

# THE BRADFORD BRIDGE

COMMUNITY NEWS BY NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORS

Volume 10, Number 4; Issue 106

April 2000

## Community Center and KRSD Awarded \$327,000 Grant



Receiving the award from Governor Shaheen are members of the grant writing team Betty Perron, Jean Richards, Carol Conforti-Adams and Don West (missing is Christine Broyles).

On March 8 Governor Jeanne Shaheen announced that a partnership grant would be awarded to the Bradford Area Community Center and the Kearsarge Regional School District in the amount of \$109,000 per year for three years. This money will be used to establish an intergenerational mentoring program, early intervention and drug prevention programs, developing a Youth Council and starting after school as well as summer programs.

What does this mean to the youth in Bradford? It means that very soon the youth of this community will have a voice through their Youth Council who will help in the decision making process when looking for and instituting programs for youth. It means that someday in the not-so-distant future there will be a place to go after school and during the summer where there will be interesting things to do and learn. It means developing connections with adults in the community that will help them grow and develop a strong sense of who they are and where they are going.

What does it mean to the greater Bradford area community? It means that there will be many opportunities for the adults in this area to connect with the youth in this community. This can happen through mentoring, connecting with youth by volunteering and showing the youth of this community that there are adults that are dedicated to help them grow into happy, healthy, responsible young people. By giving the youth a strong connection to their community the BACC hopes to start a cycle of dedication to youth that will last a lifetime.

I would like to thank the five people who worked so hard and showed their dedication to the youth in our community by putting the grant together. They are: Christina Broyles, KRMS PTO Chairperson; Carol Conforti-Adams, former Planning and Development Coordinator for the Bradford Community Corporation and the BACC; Betty Perron, Senior Rally Chairperson and member of the BACC governance board; Jean Richards, Superintendent of KRSD and Don West, Assistant Principle at the KRMS.

—Yvonne McCormick - Youth Council Chairperson

## Annual Rabies Clinic

The Henniker Rotary Club sponsors their annual Cat and Dog Rabies Clinic on Saturday, April 15 from 2:00-4:00pm at the New Fire Station in Henniker. Drs. Alyssa and Bob Brust, new owners of the Henniker Veterinary Clinic, will donate their services for the Clinic. The cost is \$8.00 per vaccination. You do not have to be a Henniker resident to have your pets vaccinated at the Clinic.

## BWC Scholarship

The Bradford Women's Club has applications available for their \$1,000 annual scholarship. Women from the towns of Bradford, Sutton and Newbury are eligible. Students may be high school seniors moving on to a college or voc-tech program that provides a certificate or diploma upon graduation. Women already enrolled in an academic or voc-tech program or those returning to school are also eligible. Applications may be picked up at the KRHS guidance office or from Bowie's or Dodge's stores on Main Street in Bradford. The application deadline is April 30. For more information, call Beth Rodd at 938-2692.



Bradford Fire Chief Mark Goldberg presents Elliott Brown with a certificate recognizing him as Junior Fire Fighter for a job well done notifying 911 during the kitchen fire at his parents' house. Elliott is the 9-year-old son of Al and Laurie Brown.

## Police Report

The Bradford Police Department handled 426 calls for service between February 18 and March 17. The breakdown is as follows: Five 911 hang-ups, two alarm activations, two ambulance calls, 11 animal complaints, one assist to the Fire Department, four assists to other police departments, 294 business checks, five citizen assists, one civil problem, one criminal arrest warrant, one found property, one incident/service, one larceny, two motor vehicle accidents, one case of operating after suspension, two stranded motorists, one suspicious person/vehicle, eight traffic citations, 53 traffic warnings, 28 vacation house checks and two weapons permits.

—Pennie M. Spooner

## THE BRADFORD BRIDGE



P.O. Box 463

Bradford, NH 03221

Telephone: 603-938-5029

FAX: 603-938-5702

Email: bradfordbridge@conknet.com

### VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Lyn Betz, Editor & Publisher  
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### Subscription Information

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

### Advertising

The Bradford Bridge is a free community newspaper supported by advertisers. To place an ad, call Denise Fairbank at 938-2973 or send a FAX to 938-5263. Ad deadline is April 20.

### Submissions

The Bradford Bridge is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Anyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. Send articles or letters to Lyn Betz at the address, FAX number or e-mail address above by April 20.

## LINEC Spring Curriculum

George Washington, William Shakespeare, the Great Philosophers and other greats of the last millennium will be a part of the courses being offered in the spring session of LINEC, the Learning Institute at New England College. Courses begin on March 27 and will end on May 5. LINEC courses are tailored to the varied interests of adults and are held on the campus of New England College in Henniker. Membership in LINEC is affordable and open to all. LINEC, a member of Elderhostel Institute Network provides an opportunity to continue learning with others who share the same enthusiasm.

Specific courses offered this spring include: Mondays—Montford Sayce's glimpse of our only classical American hero, George Washington, and a discussion group covering current news events. Tuesday mornings—Beatrice Trum Hunter's Food Issues. Wednesdays—Joseph Chapline and Robert Babb, director of the Granite State Symphony Orchestra will discuss "How to Listen To and Understand Great Music," and Janet Linn will introduce a new course in art. Thursdays—Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *The Tempest* led by Herb Church, and an Adventure in Astronomy taught by Michael Neese. Friday mornings—a discussion of the video course Great Ideas of Philosophy will be led by Tom Pond.

Spring 2000 course brochures are available in most area public libraries. For further information contact LINEC's registrar at NEC Box 75, New England College, Henniker, NH 03242.

## Senior Rally

On Saturday, March 18 the Area Senior Rally enjoyed Marilyn Sullivan's presentation on "Food Values, Food Preparation, and Food Safety." Marilyn distributed many informative brochures, which were provided by the UNH Cooperative Extension. On Wednesday March 22, the first congregate meal was served in the Senior Room at the Bradford Area Community Center. Many people attended and enjoyed the meal and fellowship. Look for the next congregate meal to be served at the Community Center on April 19 at 11:30am.

On Saturday, April 15, seniors will meet again at the Bradford Area Community Center from 1:00-3:00pm. Please join us for fellowship, as the meeting is open to all area seniors. At the May meeting, the topic will be "The Joy of Indoor and Outdoor Gardening." This will be a timely topic for the season. Please mark your calendars with the above dates and events. Refreshments are always served and fellowship is always enjoyed. If you have any questions call Genie at 938-6009 or Betty at 938-2640.

—Genie Polm

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

Certified letters will go out soon for tax liens/deeds.

Dog licenses are due. Please bring in a copy of your animal's current rabies inoculation.

We are looking forward to our new offices. Hopefully, we'll be moving in sometime in April.

—Sue Pehrson

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## Studies Show Open Space Benefits Tax Base

Open space can benefit the town's tax base? This idea goes against the conventional wisdom that towns should encourage new development to lower taxes. Yet, scores of studies in New Hampshire and around the country demonstrate that open space is one of the best ways to stabilize and lower taxes.

The Bradford Women's Club and the Bradford Conservation Commission are hosting a free program entitled *The Dollars and Sense of Open Space* on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:30pm at the Bradford Area Community Center. The program demonstrates that open space has clear positive economic benefits for a town's tax base and summarizes the results of key studies, discussing ways that communities and landowners can conserve open spaces for both economic and environmental advantage.

