

# The Bradford Bridge

Volume 1, Number 3

September 1991

## School apportionment hearing date set

... by Hugh Keays

*Editor's note: The Bridge begins a three-part series on the long-simmering school apportionment suit so that Bradford residents may be better informed on this "fair taxation" issue prior to the Superior Court hearing in November. Bradford's position within the Kearsarge Regional School District will be detailed. We also plan to interview those on both sides of this case in order to present a full, unbiased report. Those with perspectives are invited to call or write this newspaper.*

After a three-year wait, during which Bradford had little information other than rumors, the apportionment suit brought by Bradford and Warner against the Kearsarge Regional School District in 1988 is scheduled to reach the hearing stage at Superior Court in Concord on November 12.

Bradford and Warner filed a joint petition with the Superior Court on September 30, 1988. At that time, the Concord Monitor quoted Stanley Brown, who spearheaded the suit in its early stages, as saying the suit probably would be bumped up to the Supreme Court because the suit challenged state law. And Brown indicated

"...the Supreme Court might hear our petition as early as this coming December (1988)." One of several mysteries surrounding this case is why three years have elapsed in almost total silence.

Winning this lawsuit would change the formula by which tax revenues from the seven towns in the school district are apportioned, and would benefit the taxpayers of Bradford and Warner in particular. The suit has been opposed actively only by New London, with the support of Springfield. The other three towns in the district have remained neutral.

Legal and constitutional issues and arguments in the case will be covered in the next installment. However, this lawsuit has been nicknamed the "50/50" suit because the two towns' petition requests a simple change in the apportionment formula from "75/25" to "50/50." This "75/25" formula, which assigns the ratio of payment between a town's student enrollment and its assessed valuation, has been in force since the district was first formed.

■ See Apportionment, page 2



**Boston Post Cane awarded to Alma May Ryder**

Alma May Ryder was presented with the Boston Post Cane by the Selectmen on August 28th in recognition of position as the oldest resident of Bradford. (Elna Carr, the previous oldest resident, passed away last month.) She celebrated her 96th birthday in July. Attending the ceremony at her home on Main Street were many friends and relatives.

Alma married Warren Ashwood Ryder and lived in Hillsboro for many years, where she was a member of the Congregational Church. She received her fifty-year pin from the Eastern Star in Hillsboro.

She has two children, Kenneth Ryder of Seattle, Washinton, and Thalia Brown of Bradford, where she has made her home for the past eight years.

Alma enjoys taking rides and eating out. When presenting her with the Boston Post Cane, Joe Battles said, "Hold on to it in good health," to which she replied, "As long as I don't have to use it."

## Congressman Swett coming to Bradford

Congressman Dick Swett has set up a "town meeting" for Saturday, September 7 at 11:00 am at the Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum for discussion between Congressman Swett and local residents. It's an opportunity for voters to express their views to the Congressman so that he can accurately represent his constituents. He would like to hear voters' opinions on bills before Congress and issues people feel need to be addressed.

Congressman Swett plans a short introduction, and then will open the meeting for questions and answers. During his introduction, he will discuss his goals and accomplishments since being elected to the House of Representatives. He'll describe what has been happening in the House, what bills have been passed that affect New Hampshire, and what legislation he is working on that should be of concern to residents.

He has been particularly interested in the areas of international trade, toxic waste, trying to get New Hampshire's fair share of federal dollars, scenic and wild rivers, and northern forest land. He can also provide information for people with questions concerning such matters as veterans' benefits and social security.



**--Apportionment, cont.**

Bradford and Warner's lawsuit resulted from two events:

1. Formation of the KRSD in 1966, when the schools in seven towns were consolidated. The articles of association drawn up for the towns were designed to promote full participation by all towns in the new district. It was specified that 75% of each town's financial obligation for the schools would be determined by "ADM" (average daily membership) from each town. 25% would be based on the ratio of equalized valuation in each town to total equalized valuation in all towns. Over the years, the area's growth has been uneven. This has caused the formula to place an increasingly heavy tax burden on Bradford and Warner, towns with relatively low valuation but high student population.

2. This led to the warrant article presented at the tumultuous school district meeting in March 1988, which proposed changing the formula from "75/25" to "50/50." This new ratio would have assigned equal weight to both factors in apportionment, thus offering some limited relief to Bradford and Warner taxpayers. A solid majority of school district voters at that meeting decided to change the formula, but the moderator took two actions on that occasion that are challenged in the lawsuit.

First, for this warrant article, it is alleged that he allowed the polls to remain open one hour after those present had voted. During that time, the school district bused in additional voters from towns near the polling place. Those voters were then allowed to vote without having heard the preceding debate in full.


