



# BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town

## Happy Groundhog Day!



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NEWS**

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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BARNSTEAD-BANNER

### **Influencer Influenza**

by Kristina Schram

You know those people who post TikTok videos of themselves sharing their thoughts on a plethora of things, and people follow them to see what those thoughts are? Even when a surplus of those thoughts are about as beneficial as using a fork to eat broth? If you don't already know who those people are, I will tell you. They're called influencers. I'm not sure I'm all that keen on influencers, not being one who likes to be influenced. Probably because I'm an unrepentant rebel, not to mention unique and special. A veritable snowflake am I. But mainly I am stubborn.

The thing is, I don't actually follow any influencers. I'm only mentioning them because I'm considering becoming an influencer myself. I haven't yet decided what topic I'm going to influence people on, but that's besides the point. Pick pretty much anything, have a strong opinion about it, and you're golden.

You simply need to know how to put your best foot forward, and I think I can handle that fine. It's called walking.

My main motive in becoming an influencer, other than the unchecked power, is to make money without having a full-time job. I will call it my side hustle, because I like how that sounds. Like I've got lots going on and I have to do it all quickly, so everyone must leave me alone while I'm doing these terribly important things at high speed. My theme song would be "Do the Hustle." It's free and easy marketing, plus if I tell people that I "Do the Side Hustle" they will think I'm very clever, and listen to my every word from then on. Unfortunately, I don't actually know how to "do the hustle," a fact made clear to me when I googled it and found a demonstration video. But again, what does it matter? Me learning to hustle will make good content. But also good ammo for when my kids want to declare me mentally incompetent. So I need to be careful here.

The hard part would be generating content every day. I'm not sure I can make that many videos on such scintillating topics as, The Best Glitter Hairspray for Cats! or, The Best Glitter Makeup for Cats! without spiraling into madness. Maybe I should just be an influencer on influencers. I will tell you which ones to follow and which ones to dump. Easy peasy. I'll tell you to dump them all and follow only me, because I don't like influencers unless I'm the only one. Is it because they make me sick, or am I simply sick of them? (It's also quite possible I'm just dead jealous.) I'd let you be the judge, but that goes against what I'm trying to do here.

Anyway, if you see me out and about in Barnstead, follow me. Wait, no. Don't follow me in real life, just online. Although, that would make good content. We could form a parade. Or, if you actually followed me home, I'd call the PD because I thought I was being stalked. Then we'd all have a good laugh about the mistake, and bam! We're going viral, baby! So if you want to have fun being influenced, I'm your gal. Follow me @IAmaShamSchram. You won't regret it!

**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**



# FEBRUARY LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Good to Know Info: We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (Feb. 12). The library will also be closed Sat. Feb. 21 for Volunteer Appreciation Day. Meet the Candidates Night will be on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 6:00 PM, at the Town Hall.

“Pets of OFML” 2026 desk calendars are still for sale for \$8! Proceeds from our desk calendar 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. Hurry in and get your copy today!

Home School Group: Run by group members and takes place at the library meeting room on Fridays from 10:30-12:30. Involves 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 the group’s Facebook page (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 (Feb. 3) and third (Feb. 17) 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 Book Club (ages 18+) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (Feb. 4), from 6:00-7:30, in the library. This month’s book will be “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate. Next month’s book will be “Between Two Kingdoms” by Suleika Jaouad. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

Watercolor Valentines Event (16+) on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 6:00-8:00. Join us for a relaxing watercolor card-making evening at the library. Choose a stamp, print with watercolor ink, and paint your own Valentine’s cards to take home—envelopes included. All supplies are provided, and no registration is required. Create at your own pace.

Saturday, Feb. 7, is Take Your Child to the Library Day! Celebrate “International Day of Education” with a visit to the library (open 10:00-1:00), where we’ll be offering free, fun, and fabulous activities for families. Stop in for a visit, enjoy the activities, check out our collections, and meet some of our amazing librarians! Get a library card (they’re free!), and explore all the wonders that OFML has to offer our community.

