

The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS *for* NEIGHBORS *by* NEIGHBORS

MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports SELECT BOARD

Masonic Building Committee

Presentation Kris Foss narrated a slide presentation with the committees' considerations and recommendations. The committee studied three paths for the building; repurpose, raze, or move the building. The Committee recommendation is that the building be sold at auction. The auction could package up any additional parcels of land the Town wants to sell. Auctioneer package includes marketing, logistics, legal services/closing. No cost to the town, 10% fee paid by buyer. There would be two options: Option A: Buyer salvages architectural elements and razes the building. The Town funds fill, paving, and land/hardscaping. Cost estimate to the Town of \$60,000. Option B: Buyer moves the building with proceeds from the sale funding the fill, paving, and land/hardscaping. Cost estimate, \$10,000. Recommendation for Town warrant: Approve the sale of the building by auction as outlined above. Raise by taxation the amount of \$110,000 to raze the building, fill, pave, and land/hardscape if the auction is unsuccessful.

KRSD Budget Update Jim Bibbo, Municipal Budget Committee member, reported that the overall KRSD budget is up 7% for 2023-24. Additionally, all seven schools need new roofs with an estimate of \$6 million. Other systems are in need of replacement and Jim reported that the superintendent has a comprehensive plan for this. Turn-back from the 2022-23 budget is about \$200K. For now, KRSD revenues are uncertain. Jim will return at the end of November with more definite numbers.

(Continued on page 12)

Town Hall Update

As the year comes to a close, so does the Town Hall Project. Our Town Hall has undergone a magnificent transformation in the past 11 months.

Permanent power was installed in late October which has allowed testing of the sprinkler system, mechanical systems, elevators and alarm systems to move forward. The Fire Marshall and our Fire Chief conducted an inspection of the building and the concerns that were raised are being addressed. The Town's Building Inspector also conducted an inspection.

Painters continue to apply final coats and touch up other spots. Electrical circuits have all been tested. Railings for the accessible ramp and new front entry (on the East side of the building), constructed and donated to the Town by Jason Allen at Merrimack County Customs, have been installed. They beautifully fit the historic

nature of the building.



Once the required testing is complete, the attic has received a layer of blown-in insulation and the outstanding punch list items are addressed, the Certificate of Occupancy will be issued.

Stay tuned for information about the grand reopening celebration! If you have any questions about the renovation, please reach out to the Selectmen's Office (938-5900) or administrator@bradfordnh.org.



BRADFORD HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Festivities Begin Friday, December 8th at 5:30 pm

Bradford Fire & Rescue, Brown Memorial Library, Parks & Rec, the Economic Development Committee, and Bradford Community Church have partnered to bring a Holiday Celebration to Bradford.

Start the evening at the Library with a visit from Santa, caroling, tree lighting, and treats. Head to the Community Church to build your own mac and cheese bowl. Then stroll over to the Firehouse for festivities and to catch the Jingle Bus to see the lights around town.

Bradford Fire and Rescue will be filling Bradford's Original Engine #1 with food for the food pantry in cooperation with the KRES food drive. Bradford Girls on the Run team is hosting a toiletry drive to support the local food pantries in Bradford, Warner and New London.





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

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Mary Keegan-Dayton, Secretary,
Kathleen Bigford, Don Moss and
Harriet Douglass

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Kathleen Bigford

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Devin Pendleton, Monthly Briefing

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Leah Cummings, Graphic Artist
Don Moss, Advertising Coordinator

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To place an ad, call
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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

134 EAST MAIN STREET

Phone: 603-938-5900

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

(closed 12 Noon - 1 PM)

Friday: 8:30 AM - Noon

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Phone: 603-938-2288

Tuesday: 8 AM - 12 PM/ 1 PM - 4 PM

Wednesday: 12 PM - 5 PM

Thursday: 10 AM - 7 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



This has been another very successful year for the Bradford Bridge. I am so proud of this monthly neighborly newspaper. I share this pride with everyone who contributes:

The Bradford Bridge Board -- Leah Cummings, our talented graphic designer -- Don Moss, advertising coordinator - Jeni Lauder our Treasurer who keeps us financially on track - Harriet Douglass who coordinates getting the papers on the street - Mary Keegan-Dayton, Board Secretary and frequent contributor - Audrey Sylvester, Board President.

Our writers - It is a pleasure to recognize and thank our expanding group of regular writers.

- Devin Pendleton whose Monthly Briefings summarizes Bradford board and committee activities,
- Ann Eldridge whose articles inform about and entertain with wonders of the natural world,
- Laurie Buchar writes *Kudos to KRES-B* as well as many other articles about Bradford,
- Ellen Barselle, Library Director, gives us lovely life perspectives as well as updates of Library acquisitions and programs,
- Lois Kilnapp writes about the Transfer Station and Recycling Center,
- Chief Ed Shaughnessy writes about the Police Department,
- Chief Bryan Nowell updates us with news of Bradford Fire & Rescue,
- Chief Nowell and Chief Shaughnessy also write about keeping safe in Bradford,
- Steve Hall, Road Agent, lets us know what's happening in and around Bradford's Roads,
- Karen Hambelton, Town Administrator, faithfully writes news of Town Hall restoration progress.
- Anne Kratz, graphic artist extraordinaire, whose contributions make the Bridge shine.

We cannot measure our pride in and gratitude to the local businesses who support our efforts with their advertising. Please visit them often and shop locally.