Second, when the vote was announced, showing a majority had voted to adopt the warrant article, the moderator ruled the article was defeated because the "yes" vote was less than two-thirds affirmative. He invoked a clause in the original articles of association which "permitted" a two-thirds formula to be applied under certain circumstances. However, a study committee appointed by the school district had recommended official support for "50/50" apportionment. In addition, the suit claims the district's legal counsel had recommended against invoking the two-thirds rule, stating that the formula was in violation of state statutes (RSA 195:7 and RSA 195:8). Thus the constitutionality of that two-thirds voting clause in the district's articles of association, as well as the legality of the procedures by which it was invoked at the district meeting, are two of the issues raised by this landmark "50/50" lawsuit.

**Gravel pit permit application withdrawn**

In a letter dated July 25, Michael Chiarella, lawyer for Robert L.V. French, stated that Mr. French was withdrawing his gravel pit permit application and "has made the decision that he does not wish to pursue this matter any further." Based on that request, Mr. Riley, Chairman of the Planning Board, cancelled the appeal hearing scheduled for August 13.

At the regular Planning Board meeting held that night, Audrey Sylvester requested that material she had prepared for the hearing be accepted by the Board for the record and their information. Tom Scribner informed the Board that he had submitted an appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment based on an administrative decision made by the Planning Board at the hearing on July 9. The ZBA will consider the appeal at their September 3 regular meeting.

According to John Chiarella, realtor for Mrs. Williams, purchase of the property was contingent upon approval of the gravel pit permit. Therefore, Mr. French is no longer interested in the property.




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**OBITUARY - Barbara Gilmore**

Barbara Gilmore, 61, died August 15 at Concord Hospital. She had been a resident of Bradford for 18 years.

Everyone who knew Barbara admired her courage and sunny personality. She had many interests and never stopped learning new things. In her love of music, she studied the cello, and more recently, the violin. Her talent for writing led her to write "Pussy Footing and Other Cat Skills," a copy of which is at Brown Memorial Library. Her sense of humor and her smile will be missed in Bradford.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 14 at 11:00 am, at the First Baptist Church, Bradford.

**Arts in Education grant awarded to Bradford School**

Kearsarge Regional Elementary School at Bradford has received a \$1,791 Arts in Education Grant to fund an Artist in Residence program. The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the state's arts agency, has recently approved 58 Artist in Residence grants for New Hampshire elementary, middle and high schools throughout the state, totalling over \$52,000.

Emil Birch, a sculptor from Canaan, will spend 25 days between November and March at the Bradford school. Although his medium is usually clay, Birch also "does wonderful constructions out of things like boxes and paper," according to AEP program coordinator Lanie Keystone. Deborah Lippincott is the school coordinator for the program.

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# LETTERS

To the Editor:

Heartiest congratulations to the energy, talent and devotion of those who are giving Bradford such a fine newspaper! Appreciation also is due fellow citizens who contributed hard-earned money to get this newspaper started, and in hard times for all of us. We also appreciate the advertisers who are showing their faith in Bradford's future ... and we owe them our regular patronage.

Let's use The Bradford Bridge to talk to one another, and for quiet, rational communication with Town Hall. I am certain the editors are waiting for stimulating letters to publish in each issue. Such communication will make Bradford a finer town for our children to grow up in!

Hugh Keays

## LIVE WIRE

### Day Care and Preschool

a state-licensed facility on Route 114 is now accepting placement in the afterschool program.

Call 938-2849 for details.

### Big Kids 'n Little Kids Too

Back to School! Martha Powers and Jonas Cosgrove have spent a lot of their own time organizing curriculum and getting the school ready for opening day. We owe them a thank you.

Kindergarten starts on Monday, September 9, at 9:00 a.m. Preschoolers begin on Tuesday, September 10, at 1:00 p.m. An exciting time for all.

We have our first Co-op meeting on Thursday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Town Hall. It's very important that all parents try to attend. The co-op meetings are our best means of communications and we would like to see everyone's involvement. This is a cooperative ... we welcome your interest and we'll try to keep the meetings organized.

The raffle was a successful fund-raising event. Again, many thanks to all involved. Fund-raising efforts support an enormous part of our operating budget. We can't run the school without them. Deb Bruss and Janet Peters, as co-chairs of the Fund-raising Committee, are recognized and sincerely thanked.

See you on the first day of school. I'll be there. --Liz Bouley, 1991-92 President

### Introduction to square dancing

The Bradford Country Squares will hold two free "Introduction to Western Style Square Dancing" sessions. They will take place on Thursday evenings, September 5 and 12, from 7:30 - 9:30 pm, at the Town Hall.

Everyone is invited to come and try square dancing. Admission is free and there will be door prizes and free refreshments. For more information, contact Ruth and Larry Hall, 938-2954, or Jean and Chris Pinkham, 464-5821.

