

The Bradford Bridge

COMMUNITY NEWS *for* NEIGHBORS *by* NEIGHBORS

MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

Editor's Announcement: A Heartfelt Thank You to Devin Pendleton for editing this important column for several years. As a newly elected Select Board member (Congratulations Devin!), she will be relinquishing this assignment to attend to many other Bradford duties. Therefore, we are looking for a new Monthly Briefing editor. It's a once-a-month volunteer assignment for a few hours requiring word processing skills. Please contact Kathleen Bigford, Editor for details at bradfordbridge345@gmail.com.

SELECT BOARD

Balance Sheet Steve Pierce, Town Treasurer, appeared to explain discrepancies in balance sheets during 2023 and 2024. Due to a fraud event involving the Town of Bradford bank account, two separate bank accounts were established in 2023 resulting in an inability to reconcile the accounts. When Steve assumed the Treasurer position in 2024 some double postings were made that resulted in inaccuracies that were found by the auditor. Steve wanted the Select Board to know that these inaccuracies will appear in the 2025 balance sheets in the 2025 Town Report.

CAP Lease At BACC The Board signed a 12 month lease for the Community Action Program.

Town Facilities Procedures Marlene made a proposal for the Select Board to handle Town facilities to set procedures and clarify communication, with the Town Hall Theater of main concern. She shared a packet of information on facility usage. The Board accepted the packet of procedures and gave Scott Butcher, Town Administrator, and Maureen Brandon,

(Continued on page 14)

2026 Bradford Town Election Results

Congratulations to these newly elected Bradford Board and Committee Members

Budget Committee

Karen Hambleton, Taylor Matano

Cemetery Commission

Dan Cilley

Moderator

Bruce Storm

Planning Board

Bruce Gezelman, Kelly McCaskill
Engeuess, Savannah Griffin

Scholarship Committee

Patty Heffner

Select Board

Devin Pendleton

Supervisor of the Checklist

Linda Cansler

Trustees of Brown Memorial Library

Laura Beaton, Mary Keegan-Dayton

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Rachel Sweetbrown

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Nathanial Bruss, Jim Varney

Results of Voting on Bradford Zoning Amendments – Articles Two and Three both passed.

Article Two: Zoning Amendment: Amend certain sections of the Zoning Ordinance as listed below to require frontage on a Class V or better road as a prerequisite for new construction.

1. Amend Article II, Definitions:

a. Revise the existing definition of

Frontage as follows:

Frontage: DELETE: The length of a lot bordering on an accepted public road or

on a proposed street on a subdivision plat approved by the Planning Board.

REPLACE WITH: The width of a lot measured along its common boundary with a public right of way.

b. Add a new definition, as follows:
Public way: A public right of way which the Town or State has the duty to Maintain.

Article Three: Zoning Amendment - Are you in favor of the adoption of the amendment to the existing Bradford Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the planning board, as follows:

Add a new Section Q to Article III as follows: Any alterations or improvements made to a Town road, must first receive design approval by the Road Agent and Select Board.

Kearsarge Regional School District Bradford Ballot Results

Question 1: The recommended budget amount of \$56,653,713 – PASSED

Question 2: Collective Bargaining Cost of \$166,972 for the 2026-27 fiscal year – PASSED

Question 3: \$200,000 placed in the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund – PASSED

Question 4: \$500,000 placed in the School Buildings Maintenance Trust Fund – PASSED

Question 5: \$100,000 to be placed in the Capital Reserve Roof Fund for the purpose of replacement or major repairs to roofs – PASSED

Bradford School Board Member for three years – Eric Gregoire

Bradford Municipal Budget Committee Member – James V. Bibbo III



The Bradford Bridge

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audrey V. Sylvester, President,
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Mary Keegan-Dayton, Secretary,
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Harriet Douglass

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Kathleen Bigford

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Ellen Barselle, Brown Memorial Library
Susan Reeder Moss, Energy Committee
Laurie Buchar, Education
J Ann Eldridge, Nature
Steve Hall, Highway Department
Scott Butcher, Town Hall
Lois Kilnapp, Transfer Station
Ed Shaughnessy, Police Department
Bryan Nowell, Fire Department
Devin Pendleton, Monthly Briefing
Maria Storm, Senior Center
Jesse Collins-Peck, Area Events

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Leah Cummings, Graphic Artist

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To receive The Bridge by mail, please send
a \$33 check to cover mailing costs to:
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SUBMISSIONS

Anyone is welcome to submit articles and/
or photographs of interest to the community.
We reserve the right to edit submissions.

PRINTING

RC Brayshaw & Company, Inc.

Town Offices

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

TOWN HALL, 75 WEST MAIN STREET

Phone: 603-938-5900

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 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

From The Bridge

This month's Library Lantern has me thinking. Ellen' Barselle's story about her experience watching the documentary *All the Empty Rooms* stays with me.

Without stealing too many of Ellen's words, *All the Empty Rooms* is a movie about the empty rooms left behind by victims of school shootings. Immediately a very poignant and disturbing topic, more important is Ellen's discussion of the underlying topic of how we have become anesthetized even expectant of news of violence perpetrated on children

Ellen asks, "Is this where we are as a society? Are we all so desensitized to school killings that it no longer moves us? . . . If we did allow ourselves this pain, would we ever move on from it?" Here's the part that really grabbed me, "I don't know what the solution is. I only know that losing our sensitivity is not neutrality; it's a quiet form of surrender."

I would like to add a strategy to Ellen's suggestions that could apply not only to the topic of school violence, but to any "news" designed to make us feel helpless. The idea is to look for the care people give to each other. Our community is full of people caring in many, many ways: Donations of time to non-profit organizations; library programming for all ages; blood donations; food access; after school chess and theater activities; town holiday celebrations; volunteer town governance; the list goes on.

Find Ellen's thoughtful article on page 9. The Bradford Bridge is proud to bring examples of community care to every edition. Once the "care" lens is applied it's reassuring to know that it can be used whenever "there's nothing I can do about that" strikes.

Best wishes as spring arrives any minute now ;)

Kathleen Bigford, Editor

and all the caring contributors to Bradford's newspaper

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 Pagóntegok (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 the Editor:

To the Editor:

I am writing with respect to the happenings of Articles 25, 26 and 27 at the Bradford Annual Town Meeting.

My name is Lynn Gross. I live at 369 Center Road where I have a small hobby Farm, that directly abuts Map 6 Lot 17. I have had interest in this property for 13 years. I love this little town! I love its open and rural nature. I am a Town of Bradford Small Business Owner, who sponsors and donates to many town organizations.

Article 25 on the Town Warrant was to see if the Town would vote to authorize the Select Board to offer for sale parcels of Town-owned land on such terms and conditions as the Select Board determined are in the best interest of the Town. Such authority to transfer or sell shall continue to be in effect indefinitely, until rescinded. (Majority vote required) Select Board recommends 3-0. Map 6 Lot 17 was one of the parcels listed.

Articles 26 & 27 were submitted by petition asking that the Town authorize the select board to sell C- Map 6 Lot 17 and E- Map 6 lot 48 to specific Town of Bradford residents. The Select Board did not recommend this with a 3-0 vote.

Many Bradford Residents would like to see this property returned to productive use, returned to tax rolls, and continued agriculture use in harmony with the Master Plan.

Fair is Fair, ANY resident of Bradford should be allowed the opportunity to purchase tax deeded properties thru an open and competitive process be it at auction or through a sealed bid.

I trust that this process will continue.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lynn Gross,
369 Center Road,
Direct Abutter Map 6, Lot 17*

[This letter is a condensed version submitted to Select Board. It can be found in the minutes of the March 23rd Select Board meeting].

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the Bradford Town Hall Theater for its production of *Town Meeting: A Comedy in One Act* by Rebecca Rule of Northwood, NH. Our historic town hall was brimming with a vibrant sense of community on that cold rainy night. Kudos to director, Laurie Buchar, to the Production and Front of the House team, to the volunteers who set up the venue and provided tasty treats, and to the generous donors whose contributions helped make this one-act play such a success. If an award were given for the best prop, it would be for the 40 foot long scarf made by Harriet Douglass and her team of knitters. Thank you, everyone, from the people who made this happen to the people who came to enjoy the show.

*Audrey V. Sylvester
Bradford, NH*



History Comes Alive for Kids!

