



BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



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SOCIAL MEDIA MADNESS

by Kristina Schram

When Facebook first came out, I wanted nothing to do with it. I was happy with my MySpace account. I could personalize it with dark colors and spooky gothic photos and edgy alternative music, which allowed me to demonstrate how unique and special I was. Facebook was just so bland—so much white space and not a face or book in sight. But I was starting my career as an author, and my publisher “suggested” that I should make myself a page to promote my book. So I reluctantly followed his advice, and I’ve regretted it ever since.

Okay, that’s a lie. I do enjoy FB as a source of important community news (like when the roads have transformed into ice rinks, or when Benicio Bearo is on a grub crawl again). I also like it as a way to stay in touch with friends and family, most of whom live in other states, but without actually having to talk face-to-face (oh, the irony!).

However, certain things began to happen that made me wary of the Book of Faces. I should have logged off and stayed off, but I didn't (that's on me). Which meant I saw things. I witnessed lies, followed by cruelty and bursts of dramatizing for likes, then came the outrageous propaganda to perpetuate the lies. Stuff like: "Bigfoot is the source of the hairo-virus! All Biggies ought to be quarantined to keep it from spreading! But you can't find them because they're taking measures to blend in so they won't be quarantined! In fact, look at these very realistic "photos" I generated showing defurred Biggies!" I mean, really, that is something I cannot unsee, and it's taking a toll on me.

Thank goodness I drew the line at going beyond FB. Well, I did join Twitter for my books, but I hardly went on it, and a few years ago I deleted my account due to X-tenuating circumstances. I've avoided joining Tik-Tok, Instagram, Snapchat, Insta-Snap-Face-Tik, Bot Talk, Magnum AI, and whatever else is being invented as I type. In doing so, I feel like I'm keeping Pandora's Box shut. Yes, I'm sitting on the box and yes, it's fighting me, and yes, I can't ever sleep, but I'm winning this war! (For the moment.)

But lately FB has gotten out of control. It's all ads and AI and videos now, and only once in a while a post by someone I actually know shows up. I tried to get rid of the useless posts, but like mice they kept coming back (and then multiplying as punishment for my attempts to banish them). I'm also not sure why I'm getting ads for something I bought six weeks ago. Or about balding. I'm not balding, but now I'm kinda starting to question if maybe I am and nobody told me.

It seems the inmates have taken over the asylum. While this worries me, I can't quite give up social media. Experts say the definition of insanity is to keep doing something over and over and expecting different results, so I guess my unwillingness to delete my account officially makes me insane. Which means, if I play my cards right, one of these days Biggie K—I mean, I, Kristina— will be running the asylum! Yeeha!



CENTER BARNSTEAD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

www.centerbarnsteadcc.org



HAPPY
Father's
DAY



JUNE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Good to Know Info: We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (Jun. 11). Juneteenth, Jun. 19, is a federal holiday to commemorate the emancipation of slaves in America. We'll have a special display at the library! Looking Ahead: Shirefest is Saturday, Aug. 15 (for more info visit: <https://www.oscarfoss.org/shirefest>).

Our **Summer Reading Program (SRP)** is coming! Starting **Tuesday, Jun. 23**, you can register online or at the library to participate and win some fabulous prizes - just for reading books. (Patrons can start logging books Tuesday, Jun. 30, and logging ends Saturday, Aug. 1.) The theme this year is, "Plant a Seed, Read!" and we are planning all sorts of activities for you, ending with **Shirefest**—our SRP finale—on **Aug. 15**.

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 Little's Love to Learn! Join us on **Tuesdays at 10:30** for an interactive storytime filled with group singing, dancing, imaginative play, crafts, and stories, all designed specifically for babies and 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.

On the **first Wednesday of the month (Jun. 3)**, 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.

Our **Read the Room Book Club (ages 18+)** takes place on the **first Wednesday of the month (Jun. 3)**, from **6:00-7:30**. This month's book will be "The World as We Know It" by Joseph Monninger. Next month's book will be "Trail of the Lost" by Andrea Lankford. 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 (Jun. 2) and third (Jun. 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!

Calling all **Mah Jongg** fans - come join us at the library! Players meet the **first (Jun. 4) and third (Jun. 18) Thursdays of the month at 1:30**. No registration required.