Wishing you merry and healthy holiday celebrations
and much happiness in 2024,

*Kathleen Bigford, Editor
And the merry band of volunteers who work hard all year
to bring you the Bradford Bridge*

Photos and Submissions for 2023 Town Report

It's hard to believe yet another year is winding down. The Selectmen's Office is gathering information for the 2023 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 2023 activities for the Town Report, please forward it to administrator@bradfordnh.org. Don't forget to include photos of your organization's 2023 events as well!

Submissions must be received by January 15, 2024 to be included.

Holiday Lights Contest

All residents and businesses are encouraged to participate in the Town of Bradford's third annual Holiday Lights Contest! **Registration is open now and ends on December 7, 2023 at 5pm.** Find a registration form and contest rules at bradfordnh.org. The holiday lights displays will be judged on December 8th and 9th between 5-9pm and the winners will be announced on December 11, 2023 at the Bradford Select Board Meeting. All participating lights displays will be listed on the Bradford Holiday Lights Map that will be posted online.

Contest Categories: Spirit of Christmas Award – Traditional Light Display, Clark Griswold Award – Creative Light Display, People's Choice Award – This category will feature all participants and the judging will be done by the People of Bradford! \$200 cash prize to the winner donated by the AppleeSeed.



Toiletry Drive

Help support our local food pantries to supply toiletries to our community!

Please drop any of the items listed below between November 22 and December 10 at one of our drop-box locations – Market Basket: 30 Nichols Mill Lane Private, Bradford Fire Station: 91 W Main St., or Bradford Elementary: 163 Old Warner Road

We will also collect donations at a live event on December 8 at the Bradford Fire Station from 5:30-8:30pm. Come down for some cocoa, holiday cheer and community!

Donations will be distributed to the Bradford Food Pantry, First Baptist Pantry in New London and Warner Connects in Warner. Please Donate: Kids and adults toothbrushes and toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, tampons/pads, Poise pads, brushes/combs, shampoo, conditioner, soap/body wash. Individually wrapped: paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, hair ties/scrunchies, lufas. Mens and womens: razors, deodorant, shaving cream, baby wipes, Q-tips, cotton balls, tweezers, face wash.



TOWN OF BRADFORD NEW HAMPSHIRE 03221 ENERGY COMMITTEE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE COMMUNITY POWER PROJECT

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 675:7 that the Bradford Energy Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 4, 2023, at a meeting beginning at 6:00 PM at the Bradford Town Office, 134 East Main Street, Bradford, NH, 03221 to present the proposed 2024 Community Power Project.

The purpose of the hearing is to give Bradford rate payers an opportunity to learn about the community power plan being formed by the Bradford Energy Committee to propose in a warrant article at the 2024 Town Meeting.

The energy committee is pursuing this plan in partnership with Community Power Coalition of NH. To Learn more about community power and the NH Community Power Coalition go to cpcnh.org.

Land Acknowledgement Statement – We are on the unceded land of Nd'akinna which has long served as a site of meeting for Abenaki people from Pagôntegok (Contoocook), O'quassikonaquan (Newbury) and beyond for thousands of years. Nebizonbik (Bradford Springs) provided healing waters and people exchanged goods at the village site behind Lake Massasecum, calling this land home. The town of Bradford honors, recognizes, and respects these Abenaki, as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we gather today. In that spirit, today we will begin by acknowledging that we are guests in this land. We need to respect and help protect the lands within our use and share of the bounty with our Abenaki partners today.



→ NEW FEATURE! CHECK OUT:
"Community Resources" on page 20.
Food, energy, and healthcare resources.



Fire & Rescue Department Update

Fire and EMS incidents: 174 incidents so far in 2023 compared with 186 incidents in 2022. As of November 13: 15 incidents: 9 EMS calls, 6 fire, 2 mutual aid assists to Warner and one station coverage in Newbury.

The Bradford Fire & Rescue stays busy with community events. The Fire department has partnered with Parks and Recreation, the Library and Economic development to kick off the holiday season with the Jingle bus, story time at the library, and a very special guest on December 8 at 5:30pm. The Fire Department will be the pickup and drop-off for the Jingle Bus. We will be filling Bradford's Original Engine #1 with food for the food pantry. The food drive is being done in cooperation with KRES food drive and Bradford Girls on the Run team as they are hosting a toiletry drive to support the local food pantry too.

January 1 stay tuned for more information about the Fire Department partnering with Bradford Parks and Recreation to offer Bradford's Polar Bear plunge at French's Park Beach.

January 4 from 1-5pm we will be hosting a Red Cross Blood drive at the Fire Department. To sign up either go to RedCrossBlood.org or contact the Fire Chief at firechief@bradfordnh.org.

Winter Storms include a variety of weather, including snow or subfreezing temperatures, strong winds and even ice or heavy rain storms.

The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as the "Deceptive Killers" because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. People are injured or killed in traffic accidents on icy roads, or suffer from hypothermia due to prolonged exposure to the cold. Winter storms can knock out heat, power and communications, sometimes for days at a time.

Take Action Before a Winter Storm

Before winter approaches, add supplies to

your emergency kit to prepare for the weather. This may include rock salt to melt ice on walkways, sand to improve traction, snow shovels and other snow removal equipment. Make sure you have adequate clothing and blankets to keep you and your family warm. Consider purchasing a generator to use in the event of prolonged power outages.

Plan ahead for winter travel. Be sure to let someone know where you are going, along with your primary and alternate routes.