One study cited in the program compares the costs and revenues of residential, commercial/industrial and open space land in four New Hampshire communities. In each case, residential properties demanded more in services than they contributed in taxes. For every dollar in taxes that a residence paid, it demanded \$1.15 worth of services including schools, police and fire protection and solid waste disposal. Commercial and industrial properties paid more in taxes than they cost in services but they attracted new residential development. Open space lands paid much more in taxes than they cost in services without encouraging any new development.

Another study found that the towns with the lowest tax bills in the state tend to be rural and undeveloped. It also found that property taxes are highest in towns with larger populations, more commercial and industrial development and bigger tax bases.

Dijit Taylor from the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation will present a slide show and lead discussion on how open spaces play a vital role in keeping our taxes down. Please come help us plan for our future. Refreshments will be provided.

—Bradford Conservation Commission

### Bradford Newbury Workshop

The Workshop will meet on Thursday, April 13 at 11:00am. Bring projects to work on and a bag lunch. At 1:00pm we'll be treated to a virtual trip around the world with Judy Ely. Judy will share her trip that she and her husband took two years ago. Meetings are open to everyone and are held at the Friendship House in South Newbury. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

—Clare Bensley

### NEC Spring Theater Production

The New England College Department of Theatre presents its spring production, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* April 13-16 in the Little Theatre in Bridges Hall. Performances will be at 8:00pm April 13, 14 and 15; with a 3:00pm matinee on Sunday, April 16. Tickets are \$5.00 for General Admission; \$3.00 for New England College students, faculty and staff. Reservations may be made at the Box Office at 428-2485, from 1:00-5:00pm.

### Easter Activities at the Library

New Hampshire children's author and illustrator Lucinda McQueen from Warner will give a free program, *How I Draw the Grumpy Bunny* on Saturday, April 22 at 1:30pm in Brown Memorial Library. The Friends of the Library's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 45-minute program at 2:15pm. The program and Easter Egg Hunt are most suitable for pre-school to third grade age children, but budding artists of all ages are welcome.

Lucinda McQueen graduated from Rhode Island School of Design in 1972. She has been illustrating children's books ever since, more than fifty books being published. Some of the many publishers she has worked with include Random House, Golden Books, Grosset and Dunlap, Scholastic and Troll. Her Sparkling Egg Book series was a best seller in 1993. McQueen is also illustrating a series of books for Troll Publishers, starting the Grumpy Bunny. The Grumpy Easter Bunny was one of USA Today's Best Easter Books for Children.

During the Easter Egg Hunt, prizes and candy will be hidden inside Easter Eggs. Special prizes will be given for the Best, Most Inventive, Most Wonderful, Most Unique Easter Basket decorating. Parents of young children are needed to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. To volunteer, call Donna at 938-2319.

—Audrey Sylvester

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# Letter

To the editor:

I would like to thank all those who showed their support for me in the recent election. I would also like to note that I share in your disappointment of the lost prospect for property tax relief for 2000. In the January Bridge Selectman Vitale suggested that all taxpayers need fear the 2000 proposed School Budget. That this budget would be the highest in the district's history and that if passed our taxes would rise and property tax relief would be wiped out. Unfortunately, the Selectmen decided the best policy was to spend the surplus, the only buffer we had against the school budget. In fact, have produced what may be the largest Town Budget in town history. A budget that is \$432,000 higher than last year.

Jeff Russell

Letters to the editor should be no more than 400 words and may be edited for clarity and content. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification.

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## Funding Available for Land Protection Assistance

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) and UNH Cooperative Extension Service announced that money is available to assist owners of forest lands whose property was damaged by the 1998 ice storm. The funds are targeted to landowners that want to ensure the permanent protection of their land. A total of \$51,600 is available to help landowners pay the costs of putting conservation easements on their land or donating their land to a conservation organization that agrees to continue to manage the land for forest products.

Any owner whose forest was damaged by the ice storm can take advantage of the grant to help pay for the costs of surveys, attorney's fees, appraisals and stewardship plans that are part of the process of completing an easement or land donation. A landowner seeking assistance will need to have an approved Stewardship Plan for his or her forest. These plans are developed by private foresters and approved by the County Extension Forest Educator. There is also matching funding available through Extension for Stewardship Plans. More information can be obtained by contacting the UNH Extension office in your county. Additional information about how to qualify for the land protection assistance funds can be obtained by contacting Paul Dosecher at 224-9945 or via e-mail at [pdoscher@spnhf.org](mailto:pdoscher@spnhf.org).

### Vernal Pools Workshop

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) will conduct a daylong workshop on vernal pools at the Hay Wildlife Refuge in Newbury on Saturday, April 15 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. SPNHF educator David Anderson will teach the indoor/outdoor class during the early days of spring when vernal pools come alive as wood frogs and salamanders emerge from the ground to breed. Participants will learn how to locate and protect vernal pools, identify their inhabitants and understand their role in the forest ecosystem. The workshop is free for SPNHF members and \$5 for non-members. To register or for more information contact Trish Churchill at 224-9945 or e-mail [signup@spnhf.org](mailto:signup@spnhf.org).

### Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter

On Friday, April 14 at 7:30pm, the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter will present a slide program entitled "Tramping Around the Tucson-Saguaro National Park and the Sonoran Desert" at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Gould Road in New London. Speaker Gary Stansfield will identify what grows and moves in the natural areas surrounding Tucson, Arizona. This program is open to the public and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Gary at 863-8737.

A Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter field trip to identify migratory waterfowl will take place Saturday, April 15. Participants will travel with naturalist Peter Newbern to the Concord area and Elm Brook Park to observe those birds that may be seen only at this time of year. Please meet Peter at Warner Park and Ride, Exit 9, I-89 at 8:00am, and bring binoculars. For details, contact Peter at 763-4308.

—Phyllis H. Curtiss

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## Rescue Squad Update

Shortly after town meeting, a rescue squad member was asked the question; "Is the volunteer shortage really that critical?" The answer to that question is an emphatic "yes!" The Bradford Rescue Squad currently has 12 active members covering Bradford and parts of Newbury, Sutton, and Warner 24 hours per day seven days per week. Almost all work full time jobs as well which means that a few people are covering many hours. It is our hope that more people will step forward to help during this critical time. If you have ever considered helping your town, perhaps now is the time to volunteer. You may think "I could never do that," but you might just surprise yourself and learn lifelong skills as well. It is hard to articulate why any of us do this job, but there is always the satisfaction in neighbors helping neighbors. Be assured that the proper training will fully prepare you to respond with the ambulance. If you are not quite ready to do the hands on part of rescue, we could use your help as a driver during the night.

Bradford Rescue is not alone in our volunteer shortages and will continue to work with surrounding towns addressing the problems all are experiencing. We have discussed the possibility of regional ambulance service, which may increase your wait for transport. As a town, we may need to address the need for fully paid service for Bradford. The cost of this will not be inexpensive. The budgets from other towns who have gone to fully paid service range between 150,000 and 200,000 dollars.

