



The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS for NEIGHBORS by NEIGHBORS

MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Grazing Cows The Board approved a motion to allow the Bruss's to continue to let their cows graze and to maintain the field on this Town-owned property located at Map 6 Lot 17 and Map 6 Lot 48 at least until the new Select Board is elected in March.

Fire Department Generator The Board approved a motion to approve the payment of \$2,711 to Milton Cat for various work that needs to be done to the generator.

Town Moderator The Board accepted the letter of resignation submitted by Brackett Scheffy as Town Moderator.

Scholarship Fund The Board accepted donations from the Cooking Competition for the Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$1,400.

Christmas Donations The Board accepted \$1,000 for the Christmas decoration contest and \$1,231 for Town Christmas decorations.

Appointment The Board approved a motion to appoint Erica Gross to the Cemetery Commission. Erica will complete the term left vacant by former member Katrina Taylor. This appointment will last until March of 2022.

Abenaki Trails Project Grant Michelle Halstead reported they are seeking Select Board approval for a grant to preserve the sacred Abenaki site at the Bradford Springs. The Town owns the property, however, there is a conservation easement on it administered by the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation

(Continued on page 12)

Bradford Food Pantry

Hey Bradford, did you know there is a food pantry in town?

For over 25 years the church has held a food pantry in their office building basement. The pantry was flooded in the July 2021 storm and all food was destroyed. We have temporarily moved the pantry to the upper floor in the back meeting room. We are fully stocked and have been able to stay open and are in great shape for the coming holiday due to the generous donations of food and monetary aid we have received. Thank you all for helping us support our community.

We want those of you who are struggling to make ends meet to know that we are here and willing to help so you can cover the utility bills and not have to worry about making a choice between heating, electricity, etc. or food.

Pantries have changed. We have canned goods, meats, eggs, cheese, and personal hygiene products, as well as seasonal fresh vegetables. We also have a selection of hats, mittens, and coats.

For more information, please contact the Bradford Community Church at 603-938-5313. If you would like to donate to the pantry or to Christmas gifts for children, please make checks payable to: Bradford Community Food Pantry and memo: toys or food and mail it to Bradford Community Food Pantry, PO Box 57, Bradford NH 03221



Strands of Stone

Who doesn't love the sight of a rustic stonewall? Bradford is blessed with hundreds of them.

According to Kevin Gardner, author of *The Granite Kiss*, "New England stone walls are more than quaint anachronisms or regional emblems... they are also historical documents, personal statements, and engaging activity. In terms of sheer bulk and extent... the stone walls of NE collectively rank among the great architectural accomplishments of history. What they lack in pedigree they make up in impact, both physically, as features of the landscape, and, culturally, as signifiers of place and tradition." Other sources say that New England and NY together boast 252,539 miles of stonewalls. These walls are both ubiquitous and individually unique. Just look around.

When the glaciers sludged their mile-high wall of ice over what is now New England 18,000 years ago, boulders were tumbled in their wake, just like a cast of the dice. They carved our landscape with unfathomable, unrelenting force before expiring into our waterways. The farmers who eventually cleared the land had to contend with

(Continued on page 8)

DECEMBER HAIKU

Whispering pine boughs
Filter a blanket of snow
Softer than a kiss

EK



The Bradford Bridge

P.O. Box 463 • Bradford, NH 03221
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bradfordbridge.org

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Caitlin Banaszak, Area Events

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To receive The Bridge by mail,
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P.O. Box 463 Bradford, NH 03221

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
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



2021. Undeniably, this has been a year to remember. As the year comes to a close there are a few things to be gleaned from tumultuous, anxious, wondrous 2021:

- Has Bradford ever seen the resignation of two Select Board members on the same night? It's a tribute to this community that new members of the Board have persevered and kept the Town running as smoothly as possible.
- The anxiety associated with COVID 19 will persist. It may lessen; however, it will continue to be present in ever-changing ways. Recognizing the role this anxiety plays in all our lives will need to continue. And all the ways we found to help us through will need to stay in place.
- Life in Bradford is supported in so many wondrous ways. An outstanding highlight is the many ways food has been made available. The Fenton Family contributed holiday meals that were delivered by the Bradford Police Department to Bradford elders; generous contributions to the Bradford Food Pantry; volunteers cleaning and restocking the Food Pantry after July torrential rains destroyed everything; breakfasts and lunches delivered to families during remote learning.

We're finishing the year with an edition packed with all kinds of goodies. Here are some:

- * Anne lovingly composed a two-page guide to local artists and makers offering gift ideas.
- * Devin's Monthly Briefing of Town Board activity as well as grazing cows, a jingle bus, and an alpaca on the school playground.
- * The enduring beauty and mystery of "Strands of Stones" by Laurie.
- * My favorite winter solstice poem: "The Shortest Day" by Susan Cooper.
- * Transfer Station news from Lois.
- * How to light up Bradford and win a prize.
- * Seasonal art by Susan Smith on pages 1, 3 and 16 in her signature style.

Our appreciation to the businesses that support the Bradford Bridge with advertisements cannot be measured. Please visit them often.

We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we have enjoyed bringing you the news of neighbors every year for the past 30!

Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kathleen Bigford, Editor

*And the Dedicated Team: Leah, Don, Jeni, Harriet,
Mary, Audrey, Marcia, Devin, Laurie, Anne, and Caitlin*



Letters to Our Editor:

Letter to the Editor

According to an article published in The New Hampshire Bulletin, (an independent, nonprofit news organization) “NH is one of 19 states to enact a total of 106 abortion restrictions in the past year. This is the most in a single year since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973, according to an analysis by the Guttmacher Institute. The prior record was set in 2011, when 89 new laws were enacted by states.”

