



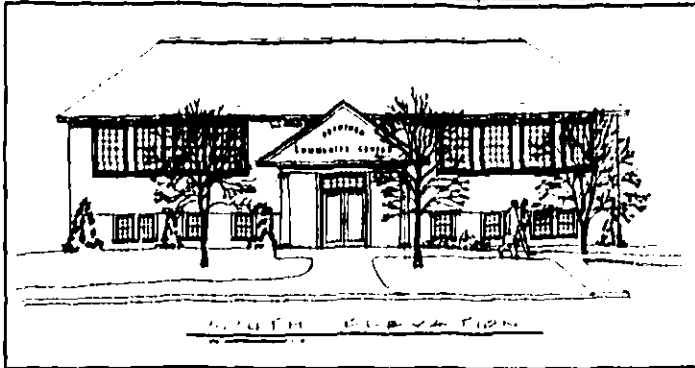
# THE BRADFORD BRIDGE

PROFIT

Meet Your Neighbors,  
Vernon and Marion Hall  
See page 13

Volume 8, Number 2; Issue 80

February 1998



## A Bradford Community Center ... it just might happen by Don Johnsen

On January 26, Bradford submitted a grant application for a business park, other projects had \$350,000 to renovate the Central School into a Community Center. This proposal was developed with the intense efforts of a number of residents over just a few weeks due to the January 26 deadline for submittal of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications.

In December, following the *What If* public meetings, the Bradford Economic Opportunities Committee took the next step--determining what funds and sources were available to implement the various projects and what criteria would have to be satisfied to obtain those funds. Although the top three projects in the straw votes were the Bradford Green, implementing

water/sewer, and development of a business park, other projects had support; they just weren't listed as high in terms of immediate needs. Among these projects was one to convert the Town Hall to a Community Center.

While researching available funding sources, it was determined that buildings used for town government functions did not qualify for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Central School building has been vacant for six years. As a structure, it has considerable value. Its continued vacancy and decay is a terrible waste of a significant Bradford resource and a blight on our Main Street. Carol Conforti-Adams, a member of the BEOC and also an experienced grant application developer, came up with the idea of adapting our Central School building to a community center. This approach was both simple and practical. Our Town Hall could continue to serve as a site for our town government offices and police department and, with the kindergarten relocated to a new Bradford Community Center, additional space would be available for later incorporation of other town functions into the Town Hall. Further, the use of the second floor

■ See GRANT, page 7

## Candidates for town election

On March 10, voters will go to the polls at Bradford Elementary School to vote on candidates for town office, as well as both town and school warrant articles. Town meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, also at the school. All are invited to attend Candidates' Night, sponsored by the Bradford Women's Club, on Tuesday, February 24, 7:30, at Bradford Elementary School. Candidates running for office are:

Moderator: Brackett Scheffy

Selectman: Christopher Chomitz  
"Nick" Nikiforow  
Dorothy "Cookie" Peret  
Marvin Rich  
Lance Rickenberg

Supervisor of the Checklist:  
Carolyn Grindle

Trustee of the Trust Funds:  
Everett Kittredge

Trustee of Brown Memorial Library (1 year): Susan Bunis

Trustee of Brown Memorial Library (3 years; 2 to be elected):  
Carol Conforti-Adams  
Margaret "Meg" Fearnley

Scholarship Committee: none

Budget Committee (2 to be elected): George P. Morse Jr.

Planning Board (1 year): Gary Wall

Planning Board (3 years; 2 to be elected): Marcia O. Keller

Zoning Board (2 years): Mildred Kittredge

Zoning Board (3 years, 2 to be elected): Lester Gordon  
James Monahan

Cemetery Commission: Mildred Kittredge



photo by Chip Rowe

### NOTICE

The deadline for submitting petition warrant articles is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 3. Warrant articles should be submitted to the Selectmen's office and must be accompanied by at least 25 signatures of registered voters. Town Clerk Sue Pehrson recommends collecting at least 30 signatures because some are usually disqualified.

## Ice storm causes power emergency

Most natural disasters affect a small unfortunate area. What was unusual about the ice storm of 1998 was that the loss of power affected a very large geographic area ... but the good news is that there were no local fatalities directly attributable to the storm. The storm began with drizzle on Tuesday, January 6, which became heavy rain on Wednesday. It rained or drizzled until Saturday, which dawned bright and sunny, revealing an awesome glistening landscape.

The power went out on Wednesday evening to every household in Bradford. Bradford is served by two electric grids. One comes down

■ See STORM, page 5

### Disaster recovery help from FEMA

If you sustained uninsured losses or damages in the recent ice storm, you maybe eligible for disaster assistance. You may apply by telephone, 1-800-462-9029 (TDD 1-800-462-7585 for the speech and hearing impaired). Or representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and NH Emergency Management will be available to answer questions at the Town Hall in New London (120 Main Street) on Monday and Tuesday, February 2 and 3, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. These officials can provide disaster assistance information and referrals, including: housing assistance, tax advice, disaster unemployment, hazard mitigation, U.S. Small Business Administration Home/Business Disaster Loans, Individual and Family Grants. If you have insurance, please call your agent prior to applying by telephone.

### 4th of July Parade meeting set for February 7

A meeting has been called for Saturday, February 7, 11:00 am, at the Town Hall to discuss details of organizing a 4th of July Parade committee and to determine whether to establish a non-profit corporation, such as Warner has done for its Fall Foliage Festival. Representatives of all town organizations have been invited to attend. All other interested individuals are invited and urged to attend.

### Budget hearing February 12

The Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on February 12, 7:00 pm, at the Town Hall to review the 1998 town budget and proposed warrant articles.

### Ice Fishing Derby on Sunday, February 22

The Bradford Fish & Game Club will hold its annual Ice Fishing Derby on Sunday, February 22, for children under 16 years old. Registration starts at 9:00 am. at the Lake Todd Clubhouse on Gillingham Drive, with fishing between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Food and soda will be available. Prizes will be awarded for winners in different categories. For more information, contact John Mock, 938-5161, or Dick Wright, 938-5393. Children from all area towns are invited to participate in this event.

### Bradford-Newbury Workshop

The Bradford-Newbury Workshop's February meeting will be held Thursday, the 12th, at 11:00 am at Pat Whiteside's home in Birchfield. Since parking is minimal, it would help if members met at 10:45 at Friendship House to carpool. Pat is providing lunch for the group. Since interest in volunteer work is one of the group's major concerns, members are asked to report on their other volunteer projects. At 1:00, Bev Wolf of the Newbury Library Committee will update us on the library expansion plan which is to be voted on at Town Meeting.

428-7076

## Wright Travel

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### News from the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's office

#### TOWN CLERK

January 16. Cheryl Behr and Bruce Edwards were married.

Absentee ballots for town election will be available at the Town Clerk's office later this month. Absentee school ballots will also be available.

#### TAX COLLECTOR

Tax lien notices will be going out by mid-month. Tax liens will go into effect March 31, 1998 at 5:00 pm.

#### TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

The office will be closed on February 16 in observance of President's Day.

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

Sue Pehrson, Town Clerk and Tax Collector

### NOTICE

All groups wishing to hold meetings or events in the Town Hall are reminded that the space must be reserved by calling the town office, 938-5900.

### Bradford Bridge Subscriptions

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

The Bradford Bridge  
P.O. Box 463  
Bradford, NH 03221  
Telephone: 938-2286

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## Thistle and Shamrock Inn & Restaurant

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*Reservations required*

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**938-5553**

**Bradford Area Co-op news**

The January 12 meeting has been rescheduled due to extremely bad weather conditions. It will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 pm, at Bradford Elementary School.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the financials and the results of the meeting with Lake Sunapee Bank. In addition, the possible dissolution of the Cooperative will be discussed.

**Brown Memorial Library Cabin Fever Dinner**

The Thistle and Shamrock Inn will be the place to be on Tuesday evening, February 10, as the Brown Memorial Library trustees and innkeepers Jim and Lynn Horigan host an All-You-Can-Eat Cabin Fever Dinner to raise money for the library building fund. This will be the library's first fund-raising dinner of 1998, and promises to be a fun evening of good food and good company.

The menu includes hearty chicken pot pie, buttermilk biscuits, fresh garden salad, tangy cole slaw, coffee and tea, and homemade desserts. Beer, wine and soft drinks will also be available. Dinner will be served from 5:00-8:00 pm. Donation: \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under twelve. All proceeds will benefit the Brown Memorial Library Building Fund.

**Bradford Economic Opportunities Committee tackles top three projects**

The committee has added three new members: Lynne and Neil (Skip) Smith and Jim Bruss. More volunteers are needed as the BEOC is now developing individual projects. Subcommittees will be formed to identify/expand on the issues affecting each major project in the *What If* series. Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month; February's meeting will be held on the 12th at 7:30 at the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The committee decided to begin by undertaking the top three projects voted as "most pressing" during the public *What If* meetings. The top item was the Bradford Green, followed by water/sewer and the Bradford Business Park.

