

THE BRADFORD BRIDGE

COMMUNITY NEWS BY NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORS

Volume 12, Number 2; Issue 128

February 2002

2002 KRSD Warrant Articles

Approximately 300 voters turned out at the January 12 deliberative session to discuss and debate the warrant articles for the Kearsarge Regional School District which include a bond to build an addition on the high school and funds to continue to develop a plan for a new middle school. The school board provided the following explanations of the articles which will appear on a school district ballot at the March 12 elections. The March issue of *The Bradford Bridge* will cover the town warrant articles and candidates for office.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,859,358 for the purpose of reconstructing and constructing certain additions to and alterations of the Kearsarge Regional High School and upgrade of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The foregoing to include the acquisition of necessary equipment and furnishings of lasting character, the payment of site development costs, architectural and other fees and other necessary incidental expenses (the foregoing are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Project") such sum to be raised through the issuance of not more than \$2,841,358 by bonds or notes by the District under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, NH RSA 33:1 et. Seq. as amended; to authorize the School Board to invest said sum and to use the interest earned up to \$18,000 thereon for the Project; to authorize the School Board to obtain, accept and expend all State and other aid which may be available for the Project and to comply with all laws applicable to the Project; to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the School Board to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote. [2/3 ballot vote required.]

Recommended by the School Board

Recommended by the MBC

The School Board and Municipal Budget Committee support this special warrant article which asks the voters to approve a bond to cover the cost of constructing an addition to the Kearsarge Regional High School and upgrading the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The justification for building an addition lies in the current and projected enrollment in grades 9-12. Back in March of 1995, the District asked voters to approve a bond to expand the high school to accommodate a projected enrollment of 700 students. That request failed to receive approval by the required two thirds of the voters. In March of 1996, the District scaled back its expansion request to accommodate a projected enrollment of 645 (a reduction of eight classrooms). This revised project was approved and the high school was expanded to accommodate an enrollment of 650 students.

As of October 1, 2001, the enrollment at the Kearsarge Regional High School was 668, with a projected enrollment of 773 by 2012. If this bond issue is approved, the high school's new capacity will be sized to accommodate the projected 2012 enrollment.

In addition, the State of New Hampshire has directed the District to upgrade the current wastewater treatment plant because it does not consistently comply with regulatory standards designed to protect the environment.

A two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote is required for passage.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$667,500 to replace all of the old roofs at Kearsarge Regional High School and to au-

Fenton appointed Selectman

by Donna Roberson
for the *Argus Champion*

Peter Fenton, owner of The Appleseed Restaurant will replace Chris Frey as temporary selectman until the elections in March. Frey, who resigned from the Board of Selectmen after being arrested on December 29 for simple assault in a domestic dispute with his wife, wrote, "Recent events in my life have made it not possible to represent the town in the manner which it deserves." Frey then went on to apologize to the townspeople and the board.

Dick Vitale, selectman, said he regrets the loss of Frey as a colleague. "He's done a great job and he's saved the town a lot of money. We'll miss him," he said. Vitale remembered a running joke among the board that Frey was the "working selectman," who often pitched in to fix things and help the town's highway department. Vitale, however, said he is prepared to welcome Peter Fenton to the board. Fenton, who has served tirelessly on the town's budget committee for nine years and is familiar with the board, "was a natural to fit in," said Vitale.

Fenton, who was surprised by the request to serve on the board, has no plans to run in March, due to the nightly demands of owning a restaurant. Fenton, however, plans to do his best, while acknowledging that running the town will certainly be different than serving on the budget committee and describes his appointment as a "learning experience." "I feel honored. I hope I'll be able to help them," said Fenton.

According to Vitale, there are some people interested in the selectman's position.

"I don't know who they are yet, I don't have names, but I've heard that there were two people interested in the position," said Vitale.

SCHOOL WARRANT Continued on page 10

THE BRADFORD BRIDGE



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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 February 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 February 20.

Selectman's Update

Selectman Chris Frey submitted his resignation on January 7. We thank him for nearly three years of dedicated service to the people of Bradford and welcome Peter Fenton who was appointed to fill the vacancy until the March elections.

Here it is February and we are deeply into winter. We haven't seen too much snow YET! The Road Crew is waiting and they are prepared to go at a moments call by the Road Agent. Some people do not realize that they are "on call" at all times during the winter season and are on the road within 30 minutes of being called. There are over 50 miles of roads to be plowed and they do a fine job of clearing those roads, especially when we have one of our big storms.

The Board of Selectman has been working very closely with Town department heads and the Budget Committee. The budget for this fiscal year will be finalized this month and a public hearing is scheduled. Look for the notice and please come to the hearing conducted by the Budget Committee. If you want detailed information on how your money is going to be spent, this is the place to get that information. We are very conscious of spending and what it does to the tax rate and try very hard to keep costs at a reasonable level and yet get the job done. As was mentioned in last month's *Bridge*, a Capital Improvement Plan has been approved by the Planning Board and is another tool that will be used by the Selectmen in determining the priorities of projects to come.

On March 12 we will have the start of the Town Meeting at the Town Hall where you will vote on all required ballot items. The meeting then is officially adjourned and is reconvened at the Bradford Elementary School on March 13 to vote on the budget and warrant articles. Mark your calendars and participate with us.

—Dick Vitale, Chairman
 Board of Selectmen

News from the Town Clerk & Tax Collector

January 12. Edwin Pacheco Jr. and Sarah Gregory were married in Bradford.

The filing period for declaration of candidacy remains open until February 1 at 5:00pm. Filings can be made at the Town Clerk's office.

Absentee ballots should be available after February 15. They can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.

Letters of Notice of Lien should be going out before the end of the month. The Tax Lien will go into effect as of March 31, 2002. The letters of Notice of Tax Deed will be going out at the same time. Tax Deeding will go into effect on April 1, 2002.

The office will be closed on February 18 for the holiday.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 2:00–7:00pm; Tuesday, 8:00am–5:00pm; Friday, 8:00am–noon.

Telephone 938-2288, 938-2094

—Sue Pehrson

Public Notice

The Supervisors of the Checklist will meet at the Town Hall on Saturday, March 2, 2002, from 11:00am to Noon to make corrections to the Checklist prior to the Annual Town Meeting on March 12, 2002. No additions or corrections shall be made to the checklist after this session; however, voters may register at the polls on Election Day.

—Deborah Lamach, Ann Hibbard,
 Carolyn Grindle, Supervisors of the
 Checklist

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Alaskan native to speak on ANWR drilling

The Community Workshop will be hosting Adeline Raboff, a Gwich'in Native American from Alaska, at their open meeting on Thursday, February 7. The public is invited to hear Adeline speak about how oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would affect her people and the wildlife that nourishes and sustains their way of life. Adeline is spending a year in the Washington, D.C. area and traveling the East Coast educating people about the Arctic Refuge and the harm that would come to her people and the land they depend on if oil drilling on the coastal plain were to be allowed. Her people have lived alongside the Arctic Refuge for tens of thousands of years. They are dependent upon the wilderness to sustain the wildlife that literally nourishes their way of life; their food, clothing, and tools come mainly from the caribou herd that makes an annual spring trek to the Refuge's coastal plain from hundreds of miles away. It is here that they give birth to about 35,000 young.

