 40,000-80,000 pounds of organic veggies a year, Micro Mama's fills an absolutely essential role in our local food system transforming farm fresh foods into goods that will last.

And now the entire operation runs on solar energy. Stephanie and her team received \$52,846 from the Rural Energy for America program, which "provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements." Working with

Granite State Solar, Micro Mama's operations will now source 93% of their energy needs from the sun, and save an estimated \$13,500 on energy costs annually.

There's more money than ever to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses transition to

clean energy for greater economic and environmental resilience. Learn more at: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act/rural-energy-america-program-reap>

*Hanna Flanders, Kearsarge Food Hub
Home of Sweet Beet*



Introduction to Curling

Saturday, March 16, 2023 1-3pm, no previous experience is necessary, all the equipment provided. The 2-hour session starts by teaching the basics of curling, including: how to properly deliver a curling stone, sweeping technique (and why it's done), curling team positions, rules, strategy and scoring.

About half the time is spent on instruction. The other half is spent playing a short game against another team of fellow Intro to Curling Participants. \$30 per person. Ages 12 and up. Pre-Registration is required and the sign up link can be found on the Town's website at bradford-nh.org. This event is hosted by Bradford Parks and Recreation and is being held at the Plymouth State University Ice Arena located at 129 NH Rt-175A (Holderness Road) Holderness, NH 03245. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the arena.

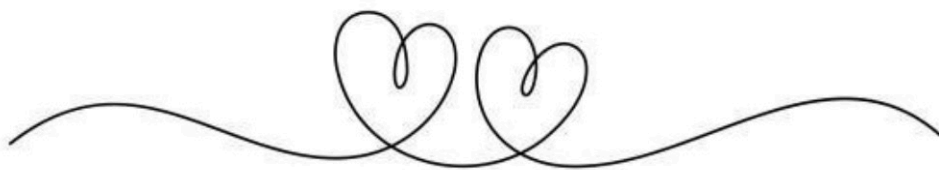


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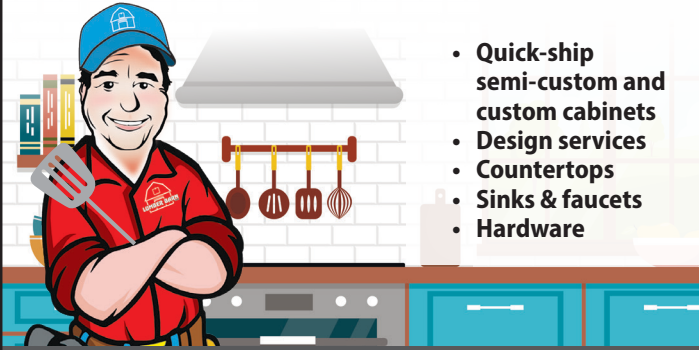
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Mountain View Senior Center

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Now that the snowy weather is finally here, many of us are looking for ways to avoid the winter doldrums while we wait for spring to return. One sure way to lift our spirits is to try something new, particularly to find new ways to contribute our time and energy to the community we love. Search no further! The Mountain View Senior Center (MVSC), an organization of great importance to many of Bradford's senior residents, needs the help of many volunteers in a variety of capacities. Here are some of the ways in which you might help:

Serving lunch which takes place on Tuesday, (12:15), Thursday (11:30) and brunch on the first Friday of every month (9:30). Tasks include setting the tables, serving food and cleaning up.

Starting new activities at the Center such as a new weekly game group, (bridge anyone?), a monthly Movie or Game Night, or a special event such as an ice cream social, BBQ or next year's holiday party.

Planning and leading field trips to interesting destinations in New Hampshire, maybe even an unfamiliar restaurant. CAPS is willing to provide their bus for such trips on Mondays.

Fundraising directly for MVSC. Such efforts might include helping Roberta, the MVSC director, plan and implement a district-wide raffle, contacting local businesses for monetary or in-kind donations, or reaching out to the community at large for contributions to support Bradford's seniors.

Participating in the Senior Companion Program by visiting with a senior for an hour each week to provide a little company to someone who is no longer able to get out and to make sure they are not in need of additional support.

And of course, Roberta can always use more general help such as assisting her maintain the Center with a **monthly cleaning, baking goodies** to enhance the Center's luncheons or even **giving a ride** to a fellow senior who is hungry but can no longer drive to the Center's congregate meals.

