

THE BRADFORD BRIDGE

COMMUNITY NEWS BY NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORS

Volume 19, Number 2 Issue 163

February 2005

Bradford Postmaster Retires



Ruth Marden, Bill Horsfall

Photo by Beth Rodd

Postmaster Ruth Marden happily announces that she will retire on January 31, 2005 after 23 years with the US Postal Service.

Ruth's career had her working in the following offices: Henniker, Washington, Newbury, and Bradford NH.

She looks forward to spending more time with friends and family and wants to thank all the members of the community

for their support and help over the years.

The new Postmaster, Bill Horsfall, comes to Bradford with 23 years of service after working in Concord as a City Carrier and a Supervisor Customer Services. He most recently was the Postmaster of the New London office for 9 years. He lives in Contoocook and looks forward to the challenges that working here in Bradford will bring after working in larger offices.

Bradford Information

Things to do: Lakes Massasecum, Todd, and Blaisdell. Bradford Bog. Town Forest. Bradford Mineral Springs.

Municipal Information: Selectmen; Planning Board elected; Police Department, Full-time; Fire Dept., Volunteer;

Election Districts: State House District 5; State Senate District 7; Executive Council

District 2; U.S. House of Representatives District 2.

Utilities: Electric, PSNH; Gas, none; Water Supplier, Private wells; Sanitation, Private septic; Curbside Trash Pickup, None; Telephone, TDS Telecom; Cable TV service, TDS Telecom.

This information is from www.nh.com

Scholarship for Bradford Residents

The Bradford Scholarship Committee is offering a scholarship to Bradford residents who meet the following requirements: Live in the Town of Bradford and are furthering your education in a college, university, school of nursing, or technical institute. Please submit a typewritten application telling us your academic goals, extra curricular and community activities, and how living in Bradford has helped promote these goals. Mail your application to Dawn Rich, P.O. Box 225, Bradford, NH 03221 no later than April 30, 2005. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund can be made through the Town Hall and are tax deductible.

Elizabeth Bouley, Mary Keegan-Dayton & Dawn Rich

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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 938-2995. Ad deadline is the 20th of the month.

Submissions

The *Bradford Bridge* is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Anyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. The *Bridge* reserves the right to edit submissions for length or content. Send articles or letters to Beth Rodd/Bev Leo at the address, FAX number, or e-mail address above by the 20th of the month.

Bonus Available for Veterans

A bonus of \$100 is available to the Veterans of the Global War on Terrorism Operations., from the State of New Hampshire. Get an application from the NH State Veterans' Council, 275 Chestnut Street, Room 321, Manchester, NH 03101-2411. You can get the application from the Web Site as well, www.state.nh.us; or call the Veterans'

Council at 603-222-9230.

To be eligible you must have been awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for Service after September 11, 2001.

Darrell S. Sykes,

Assistant Service Officer,
NH American Legion

Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter

The Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter invites the general public to its program titled *Texas Birding*, on Friday, February 11, 7:30 pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Gould Road, New London.

Texas with its abundant birdlife and habitat diversity has become a Mecca for birders. Speaker Ted Keene will share slides of his recent trip. This is a wonderful opportunity to see local and migratory birds on their wintering grounds.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Ruth White at 763-4893.

On Saturday, February 12, Peter Newborn will lead the annual Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter birding trip to Cape Ann along the Gloucester/Rockport, Mass., seacoast to look for coastal winter specialities. Participants should meet at Warner Park and Ride, exit 9, I-89 at 8:00 am. Bring lunch, beverage, and binoculars. Inclement weather cancels the trip. If in doubt, contact Newborn at 763-4308.

Phyllis Curtiss



Stork Report

Andrew and Malissa of 25 West Main Street Bradford, NH had a baby girl on Oct. 27, 2004. She was 22 inches long and weighed 8 lbs. He name is Maya Lynne.



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www.bradfordnh.com

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Bridge* link.

Current "Current Use" in Bradford

Last month's edition of the Bridge provided a bit of an overview of the current use program in New Hampshire. As you may recall, current use is the practice whereby tracts of land of more than ten acres in size are preserved and the owners pay a reduced tax rate as a result. This has been an important land management tool in Bradford for forestry, agriculture, and recreational purposes.

