



# BARNSTEAD BANNER

## Good News from a Small Town

### Local Haunted Tours

by Kristina Schram

Feeling bo(o)red in this month of spooks and frights? Then you're in luck, cause here's a list of conveniently located haunted places for your viewing pleasure. Hopefully this directory will fill you with ghoulish delight and get you in the Halloween spirit

**Alton Town Hall** - 1 Monument Square  
Reports have been made of loud footsteps, furniture moving by itself, doors opening and closing on their own, and strange voices when nobody else is about. I think Barnstead needs to get moving on having our own ghost at the town hall - and no, that is not a suggestion to 'make' one. Maybe just make one up.

**Mary's Bridge** - Pittsfield This bridge was named after poor Mary Bodge, a young woman who drowned in the Suncook river at this site in 1874. To let ice pass through, a Mr. Butman and a Captain Towle took down the small footbridge people used to cross the river. Unfortunately, they didn't warn anyone, or erect a barrier. Mary was returning home from work that night, still thinking the footbridge was in place, and fell headlong into the river. Attempts were made to save her, but she didn't make it. Strangely enough, I've found no reports of the bridge being haunted. Though maybe no one has lingered long enough to learn the truth. So if you visit, pause a bit (on the bridge, not in the water), then report back to me if you have any sightings.

**Bow Lake** - Strafford and Northwood Over the years, people have heard calls for help at the lake when no one is there; others have seen strange lights. One interesting phenomenon centers on the sky, which allegedly appears at times to be as bright as daylight from midnight to 3:15. My theory is that the fish are having a party and the strange lights are their disco lights.



**New Hampshire State Hospital** - 105 Pleasant St. Concord Originally called the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane (just makes you want to be a patient there, doesn't it?), the NH State Hospital was built in 1842. People report hearing mysterious footsteps, elevators starting without intervention, objects getting pushed off tables, unexplained cold spots, and feeling someone is there even when no one is. I'm pretty sure this unsettled environment is not what a doctor would order for someone with mental health problems.

**Margaritas Mexican Restaurant** - 1 Bicentennial Sq. Concord Once a county jail, Margaritas is now home to a Mexican restaurant. The renovators preserved a few of the jail cells for private seating and I can't imagine wanting to eat anywhere else. A resident ghost named George (Jorge?), who may or may not have been a resident of the Concord clink (and judging by what comes next, I'm going to hazard a guess that he was), allegedly likes to throw food, move tables and chairs, rearrange table settings, finish off beverages (hands off my beer, George!), and annoy staff and customers. Sounds like George is finishing off more adult beverages than is good for a ghost. But perhaps he just likes to get into the spirit of things. *Continued on next Page*

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**Laconia State School** - Laconia Once known by the name New Hampshire School for the Feeble-minded (was that word really the best they could come up with?) Children, the building opened for business in 1903. Due to the horrific treatment of the inhabitants, including the use of forced sterilization and rampant overcrowding, it finally closed in 1991. The building was then turned into a prison, now closed, as well. (I'm sensing a trend here.) A former prison employee reported hearing sounds of children laughing and feeling like he wasn't alone when he most definitely was. He also said that one time the face of a woman seemed to project from the wall as he approached it. Though maybe he was simply experiencing an early version of FaceTime.

**The Tilton Inn (The 1875 Inn)** - 255 Main St. Tilton The show Ghost Hunters once filmed an episode at the Tilton Inn, which is said to be haunted by a ghost named Laura. Back in the 1800s, Laura allegedly died in a fire at the inn when she was only 12. Guests today have reported that they've spotted and 'felt' the presence of a young girl throughout the inn. Interestingly enough, Thomas Edison once stayed at the inn. I wonder if he ever met Laura. If he had, I imagine it would have been a particularly electrifying experience.

**Three Chimneys Inn** - 17 Newmarket Rd. Durham In 1649 a man named Valentine Hill built the oldest part of the inn, though it's his daughter, Hannah, who is said to haunt the place. It's believed she drowned in the Oyster River, which runs close to the inn. Apparently, ghost Hannah really likes electronics, especially cell phones. Staff members have also heard 'someone' practicing a cello for hours in one of the rooms, even though no one is there (the staff member who first heard it thought it was a guest - it was not). My theory is that it's Hannah playing iTunes on a cell(o)phone she 'borrowed' from an unsuspecting customer.

**Cocheco Falls Millworks** - 100 Main St. Dover In 1907, a fire broke out, damaging the structure and killing several mill workers (some of whom were children). The building was eventually renovated and is now home to tenants and businesses. The strange phenomenon most often reported are unexplained lights appearing at night, mainly on the upper floors where, coincidentally, the workers who died were trapped. Down in the basement, lights inexplicably turn on and off.

