

# The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS *for* NEIGHBORS *by* NEIGHBORS

## MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Police Department** Lieutenant Edward Shaughnessy discussed police detail rates with the Board. Currently the Town bills out detail at a rate of \$55.85; the Town's portion of NH retirement is 28.43 % and will increase to 33.88% beginning July 1. Ed would like approval to start billing out at a rate of \$58.20 moving forward. He said the less than \$3 increase is the increase going to retirement. The Board approved a motion to increase the police detail rate as well as split the billing to the provide the less than \$3.00 retirement directly to the non-vested officers.

**Gravel Crushing** The Board approved a motion to move forward on the proposal for gravel crushing by Fuzzy Brothers.

**Steam Cleaner** The Board approved a motion to accept the bid to purchase a steam cleaner from Power Wash Sales, LLC in the amount of \$3,995 with a trade-in of \$800 from their old steam cleaner.

**Transfer Station Stickers** Campers at the Latvian Camp have been using the Bradford transfer station even though the residences are in Warner. The Board approved a motion to temporarily delay the distribution of Transfer Station stickers to Latvian campers until it has been researched further.

**Lafayette Marker** Approval was given by the property owner to add a marker to the site. The Board approved the pursuit of an easement in the form of a warrant article or private negotiations with the current Select Board on the property related to the Lafayette signage.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## French's Park and John E. French



Lafayette Marker

One of the many jewels of Bradford is French's Park. Located on Lake Massasecum, the park hosts a town beach and picnic area which is on French's Park Road, just off Oakdale Road. There are picnic tables, a beautiful shaded sandy beach, and rocky outcroppings all nestled near adoring pines. The Park is open to all Bradford residents and their guests. Having spent many wonderful days on the lake, I decided to dig into this history of what we now call French's Park.

It turns out that Lake Massasecum was a popular destination in the late nineteenth century. According to Buchar and Courser, local authors of *Images of America: Bradford and Warner*, cottage settlements on the lake began in the late 1800's. There was a summer resort called Oakdale which included 6 cottages, a store, an icehouse, and garages with boats to rent.

In 1909 the Town of Bradford purchased some land from John E. French to provide a road to the lake to accommodate the cottages at Cape Nancy (French's Park). John E. French was the grandson of Offin French and Susannah Pressey French, who were some of Bradford's earliest settlers. By 1916, there were 39 pioneer cottages on the lake. And, upon his death in 1928, John E. French left

a portion of Offin French's land on the western shore to the town for a park to be known as French's Park for "the inhabitants of Bradford and their friends" (Two Hundred Plus: 1771-1976 Bradford, New Hampshire in retrospect).

John E. French married Emma Day in 1873 and was highly active in Bradford, serving in many ways: as a member of St. Peter's Lodge, as a Bradford Selectman (1886-1887), as Representative to the NH General Court (1879), and as Bradford Constable (and Tax Collector). John E. French also gave \$2,500 to match funds for the building of the Brown Memorial Library. He trained as a tinner and was in the mercantile and lumber businesses during his life. A biography of John E. French (*Access Genealogy*) indicated that John was also one of the Directors of the Citizen Bank in Newport, and had guardianship of several minors, insane persons and other



*(Continued on page 3)*



# The Bradford Bridge

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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To receive The Bridge by mail,  
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### SUBMISSIONS

Anyone is welcome to submit articles  
and/or photographs of interest to the  
community. We reserve the right to edit  
submissions.

### PRINTING

RC Brayshaw & Company, Inc.

## Town Offices

### SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Phone: 938-5900

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
(closed 12 Noon – 1 PM)  
Friday: 8:00 AM – Noon

### TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Phone: 938-2288

Tuesday: 8 AM – 12 PM/ 1 PM – 4 PM  
Wednesday: 12 PM – 5 PM  
(by pre-arranged appointment only)  
Thursday: 9 AM – 12 PM/ 1 PM – 6 PM  
Friday through Monday: Closed

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

## From the Bridge

Shout Out for the Bradford Town Celebration  
Saturday, September 25, 2021

“Parks and Rec is working hard to put together an awesome event for the town. We are excited to get the town together to celebrate and we welcome any ideas, suggestions, and volunteers.”

Devin Pendleton, for Bradford Parks and Rec

As the August Bridge goes to print details of the day are in the works so specific events and times will be available in the September Bradford Bridge. Meanwhile, email Devin at [devinpendleton505@gmail.com](mailto:devinpendleton505@gmail.com) for information and follow Bradford Parks and Rec on Facebook. So far, the committee is planning:

- ★ Postponed fireworks display
- ★ Reappearance of the Grilling Contest
- ★ A Parade
- ★ Music
- ★ Activities throughout Bradford – All clubs, committees and groups are welcome!!

We've got a great August edition for you. Here's what to look for:

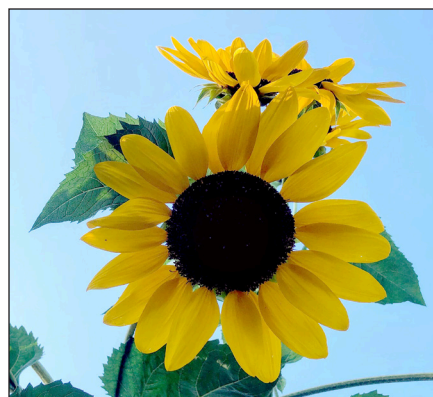
- \* The Monthly Briefing by Devin. Keep informed about Bradford
- \* Boards and Committees.
- \* Winners of the July 4th Lake Todd Boat Parade.
- \* History of French's Park by Mary.
- \* A Restoration Project by Lois.
- \* Summer Energy Saving Tips by Laura.
- \* Area Events is making a comeback! Keep those notices coming!

