



# BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



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## The Golden Oldies Get a Facelift

by Kristina Schram

Growing up, I didn't have access to a lot of TV shows. Reception out in the boonies was spotty; my father didn't want to spend money on changing that (and who later in life couldn't be shifted from the chair closest to the TV, not even by a bulldozer, after he decided TV was actually not as evil as he'd thought, especially when Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, with the lovely Jane Seymour, was on); plus, there just wasn't that much to choose from.

The shows we did have on offer, however, were certainly an interesting mix: Beverly Hillbillies, Land of the Lost, Fantasy Island, CHiPs (aka, California Highway Patrol, aka, hot cops straddling motorbikes) - surprisingly, I was quite drawn to this last one as a young teen.

Daytime television was a combination of mind-numbing game shows (newsflash: 10-year-olds do not care about the price of a box of Rice-a-Roni), scandalous talk shows—anyone exposed to Jerry Springer won't ever forget such classics as “My Brother Married His Pet Horse (Even Though His Parents Said Neigh)” or “My Grandma Is a Dealer (And I'm Not Talking Cards),” or all those outlandish soap operas that warped many a young mind regarding adult relationships.

About 4:00, the afterschool specials kicked in, but until then we either made do with television shows that weren't really meant for kids, or we went outside. I typically chose the latter, but sometimes I'd get really bored hanging out with trees, and I'd want a little human drama in my life. So I'd immerse myself in the emotionally and psychologically twisted world of the soap opera. Not exactly intellectually stimulating, but the brain rot was worth it to see Bo (short for Bodacious) and Hope (short for Hopeless) get back together after breaking up for the 75th time.



Now that I'm barreling toward a more advanced age, I couldn't help thinking about how those soap operas might need to be retitled (or get a subtitle) to better capture where my cohort and I are, or will be, soon enough in life. So here's what I came up with:

1. Guiding Light: Don't Go to the Light
2. Days of Our Lives: There Are Not Many Left
3. As the World Turns: I Want to Get Off
4. One Life to Live: And It's Almost Over
5. Dynasty: My Kids Don't Want Kids
6. Falcon Crest: Vulture Quest
7. Knots Landing: Last One Standing
8. The Young and the Restless: The Old and the Breathless
9. All My Children: All My Grandchildren
10. General Hospital: General Old Folks Home
11. The Bold and the Beautiful: The Old and the Obstinate

I think I'd watch these new versions, especially as I begin to feel less inclined to go outside and more inclined to shape my easy chair to my body. Then again, who wants to be reminded that they're getting old? Maybe I'll stick with the younger versions. Because if the 'H' in CHiPs gets changed to Hallway instead of Highway, and the cops ride motorized scooters instead of motorcycles, while wearing baggy PJs instead of tight uniforms, then I'm going to pass. I might be old, but I'm not dead!



# CIVICS 101

*with Kate Crary*

## Getting Involved in Your Local Government

Active participation in local government is a powerful way to make a difference in your community. Here are some ways to get involved:

1. **Attend Meetings:** Show up at selectboard meetings to stay informed and voice your opinions.
2. **Volunteer:** Many towns have committees and boards that rely on volunteers. Check your town's website or contact the town office for opportunities.
3. **Run for Office:** Consider running for a position on the selectboard or other local offices. Organizations like 603 Forward offer resources and guidance for prospective candidates. Visit <https://www.603forward.org/run-for-office> for more information.
4. **Learn More:** Take a Civics 101 class to understand how local government works. For example, Rochester offers free courses to empower residents with knowledge about municipal operations.

