



BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



The February Blues



By Kristina Schram

I'm pretty sure the only thing February has going for it is that it has fewer days than the other winter months. Maybe I'd think differently if I lived somewhere warmer, or if this was my birth month, or if I liked pain. But I don't live somewhere warmer, it's not even my half birthday month, and I'm not a masochist. So I think I'm allowed to declare this month an icicle in my side. I don't think I'm alone in this declaration. I'm sure I read somewhere that February is when people from Northern states start taking up the ancient art of woolgathering. That is, either pretending you're somewhere warmer than you are, or actually gathering wool to knit a sweater so you don't freeze to death.

December snows are magical. January chills are manageable. It's not until February when a suspicion begins to sneak into my thoughts—maybe this winter is never going to end. I begin to believe I will never feel my fingers and toes again. I start googling trips to tropical paradises where, upon arrival, I do nothing but defrost. This is the month when furnaces bite the dust. When you break a hip falling on the ice. When anything above freezing feels downright balmy.

So just move already, Kristina, I hear you scolding. Like it's just that easy, people. Have you seen the inside of my house? Probably not, because I rarely have people over. But let's just say yard sales and I have a longstanding, very likely codependent, relationship. Plus, I have so many plants, I'm basically running a nursery here. I can't imagine having to pack it all up, much less unpack it all. So I'm not moving, I'm just going to complain about it, and you won't be able to stop me because I'll be hiding out in my plant jungle. But a person can't just move away from Valentine's Day. There's no escaping this February holiday when people are forced to show their love by presenting their precious boo with chocolates and presents and flowers, or be labeled as cold-hearted brutes. A day that is both ridiculously expensive and unrelentingly stressful. A day that really should just be a many-day thing (chocolates and presents and flowers should not be limited to only one time a year). Luckily my spouse and I are on the same page about what to do about this day. Ignore it.

I imagine you winter people are reading this and thinking how can she possibly feel this way? Winter is the greatest time ever! Has her brain turned to ice? (That's a distinct possibility.) For the record, I'm not anti-winter. But February is like being in no-man's land. It's been too cold for too long, with no end in sight. Remember those days as a kid when you had to slog home after a long day of sledding or skating, and your toes and fingers are frozen and you can't blink because your eyelids are frozen open, and you can barely walk, and a feeling of dread penetrates you to the bone when you realize: I'm not gonna make it. That's how I feel about February.

The older I get, the harder it is to hack the winters. I'm doing my best to fight the effects of cold, adding layers around my middle as fast as I can. But despite my efforts, I'm not winning this war. You'd think I'd be better at handling the cold, coming from Minnesota. But I've grown soft with old age. Like permanent Florida resident soft. So here's to a fast February. May it be over quickly so we can head into March! Oh, wait...

February Events at Oscar Foss Memorial Library

Miss Jerissa's Storytime at the Library is THE event to attend every Wednesday at 10:30! Here's your chance to mingle with other humans, test out your crafting and singing skills, and listen to childrens' stories.

Time to get your Yoga on at the Library! This program is weekly. On Mondays we have two classes: All-Levels at 10:15 am and Seniors at 12:00 pm. Tuesdays are for Intermediate Yoga at 5:30. There is a suggested donation.

Mead and Read this month is Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 6:00, at Over the Moon Farmstead in Pittsfield. We will be discussing the book, *The Silent Patient*, by Alex Michaelides. This psychological thriller should give us plenty to talk about. We will not be silent, of course, but we shall do our best to be patient. Afterwards, we will hand out *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer for our March discussion.

Tween DnD will be Thursday, Feb. 2, from 4:00-6:00. The plan is to travel down below the mountain and past the Bullywugs. What will the party encounter next? Don't forget to bring your dice. FYI: You are always welcome to join, even if you miss sessions. Light refreshments provided.

Teen DnD is happening on Friday, Feb. 3, from 4:00-6:00. We plan to keep journeying down below the mountain. Have we escaped the crawling hands? What's that sound?! The bringing of dice is very important. Do Not Forget! Light refreshments provided.

Hey, everyone! It's National Bring Your Kids to The Library Day! Join us Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10:00-1:00 for a tour of the library. Learn about the history of the library and the many programs we offer. Try out our comfy chairs and meet the staff. Check out books and awesome items from our Library of Things. If you aren't yet a patron, you can even sign up for a brand new library card (just bring proof of Barnstead residence)!

Family Movie Night is on Friday, Feb. 10, at 6:00. We will be showing *Minions 2: The Rise of Gru* (rated PG). Learn about how a young Gru aspired to take over the world! We also have *Minions 1* and the *Despicable Me* movies, to help you catch up on the *Minions* franchise beforehand.