**And** ads from our loyal local businesses whose support brings the news of Bradford to you each month. Please shop locally whenever possible!!

Best Wishes for an Awesome August,

*Kathleen Bigford, Editor*

*and everyone who helps this newspaper thrive*



### AUGUST HAIKU

tower of sunshine  
following the daylight arch  
delighting the bees

*Kathleen Bigford*



## Letters to Our Editor:

### To the Editor:

We are in the midst of another building boom. The town is under a lot of pressure to develop— even unmaintained Class VI roads. Many believe that building more houses will keep taxes low by adding to our tax base.

This does sound logical, if you only look at the income side of the ledger. Unfortunately, town finances include both income AND expenses, and when you look at both, it turns out that residential housing actually raises our taxes.

Building, especially on Class VI roads, means more households need town services, which cost more than any taxes most new homes pay. It also opens the town to lawsuits, which has happened in the past.

Numerous studies have been done over the years with the same results: municipalities lose money on residential development, briefly gain on commercial, and always gain on undeveloped land. Actually, undeveloped land, even in the Current Use Program, always brings in more tax income, because the landowner still pays taxes and fewer town services are required.

Previous ‘building booms’ in Bradford show this: Additional housing has always increased, never lowered, our taxes.

I encourage our Selectmen and Planning Board to read the many “Cost of Community Services” studies that have been done by UNH and others to learn from the past mistakes of our town and others. Sutton, N.H., did one, which confirmed these results. More houses, even on maintained roads but especially on Class VI roads, mean higher taxes, not lower taxes.

*Miranda Levin*

### Harriet Douglass Remembers

In the spring of 1945 my family bought the farmhouse at 2230 State Route 114, and at the age of 16, I became a citizen of Bradford, NH.

I spent the next year as a senior at Simonds Free High School in Warner, NH and it was great being in a class of 20 rather than 200+. I rode the Boston and Maine train to school in the morning and returned home in the afternoon on the Vermont Transit Bus.

The next 75 years have sped past and I have been busy and happy working and playing at the many businesses and events in Bradford.

*Harriet Douglass*

*[Editor’s Note: If you’re lucky, you may be able to coax a heartfelt and/or hilarious story from Harriet to fill in the years that “sped past.”]*

### Mountain View Fitness

Studies have consistently shown that weight bearing exercise can be beneficial to folks of all ages and that most certainly more than ever includes golden agers. The Mountain View Fitness program was originally developed as part of New Hampshire Strong Living and continued as an independent offering when Strong Living lost their funding.

Our fitness group meets Monday and Friday at 8:45 for one hour on a variety of exercises mainly geared to progressive strength training with hand and leg weights but also incorporating balance, warmup, and cooldown routines.

We will be starting our 19th year at the Mountain View Senior Center (at the Bradford Area Community Center) on September 7th and would welcome new participants to join us with a caveat that we like to chit chat and laugh as well!

If you would like to join us please call either John (746-2926) or Paul (938-5497) for further details. We hope to see you in September.

### Together Again!! Community Fair



Spirits were high at 11 West Main Street in Bradford on July 3rd for the “Together Again!! A Community Fair” sponsored by the Kearsarge Food Hub/Sweet Beet Market & Farm, Evergreen Healing Arts, Entroprise Software, and 11 West Main Events. Friends and families greeted each other with glee in spite of the very soggy weather. Some even posed as their favorite (?) veggies!!

### French’s Park

*(Continued from page 1)*

In 1929, The town started a fund of \$1,000 to maintain the park. Today, the Bradford Road Crew and Bradford Parks and Recreation volunteers maintain the park. Since 1920 The Lake Massasecum Improvement Association monitors the water quality and recreational usage on the lake.

This investigation led me to appreciate Bradford’s history and about the generosity of this one family: The French’s. We owe an amazing gratitude to John E. and Emma French for this donation. If you haven’t been to French’s Park, take a picnic and your swimsuit. A Bradford Transfer Station sticker is required and the park closes at 9pm.

*Mary Keegan-Dayton*

# Bradford Center Meetinghouse Concert



It was really great to see the lawn filling up on a beautiful summer evening in front of our newly painted Meetinghouse. Special thanks to Sam Moss for the pure vocals, guitar playing and whimsical banter, to Rory Lettvin for reimagining the Lettvin Music Series, to Ben Ainsley for the fresh coat of paint, and to our friends and neighbors for showing up!

*Friends of the Bradford Center Meetinghouse*



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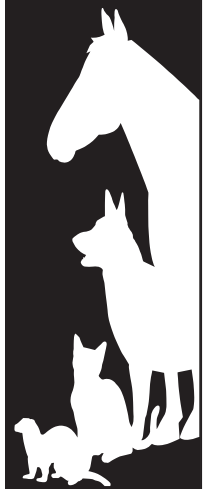
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## Events Resume at Bradford Historical Society

[bradfordnhhistorical.org](http://bradfordnhhistorical.org)

BHS is having a yard sale on August 14th on East Main Street. If you would like to rent a space, look for our ad in this Bridge issue for contact information, or check our website (above).

Another Bradford Historical Society sponsored event will take place on August 25th at 7pm. at the Bradford Community Church. Steve Pierce will present a history of the beginning of the Church to present day. Light refreshments will follow.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the fundraiser to preserve the Presbury sampler. We are well over halfway to our target of \$550. If you would like to donate you can do so by sending a check to BHS PO Box 551, Bradford NH 03221 or on our website.