### Friends of the Library annual meeting

Huddled in sweaters, readers gathered-- popcorn in hand--to hear Dr. Patrick Anderson discuss Willa Cather's thoughts and ponderings on her short story, "Paul's Case." Yearning for some intellectual discussion on a cold winter evening last March, these participants gathered at the Brown Memorial Library to take part in a short story/film discussion group sponsored by the Friends.

The Friends of the Brown Memorial Library was reformed in 1989 to help the library meet Bradford's needs by providing educational programs for the community. The group has flourished under the direction of Laurie Buchar and Meghan Symkowitz, with support from Maggie Ainslie, the Library's Board of Directors, and an enthusiastic membership. The Friends have had an active program, sponsoring literacy volunteers, storytelling for older children, craft classes, an adult reading group, readings, and holiday activities for young children.

September 18th at 7:00 pm marks the time for our annual meeting and birthday party. New members are invited to join and listen to Chairwoman Audrey Sylvester discuss events which will highlight our calendar this year. The Friends group plans to invite local authors, poets and illustrators for book signing and discussion groups. Outreach and home book delivery are also services available through the Friends.

The energy and enthusiasm in this group is inviting. Come meet our members and join us for refreshments and cake (Bigford's famous) on the 18th at the Library.

--Mary Keegan-Dayton

*The Bradford Bridge is looking for help. We're a volunteer civic group and appreciate all who have some time to help. We especially need reporters and someone with experience using CorelDraw. If you'd like to help your community communicate, call 938-2286.*

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### Bradford Women's Club

The Bradford Women's Club will have its first meeting of the season on September 17. The meeting will be held at the Bradford Center Schoolhouse at 1:00 pm.

A program will be presented by Richard Whall of the Bradford Historical Society on the restoration of the schoolhouse by the 3R committee.

Amy Blitzer and Polly Henderson, co-chairs of hospitality, will be assisted by Beth Bell, Jane Dumais, Barbara Cotter, and Susan Smith. Copies of the BWC cookbook are still available at local businesses. Members may purchase copies at a discount at any membership meeting.

New members are always welcome. For information, call Nancy Hibbard at 938-2301.

### Conservation Commission

The Bog Bash was held on August 24 to celebrate the Bog Trail Guide and the new signs along the trail in the bog. The three people responsible for creating the Trail Guide, Judith Eldridge, Debra Dunlop, and Dan Coolidge, each received a spruce tree as an award for their work. Perry Teele also received a tree for his successful efforts in increasing the size of our holding in the bog. After the ceremonies, everyone enjoyed a leisurely stroll through the bog.

In September, the Bradford and Hillsborough Conservation Commissions plan to meet to discuss areas of mutual interest. Low State Forest, consisting of 1760 acres, lies within the two towns. There may be the possibility of creating a trail through this very scenic area.

Sometime in the late fall, Debra Dunlop, Assistant Professor of Biology and Field Biology at New England College, will present a slide lecture about the bog at the Town Hall. She is also willing to lead a field trip to the bog next spring. Her knowledge and enthusiasm will make this a very exciting trip. --Amy Blitzer

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### Selectmen's minutes review

July 29. Bob Stewart, Jr. met to discuss the Bradford Roads Committee. He requested suggestions for committee members and suggested possible short and long range goals for the committee. Selectman Battles said he would like to serve on the committee. The Selectmen will put the committee in place and contact Bob for a meeting within the next couple of weeks.

August 5. Road Agent Andy Anderson reported on flood damage repairs to date and submitted three bids for paving a portion of Main Street. The bids were from Pike Industries, Wolcott Construction, and Brox Industries. The Board is taking the matter under advisement and will discuss it further when Selectman Hambrecht returns from vacation. Chris Frye requested authorization to purchase fire equipment with monies appropriated at Town Meeting. A purchase order was approved for \$7,660.50. Chris Mock submitted the recycling grant contract for the baler, which Selectman Battles said he would sign. The Selectmen received a letter from the Bradford Women's Club with a gift of \$500 to the town to begin the project of identifying roads in Bradford. They would like something similar to what Henniker and Warner have for street signs. The Women's Club volunteered to work on the project. The Selectmen were very appreciative. They felt it would be a good project for the Roads Committee.

August 12. Chairman Battles reported that the Town had received a refund check in the amount of \$9,247 from the Kearsarge Regional School District for billing Bradford for non-resident students. A letter of apology for the overcharge was attached. Road Agent Andy Anderson discussed the bids for the paving project with the Selectmen; no decisions were made. The Selectmen informed Mr. Anderson that he had been selected to serve on the Roads Committee because of his expertise on road repair necessities.

August 19. The main agenda item was the public hearing on reclassifying Cheney Hill Road from Class VI to Class V.