In June, there will be an Intensive Summer EMT Basic Certification Course. This 120 hour, three week training session will be held Monday-Friday, June 5-23 from 8:00am-4:30pm at the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord. If you would like a shorter course, a First Responder course may be offered in September. Contact Mary Beth Fenton at 938-2120 or any rescue squad member if you are interested. Your support at town meeting was greatly appreciated. Thank you.

—Mary Beth Fenton

## Fourth of July

Plans are well under way for a fabulous Fourth of July celebration in this year 2000. Festivities will be held on Saturday, July 8 with a full day of activities. The Fourth of July Committee is actively seeking nominations for this year's Grand Marshall as well as a theme for this year's parade.

Nominations and suggestions for the theme may be left at the Town Hall or you may call Debbie Lamach at 938-2095. The deadline for both nominations and theme is May 15. Anyone interested in planning for this year's Independence Day celebration is welcome to attend any and all meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:15pm at the Bradford Area Community Center.

—Debbie Lamach

## Public Notice

Town of Bradford Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold public hearings at the Bradford Town Hall on Tuesday, April 4, 2000, beginning at 7:15p.m. Second hearing immediately following the first hearing.

00SE-001, John D. & Mary Ellen Pfeifle, Ring Hill Road for a special exception under Art. IV, 3.b(4) for a second business. Located in the Rural Residential zone Ring Hill Rd., tax map 32, lot 572,008.

00SE-002, Mary R. Tropeano & Daniel P. Whitten for a special exception under Art. V, Sec. C, 1.2&3 to convert a commercial building to office/retail units. Located at 83 W. Main St. in the Residential Business zone, tax map 33, lot 241,171.


## BEOC Update

The Reviewing Bradford Village surveys are in, giving BEOC much grist for the "improvement mill." We first would like to thank those who took the time to fill out and return their thoughts on Bradford's direction. Without periodic reviews of the desires of town residents, we are certain to lose sight of our goals. As we put together the results into a priority list or perhaps a mission statement, I am excited to see the positive spirit of improvement reflected in most of the respondents. The solutions are not to raise taxes and throw money at "half-baked" feel-good projects. People want to coordinate—volunteer their group or time—work together using local resources and all with an eye to the betterment of Bradford. Now that's exciting!

As we step forward in the Village Area Improvement, the BEOC formed two sub-committees to tackle key aspects. The first, the Planning Process Committee will make certain a short and long-term plan of improvements is in place. The long-term will look to see where we would like to be in ten years. The short-term will start us in the proper direction. The second, the Gateway Design Concept Committee is an outcrop of the spirited discussion regarding the survey. They will be setting in motion, with the help of a landscape artist, the improvement of Bradford's "gateways." These three intersections (marked by the two traffic lights and the blinking light) give visitors a first impression. They will either want to stay around for a while or speed on through. In fact, the Gateway group met soon after the BEOC meeting at the Candlelite Inn in an effort to jump start improvements for this year.


So as the final cover of snow melts making way for the new growth of spring, be on the lookout for spirited Bradfordites in their quest for betterment. Whether on their own property or on one of the "gateways" there is no doubt, improvements are in the air.

—Stephen Manley



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# Church News

From Lynne E. Hubley

Our two Youth Groups (grades 4-12) will meet in the Church vestry on Sunday, April 2 from 2:00-3:30pm. The program is entitled "Easter Rememberings for Shut-ins." The youth will make Easter baskets, cookies and cards for our special shut-ins to let them know we remember them. Youth will also be making their own pizzas for a snack.

The American Baptist Women's Ministries will hold their meeting on Tuesday, April 4. The business meeting will be at 7:00pm and the program will be at 7:30pm. Shay Morgan will be our guest speaker and will talk to us about an interfaith refugee resettlement program. This is a mission program and the women will discuss the possibility of participating in helping a new refugee family rebuild their lives.

The Women's Christian Guild will travel to the seacoast on Friday, April 7. They will meet at the Church at 8:45am. After some enjoyable time at the beach, they will feast on a delicious seafood lunch.

Our two Youth Groups (grades 4-12) will meet in the Church vestry on Sunday, April 16 from 2:00-3:30pm. They will enjoy an Easter Treasure Hunt in the Church and Fiske House. Clues will have to be deciphered to find the treasure. Youth are asked to bring a snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

## Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday service will be held Sunday, April 16 at 10:00am. A Baptism service will be held, as well as an opportunity for

members of the congregation to renew their own baptismal vows. The message is entitled "A Small, but Significant Part."

Maudy Thursday service will begin at 7:00pm on April 20. We will celebrate the Last Supper and hear some reflections from some unusual witnesses to the cross like: Doubt, Sorrow, Fear, Shame, Agony and Hate. We will also hear some reflections from people who were touched by the cross whom we don't always think of such as Malchus, Pilate and Barabbas.

Easter Sunrise service on April 23 will be announced on cable and posters closer to the date. The service will be held at the Lake Sunapee State Park on the beach. In case of inclement weather we will meet in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church in Bradford. The service is sponsored by the First Free Will Baptist Church of Sutton, the South Newbury Union Church and the First Baptist Church in Bradford. The message "Yes!" will be given by Rev. Herschel Rogers. Rev. Bill Salt will tell a Children's Story and Rev. Lynne Hubley will be the worship leader.

An Easter Sunrise Breakfast will be held at the First Baptist Church in Bradford immediately following the service. A free-will offering will be taken. The menu will include ham, pancakes (plain and blueberry), scrambled eggs, muffins, coffee and juice.

Easter Sunday service will be held on April 23 at 10:00am. The message is entitled "Death: a Comma not a Period." The right hand of fellowship will be extended to new members. Members of the congregation are invited to bring Easter lilies and tulips in memory of loved ones.

## Selectmen's Update

If you were not at the Bradford Town Meeting on March 15, you really missed something! The meeting started precisely at 7:00pm. Selectman Marvin Rich received a proclamation signed by Governor Shaheen congratulating him for 50 years in law enforcement. Then our new Town Moderator, Dan Coolidge, continued presiding over the meeting. He brought with him the biggest gavel ever seen. He really meant business! The operating budget passed, as did all the warrant articles. The meeting was closed at 8:20pm. It had to be one of the shortest Town Meetings in history. This definitely was a vote of confidence from the townspeople to the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. Thank you for that. Thanks to you, we can replace the old Fire Tanker, repair a tank on one of the fire trucks, buy much needed highway equipment, update and redo the Selectmen's and Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Offices and set up a separate revenue fund for the Bradford Rescue Squad.

Speaking of the Rescue Squad, Captain Mary Beth Fenton made a presentation that was a short overview of why the squad was considering reducing their "call area" and charging through insurance. She stated that Bradford residents without insurance would not be charged. She then made an appeal for people to come forward and come to an "information night" to learn about becoming a First Responder, EMT or Driver. She stated that there are only 12 active EMTs and drivers to cover 24 hours, seven days a week. This appeal was also made by other members of the squad in Newbury and Sutton at their Town Meetings. Several members of the Rescue Squad were at the "information night" to answer any questions about the commitment and the satisfaction one gets helping your fellow neighbor. Well, not one resident from the three towns showed up. It was a sad night. If some people could not make it to the Fire Station that night and are interested, please contact any squad member for any information needed.