In this installment, let's look at some numbers. According to the 2003 annual report for Bradford, 15,592 acres were maintained in the current use program. Focusing on the numbers, we see that most of the preserved land was forest (about 13,660 acres), with another 563 acres devoted to farmland and 566 acres deemed to be wetlands. There are also about 803 acres which are considered "unproductive", i.e., the craggy slopes, ravines and the like which would be difficult to use for any form of development or logging. Thus, if we consider that Bradford has about 23,000 acres total, approximately 68% can be considered to be land that is, at least temporarily, reserved as open space. The reduced tax rate varies depending upon the type of land, with timber areas having the highest rate and unproductive lands the lowest.

But there are certainly occasions when land in current use must be removed from the program, possibly to build a dwelling or a parking area for a business. In 1999, only seven acres were removed from current use.

In the past five years, the number of acres developed has been growing at a faster rate. When removal does occur, whoever is petitioning for the change in status, pays what is termed a "use change tax", which should be 10% of the actual fair market value of the lot. Of the funds generated from the use change tax, one half goes to the town's conservation fund administered by the appointed Conservation Commission and the other half is delivered to the town's general fund. The money that goes to the conservation fund can then be used for the protection of significant properties for water protection, flood control, wildlife habitat, and the like. This can be done through fostering conservation easements or trail easements on privately held lands, the purchase of development rights or, if necessary, outright purchase of a property. This removes land from current use and puts the change of use tax in a fund to permanently preserve other land as open space. Ironically, as the town's income from the current use change fee increases with development pressures, the cost of preserving land increases even faster.

As a planning tool for towns, the current use program provides open recreational spaces, promotes wise forest and agricultural management, and allows for reduced overall taxation because open spaces require little in the way of costly town services.

Bradford Conservation Commission

The Bradford Women's Club

Our Chinese Auction and Lunch Buffet turned out to be a lot of fun and quite delicious. The food was a bit late but it gave everyone a chance to sit and chat.


Our next General meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, at 1:00pm. This will be held at the Bradford Area Commu-

nity Center and will host a guest speaker from the Visiting Nurse Association.



Remember, we will be holding a Town Wide Yard Sale in June, so start saving some of your old stuff!

See you at the next meeting!


Erica Gross, President



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Shopping on the Web

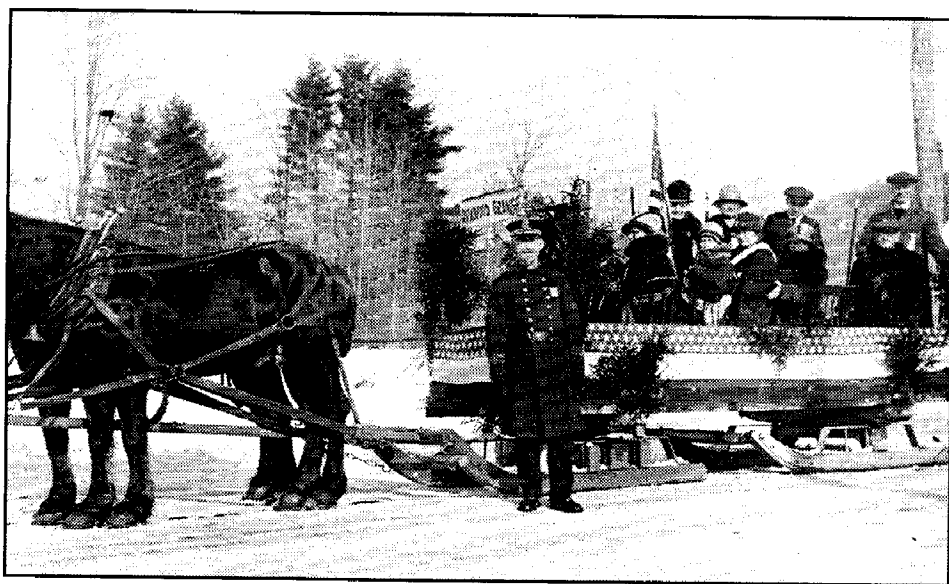
Last month I described the relative safety of shopping on the Internet with a credit card. Never use cash or checks. Federal law limits fraud losses with a credit card to \$50; this is not the case with cash or checks. This month I discuss where I actually do my shopping.

