



BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town



IN THIS ISSUE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Inflation Nation

by Kristina Schram

Don't get me started on the cost of things these days. Ha, ha! Too late! Already started. In my day, I could buy a candy bar for a quarter. Now? You can't even buy one for a dollar. You can't get a coffee for under two bucks or a sandwich for under ten. And get this, I recently visited a shop selling a candle for \$25! I mean, yeah, it smelled like heaven dipped in rainbows, but still...I can't justify putting that kind of money toward a candle. That's 2½ sandwiches there. And why does it cost over \$20 to get a large popcorn and a couple drinks at the movies? How much does popcorn and pop actually cost? Actually, I have no idea. But not even close to that, I'm sure. Unfortunately, I love movie theater popcorn and could be convinced, if need be, to sell my children for it. But still... That's a couple of sandwiches there.

I blame the heads of our country's corporations. Sure, you can blame this president and that political party, but when you have a company big-wig tell his employees about how hard it is to staff his yacht, and by the way, no raises this year, well, then I think we have discovered the true source of our problems (yes, this actually happened). I call them "The Well-To-Do Who Have Zero Clue," as they seem to have no idea what it means to have money struggles. Really, the only kind of inflation they have to deal with involves their oversized egos.

The solution to my inflation issue is really quite simple. Stop buying stuff. Unfortunately, this creates other problems, like starvation. Unfortunately, I'm not really into resorting to cannibalism (which is probably one of the cheaper food sources we have), mainly because most people are now faster than I am and can outrun me. Plus, the older I get, the less I'm into feeling deprived, so what's a girl to do? I know what some people would do. Steal catalytic converters. But I wouldn't do that. Because stealing is wrong and also crawling under cars sounds messy and I'd probably end up with the wrong part because I have no idea what a catalytic converter even looks like (or so I claim-ha ha!)

I guess what it comes down to is that I'm going to have to tighten my belt. (Well, I would if I hadn't sold it.) This means no daily Dunkin runs. No lash extensions. No manis or pedis. No \$500 bottles of wine. No Manolo Blahnik shoes. No trips to Las Vegas to gamble, because baby needs a new pair of Manolo Blahnik shoes. Really, those sacrifices alone should save me a ton of money. Well, they would if I actually did or bought any of those things. Dang. I guess my only hope is to create a company (Schramerica has a nice ring to it). Then my only worries will be hiring my yacht crew. Hmm...I wonder if they'll work for sandwiches.

Business Cards • Forms • Business Checks • Brochures
 Color Copies • Stationery • Graphic Design • Magnets
 Programs • Raffle Tickets • Rubber Stamps
 Wedding Invitations and Accessories • Bookmarks

Full Color: Cards • Brochures • Flyers • Labels • Postcards
 Customized Promotional Items • Banners • Yard Signs

GRANITE IMAGE
 940 Suncook Valley Hwy • PO Box 683
 Epsom, NH 03234 • 603-736-6056
 print@granite-image.com • www.granite-image.com

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**

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: COOKIE BEAR BAKING BRINGS SWEETNESS AND KINDNESS TO BARNSTEAD

In the heart of Barnstead, New Hampshire, there's a small business that's making life a little sweeter, one cookie at a time.

Cookie Bear Baking LLC, owned by Leah Whitney, specializes in beautifully crafted custom sugar cookies and provides unique opportunities for people to connect and have fun through their cookie decorating classes.

Leah and her husband Marc moved to Barnstead in 2011. Her journey to starting Cookie Bear Baking six years ago is as inspiring as it is relatable. After the birth of her son Lincoln, Leah chose not to return to teaching so she could stay home with him. During those late nights while breastfeeding, she discovered the art of cookie decorating through Instagram videos. "I thought, I can do that!" Leah recalls. And she did. What started as a personal creative outlet quickly grew into a passion and, ultimately, a thriving business. "I never thought that what started off as a hobby with the hope of making some extra money would turn into the business that exists today".

Cookie Bear Baking LLC is best known for its exquisitely decorated sugar cookies. From weddings and baby showers to birthdays, graduations, retirements, and holiday events, Leah's custom creations have become a centerpiece for special events throughout Barnstead and beyond. Her cookies are not only a visual treat but also a delicious one, handcrafted with care and creativity.

But what truly sets Leah's business apart is her commitment to giving back to the community. Leah hosts Cookies & Kindness parties where she teaches decorating classes and donates 20% of the proceeds to a charity of the host's choice. "It's a great way to support causes people care about while having fun," Leah says. Her passion for encouraging creativity doesn't stop there—she also offers free cookie decorating classes to kids at local libraries. For Leah, it's an opportunity to encourage children and contribute to the community she cares about. Beyond her baking and decorating, Leah also works to address food insecurity in the area. She serves as an End 68 Hours of Hunger Coordinator for Barnstead and Pittsfield, a program dedicated to ensuring kids have enough to eat during weekends when school meals aren't available. Her dedication to both her business and community exemplifies the community spirit that is so needed in small towns like Barnstead.

If you need some custom cookies for a special event or you want to try your hand at decorating by hosting a cookie decorating class, Cookie Bear Baking promises something special for everyone. Be sure to contact Leah through Cookie Bear Baking's Facebook page or website, cookiebearbaking.com.


Cookie Bear Baking is more than a business—it's a labor of love, creativity, and kindness, sweetening the lives of the local community one cookie at a time.

Barnstead Community Transportation Needs Survey


The Barnstead Helpers are looking for solutions to help meet the transportation needs of our community. To better understand what the specific needs are, we are asking anyone who has unmet transportation needs or is interested in helping to solve this issue to please complete to the survey using the link or QR code below. If you would rather complete a paper version you can do so at Oscar Foss Memorial Library.