This will be the last article from yours truly. The new Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Marv Rich will take over and keep us up to date.

--Dick Vitale, Selectman

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# The Library Lantern

by Maggi Ainslie

The Library is excited to announce a new computer instruction series led by Woody Pringle and Kathi Robbins. The classes will take place at the library on two Monday evenings, April 10 and 17. At 6:30pm on both evenings, Computer Basics will be taught. From 7:00-8:00pm on April 10, *Introduction to Word Processing* will be offered and from 7:00-8:00pm on April 17, the topic will be *Spreadsheets*. Call the library for more information (938-5562). Space is limited.

The Bodkin collection of 13 audiocassettes donated by the artist, Odds Bodkin, is now available. His two latest books, *Crane Wife* and *Ghost of the Southern Belle* are already in circulation. Thank you Odds for these wonderful gifts for our children's room.

Bless your heart, Carol Cullinan for bringing us the '98-'99 edition of *Books in Print*. This is a reference tool we use all the time and we really needed an update.

April 9-15 is National Volunteer Week and we thank our two new volunteers, Randy Thomas and Barbara Erickson for their weekly contributions. It's also National Library Week, come visit your library.

On April 22, Lucinda McQueen will be here at 1:30pm to show us how she illus-

trates her Grumpy Bunny books. The Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Friends will follow. Lots of fun! The library greatly appreciates the great programs sponsored by the Friends. The *Adventures in Art* series for children is especially exciting.

During the months of April and May we will be collecting books for our book sale to be held on Saturday, May 27. Call if you need pick up.

One recent addition to the collection is the *Garage Sale and Flea Market Annual* full of pricing ideas for your yard sale. There are over 500 pages of items to check out. Also, *Sculpture*, a new magazine donated to us by Amy Blitzer is fascinating. It features articles about sculptors in the United States and Europe, shows, commissions and experimentation.

Many many thanks go to Kathleen Grindle for our new printer. It seems that things just get better and better around here every day!

**LIBRARY HOURS**  
 Monday 9:30am - 8:00pm  
 Wednesday 9:30am - 5:00pm  
 Saturday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Story Time for all Kindergarten age children is every Wednesday at 10:30am.

## Friends Sponsor Adventures in Art Children's Program

An Origami Workshop will be held Saturday, April 15 from 12:30-1:30pm in Brown Memorial Library. Workshop leader and librarian Laurie Buchar will teach children how to make Origami, the ancient art of paper folding. Children will be inspired by reading *The Paper Crane* by Molly Bank, *Crane Maiden* by Matsutani, and *Sadako and 1000 Paper Cranes* by Sasaki.

The free workshop, sponsored by the Friends of Brown Memorial Library, is limited to 20. Elementary school-age children are encouraged to pre-register at the library, Bradford Elementary School, or with Jan Riley at 938-5539. Drop-ins are welcome, space permitting.

—Audrey Sylvester

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## KRSD Voting Results

The Kearsarge Regional School Board welcomed two new members this month after votes were cast in Warner and Springfield where John Dabuliewicz and Kathy Bergeron won respectively.

Voters defeated the effort to repeal the KRSD charter and return to the previous method of approving the KRSD budget at a school meeting. In Bradford, the vote was 86 for repeal and 216 against repeal. District-wide the vote was 1142 in favor and 1679 not in favor of this initiative. Only Springfield voted for the measure and narrowly at that with a margin of two votes.

There was no difference in the budget figures put on the ballot by the School Board and the Municipal Budget Committee this year. As I reported earlier, the two organizations negotiated a budget acceptable to each. Nevertheless, 1679 votes were cast for the KRSD ballot item and 1155 were marked next to the MBC item. The significance of this will need to be determined by a better political analyst than I.

Thank you for supporting the KRSD collective bargaining agreement with the teachers. Bradford voted 210 for and 118 against this important agreement. As you know, it's been two years since the former agreement expired. This is critical to our ability to recruit new and retain desirable faculty. All towns in the district voted in favor of this article with similar margins.

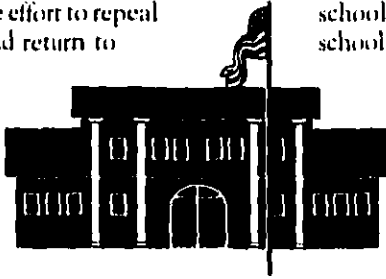
Thanks again for approving the start of a capital reserve fund for the purpose of re-

pairing and replacing school roofs. Bradford voted 235 yeas and 80 nays to approve this crucial measure. All towns passed this article.

The article to start a charter school for Kearsarge's middle school aged students was defeated in Bradford and all KRSD towns. The vote was closest in Bradford with 96 yeas and 224 nays. The District vote was 784 yeas to 2258 nays. This was a difficult loss for the founders group who worked very hard on this application. I expect we'll see another application made under the aegis of the charter granted by the State Board of education.

The School Board is in the midst of its search process for your new Superintendent of Schools. The search committee has been formed with all towns represented. This team will evaluate applications and interview candidates to then deliver finalists to the full School Board. Members of the School Board have conducted meetings throughout the District to gather priorities and direction from citizens, parents, teachers and staff. We will be meeting with the Joint Board of Selectmen in the very near future to take their input and incorporate it to the matrix prepared for the members of the search committee. This document captures the experience, skills, and personal traits people have told us are important qualities to be sought in the new superintendent.

—Mark Fairbank



## BWC Update

The Bradford Women's Club sponsorship of Candidates Night was a huge success. We are proud to say that Bradford voters are informed thanks to programs such as Candidates Night. The March 21 program was an informal talk about gardens and trees presented by our resident "Garden Guru", Fred Winch. We always get new suggestions and tips for our gardens from Fred.

The second part of the program was to bring your favorite cookies and a recipe for the new edition of the Women's Club Cookbook. Bradford has the best bakers in New Hampshire! We also welcomed new members Betty Blodgett and Tracy Foor. During the Town Hall renovations lots and lots of china was discovered that belongs to the Women's Club from years ago. The china will be donated for use at the Community Center. What a marvelous treasure to find.

The next meeting will be on April 18 at 7:30pm at the Community Center. It will be "Guest Night" and will be open to all. The Conservation Commission will present a program on the "Preservation of Open Space." A slide show will be followed by questions and answers. Prior to this meeting, The Board of Directors will have a brief meeting at 6:30pm.

Applications for a \$1,000 Scholarship will be available at the Kearsarge Regional High School guidance office, at Bowie's Market and Dodge's General Store. Applicants are limited to female students but may be of any age pursuing a higher education. The deadline for applying is April 30, 2000.

It is time for us to "Think Spring"!

—Sue Vitale, President

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## Bradford Fish & Game Clubhouse News



With the coming of warm weather, we start looking to fishing season as something you do not have to trudge through the snow and drill through the ice to accomplish. April first brings the opening of lake trout in open water and landlocked salmon season. Some of the general rules to remember are lake trout and landlocked salmon have a two fish daily combined limit (2 lake trout, 2 salmon, or 1 of each). Minimum length for lake trout is 18 inches and 15 inches for landlocked salmon. The combined daily limit through open water for brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, tiger trout, and splake are five fish or five pounds, whichever is reached first. Black bass (smallmouth and largemouth bass) have a daily limit of two fish. Except from May 15 to June 15, during that time all fish must be immediately released unharmed at the site of catch. Also from May 15 to June 15, black bass may be taken by artificial lures and flies only. Many bodies of water have special rules. Make sure you know where you are fishing and know the rules. The 2000 *New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest* is available where fishing and hunting licenses are sold and through NH Fish & Game Department.