## Understanding RSA 91-A

New Hampshire's RSA 91-A, also known as the "Right-to-Know Law," helps keep our local government transparent. This law ensures that the actions, discussions, and records of public bodies (like the Selectboard, Parks and Recreation Commission, Budget Committee, etc.) are accessible to the people. RSA 91-A focuses on openness in public business and trust between government entities and citizens. Meetings of public bodies, such as selectboards, must be open to the public, with proper notice given in advance. Nonpublic sessions are allowed only under specific circumstances, such as personnel matters or legal discussions. <https://gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/VI/91-A/91-A-mrg.htm>

## The BOS: Responsibilities Under Law

Under RSA 41, New Hampshire Selectboards have important responsibilities that help shape the governance and daily operations of towns. Here are some of the key duties:

1. **General Administration:** Selectboards are tasked with managing the town's "prudential affairs," which includes overseeing municipal operations and ensuring the town functions smoothly.



2. **Budget Management:** They play a vital role in preparing and proposing the annual town budget, as well as monitoring expenditures throughout the year.
3. **Carrying Out Town Meeting Votes:** Selectboards are responsible for implementing the decisions made by voters during town meetings, including policy enactments and financial appropriations.
4. **Appointment of Officers and Employees:** They appoint individuals to various town offices and positions, such as health officers, police chiefs, and committee members.
5. **Highway Management:** Under RSA 41:11 and related statutes, selectboards oversee the maintenance and regulation of municipal highways and public commons.
6. **Property and Infrastructure Oversight:** The board may regulate the use of town-owned properties, facilities, and equipment.
7. **Health and Safety:** Selectboards have responsibilities related to public health, such as addressing hazardous buildings (RSA 155-B) and managing health regulations (RSA 147).
8. **Enforcing Town Ordinances:** They ensure compliance with local ordinances and enact regulations as necessary, subject to approval by voters where applicable.
9. **Right-to-Know Compliance:** Selectboards must adhere to RSA 91-A, ensuring transparency in meetings, records, and decision-making.
10. **Fee Setting and Welfare Guidelines:** They establish certain town fees and can adopt welfare guidelines with approval at town meetings (RSA 41:9). For a deeper dive into RSA 41, you can explore the official text at: <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>

## How Selectboard Meetings Work

The Selectboard is the governing body in Barnstead. The BOS oversee municipal operations, make policy decisions, and manage budgets. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 6 pm at the town hall. Meetings are open to the public, so that we can observe and participate. Agendas are posted in advance, and minutes are recorded to ensure transparency. Public input is welcomed during designated portions of the meeting. During meetings, the BOS follows Robert's Rules of Order.

## Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order is a widely used system for conducting meetings and making decisions in a structured and efficient manner. Many selectboards and other governing bodies in New Hampshire use these guidelines to ensure fairness and clarity during discussions.

**The Role of the Chair:** The chairperson runs the meeting, maintains order, guides discussions, and ensures that all participants can speak.

**Motions:** A motion is a proposal made by a member to take action or make a decision. Once a motion is made, it must be seconded by another member before it can be discussed and voted on.

**Debate and Discussion:** Members discuss the motion in turn, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard. The chair may set time limits for individual contributions to keep the meeting on track.

**Voting:** After discussion, the motion is put to a vote. A simple majority typically decides the outcome, unless specific rules require a different threshold.

**Amendments:** If changes to the motion are needed, members can propose amendments. These must also be discussed and voted on before the main motion is finalized.

By familiarizing yourself with these rules, you can feel more confident when you engage in local government and contribute meaningfully to your community's decision-making processes. For a detailed guide, check out <https://robertsrules.com>

### **Robert's Rules of Order In Action**

1. **Making a Motion:** Suppose a town's selectboard is deciding whether to allocate funds for a new bandstand. A board member might say, "I move that we allocate \$20,000 from the town's budget for the new bandstand." Another board member needs to second the motion by saying, "I second the motion." This step indicates that at least two board members think the proposal is worth discussing.

2. **Debating a Motion:**

After the motion is seconded, the chair opens the floor for discussion. One board member might express support for the bandstand, emphasizing its benefits to families, while another member could raise concerns about costs. The chair ensures everyone has a chance to voice their opinions without interruption.

3. **Amending a Motion:** During the discussion, a board member might suggest reducing the proposed amount to \$15,000. They would say, "I move to amend the motion to allocate \$15,000 instead of \$20,000." The amendment is then seconded, discussed, and voted on before returning to the original or amended motion.

