



# BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN EVENT OR CLASSIFIED FOR THE BARNSTEAD BANNER, PLEASE EMAIL [DANIELLE@OSCARFOSS.ORG](mailto:DANIELLE@OSCARFOSS.ORG) WITH THE DETAILS.

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## Roots on the Reservation: Protecting Our Open Spaces

by Robb Ellis

Tucked into the corner where three counties meet lies a place unlike any other in our region, the T.L. Storer Scout Reservation. Donated to the Boston Council in 1958 by Theodore L. Storer, this nearly 1,000-acre property has long been a haven for Scouts from across New England, who came each summer for a week of resident camp.

But as Scouting numbers have declined nationwide, many councils have found themselves with camp properties they no longer use for traditional resident programs. All across the country, these once-busy camps are being sold off – often to become residential subdivisions. Thousands of acres that once served as wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas, and natural buffers against climate change are being converted to pavement and rooftops.

And here's the hard truth: once open space is gone, it's gone forever.

We lose more than scenery when we lose open land. We lose the habitat that sustains our wildlife. We lose the healthy soils that grow our crops and filter our drinking water. We lose the trees, plants, and birds that keep our ecosystems in balance. Without functioning soil, rainwater has nowhere to go but into storm drains and rivers, taking pollutants along for the ride. With each acre of open space replaced by asphalt and concrete, we chip away at our own life-support system.

At TL Storer, we've taken a different approach. While we no longer host the traditional week-long Scout resident camps, we've reimagined our mission to keep the land in active, sustainable use. Today, we run summer day camps, after-school programs, and hands-on soil health education. Our Cow Camp program invites youth to work alongside grazing cattle, learning firsthand how regenerative grazing builds healthy soil, stores carbon, and produces more nutritious food.

We are also deepening our partnership with Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, a nonprofit land trust dedicated to conserving open space, farmland, forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat in southeastern New Hampshire. Bear-Paw works with willing landowners and communities to protect essential landscapes through conservation easements and stewardship. Their efforts have already safeguarded thousands of acres in our region, ensuring these lands remain undeveloped and ecologically healthy for future generations. Together, we're exploring ways to expand protections here at TL Storer so that its nearly 1,000 acres remain a natural asset for Barnstead and beyond.

Another exciting part of our work is the growth of our School Partnership, which began as after-school activities with

A Barnstead Elementary School students and has now expanded to include Prospect Mountain High School, where we are partnering to bring agricultural education to a new level.

This year, we are introducing the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP). This certification course not only teaches students vital farm safety and equipment operation skills but also prepares them for real-world agricultural careers. The program blends classroom learning with hands-on training, giving young people the knowledge, responsibility, and confidence to work on farms or operate equipment safely. These efforts ensure that the next generation of land stewards and agricultural leaders are prepared to carry forward the work of protecting and sustainably managing our natural resources.

Unfortunately, pressures on open space aren't just a problem in far-off places — they're here in New Hampshire. Recent legislative changes in Concord are loosening long-standing zoning protections in the name of addressing housing shortages. While affordable housing is an important goal, "housing at all costs" can come with its own long-term costs: increased strain on infrastructure, loss of local control over land use, and irreversible destruction of open spaces.

And what's happening here is part of a national trend — one that's taking alarming turns elsewhere. In Cranbury, New Jersey, a nearly 200-year-old family farm is currently under threat of being seized by eminent domain so the land can be handed over to a private developer for affordable housing. If successful, it would set a dangerous precedent for communities everywhere:

that productive farmland and historic open space can be taken from private owners not for public infrastructure, but for private development.

The stakes couldn't be higher. Where will we plant our crops when farmland is gone? Where will we graze cattle in ways that restore – rather than degrade – the environment? Feedlot beef production is an environmental disaster, but properly managed pasture-based grazing, like we practice here in Barnstead, heals the land instead of harming it.

Open space is not just pretty scenery. It is a working, living system that sustains us. If we fail to protect it, we risk undoing ourselves as a species. Now is the time to pay attention, to act locally, and to ensure that Barnstead and communities like it maintain their roots – for the sake of our air, our water, our food, and our future.

Join us here at TL Storer on October 18 th , 2025, from 10am-2 pm for a look at what's happening on the reservation and a showing of the film "Kiss the Ground"

### **Kids at Cow Camp Learn About Soil, Cows, and Community**

This summer, two familiar faces from the Oscar Foss Memorial Library took their curiosity beyond the bookshelves and into the pastures of TL Storer Scout Reservation. Charlotte and Eleanor, daughters of two of our well-known library staff members, spent part of their summer vacation at Cow Camp, a program that combines outdoor adventure with hands-on lessons in agriculture and stewardship.