What’s behind the NH Legislature’s push to come between a woman and her doctor in determining if and when a woman has access to safe and legal abortion? The Bulletin reports “With its new ban on abortions after 24 weeks, New Hampshire joins 43 other states that prohibit most abortions at some point during a pregnancy. The new law signed by Gov. Chris Sununu makes an exception for the life and health of the mother. New Hampshire’s new law also subjects abortion providers who violate the law to up to seven years in jail.”

Governor Sununu seems only too willing to go along with the agenda of the Republican led Executive Council including a recent vote to defund the three family planning health care centers that provide 80 percent of that care in the State, even though the majority of services are non-abortion related and include cancer screenings, birth control, STD testing and treatment, and pap smears.

It’s time to let Governor Sununu (governorsununu@nh.gov or 271-2121) know that ending NH’s long history of bipartisan support for women’s reproductive health care is not acceptable.

Sandra and Stephen Bravo, Bradford, NH
Susie Lowe-Stockwell, Sutton, NH
Kathleen Forgiel, Bradford, NH
Susan E. Smith, Bradford, NH
Kim Lowe, Bradford, NH
Laura Beaton, Bradford, NH

Letter to the Editor

I’ve lived in Bradford for most of my life and often gush about what a wonderful community we have here. Some days it’s as simple as a smile and a wave. Other days, it gets a little more involved.

We sounded a siren earlier this month when our beloved family dog went missing – the response from you all was beyond any expectation. After days of searching with help from countless friends, including a pack of neighborhood dogs, we are so happy to share the news with you ALL that RUSTY IS HOME! He was found stuck in a culvert only about a mile from home on Cressy Road. A walker heard him whimpering and shined her flashlight into the ditch. She could barely see his face. He was so buried. She had to dig him out of packed mud to pull him free! We think he must have come in from the other side of the culvert and wasn’t able to back out, so kept on inching forward through the length of the thirty foot long culvert. He crossed the road underground - inch by inch for almost three days! He was weak, tired, hungry and thirsty once he was returned home, but has very quickly regained his strength.

The support from you all has been incredibly moving – we are so grateful for each and every one of you. You reached out, you searched, you shared, you called for him, you cared! Special thanks to the shining stars, Donna and Eric Long, for taking a walk, listening and taking action! Our hearts are so full to have our family together again.

Leah Cummings
Bradford, NH

Letter to the Editor

Our Community Thanks You!

Thank you to the two families who stopped by the Halloween Trees, on the corner of East Main and Rte. 114, one November afternoon to help pick up.

The Halloween Trees. Tall hardwoods, which for one spectacular night are changed. Morphed from their chosen identity into spooky creatures whose long spindly arms wave longingly at passersby. The white paper adorning their branches illuminates in the evening glow. It blows in the wind making the tree branches appear alive and very spooky. A Halloween spectacular for some.

And then it happens. The day after. The spookiness is gone, and the trash begins to pile up. White globs of you know what appear everywhere. On our neighbor’s lawns, in the street, in bushes. And then it’s just trash. Litter everywhere. The trick or treaters are gone. The fun is over. And we ask, who will pick up the trash?

A big applause to the two Moms and their children who were picking up the trash on the ground under these trees. Thank you for setting an example of community. Thank you so much.

Mary
Keegan-Dayton
Bradford, NH



Land Acknowledgement Statement I acknowledge that I am living in the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Penacook, and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. I honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the people who have stewarded this place throughout the generations.

From the Select Board Seeking Volunteer Moderator

Last month's issue of the Bradford Bridge included a letter from Brackett Scheffy announcing his resignation as our Town's Moderator. The Select Board received the same letter and regretfully accepted his resignation at their October 25th meeting. The Board also expressed their appreciation for his many years of service and wish him well. We will all miss his steady hand at the helm of Town Meeting and elections.

In light of this, the Board is actively looking for a volunteer to appoint as Moderator until March of 2022. The hope, as Brackett indicated in his letter, is that the Board will find someone who is not only interested in filling the seat until March, but will also run in March to serve as our Moderator going forward. If you are interested, please reach out to Erica Gross, Town Clerk at 938-2288 or tc@bradfordnh.org for more information. The Board hopes to appoint a new Moderator at their December 13th meeting.

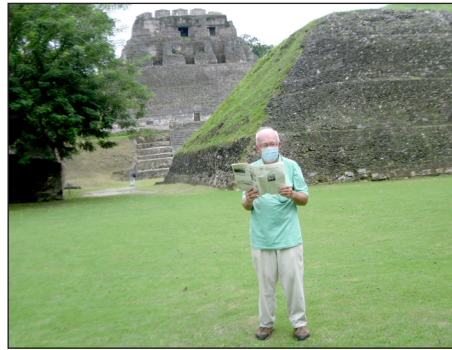
Photos and Submissions for 2021 Town Report

Another year is coming to a close. The Selectmen's Office is gathering information for the 2021 Town Report. If you have photos of the Town's faces, places or events that you would like to share, please send them to administrator@bradfordnh.org. Old and historic photos are welcome too. Be sure to include the photographer's name (if known) so proper credit can be noted.

Similarly, if you represent a local organization and would like to submit an update of your 2021 activities for the Town Report, please forward it to administrator@bradfordnh.org. Don't forget to include photos of your organization's 2021 events as well!

Submissions must be received by January 14, 2022 to be included.

How Far Do We Go?



From Steve Pierce: Travel has been limited but Linda and I took a trip to Belize in early November. This is Xunantunich in western Belize. Also known as "maid-en of the rock". A Mayan site. The tour group was taken with the fact a small town maintains a monthly newspaper!