Adeline is hopeful that by letting us know how detrimental oil drilling would be to the Gwich'in people, that we will write to our Senators urging them to support efforts to halt drilling and maintain this important sanctuary and the culture dependent upon it. Her fear is that oil



Adeline Peter Raboff is a Neets' aii Gwich'in Indian from Arctic Village, Alaska.

drilling will destroy the environment so necessary to the future of her people as oil spills are commonplace, more than 400 a year, and in spite of the industry's claim to drill so as to maintain the natural environment, this promise has never been achieved.

The Workshop appreciates Adeline taking the time to talk with us and is encouraging people to attend the open meeting at 1:00pm on Thursday, February 7 at the Friendship House off Route 103 in South Newbury. Call Clare Bensley at 938-5482, if you have any questions.

Danish folktales at BML

"It's a Small World!" movies continue on Wednesday, February 13, 2002, from 3:15 to 4:15pm at Brown Memorial Library. February's movie is *Thumbeline*. Friends organizer Laurie Buchar invites elementary school students to learn about how kids live in Denmark.

For more information on the free movie series (sponsored by the Friends of the Library), call 938-5948.

Kearsarge Community Band

The Kearsarge Community Band, under the direction of Pam Waltzer, invites area musicians to join the Band during its first rehearsal of the 2002 concert season on Tuesday, March 5 from 7:00 until 9:00pm at the Kearsarge Regional Middle School Music Room in New London. No auditions are required. All are welcome. For information call Pam Waltzer at 763-8944 or Nola Aldrich at 526-2942.

BWC Update

The next Bradford Women's Club executive meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12 at 9:30am at the Bradford Area Community Center. The next general meeting will be on Tuesday, February 19 at 11:30am at the First Baptist Church Vestry. The program will be "Potluck Luncheon and Town Reports." Members are asked to bring a salad or luncheon dish to share. The Executive Board will provide dessert. There will be speakers representing various Town agencies with a question and answer period.

—Barbara Vannata, President

Meet the Candidates

The Bradford Women's Club will sponsor a Meet the Candidates night on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. There are many positions to be filled in what proves to be a busy, progressive year for our community. Come and hear what is proposed and by whom. All residents are welcome to attend and encouraged to question those candidates who will make important decisions on our behalf. A Supervisor of the Checklist will be there for voter registration. See you there.

—Gerri Dickerson

Poetry Competition

The Poetry Society of New Hampshire sponsors four National Poetry Competitions with \$200 in prize money awarded in each competition and publication of winning poems in the quarterly magazine, *The Poet's Touchstone*. The entry fee is \$3 for the first poem and \$1 each for the second and third poems. The next contest deadline is February 15. For guidelines, send a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope to The Poetry Society of New Hampshire, Patricia L. Frisella, Treasurer, 282 Meaderboro Road, Farmington, NH 03835.

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Obituary

VALERIE A. CAYER

Valerie A. Cayer, 40, of Henniker Street in Hillsborough died on Sunday, January 13 after a long illness. She was born in Melrose, MA on February 18, 1961 the daughter of Charles F. (who died in 1993) and Marie T. (Gould) Cayer (who died in 2000). Her courage and determination in the face of overwhelming odds were a source of inspiration to all who knew her. In spite of her disabilities, she devoted much of the last years of her life to her family. She was predeceased by her parents and two brothers, Charles "Corky" Cayer in 1952 and Paul J. Cayer in 1996. Members of her family surviving include two brothers; Stephen Shea and David Cayer, both of Bradford; two sisters, Pamela Cayer of Boston, MA and Laurel Cayer of Swampscott, MA; three nieces; two nephews; nine grandnieces; and three grandnephews. Burial will be in Sunny Plain Cemetery in the spring. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Gail Singer Memorial Bldg., 360 State Route 101, Suite 501, Bedford, NH 03110.



Letters

Thank you

Thank you to: the Bradford Fire Department, Dick McLeod and the American Red Cross, the sixteen families in Bradford Center and beyond, the Young family, Merrimack Farm and Country Store and everyone within, Bowie's Market and all who donated to the "Collection Bottle," the Lumber Barn, Amy and John Blitzer, Sue Smith, Deb and Mike Bruss, Lake Sunapee Savings Bank of Bradford and all the anonymous donors, the United Church of Christ in Warner, and Wendy and Steve Hall of Warner.

In the best of times, it can sometimes be difficult to express oneself; now in an emotional time we will try our best. It is with deep gratitude that we thank everyone. The fact that everyone literally jumped to our aid in our time of need has made us feel as if we have been covered in a blanket of warmth. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the fireman who tried to revive "Andrew Cat."

A very, very special thank you goes to Marian Hopkins. She not only opened her home to us and our dogs, but she opened her heart to us. Again, we thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts.

Abigail Hayes & Tom McCormack

Continue your support

Three years ago the Town elected me to represent Bradford at the Kearsarge Regional School Board. Since that time, I have worked with the other members of the School Board and the administrators to increase the value of the educational services we deliver to the community and ensure that the District is responsive to the

needs of our students and our towns.

I have tried to be an outspoken advocate for fair and accountable management. I have also tried to bring action on issues you have indicated call for change or are otherwise important to the citizens of Bradford and the students we send to the District's schools. I have used opportunities to attempt to influence the long-term performance of the District and its management. I have also worked through the budget process to achieve a balanced approach for both the School Board and the MBC. This has resulted in a level of agreement between the two groups that has benefited the process. More work needs to be done to ensure that each group's role can bring value to what gets presented to you for approval.

At times this work called for attendance that has conflicted with my responsibilities at home and at my job. Many times I have been able to manage these trade-offs to ensure that I can take part in the work of the School Board and that you are represented. On other occasions, I have had to be absent from a School Board, Standing-Committee, or Municipal Budget Committee meeting. When I felt it necessary to bring an issue to your attention beyond what the region's newspapers had covered, I have been able to communicate through the Bradford Bridge. I have not taken it as part of the job to write the news articles some expect because the other papers do provide fairly detailed coverage. On the whole, I stand by my record and contributions.

The warrant articles that appear in this edition of the Bradford Bridge are the result of a long-term process that signifies the District's focus on managing growth

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and addressing serious space issues. Please give careful consideration to supporting these at the ballot box. The middle school issue was the single most important concern expressed by Bradford citizens to me over the past three years. The work that has gone into this proposal is significant and represents cumulative research and investments already approved by you in prior years.

There have been important changes in management at both the Superintendent's office and High School and recent new members on the School Board. I believe Kearsarge is poised for an extraordinary phase in its life and development. For these reasons, I have registered to be a candidate for re-election to the Board to represent Bradford. I would appreciate your continued support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Fairbank

School tax out of control

It becomes very frustrating at times when you work so diligently to keep the tax rate low only to have the county tax (which we have absolutely no input to nor can we vote for) just increase horrendously every year. The school tax is the same. It is out of control. These are the numbers that are being put before you. Operating budget from the School Board, \$20,941,703. That is \$994,485 MORE than last year. Municipal Budget Committee budget, \$20,896,703. This is \$949,485 MORE than last year. You will have the choice of one of the two. You can save all of \$45,000 by voting for the lower budget. Some choice. There is no fall back, just "vote for one." Then there are \$3,971,708 in Warrant Articles for a total budget of \$24,913,411 if the School Board Budget and all articles pass! This would result in an estimated tax increase for Bradford of \$1.48 per thousand of assessed valuation. We are not looking forward to what that will do to our tax rate next year. When we

think of what the inevitable increase in our property tax would do for the town of Bradford versus for the schools we got a little upset. Let your School Board and School Budget Committee representatives know how you feel about this.

