

THE Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS BY NEIGHBORS

Volume 17, Number 12; Issue 196

December 2007

NEEDS ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

by Dawn Rich

The Needs Assessment Subcommittee brought to the Steering Committee on November 1st their completed assignment of bringing requests for proposals on the access road, Highway Garage and Police Station. Their months of research, visiting other communities to view their highway and police buildings, investigating new suggestions for buildings and planning what is the right decisions for our community was approved by the selectmen on November 6th meeting. We sincerely thank Jim Pickman, Chair, Steve Lucier, Highway Department, Jim Valiquet, Police Chief, Jon Marden, Paul Riley, David Eckman, Eckman Engineering and Jim and John Bruss of Bruss Construction for their expertise in completing these packages of request for proposals.

The steering committee met on November 8th and discussed the future review committee for the bids. Tom Riley, Everett Kittredge, Eileen Kelly, Kevin McKenna, Phil LaMoreaux, Andrew Pinard, Jim Valiquet, Steve Lucier, and a member of the Budget committee will be the review committee. A request for proposal from water well companies for the Highway Garage – Police Station well was sent out after approval from the selectmen. The ad requesting proposals from contractors will be in Manchester Union Leader on November 10th. Plans will be available on November 19th, 2007 through Construction Summary of NH online at www.constructionsummary.com or at their physical address at 734 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH 03104 or at Associated General Contractors of NH at Grandview Road, Bow, NH 03304. There will be a mandatory site walk for those interested in submitting a proposal on November 29th, 2007. Proposals must be submitted by 2 pm on December 14th, 2007.

Next meeting of the Needs Assessment Steering Committee will be December 6th. We urge Bradford residents to attend all the NAC meetings before our Town Meeting, March 14th. It will give you an opportunity to be well informed on the warrants you will be voting on.

The following tentative dates have been set:

December 6th, 7 PM - report on site walk and select review committee

December 14th, 2 PM - proposal responses due

December 17th, 7 PM - open bids

December 21st, select and schedule interviews

January 2nd - final interviews, non public

January 4th, 7 PM - final selection, schedule Budget Committee date

January 17th, Bond Hearing

February, 2008 - no date set yet for public presentation

March 12th - Town Meeting.

Any changed dates will be put in the January Bradford Bridge and also will be posted on the Town Hall bulletin board. All proposals from the committees of the Needs Assessment Steering Committee are presented to the Selectmen and they make the final vote on all proposals. Please support your Needs Assessment Steering Committee by attending the meetings. We look forward to keeping you informed through the Bradford Bridge. We sincerely hope we can all work together to bring these much needed buildings to our community and town employees.

10 QUESTIONS: GEOFFREY DOUGLAS

This is a continuation in a series of Bradford Bridge interviews with people in Bradford. By Phyllis Wilcox

Geoffrey Douglas was born in New York City. His mother died when he was nine years old. His father remarried and the family moved to Tuxedo Park, New York. He attended St. Paul's School in Concord. His father died when he was eighteen. He completed his education at Columbia University and Stony Brook in New York.



Q. What brought you to Bradford?

My second book "Dead Opposite" had just come out in 1994. I'd just turned fifty when my cousin suggested that I use her cottage on Lake Todd to write my third book "The Game of Their Lives." I moved into the cottage and loved it after years of living in urban areas like Boston, New Jersey and New York. I began to teach writing workshops in Bradford and then got a job working for the Alumni Magazine in Lowell for the University of Massachusetts.

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The Bradford Bridge



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Subscription Information

To receive The Bridge by mail, please send an \$18 check to cover mailing costs to the above address.

Advertising

The Bradford Bridge is a free community newspaper supported by advertisers. To place an ad, call Beth Rodd at 938-2692. Ad deadline is the 15th 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. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

From The Editors

December, as the last month of the year, is a time of reflexion and joy. We remember the friends and neighbors who have enriched our lives, parents and relatives who are no longer physically with us but remain forever in our hearts. We remember the brave men and women, our sons and daughters, who have lost their young lives on foreign soils throughout the world and we send out a prayer of hope for the safe return of others who remain abroad. We remember the wartime sacrifices of our former neighbor, Gene Schmidt, recently interviewed and featured in the Concord Monitor and contacted by us to say thank you. We remember to celebrate the holidays with cheer, hunkering down for the long New England winter with visions of sugar plums and laughing children in our heads. We remember all the mistakes of the past year and resolve to do better in the next.

This issue of the Bridge has regular monthly articles, calendar dates for special holiday events and the first report from the Bradford Improvement Association (BIA) that we hope will attract new members. The BIA is working on increasing citizen participation in town government and creating an infrastructure that is responsive to the needs of all of our neighbors

We at the Bridge thank you for your support and participation during the last year and look forward to reporting about life in our unique, small town for the year to come. We wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and many joys and blessings for the New Year.

Selectmen's Office Hours 938- 5900

Monday-Thursday: 8 am - 12 noon
1 pm - 5 pm
Friday 8 am - 12 noon

Selectmen meet 1st and 3rd
Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

Town Clerk/ Tax Collector 938-2288

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Tuesday: 7am-11:30 am
12:30 pm 5 pm
Friday: 8 am- 5 pm



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Bradford now has JAWS!

Bradford Fire and Rescue purchased a used "JAWS OF LIFE" tool set. These tools can be used to extricate people trapped in a car following an accident. The department hopes to never use the tools for real but is training with them to be prepared if needed. The tools and training can save critical minutes after an accident. The tools were purchased with donations.

On November 5, 2007 Fire and Rescue held a training session at Valley Excavating with a donated car. The crews teamed up to saw out all the glass, cut off the doors, wedge open compartments, cut off the roof like a giant tin can, remove the steering wheel and seatbelts, and roll the dashboard up on to the hood turning a solid 4-door sedan into a no-door, convertible with extended seating in the back.