Prepare your vehicle for winter by checking, or having your mechanic check, your car. This includes antifreeze levels, battery and ignition systems, breaks, exhaust systems, fuel and air filters, lights, oil, and windshield wipers and fluid.

If you need assistance, please either contact the Town Office at 603-938-5900 or the Bradford FD at 603-938-2331. If you need shelter, the BACC is the warming shelter for the town of Bradford.

Happy Holidays!



*Warm wishes,
from our family to yours.*



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KRSD-B Veterans Day



Fifth graders Evey Wood, Miya Noyer, Annabelle Roukey, and Levi MacMichael honored their veteran relatives by demonstrating a flag folding ceremony with the help of Retired Air Force Colonel Bill McKinkey and Principal Andy Chouinard at the annual Veterans Day assembly at KRES-Bradford. All grades participated with music, poetry and letters to the veterans in attendance.



2024 Election Information

From Town Clerk, Erica Gross

The 2024 NH Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, January 23rd, from 8:00am-7:00pm at the Bradford Area Community Center, 134 East Main Street, Bradford, NH.

Absentee Ballot Request forms are available. If you will not be able to vote in person, please contact my office at 603-938-2288 and we will send you out a request form immediately.

The 2024 list of open Town Positions for the March 12th, 2024 election is below.

Signup for these positions will be from January 24th through February 1st, during regular Town Clerk office hours. Please call or come in to request more information and/or descriptions of the positions.

Budget Committee: 2 three-year, 1 one-year terms

Likely Candidates: Kim Firth (three-year term), Dawn Gezelman (one-year term)

Cemetery Committee: 1 three-year term, 1 one-year term

Likely Candidate: Marlene Freyler (three-year term)

Moderator: 1 two-year term

Likely Candidate: Bruce Storm

Planning Board: 2 three-year terms

Likely Candidates: Carol Meise, Shanna Griffin (three-year term)

Scholarship Committee: 1 three-year term

Likely Candidate: Devin Pendleton

Select Board: 1 three-year term

Likely Candidate: Mel Pfeifle

Supervisor of the Checklist: 1 six-year term

Likely Candidate: Judith Marshall

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: 1 two-year term

Likely Candidate: Erica Gross

Treasurer: 1 two-year term

Trustees of Brown Memorial Library:

1 three-year term

Trustees of the Trust Fund:

1 three-year term

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

1 three-year term

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Mountain View Senior Center

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134 Main Street, Bradford, NH • 603 938 2104
Monday – Friday, 8 am – 2:30 pm



The Public Is Invited!

Tuesday, December 12th, at 12:00 Noon

Representatives from the Community Action Program (CAP) will be hosting a public discussion at the Mountain View Senior Center (MVSC).

Community input is sought on activities, programs and events to be offered at the Center. Possible programs might include art classes, music performances or field trips.

Information will also be available about CAP offerings including Fuel Assistance and Transportation programs.

This is an opportunity to ensure that the Center continues to be an essential part of Bradford and surrounding communities as CAP will be making decisions about what resources to provide the Center based on community input.

Your participation will be essential to the long-term success of the MVSC. Please make an effort to attend this meeting.

On Tuesday, December 19th at Noon. The Center will be hosting a holiday party during the last luncheon of the year.

Expect a special meal (maybe even a barbecue) and a small gift or two. It's a great opportunity to celebrate the holidays with old and new friends.

Sign up at the Senior Center or Call 603-938-2104 to say you'll be there. We hope to see you then.



Please see **Bradford Community Events** in this and every edition of the Bradford Bridge for dates and times of all Mountain View Senior Center activities. To make an appointment for a wellness check or footcare on the third Wednesday of the month, call 603-748-1731.



Kudos for KRES-Bradford and KR-PreSchool

“Art is not a noun to me; it is a verb”, says woodworker Mark Ragonese, the artist in residence at KRES-Bradford who teaches that the creative process exercises the whole mind and body, energetically. His school residencies are designed to give students a chance to make meaningful objects that both nurture their individuality as well as contribute to endeavors larger than themselves. The KRES-Bradford PTO and the NH State Council on the Arts provided funding for this project.

In November the third, fourth and fifth graders created four large puzzle murals to be installed in the upper elementary hallway. Each piece incorporated suggestions from the students depicting local landmarks in different seasons: Springtime at Newbury Stonewall, Summer at French’s Park, Autumn at Bement Covered Bridge, and Winter at Lake and Mount Sunapee. The school’s code of honor was woven into the design, as well.

The kindergarten, first and second graders also made puzzle murals to decorate the primary wing. Theirs featured dynamic poses made from silhouettes of actual students, embracing the theme of Kids in Motion. All of the murals were first fashioned out of wood pieces, then assembled and painted with vibrant base colors, then decorated with stamp prints designed by each child. Mark stresses the importance of individuality, mem-

bership in a community, and the significance of the handmade object. He says, “Together we take an idea, experiment, invent, and play until we bring it to creation.” Stop by KRES-Bradford and see the engaging and imaginative results of this recent school-wide collaboration.

In celebration of the season, the students of KRES-Bradford will perform at the annual winter concert at KRHS



Artist in residence Mark Ragonese shows the process of completing puzzle murals for the walls of KRES-Bradford. Kindergarten through fifth grade students designed, painted and decorated the wooden forms to make these creative collaborations.

on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30pm. Next, there will be holiday craft workshops after school, led by the PTO, on December 8th and 11th. Finally the students will be treated to the Twelve Books of Bradford, a popular tradition at KRES-Bradford. During the weeks leading up to vacation, classroom teachers will rotate among the classes, reading aloud their favorite holiday stories, and getting to know their whole school community. Vacation will begin at the end of a full day of school on Friday, December 22nd. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024. Best wishes to all for a warm-hearted holiday season.

