An Expanded Library in time for Christmas...

On December 18 an enthusiastic crowd of over 200 gathered at Brown Memorial Library to celebrate the reopening of the new expanded building. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Dick Vitale, called the beautifully renovated library the "keystone of the Town" and praised the trustees and librarians for their hard work and devotion to this 20-year project.

The ribbon was officially cut by junior library patrons, Jessica Grenier, Wales Carter and Eric Bert, assisted by librarians Maggi Ainslie and Elsa Weir. Visitors then entered the building to see first-hand all of the expansion improvements, including the spacious and bright children's room, new young adult area, quiet adult space and the inviting fireside reading area. Several people used the handicapped lift throughout the day and the librarians encourage patrons who need assistance to use the lift when visiting the library.

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped to make opening day a success—Woody Pringle and Beth Eldridge for the music, Marlene Fyler for the lovely floral arrangements, The Friends of the Library for the refreshments, Jackie MacLeod for the wonderful cakes, plus the many others who helped make it such a special day. Special thanks to the Bradford Artist's Group who installed an exhibit of etchings by Ann Eldridge, the first of many regularly scheduled art exhibits in the new library space.

Library hours are Monday 9:30am-8:00pm, Wednesday 9:30am-5:00pm and Saturday 9:30am-1:30pm. Please stop by soon and take advantage of all the new library has to offer. There has never been a better time to visit Brown Memorial Library—there are lots of new books, quiet reading areas, handicapped access and many plans for upcoming events and programs.

—Trustees of the Brown Memorial Library

...And a Community Center for the New Year!

Believe it and you will see it! We are fortunate to have so many people who believe in this Community Center project. To think, 24 months ago this project was just a concept on paper, "a dream," and now the Center is opening it doors! The Center's Governance Board has a lot of organizational work ahead of them and many of the rooms need to be set-up for operations, but we have reached a wonderful stage—operations and program implementation. We all should be very proud of this accomplishment.

January programs are being scheduled now and more are being planned. The
A Good Year for Bradford

This will be the last article from the Selectmen this century! This has been a good year. Roads have been paved, others are being prepared for paving and bridges have been replaced. The Road Crew and Road Agent Andy Anderson have worked very hard and have done an excellent job. Thanks to Ken Anderson we have made improvements at the Transfer Station and received a grant for oil disposal. The equipment has been installed by Ken and is operational. We are transferring all the data from assessment cards for all town properties onto a computer database. This will make it easier to update and retrieve information. New computers have been installed in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office with minimal cost to the town because of funds received from the state and other sources. Thanks to Cheryl Behr, Sue Peterson and Marilyn Gordon, the town offices are ready to meet the challenge that the new millennium will bring.

The Bradford Police Department has also upgraded their computers and has completed a revision of their Standard Operating Procedures, Chief Simms, with the help of Secretary/Part Time Police Officer Penny Spooner and all the Police Officers on staff have done an outstanding job of keeping our town a safe place to live. The Bradford Rescue Squad just purchased a state-of-the-art defibrillator for just under $10,000. It has an automatic function as well as sophisticated options that will allow a Paramedic to deal with heart problems en route to the hospital. It is now operational on the ambulance. If it saves one life, it is worth the cost. All this has come from your donations.

The new Brown Memorial Library had a very successful opening ceremony on December 18 and is a beautiful asset to the town. You, the town people, made it happen. The Bradford Area Community Center should be open and ready for use when you read this. This is another tremendous asset to the town and the surrounding area.

Taxes have gone down more than $5.00 per thousand thanks to the new education funding law. Now we need your help. Those figures for the year 2000 School Budget have just been released. The amount is over $18,000,000. This is a 7.2% increase over last year and will be the highest increase in the history of the district. If this is the only budget on the ballot and it is passed, our taxes will increase and most of the relief we just experienced will be wiped out. We must attend the deliberative session on January 8 and put an amendment on the floor for a more reasonable increase that will, as an example, reflect inflation. If an amendment passes, it will be on the ballot and we can all choose at the polls what we want to spend. Please attend and help us control our taxes.
---Dick Vitale, Chair, Board of Selectmen

Obituary

Pia Szymkiewicz

BRADFORD- Pia Szymkiewicz, 76, of Bradford, died Monday, December 6 at Concord Hospital.
She was born in Brockton, MA, the daughter of Giovanni and Antonianna (Leo) Tallarida. She moved to Bradford in 1958.
She was a member of the Friends of Brown Memorial Library in Bradford as well as the First Baptist Church in Bradford.
She was preceded by her husband, Adam Szymkiewicz, who died in 1988.
She is survived by two sons, Wayne Szymkiewicz and David Szymkiewicz, both of Bradford; two daughters, Helen Holmes of Grafton, MA, and Wanda Crabtree of Largo, FL; eight grandchildren; two sisters, Bea Spinosa of Fairview, NJ, and Gloria Cristiani of Toms River, NJ; and two brothers, Primo Tallarida of Stoughton, MA, and Steven Tallarida of Clinton, MA.

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Bradford Women's Club Update

Welcome to the New Year! The Bradford Women's Club would again like to thank the members of the St. Peter's Lodge for the use of the Masonic Lodge for our Christmas Fair. The lucky winners of our raffle were: Chloe Whall, the Christmas tree; J. Stratton, the tree skirt; Terri Cottrill, the wall hanging and Rene Patten, the Pizza Chef certificate.

Thank you to Bill and Jane Lucas for a great tree lighting and thanks to the committee for yummy treats at Santa's visit. Pictures of children with Santa may be picked up at Dodge's.

Our January 18 meeting will be at 11:30am at the Baptist Church Vestry. Each member is invited to bring at least one item for a Chinese auction, which will be drawn at the meeting. This is a good chance for you to donate any unwanted or duplicate Christmas gift. This is always a fun event. At 1:00pm, any interested members may attend the School District on January 8 at the High School at 9:00am. We also urge you to vote in the primaries on February 1. Your vote does count! Let's all have a great year.