Next month we will have more in depth news but we can say that after years of discussions, meetings, emails, petitions,

letters, it looks like Bradford will be included on The Lafayette Trail with a special marker. A big thanks to all those who preserved the research, wrote emails and letters, especially Harry Wright who pulled all the pieces together to make our case successful!



In early September, our corn crib will get the attention it has long deserved. The project, led by BHS volunteer and expert Kyle Whitehead, is to be the restoration project for the annual get together of the Timber Framers Guild.

This will take place at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro on September 10th to 12th. If anyone is interested in being involved with the build or to just visit the event to watch them at work, everyone is very welcome. Check our website for more information.

The Crib will get a restoration that will give it life for many years to come. The project will be dismantled for transport back to Bradford and we will have a community Corn Crib raising on Saturday, September 25th. We will need plenty of volunteers to install the Crib! Food and other plans for the day are still in the works!



## Bradford Energy Committee Summer Energy Saving Tips

With the arrival of August, thoughts go to hotter days and time spent outside enjoying the height of summer.

According to Eversource, the average customer uses 35% more energy during summer months. Here are some ways to stay cool, use less energy and reduce carbon emissions. These summer energy saving tips are from Eversource and you can find many more ideas [here https://www.eversource.com](https://www.eversource.com)

- Keep your air conditioner setting as warm as possible. For every degree you increase the temperature, your air conditioner will use 1-3 percent less electricity.
- Use your bathroom fan. Feeling too humid? Your bathroom fan can help remove humidity from your house and keep you cool.
- Plant some trees. Shade landscaping positions trees and other vegetation so their shade falls on the house and provides protection from direct sunlight.
- Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.
- Close your blinds in the daytime. Southern (and western) facing walls take the brunt of the sun's heat, so invest in good drapes or shades for the windows on these walls and keep them closed. Open things up when the temperature outside equals the inside temperature and as temps drop outside the house will cool off as well. Use ceiling and window fans briefly to take advantage of cooling temperatures outside and cool the air in your home.

Laura Ryder



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# Library Lantern

## Brown Memorial Library

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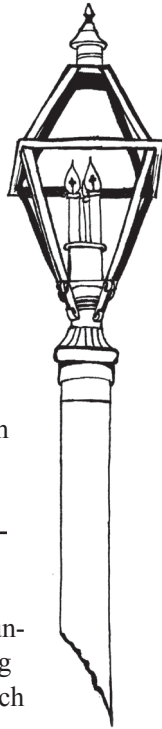
### Library Hours:

Monday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Wednesday 11:00am – 7:00pm

Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm



From the director's desk:

As the western part of our country is burning up, we're getting waterlogged and French's beach has been swallowed up whole. Despite our wacky weather, I am enjoying summer. My parents are here until the Fall, my children have enjoyed time away at camp and lazy summer days, and my family is looking forward to a few weeks on the beach in Old Orchard, Maine before school begins. I have been loving the energy from children this summer who are coming in for the summer programs. Summer is also a chance to reconnect with those who are here just for the season.

What's Happening at the Library??

We are getting close to being finished digitizing our collection which brings us nearer to bringing you our online catalog. This will allow you to easily see what we have available and will

give you the opportunity to reserve and renew books. I promise this will not take away from the quaint, small town feeling our library offers. What makes our library special are the people who enter its doors and the intimacy of our small town.

Book Group has started again. Our group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, a change from last year, and the August book selection is *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout. For those of you who want to join us for this group, you may want to pick up *Olive Kitteredge* first, however, it is not necessary to enjoy *Olive, Again*. Book Group will meet on Wednesday, August 25th at 7pm. New members are always welcome.

We will be having a fundraiser for the library on Saturday, September 25th from 9-1pm. We will be offering baked goods, book sale, and Halloween costumes for donation only. I need your help! If you have any gently used costumes that you can stand to part with, please bring them in so others can enjoy them! All sizes are welcomed. You can drop off costumes anytime the library is open.

We have new art at the library, by Sean Carroll, brought to us by the Bradford Art Group. Thank you, Sandy Wadlington, Audrey Sylvester, and Sean Carroll, for organizing, hanging the art, and making our walls colorful again.

Our Summer Reading Program has been fun! We were entertained by Simon Brooks' storytelling, impressed by the

world of forensic science with Mary Dawson, and were creatively inspired by different forms of art with Anne Kratz. We were able to learn about different types of animals from Squam Lake Science Center and birds of prey from Wings of Dawn. Thanks to all those that participated and helped to make our reading program a success!

Lots of new books on the shelf. Please come in and check them out!

*Ellen Barselle*  
Library Director



## The Book Nook



The Friends of Brown Memorial Library would like to thank all of those who gave suggestions for naming our Little Free Library. It has been named the Bradford Book Nook. The Little Free Library is outside the Community Center. Books can be swapped or taken and then returned, kept as a favorite, or shared with someone else!



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## Town of Bradford Scholarship Awards

The Bradford Scholarship Committee was pleased to offer two scholarships to graduating Kearsarge Regional High School Students. The 2021 Bradford Scholarship recipients are Evan Miller and Mathew Ulrich. When asked on the application how Bradford has helped promote their academic goals, each had inspiring responses.


**Evan Miller** “Bradford has been a wonderful place to grow up and live in. I’m grateful for all the activities and opportunities I have been able to participate in. I have found myself interested in many Town construction projects such as the Restoration of the Town Hall and the recent rehabilitation of the Bement Covered Bridge. I have learned how the Town functions by attending Town Meeting and Elections, and have enjoyed being a part of the July 4th activities in Bradford. I’ve met many different townspeople through my involvement with the Town and my part-time job at the Lumber Barn. This scholarship will help carry me into my next adventure; attending Clarkson University in Potsdam NY, where I plan to study Mechanical Engineering.”