An important new law went into effect on January 1 in order to help preserve loons, swans, cranes, and other water birds that can die from lead poisoning after swallowing lead fishing sinkers and jigs lost by anglers. The law prohibits the use of lead sinkers and jigs in freshwater lakes and ponds in New Hampshire. The ban prohibits the use of lead sinkers weighing one ounce or less and jigs less than one inch long along its longest axis. Don't get caught by forgetting to check your tackle box or gear. Conservation Officers are going to be checking. You can recycle your old lead sinkers at Dickie's Outdoor Sports.

The Bradford Fish & Game Clubs Annual Spring Trout Derby is usually held around the second week in May at the Firehouse. Final details are to be worked out at our Tuesday April 4 meeting. We would like to thank everyone for the generous donations that have been filling the various donation cans around town.

The 2000 New Hampshire Moose Hunt Lottery deadline draws near. Applications returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight May 26 to be eligible for the June 16 lottery drawing. They may be delivered in person to Concord Headquarters no later than 4:00pm on Friday May 26. The Moose Hunt is nine days, starting the third Saturday in October (Oct. 21-29, 2000). There is a non-refundable application fee of \$10.00.

Spring Turkey Season opens May 3 and runs through May 31. Only male turkeys may be taken during the spring season. Spring hunting is with a shotgun or bow and the hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise until noon. Turkey hunting can be a difficult task. If you are new to turkey hunting definitely take one of the many turkey seminars offered around the state. Experienced hunters know how much fun and educational these seminars are. Remember Safety First while turkey hunting. Due to the eyesight of turkeys, turkey hunters will need to wear camouflage clothing or hunt from camouflaged blinds. Try putting a hunter orange ribbon or cloth above and around the tree where you take your stand to alert other hunters of your presence. Make sure of your target and beyond before taking the shot. That gobbler that is answering your call may be just another hunter.

- Lance Rickenberg

### CATCH AND RELEASE

- **Time is of the essence.** Play and release the fish as quickly and carefully as possible.
- **When landing a fish,** use a net with fine mesh to avoid injury. A net is probably not necessary for small fish. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible. A fish out of water is suffocating and could be injured.
- **When releasing a fish,** handle it as little as possible when removing the hook. When handling the fish, do not let it flop around or squeeze it. Gently hold the fish around the middle and upside down while removing the hook. This position calms the fish and deters it from moving around.
- **Remove the hook** with small pliers or use your thumb and forefinger to loosen and back out the hook. If a hook cannot be easily removed, cut the leader as close as possible to the hook. The hook will rust or fall out in a short time.
- **To revive a tired fish,** hold it in a swimming position with one hand under its bottom jaw and the other hand grasping the fish in front of the tail. Gently move the fish back and forth through the water until it is able to swim away.

## FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Studies conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services indicate that some freshwater fish in New Hampshire contain varying levels of mercury and pose a potential health risk. Because of this, the following fish consumption guidelines have been established:

- **Women of childbearing age and young children are encouraged not to eat more than one meal of freshwater fish per month.** Mercury adversely affects the central nervous system in young children and unborn babies.
- **All other people are recommended to limit their consumption of freshwater fish to no more than four meals per month.**
- **To further limit one's exposure to mercury, people can eat smaller, younger fish instead of larger older ones.** Mercury accumulates over time in a fish.

Although these guidelines have been issued, the public is encouraged to continue eating fish as part of a healthy diet. Fish are high in protein and low in saturated fat and cholesterol compared to meat or poultry.

For further information regarding the health effects of mercury, call 1-800-852-3345, extension 4664.



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## Selectmen's Meetings

February 28. Edmund Rowell met with the board of selectmen regarding multiple mobile homes and unregistered vehicles on West Meadow Road. Mr. Rowell is the tenant on property owned by Richard Click. Selectmen described the violations on the Click property and outlined the action needed to resolve them. Mr. Rowell will correct the problems by April 30.

Charles Hewitt presented an abatement request for property on Rte 114 and Breezy Hill Road. Recent survey indicated the parcel contains 15 acres, not the 18 acres being taxed. Mr. Hewitt also questioned the ownership of the strip of land formerly the old state right of way. Mr. Hewitt is in the process of opening a gravel pit on the property and questioned the selectmen on town needs for materials (sand). Selectmen will discuss with the Road Agent and get back to Mr. Hewitt.

Perry Teele, representing the planning board, discussed the document mailed to realtors and questioned why the letter of complaint was mailed to the selectmen and not forwarded to the planning board. He felt it was unacceptable for the board of selectmen to contact counsel without notifying the planning board. He felt the procedure of handling the complaint was in error, and the planning board should have been notified immediately. He acknowledged the letter and content were poorly presented and misleading and the board will review and re-create. Selectmen expect to hear from the town's attorney within the week and will forward his reply to the planning board. Mr. Teele indicated the planning board's intent was to warn realtors regarding the state law on property with no road frontage.

Intent to cut wood signed for Dina Bock. Hauling will be through Warner.

Intent to cut wood signed for Robert Friedman. Road bond set at \$5000.

March 6. Sue Vitale, representing the selectmen on the governance board, met

with selectmen to discuss the water problem at the Community Center. The water leak has not been resolved and is damaging the carpeting in the office and not the hallway. Chris Frey has drafted a letter to be faxed tomorrow to Bruss Construction regarding this issue. Sue Vitale suggested documenting the damage and ripping up the carpet to isolate the damage. The Selectmen requested this not be done until the issue had been settled with the contractor. Meanwhile, Sue and Dick Vitale will try to remove the excess water with a shop vac.

Intent to cut for Eddie Watson on Breezy Hill Road was signed by selectmen.

Intent to cut for Delbert Harris on Route 114 was signed by selectmen.

Town Hall septic system is in need of attention. Cheryl has called Henniker septic to handle the matter.

Cheryl requested selectmen establish dates for the final review of the personnel policy to formalize leave and benefit issues. Selectmen plan to approach the matter the last week of March.

Matt Severson, of SEA Consulting Engineers, has been in contact with Chris Frey regarding some wetlands issues on the Box Corner Bridge. Chris is working with Mr. Severson to resolve the issues.

Dick Vitale wished to enter into the record the fact that the board of selectmen now has two court security officers as members.

March 13. Carpet condition at the Community Center was discussed. Dick Vitale and his wife Sue worked at the Community Center on Saturday and managed to pick up some of the moisture. They have treated the carpet with deodorants and have turned on a dehumidifier to dry the area up. Placing a dumpster at the center was discussed and the decision was made not to do so at this time. The deck at the center is considered part of the Kindergarten area and shoveling of the area will be

done as permitted by their equipment.

Larry Hall has requested the Road Crew plow the Community Center more completely. The selectmen noted the condition of the ground causes problems plowing snow this time of year.