Hey Kids! Join us for a Theater Camp at the Bradford Town Hall Theater next month, May 11-15th, 3:30-5pm.

We will be performing skits about the American Revolution, featuring familiar characters like Betsy Ross and Ben Franklin as well as less famous heroes from that era. There's a part for YOU!

There will be a maximum of 20 kids.

Please register by contacting Laurie Buchar at lbuchar@gmail.com by the deadline May 1st, 2026.

Donation: \$25 per child (scholarships available)

Help us celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Independence and have some fun on the beautiful stage upstairs at the Bradford Town Hall.



❖ BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES ❖

All meetings take place in the Town Hall, 75 West Main Street, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcomed and invited to attend all meetings. For up-to-date times check the Town website calendar at bradfordnh.org. All meetings in Town Hall are live streamed. Find link information at bradfordnh.org

Wednesday, April 1
7pm – **Zoning Board**

Tuesday, April 7
7pm – **Conservation Commission, BML**

Wednesday, April 8
4pm – **Cemetery Committee**

Monday, April 13
6pm – **Select Board**

Wednesday, April 15
7pm – **Economic Development**

Tuesday, April 21
5pm – **Energy Committee**

Thursday, April 23
6:30pm – **Affordable Tomorrow**

Monday, April 27
6pm – **Select Board**

Tuesday, April 28
7pm – **Planning Board**

LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Food For Thought NH, Inc.

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

The Bradford Community Food Pantry

Open every Wednesday morning, 9:00-11:00am and 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.

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.

South Newbury Union Church Food Pantry

South Newbury Union Church (corner of Village and Sutton Roads) has opened their updated food pantry. Open Tuesdays 4:00pm-6:00pm and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm. For appointments or more information call (603) 938-2064.

Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice

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

Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners

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

Energy Assistance Community Action Programs

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

NH Saves

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



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.

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market café

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Sat & Sun: 9am - 2pm
Grab n' Go Market hours!

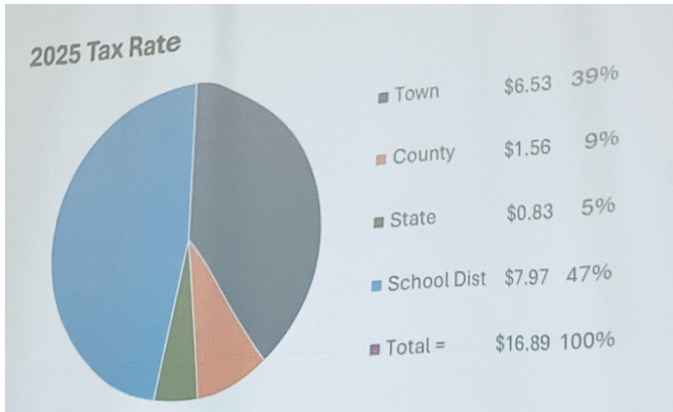
Beginning April 1st
(and that's no joke!)

11 West Main, Bradford | 603.938.5323
kearsargefoodhub.org/sweet-beet

2026 Town Meeting

The 2026 Bradford Town Meeting took place on Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School in Bradford.

The Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Bruce Storm. Bliss Dayton of the Budget Committee presented information about the Committee’s process and the tax rate breakdown as a percentage of the total tax bill. This graph shows the 2025 breakdown.



Discussion of the proposed 2026 operating budget, Article 4, followed. The total amount recommended by the Select Board was \$3,057,321. The total amount recommended by the Budget Committee was \$3,041,321. The \$16,000 difference between the two recommendations was due to two line items: Legal and General Government Buildings. For Legal expenses the Budget Committee’s recommendation was \$11,000 lower than the Select Board’s. Over the past several years legal expenses have averaged \$35,000, \$4,000 less than the Select Board’s proposal. For General Government Buildings the Budget Committee’s recommendation was \$5,000 less than the Select Board’s. After input from the Budget Committee and Select Board a show of raised ballots was taken resulting in the passing of the Budget Committee proposal of the 2026 operating budget amount of \$3,041,321.

Articles 5 through 24 passed. Article 25 was to authorize the Town to offer for sale seven town-owned properties. Nathaniel Bruss made a motion to consider Articles 26 and 27 before consideration of Article 25. Articles 26 and 27 proposed the sale of two Town-owned properties to Nathaniel and Pam Bruss. Several people spoke during the discussion of this motion. One point of discussion had to do with keeping Town properties conserved by townspeople. The other point of discussion had to do with following established procedures for the sale of Town property by public auction. After a 10-minute recess, the motion to move Articles 26 and 27 before Article 25 did not pass. Another motion was made to remove the two properties of concern from the seven in Article 25 to allow for further consideration. This motion passed.

Articles 28 through 32 passed with little discussion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Kathleen Bigford



TRANSFER STATION NEWS

New Hampshire the Beautiful

Every resident of Bradford has the opportunity to participate in Bradford's own beautification program! New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc. has provided the bags for clean up in Bradford.

New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Charitable Trust supported by members of the NH Beverage Association, the Beverage Distributors of New Hampshire Association and the New Hampshire Grocers Association. This collaborative effort by food and beverage companies has developed comprehensive programs to address litter issues, recycling challenges, environmental awareness and education.

Any resident can pick up as many bags as needed from the Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center. The bags are available throughout the year, but it is hoped that the springtime will motivate residents to get out and clean up the roadsides in their neighborhoods. Residents may bring the bags to the Bradford Transfer and Recycling Center and we will sort the refuse and do the recycling for you.

A note about cleaning up NH State highways. In order to monitor litter picked up along State Highways, New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc. needs the blue bags be left by the roadside. Please cooperate with this request so that Bradford will continue to be a member of the program.

All of these efforts will result in a clean, beautiful town!

Lois Kilnapp, Manager



Police Department Update

The Bradford Police Department would like to sincerely thank the residents of the Town of Bradford for their unwavering support at town meeting in passing the 2026 budget and warrant articles. The passage of the budget serves as a vote of confidence in our officers and our mission. The funding allows us to maintain essential training, update critical equipment if needed, and keep our staffing levels strong. Our goal remains the same: to provide high quality, professional, community-focused law enforcement services to the Town of Bradford.

We would also like to thank everyone who threw their hat in the ring for the March elections. Having so many residents willing and able to step up with a positive agenda to help keep Bradford a special place was encouraging. Congrats to all the candidates that were victorious in the election and last, but not least, we want to say thank you to Marlene Freyler. Marlene was a Selectboard member for many years and always had the best interests of the town and its employees in mind.

And with the conclusion of elections and town meeting means one thing, spring is right around the corner. It was a cold, hard winter for sure but soon the snow will be gone, the birds will fly back north and start chirping, and hopefully that bright, round object appears back in the sky more than it has. We would like to share a couple quick reminders as people start to enjoy the outdoors more.

The Town of Bradford has a dog ordinance. A section of the ordinance states that no dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, shall run at large outside the dog owner's property. If you are taking your dog for a walk around town, please make sure that they are on a leash, or under your control at all times. The ordinance also states that a dog shall not in any way make a nuisance of itself. Such examples of being a nuisance can be barking for sustained periods of time or during the night hours to disturb the peace and quiet

of a neighborhood, digging/scratching/excreting/scattering trash on the property of another, growls/snaps at/chases people while off their own property, runs after/chases cars/bikes/vehicles on the road. The biggest offense we see is people walking their dogs and not picking up after they go potty. Please scoop the poop and dispose of it properly in the trash.

In New Hampshire, it is mandatory for all bicyclists under the age of 16 to wear a properly fastened, safety-approved helmet while riding on public ways (NH RSA 265:144-X). We applied for, and were awarded, a grant for bike helmets from the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire. We have both adult and child sizes on hand, so if you need a helmet please call or stop down at the station and pick one out while supplies last.

And as always, should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the station or via email

Sincerely,

*Edward Shaughnessy
Chief of Police,
Bradford Police Department
603-938-2522*

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Fire & Rescue Department Update

The Bradford Fire Rescue and its members would like to thank the tax payers for their support of the Fire Department’s operating budget as well as our warrant articles. The Department put forward an operating budget with a 3% increase from its 2025 operating budget. The Department understands these are tough times with costs of goods and services as well as taxes going up. Our members are your neighbors, family, friends or from a neighboring community who are also experiencing the increasing pressures of cost increases. The budget request as well as our Warrant article requests will help us maintain services for both Fire and EMS for our Bradford Residents.