—Suzanne Vitale

Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter

Join speaker Maggie Wittner and the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter on Friday, January 14, 7:30pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Gould Road in New London for a slide program on Costa Rican birds. Wittner has been leading trips for Cheeseman’s Ecology Safari to Costa Rica since 1989. Her program will cover the diverse species of birds and habitat variations found in this Central American country. Refreshments will be served. Contact Peter Newbern at 763-4308 for more information.

Birds Gary Stansfield will lead the annual pilgrimage to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts on Saturday, January 15. Despite the cold, this is a good opportunity to see snowy owls, waterfowl and other winter migrants. Participants should meet Gary at 8:00am at the Exit 9, 1-89 Park and Ride in Warner. Dress warmly, bring lunch, beverage, binoculars and a scope if you have one. For more information call Gary at 863-8737.

—Phyllis H. Curtiss

Attention Art Lovers!

Kearsarge Regional Elementary School at Bradford is looking for anyone interested in volunteering to share their love of fine art with young children by becoming a Picture Person. Through this program you will be assigned a classroom to visit once a month with a print of a famous painting to discuss. What a fun way to instill art appreciation in young minds. Art novices are also welcome! If interested, please call the school at 938-5959 or Laurie Buchar at 938-5372.

Dance at Bougival by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1883

Senior Rally

The next meeting of the Senior Rally will be on January 22, at 1:00pm at the Community Center. The guest speaker will be Nancy Lyon, president of New England K9 Search and Rescue out of New London. Nancy’s two trained dogs, Trace and Keeper will accompany her. Seniors are encouraged to join and offer their input, so the Rally will be a highlight of their lives. All area seniors are cordially invited. Refreshments will be served.

—Genie Pahn

Town Offices Open for Candidacy

- Moderator, for two years (1). $1.00 fee.
- Selectman, for three years (1). $1.00 fee.
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector, for three years (1). $1.00 fee.
- Treasurer, for three years (1). $1.00 fee.
- Trustee of the Brown Memorial Library, for three years (2)
- Planning Board, for three years (2)
- Zoning Board of Adjustment, for two years (1)
- Cemetery Commission, for three years (1)
- Supervisor of the Checklist, for six years (1)
- Scholarship Committee, for three years (1)
- Budget Committee, for three years (2)
- Trustee of the Trust Funds, for three years (1)

The dates to file for these offices are as follows:
- Friday, January 28, 8:00am to Noon
- Monday, January 31, 2:00pm to 7:00pm
- Tuesday, February 1, 8:00am to 11:30am, and 12:30pm to 5:00pm
- Friday, February 4, 8:00am to Noon, and 3:00pm to 5:00pm

The election will be held on March 14.

News from the Town Clerk and Tax Collector

December 6. Pia Stymkiewicz died in Concord.

Absentee ballots are available for the Presidential Primary at the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours.

1999 tax bills are now accruing interest at 12%, and will continue to do so until the end of March when the tax lien takes place. After that, the interest rate will change to 18%.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be closed January 17 for the holiday and also on February 1 for the Presidential Primary. The Primary will be held at KRES at Bradford from 8:00am until 7:00pm.

—Sue Pehran

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Letters

To the editor:

The Kearsarge Charter Middle School Founders Group will be giving a presentation on the Charter School at the School District Deliberative session on January 8, 2000.

The presentation will include fiscal accountability and how the Charter School will save the district money, educational excellence and accountability, and why Article 5 regarding the Charter Middle School is misleading and misrepresents the effect of the Charter School on the District’s budget. The Founders Group plans to introduce a more accurate warrant article on the March ballot.

Charter Schools, by law, are held accountable for their money management and for meeting educational goals. If either area falls short, the school can be closed. No other public school is held accountable for ensuring that students attain a high level of achievement before graduation, nor are they scrutinized as to their fiscal management. If educational excellence is truly the motto of the Kearsarge Regional School District, then Charter Schools, by law, are the model public school.

Rather than costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars extra, the Charter School will have a zero net cost to the district. By law, the school district only has to provide 80% of the per pupil cost per student. That money already exists in the budget and will be transferred with the children who attend the Charter School. No additional funds must be raised as Article 5 states.

In addition, rather than using tax dollars to build and renovate an overcrowded middle school, grant monies and donations are going to build a new school for our children at no cost to the taxpayers.

Charter schools allow parents, teachers, and administrators the opportunity to educate the children of the district in the best possible manner. The intent of Charter School law was for Charter Schools and School Districts to work together to create educational excellence for all students in the public school system. It is unfortunate that this issue has become so antagonistic for the school board and administration. Rather than working together to provide quality education, self-serving interests prevail.

For more information and to read the Charter School proposal visit the new Kearsarge Charter Middle School web site at www.Kearsargecharter.com.

Lori Terwilliger

To the editor:

I want to say how much I’ve enjoyed, as a new trustee for the Library, seeing how this group works and being a very small part of it. I am in complete awe of the time, energy and dedication that has been put into the expansion of the Library by all the Trustees and quite a few of the past Trustees. This group with individual ideas and feelings have come together and put together the best plans for the Library and those who will use it. This has been a full-time job for many of them, with no pay but the satisfaction of a job well done for the Town and the people in it. I think those of you who have visited the new Library will agree with me. If you haven’t stopped by yet, please do. You will really be impressed.

Jane Lucas

To the editor:

We wish to thank the Bradford Rescue Squad for the great job they did after the auto accident I had in Bradford on December 15. They were very professional, caring and timely in getting to the scene. Bradford is very fortunate to have such a great Rescue team. Many thanks to all that assisted.

Nelson and Betty Perron

Letters to the editor should be no more than 400 words and may be edited for clarity and content. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification.