We want to know where you read your copy of The Bradford Bridge. Share your photographs with us so we can stay connected with you!
BradfordBridge345@gmail.com



34 Rowe Mountain Road, Bradford, NH 03221

The Friends of the Bradford Center Meetinghouse will once again decorate and light up the Meetinghouse and Schoolhouse for viewing from December 11th - January 11th. Please come by to enjoy the peaceful serenity of Bradford's original town green and catch a bit of Christmas spirit. It should be especially beautiful the weekend before Christmas by the light of the full moon, and if we are lucky, a bit of snow on the ground! We thank you all for your understanding and support as we make the hard decision to once again not risk holding our traditional and beloved Christmas Eve Pageant. We wish you happy and healthy holidays with your family and friends and look forward to seeing you in 2022!



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“YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS”

Eight-year-old Virginia O’Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York’s Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharellus Church has since become history’s most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.



Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, ‘If you see it in THE SUN it’s so.’

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O’HANLON.
15 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.



Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life

its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make this existence tolerable. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Source: www.newseum.org

Support Winter Activities at KRES Bradford

The KRES Bradford PTO, a non-profit 501c3, is asking for your help to fund scholarships for the Winter Activity program, which is the oldest in the United States!

If you are unfamiliar with the Winter Activity program, it is a 5-week program that begins in January. Each student is allowed to choose from the following activities: ice skating, skiing, snowboarding or winter pursuit, which includes ice fishing and snowshoeing. Every Friday for five weeks, the school day ends around 11:30am and each student participates in their winter activity. Students of all grades become connected with their peers and teachers while being physically active in the great outdoors!

The PTO has always provided scholarships to the families who need assistance with the cost of the activity their student chooses. As we all know, everything has increased in cost, including the transportation and cost of these sports and we are asking for your help!


Please consider sponsoring an athlete this year and to make winter activities accessible for all. Any amount helps and we appreciate your generosity!

Sponsor a Skater \$25; Sponsor a Skier/Snowboarder equipment \$90; Sponsor a skier/Snowboarder lift tickets \$125.

Donation checks can be made out to KRES Bradford PTO and mailed to KRES Elementary School at Bradford, 163 Old Warner Road, Bradford, NH 03221.

Donations can also be made via Venmo @ [KRESbradfordPTO](https://www.venmo.com/KRESbradfordPTO)





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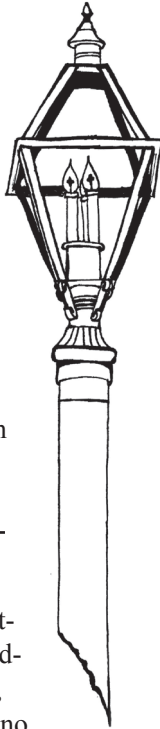
Library Hours:

Monday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Wednesday 11:00am – 7:00pm

Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm



My book recommendations this month come from my adoration of the Colorado / Western landscape. One of my favorite books, *The Dog Stars*, by Peter Heller, a post-apocalyptic book set in the mountains of Colorado about a man and his dog facing an uncertain and scary future. Peter Heller's newest book *The River* (not set in Colorado but instead in NH/VT) is also an exciting read. Kent Haruf uses the Coloradoan landscape as the background to most of his stories my favorites being: *Plain-song*, *Eventide*, and *Benediction*. All books can be found at the library!

Upcoming December events:

Book club: Wednesday, December 8th at 7:00pm we'll be discussing *Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams.

Visit with Santa: Saturday, December 11th at 4:00pm Santa, cookies, carols, and Christmas tree lighting. Please wear masks inside to keep everyone safe, including Santa.

Holiday Pick-Up Craft sponsored by Friends of the Library (date to be determined). I will post on website and Facebook when kids can pick up craft.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Ellen Barselle

From the Director's Desk:

I'm writing this article after sitting on a sunny deck with childhood friends in Cripple Creek, Colorado, a gold mining / casino city about an hour west from Colorado Springs. I stayed in an old hospital turned into a hotel and ate breakfast in the building that used to be the morgue. Local lore we learned from a cool guy named, Brad, who was owned the hotel and who played original songs on his piano in the parlor room. The sun and company have been rejuvenating. I'm looking forward to a loud, stimulating bi-lingual Thanksgiving as my brother is married to a Peruvian family and many of her siblings will be coming to dinner.





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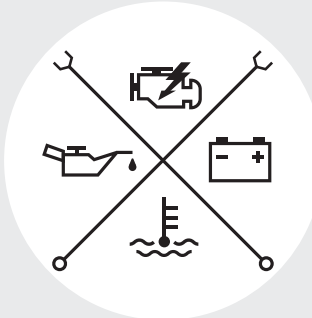
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Again this year, our Thanksgiving inspired quote from last year is so totally appropriate:

“Gratitude helps us to see what is there, rather than what is not.”

Whatever shape the Holidays take for you, your friends, and family, there will still be many blessings to be counted!

We hope that when considering your real estate questions or needs, you will call on us. We would love to help.

Whether you are buying or selling, our years of experience, and local knowledge when combined with the broad reach and additional tools of our Better Homes and Gardens franchise, will guarantee you a successful and satisfying transaction.

Warmest wishes to you for a wonderful Holiday Season!