Dick Vitale for the Board of Selectmen

Coverage lacking

Is there a loss of innocence or a lack of interest? In either case, it would be good to see articles relative to our police department and school district back in the *Bridge*. Since Al Grindle stepped down as police chief the reports from that department have diminished to zero. The status of the department, personnel, grants and any outline of what might be going on in town would be of interest. There might be issues to which we should be alerted. From the standpoint of the school department, there are so many activities—programs, recognition of achievements, progress on the middle school issue and other vital concerns that would be of interest. I'm not sure why the *Argus* or *Warner's New Newspaper* should be the source of this information rather than Bradford's own paper. I hope that this coverage can again be carried in the *Bridge*.

Dick Keller

Editor's note: We agree with Dick that these issues deserve coverage in the *Bridge* and once again put out a plea for volunteers willing to make phone calls, attend meetings, take pictures, or write articles about the affairs of our town. Call Lyn Betz at 938-5029 if you would like to volunteer to help a little or a lot.

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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Selectmen's Minutes

January 7. Selectman Vitale read a statement to the record accepting the resignation of Chris Frey, Chairman of the Board of Selectman. The Selectmen thanked Chris for his service to the Town. In compliance with RSA 669:63 Richard Vitale requested a motion to appoint Peter Fenton as an interim Selectman to serve until Town Meeting on March 12, 2002. Selectmen voted to appoint Mr. Fenton as of January 14, 2002.

Bob Stewart met with the Board of Selectmen to discuss environmental testing for the Bradford Area Community Center. RL Turner will conduct tests on the filtering systems per a contract signed by Selectmen. The study will identify any air quality issues in the building and provide remediation advice. The matter of magnetic door closures connected to the fire alarm system was also discussed. Mamakating Electric will be checking the Center and will give the Town a price on the work. The Fire Marshall's office has been contacted to review the requirements. There has been a question of two egresses in the lower level room. Selectmen have decided to place the costs of the repairs in the Community Center line items.

Selectmen announced that Chief Jim Kirby had successfully completed his six-month probationary period and will continue as Bradford's Police Chief. Chief Kirby introduced Eugene Elander as the new Animal Control Officer.

Doug Jackson met with Selectmen regarding building on the Class VI portion of Woodview Heights Road. Mr. Jackson was referred to the Planning Board as the first step in the process for approval. Selectmen explained the requirement to record a waiver on the deed acknowledging no town services to include no fire, police, road plowing, or repair.

Selectmen signed an intent to cut for Joseph Battles to log 50 acres off Rowe Mountain Road. The Conservation Commission has been forwarded a copy of the intent. Selectmen will hold the intent until hearing from the Conservation Commission.

Dick Vitale will be away for the week of January 14. The next Selectmen's meeting will be held on January 21.

Information is forthcoming on the costs of testing on the Naughton Property. Terry Lorber of Provan and Lorber and Don Johnsen have been investigating the costs of the project and hope to have numbers ready for listing on the town budget.

January 21. A motion was made by Bruce Edwards to appoint Dick Vitale as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Vote was taken and passed.

Minutes of the January 7th meeting were read and accepted with a correction. The correction is to announce the appointment of Courtney Heath to the position of part time police officer. Mr. Heath was introduced to the selectmen at the January 7th meeting.

SEA Consultants representative Joe April met with the selectmen to discuss bridge design options on the next bridge to be constructed under the municipal management plan with the State. The cost estimates range from \$300,000 to \$365,000. Different styles of bridge (assembled on site (steel) or poured on site (concrete) were discussed as well as extending the length of the bridge to gain better soil conditions for the footings. Changes to the intersection of Fairgrounds Road and Pleasant View Road were also presented. Selectmen will forward a copy of the plans to the Road Committee for their input. Selectmen will get back to SEA Consultants with the choice they wish to pursue. The build date on this bridge is 2003-2004 state fiscal year.

Omission from minutes read into the record. Omission from minutes in December. Halton Grindle delivered to selectmen on December 17th, 2001 information regarding ownership of the land on which Lord Road is located. The Class VI road has recently been sited in land issues with Jennifer Sayre. Mr. Grindle reported to selectmen that deed references and old town records establish the location as being part of his land. This will not be an issue unless the road is discontinued by the town.

Selectmen reviewed building permit requests for building on the Class VI Road from Carlton Thayer on Rowe Mountain Road. After review of the planning board recommendations and the town's class VI

road policy, the selectmen have denied the building permit on the grounds of premature and scattered development. Approaching roads were not sufficient for increased traffic. Selectmen acknowledged receipt of a letter from Bindy Glennie on the permit.

Selectmen reviewed the building permit request for building on a Class VI Road from Doug Jackson, on Woodview Heights. After review of the planning board recommendations and the town class VI road policy, the selectmen have approved the building permit with the condition of a Release to build on a Class VI Road to be filed with the deed at the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds.

Selectmen signed an intent to cut for George Angeli on property owned by Don and Jane Johnsen. Conservation commission reviewed the application.

Veteran Exemption for Robert Toppi signed by selectmen.

Letter to Jennifer Sayre approving building permit on a class VI road signed by selectmen.

Abatement signed by selectmen for Michael Stark reversing a duplicate bill.

Selectmen discussed road sign replacement. Whitco Sign has prepared samples and provided the town with a quote on signs. Selectmen discussed purchasing \$3500.00 (about 37 signs) this year and a similar amount next.

Selectmen discussed the Naughton property testing costs proposed by Provan and Lorber and reviewed the warrant articles proposed by Don Johnsen of BEOC. Selectmen questioned the need to do all the different testing this next budget year. Dick Vitale had requested Jon Warzuka of Provan and Lorber meet with selectmen. Cheryl will check his availability for next week.

Cheryl reported changes in budget requests from the Highway Department to Selectmen. Changes were in the warrant article for the truck (increase) and increase in line items for chains and blades and uniforms.

—*excerpted from the public minutes prepared by Cheryl Behr*

Then...

by Milly Kittredge

Winter Carnivals, Home Delivery Days



Tom Nolan's Meat Wagon. The truck had an ice cooled box, and meat was cut to order on his rounds that included Newbury and Sutton. After the 1918 Main Street fire, he set up shop in his barn where Tillie Wheeler now lives. Later he was next to the bank where the MCT building previously stood. Eventually the meat market moved into the IGA.



The IGA truck. No, we can't read the license plate; give an estimate...

Nonprofit Group Provides Artists Access to Loans, Training, and Networking

Artists and artisans, crafters, and other self-employed people are invited to learn more about MicroCredit-NH and how it assists self-employed people through access to loans, business skills development, and access to new markets to help grow their businesses. MicroCredit-NH is a program of the non-profit NH Community Loan Fund.

MicroCredit-NH provides self-employed people and those who would like to be self-employed access to business loans from \$500 to \$5,000 without credit checks or collateral, training through workshops and tutorials, networking with other small business owners/self-employed people, and other marketing opportunities such as a listing in a directory of microbusinesses and booth sharing at expos and fairs.

MicroCredit-NH organizes self-employed small business owners into local groups of 4 to 10 businesses. Loans, training, networking, and marketing opportunities are offered to members of these MicroCredit-NH business groups. Groups meet monthly to discuss their business issues, providing one another business advice and support; to work on business tutorials; and to review loan applications. For more information call toll free, 1-800-769-3482, or in the Concord area, 224-2069.