Back by popular demand, on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6:30, we’re doing another Paint and Sip Night (18+)! Are you feeling the February blues? Or do you just like to paint? Whatever the reason, join us for a stress-free evening of painting, music, and mocktails! You can bring your own project to work on, make up your own idea to paint, or follow a guide. Space is limited, so please call or email to register.

Family Crafternoon is a family-focused event that happens every third Friday of the month (Feb. 20), at 3:30. Join us this month for a pancake party! If you like, you can bring your favorite pancake recipe—we’ll have the toppings to share! Enjoy tasty pancakes and a cozy community gathering. Perfect for kids and grown-ups alike—don’t miss it!

On Saturday, Feb 21, at 11:00, Oscar Foss Memorial Library would like to recognize the people who make our town great...our volunteers! We will be hosting a program at Prospect Mountain High School, presenting awards to volunteers nominated by community members, and awarding the Gordon Preston Award. Refreshments will be served. After the awards presentation, we will be showing “Hidden: The Kati Preston Story,” a docudrama based on Barnstead resident, Kathy (Kati) Preston’s, life. The movie is free and open to the public.

On Friday, Feb. 27, 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 (Feb. 27). 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 269-3900 or [ofmlstaff@gmail.com](mailto:ofmlstaff@gmail.com) to reserve your spot!



THE 15TH ANNUAL

# Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 7, 2026

# Donate Blood In Honor of Lucy "Goose" Bellemare



Lucy is a 10-year-old girl from Barnstead who was diagnosed with Leukemia in January 2024. So far, her treatment at ChaD in Lebanon has required more than 25 blood and platelet transfusions, and she will need more during her continued battle with cancer. Without blood donations from people like you, Lucy would not be able to come home, and her future would not be as hopeful. We hope you'll consider donating blood to help children like Lucy

## Blood Drive

### Barnstead Community Barnstead Elementary School

Gym

91 Maple Street, Center Barnstead, NH 03225

## February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### 12 pm- 5 pm



DONORS WILL RECEIVE A  
\$20 GIFT VIA EMAIL

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter  
sponsor code: **TEAMLUCY**

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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## Barnstead Historical Society



### John Babb Garland Trunk Donation

John Babb Garland (1800-1896), the son of Isaac and Lydia (Babb) Garland, was a farmer, teacher and lawyer from North Barnstead. This leather-bound trunk was acquired by David and Eileen Murley in 2012. We thank the Murley's for their generous donation, and the assistance received from Bob and Carol Gates with retrieving the trunk from the Murley's.



# LOCAL

## ARTISANS SHOP

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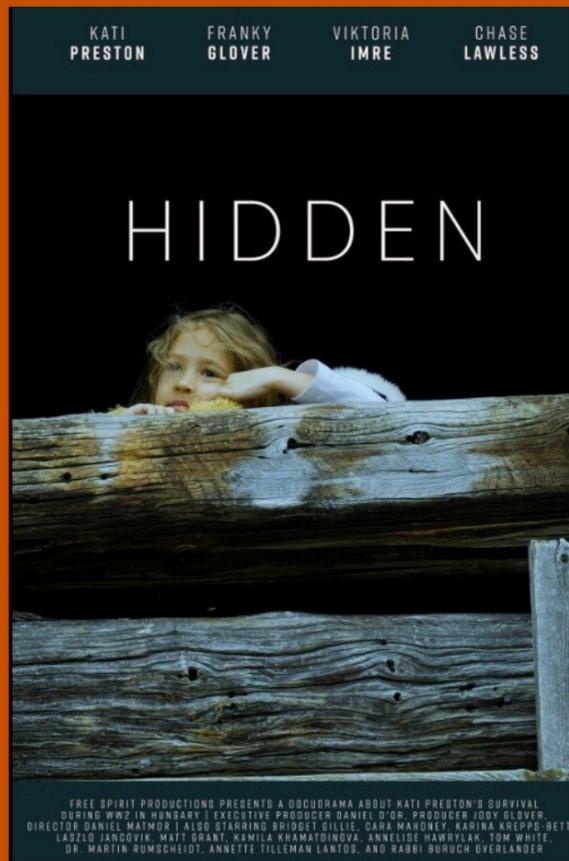
Sun 1 pm - 5 pm

