

THE BRADFORD BRIDGE

COMMUNITY NEWS BY NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORS

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December 2002

KRSD Deficit Understated

Subsequent to the September discovery and disclosure of last year's budget deficit, the Kearsarge Regional School Board, working with Superintendent Brennan, has undertaken some critical steps. The Superintendent has requested that our external auditors perform an immediate review of our accounting cost control procedures. The Finance Committee of the School Board met separately with the Superintendent to take specific actions to improve the frequency and accuracy of budgetary reporting. That plan was presented at the October 24 School Board meeting. During the ensuing period, additional information has been developed by the SAU with assistance from our outside auditor. Possible failures to comply with purchasing procedure have been identified which require further investigation and may lead to disciplinary action.

The original estimate of a deficit of \$196,810, publicly announced in September, appears to have been understated. The current best estimate of the deficit, pending completion of final audit, is \$376,710. This represents about 1.8% of the budget approved by the voters in March 2001. October's Bradford Bridge highlighted the budget categories driving the deficit spending. The School Board has directed the SAU to take the actions described below in response to the urgent need to ensure an accurate and reliable accounting of the District's financial situation.

In September, the District developed a plan to cover last year's deficit by making reductions in this year's expenditures. With the newly developed information, this plan will not be sufficient to address the problem. At its November 21 meeting, the School Board decided to pursue a supplemental appropriation in the upcoming warrant cycle to cover the outstanding amount in deficit. In addition, a number of line items in the current year's budget, primarily at the High School, have already seen expenditures greater than anticipated halfway through the year. The Superintendent is working on a plan to try to cover these overruns by reductions in other areas. Finally, the Superintendent reviewed and discussed the District's present financial position with the Municipal Budget Committee at its November 19, 2002 meeting.

Specific Directives by the School Board:

The Superintendent is preparing a precise and complete reconciliation of the Fiscal Year 2002 year-end accounts including all expenditures, budget variances, journal entries, and purchase order procedure violations. The SAU will also prepare a complete report of the status to date of the Fiscal Year 2003 accounts to include actual to budget variances. The School Board will prepare a warrant article for a supplemental appropriation to cover the deficit in last year's budget. If we do not take this step, and instead follow through with our previous decision to attempt to absorb the overruns in the present fiscal year budget, this fiscal year could also end with significant expenditure overruns. Superintendent Brennan is preparing a prioritized contingency plan to reduce planned expenditures in the current year in order to es-

DEFICIT Continued on page 9

Rodd loses in election recount

In the election in NH District 34 (Bradford's new House District), incumbent Rep. Beth Rodd of Bradford beat Richard "Stretch" Kennedy of Hopkinton by 70 votes in election day tallies. In a recount requested by Kennedy, Kennedy won the election by five votes because the recount found Hopkinton had mistakenly credited Rodd with 100 votes more than she actually got. She was the only candidate who lost this number of votes in the recount, while no other candidate's votes changed by more than three votes.

Peter Burling, Democratic Leader from Cornish, NH, said: "In a fair world, we should be at the halfway point in the Beth Rodd recount. It's clear that something very strange happened with the Hopkinton recount, where there was an apparent hundred-vote shift. That shift could have happened on election night or at the recount. The only sensible thing is to redo the count. The necessity of a new recount is only highlighted by the fact that the Secretary of State's Office suspended (on Wednesday afternoon), the recount, but then recommenced the recount when the leading Democrats had left the Legislative Office Building where the recount was taking place. The Democrats never would have left had they known that the recount was going to begin that same

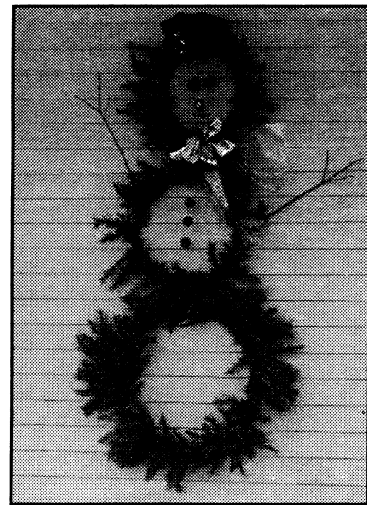
RECOUNT Continued on page 9

Historic Homes and Inn Tour

A group of Bradford's homeowners and innkeepers will be hosting the 6th Annual Historic Homes and Inns Tour on Sunday, December 15 from 3:00-8:00pm. Come see these wonderful, historic structures decked out in their holiday finery. There will be some great new additions to the tour this year and some old favorites from previous years.

Tickets are \$7.50 per person and can be purchased at the Candlelite Inn or the Thistle and Shamrock Inn where you will receive a brochure with a map and list of all the participants.

All proceeds go to support the summer flower barrel program.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Thistle & Shamrock Inn

THE BRADFORD BRIDGE



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Subscription Information

For those wishing to receive the Bradford Bridge by mail, the annual subscription price is \$12 to cover the cost of mailing. To subscribe, please send a check to the address above.