Disembodied voices have been heard, most prominently in the entry to the two towers and in the stairwells. Some say they have heard noises from the machines used in the mill - machines that no longer exist. Shadowy figures and disembodied laughter have both been reported, as well. You'd think people wouldn't want to live there with all the ghosts, but I have to admit that any conversation with the departed is likely to be quite spirited. ng off more adult beverages than is good for a ghost. But perhaps he just likes to get into the spirit of things.



*Oscar Foss Memorial Library Community Art Show*

## Library Happenings

**Library Hours:** We are back to being open on Saturdays from 10:00AM-1:00PM! We will still be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00AM-6:00PM and Thursdays and Fridays from 12:00PM-8:00PM. Please be aware that we are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00PM.

**Wed. 10/4 @ 6-7:30PM Mead and Read:** Stop by Over the Moon Farmstead in Pittsfield on the first Wednesday of the month to see what our Mead and Read Book Club (ages 18+) is all about! This month we will be meeting to discuss Bill Bryson's *A Walk in the Woods*, a travelogue of the Appalachian trail, with humorous, and often profound, meditations on new beginnings with old friends. Next month's book will be *A Bookshop in Berlin* by Françoise Frenkel.

**Fri. 10/6 @ 5-6:30PM Haunted Library Meeting:** A gathering for all volunteers and scare actors participating in the Haunted Library. We will be going over different scare positions, what we will need to set up and take down, and any other necessities to make our Haunted Library happen. Please call, email, or visit us in person to sign up as a volunteer. Don't miss out on this spirited good time!

**Thurs. 10/12 @ 5-7:30PM Community Tarot Deck Creation Night:** Special guest Lauren Biddle will be here at the library to teach attendees about tarot. Learn more about what the cards mean, look through different tarot decks, take some exercises from *The Oracle Creator*, and find a card that speaks to you. Then take a blank tarot card with you to create your own version to add to our Community Tarot Deck! Once we get all the cards back (due by Oct. 31) we will put the deck out for use in our Library of Things. All ages welcome.

**Fri. 10/13 @ 6-8PM Family Movie Night:** Our movie this month is *Monster High*, rated PG-13. It's about Clawdeen Wolf, her friends, Draculaura and Frankie Steen, and their journey to accept their inner monster while navigating the 'horrors' of high school. Light refreshments will be served.

**Thurs. 10/19 @ 5-7PM DnD Club:** What is in store for our brave group of adventurers? Bullywugs, bugbears, and dinosaurs, oh my! The heroes are getting closer to figuring out who is stealing children from nearby villages and where they are going. Anyone can join our campaign at any time! Light refreshments provided.

**Fri. 10/20 @ 4-5PM Family Crafternoon:** Where everybody can be an artist! All ages are welcome to join us for the creation of a halloween-themed project that's sure to be spookalicious! Light refreshments and supplies will be provided. Space is limited, so registration is required.

**Wed. 10/25 @ 10:30AM Haunted/Trick-or-Treat Storytime:** For this special storytime, all children are welcome to attend in their costumes and do 'Trick-or-Treating' in the library!

**Thurs. 10/26 @ 3-5PM & 5-7PM Haunted Library:** Are you feeling brave this Halloween? See how you feel after a walk through our haunted library! We will have kid-friendly hours from 3:00-5:00, then from 5:00-7:00, it will be a spooky free-for-all! Please Note: To avoid any unwanted frights, the library will be closed to the general public starting at 3:00.

**Fri. 10/27 @ 6-7:30PM Writers Forum:** Have you always wanted to be a writer? Maybe even a published author? Well, it's time to do something to make that dream come true. Our new staff member, Johannes, will be joining the group! For ages 14+ and all levels of writing experience/expertise.

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



Need help paying for groceries? SNAP can help! The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, provides food assistance through an electronic card that can be used at grocery stores and some farmers' markets. SNAP is available to everyone who is eligible, regardless of household size. There are sufficient benefits for all eligible individuals, and receiving SNAP doesn't take benefits away from others.

Individuals may work and still have income low enough to be eligible for SNAP benefits. The benefits you receive are determined on an individual basis. The only way to find out how much SNAP you could receive is to apply. Learn more and apply at [dhhs.nh.gov/snap](https://dhhs.nh.gov/snap).

Do you have questions or need assistance with the application process? The NH Food Bank offers SNAP application assistance services to Granite Staters with limited income. You can reach us at 1-877-347-7627. For inquiries about your current SNAP case, please call the NH Department of Health and Human Services at 1-844-275-3447.