Froogle (a combination of frugal and Google) is available at froogle.google.com. Here you will find actual images of pages from many popular mail order (and Internet order) catalogs. You can do a search for a particular item. And of course there is regular google.com, which indexes several billion Web pages. Google carefully separates commercial sites and marks them as advertisements, but you want commercial sites when you are in a buying mood. Another one of my favorites is overstock.com. Overstock is the Building 19 of the Web. Lots of brand new remaindered and otherwise discontinued items are available, often at prices about 50% of their regular prices. I have bought very fine sheets and an expensive altitude-measuring watch from Overstock. One of the features of Overstock is the button called Worldstock which brings up arts and crafts from many countries around the world.

There are a number of shopping bots, a word derived from "robots." These are automatic programs that go out onto the Net and comparison shop for items. But be aware that companies pay to be listed by a particular bot. Thus, not all purveyors will be listed, but the larger companies will usually be listed for a particular product. One bot I particularly like is fatwallet.com. You can accrue a small reward balance of 2 to 5% if you start at Fatwallet and then go to the site. (I accrued 87 cents last year; I gave it to the Red Cross for tsunami relief. Big donor, me!) Fatwallet also has a forum site where shoppers can discuss various vendors. Other bot sites are shopping.com and shopping.yahoo.com. I have yet to find a bot that includes shipping charges. Shipping

Then...

by Milly Kittredge



Bradford Winter Carnival, 1929

On the double runner, the Bradford Grange members, prepared for the weather. The police Chief is Dell Stevens. The Winter Carnival was a big celebration with parades, outdoor contests, Carnival Ball and Queen, and food.

charges can and do vary widely, so the lowest quoted price is not necessarily the best deal.

Before you complete an online transaction, you should check for online coupons. Generally, sites like amazon.com or bestbuy.com will have coupon offers. But you may not find these special deals by going to their sites directly. Do a Google search on the name of the company, e.g. Amazon, plus the words "coupon codes" or "coupon code." Note the quote marks; they are part of the search string. And be sure to do a search on both the singular and plural. If you find an appropriate coupon code, you can enter it on the online form for the company before checkout. Two sites that specialize in coupons are bargainboardwalk.com and couponmountain.com.

Do you have a favorite shopping site or bot to recommend? Contact me: billhatt@iamnow.net.

Junior Division Poetry Contest

The Poetry Society of NH is sponsoring a spring Junior Division Poetry Contest for NH students in grades 4 through 8. The top ten poems will be published in the PSNH quarterly magazine, *The Poets Touchstone*. Winners will receive a copy of the quarterly and a certificate to recognize their efforts.

There is a \$1 entry fee per poem and guidelines to be followed. For a copy of those guidelines, send a self-addressed business size envelope (SASE) to the Contest Coordinator, Barbara Bald, 21 Finethy Road, Alton, NH 03809.

The contest deadline is April 1, 2005.

Pat Frisella



Bradford PD to hire officer to handle complaints

The following article is taken from the *Argus Champion*, Kristen Senz, January 26, 2005.

The Bradford Police Department plans to hire a part-time officer who will have the additional duty of handling any complaints about other officers within the department.

The new officer would alleviate any concerns that might arise due to Police Chief Jim Valiquet's supervision of his wife and son, who are both uniformed Bradford police officers.

"He'll be in charge of all internal issues and discipline, by way of review," Valiquet said. However, as chief, Valiquet will still make any final decisions regarding disciplinary measures, he said.

The employment manual for the town states that employees' relatives are eligible to work for Bradford as long as no conflicts with "supervision, safety, security, or morale, or potential conflicts of interest exist."

Bradford Selectman Peter Fenton said he knows about the policy, but that he and the rest of the selectmen leave police department operations up to the chief.

"We're pretty much happy with what the chief wants to do," Fenton said.

Since Valiquet's retirement from his role as police chief in Newbury, the selectmen there have created a town policy that prohibits any arrangement in which an em-

ployee would directly supervise his or her relative.

Newbury Town Administrator Dennis Pavlicek, however, said the new policy had nothing to do with Valiquet, whose then-girlfriend worked for the Newbury Police Department for years while he was chief.

With his retirement from his post as full-time Newbury police chief effective Jan. 1, Valiquet serves only as the part-time chief in Bradford.

