



BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town

Monsieur Gobble de Gook



By Kristina Schram

Turkeys... So. Many. Turkeys. They're everywhere, roaming our back country roads like hoodlums in a gang. If they're not careful, they'll end up as less hoodlum and more hood ornament. Even after living in New Hampshire for 25 years, I'm still surprised when I see such a plethora of live turkeys running around. The only turkeys I encountered growing up in Minnesota came in flesh-colored plastic wrap at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Too bad for them that they tend to show their grizzled, sometimes bearded, faces when humans are most likely to want to eat them. Curiously, Benjamin Franklin admired these foolhardy fowl. Just imagine, if Ben had really pushed it, instead of the majestic eagle to represent our country, we could have had the royal turkey. Seeing the way some of our country's politicians act, well, maybe Benjamin Franklin did get his way.

A few years ago, I saw a rafter of turkeys 'fly' over a stand of young trees and when I told my husband and sons about the miracle I'd witnessed, they mocked me. You see, those hardhearted skeptics didn't believe turkeys could fly. Years later, when we found several of the little dickens roosting in our apple trees, I pointed at them in triumph and crowed (gobbled?), "Ha! Proof!" My family pretended they didn't hear me, and also pretended they didn't see these massive birds perched in our trees, just so they could still make fun of me. Well, I think we know who the real turkeys are, don't we?

So here I am, sounding like I don't care for turkeys. But I do. While not the brightest of fowl, those birds have moxie. They strut through life (and across the road) like they own it. Yet they can also be stealthy and spy-like when necessary. I once saw a Tom, his head rising up like it was on an elevator, peer over a stone wall in our yard to check if the coast was clear. Granted, he and his posse had jumped over it only moments earlier while I was standing there watching them do it. But still...he did it with great sneakiness. Their antics often make me laugh, even if I'm running late and they've blockaded the road. I love shouting, "Move it, you turkey!" (but inside my car where they can't actually hear me, of course). It's almost as satisfying as shouting the same thing at the driver in front of me on Route 28 going 43 in a 55 mph zone.

One of the sadder sights I've come across in this cruel world is the lone turkey. He's either been ostracized by a dominant male who doesn't want the competition, or even more pitiful, he's just plain been ostracized. (Or should it be turkeycized? Bonus points if you got that one.) Hopefully, once mating season is over the group will welcome back Monsieur Gobble de Gook with open wings, because no one wants to be alone for the holidays. Push comes to shove, though, I guess we could always have that lone Tom over to our house for dinner...



November Events at Oscar Foss Memorial Library

Our weekly Story Hour with Miss Jerissa takes place on Wednesdays at 10:30 in the Library Meeting Room. Storytime is best for children up to age 5 and for caretakers who are looking to get out of the house, listen to a wonderful story or two, and play with glue and glitter and paint, oh my!

OFML's book group, Mead & Read, is great fun, indeed! We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm at Over the Moon Farmstead in Pittsfield. This month's meeting is November 2nd, and features the book Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Don't be confused - this book is not about your local librarian; it's about an octopus. So if you're not otherwise 'octupied' come join us!

On Friday, November 4th from 4:00 - 6:00, Teen/Tween (ages 10-14) Cookie Decorating is happening! This is a guided class run by Leah Whitney from Cookie Bear Baking LLC. She will give a quick lesson on icing consistency and have a practice session controlling an icing bag. Learn about piping transfers, piping, outlining, and flooding for cookies. Registration is required. There's a 10-person cutoff, so grab a slot asap!

On Tuesday, November 8th, from 12:30 - 2:00, we will be featuring a Science Meets Art Homeschool Event. In this workshop, we will be painting and discussing how to identify birch trees of NH. Pre-registration is required

Name That Tune: Teen vs Tween! On Thursday, November 10th from 4:00 - 6:00, join us for a head-to-head battle to establish musical dominance once and for all! Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided. For ages 10-18, and registration is required.



There's always something happening at the library!

We're hosting our Annual Children's Tea Party! On Saturday, November 12th, from 11:00 - 12:30 - Be our guest, be our guest, put our service to the test! Wear an awesome costume, and we'll provide the rest! Pre-registration is required. We hope to see you at your best!

Tween Club is happening on Thursday, November 17th from 4:00 - 6:00. We will start out with our normal tween scene to discuss upcoming programming and book releases. And then we'll bust out the karaoke machine! Ages 10-13.

DIY Sign Making: On Thursday, November 17th, from 6:00 - 8:00, come enjoy this unique OFML Makerspace event! Local small business owner (and former OFML librarian), Maddison Foss of Charmhouse Studios, will be demonstrating how to make your own personalized sign. For ages 16+. There is a \$10 supply fee, and pre-registration is required.

Open Craft Week: Our yearly tradition at OFML is back! Starting Thursday, November 17th and running through Saturday, the 19th: Stop by the meeting room to use free arts and craft supplies for making holiday gifts. Patrons are welcome to share/donate their clean crafting supplies. Donations can be dropped off at the library during open hours between 11/1 and 11/17.