Chopped up car: A tired crew takes a few minutes to relax after practicing with the "Jaws of Life" l-r front: Dave Camire Jr., Dave Camire Sr, Laurie Brown, and Mark Goldberg, Fire Chief. Rear l-r: Deputy Chief Preston Starr, Rescue Lt Rich Branch, Steve Lauston, Elliott Brown, and Rescue Captain Heidi Slatunas. Photo by C.J. Frey

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100-year Old Henry Backdrop Restored & Cleaned

Of the hundreds of theatrical backdrops painted by Charles Washington Henry, Vermont's most prolific and accomplished scenic artist, about 50 remain. Bradford's 100-year old Henry backdrop gained a new lease on life when conservators from the "Curtains Without Borders" project came on-site to the First Baptist Church during the week of Oct. 22 to 25. The 9' x 14'8" backdrop was mended and cleaned by professionals with the help of Bradford volunteers who patiently tamped the entire surface one inch at a time with dry vulcanized rubber sponges. Fills were constructed for two large losses in the upper right corner. A new roller and headboard secured the frayed top and bottom edges. In-painting, using Flasche acrylic paints, was done to reduce the visual impact of water damage, creases, and patches. One additional day of in-painting will be needed to improve the abraded top 15" of sky. The restoration was funded by a Cultural Conservation Grant from the NH State Council on the Arts, individual and business donations.



Where in the world is George Cilley taking a vacation

Sarah Milton, and conservators M.J. Davis, Deborah Bede from Bradford, and Project Director, Christine Hadsel relax after a long day's work.



continued from page 1



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More Memories from World War II

A recent article in the Concord Monitor's series from World War II was told by a long-time Bradford resident, Eugene Schmidt who served as a tail gunner on a B-17, one of the most dangerous positions on the plane. His draft notice came just after he and his wife Mildred were married. He and the rest of the nine member crew were assigned to a brand new plane that they named "Extra Special" with the rear end of the plane named "Tinkerdoodle."

In Gene's words: "On the first mission, my machine guns wouldn't work. We had training so we could repair them up there. . . . I finally got my gun to work. . . . So many planes were in the formation, I don't know how many guns were shooting. It's pretty hard to claim that you shot one down, so rather than claim it, you just did your duty."

"Toward the end of the war, two of the fellows (in the crew) and I went to Aberdeen, Scotland, because after so many missions they gave you what they called a 'flak leave.' The other crew members wanted to finish their missions, so they stayed at the base. They went on the last raid to Berlin, and evidently they were shot down. I would have been on that airplane.

Six members of the crew went down. Sad to see them go. After all, you were living with these fellows for the better part of a year. You knew them all personally. I wrote letters to the parents of the boys, but I never got any answers."

After the war, Gene and Mildred settled in New Jersey. In 1975 they moved to Bradford, but retirement did not mean leisure time. Gene was a long time active member of the Bradford Conservation Commission, a member of the Bradford Voters Coalition and helped to launch the Bradford Bridge. For many years while Mildred's Cozy Corner gave us helpful advice and delicious recipes, Gene handled out-of-town advertisers for the paper. Although Gene moved to Concord to live with his daughter following Mildred's death in 2003, "Gene's Raspberries" continues to be a delightful part of summer in Bradford. Gene reports that he is doing well, recently celebrated his 88th birthday, and continues to drive.

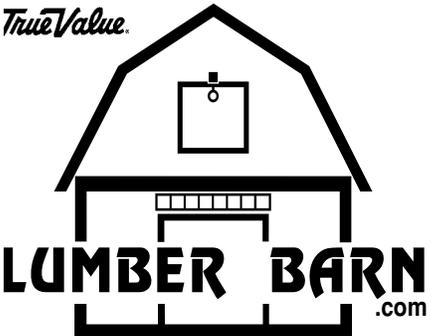
Thank you, Gene, for your service to your country and your many contributions to the Town of Bradford.

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Residents' Group Proposes Moving Town Meeting Day to a Saturday

Bradford's annual Town Meeting, which in recent years has taken place on the mid-week night following the town's voting in March, may be rescheduled for a weekend date, if the town's selectmen agree to the request of a local community group.

The group, the Bradford Improvement Association (BIA), a small but growing core of local residents, drafted and signed a letter to the selectmen requesting the scheduling change—in the interests of a wider turnout at town meetings—then circulated it to the wider community for more signatures. The letter was presented to the board of selectmen at its Nov. 20 meeting. It was not known as of press time what the action the board had taken.

The purpose of the re-scheduling proposal, according to the minutes of the BIA's Nov. 10 meeting, is "to encourage more townspeople to participate in town elections." It is the consensus of the group that a Saturday day-time town meeting, as opposed to the current practice of a mid-week meeting-night—which can often go on till quite late—would be easier and more convenient for many to attend, especially young families with children.

"It is our hope to engage as many residents as possible in the business of our town, in the decisions we vote on that affect every resident at tax-time and that, in the end, are going to shape Bradford's future," said BIA spokesperson Beth Rodd. "We think it's easier

for most young working families to attend a Saturday-morning meeting than a meeting on a Wednesday or Thursday night that can go on till after eleven."

Approximately 305 residents attended last year's Wednesday-night town meeting, according to a town-report estimate, as opposed to the 559 who turned out for town elections the day before.

The condition of sidewalks on Main Street was another concern raised recently at BIA meetings. The sidewalks, which are split open and unwalkable in many spots—and which drew a letter from West Main Street resident Ellen Hersh in the last issue of *The Bridge*—are not scheduled to receive town funding for replacement until 2015, according to town projections.

Several BIA members expressed concern at having seen young mothers with strollers unable to navigate the sidewalks and having

to walk against traffic, as well as schoolchildren also electing to walk in the streets. The possibility of grant money for new sidewalks was raised by members, who planned to contact the selectmen's office to inquire about sources.