David Blake, of Blake's Garden Center (on Jones Road), volunteered to work with the BEOC to develop a preliminary plan for the Bradford Green on the Marshall property. The process, at the moment, is awaiting a visit from the state's Dept. of Environmental Services to discuss the landfill situation.

In addition to the professional services offered by David Blake, the BEOC is undertaking another proposal for the Bradford Green on behalf of the Selectmen... obtaining support from the non-profit organization Plan NH. Each year, this organization, with coordination by the Office of State Planning, solicits proposals from towns across the state. The proposals are for Plan NH's team of volunteer architects, landscapers, developers, builders, bankers, and others to visit a town and conduct an intensive three-day evaluation of a particular site, building or area. They then produce recommendations for development and cost estimates. Plan NH has been active for only two years, but it has produced some dramatic improvements in

New Hampshire towns. Our proposal is to evaluate the Marshall property and obtain their plan for converting it into the Bradford Green.

The advantage of the Plan NH process is that we will obtain a prepared plan (they call it a "charette" because of its brevity) with cost estimates. The plan could be implemented over time to add "improvements" to the Green. The only cost is for the Plan NH evaluation team's meals, services and lodging (for which the BEOC will seek donations to cover). Our proposal is due on February 13. Awards are expected to be announced in March. The site investigation/planning would take place in May or June if Bradford's application is successful.

The second project which the BEOC is supporting is the incorporation of water and sewer facilities. A prime reason for this is the essential nature of these services to attracting additional businesses to Bradford. The feasibility study is still underway (completion scheduled for April), conducted by the engineering firm of Provan & Lorber. Monthly meetings are being held to keep the community informed of progress on the study; February 25 is the next scheduled meeting.

The third project is the development of a Bradford Business Park. Efforts on this project are aimed at determining the resources available from the state and regional organizations. One committee member is attending a series of four seminars on economic development, which will provide additional information as to how to proceed.

The BEOC supported the application for the Bradford Community Center. The enthusiastic support of all Bradford's residents, organizations, and businesses is needed. The ball is rolling!

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# Obituaries

## Joan K. Garman

Joan K. Garman, 78, of Mountain Crest in Franklin and formerly of Bradford, died January 27 at home after a period of failing health.

She was born in Glasgow, Scotland, the daughter of Donald and Mary (Campbell) Henderson. She served with the Women's Royal Navy Service.

Garman had lived in Concord for two years and in Bradford for more than 22 years before she and her husband moved to Mountain Crest in 1996.

For many years, she was a buyer for Bailey, Banks and Viddle Department Store in Philadelphia.

She was a member of the Ladies Golf Team at St. Andrew's in Scotland. She was also a member of the Bradford Baptist Church and had served as president of the Bradford Women's Club.

She is survived by her husband, Donald Garman of Franklin; a stepdaughter, Peggy Nye of Danbury, Conn.; two stepsons, Donald Garman of Rochester, NY and Robert Garman of Madison, NJ; five grandchildren; a brother, John Henderson of Arlington, VA; three nieces; a nephew; two grandnephews; and a grandniece. She was predeceased by a son, Thomas Ralston.

Donations may be made to the Bradford Women's Club or Bradford Rescue Squad.

## George W. Swope

The Rev. Dr. George W. Swope, 81, a former New Hampshire resident, died January 25 in Venice, Florida.

He was born in Norfolk, Va. and moved to Venice from New Hampshire in 1991.

Swope was a graduate of both the Eastern Baptist College and the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa.

He was a minister for 50 years, serving in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, New York, and New Hampshire (Bradford and North Sutton). He also served as director of evangelism for the American Baptist Convention.

He was a member of the Mason Valiant Lodge in Port Chester, N.Y., a past president of Rotary in Valhalla, N.Y., and a member of Rotary Venice-Nokomis. He was a member of the S. Venice Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Winifred Swope; a daughter, Winifred Ruth Swope-Devlin of Albuquerque, N.M.; a son, Gregory Willard Swope of Plymouth; and three grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, George.

## Jonathan "Jack" Thomas

Jonathan "Jack" Thomas, 75, died at Chestnut Hill Hospital, Philadelphia, Penn. on January 22. He had been in declining health for several years from Parkinson's disease.

He was born in Flushing, NY, the son of Roberts Burton Thomas and Mabel (Burnett) Thomas. He grew up on the North Shore of Long Island.

He worked for the Port of New York Authority for the Director of Tunnels and Bridges from 1949 to 1955, when he decided to pursue his true love of teaching. He received a Masters in English from Columbia in 1957 and his doctorate from Rutgers in 1967. His specialty was 19th century American literature, particularly William Dean Howells. He edited an early edition of Howells, *A Chance Acquaintance*, for the Indiana University Press and was co-editor of *The Howells Sentinel*.

The majority of Dr. Thomas's career was spent at Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey). A popular teacher, he was active in many aspects of college life, supervising the graduate program in English. During this time and after retirement, Dr. Thomas also worked for the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, grading advance placement essays in English.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly Stuart Almgren of Philadelphia (they married at King Ridge in 1994), his sister, Ann Marie Thomas of Warner; his daughter, Sherry Thomas Chomitz, of Bradford; his granddaughter, Rachel de Thomas of Wilmot Flat; and his grandson, Dylan de Thomas of Memphis, Tenn. He was married to Norma Deyo Thomas, mother of Sherry.

Memorial donations may be made to the Bradford Memorial Library.

## Supervisors of the Checklist sit

### February 28

The Supervisors of the Checklist will sit on Saturday, February 28, from 11:00 am to noon at the Bradford Town Hall to make corrections to the checklist prior to Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 10. It should be noted that voters may also register to vote at the polls on March 10. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office.

For the first time, this year's ballot will also include all the School District Warrant Articles as amended at the Annual School District Meeting, held on January 24. School District Election of Officials will also be held at the same time and place as the Town Meeting Elections on March 10.

Please exercise your privilege and get out and vote!

## Parks and Recreation news

The Bradford Parks and Recreation Committee will offer a six-week Line Dancing class. The class will be held on Mondays, starting on February 2, upstairs at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$2 per person. The instructor will be Grace Nelson, one of our Bradford Elementary teachers. Please come and join us to dance the winter blues away! Meet us there or call Jane Lucas at 938-2570.

The Parks and Recreation Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, February 7, 10:00 am, at the Town Hall.

927-4973

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**STORM, continued from page 1**

Route 103 from Sunapee and Newbury. The other follows Route 114 from Springfield through New London. During Thursday, crews were able to restore some power, but soon the lines would break again due to the growing ice build-up. New London closed off all roads into its community on Thursday. According to Alan McCartney, Bradford Emergency Coordinator, the extent of the problem in Bradford became apparent on Friday morning. By Friday night, Bradford had joined other area towns in declaring a state of emergency. During Saturday, power was restored for a majority of Bradford households. Some residents in the hardest hit areas of Rowe Mountain Road and Deer Valley Road didn't receive power until Monday. And the last Bradford household to receive power, the Adams on Blaisdell Hill Road, finally received electric service on Wednesday. Phil Adams said they didn't fair badly because, since they live in a remote area and had previous experience with a lengthy power outage, they had purchased a portable generator. So in addition to heating with wood, they were able to keep their refrigerator cold and use water occasionally. The biggest blessing, according to Adams, was that they never lost their telephone.



photo by John Roberts

Community spirit was a big factor in reducing the effect of the power outage on residents. Neighbors checked on neighbors; the police went door to door making sure people were managing. Wood heat and generators kept most residents in their homes. Bradford was fortunate that most households never lost telephone service, so those who might have an emergency could report it. A challenge to families was keeping children occupied with-

**Coping with the challenge**  
*by Clare Bensley*

David Buchar, Rowe Mountain Road, descended the path from his house one evening to fire up his sauna, found himself sliding most of the way downhill on glare ice. Dave, who in his earlier days was captain of the Yale Varsity hockey team, decided it made better sense getting back up the hill to put on his ice skates (which he stores in the sauna). This worked well, as the pathway was a nice solid sheet of ice; but it wouldn't be a practical idea for most of us.