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Combine:

- 6 garlic cloves, chopped
- 3 oz. piece of fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
- ¼ c. soy sauce
- ¼ c. dry sherry
- ¼ c. rice wine vinegar
- ¼ c. olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. sesame oil

So, take some of those tired veggies out of the fridge and use them in a stir-fry with a marinated chicken breast over rice. Low calorie, too! Enjoy!

Alternative Suspension Program at BACC

Richard Snow, the newly hired Alternative Suspension Program coordinator, began his work at the Bradford Area Community Center (BACC) on January 7, 2002. Richard has a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education, volunteered with Project Soar, and worked for the NH Division of Child and Family Services.

The alternative suspension program is designed as a non-punitive alternative to out of school suspension. This program is funded by a grant from the US Department of Justice and is considered a work in progress. The Kearsarge School District is monitoring the grant and hired Richard to work as its coordinator. The BACC Governance Board was approached last June to see if we were interested in hosting the program and renting space to the district to house the program. We were interested in this innovative approach and said that we would find space for it. Six months later the program is in the Youth Room of the Community Center during the school day from 8:30am until 2:00pm. These hours make it possible to host both the suspension and after school programs in the same space.

Rick explained that the program is for students in 9th through 12th grades and that the students will be kept busy and supervised during the time they are in the Center. The day will be structured with schoolwork in the mornings, lunch from Bradford Elementary School, community service, and structured group activities in the afternoon hours. The program will be

small with no more than six students in each session. The student population is "at risk" kids suspended for insubordination, cutting classes, etc. There will not be any serious offenders in the program. The grant will run for three years and Rick explained that the school district is very enthused with this program and plans to keep it going beyond the termination of the grant monies which total \$48,000. Student progress will be monitored after his or her return to school. The student's teachers will be consulted and any continuing issues will be addressed as they occur.

The suspension program has clear goals with the view that students at risk will obtain social and academic tools necessary to achieve success in the KRHS academic community. The program follows the school calendar and students participating in the Alternative Suspension Program (ASP) will sign a contract with their parents, the student advisory team, and the ASP coordinator, Rick Snow, addressing issues that led to the suspension. Violations of the contract may result in expulsion from the program.

The Governance Board is pleased to welcome Kearsarge School District's Alternative Suspension Program. This program and the After School Program fit neatly into our guidelines as a multi-generational community center. Welcome to Rick Snow and another new program in the Bradford Area Community Center.

—Phyllis Wilcox, Chair, BACC

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Bradford Area Community Center February Calendar

Ongoing Activities:

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

Kearsarge Regional School District Alternative Suspension Program,
Youth Room, 8:15am–2:15pm

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

CAP Senior Luncheon, Senior Room, noon (for reservations, please call 938-2104)

WEDNESDAYS

Yoga Class, not advanced, Senior Room, 9:30–11:00am, call Fran at 456-3099 to register

FRIDAYS

Computer Tutoring, Senior Room, 10:00am (other times by appointment, call Bev at 938-2996)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

CAP Fuel Assistance, Conference Room, 9:00am–noon (please call 456-3207 for appointment)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

BACC Governance Board, Senior Room, 5:30pm
Bradford Newbury Preschool Board Meeting, Senior Room, 7:00pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Senior Council Pot Luck Luncheon and Valentine Party, Senior Room, 1:00–3:00pm (bring a dish to share, dessert provided)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Bridge Group, Senior Room, 1:30–4:00pm
Rainbow Girls, Community Room, 5:30–7:30pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Special CAP Senior Valentine Luncheon, "Music and Sing-a-long," Senior Room, Noon
Brownies, Community Room, 3:00–5:00pm
Bradford Newbury Preschool Parents Meeting, Community Room, 7:00pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Bradford Community Corporation, Senior Room, 7:00am

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

CAP Fuel Assistance, Conference Room, 9:00am–noon (please call 456-3207 for appointment)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

BACC Governance Board, Senior Room, 5:30pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Bridge Group, Senior Room, 1:30–4:00pm
Rainbow Girls, Community Room, 5:30–7:30pm

- For details or questions regarding Meals on Wheels or Senior Programs call 938-2104.

- For Youth Program information call director Susan Cowan at 938-6228 or 526-2389.

- For general information call the Administration Office at 938-6228. There are still certain rooms available for meetings or parties. If you are interested, please call the office at 938-6228.

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SCHOOL WARRANT *Continued from page 1*

thorize the issuance of not more than \$667,500 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the School Board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the School Board to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote. If both Article 1 and Article 2 pass, it is the intent of the School Board to combine both for an issuance totaling \$3,508,858. [2/3 ballot vote required]

Recommended by the School Board
Recommended by the MBC

An independent engineering assessment of the condition of the roofs of our school buildings was conducted in 2000. The resulting report indicated the need to replace or repair many of the roofs on our schools. This article addresses that need at the high school, which was labeled a high priority in the report. In each of the past two years, the voters have approved articles on the ballot to fund a Capital Reserve Fund for the sole purpose of roof replacement or major repair. That fund now contains \$250,000, which is not sufficient to pay for the work needed at the high school, but can be applied to roof work needed at other schools in the future. If this article fails to receive the required two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote, Article 9 will

ask the voters to add another \$150,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Both the School Board and Municipal Budget Committee recommend passage of this article. A two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote is required for passage.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,723 for the first year bond interest payment if the Kearsarge Regional High School Reconstruction/Addition Bond issue, per Article 1, is approved. If Article 1 is not approved, this Article is null and void.

Recommended by the School Board
Recommended by the MBC

The State of New Hampshire's Department of Revenue Assessment requires a separate article to raise and appropriate funds to pay for the first year's interest payment if the voters approve the issuance of a bond.

This article is directly related to Article 1 and represents the amount of interest to be paid in the first year if voters approve a bond issue for the Kearsarge Regional High School expansion.

Both the School Board and Municipal Budget Committee recommend passage of this article. If Article 1 fails, this article will be null and void. A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,850 for the first year bond interest payment if the Kearsarge Regional High School roofing project, per Article 2, is approved. If Article 2 is not approved, this Article is null and void.

Recommended by the School Board
Recommended by the MBC

The State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Assessment requires a separate article to raise and appropriate funds to pay for the first year's interest payment if the voters approve the issuance of a bond.

This article is directly related to Article 2 and represents the amount of interest to be paid in the first year if voters approve a bond issue for the Kearsarge Regional High School expansion.

Both the School Board and Municipal Budget Committee recommend passage of this article. If Article 1 fails, this article will be null and void. A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate for the support of schools, the salaries of School District Officials and Agents, and for the Statutory obligations of said District, and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the State sources, together with other income, the School Board to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Bradford, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sutton, Warner and Wilmot, the amount to be raised by taxation by said towns.

(\$20,941,703. for the proposed Operating Budget recommended by the School Board)

(\$20,896,703. for the proposed Operating Budget recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee)

As the budget planning process for school year 2002-2003 began, the School Board instructed the Administration to strive for a proposed budget which would not increase the proposed total beyond the sum of the 2001-02 operating budget, plus the cost for the second year of the teacher's contract approved by the voters last year, plus the new kindergarten operating costs. That target amount was \$19,763,211. After several months of deliberations, the general fund portion of the operating budget (i.e. the portion raised by all taxes and revenues except federal funds) proposed by the School Board is \$19,986,703 (which excludes \$955,000 in federal and enterprise funds included in Article 5). The general fund amount proposed by the



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Municipal Budget Committee (MBC) is \$45,000 less, or \$19,941,703 (also excluding the same \$955,000).