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The Rosewood Country Inn

From the kitchen of Lesley Marquis

CHICKEN MARQUIS

(no kidding... it’s really called that)

1 (10-oz.) can cream of mushroom soup
3/4 cup uncooked rice
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup white wine
1/2 cup chopped onions
1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms, drained
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
4 chicken breast halves, skinned and bone removed
paprika


On behalf of the Rosewood Country Inn, Dick and I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

---

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Bradford Newbury Workshop

The Community Workshop of Newbury and Bradford will meet at the Friendship House in South Newbury on Thursday, January 13 at 11:00am. Prospective candidates for local office in Newbury and Bradford are invited to attend this meeting. This will be an informal opportunity for the candidates to meet the women in the Workshop who are active and interested in town affairs. If you plan to attend, please contact Shirley Markie at 938-5023 or just show up at the meeting. We will have a social/work time from 11:00am to noon, followed by our own bag lunches. Hostesses for the meeting, Claire Thomas and Jean Kennedy will provide dessert and coffee. Following lunch and a brief business meeting, the planned program will take place at about 1:00pm. We hope many of the candidates for office will take this opportunity to attend.

—Claire Bensley

Fundancing at the Town Hall

Molly Clark helps Bradford residents shake, rattle & roll their way to fitness.

Parks and Recreation Update

With Rick Alibrandi's help we have more plans for improvements at French's Park. He has volunteered to help with the run-off problems at the beach. Jim Allen with his crew (family) got rid of the brush piles at the park. It's really looking good.

Line Dancing will return beginning Tuesday, January 4 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. On Friday January 7 at 7:00pm, Molly Clark returns with her Fun Dance, $4.00 per class. This really is fun. As you can see, Parks and Recreation is really moving and growing. Both dance programs are open to all ages. Shake off the cabin fever, come on down to the Town Hall and join us. In case of inclement weather, call 938-5978 to see if the class has been cancelled.

Ruth Hall has signed on to the Community Center Governance Board as Parks and Recreation representative. She is hoping to work with them in putting some of our program ideas into the Center.

I think we picked the coldest morning so far this year to close and cover the Skateboard Park. The weather has been so mild that we left it open longer this year.

We have some great ideas for 2000. It's been a good working year and we're really looking forward to the new century. It's been a "lets do it" group. Thanks to Ruth and Larry Hall, Jim Allen and of course my Wacky, who decided to join instead of having me ask for his help all the time. Dawn Allen and Margaret and Jimmy Raymond have also signed on. If you have an interest in Bradford's parks and in getting more recreational programs going, we would love to have you join us. Wishing a great New Year to our Town and all who live here.

—Jane Lucas
Church News
From Lynne E. Hubley

The American Baptist Women’s Ministries will hold their January meeting on Tuesday, January 4 at 7:00pm. The program is entitled “Clothes Really do Make the Woman” which is based on Colossians 3:12-14. They’re not talking about plaid skirts and jeans, either. Come and find out.

Our Thursday evening Bible Study will continue the study of the book of Romans on Thursday, January 6 at 7:30pm.

On Sunday, January 9, we will have an Epiphany Pot Luck Dinner at 5:00pm followed by a hymn sing. We will then join in “Unhanging the Greens” and put our Christmas decorations away for another year.

Our final Baptist Class will meet on Sunday, January 9 at 11:00am to play a game of Biblesopoly. This game will be a review of all we have learned during our classes. The candidates will be sharing their paragraph telling their favorite title for Jesus, i.e. “Light of the World” or “Good Shepherd” or “Prince of Peace.” The candidates will be baptized on Maundy Thursday, April 20.

Our Food Pantry will be open Wednesday, January 19 from 6:00-7:00pm. A special thanks goes out to everyone in Bradford who donated food or money. We had an overwhelming amount of donations this year. At Thanksgiving we were able to assemble 34 baskets and 27 were made up at Christmas. A Food Pantry Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23 at 11:30am. This will be an opportunity for new people to join the committee and will provide an opportunity for committee members to share what has been working well and what could use improvement.

A Tuesday Morning Study Group will be starting up during the month of January. The book will be “As We Grow Old” by Ruth Fowler. It’s about helping adult children and their parents face the aging process with candor and grace.

BEOC Update

At the last meeting we adjourned, happily bypassing a December gathering, to rejoin our combined efforts in January. But the Bradford Green would not wait quietly aside, while holiday festivities perked forward. On December 9, a special session dedicated completely to the Bradford Green was hastily called. Two representatives from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) had good news—a chance to acquire special funds, which needed to be applied for immediately. Mike Wimsatt (Brownfields Program), who had spoken to us once before, and Carl Woodbury (Solid Waste Department), joined us to bring the “good tidings.”

Carl was closely involved in the closure of the landfill on the Bradford Green site, and is very familiar with the details and potential for the land. He is specifically connected with the Compliance Division of the DES and was very positive about the preliminary plans, suggesting uses that town had been looking at up to this point. This enthusiasm was only bolstered by the news that “the well test results were very positive, only one well showing any (negative) sample, but it was well below the threshold,” according to Wimsatt.

You might think this could have waited until a January meeting, but Wimsatt began to explain the sudden availability of a special grant from the EPA. The catch—the grant needed to be applied for before Christmas. The BEOC launched immediately to assemble the grant proposal information.

This is the second grant the BEOC has applied for to fund assessment of the site. Both applications are now active, with this second one offering the town a few possible advantages over the first. “We are in a great place to fund this work,” Wimsatt informed us as the meeting closed. Either grant is scheduled to award funds early this year with the site investigation to soon follow. This should make 2000 a busy year for the planned Bradford Green.

Also, a reminder, this month look for a copy of “Reviewing Bradford Village,” a questionnaire that the BEOC hopes you will fill out and return with your feedback. We hope to make copies available to all town groups, local businesses and perhaps as an insert in the Bridge.