The Milestone Team



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P.O. Box 67, 224 Main Street, New London, NH 03257

Recent Sales in Bradford (9/21/21-11/19/21)

63 West Road, a 2/3 Bedroom home w/ a 2-car garage on 2.4 acres, sold for \$175,000

312 Rowe Mountain Road, a 3-bedroom ranch, updated w/ partially finished basement, sold for \$322,500

162 West Meadow Road, a classic cape w/ 3 bedrooms, private setting on 5 acres, sold for \$353,500

296 Rowe Mountain Road, almost 30 acres, 5-bedroom cape w/barn style addition, sold for \$375,000

119 Fairgrounds Road, lovingly renovated 3-bedroom cape on 3+ acres, sold for \$390,000

509 West Road, 1790 charming renovated cape, glorious setting on 16+ acres, sold for \$405,000

106 Bible Hill Road, views, country living and historic charm on 19+ acres, sold for \$405,000

3008 State Route 114, unique 3-bedroom home w/ sunny apartment, sold for \$475,000



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Strands of Stone

(Continued from page 1)

the granite debris in order to plow and plant. The stones served the added purpose of providing materials for walls to contain livestock. During the population boom (of even more sheep than humans) in the early 19th century, our area was nearly treeless, as wood was used for home heat and construction, not fencing. To see an example of dry-stone (or mortarless) masonry, you can visit Bradford's first town pound which was built in 1789 (and replaced in 1797) next to the Center School and Meeting-house. As the story goes, pounds were meant to be 'horse high, ox strong, and hog tight' in order to keep livestock from wandering and damaging crops. Of course, you can wander down almost any road or trail in town and see at least the remains of stone walls on either side.

In her definitive work about the historical origins and significance of dry-stone walls, *Sermons in Stone* author Susan Allport points out that they aren't as enduring as they look. Frost, wildlife, vegetation, vibrations, and thievery all take an annual toll. That is why the farmers who settled towns like Bradford had a springtime tradition of "picking up their walls" or "mending fence." Sometimes, migrant workers were employed for this task but most were built by the landowner when time allowed. And although stone craft is not for the faint of heart, there is a recent resurgence in restoring these iconic troll-worthy strands of our glacial and agricultural past. Or at least keeping them visible.

A neighbor once told me her father used to light controlled burns along the stone walls at each roadside in town to control the poison ivy invasion until he was asked to stop because of fire safety. Next door, my son-in-law uses a trio of dwarf goats to tend his roadside property. And now we have Bud Aiken from Field Works of New Hampshire to clear the way.



Town Pound - Dry-stone construction

I recently hailed Bud after he had spent some concentrated work mowing a stretch of roadside near my house. This patch was overgrown despite my meager lopper attempts and I couldn't believe the transformation he wrought. He told me the goal was to "take it back to the stone wall," which in this case was roughly 20 steep feet up from the road. He works for a local company owned by kin Chris Aiken. Chris explained to me that "New Hampshire's old roadsides are defined by the stonewalls. The

early surveyors used a rod, a wooden staff, that measured 16.5 feet long as their standardized unit of measurement and most roads were 3 rods wide." (See what else Chris has to say in our local business profile on page 9.)

As you go about your days this season, pause and appreciate the fine work of the early masons and modern mowers that opens our eyes to agricultural history, vehicular safety and steadfast scenery all at the same time.

Note:

I love the titles of both books cited and include the following tid-bit for word nerds like myself. Apparently, it could be said that stone walls provide literary inspiration to boot.

Granite Kiss –

"That instantly discouraging, and inevitable experience in stone work when a fingertip or two fails to escape the contact point between two large stones on the occasion of their first meeting." (Kevin Gardner)

Sermons in Stone - "And this our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. I would not change it." (William Shakespeare, *As You Like it*)

Laurie Buchar



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Local Business Profile

Field Works of New Hampshire West Road, Bradford, NH

Today's roads are not the roads of yesterday, where a typical town had the local farmer mow the first few feet of road edge using his Ford 8N or Farmall A with a sickle bar mower. Today's roads demand more attention as roads become much busier and we move around much quicker than we once did. There are many advantages to mowing the back of a stonewall and exposing these boundaries on today's roads. One is to increase the line of site on a road. This allows us, as motorists, to see pedestrians, bicyclists and wildlife, along with another motorist, better. This should also serve as a reminder that any vegetation, natural or planted by man, within a right of way is eligible for trimming or mowing without notice.

There are other advantages to roadside mowing as well, including reduced maintenance cost of our roads. Roadside mowing allows beneficial sunlight on the road surface, reducing the need for repeatedly applying costly salt and sanding in the winter by allowing the natural melting and evaporation of snow and ice. It helps to reduce the cost of future hazardous trees that are within the right of way by removing them while there is still brush on them. Highway departments benefit greatly from having a roadside maintenance program, from allowing easier visual assess to identify potential problems, to easier access for personnel and equipment, all reducing the cost of mitigating a roadside problem.

New Hampshire's old roadsides are defined by the stonewalls. The stonewalls along these roads are typically set at 2 or 3 rods, that being a width of 37 or 49.5 feet by today's standard. The most popular was the 3 rod road. The early surveyors used a rod, a wooden staff, that measured 16.5 feet long as their standardized unit of measurement. Most modern-day subdivisions have a right of way of 50 feet deriving from this original rod system.

We are family owned and operated, with a family member on every job, which helps ensure quality standards are always met.

Field Works of New Hampshire was established in 2011 as a part time business, mowing fields evenings and weekends. As the business grew, there was a demand for roadside mowing which came into play a couple of years later with the purchase of a used boom mower. There has been an overwhelming demand for these services as many towns struggle with the rental of mowing equipment in conjunction with inexperienced personnel on this type of equipment, to be compounded with personnel being unavailable and being at the mercy of mother nature.

We quickly found our niche in the market with the roadside mowing, offering services to meet the demands and budgets of the towns we serve. Field Works of New Hampshire offers canopy

mowing and brush mitigation within a municipality's right of way as part of its services. This is where other companies fall short.

The equipment used today for mowing the roadsides varies greatly from its earlier predecessors. Field Works of New Hampshire currently has two boom mowers within its fleet of mowing tractors. These boom mowers are capable of reaching out over twenty feet without ever leaving the road. They have the ability to clear the backsides of guardrails and over the edges of bridges as well as up and down steep slopes. They also have the capability of cutting lower tree canopy branches as well. These machines help reduce the risk of injury to a town's personnel and the liability to a town for such possible injuries.

