

The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS *for* NEIGHBORS *by* NEIGHBORS

MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

SELECT BOARD

Unanticipated Revenue The Board approved motions to accept unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$19,000.00 from the Rural Heritage Connection for construction of the ADA Accessible Entrance at Town Hall, \$1,000.00 from the restitution payment for the misuse of the gas card, \$988.00 from the restitution payment for the misuse of the gas card, \$9,904.26 in State of NH Department of Safety Search and Rescue Grant Funds for Police Department Search and Rescue equipment, and \$473.04 from the State of New Hampshire for the CDS police radio grant.

Fence at Brown Shattuck The 10' opening was not large enough for a truck to enter. The opening was enlarged at the cost of \$600. The Board agreed the expense should come from the Parks and Recreation budget.

Evaluations Department heads will conduct employee evaluations and the Select Board will evaluate Department Heads. By consensus the board agreed the 3% wage increase will consist of 2% cost of living and 1% merit.

Cemetery Maintenance A new cemetery maintenance contractor is needed. The Town will put the job out to bid.

Independence Day Celebration Devin Pendleton, Bradford Parks and Recreation, appeared to report the celebration will be held Saturday, June 29, 2024. Devin has spoken with the Historical Society about using the grounds and discussed expanding the street space to accommodate more food trucks. Consensus of the Select Board is to expand the street area. Notice will be given to

(Continued on page 26)



2024 Bradford Town Office Candidate Survey Questions:

Each candidate for a town office who agreed to be contacted received a survey with these questions:

Q *What are your reasons for running for this position?*

How do your background and interests relate to this position?

Do you prefer Bradford's current Town Meeting format of government or changing to the "SB2" format?

What do you like best about living in Bradford?

2024 Bradford Town Office Candidate Survey Answers:

Here are the *UNEDITED* responses to the Candidate Survey received from nine of fifteen declared and known write-in candidates.

[Editor's Note: From the Town Clerk: I would like to apologize for my posting in the February Bridge. I had inadvertently put the last date for Candidacy as February 9 when it was February 2. With this in mind, there will be two write-in Candidates: For Treasurer, Stephen Pierce and For Select Board, Chip Meany]

Budget Committee Three Year Term, Kim Firth

I am completing my first elected one-year term on the Budget Committee. As I have voiced at the Budget Committee meetings, I feel we need to work harder to make the Town budget as transparent as

(Continued on page 12)

Bradford Residents!!

Participate in Your Town and School District Government!

Saturday March 9th at 10am
BACC, 134 East Main Street
Live Candidate Forum

Tuesday, March 12th, 8am – 7pm
BACC, 134 East Main Street
Vote for Bradford & KRSD Officials and the KRSD Budget

Wednesday, March 13th, 7pm
Town Meeting Bradford Elementary School, 163 Old Warner Road
Vote on the 2024 Town Budget and Warrant Articles

See Pages 16-21 for the Budget and Warrant

Town Reports will be available
March 5th in the Town Office,
134 East Main Street

The Fire Department will be hosting a
FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST
at the Fire Station on
March 9th from 8:30-10am.

Please stop down and meet your Fire Department members and have a look around the station at the equipment.



→ NEW FEATURE! CHECK OUT:
"Community Resources" on page 28.
Food, energy, and healthcare resources.



The Bradford Bridge

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeni Lauder, Treasurer,
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Harriet Douglass

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Kathleen Bigford

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Devin Pendleton, Monthly Briefing

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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

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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

March, the month of Irish, Equinox, and religious celebrations, is also the month we get to choose Bradford's officials and the ways we spend our hard-earned tax dollars.

The sticker shock we all experienced with the second installment of our 2023 taxes will hopefully bring out more voters to take advantage of the privilege of deciding our future taxes.

Lots of background information can be found in this edition plus the Town Report available on March 5th at Bradford's Town Offices. In addition to department budget requests, of interest at this year's meeting are three items to be determined by ballot:

- The future of the Masonic building – Read, "Masonic Building Committee Report", page 15,
- Bradford's form of government – Town Meeting or SB2, Read, "Call for Opinions Answered", in the February 2024 Bradford Bridge, pages 11-13,
- Bradford's Community Energy Plan, Read, "Bradford Community Power," page 6 and find Community Power Committee under Town Boards at bradfordnh.org.

Police Chief Edward Shaughnessy, Fire Chief Bryan Nowell, and Road Agent Steve Hall have provided explanations for their department budgets and warrant articles.

I'll leave you to it! Please take advantage of the opportunity to participate in grass roots democracy and to make a difference in Bradford by voting on March 12th and at Town Meeting on March 13th.

Oh, and Happy Spring!

Kathleen Bigford, Editor

And everyone who helps bring monthly neighborly news



tulips in winter

with hope I count on you

petal by petal

kb

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'quasskikonaquan (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.



Letters to Our Editor:

Politics = Policy... and it's a battlefield!

We are in the thick of the 2nd year of the NH House term, and I received an interesting statistic lately – 2024 has a record number of bills filed in the NH House and NH Senate. A proposed bill is referred to as an LSR or Legislative Service Request. The LSR must be filed by a legislative sponsor or sponsors. Statistics for the NH House are: Total House LSRs = 788, Republican Filed LSRs = 459 (58%), Democratic Filed LSRs = 315 (40%), Independent Filed LSRs = 14 (2%). Every bill requires a public hearing – so the amount of time this number of bills requires is a lot. My personal observation is that many of them are absurd, but maybe that's on purpose. Flood the works with foolishness, and hope no one notices and the foolishness makes it through. Thankfully, we have a very smart team in the Democratic office, and they are on top of it!

I usually feel rather drained at the end of a House session. It can be taxing to listen to the crazy that some folks bring forward. Makes me wonder, do they really believe this? The House session on 2/15/24 was one of those days. Governor Sununu came to speak – the GOP side of the room gave him a standing ovation when he bragged about the school voucher program (\$30 million spent so far – the Dems stayed seated), and they gave him a standing ovation when he said he requested \$850,000 to send NH National Guard to

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the Texas border (Dems stayed seated). On Saturday 2/17/24 WMUR showed a video of Rep. Jess Edwards (R-Auburn) saying, "I put this on the same scale of national security threat as Pearl Harbor and 9/11". Seriously?

I can feel that people are finally getting fed up with all this foolishness and starting to pay attention. Continue to talk about this with friends, family, colleagues. We need a blue wave in 2024. I would also encourage folks to educate yourselves about Freestaters – there are about 80+ in the NH GOP. They are extreme and their beliefs enacted into laws would be very harmful to NH. A great resource is here: <https://granitestateprogress.org/our-work/free-state-project-watch/>. I will be running again in 2024. I may be weary from the battle at times, but I am not backing down now!

*Stephanie Payeur,
Representative Merrimack District 8,
Bradford, Henniker, Warner*

Fixed Income Dilemma

My name is Jeanne Dionne, an 82-year-old widow who has lived in Bradford since 1999. As expected, each year taxes have increased to cover town and state expenses. In the last half of 2023 we have seen a 25% increase in taxes on top of inflation increases. In my case this amounts to about a \$1,700.00 per year increase.

Being on a fixed income of social security and unable to work due to health issues, I find it very, very difficult to handle the costs of owning my home in Bradford. I looked at selling my home which I truly love, but I also looked at the cost to rent or purchase elsewhere.

I cannot stand another big increase and would have no other choice but to sell without a place to live. I believe this constitutes being homeless at 82 years of age. I would definitely like to have another choice and I wonder how many people in Bradford are faced with the same problem.

*Jeanne Dionne, Bradford, NH
[Transcribed from Ms. Dionne's
handwritten letter]*

Apology from the Town Clerk

Dear Residents of the Town of Bradford,

I would like to apologize for my posting in the February Bridge. I had inadvertently put the last date for Candidacy as February 9th when it was actually February 2nd. All other postings at the Post Office, B.A.C.C. and Facebook were correct. With this in mind, there will be two write-in Candidates:

**Selectmen – Chip Meany
Treasurer – Stephen Pierce**

Thank you,

*Erica Gross,
Town Clerk/Tax Collector*

Thank You

A big thank you to ASM-Laquire Construction Corp. Thank you for saving my house (again). These people are professional, on time, particular, have great materials, and really go out of their way to provide excellent work. And they're local! If you need any renovations or building done, call them - their schedule gets filled up very quickly. Thanks a bunch Pat, Mitchell, and all others.

*Liz Bouley
Day Pond Road*

Free Childcare Provided

Childcare will be provided free of charge at Brown Memorial Library for Bradford residents attending Town Meeting, March 13th. Drop off is at 6:45pm.

Please reach out to devinpendleton505@gmail.com with your name and number of children you will be dropping off.





Fire & Rescue Department Update

As of February 22, 2024, we have been dispatched for 35 incidents. Historically, during the same time period the Department has responded to the following number of calls: In 2023 there were 28 calls for service; in 2022 there were 35 calls for service; in 2021 there were 27 calls for service. The most notable calls in 2024 have been 4 mutual aid calls for structure fires to Sunapee, Dunbarton, Warner and Sutton.

I would like to thank the Selectmen, the members of the Budget Committee and the Capital Improvement Committee for all their very hard work for a couple months reviewing all the department heads' budget requests and Capital Improvement Program requests.

In 2023, the Department turned back about \$30,000. This was partially due to the Department receiving grants in 2022 and 2023. The Department has received \$107,000 in grants and donations during that time with a cost to the town of \$425.72 and the other 10% match was from already purchased equipment in 2022. Besides the FEMA grant, in 2023, the Department also received a 50/50 grant for \$2,000 from the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant to purchase wildland fire equipment and pager communications and a portable radio for the Department.

In 2023 the Fire Department was able to purchase four sets of personal protective equipment and to get all of our active members into compliant protective clothing. This was made possible by the Department applying for a FEMA grant and receiving 95% of the cost of 2 sets (\$8,714.28), and the 2 sets only cost the town (\$425.72). Thank you to the town for approving the warrant article during the 2023 town meeting to set up a fund to purchase the compliant protective clothing for the Department members.

At the start of the 2024 budget the Fire Department and Rescue budget request was \$182,390. As of the February 5th Selectmen meeting the Department's budget was down to \$169,890. The 2023

Fire Department and Rescue budget was \$177,150, and the 2022 budget was \$167,448.

Items that have driven the Department's budget are the calls for service and our members' responses. We have 17 active members. With a trend in call volume increasing, members responding on calls, and having 100% calls being covered by the members of the Departments. We had overspent the 2022 part-time wages and requested an increase in 2023 to keep that funding as it was in 2021.

Two areas of increase in funding requests were building and vehicle maintenance.