—Stephen Manley
Then...
by Milly Kittredge

The Bradford Winter Carnival was an annual event from 1926 for over twenty years. Above, the C.A. Danforth Co. IGA truck. Below, a photo showing Dodge’s when it was a gas station with S.O. Blake at the controls.

Visit an Atlantic White Cedar Swamp

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) will lead a field trip to a unique Atlantic white cedar swamp in Sutton on Saturday, January 22 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The snow date is Saturday, January 29. There are only a few Atlantic white cedar swamps in New Hampshire. Trip participants will learn about the cedar’s natural and cultural history, and how beaver activity influences regeneration. We will also visit a frozen pond to discuss life under the ice. Co-sponsors include the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory Program and the Sutton Conservation Commission. The trip is free for SPNHF members and $5 for non-members. To register or for more information, contact Trish Churchill at 224-9945 or e-mail signup@spnhf.org.

Bradford Country Squares

The Bradford Country Squares will host a Class level square dance on Saturday, January 15 at the Bradford Town Hall from 8:00 until 10:30pm. Don Batchelder will call and Phil Gatchell will cue this dance whose theme is “Sparkling Nights.” Admission is $4 per person. For more information call 763-3044. Spectators are always welcome.

—Bob & Shirley Trombley

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Planning Board Notes

Responding to several inquiries about the road frontage required to subdivide or build on so-called "back land", the Planning Board has prepared a summary of the state and local regulations that must be considered in such situations. Briefly, NH state law prohibits any building on a lot unless the street provides access to a Class V (town maintained) road, shown on a subdivision or street plan approved by the planning board, or a street accepted by town meeting. This law states that it supersedes any less stringent local regulation.

Bradford's Subdivision Regulations prohibit subdivision on Class VI roads (public ways not maintained by the town) except as woodlots or agricultural lots as laid out in the regulations. No houses or camps may be built as long as the road remains Class VI. The Zoning Ordinance allows for "rear lot" development. This requires a 50' deeded right-of-way where the length of the right-of-way is equal to the frontage requirement of the district and the lot is two and one half times the minimum lot size. Copies of this document are available at the Selectmen's Office.

A special procedure is provided by the state law for a building permit where the lot has frontage on a Class VI road. This includes review and comment by the planning board with issuance of the building permit by the Board of Selectmen. The property owner must file a waiver that absolves the town of any liability for damages resulting from use of the road and acknowledging that the town does not maintain the road.

The Planning Board addressed the Class VI road procedure in response to a request from the Selectmen. The lot in question is on the corner of Bible Hill and Pierce Roads (both Class VI at that point). After considerable discussion, the Board voted not to recommend issuing the building permit because of the remote location and question about the precise location of the road since it forms the Town Line with Warner. The final decision rests with the Board of Selectmen.

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board initiated a procedure for reporting zoning or other code violations. If an alleged violation has been noted, the Planning Board will send a letter, spelling out the situation, to the Code Enforcement Officer who will submit a report to the Planning Board within 14 days, with a copy to the Selectmen. Any further action that may be required is the responsibility of the Selectmen.

In other business, the Planning Board reviewed proposed changes to the Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations. A public hearing is scheduled for January 11 to present the proposals for comment after which the Board will vote on their adoption. At a later meeting, possible amendments to the Zoning Ordinance will be considered. Zoning amendments must be presented at one or more public hearings and then voted on by ballot at the first session of the Town Meeting in March.

--Marcia Keller
Kearsarge Charter Middle School Update

What kind of music and athletic opportunities will be available at the Charter Middle School?

Music is very important and with parent support and involvement, the Charter School plans to have a band. Children would rent instruments if they chose to be in the band and the music teacher would be funded with grant money. Aside from the enjoyment and pleasure children get from learning to play an instrument, musical training has been shown to improve academic performance in other subjects. Practicing an instrument also teaches the values of self-discipline and perseverance.

The physical education curriculum will involve students in non-competitive activities such as aerobics, running, yoga, Tai chi, and in outdoor activities such as climbing and canoeing and also in school-wide games of traditional sports like soccer and basketball. There is reciprocity between the Charter Middle School and the existing Middle School with any program that is unique to one or the other school. Therefore, since the Charter Middle School will not be offering organized competitive team sports, children may participate in those offered by the Middle School. This same reciprocity exists for academic subjects. For further information contact Mary Mead (456-3179), Susan Farber (938-5228), Kathy Kovacs (456-2182), or Ken and Holly Grossman (526-6390).

—Lori Terwilliger

Real Estate Hints:
Credit Scoring
by Laura Hallahan

If you are in the market to purchase a home, then you need to know about credit scoring and how it is being used to determine if you qualify for a mortgage. Credit scoring involves assigning numerical ratings to consumers on the basis of their credit history, and it has been used for over thirty years by credit card issuers, auto lenders and others who extend credit to consumers. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two agencies that purchase about 58 percent of all residential mortgages in an average year, have been encouraging the use of credit scores by lenders since the mid-90s. Credit scoring uses credit reports to grade consumers on a 900-point scale with a goal of determining if you are likely to repay your mortgage on time. The credit bureau calculates the score, but it does not become part of your permanent credit history. Depending on your score, you may have to increase your down payment or rely on a mortgage rate that is higher than conventional mortgages with higher fees and closing costs as well.

More than 100 variables are used in credit scoring, including existing credit cards and credit performance, other open or active accounts, any outstanding loans, etc. Some tips to increase your chance of obtaining a better score include: closing out unused credit card accounts, paying off any existing accounts with finance companies and paying all credit card bills on time. Put off buying any big ticket items that may require a credit check.