Laurie Buchar



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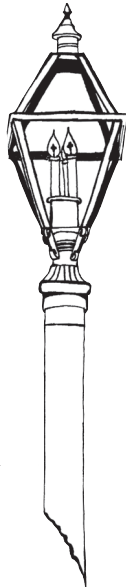
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Library Lantern



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 78 West Main Street
 (603) 938-5562
 bmlbradford@gmail.com

Library Hours:
 Monday 10:00am – 6:00pm
 Wednesday 10:00am – 6:00pm
 Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

A dear friend of mine introduced me to the idea of the “Christmas Moment.” It’s that moment in the holiday season where life feels magical and lovely and nearly perfect, for a mere moment. It passes, but it leaves you feeling bright and hopeful.

My friend and I have shared these moments with one another the last few years, it’s not anything that I necessarily look for, but I know it when it happens to me.

Mine has already come this season. I was invited to the Kearsarge Chorale by my friend and library patron, who sings in the choir. It was on a Saturday at three, I had had a busy day, I was running late, and felt a bit stressed. When I entered the room, I was met with beautiful singing.

It wasn’t the typical Christmas carols, none of the songs I knew. I was overcome with joy, emotion, and a sense of peace during the song, *Sing Gently*, written by Eric Whitacre. *Virtual Choir Six: Sing Gently*, was created during the pandemic, to create a sense of belonging and community. The virtual choir showcases 17, 572 singers from 129 countries. The song, which is 3½ minutes long, took three months to video edit. It’s a powerful reminder of our connection to each other through music. You can find the performance on Youtube. The song is simple, yet the message is clear, be gentle and kind to each other. Please listen if you can, it’s beautiful.

December Programs:

Friday, December 8th at 5:30pm. Visit with Santa, caroling, tree lighting, and treats. We have such a festive evening planned around town. Start the evening at the library with a visit from Santa, head to the Community Church to build your own mac and cheese bowl, then stroll over to the firehouse for festivities and to catch the Jingle Bus to see the lights around town.

Saturday, December 16th at 11:00am. Ornament Making & Holiday Crafts. Join us for a morning of crafting! There will be lots of art/craft supplies available to create ornaments or any other holiday craft you feel inspired to make. Please email bmlbradford@gmail.com to sign up so we know how many people to plan for.

Book Group is taking a break for the month of December. We will resume in January 2024.

**Hours will be changing on Wednesdays, starting December 6th, we will be open from 10:00 am-6:00 pm.

Happy Holidays!

*Ellen Barselle,
 Library Director*



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Produced and packaged in Bradford, NH

Your Chance to See the Budget Committee In Action

Ever feel like you want more details on the budget before Town Meeting day? Not able to make Town Meeting but want to know more about town expenses or the budget process? We welcome you to join us either in-person at the Bradford Area Community Center or online (bradford-nh.org on landing page, find and click on “Streaming of Certain Meetings”, find meeting in “Upcoming”).

The Budget Committee will meet on December 14th, and January 11th beginning at 6pm. Agendas are posted in advance on bradfordnh.org. Meetings allow us to hear directly from Department Heads, ask questions, and debate budgetary changes. A public hearing will also be held on February 1, 2024, providing anyone interested the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the budget request.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP), developed by a subcommittee of the Planning Board, anticipates capital expenses by Department through 2033. CIP-related requests often appear as warrant articles during the Town Meeting. Check-out the CIP plan on the Town’s website, bradfordnh.org (Town Boards>Planning Board>Capital Improvement Program). The CIP Committee generally meets August through October and invites your participation. Bradford’s Town website provides more information.

The Town’s budget is no different from our household budgets. We all balance needs and wants with our ability to pay for them. As it relates to the town, finding this balance requires the input and the participation of everyone. Please join us for a Budget Committee Meeting or for our public hearing on February 1, 2024! Hope to see you there.

*Kimberly Firth,
Budget Committee Vice Chair*

*Budget Committee members:
Jen Richardson (chair), Kimberly Firth
(vice chair), Laurie Colburn, Justin
Dohrn, Tim McKenna, Dawn Gezelman,
Beth Downs (Select Board Rep)*



GIVING THANKS...

*Gratitude doesn't change the scenery.
It merely washes clean the glass
you look through, so you can
clearly see the colors.*

*This Holiday Season let us all take the
time to count our many blessings...
not the least among them...our family, friends,
and this very special place we live!*

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*Warmest wishes to you all for
a wonderful Holiday Season!*

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For those of you with **odd-sized beds**, we have available **odd-sized bedding**. Usually takes about 2 weeks to fill your size order.

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Celebrating our 77th year

Christmas Eve at Bradford Center Meetinghouse

Thirty-five years ago, a few local families decided to reopen the Bradford Center Meetinghouse and bring life back into the building. Regular use of the Meetinghouse for worship services had ended by 1957 and the site was dormant for several decades. A lightning strike in 1932 had damaged the chimney and rendered the organ mute, but repairs had been made in 1939, so although use of the building had dwindled it remained intact. The fact that it was never repurposed provides us with the architectural integrity we still see there today.