Other issues on the BIA agenda recently have included the possible restoration of Town Hall, and assessments now underway with that in mind; and the cooperation of the new NFI School in a local beautification venture.

The BIA, which works independently and informally to augment the efforts of town

boards and officials, meets twice monthly on Saturdays in the Bradford Community Center on East Main Street. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 1 at 10:00AM. Local residents interested in joining the organization, or in knowing more about it, should contact Beth Rodd at 938-2692

DUMONT'S BARBER SHOP

Wednesdays 8 am - 6 pm

Denis Dumont, Owner

East Main St., Bradford

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In 2004 I bought my cousin's home on Main Street in Bradford.

Q. It has been said that writers, artists, creative people, produce their best work when they are young but often it may be a one great book and that's it. What do you think about that theory?

I don't agree with that. It's really a matter of one book that caught the attention of the public but authors write other books that are just as good. As we get older, we get wiser and are more able to process our reality. Every author has the vision of writing the greatest book. That is never realized.

Q. You have achieved success as a writer but you also teach and do other things. How do you manage to combine your different lives and get your writing done?

It's difficult. I like to think that they complement each other. I don't think that I'd be happy if all I did was write. Teaching gets me out in the world and that creates another reality for me. I try to maintain a schedule of two days in Lowell and the rest of the week writing.

Q. I have noticed that you appear to observe people and surroundings at meetings and social gatherings. Is this a writer's tool? Is this your way of gathering information for future books?

I'm not looking for books. I don't think I can help looking at people and wonder about their motivation. People fascinate me. I've gotten pretty tuned in. If the material for a book came, it would be fine. Actually, two of my three books came from reading the newspaper.

Q. What advice do you have for an aspiring writer? A while back I asked a local writer for advice on getting into the writing life and his answer was "Get the money up front." Is this good advice?

Yes. If you're relying on writing to make a living. I've been fortunate to get book money up front. Sometimes, when I was younger I would see myself writing a book without a contract. If the artist is gripped by a sub-

ject sometimes you go ahead without a firm money agreement.

Q. Do you have specific hours that are devoted to writing? Are there times that you run out of ideas?

I do have hours that I write. I'm a night person and write from noon until 7 pm. I never seem to run out of ideas. I worry about getting burned out and worry about bringing ideas to fruition.

Q. Do you miss urban life with all its diversions and amenities?

Sometimes I do. I go back to New York and visit my son, my editor and friends. I couldn't appreciate life here without life in New York. I appreciate the sense of community here in Bradford.

Q. Who are your favorite authors?

I have a lot. Andre Dubos, Richard Ford, Pete Dexter, William Kennedy, Russell Banks; and Norman Mailer.

Q. If you could change one thing in your life what would it be?

If I changed anything substantial I wouldn't be the same person. There is one thing that I regret. In the late 70's I became involved with an investigative newspaper. It took eight years of my life and I lost a lot of money and time that I could have spent writing. It was a draining experience for me.

Q. Norman Mailer who died recently at age 84 said, "I think there are just so many ideas you can have in your life and once you have them you have to develop them." Do you agree?

I do agree, if you simplify the question. There are only so many things that we can passionately pursue in a lifetime.

Q, you've been a Bradford resident for a few years now and have had a chance to observe the problems of sane growth and necessary rejuvenation of town properties. What do you see as the 3 best ways to solve some of the problems the town is experiencing with the new buildings for police and transfer station, restoration of town hall and repair of crumbling sidewalks on Main Street? How do you see Bradford in ten years?

I think the vision of Bradford in ten years depends on how successfully we manage to engage young people in the process. We can live in a town that attracts business or a town that lives up to its history or moves forward with its eyes closed. People have to be aware that there are things in town that they can do something about. People need to attend town meetings and be aware of what they are voting for and why.

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Area Happenings

Bradford Bog People to Play for the Community Barn Dance in Bradford! Turn off your television and computer, get your dancing shoes, and come to the Bradford Barn Dance! The Bradford Bog People Old-Time Stringband will entertain the dancers at the next barn dance, scheduled for **Friday, December 21**. Alice Morris will call. Beth Eldridge and Woody Pringle, a husband and wife duet from Bradford, will be joined by Bill Perry and Art Bryan, playing lively foot stomping southern Appalachian music on banjo, fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. Old-Time music predates bluegrass and even the Civil war in some cases. Their music includes tunes from Eastern Kentucky, the Virginias, the Ozarks, and North Carolina.

The Bradford Barn dances are offered by the Bradford Parks and Recreation Department. Dances take place at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School; 7 to 11pm. Beginner dances will be from 7pm to 8:30 pm followed by a potluck snack/ intermission, and raffle drawing. More complex dances follow the break. Admission is \$8.00, seniors and students \$7.00. Children under 5 are \$3.00. Bring a potluck snack or dessert and save \$3.00.

Breakfast with Santa! Santa Claus is coming to the Bradford Area Community Center on Saturday, December 15th from 8:30-11:00!! Enjoy a pancake breakfast, have your picture taken with Santa and receive a small gift. All who believe in Santa are welcome!!! \$5 per person, kids 2 and under are free. Call 938-5787 or visit www.kearsargeareapreschool.org for more information.

Mountain View Senior Center will present "**NH Cemeteries & Gravestones**" on Thursday, December 6th. This interesting and informative program will feature Glenn Knoblock as speaker. Knoblock will present rubbings, photos and slides to illustrate long

forgotten stories about the Great Awakening, the Great Depression, the Throat Distemper Epidemic and the American Revolution. Call Sandi at 938-2104 for time and details. This program is made possible by the NH Humanities Council.

Don't miss **First Friday Brunch, December 7th** at 11:30 PM, at Mountain View Senior Center. Enjoy a tasty and inexpensive brunch and a morning full of surprises including holiday music by Woody Roberts, 50/50 raffle, door prizes and gifts for everyone! Please RSVP to Sandi at 938-2104. A \$2.00 donation is requested.

