



# 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  
WITH THE DETAILS.**

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BARNSTEAD-BANNER**

## **SPRING CLEANING HURTS**

by Kristina Schram

I love spring cleaning. I love organizing and rearranging things, then putting them in spots where I'll be able to find them at a future date (ha, ha! As. If.). I love the before and after of it all, and always wish I'd taken pictures. Clean cabinets, drawers, and closets are a beautiful, rare, and fleeting thing to behold. Just like Bigfoot! The problem is, spring cleaning hurts. My back aches from emptying out drawers stuffed with papers dating back to the 1900s, broken parts of questionable origin, and too-short-to-be-useful bits of string; my eyes itch from disturbing dust that has settled on my emergency stacks of unread books; and my ears ring from my delighted cries at finding things I'd thought forever lost.

It's also painful when I have to confront all the items I've purchased over the years that I thought I would die without, only to realize they were far less integral to my well-being than I was promised (I'm looking at you, fringed leather chaps). When I can no longer stand being reminded of my mistakes, I hide them (in drawers and closets, beneath beds, out in the shed, under blankets). My cover-up attempts are understandable, but ultimately terrible, because one day there will be a reckoning. Luckily I won't be around to witness that reckoning, because I'll be dead. But dealing with the chaos I've left behind is what my kids deserve for not bringing their dirty dishes down in a timely manner.

The worst pain, though, comes from having to part with stuff. Because the moment I finally decide to let go of a precious object, a week later I need it—you know the drill. So it's best to just keep things. Organizing guru Marie Kondo tells us to keep only what you love with all your heart, so I tell myself that I love everything I own with all my heart. Marie, bless her heart, doesn't know who she's dealing with when it comes to self-sabotage. But...there does come a time when you just have to bite the bullet and purge. In fact, right now, as my youngest is about to graduate from college, I'm finally starting to acknowledge that maybe it's time to let go of all

those crayons, highlighters, school folders, lunchboxes, and mouth guards cluttering up my home. Someone else can surely use all that stuff, right? (Well, maybe not the mouth guards.)

Actually, I really do try to keep my accumulation of stuff at manageable levels, for good reason. I ask myself, if you died suddenly, Kristina, what would you leave behind for people to see? If I really don't want my kids crying out in horror, "Holy underwear, Batmom!" it's probably best if I keep that drawer top drawer. I'd also really rather not let them find my teen diaries. But I haven't yet figured out how to manage that and still keep them around as a reminder of how baffling my thought processes once were, which means some heavy redaction might be in my future. Okay, obviously, fear of shame is my only real motivator here. So as soon as I can, I'm throwing out the ratty underwear, rewriting my teenhood, and giving away my chaps. I mean it! But until then, just don't look under that blanket, okay?



CENTER BARNSTEAD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

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





# MAY LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

**Good to Know Info:** We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (May 14). May 10 is Mother's Day. Remember, if mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy, so treat your moms to something special!

**We are once again hosting a Seed Swap!** From Apr. 4 - May 30, stop by the library with seeds to donate - if you have any - and grab some new ones, too!

**May Food Drive 5/1-5/28:** May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and this year's theme is "More Good Days." A good day for many families can start with having a meal to eat and a safe place to sleep. Let's do our part in supporting those in our community who are struggling, and ensure they have "More Good Days" by bringing in food donations to the library. Dried fruit, individual snack bags, oatmeal, canned beans, pasta - these are just a few examples of foods that would be most welcomed (just please be sure your donations are not expired!).

**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. Special Note: On May 19 and May 26, we will not be holding Music and Movement sessions.

**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.

\*NEW\* On the first Wednesday of the month (May 6), starting at 3:30, we are hosting a **Young Readers Book Club for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade.** Participants will have the opportunity to share and recommend their favorite books while explaining what makes those stories special to them. They will also be encouraged to ask questions and engage in thoughtful group discussions. We'll wrap up the program with a simple craft activity, and light snacks will be provided. This month, we will be discussing the book "Wild Robot." After our discussion, we'll watch the movie!

Our **Read the Room Book Club** (ages 18+) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (May 6), from 6:00-7:30. This month's book will be "Uprooted" by Naomi Novik. Next month's book will be "The World as We Know It" by Joseph Monninger. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

**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 (May 5) and third (May 19) 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!