4. **Voting:** Once the discussion concludes, the chair calls for a vote. Board members might indicate their support by saying "Aye" or their opposition with "Nay." If the majority votes in favor, the motion passes. Otherwise, it's rejected.

5. **Point of Order:** If a member believes the meeting isn't adhering to the rules, they can raise a "Point of Order." For example, if someone speaks out of turn, a member might say, "Point of order! The speaker is interrupting." The chair would then address the concern and guide the meeting back on track.

6. **Ending Debate:** To prevent endless discussion, a member might move to end the debate and proceed to a vote by saying, "I move the previous question" or "I would like to call the question". If seconded and approved by a two-thirds majority, the discussion ends, and the group votes on the motion.

## Finding Hope in Easter's Message

by Sam McKeen

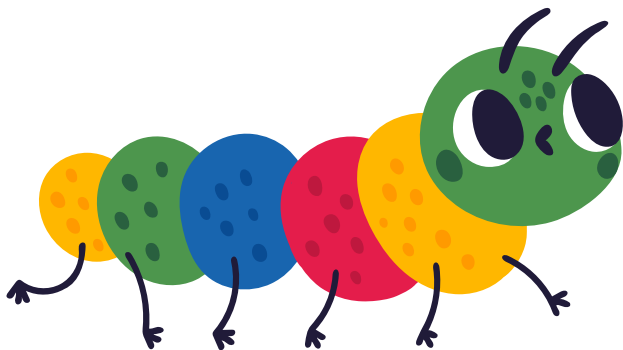
As spring arrives and the world awakens from winter's grasp, Easter arrives with a powerful message of hope, renewal, and transformation. It is a reminder that even in our most difficult moments, darkness does not have the final word.

At the heart of Easter is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was a moment that changed everything. After suffering and dying on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead in victory, defeating sin and death, and offering the promise of redemption and true life. It is a reminder that hope is never lost, that brokenness can be restored, and that love has the final say.

Easter reminds us that renewal is possible, that our failures don't have to define us, and that no matter what we have been through, we can experience restoration. It is a call to embrace grace, extend kindness, and live with a love that sacrifices for others.

So, as we celebrate this Easter, whether in a church building, around a table with loved ones, or enjoying the beauty of nature coming back to life, may we remember the great love of Jesus. Because of His victory we can experience transformation, and live with unshakable hope.

Have a blessed Easter.



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## BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*

**Forgive often. Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthy and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH BARNSTEAD - UCC

504 N. Barnstead Rd. Center. Barnstead, NH  
ccnorthbarnstead.com

**Worship with us in-person  
or join on Zoom at 10am**

## GOOD FRIDAY

April 18th | 6pm - 7pm

## EASTER

April 20th | 10am - 11am



CENTER BARNSTEAD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH





# April Library Happenings



**Good to Know Info:** We are Closed for Staff Training the 2nd Thursday of the month until 3:00PM (4/10). School vacation week is April 28 - May 2.

**Fridays @ 10:30AM-12:00PM Home School Group:** Join us for a mix of stories, simple science/learning activities, and a creative art/craft activity that all go along with a theme for the week. No meeting on 4/18.

**Wed. 4/2 @ 6:00-7:30PM Meet and Read (18+):** This month's book will be "Absolution" by Alice McDermott. Next month's book will be "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson. Books are available at the library.

**Thurs. 4/3 @ 7:00-8:00PM Home Buying Workshop:** Learn about the home buying process from experienced real estate agents. Ask questions, gain useful tips, and take your 1st step towards buying a home!

**Tues. 4/8-Fri. 4/12 Library Week at OFML:** Stop by to see staff recommendations, get take-home crafts, view our wide selection of books, and check out our fun children's area. Learn about the inter-library loan process, which expands your access to books and DVDs, and Libby, which gives you free access to e-books and audiobooks. Pick up a library events hand-out to find out what we're doing from month to month. Ask about how to get our community newsletter, the Barnstead Banner, which is full of community and library events, articles, and recipes. Finally, take a gander at our Crested Gecko, Jeffrey—if you can spot him!