Red Cross Baby Sitting Training The Red Cross is offering a Baby Sitting Training session December 1st from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Bradford Area Community Center, 134 East Main Street in Bradford. Registration: 225-6697 or visit the website at: www.concord-redcross.org.

Newbury

The South Newbury Union Church is hosting a **Pancake Breakfast with Santa**, Saturday, December 8th from 9-11 a.m. Bring the kids and join SANTA for breakfast! Adults \$3.00 - kids \$1.00

(Proceeds to benefit the Giving Tree at the Newbury Town Offices)

Don't forget to visit the "GIVING TREE" at the Newbury Town Offices. Make the Christmas wish of a child come true! More info? Call Gail at 938-2064

Sutton

Sutton Historical Society S.K.I.T. (The Sunapee Kearsarge Inter-Community Theatre) is holding auditions at the Whipple Town Hall in New London on December 9th from 4-6 and 10th from 5-7p.m. We are looking for 3-4 men and 3-4 women and a small chorus for the show **Beguiled Again**, The Songs of Rodgers and Hart. Please prepare a song to sing and bring sheet

music if available. An accompanist will be provided. Rehearsals begin after the first of the year and the show dates are Feb. 8, 9, 10 and 15, 16. For further information contact Don Boxwell at 526-2910 or Susan Cancio-Bello at 938-5648.

Thank you, Judy Lowe, Producer
Sunapee Area

Soo-Nipi Chapter Program

Area Bird Identification with Ruth White and George Green. Join us for an interactive programon Friday December 14. You will be amazed at how much you already know; George and Ruth will share hints on how you can learn even more. Tracy Library, New London, NH. Program at 7:30, refreshments will be served starting at 7:00 pm. Call Ruth at 763-4893 for more information.

Christmas Bird Count, Lake Sunapee Circle on Saturday, December 15.

Coordinator: Gary Stansfield, 863-8737. Supper and tally at 5 pm. at Gary's house in Goshen. Please call Gary for route assignment.

Warner

Bookends Enjoy Holiday Music "a cappella style" with Chanson - Donations @ door Sun. Dec. 2 @ 1 pm Meet & Talk with Fritz Wetherbee about his newest book *More Stories from NH Chronicle*

Dec. 5 - 7 Simonds School Book Fair Fundraiser @ the school

Sun. Dec. 9 ~ 10 am - 4 pm Artisans' Holiday Event featuring locally handmade one-of-a-kind works & gifts from the area's finest.

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Bradford Women's Club News

by Jackye Pehrson

Thank you to all who supported and worked the Annual Antique and Craft Fair. It was a wonderful success. A special thank you to Erica Gross who was chairman of the fair and Elaine Warren for a tasty luncheon fundraiser. Up next is Santa and Tree Lighting at the Brown Library on Dec 8, 4:00 to 5:00. Free pictures with Santa will be taken and available at the library before the Holidays. Our membership has increased by 5 and we are pleased to welcome them to our club. If you, like these 5 women, want to make a difference to people in Bradford, Sutton and Newbury call 938-5951, Jackye Pehrson for information. Also, members, don't forget our Holiday Open House at the Bradford Community Center, 4:00-7:00 - you know who to call for more info.



Kearsarge Area Preschool News

By Lyn Betz

Children in the three- and four-year-old classes learned more about family and friends in November. They shared stories related to the theme, acted out family life through dramatic play and experienced the joys and challenges of friendships as they played and worked together. With the emphasis on how family and friends help each other, it was a natural and exciting project to create Thanksgiving baskets to donate to the Bradford and South Newbury churches for distribution to families in need. Each child made a napkin ring to contribute to the basket and the older children helped sort and arrange food donations from their families.

In December our theme will be Light and Dark. Children will have the chance to explore light, dark, and the wonderful world of color. We will talk about ways different

religions and cultures use light as part of traditional celebrations near the solstice. We will have our third annual Dark Day, when students come in their pajamas to a darkened classroom for a special morning of night-like play. Parents will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa fundraiser on December 15 from 8:30-11:00 am at the Bradford Area Community Center. There are still limited spaces available in both classes. Please visit our website at www.kearsargeareapreschool.org or call 938-2442 for more information.

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CALENDAR

CALENDAR

Selectmen's Highlights

NAC Selectmen approved the advertisements for three Requests for Proposal to be placed in newspapers and trade publications to solicit costs for the proposed road and building construction. Bids are due on December 14th with the bid opening set for December 17th.

Budget Selectmen have begun review of the budgets as submitted by town departments.

Roads/Bridges Signs will be added to the Bement Covered Bridge advising bicyclists to walk across the bridge because the spaces between the planks have created problems for cyclists.

Work is continuing on the Jones Road Bridge with Center Road closed for a short period of time. Emergency vehicles will be able to travel at any time. The Road Committee will meet to prepare estimates for work in the coming year.

Town Hall Audrey Sylvester presented a report on the restoration of the historic Charles W. Henry backdrop recently completed. Selectmen approved a proposal to allow the backdrop, properly prepared and covered, to be stored in a rolled up within a container and hung above the stage.

Town Meeting A proposal was presented to change the day for holding the adjourned session of town meeting from Wednesday evening to Saturday morning. The hope, and expectation, is that more residents who find it difficult to attend an evening meeting because of work or family constraints will be able to participate in this important part of the community. Selectmen agreed to place the question on the ballot for a vote at the 2008 Town Meeting.

Minutes of Selectmen's meetings are on file at the Town Hall

Planning Board Notes

Subdivisions The Board approved a three lot subdivision for property owned by the Lucas family on Old Mountain Road. Building permits had been issued for three homes on the Class VI road in the 1980's. Town Counsel advised that by that action the town had created a "de facto" subdivision and that the Planning Board should consider a formal application to effect the subdivision. Conditions attached include notation on the plan that no further subdivision of this property will be allowed until Old Mountain Road has been brought up to Class V standards and been accepted by the town as a Class V road and that waivers of liability for maintenance of the road, as provided in state statute, be filed at the Registry of Deeds by the owners of each of the lots created.