Our monthly Homeschool Events happen on the second Tuesday of the month, from 12:30-2:00. This month it will be 2/14. Yes, that's Valentine's Day and you're going to love what we have for you. We will be discussing some common winter birds and then you'll get to dissect owl pellets. So romantic! Space is limited, so registration is required.

Anti-Bob Ross Paint Night. Yes, you read that right. But no, we're not anti-Bob Ross. However...Bob Ross says that in painting there are no mistakes, and we want you to do nothing but make mistakes. Bring your emotions, prepare to yell into the paint, and have an unmistakably (or would that be mistakably?) good time. Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6:00-8:00. Registration is required.

OFML Kids Club this month is on Friday, Feb. 17, from 3:30-5:00. Join us for a fun afternoon creating zines and stickers using the library iPads. Snacks will be provided!

Teen Skate Night is coming! Friday, Feb. 17, from 5:00-7:00, is the night, and the rink by the library is the place. Skate with glow sticks provided by the library along to music provided by a mystery DJ. If you get cold, the library meeting room will be open as a warming room and the free hot chocolate should help, too!

Due to its popularity, we are hosting another OFML Makerspace event with Maddison Foss of Charmhouse Studios. On Thursday, Feb. 23, from 6:00-8:00, join Ms. Foss as she demonstrates DIY Sign Making, where you'll get to make your own spring-themed sign! For ages 16+. There is a \$10 supply fee, and pre-registration is required.

Our next Teen Advisory meeting will be on Friday, Feb. 24, from 6:00-8:00. Have a voice in your community. Meet with like-minded teens to discuss book suggestions, volunteer opportunities, and library events. Light refreshments provided.

Writers Forum is Friday, Feb. 24, from 6:00 - 7:30. Are you looking for inspiration? Support? Ideas? Feedback? You can get all that and more at our monthly meetings. For anyone who loves writing and anything related to it. Ages 14+.

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

There's always something happening at the library!



T.L. STORER

Winter Break
Day Camp
February 27th-3rd



Join us for our second winter camp here at TL Storer we will have all kinds of fun activities for kids and we have upgrade our water system and will have real bathrooms this year.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
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<https://experiencebasecamp.org/pages/day-camp-1>

More information robb.ellis@scouting.org

Cost is \$230 includes lunch & snack,



Local Family Support

Did you know the Family Resource Center of Central New Hampshire has a Barnstead satellite office? It is located upstairs in the Locke Lake Colony Lodge, 43 Colony Dr. and is open on Tuesdays from 8:30-11:30 AM for drop-in services or other times by appointment. The Barnstead Satellite Office is staffed by Jocelyn Allain, a Family Support Specialist and Parent Education Facilitator.

The Family Resource Center provides Barnstead families with information and referrals to a wide range of family support services. Do you have questions or concerns about one of your children? Maybe you feel challenged by your budget. Are you a grandparent and other relative raising children of family members? Where do you turn when you have an emergency situation that needs some "expert" help? Give Jocelyn a call or come by the office.

All services are confidential and voluntary. Please stop by or schedule an appointment with Jocelyn to talk about your family needs. She is here in Barnstead to help all of us. Do not hesitate to reach out. Jocelyn.allain@lrces.org or 603.267.4520



End 68 Hours of Hunger **End 68 C/O Lori Mahar 69 Colbath Rd. Ctr. Barnstead NH 03225**
of Hunger **Email: barnsteadnh@end68hoursofhunger.org**

Program Coordinators:

Admin: Lori Mahar 603-490-5254

OPEN POSITION: Program Coordinator

What we do:

End 68 hours of hunger is designed to provide children with easy to prepare beneficial and healthy meals for the time period of the 68 hours they are not in school on weekends. Typically we provide enough food for 3 dinners: 2 lunches, 2 breakfasts, and some snacks. We also provide bonus food when we know there is a school vacation coming up.

Seeking Families:

Our program is looking for families who can benefit from our program. Social Workers, School Personnel, Food Pantry, Churches, Residents, please feel to give this form to families in need.

We are asking that as families are identified that they are given the following link so they may sign up for our services: or they can fill out the form attached to this document. <https://registration.end68hoursofhunger.org/>. Once a family has been signed up, we will make contact in order to confirm the best method for food distribution to those individuals. Please call with questions regarding using our online site. i.e. social workers can create a login and enter info for the families.