Since the Town meeting we have been working on securing grants, securing bids for goods and services according to the Town’s purchasing procedure.

With spring right around the corner, it is time to think about renewing your seasonal outside fire permits. A fire permit is required any time the ground is not covered in snow 100 feet around your fire. The fire permits are free and can be obtained by contacting the Forest Fire Warden Hansen or Bradford Fire Department. There is no daytime burning unless it is actively raining. Fires can’t be closer than 50 feet to a structure, they must be



Pancake breakfast with the kindergarten kids with the maple syrup they made!

attended at all times, and be extinguished prior to 9:00am the next morning.

Visit the Bradford Town website and the Fire Department section to get contact information and more information about outside burning.

Bradford FD has been extremely busy for the year to date. The Fire Department has responded to 47 incidents. Twenty-four incidents have been for medical calls and twenty-three calls for fires. Several of the medical calls have been for some serious accidents on State Route 114 and State Route 103. We have also responded to mutual aid to Sutton and Warner for medical calls and responded to Sunapee, Sutton and Warner for structure fires. For the same time period in 2025 we had responded to 42 incidents. This is about a 10% increase in calls to date from 2025.

For Bradford Community Risk Reduction fire prevention program, we participated in the second annual winter carnival held at French’s Park, the event was called Fins and Flames, a cooperative event held with the Bradford F&G. A Red Cross Blood drive was held at the FD and 27 units of blood was collected exceeding our goal of 22 units.

Members also participated with the kindergarten class for a pancake breakfast and enjoyed the maple syrup the kids made.

Look for our department and members out in the community at various upcoming events.

The Town of Bradford is well on its way to implementing an Alert Notification system. The system is called Genasys and this system is being provided through 911 at no cost to the town. This system will send emergency and general notifications out to the citizens of Bradford. We do have contacts provided to us from 911, public portal as well as TDS. There is a public portal that individuals can enroll into the system. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will test this notification system.

Please visit our Facebook site and like us as we try and share important safety information and also happenings within the Fire Department and the Town.

Chief Bryan Nowell
 Fire Chief/Emergency Management
 Director and Health Officer
 firechief@bradfordnh.gov
 603-938-2231

THE ZEN RETREAT CABIN

Reconnect with your Essential Self



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Scan For More Information

America's Tapestry Project

We all have a story to tell. That's our shared history and our humanity, as well.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, New Hampshire has a distinct legacy that is being told by a team of talented artists. They are part of a regional effort, known as America's Tapestry, which will feature panels from each of the thirteen original colonies, illustrating the diverse stories of the American Revolution.

Bradford's own, Connie Clark and Sherry Gould, are two of the fiber artists working on bringing New Hampshire's story to life. Connie learned to stitch from her grandmother while growing up in West Africa. Sherry learned as a child from an elderly neighbor in Hillsborough Upper Village. Both have honed their considerable skills through classes and life-long practice. Their passion is evident in the splendid artwork they have produced individually as well as in their mutual progress on the NH panel with the newly formed NH Needleworkers.

NH Needleworkers is led by gifted embroiderers Carol Ganse and Michelle McPherson. Together they have dedicated countless hours since last June guiding a core group of stitchers (plus many drop-ins) through the process. The Millyard Museum in Manchester, which offers educational programs, community events, and hands-on activities for visitors of all ages, has graciously offered to host the New Hampshire panel throughout the stitching process.

The America's Tapestry project is the brainchild of a young costume designer/fiber artist, Stefan Romero, in collaboration with educational, historical and craft organizations from New Hampshire to Georgia. The hand-embroidered panels illustrate the individual state's contributions – many previously overlooked – that reveal each colony's struggle for independence. The New Hampshire panel illustrates the state's role at the forefront of independence, depicting the Pine Tree Riot of 1772 as well as the raid of Fort William & Mary in 1774, plus the role of

the Abenaki in defending the vulnerable Northern border.

Just as our state made its own mark on the War for Independence, our local stitchers have brought their own specialties to the NH Tapestry. Sherry is a noted historian who was eager to ensure the Abenaki



Sherry Gould and Connie Clark from Bradford and Vickie Blanchard from Hillsborough are dedicated stitchers in the American Tapestry project nearing completion.

protection was portrayed in a way that was culturally appropriate.

"I had been researching Philip, our Chief who signed the deed for land in the north Country of New Hampshire and parts of Vermont and Maine. I knew that he was one of the Chiefs, in fact the most local Chief to work with Colonel Timothy Bedel in the protection of the northern border of our colony." Sherry has used many unique materials (moose hair, handspun milkweed fiber dyed with hemlock bark, quills, brain-tanned leather, silk ribbon, bison and rabbit fur, plus beadwork) in her depiction of the native characters featured in the panel.

Connie specializes in techniques she has picked up while living all over the world in foreign service. This project reminds her of the petit point tapestries she admired in Nepal. She likes watching the transition from drawing to cloth. Fellow stitcher Vicky Brown describes her work

this way. "Connie has done amazing work for the Tapestry. She sampled many ideas for the Pine Tree and also became our master "finger maker" and wire hands builder. She has made the fingers for most of the patriots portrayed as well as Colonel Bedel and Chief Philip. She will be fashioning them into hands for each figure. Just amazing work."

Now you can imagine the kind of detail these women are bringing to the finished project. It will certainly be a masterpiece to behold. The group hopes to hold a local reveal of the finished Tapestry at the end of April.

After an inaugural display at William and Mary University's Muscarelle Museum of Art in Virginia, America's Tapestry will tour a number of historic venues throughout the East Coast for a two-year traveling exhibition. New Hampshire's story will be told in exquisite detail, thanks to the artistry of Connie Clark, Sherry Gould and the NH Needleworkers.

For a close-up view of New Hampshire's panel, visit: <https://www.americastapetry.com/tapestries/new-hampshire>

Laurie Buchar

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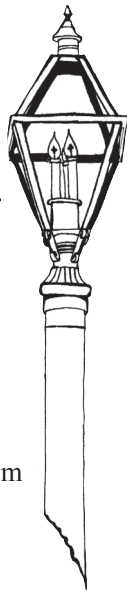
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Library Lantern



Brown Memorial Library

brownmemorallibrary.org

78 West Main Street

(603) 938-5562

bmlbradford@gmail.com

Library Hours:

Monday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm

I grew up in a family where we took our movie watching seriously. We would grade them on an A-F scale, my dad always being the harshest critic, who was not eager to give out B's let alone A's. We would read reviews of movies in our local paper, The Rocky Mountain News, and watch Roger & Ebert weekly to narrow down what we'd ultimately choose to watch in the theaters. So, it was a big deal when the Academy Award nominations came out in January. We'd argue for or against certain nominations, and then we would rush to watch what we could before the ceremonies. My mom and I would settle in before my dad and brother, to watch the Red Carpet and oooh and aww over the outfits. Then we'd take our voting sheets out and watch the long-winded affair.

To this day, I try to watch as many of the nominated films, including the more obscure ones, the short films (Live Action, Documentary, and Animated) as I can. This year I managed to watch the documentary short films at Red River Theater, and although they affected me in some way, the one that left the biggest impression on me was *All the Empty Rooms* directed by Joshua Seftel.

All the Empty Room explores the deeply personal aftermath of school shootings in the United States by focusing on one of the most intimate spaces left behind: the children's bedrooms. Over about seven years, CBS News correspondent Steve Hartman and photographer Lou Bopp traveled across the country to document the untouched bedrooms of children killed in school shootings. These spaces were all frozen in time, revealing who the children were and their lost futures.

The movie moved me to tears, a near perpetual flow of them, as I listened to the

profound loss and heartache of the families. The sadness arrived quickly, predictably, and I let myself feel for the duration of the movie. As I was walking out of the theater, I reflexively felt myself trying to move on. As if part of me had learned how to absorb this kind of tragedy efficiently, without letting it linger too long.

Is this where we are as a society? Are we all so desensitized to school killings that it no longer moves us or we'll all become destabilized, paralyzed, by the sheer number and destruction of this violence. I won't put in the staggering statistics of how many school shootings we've had in our country since Columbine, but it's an astounding number.

The unusual aspect of this documentary is that it doesn't rely on graphic images or sensational details. Instead, it lingers in absence. Bedrooms left untouched. The empty rooms become a kind of witness: quiet and devastating.

