



BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



**WISHING
OUR READERS A
JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!**

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

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE ONLINE
ISSUE OF THE BANNER, GO TO
WWW.OSCARFOSS.ORG /THE-
BARNSTEAD-BANNER

It Takes a Village: How You Can Lift Up Barnstead This Season

by Danielle Hanley Hinton

In a small town like Barnstead, community is our heart. Every event, every helping hand, every smile brings us a little closer together. This is a great time of year to focus on that heartwarming spirit more than ever.

Our town organizations are doing incredible work, but they can't do it alone. If you've been looking for a way to get more connected — or if you've simply got a little extra time, skill, or kindness to share — there are wonderful opportunities available.

The library needs Friends (literally!) Oscar Foss Memorial Library is looking for new members for the Friends of the Library — an amazing group that plans fun activities, raises funds for library programs, and helps create the kind of welcoming space Barnstead families need. If you've been craving a chance to meet new people, bring your ideas to life, and support a community cornerstone, this is a genuinely rewarding place to be. (And I'm not even the teeniest bit biased..)

The library also keeps a wish list for anyone who prefers to support quietly from home. You can browse it here: <https://sokindregistry.org/registry/20162>

If your preference is to donate your skills and talents, we are always looking for community members who would like to run a library program! Contact our team at ofmlstaff@gmail.com.

Barnstead Parks & Recreation has been working hard to expand recreational opportunities – including the new rink, which is already bringing so much excitement to local families.

They're inviting local businesses to purchase advertising space on the rink walls. Not only does this help offset operating costs, it's also a visible way for businesses to show their support for Barnstead youth and community programming. It's hometown sponsorship at its finest. Contact Barnstead Parks and Recreation at barnsteadparks@gmail.com.

End 68 Hours of Hunger continues its crucial work making sure no child in our community goes home hungry for the weekend. Volunteers are always needed to help pack bags of food or deliver them. A single hour of your time can make a direct, powerful difference in a child's life. Get in touch at barnstead@end68hoursofhunger.org.

If your time is tight but your heart is open, our local food pantry welcomes donations of groceries and essentials. Even a couple of extra items in your weekly shopping cart can help! These shelves help feed neighbors and families right here in town. You can drop off donations for the food pantry right at the library any time we are open.

Whether you can share an hour, a talent, a service, or a can of soup, your contribution helps support the spirit of Barnstead. No act is too small – kindness and generosity expands in every direction.

This is a town full of good people, and when we work together, we can accomplish so much. If you've been waiting for a sign to get involved, consider this your nudge. Your presence matters. Together, we can keep Barnstead the warm, generous community we all love to call home.





DECEMBER LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Good to Know Info: We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (Dec. 11). For the holidays, we are closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, for Christmas, and Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, for New Year's!

“Pets of OFML” 2026 desk calendars have arrived at the library! Each calendar is \$8 and proceeds from sales go to fund library programs. This would make a great gift for all the pet lovers in your life, and support literacy at the same time. Supplies are limited, so hurry in or call to reserve your copy today!

Oscar's Elves are back in the house! Some of us are terrible at wrapping (and rapping), and could use some assistance. Those gifted with wrapping talent are here to help with all of your holiday wrapping needs. We will have wrapping paper, tags, bags, and ribbon. Bring in your gifts to have them wrapped while you check out what the library has to offer. The wrapping is free, but you're more than welcome to give a donation to the library to be used to fund future programming (and maybe for training for the wrapping-impaired). Call or email to get your own 30-minute time slot. **We are available from Dec. 2 to Dec. 19, on Tuesdays from 10:00-1:00, and Thursdays and Fridays 3:30-7:00.**

Home School Group: Join us Fridays from 11:00-1:00 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.

Jamming Tuesdays at OFML: 6:00-8:00 (ages 18+). Do you play a string instrument? Well then, dust it off and come make music with us! On the first (Dec. 2) and third (Dec. 16) Tuesdays of the month, join us for jam nights at the library (in the meeting room). No need to be an expert—just bring your instrument and a love of music. Share a few tunes, trade chords, get feedback (if you'd like), and most of all, have fun!