Paul Gove, long-time resident of Newbury and Bradford, now living at Bittersweet in New London, says he and his wife, unlike most seniors in town, were able to stay in their apartment the whole time. Their building had heat from a generator, but lacked electricity. The faithful caretaker at Bittersweet stayed there day and night, making sure residents were comfortable and helping prepare meals for the elderly. After three days, when freezers and refrigerators in the individual apartments were becoming dangerously warm, the caretaker boiled up a large pot of water and invited residents to add any ingredients that would make a vegetable beef kind of stew. Paul said the result,

■ See COPING, page 17

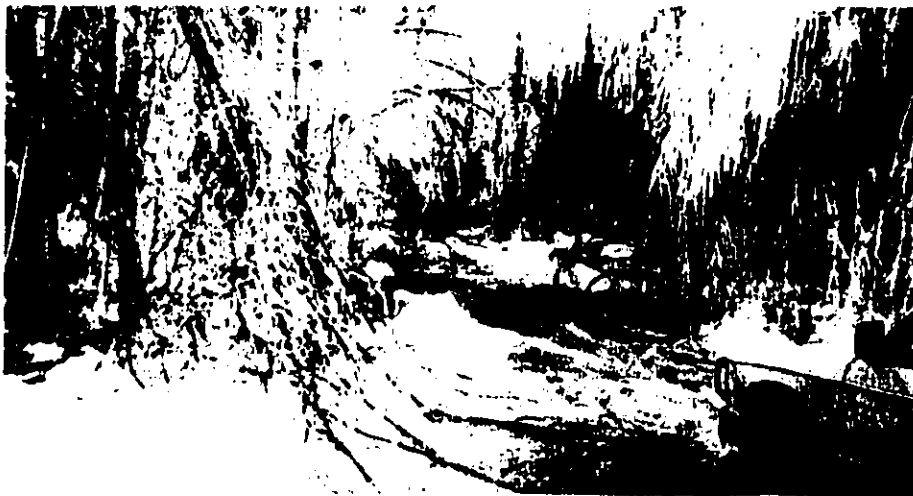


photo by Chip Rowe

Altitude was a large factor determining the amount of ice build-up. In Bradford, there was very little ice in the village. But going up into the hills, trees were either bowed over from the accumulation of ice or the trunks had broken, dropping most of the crown to the ground.

Restoration of electricity required clearing downed trees and limbs and chipping brush, then reconnecting wires. The Bradford road crew, led by Road Agent Andy Anderson, worked with town firemen, PSNH crews, a strike team from the NH Forest Service, and utility contractors from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Connecticut. All reported that the biggest challenge was clearing an area, then having more debris fall in the cleared area.

out television. Schools were closed for five days, reopening on January 15.

The Bradford Fire Dept., with its generator providing power, served as the nerve center for Bradford's response to the emergency. Residents came there to get water or take a shower. Crews working on the western circuit were coordinated there. The Fire Dept. Auxiliary served more than 250 meals to both crews and residents.

Local businesses also contributed to the effort, with Lumber Barn and Dodge's staying open when they had no power. The Appleseed Inn and the Bradford Junction fed the crews, extending their hours to accommodate work schedules. Thistle and Shamrock Inn and Candlelite Inn provided rooms.

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## Friends announce Granite State Stories book discussions

The Friends of Brown Memorial Library announces the "Annual Mind Clearing Literary Series" (featuring writers of Granite State Stories) beginning on Thursday, February 5 and continuing on February 12. The discussions will be held at the library 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and will be led by Dr. Patrick Anderson.

Most of the works are connected to New Hampshire in some way--either the authors were born or have lived here, or the book's action is set here. The readings cover fiction, poetry, drama, and autobiography. Settings range from the time of the American Revolution to the present. People attending the series will find that the authors have ways of making the familiar strange as well as the strange familiar. The stories suggest intriguing, often challenging insights into old and new customs, complicated by a sometimes contrary and paradoxical state. February writers are: Robert Frost (poems) and George Bernard Shaw (*The Devil's Disciple*, a play). Multiple copies of the books are available at the library

The free program is sponsored by a grant from the NH Humanities Council. For more information, call 938-5948.

## Artists win fellowships

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts has named eight artists as 1998 Fellows. These highly competitive awards of \$2,500 each are given solely on the basis of artistic excellence and professional commitment.

The 1998 New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Fellows are:

James Bolle, conductor, Franconstown  
William Craig, fiction writer, Lyme  
Stephen Dignazio, poet, Easton  
Terry Farish, fiction writer, Portsmouth  
Louis Mazzari, poet, Portsmouth  
Suzanne Pretty, weaver, Farmington  
Steve Schuch, music performer, composer & songwriter, Hillsboro  
Kim Wintje, fiber sculptor, Farmington

Four additional artists received Finalist awards of \$500 each:

Kate Gleason, poet, Keene  
Skip Gorman, music performer and songwriter, Grafton  
Robert Mathews, leather worker, Deering  
Allan McCulloch, mixed media, Pittsfield

The individual Artist Fellowship opportunity is open to any resident New Hampshire artist. Program guidelines will be released in mid-February. The next deadline to apply is July 1, in the disciplines of Visual Arts, Media, Dance, Theatre, and Interdisciplinary. For more information or to be placed on the mailing list, call Artist Services Coordinator Audrey Sylvester at 271-2789.



# Church News

from Lynne E. Hubley

**American Baptist Women's Ministry.** The February meeting will be held Tuesday, February 3 at 7:00 pm, with a program entitled "Love in Action." Ladies are invited to bring a favorite poem, story or other "love" related item to share. Following the program, we will practice Christian love by making valentines to present to the congregation on Sunday, February 8.

**Computer Club.** Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 4, 7:00-9:00 pm in the vestry. The program is entitled "Bring your own software." This is a repeat because of the January ice storm.

**Women's Christian Guild.** A meeting will be held at the home of Tillie Wheeler on Friday, February 6 at 1:00 pm to make plans for the spring.

**New Members Group.** A membership group will be held on Sunday, February 8 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the parsonage. This is for anyone wishing to become a member of the church.

**Men's Sunday.** The men in our congregation will lead the worship service on Sunday, February 15. John Harris will deliver the message. His topic will be poverty in third world countries.

**Youth Groups.** Grades 4-6 will meet at the church vestry from 1:30-3:00 pm on Sunday, February 15. Grades 7-12 will meet from 3:00-4:30 pm. We will be having a "make your own pizza" party, playing some winter relays, and making plans for the upcoming spaghetti dinner. All youth in the community are invited to join us.

**Food Pantry.** Our food pantry will be open Wednesday, February 18 from 6:00-7:00 pm. Food can be picked up at other times by calling the church office at 938-5313. We can always use the following items: spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, tuna fish, cans or bottles of

juice, canned meats (i.e. beef stew, chicken stew, corned beef hash), rice, cans of fruits and vegetables.

**Men's Fellowship.** The February gathering will be held at the home of Clark Phillips on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30 pm.

**Ash Wednesday Service.** A worship service will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30 pm. The message will be "Getting out of the Trumpet Section." All are welcome to join us.

**Spaghetti Dinner.** Our youth groups will be serving a delicious spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 28 at 5:30 pm. The menu will be spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, tossed salad, homemade gingerbread and whipped cream, tea, coffee, and milk. Tickets are \$5.00, adults; \$3.00 children 12 and under. Maximum \$15.00 per family.

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## 938-2926

BRADFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



## APPLESEED RESTAURANT

*Overlooking Lake Todd*

# Happy Valentine's Day!

Check with us for SPECIALS FOR 2

Affordable Family Dining, Wed - Sun, 5:00-9:00

"A Must Visit" - Manchester Union Leader, 8/30/96

Member, Bradford Business Association

938-2100

## GRANT, continued from page 1

of the Town Hall will still be available for meetings and cultural events. Note that the *What If* concept to add an elevator for handicapped access to the second floor can still be pursued later using outside funding support. In a joint meeting of the BEOC, Selectmen, and Library Trustees, the Library Trustees stated that use of the Central School should be "what's best for the town," and agreed to support the grant application.

And so it went. A CDBG application was prepared by Carol Conforti-Adams, with the enthusiastic approval and submission by Bradford's Board of Selectmen. Key support was provided by many other organizations in and around Bradford, which provided letters of recommendation and statements of use that were included with the application. Critical to the successful submission, however, was a plan to convert the Central School building into the Bradford Community Center. We are blessed in Bradford with an amazingly diverse and highly qualified pool of talent in many disciplines. Among this group is Bruss Construction Associates, a construction management firm located on Main Street, which is headed by Bradford residents, Mike and Jim Bruss. Through their intense effort, a preliminary building and layout plan was developed to upgrade the existing building and convert it into the Bradford Community Center. Additional support was provided by Harry Seidel of ALAE Design in Newbury, who drew up the wonderful illustrations of the site, building and layout for the grant proposal, all in an extremely short time period. A special thanks to Mike and Jim Bruss, to Harry Seidel, and also to Cheryl Behr, the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant, who handled the myriad last-minute details which had to be included to meet all the grant criteria, for their extraordinary service to our town!

The illustration on page 1 shows the finished Community Center as proposed in the CDBG application. The Center will enable our town to provide many new and needed services to our citizens. In addition, some existing services which are now housed in other facilities or which have no permanent location will be able to locate here. Community health and human services would operate within the Center. A Senior Center, the Kindergarten/Preschool Center and office, a Youth Center, and an office for Parks & Recreation will all be housed in the new Community Center. Additional space is available for other activities in the future, such as family and child counseling. The Center will also contain kitchen facilities, which will be available for many functions/events, and will enable such services as "meals on wheels." The entry way to the building will be somewhat different from that used by the Central School. A ground level doorway will open to a few steps lead-

ing up and down to each of the two floors. A lift will be installed to accommodate a wheelchair.