Field Works of New Hampshire strives towards quality and not quantity of work. With a majority of its work coming from the multiple municipalities which it serves, either through its roadside mowing services or its conservation/habitat mowing services. We are family owned and operated, with a family member on every job, which helps ensure quality standards are always met. There is nothing more rewarding than at the end of the day to look back at our work. A road that a few short hours beforehand had brush protruding out into it has now been transformed into a landscape exposing the stonewalls and highlighting the larger trees that have had the canopy lifted, allowing us to see further down the road.

Chris Aiken, owner



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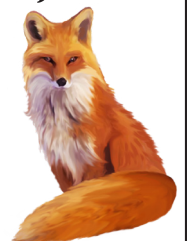
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MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

(Continued from page 1)

Trust. The Conservation Commission is in the process of confirming the grant would not be contrary to the terms of the easement. The grant application is due by December 15th and would pay for 100% of the project. The Board approved the request to apply for a grant.

Engine 2 Interim Fire Chief Jim Raymond reported that a seal on Engine 2 was defective and has been fixed. After the fix it worked well. Chief Raymond suggested we may have to wait longer than a year for a new vehicle. The Board approved a motion to allow the fire department to spend \$3707.49 to repair and inspect Engine 2.

Refunding Town Hall Note Selectmen Andrew Pinard opened the public hearing and read the public notice stating that the Town is looking into the possibility of refunding the Town Hall note through a bond issuance. The bond proceeds would be used to refinance the Town's note at 3.5% dated May 1, 2017. The amount to be refunded is approximately \$584,000 and is expected to achieve interest cost savings and pay the cost of issuing the refunding bonds. This is anticipated to save the Town approximately \$77,000 in interest at an estimated bond rate of 2.01%. The Town would be working with the NH Municipal Bond Bank and bond counsel fees are between \$2,500-\$4,000. The Board approved a motion to accept the refunding of the Town Hall note and sign the resolution.

Tax Rate The Board approved a motion to use \$100,000 from fund balance to set the tax rate at \$23.91.

Work at Town Property The Board approved a motion to affirm that anyone wishing to volunteer their time and materials to a Town owned property to work with the appropriate Town officials.

Intent to Cut Signed for Map 7 Lot 53, Map 4 Lot 36, and Map 5 Lot 111.

PLANNING BOARD

Lot Line Adjustment Preliminary discussion for a lot line of adjustment plan for property located at Map 5 Lot 64, Map 5 lot 64-1 for Robert Garneau and Lincoln Heffner on East Washington Road. A site walk is scheduled for December 12, 2021 at 3pm. The Public Hearing is scheduled for December 14, 2021 at 7:00pm.

CIP A public hearing was held on November 9th for the adoption of the 2022-2032 CIP. The Highway Department overview included a proposed road plan with the work being outsourced and not done by our Highway

Department. The Board approved a motion to accept the CIP 2022-2032 with the suggested edits of moving the purchase of the fire truck line item to another year and a proposed maintenance plan from the Highway Department.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Secretary Ken Parys was appointed the temporary Secretary for the Zoning Board.

Special Exception The Board accepted the Special Exception Application submitted by Mr. McCaskill as complete with the understanding that more information will be provided at the Public Hearing. Site walk scheduled for November 29 at 3pm.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Replacement Signs Request for \$101 from BCC budget to cover the cost of the Warner River sign replacement, which was previously stolen from its position on route 114. Commission member Meg Fearnley will look into a replacement sign for Bradford Springs



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Hotel Site, which was stolen from its placement affixed to a boulder at the site. Meg will inquire at the State Prison sign workshop for recommendations and cost.

Ausbon Sargent Outreach Committee Scott MacLean volunteered to become the Bradford representative, as Meg Fearnley is retiring from this position. The committee meets quarterly.

Abandoned Vehicle The car on Butman Road in the Pearl Town Forest has been removed.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Solar Energy Proposal Energy committee member Kathleen Bigford will attend Planning and Zoning Board meetings in December to present the Revision Energy Solar proposal for the Transfer Station.

Energy Audits Quotes are just in from Shakes to Shingles and Quality Insulation for the four Bradford Municipal

facilities audited for energy savings. The scale of work and costs vary, and committee member Sandra Bravo will now make a spreadsheet to compare and make recommendations. The plan is to present another round of Energy Savings Measures for approval at the next town Meeting.

Window Dressers Committee members Susan Moss and Sandra Bravo will attend an informational meeting with the non-profit organization, “Window Dressers”. This is a program that harnesses volunteers within a community to make low-cost window inserts. Window inserts typically save 10 gallons of heating oil per window and dramatically improve the comfort of a home. Inserts are offered free to low-income families.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Swim Line The committee approved a motion to expend \$1,600 on the purchase of 375ft of swim line and a new buoy for French’s Park.

Picnic Tables A generous donor has purchased 8 new wooden picnic tables for French’s Park. Tables will be delivered in the spring.

Jingle Bus The committee approved expending \$200, pending approval from the Select Board, for a festive bus trip to tour holiday lights contest participants in Bradford.

KRSD SCHOOL BOARD

Great Alpaca Incident KRES at Bradford had a rogue alpaca on campus. Students on the playground needed to enter the building. Mrs. Laurendeau, School Nurse, stood her ground.

Band Trip The Board approved the KRHS Band’s proposed trip to Disney World in Florida in April of 2022.

Minutes of all meetings are on file at the Town Office and online at the town website. bradfordnh.org

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Wishing you and your families a holiday season filled with endless joy.

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Obituaries

Elizabeth Young

Elizabeth Young, 86, died November 2, 2021, at home with her family.