August 26. The Warner Selectmen met to discuss the Kearsarge Regional School District lawsuit. They provided an overview of what had happened over the past three years. Because the issue is applicable to all school districts, the matter will probably be heard by the State Supreme Court. They also discussed payment of legal fees generated by this lawsuit. Road Agent Andy Anderson met to discuss the paving and oiling projects. The Selectmen have asked for further information and will meet to select the paving bid on Wednesday.


## Library Lantern

by Maggi Ainslie

"Some Enchanted Reading," the 1991 summer reading club at Brown Memorial Library, was the largest club ever, with 33 active members ranging in age from 4 to 13. As a group, club members read over 300 books, averaging over nine books per member. I am, indeed, very proud of every member. On August 14, one of the hottest Wednesdays this summer, we held our celebration! Each member was presented with a special certificate, a collection of activities from the reading club, and special bookmarks/bracelets. The club is statewide and sponsored by the N.H. Library Association, Children's Librarians of N.H. and First N.H. Bank. Locally, pens and pencils were provided by the Friends of Brown Memorial Library and a certificate from Village Mart. Lake Sunapee Savings Bank, Bradford Branch, provided fun sheets for the activity packet. And ice cream for the event was donated by IGA. Thanks to everyone who made all of this possible.

July 1991 circulation was at an all-time high ...

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Adult fiction        | 411          |
| Adult non-fiction    | 199          |
| Juvenile fiction     | 480          |
| Juvenile non-fiction | 115          |
| Paperbacks           | 104          |
| Magazines            | 203          |
| Interlibrary loan    | 3            |
| Videos               | 4            |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1,519</b> |



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### Battles Oxen

Joe Battles, 12, and Amanda Battles, 11, members of the Merrimack Oxbows 4-H Club, have maintained a very busy schedule of showing their teams of working steers. In accumulated points, Amanda placed first for teamster, Joe placed third. Amanda won first place at the Stratham and Cheshire fairs. Joe won at Belknap Fair and received the best sportsman award at Muster Field Farm Day in Sutton.

Joe and Amanda bring their teams of working steers to many regional fairs. They will be at the Hopkinton Fair through Labor Day, the Hillsborough Fair, New Boston, September 7-9; Rochester Fair, September 15. They will travel to the Eastern States Exposition (the Big E), in Springfield, Mass., where they will be two of 9 teams representing the state of NH. They will be showing there between September 19 and 22. Finally, they will travel to the Fryeburg, Maine, Fair on October 6 and the Sandwich Fair on October 14.

### Trash Flash

With the contract from the governor's Recycling Office for Bradford's third and final recycling grant firmly in hand, Transfer Station Manager Chris Mock has ordered the long-awaited new baler. A heavy-duty Philadelphia Tram Rail baler, capable of turning out bales weighing up to 1,000 pounds, is scheduled for delivery by mid-September. The Tram Rail can handle corrugated, plastic, aluminum, and newspaper, and do so far more efficiently and safely than the old pit baler it will replace. The pit baler, acquired by the Town six years ago, was originally designed to bale rags. It was adapted for corrugated and, on occasion, was modified to handle aluminum cans. However, it was cumbersome, difficult to repair, and often of questionable safety. No one will be sorry to see it replaced!

Chris Mock would like to thank everyone for the excellent response to the separation of plastic containers. Recycling of these items will really be underway once the new baler is operating.

The Recycling Committee plans a gala ribbon cutting, grand opening when the Tram Rail has been installed. Watch for the announcements and join us at the Transfer Station. As you arrive at the gate, note the new sign identifying the site and posting

the hours of operation. This was provided at no cost to Bradford, through the efforts of Janet Bauer, by New Hampshire The Beautiful, to replace the old one that had seen better days.

An extra incentive to continue and increase our recycling efforts comes from an agreement between the Concord Solid Waste Cooperative (COOP) and Wheelabrator Concord Company (WCC), owner of the incinerator. WCC reimburses the Town at the current tipping fee of \$37.45 per ton for each ton of material that is recycled. Thanks to the record-keeping efforts of Chris Mock and Will Kranz, Bradford has submitted for reimbursement verification 55.5 tons of recyclables in the four months, May through August, that this program has been in place: \$2,078.48!!!

The Recycling Committee would welcome additional volunteers to join Nora and Larry White, Joe Cleary, Millie Kirtledge, Charlie Betz, John Forgiel, John Robie and numerous others who devote time to sorting the vast quantities of paper that pass through the facility. If you can offer an hour or two on an occasional Wednesday or Sunday, call Judith Eldridge, 938-2569. The more volunteers, the less time involved, and the more we can accomplish.