*And*

**Mathew Ulrich** “Over the next four years, I have committed to the University of New Hampshire’s environmental engineering program. I hope to excel in their program and go on to work in the rapidly expanding field of environmental engineering. Living in Bradford has allowed me to develop an interest in this field due to our close proximity to nature. The majority of our town is settled directly into the forest, which led me to grow attached to it. Also, living in a smaller town like Bradford has allowed me to form strong bonds with community members, which has led to opportunities in community service and community outreach. Overall, living in Bradford has set me up for the path to success, and I hope to continue this path through college.”

All the best to Evan and Mathew as they pursue their hopes and dreams.

The Bradford Scholarship Committee: *Mary Keegan-Dayton, Devin Pendleton and Kathleen Bigford*




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**From the  
Bradford  
Fire Chief,  
Jeff LeBlanc**

**This August Consider a Rewarding  
Way to Help Your Community and  
Gain Valuable Life Experience**

In 1736 Benjamin Franklin founded the first volunteer firehouse. This tradition still continues today, as many small towns and cities have a volunteer fire department that makes a huge difference in local community life. NFPA statistics reveal there were an estimated 1,115,000 firefighters in the United States. Within the total number of firefighters 33% were career firefighters and 67% were volunteer firefighters. Additionally, did you know that in New Hampshire 85% of registered fire departments are mostly volunteer.

**What do firefighters do?**

Firefighters will respond to many different calls for service. Those calls may include structural fires, technical rescues, motor vehicle collisions, medical emergencies and hazardous material incidents. Some of the other daily activities may include fire prevention, hydrant and vehicle maintenance, public education, and requests for public assistance.

**I am not that interested in firefighting but enjoy helping people, what can I do?**

Working as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is extremely rewarding. EMTs have incredibly personal interactions with patients and their families. Moreover, you have a phenomenal ability to have a positive impact in your community and to truly serve those in need.

**I want to help but running into a burning building isn't my cup of tea.**

It goes without saying that fires are dangerous- and so we have to be prepared to operate efficiently and safely to be prosperous. Every aspect of the fireground operation is important and

crucial to our overall success. Not everyone can be inside the fire building and the positions outside are just as important.

**What positions are currently open at Bradford Fire Rescue?**

EMT / Emergency Medical Responder, firefighter, fire prevention, support personnel, Engineer (Engineers are personnel who have training to drive fire trucks and fire engines) and wildland firefighters.

**Do I need to have training to join the fire department?**

If you have the desire to serve, you can become a volunteer firefighter or EMT. You don't need any prior experience in emergency services; you will receive the training you need when you join the department.

**My son or daughter is interested in helping the community. Is there an age requirement?**

Age requirements vary by department but typically range anywhere from 16-21 for volunteer firefighters or EMTs. Many departments also have junior firefighter programs, in which youth and teenagers can participate in non-emergency roles and learn about emergency services in a safe, educational way. Along with the technical education, youth firefighter programs assist in rewarding life experiences, discipline, leadership, and teamwork.

**Do I have what it takes to be a firefighter or EMT?**

Firefighting / EMS is a rewarding career that offers a very high level of job satisfaction. Being a first responder is a great job if you enjoy helping people and serving your community, but be aware that it can be demanding, stressful, and even dangerous at times.

**I thought about joining the fire department but I just don't have the time.**

Volunteer firefighters on average work / train 10-20 hours per month. At Bradford Fire Rescue we strive to maintain a

healthy volunteer work-life balance.

**Where can I get more information about becoming a firefighter or EMT?**

NH Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/>

The Bradford Fire Rescue would like to remind all that having working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors saves lives and early notification to 911 during medical emergencies is paramount to ensure the best possible outcome in the event of sickness or injury. We encourage you to follow us on social media and for non-emergency questions or for more information about joining the department you may contact us at (603) 938-2231 or [firechief@bradfordnh.org](mailto:firechief@bradfordnh.org)

**June 2021 Training / Call Statistics**

Training	Date	Hours
Fire Equipment	6/7/2021	14
SOP / SOG	6/14/2021	12
Fire Operations	6/21/2021	16
EMS Operations	6/28/2021	12
Fire Officer	6/30/21	24
<b>Totals</b>		<b>78</b>

Bldg. Fire	4
EMS	14
Fire	9
Haz-Mat	0
Mutual Aid	5
Service Call	1
Outside Fire	2
Fire Prevention	10
MVC	1
<b>Total Svc. Requests</b>	<b>46</b>

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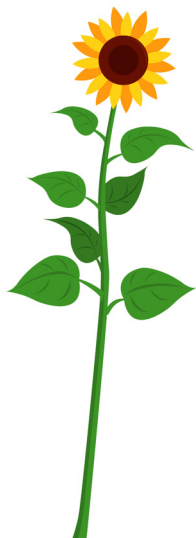