This just in!! BINGO! Every Monday morning, Starting at 10 am, \$5 per game card (5 games), snacks will be served. All ages are welcome so bring a friend or make some new ones. All proceeds go to support the Mountain View Senior Center

If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact Roberta Hixson at (603) 3295, x7301. We all will greatly appreciate your contributions.

Maria Storm

**MONTHLY BRIEFING:
Town Board Reports**

(Continued from page 1)

for the driveway have been met.

Fire Department Incidents Total incidents for 2023 are 193, compared with 218 in 2022. Incidents for the last weeks of 2023: 7 incidents – 5 EMS calls, 2 Fire.

Grant The Fire Department received a VFA grant of \$2,000 000 match for forestry equipment. \$2,000 to match to come from FD operations.

Fire Dept Events The Polar Plunge with Parks & Recreation on January 1 was well attended. Red Cross Blood Drive collected 21 units from 19 donors. Another drive is planned for May 2024.

Highway Department Update The replacement of the fence on West Main has been completed. Steve Hall, Road Agent, presented an invoice for truck body repair for just under \$17,000 representing about \$1,000 over the expected expense. Also, presented were multiple invoices totaling approximately \$5,400 received on January 2, 2024, from a truck repair vendor for work done dating back to March 2023. Consensus of the Board was to pay truck body and late invoices out of 2023 funds.

Town Hall Update Most building inspections are complete. Elevators will be inspected on January 17th. Karen Hambleton, Town Administrator, spoke to rumors that the project has gone over budget due to the completion of the second floor. This is incorrect. The completion of the second floor, with the exception of the fit-up for theater or event specific equipment, was budgeted as part of the \$2.6 million project. The project is

coming in on budget.

Boiler Sale The Board approved a motion that the \$1000 received from the sale of Town Hall’s old boiler be moved to the Town Hall account.

Community Power Committee The Board approved a motion to change the name of the Energy Aggregation Committee to the Community Power Committee. This name change better represents the purpose of the Committee and makes their function more recognizable.

Scholarship Fund The Board approved a motion to accept \$200 in unanticipated revenue to be placed in the 2023 Bradford Town Scholarship Expendable Trust Fund.

Intent to Cut Signed for Map 3/ Lot 73, Map 3/ Lot 69, and Map 3/ Lot 74-01.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Increase for Employees Beth Downs spoke for the Select Board reporting that the Board has voted for an increase of 3% overall for Town employees.

Fire Department Chief Nowell spoke to vehicle maintenance and repair. The request of \$15,000 will help keep old vehicles maintained. Bryan would be okay with \$12,000. Discussion of building repair and equipment purchases: Select Board suggestions of \$4,000 and \$3,000 respectively, were agreed upon. Bryan

reported that in 2023 he has acquired about \$101,000 in tax-free grant funds.

Brown Memorial Library Devin Pendleton appeared to answer questions. Kim Firth asked about investments. Devin reported that the Library has an investment account with Charles Swabb in the amount of \$50,000. In answer to the question about withdrawals from the account, Devin reported that there would be no penalties for withdrawals. The Library requested \$97,070 and the Budget Committee landed on a total 2024 budget of \$90,000.

Voting The Committee went through and voted on department budgets.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chamber of Commerce Dan Watts, Chairman of the Kearsarge Chamber of Commerce, met with the committee to discuss what they do and how they can work with the economic development committee.

4th of July Fundraising The Committee discussed sources of revenue, such as fundraising. Mel Pfeifle, Select Board

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SCAN for MORE INFO

Representative, noted that while Parks and Rec does a fantastic job of organizing events like the 4th of July celebration, they may not want to do the kind of fund raising that needs to happen this year, and that this is an area where the EDC could help out.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Public Hearing A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at the Bradford Area Community Center, 134 East Main Street, Bradford NH 03221, lower level at 7:00 pm for an Application for Special Exception by Arthur and Paula Fraser, Map 19, Lot 38. The applicants proposed project is to install an onsite septic system and stormwater management.