OFML Kids Club. Friday, November 18th from 3:30 - 5:00, and for ages 6-10. Join us after school to use OFML's Makerspace tools and equipment to create holiday gifts. There will be snacks!

Oscar's Elves are going to be at the Holiday Craft Fair at BES, which will be happening on Saturday, November 19th, from 10:00 - 2:00, at the elementary school. OFML encourages everyone to attend and support End 68 Hours. Library staff will be running a booth to wrap gifts!

Because of the high interest and demand for DnD club, we will be holding off meeting for one month. We will be dividing into Teen DnD and Tween DnD. December will see session 1 for both campaigns. Remember to send in your character's back story to cassie.ofml@gmail.com to have it worked into the campaign!

Due to a couple of holidays this month, we will not be hosting a movie night or the Writers Forum. OFML will be closed 11/11, 11/24, and 11/25. For events that require registrations, please contact us at 269-3900 or ofmlstaff@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Christmas Time's a Comin'!

More Vendors Announced for the Historical Society Christmas Sale

We're happy to announce two additional vendors will be joining us for Christmas merriment on December 3rd! We welcome Judy Forsyth, with her many embroidered items, and Linda Clement, who will have a variety of hand-made Christmas items. In addition, we will have Made with Love Custom Quilts, along with Ann Watson and her hand-painted crafts. Tables are still available at \$10/table.

Please call Denise at 269-5871 if you are interested in reserving one.

The Historical Society will be holding a raffle at the Christmas Sale, and will also have the following books available for purchase:

Tales of Barnstead as Told by George Pitman ... \$10

The Last Stories, by Malcolm Locke ... \$10

History of the Barnstead Fire Department 1909-1995 ... \$10

Barnstead's 250th Recipe Book ... \$15

History of Barnstead, New Hampshire ... \$15

History and Genealogy of the Barnstead Early Families from 1727 to 1970 ... \$40

The recipe below is from the kitchen of Dorothy Cotton. Mrs. Cotton was a long-time teacher in two of Barnstead's two-room schoolhouses: Barnstead Parade and Center Barnstead. Her family members have served many roles in the town, including as a Ballot Clerk, Planning Board member, and Town Moderator. This recipe would be perfect to make for a gift!



Dorothy Cotton's Divinity Fudge

4 cups sugar

2 egg whites, beaten stiff

1 cup Karo

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup boiling water

1/2 cup chopped nuts

Mix sugar, water and Karo. Boil until the mixture threads when tried from a spoon. Pour slowly on egg whites, beating until creamy. Add nuts and vanilla. Drop into lumps on waxed paper or a buttered pan.





A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GRATEFUL!



One of my favorite books as a child was Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter. The book centers around an 11 year old orphan who goes to live with her rather stern aunt (very reminiscent of another favorite book of mine, Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery.) Pollyanna's life philosophy can be summed up by a game she created with her father called "The Glad Game". The Glad Game is all about optimism and finding things to be grateful for in every situation. Pollyanna goes on to teach everyone in her community about the Glad Game and shares her gratitude and joy everywhere she goes. As a result, when she has an accident and finds herself at a low point where she can't muster up her own gratitude, her community comes together to show her how much of a difference she has made in the people around her.

I think of this philosophy often, but especially during this time of year when gratitude is at the forefront of my mind. It reminds me of how much I love living in our small town, how important we all are to one another, and how much power we have to make each other's lives a little better.

I have had the privilege of being the director at Oscar Foss Memorial Library for almost eight years now. In that time, I've seen people give their time, energy, and kindness to their neighbors over and over again. They share resources, feed each other, volunteer at the thrift store, food pantry and End 68 Hours of Hunger to make sure everyone in town has what they need. They volunteer for Parks and Recreation so our kids have a place to skate in the winter and swim in the summer. They check in on our more vulnerable neighbors and make sure they are safe and warm. They pick up trash on our streets, organize church fairs and bake sales, and volunteer for the PTO. They run for local office, and offer their time and skills to teach programs at the library. I am "glad" every day that I can live in a small town that feels like a big family.

My incredible team at Oscar Foss Memorial Library recognizes how much time, energy and heart go into building a strong community. We are grateful witnesses to the loving attention our community members give to our town organizations, and their willingness to lend a helping hand.

This year we want to share our own "glad game" and focus on recognizing these efforts by giving thanks to those who make our community great.

We will be partnering with other community organizations to host a "Day of Gratitude" brunch at the Town Hall on 12/10/2022 from 10 am-2 pm. The event will be free of charge and will recognize our community donors and volunteers. The library will present our own "Oscars" awards recognizing different community contributions, there will be raffles to raise funds for local organizations, the Gordon Preston Outstanding Community Service Award will be presented, and we are also working on a special guest to round out the afternoon!