A two lot subdivision and boundary adjustment was approved for property owned by John and Mary Ellen Pfeifle on Old Warner Road that creates a lot for the existing house, leaves a small existing non-conforming lot, and a large remaining parcel.

The Board joined the Newbury Planning Board in approving a two lot subdivision for property of David and Julia Friedline on Old Sutton Road where only a small triangle of land is in Bradford.

Site Plan Review A modified site plan was submitted and accepted as complete to allow Dunkin Donuts to occupy space adjacent to the Pizza Chef on East Main Street. A Special Exception had been granted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment to expand the building closer to the property line than allowed in the ordinance. The major area of discussion concerned the request to use internally lighted signs for the business contrary to the requirement in the ordinance: "Signs may be illuminated only by external continuous

lighting." The consensus of the Board was that the applicant should seek a variance from that provision from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The hearing was continued to December 11.

A modified site plan was accepted from NFI North to construct a residential building at the school on Route 103 to house 15 young men as part of their educational program. Adjoining towns will be notified under the definition of a development of regional impact. A variance will be sought for disturbance of the wetlands buffer. The hearing on the application will be continued on December 11.

CIP The Planning Board accepted the report for the Capital Improvements Program as prepared by Edythe Craig and her committee. This will be presented to the Selectmen and the Budget Committee for their use in preparing the town budget.

Minutes of all Planning Board meetings are on file at the Town Hall

Zoning Board of Adjustment

The ZBA meets Dec. 4th, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall. Public Hearings: Special Exceptions (2) 40 East Shore Dr., replace cottage and garage non-conforming lot .

Special Exception, 172 Breezy Hill Rd. replace building on a non-conforming lot.

Continuation, Dunkin Donuts, E. Main St., signage.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

This is the season of sharing. Our homes and our hearts open to family and friends as the coldness of winter creeps ever nearer. Our thoughts turn to the Blessings we all enjoy. A sense of gratitude for the good things we have in this life catches our attention.

I'd like to propose that we turn our attention to something else. Kids in need. And foster care and/or foster-adoption. We need to think of these kids in need without getting caught up in our own fears of getting too attached and fearing our loss when or if the child should return home, once the family has overcome their difficulties. I know, it is hard to take a detached look at this. Loss is not a pleasant emotion. However, if we look at it from the point of view of helping the child who needs you - for however long he or she needs you, the loss can be managed. You will have made a difference in the child's life, even if it doesn't show at the moment. Think about it. You CAN make a difference in a child's life. Find out how you can help. Call your local Concord DCYF foster care worker at 1-800-322-9191.

Jan Feuer, Intake Specialist

NH Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

1-877-964-3272

www.nhfapa.org

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Bradford Fire Department wants to thank everyone who contributed so generously in our recent fund drive. We were able to co-purchase (with the Rescue Squad) a used extrication tool set to help us provide better service to the town.

Thank you very much,

Bradford Fire Department

The family of Delbert L. Harris Jr. wishes to thank everyone who visited, brought food, sent flowers or cards, made phone calls and attended his service.

Many thanks also to the great volunteers who responded to the 911 call.

All this was a comfort during this sad time.

Charlene Harris

Sonny (Del 111) Harris

Harriet Harris Douglass

This is to update the story of 8/27/07 in the Bradford Bridge concerning the helicopter evacuation of a cyclist from Route 103 to Dartmouth Mary Hitchcock Hospital. The article ended with "the condition of the woman is unknown".

I skidded on sand by the side of the road while biking on a curve from Route 114 onto Route 103. The bike went out from under me sideways: I hit the edge of the pavement face first, cutting my chin, breaking four teeth, and splintering my jaw. A man in a pickup truck stopped and called the Bradford Rescue Squad. They came quickly. The New London ambulance and EMTs were summoned; they called in a helicopter to fly me to Dartmouth Mary Hitchcock Hospital.

After five surgeries, almost bleeding to death, and 17 days at the hospital, I am home and recovering.

I want to thank the man identified in the article as Bruce Edwards who stopped to ask if I needed help. I also want to thank the members of the Bradford Rescue Squad, the New London Hospital Ambulance service, and the Bradford Police and Fire Department for blocking traffic so that the helicopter could land on the road. Without the help of these volunteers and public servants I would not be here today.

Maralyn Doyle, Newbury

Response to letter from Tom Riley, Chairman of Needs Assessment Steering Committee.

Quoting Tom: "The intent of the Board of Selectmen is to build on the previous work and have committees focus primarily on the project development aspects of the proposal. In the interest of achieving at least one building project, the Select Board wishes to focus on priority of project and will work with the NAC to develop a proposal that will pass in 2008. If any committee wishes to revisit aspects of the proposal and consider alternative sites, this would be allowed, but consideration should be taken to ensure that this process does not cause undue difficulty in accomplishing the task at hand."

The key words are: "to build on the previous work." From the beginning this did not seem to be the path the NAC took.

You state: "for my part, I knew nothing about last year's process. I came in with an open mind with no preconceived notions." Minutes from the past year were available and were extensively written. Reading them would have told you exactly the process of the previous year.

The committee was adamant about only three members on the steering committee until months later when all had been settled. Then the committee decided to vote on two more members. My question is "why bother?"

I went on the DES walk and my ears heard that the burn area was not the terrible site you paint.

Now that you have chosen the upper site using about 5 acres, what do you plan for the remaining 39 or 40 acres? Will it just sit there producing no income?

We all want a new building for the Highway Department. Long overdue. A small police station is adequate for our town and it is also needed. The Town Hall is a concern that should be addressed.