Special Exception A Public Hearing regarding an application for a Special Exception to increase the extent of a nonconforming use by 123 E Main St Owner LP, Tax Map 17, Lot 57 was held on January 3, 2024. The applicant's proposed project is to convert the barn attached to the house into two additional dwelling units, each with two bedrooms and one bathroom. Conversion will take place to interior spaces. The building footprint will remain unchanged. Sandy

Wadlington and Holly Reilly, both of East Main St., spoke out not in favor of the special exception. There was consensus among the Board that the application met the spirit of zoning ordinances and the master plan. The Board approved a motion to approve the application with the following conditions: Septic plan for expanded use approved by DES; well tested and approved for expanded use; applicants will conform to fire inspection.

PLANNING BOARD

Lot Line Adjustment Richard and Judith Curless submitted an application for a lot line adjustment for Map 22 lots 29 and 30.

Conceptual Discussion Peter Fenton appeared to discuss a proposed expansion of the kitchen and storage space at the Applesseed Restaurant. The building is non-conforming on a non-conforming lot. The proposed expansion would be into areas that are now decking attached to the building. Peter will prepare an application for the Planning Board. There will also be an application for the Zoning Board, then a site plan approval.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Easement The Board approved a

motion to support an Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust project that will benefit the Town.

Surface Water Protection The Planning Board has reviewed the proposal for a Surface Water Protection Ordinance. There was discussion of how to consolidate this proposal with our current Wetlands Ordinance. If the Surface Water Protection proposal is shelved for this year, there will be a working group established to decide how to revise this proposal. One or more members of the Conservation Commission will participate in this working group.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Wildlife Encounters The Library hosted a program by Wildlife Encounters and had a great turnout with 130 attendees.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Curling Experience Saturday, March 16, 2024. 1-3pm at Plymouth State University Ice Arena. We have 4 instructors and equipment for 32 people.

Fence The new fence is being installed at Brown Shattuck on January 12, 2024.

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11 West Main, Bradford | 603.938.5323

 [kearsargefoodhub.org/sweet-beet-market](https://www.kearsargefoodhub.org/sweet-beet-market) 

Emergency Committee

Do Heat Pumps Work in Cold Climates?

Yes! Heat pumps do work in cold climates using far less energy than other types of heating systems. Switching to high efficiency electric heat pumps is important because space and water heating make up over 90 percent of all direct carbon emissions from homes and buildings in the Northeast. Studies indicate **cold climate air source heat pumps** (ccASHPs or heat pumps) can reduce, on average, 85% of the fuel used by the original heating system.

Heat pump technology has improved in the last ten years with the introduction of the variable speed compressor powered by an inverter which allows heat pumps to work effectively and efficiently in extreme cold and hot and humid weather. You'll probably find, however, that the most comfortable and cost effective way to heat your home when the temperature is very low is to combine the use of heat pumps with a back-up energy source, such as wood stoves or your existing heating system.

It's important that your home has been weatherized before you install heat pumps. Otherwise you'll be paying for a higher capacity heat pump and higher electricity costs and you may not feel as warm as you would like.

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) has tested and certified ccASHPs for temperatures as low as -15°F. NEEP has an excellent web page for installers and consumers and guidance on "Getting the Most Out of Your Heat Pump". According to NEEP "Settings are the Key to Great Heat Pump Performance" so set it and forget it because ccASHPs are designed to run almost continuously. The operation of heat pumps has been compared to driving a car! You get better gas mileage when you drive at a steady, moderate pace, rather than revving the engine and then slamming the brakes on.

Costs for installing heat pumps vary depending upon the heat load required and other factors. You can expect to spend about \$6,000 for a 1 ½ ton single-zone

system for 600-800 sq. ft. and up to \$25,000 for a 4-5 ton multi-zone system for 2,000 plus sq. ft. So be sure to get bids from 2-3 HVAC contractors with experience in sizing and installing ccASHPs,

Financial incentives include federal personal tax credits of 30% of project costs up to \$2,000. NHSaves provides rebates of \$250/ton for ENERGY STAR qualifying heat pumps. These organizations provide information on how heat pumps work and tips about purchasing and installing them.

The Bradford Energy Committee encourages residents to install ccASHPs to reduce our carbon emissions and help transition us to an all-electric future - hopefully a future based on 100% renewable electricity!

Is it time to replace your hot water heater?