On **Thursday, Jun. 4, at 6:30**, join us for a **Humanities Talk on Wit & Wisdom: The Forgotten Literary Life of New England Villages**. Come learn about how New Englanders before the Civil War used a wide assortment of literary activities to stay engaged with their community and to keep themselves occupied during the long winter nights. Presented by Jo Radner and made possible by NH Humanities. Please call or email the library to register.

On **Thursday, Jun. 11, from 6:30-7:30, we are having a Bingo Night!** Bring the whole family for a night of bingo, laughs, a little friendly competition, and prizes! All ages are welcome. Whether you're a bingo master or a first-time player, there's a seat at the table for everyone.

Saturday, June 13, from 10:00-1:00, come visit our OFML Craft & Makers Market! This program will be held monthly throughout the summer, and is located in the library parking lot (parking is down by the P&R area). 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, Jun. 18, at 6:00, join us for our next Lifelong Learning Series event: High Inflation Money Management.** Has high inflation got you down? Join us for a presentation from the experts at Merrimack Savings Bank. In this presentation you will learn skills on income and taxes, budgeting and saving, and smart spending. Please call or email the library to register.

On **Friday, Jun. 19, join us at 5:30 for a special Film-to-Table event!** Step into a world of rich chocolate, small-town charm, and a little bit of magic. Enjoy an evening of film, flavor, and a touch of whimsy with a themed dinner served alongside the movie, "**Chocolat.**" Sweet, whimsical, and just a touch indulgent. This is one evening you won't want to miss!

Learn Bike Safety with the Barnstead Police Department on Tuesday, Jun. 23, at 2:00. Come join us here at the library for a fun, free, and educational event! Learn the rules of the road, how to check your bike for safety, and tips for riding smart. All ages are welcome—but be sure to bring your bike, helmet, and questions.

On **Thursday, Jun. 25, we are having a Shirefest Planning Meeting.** Are you volunteering or partnering with us for Shirefest (it's on August 15, from 10-3, here at the library)? Join us for a collaborative planning meeting where we'll share updates, brainstorm ideas, and coordinate our magical efforts! Whether you're a returning volunteer or just jumping in, your input is welcome and appreciated as we work together to bring this enchanted event to life.

On **Friday, Jun. 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 (Jun 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!

Our **Summer Reading Program (SRP) Kick-Off this year is on Saturday, Jun. 27, from 10:30-1:00!** Let's kick off our summer reading program with a bang! Join us for live music from local band "No Mango," a visit from Wildlife Encounters at 10:30, a book sale, a food stand hosted by our friends of the library, a plant swap, and plenty of kids activities out on the library lawn. The library will also be open at this time if you would like to sign up for the SRP.

For events that require registration, please contact us at 269-3900 or ofmlstaff@gmail.com to reserve your spot!



JOIN US FOR
SUMMER READING
2026!

Historical Society Page

Localities and Villages

Source: The History of Barnstead, New Hampshire (1727-1872) by Jeremiah P. Jewett, M.D.

Beauty Hill gets its name from the high rolling land in the northwestern part of town. Snackerty in the extreme northeast part of town, with first settlers said to be from Schenectady, New York. The Parade in the southwest part of town was donated "through the munificence" of Eli Bunker.

The Centre is a village on the Suncook near the middle of town. Clark Town, located in the southeast, takes its name from the great number of Clarks in that locality. Tuttleboro, located between the Centre and Beauty Hill, derived its name from the family of John Tuttle, an original settler. The source of the name Peacham, in the north, has been lost over time.

Locke's Corner, in the northeast part of town, takes its name from John Locke. North Barnstead became a thriving village, with stores, the church, post office and houses. South Barnstead, known for considerable trade and thrifty farmers and fat cattle.

Copies of Jewett's History are available for purchase from the Historical Society.

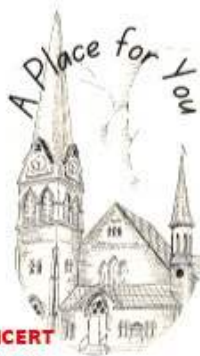


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WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU THIS WEEK

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



DON'T FORGET OUR "AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY SALUTE" CONCERT
June 5th @ 7 p.m. Featuring Church & Community Musicians.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? Have you ever made plans with friends to go someplace but knew that because of a prior commitment you would not be able to go with them but that you would have to meet them later? I have. My friends and I had planned a single night camping trip. However, I had to work late so I was going to meet them there.