\*NEW\* Calling all **Mah Jongg** fans - come join us at the library! Players meet the first (May 7) and third (May 21) Thursdays of the month at 1:30. No registration required.

In honor of Mental Health Awareness, we bring you a **NAMI: In Your Own Voice** Presentation on Thursday, May 7, at 6:30. Join us at the library to hear a personal perspective on mental health struggles, and breaking the stigma. Please note that the presentation requires a minimum number of attendees. If we don't reach that number, the presenter will not be able to attend. Please call or email the library to secure a spot!

**Family Crafternoon** is a family-focused event that happens every third Friday of the month (May 15), at 3:30. This month will be a take-and-make activity. Materials will be available for you to pick up and complete at your convenience.

Saturday, May 16, from 10:00-1:00, marks our first ever and first of the year, **OFML Craft & Makers Market!** This program will be monthly throughout the summer, and will be located down at the parks & rec area next to the library. Come shop for local crafts, gifts, and foods, then stop by the library and have a look around! If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please call or stop by the library to grab an application.

On Thursday, May 21, from 6:00-8:00, join us for our next Lifelong Learning Series event: **Pesto from Scratch.** This month's class is on everyone's favorite topic, food! Join our excellent local cook and baker, Toni, who will teach you how to make a delicious homemade pesto sauce. Please call the library to register as there is very limited space for this event. Please note that this event is being held at the Barnstead Parade Fire Station. \*We will be using nuts in this recipe.\*

\*NEW\* We are hosting a **Kids Graphic Novel Club** on Thursday, May 21, from 4:00-5:00. Are you into graphic novels? Come talk about them! Read a graphic novel before we meet, then come share your thoughts – what worked, what didn't, and what you'd recommend to someone else. Read it. Talk about it. Find your next favorite! Light snacks provided. 5th grade and up. Call or email to register.

On Friday, May 22, 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 (May 29). 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!

## Congratulations to Dakota for reading 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!

*We're so proud of you!*

If you'd like to sign your child up for  
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten,  
contact the library at  
[ofmlstaff@gmail.com](mailto:ofmlstaff@gmail.com) or visit us!



## Historical Society Page



### Soldiers Monument

Source: The Laker, May 29 (year unknown)

Dedicated on September 23, 1911, Center Barnstead’s Soldier’s Monument depicts a uniformed Civil War soldier who may be Colonel Henry W. Blair. At the time, the sculpture cost about \$1,500 and was installed under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Women’s Relief Corps, and the citizens of Barnstead “in memory of the soldiers and sailors who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War.” It bears a later inscription honoring those who served during World War I. In addition to public donations, the town of Barnstead appropriated \$300 toward the project.

### 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



# LOCAL

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Business Uncensored group for updates!

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ~ *We have a place for you this Sunday*

24 Main Street, Pittsfield, NH 03263 ~ Phone 603.435.7471 ~ Office hours Tue 10-2, Wed 8-12, Thurs 1-5, and by appt.

#### WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU THIS WEEK

- Sun. 10A—Worship (Nursery Available)  
11A—Lite Lunch (not just coffee & cookies)  
Mon. 1:30P—Bible Study  
Tue. 8A—Men's Breakfast @ Friendly Diner  
A group of guys just talking shop  
Wed 10a-2p Women's Craft Group  
knitting, crocheting, sewing, etc. lessons available  
Thur. 6:30P—Chancel Choir rehearsal

#### WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU THIS MONTH

- Tue. May 5: 9-11—Diaper Pantry (pull ups & wipes)  
Fri. May 8: 5:30—Free Community Meal  
Donations support NH National Guard Chaplains  
Tue. May 12: 6:30P—Dorcas Guild - A Women's Party  
Brown Bag White Elephant (something simple in a sack)

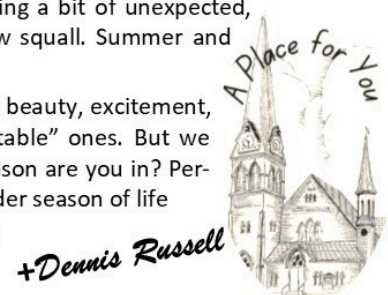
ALL MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES PLEASE USE THE CHESTNUT STREET ENTRANCE

winter are a little more predictable and safe.