### Reclassification of Cheney Hill Road

Selectmen held a special hearing on Monday, August 19, for a request to upgrade the east portion of Cheney Hill Road, located off Center Road, from Class VI to Class V. The remainder of Cheney Hill Road is now a Class V road. Keith Stebbings requested the change to this portion of the road in order to allow him to proceed with an application to subdivide his property which fronts on the Class VI section.

Members of the public in attendance raised questions concerning the current classification of the road, maintenance work that had been done in recent years, the current condition of the road, and any cost to the Town that might result from the reclassification. The Selectmen explained that the lower section, though a Class VI road, had been graded recently both to facilitate snowplowing and to provide bypass access while a section of Center Road was being repaved. Thus no Town money would need to be spent on the road if the reclassification were approved. Selectman Pickman stated that it made sense to maintain a road presently in good repair, rather than allow it to deteriorate. After hearing all those who wished to speak, the Selectmen said that their decision will be announced later.

At their meeting of August 26, the Selectmen voted to approve the reclassification of the portion of Cheney Hill Road from Class VI to Class V.

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# THE COZY CORNER

by Mildred Schmidt



We made it through many hills and valleys, but Gene and I made it! Last week we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary!

The Taj Mahal in Atlantic City is the glitziest! The elevator doors (20 of them) were not made of mirrors, but the rest of the foyer from ceiling to floor was mirrored. Only some rose-colored carpeting held this room together. It was strange walking through, as we would see ourselves twenty times at once! - almost a little scary! We were on the 44th floor and to tell you how high we were, the sea gulls actually flew around down below!

The gambling room is as large as a football field. The first think you hear is the clinking of money being put into a machine. Then a lovely toned bell rings, as if to say "thank you." It was all so exciting! And then it was over. For one special week we were really with the "fast crowd." I still had a twenty dollar bill I had saved. For what, you say. For shopping, of course!

Hot or cool, that's the rule, for September. Either way, this chicken salad fits the bill during our busy late-summer days.

## Mildred's Chicken Salad

1 C white & red grapes, cut in half  
2 C cooked chicken, in bite-size pieces  
1 tsp soy sauce

1/2 C chopped walnuts  
1/4 tsp curry powder  
mayonnaise to taste

In a large bowl, combine grapes, walnuts and chicken. In a small bowl, combine about half a cup of mayonnaise with the curry powder and soy sauce. Stir into chicken mixture. Add additional mayonnaise, if needed. Looks pretty served on lettuce leaves fresh from the garden.

### Kindergarten field trips

Bradford Kindergarten is a co-operative kindergarten, always interested in new ideas. Every year we have field trips to farms, orchards, museums, etc. If you have a farm, historic place, or if you are a crafts person or a music person and would like to share this with our kindergarten children, please call Martha Powers at the kindergarten at 938-2442.

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### Historical Society notes

There has been lots of activity at the Old Post Office, headquarters for the Bradford Historical Society. Dick Keller, President, has mustered several work parties and there is a marked improvement both indoors and out ... new steps, front and side, landscaping, rehanging of the sign, to mention only a few tasks completed. A yard sale was held in August. Another is in the planning stage. If you have any interesting ephemera, memorabilia, or collectibles that you would like to donate, they would be gratefully received (and are tax deductible). Call Dick or Marcia Keller, 938-2877.

The Historical/3Rs fund-raising dinners are alive and well. Start the fall events with dinner at Bob and Beth Bell's on September 28. This is a marvelous way to meet new people, have a superb home-cooked dinner, and take a \$15 tax deduction. Now where else can you have dinner, wine, camaraderie and benefit a superb cause? Call Beth Bell for reservations at 938-2312.

The regular monthly meeting of the Bradford Historical Society will be held on Wednesday the 26th of September at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Post Office. The program is "Insights into Bradford." Hopefully, Julian Dodge will be able to be in attendance to talk about Bradford history. Julian is one of the town's oldest residents and one of the authors of 200 Plus. Put this event on your calendar.

--Luanne Mayo

"A word in relation to the school houses. We do not wish to be understood, that to have a good house without a good teacher, will make a good school; but a good instructor, one who loves his calling, one that can tell others what he knows himself, such a one, and a good house in which to teach, these together, most surely constitute a good school."

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# TECH TALK

## by Howard Brooks

My family traditionally visits the annual Hardwick Fair in Massachusetts. Held on the town common now for over 200 years they claim that it is the oldest fair in the country. They always have an appearance of antique automobiles and this year there were more than ever motoring in from all parts of New England. As they drove off (chug, chug, chug) at the end of the day I wondered how they would ever make it home.

This year I got a chance to talk to one of the enthusiasts who was the proud owner of a restored 1913 Moline, which I had never heard of. I learned that there were over 1000 different companies making horseless carriages in practically every garage just after the turn of the century. Each ambitious engineering entrepreneur was, I imagine, caught up in the expression of his talents and the hope of accomplishment or riches or both...much like the current day excitement with computers.