**Tues. 4/15 @ 3:00PM Senior Social Club (65+):** Provides activities that foster community and relationship building. The club meets the third Tuesday of the month. Light refreshments will be served.

**Wed. 4/16 National Librarian Day:** Feel free to come into the library bearing gifts (e.g., chocolate) for your favorite librarians! Or check out a book or a DVD or a game. We like when you do that stuff, too.

**Wed. 4/16 @ 12:30-3:30PM The OFML Sewcial Club:** This club meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Bring your sewing or quilting project, along with sewing machines and supplies.

**Thurs. 4/17 @ 6:00PM Small Business Meet & Greet:** This gathering offers an opportunity for local small business owners to get together and discuss ways to promote their businesses. The library is also working on facilitating a Barnstead Business Directory and Business Association. Light refreshments will be served.

**Fri. 4/18 @ 4:00-6:00PM Family Crafternoon:** A family-focused event that happens every 3rd Friday. For this month, as a nod to the art gala described below, we are offering an artistic Take-and-Make activity: Create your own multi-media art. When you stop by, be sure to take a peek at the art on display in the meeting room!

**Fri. 4/18 @ 6:00-8:00PM National Art Honor Society Gala:** This special one-night-only event showcases the incredible talent of our student artists, featuring a diverse collection of artwork. Enjoy light refreshments as you explore their masterpieces and support the arts in our community. Don't miss this opportunity to experience and appreciate the work of our young creatives!

**Thurs. 4/24 @ 6:00-7:30PM The Tight-Knit Knitting and Crocheting Circle:** Knitters and crocheters come together to work on your projects, discuss any technical difficulties you're having, and support one another. The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month.

**Thurs. 4/24 @ 6:30-8:00PM Books & Banter (18+):** Come ready for a lively discussion of the last 3 books you have read/are reading. Give the group a brief synopsis of & thoughts on your book so we can discuss.

**Fri. 4/25 @ 6:00-7:30PM Let's Write a Novel (16+):** A series of structured classes on the how-to's of writing a book. Provides writers with inspiration, structural hints, and constructive feedback on your work.

For events that require registration, please contact us at 269-3900 or [ofmlstaff@gmail.com](mailto:ofmlstaff@gmail.com) to reserve your spot!



### **Property Tax Help available to eligible Barnstead Residents**

April 15th is the deadline to apply for tax exemptions (money off your property taxes) with the town of Barnstead. Veterans and elderly residents meeting criteria may be eligible for help reducing their property tax bills. Please contact the Town Hall for more information, forms and help. The Town Hall number is 603-269-4071.

Veterans will need to provide a copy of their DD214, and to have been a resident of Barnstead for one year prior to April 1st.

Elderly residents have to have been a resident for three consecutive years prior to April 1st and meet income and asset criteria. They will have to provide proof of income, interest and dividend tax return to the State of NH if this applies and federal income tax return if required to file. The Town can help clarify what will be needed and provide the application form. If eligible, the assessed value of the home is reduced, thus reducing taxes.

Age	single income	married income	assets	amount off assessed value of home
65-74	35,000	50,000	75,000	30,000
75-79	35,000	50,000	75,000	40,000
80+	35,000	50,000	75,000	50,000

### **Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief**

May 1st to June 30th is the filing period for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief at the NH Department of Revenue Administration. Taxpayers may be eligible to receive relief of a portion of the State Education Property Tax if they meet criteria. Criteria include that you must own or have an interest in a homestead subject to the State Education Property Tax and reside in such homestead on April 1 of the year for which the claim for relief is made

In the previous year the income guideline for a household of 1 was \$37,000 or less and a household of 2 was \$47,000 or less.

Call for information, forms or help about the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief Assistance at (603) 230-5920. Hearing or speech impaired individuals may call TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964.