March 20. Selectmen voted Marvin Rich as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Police Chief John Sims introduced his new part-time officer to the selectmen. Aaron Sparks will begin his work for the town on the weekend shift and will fill in for vacations.

Sweeping Contract with Mike Rabbitt Enterprises signed. The contract specified 54 hours to be done before May 31, 2000.

Supplemental Intent to cut for Heselton signed. Road bond to stay in effect.

Renovations to the town hall were discussed. The painting has begun and removal of the old kitchen stuff is underway. The remaining kindergarten equipment has been placed in the foyer for removal. The highway crew is doing a great job repainting the file cabinets for the offices. Early April is the target date for moving.

Planning Board letter to realtors regarding road frontage issues has been reviewed by the town attorney and signed by the planning board. The letter will be mailed this week by the selectmen's office.

Selectmen discussed encouraging the removal of junk cars from residents' yards by arranging the pickup and removal with a local company. The selectmen will investigate further.

March 27. Culvert purchase order for signature. Backhoe purchase order for signature. Junkyard permits for signature. Sign warrant to mail to DRA. Computer printer order. Cheryl Behr on vacation for remainder of this week.

—Excerpted from public minutes prepared by Cheryl Behr



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# Then and Now

by Milly Kittredge



This house with a large barn stood on West Main Street where the entrance to the Fisherfield Townhouses is today. It was the Peaslee house for several years, and one of the rooms was the town library from 1896 to 1900. After several owners, the last one being Mrs. Roberts, it burned in February 1970 in an intense early morning fire. Mrs. Roberts battled her way through the smoke-filled house and escaped across the street to Reggie Wheeler's. Next door, the Cressy & Williams garage suffered broken windows and blistered paint from the heat. In 1971, the Fisherfield houses were built.



## Bradford Area Community Center News

On March 11 there was a flurry of activity as we had many volunteers with trucks and strong backs to pick up donated items and bring them to the center. Our rooms are now more user friendly and comfortable. Our thanks to all area residents who donated items—we appreciate their generosity.

In March, it was announced that we have obtained a large grant that is a collaborative partnership with the Kearsarge Regional School District and the BACC. This project will serve the youth in Bradford and surrounding towns and the grant and its programs will be in effect for three years. We will be hiring additional staff to implement these programs. More details will follow in the early spring; we will keep you up to date with the progress of this grant that we feel very honored to have received.

Our building usage has also increased as businesses are booking rooms to provide classes for their employees, and there has also been interest in using the rooms for private functions. The Governance Board meets as needed to attend to all details of running the building and its programs.

Our next goal will be to start some fund raising projects which we hope you will support. Even gathering together for a meal will help to support us as well as meeting one of our many goals—to provide a welcoming environment for socializing for all! Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns (938-6228).

### Activities and Programs for April

**Cross Training:** Monday evenings, 7:00–8:00pm, a combination of step aerobics, line dancing, strength training, and fitness games. Great for beginners. Please call Molly Clark for more information at 938-5978 or the BACC.

**Step Aerobics:** Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7:00–8:00pm

**Busy Bodies:** Tuesday mornings 9:30–11:00am, Moms, babies and toddlers

**Personal Touch Health Care:** Tuesday, April 11, 1:00–2:30pm

**Senior Rally:** Saturday, April 15 at 1:00pm

**Bradford Women's Club & Conservation Commission joint meeting:** "The Dollars and Sense of Open Space," Tuesday, April 18 at 7:30pm

**Community Action Program Luncheon:** Wednesday, April 19 at 11:00am

—Meg Ames, Planning and Program Coordinator



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# Legislative Report

By Representative Barbara Conner French



Since we last met, the House passed HB 1548-FN, a bill to abolish the death penalty. The bill states that a person convicted of a murder in the first degree shall be sentenced to life imprisonment and shall not be eligible for parole at any time. The bill is now in the Senate awaiting public hearings.

I am the prime sponsor of HB1390, which establishes a commission to study the relationship between public health and the environment. This bill was amended and passed by the House. The commission will study the scope of medical and public health practices as they relate to environmental exposures such as: indoor and outdoor air pollution; lead and other heavy metals; food contamination; drinking water contamination; radiation; pesticides and other public health risks identified by the New Hampshire Comparative Risk Project. The bill is now in the Senate's Public Institutions, Health & Human Services Committee.

HB1521 is a school accountability bill. It establishes a process by which community members help school districts develop local performance goals. It requires districts to measure whether their students meet those goals and to publicize the results annually. It also requires all districts to report, through a "report card", performance on certain standard measures such as dropout rates and college enrollments. The state must then produce an annual report comparing all schools. If a district turns in persistently low scores, the state has the authority to provide help. I feel that this piece of legislation is very important in order to hold our schools accountable to produce responsible citizens. The bill was laid on

the table in the House on March 9. This is a statewide issue; we are all in it together! Even if you don't have children in the school system, this still affects you personally. The success of our state's economic system depends on the quality of the students it produces. If we are going to have state funding, then we need to have statewide accountability. According to our present estimate, this is what our \$30-40 million shortfall looks like right now. At the end of February, the revenue report showed revenues came in at \$600 thousand ahead of estimates and year-to-date revenues were running \$22 million ahead of estimates. The "hope" is that the Business Profits Tax and the Business Enterprise Tax will bring in enough revenue that we will not have to initiate drastic measures. That's the "New Hampshire Way!" We'll hope that everything will turn out okay so we don't have to do anything responsible. I believe that we need to be pro-active. I strongly support an income tax as a long-term solution.

Now to address our energy needs. The high price of oil and gasoline has been on everyone's mind. Once again, we need to be pro-active! I am reminded of the energy crisis in the 1970's. At that time, the New Hampshire Legislature passed enabling legislation that allowed communities to pass a warrant article that gave tax credits for solar, wind and wood energy sources. Henniker passed such an article. There were also similar federal tax credits. We should encourage our congressmen to re-establish energy tax credits. Presently, we have this heating oil crisis and yes, we need immediate relief, but we need to also look at a long-term solution. People need to realize that lowering oil and gas

prices is not the whole solution. There are policies that towns can implement, through their planning boards, and by encouraging builders to build energy efficient homes that will make it advantageous to use energy more efficiently.

SB 401-FN- AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE establishes the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program and provides an appropriation to the program of \$6,000,000. This bill is an outcome of the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) which was a five-year temporary program. This legislation was introduced in order to continue the work LCIP had begun. The bill states that in order to maintain New Hampshire's quality of life and economic vitality for its citizens, growth and development should be balanced with careful protection of the state's most important natural, cultural and historical resources. Permanent protection of these resources, through acquisition of lands, buildings, and other physical assets, must be accomplished along with their planned long-term stewardship. It is important to recognize the relationship between public and private partnerships in order to achieve these ends.

The program is designed to acquire, through voluntary negotiations with property owners and utilization of all available federal, state, local, private and other matching funds and incentives, lands or other physical assets, conservation or historic preservation easements, development rights and other permanent interests in lands and cultural and historical resources. The program will also provide funding for restoration and rehabilitation of cultural and historical resources and for the perpetual stewardship of these resources. SB 401 is presently working its way through the legislature. I believe the State of New Hampshire should establish and fund a permanent public and private partnership for the voluntary conservation of these important resources.