It should be noted that the design of the Center is not yet "cast in concrete." It can be further refined until such time as the funds are released and the construction clock starts ticking. For example, the entryway and primary parking area could be adapted to either the front or rear of the building. Since the Center will front on both Main Street and on the site of the proposed Bradford Green, an alternative design could have the main entry facing the Green.


In a public hearing on 24 January, the Board of Selectmen approved the grant application for the Community Center and also an updated Housing and Community Development Plan. Both actions were essential to qualify for the CDBG grant. All of the 22 town residents attending enthusiastically supported the Center concept. Selectman Joe Conway noted that this is the first in a series of projects to be proposed for Bradford's community and economic development.

If we are to be successful in obtaining CDBG funds, voters, businesses and town organizations must fully support the concept. That is one of the main elements of the criteria used by the Office of State Planning to evaluate grant applications.

The Bradford Community Center will not happen without voter approval at the upcoming Town Meeting. Two warrant articles have been submitted. One requests the transfer of \$20,000 from the town's facilities and buildings capital reserve fund to supplement the grant's construction money. The other asks the community to reaffirm support and commitment of the Community Center project.

A site visit will be conducted by the grant reviewers, probably near the end of February. Grant awards are typically made in June. There is, of course, no guarantee that Bradford will "win" the \$350,000 grant. It was, however, an opportunity which Bradford couldn't refuse! Please attend Town Meeting and lend your support to this very worthwhile addition to Bradford.

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## Do transportation issues interest you?

Are you interested in starting and participating in a planning process addressing transportation issues in the Bradford, Newbury, Sutton and Warner areas? As part of a school project, Lynne Smith is studying the issue of transportation in the local area. Some general thoughts are: 1. transportation to those persons whose conveyance needs are not being met in the medical, social, educational, business and physical areas; 2. service not limited to certain socio-economic groups, nor to certain age or physically handicapped groups; 3. restrictions could be placed on geographic areas to be serviced and perhaps total number of services offered to a person within a specified time frame, etc.

If you are interested in addressing transportation options in our rural communities (meeting together or working independently within a group structure), please contact Skip (Neil) or Lynne Smith at 938-2664. Please feel free to leave a message or you may write to P.O. Box 491, Bradford.

## Bradford Women's Club update

We had a very good turnout for the Chinese Auction and Chinese lunch. A good time was had by all who attended.

The month of February brings us to the annual "Potluck Luncheon." This meeting gives us an inside look at "what's happening" before Town Meeting. It's your chance to ask the questions you always wanted to ask. Lunch will be provided by the members and the dessert by the Executive Board.

The BWC will also sponsor "Candidates Night" on February 24, at 7:30 pm, at KRES in Bradford. Refreshments will be served.

Please try to attend both meetings. --Doris Tremblay



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## Water and sewer study preparing questionnaire

On January 21, Terry Lorber, of Provan & Lorber, Inc, held a public meeting to review progress his firm had made on the sewer and water study. He reviewed a map of Bradford, on which the engineering firm has plotted color-coded data on known problems, including pollution sites and failed septic systems. A questionnaire has been developed, which will be sent within the next couple of weeks to all homes in the study area. Lorber reviewed the questionnaire with the audience and received constructive comments.

When asked what the next steps were, Lorber said the target areas had to be determined for both water and sewer, which, he noted, did not have to be the same. Alternative approaches will be analyzed to provide both water and wastewater service to the target areas. The study will include determining possible grants and other forms of financial assistance, as well as consideration of building a system in stages to contain the economic burden to the community.

The next update meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 7:00, at the Town Hall.

## Let's Go Fishing course

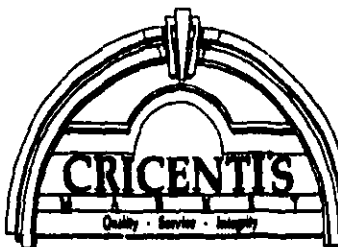
The Bradford Fish & Game Club, in cooperation with the NH Fish & Game Dept., will contact a "Let's Go Fishing" course at its clubhouse on Gillingham Drive in Bradford. The course will be held on Saturday, February 7, 9:00-noon, and Sunday, February 8, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Pre-registration is required and the deadline for registration is February 4. For more information or to register, call Dick Wright, 938-5393, daytime, or 938-2414 evenings.

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# Legislative Report

## by Representative Bernie Lamach



If it ain't broke, don't fix it! (But if it is broke, then let's fix it.) This is my reasoning as we deal with the Supreme Court decision on school funding.

Much of the activity of these early weeks of the session centers on this issue, which jumps to the top of our already busy schedule. As we've not yet decided on the issues for support of education, many of the other programs may have to be set aside until it is decided on how we derive and distribute money from the budget for schools.

More than 20 proposals have been offered. The Governor's has received the most publicity, but is yet to define where the money would come from.

I have previously stated my objectives to be sought, which include a homestead exemption on property tax, a consistent elderly statewide property tax exemption, and not a reliance on gambling or cigarettes to fund "adequate," however it is defined.

Several problems exist with property taxes, particularly the burden it places on the fixed income elderly. We should encourage people to live in their homes as long as practical, yet with ever rising taxes, it becomes impossible to continue on fixed income. A set equal formula should be utilized statewide to ease that load on primary residences only. Likewise, if a home is taken for taxes, a homestead exemption should be allowed to return much of the remainder after tax sale to the owner who is being deposed.

We speak against income or sales taxes in New Hampshire, but in fact, we have the highest sales tax of any of our border states with the 8% rooms and meals tax. Both the interest and dividends tax and the business enterprise tax are, in truth, already forms of income taxes. We are hypocritical in our approach to liquor and cigarette taxes, in that we advocate reducing sales, yet we try to

depend on more and more taxes from their sales. Lottery sales historically wither at a rate of 7% a year; therefore we have to invent more and more games to enhance sales. Now with Powerball, winners are often in other states. Yes, there is revenue, but we're fighting a losing battle for funding to support a stable, known expense of education, which continues through good years and bad.

Rather than tie our funding source for "adequate education" to heavily depend on gambling, liquor, and cigarettes (which are the easiest and first things to discard to reduce personal spending when the economy downturns), we should take the very basic steps now to reconsider our priorities for the schools and elderly citizens.

If we can carefully respond to the twin concerns of high property taxes and high utility rates, we can do more for the economic vitality of this area, which remains insulated from the flourishing economy of southern New Hampshire.

Funding legislation must originate in the House, and that's where the action is now. Bills in the House must be drafted, considered, and voted before "crossover" day, when they move to the Senate for their deliberation. This year crossover is the end of March, so the clock is ticking on when we in the House must have our measures ready.

In further developments (win some, lose some), I was successful in full House passage of my electronic signature bill that should encourage digital (Internet) business in this state. New Hampshire could be one of seven states leading the way in this field if the Senate also passes the bill and it gets the Governor's signature.

I lost out, however, in the consideration of a visitor center in Bradford to serve the Sunapee area. Both priority and cost are not in the cards at this time. We did achieve a bit of publicity for Bradford in the presentation. Yes, Bradford is on the map!

In conclusion, please be alert for information as it becomes available on the issues for Kearsarge Regional schools, which are to be voted in March. This is the best opportunity for local control if we can all be informed voters and show up to vote!

I will be active in helping the budget committee get out their information. Ask me if you have a concern.

Doesn't it feel good to have our power back on?



## Silk Farm Audubon Center February Programs

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

### Ground Hogs and Other Sleepy Critters (Preschool); Thursday, February 5, 9:30-11:00 am

Learn which animals hibernate and which ones don't. Find out if you'd make a good ground hog by trying the hibernator challenge!

### Snowshoeing (Family); Saturday, February 7, 10:30 am - noon

If you have snowshoes or want to borrow some from Audubon, this is your chance to get out in the snow!

### Composting Year-Round with Red Worms (Adult); Saturday, February 7, 9:30-11:30 am

Convert your food waste to fertilizer year-round with an indoor bin of red worms. Learn how to get started, what to feed, and how to collect the compost. Workshop participants will receive a copy of the book "Worms Eat My Garbage."

### Worms & Lunch (Preschool); Thursday, February 12, 9:30-11:00 am

Find out how worms can turn our lunch leftovers into soil that can grow more food for another lunch. Get to know some worms and find out what they eat, where they live, and how they can help us get rid of some of our garbage.

### Birds in Winter (Adult); Saturday, February 14, 10:00-3:30

Learn how to identify the birds that are commonly seen in winter and where to find them. This workshop includes carpooling to several locations around the Concord area in search of overwintering birds. Program runs snow or shine.

### Fire Building and Outdoor Cooking with Maine Guides Ray & Nancy Reitze (Adult); Saturday, Feb. 21, 9:30-3:00

In this outdoor workshop, you'll learn the art of building an efficient, hot outdoor fire for cooking and heat.

### Maple Sugarin' (Family); Saturday, February 21, 11:00 - 12:30

Nothing is a sweeter sign of spring than maple sugarin'. We'll learn why the sap is rising, how to identify and tap a tree, try a two-person saw, start to make syrup, and try some sugar-on-snow.