The Board proposal is \$994,485 more than last year's operating budget, while the MBC's proposal is \$949,485 more. In both the Board and the MBC proposals the increases include funding for the following items:

The cost of the second year increase contained in the teachers' three (3) year collective bargaining agreement approved by the voters in 2001, \$494,863

An 18.6% increase in health insurance premiums, \$184,000

An increase in workers compensation and property insurance costs (as a result of competitive bidding), \$ 49,500

An increase in funding required for special education tuition, \$ 78,000

A pool of funds to provide increases for the district's non-union employees (including a significant increase for compensating aides), \$101,000

Additional funds for building repairs and special projects, \$ 32,800

Both budget proposals also include funding for two new alternative education teachers, one at the middle school and one at the high school, for programs geared to students who struggle with traditional teaching approaches. An additional international language teacher at the high school is also funded.

The MBC proposal is less than the Board's because the Board included funding for a new position to manage the district's physical facilities, which the MBC did not agree to fund.

In accordance with the district charter, both proposed budgets will appear on the ballot and the one that receives the most votes will be adopted.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$178,000 for the purpose of funding the architectural, engineering and other related studies for the construction of one

new centrally located middle school.

Recommended by the School Board

Recommended by the MBC

Both the School Board and the Municipal Budget Committee support this article seeking to raise and appropriate funds to conduct the necessary studies to build one new centrally located middle school. This article implements a recommendation of the District's Comprehensive Facility Study, conducted over the past four years.

The current middle school is physically and educationally inadequate for current and projected enrollments. The existing building is designed to accommodate 472 students. As of October 1, 2001, there were 521 students enrolled and the projected enrollment has been estimated to be 601 by the year 2012.

This article would fund the architectural and engineering studies necessary to determine the cost to construct one centrally located middle school to accommodate 650 students. After receiving those studies, and hearing from the site committee explained under Article 7 below, the School board would then present a special warrant article to the voters in March of 2003.

Both the School board and the Municipal Budget Committee recommend passage of this article. A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing an option on land for the middle school proposal.

Recommended by the School Board

Recommended by the MBC

This article is linked to Article 6. It seeks funds to purchase an option on land for the proposed new middle school. As part of the studies identified in Article 6, a committee will be appointed to investigate and recommend possible sites to the School Board. Approval of this article will allow the School Board to hold the se-

lected site until voter approval of a new middle school can be sought in 2003.

Both the School Board and Municipal Budget Committee recommend passage of this article. A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$10,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1994 for the purposes of reconstructing or adding to existing schools of the District, with such amount to be funded from any unencumbered surplus funds remaining on hand as of June 30, 2002.

Recommended by the School Board

Recommended by the MBC

This article allows the District to place funds in a capital reserve fund to cover unanticipated building expenses (i.e. boiler replacement, etc.). These funds would only be placed in the capital reserve if there are unencumbered surplus funds remaining on hand at the end of the 2002 school year.

Both the School Board and Municipal Budget Committee recommend passage of this article. A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund established in 2000 for the sole purpose of roof replacement or major repair. If Article 2 is approved, this article will be null and void.

Recommended by the School Board

Recommended by the MBC

This article allows funds to be placed in the Capital Reserve Fund established in 2000 for the replacement or major repair to the roofs of our school buildings. *If Article 2 is approved, there will be no need for this article and it will be voided.*

Both the School Board and Municipal Budget Committee recommend passage of this warrant. A majority vote is required.

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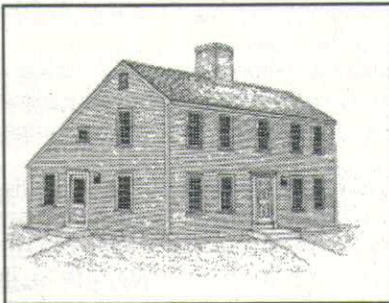
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Bradford Fish & Game Clubhouse News

by Lance Rickenberg

The Bradford Fish and Game Club's Annual Banquet took place on January 26 at the Clubhouse. This was the first time in recent memory that it was held at our own facility. The evening started out with a social hour with hors d'oeuvres of lemon pepper chicken sticks, venison meatballs and cheese and cracker platters. Dinner started with a large assorted salad bar that could have filled you up for the winter. The all-you-can-eat entrées were delicious: a large steamship roast, pork loin roast, and vegetable lasagna.

Many thanks go to our guest speaker, Richard Laporte, who gave an entertaining and educational slideshow with stories of his days as a bush pilot in Alaska and Canada.

The evening was topped by music and dancing with John Wardwell on harp and John Belanger on the keyboard playing the blues and swing.

An event like this cannot happen without the help of many, many volunteers. I would like to thank our banquet, facilities, food, and service crew which consisted of Karen Blackman, Michelle Marson, Jackie McKinnon, Trish Scheufele, Kim Firth, John Wardwell, Matt O'Mara, and Mike O'Mara. I would like to thank Tony Salera for taking care of our furnace, Ayer & Goss for their propane donation, the Appleseed Inn for the use of their chafing dishes, and The Bradford Junction for the donation of the dinner rolls. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies and I will be available for flogging at the next meeting which is the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm.

As I mentioned earlier, this was the first banquet we have held at the Clubhouse. We started building an addition about ten years ago with the intention of finally putting in plumbing as well as the extra space in order to be able to have such events there. Many individuals, companies and contractors donated to this project over the years but I can easily single out one person who made it happen, one person who was the driving force behind the project: my predecessor John Mock. From all of us, thank you John. Well done.

Ice Fishing Derby

The Bradford Fish And Game Club's Annual Ice Fishing Derby is scheduled for Sunday, February 17. The Derby will run from 9am to 2pm. Please arrive early for registration. This event is for youngsters 15 and under. We will supply a warm clubhouse, hot lunch, hot chocolate, coffee and soda. You supply your gear and bait. Did I forget to mention there will be Prizes, Prizes, Prizes? Invite your friends and come on down for lots of fun.

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Library Friends Receive NH Humanities Council Grants

The Friends of Brown Memorial Library received grants from the New Hampshire Humanities Council to fund two programs with New Hampshire author Rebecca Rule of Northwood in March. The programs (scheduled for Thursdays at 7:00pm in the library) include "Of Stones and Bones" on March 7 and "Tales from the Town of Woodford: An Evening of Yankee Humor" on March 14. A snow date, Thursday, March 21, has been scheduled.

Rebecca Rule is the author of two collections of short stories, *Wood Heat* and *The Best Revenge*. She has also co-authored with Susan Wheeler two how-to-write books, *True Stories* and *Creating the Story*. Her audio tapes are *Perley Gets a Dumpsticker and Other Harrowing Tales*, *Fishing With George*, and *Mavis Goes to Yoga*. Her column on New Hampshire writers and books appears weekly in the Concord Monitor, Nashua Telegraph, and Portsmouth Herald.

Bradford residents will remember Rebecca Rule as the author of the two-act comedy, *Town Meeting*, produced by Moon Mountain Arts in 1996 in the Bradford Town Hall to sold-out audiences. A cast of local actors played the memorable parts of Moderator, Town Clerk, Selectpersons, Police Chief, The Family Gooch, P.T.A Ladies, Dumpmaster, and Esther Crawford Fox brilliantly portrayed by Tillie Wheeler.