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

# **VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**OSCAR FOSS MEMORIAL LIBRARY WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE OUR TOWN GREAT...OUR VOLUNTEERS! PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY. AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE LIBRARY AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS THE GORDON PRESTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD.. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.**

**FOLLOWING THE AWARD CEREMONY, WE ARE HONORED TO PRESENT A SCREENING OF "HIDDEN: THE KATI PRESTON STORY," A DOCUDRAMA THAT HAS WON INTERNATIONAL AWARDS BASED ON BARNSTEAD RESIDENT, KATHY (KATI) PRESTON'S, LIFE.**



**AWARD CEREMONY STARTS AT 11AM AT PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL THE MOVIE WILL BEGIN AT 1PM.**



# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## Rick's Tree Service

By Sam McKeen

When Rick and Diana LeBlond moved to Barnstead two years ago, they were looking for a quieter pace of life and a true small-town feel. “We wanted a country setting, further north, but still close enough to everything,” Rick shared. “We ended up here, and we love it.”

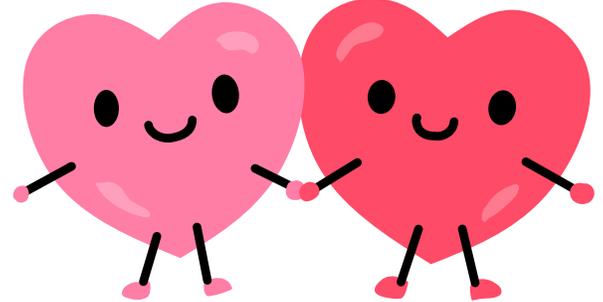
Although Rick's Tree Service is relatively new to Barnstead, the business itself has been around for more than a decade. Rick Tree Service started 11 years ago in Salem, New Hampshire, almost by accident. What began as selling firewood as a hobby slowly turned into something more. “People would ask if I could cut a branch, or someone at church would ask if I could take a tree down,” Rick said. “I started learning from an arborist friend, asking questions like, ‘How would you cut this tree?’ And it just kind of grew from there.” Over time, that curiosity and willingness to learn turned into a full-service tree company. Today, Rick's Tree Service offers tree trimming, tree removals, hazardous and storm-damaged tree work, stump grinding, and firewood sales.

Rick works alongside his wife, Diana, and two of his sons. Diana runs the firewood side of the business—something Rick says she genuinely loves. “We bought a processor, I bring the logs home, and she splits them and sells the firewood locally,” he shared. Family is central to the business, and Rick hopes his sons will one day take over many of his responsibilities. “I'd love for them to take over and run the business.” Another son owns and operates JRL Stump Grinding, which Rick's Tree Service partners with when customers need stump grinding. “It works out great,” Rick said. “It keeps the work in the family and ensures our customers are well taken care of.” While much of the company's client base is still around Salem, Rick is doing more jobs closer to home. “I've been getting more jobs locally, which has been really nice,” he said. Rick is also building relationships with other local professionals, including teaming up with a local logging company when projects require different skill sets. “We do different types of work, so it makes sense to help each other out,” he explained.

Since moving to Barnstead, Rick and Diana have embraced the community wholeheartedly. "We really love it here," Rick said. "Every time we drive home, we pinch ourselves."

At its heart, Rick's Tree Service reflects the values that many Barnstead residents appreciate most: hard work, honesty, and personal connection. If you are looking for dependable tree services from someone who lives in and appreciates the local community, then don't hesitate to reach out to Rick by calling or texting him at (603) 365-7771.

*Valentine's Day*



**CENTER BARNSTEAD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

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



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## **Volunteers Needed - End 68 Hours of Hunger**

Want to lend a hand and make a difference? End 68 is looking for volunteers to help by packing food and delivering it to those in need. It's a simple way to serve and bless your community, no special skills required! If you're interested or want more details, email [BarnsteadNH@end68hoursofhunger.org](mailto:BarnsteadNH@end68hoursofhunger.org).