Jane Johnsen



BRADFORD—Nice setting in Melvin Mills section of Bradford. Great yard mostly level with nice landscaping & perennials/plantings. Sears originally sold these style homes. Nice wood & tile floors, fireplaced LR, lots of new improvements. Must see to really appreciate this cute & comfortable home..\$257,500.



BRADFORD—Location is a key for this remodeled original 1809 & 1850 farmhouse. Fieldstone/brick fireplaced LR, wood, tile & berber floors, 24'x24' garage, 28'x28' barn, field, lawn, garden, shed, expansion potential, tastefully redone by caring owner. Must see!..\$268,500.

ELLIOT HANSEN
ASSOCIATES
REAL ESTATE COMPANY

(603)763-9999
Elliothansen@comcast.net



First Baptist Church News

From Lynn E. Hubley

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat Musical: Our church will be holding auditions for this musical on Sunday December 2 from noon - 2:00 p.m. (13 years old and up) and on Sunday December 9 from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. for children 12 and under. The show will be Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. Rehearsals will be every Sunday from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. beginning January 6.

Mom's Group: The moms will meet on Thursday, December 6, 13 and 20 from 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. in the Fisk House. They will be reading and discussing the book "Dream Giver for Parents" by Bruce and Darlene Wilkinson.

Advent Bible Study: There will be an Advent Bible Study on Thursdays December 6, 13 and 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Fisk House All are welcome to attend.

Holiday Ham and Bean Supper: We will hold our annual ham and bean supper on Saturday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m., immediately following the lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Library. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 12 and under. The menu will be ham, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and home baked desserts.

Advent Craft Day: On Saturday, December 8 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., children of all ages are invited to come to the church and make and take a variety of Christmas crafts.

Men's Fellowship: Men are invited to the home of Fred Hubley on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. for a devotion and planning outreach projects in the community (this is a continuation of the small group that met during 40 days of community—but is open to all men). At 7:30 p.m. the men will enjoy pool, and refreshments.



Library Lantern by Meg Fearnley

Santa will make his annual visit to the library on Saturday, December 8. The Bradford Women's Club will be there to take pictures of the children visiting with Santa. The event begins at 4pm with holiday stories. FVB Landscaping supported by the Friends of the Library is working very hard to have the library tree decorated and lit by that evening.

The library offers another after-school program "Winter Wildlife" on Wednesday, December 12 at 3:15pm. The program offers hands-on, interactive winter wildlife activities outside and/or inside which focus on how wildlife survives a New Hampshire winter. Join the Little Nature Museum's Sandra

W. Martin for this fun program for ages five and up.

Our December book-to-movie discussion on Friday, December 7 at 7pm is on *King of Bright Water* by Gavin Maxwell. On January 4 we will tackle *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* by Terry Ryan. Copies of the book will be available at the circulation desk.

The Friday, December 21 international movie is from Wales, loosely based on the life of Welsh harpist Eldra Jarman. In January we will watch a movie from Germany.

The library will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Monday, December 31. Sorry for any inconvenience!

New books added to your library in November:

For adults

The Ghost by Robert Harris

Third Degree by Greg Iles

The Great Upheaval by Jay Winik

The Hearts of Horses by Molly Gloss

Stone Cold by David Baldacci

The Gathering by Anne Enright

The Far Traveler by Nancy Marie Brown

For children & young adults

The Daring Book for Girls by Andrea Buchanan

The Dangerous Book for Boys by Conn Iggulden

What Will Fat Cat Sit On? by Jan Thomas

Slam by Nick Hornby

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie

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Lettvin Piano Scholarship Winner Chosen

The winner of the 3rd Annual Lettvin Piano Scholarship Competition was Tristan Joseph Smith, of Marlow, N.H. aged 13, student of Christin Stephenson of Penacook, N.H. He won a \$500 scholarship to study with a piano teacher of his choice. Second prize or \$200 went to Anastasia Bianca Dulskiy, of Windham, N. H. who studies with Milia Filiatava of Manchester, N.H. There were fourteen contestants between of the ages of 10 and 17, from all over New Hampshire. An appreciative audience of parents, teachers and friends applauded the young artists. Judges were Deecie Denison, of Fairlee, VT, Lee Ann Beck of Sutton, and Martha Woodward of New London, N.H.

Obituaries

Virginia Hewitt

Virginia Horton Hewitt, 94, passed away on Oct. 31, 2007, with family and hospice family services at the Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen.

Born in Taunton, MA, she was a daughter of the late A. Elmer Horton and Eva Pollard Horton. She was predeceased by her husband, Merrill Walker Hewitt, in 1999. She is survived by two sons, Kenneth M. Hewitt and wife Pam, of Pompano Beach, FL, and Charles D. Hewitt and wife, Janice of Bradford; two grandsons, Scott K. Hewitt and wife, Terri, of Tampa FL and Brett C. Hewitt and wife, Maryanne, of Jacksonville Beach, FL; a sister, Corinne H. Macker of Wolfeboro, rooming together at the Merrimack County Nursing Home; niece Jinny Anne, of Wolfeboro; nephews Daniel Macker of Rochester and Richard Macker of Oregon. She has one great-granddaughter, Brittany Hewitt; a step-great-granddaughter, Gabby; a step-great grandson, Mason Cummings; and two great-grandsons, Matthew and Ayden Hewitt, also of Florida.

Mrs. Hewitt graduated from Taunton High School and Bristol County Business College, and was employed by the Bristol County Registry of Deeds in Taunton, MA. She was a past matron of Sawhegenit Chapter, OES 52 in Bristol and past grand Esther and past deputy grand marshal of the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star of New Hampshire. She and her husband

Raymond Jedrey

Raymond J. Jedrey, 78, died Nov. 11, 2007, at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester.

Raymond was born Sept. 25, 1929, in Boston, the son of Raymond I, and Geneva (Amirault) Jedrey.