At camp, the girls enjoyed the usual favorites—swimming, hiking, archery—but it was the chance to learn about soil and cows that left the biggest impression. "Soil is mushy," Charlotte explained, while Eleanor observed that healthy soil "looks like chocolate cake."



They also discovered how cows play a role in keeping the land healthy: grazing keeps grass in check and manure feeds the tiny microbes in the soil that help plants grow.

Their discoveries didn't stay in the field. Charlotte and Eleanor recently joined host Robb Ellis on the Off the Gravel Road podcast, where they spoke about their favorite camp activities, their pets, and even their love for library story time. Listeners got to hear firsthand how young people in Barnstead are making connections between the land beneath their feet and the animals around them.

Of course, the Oscar Foss Library remains at the heart of their story. It's where the girls first met as toddlers at story time, where they print 3D dragons on the library's printer, and where they still love to play, read, and help out. The library is also home to Oscar, the resident cat who has won their affection as surely as the cows at camp did.

From pastures to pages, Charlotte and Eleanor remind us that learning is everywhere—and that the bonds of library, camp, and community are helping raise the next generation of thoughtful stewards in Barnstead.

You can listen to the girls on the Off the Gravel Road Podcast on Apple, Spotify, and iHeartRadio



## 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.*

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# September Library Happenings



Good to Know Info: We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (9/11). The first day back for BES and PMHS is Tuesday, September 2.

**Home School Group: Join us Fridays from 10:30-12:00** 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. The activities are geared towards kids ages 4 and up, and younger siblings are welcome to come along. There will be an event posted ahead of time on their Facebook group (Barnstead NH Library Homeschool Group) for each weekly meet-up, so you'll always know what to expect and if you need to bring anything.

**Music and Movement Storytime, aka Littles Love to Learn! Join us on Tuesdays at 10:30** for an interactive storytime filled with stories, songs, and loads of sensory play designed specifically for toddlers.

**Every Wednesday at 10:30 is Children's Storytime.** Visit us at the library for stories, crafts, and singing. Then experience the cozy ambience in the children's area, which has all sorts of neat things to do. Make new friends. Set up playdates. Check out books, movies, and games, play with the trains, Legos, and puppets. Come for the learning, stay for the fun!

**Start your week off with Yoga Monday! Gentle Hatha-Flow runs from 10:15-11:40, Senior/Beginner/Chair Yoga is 12:00-1:00, and Intermediate Hatha-Flow lasts from 5:30-6:50.** Classes are by donation (suggested \$8). All are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of ability to donate.

**Our Meet and Read Book Club (ages 18+) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (9/3), from 6:00-7:30, in the library.** This month's book will be "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann. Next month's book will be "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

**\*NEW!\* Snacks, Stitches & Stories. Tuesdays (starts 9/2), 4:00-5:30.** Looking for a cozy way to spend a Tuesday afternoon? Join our new audiobook club where we listen, snack, and craft together! We'll kick things off with "How to Solve Your Own Murder" by Kristen Perrin. Bring a project (or use the supplies we'll have ready), settle in with friends, and enjoy the story as it unfolds week by week. Snacks are welcome—and highly encouraged! Come for the story, stay for the company (and the snacks)!