Our Read the Room (new name, same club) Book Club (ages 18+) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (Dec. 3), from 6:00–7:30, in the library. This month's book will be "Because We Are Bad" by Lily Bailey. Next month's book will be "Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

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 typically runs from 6:00–7:30 on the last Friday of the month, but is being changed to Friday (Dec. 12) due to the upcoming holidays. 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!

On Saturday, Dec. 13, Barnstead is holding a Community Christmas Event! All you fans of Hallmark's Holiday movies, you'll want to check this out. There will be a cookie walk at the Barnstead Parade Congregational church starting at 9AM, a hot cocoa bar and reading of "The Night Before Christmas" at the library at 1PM, followed by a presentation by Sam McKeen on the Origins of Christmas at 2PM, and a tree lighting and toy drive event with the Barnstead Fire Department and Parks & Rec! Details are still being hammered out, so be sure to check the OFML website's community calendar or the OFML Facebook page for more information.

It's a special Storytime with Santa on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 10:30! Grown-ups, if you can, please bring a wrapped new or gently used book to exchange after story time. But in case you forget we will have extras on hand. This year we will also have a holiday sing along with accompaniment by Frank McDonald!

On Thursday, Dec. 18, at 6:30, we're doing a Holiday Paint and Sip Night (18+). Are you feeling anxious about the upcoming holidays? Or do you just like to paint? Whatever the reason, join us for a stress-free evening of painting, music, and mocktails! Pre-registration is required.

Family Crafternoon is a family-focused event that happens every third Friday of the month (Dec. 19), at 3:30. Join us this month and make your own gingerbread house (with graham crackers)! All supplies will be provided—but they're limited, so come early and join the fun!

On Friday, Dec. 19, 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.



Four Corner Antiques **★ Country Christmas ★**

Dec 6th & 7th 10am - 5pm

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 Country
 Primitives
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204 Estes Rd, Rochester, NH
 (603) 332-1522

*Thank You for supporting a small local business
 Merry Christmas!*

8TH ANNUAL PMHS TEAM 319 BOOSTER CLUB **Holiday Craft & Vendor fair**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2025

9AM - 2PM

**PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
 HIGH SCHOOL
 242 SUNCOOK VALLEY
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 ALTON, NH 03809**



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 AND SAY HELLO TO SANTA!**

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 HOLLY @ HOLLY.BOB319@GMAIL.COM**

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603-507-2378

Wed - Sat 10 am - 5 pm

Sun 1 pm - 5 pm

Facebook - page: sugarslocal or visit the Barnstead
 Business Uncensored group for updates!



Barnstead Historical Society

Christmas Sale

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Barnstead Parade Fire Station

305 Parade Road

Barnstead Old Home Day

Crafts by Deb Keene

Crooked Run Farm

JLF Embroidery

Joy Street Studio

Mary Locke's Baked Goods & Crafts

MJ Michael Photography

PMHS Equestrian Team/SJF Creations

Sew-Fly's Unique Boutique

Tiede Farms Smokehouse

Tom Donovan Wood Art

Plus Historical Society Books & Raffle Prizes!



CATAMOUNT WOMENAID UPDATE

When a single dad needs his car repaired so he can get to work, or a family suddenly needs a rent security deposit for an unexpected move, Catamount Womenaid steps in, quickly and quietly.

Catamount Womenaid is a women-led, all-volunteer nonprofit that provides fast, confidential, one-time financial assistance to individuals and families facing urgent needs in Barnstead, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Pittsfield, and Strafford. Requests come from trusted community validators, such as school nurses, social workers, case managers, clergy, and medical providers, ensuring help reaches those who need it most, without red tape. Payments go directly to vendors such as landlords, utility companies, or auto shops, creating immediate and lasting impact.