<https://tinyurl.com/Transportation-Needs>



 **CENTER BARNSTEAD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

www.centerbarnsteadcc.org 

FISH TAILS



Bait & Tackle  @fishtails1

OPEN DAILY
6am - 6pm



1045 Beauty Hill Rd
Barnstead, NH
603 - 545 - 5808

1009 Upper
City Road
Pittsfield
NH made
goods

follow us on
facebook -
sugarslocal





January Library Happenings



Good to Know Info: We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (1/9). “Pets of OFML” calendars are available at the library for \$14! Proceeds from our calendar sales go to fund library programs.

Get ready for a totally unique year ahead! We’re inviting all ages to join us in creating your own 2025 Bingo Card at the library. Here’s how it works: Fill in your card with any event you think might happen this year—weather events, celebrity news, historical moments, or anything that could be a major headline. When something on your card happens, we’ll mark it off. You don’t even have to be here to win! Once you’ve got a Bingo, we’ll give you a call to let you know you’ve won a prize. It’s the perfect way to add some extra excitement to 2025. So, come make your predictions and see if you can score a Bingo before anyone else!

2025 Vision Boards - Come make a visual plan for your 2025 goals! The library will provide poster boards and magazines. You can bring any images, photos, or items you would like to include. Your vision board will reflect your goals for the new year, piecing your intentions together into a beautiful display.

NEW! 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 our Facebook 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**. Yes, you heard that right. Every Wednesday! 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+) typically takes place on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:30, in the library's Meeting Room, but due to the holiday will move to Wednesday, Jan. 8. This month's book will be "Art Forger" by Barbara Shapiro. Next month's book will be "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking" by Susan Cain. Books are available at the library. This month, bring one of your favorite books for the club's annual holiday book swap. Extra books will also be provided so there is an ample selection of titles to choose from.

On Friday, Jan. 10, from 5:00-7:00, come create your own Book Tracker! For ages 10 to 110, we'll be painting and decorating bookshelves on paper. Each time you finish a book in 2025, you can add it to your shelf and watch your reading collection grow throughout the year. Whether you're a seasoned bookworm or just starting your reading journey, this event is perfect for anyone looking to stay motivated and organized in 2025. Come for the creativity, stay for the books. Don't forget to bring your reading goals, and let's make this year a bestseller!

The OFML Sewcial Club meets the 3rd Wednesday (1/15) of the month from 12:30-3:30. Guests can bring any sewing or quilting project they are working on (along with their sewing machines and supplies) to the library to socialize and share tips while they sew.

***FRESH!* Join us for our new monthly program: Late Night at the Library (18+)! On Thursday, Jan. 16, from 7:00-9:00, the entire library will be full of fun activities for our adult patrons including Books and Banter, trivia, and much more! Spend time socializing or cozying up with a good book for this special late night event!**

On Thursday, Jan. 16, from 7:00-8:30 (we're starting a little later this month for Late Nights at the Library), 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—everything from non-fiction to horror to romantasy! Feel free to come ready to discuss up to three books you've recently read, giving a brief synopsis to spark conversation. It's a fantastic way to discover new titles and engage with fellow book lovers. Whether you're a seasoned reader or just looking to explore new genres, there's a place for you here. Don't miss out on the fun—come share your thoughts, learn about new books, and enjoy a cozy evening of discussion. We can't wait to see you!

Family Crafternoon is a family-focused event that happens every third Friday of the month (1/17). Join us as we make a craft and watch a movie. Materials will be provided and light refreshments served.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, 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 brunch at the Barnstead Town Hall, presenting awards to volunteers that are nominated by community members, and awarding the Gordon Preston Award. So all you awesome volunteers...please join us as we express our gratitude for all you do!

Join the Senior Social Club, a program designed to provide 65+ adults with fun and engaging activities that foster community and relationship building. Each session will focus on different activities, including arts and crafts, storytelling, and technology workshops. The club will meet the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00 (1/21). Light refreshments will be served.

NEW! The Tight-Knit Knitting and Crocheting Circle is here. Knitters and crocheters come together to work on your projects, discuss any technical difficulties you're having, and support one another. The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month (1/23) from 6:00-7:30 in the library meeting room.

Teen/Tween Hot Chocolate Hang-Out is happening Friday, Jan. 24, from 2:00-7:30 (perfect for an early release day). Hey, fam, we're hosting the ultimate Hot Chocolate Bar at the library! We've got all the delicious toppings you could want—marshmallows, whipped cream, sprinkles, and more. It's gonna be a whole mood, so bring your crew and make it a cozy hangout. See you there, squad!

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 (1/31). 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! This structured course includes sessions on creating: Chapter Cheat Sheets, Character Cards, and a Tracking the Timeline graph. We welcome all genres from Fantasy to Action Adventure to Romance, focusing on a target audience of Middle School and above.

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

Community Events

Board of Selectmen Meetings will be Tuesday 1/14 and Tuesday 1/28 beginning at 5:00 PM at the Barnstead Town Hall.

Barnstead Against Bullying is a parent run and sponsored group that meets at the library on 1/7 at 6PM.

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

JMA School Board Meeting 1/21 at 6:00 PM at Prospect Mountain High School.

BES School Board Meeting 1/21 at 6:00 PM at Barnstead Elementary School.

BES PTO: 1/9 at 6PM at Barnstead Elementary School.



www.cookiebearbaking.com

Celebrate Our Volunteers! Saturday, Dec. 18, at 11:00

Oscar Foss Memorial Library will be hosting a brunch at the Barnstead Town Hall to honor the volunteers who make our town great.

Town organizations are invited to present awards to volunteers that are nominated by their organizations or community members.

The Gordon Preston Outstanding Community Service Award will be presented as well. Nominations for this award are due by 12/22. Use the QR code below to submit your nominee!

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