## Your future in a fortune cookie by Jack Rivers

"Help! I'm being held prisoner in a fortune cookie factory!" "Does it really say that?" asked Tom. Actually, after one Mai Tai, my fortune cookie could have said anything. The real message was "Your happiness is intertwined with your outlook on life." That seemed reasonable enough and worthy of due deep deliberation.

Two fortune cookie messages I have saved from the past and try to live by are:

"You will make a change for the better." and "Your life will be happy and successful."

I like ones that tell the truth and put me in a good mood before I have to pay the bill at the Chinese restaurant. At the moment the jury is still out on the above proclamations, but they do seem intertwined with my outlook on life. Who makes these up anyway, Confucius?

Benjamin Franklin, in his autobiography, offered us a number of helpful virtues expressed by useful precepts:

**SILENCE**--Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

**RESOLUTION**--Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

**FRUGALITY**--Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; that is, waste nothing.

**INDUSTRY**--Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

Both Ben and I found the acquisition of such as the above no easy task, but well worth working on. Personally, that **SILENCE** one has always been a stickler for me.

When we find ourselves wandering aimlessly down the road of life, along come the words of Henry David Thoreau, who tells us:

I wish to learn what life has to teach, and not, when I come to die, discover that I have not lived.

We're with you, David, but spending a year in a little cabin by Walden Pond just doesn't work for all of us.

Various words to live by seem to help steer our course through life from time to time. Coming to the fore in my own life now are the following:

"You can't win if you don't take a chance." and "Full speed ahead and damn the torpedoes!"

Who knows where they'll lead, but it has been exciting so far. We all live by wise sayings or aphorisms. If you're looking for new ones, just grab a book or some fortune cookies.

## Bradford Newbury Kindergarten & Preschool news


Holiday vacation with ice storm delays finally over, the children eagerly wended their way back to school in mid-January. Many expressed relief in returning to the classroom after spending some days learning how the pioneers withstood winter's challenge. This came to an end none too soon for their brave parents, some of whom hadn't prepared for the threat of cabin fever or games that can be played by candlelight.

To draw attention away from this season's cold reality, the students tackled the letters "I" and "J" by crafting colorful refrigerator hangings of ice cream and jack-o-lanterns. Some students signed up for the after-school ski program at Mount Sunapee, where the youngsters learn about gravity and the coefficient of friction first-hand.

On Tuesday, March 10, from 7:00-8:00 pm, at the Town Hall, BNKP will hold registration for the 1998-1999 class. Prospective students must be age 5 by September 30, 1998 for kindergarten and age 4 by September 30 for preschool.

All the students of BNKP send their valentine wishes to our generous supporters.


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### Ski-A-Thon fund-raiser held by Adaptive Ski Program

The adaptive ski program at Mt. Sunapee is growing by leaps and bounds. Four kids from KRES-Bradford take ski lessons during their school's winter activity program. Without the New England Handicapped Sports Association, kids such as these would probably never get the chance to take up a sport that is available to their peers.

Eighteen other students from four other elementary schools also take lessons with the adaptive program. Last year NEHSA's total number of lessons exceeded 400. The program runs almost entirely on volunteer power ... 180 volunteers last year.

For the disabled, skiing is more than just "fun." It offers a sense of freedom and movement, thrills (and spills), exercise and enjoyment of the winter weather. All of this adds up to a sense of accomplishment.

NEHSA's biggest fund-raiser of the year, the Ski-A-Thon, is coming up on Saturday, February 7, on the Duckling slope at Mt. Sunapee. We need these funds to offer lessons and equipment to our students (we offer financial aid). All skiers and snowboarders are invited to join the Ski-A-Thon. For pledge sheets or more information, to become a volunteer, or to sponsor a skier, call Debbie Bruss, 938-2979.

### Bradford square dance on Valentine's Day

Come celebrate Valentine's Day with the Bradford Country Squares as they host a Class level square dance on Saturday, February 14 at the Bradford Town Hall from 8:00 - 10:30 pm. Ted Lizotte will call and Phil Gatchell will cue this dance. Admission is \$4.00/person. For more information, call 763-4792.

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### Bradford Conservation Commission considering area trail system

The Bradford Conservation Commission held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 20 in the Town Hall. The topic for the evening was trails and the development of a trail system through Bradford to surrounding towns.

The main focus of the meeting was to gather ideas on how trails are maintained and preserved by other towns and how we may connect our trails with those in other towns. Easement from property owners through which trails cross was also discussed. Warner representatives invited us to explore the many trails that run through the Mink Hills and stated that there are several ways of approaching these from Bradford.

The feasibility of breaking a trail through Lowe State Forest from Hillsboro to Bradford was also discussed. Located in the southernmost part of Bradford, Lowe State Forest offers superb views and beautiful scenery to the outdoor enthusiast.

Attending the meeting were members from the Warner, Hillsboro, and Henniker Conservation Commissions. Representing Warner were Gary Young, Richard Cook, and Jim McLaughlin. James McDonough and Ann Ford represented the Hillsboro Conservation Commission, and Holly Green was the representative from Henniker. --Mary Hopwood

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## Stacey Wooley from Newbury is on her way to the 1998 Winter Olympics, by Clare Bensley

Stacey Wooley, of Blodgetts Landing in Newbury, has made the U.S. Women's Biathlon Olympic team and will be one of five women to represent the United States in the Biathlon competition at Nagano in February. Her parents, Cathy and Neal, returned recently from Italy and Germany where Stacey has been training. They will stay tuned to their TV and the Biathlon International Web site during the competition rather than attend the event in Japan. The women's races will be held February 9, 15 and 19.

Biathlon ("two contests") is a very demanding sport that tests skills in both skiing and shooting. Skiers shoot on four rifle ranges placed along a cross-country ski course 29 kilometers (12.5 miles) long. Targets range from eight to twelve inches in diameter. The distance to the target is shorter at each shooting location, and each competitor fires five rounds of ammunition at each target. A contestant's score is determined by the time required to ski the course, with two minutes added for each missed shot.

Although the practice of hunting with bow and arrow while "skiing" on sliding timbers is pictured in prehistoric cave paintings all over northern Europe and Asia, it wasn't until the Middle Ages that military patrolling on skis turned into a sporting event. The first competitive military race on skis was held in Norway in 1776. Long a popular event in Europe, American Biathletes like Stacey are rapidly making inroads in the competition by training year round and competing whenever they can, which is mostly in Europe. Increasingly the sport is developing a following in this country as our entrants place higher in the finals. Stacey will be thrilled if she finishes among the top twenty.

Stacey grew up in Lebanon, NH, and spent summers at Lake Sunapee, where she, her sister and brother, and their parents, have been an active and athletic family. She started competing in both downhill and cross-country skiing at Lebanon High School, then spent most of her junior and



senior years at Stratton Mountain, where she combined intensive academic studies with coaching in cross-country skiing. From there, she went to Dartmouth College, majored in biology, and graduated in 1991. She picked up marksmanship in 1990, which came easily to her, and from there it was a natural for her to combine her two abilities in the Biathlon.

Stacey trains between one and five hours a day. In the summer, she trains in Jericho, Vermont, and occasionally can be seen practicing skate-skiing on Route 103A in Newbury when she visits her parents.

Although deeply involved with her training now, Stacey will eventually return to school for more education and probably a career in a sports-related field, possibly physical therapy. But that will have to wait until after the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Good luck, Stacey!

## Library Lantern by Maggi Ainslie

Library circulation for 1997 was 11,307 ... an increase of 3% over last year. Children's fiction increased 7.45%, children's non-fiction, 11.47%. The largest increase, 23.38%, was in audio/visual materials. 66 cassettes were donated during 1997. We thank our library patrons for sharing materials for all to enjoy.

"Arthur," the famous aardvark in all the stories created by Marc Brown, is now a permanent member of BML. He arrived at Christmas and is making new friends each day. Be sure to say "Hello" when you see him.

Our next fund-raising event is our "Cabin Fever Dinner" on Tuesday, February 10 at the Thistle and Shamrock Inn, 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Adults, \$10; kids under 12, \$5. The menu is chicken pot pie/vegetarian pot pie with all the fixings. Come join the fun and treat yourself or a friend to this special event.