Gun violence has become so woven into the rhythm of American life that it risks losing its ability to shock us. Another headline. Another vigil. Another round of thoughts and prayers, policy debates, social media arguments. The cycle is so familiar that grief itself can start to feel procedural.

All the Empty Rooms resists that pattern. It doesn't let you look away easily, and it doesn't offer the false comfort of resolution. There are no easy answers here, just the slow, human cost of violence measured in spaces that will never be used the same way again. It asks us to sit with loss rather than rush past it.

This movie powerfully re-humanizes that ache. It reminds us that every act of gun violence leaves behind not just victims, but voids, spaces where laughter used to live, routines that no longer make sense, futures that were never given a chance to unfold. The film doesn't ask us to scream louder. It asks us to feel more deeply and to notice when we stop feeling at all.

I don't know what the solution is. I only know that losing our sensitivity is not neutrality; it's a quiet form of surrender. And if we stop allowing ourselves to be unsettled by these stories, we risk accepting a world where empty rooms are just part of the landscape. Maybe it's to stay with discomfort a little longer. To let the silence speak. To remember that behind every closed door is a life that mattered, and a space that should never have been emptied.

You can watch this deeply moving film on Netflix. It will only take 30 minutes from your day, and I believe it is worth it, a reminder of our humanity.

Library Happenings:

Our library is getting new carpeting! We are excited about the cosmetic update. As you can imagine, it's an involved project which will mean packing up thousands of books, and moving shelving and furniture. The project will take place from April 4th through April 18th. The library will be closed to the public during this time.

We know this will be inconvenient but hope we can assist you in getting enough materials before we close and some materials while the project is happening. You will be able to request items through email, telephone, or FB, if the item is in a space we are able to access, we can provide it for you through curbside assistance. Come stock up on as many books as you would like before April 4th.

Please remember that we have reciprocity with Newbury Public Library and you can check books out from them during this time. Fellow libraries around us such as Pillsbury (Warner), Tucker Free (Henniker), and Newbury Library all have computers and printers if you need this service.

Four programs are happening during this time frame:

Saturday, April 4th, 11am Easter Egg Hunt - at Brown Shattuck Field (across from Bradford Community Center). This event will happen rain or shine. Remember to bring your egg baskets for the hunt.

Monday, April 6th & 13th, 10am Storytime - at Bradford Town Hall (downstairs) located at 75 West Main St.

Monday, April 6th, 3:30pm Kids' Chess Club - at Bradford Area Community Center located at 134 East Main St.

We would like to also let everyone know that once we have new carpeting installed, we are asking that only service animals come inside the building. Thank you for your understanding with this change. We appreciate your patience during this time. Please call 603-938-5562 or email bmlbradford@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding the programs, the project, or how we can assist you during our closure.

Ellen Barselle, Director



New Hampshire
**FISH AND GAME
DEPARTMENT**

Discover WILD New Hampshire Day, April 18, 2026

A FREE event for family, friends, and anyone looking to connect to life outdoors, Discover WILD New Hampshire Day is a fun way for the whole family to explore New Hampshire's wildlife resources and outdoor tradition. It's being held at the NH Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

With over 100 educational and experiential exhibits, Discover Wild New Hampshire day is fun for the entire family. This free event celebrates our partners in conservation. See live animals, big fish, and trained falcons. Try your hand at archery, casting, and fly tying. Test your marksmanship at the air-rifle range, watch retriever dogs in action, and get creative with hands-on wild craft activities. Meet a Fish and Game biologist, talk with a conservation officer, or explore the Discovery Room. This event will connect you to life outdoors in the Granite State.

Hungry for more, check out the food truck alley 10:0am-3:00pm – you'll find something for every taste! The event opens April 18th at 10:00am. Please no early birds. This is a free event for the public.

Discover WILD New Hampshire Day is hosted by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and presented by the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire, Fish and Game's nonprofit partner, with support from media sponsor Manchester Media Group.

Trained service dogs only.

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Earth Day April 22, 2026

As I look forward to spring approaching I realize how fortunate we are to live in New England and to have four distinct seasons. Or do we? According to the University of New Hampshire Extension, "Climate change has already affected the normal variability in weather patterns in New Hampshire, and is projected to continue to significantly alter climate conditions in the future. Air temperature, sea level, and the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events are projected to continue to increase into the future in New Hampshire. For example, since 1970, New Hampshire's average maximum temperatures have warmed by 1.9°F (annual) and 2.8°F (winter). Annual precipitation has increased 7–20%. Tidal gauge data indicates relative sea level at Portsmouth has been rising at about 0.7 inches per decade over the past eight decades. By 2020–2099, we can expect more precipitation (annual averages will increase by 16–19%), a two- to three-fold increase in extreme precipitation events and more frequent and severe flooding. New Hampshire sea levels are expected to rise 0.6' to 2.0' by 2050 and 1.6' to 6.6' by 2100."

So what can we do this month to reduce our impact on climate change and to honor Earth Day? Here are some suggestions from the Bradford Energy Committee.

- Support renewable energy – tell your legislators we want more wind, solar and battery storage in NH, not more fossil fuels.
- Switch to clean energy – consider installing an energy efficient electric heat pump or trade the gas guzzler for an electric vehicle. Hopefully plug-in or balcony solar will soon be available in New Hampshire as there is bipartisan support for the legislation at the State House.

- Plant a garden and or support your local farmers.
- Have more plant based meals.
- Minimize food waste and compost what you don't consume. If you can't compost at home take your scraps to the Town Transfer Station for composting.
- Learn about and protect pollinators.
- Reduce your use of plastic – say no to single use plastic bottles and bags.
- Take reusable utensils in your lunch box.
- Say no to fast fashion and look for clothing made from natural fibers such as cotton, wool and silk. Many synthetic fabrics are made from petroleum products.
- Spend time in nature – try forest bathing or take the family to Discover Wild at the Fish and Game Department on April 18 from 10am-3pm. Check it out at *WildNH.com*.

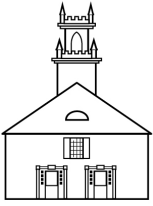
We would love to hear from you about other ways we can help to keep New Hampshire a beautiful and climate friendly place to live.

*Sandra Bravo,
Bradford Energy Committee*

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Friends of Bradford Center

Sponsors Shine at Bradford Center – Be a Star!

The Friends of Bradford Center are looking for sponsors for our annual summer music series. Sponsors help cover expenses of musicians, publicity, and insurance. Your support also helps us maintain both the Meetinghouse and Schoolhouse in Bradford Center for generations to come. An important historic landmark, Bradford Center is also a place to gather to enjoy community and cultural events. We are looking forward to this favorite summer tradition, and we invite you to be part of that celebration. Earn free tickets with a \$250 donation! Gather your friends, family or business together at Bradford Center for an evening of fun and fellowship. All concerts are on Saturdays at 6pm. There will also be refreshments available.

2026 Summer Music Series:

July 11th, 6pm – DoBros

July 25th, 6pm – North River Band

August 8th, 6pm – Kearsarge Band – 250th Independence Anniversary!

August 15th, 6pm – Ashley Bathgate, cellist

Sponsorship Steps:

Star	\$100
Constellation	\$250
Galaxy	\$500
Universe	\$1000

Contact The Friends of Bradford Center by email 603bcm@gmail.com or through our website www.bradford.center or on FaceBook: Bradford Center Meetinghouse.

Please send your check to PO Box 194, Bradford, NH 03221

Together let's shoot for the stars this summer... See you at Bradford Center!



KUDOS FOR KRES-BRADFORD

The power of reading is celebrated every day at KRES-Bradford. Do you remember the joy you felt when you first deciphered words in print? Staff and students alike delight in sharing this essential life skill. Kearsarge School District has a talented specialist team dedicated to promoting both reading and writing to all. KRES-B's

member of this team is Kimberly Meyer who says "Supporting a student's literacy skill development and witnessing growth and those "ah-ha" moments give me goosebumps. I love talking with kids about what they're reading, why they enjoy it, and seeing the excitement and joy in their eyes when they discover a book, author, or series they love."

Reading isn't always easy, though. Kim says "During my elementary years, I was a struggling reader. Reading and spelling didn't come together for me until fourth and fifth grade, when I received Title 1 (then Chapter 1) reading services. I was introduced to the original Nancy Drew series at my local public library by my grandmother. The comfort of a series, returning characters, and predictable plots helped me gain reading confidence."