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# TRANSFER STATION NEWS



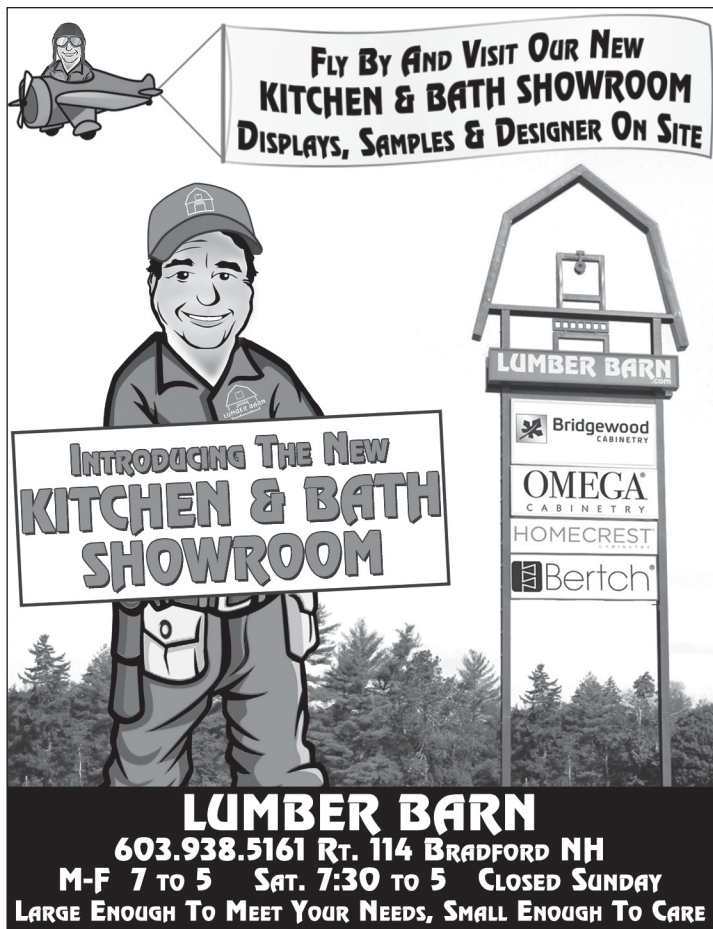
## The Throwaway That Found a New Life

Recently a husband and wife came into the Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center and spied this old worn-out bench, envisioned possibilities, and snatched it up for a restoration project. The wooden slats on this poor vintage bench were rotten, and the whole bench structure was dilapidated, but complete.

They replaced the old slats with leftover composite decking from their deck project. This was a brilliant choice, because composite does not rot, chip, or crack. It cuts and nails like genuine wood, is splinter-free, and is maintenance-free in that it does not require painting, staining, or sealing. They used leftover screws and restored the iron parts with leftover paint. Their “new” wood-looking bench matched and accented their new deck!

Ken and I welcome more pictures and stories of repurposed or restored “dump finds”. These reports will serve to encourage residents of Bradford to reconsider the value and usefulness of their throwaways and may serve to stir visions of restoration possibilities for other old worn-out discards.

*Lois Kilnapp, Manager*



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## MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

(Continued from page 1)

**Fire Alarm System** The Board approved a motion for the Fire Chief to go with Capital Alarm Systems to alarm the Town Hall and to fund this with the Town Hall expendable trust.

**Sawmill Activity** Kimberly Schuster of 249 Cressy Road reported to the Select Board that there is a commercial sawmill going on next door to her property. Kimberly states this is a commercial business in a rural residential area. Karen Hambleton, Town Administrator, will ask the Code Enforcement Officer and the Conservation Commission to look at the property.

**BACC Emergency Lights** The Board approved a motion to authorize Karen Hambleton to sign the contract in the amount of \$990 to replace the emergency lights in the Bradford Area Community Center.

**Noise Ordinance** Michael Malacha approached the Board to follow up on the letter he sent them regarding noise issues with his neighbor. Mr. Malach requested that the Town adopt a noise ordinance. The Bradford Chief of Police likes the noise ordinance that is in place in Sunapee. Selectmen Andrew Pinard said most towns around us have put a noise ordinance in place except for Bradford. Andrew would like to enact a noise ordinance in the interim until it goes to Town Meeting to be approved as a new zoning ordinance. Andrew said he would like to review the Sunapee ordinance and vote on it at the next Selectboard meeting.

**September 25** Devin Pendleton, Parks and Recreation, discussed with the Board ideas for the September 25 event which include a parade, food, live music, fireworks and more. Devin would like more community involvement in the event and to bring back fun activities that used to take place. Karen Hambleton said Parks and Recreation can use money from the parade line of patriotic purposes as well as the special

events line under Parks and Recreation for funding. Selectmen Andrew Pinard said he would love to participate in the event.

**Intent to Cut** Signed for Map 12 Lots 5 & 6, Map 9 Lots 30 & 31.

### PLANNING BOARD

**Home Business Expansion** Mike Dillon of 219 Cressy Road stated to the planning Board that in 2019 the code enforcement officer verified that his business was in compliance. The home business has since expanded and will require a site plan and a special exception for commercial use in a rural residential area. The Planning Board furnished the applicable forms and explained the next order of business would be to meet with the Zoning Board.

**Cell Tower** Mel Pfeifle would like to revisit discussion regarding the cell tower. Mel stated that the cell tower is too low, having a 25ft canopy rule hurts the cell service. This canopy only provides a 6-mile radius. The discussion will be added to the September 14th, 2021 meeting.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Meeting Schedule** The Committee will meet August 18, then the group will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7pm beginning in September with the goal of having the CIP wrapped up by November 1.

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Current Use** Land Commission Member Brooks McCandlish explained that Current Use Land may be posted under RSA 79-A, however, property owners

who agree to keep their land open for public use qualify for an additional 20% reduction in the property assessment. The Select Board now has a system for collecting the Current Use Change Penalty, but it must be invoiced within 18 months of the change. There is now a checkbox on the building permit form to remind the assessor to address any change in current use status for a property.

**Beach Replenishment** A beach replenishment application for Breezy Hill Road, Map 18/Lots 06 and 07 was denied by the Department of Environmental Services. DES will be notified that beach sand had already been installed before the application was submitted.