The free programs will take place in Brown Memorial Library on Thursdays, March 7 and March 14 at 7:00pm with a snow date scheduled for March 21. The handicapped accessible library is located on Main Street in Bradford, NH. For more information, contact Audrey V. Sylvester at 938-5948.



Sweetheart Ball February 16

The Bradford Country Squares will host a Mainstream/Plus Square Dance at the Bradford Town Hall on Saturday, February 16 from 8:00 to 10:30pm. "Sweetheart Ball" describes the Valentine hearts and flowers motif of this dance to be called by Lenny Stratton and cued by Vera Prudhomme. Admission is \$5 per person. For further information call Kris Sweet at 603-863-0974. Spectators are always welcome.

Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter News

The "Twin State Tanagers" youth birding team from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) will present a slide program for the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter on Friday, February 8, 7:30pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Gould Road, New London. Speakers Stan McComber and his son, Will will describe the World Series of Birding 2001 competition in which the VINS team identified 152 species in a single 24-hour period last spring. This program is open to the public and refreshments will be served. For details call Fred Sladen at 526-4321.

On Saturday, February 9, Peter Newbern will lead a birding trip for the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter to Cape Ann near Gloucester and Rockport, Massachusetts to look for over-wintering shore and water birds. Participants should meet at the Warner Park and Ride, Exit 9, I-89 at 8:00am. Bring lunch, beverage, binoculars and a scope if you have one. Be sure to dress warmly for the chilly conditions found along the seacoast this time of year. Inclement weather automatically cancels the trip. For details call Newbern at 763-4308.

—Phyllis Curtiss

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BNKP News

This month children at the Bradford-Newbury Preschool have been learning about giving compliments to one another by using a gift-wrapped box to deliver the compliment like a gift. We continue to enjoy music and singing every week and had the special treat of using hand bells to practice for our winter concert. Some of the four-year-olds have been swooshing the slopes at Mount Sunapee on Mondays with the kindergartners and are having a blast. We all worked together to build a big snowman at the community center before the snow started to melt! Next month we are looking forward to learning our addresses and phone numbers and having a Valentine's Day party.

We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses whose donations helped make our holiday raffle a success: Accommodating Beauty, ADT Security Services, Applesed Restaurant, Bayberry Barn, Bob's Beacon Marina, C.B. Coburn-Not Just Balloons, Dickie's Bait and Tackle, From Bags to Britches, Labsphere, Lake Sunapee Trading Post, Lumber Barn, Barbara and Rich Marzelli, Chris Mock, Naturopathic Clinic of Concord, Inc., New London Floorcraft, Outspokin' Bicycle and Sport, Park N' Go Market, Pizza Chef, Mike and Betty Ripberger and Family, South Meadow Gardens, Southworth-Milton Caterpillar, Sweet Patch Cafe and Bakery, Sheri and Cory Swinerton, Faye and Joe Torro, and the Waterfront Restaurant. Thank you all, we appreciate your generosity!

We are currently selling Tupperware as a fundraiser for the class. Anyone interested in purchasing Tupperware can contact Sheri Swinerton at 938-2024 or Sarah Harvey at 938-2624.



Church News

From Lynne E. Hubley

Souper Bowl Sunday: On Sunday, February 3, we have asked members and friends of the Church to bring to worship one of the following items: can of soup, peanut butter, tuna fish, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, beef stew, or macaroni and cheese to help re-stock the Food Pantry shelves.

Thursday Morning Study Group: Beginning Thursday, February 7, a new study will begin of Max Lucado's in-depth study of the cross entitled "He Chose the Nails." The group meets in the pastor's study from 10:00-11:00am.

Women's Christian Guild: The ladies will meet in the Church Vestry on Friday, February 8 at 1:00pm to make valentines for shut-ins. There will also be a time of fellowship with coffee and snacks provided.

Winter Wonderland Outing: This annual event will be held on Sunday, February 17 from noon until 4:00pm at the home of Tom and Judy Marshall on Lake Massasecum. This event is open to members and friends of the Church as well as our Youth Group. People are invited to skate, ski, go on snowmobile rides, and other winter activities. We will enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs and other snacks throughout the afternoon.

Haven House Mission Project: Our Church is sponsoring a mission project beginning February 17 and running through Easter Sunday, March 31. During this time, we will be collecting the following items to send to Haven House, a shelter for families with one parent and his/her children: toothpaste, soap, shampoo, shaving cream for men and women, disposable razors, deodorant for men and women, and face cloths. There will be a basket in the Church Vestry for these items.

Ash Wednesday Service: Our Church will have an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00pm.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry will be open Wednesday, February 20 from 6:00-7:00pm. People may receive food at other times as well by calling the Church office.

American Baptist Men's Sunday: The men in our Church will be conducting the entire worship service on Sunday, February 24.

Youth Group: Our Youth Group (grades 5-8) will hold an Exercise/Dance-A-Thon on Wednesday, February 27 from 6:00-8:00pm to raise money for the Food Pantry.

Thursday Evening Bible Study: The men and women in this group are now studying the Book of Genesis. They meet Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm in the Vestry. Anyone may attend.



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Legislative Report

By Representative Barbara Conner French



Our 2002 Session got off to a good start on January 2 by electing our first woman Sergeant-at-Arms, Deborah Nielson. She is eminently qualified and will do an excellent job for New Hampshire.

We also passed important legislation for children. HB 757, which has been worked on for two years, establishes an early literacy and reading improvement program. The funds will be used to develop end-of-grade-three reading test already required by statute, and to investigate and select research proven programs to effect early literacy and reading improvement in young children. Parents and caregivers will be assisted in this endeavor. This is cost effective and the right thing to do.

Our milfoil legislation passed another hurdle 321 to 26. This bill expands the prevention and control efforts and provides more help with research which is desperately needed. New Hampshire has variable milfoil, as does another New England state, but most states have other varieties and we need to learn more about our variety so we can adequately deal with it and protect our lakes. The bill is now in the House Finance Division Committee, which is making sure it is complete and accurate so it can pass the full Finance Committee and the House again and then it will be on its way to the Senate. A three-dollar boat fee funds the legislation only because we do not have enough money in the general fund. It is crucial that we pass this legislation as tourism is New Hampshire's second largest industry and milfoil infested lakes could adversely affect our lakes, hindering fishing and swimming as well as property values. Of course, we all want to continue to have the beautiful lakes that we have now. Our lakes are some of the best in the country. Please help by spreading the word about this important bill and have your friends and relatives contact their state representatives and senators to urge them to pass this legislation.

We also passed legislation encouraging municipalities to facilitate the installation and use of renewable energy systems. Also,

there is enabling legislation from the 1980s that provides some property tax relief for some forms of renewable energy. I currently receive some help for the solar energy system I have. Each town has to pass its own program, so speak to your town officials and find out if Bradford has one.

I am deeply disturbed about the Resolution the House passed declaring that the New Hampshire supreme court decisions in the Claremont cases were wrong and that the supreme court does not have the power to tell the legislature whether and how to set educational policy and whether and how much to spend on education. I did not vote for this resolution. Those legislators who voted yes are saying that the citizens of our state do not have the right to petition the courts for redress of their constitutional rights. The Supreme Court has not told the legislature how to fund education, but only that education, a constitutional right, must be funded and funded in a fair and equitable manner and that the education must be adequate for all of the children in the state. I can tell you that the lack of a responsible, long-term, reliable education funding solution adversely affects the general fund, which affects practically everything we are working on in the legislature. The milfoil legislation I'm working on is but one example.