Thanks to generous sponsors, grants, and new revenue from Casino Charitable Gaming, we've doubled our in-area assistance limit to \$2,000 and continue to offer up to \$500 for out-of-area requests in partnership with other Womenaid groups statewide. We also provided seed funding to help launch Womenaid of the Hamptons and meet regularly with other NH Womenaid organizations to share best practices.

From January 1 through October 15, 2025, CWA distributed \$56,000 in assistance across 28 New Hampshire communities, including our six local towns, and we are on track to reach \$75,000 by year's end. Needs continue to grow as public support programs shift. Assistance has helped families with emergency car repairs, housing deposits, medical bills, safe storage during transitions, and transportation for medical treatment.

Through our School Essentials Fund, we also support students in our six towns, \$500 per school, replenished as needed, for immediate needs like winter clothing, eyeglasses, snacks, hygiene products, and school supplies.

With no paid staff and minimal overhead, nearly every donated dollar goes directly to helping neighbors in crisis. Our board includes strong fiscal leadership, including two accountants and a former NH State Treasurer.

Learn more or get involved at catamountwomenaid.org or email catamountwomenaid@gmail.com—because a little help, given at the right time, can truly change everything.

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

**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**

BARNSTEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

SENIOR YANKEE SWAP



DECEMBER

SATURDAY

20

At 12:00pm

AT THE BARNSTEAD TOWN HALL

GIFTS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

PLEASE RSVP TO LT. COLE AT 603-361-8915 BY
DECEMBER 13, 2025

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 25 SPOTS, SO BE SURE TO
RESERVE EARLY!

BARNSTEAD'S 300 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE!



Our beautiful town turns 300 in May of 2027!

We are searching for residents who want to be a part of this committee to help celebrate this milestone event. Come join the party and be a part of planning for this fun celebration! Our next scheduled meeting is December 8th at 6:30PM at the Barnstead Town Hall.

Help us plan a great event to remember for years to come. See you there!

Community Holiday Concert on December 6th

You are invited to the third annual holiday concert at the Congregational Church of NorthBarnstead with Maine music luminaries Joyce Andersen & Harvey Reid. They have been making music professionally for their entire lives; both toured extensively across the country and abroad, earning a long list of awards and recognition for their distinctive and deeply-rooted Americana music. This will mark the 25th consecutive year that they have presented their unique Christmas show.

Drawing on their long experience playing folk, country, bluegrass, blues, Celtic and even some classical music, they ride their musical sleigh effortlessly across genres, and centuries from banjos to blues to Beethoven, from elves to Elvis, from wise men and camels to Willie Nelson and reindeer. This is truly a don't miss event! Bring your kids, your neighbors, and invite friends as we create community and start traditions in a magical space with shared live music, sure to leave you with the joy and hope of the season. You will not be disappointed.

See you on Saturday, December 6th at 4 PM. Tickets, by donation, available at the door (or call 603-776-1820). Suggested donation is \$20 per person or \$35 for the family. The Congregational Church of North Barnstead is located at 504 North Barnstead Road, Barnstead.



**CENTER BARNSTEAD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

www.centerbarnsteadcc.org



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CENTER BARNSTEAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christmas Candlelight Service at Center Barnstead Christian Church

Friday, December 19th from 7pm - 8pm.

Ditch the stress and experience joy and refreshment. It's the perfect way to be reminded of the true reason we celebrate Christmas and to get into the Christmas spirit. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Origins: The Surprising Truth: Saturday, December 13th from 2:00PM.

Where did your favorite traditions actually come from? Take a fascinating, interactive journey into the origins of Christmas at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library. This presentation explores how our modern holiday evolved, revealing the unexpected roots of your most cherished traditions and festivities. Get ready to be surprised by what you discover! Presenter - Sam McKeen from Center Barnstead Christian Church.

Is getting your Will and/or Power of Attorney done on your to do list?

If you don't already have a private attorney to help you, there is help to get this done!