Even though we live in a high-tech world with many advances, getting a mortgage approved still requires the basics—having established credit, paying your bills on time and keeping balances on open accounts to moderate levels. Following these steps and keeping on top of your credit history will ensure that you receive a good score whenever you decide to purchase a home.

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Bradford Town Hall on Saturday, January 22, 2000 from 11:00 a.m. until noon for the Presidential Primary and again on Tuesday evening, January 25, 2000 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for Town Election.

—Supervisors of the Checklist
Deborah Lamach, Ann Hibbard, Carolyn Grindle

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Center has a phone number (938-6228) and by January 7 it will be activated with voice mail. Please call to request a complete listing of programs.

Many more programs are being planned such as children's art and science enrichment programs, adult education, day time parent-child play groups, youth programs and activity nights, wellness programs and much more. If anyone is interested in offering a program or would like to see a particular program please call us. The Center is also available for meeting space for any community group.

The "Buy a Brick for the Bradford Area Community Center" is continuing in hopes that enough money will be raised to complete the community room, buy Center equipment and have money to complete all the outdoor site work (parking lot/landscaping) this spring. The entranceway to the Center will display all our generous donors and we would love to have your name listed. If you are able to contribute or pledge a monthly donation, please call. A special grand opening celebration is planned for this spring.

This month we are very fortunate to have received an additional $14,000 in grant awards (Lindsey Trust for $10,000, Baldwin Foundation for $2,500, Billing Trust for $1,500). This brings us to a total of $25,000 in grant awards this fall. Plus, the Business Tax Incentive Program from the Community Development Finance Authority allowed us to raise $50,000 in cash. The Corporate donors were Lake Sunapee Bank, Ledyard National Bank, Merrimack County Telephone, New London Trust, Sugar River Savings Bank, Universal Packaging, JD Cahill, Abraman, Reis & Brown, and Sulloway & Hollis.

Also this month, a program grant was submitted in partnership with the Kearsarge Regional School District. If funded, the Center will receive community program monies for children and youth. We should know in early February if we have been awarded this grant. I would like to especially thank Betty Pertron who is a BACC Governance Board member and was on the grant writing team. Her expertise as a professional social worker and her commitment to providing community resources, contributed greatly to the design of this grant program.

We hope that in the upcoming months many people of all ages will participate in Community Center programs and services and become involved with this valuable community asset. For more information please call or talk with any of the Governance Board Directors: Mike Carter, Ruth Hall, Marion Hall, Laura Hallahan, Yvonne McCormick, Betty Pertron, Sue Rayno, Lynne Smith, Phyllis Wilcox, Phyllis Whall, Sue Vitale or Carol Conforti-Adams, Planning and Development Coordinator.

—Carol Conforti-Adams

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BOOK REVIEW
by Pauline Dishmon

ANGELA'S ASHES
By Frank McCourt
New York: Scribner, 1996

This Pulitzer Prize winning memoir is about the survival of a poor Irish family who left New York and returned to Ireland. The author dedicated his book to three of his brothers Malachy, Michael and Alphonsus. "When I look back to my childhood I wonder how I survived it all," writes McCourt. He describes difficulties in New York during the Depression.

Life in Ireland wasn't any better. Babies wore rags for diapers and family members gathered coal from the roadside to light home fires. Frank speaks of his father, Malachy Sr., as shiftless and always ready for a drink. Even when he was "on the dole" he generally drank the family's money before he arrived home. After dinner he would spend time with his sons and relate stories about Cuchulain and Emer, legendary Irish heroes. Then he would get the boys together and ask them if they would die for Ireland. "Yes" was always their response. They knew what he wanted them to hear.

At one point in New York, McCourt's mother Angela insisted the family move to better living quarters. She found a place, then went to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to see if there was a chance of getting some furniture. She was offered a table, two chairs and two beds. At the time, having recently lost twin sons Oliver and Eugene, Angela inquired if anyone who died of consumption ever used the beds. The man responded "I'm very sorry, but beggars can't be choosers." Even though all of the sadness this family endured, readers will find themselves smiling at some of McCourt's stories.

This book is available at the Brown Memorial Library.

Warner Book Discussion Group

The Pillsbury Free Library on Main Street in Warner will launch a book discussion group to meet on the first Tuesday of each month, September through June at 7:30pm at the library. The book for January 4 is Amsterdam by Ian MacEwan and Beachcombing for a Shipwrecked Cat by Joe Cooney will be discussed on February 1. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book call 456-2289.

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BRADFORD GENERAL STORE
Legislative Report
By Representative Beth Rodd

When the House of Representatives reconvenes next week, we will be taking up the business of finalizing re-referred bills and heaving a collective sigh of relief that the school funding dilemma, though far from settled, will not be dominating every session of the year.

A difficult and contentious year past has lead the media to speculate that many representatives will not run for office again. In fact, I have listened to many of my colleagues describe their dissatisfaction with the imperfect system that has allowed this problem to drag on unresolved for so long. But tired legislators are renewed and there is much important work to be done. Let us hope that the new millennium will revive broken spirits and that good men and women will work together again to address the other outstanding issues that warrant our attention.

Health Maintenance Organization reform remains an important area of interest that thus far has been defeated but will come to the table again.

A comprehensive study is being conducted to address the problems related to drunk driving and to consider innovative methods of keeping people safe and sober when their automobile can be converted into a lethal weapon.

We are looking at violence in schools in an effort to curb the threat against our children's safety. School should be a safe, nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment. After the gruesome, inexplicable events of the past sad and shocking year, the legislature is studying this issue as well.

Crime and punishment, health and safety, the needs and safety of our citizens young and old, the environment: these are among the neglected issues that will warrant our attention. Your advice and interest are vital to the choices and philosophies your representatives project so be advised, call us and attend our regular constituent nights alternating between Bradford and Henniker each month. We are here to speak to your interests and need your support.