New books added in January:

*A Certain Justice*, by James  
*Suspicion of Deceit*, by Parker  
*Into Thin Air*, by Krakauer  
*The Winner*, by Baldacci  
*Lucifer Contract*, by Myers  
*Puzzled Heart*, by Cross  
*Silent Cry*, by Perry  
*Murder Under Blue Skies*, by Scott  
*Cuba Libre*, by Leonard  
*Memoirs of a Geisha*, by Golden

*Crayon Box That Talked*, by De Rolf  
*Cat Tricks*, by Baker  
*Verdi*, by Cannon  
*Arthur's Chicken Pax*, by Brown  
*Chasing Red Bird*, by Creech  
*D. W. Rides Again*, by Brown  
*Great Books for Girls*, by Odean  
*So Far From Home*, by Denenberg  
*A Long Way to Go*, by O'Neal  
*The Won't Pick Up the Toys Cure*, by MacDonald  
(A Mrs. Piggie/Wiggle Adventure)

Library hours: Monday, 9:30-8:00,  
Wednesday, 9:30-5:00, Saturday,  
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### Drum workshop in Warner

On Wednesday, February 4, the Alternative Health and Personal Growth Workshops will present the topic "Everyone Can Drum." Come enjoy this beginner's workshop in African style drumming under the guidance of drum teacher, Mary Lamenzo. No musicianship required. Drums provided. Come, drum, and have fun.

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

### Donna Shultz opens Bodysmith

Donna Shultz, of Bradford, a Reiki practitioner, has recently opened a new business, Bodysmith, located across from Newbury Harbor.

Shultz is a Reiki master/teacher and has done advanced studies in aromatherapy. Donna utilizes chakra cleansing and intuitive healing to augment her Reiki treatments.

Donna is a 1992 graduate of the New Hampshire Technical Institute School of Nursing. She also has certifications in both psych/mental health nursing and geriatrics. She has several years experience as a nurse/counselor in both mental and alcohol/drug rehab hospitals.



*From the kitchen of  
Lesley Marquis*

Chocolate, the magnificent obsession. My cookbook says that the Aztecs discovered it and called it "food for the gods." Here's a quick and easy recipe for Valentine's Day. Why not whip up a batch for your special someone!

### Chocolate Truffles

2 12-oz bags chocolate chips  
1 pint heavy cream  
finely chopped nuts OR cocoa powder

Put chocolate chips and cream in a glass bowl. Microwave on high for one and a half to two minutes. Stir until melted. Refrigerate until cold. Roll into balls and place in the freezer for one hour. Roll in finely chopped nuts or cocoa powder.

Note: Any flavoring extract may be added to the melted chocolate. I divide this recipe into three bowls, leaving one plain, and putting 1/4 teaspoon orange extract into one and 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract into the third.

### Meetings not to forget:

Budget hearing: Thursday, February 12, 7:00, Town Hall

Candidates' Night: Tuesday, February 24, 7:30, Bradford Elementary School

### Greenway hikes for February

Saturday, February 7. Cross-country skiing in Danbury at Gary Donoghue's private ski area. Call Gary, 768-5528, for details.

Saturday, February 14. Valentine's Day cross-country skiing, Webster Pass. Call Cynthia Bruss, 763-4570, for details.

### Historical Society advance notice

The Bradford Historical Society will resume monthly meetings in March, meeting on March 25.

On April 15, Professor Don Linebaugh, archeology professor at the University of Kentucky, will tell about his research on Carr's Store. His interest started when he found store ledgers in Virginia. He made a trip to Bradford last summer to research and physically investigate the store. More information next month ... note change to third Wednesday in April.

### GLIMPSES, selected by Milly Kittredge from Bradford Historical Society materials

*The Pathfinder & Visitor*, 1906, ad. "Science has proven that the moon has an atmosphere, which makes life in some form possible on that satellite; but not for human beings who have a hard enough time on this earth of ours; especially those who don't know that Electric Bitters cures Headache, Billiousness, Malaria, Chills and Fever, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Dizziness, Torpid Liver ..... fully guaranteed by Wm. M. Carr, Druggist. Price only 50 cents."

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# The Kidz Corner

By: Aryn Conway  
and Maggie Dayton

Hi we're back again, sorry we missed the January issue! Things have been so busy lately. Here's a new Valentine's Day treat for you and a Valentine puzzle too.

### Lovable Cookies

Ingredients: 1 20-ounce roll Pillsbury refrigerated sugar cookies, chilled; 1 16-ounce can pink frosting, powdered sugar.

Utensils: Cookie cutter in shape of a heart, knife or small shaped cookie cutter, cookie sheet ungreased

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Prepare cookies according to directions for rolled cookies. Cut hearts in dough using a cookie cutter. Use knife or smaller cookie cutter to cut out a heart in half of the cookies. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 7 to 9 minutes. You can bake the baby hearts too -- 5 minutes only!!! Let cool. Spread each big solid cookie with pink frosting and top with cut out cookie. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Enjoy!!!

### Valentine Word Hunt

l h a s c u p i d r r a  
o e v w a l p d r o h r  
v a l e n t i n e p g r  
e r l e d e n l d a f o  
s t p t y a k e t i h w

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# Meet Your Neighbor

by Audrey V. Sylvester

Vernon and Marion Hall celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1997 in the town the couple has called home since 1947. Vernon has lived here longer ... for more than 72 years. He was born in his grandfather's farmhouse (now occupied by The Fiddle Fixer). Don't think for a second that this quiet, respectful-of-each-other pair is parochial, myopic or backward. They are civic-minded, educated, forward-thinking people who have observed and accepted major changes in the town's social fabric, economy, landscape and history.

Simonds Free High School graduates, Vernon and Marion were "high school sweethearts." Vern boarded the train, leaving Bradford at "quarter past eight" for school in Warner, and returned on a Boston and Maine bus. Marion walked to school from her Warner home. A monthly round-trip ticket cost four dollars and nine cents. Vern's father always gave him a five dollar bill, with instructions to spend whatever was left over any way he wanted.



After graduation, Marion started work as a bookkeeper for the Merrimack Farmers Exchange in Milford, and eventually found work at the Cressy & Williams automobile showroom and garage. Vernon, staying on his father's small dairy farm of twenty cows, delivered milk around town and mowed neighbors' fields in exchange for hay. Vernon saw the shift away from an agricultural economy coming. Farmers were growing old with no one to take over; small farms could not make a viable living.

For fifty years, Hall grandfather, father and sons ran an ice business in town as J.A. Hall & Sons. They cut ice on Lake Todd, stored it for summer use, and delivered it to customers in the village, South Newbury and all around Lake Massasecum. The Lake Todd ice house is long gone, but one remains across from Vernon's grandfather's home (the little building with the angled front door).

With two growing children (Phillip and Jean), Vern adjusted to new work--at a funeral parlor in Henniker. After six years, he found work at the Bradford Post Office, where he delivered rural and star routes mail and occasionally worked in the office until 1964, when he became Postmaster. Noticing more change, he said, "When I began, we had customers that were here year after year and year after year. By the time I got through, they'd come and they'd go, they'd come and they'd go...people on the move, staying for six months and then gone." Postmaster Hall remembers that, just like a business today, cutbacks in staff were required and expectations added to do more with less. After 35 years, Vernon had "enough years in age and years in service" to retire. Harriet Douglass filled his post.

Urged by Marion, Vern told one post office story about Henry Cilley. "Henry was my clerk for many years. I probably shouldn't say this but, one time I was out on sick leave. I asked Henry to order 1,000 books of stamps. Somehow or other, when Henry made out the form, he got an extra zero on there. So I got 10,000 books. I was lucky the price of stamps didn't go up for quite a while. (chuckling) I'm not saying this to find fault with Henry. He was a great friend, very knowledgeable about the post office and townspeople." Vernon eased Henry's chagrin, "Never mind, Henry, we'll get rid of them somehow (more chuckling) if we have to rip them out of the books and sell them, ten at a time."

Observing changes in town, the Halls know it's the same everywhere. They do lament that many businesses uptown have closed: Carr's Store, the drugstore, Cressy & Williams, doctors' offices. The worst has been the closing of the IGA grocery store. Marion said, "We really do miss the store." They foresee that without a grocery, new people may not want to move into town.

The Halls see the need for town water and sewage treatment. "In order to encourage business in town, you have to have water and sewer." Vernon understands why people not directly benefitting might not want to support it, but he feels this is a shortsighted impression. "Even though they aren't going to be here for the next 25 years, there are going to be other people here. If they want business to come, they're going to have to have something to draw it ... We, personally, can get along fine. We put in a new system. But just because we did, that doesn't mean we don't want a town system. Because if this town is going to exist over the next 100 years, it must change. You just can't sit back and not do anything. It's just the way of the world."

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

### School District Meeting, First Session, Results

The first session of the School District Meeting (postponed from January 10 to January 24 due to the ice storm) was attended by about 200 hardy souls who were able to dig out of another storm in time to get to the high school by 9:00 am. As you may remember, this session was for deliberation and possible amendment of the Warrant Articles, which will be voted upon at the polls on the second Tuesday of March, March 10, 1998. This change was approved last year by voters when the Charter for Official Ballot Voting, written by the Charter Commission, was approved.

There was active discussion of the twelve articles, three of which I will highlight. On warrant Article 6, which seeks \$20,000 for a preliminary study for possible renovation/addition to the middle school, the School Board agreed with the Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) that the study should also explore alternatives to just adding more space to the school.

The School Board requested and received a non-binding straw vote on the different options for a kindergarten proposal. The vote was 93 for a public kindergarten operated by the school district, 55 for a kindergarten subcontracted out to the private kindergartens, and 3 for keeping things the way they are now.