Raymond joined the Army in 1950, serving in the Korean conflict before being honorably discharged in 1954 as a sergeant. He moved to Bradford in 1968. He was a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Henniker.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Elaine Jedrey of Bradford; daughter Liane C. Denham of Norton, MA; one brother, Richard Jedrey of Barefoot Bay, FL; two grandsons, Thomas Denham and Nicholas Denham of Norton, MA; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his son Christopher S. Jedrey; brother James Jedrey; and his parents, Raymond I. and Geneva Jedrey.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Theresa's Building Fund, PO Box 729, Henniker, NH 03242.

Kearsarge teammates Brittany Menning, Jess Newkirk, Meg Coffey join coaches Pete Angus and Ernie Brake to celebrate with Caroline Forgiel after she completed her run in the 73rd New England Interscholastic Cross Country Championship Meet in Cumberland, Maine on Saturday. Caroline, a sophomore from Bradford, placed 35th with a time of 19:43.1.

Traditional Hand Picked Christmas Trees



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* Don't forget the Tree Stand
Manned by Seth Henely on Main St.
Warner

(Ted & Seth are wearing v26
Sherpa lined rugged vest and Mens
rugged gloves by Carhartt)

Don't forget the Wreaths, Garlands,
Bows, Lights, Stands, and everything else
for your holiday decor is here also !!!!



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KRES School News

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT JON STEINER

The first day back after February vacation this year will be the first day in the NEW middle school. After much discussion regarding completion dates, airing out of the building, bus routes, moving classrooms, disruptions to teaching and more, there was just no compelling reason to prolong remaining in the old middle school any longer than necessary. The Board decided that the disruptions caused by moving mid-year are fewer than the every day disruptions of remaining in a facility we have outgrown and worn out. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this new school a reality for our kids and district.

Another topic receiving much discussion is two tier busing. Essentially the buses do their routes once to pick up high school/middle school kids, then return again to pick up elementary school kids. The pros are: kids have shorter bus rides; younger and older kids are separated. The cons are start times for the schools need to be adjusted. The cost figures should be about the same. We have heard from many parents and students that they are not in favor of starting the high school and middle school later (8:30ish or later) despite studies that show these kids need more sleep. Arguments center around sports, work, later release, child care and more. I am more in favor of running a two-tier system where the elementary schools begin later. For Bradford and Warner, this would only be a few minutes difference from our current start times; New London and Sutton would be most affected—but probably 30 to 45 minutes would solve it. In this way, all of our elementary schools would be on the same schedule and the beleaguered bus system may finally be fixed! We will be seeking your comments and ideas on the two-tier proposal.

On the financial front, the budget is moving through the process and will be presented in January at our Deliberative session. We are also looking at instituting a fraud and whistle blower policy in the District as we see more and more of these types of issues around NH and the country in both corporate and public entities.

Second grade has been lots of fun for Isabelle. Her class has been publishing their own books and in November they staged a talking forest in the woods behind the school. I'm looking forward to winter activities and the upcoming snow.

Happy Holidays to everyone and enjoy the season.



The Center Schoolhouse No.1

Throughout the years, there have been twelve schoolhouses in Bradford; the oldest was built in 1793. For one hundred and forty years, until the Central School was built in 1937, generations of youngsters in South Bradford got their education there. After it closed, the one room school was moved across Rowe Mtn. Road and used as living quarters and a storage shed. In 1989, Dick Whall and Walt Haselton had a discussion which resulted in Walt's donating it to the Historical Society and Dick chaired a 3 R's committee..."Relocation, Renovation, Refurbishing". For the next two years, there was an outpouring of community volunteer workers scraping, building, nailing, sawing, painting. Then there were the donations of desks, maps, books, water jug, pictures. There were dinners, flea markets, auctions. Allene Hamilton chaired alumni reunions for several years and heard enough stories to compose a book.

Being in the geographical center of Bradford doesn't give immunity from the ravages of age; the schoolhouse roof needs replacement and the 1836 Congregational Church needs attention as well. The schoolhouse needs visitors, docents, and a new roof. If you have an urge to help, the address is Bradford Historical Society, PO 551, Bradford NH 03221.



Attention, Builders!

by Laura Hallahan

Happy Holidays! As the year draws to a close, let's forget for a moment the daily deluge of negative news stories about the housing market and the mortgage industry and take note that the National Association of REALTORS® predicts 5.75 million closed transactions for 2007, the fourth best year in history! Yes, this is down from a high of 7.4 million in 2005, but the sky is not falling. It will continue to be a buyer's market in 2008, so if you can buy, go for it! If you have to sell, be patient and be smart.

Builders have been reacting to all of this news, too, offering incentives on already constructed properties and waiting to break ground on new construction until a buyer has appeared. They know that potential buyers are still holding out for even better deals, but are buoyed by the National Association of Home Builder's housing forecast indicating that home sales should stabilize within the next six months. With that in mind, I wanted to share some of the findings from the **2007 Profile of Buyers' Home Feature Preferences**, just out from the National Association of REALTORS®:

- Four out of five home buyers used the internet to find a home and nearly four out of five worked with a real estate agent
- The most desired home feature was central air conditioning, followed by an oversized garage, walk-in closet in the master bedroom and a nice backyard
- One-third of buyers wanted to purchase a newer home less than 10 years old
- Younger buyers want cable or satellite TV readiness, high speed internet access, and close proximity to schools and shopping
- Buyers 40 years old and older prefer single-level homes, homes that are on a flat lot and homes with sidewalks
- Recent home buyers aged 25 to 44 often purchased a home with most of the features they desired while those aged 65 and over compromised, especially on neighborhood features
- Home buyers that purchased a home without some of their desired features were willing to pay more if that feature was present, including an additional \$4,760 for a waterfront property, \$3,800 for a brand new home and \$2,970 for a partially or fully finished basement
- The most desired space outside of the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom for three quarters of home buyers was a garage, followed by a living room, a laundry room and two or more full bathrooms
- Younger buyers like four or more bedrooms, buyers between the ages of 35 and 54 prefer a home office and older buyers like bedrooms on the main level plus a study and respondents were willing to pay an additional \$2,680 for a garage and \$2,360 for four or more bedrooms multi-family listings in Bradford.
- Nearly half of home buyers considered a home's energy efficiency as "very important", and interestingly, this was most prevalent for those aged 75 or older
- Among all buyer age groups the biggest wishes are for more storage space, more closets and a larger kitchen – some things never change!

