



# BARNSTEAD BANNER

## Good News from a Small Town

### Noisy Neighbors

by Kristina Schram

Summertime around here is surprisingly loud. Take the birds. No, really, take the birds. Ha. Just kidding. But they can be loud, and most especially at 5:30 in the morning. We once had a Tufted Titmouse trying to gain access to our house, and those little buggers, with their piercing peeping and persistent pecking on the window, can be hard to ignore. I can still see his little mohawked head tilting to one side as he trilled, "Denying me access to this spiffing nest is cruel indeed!" During the pandemic we had a particularly tenacious one, and if I wasn't stressed out being trapped at home with three offspring and one husband, a fanatical bird attempting to break and enter was just the thing to send me around the bend. Then there was the time I was taking a walk in the woods when I heard something that sounded like a human in distress. Well, more like a human in its death throes. A young crow, perhaps? I don't know, but whatever it was, it got me good. I made a mad dash toward the sound, only to track it way up high in a tree. Which I'm pretty sure meant it wasn't human. I certainly hope so, anyway.

I've discovered that randy porcupines can be noisy, as well. One pleasant summer night we were watching a meteor shower when we heard a strange sort of moaning coming from the nearby woods. It soon stopped, and when I didn't hear it for a bit I thought the moaner had left. I was wrong. The sound came again...right behind my chair. I flew to my feet like my chair had burst into flame and chased the offender off by politely shouting, "shoo, shoo!" before belatedly realizing I was pursuing a creature with weapons attached to his back. I bade him a hasty adieu, then booked it into the house. Later, when I looked up the phenomenon online I discovered that what I'd heard was a porcupine mating call. Um, what? So, yeah, I'm still not sure if I should be flattered or insulted.



Our furred and feathered friends aren't the only loud species around here. Apparently having an excruciatingly loud vehicle is a thing these days. Back in my day, we made do with what we had. So, for example, if you didn't have money for a new muffler or a mechanic, well, then you had a loud vehicle. Nowadays, however, people purposely want their bike/car to sound like they're on the verge of blowing up. But if it's because you're broke/mechanically inept, I can help. I might not be mechanically inclined, but I'm positive I can figure out a way to ensure your vehicle will never make that sound again.

When city folk complain about how quiet it is out in the country, I have to laugh. Between the fireworks and the peepers, the birds and the creepers (aka amorous porcupines), it's like a party here all the time. Still, I'd choose country noise over city noise any day. I mean, really, how can you beat getting propositioned by a porcupine while a motorcycle roars explosively by, accompanied by the caws of faux-dying birds and the sweet booms of fireworks in the background? Trust me, you can't. So please, please, don't try.

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## Library Happenings

Library Summer Hours: From 6/1 to 9/4 our library hours will be: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00 AM 6:00PM and Thursdays and Fridays, 12:00PM 8:00PM.

We re-open for Saturdays on 9/9.

Wed. 8/2 @ 6:30PM Mead and Read (ages 18-): Add it to your to do list! The Mead and Read Book Club (ages 18-) will be talking about The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams at Over the Moon Farmstead in Pittsfield. Copies of book club books are available at the library. So don't be 'list'less, join us for some fascinating discussion!

Thurs. 8/17 @ 5:00 7:00 Teen and Tween DnD: The teen and tween campaigns are combining! The parties will come together and continue forward into the Underdark. Anyone may join the campaign at any time. Light refreshments provided.

Thurs. 8/24 @ 5:00 6:00 DIY Spongebob Slime: Create your own slime at the library! Make the base and add any extras while we enjoy some episodes of Spongebob. Then take it home to enjoy! Registration required.

Fri. 8/25 @ 6:00 7:00 PM Teen Advisory: Have a say in what goes on in the library! Talk about what books you want to see and upcoming events. Sign up to volunteer! Light refreshments provided.

Sat. 8/26 @ 11:00AM Kindergarten Meet and Greet: Do you have a wee one about to start Kindergarten at the Barnstead Elementary School this fall? Great! Come join us here at the library where we will be hosting a Kindergarten Meet and Greet. This is a great opportunity for your child to get to know their new classmates before they start classes. We will be serving ice cream snacks and there will be storytime and crafts!