- The Fire Station is a 40+ year old station and needs some updates and general maintenance to keep it operational. There are numerous items such as generator maintenance, furnace service, fire alarm and fire protection certification, and air filtration servicing.

- The other expense is keeping our fleet of vehicles serviceable, in compliance, and safe. In 2022, the Department spent \$11,950 to maintain, inspect and service the eight trucks, a boat, and a UTV. The Department has been very conscious of the expenditures. We purchase parts from the State of NH bid list and sometimes do the minor service work in-house..

The Department has several warrant articles this year:

- \$10,000 for Fire Department expendable trust fund.

- \$20,000 (down from \$50,000 in 2021) for the 2006 Fire Department Heavy equipment fund. This fund helped to purchase a new fire truck. The truck was purchased in 2022 and should arrive this year at a cost of \$505,000.

- \$10,000 for the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus replacement. This is down from our original request of \$40,000. The cost of replacing one pack is approximately \$8,500, the bottle is \$1,200. The Fire Department intent is to purchase a few packs every year to spread out the cost over a longer period of time. Currently with this article we will be able to replace about 4 packs but there will be no savings going forward on purchasing without future funding of the article.

- \$15,000 for heat pumps which will help be an energy savings of heating and cooling the crew quarters compared to the existing heating system.

- The funding of the hose and nozzle fund of \$11,000 will start replacing the hose and our current nozzles.

- \$13,500 to fund the Fire Department communications. The current radios are no longer supported by Motorola and were originally purchased around 1998.

We wouldn't have been able to do what we have done over the years if it wasn't for the support from the community and the work of the Capital Improvement Program Committee, Budget Committee, and Selectmen.

The Fire Department is your neighbors who are here to respond 24 hours a day seven days a week throughout the year to help out the citizens of Bradford as well as our neighboring towns.

The Fire Department will be hosting a free pancake breakfast at the Fire Station on March 9 from 8:30-10:00 am. Please stop down and meet your Fire Department members and have a look around the station at the equipment.

Thank you so much from Bradford Fire Rescue!

Bryan Nowell
Fire Chief/Emergency Management
Director and Health Officer



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Police Department Update

2024 Police Activity

In a recent public meeting, a comment was made by a resident that they missed reading police department updates that included the types of calls being handled and what was happening around town. So far, year to date, our biggest drivers of volume are:

Motor vehicle violations - 115, Business checks - 146, Public building and vacant house checks - 49, Directed patrols due to recent complaints - 12, Assists (Medical, Fire, Police, Citizen, DPW) - 60.

Total calls for service as of 2/21/2024 - 476

On top of the above, we have many open investigations that require time and effort. We were also able to close out a couple investigations and cases from 2023.

- A resident has been arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, endangering the welfare of a child and possession of drugs with the intent to distribute. Trial is set for next month.
- A resident was arrested, charged and found guilty of obstructing report of a

crime, criminal mischief and breach of bail. The penalties include jail time, payment of a fine and restitution for damaged property.

- A citizen was arrested and indicted by a grand jury for theft by unauthorized taking and forgery.
- A citizen was arrested and indicted by a grand jury for criminal threatening and reckless conduct stemming from an incident at the Post Office involving a firearm.
- A resident plead guilty to charges of aggravated felonious sexual assault/sexual assault of a minor. He will serve 3-6 years in prison and be required to register with the sex offender registry for life upon release.
- A resident was cited for dog at large/nuisance and issued a court date.
- A citizen was found guilty at a trial date for speeding.
- As part of a joint investigation with the NH Fire Marshall's Office, a citizen was arrested and charged with arson. A trial date is pending.

*Ed Shaughnessy,
Chief of Police,
Bradford Police Department*



Highway Department Update

It's been a funny winter up until this point not much snow, rain instead, and the warmer weather didn't let the ground freeze so it was a challenge for plowing dirt roads. I guess on a good note we are saving material, fuel, overtime etc which is a good thing.

We are working on small projects, repairs to equipment, we built an addition on the sander shed to house the Sander we purchased last year that goes in the #7 ten wheeler, minor repairs on vehicles during winter along with trying to trim/cut brush when the weather allows.

I have been working with the Select Board and Budget Committee to get final numbers for 2024 needs and projects. However, we may not always agree but are willing to compromise. I know it's tough to ask for money for road projects when taxes keep increasing, however, the need is there for sure to improve the infrastructure of the town roads which benefits everyone in the long run.

I also realize the road projects are more than what the taxpayers can handle all at once. That's why we have worked closely with Central NH Planning (CNHP) implementing a seven-year plan to help Bradford move forward allowing road improvement. If funds are allocated, we follow recommendations from CNHP, Road Committee, Select Board/Budget Committee, Capital Improvement Program Committee and, of course, the tax paying voters who ultimately have final say.

We have been working with GN Fencing out of Goffstown and they have repaired the fence at West Main by the Fire Station. All the brush was cut and cleaned up as well. I hope you all noticed. I think it looks great. I guess that's what I have for now, it seems like I'm forgetting something "oh well". Can't forget plowing and sanding of course.

Please call or email with questions.

*Steve Hall, Road Agent
Bradford Highway Department
highway@bradfordnh.org
603-938-5916*

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TRANSFER STATION NEWS

CRAP Is Not a Swear

CRAP is not an indecent term at the Bradford Transfer and recycling Center! CRAP refers to Carbon-Rich Organic Particles that are made up of 60% (brown carbon) material and 40% (green nitrogen) material. Examples of brown materials include straw, wood chips, shredded cardboard, fallen leaves and feathers. An interesting side note: Down and feathers from pillows added to your compost pile will provide nesting material for the birds in your neighborhood.

CRAP can be used in your gardens and around bushes and trees.

Excessive food waste continues to be a concern. When food waste decomposes in landfills without the right organisms and conditions to break down harmlessly, as it would in a compost heap, the potent greenhouse gas methane is produced. Besides being a waste of money, time, energy, water, and nutrient resources, unused food and food waste in landfills is one of the main sources of greenhouse gasses.

We are asking residents to bring all of their food and yard wastes to the transfer station, so that other residents – and our town finances – can benefit. When you are ready to start your spring gardening, Ken and I will be happy to load your truck or trailer with CRAP, the end product of our residents' waste.

Lois Kilnapp, Manager

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- + Steel Cans + Aerosol Cans + Lids +
- + Beer Caps + Aluminum Foil +
- + Aluminum Beverage Cans +
- + Any & All Scrap Metal +
- + Any type of Battery + Cell Phones +
- + Ink Cartridges + Motor Oil + Oil Filters +
- + Any liquid plant-based Oil + Brush +
- + Books + Clothing + Textiles +



What is Bradford Community Power?

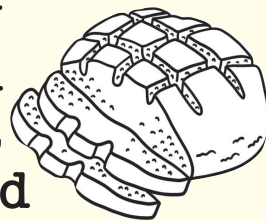
New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties procure electric power supply on behalf of their residents and businesses and provide related services.

Bradford has joined the Community Power Coalition of NH with other NH towns and cities which are exploring options and sharing ideas and information about bringing Community Power to their communities. Some towns in the coalition like Warner and New London have recently adopted their plans.

The Bradford Community Power Plan won't affect the town's budget or raise taxes. All the costs for administering the Plan would be included in the electricity rates.

If the town votes to accept the plan at the March 2024 Town Meeting, all residents and small businesses would be included. To stay with Eversource or another source as your supplier, it will be easy to opt out of the Bradford Community Power Plan anytime.

Easy Irish Soda Bread



Ingredients

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup margarine or butter, softened
- 4 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 large egg
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- ¼ cup buttermilk

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly grease a large baking sheet.

Mix flour, softened margarine, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl. Stir in 1 cup of buttermilk and egg. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead slightly. Form dough into a round loaf and place on the prepared baking sheet. Note that the dough will be a little sticky.

Combine melted butter with 1/4 cup buttermilk in a small bowl; brush loaf with this mixture. Use a sharp knife to cut an 'X' into the top of the loaf.

Bake in preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Check for doneness after 30 minutes. You may continue to brush the loaf with the butter mixture while it bakes.

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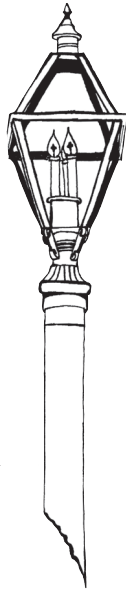
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bmlbradford@gmail.com

Library Hours:

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

From the Director's Desk:

Someone asked me recently, “Are libraries even relevant anymore?” I stood there with my mouth agape and wondered how to respond knowing the speaker knew I was a public librarian. My answer simply was an enthusiastic, “Yes!” The person I was in conversation with wasn’t looking for a detailed explanation, but this is what I would say to anyone who may wonder the same thing.

Libraries are a fundamental aspect of a healthy community. For our small town, it is the center and its heart. It is a safe, comfortable, and accessible place to go. We have people who come to grade papers during the day, teachers who tutor students, social workers who use our

space as a meeting point for child welfare cases, and homeschooling groups. We have people who regularly come to use our printers, our computers/internet, people who are looking for jobs, who are renewing their licenses, doing their taxes, making Amazon returns, and many of them are older people, who require help and a patient person to help them navigate websites, government, or otherwise.

Libraries are community builders. They are a place where people can come and connect with others. And to me, this is fundamentally important. I remember the library being one of the best places to come when I was a new mom. I could talk with Meg Fearnley for a few minutes about new books she was reading, and I could share with her a little about what was going on in my life. I relished talking with another adult, but I also loved the easy-going nature of people who worked there and the atmosphere at the library. It’s my hope and desire that other people feel this warmth and sense of belonging when they enter the library.

The library is free! There are very few places you can go and spend time where you walk out and haven’t spent a penny. You can get virtually any book or movie you want through our wonderful state library system. If our library doesn’t have it, another one most likely will.

Libraries open doors to other worlds and challenge people. It is unavoidable, if you browse the library shelves that you won’t run into a book that may strike you as odd, or make you think twice, and maybe you will go so far as to pick the book off the shelf, to read the insert, and then read it! Libraries allow for many different points of view and opinions. Libraries allow you to travel and experience the world beyond our rural town.

Libraries are relevant, but their livelihood depends on a fair and working budget. Our Library budget is up for a vote on March 13th. Please attend Town Meeting to support the Library in its request for an increase in our budget to allow for reasonable funding for programs and fair pay for its employees.

*Ellen Barselle,
Library Director*

Saturday, March 9th, 11:00am, Celebrate Mud Season! Coil Pots with Sue Moss. Please Note: Sign-ups required. Please visit our website to sign up. (class is for kids, any ages). Clay is one of the most abundant materials on our planet, and people have been making pottery with it for thousands of years. Let’s celebrate Mud Season by having some fun using this squishy moldable material. We’ll learn to make coil pots that will be fired in a kiln and returned to you so you can use them at home.