Some of us might remember those days of automobile old. That car that went chug, chug, chug was a 1907 Buick. It appeared that the engine fired about every second, then he coasted, and then it fired again for a few seconds as he rounded the corner and coasted down a hill for a long ride home over Massachusetts' back roads. I commented to my fellow bystanders watching in amazement, "How is he ever going to get up hills?" ... and "That engine must be doing all of 60 cycles per minute." Today's engines are 100 times faster.

I couldn't help thinking how we are now in the same place of advancement when it comes to computers. There are indeed today thousands of companies manufacturing and assembling computers, just like there were so many companies making automobiles in the early nineteen hundreds. We build computers here in Bradford, but I ask you, how advanced are we really?

Like the horseless carriage of yesterday computer technology exists today, but is it so advanced? For example, we can put a speech synthesizer board in a personal computer whereby you can talk to your computer and it can talk back to you. We can put a board in that same computer that will enable it to "see" what a 35 millimeter camera or a video camera sees. Scanners or digitizers attached to another

board will record pictures and read the printed word into your computer. These features have not reached into everyday computer use as yet, because they are cumbersome, not yet offering universal practicality, and expensive when done seriously.

Remember how in Star Trek Captain Kirk would always talk to the ships computer and the computer would talk back rapidly filling him in on any information at all that he needed. I recall the eye of the computer in the popular movie 2001 as it spied on the crew members and began to run amok.

I heard an interesting sermon recently where the preacher discussed the mighty wonders of God's creation concerning the human eye. He reminded me (an amateur photographer) of how with all the modern advancements in lenses and automated photography we still require various types of cameras to do what the human eye does, and how the results in no way compare to the power of the human eye. The eye, with how it manages light and dark and motion and still images, leaves automation and computers in the dust.

The fascinating part about all this technological advancement in automobiles and computers is that it is going much faster now. To obtain a 100 fold advancement today in computers will not take 70 years as it did with automobiles.

Someone once said that the ultimate friendly computer is the one that talks to you. Can you imagine what we will be witnessing in our lifetimes or in just the next few years?

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### Union Congregational Meeting House

Sunday afternoon, September 15 at 4:00 pm, the annual meeting of the Union Congregational Society will be called to order. You are cordially invited to attend. A few years back, Bradford's original church, built in 1838, was being treated in a lack-luster manner, not cherished as it should have been. A group of concerned Bradfordites banded together and have been pouring their love and attention into this marvelous old building. The Society is only as strong as its members and it is the province of the whole town to bolster this effort. If you don't do anything else toward the protection and preservation of this building, please take one hour and come out to the annual meeting. Your presence and interest will help keep the society alive and well.

Jennifer Brandt and Brian Hillery were married in the Union Congregational Meeting House on July 27. Mr. Hillery is the son of Jean Caldwell of Rowe Mtn. Road and Paul Hillery of Manchester, CT. Mrs. Hillery is the daughter of Linda and David Burton of Westerville, Ohio.

The Meeting House is available for weddings, baptisms, bar mitzvahs, and non-denominational services and ceremonies of all kinds. For information call John Blitzer, President of the Association at 938-5952.

Heard on the street: Gene says he sold his \$2,000 tractor in just two days with a classified ad in the Bradford Bridge!!



**The 44th Annual  
Fall Foliage Festival  
will be held in Warner  
on October 12 & 13.**

Watch for the October edition of the Bradford Bridge for a full-page ad outlining the festival's activities.

For more information, call Steve Holmes at 456-3326.

### News from Historic Bradford Center

It has been an active summer for the Bradford Historical Society and the Union Congregational Society. Two major events have followed church services at the Union Meeting House. Both Bless the Animals Sunday and Clown Sunday seem to have accomplished what they were designed for. They were gifts from the Societies to the young families of the community ... a way, hopefully, to introduce new and old residents to our rich historical center in a gentle, but rollicking, way.


Our beginnings as a town spring from Old Bradford Center. The Town Pound is the town's oldest structure, built in 1789 by Nathaniel Presbury, probably of wooden rails. It was rebuilt on July 3, 1797 of stone, 2 rods each way, 4 feet thick at the base and 4 feet high. This structure was reconstructed this summer, using the original stones. The original gate posts are not yet back in place; a new gate has yet to be recreated and hung. Bradford's is one of a very few Pounds left in all of New England. We as a town should be very proud to have such a venerable structure. If you have not been out to have a look, do put this on your fall schedule.