Elizabeth was born in Pinehurst, North Carolina, the daughter of Edward Townsend Latting and Esther (Tufts) Latting. She moved to New Hampshire when she was a child. She and her husband, Ted, met at Simonds High School and married shortly after graduation. Married for 66 years, they had three children, Lorna, Linda, and Gary; four grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

An astute and tireless business woman, Elizabeth and Ted ran businesses that were a central fabric of the community; Highlawn Farm in Warner and Merrimack Farm stores in Bradford and Henniker. At

Highlawn, Elizabeth offered horseback lessons and horsemanship, and numerous activities fostering equestrian skills. At Merrimack, Elizabeth provided a business of farm and gardening supplies and services for community needs. The Farm Store became a gathering place still remembered with fondness by customers.

Elizabeth served on the Board of Trustees of the New London Hospital and as a chairman; on the Warner Wage Assessment/Classification and Warner Elderly Housing projects, Warner Business Association, a long time 4-H leader, volunteer in Warner's schools, school library, and welcomed young women to her family as a foster parent.

Elizabeth loved adventure and travel, accompanying Ted for a Navy assignment in Japan, traveling in North America and countries around the world.

To make a donation in Elizabeth's name, please consider Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, P.O. Box 2209, New London, NH 03257.

The family will hold a memorial service in Warner on May 21, 2022, outside to account for any potential safety risks from COVID. Details are available at: www.chadwickfuneralservice.com.



The Shortest Day by Susan Cooper



Carson Ellis / Candlewick Press

And so the Shortest Day came and the year died

And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world

Came people singing, dancing,

To drive the dark away.

They lighted candles in the winter trees;

They hung their homes with evergreen;

They burned beseeching fires all night long

To keep the year alive.

And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake

They shouted, reveling.

Through all the frosty ages you can hear them

Echoing behind us — listen!

All the long echoes, sing the same delight,

This Shortest Day,

As promise wakens in the sleeping land:

They carol, feast, give thanks,

And dearly love their friends,

And hope for peace.

And now so do we, here, now,

This year and every year.



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Bradford Community Church 1970 - 2020

This is the fourth and final article by Steve Pierce chronicling the Bradford Community Church's 200-year history.



Sleepy, quiet Bradford starts a population ascent in 1960. Our citizen count was 508 in 1960 and rises continuously through the second half of the 20th century. We stand at 1725 souls in the year 2020. Bradford Community Church mirrors the growth pattern in part. While attendance climbs upward the Sunday school population arks downward after 1980. Church affiliation has gone through two phases in the last 40 years. An exodus of 'baby boomers' in the early adult years and a reemergence of the same 'baby boomers' as they pass 50 years old. The following generation of children have far less Sunday school during their growing years.

Americans are no less spiritual; simply expressing belief in different ways. Our

current attendance includes few folk that grew up in a Baptist household, a significant number in the Bradford Community Church grew up Catholic. Few of us focus on our religious background. We focus on the teachings of the Bible and the 'felt need' to recognize a superior being manifested in the best example known – Jesus. Let me not get too caught up in 'religiosity.' May everyone find a spiritual comfort that deepens life and it's worth.

Buildings do always seem to need repair and upgrade. Bradford Church members have quietly and continuously upgraded the building. It is in fine repair and on solid footing (biblically and structurally) today. The wider Bradford Community helped significantly when the steeple needed renovation. Beyond that effort, the roof is new and is metal, exterior walls reinforced and properly aligned, utilities upgraded and modernized, interior comfort and exterior care have been completed. The parking lot, used by many when downtown, has a new top surface bringing a fine look to the entrance onto West Main Street.

Worship and religious belief have some unsung benefits. Medical studies in the USA have shown that church goers enjoy better health, lower blood pressure, and fewer ailments.



Also, church goers are happier in life, live longer, and have broader social connections. These benefits are attributed to a more conscious lifestyle, avoiding detrimental elements such as smoking, alcohol, and drugs, and a more positive outlook (seeing the good rather than the bad). The studies focused on Christians but common sense indicates these benefits would apply to many who embrace a spiritual and reflective life as found in other religious settings. Again, the studies were US and Christian centered.

It is most difficult to speak about living people. The first three articles in *The Bradford Bridge* clearly dealt with people now passed on. Bradford Community Church enjoyed a long 25 year pastorate with Lynne Hubley. Pastor Lynne currently serves within the American Baptist Denomination in Belknap County to the east of Bradford. Our current interim pastor is Rev. Joseph Sum. He hails from Myanmar having come to NH in 1993. He travels to Bradford from Dover, NH. Bradford Community Church has been diligently seeking a permanent pastor. The right connection between church and pastor will occur when both parties see a good fit.

Bradford Community Church will celebrate its 200th birthday on December 14, 2021. The founding was December 14, 1821. We look forward to the Advent Season with promise and are mindful of our nation's Thanksgiving just past. May each of us in town choose the good over the bad and take time to reflect, give Thanks, and look forward to many days of purposeful living into the future.

Steve Pierce

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Legislative Update from Representative Tony Caplan, First Term Legislator serving Henniker and Bradford



As the state legislature heads into the second half of its current term, under the command of Republican Speaker Sherm Packard, it's difficult to know where to focus one's attention with the glaring evidence of radical experimentation underway in so many areas in the Granite State.

Given my experience as the head of the Henniker Energy Committee for many years, I was particularly struck by the recent vote in the Science and Energy Committee overturning long-standing energy efficiency and winterization programs.

Following that vote, the state Public Utilities Commission took immediate steps to shut down the NH Saves program that subsidizes homeowners wanting to upgrade their insulation and other energy saving measures. This is a program supported by a vast majority of stakeholders and energy consumers in the state. The NH Consumer Advocate along with clean energy groups has vowed to fight the decision in court. To show your support for NH Saves, you can contact the PUC Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board to express your support for continuing to expand energy saving instead of cutting the NH Saves program:

Azanna.J.Wishart@energy.nh.gov

Another area where New Hampshire lawmakers lead the way in radical right-wing experimentation is with school vouchers that are designed to privatize our children's education. Say what you will about the flaws of public schools, New Hampshire's are among the best in the nation.