**Busy Beavers** A landowner on East Washington Road reports busy dam-building beavers on his property. He has already invested in an exclusion device, which failed. He would like to co-exist with these furry engineers but wants to prevent flooding of his driveway. The Bradford Conservation Commission will endorse his application to receive similar funding as we did for our two beaver deceivers if he decides to go that route.



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**LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**Energy Audit** The Board of Trustees approved the contract for work to upgrade energy efficiency at the library. Contract will be sent to the Select Board for final approval.

**Book Sale** The date of the fall book sale has been set to coincide with the Town’s fall celebration on September 25, 2021.

**Little Free Library** The Little Free Library is now registered with the national organization as the “Bradford Book Nook” and has been successfully installed on the grounds of the Bradford Community Center. A big thank you goes to the Town for the installation, and Bradford’s Gardeners for the creation and upkeep of a small flower box at the base of the Book Nook, and to builder Laura Beaton.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Expenses** The Board approved reimbursement total of \$398.06 to Devin Pendleton for supplies for the French’s Park Attendant, and signage.

**Tie Dye** The Board approved a motion to expend up to \$45 for supplies for the July 29, 2021 tie dye party.

**Attendant Schedule** Several of the French’s Park Attendants regularly scheduled weekend shifts have been cancelled due to rain. The Board approved the French’s Park Attendant making up missed weekend shifts mid-week, not to exceed budgeted hours.

Minutes of all meetings are on file at the Town Office and online at the town website. Some meetings are now streamed live! [bradfordnh.org](http://bradfordnh.org)

**A Few Words**

*Readers are invited to share a few words here. Submit your fiction or non-fiction stories of 100 words or less to the Bridge. It could be a story about your cat, or the moose antlers you came across hiking one day. Readers may want to submit stories about how you helped a friend in need or made a favorite food. Share your words with us.*

**The Bridge**



The tall selectman beaming in his white suit. A town administrator in her pink dress smiling as she surveys the growing crowd. Another selectman grinning, in her riding boots, holding the reins as she transports our oldest, beloved citizen across the restored bridge by horse and carriage. Music from the band wafting through the mix of new and old rafters above. It all brought together a town after so much time and loss. The speeches, fussy toddlers, summer heat. Love and togetherness flowed over our bridge that sunny morning. And for all of that, we are grateful.

Mary Keegan-Dayton



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# Obituaries

## Ellen Ashton

Ellen Ebba (Smith) Ashton passed away peacefully on June 17, 2021, with her children by her side. Ellen was born on May 18, 1946, in Norwalk, Connecticut. She lived a happy childhood in Westport surrounded by her loving extended family. She graduated from John Glenn High School in Elwood, New York in 1964. A gifted artist, she was accepted at Cooper Union School of Art in Manhattan. After living in New York City for a time, she married and started a family in Huntington, New York.

Ellen settled in Bradford, New Hampshire in 1977 to be closer to family and enjoy the countryside. She expressed her artistic talents through her extensive gardens and with her fine portraiture. An avid reader, she fortuitously found a career as well as a wonderful community of friends at New England College Library where she worked for over 25 years. She had a passion for learning and continued studies in science and the arts. After retiring, she relocated to Florida to enjoy a Golden Girl life of relaxation and adventure with her lifelong best friend. She recently returned to New Hampshire to be near her family.

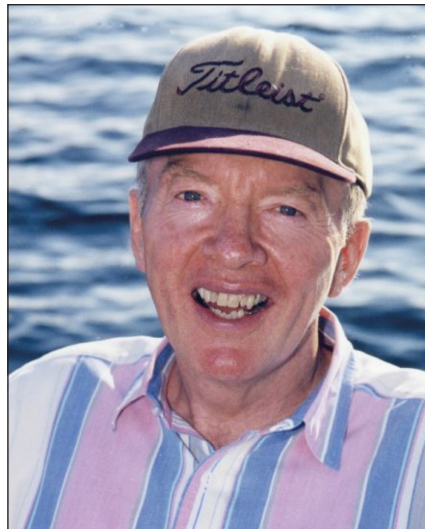
Ellen was a loving and generous mother and mormor. She loved animals, laughter, cooking, music, and dancing to Motown. Ellen was happiest when gathering with family and friends to celebrate holidays and life's milestones.

Ellen is predeceased by her parents Ebba and Edgar Smith, her uncle, Roy Ekelund, and her brother, Kenneth Smith. Ellen will be greatly missed by her children, Kenneth, Karin, and Christopher Ashton, their families, her sister-in-law, Susan Smith, her beloved grandchildren Charlie and Ella, and many more.

A celebration of her life will be held on August 28, at 1:00 p.m. at Wadleigh State Park in Sutton, New Hampshire.

## Don Jackson

Donald "Don" Jackson died in New London on June 26, 2021 at the age of 84. Don was born on October 21, 1936,



in Stow, Ohio to John Glenn and Lucille Marie Jackson. He graduated from Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, OH with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His career included employment at Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Continental Can Company and Fortune Brands.

Don and his wife Nita moved to Bradford in 1985. They were married in 1986 and in 2000 began building their dream home, Beam on the Rocks. In 2010 Don was awarded the Community Builders Award in recognition of outstanding community service from the St. Peter's Lodge No. 31 in Bradford. He was a dedicated member of the First Free Will Baptist Church and church treasurer at the First Baptist Church of Bradford where he headed up many volunteer projects for the church.