Most electric hot water heaters have a life span of 10 years. If you are getting close to that, now is a great time to start planning the switch to a heat pump hot water heater. Here is what you need to know to get started:

Heat pump hot water heaters use 70% less energy than standard electric hot water heaters. (and 50% less energy than gas hot water heaters) Your electric bill savings, depending on the size of your household, will likely be \$250-\$550 annually. Multiply that by ten years, and you will have saved \$2,500-\$5,500! <https://www.energystar.gov/>

The heat pump hot water heater works by taking heat from the surrounding air to heat your water. This could lower the temperature around the heat pump by as much as 2-4 degrees and provide some dehumidifying. Locate it in a place that never freezes – basements are ideal and probably where your current heater is already.

The cost to buy and install is higher than a standard hot water heater, and your total cost may be around \$3,000 - \$4,500.

However:

1. **NHSaves offers a rebate** of \$750 on all Heat Pump Water Heaters. Some retailers give the rebate at the point of sale. Otherwise, you submit the receipt to NHSaves. <https://nhsaves.com/residential/water-heaters/>

2. **Everyone can deduct 30% of the total cost, minus rebates received**, for the heat pump water heater and installation, (up to \$2,000), off of your income tax for the year in which you made the purchase.

3. Immediately start **saving \$250-\$550 annually** on your electric bill.

4. Important to note! There are **no rebates or tax incentives on buying a standard hot water heater**. You will pay the full cost of purchase and installation.

The bottom line: Over the life of the heater, buying and operating a heat pump hot water heater will cost you less than the costs of buying and operating a standard hot water heater. Your future wallet will thank you, and the planet will be a little bit greener too.

Financial Assistance for Energy Savings Measures is coming soon. New program offers energy efficiency upgrades for low and moderate income households!

Spending money up front to save money isn't always possible. Making energy efficient upgrades is financially challenging for many households, but don't give up on being able to make changes in your home.

For example, qualified households could receive up to \$1,750 off their heat pump hot water heater and up to \$8,000 on a new heat pump heating and cooling system. Check out the details and find your level of rebates through an income calculator on this very user friendly website: <https://www.rewiringamerica.org>

Important note: If you qualify, you should wait to make home upgrades until later this year when the NH Dept of Energy has the funds in place. It will be worth waiting for!

Bradford Energy Committee

Obituaries

Jerry Martin

Gerald “Jerry” Martin died peacefully at his home in Bradford, January 10, 2024. He was 93. Jerry was born May 4, 1930, in Newport, NH, where he grew up with his brothers, Jim and Donald. The three boys were the sons of Herbert and Harriet Martin, longtime proprietors of Martin’s Hardware.



Upon graduation from high school, Jerry spent a postgraduate year at Cushing Academy before becoming a Military Police Officer in the U.S. Air Force. Stationed throughout the world, Jerry was especially proud to be named Airman of the Month while in Michigan and often recalled his time spent in Morocco. After completing his service, Jerry returned to

Newport and worked at his family’s hardware business.

Jerry met his wife, Jacquelyn Elliott Martin, at Mount Sunapee. The couple wed in 1959, upon which they moved to Bradford. He could barely keep up with her on the slopes, but in life they were married for 43 years, raising a son and a daughter.

Jerry will be fondly remembered for his years at Merrimack Farm and Country Store and at Henniker Farm and Garden where his whistling always filled the air. He operated Martin Energy, delivering warmth and stories to people throughout the region.

Jerry is predeceased by his parents and brothers, his wife, and his daughter, Samantha Anne Martin. Surviving family members include a number of beloved nieces and nephews, his son Gerald Harris Martin, II and his partner Duncan S. Snitkin.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held in the Friendship Room of the Bradford Community Church on Saturday, February 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Please whistle your favorite song or donate to Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice by visiting lakesunapeevna.org/giving/donate. To sign an online guestbook, please visit chadwickfuneralservice.com

Bradford Historical Society

BHS is busy during the winter making plans for this coming year. We look Bradford Historical Society forward to hosting more events and sharing the history of Bradford with its residents and visitors. Behind the scenes work includes making necessary repairs to our buildings, preparing for new exhibits, storage, and preservation work for some of our newly arrived artifacts, the list goes on. We can only continue this work though with membership dues. Approximately half our annual budget is covered by our income from investments made with principal given to BHS with the stipulation that the principal cannot be spent. This gives us a wonderful base to start with, but we need to raise the other 50% with membership dues and fundraising.

This is our gentle reminder to our members and new members, that membership for 2024 is now due! This can be done by visiting our website www.bradfordnhhistorical.org/membership, or by mail to BHS 162 East Main Street, Bradford NH 03221, a membership form can be printed from the website or email bradfordhistoricalsociety@gmail.com for one.