On top of the Educational Voucher program that was passed last spring that would pay parents wishing to home school or send their kids to private schools out of state money, (that program is now about \$1.8 million over budget), this week saw an amendment passed in committee that would establish another voucher program that would pay parents out of LOCAL property taxes to do the same. This bill, HB607, will be voted on by the entire House in the coming session, so stay tuned.

Lastly, I wanted to pass this on from my fellow Representative Jerry Knirk, chair of the Medical Cannabis Board:

The Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board will be holding a listening session regarding the New Hampshire Therapeutic Cannabis Program to hear from patients, caregivers, medical providers, and interested members of the public regarding the functions and operations of the Therapeutic Cannabis Program so that the Board can better provide oversight of the medical and public health aspects of the program. The listening session will be on December 1 from 5:30-7:30pm in the Auditorium of the Department of Health and Human Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. There will also be

a remote option via Zoom using the following link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/96980675388?pwd=OE0rd2gvLzBZMzFUL2laQlZleWFHZz09>. Public input will also be accepted through December 2 via email at dhhs.mobtcp@dhhs.nh.gov or by regular mail sent to NH DHHS, Therapeutic Cannabis Program, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

The Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board was established in 2018 and is composed of the medical director of DHHS, a patient representative, an ATC clinical representative, and ten medical providers representing different specialties. The Board is responsible for the oversight of the clinical, quality, and public health related matters of therapeutic cannabis in New Hampshire. You can find out more information about the Therapeutic Cannabis Program, the Board, and this listening session by visiting the program's website at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/oos/tcp/index.htm>.

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Help Save the NHSaves Energy Efficiency Program

The NH Public Utility Commission (PUC) recently rejected the State's Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan, essentially gutting the NHSaves Program. NHSaves provides energy audits and weatherization services, rebates and incentives to electricity and gas customers for reducing energy losses and purchasing energy efficient appliances. This important program benefits residents, municipalities, commercial entities and the environment in numerous ways.

As of November 17, 2021 Eversource informed around 40 of the energy efficiency contractors it works with to stop taking new applications for that part of the NHSaves program and to halt energy audits as a result of the PUC decision. Please contact Governor Chris Sununu at governorsununu@nh.gov (271-2121) and tell him that the PUC should not only approve the Plan but provide more funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy. After all, according to rankings released by the nonpartisan American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), NH's 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard is at the bottom in the Northeast.

Here in Bradford four of our municipal

buildings have already been through the energy audit process and we are looking to implement many of the identified energy saving measures. The PUC's decision is likely to significantly reduce or eliminate rebates that the Town was counting on to move forward with these improvements.

Many of the benefits of weatherization are explained on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy website and include:

- This program supports a whole industry of locally-based and professionally trained weatherization crews thus creating a market for American manufacturing, using products and equipment from local sources, benefitting the business community in the regions they serve.
- Weatherization not only helps households, it also helps revitalize communities by spurring economic growth and reducing environmental impact and returns \$2.78 in non-energy benefits for every \$1.00 invested in the Program (National Evaluation).
- Once installed, energy-efficient weatherization measures continue to save money and energy year after year and increase household incomes so funds can go towards key living expenses.

Bradford Energy Committee

TRANSFER STATION NEWS

Recycling Lead Fishing Tackle

Wings of the Dawn in Henniker has supplied the Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center with a locked lead deposit box. Wings of the Dawn is a wildlife rehabilitation center that cares for injured or orphaned wildlife.



Lead fishing tackle is responsible for injuring many aquatic and land birds. Seagulls often get trapped in fishing lures and tackle; some of them are lucky enough to be found and rescued. Loons are avid fishers and will inadvertently take up sunken lead tackle. A small amount of lead is lethal to a loon, and loon populations have declined due to the lead tackle that has been lost in the lakes.

Bradford residents who fish or who have possession of old fishing gear are encouraged to sort through their tackle boxes this winter and bring their lead tackle to the transfer station for proper disposal. When spring fishing season arrives, those who fish can truly enjoy their sport as they enjoy the presence of our beloved New Hampshire loons.

Lois Kilnapp, Manager

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BRADFORD COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wednesday, December 1

7:00 pm Zoning Board

Thursday, December 2

6:30 pm Budget Committee

Monday, December 6

1:00 pm Bridge Group
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Tuesday, December 7

10:00 am Quilting Group
12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Wednesday, December 8

3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Thursday, December 9

5:30 pm Parks & Rec

Friday, December 10

12:00 pm BACC closed for electrical maintenance, until 3

Monday, December 13

1:00 pm Bridge Group
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
6:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, December 14

10:00 am Quilting Group
12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
5:00 pm Energy Committee
7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 15

3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Thursday, December 16

6:30 pm Budget Committee

Monday, December 20

1:00 pm Bridge Group
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
6:00 pm Eco/Dev Committee

Tuesday, December 21

10:00 am Quilting Group
12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
7:00 pm Conservation Committee, BML

Wednesday, December 22

3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Friday, December 24

Holiday Observed

Monday, December 27

1:00 pm Bridge Group
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
6:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, December 28

10:00 am Quilting Group
12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
3:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
7:00 pm Planning Board Meeting

All events take place at the Bradford Area Community Center (938-6228) or the Mountain View Senior Center (938-2104) unless otherwise noted. Call to confirm dates and times in case any changes have been made.