**The Barnstead Helpers** are seeking a volunteer to help coordinate transportation needs for community members in the Barnstead area. This role involves working with a small group of local volunteers to match transportation requests with available drivers. If you enjoy connecting people, organizing details, and serving your community, this is a meaningful way to make a difference. Support and collaboration are provided by the Barnstead Helpers. To learn more please contact [dhintonofml@gmail.com](mailto:dhintonofml@gmail.com).

## **FUTURE IN SIGHT**

25 Walker Street, Concord, NH 03301 - 603-224-4039 - Monday-Friday 8-4  
This non-profit organization provides support and resources for adults and children. Call and speak with a client care team member. They will learn about your vision and hearing loss. If appropriate, they will schedule a home visit to fully understand your needs and discuss your options.

Services include:

- Assessment
- Adaptive aids and devices
- Training with a mobility specialist (if appropriate/needed)
- Counseling
- Ride Program for active clients.
- Help getting to medical, shopping, peer support programs
- Accessible phones for individuals with vision, hearing loss and challenges to speech and mobility (NH-TEAP). (In some cases, the phone may be free)

# Jeannie's Recipe Corner

## Broccoli & Cheese Stuffed Shells

**Serves: 4**

### Ingredients

- 1 cup low-sodium 1% small curd cottage cheese
- 1/4 cup Romano or Parmesan cheese
- 2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
- 4 oz part-skim mozzarella, coarsely grated (about 1 1/4 cups), divided
- 1 (10 oz) package frozen broccoli, thawed, squeezed dry, and chopped
- 1 cup baby spinach, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 3 cups marinara sauce (garlic-onion-tomato works beautifully, extra sauce recommended)
- 16 large pasta shells, uncooked
- 1/2 cup water

### Directions

1. In a large bowl, mix cottage cheese, Romano, lemon zest, and 1/2 cup of the mozzarella. Fold in broccoli, spinach, and parsley.
2. In a 5-6 quart slow cooker, combine 2 cups marinara and 1/2 cup water.
3. Stuff each shell with about 3 tablespoons of filling. Use the side of a spoon to really pack it in.
4. Nestle the shells into the sauce. Spoon remaining marinara over the top and sprinkle with the rest of the mozzarella.
5. Cover and cook on low for 2 to 2 1/2 hours, until shells are tender.
6. Serve with a crisp green salad and warm Italian bread.

## Warm Winter Lemon Cake

**Serves: 16**

### Ingredients

- 1 package yellow cake mix (2-layer size)
- 2 cups cold milk
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 2 packages lemon instant pudding mix
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp powdered sugar

### Directions

- Heat oven to 350°F. Prepare cake mix as directed and pour into a greased 13×9 inch baking dish.
- In a large bowl, whisk together milk, water, dry pudding mix, and granulated sugar until smooth.
- Carefully pour the pudding mixture over the cake batter.
- Place the baking dish on a sheet pan to catch any bubbly enthusiasm.
- Bake 55-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. The sauce will thicken as it cools.
- Dust with powdered sugar and serve warm, spooned into bowls.

Store leftovers in the refrigerator.

**I hope you enjoy these cozy February treats!**

**- 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.

**Barnstead School Board Meeting** is Wednesday 2/18 at 6:00 PM.

**JMA School Board Meeting** is Tuesday 2/17 at 6:00 PM.

**Planning Board Meeting** is 2/12 and 2/19 at 6:00 PM.

**Parks and Rec Commission** meets 2/12 at 6:00 PM.

**Barnstead Tri-Centennial Committee** meets the first Monday of the month at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library at 7:00 PM.

**Barnstead Old Home Day Committee** meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library at 7:00 PM.

**“Fishing for Freedom”** is an ice fishing derby being held to give back to our community and support our Veterans, with all proceeds going to Veterans Count by Easter Seals NH. It will be held on Suncook Lake on 2/14 starting at sunrise to 3:30PM.

**Avery Michaud Memorial Fishing Derby** will be held on Brindle Pond on 2/28.

Registration begins at 9:00 AM. All children ages 15 & under are welcome!

\$5.00 registration fee. Prizes awarded for the 3 heaviest fish in two age groups:• Ages 11-15• Ages 10 & under. FREE raffle prizes throughout the day, including a portable ice fishing shelter for one lucky participant! This tournament is held in loving memory of Avery Michaud.