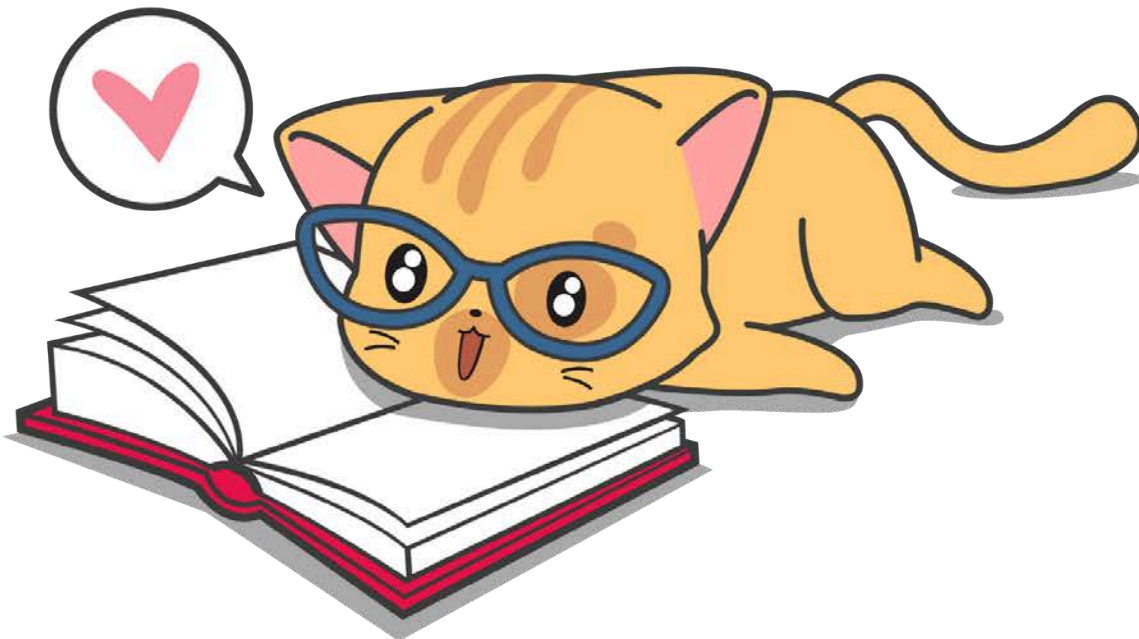
**Thurs. 9/18 @ 6:00PM Haunted Walk Meeting:** The library will once again be partnering with T.L. Storer for a Haunted Walk! All are welcome to help us plan this event to make it as amazing as possible. We will be meeting to discuss a theme, costumes, decorations, and more! We will be looking for donations, volunteers, and scare actors.

**Family Crafternoon is a family-focused event that happens every third Friday of the month (9/19), at 3:30.** Join us as we make snowflakes and watch “Frozen,” as you let your creativity go! Materials will be provided and light refreshments served.

**On Friday, 9/26, from 6:30-8:00, join us for Books & Banter.** This lively book club is open to everyone and invites you to share and explore a wide range of genres. Come ready to discuss up to three books you’ve recently read, giving a brief synopsis to spark conversation. Don’t miss out on the fun—come share your thoughts, learn about new books, and enjoy a cozy evening of discussion.

**Let’s Write a Novel! Join us in the library’s meeting room for a series of structured classes on the how-to’s of writing a book. This class runs from 6:00-7:30 on the last Friday of the month (9/26).** Budding writers, 16 and older, ignite your passion for storytelling, discover how to build your hero’s journey, and take your novel from concept to can-do!

For events that require registration, please contact us at (603) 269-3900 or [ofmlstaff@gmail.com](mailto:ofmlstaff@gmail.com) to reserve your spot!





## Going Away (For a Long, Long Stay)

by Kristina Schram

In the song “Life Is Eternal” Carly Simon sings, “I’ve been doing a lot of thinking about growing older and moving on.” Well, Carly, me too. Especially lately. I have reached the top of the hill and am now flying down the other side on a go-cart with no brakes. My time is running out, and I need to do some thinking soon, before I hit that giant speed bump we call Death. But it’s a little scary—this pondering. There are just some things I don’t want to know, like how it’s going to happen when I “move on.” (Mainly, I don’t want to end up on that nightmare-inducing, “bizarre death” TV series, 1000 Ways to Die.) The planner part of me wants to know the “when” so I can be ready for it, but the happy part of me doesn’t want me to know anything at all.

But what if we did know the “when”? Would it influence how we lived our lives? Erik Erikson, a renowned psychologist, posited there are 8 stages of psychosocial development everyone goes through from birth to death, each stage posing a challenge. The success you experience in addressing this challenge will determine how your self develops. Are you going to be the happier and healthier self? Or the ‘filled with misery and hoping to share it with others’ self?

Based on my age, I am in the Generativity vs. Stagnation stage (40–65), where I should be figuring out if I’ve contributed something positive to the world (sadly, I’m not allowed to include my own self as a positive contribution). If I have not, then I’m stagnating like a fish carcass in a shallow pond on a 90-degree day. Thankfully, I feel like I’ve contributed a fair amount of positivity to the world, starting with my sunny personality and general bonhomie. If you disagree with this, well then, you are a stinky fish carcass.

As a lifelong overachiever, I’ve already started my next assignment: the very last stage, Integrity vs. Despair (65 to DEATH). In this stage, I’m supposed to look back on my life and determine whether I’m pleased with how it went or filled with regret at how I pretty much blew it. It’s a good concept, but I think we should start thinking about all this well before the age of 65. Knowing the date of your death might help, but maybe it would be easier to assume you could cross the rainbow bridge at any time. So, what might your obituary say if you were to die today? Would it be full of awesome and interesting tidbits about your amazing life? (Like, when you crossed the entire North American continent in a cart hooked up to a pot-bellied pig!) Or would it be perfect material for bedtime reading? (Like, the fact that your favorite pastime is staring at a blank wall.) I’m hopeful for the former, but frightened of the latter. Even so, I long ago learned that living life to its fullest (even to its halftest) can be more than a bit exhausting, so for the most part I’m not doing that. It’s a hard balance to live like you could be gone tomorrow, while well aware you could live to 100, and still have to pay for food.