## Stopping Cuts to Library Funding - How You Can Help

In an Executive Order signed by President Donald Trump, he has called for the defunding of the Institute of Museum and Library Science (IMLS), the federal agency charged with distributing congressionally approved funds to state libraries and to library, museum, and archives programs. The federal funds from this agency fund our Interlibrary Library Loan system, the van drivers, administrative staff, and computer software. Also funded with the IMLS funds is the platform for the Libby app used for ebooks and audiobooks and Talking Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program staff. If these funds are cut these services will go away.

ILL is an important service, especially for small libraries that have small budgets. In 2024, our library borrowed 749 items and lent out 785. Our patrons also used Libby and have checked out a total of 9,339 e-books and audio books for 2024. The portion of the federal budget to fund IMLS amounts to .003%. Originally, the funding for this program was passed by the Senate and signed off by the president. The president then wrote an Executive Order to take away this funding, which overrides what Congress voted for and what the president originally agreed to.

Losing these services will impact our community, patrons, and library. We encourage you to reach out and voice your concerns to our elected officials: Representative Chris Pappas, and Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan. What can you do? Below is a link provided by the American Library Association (ALA) that you can use to contact these 3 individuals (this makes it easy for you, with a letter already written - or you can fill in what you want to say): <https://www.ala.org/faq-executive-order-targeting-impls>

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# JEANNIE'S RECIPE CORNER

## CHEDDAR CARROT CHEESE LOG

- 1 package (8oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup finely shredded carrot
- 1/2 cup finely chopped peanuts
- 2 Tbsp. finely chopped onion (I use dried onion)
- 1/4 tsp. dill weed
- Fresh parsley sprigs or celery leaves for garnish
- Assorted crackers or pita bread for serving



### Instructions:

In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese and cheddar cheese together for one minute.

Add the carrot, peanuts, onion, and dill; mix well.

On a small serving plate, shape the mixture into an 8-inch log, tapering one end to resemble a carrot.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or until ready to serve.

Before serving, place parsley or celery at the wide end to create a carrot top.

Serve with crackers or pita.

Yield: About 2 cups.

I always double the recipe to make sure there's enough for the next day or two.

Remember, spring showers bring beautiful May flowers—and there's nothing quite as sweet as that fresh spring smell.

Have a lovely spring!

—Jeannie 🌸



## Community Events

**BES PTO Meeting** 4/10 at 6:30PM at Barnstead Elementary School.

**Board of Selectmen Meeting** will be weekly starting Tuesday, 4/1 at the Barnstead Town Hall. Start time is 6 PM

**Alcoholics Anonymous meetings** are held Tuesday evenings at 7 PM at the Center Barnstead Christian Church.

**JMA School Board Meeting** 4/15 at 6:00 PM at Prospect Mountain High School.

**BES School Board Meeting** 4/16 at 6:00 PM at Barnstead Elementary School.

**Kindergarten Screening** at BES will be 4/24 and 4/25.

**LRCS Caregivers Meeting** is at the Back Door Grill on 4/9 at 1 PM

**PMHS Spring Play** will be 4/11 and 4/12 at 7 PM

**PMHS Spring Concert** is on 4/22

**The Annual Barnstead Spring Clean-up** will be Sunday, April 27th from 9am – 12pm.

Let's keep Barnstead beautiful! We'll be meeting at 9 AM at the Barnstead Town Hall parking lot for a safety briefing and road assignments. Garbage bags, coffee, water, and snacks will be provided, as well as a "thank you" lunch at noon. Be sure to bring boots and gloves. Questions? Contact Sam at (603)269-8831.

**Good Friday Service**, Friday, April 18th 6pm – 7pm at Center Barnstead Christian Church

Worship with us as we reflect on Jesus Christ's great sacrifice.

**Easter Worship Service**, Sunday, April 20 10am – 11am at Center Barnstead Christian Church Join us as we celebrate our Savior's resurrection!