The annual Christmas Eve Pageant was born in the 1980s out of a desire to teach local children about the origin of the holiday. The event has always been

non-denominational and open to all. At first there were just a few kids and their parents, singing traditional carols a cappella and acting out the Nativity scene. Since then, a featured soloist, organ accompaniment, local musicians and a loft choir have been added to the program. Many of the participants are second generation pageanters.

But, basically, it remains as always... a tableau of adorable children in snow-suit/costumes, eyes shining with anticipation and wonder. That is enough. Well, that and cocoa and cookies. Come and witness the magic for yourself at 5pm on Christmas Eve at Bradford Center Meetinghouse, 22 Rowe Mountain Road, Bradford, NH. If you want to help out, email 603bcm@gmail.com.

Friends of Bradford Center





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– Tara Brach



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**MONTHLY BRIEFING:
Town Board Reports**

(Continued from page 1)

Fire Department 174 incidents so far in 2023. 186 incidents in 2022. November to date: 15 incidents: 9 EMS calls, 6 fire, 2 mutual aid assists to Warner and one station coverage I Newbury. With invoices outstanding the Fire and Rescue have about 35% of the 2023 budget remaining.

Massasecum Avenue David Hahn and several residents living on Massasecum Avenue appeared to make the Town aware of severe drainage issues on the road. The residents are asking for a reprioritization of tasks to cover the problems on this road. Safety problems primarily include winter drainage and freezing at the intersection of Massasecum Avenue and Route 114. Also, due to draining problems the road in some places is less than one lane. Residents have had to supply material at the end of driveways to be able to enter the road. Steve Hall, present at the meeting, agreed that there is a problem and will investigate.

Signage Complaint George Cilley expressed concern and frustration about ongoing signage at the intersection of Main Street and Route 103. The Board said the Economic Development Committee is working on an ordinance/regulation.

Highway Department The department has about 22% of the budget remaining.

Road Agent Steve Hall has been investigating the Massasecum Avenue repair and has received an initial estimate of \$400k for blasting the ledge. A new body is needed for the 550, 2014 truck costing about \$10k. Steve is looking into options for roadside mowing that include collaborating with Sutton to purchase a mower. Present costs for roadside mowing the whole town are \$15K.

Grant Writer Steve Hall and Chief Bryan Nowell suggest hiring a grant writer to find and write grants. The Board agreed. Steve has heard that there could be some grant money available for the culverts on Deer Valley Road.

Fencing Repair The Board agreed to move forward with fencing at the fire pond and West Main Street costing \$7-10K.

Equipment Sale The Board has authorized the Highway Department to sell a roller and welder.

2024 Town Meeting The Board agreed to have the meeting at Kearsarge Regional Elementary School at Bradford and voting at the Bradford Area Community Center.

Funds Received The Board received \$952

restitution payment for misuse of gas card and \$5,612.13 from NH Saves for reimbursement from the Highway garage weatherization.

Intent to Cut Signed for Map 7 Lot 21, and Map 18 Lot 3.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Review Expenses Year-To-Date Departments are on track as the 2023 budget nears completion.

Initial Review of 2024 Budget Discussion of 2024 budget submissions from some departments. There was an extended discussion of the Brown Memorial Library budget which showed a \$15K increase over 2023.

**ZONING BOARD
OF ADJUSTMENT**

Garage Extension Michael and Janet Bauer submitted an application for Variance for property located at 16 Sunset Lane, Bradford, NH Map 16 Lot 29. The applicants are proposing an extension off an existing garage to be used for winter



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storage of a boat. The Board approved a motion to accept the application as complete and scheduled a public hearing and site walk for November 15. The variance was approved by the Board on November 15.

Driveway Richard and Judith Curless, Represented by Nick Vertefeuille, LSIT, presented an application for a variance for minimum building setbacks, minimum lot area, and minimum contiguous road frontage requirements to construct a suitable driveway that is entirely on Map 22 Lots 29 & 30, #102 and #98 Davis Road, Bradford, NH. The Board approved a motion to accept the application as complete and scheduled a public hearing and site walk on November 15. The variance was approved by the Board on November 15.

PLANNING BOARD

Consultation Andrew Mitchell appeared before the Board for a preliminary conceptual consultation for Map 9 Lot 33- Class VI Road (Alder Plains Road). Board Chair Katie Olohan read the zoning regulations that state that

this property can be used for logging with temporary housing during logging and cannot be used for permanent residence. A question was asked about upgrading the road to Class V. A very expensive procedure for upgrading was summarized.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Finalized The Board approved a motion to finalize the CIP. A public hearing on the CIP is scheduled for November 28 at the Planning Board meeting.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting The November meeting was rescheduled from the 21 to the 28. The first of two required public hearings about Bradford’s Community Power Plan will take place on Monday, December 4 at 6:00 pm at the Bradford Area Community Center.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Change in Hours The Board approved a motion to change the library hours on Wednesday from 11am-7pm to 10am-6pm. The New Library hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Holiday Celebration Friday, December 8, 2023, 5:30-8:30pm. Event is a joint effort with the Library, Fire Department and Bradford Community Church. Visits and photos with Santa, Jingle Bus, Tree Lighting, community dinner, food drive. Katie Olohan will contact the bus company for a charter bus.

Polar Plunge New Years Day at 10am. Libby Curtis Webb will contact the Fire Chief to coordinate with the Fire Department.

KRSD SCHOOL BOARD

Library Catalog Software The Board approved the purchase recommendation for the sole source subscription for Follett School Solutions, for the amount of \$10,652.52.