We thank you for your continued support.


Bradford Historical Society


Snow roller on Main Street Bradford in early 1900’s, photo below.




LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES


Do you have a local resource that you'd like to add to this valuable list of helpful organizations? Please reach out and let us know. We'd love to build upon this and keep our community informed and supported. Contact: bradfordbridge345@gmail.com.

 **Food For Thought NH, Inc.** — Any child in the Kearsarge region can have free healthy food for week-ends or school breaks by signing up through their school's nurse or by contacting FoodForThoughtForKids@gmail.com. Website: FoodForThoughtNH.org. Registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, 100% volunteer run.


 **The Bradford Community Food Pantry** — Open on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 5:30-6:30pm in the church office building (located to the right of the church), if you need help between our open times, please call the church office (603) 938-5313 for an appointment.


 **Community FREEdge at Sweet Beet Market**, — Open and available to all 24/7/365. 11 West Main, Bradford. Stocked three times per week with fresh produce, meat & eggs, pantry items, and prepared meals from Sweet Beet Café.


 **The Warner Food Pantry** — Tuesday 4:00-6:00pm and Thursday 11:00am-1:00pm. The Fresh Vegetable Cart is on Thursdays 11:00am-1:00pm, in the upper parking lot. (603) 456-2053.

 **Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry** — Housed in the First Baptist Church, 461 Main Street, New London. Hours of service: Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm, Saturdays 10:00-11:30am. Info at the First Baptist Church office. (603) 526-6511.

 **Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice** — Located in New London, NH serving individuals of all ages in parts of Grafton, Merrimack and Sullivan counties. Services include hospice, palliative care, personal care, and wellness programs. Call for help 24/7: (603) 526-4077, Website: lakesunapeevna.org, Email: info@lakesunapeevna.org.

 **Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners** — Provides the Kearsarge area with a wide variety of services for all: Help with chores, transportation, emergency firewood, home cooked meals, phone check-ins, and much more. They also recognize the value of reciprocity, and look for ways that neighbors seeking help to eventually be in a position to serve others. Website: knphn.org/, info@KNPhn.org, (603) 317-5900.

 **Energy Assistance Community Action Programs** of Belknap and Merrimack Counties provides services to eligible households to assist with home heating and electric costs. Website: <https://capbm.org/Energy-Assistance>, Toll-Free: (800) 856-5525.

 **NH Saves** — This program offers a wide range of rebates toward the purchase of lots of appliances. Also, find out how to apply for a home energy audit and qualify for rebates on energy efficient construction upgrades at the website nhsaves.com.

Do you care for a loved one with dementia?



Check out our **Good Day Respite** Program

...providing a safe and enjoyable place for adults with mild to moderate memory loss while their caregivers take a break.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00am - 3:00pm**

Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church, 82 King Hill Road, New London

Interview required to determine eligibility.

To learn more or set up a time to visit the program, call 603-526-4077


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TRANSFER STATION NEWS

WMUR-TV Often mentions food insecurity in New Hampshire. At the Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center we see so much food being discarded! It is clear that the town residents that patronize the station are far from food insecure.

Wasting food is sometimes a generational experience. Over time as the Depression-era experience of scrimping to find food faded, subsequent generations have felt prosperous by comparison to overbuy food to be sure there is plenty. Is discarding uneaten food a result of prosperity? If so, prosperity costs twice: Once to purchase the food and again to discard it.

Some of the foods we see discarded include three-fourths of a spiral ham, steaks, bags full of snacks, full boxes of cereals, lots of fresh produce, and food storage bags full of food intended to be eaten. A few weeks ago Ken saw two unopened 5-pound bags of King Arthur flour in the compactor container. He took them out, dumped the flour into the compost container and put the bags into the mixed paper baler.

With a little extra effort so much of what people discard can be completely recycled. We hear how chickens eat every single bit of leftover food waste – the ultimate recycling! If you do not have chickens to recycle your food waste, we request that you place it in the clearly-marked compost container. Whether you use chickens or composting to return food to the earth, you are enriching the soil and also saving Bradford tax payer dollars. Many residents appreciate the variety of foods that are left on the compactor for farm animals, birds, and pets. These foods often come from farmers and pet owners who have lost or sold their animals.