603 Legal Aid and NH Legal Assistance provide legal services for low-income individuals. 603-224-3333 or apply online at www.603legalaid.org Over the age of 60- call 1-888-353-9944

Lawyer Referral Services Modest Means connects low/modest income individuals who are not income eligible for free civil services with attorneys providing legal services at reduced rates. 603-715-3290 LRsreferral@nhbar.org

Lawyer Referral Services (LRS) can refer you to a full fee attorney 603-229-0002 or LRsreferral@nhbar.org

Only want to do a Power of Attorney for Healthcare? The above resources can help, as well, you can reach out to the Foundation for Health Communities in Concord 603-225-0900 to mail you the document and information about it or download it at <https://healthynh.org/initiatives/advance-care-planning/> The form will need to be notarized or witnessed by two qualified witnesses.

Granite Visiting Nurses Association hosts a Walk in Wednesdays at which you can discuss and complete the form. For more information on how to attend call 603-224-4093.

Partnership for Public Health in Laconia started in November to begin providing support to complete Power of Attorney for Health care. Call to schedule an appointment 603-528-2145.

If an individual does not have the ability to complete legal forms, you may wish to talk with their primary care provider and an attorney about Guardianship.

NH Probate Court also has information on their website about Guardianship. www.courts.nh.gov/our-courts/circuit-court/probate-division/guardianship Their telephone number is 855-212-1234, Probate Division.



Jeannie's Recipe Corner

December is a wonderfully busy month — shopping, wrapping gifts, baking treats, and cooking big meals to share with family and friends. It can also be stressful, so make things as easy on yourself as possible so you can truly enjoy the season.

One great trick is to bake ahead. Cookies freeze beautifully, and so do pies. Bake your pies early in the month and freeze them. When you're ready to serve one, take it out of the freezer and let it sit on the counter for about 10 minutes. Then place it in a 250–300° oven and reheat for 30–35 minutes. You'll have a warm, fresh-tasting pie ready for your family and guests.

Sweet breads and muffins can also be doubled and frozen for later.

You can save yourself even more time by cooking extra meals you can pull out on a busy evening — soups, stews, mac and cheese, American chop suey, meatballs, casseroles.

Make a little extra now so you have something quick and comforting ready to go when you need it.

Chicken and Ham Casserole

Ingredients

- 2½ lbs cooked boneless chicken breast or tenders
- 1–2 lbs cooked sliced ham
- 2 packages mixed vegetables (carrots, broccoli, cauliflower), lightly steamed

Assembly

1. Layer the chicken, then the ham in a 9" x 12" baking dish.
2. Add the mixed vegetables on top.
3. Pour cheese sauce (recipe below) over the meat and veggies.
4. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes, or until bubbly.
5. Serve with warm rolls for a complete meal.



Cheese Sauce

- ½ stick butter
- 2½ Tbsp flour
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups cheddar cheese (or your favorite — a sharper cheese works well!)

Melt the butter in a saucepan and whisk in the flour. Slowly add the milk, stirring until smooth. Add cheese and heat until fully melted and creamy.

This casserole also makes a wonderful New Year's Day meal!

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy, safe holiday season and a joyful New Year.

**Blessings to all,
Jeannie**



Community Events

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

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

Town Hall is Closed to the public the third Wednesday of each month.

Barnstead Parade church Annual Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Barnstead School Board Meeting is Wednesday 12/17 at 6:00 PM.

JMA School Board Meeting is Tuesday 12/16 at 6:00 PM.

Planning Board Meeting is 12/4 at 6:00 PM.

Parks and Rec Commission meets 12/11 at 6:00 PM.

Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair at PMHS is 12/6 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Historical Society Christmas Sale is at the Barnstead Parade Fire Station on 12/6 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Holiday Folk Concert at the Congregational Church of North Barnstead is 12/6 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Suggested donation of \$20 per person or \$35 per family. Tickets at the door, or call 603-776-1820 for more information.

Annual Cookie Walk at the Barnstead Parade Congregational Church is 12/13 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Center Barnstead Christian Church events: Candlelight Service 12/19 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Christmas Eve Service on 12/24 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Senior Yankee Swap, sponsored by the Barnstead Police Department: At the Town Hall on 12/20 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Light refreshments and gifts will be provided.