My committee, Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs, is working on updating and improving the lead control program. The Department of Health and Human Services, the New Hampshire Property Owner's Association, medical professionals, and others are working on this legislation.

I will continue to work on issues of concern for my constituents and the state. I assure you that I will continue to fight for a fair, equitable tax structure as a solution to education funding. During this session, we will see many gambling bills come before the House with much lobbying being done and money spent. However, I will not vote for gambling. It is a problem not a solution. Please feel free to call me at 428-3366.

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The workcamp will run July 14-20, 2002, so sign-up NOW! Just fill out the form to the left and mail to:

Kearsarge Region Workcamp
 Trinity Bible Church
 PO Box 566
 South Sutton, NH 03273

Applications will be received until the Workcamp is full on a first come, first served basis. For further information please call 603-927-6345



Real Estate Hints:

Financial Update

by Laura Hallahan

While the recessionary economy is creating a stressful situation for some homeowners, the Federal Government offers up some good news on another front. In the third quarter of 2001, late mortgage payments and foreclosures increased for the second consecutive quarter according to the Mortgage Bankers Association of America. Factors for driving up delinquency rates include the slow economy, higher unemployment, and even the events of September 11th. The easy credit that came with a previously hot economy and homeowners who over-extended also contributed to the increase. There is help, however, for those who need it. The MBA advises homeowners to call their mortgage-servicing department to discuss options, one of which is refinancing.

Speaking of refinancing, anyone who spoke to a banker or mortgage lender in 2001 heard about how swamped they were with requests to refinance as interest rates dropped. The IRS has taken notice and it would not come as a surprise if they spend extra time looking at tax filings for violations of federal restrictions on home refinancing write-offs—specifically, interest deductions on refinanced mortgages. For federal tax purposes, refinancing is treated very differently from new loans. Talk to your tax advisor about this issue if you are one of the many who refinanced. You want to be sure you are not claiming deductions you are not entitled to, including deductions on the “points” you paid for your refinancing.

Finally, The Federal Housing Administration is now insuring single-family mortgages of up to \$261,609 in high-cost areas and up to \$144,336 in places where costs are not out of sight. The ceiling on loans which can be purchased by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac has increased to \$300,700 and the amount that can be borrowed with no money down for mortgages guaranteed by the Veterans Administration has been increased to \$240,000. These increases will enable more working families to become homeowners. FHA financing is popular among first-time and low-income buyers because the agency requires only a 3% down payment, allows family members and friend to make a contribution, has more relaxed credit standards and permits borrowers to carry more debt. The higher FHA ceiling will also benefit seniors who qualify for FHA-insured reverse mortgages. Reverse mortgages allow homeowners age 62 and older to borrow against the value of their homes without selling them.

Library Lantern



We have master copies of all Federal and some state tax forms available for copying if you need them.

The charge for copying is 15 cents per page. Just a reminder that if you would like to take home photos from Santa's visit to the Library you can pick them up at the Circulation Desk through the end of February. The Bradford Art Group has installed new artwork at the library. Come in and see the beautiful landscapes in watercolor and pastels by Sandy Wadlington. Thank you to volunteers Brooks McCandlish, Janet Sillars, Ann Eldridge and Bon á the dog for replacing the shelving brackets in the Children's Room. This has created shelf space for the books to sit upright and has strengthened the shelving system. Mid winter has been quiet at the library, but we do have some new books to offer you.

For young readers:

John and Tom by Willem Lange

Sadako by Eleanor Coerr

Who Lives in the Snow by Jennifer Berry Jones

Houl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones (for young adults)

And for adults:

Sigma Protocol by Robert Ludlum

Looking for Alaska by Peter Jenkins

Violets are Blue by James Patterson

Dialogues of the Dead by Reginald Hill

LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday, 9:30am–8:00pm

Wednesday, 9:30am–5:00pm

Saturday, 9:30am–1:30pm

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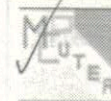
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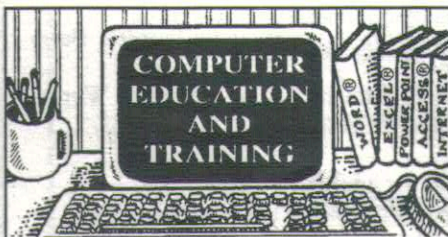
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Are Robins Now Winter Residents? Statewide Survey Needs Your Help to Find Out

New Hampshire residents have reported increased numbers of robins over the past several winters and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire would like to know if this trend is continuing. Participants in the annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey on Saturday, February 9 and Sunday, February 10 will help Audubon get a clearer picture of what's really happening with the bird that used to be a harbinger of spring.

Anyone can participate in the Backyard Winter Bird Survey simply by counting the birds in their own backyard on the survey weekend and sending the results on a special reporting form to the Audubon Society. To receive a copy of the reporting form and complete instructions on how to participate, send a self-addressed, stamped, long envelope to: ASNH, Winter Bird Survey, 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301-8200. Forms are also available at Audubon centers in Auburn, Laconia, Manchester and Moultonborough or you can find them on the Audubon web site along with more information about the survey at www.nh.audubon.org.

In 1997, there was a dramatic increase in the number of robins reported in the survey: from 11 in 1996 to 490 in 1997. That number has remained high ever since. Is it a blip or a trend? The Backyard Winter Bird Survey can provide much information and Becky Suomala, Survey Coordinator at Audubon, encourages everyone to fill out the survey form whether you have birds at your feeder or not. "Don't forget that even a lack of birds is important to report. In this case, an absence of robins is very valuable information." Suomala states that no one is really sure why more robins are willing to battle the snow and the cold.

There are other interesting trends that are reflected in the survey each year. Last year brought record-high numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos, with 18,654 reported, almost three times the previous high count for the species. Biologists suspect that this "invasion" was tied to the food supply: there was a very good crop of small seeds last year. On the other hand, Black-capped Chickadee numbers were down significantly in the 2001 survey. The causes of these low numbers are uncertain and results from the 2002 survey will help determine if this is a trend.

Many things can influence bird populations. For example, squirrels and chipmunks are predators on bird nests and biologists are questioning if they are affecting bird populations. This year, the Backyard Winter Bird Survey is adding squirrels to the tally sheet to begin gathering long-term data on their numbers.

Suomala emphasizes that anyone can participate, even if you only have a few minutes. She also points out that all results are significant to the survey and provide valuable insight on our wintering birds. The information gathered on the survey weekend will enable Audubon biologists to compare total numbers and geographic distribution of the various species, which will give an indication of how well these birds are surviving the winter.

All New Hampshire residents are encouraged to participate in the survey. For more information about the Backyard Winter Bird Survey, please call the Audubon Society at 224-9909 or go to the Audubon web site at www.nh.audubon.org.

Fifth annual Occam Pond Party

The Occam Pond Party, a winter festival awarded the Shelnut/Perkins Program Award for best special event in NH by the NHRPA in 1999, will be held on Saturday, February 9 from noon-3:00pm in Hanover, NH. In addition to the premier attraction, the Ice Castle and Snow Slide, there will be an Ice Parade featuring the Dartmouth College Winter Band (on ice skates!), Wacky Games including the Banathalon and the popular Couch Potato Race, free ice skating provided by the Silver Fox Touring Center, an ice rescue demonstration by the Hanover Fire Department, sleigh rides, a campfire with marshmallow roasting, sugar on snow, music, food, and fun. New this year are a Winter Petting Zoo and indoor fireside chats for older adult guests. For more information call Christine Vitale at the Hanover Recreation Department, 643-5315 or email recdept@hanovernh.org.