In Carly’s song, she goes on to warble, “No one wants to be told that they’re getting on and maybe going away. For a long, long stay.” As you’ve probably figured out by now, she isn’t talking about moving to Jamaica. She’s talking about the end of the road, giving up the ghost, buying the big one, taking a dirt nap, popping your clogs. So, are you happy with how you’ve lived/are living your life? Are there things you wished you’d done? Can you still do them before you shuffle off this mortal coil? Or are you following me on my go-cart, as we race toward a sticky end, only your cart is on fire and heading for a cliff? If that’s the case, feel free to go around me. I’ve still got some pondering to do.

# JEANNIE'S RECIPE CORNER

## LET'S PLAN A WHOLE MEAL!!

### ONE-DISH CHICKEN BAKE

- 1 pkg (6oz) Stove Top Stuffing Mix for chicken
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (1 ¼ lb)
- 1 can (10- ¾oz) condensed cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup sour cream or milk

#### Instructions:

- Mix contents of stuffing mix pouch and 1 ⅔ cup of water. Set aside.
- Place chicken in 13"x9" baking dish or 2-quart casserole dish.
- Mix soup and sour cream together and pour over chicken.
- Spoon stuffing over top.

Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.

Makes 4 servings

### BROCCOLI SALAD

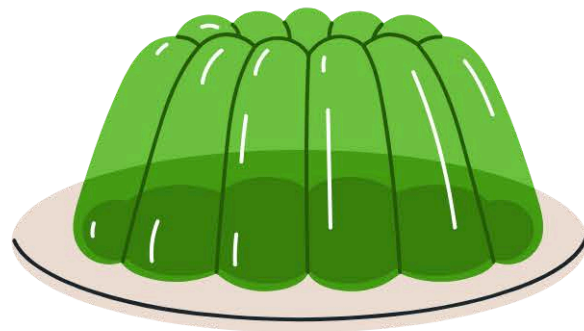
- 2 heads chopped broccoli
- 1 red onion-chopped
- ¾ cup bacon bits
- 1 cup small cheese chunks

#### Topping:

- 1 cup mayo
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup vinegar

#### Instructions:

- Mix topping ingredients together.
- Pour over salad mixture.
- Refrigerate for 2 hours.



### PEAR-LIME GELATIN SALAD

- 1 can (15oz) pear halves
- 1 pkg. (3oz) lime jello
- 1 pkg. (8oz) cream cheese, cubed
- 1 can (20oz) unsweetened crushed pineapple, well drained
- 1 cup chopped pecans, toasted, divided
- 1 container of frozen whipped topping, thawed

#### Instructions:

- Drain pears. reserving juice. Set pears aside.
- In a small sauce pan bring juice to a boil. Stir in jello until dissolved. Remove from heat; cool slightly.
- In a food processor. combine pears and cream cheese; cover and process until smooth.
- Transfer to a large bowl. Stir in jello mixture until blended.
- Stir in the pineapple and ¾ cup pecans.
- Fold in whipped topping.
- Pour into ungreased 11"x7"x2" dish. Refrigerate until set.
- Sprinkle with remaining pecans. Cut into squares

Makes 12 servings

Have a wonderful September—stay healthy and be safe!

~Jeannie



## Kinship Program

*Helping Extended Family Raise Children*

The Kinship Program provides free, voluntary, and confidential services, linking kinship caregivers to programs and supports like food assistance, gas to get to appointments, school supplies, respite care, state benefits, and community information and resources.

Kinship caregivers are grandparents, aunts, uncles or other relatives, or even close family friends such as godparents, who are raising children that are not their own. Kinship caregiving happens when a child's parents are not able to care for them.

What will the Kinship Program offer you?

Kinship staff offer emotional support, guidance, and referrals. They will:

- help kinship caregivers understand community supports and services specific to their family's needs.
- ensure that kinship caregivers have access to supports by guiding families through benefits & eligibility applications.
- provide emotional support to kinship caregivers in times of need.
- serve as an advocate for both kinship caregivers and children as they navigate a complex network of programs and benefits.

For Barnstead residents wanting more information about available Kinship services, contact the Family Resource Center in Laconia.


Amanda Lewis is the kinship staff person and the telephone number is 603-581-1573. The following link will bring you to additional information about caring for children in your extended family.