The day came, I had to work and had to stay late. By the time I arrived at the trail head it was already on the edge of dusk. I checked the trail log and saw that my friends had signed the trail log stating that their destination was the lake shore on the other side of the mountain.

So I set off. Dusk came...I lost the trail...I found a stream and followed it to the lake. At the lake I was alone...my friends were not there. I spent the night and the next day as I packed out I ran into my friends who had decided to camp at the top of the mountain. They changed plans, not maliciously. Had I not lost the trail, I would have met them at the top of the mountain. We all get lost at times, but in the Christian life we have to remember that Jesus is not the destination, He is **The Way** *John 14:6* Do you feel lost? Perhaps we at First Congregational can help you find **THE WAY**.

+Dennis Russell

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.

summer
time

BARNSTEAD PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Worship Service 9:00 A.M.
Rev. Sandy Pierson—483-2846

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 Parks and Recreation

"Barnstead Parks & Recreation Highlights

"Bringing Community Together by Doing Fun Stuff!"

Barnstead Together Weekend

Thank you to everyone who volunteered!

Together, we:

- Filled a large dumpster during road cleanup
- Built rink walls and replaced swing chains
- Painted the pump house and rebuilt its ramp/rail
- Cleared brush and small trees near the garage
- Cleaned and trimmed the town beach trail

The turnout and results exceeded all expectations. THANK YOU!

Programs & Events

Game Night (Adults)

A relaxed evening of classic and new games.

Check Facebook for dates and details.

Archery Program (Ages 8+)

Fridays, 6:00–7:30 PM (weather dependent)

Location: TL Storer Scout Reservation

- Session 1: May 29 – July 10
- Session 2: July 17 – August 21
- Session 3: August 28 – October 9

Cost: \$10 per 6-week session

Equipment provided or bring your own.

Summer Concert Series

Begins June 13 featuring North River Music.

Free concerts with local concessions available.

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the evening.

Swimming Lessons

- Session 1: July 20–31
- Session 2: August 10–21

Each session includes 10 weekday lessons.

Registration details available on the website.

Additional Upcoming Programs

Outdoor Movies • Free Play • Sandcastle Play
• Pickleball • More!

Get Involved

Rink Wall Sponsorship

Support the rink rebuild and ongoing upkeep.

Details available on the website.

Commission Openings

Flexible volunteer opportunities are available.

For more information, contact Gail

McCullough.

Barnstead Garden Club

Volunteers and donations are always welcome.

Email: barnsteadgc@yahoo.com

Facebook: Barnstead Garden Club

Stay Connected

Website: barnsteadnhparks-rec.com

Facebook: @barnsteadparks

Phone: 802-332-3799

Email: barnsteadparks@gmail.com



Family Hikes and Paddles in Barnstead

Looking for local outdoor adventures to enjoy with your family this summer? Here are a few wonderful spots to explore right here in Barnstead.

Harrison Woods Natural Area

Managed by the Barnstead Conservation Commission, the Harrison Woods Natural Area is a beautiful 180-acre property featuring a one-mile woods road leading from the parking area to Upper Suncook Lake. At the lake, visitors will find a picnic table and a scenic shoreline loop trail created as an Eagle Scout project. The trail follows the shoreline before climbing gently uphill to reconnect with the woods road.

Before heading home, be sure to stop at the upper field to enjoy the view. There you'll find a memorial bench honoring Ernie Locke, a beloved Barnstead resident and Conservation Commission member, as well as a lean-to dedicated to Norma and Pat Harrison, whose generous land donation helped make this conservation project possible.

Directions: From Route 28 near Barnstead Elementary School, take Beauty Hill Road and continue to where the pavement ends. Stay straight on the dirt road, then bear right onto Gilmanton Road. After about one mile, look for the trail sign on the right. Limited roadside parking is available.

Big River Recreation Area

For families with younger children, the Big River Recreation Area is a perfect outing, especially when paired with a visit to the library.

The area features the short and family-friendly Two Rivers Trail, ideal for toddlers and preschoolers. This trail has hosted fairy house activities and the Parks & Recreation Easter Egg Hunt. Picnic tables and grills are also available on the upper section of the property.

Directions: The recreation area is located next to the library and also includes a playground and seasonal ice-skating rink.

Kayaking and Canoeing

If you have access to kayaks or a canoe, the Big River Recreation Area also offers a convenient launch spot on the Big River, which flows into the Suncook River. Paddlers can enjoy a relaxing trip downstream to the paved take-out area at the Barnstead Parade. If possible, consider leaving a second vehicle at the take-out location for an easy one-way paddle adventure.