Recently she collaborated with Ms. Coe (grade 4) on an interdisciplinary Iditarod unit. They bridged social studies and literacy by exploring its history through nonfiction texts and literature. As a building, they held their annual Snowball Slam Reading Challenge in February. "Students K-5 read a collective 1,005 hours during the three-week Snowball Slam! I'm excited to capitalize on that momentum with a March reading challenge. This challenge encourages students to read every day, engage in reading through a variety of means and



Kimberly Meyer, reading specialist, reading to the Kindergarten classes.

texts, share and discover favorite books/authors with others, and access their local public library."

"My ultimate hope for KRES-B's literacy future is for every student at KRES-B to see themselves as a skilled reader and a confident writer. By fostering connections between home, school, and community, we're not just teaching skills; we're building lifelong curiosity, a culture of learning and exploration, and a love of reading."

As Tomie de Paola, beloved NH children's author, once said: "Reading is important because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything." Let's exercise our right to read every day, in school and out!

Laurie Buchar

UPCOMING DATES for KRES-Bradford:

"Lion King Jr"

April 10th and 11th at 7pm

performed by 4th and 5th grade Shining Stars at KRHS (snow date April 12th at 2pm)

**Community Service
Earth Day April 22nd**

**Third Grade Poetry Night
KRES-B April 23rd at 5:30 pm**

Spring Vacation April 27th – May 1st

Friends of the Town Hall Theater



Everyone who attended last month's reading of "Town Meeting", a spoof on this annual New Hampshire tradition written by Rebecca Rule and performed by 20 of Bradford's finest amateur thespians, left in high spirits, happy to have shared in this evening of laughter and community spirit. All were impressed with the beautiful town hall theater space in which the performance took place. While each of the actors performed their role with gusto, the star of the show was Harriet Douglass, the reluctant recipient of the Boston Post cane, who knit her way through not only rehearsals but the entire performance and whose resulting 40 foot scarf dragged behind her as she crossed the stage. "Get irate and stay irate," she was heard to announce. "Nobody dies when they're irate!" Approximately 140 people attended the performance, sat comfortably in the newly purchased seats, laughed in all the right places to the delight of the cast and left talking eagerly about what might come next for this impressive venue.

And the Friends of the Bradford Town Hall Theater (FBTHT), a group that was recently formed to organize activities and performances to take place in the theater, has a number of events in the works. This May 11-15th, from 3:30-5pm each day, the group will be offering an after-school theater camp entitled History Comes Alive. The camp will include up to 20 students (grades 3-5) and feature one-act skits about Betsy Ross and the Liberty Bell in honor of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. A final performance is planned for Friday, May 15th at 4pm. A \$25 donation per child (scholarships available) is requested. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Laurie Buchar at lbuchar@gmail.com to register.

In mid-June, the Sunapee Kearsarge Intercommunity Theater (SKIT) will be performing "Margaret's Wedding", a romantic comedy, on our beautiful stage. More information about the performance will be in the next issue of the Bridge.

Finally, the FBTHT is looking for more Town Hall Theater enthusiasts to join our group in the planning and implementation of future activities. If you would like to join us, or have an idea of something you'd like to see take place in the theater, please contact Maria Storm at mstorm31@comcast.net.

Maria Storm

Friends of the Bradford Town Hall Theater Present



History Comes Alive! THEATER CAMP

May 11- 15, 2026 | 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Hey Kids!

Join us for Theater Camp At the Bradford
Town Hall Theater!

Featuring Revolutionary War skits in honor of the 250th
Anniversary of American Independence.

Camp Maximum: 20 Kids

Pre-register by contacting lbuchar@gmail.com

Fee: \$25 per child (scholarships available)



Bradford Town Hall Theater: 75 W Main St Floor 2, Bradford, NH 03221

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Shining Stars - Lion King Jr April 10th and 11th at 7pm



Hakuna Matata! No worries... just a lot of fun as 55 fourth and fifth graders from KRES-Bradford prepare for their production of The Lion King, Junior. Come to a spectacular show by the Shining Stars students on April 10 and 11 at 7pm on the Kearsarge Regional High School stage. (Snow date: April 12 at 2 pm.) You will be dazzled by colorful costumes and lively singing and dancing. Don't miss it!



FEED Kearsarge's Food Security Summit

How do we move from feeding people to ending hunger to building resilient local and regional food systems that nourish all of us?

Join us to uncover the latest food security data for the Kearsarge Region and learn how food access coalitions like FEED Kearsarge are shifting the needle from emergency response to systemic change for long term community wellbeing!

Taking place on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00am–3:00pm at Kearsarge Regional High School in North Sutton, NH, the summit offers a full day of connection, learning, and collaboration

This is a unique opportunity for all stakeholders working to build greater food security to come together, build relationships, share information, and leave with action items.

The day will include panel discussions with local leaders, breakout discussion, an exhibitor fair with helpful resources, and refreshments and lunch provided!

Tickets are often by donation so no one is turned away due to inability to pay. Register today to save your spot: <https://bit.ly/FoodSecuritySummit2026>

There is also space in the Exhibitor Fair to showcase your organization or service related to food security efforts. Exhibitors are also welcome to attend the summit activities. Learn more and sign up at: https://bit.ly/FoodSecuritySummit_Exhibitor



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MONTHLY BRIEFING: Town Board Reports

(Continued from page 1)

Bookkeeper, permission to handle scheduling requests.

Bradford Area Community Center (BACC) Jim Bibbo spoke about the lack of a need for a BACC board if the Select Board approves all matters concerning the BACC, noting its shift from a 501(c) (3) to town governance. Devin Pendleton asked from the audience about a plan for the building and if community input has been considered; Marlene said that has been done. The Board discussed repairs, estimates, and grants in the application process that could cover the work. The Board approved Jim Bibbo to collect bids and write grants, organize information, and present it to the Select Board.

Town Hall Theater The Friends of the Town Hall Theater did not appear for this discussion. The Board discussed how the space is reserved through June, limiting use by other Town groups. Scott Butcher, Town Administrator, raised concerns about extra cleaning, lights and heat left on, and sand damaging the floor. The Board must determine how to handle

these costs and define the relationship with the Friends, including administrative, police, and highway costs.

Roads Posted The Board approved a motion to post weight limits on Town roads starting March 1st, 2026.

Financial Software Scott explained the need to update financial software. Scott is gathering information from vendors, gathering expense information, and planning for 2027.

Junkyard License Chip Meany, Selectmen, asked if Walter Royal, Building Inspector, has inspected Larry's Salvage for State compliance. Scott answered no. The Board approved a motion to renew the junkyard license for Lawrence T. McDonald dba Larry's Salvage.

Personnel Policy Update The Board reviewed an "almost final" draft of the policy. Wording is needed stating that going forward compensatory time will not be available. Compensation for firefighter on-call time, as well as firefighter and EMT certification, is still under consideration. The current implementation date is April 1st, but Scott suggested May 1st

would be more workable to allow Department Heads time for review.


Electric Rate The Town has signed an agreement with Nextera Electricity for 8 months at \$.10/kwh. This is for municipal buildings only.

Solar Support The Board signed a letter to the NH Legislature in support of a bill that would extend solar power installation net metering for 20 years.

PLANNING BOARD

Lot Line Adjustment The Board reviewed Peter Mellen's application for a lot line adjustment for Map 2, Lots 104-1 and 104-2. Both landlocked parcels lack road frontage and are accessed by easements; no variance is required as there is no expansion of the nonconforming situation. The Board noted outstanding checklist items, including a statement of suitability, wetland delineation, and plan details. The Board found the narrative sufficient, declined a site walk, and voted to move the application to a public hearing on March 24th, 2026, where conditions of approval will be set.

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ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Variance Phillip Vecchione appeared before the board with a new application for a variance from setback requirements to construct a porch on the side of the building at Map 16, Lot 42. He said contact with abutters found no objection. The board reviewed the five application criteria and voted 4-0 to accept the application as complete. An expedited public hearing was scheduled for March 18th, 2026, at 7:00pm, with a site walk set for March 16th at 4:00pm. *[Editor's note: The Vecchione variance application was approved at the public hearing on March 18th.]*

Consultation Gary Mosher appeared before the Board to ask about building on lot Map 2, Lot 41. The Board advised that there might be ways to build on the lot. Depending on the plan, an application for variance may be needed.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Carpet Project The Library will be closed April 4-18th for the replacement of the carpet. Library staff will try to accommodate requests for materials if they are able to access the books, but

want to remind Bradford patrons that we have reciprocity with the Newbury Public Library and you can check books out from them during this time.