SNAP is a federal program of the USDA and is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Updated news regarding Free Covid tests for the upcoming season!  
Households will be entitled to receive four free rapid tests apiece, with ordering at [COVIDtests.gov](https://COVIDtests.gov) opening on Sept. 25.  
In addition, you can go to this site to find out if your expired home tests are still good

#### Holiday News

Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before we know it!

The Barnstead Welfare Department is accepting applications and donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets!

Please reach out to Dawn at 603-848-7648 to get an application or make a donation!

## *The Cookie Walk is back!*

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE OF THE BARNSTEAD PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY THE RETURN OF OUR BELOVED COOKIE WALK. WE WILL ALSO OFFER CHRISTMAS ITEMS FOR SALE!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING  
ONE AND ALL!



# COMMUNITY

# QUILT Raffle



**This quilt was lovingly created by the  
Barnstead Community Quilters.**

**It will be on display at the library for the month of October and raffle  
tickets can be purchased at the front desk. It would make a wonderful gift  
for the holidays!**

**Ticket prices are \$1 for one ticket and \$3 for 5 tickets.  
Proceeds will go towards more library programs and community events!**

**OSCAR FOSS MEMORIAL LIBRARY - 603-269-3900 - OFMLSTAFF@GMAIL.COM**

# RECIPE CORNER

## APPLESAUCE SPICE BARS



### Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1/4 cup shortening
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup raisins



### Browned Butter Frosting (below)



### Directions

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients except frosting. Spread in a greased 9x13x2 inch baking pan.
2. Bake for about 25 minutes, cool. Frost with Browned Butter Frosting
3. Cut into 3"x1" bars. About 3 dozen.

### BROWNED BUTTER FROSTING

1. Heat 3 tablespoons butter over medium heat until delicate brown, remove from heat.
2. Beat in 1 1/2 cup powdered sugar, 1 tsp vanilla, and about 1 Tbsp milk until smooth and of spreading consistency.

Enjoy—J Terry

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## **BARNSTEAD PARKS AND RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS**

### **TRUNK OR TREAT AND OTHER HALLOWEEN FUN**

Details are being finalized for this year's Halloween festivities, which will be held on Saturday, 10/28/23. Keep an eye out for information on this fun and scary event!

### **MOVIE NIGHT – COMING SOON**

With it getting dark earlier, the nights cooler, and the bugs not as bothersome, it's a perfect time to host another outdoor movie night at the P&R yard. Movie selection and date to be announced soon.

### **SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

The concert series was a huge success this summer, and we would like to thank everyone who came out to support the musicians, the organizations selling concessions, and Barnstead Parks and Recreation. We would also like to thank all of the performers for sharing your talent with us at the Parade Grounds. The amount of positive feedback we have received is astonishing, and we are excited to do it again in 2024.

### **SWIMMING LESSONS**

Swimming lessons this summer were a bit challenging with the storm that came through and created all the flooding. Even though the beach was closed for over 2 weeks, we are thankful that we were able to still hold 3 weeks of lessons and accommodate many of you with the schedule changes. For those that we were not able to accommodate, we apologize and hope that next year we can hold lessons as originally scheduled. We do want to thank each and every one of you that signed up for your patience and kindness while we worked through the issues the beach closure brought on. You were all absolutely amazing to work with through the whole process. We had 36 students over the 3-week period, and it was a blast watching them progress and become more comfortable in the water. One last big thank you goes to Madelyn Penfield, Swimming Instructor, for her patience and flexibility in dealing with this year's scheduling issues and for the amazing job she did teaching the children!

### **FISH AND FUN AT THE RICK GILCHRIST MEMORIAL FISHING JAMBOREE**

Barnstead Parks and Rec and H&H Exteriors hosted a kids' fishing jamboree on August 20th. We had a beautiful day out at T. L. Storer's Adams Pond, where 28 kids caught over 77 fish! Our most "winningest" fishers were awarded with gift cards to Fish Tails Bait and Tackle. There were over \$500 worth of prizes awarded! This event would not have been possible without our generous business sponsor, volunteer support from the Gilchrist Family, and the participation of each family that joined us.

Thank you all for making our first annual summer fishing jamboree a success! See you next year.

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you'd like to be a part of the fun, planning events, and encouraging the community to get out and play, we are seeking volunteers for the P&R Commission. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Oscar Foss Memorial Library. There is no specified time commitment required,

and you choose what activities/events you want to be a part of. If you are curious, feel free to contact us for more information or stop by one of our meetings.

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.

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BUSINESS

**603-435-3077**

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




**CENTER BARNSTEAD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

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



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[danielle@oscarfoss.org](mailto:danielle@oscarfoss.org)  
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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](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**