Special Reminder: We will not be having storytime for the last two weeks in August and will instead be offering a take and make craft to do at home!

**\*\*Family Movie Night and Writers Forum will be returning in September\*\***



## **BARNSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **The Suncook Valley Railroad**

Source: "The Blueberry Express: A History of the Suncook Valley Railroad"

In January 1849, the New Hampshire General Court granted a charter to John Berry and associates for the Suncook Valley Railroad between Pittsfield and Suncook. Later that year, the Suncook Valley Railroad Extension was granted; however, the company ran out of money. The following year, the original charter was nullified. It wasn't until 1863 that a new charter would be approved for both the original line and the extension, with the first train traveling from Suncook to Pittsfield in 1869. Twenty years later, in 1889, the first train arrived in Barnstead.

There were two depots: one in the Parade, between the Parade Grounds and the River; and one in the Center, between the two rivers, on what is now referred to as the Timco property. The original plan called for the train to continue on to Alton, but that never materialized. A turntable was located in the Center, near where the buses are now parked, allowing the train to reverse its direction and head back south.

The train was used for multiple purposes. Passenger service was available from Barnstead to Pittsfield, Suncook, Hooksett, and on to Manchester. Freight, including milk and other cargo, was the mainstay of the line for many years, including the mail, which proved to be the most lucrative contract.

Despite workforce shortages during two World Wars, derailments, hurricanes, and the resulting floods, rail service continued to run in Barnstead until 1943 when service beyond Pittsfield was discontinued. The depot in the Parade still stands as a private home, while the depot in the Center is a memory preserved in photos, along with the remnants of the trestle kayaks and boats pass through on the river.



**Saturday, August 12th, 2023 from 9AM-4PM**  
**1 W Parade Cir, Barnstead, NH 03218-3605**

## **Barnstead Parks & Recreation Highlights**

### **Summer Concert Series**

This year's free Summer Concert Series runs every Saturday starting June 24 th through August 19 th from 6-8pm at the Parade Grounds. Concessions will be available for purchase.

With a wide variety of music there is sure to be something for everyone. The concert lineup can be found on our website and Facebook page.

### **Outdoor Family Movie Nights**

Thank you to all those who came out to enjoy the Friday movie nights. The rain day for Space Jam is August 4 th . We hope to see you there!

### **Barnstead Old Home Day – 8/12**

We will be at Old Home Day with games, mini golf, races/contests, and cookie decorating. Also stay tuned for information on our upcoming raffle. Raffle items will be on display and tickets will be sold at the event.

### **Rick Gilchrist Memorial Fishing Jamboree – 8/20**

Join us on August 20 th for a free fishing jamboree that will be held from 1-5pm at T.L. Storer Camp Reservation. Free T-Shirt with pre-registration (7/31/23), fishing gear available for use or you can bring your own. Awards and prizes announced at closing cookout.

### **Commission Member Openings**

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 the moving pieces that make an event happen to working behind the scenes. Our motto is Bringing Community Together by Doing Fun Stuff! There are various openings on the commission, and we are excited to welcome new members. Please reach out through email or Facebook Messenger if you would like more information.

Please watch our website ([barnsteadnhparks-rec.com](http://barnsteadnhparks-rec.com)) and Facebook page (@[barnsteadparks](https://www.facebook.com/barnsteadparks)) for additional details, date changes, cancellations, and pop-up events.

We can also be reached at 802-332-3799 and [barnsteadparks@gmail.com](mailto:barnsteadparks@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Free Event  
for Ages 15 and Under

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**BARNSTEAD  
Parks and  
Recreation**

**RICK GILCHRIST MEMORIAL  
FISHING JAMBOREE**

FREE T-SHIRT  
WITH PRE-REGISTRATION!