Monday, March 18th, 6:00pm, Norman Rockwell: Inclusion, Exclusion, & Representing America. Norman Rockwell is heralded for depicting and defining middle-class American life in the 20th century. In addition to painting funny and uplifting scenes, he often captured bittersweet images of people experiencing universal and relatable feelings of being left out or left behind. As an artist with this particular skill set, why are his works devoid of America’s rich cultural and racial diversity? Toward the end of his career, however, Rockwell painted several poignant works about race in America that can be seen as an extension of his earlier sense of the power of inclusion and exclusion. This enlightening program tracks Rockwell’s commitment to painting a more diverse America. *This program is brought to us through New Hampshire Humanities.*

Wednesday, March 20th, 5:30-7:30pm, Edible Wild Plant talk with Russ Cohen. Bradford and other Merrimack County communities are home to over 80 species of edible wild plants, some of which are more nutritious and/or flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Join wild food enthusiast Russ Cohen, author of the book *Wild Plants I Have Known... and Eaten*, for a 90-minute slide presentation to learn about over three dozen of the tastiest species the region has to offer, ranging from species everyone knows well, like Daisies and Dandelions, to species folks may have never heard of, like Calamus and Carrion Flower.

Saturday, March 30th, 11:00am, Easter Egg Hunt – Rain or Shine! Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of the library! All ages welcome.



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France Hahn Receives 40 Under Forty Award

The Kearsarge Food Hub family is celebrating our own France Hahn as a recipient of this year’s Union Leader’s 40 Under Forty award!

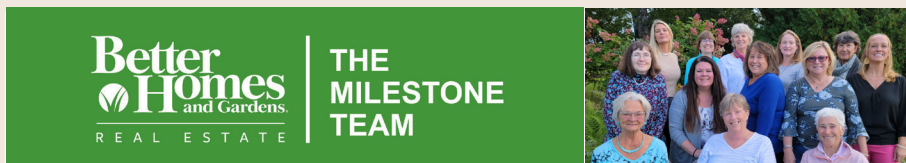
The annual 40 Under Forty Awards recognize young leaders making a difference in NH - and that’s certainly France! France is a Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director here at KFH, and she’s been instrumental in leading the way since day one.



There is no task that France isn’t willing and able to learn and do on the job. She’s literally done it all at one point or another, from any and every task on the farm and running Sweet Beet Market and our food donations program, to leading the Abenaki Seeds project and heading our fundraising efforts. France is always willing to hop in, lend a hand, and help get the job done.

France is a passionate leader, both as a champion of the KFH mission to reinvigorate the community within a restorative local food system, as well as passionate about doing excellent work and being an incredible teammate all along the way. She has a gift for supporting and encouraging teammates all throughout the organization. Listening and facilitating collaboration among teammates are just two of France’s many super powers.

The Kearsarge Food Hub is so very lucky to have France leading the way as Co-Executive Director. Your teammates adore you and we thank you for your steadfast service. This is a very well-deserved honor!



Is Owning a Home a Good Investment?

The short answer is YES. According to House Logic and The BHG Milestone experts, owning a home has financial – and emotional – benefits! Consider:

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- **Additional itemized deductions.** If you itemize your taxes, you can deduct property tax, some closing fees (like points), and mortgage interest!
- **Fixed monthly payments.** Your rent might (will) increase – but your mortgage payment is fixed.
- **Improved credit score.** Pay on time and reap the benefit!
- **Your space – your castle.** When you own your home, you can remodel and decorate any way you desire!
- **Your sanctuary.** Your home is your private sanctuary. It’s all yours!



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Bradford Historical Society



In the 1990's, the Town took control of a parcel of land on East Main Street known as either the Marshall or Naughton property. Since that time, the land has been the subject of much discussion from various town groups and boards, with charrettes, public discussion and warrant articles. In 2005 and 2012, the front portion of the property (3.59 acres) was designated as a cultural and historical area. BHS later purchased the building known as the Tin Shop next to the lot as the main hub of the Society. Since 2005 Bradford Historical Society has been actively improving the site with land work both paid and donated and the placing of buildings or structures to be preserved. BHS pays for maintenance of the property and does not receive funding from the Town.

Recently, it came to our attention that without a definitive agreement with the Town as to BHS using the land, some grant opportunities were not available to us. The easement outlined in Warrant Article Eight will allow us to further develop the area with landscaping, paths, parking areas and possibly more buildings

as we move forward working within the planning and zoning regulations.

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws state that should BHS dissolve then the easement would be void and the land would go back for the Town along with BHS assets.

BHS is excited to move forward with this next stage in our long term planning. We have concentrated on the structures at BHS with our next focus on painting our buildings and designing parking areas and pathways to make the area easier to navigate. We hope you will support Warrant Article Eight at Town Meeting - we can't do it without you!

Membership for 2024 is now due!

We are so fortunate to receive so many artifact donations but they all need care and attention! We concentrate on looking after these precious items as well as we can and are always looking to upgrade our storage options! Your membership helps us so much to continue this work. Please renew or join BHS via our website at www.bradfordnhhistorical.org/membership.

Scholarship Announcements

Bradford Town Scholarship

High school seniors wishing to apply for the Bradford Town Scholarship should be a resident of Bradford, NH and furthering their education in a university, college, school of nursing, technical institute, or pre-professional program. To apply

- Submit a type-written application telling the committee about post-high school goals and how living in Bradford has helped promote these goals. Leadership, extracurricular and community activities should also be included,
- Submit a high school transcript,
- Submit a letter of reference from a non-relative,
- Submit a photograph appropriate for media distribution.

Funds are awarded to Bradford students of good academic standing who have demonstrated community involvement, strong leadership qualities, and other considerations as determined by the committee.

Bradford students interested in applying for a scholarship should contact the Guidance Department at KRHS or go online to the bradfordnh.org website. ***All application materials are due April 30th.***

Bradford Newbury Sutton Women's Club Scholarship Announcement

The Bradford Newbury Sutton Women's Club (BNSWC) sponsors two \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships are the Bradford Newbury Sutton Women's Club Scholarship and the Jane Miele Lucas Memorial Scholarship. All female residents of Bradford, Newbury and Sutton who wish to further their education or professional development are welcome to apply. The recipient will be chosen based on demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, community service, and other considerations as determined by the committee.

Applications are available at the Guidance Department office at Kearsarge Regional High School or by contacting BNSWCScholarship@gmail.com. ***Applications are due by April 30th.***

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~OUTSIDE~

Last winter we were under surveillance. As we informally spied on the neighboring porcupines, a raven silently shadowed us. Our twistingly narrow and forested trails connect the porcupine dens and a dark flicker began to flash intermittently above the trees. It looked like a ragged, windblown trash bag and felt like a name you can't quite remember.

We don't know how many days were spent in avian contemplation, but suddenly there was game-camera evidence. We were dropping random apple slices for the first-winter young porcupines whose feeding trees had been logged. The raven began snatching them within minutes of the treats hitting the ground. The raven now announced with a yell whenever Bill stepped outside.

In mid-February, ravens here are fooling around in the sky. By mid-March, they think seriously about raising a family. Last spring a pair chose to build high in a pine a within hundred feet of our own construction project. Strutting with apparent nonchalance amongst the

building debris, they found the early morning inspections entertaining.

Almost every minute of the twenty or so days of egg incubation is performed by the female. She doesn't trust the task to her mate who becomes occupied with feeding her. In extreme cold, ravens might fly miles to add sheep's wool to their nest lining. In unexpected heat, they carry cool water to the nest in their bills.

Ravens, like us, are omnivores and like some of us, red meat is their preferred source of protein. They will hunt small game which they might consume by turning them inside out. More commonly, they scavenge the deceased and for this they require the equivalent of a can opener. Though their beaks are massive compared to their grain-preferential relatives, the crows and jays, ravens are unable to break through a tough hide. Here is where they acquired their hefty bird brains.

In Canada, northern Scandinavia, and Russia, where the traditional cultures view them as trickster gods, their food prep assistants are polar bears or hunters. Further to the south, ravens have long been associated with wolves and native hunters. The toothsome predators and indigenous hunters watched for ravens and could interpret their calls. Ravens followed the hunters, possibly even leading them to game. Juvenile ravens that have found an available food source give a certain 'yell' to recruit other vagrant and landless birds in order to overwhelm any resident and dominant pairs. Somehow dining information is passed from bird to bird in their nightly roosts.

The European colonists arriving in North America brought their prejudices with them. Black for them symbolized death and bad luck. Ravens were blamed, unjustly, for the deaths of young livestock. Europe has a dark history of horrendous wars, famines, and plagues. Ravens became associated with the thankless wildlife sanitation crews in their after-maths. Ravens were not always, and aren't everywhere, the skittish and wary birds that we encounter in the Northeast.

Relentless persecution by the human newcomers and the extirpation of the raven's assistants - the wolves and cougars - along with the moose and woodland elk they fed on, caused ravens to be one of the first birds to disappear from much of North America before 1800. The changed forest has regrown and now deer have invaded from their historic coastal habitats. The relative newcomers, Eastern coyotes and automobiles, provide the necessary food-opening services and the raven population is increasing here and heading further south again.

Life is not easy out there. One of the adult ravens of last year's nest was itself struck by a car. Yet someone wrote that the Corvid family are birds with too much time on their hands. They play, they get into trouble, they could sing like a warbler if they felt like it. They think. They may wonder at the way our society no longer hunts but dashes about anxiously. We work too hard. Archeologists and anthropologists tell us that whenever possible, humans also adopted the less stressful hunter/gatherer lifestyle. Ravens remind us there are other ways of being.

Ann Eldridge



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Obituaries

Peter J. Spaulding



Peter J. Spaulding, age 80, of Gage Hill Road, Hopkinton, passed away on February 12, 2024, at his home after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was born in New London, NH, the son of the late Nelson and Esther (Cressy) Spaulding. After graduating UNH with a bachelor's in political science, Peter pursued a lifetime of public and political service. Beginning in 1970, Peter was Merrimack County Commissioner before serving 24 years on New Hampshire's Executive Council.

Peter returned as Merrimack County Commissioner until 2022. Peter upheld a bipartisan career and was extremely proud of his work with NH's Community Action Program, Community Relations for Providian Financial, and his work on multiple presidential campaigns especially for his close friend Senator John McCain. Peter was honored to represent the State of New Hampshire at multiple National Republican Conventions. For all his public service and dedication, Peter was awarded the Edna McKenna Award in 2021.