September will bring further lively and varied activities to the Center. On September 22, there will be a third annual Alumni Picnic at the School House. The school was constructed in 1793 and was in use until 1937. There are some very enthusiastic graduates who enjoy getting together once a year. If you attended or taught at the Center School House, please come. Bring your family and a picnic lunch (dessert and beverages will be supplied). If you have any old photographs, bring them to share or to donate. And you can help identify the students in pictures already in the scrapbook. The interior of the building is now furnished and there are lots of things to see since last year's party. For information, call Allene Hamilton at 938-2318. --Luanne Mayo



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### Roads Committee to be set up

Steps are underway to establish a committee to provide the Selectmen with assistance with road-related matters. On April 15, Robert Stewart, Jr. was asked to head up a roads committee for the town. The following week, Mr. Stewart presented the Selectmen with a proposal to borrow a computer program from the University of New Hampshire at no cost to the town, to inventory all the roads and their present condition. The Board approved the idea, but said that their first priority was to finish the work being done under the federal flood damage grant, now nearing completion.

Mr. Stewart was asked to continue to look into the project. He returned to talk with the Selectmen in July. At that time, he requested suggestions for members of the committee, and mentioned the need for someone with an engineering background. He also suggested several short and long range goals that the Board might consider for the Roads Committee to address. The Selectmen said the committee would be put in place "within the next couple of weeks."

### Odds Bodkin appearing in Warner


Odds Bodkin, Talesman, will be presenting an evening of storytelling, entitled "Tales from the Wisdom Tree" on Friday evening, September 13 at 7:30 pm. at Simonds Elementary School in Warner. Tickets are available at the door (adults \$3.50, children \$2.50, family \$12.00). For further information, call Nancy Ladd at 456-2289.

This program is being presented by the Pillsbury Free Library, supported in part by the N.H. State Council on the Arts Touring Program, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



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# GARDENING

by Fred Winch



September brings our growing season to a close, trees start to color and leaf fall begins. It troubles me that so many folks do not take advantage of this leaf fall, which can be a bonanza to the gardener. Leaves contain many nutrients brought up from deep in the soil, deposited in the leaves during the growing season, and cast off during the leaf fall. Most people rake the leaves up and haul them to the leaf disposal area or dump them over the bank into the weeds.

These leaves contain nitrogen, potassium and phosphates, which are purchased at a high cost, not only in dollars, but in energy to put those elements into a form the gardener can use. Composting is the way to put this bonanza into usable form. This organic matter helps to hold moisture and improve the texture of soils; both sandy and clay soils can benefit.

It is interesting that our northern hardwoods (maple, ash, basswood, elm, and black cherry--the one plagued by web worms this year) are the highest in these nutrients and compost easily. The gardening magazines or the County Extension educators over in Boscawen can give you information on several methods of composting. I have lots of leaves and I try to round them up before they are blown away. I pile them in a chicken wire corral, mix in soil and other garden debris and let nature take its course. In a couple of years they are suitable for use. I also chop up leaves in place on the lawn to put the fertility back where it came from. It recycles the fertility rather than tossing it away. The nutrients you fed your grass also feeds the trees and will not be recycled.

Bradford has escaped two years of heavy defoliation by the gypsy moth larvae in this year's infestation of the county. Where defoliation did occur, our recent week of rain and any subsequent rains will give the oaks a chance to refoliate and produce limited energy for buds for use next year. It is most likely that the parasites will have built up enough to control, to a large extent, any attack next year.

The gypsy moth was not the only insect of importance this year. The hemlock looper, a small caterpillar, has shown up in several areas, fortunately not much in Bradford. Hemlocks in prime recreation areas elsewhere have been defoliated, particularly along streams and bodies of water.



### Warner-Bradford Friends Program

The Warner-Bradford Friends Program has recently been set up to provide adult "friends" for children in the Kearsarge area who could benefit from some attention. A survey of teachers and administrators revealed that one in five students between the ages of 6 and 18 could be helped by this program. Many of those with needs come from broken homes, with about 65% from single parents whose employment limits the time available to be with their children. Many of the children have very low self-esteem and having someone show their care can give them a much-needed boost. The program's goal is to supplement the parents' efforts by providing extra attention to each child on a one-on-one basis for three to five hours a week.

Volunteers are screened by filling out an application, being interviewed in their own homes, and by role-playing during a two-day training session. This not only gives the program a chance to know the volunteers, but enables them to make a good match with children whose needs vary. It is emphasized that volunteers are friends and not counselors. These children mostly need TLC and are content to do whatever the volunteer would do in his or her free time, such as fishing, gardening, or hiking. Presently, there are two boys waiting for a male volunteer.