Firstlight The Board approved the purchase recommendation for Firstlight, for the amount of \$37,448.73 for internet backup, securing another internet connection -3 year contract.

Environmental Contractor The Board approved the purchase recommendation for Lakes Region Environmental Contractors for \$14,840.60

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



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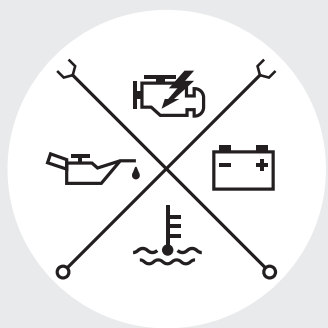
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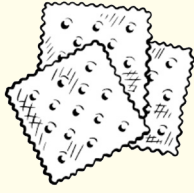
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Easy Saltine Cracker Toffee



Super easy Saltine Cracker Toffee, aka Holiday Crack, is the most addictive cookie ever.

Ingredients

- 40 salted saltine crackers or enough to line the baking sheet
- 1 cup, 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- Topping: 1 cup crunched saltines or chopped nuts or nonpareils or your choice

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 400*
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and line the sheet with saltines.
- In a small saucepan, melt the butter and then add the light brown sugar, stirring to combine. Bring the mixture to a boil and continue boiling for approximately 3 minutes or until the mixture is deep caramel in color. Carefully pour the boiling mixture onto the saltines and spread to cover. A few gaps are okay.
- Bake the saltines in a 350-degree oven for 5 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle chocolate chips over the saltines.
- Let the toffee sit for a few minutes to allow the chocolate to melt and then spread evenly over the toffee using an offset spatula or a butter knife. Sprinkle the topping on the chocolate and let cool completely.
- Once the toffee has cooled, break apart into pieces and store in an airtight container.

TRANSFER STATION NEWS

A Green Christmas Made Easy

The Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center is abuzz with many ideas to make a green Christmas easy for Bradford's residents. We offer these options.

- Food Waste: Leave food waste and leftovers on top of the compactor for farm animals. Pigs enthusiastically devour leftovers, especially cookies and pies, and they will have a great Christmas, too! Deposit food waste and leftovers in the clearly-labeled compost container.
- Christmas trees: Give a goat owner a Christmas tree (with decorations stripped from it) as a treat for his goats. Stick a Christmas tree in a snowbank, and hang suet cakes or a bird feeder on it. We will burn Christmas trees when we can safely ignite our burn pile. Please strip all decorations from trees left to be burned.
- Live table decorations that you choose to discard such as poinsettias, flower bouquets, and potted plants (stripped of their metallic decorations) should be put in the compost container.
- Regular wrapping paper (non-metallic and non-foil wrapping paper) should be put in the mixed paper baler. Metallic and foil wrapping, ribbons, and bows are trash and should be put in the municipal waste compactor.

Having a green Christmas is made easy at the transfer station! Ken and I wish you Happy Holidays.

Lois Kilnapp, Manager



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You may now find paper copies of The Bradford Bridge at these locations around the community.

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Bradford Town Office
Pizza Chef
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Brown Memorial Library
Applesed Restaurant
Bradford Market
Lumber Barn
Transfer & Recycling Center
Sweet Beet Market
5 Acres Garden Center & Pet Supply
Mountain View Senior Center

In Warner

New Hampshire Telephone Museum
Sugar River Bank
MainStreet BookEnds
Pillsbury Free Library

In Newbury

Meg's Cut Above
Bubba's
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Newbury Library

In Sutton

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Sweet Beet – KRES-B Three Sisters



For many Native Americans, corn, squash, and beans are known as the “Three Sisters”. They are sisters because they grow in close quarters and help each other: corn provides a pole for beans to climb; beans fix nitrogen in the soil for their sister plants; and squash leaves shade out weeds.

In the fall of 2022, the Kearsarge Food Hub launched a program that focuses on the Three Sisters for Bradford elementary school’s third graders. Now in its second year, the program consists of four field trips to Food Hub fields on Henniker Road for planting and harvesting. This program allows these young children to build off of their experiences with the Kearsarge Food Hub as first graders, where they plant garlic cloves in the fall and plant and harvest salad greens to feed their classmates in the spring.

For each field trip, the third graders and teachers walked the fields to meet outdoors with the “Three Sisters” educators, Julie Loosigian, a farm educator from Sweet Beet Farm (a program of the Kearsarge Food Hub), and Lynn Clowes, a community member and educator of Abenaki and MicMac heritage and member of an Abenaki tribe. The program is part of the Abenaki Seeds Project, a collaborative effort of the Abenaki Trails project, the Kearsarge Food Hub, the Hopkinton Historical Society, Warner Public Market, and Colby-Sawyer

College to distribute Abenaki heritage seeds to growers in the Kearsarge area and support food security for Abenaki neighbors through donated produce.


Enthusiastic participants in the program, the children did a fantastic job planting, tending, discussing, observing, and harvesting the Three Sisters. Lynn taught the children a song written by a tribal member, which teaches the Abenaki words for please (liulaldamana), thank you (olioni), you’re welcome (onda kagwi), and excuse me (anhaldamaway). The children played Native American games between planting duties. They also heard Abenaki and other Native American stories, learned about the interconnectedness of the systems of nature that support them, and learned a Native American way to show respect by offering a tobacco prayer tie to elders and people who are knowledge carriers.