There was an attempt (by a Bradford gentleman) to amend Article 1, the operating budget; it was voted down. The amendment would have brought the proposed budget down to the same budget as last year, in effect allowing no increase from last year. Had this passed by majority vote, there would have been three budget totals voters would have to choose from on the ballot in March for Article 1: the School Board figure, the MBC figure, and this amended figure. The gentleman arrived late to the

meeting due to the weather and asked to reopen discussion of Article 1. This was allowed by the moderator; then he asked to amend the operating budget. After legal consultation, the moderator allowed this also. Before it could happen, a motion was made to overrule the moderator's decision and not allow the amended figure to be voted upon. That motion carried, 98-78, so the amendment to Article 1 failed. I detail this so there will be less chance for the rumor mill to generate an untrue picture. There were no other attempts to amend the articles, only vigorous discussions.

**There is no worse lie than a truth misunderstood by those who hear it.**

Speaking of rumors, this quote from William James seems to become more pertinent this time of year with regard to the school budget. I will attempt to debunk some rumors I have heard and wish to offer a prize for the best rumor this season, with the winner being notified next month.

No, the elementary teachers are not all getting laptop computers for their personal use out of this year's budget. The computers will be for middle school students and will not be laptops.

There has been some talk that Bradford's share of the school budget will go way up this year due to less state and federal funds going to the district. Federal funds to the district are actually up about \$50,000 and state funds for Bradford, Foundation Aid based on the Augenblick formula, are up 309.2% this year, to \$14,333. Bradford's allocation of the district budget should go up about 2% this year; it went up 5.4% last year.

If you hear or read something about this budget that disturbs you, please feel free to contact me to check it out. If I don't have the answer, I can get it. If it sounds ridiculous, it just might be ridiculous. In that same vein, please contact me with the most ludicrous

rumor you hear ... it must be a genuine unsubstantiated absurdity that is being passed off as truth. (Of course if it is true, it isn't a rumor!) I will give the winner of the best rumor some maple syrup made at our sugarbush.

### Kearsarge Chronicle

As I mentioned last month, the Kearsarge Chronicle has a detailed accounting of the budget and warrant articles. At the district meeting, it was pointed out that some people did not receive a copy, even though it was supposed to be mailed to every household within the district. If this is true for you, contact the Superintendent's office, 526-2051, and request a copy, or I can get a copy for you. I can also answer any questions you may have that are not covered in the Chronicle.

### The ABC's of Shaheen's Plan

Governor Shaheen's plan for funding education fairly, called the ABC plan, based on this year's tax figures would give Bradford \$181,178 and Warner \$335,225 to help pay the school district budget. None of the other towns in the district would qualify for aid.

### Ice Storm of '98

School will be in session on March 10, election day, and April 13, teacher workshop day, previously scheduled as days off for students, to help make up for days lost during the ice storm. The district has also appealed to the State to waive the 180-day requirement, but we have not decided if we will do that if it is granted. What do you think? As it stands now, school will be in session until June 26 without any days excused by the state or any more snow days. Graduation will be Saturday, June 20. The last day of the teachers' contract is June 30. You can contact me at 938-2722, 121 Marshall Hill Road, "lovmts@aol.com" or whenever you see me around.



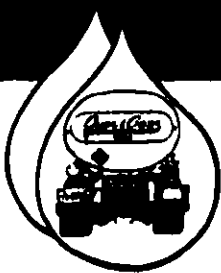
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**Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter news**

If you would like to know more about bluebird restoration in New Hampshire and how to attract bluebirds to your property, come to the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter slide program, "Bluebirds," on Friday, February 13, 7:30 pm, at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Gould Road in New London.


Speaker and retired teacher Bruce Burdett, noting the absence of a bluebird organization in New Hampshire, initiated in 1992, "The Bluebird Conspiracy," providing more than 1100 free information packets statewide.

Burdett has established a trail of 48 bluebird houses in the town of Sunapee and welcomes volunteers to expand this effort. His bluebird houses and kits will be available at the meeting for those wishing to explore this fascinating venture. Since bluebirds arrive in New Hampshire in March and April, it's not too early to start making preparations.

For more information, call Bob Vernon at 526-6216. Refreshments will be served.

We are fortunate to have veteran birder, Bob Vernon, lead his annual birding trip to Cape Ann, Mass., near Gloucester, on Saturday, February 14, to look for gulls, ducks, grebes, and something "unexpected." Those wishing to participate in this Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter field trip should meet Bob at Warner Park and Ride, Exit 9, I-89, at 8:00 am. Participants should be prepared for chilly weather and bring binoculars and lunch. A favorite bird identification guide may be brought along also. For details, call Bob at 526-6216. -- Phyllis Curtiss

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# Then & Now

by Milly Kittredge

## The Mills



before 1900

Probably built in the mid 1800's and torn down in 1939, this large building sat on the corner of High and Main Streets. Its documented beginnings are hidden someplace and its early ownership was frequently connected to the Brick Mill. In 1895, it was Hadley's Sash Mfg. Co. It was also a blacksmith shop and probably went through several owners. In 1898, the town

newspaper, the *Pathfinder*, was printed on the second floor for a short time. In 1928, it was a garage run by Carl Milner. The sign tells us it also housed a machine shop. In 1937, a new owner expected to open a grocery store there. At the time it was torn down, it was referred to as Dunstane's Garage.

The water fountain was a continuing target of highway traffic. It was moved back to the



circa 1914

edge of the road for a while and then it disappeared.

Before Route 103 was built, this was the main road, the direct route to Newbury and points northwest.

Many people shared their memories and opinions of the old sash shop ... thank you, and please add to and correct this incomplete information.



today

## Selectmen's meetings in January

**January 5.** Mildred Kittredge, Cemetery Trustee, presented the Selectmen with a letter citing a state statute that it is "against the law to desecrate a graveyard." The road crew, in pushing back snowbanks at the church, pushed snow into the cemetery, demolishing the gate and nearly toppling grave-stones. Alternative locations for snowpiles were discussed.

Selectman Conway reported on a meeting that Carol Conforti-Adams has scheduled with the Office of State Planning to discuss a grant application to renovate the Central School. She has agreed to prepare the grant application on a contingent fee basis.

Police Chief Sims reported that the older cruiser had been newly painted. His warrant article to purchase a new cruiser was discussed. Selectmen voted not to approve the article because they felt four years, not three years, was an appropriate time span for purchasing a new cruiser. They also felt four-wheel drive was unnecessary because another town vehicle is available when needed. Without Selectmen's approval, Chief Sims will need to prepare a petition warrant article for the matter to be presented to the town for a vote.

**January 12.** Keith Stebbings, Road Committee Chair, met to discuss the committee's planned 1998 projects and corresponding budget requirements. The Fairgrounds Road bridge is scheduled for reconstruction. The committee will be meeting with BACKillim on the 21st to review revised plans. Portions of Rowe Mountain and West Roads will be shimmed and sealed (where previously ground up). Gravel will be added to the Silver Hill section of County Road and the West Meadow Road.

Alan McCartney reported on the status of power outages, stating that 173 customers were still without power in Bradford. It was suggested that a meeting be held concerning "lessons learned" from the power emergency and to review the town's 1976 emergency plan.

**January 19.** No meeting, Civil Rights Day.

**January 26.** Selectman Dick Vitale reported that he and Road Agent Andy Anderson attended a FEMA meeting in New London to learn the procedure for applying for disaster relief. FEMA will reimburse eligible items 75%, 12.5% is reimbursed from state funds, and the towns absorb the last 12.5%.

Selectmen drafted a letter to Bradford's legislative representatives stating that they were "adamantly opposed to the Legislature considering a constitutional amendment to deal with education. This will not, in any way, help with solving the problem of school funding for the Town of Bradford. We urge you to oppose, as we do, the consideration of a constitutional amendment."

Perry Teele, Planning Board Chair, sent Selectmen copies of Planning Board minutes and requested that Selectmen ask the Code Enforcement Officer to deal with highlighted items, specifically instances where Autocraft and Bradford Motors are not in compliance with their site plans. Selectman Conway stated that the Board of Selectmen must decide upon the level of enforcement. Two options include notifying the individuals concerning the violations and asking that they correct them or beginning a legal process by notifying them with a cease and desist order. Selectman Dave Pickman said the Board needs a paper trail and asked that the Planning Board be asked to send a letter to the Board concerning the deficiencies. Selectman Conway responded that he would draft the letter himself, itemizing the issues.

Selectmen discussed how to respond to a warrant article from Bradford Newbury Youth Sports requesting \$3,000. Selectman Conway had asked the group for a copy of their budget and he itemized concerns he has with the report, including a low level of

fund-raising and what appears to be an inaccurate statement of contributions. Town Treasurer Carolyn Grindle questioned how the Selectmen could support a BNYS warrant article, but not a similar amount for Lake Sunapee Visiting Nurses. Selectmen voted that both warrant articles be submitted by petition "so the voters can decide." When questioned about whether the Selectmen would look like "meanies," they responded that with the large property tax increase this year, they must "hold the line" and approve only what is absolutely required this year.