AWARDS AND PRIZES  
ANNOUNCED AT CLOSING  
COOKOUT

NO FISHING ROD? NO  
PROBLEM! LET US KNOW

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH 2023**

Free Event | 1pm - 5pm

Pre-Registration Recommended | Adams Pond - T.L. Storer

More details and Registration on Facebook - Barnstead Parks & Recreation and <https://barnsteadnhparks-rec.com/>

Pre-Registration until July 31, 2023  
Late Registration and Walk-in's welcome at the event!  
Event T-shirts and extra fishing rods for use, only while supplies last

**BARNSTEAD  
FARMERS MARKET**

June 3rd- September 30th | 9 AM- 1 PM

**NEW LOCATION**

Parade Congregational Church of Barnstead.  
1 Parade Circle. Barnstead, NH 03218

Find your favorite locally sourced goodies at the farmer's market, fresh from the farm to your table! \*Live music and food trucks\*

[www.barnsteadfarmersmarket.com](http://www.barnsteadfarmersmarket.com)

*2023 Summer Concert Series*

6/24 Wayne Potash - Engaging music & movement for kids  
7/1 Christine Bonoli - Classics, folk & rock  
7/8 Rockin Daddios - Favorite hits from the 50's & 60's  
7/15 Aches & Pains - Classic rock from 60's & 70's  
7/22 White Dog Duo - Acoustic duo playing your favorite 70's music  
7/29 The Last Duo - Acoustic favorites from the 50's to now  
8/5 Green Heron Music - Old-time, folk, bluegrass, country, celtic & blues  
8/12 North River Music - Americana band playing a mix of rock, bluegrass and country  
8/19 SaxxRoxx - Classic rock & pop from the 60's to the 90's

Every Saturday on the Barnstead  
Parade Grounds 6 - 8 PM

**Free concerts - bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy**

**BARNSTEAD  
Parks and  
Recreation**

Farm to Family is a ministry that started last summer by Little Red Hen Farm and Market. If you haven't visited their market on Norris Road in Pittsfield, plan to visit soon. This program was created in the summer of 2022 through collaboration and partnership among many like-minded small farmers & businesses in the Suncook Valley region. Farm to Family is committed to putting farm-fresh, wholesome, healthy foods on the tables of families in need right here in our communities. Through generous donations from local farmers and fundraising efforts, Farm to Family is generally able to provide 1-2 weeks of groceries to the family!

How it works:

- Local families in need or in crisis are PRIVATELY nominated by our community via private message, text, or email.
- The Hen facilitates gathering wholesome, healthy, locally raised, and produced foods and arranges delivery to the family.

How do you get involved?

If you know a family that needs help, private message us, and we'll get them on the list! Do you want to help? Do you grow/farm/bake/produce something you'd like to donate? Send us a message, and we can chat!! Just remember, we're looking for wholesome, locally produced foods! The goal of this mission is to put healthy foods on these families' tables! Do you grow or produce goods and want to help but can't afford to donate? That's ok!! We've done some fundraising to develop a fund to purchase products from locals! We just ask that you cut us a break on the cost—this can be the way in which you still donate to the mission! Want to help but you don't grow or produce anything? That's ok!! You can also donate to the fund that allows us to purchase local goods! Send us a message, and we can make arrangements. If you have any other questions, please reach out!! Their email is: [farmtofamilylrh@gmail.com](mailto:farmtofamilylrh@gmail.com). If you are on Facebook, follow them and share their page to increase awareness.

## 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](http://ccnorthbarnstead.com)

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

## BARNSTEAD PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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

# RECIPE CORNER

## Air Fryer Grilled Peaches



### Ingredients:

- ¼ cup quick-cooking oats
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 medium peaches, halved and pitted



### Directions

1. Preheat the air fryer to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Combine oats, butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla in a small bowl. Set aside.
3. Spoon out some of the flesh of the peaches. Place peaches skin side up into the air fryer basket. Air fry for 5 minutes. Turn peaches over and spoon 1/2 tablespoon of the oat mixture into each cavity. Air fry until oats are golden brown and crispy, 2 to 3 minutes more.

**SAVE \$\$ ON  
PROPANE • OIL  
• KEROSENE**

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BUSINESS**

**603-435-3077**

[ourtownenergyalliance.com](http://ourtownenergyalliance.com)

**OUR TOWN  
ENERGY ALLIANCE**



**CENTER BARNSTEAD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

[www.centerbarnsteadcc.org](http://www.centerbarnsteadcc.org)



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an event or classified for  
the Barnstead Banner,  
please email  
[danielle@oscarfoss.org](mailto:danielle@oscarfoss.org)  
with the details.**

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