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/child-protection-juvenile-justice/kinship-care>

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## Barnstead Business Spotlight

### JJ Goodwin's Restaurant & Sports Pub Reopens

After a period of closure and a brief stint under a different name, the Barnstead restaurant and bar has returned to its original identity as JJ Goodwins Restaurant & Sports Pub under the ownership of Julian Pecorino and is ready to welcome both longtime patrons and new visitors alike.

Pecorino, a former law enforcement officer from Connecticut, owns Zoo Health Clubs of New England and is a commercial real estate investor. He has lived in Pittsfield for 15 years. His mother calls Locke Lake home, and his in-laws live on Halfmoon Lake, making this venture not just a business opportunity, but a way to be more involved in the community where his family is rooted.

A few years ago, after purchasing the property and completing an extensive renovation, he brought in a local operator to run the restaurant. When that arrangement concluded, he chose to take over management himself, making several changes, the most notable being the return to the original name.

"I wanted to bring back a true sports pub atmosphere where families and friends can enjoy great food and a fun, welcoming environment," Pecorino said. JJ Goodwins offers classic sports pub fare, including burgers, pizza, chicken wings, and more, prepared fresh daily by two full-time cooks. Weekly specials, happy hour deals, and live entertainment are already drawing in locals, with live music scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays and Music Bingo every other Wednesday. Delivery and pickup is also available.

The restaurant is open seven days a week, Monday through Thursday from 4 to 10 p.m., Friday 4 to 11 p.m., and weekends 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. with plans to expand hours and eventually add seafood options to the menu.

JJ Goodwins is led by manager Danni Tassinari-Peetz, who together with Pecorino, is focused on creating a friendly atmosphere where quality food and good times go hand in hand.

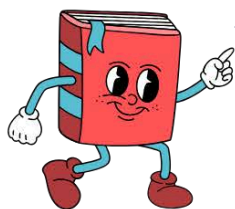
A grand reopening celebration is being planned, featuring live music and a cornhole tournament, an official date will be announced soon.

A longtime supporter of youth sports and athletics in Barnstead and the surrounding communities, Pecorino envisions JJ Goodwins as more than just a place to eat and drink. He wants it to be a place where the community can come together, share a meal, and enjoy time with friends and family.

For the latest specials, updates, and information on the upcoming grand reopening, be sure to follow JJ Goodwins Restaurant & Sports Pub on Facebook and Instagram.

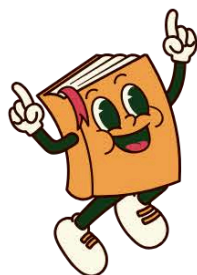


# Become a Friend of the Oscar Foss Memorial Library!



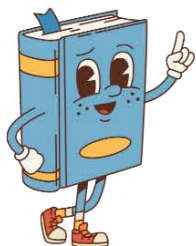
## Who are we?

The Friends of the Oscar Foss Memorial Library is a group of volunteers who support the library and the community through fundraising to help expand library resources and services.



## What do we do?

The Friends plan all kinds of activities to raise funds! We plan book and plant sales, host programs and events, provide refreshments for library programs, and participate in Old Home Day and partner with other community organizations.



## Why should you join?

You get to meet wonderful people and plan fun events, all for a good cause!

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**Come be our friend!**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Availability** \_\_\_\_\_

We will be in touch with more details! If you have any questions, you can contact us at [ofmlfriends@gmail.com](mailto:ofmlfriends@gmail.com)



## Community Events

**Board of Selectmen Meeting** is weekly on Tuesdays starting at 6PM.

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

**CCNB Craft Meetup** is held weekly on Thursdays at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library from 10AM to 1PM.

**Barnstead School Board Meeting** is Wednesday 9/17 at 6PM.

**Barnstead Farmers Market** is held weekly in the Parade circle from 9AM to 1PM

**First day of school** at BES and PMHS is 9/2.

**Town Hall is closed** the third Wednesday of the month (9/17).

**Save Saturday, September 20 th , for the Pumpkin & Pine Fair** in North Barnstead. (9 am to 2 pm) This church fair has been held for over 20 years and is a great place to meet friends for lunch at the café and to shop for unique treasures or gift baskets. The colorful purses and bags with fabric from Ghana will be there along with a silent auction that includes the art of juried NH artists. As always there will be collectibles, home goods and lots of baked goods. Come find something for your home or start thinking of Christmas gifts. The Congregational Church of North Barnstead uses the fair funds both to support the church and to extend their ministry out into the world, including to local community groups and families in need. The address is 504 North Barnstead Rd, just above Peacham Road.