On behalf of Representative Barbara French, Senator Rick Trombly, Commissioner Bernie Lamach and myself, I wish you good luck, prosperity, happiness and good health in the New Year. We thank you for the privilege of representing you in Concord and for your ongoing encouragement and participation in the business of governing our state.

Silk Farm Audubon Family Programs

On Saturday, January 8 from 2:00–3:00pm the Silk Farm Audubon Center will host a Family Fun Program "The Mystery of Malformed Frogs in NH." Some unique specimens of malformed frogs live at the Center. Though most frogs are hibernating now, these frogs are awake and catching crickets. Investigate the peculiarities of these amphibious creatures through games, a craft, and by feeding them crickets.

Another Family Fun program will be held on Saturday, January 22 on “Snowshoeing Basics and Games.” This program will be from 10:00–11:30am. Practice putting on snowshoes, walking forward and backward, uphill and downhill. Hit the trails for a snowshoe hike and games. Snowshoes are provided.

On Saturday, January 29 the final Family Fun program for January "Tracking the Elusive Winter Wildlife" will take place from 1:00–2:30pm. Learn the basics of tracking through games and a craft. Try your skills on the trails by following the footsteps of these animals that walked before you.

The cost for each program is $2 for members or $3 for non-members, child or adult. Pre-registration is required by the Friday preceding the program. Call 224-9909, extension 333.

Introduction to Timber Harvesting Workshop

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) will lead a field trip/workshop to the Bean Hill Forest in Northfield on Saturday, January 15 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The snow date is Sunday, January 16. The workshop is free for SPNHF members and $5 for non-members. This workshop, designed for forest landowners and the general public, is a perfect introduction to timber harvesting and will include, "everything you ever wanted to know about logging but were afraid to ask," says SPNHF trip leader Dave Anderson. Participants will learn how trees are selected, marked and cut; meet foresters and loggers; and find out about wood markets and contracts. The tour will visit an active logging job in a pine/bass woodlot owned by Meadowand Timberlands. The tour is co-sponsored by Meadowand Timberlands and Merrimack County Cooperative Extension. To register or for more information, contact Trish Churchill at 224-9945 or e-mail signup@spnhf.org.
Kearsarge Community Character Coalition

On December 3 I had the opportunity to attend the Warner area meeting of the Kearsarge Community Character Coalition. This is a group formed by the Kearsarge Regional School District to implement strategies for helping our youth enhance their positive identity (self-esteem) and become more resilient.

The coalition is using the strategies formed by the Search Institute of Minneapolis, MN, a program that provides healthy initiatives for communities to help their youth. It is based on 40 developmental assets, such as honesty, kindness and work ethics. This is a program that works to build these 40 assets within our youth, rather than relying on deficit solutions (juvenile detention, social services, etc.) after problems have already occurred. We have all been horrified by the school shootings in recent years. This program is one example of the things we can do to work towards prevention of tragedies like these.

The success of the asset-building program relies on all members of the community to get involved: schools, youth organizations, congregations, neighborhood groups, businesses and town government. By getting everyone on the same page, we can provide a better environment for our children and youth, and there will be better accountability for their actions and behavior.

One of the most hopeful things I see happening in our community here in Bradford is the opening of the Community Center. The Search Institute stresses the importance of multigenerational influences within the community. The Community Center is a great opportunity to bring people all ages together, as it is to be the home of a youth/teen center, a senior center, as well as the kindergarten.

What I found most intriguing about the KCCC meeting was that everyone came from a different place but still appreciated the message they were giving out. Many people started talking about "the good old days"—the 1950s and 1960s; parents were home more, they knew each other and held each others' kids accountable for their actions. They remembered the days when neighborhoods were safe and communities were strong. I don't remember a time like this. I grew up in the 1980s—a time when neighborhoods and communities were no longer a central unit. I was a latchkey kid who kept the door locked and didn't answer the phone. No other neighbors were home from 3:00 to 5:00 pm if I had a problem. My parents and those of my peers were seldom involved in our lives. There was a lack of adult influence; nobody spoke to us about working hard or developing our creativity. Many of us felt like we were "A Tribe Apart," as the journalist Patricia Hensch has phrased it. Although we had different experiences from childhood and youth, all of us could see the value and purpose in strengthening the community and supporting our youth.

The Kearsarge Community Character Coalition is not trying to present a "cure-all" for our youth. This program is merely designed to keep adults living with mindfulness: being conscious of what we do, the examples we set, and the attitudes and beliefs we relay to our kids, whether directly or indirectly. It outlines many things that parents, schools and community members can do in small, simple ways to make a contribution to the well being of our youth.

Each month, I plan to highlight some of the 40 assets from the Search Institute's program and show how they can be easily integrated into anyone's lives. Helping our kids and improving community character is not something we can do in one single step, but we can do it if each and every individual takes a small step on their own to make a difference.

—Sarah Harvey

December Selectmen's Meetings

December 6. Charles Betz met with selectmen for signatures on the application for the trail design charrette. Mr. Betz also discussed plans for the supervisor of Lowe State Forest to begin work on access off Dunfield Road and Rowe Mountain Road. The state will be doing work on sections of the Clap Vi Road (Dunfield).

Brooks M. Candish and Marty Burris met with the selectmen to discuss the purchase of an additional strip of land from the Brunnells, abutters to the Brown Memorial property on Main Street. The land will be a 14-foot strip of land for access around the building and will cost $1,000.00. The matter will need to go before the Planning Board and ZBA. The Library will have the legal agreements written up and hopefully the matter will be finalized within the next six months. Selectmen discussed the ability of the Library to use balances in its budget to finance the land purchase. The Trustees currently have interest remaining on the Library Renovations Capital Reserve account to apply to the project, but will need the vote of town meeting to access that money. Selectmen discussed the matter and will investigate further. Library Trustees will compute the remaining salary expenses for the year to determine the amount left in their budget.

continued on next page
Selectmen
continued from page 13

The Town has paid the county tax in the amount of $104,940.