If you would like to nominate a Barnstead resident who you feel embodies the spirit of giving in our community, send me a short email with their name, contact info and a brief paragraph about why you are nominating them to danielle@oscarfoss.org.

If you would like to partner with us on this event, donate an item for raffle, provide potluck dishes or refreshments, or help us out the day of the event, please contact me at danielle@oscarfoss.org.

Wishing you all a Thanksgiving full of love and gratitude,

Danielle Hanley Hinton

Danielle Hanley Hinton, Library Director, Editor-in-Chief, Master of the Glad Game



The leaves are falling AND Home Maintenance is Calling

- REVIEW HOME FIRE SAFETY ITEMS
- CLEAN GUTTERS/DRAINAGE
- CLEAN WINDOW WELLS
- CHANGE FURNACE FILTER
- CLEAN CHIMNEY / WOODSTOVE
- STORE LAWN FURNITURE
- DRAIN GARDEN HOSES
- RAKE UP LEAVES
- WINTERIZE GAS GRILL
- INSTALL WEATHER STRIPING

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A Note from the Trustees of the Trust Funds about Cemeteries

The Trustees of the Trust Funds...three people who are seldom seen or heard from. It's that strange item on the town ballot each March no one thinks much about. So to clarify, we are the custodians of the town's perpetual care funds, charitable trusts, and capital reserve/expendable trust funds. If you attend town meeting you'll know that every year funds are placed into these accounts, kind of like a savings account, stashed away until those funds are needed for something like a new fire truck, a bridge, or other items deemed as necessary by the Board of Selectmen.

The perpetual care funds are typically funds established when a cemetery was created many, many years ago. Barnstead has more than 120 of these cemeteries. These funds cannot be used for general maintenance or improvements of the cemetery. The funds can only be used for care of specific lots, which were established when the fund was created.

Most of these cemeteries are small family lots. You drive by them every day. For example: Dow and Hodgdon near the corner of Peacham and North Barnstead Roads; Tasker and Winkley near Hannah Nutter Road on Route 126; Rev. David Garland on Beauty Hill Road. Many are not visible from the road; you need to put on your boots and take a hike through the woods to find these forgotten families.

Since the death of Stuart Merrill in 2017, trustees have been using his original list of cemeteries to develop an actual inventory, with GPS coordinates, for a more up-to-date list. The current list is in "The History and Genealogy of the Barnstead Early Families from 1727 to 1970" available for review at our town library (OFML), or copies can be purchased from the Historical Society.

Like most things, there are specific laws and rules regarding cemeteries. RSA 289 outlines the state laws regarding cemeteries. New cemeteries cannot simply be created, nor can someone utilize an existing cemetery near their property. Think about it... Do you know the exact location of where remains lie? If it were your family, how would you feel about someone messing around with your loved ones?

One last item: If you have a cemetery that abuts your property, please verify with the town that the tax record shows the correct boundaries of the cemetery.

The Congregational Church of North Barnstead
presents their annual



Pumpkin & Pine
a charming Church Fair

Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9-2

Baked Goods - Treasures - Silent Auction
Collectables - Cafe - Batik Boutique

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please email
danielle@oscarfoss.
org with the details.**

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Community Events for November

Voting for the November General Election will take place at the Barnstead Elementary School from 7 AM to 7 PM. The office of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector will be closed on Tuesday November 8th and we will be closed until Noon on Wednesday November 9th. Please plan accordingly.

Save the date - Nov 12. 9am-3 pm. Holiday Craft Fair sponsored by the Barnstead Farmers Market. Join us at the Barnstead Elementary School for our annual holiday fair. A wide variety of crafters will be here. A great opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done. Plenty of parking available.

The Annual Pumpkin and Pine Festival will be held at the North Barnstead Congregational Church on 11/5 from 9:00am - 2:00pm

AA is still meeting on Tuesdays from 6pm - 7pm at the Center Barnstead Christian Church.

The American Legion Post #42 and the American Legion Auxiliary meet at the Earl B. Clark Legion Hall on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Cub Scout Pack 43 (Boys & Girls ages 5-10) meets on Tuesdays at BES from 6pm - 7pm.

Scouts BSA Troop 43 (Boys ages 11-17) meets on Wednesdays at the Earl B. Clark Legion Hall from 6:15pm - 7:15pm.

Scouts BSA Troop 53 (Girls ages 11-17) meets Mondays at T.L. Storer from 6pm - 7:15pm.

Girl Scout Troop 10340 (Girls grades K-8th) meets on Fridays at the Barnstead Town Hall from 4pm - 5:30pm.

Pets of OFML Calendars



Will be ready in time for the holidays!

Voting for the best pet pictures will take place on our Facebook page the first week of November. Winners will get a free calendar!

You can reserve your desk calendar now by calling 603-269-3900 or emailing ofmlstaff@gmail.com. Calendars are \$10 each due at time of pick up.