His children will remember him as a patient and generous father who encouraged them to pursue their goals. Don enjoyed spending time with his beloved dogs, Cocoa and Sawyer.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, Glenn and Lucille; brothers James and Norman; son Craig. Surviving family members include his wife, Nita; son Brian (Prescott, AZ); daughters Kathy

(Reston, VA), Monica and Matt Zuck (Palo Alto, CA) and Michelle and Bill Gale (Falls Church, VA); sister Marjorie (Tallahassee, FL); granddaughters Emily Jackson (Port Angeles, WA), Tilden and Zoe Gale, Eliza and Vivian Zuck; nieces Jennifer Miller (Tallmadge, OH), Chris Lerch (Tallmadge, OH) and Courtney McKinley (Mansfield, OH); nephews Michael Von Stein (Tallahassee, FL), Jeffery Von Stein (Pensacola, FL) and Brent Jackson (Mansfield, OH).

A celebration of life was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church in North Sutton with Gary Andy officiating. The family prefers donations to be made in Don's honor to the Wounded Warrior Project or a charity of your choice. To sign an online guestbook please visit [www.chadwickfuneralservice.com](http://www.chadwickfuneralservice.com).



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# Bradford Community Church

## 200th Anniversary Year Part Two – 1870 to 1920

A high moment in and around the ‘rabble rousing’ of the Millerite Movement is a convention held in Salisbury, NH. The Salisbury Meeting of area churches in 1848 proclaimed support for the abolition of slavery! This was no small quiet vote among a rural group of churches, including the Bradford Church.

The Abolitionist movement in New England was strong. However, the political climate (and laws) in New England made any action by Abolitionists law breakers. The numerous mill cities in New England held power and sway over politicians, churches and preachers that endorsed abolitionist sentiment. Pastors were dismissed if they proclaimed an abolitionist message from the pulpit. Our area of New Hampshire was more agrarian and with moral fortitude strongly supported Abolitionists!

The Third Great Awakening (1850’s to 1930) left its mark in Bradford. Both the Center Church (Congregational) and the ‘downtown’ church (Baptist) attracted new members. In 1863 the Bradford Church stood at 23 members. In 6 years (1869) the membership doubled. Five very ardent and involved pastors instilled a strong connection of church to town and town to church. Membership rose rapidly from 1863 to 1906. Here are those pastors:

Pastor	From	To	New members
Rev. Alfred Colburn	1863	1869	21
Rev. Elbridge Pepper	1872	1884	76
Rev. J. H. Gannett	1884	1892	10
Rev. Arthur Locke	1892	1896	34
Rev. Edward Potter	1897	1904	24

In a period of time when Bradford’s population was falling, church membership rose.

The vestry, meeting area at the back of the church building, was built in 1872. It was 18 feet by 25 feet and cost \$300. The parsonage was built in 1884 on land

donated by Deacon Marshall. Cost of the parsonage? \$1000. The barn was added for \$100 more. The parsonage was sold about ten years ago. It sits across from Bar Harbor Bank and Trust on East Main Street.

An extract from the Merrimack County History file reads, “In the early history of the town (Bradford) Congregationalism was in the ascendancy and dissenters were obligated to pay a minister tax although they might not like the preaching. It was considered of a step toward liberalism when the town voted that the Baptists might have their share of the public money, and ‘people may have such preaching as suits them best.’” In our colonial era, not all but “certain” churches were supported by tax money.

NH Baptist Convention of 1882 initiated a proclamation: ‘Resolved, that we regard the sin of intemperance as one of the more monstrous of our day, contradictory to Divine Revelation, and the claims of Humanity and ruining body and soul.’

This was not the only resolution drawn up at the convention but it certainly was a harbinger of the next 50 years as the country grappled with a growing movement leading to an era of prohibition in the 1920’s and 1930’s. No church notes or references exist that the temperance movement proved divisive within the church or in the town.

Electrification came to Bradford. The church was wired for lights in 1905 and a new heating system was installed the same year. Gone were the wood stoves and pipes; in came a wood fired furnace placed below the main floor (not a small endeavor to install central heating in a small rural church).

Bradford’s initial success with electrification was fraught with delays and set backs. None of which were unique to Bradford as other towns encountered the same situations. 1897 was the starting point for electrification. A total of 71 people and businesses along Main St. signed up for “power.” The cost for a home was significant in 1897 at \$16.00

per year. A large sum of money. Three years saw drought which limited the operation of the water driven turbine. Mechanical breakdowns hampered the operation. Finally, in 1905, eight years later, electrification reach the church.

Moving away from kerosene lamps added new luxury to homes. No more daily cleaning of the soot and grime, trimming and replacing wicks, and reduced risk of fire made a difference for people.

A new century brought about an effort to rebuild and refurbish the 75-year old church structure. The renovations greatly changed the interior and exterior. Most notable, the two entrance doors were removed and a center door installed. The interior layout included a center aisle and new pews, steel ceiling and walls, oak wainscoting trim, and hardwood floors. Rebuilt chimneys and a new roof were added. The church members were not interested in clinging to history but fully embraced a building designed to served the needs of the town and church in a new century.

By a vote of the membership on March 22, 1906, the church was renamed ‘The First Baptist Church.’

The work to renovate and rebuild the church was completed in September 1906. A quotation from the re-dedication of the church, October 14, 1906, reads: ‘We should be ungrateful, too, did we not speak of the Christian men and women, who are not members of this church, but have always given freely of their time and money in the various departments of the church work.’ Those very ardent pastors beginning in 1863 had a significant influence ensuring the ‘downtown’ church served all the Bradford citizens.

While the 40 years up to 1906 included 5 pastors, the next 30 years included 6 pastors. The 20th century was moving more quickly. Bradford continued a steady ‘hum’ of life through WWI and embraced the ‘roaring twenties.’