Chris Frey presented a plan for the highway department to purchase a new plow for the town's one-ton truck. The plow will cost about $1,000, with the possibility of a trade-in allowance for the old equipment. Selectmen voted to purchase the plow.

The highway department repaired a large hole in the Bridge on Fairgrounds Road. The problem was discovered during an inspection of the site for the new bridge to be bid next spring. Ensam had created the problem. The condition has been corrected and will be part of the new work to be covered by the bridge construction.

Selectmen appointed Cheryl Kordas to the position of Welfare Officer.

Selectmen signed a letter to a resident to remove debris from his property on Oakdale Road.

December 13. A public hearing to discuss the use of unanticipated revenue was opened at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were the selectmen and several townpeople.

Dick Vitale read the list of unanticipated funds the town has received. They included $12,000 from the Department of Revenue Administration to help the town implement the new state education tax collection program. Marcia Keller asked questions regarding the guidelines of the use of this money and whether this money would be received annually. Dick Vitale stated that the money was to be used as the town determined, but was intended to help defray the cost of a third billing. Whether there will be future money is unknown at this time.

Insurance paid $4,327 to cover lightning damage to the town hall last summer.

Two computers, the alarm system and the police base radio were damaged. The total damage was $5,327 with the town's deductible $1,000. The money will be used to replace the damaged equipment.

The town received a Waste Oil Grant of $2416 from the Department of Environmental Services. The grant money allowed the town to purchase an oil filter crusher and containment tubs to be in compliance with State Regulations. The grant reimbursed the town 100% for the purchase of these items.

The sale of three town trucks this year brought the Highway Department $18,600. The anticipated revenue was $1,500. (Initially only one truck was to be sold). The sale of the other two trucks brought a net return to the town of $16,600. The Highway Department was able to acquire two replacement trucks at the state auction to complete their current needs.

The public hearing was closed at 5:30 p.m. The regular selectmen's meeting resumed.

Marcia Keller discussed work being done on Bible Hill Road. Selectmen informed Mrs. Keller of the letter received from the landowner requesting consideration under a petition allowing for exception to the regulations regarding development on a Class VI road. The letter will be forwarded to the planning board for comment. The landowner's representative, Mr. Dunne, has been in contact with the Road Agent regarding the back dragging of the road after equipment is removed. Mrs. Keller also questioned if the road will be returned to the logger. He has completed his operation but was not satisfied with the back dragging requirement of his intent to cut.

Richard Keller presented the selectmen with the Lake Massseum Association budget for 2000. They are requesting the town contribute $3000 towards the continuing battle against the spread of milfoil in Lake Massseum. Mr. Keller brought a detailed budget sheet for the selectmen to review. Selectmen will consider the issue during the budget process.

The Library Trustees presented a purchase and sales agreement in the amount of $3,000, for the purchase of a strip of land from the Brunells. Selectmen reviewed and signed the contract.

Bradford Newbury Kindergarten Preschool, represented by Karen Way and Susan Kingsojby, met with selectmen to reaffirm the agreement between the Town of Bradford and the school regarding the use of the town hall. The Kindergarten-Preschool is concerned that the same agreement be continued in their occupancy at the Community Center. The Selectmen presented the representatives with the original agreement signed by selectmen Clarence Wheeler and Phil Dodge back in the early 1970s. The selectmen all expressed support for the Kindergarten and were anxious to have a smooth transition to the new location. Sue Vitale and Ruth Hall of the Bradford Area Community Center Governance Board were present and discussed the need for communications with the board to resolve problems in advance of the move. A sub-committee of the BACC has been established to work closely with the Kindergarten-Preschool and will be setting a meeting date soon. The selectmen requested they and the BCC be involved in this meeting.

December 20. Don Johnson and Joe Conway met with selectmen to discuss the filing for the Brownfields Assessment grant for the former Marshall property by the BEOC. Mike Wimsatt of the Department of Environmental Services is working with the Selectmen and the BEOC to file two separate grant applications. The town's planning efforts have helped for the filing for this grant in that there is a clear history of town support for the development of this site. The first grant is for an amount up to $20,000 and the second grant for an amount up to $200,000. The decision will be made by early spring.

Selectmen voted to change a portion of Woodview Heights Road from a Class V to a Class VI road from the existing driveway of Mitchell to the Kropp Drive. The change is allowed by RSA 229:5VII because there has been no maintenance by the town for a period of five years.

Glimpses... selected from Historical Society materials by Milly Kittredge

New Year's Eve ball at the Town Hall in Bradford, January 1st, 1900. Music by Ideal Orchestra, an oyster supper will be served.

Invites all to our NEW Restaurant

LUNCH SPECIALS - SUBS - PASTA - SALADS
ITALIAN DINNERS - CALZONES

"Delicious Pizza"

- Many New Items - Ice Cream - Beer & Wines

DINE IN OR CALL AHEAD FOR TAKE OUT SERVICE

Bradford Pizza Chef at the corner of Rte. 103 & Main - Bradford, NH

938-2600

-Excerpted from public minutes prepared by Cheryl Behr.
"A tree of the first magnitude, rising to a height of sixty to eighty feet and reaching a diameter of five to six feet above the swell of the roots, with a spread sometimes equaling or even exceeding the height; attaining often much greater proportions—a tree that may well dispute precedence with the white or red oak." So, perhapsize the authors of the book Handbook of the Trees of New England published in 1901. They were writing about the American Chestnut, Castanea dentata. Three years later the fungus Cryphonectria parasitica was identified. This fungus probably arrived from China and was probably first introduced into New York City where it began killing American Chestnut trees at the Bronx Zoo. Within 50 years virtually every mature tree of this species was dead.