KRSD SCHOOL BOARD

Capturing Kids' Hearts Superintendent Fortney, alongside program representatives and teachers, spoke about the benefits of implementing Capturing Kids' Hearts in the district. The program focuses on building community between students and staff by supporting social-emotional well-being and, in Fortney's experience, can significantly reduce disciplinary issues. This is an unbudgeted item that will be voted on at a later meeting.

Professional Development Andrea Castaldo, Curriculum Director, announced that Novak Education and First Educational Resources will attend the March 20th, 2026 Professional Development Day, with an additional June session for First Educational Resources. Both are sole-sourced for continuity. Costs are \$10,500 and \$15,000, respectively. The Board approved both purchase recommendations.

Technology Purchases Barbra Turner, Technology Director, presented that Tasco, the district's security vendor, has changed its licensing structure to \$56 per camera for Open-Eye video surveillance, totaling \$10,416 for 186 cameras. She also presented replacing fifteen Balance Box 400 height-adjustable carts, which are too tall for younger elementary-aged students, with ViewSonic units; the existing carts will be used at upper grade levels. The total cost is \$22,640.40. The Board approved both purchase recommendations.



Bradford's Legislative Representatives

New Hampshire Representatives:

House Reps: District 8 Tony M Caplan, Eileen S Kelly, Stephanie R Payeur
NH Legislator contact pages: <https://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/>

Senator, District 07: Senator Dan Innis
NH Senate contact pages: <https://gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/>

United States Representatives:

US Congress Rep, District 2: Maggie Goodlander
<https://goodlander.house.gov/>

US Senators: Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen
www.senate.gov/states/NH/intro.htm

Senate calendar and webcast:
https://www.senate.gov/legislative/legislative_home.htm

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Volunteer Position Available

TREASURER

The Bradford Bridge is looking for an experienced accountant to oversee our financial activities.

We are a dedicated group of volunteers committed to keeping our community informed and engaged.

If you are interested please email us at: bradfordbridge345@gmail.com and we will provide further details about the position.

Bipartisan Legislation to Bring a Paint Recycling Program to NH Vetoed by Governor

Like many of us, you probably have leftover paint cans cluttering up your garage or basement. Finding a way to dispose of them is not easy, so I leave them for another day. Those days have turned into years and those cans have multiplied. Sound familiar?

After years of effort, legislation addressing the disposal of old paint and stain cans has passed both the NH House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Once the program is in place, consumers can drop off leftover paint at participating retailers for recycling – retailer participation is optional. A paint stewardship program is set-up to help fund the program and an assessment is included in the cost of paint. The fee is built into the sticker price, so it's no surprise when you check out.

The assessment would apply to paint purchases, so those who don't buy paint won't contribute. The program will cover the cost of collecting and transporting the unused paint from local retailers.

According to the Northeast Resource Recovery Association, paint makes up about 53% of the materials collected at hazardous waste disposal days. The cost of collection is paid for by all taxpayers in the community.

This program aims to reduce hazardous paint waste in landfills, protecting water sources and the environment. The program benefits taxpayers, consumers, public health and the environment.

It's pretty rare in today's political climate to find a bill that unites local governments, businesses, and environmental groups – but this paint waste bill has bipartisan support.

It was pretty surprising when the Governor on March 16th took a totally political position to veto HB 451 by calling it a "sales tax". This isn't a tax, though – a tax requires the funds to go to the government, which this does not. That's a pretty big distinction.

The Governor did not take into consideration the overwhelming benefits to our State's environment, our taxpayers and the bipartisan efforts of the legislature. Her veto is purely political using old fear tactics by calling something a tax when it is clearly an assessment that is used to fully fund the program and solves a problem.

I guess those old paint cans will keep collecting dust in basements and garages.

Representative Eileen Kelly



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A Chance to Preserve Webb/Sherman Field



Many of you are already familiar with the Webb/Sherman field on Pleasant View Road. About forty acres in size, it's a remarkably flat, open hay field – not so common in New England. Snowmobiles buzz about in winter. The tracks of cross-country skis also crisscross the landscape. People walk their dogs regularly to West

Branch Brook that runs along its edge. The library has held stargazing events and Granite State Carriage Association has put their horses through their paces.

You may not know that the brook here is breeding territory for native brook trout, a species that occupies only a tiny fraction of its former range. Other species of special concern, like great blue heron, use the sometimes-flooded lower field. The beavers keep the area in flux, as they do, providing habitat for the fish and turtles and waterfowl.

Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust has been in touch with the landowners and they have agreed to give ASLPT a chance to purchase the property and conserve it. The upper field would remain in agricultural use and the public would still be able to use it. The lower wetlands and the long stream buffer would be restored to improve wildlife habitat.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, donations are being accepted for the remaining amount to be raised – approximately \$150,000. Grants have been awarded and there are still a few to be heard from. You may contact Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust in New London at www.ausbonsargent.org or the Bradford Conservation Commission at bcc@bradford-nh.gov. And thank you!

Ann Eldridge



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– Marilyn and Donna

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<p>PO Box 67, 224 Main Street, New London, NH www.masiello.com</p>	



Mountain View Senior Center

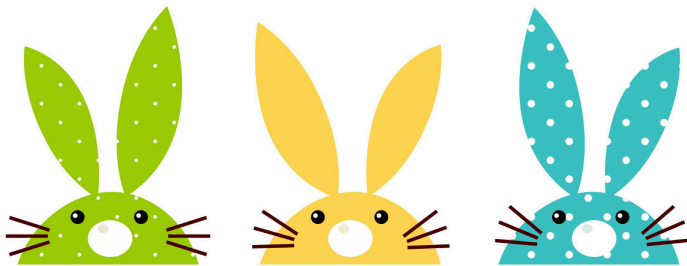
Located in the Bradford Area Community Center
 134 Main Street, Bradford, NH • 603 938 2104
 Monday – Friday, 8 am – 2:30 pm

All of the Center’s regular activities will continue during the month of April. In addition, this month for the first time, Center Manager Dave Palmer will share his extensive computer technology expertise by stopping by the luncheon tables after the Thursday meal is over to answer any computer-related question you may have. So bring your iphone, ipad or laptop with you to lunch, enjoy a tasty meal and resolve that computer glitch that’s been frustrating you for months. Dave won’t be able to solve every issue but he is certainly willing to try.

MVSC WEEKLY ACTIVITIES – ALL ARE WELCOME!*

Mondays	8:45–9:30	Strong Living: Body building and weight traing for seniors
Tuesdays	9:30–11:30	Quilters Group, all skill levels, group & individual projects
	11:30–3:00	Mahjong and Dominos
Wednesdays	1:00–2:00	Therapeutic Yoga and Balance Class (\$5)
Thursdays	11:30–3:00	Mahjong and Dominos
Fridays	8:45–9:30	Strong Living: Bodybuilding and weight training for seniors
WELLNESS & FOOT CARE CLINICS – Call 603-748-1731 to make an appointment		
4th Wednesday of every month	9:00–1:00	Footcare Clinic (\$30) includes soak, toenail trim, file, and lotion by a Lake sunapee VNA nurse
FOOD SERVICES – Please sign up in advance		
Tuesdays	12:00	Lunch
Thursdays	12:00	Lunch
1st and 3rd Friday every month	10:00	Brunch
Monday–Friday	8:00–1:30	Grab and Go Take Out – frozen meals are available
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	By Appointment	Meals on Wheels – Sign up for a delivery, call 603-938-2104

*Holidays may influence this schedule



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“Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners (KNP) is a non-profit dedicated to building a community where neighbors help each other flourish. We collaborate with over 40 community partners serving ten towns in the Kearsarge region, matching the needs of neighbors with committed volunteers who can help in short-term or longer-term situations.”

KNP’s board of directors and volunteers attended a dessert meet-and-greet at Hilltop House in New London on February 19 to celebrate the beginning of KNP’s sixth year, as well to honor the neighbors and community partners with whom we connected in 2025. We eagerly look ahead to what we will focus on in the coming months:

- Better understanding our volunteers and how they would like to contribute
- Connecting with our community partners regarding the help they need
- Expanding the Seedling Program to fund more projects in the region
- Focusing on improving food security for our neighbors.