Finally, my school nurse and marriage preparation bills will be going to ad hoc committees to study these important issues. As always, if you need to discuss any issues, please feel free to contact me, Barbara French, at 428-3366 or Beth Rodd at 938-2692. Happy Spring!

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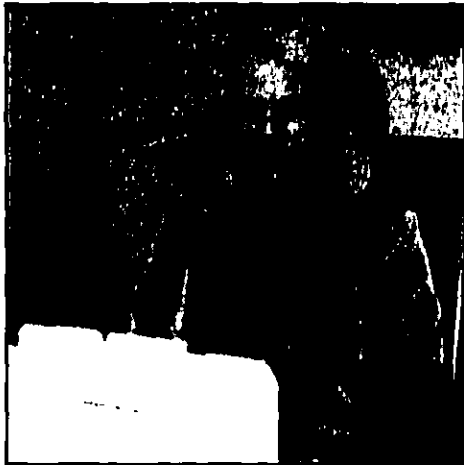
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# Profile:

**Meg Ames**  
by Audrey V. Sylvester

When the Bradford Area Community Center officially opened its doors on February 3, the Center's new Planning and Program Coordinator, Meg Ames, was ready. But, she said, "It's one thing to understand a plan on paper and another when the plan actually happens. Right now, we're a little overwhelmed with details." Change and revision are operating passwords.

The "we" are the many volunteers who remain dedicated beyond the "bricks and mortar" phase. Meg looks forward to the transition from planning to action-implementation (in bu-



reaucratic lingo). In ordinary language that means being flexible, making the public welcome, coordinating schedules among groups using the building, developing programs, encouraging people to use the facility and keeping volunteers happy. In planning, it means evaluating the operating manual, finalizing a mission statement and long-range strategic plan, seeking grants and donations and working within a complex administrative structure.

With a complex structure--the Corporation (the nonprofit that pays Meg's half-time, 20-hours-a-week salary), the Governance Board (the folks who develop operational policies and decide who has the keys to the kingdom), Selectmen and the public, Meg will rely on her training and experience to guide the Community Center through its growing pains.

By inclination, Meg is a people person. By training, she is a counselor with a degree in Psychology-Sociology and a Master's of Education in Counseling. She began a career as Director of the Title I Program and Family Therapist for the Central New Hampshire Community Mental Health Services. By experience, she has been a board member: as Chairman of the Trustees of the Newbury Li-

brary, of the Bradford-Newbury Cooperative Kindergarten and Parent Teachers Organization and as the Newbury representative to the Kearsarge Regional School District Space Needs Committee. From 1987 to 1991, she was the Volunteer Coordinator for the Kearsarge Elementary

School at Bradford where she co-founded a new volunteer program and worked with the State of New Hampshire's Volunteer Program.

Originally from New Jersey, Meg first came here when she was six years old as a summer camper at Camp Blaisdell. She remembers seeing the stars for the first time and how Main Street looked years ago. She has fond

memories of the building where her son attended 2nd grade. Meg and her husband, Ken, moved to Newbury 26 years ago. Their son, Peter, is now a junior at UNH and their other son, Bryan, is a senior at Kearsarge Regional High School.

The Center is already humming. Groups meeting there and services include: The Bradford Pre-School and Kindergarten; Busy Bodies; Youth Council; Senior Rally; 4th of July Parade Committee; Bradford Women's Club; Historical Society; Parks and Recreation and Economic Opportunities Committees; Step Aerobics; meals by the Community Action Program and personal health care. A recent grant from Health & Human Services--a partnership with the Kearsarge Regional School District--will boost activities and services for young people.

At last, the Old Central School has been saved and transformed into a vital, lively place for all of us to use. Main Street has been revitalized in the process through a public and private partnership that worked to gather great community spirit. To contact Coordinator Meg Ames, call 938-6228 or reach her on email at: [kmpba@conknet.com](mailto:kmpba@conknet.com).

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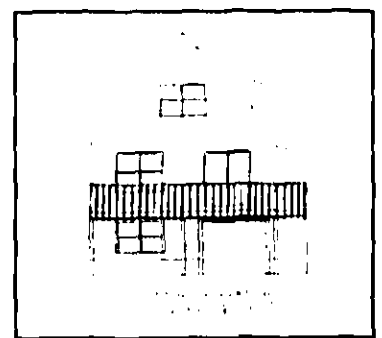
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## Real Estate Hints Home Inspections

by Laura Hallahan

Because buying a home is probably the largest single purchase a person will make in a lifetime, a home inspection is an important part of the real estate transaction. While not mandatory, a home inspection provides a buyer with insight into the property and aims to prevent any big surprises for the new homeowner. There are many companies that offer home inspection services, though New Hampshire does not require certification or specific training. The cost varies depending on a number of factors and the fee is paid by the person requesting the service.

The home inspector will give an overview of the condition of the property by looking at everything from the roof to the basement, windows, heating and electrical systems, plumbing and appliances. The buyer will learn about all these systems and how they should be maintained. Many home inspectors also take water samples, check for radon air and water quality, conduct insect inspections and some even inspect septic systems.

Buyers should not look at a home inspection merely as an opportunity to reduce the price of a home. Many issues that come up in a home inspection are already stated in the Seller Property Information Report that every seller must complete, and the price of the home may reflect these issues. Use the home inspection to educate yourself and to help you make the best decision.

Sellers, avoid being surprised by significant issues that may arise from a home inspection. If you are not well versed on the systems in your home, consider paying for an inspection before listing your property. If issues are addressed at the beginning, buyers will be motivated to buy more quickly and may even pay a higher price for your home.



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4 Tbsp. whipping cream

Stir until blended and bubbly.

Add:

1 large ripe banana cut into 1/4 inch slices

1 Tbsp. rum

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## APPLESEED RESTAURANT

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Tuesday-Saturday 5:00-9:00pm, Sunday 9:00am-noon, 5:00-9:00pm

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### HENNIKER VETERINARY HOSPITAL

#### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Small Animal & Equine Practice

Alyssa J. Brust D.V.M.

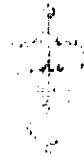
Robert A. Brust D.V.M.

24 Hour Emergency Service

House Calls Available

Henniker, New Hampshire

Tel. 603-428-3441



# Outside

by Ann Eldridge

On the warm night of March 9<sup>th</sup> this year, right in front of my truck two male wood frogs were making their way across the road. They were traveling from where they'd been quite frozen all winter to their customary pond. "Customary" is too lame a word here. Wood frogs have been using this small pond for breeding since soon after the glaciers deposited this bit of poorly draining soil between ten and 14,000 years ago. This year they will note that not only the trees but now even the alders around the edges have been cut down. Very little shrubbery overhangs the water. It probably looks much as it did in the mid-1800s when New England was given over to sheep farming. This year's frogs and salamanders no doubt will leave their eggs attached to the brush felled in the water. The increased evaporation rate and UVB radiation may cause them some problems. But amphibians have always been remarkably resourceful.

Amphibians have been around for 350 million years, surviving the last two periods of great extinction and out-living the dinosaurs. They've existed in their present forms since the Mesozoic era, approximately 200 million years ago. They've adapted, as have we, to a wide range of environments from tropical mountains to deserts. In mature forest and undisturbed wetland ecosystems, in sheer abundance they often exceed the biomass of all the larger beasts combined. They're just not as showy. At such numbers, they play a major role in the food chain, both by consuming smaller creatures and as a popular food item themselves.