Peter loved spending time outside and was an avid fisherman and gardener his entire life. He enjoyed his time on the lake in Deering, and winters in Cape Coral, FL. Peter was a member of St. Peters Lodge F&AM 31 in Bradford, NH where he grew up.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Elizabeth (Bacon) Spaulding. Son Joshua and his wife Corrie, Benjamin, and daughter Christine Spaulding. Sister Jane Jacques, and her husband Richard, their son Paul and family. Peter was loved and will be remembered by a wonderful extended family.

Donations may be made in his memory to Hale Family Center For Pancreatic Cancer Research at Dana Farber.

Mary Elizabeth Elsesser

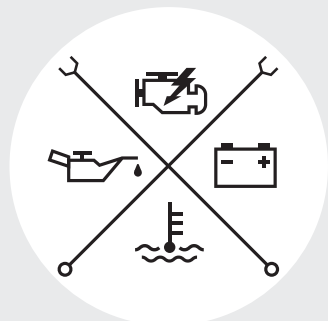


Mary Elizabeth Elsesser, aged 40, passed away unexpectedly in her sleep, January 20, 2024, at her residence at Bradford, NH. She was born May 15, 1983, in Keene, NH, to James and Sharon Elsesser. She worked as a ski instructor at Pat's Peak in Henniker, NH, additionally teaching the WOW program, and as a paraprofessional at Sunapee Central Elementary School, displaying a love to teach. She worked at her family's blueberry farm, Elsesser Blueberry Acres, LLC.

Mary graduated from Fall Mountain Regional High School in 2001, as Valedictorian of her class. Mary's biggest passions were being a mother, her family, and her love for skiing and music. She was known for her infectious energy and beautiful singing voice. She is survived by her parents, James Elsesser, his wife AnnMarie, and Sharon Elsesser; fiancé, Jamie Edward Long, and young son, Jamie Edward Elsesser-Long Jr., affectionately called J.J.; two younger brothers, Matthew Elsesser, his wife Lindsey, and Steven Elsesser; a niece, two nephews and many cousins. A Celebration of Life for Mary was held at the Acworth Town Hall, Acworth, hosted by the Acworth Coffee House.



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2024 Bradford Town Office Candidate Survey Answers:

(Continued from page 1)

possible, and to find ways to seek taxpayer input and engage our residents.

Bradford, like similar sized towns, is struggling to keep property taxes affordable for low- and moderate-income residents, while also maintaining Town operations. Priorities for Town services should be made by taxpayers, not the Budget committee. I am seeking this position to implement ideas to increase transparency and seek more taxpayer input.

I have lived in Bradford for about 20 years and, until recently, have failed to serve on any of the Town's many working committees. There are many functions of our local government that are run entirely by volunteers. I felt it was time to contribute to my community. In my career, I have worked for state and county government, and in the nonprofit sector – currently working in philanthropy. I have grant writing, project management, budget development and oversight experience. These skills are relevant and transferable to the role as Budget Committee member.

I will “out” myself as a signatory to the petition to discuss at Town Meeting adoption of the “SB 2” format. Why? Many taxpayers are frustrated by the lack of budget transparency and low Town Meeting participation. They feel the SB 2 format will control the upward budget growth and allow more voters to weigh in. I am personally not convinced that a SB 2 format will achieve the desired outcomes; however, the debate has already engaged more residents and encouraged civic participation. I predict this year's Town Meeting we will have record participation! If it doesn't, perhaps we should consider SB 2.

Bradford is a beautiful town, and one I feel so fortunate to call home! I love our lakes, hiking trails, and abundant wildlife. There is so much natural beauty all around us. What I like best about Bradford though is the people. I have made lifelong friends in the Kearsarge region, and am blessed to live in a place where neighbors support neighbors.

Budget Committee One Year Term and Cemetery Committee One Year Term, Dawn Gezelman

I began serving on the Cemetery Committee in July 2023. During this time, numerous action items have been identified and resolved, including the drafting and review of updated cemetery rules and regulations (which will soon be posted). Since joining the Budget Committee (fall of 2023) I have been educated in the budget process as well as learned how each department operates, their goals and prudent planning. I look forward to continuing in these positions, to continue expanding my experience and knowledge, as well as serving the Town.

Being an active member in Town government is a duty and responsibility I take seriously. The management/coordination roles I have held over the years, in addition to my wide-range of experience (35+ years legal, 15+ years corporate, 20+ years various volunteer roles) provides these committees with additional resources. The work I have performed since joining these committees has furthered my existing experience, and will only grow with my additional service.

The current Town meeting format is successful. Since September (2023) I have attend almost every Selectmen meeting, where residents are heard, their issues addressed, and they are treated with respect. I'm dissapointed that more residents don't attend these meetings as they are very informative and transparent. Changing to the SB2 format will be much more cumbersome and will likely not have any more (and probably less) participation than the current format. If you're unsure about my observation, I suggest you attend Selectmen meetings (or any other Town meetings) to see your government in action. You have selected these people to work for you. They are open to your suggestions and welcome your comments. You will not have the same available resources if the process is changed to the SB2 format.

Although I have live all over the continental U.S. (I was a Navy brat during my youth), I find the peace and tranquility of Bradford, it's welcoming residents and

small town life to be what I am now looking for. I'm delighted we decided to move here within the last 18 months!

Planning Board Three Year Term, Carol Meise

I have been on the planning board for a few years and I am in the middle of working on the surface water ordinance. I'd like to finish it. I'm also interested in helping Bradford further develop its downtown business district and maintain its rural residential district as rural and residential.

I am a retired research fisheries biologist, with experience in both freshwater and marine settings. I am using my experience to help write the surface water zoning. I have also been a planning board member on and off for several years, consistently the last 5. I feel that this has given me some perspective on the issues facing Bradford and how to help in its future.

I see benefits to both.

I love the small-town atmosphere and rural landscape of Bradford and the way its citizens come together when needed.

Select Board Three-year Term, Mel Pfeifle

I think as selectmen I could maintain the rural character, protect the town's natural resources, while working on expanding our economic base by finding synergies between the public and the private sector. So public and private collaboration would be very important to me as selectmen. We have many dedicated townspeople that if we can unite the diverse ideas and groups we can utilize all of this to make Bradford stronger and build on the unique place we live.

- Public and private collaboration.
- Capture the traffic flow of 103 and 114 as a resource for developing mainstreet. Creating a larger tax base and growth of our tax base.
- Make Bradford the affordable option to Sunapee, New London, and Newbury while maintaining our natural resources. An example could be incentives for carbon neutral homes.

- Capitalize on our mountains, hiking and water, our natural resources.
- Attract key amenities to town. In general activate the town center.

I have been involved with town and state planning for many years. On a town level I have served as a three year member of the planning board and as an alternate. I am currently into the first year of a three year term on the planning board. I was part of a committee that wrote the last ten year master plan. I was vice Chair of the Bradford Community Corp. tasked with funding the capitol arm of the community center. On a state level I served on the N.H. public water access board. I was on the New England Council of Business where we explored the need for a second major airport versus expansion of our regional airports.

I am against SB2 and think that our town meeting is the most basic and purest form of government.

I love our small town and the diverse group of people who live here. Most of all I like driving my horse to Dunkin Donuts, the post office and around town. I like being able to walk out my door and snowshoe or x-country Ski and enjoy the abundant wildlife. I like looking out my window and seeing the mountains covered in their change of seasons.

Select Board Three-year Term, Write-in Candidate, Chip Meany

I am running as a write in candidate for the position of Selectman. I am running for several reasons. First I would like to study our Town expenses and contracts to determine if there are ways to reduce our tax burden. I would like to review all the recent construction projects and attempt to reduce costs associated with ongoing projects, roads and bridges.

Honorably discharged Corporal, USMC . BA (History) New England College. Carpentry doing mostly commercial work and historical restoration, designed and installed elegant stair cases for Colonial woodworking. Bradford Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer (part time 10 yrs), followed by 15 years as the head of the Ware Code Enforcement , Building and Land Use Departments. Hobbies include restoring antique

sailboats (1972 Tartan 34 C) and air cooled VW's (1973 Superbeetle) as well as an intense dislike of taxation.

My opinion of a Town Meeting form of government like we have or SB-2 is ambivalence. There are inherent pitfalls to both systems. In an SB-2 Town there is a Deliberative Session similar to our Town meeting. The ballot that is voted on is determined by those who attend the Deliberative Session where Articles are discussed and possibly altered and vote on which are then voted on by the electorate. The problem with either is the interest and involvement of the electorate.

I moved from Henniker to Bradford in 1973. I enjoyed the small town "feel" and camaraderie in Bradford. There was an acceptance by long time residents of the new residence. That feeling has now persisted through three houses and being now in my 80's I will be sitting still for a while. I would like to see the Town head in the direction of the civility and respect of the past

Supervisor of the Checklist Four-Year Term, Susan Gildersleeve

To help. Currently I am filling-in a supervisor.; in doing so, it has given me a greater appreciation of what is involved in running an election and how important contributions are.

For nearly 30 years I worked as an auditor. That, too, I believed was a team effort with all involved interested in providing an accurate and quality product.

I prefer the current method of the public's input before the vote. This provides a more well rounded view of line item expenses.

This is a beautiful town. I am constantly in admiration of its landscape and the quality of life it provides.

Town Treasurer Write-in Candidate, Stephen Pierce

I am asking for your vote as a write in candidate for Town Treasurer. My professional background includes 20 plus years of experience in finance and accounting. I am remiss no one in Bradford stepped forward to run for the Treasurer's opening. Bradford has some

fine people with the experience and skill set for Treasurer. The position encompasses important aspects of the 'business' of running the town. It requires following the voter's decisions. I offer integrity, financial knowledge, and ability to perform these duties in a professional manner.

I have developed budgets, measured performance against budget, set up cash flow projections, and advised management personnel on spending impacts of current and future work. The departments ranged in size from 2-3 million up to 18 million dollars. My work included developing bids and proposals for new projects, negotiating with vendors, and setting up new cost centers to capture expenses. I've worked in the defense and medical product sectors of industry. The overall structure of finance and accounting activity does not change from industry to industry or private sector to public sector. I am stepping up to Bradford's need to have a competent person handling Treasurer duties.

That is the 'nuts and bolts' of my background.

A Treasurer is a support person with oversight duties. Voters determine where the funds are to be spent. I work first and foremost for the voters. I am a second set of eyes to ensure voter decisions are followed. The Treasurer must work effectively with professional people. Maintaining integrity is vital. I've tangled with professionals over the years who wanted to spend outside of approved plans. A Treasurer needs to be prepared to stand firm and follow through on the voter's decisions. Changes to town spending can be made by other elected officials. It is not the Treasurer's decision.

The question of town meeting format or SB2 format does not bear on the Treasurer's position.