According to minutes from the October meeting of the Newbury selectmen, Valiquet said he liked working in both towns because it gave him extra money while saving money for Bradford taxpayers. He also said he hoped his son, police officer Steve Valiquet, could someday become chief in Bradford.

Since Valiquet became chief in Bradford, its police department has started patrolling 24 hours a day and requires no assistance from state police.

Valiquet said the new part-time officer should begin work in Bradford within the next month, pending a clean background check. The officer might be given a special title to indicate that he handles internal affairs, Valiquet said, but that hasn't been decided for sure.

The Bradford Police Department is also looking to hire a number of other part-time officers, he said.

Statewide Survey Needs Your Help!

What Kinds of Birds Are Visiting Your Feeders?

New Hampshire Audubon (NHA) needs assistance from citizens all over New Hampshire to determine the status of bird species in the state. Participants in the annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey on Saturday, February 12, and Sunday, February 13, will help NHA get a clearer picture of what's really happening with our winter birds this year.

Anyone can participate in the Backyard Winter Bird Survey simply by counting the birds in their own backyard on the survey weekend and sending the results on a special reporting form to NHA. To receive a copy of the reporting form and complete instructions on how to participate, send a self-addressed, stamped, long envelope to: NHA, Winter Bird Survey, 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301-8200. Forms are also available at Audubon centers in Auburn, Concord, Laconia, Manchester, and Moultonborough, or you can find them on the NHA web site, along with more information about the survey, at www.nhaudubon.org.

All New Hampshire residents are encouraged to participate in the survey. For more information about the Backyard Winter Bird Survey, please call New Hampshire Audubon at 224-9909 or go to the NHA Website at www.nhaudubon.org.



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MANDATORY RECYCLING BENEFITS OUR ENVIRONMENT

The world in which we live is a better place because so many residents of Bradford are bringing their discards to the Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center for recycling.

Here are some of the ways that Bradford is helping to keep our air and water clean, harvest our natural resources of timber and oil as truly needed, and preserve the earth's beauty that we all appreciate.:

- According to Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA), although steel cans are a small portion of the waste stream (about 2%), every ton of steel cans recycled conserves 2,493 pounds of iron ore, 1,395 pounds of coal, and 119 pounds of limestone. Recycled steel cans, lids, and jar caps are made into nails and screws, among other things.

- According to NRRRA, although aluminum cans (and other aluminum items, such as foil plates and pans) make up approximately 1% of the waste stream, their resale value is the highest of any recyclables. The sale of recycled aluminum can represent upwards of 25% of the total revenues a municipality may receive from the sale of all recyclables. NRRRA says that producing new aluminum products from recycled aluminum reduces air pollution by 95%, water pollution by 95% and energy consumption by 95%.

- All of the glass (including whole or broken light bulbs and ceramics) that we collect is pulverized and used for road resurfacing material.

- Milton Bradley purchases all the mixed paper that we collect; game boards are made out of clean, unwanted mail, cereal boxes and other light cardboard items: egg cartons, grain bags, wrapping paper, etc.

- Old tires are pulverized in the Midwest and used in making playground mulch.

- German automakers have created the eco-diesel that uses frialator oil from restaurants.

Car batteries, clothing and other textiles, corrugated cardboard, fluorescent bulbs and motor oil and filters are also collected and sent for recycling. Books, household items, appliances, furniture and building items are set out for the residents to take for themselves; those items not taken after a reasonable time are appropriately recycled or discarded.

The good residents of Bradford are helping our earth as a whole, as well as here at home, when they participate in the recycling efforts at the Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center.

Kenneth Anderson, Manager

Women's Christian Guild

The next meeting for the Bradford Women's Christian Guild will be held at the First Baptist Church of Bradford vestry on Friday, Feb. 4th. at 11:30 a.m. for a pot luck dinner.

Following, the Guild will have a program on Reminiscing. Each participant will bring a picture of themselves as a child, then

tell a story of a memorable occasion that stands out in their mind that was a happy time for them, or one of special significance.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Women's Christian Guild is welcome to attend.

For information call 938-2640.

We need stringers to cover local events and meetings; photographers and typists.
bradfordbridge@mcttelecom.com ~ 938-2692