*Steve Pierce*



### Bradford Community Church

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Our Sunday Services start at 10am.  
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Vacation Bible School – Shipwrecked  
August 10, 11, 12th, 10-11:30am meet  
in the Church Sanctuary, for grades 1-5.  
Pre Register at [bradfordcommunity-church@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordcommunity-church@gmail.com).

For the month of August, we are plan-  
ning a Free Community Meal of Cold  
Summer Salads, mark your calendar for  
Friday, August 20th at 5pm. Dine in or  
at our picnic tables.

The Bradford Community Food Pantry  
is open the 3rd Wednesday (August  
18th) 5:30-6:30pm.

Donations can be mailed to: Bradford  
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But beyond just meeting the professional needs of our local Realtors, SRBR's members also reach out into the area communities to provide assistance in a number of ways. For instance, as part of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors effort, SRBR is sponsoring "Autumn Vibes" featuring Nick's Other Band at Musterfield Farm on September 17th from 5-7:30. All proceeds will benefit: Wish List, Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministeries, Warner Connects NH Food Pantry, Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry, Newport Food Pantry and others.

Anne Marie Appel



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**August 27**  
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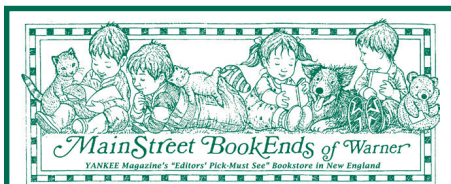
**September 29**  
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**BRADFORD CENTER MEETINGHOUSE EVENTS**

**Summer Music Series at Bradford Center Meetinghouse.** Bring a blanket or folding chair and enjoy lovely music performed on the Town Green at Bradford Center Meetinghouse:

**Sunday, August 22, 2pm,** Troubadours Concert - a cappella vocal music from the 13th century to the 21st century including Madrigals and Gershwin. Free!

**Sunday, August 29, 2pm,** Ice Cream Social with Kearsarge Community Band performing. Free!

For rain cancellations and more information contact [lbuchar@gmail.com](mailto:lbuchar@gmail.com)

**Thursdays, August 5th and 12th, 5-6pm, Kids pick up soccer at the Bradford Center Meetinghouse.** Semi-structured, team building fun for ages 4-8 years. Bring your own ball for skills practice.

Contact Leah at 938-2017.

**BRADFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH EVENTS**

**Wednesday, August 18, 5:30-6:30pm,** The Bradford Community Food Pantry is open.

**Friday, August 20th, 5pm.** Free Community Meal of Cold Summer Salads, Dine in or out at our picnic tables.

Contact: 938-5313

**BRADFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS**

**Saturday, August 14, 9am-2pm,** Yard Sale at 162 East Main Street. [See ad on page 16 in this Bradford Bridge for more information.]

Contact Marge Cilley 938-2253

**Wednesday, August 25, 7pm,** Bradford Community Church, Steve Pierce will present a history of the Bradford Community Church from beginning to the present. Light refreshments will follow.

Contact: 938-5313

**UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER**

**Mondays and Fridays, 8:45am,** Mountain View Fitness at the Bradford Area Community Center. If you would like to join us please call either John (746-2926) or Paul (938-5497) for further details. [See article on page 3.]

**Thursday, September 2, 7pm.** First Baptist Church, New London. Summer Music Associates presents Pianist, William Ögmundson, in a FREE CONCERT. William Ögmundson will present an uplifting and entertaining piano concert for all ages. William is an award-winning and EMMY-nominated composer, lyricist, and classically trained solo pianist.

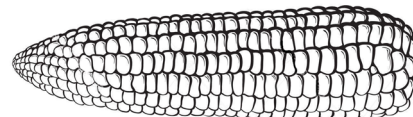
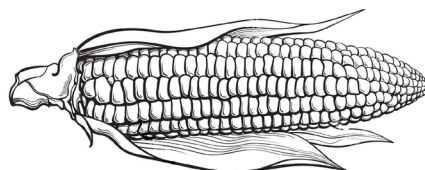
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## Out & About: Boats and Treasures

### Hooray for the Lake Todd July 4th Boat Parade Winners!



Cynthia Snyder reports that the 1st Annual Lake Todd July 4th Boat Parade was a huge success and lots of fun. Pictured here are the winners: “Motorized”, The Uncle Sam Boat, and “Non-motorized”, The Paddle Boat Family. Trophies were awarded in each category and will be available for the 2022 competition.



I found this sign along with countless other treasures from Bradford’s past in the old Post Office on the Bradford Historical Society campus. Visitors are welcome to see the historic buildings at 162 East Main Street during the yard sale on August 14th.

*Kathleen Bigford*

Many of you are enthusiastic about recording the beauty that surrounds us. Therefore, I'd like to invite photographers to share images to be included in this article. An accompanying caption would be nice. Please submit the images in .jpg or .jpeg format.



### SATURDAY AUGUST 14TH, 9AM-2PM



Clean out your house and make some cash. Sign up to sell at the Bradford Historical Society Yard Sale on **August 14th** 9a.m. to 2p.m. at 162 East Main St. Spaces are available for \$10. Sellers set up at 8 a.m. Limited number of spots available, so register now. Register by **Thursday, August 12th**. Contact Marge Cilley at 938-2253.

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## CLASSIFIED

As the grandson of Mildred Bagley Diamond I have been the recipient of dozens of very old photos of Bagley family members, many from over a 100 years ago. Over the winter I've had them digitized by IMemories and they are available to be viewed and downloaded from their website. If you may be interested, you can contact me at [philstockwell@yahoo.com](mailto:philstockwell@yahoo.com) or call me at 456-3980 and I will provide you with my username and password. Please pass the information on to any interested party who may not see this ad. Thank you. Phil

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

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