The media has given some coverage lately to the worldwide decline in amphibian species. What has been puzzling is that these declines are occurring on all continents in all habitats, from the apparent extinction of the one-time tourist attraction the golden toad of the cloud forest of Monteverde Costa Rica to the recent discovery and then disappearance of an Australian

desert frog that brooded its young in its digestive tract. It will remain a mystery as to how this was accomplished. Some of the declines and disappearances in the U.S. are occurring in supposedly pristine settings such as Yellowstone Park.

The fact that amphibians absorb air and water through their permeable skin and must stay damp, combined with the knowledge that more than half of all wetlands in the lower 48 states are gone, should not leave us too surprised that there's some reduction in their numbers. Some states, like Connecticut and Iowa, have lost more than 90% of their pre-colonial wetlands. The loss of temporary pools such as vernal pools and their dependant species due to grading, mosquito control, logging disruption and the human conception of tidiness may be even more severe. Then, too, there's been a decline in the quality of the remaining wetlands and uplands from the usual list of offenses of pollution and landscaping, additions of non-native species and fish, the lowering of pH from acid rain. Fungi, viruses, and other parasites add their assaults to any species under stress.

Historically, amphibian populations have been resilient worldwide in the face of our post-industrial rearrangement of the planet. There have been far more extinctions of birds and other kinds of vertebrates than of amphibians in the last 200 years. Thus, this very recent acceleration of declines and extinctions of amphibians is all the more disturbing. In addition, in the last three years the numbers of deformed young frogs and toads has skyrocketed. The species most effected by deformities seem to be our most common ones.

Very few studies have been done on amphibian population dynamics. There is no country that can definitively state what the actual status of their native amphibians is although declines have been noted in the field since the 1980s. Without baseline numbers it is impossible to assess the magnitude of the problem. In 1991 a network of several thou-

sand scientists and conservationists from 90 countries decided to pool their efforts in determining the nature, extent and causes of the declines. They realize that without a clear and consistent body of statistics it will

be difficult to lobby the controlling powers to act to try to keep more of the diversity of life on the planet intact. In politics, numbers speak louder than any poetic appeal or warning that the canary in the mine might be dying.

For more than thirty years volunteers across the country have been cruising specifically set

routes. At predetermined stops they listen and count the number and species of birds heard singing. From this comes our information on the increases and decreases of specific bird populations. Now a similar program is being developed for toads and frogs. For the second year, professional and amateur naturalists who have undergone some training will be stopping and starting their way through the night four times a year on proscribed routes, listening for amphibious mating songs and taking notes. Two of these routes are partly in Bradford. For the toads, frogs, salamanders and a handful of volunteers this will become one of the rituals of spring. There are many ways to get involved with the effort to learn about our native reptiles and amphibians. If you are interested you may call the Non Game Department of NH Fish and Game at 271-3421.



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**HISTORIC CAPE**

**Bradford.** This 3-bedroom 1776 post & beam cape was a summer resting place for President Franklin Pierce. It features 9 over 6 windows, fireplace and wood stove, new oil furnace, addition in rear with large family room, 24' X 24' garage/barn. 1.5 acre lot surrounded by stone walls. **\$145,000**

**STEWART AGENCY**

Main Street, Bradford  
938-2255 or 938-2256



# April Calendar

MONDAY, APRIL 3

Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm  
Bradford Cemetery Commission, Town Hall, 9:00am, call 938-5386 for more information

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

ZBA, Town Hall, 7:00pm  
Bradford Fish and Game Club, Gillingham Drive, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Library Trustees Meeting, BML, 7:00pm  
Bradford Elementary School PTC Meeting, KRES at Bradford, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Bradford Area Community Center Governance Board Meeting, BACC, 5:30-7:30pm

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30pm  
Bradford Revolving Loan Committee Meeting, Candlelite Inn, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

BEOC Meeting, Town Hall, 7:00pm  
KRSD School Board Meeting, KRHS, 7:00pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Bradford Community Corporation Meeting, BACC, 7:00am

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Senior Rally, BACC, 1:00-3:00pm

MONDAY, APRIL 17

Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm  
BBA Meeting, Town Hall, 7:00pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

BWC Executive Board Meeting, BACC, 6:30pm  
BWC/Conservation Commission Joint Program, "The Dollars and Sense of Open Space" BACC, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Community Congregate Meal, BACC, 11:30am  
Country Capitalist Meeting, call 938-2787 for details  
Road Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7:00pm  
Friends of the Library, BML, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Parks and Recreation Meeting, Town Hall, 7:00pm

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm  
School vacation week, April 24-28

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Bradford Historical Society, Old Post Office, program TBA, 7:30pm. Call 938-5380 or 938-5386 for more information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Bradford Community Corporation Meeting, BACC, 7:00am

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Deadline for BWC Scholarship Applications

**Bradford Historical Society** Open every Saturday, Old Post Office, 1:30-3:00pm or by appointment, call 938-5386 for more information if needed

**Thistle Spinners**, every Monday 1:00-3:00pm, Thistle and Shamrock Inn, All are welcome to attend, come and learn a new craft

**Step Aerobics**, Tuesdays and Thursdays, BACC, 7:00-8:00pm All are welcome

**Baton Twirling Lessons** with Molly Clark, Wednesdays, Town Hall, 3:30-4:30pm

# Classifieds

FREE. 2 sturdy, generously sized, hand-made rabbit hutches; need small repair. Also, metal carrying cage for transporting 2 rabbits to shows or vet, like new, \$20. Call 938-5228.

FOR SALE. Bicycle rack that fits over outside wheel cage. Holds two to four bikes. Excellent condition. \$75.00. Call 938-2692.

NEEDED. Person to do household sewing (your machine) i.e. new blanket bindings, curtain repairs, etc. Please call 938-5352 or 938-2650.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Please send resume to PO Box 607, Bradford, NH 03221. Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications accepted until April 24, 2000.

13 year old girl available for babysitting during the summer. Bradford or Warner. Call 456-2565.

WANTED. Wall unit type bookshelf for Kindergarten (BNKP) office needed to store classroom supplies. Please call 938-2442 between 9:00am-noon or 938-2056 after noon.

To place a FREE classified ad of 40 words or less, please call Carey Rodd at 938-2692.

## Bradford Bridge May deadlines

Display ads	April 20
Classified ads	April 26
Articles	April 20*

\*If you would like to submit an article covering an event occurring after the deadline, please contact Lyn Betz at 938-5029.

To list events for the May calendar, please call Lyn Betz at 938-5029 or email [bradfordbridge@conknet.com](mailto:bradfordbridge@conknet.com).

## Website Volunteers Needed

The Town of Bradford Website is looking for volunteers to serve on an Advisory Committee. They are looking for people with a sincere interest in promoting Bradford through the Internet to meet periodically to make recommendations on appearance, usability, and content for BradfordNH.com.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Andrew J. Pinard by phone at 603-938-5158 or by email at [ajp@bradfordnh.com](mailto:ajp@bradfordnh.com).