In the end they grew and donated more than 50lbs of Abenaki Crookneck Squash (tastes like butternut), 8lbs of Abenaki Cranberry Beans (a tasty round maroon bean, good for baking), and 7lbs of Rose Flint Corn kernels to the Abenaki Helping Abenaki food pantry. The harvest field trip when the children shucked the beans and corn was particularly lively, and every child went home with a few bright beans and rosy kernels of corn. Many pleaded for more.

Lynn Clowes and Julie Loosigian


LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Do you have a local resource that you'd like to add to this valuable list of helpful organizations? Please reach out and let us know. We'd love to build upon this and keep our community informed and supported. Contact: bradfordbridge345@gmail.com.


 **Food For Thought NH, Inc. —** Any child in the Kearsarge region can have free healthy food for weekends or school breaks by signing up through their school's nurse or by contacting FoodForThoughtForKids@gmail.com. Website: FoodForThought-NH.org. Registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, 100% volunteer run.


 **The Bradford Community Food Pantry —** Open on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, 5:30-6:30pm in the church office building (located to the right of the church), if you need help between our open times, please call the church office (603) 938-5313 for an appointment.


 **Community FREEdge at Sweet Beet Market, —** Open and available to all 24/7/365. 11 West Main, Bradford. Stocked three times per week with fresh produce, meat & eggs, pantry items, and prepared meals from Sweet Beet Café.


 **The Warner Food Pantry —** Tuesday 4:00-6:00pm and Thursday 11:00am-1:00pm. The Fresh Vegetable Cart is on Thursdays 11:00am-1:00pm, in the upper parking lot. (603) 456-2053.

 **Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry —** Housed in the First Baptist Church, 461 Main Street, New London. Hours of service: Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm, Saturdays 10:00-11:30am. Info at the First Baptist Church office. (603) 526-6511.

 **Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice —** Located in New London, NH serving individuals of all ages in parts of Grafton, Merrimack and Sullivan counties. Services include hospice, palliative care, personal care, and wellness programs. Call for help 24/7: (603) 526-4077, Website: lakesunapeevna.org, Email: info@lakesunapeevna.org.

 **Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners —** Provides the Kearsarge area with a wide variety of services for all: Help with chores, transportation, emergency firewood, home cooked meals, phone check-ins, and much more. They also recognize the value of reciprocity, and look for ways that neighbors seeking help to eventually be in a position to serve others. Website: knpnh.org/, info@KNPnh.org, (603) 317-5900.

 **Energy Assistance Community Action Programs** of Belknap and Merrimack Counties provides services to eligible households to assist with home heating and electric costs. Website: <https://capbm.org/Energy-Assistance>, Toll-Free: (800) 856-5525.

 **NH Saves —** This program offers a wide range of rebates toward the purchase of lots of appliances. Also, find out how to apply for a home energy audit and qualify for rebates on energy efficient construction upgrades at the website nhsaves.com.



Newbury Library Mural

Mural to be installed in the new wing of the Newbury Public Library. The mural features the artwork of elementary-age artists who attended the Newbury Public Library summer reading series art workshop. Bradford artist Anne Kratz composed and transferred the young artists' work into a painted triptych on wood. Kratz teaches private lessons and workshops catered to the goals of the individual or group. She is always accepting new commissions and students!

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Bradford Community Church Events

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December Happenings

Sunday Worship Service begins at 10 am. We offer Sunday school every Sunday for children ages 5 to 5th grade. Children worship with the adults until “Time with God’s Children” and then go and enjoy a biblical lesson, activities, crafts, and a snack.

Advent Prayer Vigil Our church will be doing a 24-hour Prayer Vigil every Monday during Advent. We will be praying that the Light of Christ will outshine the darkness in our families, neighborhoods, towns, state, nation, and world.

Young Adult Group will meet Friday, December 1st at 6:30 pm in the Office building.

Men’s Breakfast Men are invited to a men’s breakfast and devotional on Saturday, December 2nd from 8-9 am in the Friendship Room.

Bible Studies in December –

Beginners Bible Study will meet Sunday mornings in the office building December 3rd and 10th at 8:30 am to study the Christmas Story in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

The Bible Study on Revelation will meet Wednesdays December 6th, 13th and 20th from 6-7 pm in the sanctuary.

Thursday Morning Bible Study will meet December 7th, 14th and 21st at 9 am in the Office Building.

Family Macaroni and Cheese Dinner Friday, December 8th, 5-7 pm. Eat in or take out. Customize with your favorite kind of creamy, cheesy deliciousness – plain, gluten free, meatballs, hot-dogs, ham or broccoli. Donations will be accepted so we can purchase coats, sweatpants, sweatshirts, gloves and mittens for children in need at the Bradford Elementary School.

Sister to Sister Women are invited to join our Sister to Sister Group on Saturday, December 9th from 8:30-9:30 am for time of sharing, a devotion, and prayers. Everyone is invited to bring an ornament (less than \$5.00) for a Christmas Swap.

Christmas Pageant Our children will be putting on a Christmas Pageant during our Worship Service on Sunday December 17th at 10 am. We have a Christmas Choir that will be singing during the service as well.

Christmas Food Baskets and gifts will be distributed to families on Wednesday, December 20th from 5:30-6:30 pm.

Christmas Eve Services We will have two Christmas Eve Services on December 24th at 10 am and 6 pm. They will be identical.