Recent Sales in Bradford

- 16 High Street, Antique Cape on .74 acres for \$175,000
- 856 West Road, Ranch on 3.50 acres for \$183,000
- 51 High Street, Waterfront New Englander on .25 acres for \$300,000

There are 26 active and 3 pending residential listings, 27 active and 2 pending land listings, 3 active and 0 pending commercial listings and 2 active and 0 pending multi-family listings in Bradford.



KRES at Bradford Fitness and Nature Trail Sign.

The trail is open to the public. Please no motorized vehicles.

BRADFORD RESIDENTS FACE SHARP TAX INCREASE

By Phyllis Wilcox

Last year Bradford's tax rate was 4.69 with the arrival of the December, 2007 bill the rate had risen to 6.19 percent. Town residents already struggling with higher oil prices, escalating gasoline prices and food prices that just keep going up, were faced with an unexpectedly high tax increase.

To put it into perspective and to attempt to understand the rise we asked Selectman Andrew Pinard to break it down for the Bridge. He explained that the local school tax rose 79 cents, state school tax rose 14 cents; Merrimack County tax rose 20 cents, and town taxes rose \$1.50. The total net change equals \$32.63 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Pinard explained that a combination of increases beginning with a capital appropriation to replace two town bridges, one on Jones Road and the other to be done in the Spring, the West Meadow Bridge, which combined totaled \$1.2 million are factors in the rise. In addition, the town approved \$110,000 for reserve funds for the police and highway departments.

This year the total tax rate of \$17.19 per \$1000 of assessed value, or \$6,876 on a \$400,000 home, increased about 18 percent over last year's rate of \$14.56. The average bill for this home will increase about \$1,052 over the June, 2007 tax bill.

Selectman Pinard added that in Bradford the majority of the increases were in Warrant Articles with a jump of \$200,000 over last year. With a breakdown of \$90,000 in the Capital Reserve fund, \$20,000 for the Needs Assessment Committee, and \$50,000 for the town shed. Every \$230,000 the town approves

in spending increases taxes by \$1 per 1,000. He thought the voters were generous in their approval of expenditures at the March, 2006 town meeting.

A small measure of comfort is that all the towns in the Kearsarge School District experienced increased taxation but a glance at the tax rates show Warner in the lead with 7.49 and Bradford a close second with 6.19 rate followed by Sutton with a rate of 4.09 and decreasing rate for Wilmot, New London and Newbury.

“Even in Such a Small Town There is History”

by Ruth-Ann M. Harris

On Wednesday, October 24 Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Miller's fourth grade classes walked from the Bradford Elementary School to the First Baptist Church where the Charles Washington Henry painted backdrop was being restored. Undaunted by Bradford's broken sidewalks; they paused at Lafayette Square to hear about the old general's visit in 1825 when George Cilley's ancestor welcomed the French general to Bradford where he met many old comrades in arms.

After viewing the backdrop and hearing about the restoration process, Andrew Pinard, dressed in period costume, related stories from Bradford's vaudeville history. Later they sat on the front steps of the church while the selectman performed magic tricks.

Here are some excerpts from the great thank you notes they wrote: About Bradford's history one student wrote, "I learned even in such a small town there is history." Another

commented on the cigar store sign on the backdrop: "I learned that Indian people stood in front of cigar stores." (We may need a follow-up lesson on that one.)

About the backdrop: "The backdrop was really cool. I like art" and "I wish I could see the backdrop one more time so I can learn more about it."

Andrew Pinard's sleight of hand worked its magic on them too. "I really like the magician. He rocked." "The magic show was awesome. I couldn't imagine how much folds were in that piece of paper until you told us that there were 269 folds in it."

Some were awed at sitting in the church. "Thank you for letting us go into the church and sit in the cool looking seats."

Finally there were those with the broader picture: "It was the most exciting thing in the year." and



"Thank you for choosing KRES at Bradford out of all other schools."

And then there was the one who missed the excursion: "I am sorry I missed the field trip to see the backdrop. It sounds like fun and everyone else learned a lot."

Great Recycling Responses Create Drives

Lois and I are super-impressed with the “paper drive” and, particularly, the “metal drive” that the townspeople of Bradford created by their great response to the articles that we have had about recycling.

Many residents brought us lots of scrap metal. Summer residents collected all of their unwanted metals and insulated wires from their camps and homes and enthusiastically brought their contributions. More and more paper is coming in for recycling, too. People are realizing how personally rewarding it is “being green”, and we thank everyone for participating in our ever-expanding recycling programs.

Debbie Dimond of Masters Country Store has turned her business into an eco-store. She is impressively recycling everything she can, including, but not limited to, paper coffee cups. Also, Debbie is composting all biodegradable waste. “Going green” saves her money, too, because she no longer has to pay \$100 per month for a dumpster. Debbie says that it feels good to turn her business into a “green store”, and we commend Debbie for the prestigious example that she is setting for our community.

Christmas wrapping paper, gift tags, gift boxes, and packing boxes are all recycled in mixed paper. Discarded Christmas lights are to be placed with the insulated wire for recycling for the copper.

Attention hunters: Wheelabrator does not want any carcasses of animal parts put into the compactor. Please see Lois or me for disposal instructions.

—Ken Anderson, Manager

Classified Ads

WANTED: Greeting / Note Card Display Racks and old 1 - 9 pane windows. Must be reasonable. 938-2422 or www.cardsbynaja.com

Free: Beginner practice guitar. Call 938-2940