In fact, the question does not inform any voter of a person's qualifications for holding an elected position. It is a disingenuous question; having overtones of being divisive and divisional. Good people may think twice before running for a town position when put in this

2024 Bradford Town Office Candidate Survey Answers: ^A

(Continued from page 15)

awkward situation. I hope other candidates don't fall for the trap. Town voters can choose any form of government; all need a Treasurer to oversee funds.

I am ready and willing to fill the roll of Treasurer. My preference is that in the next election cycle a qualified person will step forward and run for the position.

Trustee of Brown Memorial Library Three-Year Term, Jason S Grey

With the library being de prioritized and attacked the Library needs trustees that will advocate for this important town resource.

I've been on the Library board of Trustees and seek to use my accounting degree and professional skills to preserve a free and public library for all.

Town meeting format. See my comments in previous bridge publications.

The opportunity, small town community and snowboarding.

Trustee of the Trust Funds Three-Year Term, Bruce Gezelman

To work with others in town to ensure we are being well served by our community. The town is only as good as we townspeople make it and by volunteering to assist improves our chances at success.

I have a Bachelor and Masters degree in education with strong background in mathematics. Extensive work with computer based programs and a knowledge of stock market and money management.

The town meeting format of government work well for this community.

A nice quiet community where you meet your neighbors and share the ambience of this region of NH

Big Turnout at Informative Budget Committee Hearing



The Budget Committee held its public hearing, coffee, cookies, and conversation, on Thursday, February 8. We ate all the cookies, and the conversation was robust! After a brief presentation which included an explanation for the Town portion of the tax increase, and an overview of this year's proposed budget, the Budget Committee fielded comments and questions.

Community members expressed frustration about the upward trend of property taxes. Questions were asked about reducing Town services. Department heads provided additional budget explanations or made requests for increases. In some cases, concerns were expressed about Town operations with our Select

Board who oversee the Departments taking note. Attendees asked questions and weighed in on proposed Warrant articles. Feedback was shared on the brief budget presentation with all agreeing that the Town Meeting should include it.

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to attend the hearing! The attendance was amazing and the input invaluable. Transparency and civic engagement are cornerstones of our local government. It takes all of us weighing in on important issues to produce the best outcomes.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Town Meeting!

*Kim Firth, Vice Chair,
Budget Committee*



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YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Masonic Building Committee Report

The Masonic Building on West Main Street continued its journey in 2023. A warrant article by petition was brought for a vote at the annual Town Meeting in March of 2023 requesting that it be torn down with an estimated budget of \$50,000 to make way for easier access by the fire trucks to the road and additional parking for the firehouse. The warrant did not pass, with a recommendation that a group be put together to look into options and related costs for the building. A public input meeting to hear ideas, options, and opinions was held on April 24, 2023.

The Select Board then asked for volunteers and selected seven people to serve on a committee to explore and research options for the building and bring back recommendations. The committee consists of Select Board member Mel Pfieffe, Kris Foss from the Economic Development Committee, Anne Kratz, Deputy Town Clerk and local artist, Bruce Gezelman, Bryan Nowell, Bradford Fire Chief, Tracey Quigley from the Bradford Historical Society, and Pat Moreland. Together, the committee decided on a process to identify and vet options. The group conducted a walk-through of the building and pulled together primary source information about the property. They held a brainstorming session, discussing many ideas, considerations and ultimately consolidating them into a few options.

The three viable options included repurposing the building for another use; razing the building, and then filling and paving the lot with hardscape and

landscape design; or moving the building, filling and paving the lot with hardscape and landscape design.

The cons outweighed the pros of trying to repurpose the building as it stands, and that option was dismissed. Cons included shared septic fields, lack of off-street parking, cost, and blurred property lines.

There were several considerations based on research and follow-up including that 1) the Fire Station is landlocked, with inadequate parking and limited egress for large trucks; 2) the building does not have a function identified by the Town as a need for services or other use; 3) the Town does not have funds for continued maintenance of an empty building; 4) delayed action will cost more later, and 5) the building is in a highly visible location and is a first impression of Bradford with an opportunity for beautification that will benefit the town.

Ultimately, the committee came to a recommendation to the Select Board on October 23, 2023. The recommendation was to put the building up for sale by auction with two concurrent auction options. Option one would allow a buyer to purchase the building to move at their own expense, and the proceeds of that sale could be used for fill, paving and hardscape and landscape. The second option would allow a buyer to purchase the building with a requirement that they raze the building completely after recovering any architectural salvage for themselves, and sale proceeds could offset some of the costs of filling, paving and hardscape and landscaping. This type of concurrent auction would allow the town to choose the best bid. The committee asked the Select Board to bring this

recommendation to the Town Meeting for a vote on a warrant article.

The committee at this point has completed their task and the Select Board, following legal advice, have decided to put forward 2 warrant articles at Town Meeting. These are the articles:

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to retain as Town-owned and Town-maintained the building at 89 West Main Street (Map 16 Lot 87) known as the Masonic Building. This will be a ballot vote. (Majority vote required) Select Board recommends.

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to sell the Masonic Building pursuant to RSA 31:3, to authorize the Select Board to negotiate the terms and details of the sale of the Masonic Building and its removal from Town property, and further raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the sale of the Masonic Building as recommended by the Masonic Building Committee. This article is null and void with the passage of Article Nine. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Ten reflects the Masonic Building Committee recommendation which we came to after our research and understanding that the Town has no plans to use the building or any funds to maintain or use the building going forward. We encourage you to attend Town Meeting and hear the committee's presentation on our process and recommendations.

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Town of Bradford State of New Hampshire

Town Warrant of Town Meeting March 12th, 2024

The Polls will open at 8:00 am, and not close earlier than 7:00 pm, on March 12th, 2024.

To the inhabitants of the Town of Bradford in the County of Merrimack in the said State qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Bradford Area Community Center on East Main Street in said Bradford, N.H. on Tuesday the twelfth day of March next, at eight o'clock in the morning to act on the following articles:

Article One: To choose all necessary town officials for the ensuing year.

Article Two: To adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 at 7:00 pm, at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School, on Old Warner Road in Bradford. Raising the money and remaining articles in the Warrant will be taken up at the adjourned meeting.

Article Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$2,937,259.00) for general municipal operations. This article does not include amounts appropriated by other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

(Continued on page 17)



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	Selectmen	Budget Committee
1. Executive	237,511.00	237,511.00
2. Elections & Vital Statistics	11,050.00	11,050.00
3. Financial Administration	95,450.00	95,450.00
4. Revaluations	39,800.00	39,800.00
5. Legal	66,000.00	66,000.00
6. Employee Benefits	1.00	1.00
7. Planning & Zoning	13,349.00	13,349.00
8. General Gov	157,750.00	157,750.00
9. Cemetery	25,700.00	25,700.00
10. Insurances	103,951.00	103,951.00
11. Other General Gov	8,750.00	8,750.00
12. Police Department	635,471.00	635,471.00
13. Fire Department	160,740.00	160,740.00
14. Rescue Services - FAST	9,150.00	9,150.00
15. Rescue Services – Contract	95,000.00	95,000.00
16. Building Code Department	24,000.00	24,000.00
17. Civil Defense	1.00	1.00
18. Highway Department	700,845.00	700,845.00
19. Bridges	1.00	1.00
20. Street Lighting	2,000.00	2,000.00
21. Solid Waste Collection	99,991.00	99,991.00
22. Solid Waste Disposal	26,200.00	26,200.00
23. Inoculations	1.00	1.00
24. Welfare Administration	7,468.00	7,468.00
25. Welfare Payments	30,270.00	30,270.00
26. Parks and Recreation	21,509.00	21,509.00
27. Library	90,000.00	90,000.00
28. Patriotic Purposes	20,000.00	20,000.00
29. Community Center	43,800.00	43,800.00
30. Other Conservation	1,000.00	1,000.00
31. Long Term Notes	209,000.00	209,000.00
32. Interest on TAN notes	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total	\$ 2,937,259.00	\$ 2,937,259.00

(Continued on page 18)

Article Four: To see if the Town will vote to retain the following town-owned properties, Map 4 Lot 7 and Map 4 Lot 9, for conservation purposes as provided by RSA 80:42-a. Both lots, each of approximately two acres, comprise wetland and are part of the West Branch Brook headwater identified as prime wetland and wildlife habitat. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Article Five: To see if the Town will vote to accept the gift of a framed copy of a 1925 50th Anniversary Announcement of the Bradford-Newbury Fair offered by Robert W. Wright, Jr. of Sutton NH. This donation is given under the following two conditions: 1) The Town votes to accept the donation at an annual Town Meeting, and 2) It shall be displayed. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Article Six: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Bradford Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan, to authorize the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Bradford Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Article Seven: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13, known as SB2 to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Bradford on the second Tuesday of March. By Petition. (3/5 majority ballot vote required.) Select Board does not recommend.

Article Eight: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate and enter into and provide an easement to the Bradford Historical Society over the front portion of land known as 152 East Main Street in Bradford (Tax Map 17, Lot 112), with improvements thereupon, (the "Property") to allow the Historical Society to place, construct and maintain historical buildings and displays and to hold Historical Society meetings and events on the Property in furtherance of the Historical Society's mission. Select Board Recommends

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to retain as Town-owned and Town-maintained the building at 89 West Main Street (Map 16 Lot 87) known as the Masonic Building. This will be a ballot vote. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to sell the Masonic Building pursuant to RSA 31:3, to authorize the Select Board to negotiate the terms and details of the sale of the Masonic Building and its removal from Town property, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the sale of the Masonic Building as recommended by the Masonic Building Committee. This article is null and void with the passage of Article Nine. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Town Treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a Treasurer. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends.

Article Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) to purchase and outfit with equipment a new Police Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV). This appropriation will come from the 2021 Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Trust Fund in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00), from unassigned fund balance in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), with the balance of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirteen: To see if the Town will vote to establish a 2024 Police Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding the purchase, repair and replacement of police equipment. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to be placed in this fund and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Fourteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the 2021 Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Fifteen: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict one hundred percent (100%) of revenues from Bradford Police detail assignments to expenditures for the purpose of purchasing new police vehicles. Effective January 1, 2024, such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Police Detail Special Revenue Fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only

after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of revenue. (Majority ballot vote). Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the 2003 Fire Department Building Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to fund the 2006 Fire Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund the 2020 Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Nineteen: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund SCBA bottle and apparatus replacement. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$13,500.00) to fund Communications Equipment for the Fire Department. This appropriation will come from the 2020 Fire Equipment Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), with the balance of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-One: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to fund the installation of a Heat Pump to provide heating and cooling for the office areas and meeting room at the Fire Station. This appropriation will come from the 2003 Fire Department Building Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), with the balance of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund the replacement of hoses and nozzles for the Fire Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000.00) to fund road maintenance, preservation and paving. This appropriation will come from the 2019 Roads and Bridges Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$129,000.00), with the balance of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$196,000.00) to be raised by taxation. Further, this will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$32,100.00) to fund the 2020 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance and represents the funds received from the sale of the Highway Department's two graders in 2023. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to fund the 2020 Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

20 The Bradford Bridge – March 2024

Article Twenty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) to fund the 2019 Road and Bridge Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-Seven: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to fund the 2015 Town Equipment Repair and Purchase Expendable Trust Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-Eight: To see if the Town will vote to establish a 2024 Bridge and Culvert Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding repair and replacement of bridges and culverts. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to be placed in this fund and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Twenty-Nine: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Emergency Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund created in 2007. Said funds, with accumulated interest to the date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirty: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) to fund the 2022 Emergency Road and Bridge Repair Expendable Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirty-One: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) to fund the 2008 Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund the 2010 Communication Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (for emergency services). (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund a feasibility study for the use of the Bradford Area Community Center. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to fit up, furnish and equip the Town Hall. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will continue until the money is spent or December 31, 2029. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to establish a 2024 Ambulance Service Expense Overage Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of funding Ambulance Service expenses that exceed the budgeted amounts for such services. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in this fund and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.) Select Board recommends. Budget Committee recommends.