Belknap Area Market Management (BAMM) is excited to announce the return of its farmers markets for the 2026 season, bringing fresh, locally sourced produce, meats, baked goods, and artisan crafts to the communities of Tilton, Barnstead, and Laconia/Weirs Beach. The markets will run from late May through early October, offering residents and visitors a vibrant and accessible way to support local farmers and artisans.

Market Schedule:

Suncook Valley Farmers Market (Barnstead)

Saturdays, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM, starting May 30

91 Maple St, Center Barnstead

Each market will feature a diverse array of vendors offering fresh produce, meats, baked goods, and artisan crafts. SNAP/EBT benefits are accepted at all markets and are doubled through the Granite State Market Match program, making healthy, local food more accessible to all.

BAMM is committed to fostering a strong local economy by providing a platform for small-scale farmers and artisans to showcase their products. The markets also serve as community hubs, bringing together neighbors and visitors to celebrate the abundance of the Belknap region, while enjoying live music and hot food from a variety of food trucks. For more information about the markets, vendor applications, and support opportunities, please visit www.bamm-nh.org.

Contact:

Belknap Area Market Management

9 Berry Rd, Belmont, NH 03220

Phone: (603) 409-2871

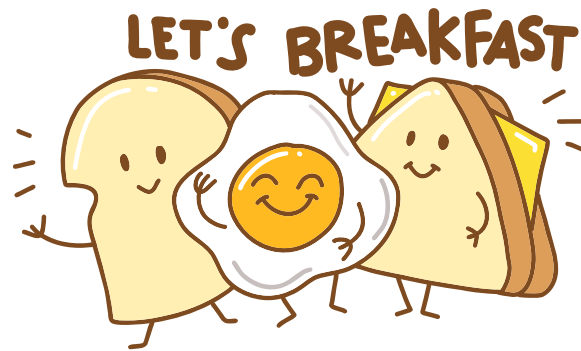
Email: info@bamm-nh.org

Website: www.bamm-nh.org

About Belknap Area Market Management (BAMM):

BAMM is a NH benefit corporation dedicated to supporting and promoting local agriculture and artisans in the Belknap region of New Hampshire. Through its farmers markets, BAMM provides a platform for small-scale producers to connect with consumers, fostering a vibrant and sustainable local food system.





The Friendly Diner: A Barnsteadian's Culinary Love Letter

By the Epicurious Barnsteadian

If you ever find yourself in Pittsfield with an empty stomach and a sense of adventure, point your boots toward the Friendly Diner—because this place doesn't just serve breakfast; it throws breakfast at you like a delicious avalanche.

I ordered one of the specials, which arrived in a bowl roughly the size of a small canoe. Inside was a glorious, steamy mountain of sausage, peppers, onions, cheese, eggs, and potatoes—basically every food group that matters. The fact that the potatoes stayed crispy despite being covered in cheese and eggs is a mystery I will never solve. It came out so hot it was practically whistling, then they crowned it with a ladle of homemade hollandaise so silky and decadent it should probably have its own fan club. I'm not saying I teared up, but I'm also not not saying that.

But listen—this is important. The real star of the Friendly Diner isn't even the breakfast bowl that could feed a lumberjack battalion. It's the bakery case. This glowing shrine of carbs sits near the counter like a pastry-powered lighthouse, guiding weary travelers to safety. Muffins, cakes, pastries—all homemade, all fresh, and absolutely not from a freezer. You can practically hear them whispering, "Go on. You've earned this." And honestly, who am I to argue with baked goods that speak to me?

The Friendly Diner is exactly what a diner should be: warm, hearty, unpretentious, and ready to feed you until you question your life choices—in the best possible way. If you leave hungry, that's on you.

Now if you'll excuse me, I need to go lie down and reflect on that hollandaise.



SHIREFEST

OSCAR FOSS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Books, Bagginses
and a bit of Nonsense

AUGUST 15TH
10AM TO 3PM

A celebration of
books, community,
and all things
fantastical!

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EVENT INFO AT
www.oscarfoss.org/shirefest/


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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 6/17 at 6:00 PM.

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

Planning Board Meeting 6/18 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.

Last Day for PMHS Seniors is June 5th .

PMHS Seniors' Parade to ACS & BES is June 8th .

PMHS Graduation is June 12th at 6 PM.



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