If you can spare three to five hours a week and are interested in being a friend and companion to a child, contact Pauline Rushia at the Warner-Bradford Friends Program (456-3322), which is located in the CAP building in Warner. The office is open 1:00 - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

## BRADFORD SPORTS

Debbie Pickman, Sports Reporter, 938-2480



### Carter & Co. Softball Team

Front row: Jeff Blackinton, Peter Strickland, Artie Lewis, Jim Pickman, Billy Blackman, Tim Blanchard, Tommy Pitts. Back row: Mike Carter, Rob Messer, Alan Craigie, Joey Messer, Steven Hansen.

The Carter & Co. adult men's softball team participated in the Black Water Beer Ball Softball League this summer. This is the ninth year a Bradford team has played in the league, which is made up of eight teams from surrounding communities. Qualifying for the August 14-18 playoffs as defending champions, the team came in second, losing to the Merrimack Telephone Co. team.

The team has been able to play in Bradford because of the generosity of Brackett and Mauri Scheffy, who have allowed them to play on their field across from the new elementary school.

### Soccer for grades 1-6

Bradford Newbury Youth Sports is organizing co-ed soccer teams this year for the first time. Several teams have already been set up and are practicing at Brown-Shattuck Field. These include: Grades 1-2, Coaches Scott MacLean, Dan Wolf, Peter Kusinski; Grades 3-4, Coaches Gene Fox, Kevin Daniel, Harry Seidel; Grades 5-6, Coaches Lou Garcia, Peter Fenton.

Youth from Sutton, Newbury and Bradford participate in this program, as part of the Merrimack Valley Youth Soccer League. For further information, call Peter Fenton at 938-2120.

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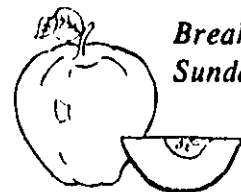
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## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

### September 3, Tuesday

School opens!

Zoning Board of Adjustment, 7:00 pm

### September 5, Thursday

Bradford Co-op Kindergarten and Pre-school Parent Meeting  
Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Square dancing  
Town Hall, 7:30-9:30

Masons Official Visitation  
St. Peters Lodge #30, 7:30 pm

### September 8, Sunday

Order of Rainbow Installation  
Warner Lodge, 2:30 pm

### September 9, Monday

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 pm

Order of Rainbow for Girls  
Warner Lodge, 7:15 pm

### September 10, Tuesday

Planning Board meeting  
Town Hall 7:00 pm

KRSD Budget Meeting  
New London Elem. School, 7:30 pm

### September 12, Thursday

KRSD School Board meeting, High School, 7:30 pm

Square dancing  
Town Hall, 7:30-9:30

### September 13, Friday

Odds Bodkin, Talesman  
Simonds Elem. School, Warner, 7:30  
(Tickets at the door)

### September 15, Sunday

Annual Meeting of the Union Congrega-  
tional Society  
Bradford Center Meeting House, 4:00 pm

### September 16, Monday

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 pm

### September 17, Tuesday

Bradford Women's Club  
Old Center Schoolhouse, 1:00 pm

### September 18, Wednesday

Friends of the Library annual meeting,  
7:00 pm

### September 19, Thursday

Masons Meeting, St. Peters Lodge #31,  
7:30 pm

### September 22, Sunday

Alumni of Old Schoolhouse  
Picnic at Schoolhouse, noon

### September 23, Monday

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 pm

### September 24, Tuesday

Planning Board meeting, 7:30 pm

### September 25, Wednesday

Historical Society, Old Post Office,  
7:30 pm

### September 26, Thursday

KRSD School Board meeting, High School, 7:30 pm

### September 30, Monday

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 pm

\*\*To list events for the month of October, call Louise Signorino, Calendar Editor, at 938-2608.

## Classified Advertising

APARTMENT FOR RENT. Main St., Bradford. one-room efficiency, partial heat, plowing, cable, hot water. Security deposit and references, \$265. Call 438-5425.

CONSIGNMENT CRAFTERS wanted for shop in Bradford. Mauri A. Scheffy, 938-2222.

Fresh home-grown lamb for sale. 938-5372.

Pure Ivory mah-jongg (game) set for sale. Call 938-5182.

\*\*The classified advertising rate is \$1.75 per line. To place a classified ad, call Laurie Buchar, Classified Rep. at 938-5372.

## Municipal Information

Selectmen's office (Kathy Russell, Sect.), 938-5900, Mon-Fri 8:00-10:00, Mon-Thurs 3:00-5:00

Town Clerk & Tax Collector (Sue Pehrson), 938-2288, Mon 2:00-7:00, Tues 8:00-5:00, Fri 8:00-noon

Brown Memorial Library, 938-5562, Mon 9:30-8:00; Wed 9:30-5:00, Sat 9:30-1:30

Bradford Policy Dept., Emergency: 938-2422; Business: 938-2522

Fire and Ambulance emergency, 938-2233