Article Thirty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Offices. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Bradford Board of Selectmen,

Beth Downs, Chairman

Mary Ellen Pfeifle, Selectman

Marlene Freyler, Selectman

Sample Town of Bradford, NH **ABSENTEE BALLOT**

OFFICIAL BALLOT – KEARSARGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION, March 12, 2024

Question 1
To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the **Municipal Budget Committee's recommended amount \$54,320,531** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment for the statutory obligations of the District. The **School Board** recommends **\$54,320,531**. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. This warrant article asks the voters to raise and appropriate for the support of schools, the salaries of School District Officials and Agents, and for the statutory obligations of said District, and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the State sources, together with other income, the School Board to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Bradford, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmot, the amount to be raised by taxation by said towns.
(School Board Recommends 7-0) (Municipal Budget Committee Recommends 9-0)

Vote {X} for only one: A or B

A. \$54,320,531 for the proposed Operating Budget recommended by the School Board A

B. \$54,320,531 for the proposed Operating Budget recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee..B

Question 2
To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to **\$100,000** to be placed in the School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of repair, unanticipated utility costs, and maintaining the school buildings and equipment, with such amount to be funded from **unassigned fund balance (surplus funds) remaining on hand as of June 30, 2024.** (School Board Recommends 7-0) (Municipal Budget Committee Recommends 8-1)

YES NO

Question 3
To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to **\$100,000** to be placed in the Capital Reserve Roof Fund for the purpose of replacement or major repairs to roofs in the district with such amounts to be funded from **unassigned fund balance (surplus funds) remaining on hand as of June 30, 2024.** (School Board Recommends 7-0) (Municipal Budget Committee Recommends 8-1)

YES NO

For Moderator for 1 Year:
(Vote for One)

Derek D. Lick

(WRITE IN)

SAMPLE **OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT**
TOWN ELECTION
BRADFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 12, 2024 **SAMPLE**

Instructions to Voters:
1. To Vote, fill in the oval(s) opposite your choice(s) like this
2. To Write-in a candidate not on the ballot, write the name on the line provided for the office and fill in the oval opposite the write-in

<p>MODERATOR – 2 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Bruce Storm <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>BUDGET COMMITTEE – 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2) Jennifer Richardson <input type="radio"/> Kimberly Firth <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>BUDGET COMMITTEE – 1 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Dawn Gezelman <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>CEMETERY COMMISSION – 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Marlene Freyler <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>CEMETERY COMMISSION – 1 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Dawn Gezelman <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>PLANNING BOARD - 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2) Shanna Griffin <input type="radio"/> Carol Meise <input type="radio"/> Joseph DeFabrizio <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – 1 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Devin Pendleton <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>SELECTMEN – 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Joseph DeFabrizio <input type="radio"/> Mel Pfeifle <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST – 6 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Judith Marshall <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST – 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Susan Gildersleeve <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Erica Gross <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>TREASURER – 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>TRUSTEES OF THE BROWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY – 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Jason Grey <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS – 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Bruce Gezelman <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>ZONING BOARD - 3 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 1) Joseph DeFabrizio <input type="radio"/> William Duffy <input type="radio"/> Write-In <input type="radio"/></p>
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SAMPLE



2024 Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 4th | Online from 6-7:30pm



FREE
& open to all!

Tune in to connect with food hub leaders, learn about the impact of our nonprofit services in 2023, and discuss the direction of the food hub in the year ahead.

learn more & register: www.kearsargefoodhub.org

Updated understanding of the 2024 Police Department Budget

The article posted in the February edition was apparently well read and appreciated. Thank you to all who pulled me aside to let me know you read it. There have been some minor additions to the budget since the February article. However the changes result in a ZERO dollar increase by taxation.

At the start of the 2024 budget prep, the Department budget request was \$637, 507. As of January 11th, after meeting with both the Select Board and the Budget Committee, the Police Department budget request for 2024 was down to \$627,271. Due to the department receiving a highway safety grant in the amount of \$8,200.00 prior to town meeting, that figure needed to be included in the budget request making the new request \$635,471. However it will be offset by a revenue line item in the general budget. The amount to be raised by taxes is still the \$627,271 as noted above. That number is up \$28,245 from 2023 or roughly 4.5%. Where does the increase come from?

- Every 5 years the Merrimack County Sheriff Office dispatch center must do a mandatory hardware and software upgrade. The cost of this upgrade was broken out amongst all the towns they provide dispatch services to and that number ended up being \$9,579 per town. This will fall back off for the 2025 budget.
- Due to rising costs of health care, and without adding anything to our existing

plan, the Department saw an increase of \$8,694. Two years ago, the Town and employees opted to go with a lower tier plan that had increased deductibles and co pays, to offset the increase to the Town. This change resulted in lower costs for the Town in 2023 but like most things, the cost went up in 2024. Please know that Town officials are always researching new plans and rates to look for savings.

- The Select Board agreed to a 3% increase for Town employees. The total increase for our Department is just under \$9,600.
- An officer was promoted to a supervisory role. The increase in budget for this is just over \$3,000.
- The on-call line item was raised \$1,100. This is to allow for a little overlap between day and evening shifts so that officers can safely, and effectively, pass on all pertinent information to the oncoming officer. Currently this is done by the officers but on their own time and due to scheduling and rotations, it is typically the same two officers 4 times a week each. I feel it is very important that employees have a good balance between work life and home life and this change needed to be instituted.

As you can see from the above, there are no increases for new, state of the art equipment. Without the dispatch upgrade and health care increase, we would sit around a 1.7% increase. The current percentage breakdown of the budget is as follows: 86% personnel, 5% utilities, 5% contract services, 3% equipment/supplies/uniforms/vehicle, radio, and computer repairs.

I will be the first to say that I understand taxes went up on the recent tax bills. With that in mind, some things that we had planned for 2024 were scrapped from the budget with the thinking that this may not be the year to go for it.

- The initial preparation of the budget had some equipment items in it that would have been replacements for equipment already in the field. Those were removed.
- Our uniform line item was lowered 15% in hopes that the new uniforms purchased over the last two years will last a little longer.
- External vest carriers were removed from the budget.
- The gasoline line item was lowered about 10% based on our usage from 2022 and 2023 in hopes that gas prices will remain stable.

As for Department warrant articles, you will see three on the list.

One is to create a new account for all Department equipment with a shelf life. Currently we have multiple items on the list with the Capital Improvement Committee with set replacement dates. This account will allow us to replace items when needed and not when slated. Things like radios, laptops, cameras may last longer and therefore may not need immediate replacement. But like most technology, you never know, and this fund would allow us to replace one piece if needed. Historically, I have not budgeted any money to replace a radio, camera, firearm, laptop, or anything with a big

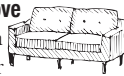
(Continued on page 23)





Always Something NEW!

We continue to be able to receive **upholstery** products every week to ten days. We have more **sectionals, sofas and love seats** and medical lift chairs in stock than ever. Most of our products are **American** made and we try to order them with polyester fabrics which wear well and are easy to clean (the trick is to get to the stains immediately).



Our **lift chairs** are in stock in small, medium and large, all come with battery back up in case of a power failure. Don't need a lift chair?... we have **power recliners** with swivel available. If you are considering a chair from the Best Chair Co., go to their web site at BestHF.com and look at their over **600 fabrics** under the Covers tab. If you can't find a fabric you like it's because they don't make it. Best is now filling orders in about 6 weeks. Better than their earlier back log of 9 months.



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Our biggest selling cabinets are from **Candlelight** out of Lockport, NY. Your choice of 10 wood species and 80 door styles. Call for a **free estimate** and a layout of your kitchen project.

Our **flooring** installation back log is now running about 3 to 4 weeks. We also can address existing flooring issues such as bad seams and wrinkles.



We're open Monday-Friday 9 to 5 and Saturday 9 to 4:30. We look forward to seeing you.

Eaton Furniture of Hillsboro
603+464+3250
Celebrating our 78th year

Updated understanding of the 2024 Police Department

(Continued from page 22)

price tag. If a radio broke, knock on wood, we would have needed to drain the supplies and police equipment line items completely to replace it. Instead, we go with the "Treat it like its your own" approach to make things last.

Second is to replace the 2017 SUV. Years ago, we were replacing vehicles every 4 years but now each vehicle is slated for replacement every 6 years. This vehicle has over 100k miles on it. If approved, the new vehicle could take roughly a year from time of order to completion of outfitting. The price tag for this is \$60,000. \$40,000 is already in the vehicle replacement fund, \$15,000 would come from taxation and \$5,000 from the general fund. A good portion of the money from the general fund can be attributed to revenue from police details worked in 2023.

Lastly, is the article to create a police detail fund. In short, all revenue from outside details will go into this fund at the end of each year. The money in this fund will be used to lessen the tax impact for future vehicle replacement. Outside details are special assignments in other towns paid by the company doing the work. When you come upon a construction site and see police vehicles stationary with lights on, that is an example of a special assignment. On top of the requesting company paying for the officer, they

also pay hourly for the use of a cruiser if requested, as well as all payroll expenses. There is no cost to the town or tax payers when an officer does an outside detail.

I have said this before and I will say it again, I am very proud that as a Department we cover every hour of every day of the year, including every holiday when most are off and spending that time with families. I do not mention that as a bad thing. Again we as a whole take pride in covering this town and understand that it is the sacrifice we signed up for. It was easier to just say yes to it at the time but much harder to walk out the door for work on Thanksgiving or Christmas when the rest of the family is walking out the door to spend that time with family, not going to lie :)

We are only able to accomplish this because of your support and for that I say "Thank you." Rest assured that if you call for the police, short of us being tied up on another call, you will get a Bradford Officer who is familiar with the town, what is happening in the Town, has a vested interest in making sure the proper solution is reached and will be here ready to respond if, and when, you need them again. You will always get a familiar face who cares about you and this Town. And we do that with less of a budget than some Towns around us who do not provide the same amount of coverage.