Advertising

The Bradford Bridge is a free community newspaper supported by advertisers. To place an ad, call Carol Troy at 938-6186 or send a FAX to 938-5702. Ad deadline is December 20.

Submissions

The Bradford Bridge is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Anyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. Send articles or letters to Lyn Betz at the address, FAX number, or e-mail address above by December 20.

News from the Town Clerk & Tax Collector's Office

Vital Statistics

September 19. Andrew Lawrence Flinkstrom was born to Debra and Paul in Concord.

October 7. Ruth Nelson died in Webster.

October 20. Christopher Boutwell and Heather Labar were married in Webster.

October 31. Royce Kelley died in New London.

November 13. Flora MacDonald died in Boston.

November 19. John Costa died in Bradford.

Tax Collector's Office

Tax bills are due on December 6. After that date, interest will start accruing at the rate of 12%.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed on December 24 and December 31 for the holidays. Ann and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the merriest of holidays.

—Sue Pehrson

HOURS:

Monday: Noon-7:00pm

Tuesday: 7:00-11:30am, 12:30-5:00pm

Friday: 8:00am-12:00noon, 1:00-5:00pm

TELEPHONE: 938-2288, 938-2094

Police Department News

Officer David Gotthardt graduated from the 231st Part-Time Academy. He will attend the Full-Time Academy at the Police Standards and Training in Concord on January 6.

Officer Aaron Sparks completed his D.A.R.E. training and is now teaching every Tuesday at KRES in Bradford.

The Chief has been medically cleared to return to uniform after injuring his wrist in August. Physical therapy must have been effective because the Chief fired a round from his weapon to eliminate a raccoon that was suspected as rabid.

Officer Chuck Goodale was recently hired by Epsom Police and will attend either the January or April Full-Time Academy in Concord.

The Route 103 construction is nearly over. Many thanks to residents for their patience and many thanks to our part-time officers and members of the Newbury PD who worked to keep the traffic and the construction workers safe.

Chief Kirby and Officer Sparks made a presentation of "Feeling Safe" at the Senior Center. Both officers also spoke to the Cub Scouts about Police Officers, Stranger Danger, and general safety. Chief Kirby also made the presentation to the Boy Scouts.

3x2

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Parents' Day Out!

The Kearsarge Area Preschool will be holding a babysitting fundraiser on Saturday, December 7 from noon until 5:00pm at the Baptist Church on West Main Street. Experienced parents from the preschool will provide childcare so that parents can do their holiday shopping (or anything else!) The cost is \$20 per child, \$15 for each additional child in a family. Please call Heather Brady at 938-2931 to register or for more information.

All proceeds will benefit the Kearsarge Area Preschool, a program serving three- and four-year-olds, located at the Bradford Area Community Center.

Santa's Mailbox

Santa's mailbox will be available at the Bradford Post Office on Monday, December 2 through Saturday, December 21. Santa will be visiting the Post Office on Saturday, December 21 from 10:30-11:30am. Happy Holidays!

The Postmaster



KRHS Men's Choir Featured at Festival

The Kearsarge Regional High School Men's Choir was featured at the 25th Annual All New England Choral Festival at Plymouth State College on November 7. The Men's Choir, under the direction of Ernie Mills, opened the concert with two songs, "Bound for Jubilee" and "Soon and Very Soon" in the sold out performance at the Silver Cultural Arts Center. Following the opening songs, the PSC Chamber singers (which included Bradford's own Ryan Sturgis and Francis Page) and the College Chorale treated the audience to a variety of choral pieces.

Following intermission, the Festival Choir, comprised of approximately 200 high school students from 52 high schools, performed four pieces including one in Portuguese. These very talented students had spent the day learning the pieces under the direction of the Plymouth State conductor Dan Perkins whose vivacity and humor engaged the students during their twelve-hour day. The high school Festival Chorus's final song took much of the audience by surprise when approximately another 200 students, all from Plymouth State, echoed from the back of the theatre.

The seventeen member Men's Choir has been hard at work preparing for their upcoming European tour in April. Congratulations to the Bradford/Newbury contingent comprised of Adam Barker, Craig Alibrandi, Pierre Hahn, Eric Caravan, Nathaniel Bruss, Joey Marzelli, Vinnie Marzelli, and Matt Pozniak. Two South Newbury members of the Women's Choir, Julie Barbour and Meghan Whitman, also represented Kearsarge at the Festival.

Both the Men's and Women's Choirs will be performing in England, France, and Italy in April 2003. Anyone interested in helping to support their concert tour, call KRHS at 927-4261. But you don't have to travel to Europe to hear this talented bunch of students. The KRHS Winter Concert, featuring the Men's and Women's Choir, along with the full KRHS Chorus, Band, Jazz Band, and Jazz Combo, will take place on Tuesday December 3, 7:30pm. Come support a wonderful bunch of kids!

—Debbie Bruss

Antiques and Artist Tree



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