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BRADFORD COMMUNITY EVENTS

All events take place at the Bradford Area Community Center (938-5900) or the Mountain View Senior Center (938-2104) unless otherwise noted. Call to confirm dates and times in case of any changes. For town boards and committees, check the Town's website calendar for up-to-date times: bradfordnh.org

Monday, December 4

10:00 am Storytime, BML
 1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 6:00 pm Community Power Hearing, SR

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Wednesday, December 6

10:00 am Storytime, BML
 1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Thursday, December 7

12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC
 6:00 pm Economic Dev. Committee, SR

Friday, December 8

9:30 pm 1st Friday Brunch, MVSC
 5:30 pm Visit with Santa and other festivities, BML and town

Monday, December 11

10:00 am Storytime, BML
 1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 6:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting, SR

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC

12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 5:30 pm Masonic Committee

Wednesday, December 13

9:00 am Wellness Clinic, MVSC
 11:30 am Footcare Clinic, MVSC
 1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
 5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
 5:30 pm Masonic Building, SR

Thursday, December 14

12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC
 5:30 pm Parks & Rec., SR
 6:00 pm Community Involvement, SR

Saturday, December 16

11:00 am Ornament Making & Holiday Crafts, BML

Monday, December 18

10:00 am Storytime, BML
 1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
 6:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, December 19

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 5:00 pm Energy Committee, SR
 7:00 pm Conservation Committee, BML

Wednesday, December 20

1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC

Thursday, December 21

12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC

Monday, December 25

Holiday Observed
 5:00 pm Christmas Pageant, BCMH

Tuesday, December 26

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
 12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
 12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
 7:00 pm Planning Board, SR

Wednesday, December 27

1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
 4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC

Thursday, December 28

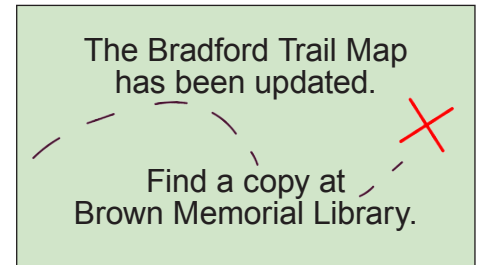
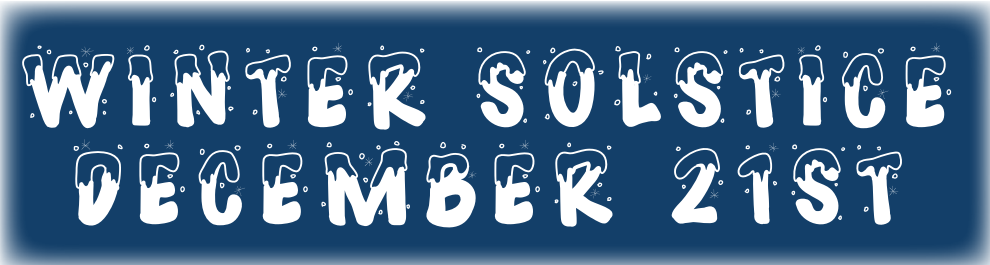
4:00 pm Meet The Maker, Soul Source

Tuesday, January 1

10:00 am Polar Plunge, French's Park

Calendar Abbreviations

BACC	Bradford Area Community Center
BCC	Bradford Community Church
BCMh	Bradford Center Meetinghouse
BHS	Bradford Historical Society
BML	Brown Memorial Library
LSVNA	Lake Sunapee Visting Nurses Assoc.
LR	Learning Room
MVSC	Mountain View Senior Center
SR	Streaming Room
ZBA	Zoning Board of Adjustment



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AREA EVENTS
BRADFORD EVENTS

Friday, December 8, 5:30 pm. Join us for all the festivities at Bradford's Holiday Celebration. The evening's events include the Jingle Bus, Food Drive at the Fire Station, Pop-Up Winter Market, Santa at the Library, and Mac and Cheese Dinner at the Church. More information, <https://www.facebook.com/bradfordparksandrec>.

Sunday, December 10th, 4-5:30pm, Bradford Center Meetinghouse Christmas Eve Pageant REHEARS-AL. More information, contact 603bcm@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 16, 11:00 am. Ornament Making and Holiday Crafts at Brown Memorial Library. More information and to sign up bml-bradford@gmail.com. Please register for planning purposes.

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 pm. Christmas Eve Pageant at Bradford Center Meetinghouse. Bring your holiday cheer and bundle up! More information, <https://www.facebook.com/BradfordCenterMeetingHouse>.

Thursday, December 28, 4:00 pm. Meet the Maker Series at Soul Source. More information, <https://www.facebook.com/SSI02EMain>.

SURROUNDING TOWNS

Friday, December 1, 5-7pm and Saturday, December 1, 10 am - 4 pm, Warner Hometown Holidays. More information, contact Warner Historical Society.

December 1, 2 and 3, 10am - 8pm, Contoocook, NH, Town-wide shopping and craft fair. Details at <https://www.discovertooky.com>.

Sunday, December 3rd at 5pm, Newbury Center Meeting House tree lighting and treats. More information, contact Newbury Public Library..

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Fiber Arts, Pottery,
Museum Store, & Much More!

Out & About

Winter walks with friends in the woods of Bradford. Do you recognize this hidden meadow? Go out and try to find it!



THE SHORTEST DAY BY SUSAN COOPER

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.



The Bradford Bridge



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ISO. Someone local to teach me how to play the harmonium. I have the instrument but need a teacher. The online tutorials I have found are not very helpful to me. I'm looking to learn a little more about the instrument and some basic cords. Willing to pay! Bradford, NH.

Please call: (603) 938-2017

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