Ken and I are looking forward to another year of encouraging and guiding Bradford residents in their recycling endeavors.

Lois Kilnapp, Manager



Bradford Community Church Events
88 W. MAIN ST., BRADFORD, NH, 603-938-5313

Life is better when we do it together. Please join us for the following:

Sunday Worship at 10 am: Sunday School for ages 5 years - 5th grade after Time with God's Children at the beginning of the service. Coffee Hour after church for people to enjoy food and conversation.

Men's Breakfast: Men of all ages from the community and church are invited to do life together over a delicious breakfast. After a devotion designed to help men grow in their faith and be the men, husbands, fathers, grandfathers, employees, friends, and neighbors God wants them to be. They meet the first Saturday of the morning from 8-9 am in the Friendship Room.

Sister to Sister: This is a gathering for women of all ages to come together to support and inspire each other through God's Word. They meet the second Saturday of the month at 8:30 am in the church office building. Theme for February is "Moving On".

Bible Studies: Beginners Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 8:45-9:30 am in the church office building. Studying the Book of James. Wednesday Nights at 6-7 pm Continuing the Book of Revelation in the church sanctuary.

"Mid-Week Winter Gathering" February 14 at 6 pm, "Soups, Stews, Salads and Sharing" (potluck). Please join us for a meal and then a time of sharing scriptures that have made a difference in our lives and ways God has answered prayers.

Bradford Community Food Pantry will be open on Wednesday, February 21, 5:30-6:30 pm. In an emergency, please call the church office at 603-938-5313.

Bradford Community Church,
88 West Main Street, PO Box 57,
Bradford NH, 03221 603-938-5313,
bradfordcommunitychurch@gmail.com,
bradfordcommunitychurch.org

BRADFORD COMMUNITY EVENTS

All events take place at the Bradford Area Community Center (938-5900) or the Mountain View Senior Center (938-2104) unless otherwise noted. Call to confirm dates and times in case of any changes. For town boards and committees, check the Town's website calendar for up-to-date times: bradfordnh.org

Thursday, February 1

9:00 am Facilities Use Committee
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC
 6:00 pm Economic Dev. Committee, SR

Friday, February 2

8:30 am Balance & Strength
 12:30 pm 1st Friday Brunch, MVSC

Monday, February 5

8:30 am Balance & Strength
 10:00 am Storytime, BML
 10:30 am Kindergarten Readiness with Kathy Stoughton, BML
 1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
 3:00 pm Hazardous Mitigation
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 6:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, February 6

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Wednesday, February 7

1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
 7:00 pm Zoning Board

Thursday, February 8

12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC
 5:30 pm Parks & Rec., SR
 6:30 pm Budget Committee Hearing

Friday, February 9

8:30 am Balance & Strength

Saturday, February 10

11:00 am Valentine's Day Craft with Anne Kratz, BML

Monday, February 12

8:30 am Balance & Strength
 10:00 am Storytime, BML
 1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC

Tuesday, February 13

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 5:30 pm Masonic Hall Committee, SR

Wednesday, February 14

1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Thursday, February 15

12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC
 6:30 pm Budget Committee Hearing (if needed)

Friday, February 16

8:30 am Balance & Strength
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC

Saturday, February 17

9:00 am Women's Crafts

Monday, February 19

President's Day Holiday Observed
 8:30 am Balance & Strength
 10:00 am Storytime, BML
 1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
 5:00 pm SB2 Public Hearing

Tuesday, February 20

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 5:00 pm Energy Committee, SR
 6:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting
 7:00 pm Conservation Committee, BML

Wednesday, February 21

9:00 am Footcare Clinic by appointment, MVSC
 1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC

Friday, February 23

8:30 am Balance & Strength

Monday, February 26

8:30 am Balance & Strength
 10:00 am Storytime, BML
 1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
 3:00 pm Hazardous Mitigation
 4:00 pm Junior Book Group: *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl, BML
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Tuesday, February 27

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 7:00 pm Planning Board

Wednesday, February 28

1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 7:00 pm Book Group: *The Children's Bible* by Lydia Millet, BML

Calendar Abbreviations

BACC	Bradford Area Community Center
BCC	Bradford Community Church
BCMh	Bradford Center Meetinghouse
BHS	Bradford Historical Society
BML	Brown Memorial Library
LSVNA	Lake Sunapee Visting Nurses Assoc.
LR	Learning Room
MVSC	Mountain View Senior Center
SR	Streaming Room
ZBA	Zoning Board of Adjustment