If anyone knows of a child or children that need food immediately, you are welcome to reach out to our site coordinator and she can pull something together for that child or children while we are in the registration process with that family. Her contact information is:

Lori Mahar 603-490-5254

lorimahar@tds.net

Barnstead Historical Society

History Goes Digital

The Historical Society receives many requests from new residents in town for information on the historical property they have purchased. We are a very small group with limited resources, and thus find it difficult to give these requests the attention they deserve. Therefore, we have compiled a short list of online resources people can explore.

Belknap County Registry of Deeds (www.nhdeeds.org/belknap-search-county/)
Using the deed to your property, you can search this database for a more complete record of prior owners. It does take time and patience, but this can save you a trip to Laconia. Viewing is free, but there is a fee for printed copies.

For records prior to 1842, search the Strafford County Registry of Deeds (<https://www.nhdeeds.org/strafford-county/>).

NH Historical Society (<https://www.nhhistory.org/>)
Since 1823 the New Hampshire Historical Society has been preserving the state's past and telling its stories to each generation. The Collections Catalog has a wide range of subjects available. Some information does require membership.

State Archives (<https://www.sos.nh.gov/archives>)
The State's Records Management and Archives Division has a wide variety of information on Genealogy, Land Titles, and Military Records, and other publications. While a limited amount of content is available online, you can contact the agency and make arrangements to visit their Concord location for more details.

UNH Library Digital Collections (<https://library.unh.edu/find/digital-collections>)
Digital Collections contains digital versions of books, letters, photographs, and other items from the collections of the University of New Hampshire Library.

UNH Scholars Repository (https://scholars.unh.edu/barnstead_nh_reports)
The UNH Scholars Repository has digitized all town reports beginning in 1871.

Ancestry (www.ancestry.com)
Through a paid membership, a vast digital trail of genealogy records is available. If you get stuck, try a visit to the library! Staff at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library have become very adept at finding specific information and the library also has free public WIFI available.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

The Banner needs you!

Our monthly publication depends on articles, event submissions and ads from readers like you. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at :

danielle@oscarfoss.org or visit our website at www.oscarfoss.org/the-barnstead-banner



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Pets of OFML Calendars

It's 2023! Get your calendar now.
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.



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Barnstead Parks & Recreation Highlights

Game Night and Adult Coloring Events – February dates TBD

Barnstead Ice Rink is almost ready to open thanks to the 20+ volunteers that came out and helped install the liner along with the volunteer that is filling the rink and maintaining the ice. Due to the fluctuation with the weather, we have not been able to open the rink yet but plan to as soon as the temperatures are constantly below freezing. Please respect the rink and obey rink signage. Disregarding the closed signs often result in damaging the ice surface and causing a lot more work to get it back into skating condition. This also delays the reopening of the rink. We offer free skate lending, so everyone has an opportunity to get out and enjoy the rink.

Fire and Ice Skating Event – We are planning for this free event on February 11th and hoping that the weather cooperates. The Barnstead Ice Rink will be full of skaters, music will be playing and there will be a fire to warm up by. We will have skates to lend out at no cost along with hot beverages and s'more making supplies for a small fee. It's a great opportunity to get out and have a great time with the community.

Fishing Derby – March 4th has been set for the event and it's time to start planning. If you haven't had a chance to come to this event in the past, you have been missing out. There will be ice fishing lessons, demonstrations, and fishing. The sponsors for this event are amazing and all equipment will be provided along with food and drinks. There will also be giveaways and prizes. We will be looking for 'fishing helper' volunteers, so reach out to us if this is something you would like to take part in.

Beach and Swimming Lessons – It's time we start planning for the summer swimming season and swimming lessons (yes, it will be here before we know it). We are actively looking for a swimming instructor and will soon be looking for beach attendants.

Commission Member Openings

The time requirement is minimal but the satisfaction and enjoyment of seeing the community and kids enjoy our events is priceless! Being a part of the commission is a great way to be more involved in creating, planning, and hosting activities or programs for our community. There are different levels of involvement, like leading and coordinating moving pieces that make an event happen, to working behind the scenes. Since most sports are organized and led by other groups, we are focusing on other activities with the motto "Bringing Community Together by Doing Fun Stuff!". There are various openings on the commission, and we are excited to welcome new members.

Please watch our website (barnsteadnhparks-rec.com) and Facebook page (@barnsteadparks) for additional details, date changes, cancelations, and pop-up events. We can also be reached at 802-332-3799 and barnsteadparks@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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504 North Barnstead Rd., Center Barnstead, NH 03225
ccnorthbarnstead.com

Worship with us in-person
or join us on Zoom at 10 AM.




**CENTER BARNSTEAD
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Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

www.centerbarnsteadcc.org 

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Worship Service 9:00 A.M.
Rev. Sandy Pierson—483-2846

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classified for the
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org with the details.**

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