We HOPE that by the end of 2026, we will have helped promote solutions for our neighbors and community partners in the 10-town Kearsarge region!

FOOD SECURITY CAN BE A CHALLENGE for many people in the Kearsarge area. KNP and the Kearsarge Food Hub will host a Food Security Summit at Kearsarge Regional High School Saturday, April 18th from 9:00am-3:00pm for all individuals and organizations working to increase food security. Participants will uncover the latest food security data for the Kearsarge Region and learn how food access coalitions like FEED Kearsarge are shifting the needle from emergency response to systemic change for long term community wellbeing! Presentations and discussions will offer stakeholders opportunities to come together, build relationships, share information and leave with action items. Lunch is provided, and registration is by donation. Registration link is in the March newsletter on our website: KNPnh.org. We HOPE to see you there!

HAVE YOU WONDERED HOW YOU COULD FULFILL A DREAM? KNP’s Seedling Fund team invites anyone who resides or works in the Kearsarge Region to realize their VISION FOR PROMOTING COMMUNITY by applying for funding. Have some thoughts for building connections in the Kearsarge Region? We are excited to share with you this generous 3-year grant toward initiatives encouraging neighbor-to-neighbor interaction! We HOPE you will check it out on our website: KNPnh.org under the “Services” tab.

SAVE THE DATES!!

NFI NORTH/THS & their Advisory Board present: Bradford Minds Matter – Mental Health Awareness Month in May

Transitional Housing Services (THS) Bradford will observe Mental Health Awareness Month this May through a series of initiatives collectively titled Bradford Minds Matter. Throughout the month, staff and program participants along with the program’s Community Advisory Board will lead a variety of activities designed to promote mental health awareness, strengthen community engagement, and highlight the importance of emotional well-being for all people.

A detailed schedule of events will be shared with the community, and we welcome broad participation in these efforts to foster understanding, connection, and support. For additional information, please contact 603-938-5014 and ask for Jean, Fran, or Sherry.

Here’s a preview of activities and events:

Traveling Mental Health Awareness Tree - Each week the Traveling Mental Health Awareness Tree will be placed in a different location throughout the town.

During the week of May 11–15th, green Mental Health Awareness Ribbons will be displayed throughout the town as a symbol of support and solidarity.

Traditional Housing Services Bradford staff and program participants will deliver cookies to our local champion businesses, friends and community partners.

Bradford Minds Matter: Community Voices of Hope – You are invited to gather with us at the **Bradford Town Hall on May 29th from 6-8 pm for Community Voices of Hope**, featuring Patrick Dowling, a resident of NFI/THS, who will share his personal experiences.

Watch for full details of these events and more in the May edition of the Bradford Bridge. Advisory Board Members Assisting with these events: Bryan Nowell, Bradford Fire Chief; Ellen Barselle, BML Library Director; Beth Downs, Bradford Selectboard



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Obituaries

Carolyn M. Grindle



Carolyn M. Grindle, 84, of Route 114 died at her home on February 14, 2026 after a long battle with cancer.

She grew up in Quincy, MA and lived in Marshfield,

MA where she owned and operated a book store, "The Unicorn Book Nook". She worked for many years in the insurance industry before moving to Bradford, NH in the mid 1980's. Carolyn worked as a secretary at Colby-Sawyer College before becoming administrative assistant at Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association and retired in 2008.

She was well known for her love of books, animals, cooking and cross stitch. Carolyn loved her little farm at Box Corners where she cared for horses, pigs, goats and many cats and dogs.

She won several blue ribbons for her cross stitch at Hopkinton State Fair. Carolyn loved to cook for and host large family and friend gatherings at her home and had an extensive collection of cookbooks and poetry.

She is predeceased by her parents, James and Henriette (Farrell) Mackey; brothers, Roger, James, Richard and Doug; a sister, Mary (Mackey) Ottani; a niece, Lauren McCormick; a brother-in-law, Daniel McCormick and sisters-in-law, Cindy and Jill. Carolyn is survived by siblings, Charles (Janice) Mackey, Kathie (Mackey) (Salvatore) Spataro and Yvonne (Mackey) McCormick; 14 nieces and nephews, 13 grandnieces and grandnephews and 2 great grandnieces and great grandnephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2026 at 11:00am. at the Bradford Community Church, Bradford, NH.

Marie Louise Signorino



Marie Louise Signorino, a former resident of Bradford NH passed away peacefully at home at the age of 94 on November 29, 2025 in Montpelier VT, with family by her side.

Born in Brooklyn NY on June 1st, 1931, Lou, with her twin sister Antoinette, and parents Florence and Alexander Brachocki, lived in Katowice, Poland, where her father (a protégé of the great Polish pianist Jan Paderewski) was professor of music at the Silesian Conservatory of Music. The family returned to the US in 1938 just before the start of WW2. These early years nurtured Lou's interest in music. Lou graduated from Immaculata College PA in 1952 with a BM in piano and violin.

Following graduation, Lou married her husband John and began raising their family of six children in Barrington RI. Lou worked as a travel agent and a realtor. She enjoyed traveling often to Europe and Bermuda, cruised the Straits of Magellan, and experienced the heights of Machu Picchu and the mystique of Tasmania. Lou was a member of the Barrington Players, performing in the choruses of all the classic musicals. Lou also enjoyed

family ski trips to Mt. Sunapee, which led to the family relocating to Bradford in 1976, making their home at the old Cressy Farm, aka Sunnyside Farm.

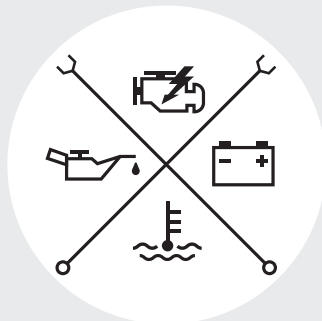
Lou was active in organizing theatre and musical events in Bradford, and enjoyed working at ticket sales at Mt. Sunapee, and was a hospice volunteer. Lou had the grandest of asparagus and raspberry patches, and her flower garden with colorful poppies and evening primrose was a brilliant delight. Lou held memories on the farm and close friendships she made in Bradford dear to her heart.

Lou and John retired to Venice FL in 1998, but retained connections with friends and family in NH and VT. She enjoyed golf, puzzles, Mah-Jongg, and oysters.

Lou recently moved to Montpelier VT to be near her family. Lou was pre-deceased by her husband John (a former Selectman of Bradford 1994-97) in 2020, her son Michael in 2008, and grandson Bryan in 1990. She is survived by daughters Marianne, Nancy, and Alison all of Montpelier VT, and sons Christopher of Waldoboro ME and John of Hartland VT, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Inurnment will be held at the Sunny Plain Cemetery in Bradford NH at 11:00am on June 27th, 2026.



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From the Bradford Historical Society

April showers mud

Daffodils, crocuses, tulips

Spring hopes eternal

by Linda Cansler

A SNOW-SQUALL

A snow-squall came in April,

But I loved It!

It whirled about the roofs like countless insects

Seeking shelter. And where a birdhouse stood,

It etched a line straight up the pole,

And splashed its face with splendor!

Like something very special

In a dark brown bird house,

And springtime-new arrivals

Abruptly stopped their singing.

It laid a spotless carpet on the lawn,

With little, new-made blades of grass arising,

Then, suddenly, the sun came out!

And all the whiteness vanished

Almost in a twinkling!

And Spring resumed her wonder-way again.

This poem was written by the late Grace White Buckle (wife of Charles C. Steven's, a Bradford Selectman in 1903), a former resident of Bradford. She had her poems published in many newspapers, some being the BOSTON GLOBE, the BOSTON HERALD, and the KEARSARGE INDEPENDENT.

Contributed by Linda Cansler

Window on Mental Illness

A father, mother and brothers journey of accepting my mental illness.

A Parent's Journey from Richard

Dowling (father): Supporting a Loved One with Schizoaffective Disorder

When Pat was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder in his mid-20's. I felt both relief and uncertainty. The diagnosis answered some questions, but it also brought new worries about the future and how I could help. With few resources available for families, it was challenging and often overwhelming.