Calendar Abbreviations

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| BACC | Bradford Area Community Center |
| BCC | Bradford Community Church |
| BCMh | Bradford Center Meetinghouse |
| BHS | Bradford Historical Society |
| BML | Brown Memorial Library |
| FGC | Fish & Game Club |
| KLC | Kearsarge Learning Center |
| LSVNA | Lake Sunapee Visting Nurses Assoc. |
| LR | Learning Room |
| MVSC | Mountain View Senior Center |
| SR | Senior Room |
| YR | Youth Room |
| ZBA | Zoning Board of Adjustment |



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December Happenings

Our Sunday Services start at 10am. Communion is held on the first Sunday each month.

This December we will be celebrating our 200th anniversary on December 19th with Rev. Dale Edwards speaking. We will also be observing Christmas Sunday with traditional Christmas hymns played on the pipe organ. On December 24 we will hold our annual Christmas Eve Service with scriptures, traditional songs, and candlelight.

This month's Free Community Meal will be on December 11 from 5-6:30pm. Mac n' Cheese and hotdogs.

Men's breakfast will be held on December 4 at 8am in the Friendship Room. All men are welcome to attend.

Sister To Sister will be held on December 11 at 8:30am in the Friendship Room for a time of fellowship, devotions, and prayer.

The food pantry will be distributing Christmas baskets on Saturday, December 18 from 10-11am. If you need help with food, please call the church office 603-938-5313.



BRADFORD EVENTS

Free Pet Photos with Santa, Saturday, December 4, 10am-2pm, 5 Acres Garden Center & Pet Supply. Come on down and bring your pets for free photos with Santa! Save 10% on all pet food purchases during this event. **Contact:** 5 Acres Garden Center & Pet Supply 938-2497.

Ladies' Night, Wednesday, December 8th 5pm-8pm, 5 Acres Garden Center & Pet Supply. Join us for our first Ladies' Night! Refreshments will be available and almost everything will be 25% off, some exclusions may apply. **Contact:** 5 Acres Garden Center & Pet Supply 938-2497.

Town of Bradford Holiday Lights Contest, Register by December 8.
See details on page 20.

Christmas Tree Lighting, Saturday, December 11, 4pm-6pm, Brown Memorial Library. Santa, cookies, carols, and Christmas tree lighting. Please wear masks inside to keep everyone safe, including Santa. **Contact:** Ellen Barselle 603-938-5562.

Silent Meditation, Sunday, December 19, 6pm-7pm, Evergreen Healing Arts. Online with Tara Mahady. Join us for practice and a discussion about cultivating and nurturing your meditation practice. **Contact:** 603eha@gmail.com.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Starry Starry Weekend, Hopkinton & Contoocook, December 3, 4, 5. Stroll through Contoocook and Hopkinton Villages, shop our local stores and pop-up shops, relish the holiday lights aglow, take in the sounds of live joyful holiday music, enjoy a beer garden in the park, and soak in the holiday cheer!

Warner Area Farmers Market Annual Holiday Market, Saturday, December 4th, 9am-2pm at Warner Town Hall in Warner. Shop local this holiday season! **Contact:** www.warnerfarmersmarket.org.

'Twas Just Before Christmas: The North Pole Express, Saturday December 11, 1pm-3pm starting at Belknap Ave in Newport. This will be a drive thru event. Each child in the vehicle will receive a holiday gift bag with activities to complete throughout the ride, including a scavenger hunt and stationery to write a letter to Santa! **Contact:** Newport Area Chamber of Commerce 603-863-1510.

Craft Circle, Saturday December 11, 1pm-3pm at Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum. Join us for an informal craft session each month. Bring your projects to work on in the company of other crafters. This event will be weather dependent. **Contact:** 603-456-2600 or info@indianmuseum.org.

HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH OUR COMMUNITY? SUBMIT HAPPENINGS TO BRADFORDBRIDGE345@GMAIL.COM

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Out & About: Gnome for the Holidays



Here's the Old County Road Owl resplendent with blinking lights as Gnome for the Holidays.

This wise bird perches on a tall old stump along the side of County Road. He keeps watch over this less travelled road and always shows his holiday spirit - just last month he was decked out for Halloween!

Do you travel this road? Maybe take a drive out that way to see what he's up to! And whoo-whoop can tell us who his keeper is!? We love the creativity that can be found on the back roads of Bradford.

May you all find surprising joy this holiday season!

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.



Holiday Lights Contest

All residents and businesses are encouraged to participate in The Town of Bradford's first annual Holiday Lights Contest hosted by Bradford Parks and Recreation. All Bradford residents and businesses are encouraged to show off their holiday light displays. Registration is open until December 8th, 2021 at 5pm. A registration form is currently available on The Bradford Parks and Recreation Facebook page and at bradfordnh.org. The holiday lights displays will be judged on December 9th and 10th and the winners will be announced on December 11th, at the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Brown Memorial Library from 4-6pm. All participating lights displays will be included in the public Bradford Holiday Lights Map and prizes will be awarded for the best displays. Contact Devin Pendleton, devinpendleton505@gmail.com, for more information.



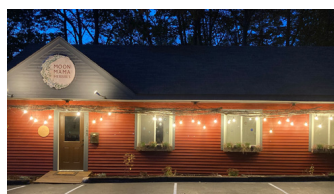
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3. Open your presents and be delighted! Easy peasy!



Join us and our neighbors, Sunapee Trading Post, for three special holiday shopping events in December:
Friday, December 10, 4-9 pm: Ladies Night
Friday, December 17, 4-9 pm: Guys Night
Thursday, December 23, 4-9 pm: Procrastinators Night
 Refreshments will be served. Fun is guaranteed.

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Moon Mama Herbals is an herbal apothecary & gift shop at 1385 Route 103 in Newbury, NH (across from the Mountain Edge Resort). Shop our store for teas, tonics, tinctures, body botanicals, bulk herbs, and so much more!