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AREA EVENTS

BRADFORD

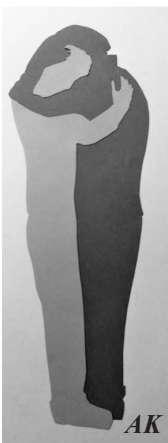
Monday, February 5, 10:30 am.
The Yum Yum Shop - Kindergarten Readiness at Brown Memorial Library. Come shop at the Yum Yum Dairy Bar! This fun activity helps youngsters grow their early math and money skills in preparation for preschool and kindergarten. More information, <https://www.brownmemoriallibrary.org/upcoming-events.html>

Wednesday, February 7, 7:30 pm.
Open Mic night at 11 West Main Street. Come to open mic night; join us to participate or listen. More information, 11westmainbradfordnh@gmail.com

Saturday, February 10, 11:00 am.
Valentine's Day Crafts at Brown Memorial Library. Stop by anytime between 11 am and 1 pm to make some Valentine's Day cards or other crafts! More information, <https://www.brownmemoriallibrary.org/upcoming-events>

Monday, February 19, 6-7:15pm.
An evening of meditation and deep relaxation with Tara at Evergreen Healing Arts studio. More information at evergreenhealingarts.org.

Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 pm.
Open Mic night at 11 West Main Street. Come to open mic night; join us to participate or listen. More information, 11westmainbradfordnh@gmail.com



SPECIAL BRADFORD UPDATE

The Bradford Center Meetinghouse has its summer concert series dates available to share: July 12, July 26, Aug 10, Aug 25, and Sept 21. Save the dates and enjoy the local entertainment right here in Bradford!

BINGO! At the Mountain View Senior Center, Every Monday morning, Starting at 10 am, \$5 per game card (5 games), snacks will be served. All ages are welcome so bring a friend or make some new ones. All proceeds go to support the Mountain View Senior Center.

SURROUNDING TOWNS

Mondays and Fridays, 6:30 - 8 pm.
Pickleball at Simonds School in Warner. More information, sign up on the Team-Reach app to see updates and how many are coming! Look for WarnerNHPB, code WPB21, to join via the app.

Saturday, February 3, 10:00 am.
Snow Snake Games at the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner. Join the second annual Snow Snake Event. This event is dependent on snow, so stay tuned for last-minute details. More information, <https://www.indianmuseum.org/events>

Coming in March, Saturday, March 16, 10:00 am. Maple Day at the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner. It's the sweetest time of the year in New Hampshire! Join us for a day of maple syrup making demonstrations, maple goodies, museum tours, acorn pancake samples, and more! More information, <https://www.indianmuseum.org/events>

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Out & About New Year's Polar Plunge!

Brave Bradford “polar bears” started the New Year off with a community plunge into the freezing cold waters of Lake Massasecum! The annual tradition began last year and we hope it’ll continue for many more to come. Special thanks to Bradford Parks and Recreation for organizing this event and to Bradford Fire and Rescue for supervising!



Group Photo (above) before the plunge! And three generations (left and below) post-plunge - Leah (mother) and Bo Cummings (son) and Laurie Buchar (grandmother). Challenging ourselves boosts our resiliency and together makes memories to share - join us next year!



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. An accompanying caption would be nice. Please submit the images in .jpg or .jpeg format.

Kathleen Bigford



The Bradford Bridge



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in the Bridge send us an email: bradfordbridge345@gmail.com, or phone 938-2230. This paper is a free community service run by volunteers and is 100% supported by advertising dollars. For all the details check out our online Rate Card: go to bradfordbridge.org > ABOUT > Advertising Rates. Thank you for your support.

CLASSIFIED

Does anyone have a used car that they are willing to donate? My old car will not pass inspection. I will be without a vehicle as of the end of February. I am disabled and need a safe car for doctor appointments and PT. If you or someone you know has a car to donate, please call Sam at 603-938-2603 to leave a message or email me at samwise21455@gmail.com.

Classified ads are free to individuals offering employment or personal items for sale that are under \$250. Text only. Businesses are not eligible. Deadline is the 20th of the month, email your ad to: bradfordbridge345@gmail.com