*Ed Shaughnessy,
Chief of Police,
Bradford Police Department*



The 121 Shop
Thoughtful Gifts
Friday – Saturday 10-4
121 East Main St, Bradford, NH
www.the121shop.com




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NRC
Naughton Recycling Center, LLC

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Transfer Station Recycling Services
Jones Road • Bradford

ROLL-OFFS: 15 TO 40 YARDS
CONTAINERS 2 TO 10 YARD







Mountain View Senior Center

Located in the Bradford Area Community Center
134 Main Street, Bradford, NH • 603 938 2104
Monday – Friday, 8 am – 2:30 pm

Here are the services offered by the Mountain View Senior Center.

- Congregate Meals: The Center offers tasty hot lunches on Tuesdays at 12:15pm and Thursdays at 11:30am. Brunch is also offered the first Friday of every month at 9:30am.

- Meals on Wheels: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, drivers deliver nutritious meals to those in the Kearsarge area who are 60+ years, homebound and unable to prepare healthy meals on their own.

- Wellness and Foot Care Clinics: On the third Wednesday of every month, a registered nurse from the Lake Sunapee VNA offers a free Walk-in Wellness clinic (9:30 -11am). No appointment is necessary. Then from 11:30am - 2pm, there is a Foot Care Clinic. These services are provided by appointment only at a charge of \$30 per visit. To schedule an appointment, call (603) 748-1731.

- Group Activities:

- Strength Training: Mondays and Fridays starting at 8:30am
- Quilting: Tuesday at 10am
- Mahjong: Tuesdays at noon
- Bingo: Mondays at 10am

- Volunteer Opportunities:

- Serving lunch tasks include setting the tables, serving food and cleaning up.
- Starting new activities at the Center such as a new weekly game group, monthly Movie or Game Night, or a special event such as an ice cream social, BBQ or next year’s holiday party.
- Planning and leading field trips to interesting destinations in New Hampshire.
- Fund-raising directly for MVSC. Such efforts might include planning and implementing a district-wide raffle, contacting local businesses for monetary or in-kind donations, or reaching out to the community at large for contributions to support Bradford’s seniors.
- Participating in the Senior Companion Program by visiting with a senior for an hour each week.

If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact Roberta Hixson at (603) 938-2104, x7301.

Maria Storm



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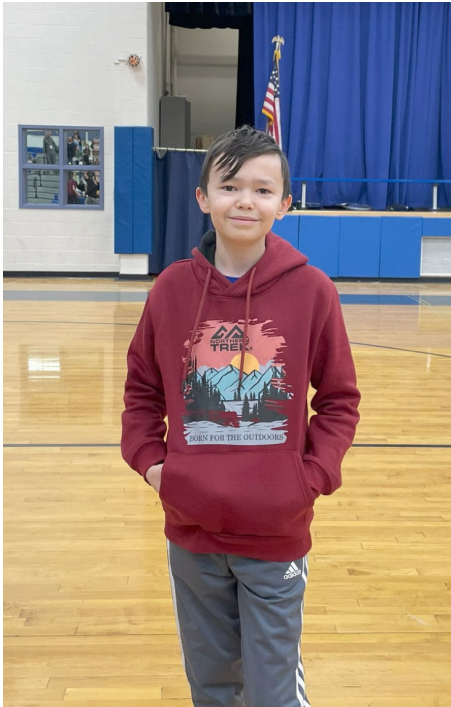
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Spelling Bee Winner



Kearsarge Regional Middle School successfully hosted its annual Spelling Bee, which was won by Bradford Grade 7 student Avery Gregoire. Avery now has the opportunity to compete in the state Spelling Bee, which will be held March 30 at the Bank of New Hampshire Stage in Concord. The top speller from this competition will represent New Hampshire in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May.

The Bradford Trail Map has been updated.

Find a copy at Brown Memorial Library.



Kudos for KRES-Bradford and KR-PreSchool

The sky's the limit in third grade at KRES-B. Students are excited about the upcoming solar eclipse... as they are about everything to do with learning.



Third grade teacher Ashley Boudrias says "I love teaching third grade. I enjoy their personalities and how they have a love of learning. When a student has been working for so long and finally puts all the pieces together, it's amazing to watch them. They feel so proud that they have finally mastered something they once thought was impossible."

Likewise, Justin Webber, who teaches the other half of the grade, says "The best thing about teaching third grade is the hunger for learning that the students come to me with... They are so happy to take on new challenges and enjoy learning new things."

These two excellent teachers have mastered the art of supplying support, along with skills and resources, to guide

their kids toward the discovery of knowledge. What a gift to offer information and self-confidence together in one well-planned package. Paraprofessionals Sydney Tucker and Breana Freeman assist to make the third-grade classrooms such positive learning environments.

Ashley Boudrias has been teaching for nine years, half at this grade level. She has two active sons at home who share her love of the outdoors. As a family, they go camping and love hiking and walking here in beautiful New Hampshire.

Justin Webber says "I live in Warner with my wife and three amazing kids. We have lived in Warner for 7 years, but it is my wife's home town, so we were very familiar with the area. Together we started a YouTube Channel called Craft Kids TV. It is a channel dedicated to spreading our love of art. Also, at the urging of my children, I sought a position in the Kearsarge district after I had been working at a middle school in Salem, NH for 13 years. It was a really nice point in my career to make the switch and experience school the elementary way. I love the flexibility and really can't imagine going back to middle school."

On April 8th these avid learners will get to experience something as awesome as a total solar eclipse. (They are seen here listening to a book on the subject by a community volunteer during Read Across America week.) Discoveries, both huge and small, spice their days and feed their appetites for knowledge. Take a taste of enthusiasm by reading to a child sometime soon.

Calendar:
March 7th, 6:30pm KRMS – 4th grade combined chorus concert at KRHS

Laurie Buchar

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MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

(Continued from page 1)

residents. Donations for fireworks are coming along.

Fire Department Update Incidents as of January 8th 18 EMS calls and 2 Fire calls. The Department is working with Highway on driveway standards as EMS and Fire experience occasional access issues. Purchasing of forestry equipment from the 50/50% \$2,000 Volunteer Fire Assistance grant has begun. A Bradford resident has been attending trainings and is completing an application to join the Department.

Police Department Update 395 service calls. Traffic stops are at 104 which is up over last year (Bradford PD is participating in a NH safety initiative.) Staffing is good for now. One staff member is due for surgery. Sergeants are scheduled for training. Reviews are wrapping up.

Facilities Use Committee The Board approved a motion to appoint Kris Foss, Scott McCaskill, Bruce Gezelman, and Karen Hambleton to the Facilities Use Committee. Beth Downs will serve as the Select Board representative.

SB2 The Board approved a motion not to recommend the petitioned warrant article proposing the adoption of SB2.

Legal Budget The Board agreed to increase the Legal Budget by \$40,000 for

a total of \$66,000.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Police Department The Committee revisited the Police Department budget to accommodate the gross appropriation of grants. The budget was increased by \$8,200 for a highway safety grant. The amount must be paid then will be reimbursed. Reimbursement will be budgeted as revenue. New Police Department budget total is \$635,471.

Patriotic Purposes The Committee revisited the patriotic purposes budget to accommodate the gross appropriation for fireworks. Patriotic Purposes was increased to \$20,000 to include the gross appropriation of \$15,000 for fireworks. Donations will be budgeted as revenue.

Legal Services The Committee approved increasing the Legal Services budget by \$40,000 for a total budget of \$66,000. Karen Hambleton explained this was based on the advice of town counsel to litigate two pending cases.

Warrant Article Recommendations The Committee decided they did not want to take a recommend or not recommend position on warrant articles that did not affect budgetary expenditures.

Library Devin Pendleton, Chairwomen of the Board of Trustees of Brown Memorial Library, asked the committee to reconsider the \$90,000 budget recommendation. The original Library request was \$97,000. After recalculating expenses Devin asked the Committee to recommend \$95,479. Devin explained that this is a bare bones request that includes the lowest decent wages possible for Library workers with no added benefits. Neighboring towns fund libraries at \$40,000 to \$200,000 more. Laurie Colburn recommended asking voters at Town Meeting to approve the increased request. Jen Richardson asked for a motion to increase the Library budget to \$95,479. No motion was made.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Website Work is continuing on the


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revised town website. Of note is that an alert capability is now available. Bryan Nowell, Fire Chief, has evaluated it and given his approval. It will permit urgent notices to be distributed to subscribers via email or text message. The new site will also support a reservation system, which can be used to manage scheduling for the Town Hall theater, the Community Center, and other available venues.

Signage The Committee discussed signage for the intersection of Main Street and Route 103, with the possible addition of the crossing of 103 and 114, to replace the “sandwich boards” that are currently used. Matt Monahan, Central NH Regional Planning, has found a contact within the Department of Transportation, who can advise us on exactly where the right-of-way is and what is permissible within it. He noted that there are existing examples of sign types that might be used in other towns.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Special Exception The Board held a public hearing for the Application by Arthur and Paula Fraser for a Special

Exception at 77 Oakdale Road, Tax Map 19, Lot 38 to increase the footprint of a nonconforming building per Article V, section B. 2. c. of the Bradford Zoning Ordinance. Four letters of support have been received from neighbors. Board Vice Chair Nathaniel Bruss voiced concerns about runoff management and Board member Bill Duffy voiced concerns about development on Lake Masasecum. The Board approved the application with conditions of approval of septic and shoreline permits by the Department of Environmental Services.

PLANNING BOARD

Surface Water Overlay District Ann Eldridge, Conservation Commission, spoke at a public hearing on the Surface Water Overlay District (SWOD) to suggest that the ordinance be combined with existing ordinances for wetlands and groundwater. Discussion centered on the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board collaboration to bring an ordinance forward for voting in 2025. The Planning Board approved a motion that the article for the SWOD be tabled and reworked for presentation in 2025.

MASONIC BUILDING COMMITTEE

Warrant Articles The Committee discussed why two warrant articles were needed for the Masonic Building. Article nine is worded to retain the building even though that was not a conclusion of the Committee. It was explained that town council had added this article to ensure there was a vote on whether the town wants to keep the building or not, and that it should be a ballot vote. If this article passed there would be no vote on article 10, the recommenda-

tion of the Committee. The Committee will show its presentation before the warrant articles are voted on at the Town Meeting. At that time, it will be stressed that the Committee does not recommend keeping the building as a result of the research and work this Committee has done over the last eight months.