DEER MOUSE

Outside

by Ann Eldridge



MEADOW VOLE

To those of delicate temperament or unresolved anger as regards the mouse or the mouse-like: it is time to turn the page. This space can scarcely contain the conclusion to our exploration of small scurrying animals.

The shrews and moles reported in past articles are in the order Insectivora due to their culinary preferences. All other similar-sized N.H. mammals are of the order Rodentia. The very word has negative connotations despite the considerable efforts of the mice Mickey and Mighty. Insectivores are toothsome creatures for consumption of animal prey. Rodents eat hard objects, seeds, nuts, and roots and so need a different dental arrangement. All rodents have chisel-like teeth to the fore, grinding teeth to the aft, and a big space in between. The teeth themselves are cleverly engineered. Instead of growing to a certain age and then ceasing, the rodent front teeth are in constant elongation. A great advantage when your lifestyle involves such hard usage. These teeth are armored only on the "street side" with hard enamel, the inner material being a softer ivory. The four chisel teeth sliding past each other simultaneously sharpens the enamel and prevents the perennially growing teeth from getting dangerously long. When the act of dining does not keep these teeth in check they must whittle hard objects, such as the supporting members of your house.

Every form has its function and the gap between the gnawing teeth and the grinding teeth is no exception. Consider where the endearing cheek pouches on mice disappear to when not in use. This skeletal gap is not only a handy closet for an empty grocery bag but the folds withdrawn into the

tooth gap prevent the splintering remains of your rafters from choking the industrious whittler. The refuse is blocked and exits attractively to either side of the mouth.

We live with two species of native mice. Deer mice and white-footed mice can be difficult for a biologist to tell apart. White-footed mice are the more able swimmers but this is not a practical identification tool. Also with us is the house mouse of a separate genus and ancient origins in northern India.

A rat is a large mouse, or a mouse is small rat. We are unfortunately out of range of the native eastern wood rat with its odd habit of collecting useless objects. The black and norway rat colonized along with us and are commonly found around farms.

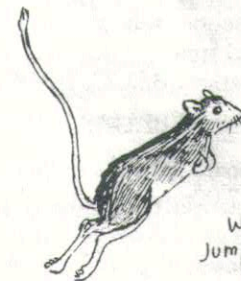
"Vole" is a name usually reserved for mice that have a portly stature, small ears and short tails. Yet this describes what is called the Gapper's or boreal red-backed mouse. Colorful creatures, these can attain an impressive body length of six inches and are found in cool damp woods often climbing trees. The stubby, ubiquitous meadow vole can be even larger and is often called the meadow mouse. Because of its destructive habits in gardens and orchards, there are a good many descriptive adjectives as well. The slightly smaller orange-colored pine vole occurs in non-pine woodlands. Nocturnally they tunnel just under the forest duff. Rock voles, similar in girth and short of tail, are also among us. These keep to the higher elevations near streams in cool, deep crevices. They actively excavate and frequently use the runways of moles, food requirements not conflicting.

All of the aforementioned rodents foresightedly cache winter food. They hunker

down on the coldest of days but do not hibernate. Woodland and meadow jumping mice are among our few true hibernators. So much strength is concentrated in their enormous hind legs that their front legs seem diminished by comparison. When alarmed they leap like kangaroos and similarly have long tails for balance. Though quite common, they are not often noticed.

This leaves us with one more possible Bradford native, the diminutive southern bog lemming. Shaped like a vole, but with an even shorter tail and smaller ears, they live in sphagnum bogs and are good tunnelers and swimmers.

The reproductive possibilities of all the Rodentia herein briefly described are nightmarish. They start young and continue year round. A sum of 2,688 house mice in a theoretical six months was calculated to result from a compatible pair. Obviously they must live lives of chronic instability or we would be over our heads. Sminthophile is the word describing a lover of the mouselike. Few humans categorize themselves as such, but realizing that the prodigious rodent population is maintaining a huge number of showier predators such as fox, owls, hawks, weasels, coyote, and bobcat, perhaps indirectly we are unknowing sminthophiles.



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February Calendar



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

KRMS Dance, 7:00pm (to benefit the yearbook fund)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Bradford Cemetery Commission, Town Hall, 10:00am

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Library Trustees, BML, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

BACC Governance Board, BACC, 5:30pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

BWC Executive Meeting, BACC, 9:30am
Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:00pm
KRMS PTO, KRMS, 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Children's afterschool folktales program, BML, 3:15-4:15pm
Parks and Recreation, BACC, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

KRSD School Board, KRHS, 7:00pm
BEOC, BACC, 7:00pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Bradford Community Corporation, BACC, 7:00am

KRMS Dance, 7:00pm (to benefit the 8th grade Montreal trip)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Children's Ice Fishing Derby, Bradford Fish & Game Clubhouse, 9:00am-2:00pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

BBA, Church Vestry, 7:00pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

BWC General Meeting, Pot Luck Luncheon and Town Reports, Church Vestry, 11:30am

Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Country Capitalist Meeting will not be held this month

Road Committee, Town Hall, 7:00pm
Friends of the Library, BML, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

BACC Governance Board, BACC, 5:30pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

KRSD School Board, KRHS, 7:00pm

Classifieds

FOR SALE. 1986 Saab 900 4-door (red). Many miles but in excellent condition, very reliable. Used solely in summers for the past 4 years. Inspection good until April 2002. Presently locally garaged for winter. Asking \$1,200. Call 938-2056.

MOVING SALE: Sat. & Sun. Feb. 9 & 10, 9am-3pm: National Candy store cash Register, sleigh shafts, records, books, craft supplies, double bed, other furniture and much more!! Sunshine Farm, Rt. 103, 938-2716

LOST: German Shepherd, 3 y.o. black female with light eyes, red leather collar, no tags, but microchipped. Last seen on Main Street in Bradford. May be pregnant, mated in early December. 938-5836

FOR SALE. 10 gallon hot water heater, new in box, \$40. 938-2095

FOR SALE. Piglets, Yorkshire pigs - \$40 each. Also farm fresh eggs for sale. 456-3504

FOR SALE. Antique, wooden, small child's sleigh, unique and decorative piece, \$150.00 Century baby carriage, good shape. \$65.00. Graco playpen, like new, \$30.00. Kenmore Clean Air System upright vacuum, good shape, \$40.00. Electric Underwood typewriter in case, \$10.00. 938-2303

FOR SALE: 4 Nokian Hakkapeliita 1 Snow Tires with good tread (Used 1 year) with 5 hole (Subaru) rims, \$60 —worth \$200+. Call 938-5026

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

Thistle Spinners, Every Monday, Thistle and Shamrock Inn, 1:00-3:00pm

Line Dancing with Grace Nelson, Mondays, Town Hall, 7:00-8:00pm

Children's Story Hour, Wednesdays at Brown Memorial Library, 10:30am

Bradford Historical Society, Old Post Office, open by appointment, call 938-5386

Bradford Bridge March deadlines

Display ads	February 20
Classified ads	February 23
Articles	February 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 March Calendar, please call Betty Hague at 938-2722 or e-mail bradfordbridge@conknet.com before February 20.