After the diagnosis, Pat struggled to live independently, facing repeated hospitalizations where support was mostly limited to tweaking medications, with little focus on counseling or education. This left both Pat and the family feeling lost and unsure. Were we asking the right questions or getting the necessary help needed? Where can we go to get help? We had a lot of questions and had very little direction on where to get answers.

A turning point recently came 2 years ago when Pat was sectioned and spent an extended period at the NH Hospital, where structure and more comprehensive support and education was provided. This experience helped Pat better understand the diagnosis and learn how to manage it. As Pat began to share these insights, I could see he had greater peace of mind and understanding. Empowered by new knowledge, Pat now hopes to help others facing similar challenges. As a parent, I still have lots of questions, but I feel I'm better equipped to have meaningful and helpful discussions with Pat. Like Pat, I have learned how to be more understanding and supportive, it's no longer a mystery to me.

Today, there is a sense of hope and reassurance, knowing that Pat has found a sense of purpose and is on the path to making a positive difference, something that has always been important to Pat.

My mother: Cheryl's thoughts

Pat has done the hard work learning and managing his mental health challenges. I never gave up hope or hard work to see Pat where he is now. He has an amazing team! Pat has a team that's helped him reach his

dreams and goals! May the team always be there! My heart is filled with joy and love for Pat!

Drew's perspective (younger brother)

Pat: Did you view me differently after being diagnosed and seeing me symptomatic?

Drew: At first it was hard for me to believe you were diagnosed with schizoaffective. Growing up with you and always being present in my life, I continued to ask myself how did this happen? It was hard for me to see you go through the ups and downs early on, especially trying to find a balance with accepting life with this disability. The early stages were the hardest, seeing you being hospitalized and living situations always changing. As time went on, and doctor after doctor, you started to become your true self again and that smile I used to see came back. I will never view you differently, you'll always be my older brother, my best friend.

Pat: Did our relationship strengthen, weaken or stay the same?

Drew: In the beginning, I think it was hard for me to accept all of this, and I felt distant from you for that matter. As time went on, our relationship started to click again like the standard it always was. It's harder to see you now that we live in different states and are getting older and have work going on. I'm proud to see you grow and develop while dealing with your disability. You are a role model.

Pat: I know you say family is all that matters – does that still ring true knowing, in the past two years seeing each other has gotten more difficult?

Drew: Yes, family matters more than anything, in the end, it's all you have. Seeing you now has been more difficult, especially the past year while you were getting treatment. However, over the last few months, you have flourished into the best version of yourself in years. Not being able to spend the Holidays with you over the past few years always hurts, I hope we can change that in the near future.

You can reach support for you and/or a Loved one through NAMINH.org [National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire] or 988 suicide crisis life line.

Patrick Dowling



Bradford Community Church Events

88 W. MAIN ST., BRADFORD, NH, 603-938-5313
bradfordcommunitychurch@gmail.com
bradfordcommunitychurch.org

Our Worship Service is at 10:00am every Sunday with songs, a Time with God's Children, prayers and a message from God's Word.

Sunday School is held during the worship service after the Time with God's Children.

The children will begin a 5-week study on April 12th "Mission Possible" Philippians 4:13 "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength". We now have 2 classes: ages 3-5 and ages 6- 12.

Homeless Mission – During the month of April, we will be collecting coffee, dry creamer, sugar, toilet paper, english muffins, soft protein bars, cheese and crackers and peanut butter crackers.

Holy Week & Easter Services:

Palm Sunday, March 29th "The Beginning of The End" Matthew 21:1-11

Good Friday Service, Friday, April 3rd at 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise Service at Kezar Lake in North Sutton. The Easter Sunrise at the First Free Will Baptist Church in North Sutton will be held at 6:30am on the lawn by the church under the cross. There will be a pancake Breakfast inside the Church after the service. Easter Service at our Church will begin at 10:00am. Celebrating the Resurrection of Christ and Baptisms. Sermon: "Four Days Late and Right on Time" John 11:1-6, 17-25, 37-44.

New Life Group Study in people's homes Theme: "What On Earth Am I Here For?" 6 sessions beginning the last week in April.



Ongoing groups:

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, April 4th at 8:00am in the office building. Delicious hot breakfast and devotion.

Sister to Sister - Saturday, April 11th at 8:30am in the office building. Devotion, encouragement and prayer. Bring your morning beverage to enjoy. "Seed Planting Time" (Growing in Faith) Matthew 17:20 & Luke 17:5

Wednesday night Bible Study in the Friendship Room 6:00-7:00pm will be continuing the study of John.

Youth Group will meet on Sunday April 19th 11:15am-12:30pm, Theme: Homeless Prayer Gathering on Tuesday, May 7th at 9:00am We meet in the office building to pray for our nation, town and our churches.

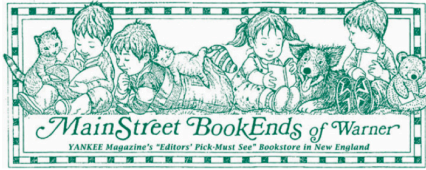
The Food Pantry will be open every Wednesday morning 9:00-11:00am and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening 5:30-6:30pm. The pantry is in the church office building to the right of the church.

June 27th Church Fair: We are accepting reservations for craft vendors for the fair. Please email the office at: bradfordcommunitychurch@gmail.com For more information.

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Lumber Barn
Transfer & Recycling Center
Sweet Beet Market
5 Acres Garden Center & Pet Supply
Mountain View Senior Center

In Warner

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

In Newbury

Meg's Cut Above
Bubba's
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Newbury Library

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AREA EVENTS
BRADFORD EVENTS

Open Mic at 11 West Main
April 1st at 7:00PM
Come one, come all!

Easter Egg Hunt
April 4th, 11:00AM - 12:00PM, Brown
Shattuck Memorial Field, Bradford
www.brownmemoriallibrary.org

Yoga Fundamentals*
April 7th - June 9th, 9:00AM - 10:00AM
Evergreen Healing Arts, Bradford
www.evergreenhealingarts.org

Pancake Breakfast*
April 19, 7:00AM - 11:00AM
Bradford Area Community Center,
Bradford, bradfordnh.gov

Open Mic at 11 West Main
April 15th at 7:00PM
Come one, come all!

Snoopy the Bunny Visits the Library
April 20th, 10:30AM - 11:30AM
Brown Memorial Library, Bradford
www.brownmemoriallibrary.org

April Contractor Cookout
Tuesday, April 21st, 10:00AM - 2:00PM
Lumber Barn, Bradford
See Lumber Barn ad in this edition

AREA EVENTS

Self Love Spa Night Workshop*
April 1st, 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Arts Alley, Concord
www.artsalleyconcordnh.com

Thomas Strayhorn
April 10th, 7:00PM - 9:00PM
Lake Sunapee United Methodist Church,
Sunapee, sunapeecoffeehouse.org

Barks & Brews - Trail Buddy Beer
Release Pawrty*
April 11th, 12:00PM - 5:00PM
Henniker Brewing Company, Henniker
hennikerbrewing.com

Gardening Lecture Series: Planning Your
Summer Cut Flower Garden with Spring
Ledge Farm*

April 16th, 4:00PM - 6:00PM
John Hay Estate at The Fells, Newbury
thefells.org

Trivia Night
April 16th, 4:00PM - 6:00PM
Hoptimystic Brewing, Sunapee
www.hoptimysticbrewing.com/events

Food Security Summit*
April 18th, 9:00AM - 3:00PM
Kearsarge Regional High School, North-
Sutton, www.kearsargefoodhub.org

Pine Needle Basket Workshop*
April 18th, 10:00AM - 3:00PM
Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, Warner
www.indianmuseum.org

Discover Wild - New Hampshire Day
April 18th, 10:00AM - 3:00PM
NH Fish & Game Dept, Concord
nhwildlifeheritage.org

Independent Bookstore Day 2026
April 25th, All Day
Morgan Hill Bookstore, New London
morganhillbookstore.com

Frogs, Eggs & Muddy Boots! A Vernal
Pool Adventure Walk*
April 25th, 1:00PM - 2:30PM
John Hay Estate at The Fells, Newbury
www.lakesunapee.org/events

Lake Sunapee Region Young Professionals
Book Club - "Happy Place" By Emily
Henry April 28th, 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Abbott Library, Sunapee
www.facebook.com/lrsypn

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