FACILITIES USE COMMITTEE

Committee's Role The charge of the Committee was broadened to include all town spaces as needed, not just the Town Hall and BACC, but those two spaces would be the initial focus. The object is to manage the use of the spaces to recover some of the costs of their operation, making use of people outside of the Committee whenever appropriate (outside experts, other committees, public input). Secretary Scott McCaskill was chosen to be Secretary.

KRSD SCHOOL BOARD

Unanticipated Revenue The Board approved a motion to accept and expend unanticipated revenue funds awarded from the SAFE Grant, round 3, in the amount of \$163,000.00.

Drone Competition 12 Middle School students (3 teams) competed in their first ever Drone Competition in January. The 8th grade all-girls team won the Flight Operations Award and another team won the Think Award. There is a segment of the competition where 8 of the teams who have the best scores are selected to form an alliance for a final run at winning a trophy. All 3 Middle School teams placed in the final 8 teams (of 15) to work on the alliance.

HVAC Project The Board was presented with an amortization and lease schedule for the High School HVAC project, with lease payments in the amount of \$111,163.31. The Board approved the lease payments.

Bus Drivers The Communications Committee discussed the recruitment of bus drivers and the different ideas to continue advertising that the District is in need of bus drivers.

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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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 week-ends or school breaks by signing up through their school's nurse or by contacting FoodForThoughtForKids@gmail.com. Website: FoodForThoughtNH.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@KNPh.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.

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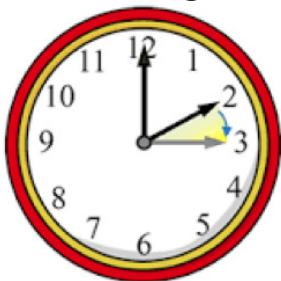
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- Old town reports: 1921, 1930-35, 1943, 1958, 1961-69, a few from the 70s, most of the 1980s and 1990s.
- Paper copies of the Bradford Bridge from September 1999... Leave message for Ann at 938-5266

Does anyone have or know of a used car that they're willing to donate to me? My old car is unsafe and will not pass inspection. I'll be without a vehicle as of the end of February. I am disabled and need a safe car for doctor appointments, PT, and living in general. If you or someone you know has a car to donate, please call Susie Janicki at 603-938-2603 and be sure to leave a message or email me at samwise21455@gmail.com. Thank you. PS I can drive anything except an 18-wheeler!

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



**Bradford
Community
Church Events**

88 W. MAIN ST., BRADFORD, NH, 603-938-5313

March 2024 Happenings

Life is better when we do it together.
Please join us for the following:

Sunday Worship at 10 am – Sunday School for ages 5-5th grade after Time with God's Children at the beginning of the service. Coffee Hour after church for people to enjoy food and conversation.

Men's Breakfast – Breakfast and a message called "Never Quit" Saturday, March 2, at 8:00 am in the Friendship Room.

Sister to Sister – Devotion on "Unshakeable Faith" Saturday, March 9, at 8:30 am in the Office Building

Special Sunday School – curriculum during the month of March called "Love Like Jesus and a 28-day Kindness Challenge". The children will see Jesus' love in Bible Stories and show His love through Kindness actions during the week.

Hannaford's Fight Hunger Bags – During the month of March, anyone who purchases a reusable Fight Hunger Bag from Hannaford's in New London for \$2.50 per bag, Hannaford's will donate \$1.00 per bag to the Bradford Community Food Pantry.

The Bradford Community Food Pantry will hand out food boxes on Wednesday, March 19, between 5:30-6:30 pm.

A Holy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, March 31, at 7:30 am at Horse Beach, Keyser Lake in Sutton. This will be a joint service between our church and the First Free Will Baptist Church in North Sutton. Coffee and Breakfast goodies will be served at FFWBC after the service. We will come back to our church for Easter Worship Service at 10am.

Email: bradfordcommunitychurch@gmail.com
Website: bradfordcommunitychurch.org

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

Friday, March 1

8:30 am Balance & Strength
12:30 pm 1st Friday Brunch, MVSC

Monday, March 4

8:30 am Balance & Strength
10:00 am Storytime, BML
10:00 am Bingo, MVSC
1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Tuesday, March 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, March 6

1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
7:00 pm Zoning Board
7:30 pm Open Mic, 11 West Main

Thursday, March 7

12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC
6:00 pm Economic Dev. Committee, SR
6:30 pm KRMS-4th grade combined chorus concert, KRHS

Friday, March 8

8:30 am Balance & Strength

Saturday, March 9

8:30 am Pancake Breakfast, Firestation
10:00 am **CANDIDATES FORUM**, MVSC
11:00 am Celebrate Mud Season! *Making Coil Pots* with Sue Moss, BML

Monday, March 11

8:30 am Balance & Strength
10:00 am Storytime, BML
10:00 am Bingo, MVSC
1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
3:00 pm Hazard Mitigation
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
6:00 pm Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 am **TOWN VOTING** – until 7pm
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Wednesday, March 13

1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
7:00 pm **TOWN MEETING** @ KRES

Thursday, March 14

12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC
5:30 pm Parks & Rec

Friday, March 15

8:30 am Balance & Strength
12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC

Saturday, March 16

9:00 am Women's Crafts

Monday, March 18

8:30 am Balance & Strength
10:00 am Storytime, BML
10:00 am Bingo, MVSC
1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
6:00 pm *Norman Rockwell: Inclusion, Exclusion, & Representing America*, BML

Tuesday, March 19

10:00 am Quilting Group, MVSC
12:30 pm Mahjong Group, LR
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
5:00 pm Energy Committee, SR
6:00 pm Conservation Committee, BML

Wednesday, March 20

9:30 am LSVNA Wellness Clinic, MVSC
11:30 am Footcare Clinic by appointment, MVSC
1:00 pm Therapeutic Yoga, MVSC
4:30 pm Girl Scouts, MVSC
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR
5:30 pm *Edible Wild Plant*, with Russ Cohen, BML
7:30 pm Open Mic, 11 West Main

Thursday, March 21

9:00 am Facilities Use Committee
12:15 pm Lunch, MVSC
12:30 pm Dominos, MVSC

Friday, March 22

8:30 am Balance & Strength

Saturday, March 16

9:00 am Adult Arts & Crafts, BACC

Sunday, March 24

5:30 pm Maple View Board

Monday, March 25

8:30 am Balance & Strength
10:00 am Storytime, BML
10:00 am Bingo, MVSC
1:00 pm Bridge Group, MVSC
3:00 pm Hazard Mitigation
5:30 pm Driver's Ed School, LR

Tuesday, March 26

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

Wednesday, March 27

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

Friday, March 29

8:30 am Balance & Strength

Saturday, March 30

11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt,
Rain or Shine, BML

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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BRADFORD

Wednesday, March 6, 7:30 pm. Open Mic night at 11 West Main Street.

Come to open mic night; join us to participate or listen. More information, 11westmainbradfordnh@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 9 from 8:30-10:00 am.

The Fire Department will be hosting a free pancake breakfast at the Fire Station. Please stop down and meet your Fire Department members and have a look around the station at the equipment. More information, firechief@bradfordnh.org.

Saturday, March 9, 11:00 am. Celebrate Mud Season! Coil Pots with Sue Moss at Brown Memorial Library. Please note: signups are required. More information, <https://www.brownmemoriallibrary.org/upcoming-events.html>.

Saturday, March 9, 11:00 am. Celebrate Mud Season! Coil Pots with Sue Moss at Brown Memorial Library. Please note: signups are required. More information, <https://www.brownmemoriallibrary.org/upcoming-events.html>.

Monday, March 18, 6:00 pm. Norman Rockwell: Inclusion, Exclusion, & Representing America at Brown Memorial Library. More information, <https://www.brownmemoriallibrary.org/upcoming-events.html>.

Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 pm. Edible Wild Plant talk with Russ Cohen at Brown Memorial Library. More information, <https://www.brownmemoriallibrary.org/upcoming-events.html>.

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 pm. Open Mic night at 11 West Main Street. Come to open mic night; join us to participate or listen. More information, 11westmainbradfordnh@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 30, 11:00 am. Easter Egg Hunt at Brown Memorial Library. Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the library's lawn! All ages are welcome. More information, <https://www.brownmemoriallibrary.org/upcoming-events.html>.

Third Saturday of every Month, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Adult Networking Arts and Crafts Group. Bradford Area Community Center, Bradford, NH. Arts and Crafts supplies provided. Bring your own project to work on or teach others. Come to meet some new people and mess around with art supplies. Artistic ability

is not a requirement, only requirement is to have some fun. FREE but donations welcome for supplies. No children please, teenagers welcome. Questions? Email Heather at forfengdesigns@gmail.com.

SPECIAL BRADFORD UPDATE

The Bradford Center Meetinghouse has its summer concert series dates available to share: July 12, July 26, Aug 10, Aug 25, and Sept 21. Save the dates and enjoy the local entertainment right here in Bradford! More information, www.bradford.center.

SURROUNDING TOWNS

Mondays and Fridays, 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Pickleball at Simonds School in Warner. More information, sign up on the TeamReach app to see updates and how many are coming! Look for WarnerN-HPB, code WPB21, to join via the app.

Saturday, March 16, 10:00 am. Maple Day at the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner. It's the sweetest time of the year in New Hampshire! Join us for a day of maple syrup-making demonstrations, maple goodies, museum tours, acorn pancake samples, and more! More information, <https://www.indianmuseum.org/events>.

Introduction to Curling

Saturday, March 16, 2023 1-3pm, no previous experience is necessary, all the equipment provided. The 2-hour session starts by teaching the basics of curling, including: how to properly deliver a curling stone, sweeping technique (and why it's done), curling team positions, rules, strategy and scoring.

About half the time is spent on instruction. The other half is spent playing a short game against another team of fellow Intro to Curling Participants. \$30 per person. Ages 12 and up. Pre-Registration is required and the sign up link can be found on the Town's website at bradfordnh.org. This event is hosted by Bradford Parks and Recreation and is being held at the Plymouth State University Ice Arena located at 129 NH Rt-175A (Holderness Road) Holderness, NH 03245. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the arena.

Out & About Tree Friends

This painting, found while visiting the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA, tickled my imagination.



Here's a thought... "Trees are never lonely. Humans think they know with certainty where their being ends and someone else's starts. With their roots tangled and caught up underground, linked to fungi and bacteria, trees harbor no such illusions."

– Elif Shafak, *The Island of Missing Trees*



We are lucky to have so many trees in our area. How do you commune with the trees? Send us your pictures, poems and stories about how you relate to the growing, changing, maple syrup making trees standing tall all around us? We'd love to hear from you!

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.

Kathleen Bigford




The Bradford Bridge




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