Selectmen discussed how to handle the need to repair two bridges, Fairgrounds Road and Box Corner. One question involved whether both bridges had to be completed this year or whether the smaller (Box Corner) could be reconstructed in 1999. The estimate to complete both bridges is now \$541,000, with the state reimbursing the town 80%. The issue of carrying over an appropriation complicates the matter. A decision was postponed while more information is collected.

Selectman Conway reported that the CDBG grant application for the Community Center was submitted today, meeting the deadline. He noted that the grant, if approved, would be for \$350,000. Because the Office of State Planning wanted a budget figure for program and operational costs included in the application, the project total is estimated to be \$370,000. Construction costs are estimated at \$340,000; furniture, \$10,000; and program and operational costs, \$20,000. Conway proposes a warrant article to release \$20,000 from the facilities and buildings capital reserve fund to be applied to the construction costs (the funds were raised in an earlier year, so this warrant article would have no effect on the tax rate).

Selectman Conway suggested that the Selectmen prepare a flyer to be handed out at town meeting that explains the Board's budget rationale and provides information on warrant articles.

To date, storm damage is estimated to be more than \$19,000.

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# GARDENING

by Fred Winch

Bradford has been fortunate that the most recent ice storms have bypassed us. If you have traveled north to New London or west to Washington (NH, that is), you have seen the destruction of yard trees and forest trees -- but the hemlocks stand out as being able to shed the ice better than other trees. We all were without lights and water, and many without heat, but we certainly must recognize the job our power company accomplished in getting our area back "on line." I'm sure, as I look back to the hurricane of '38 and its destruction, that the clean-up has been rapid. The bucket trucks, the power trimmers, and the chain saws we take for granted have done a terrific job. In 1938, only "two man" chain saws were available and not common; they took men to run!

With that in mind, I suspect many right away felt that cutting down the whole tree was the answer. Certainly cutting off hanging branches or the split branches is needed. But I would advise not to jump too fast. Many of the trees look very thin of branches; however, our hardwoods will send out buds and these will develop new shoots which, in a few years, will again give a better shape and shade. Just don't jump too quickly!

If you have grown or stored potatoes, February is the month they start to produce sprouts and, under some conditions, begin to wizzle. Even the store-bought potatoes are showing evidence of sprouts. Some of those potatoes kept till April or May may be used for "seed" if you had little sign of disease in the patch. If disease was present, potato "seed" should be purchased from a certified disease-free source.

Strides have been made in the resurrection of heirloom potatoes, as well as the development of new varieties, giving home gardeners a variety to choose from. We are all

familiar with the red-skinned potatoes that are common in potato salads at the supermarket. There are also red-skinned potatoes with red flesh or pink flesh. Recently Yukon Gold, a yellow-skinned, yellow-fleshed potato has gained much prominence and there are two or three other varieties available in the gold-color.

If you wish for potatoes beyond the usual types, there are purple-skinned potatoes with white flesh, purple-skinned with purple flesh and the blue-skinned, blue flesh potatoes. Naturally, these are probably not available in the average seed shop. As one would expect, there are a couple of sources in Maine for some of these.

Woodprairie Potato Farm, Bridgewater ME 04735 and Moose Tabers, Box 520, Waterville ME 04903 are close at hand. Seed Savers Exchange, 3076 No. Winn Road., Decorah IA 52101 is another. All will send catalogs.

I have grown a few potatoes each year, primarily for those young, tasty "new" potatoes to have with fresh peas in early July. However, it has been a constant fight to keep potato bugs under control. I believe that there may be a solution ahead for those who wish to grow potatoes without a spray program. Plant breeders have found a potato in the Andes which has "furry" leaves which repel the bug. They have developed a hybrid of the common white potato with that Andian plant which has furry leaves -- I hope I can see and test the results -- a good many gardeners would start again to cultivate potatoes if it proves out.

## COPING, continued from page 5

which was more pork than beef, was served up with spaghetti and tasted pretty good. Most importantly, everyone enjoyed adding a little something to the pot, while they likened themselves to the villagers in the story, "Stone Soup," which most of them had read as children.

We house our sheep in a shed which sits at the top of a hill. From there, the sheep walk a narrow path along the crest of the hill to their food and water. One morning during the storm the sheep apparently lost their footing and slid forty yards down the hill on glare ice and became trapped against the bottom fence. Dean had to hack out a set of steps with spade and pickax. As he approached the sheep, they panicked and ambushed him in their rush to get back up. Two made it easily; the others finally made it after several attempts. We're thinking maybe it's time to move the sheep into the barn till spring.

At the bird feeder, red polls are flocking in large numbers, acting aggressively to get the best and the most seed. The Sunapee area Christmas Bird Count revealed record numbers of these and several other northern birds, such as the Pine Grosbeak, that occasionally move into this southern end of their territory. This often happens when weather or food fluctuations in their northerly winter habitat are unfavorable. Notice how few goldfinches there are this year compared to the surplus last winter? The pine siskins are also down in numbers. Perhaps they're having better luck further south. Titmice, nuthatches and mourning doves are seen most days.



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# February Calendar

## Monday, February 2

Cemetery Trustees, call 938-5386 for time and place.

Selectmen's meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

Line dancing, sponsored by Parks & Recreation Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

## Tuesday, February 3

ZBA, Town Hall, 7:00

Fish & Game Club, Lake Todd Clubhouse, 7:00

Budget Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

Bradford Area Cooperative, Bradford Elementary, 7:30

## Wednesday, February 4

Library Trustees, Library, 7:00

PTC, Bradford Elementary, 7:00

## Thursday, February 5

*Granite State Stories* book discussion, library, 7:00

## Saturday, February 7

Ski-A-Thon fund-raiser for adaptive ski program, see article page 4

Let's Go Fishing course, Lake Todd Clubhouse, 9:00 - noon

Parks & Recreation Committee montly meeting, Town Hall, 10:00 am

4th of July Parade Committee organizational meeting, Town Hall, 11:00 am

## Sunday, February 8

Let's Go Fishing course, Lake Todd Clubhouse, 10:00 - 2:00

## Monday, February 9

Selectmen's meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

Line dancing, sponsored by Parks & Recreation Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

## Tuesday, February 10

Brown Memorial Library Cabin Fever Dinner, Thistle and Shamrock Inn, 5:00-8:00

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30

## Wednesday, February 11

Revolving Loan Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

## Thursday, February 12

Bradford-Newbury Community Workshop

Public hearing on town budget, Town Hall, 7:00

*Granite State Stories* book discussion, library, 7:00

Bradford Economic Opportunities Committee, Town Hall, 7:30

KRSD School Board, High School, 7:15

## Monday, February 16

### President's Day

NO Selectmen's meeting

Bradford Business Association, church vestry, 7:00

Line dancing, sponsored by Parks & Recreation Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

## Tuesday, February 17

Bradford Women's Club Pot Luck and Town Reports, Church Vestry, 11:30 am

Kindergarten Parents, Town Hall, 7:00

Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7:30

## Wednesday, February 18

Friends of the Library, Library, 7:30

Road Committee, Town Hall, 7:00

## Sunday, February 22

Ice Fishing Derby, Lake Todd Clubhouse, 10:00-2:00

## Monday, February 23

Selectmen's meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

## Tuesday, February 24

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30

Candidates' Night, sponsored by BWC, Bradford Elementary, 7:30

## Wednesday, February 25

Water & Sewer update meeting, Town Hall, 7:00

## Thursday, February 26

KRSD School Board, High School, 7:15

## Saturday, February 28

Supervisors of the Checklist, Town Hall, 11:00 am - noon.

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

## Classified Ads

**NEWSPAPER EDITOR NEEDED.** With the Scribners planning to move, the *Bradford Bridge* Board of Directors is looking for an editor/publisher for this monthly town newspaper. Candidates should demonstrate experience with desktop publishing, writing/editing ability, and an interest in the community. This is a volunteer position. You may send a letter of inquiry to P.O. Box 463, Bradford, or telephone Nancy Scribner, 938-2286, to discuss the position.

**FOR SALE '89 VW Jetta,** runs good, clean car, nice stereo. \$1700. Call 927-4615, ask for Nate.

**FOR SALE '88 Nissan pickup,** low miles, runs well. Needs some exterior work, \$1500. '78 GMC pickup, needs battery, great agricultural truck, \$300. Ariens snow-blower, little use, electric start, 10 hp with chain. \$750. Call 938-2539.

**FOR SALE '90 Honda Civic,** standard, very good condition, PW, PL, \$3500 or B.O. Call 938-5274.

**VISUALIZATION AFFIRMATION.** CDBG grant application individual asks residents on a daily basis to visualize the community center and think positively that Bradford will be awarded the \$350,000 block grant.

**FREE.** Queen-size box spring, excellent condition. Call 938-2190.

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