To understand the magnitude of this event one must know that this chestnut (not to be confused with the non-native horse chestnut) was the most common tree in its range east of the Mississippi, north of Georgia, and south of Central New England. The chestnut was highly prized for its workable wood, its high tannin content, and its extreme resistance to rot. One out of every two to four trees at the turn of the century was a chestnut. It's as if we were speaking here of New England's oak or maple all gone AWOL within the space of 20 years. Imagine this if you can.

The deadly fungus is spread by a common native bark beetle, which of itself could not greatly harm a healthy tree. The fungus however kills the trees usually by girdling them near the base, affecting the cambium layer and thus preventing the flow of nutrients and water. Nuts dropped at the turn of the century sprouted, but within a short time also were killed. Young chestnuts have a remarkable propensity for "stump-sprouting", that is, they send up shoots from the remaining roots after injury to the main trunk. In this way it is still possible nearly 100 years later to come across a young American Chestnut tree—which a friend and I did this fall in the woods off Forest Street.

We weren't especially looking for lost trees, but there it was in the leaf litter, a nut casing looking very much like a sea urchin and about as much fun to pick up bare-hand. Despite an obscuring layer of snow, a concerted search for the tree itself brought in 10 spiny husks, half of them with nuts still intact. It's true that sometimes a tree will live long enough to produce some seeds before succumbing to the fungus—but 10! Finally, after much neck craning and levity the now leafless tree hiding in plain sight amongst the oak and maple was identified. There are probably more. There is no sign of girdling yet that I can determine though the tree is 22 inches in circumference and quite tall.

I know that scientists have determined that seeds from seemingly resistant trees have not produced equally resistant offspring, but I'm thinking of planting the nuts that the squirrels did not find (except for the one I'm going to roast to find out why the American Chestnut was once considered the most edible nut on the North American continent).
January Calendar

MONDAY, JANUARY 3
Bradford Cemetery Commission, Town Hall, 9:00am, call 938-5386 for more information
Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4
Line Dancing, Town Hall, 7:00-8:00pm
ZBA, Town Hall, 7:00pm
Bradford Fish and Game Club, Gillingham Drive, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5
Library Trustees, BML, 7:00pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
Bradford Area Community Center Governance Board, BACC, 12:30-2:00pm
"Fun Dance", Town Hall, 7:00-8:30pm, $4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
KRSD Budget Deliberative Session, KRHS, 9:00am

MONDAY, JANUARY 10
Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11
Bradford Women's Club Executive Board, Sue Vitale's Home, 10:00am
Line Dancing, Town Hall, 7:00-8:00pm
Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30pm
Bradford Revolving Loan Committee, Candeleite Inn, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
BEOC, Town Hall, 7:00pm
KRSD School Board, KRHS, 7:00pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14
Bradford Community Corporation, Town Hall, 7:00am
Bradford Area Community Center Governance Board, BACC, 12:30-2:00pm
"Fun Dance", Town Hall, 7:00-8:30pm, $4

MONDAY, JANUARY 17
Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm
BBA, Town Hall, 7:00pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18
Bradford Women's Club, Church Vestry, 11:30am "Chinese Auction" with lunch to follow at the Little Chinese Restaurant in Newbury at 1:00pm
Line Dancing, Town Hall, 7:00-8:00pm
Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19
Library Trustees, BML, 7:00pm
Country Capitalist Meeting, call 938-2787 for details
Road Committee, Town Hall, 7:00pm
Friends of the Library, BML, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20
Parks and Recreation, Town Hall, 7:00pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21
Bradford Area Community Center Governance Board, BACC, 12:30-2:00pm
"Fun Dance", Town Hall, 7:00-8:30pm, $4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
Senior Rally, BACC, 1:00-3:00pm, BACC

MONDAY, JANUARY 24
Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25
Bradford Revolving Loan Committee, Candeleite Inn, 7:00pm
Line Dancing, Town Hall, 7:00-8:00pm
Planning Board, Town Hall, 7:30pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27
KRSD School Board, New London Elementary School, 7:00pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28
Bradford Community Corporation, Town Hall, 7:00pm
Bradford Area Community Center Governance Board, BACC, 12:30-2:00pm
"Fun Dance", Town Hall, 7:00-8:30pm, $4

MONDAY, JANUARY 31
Selectmen's Meeting, Town Hall, 5:00pm

Bradford Historical Society open by appointment, call 938-5386

Mondays in January Thistle Spinners, every Monday 1:00-3:00 pm, Thistle and Shamrock Inn, All are welcome to attend, come and learn a new craft.

To list events for the February calendar, please call Betty Hague at 938-2722.

See page 10 for Community Center Calendar

A New Look for a New Year

Did you notice that your Bradford Bridge looks a little different this month? Susie Janiacki of SmartWoman & Co. donated her time and experience to give the Bridge a new look for 2000. We hope you will find it a little easier to read.

Not only did Susie give the Bridge a makeover, she went above the call of duty to help me with the final layout while facing a deadline of her own and battling a nasty illness that I suspect she got from my children. Thank you, Susie!

The Bradford Bridge is a community newspaper that owes its existence to volunteers. Do you have a story to tell, a talent for photography or other skills you would like to contribute? Or would you like to learn something new? Call me at 938-5029 and add something new to your resume this year!

—Lyn Betz, Editor

Classifieds

FOR SALE. Fireplace/woodstove, cast iron w/green porcelain finish, 28"w by 18'h by 30'h w/12" stand, 4'x4' brick flooring, 8' flue top/back, 48" metalbestos chimney w/cup & ceiling flange. Still inst. $450/b.o. you move, $550 I move. Call 938-5209.

To place a FREE classified ad of 40 words or less, please call Carey Rodd at 938-2692.

Bradford Bridge February deadlines

Display ads January 20
Classified ads January 26
Articles January 20*
*If you would like to submit an article covering an event occurring after the deadline, please contact Lyn Betz at 938-5029.