The same goes for our personal and interpersonal seasons of life. Too often, we miss the beauty, excitement, and sometimes the thrills of the changing/challenging times trying to get to more "stable" ones. But we shouldn't wish these times away; they are important for health and growth. So what season are you in? Perhaps you need a bit less stability and a little more excitement? Perhaps you are in a shoulder season of life and need to look for the beauty. Remember King Solomon (and the Byrds) *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.* Ecclesiastes 3:1

**Seasons and Cycles** we all experience them. We experience them in nature, in relationships, but most importantly within ourselves. One minute we are on top of the world; the next minute, it feels like the world is on top of us. Many times what we experience does not line up with what experts think or say. For instance take the seasons of the year. I **THINK** it is safe to say that spring has sprung here in New Hampshire. However, meteorologically spring began on March 1st and astronomically it began on March 20th. Yet we all know that does not align with what we experience.

I think most people have a seasonal preference. Summer or winter: some want sun & sandals, others want snow & ski's. While all the seasons bring me joy, I love the shoulder seasons of spring & fall. I enjoy the transitions, the excitement of buds popping and flowers emerging. Equally, I love the colors and the harvests of fall. However, shoulder seasons bring a bit of unexpected, slippery leaves, a sudden snow squall. Summer and



## Barnstead Parks and Recreation

*"Bringing Community Together by Doing Fun Stuff!"*

### Game Night for Adults

Come for a fun night of socializing and play an old favorite or learn a new game.

- Monday, May 11 at Town Hall, 6:00–8:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 20 at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library, 6:00–8:00 PM

**Barnstead Archery** is open to adults and children over 8 years old. Registration is now open for all three sessions:

- Session 1: May 20 – July 10
- Session 2: July 17 – August 21
- Session 3: August 28 – October 9

Classes meet every Friday from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (weather dependent) at the TL Storer Scout Reservation. Equipment will be provided, or you may bring your own.

Cost: \$10 per person for one 6-week session. Registration link is available on our website.

**Keep an eye on our website for more information on:**

Swimming Lessons • Summer Concerts • Outdoor Movies • Free Play • Pickleball • and more!

**Check out our website for information on Banner Sponsorships for the rink walls.** All funds raised will go directly toward rebuilding the rink walls. Any remaining funds will support painting and ongoing upkeep of the rink.

## Commission Member Openings

Being a part of the Parks & Recreation Commission is a great way to get more involved in creating, planning, and hosting activities and programs for our community. There are many different levels of involvement and time commitments. We currently have several openings and would love to welcome new members. For more information, please contact Gail McCullough.

### Barnstead Garden Club

We thrive on community volunteers and donations. Please reach out if you can lend a hand! Contact us through our Facebook page (Barnstead Garden Club) or by email at [barnsteadgc@yahoo.com](mailto:barnsteadgc@yahoo.com).

We appreciate any help and support and hope you'll join our team!

Please watch our website ([barnsteadnhparks-rec.com](http://barnsteadnhparks-rec.com)) and Facebook page (@barnsteadparks) for additional details, date changes, cancellations, and pop-up events. You can also reach us at 802-332-3799 or [barnsteadparks@gmail.com](mailto:barnsteadparks@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

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## 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 5/20 at 6:00 PM.

**JMA School Board Meeting** is Tuesday 5/19 at 6:00 PM.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** The Selectman will be meeting on Monday evening, May 4, 2026 at 6PM for a work session regarding the town hall addition. This meeting is open to the public.

**Planning Board Meeting** 5/21 at 6PM

**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.

**Suncook Valley Farmer's Market** will be held every Saturday from 10AM to 1PM, beginning on May 30 until October 10, at the Barnstead Elementary School on Maple St.

**Barnstead Old Home Day Committee** Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7PM at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library.



# Meet Bryce OFML Kid Librarian!



Bryce loves:  
Books, Tacos,  
Football and Drawing

Check Out Bryce's Book Recommendations:

- The 13-th Tree house Series
- The Green Embers Series
- The Wingfeather Series
- I Survived Series

