



# 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  
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BARNSTEAD-BANNER

## We Love Our Volunteers!

The Oscar Foss Memorial Library was proud to host our third annual Volunteer Appreciation Day in January, a special brunch event dedicated to celebrating the incredible individuals who make our town a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

Local organizations recognized the efforts of volunteers from non-profits, boards, and committees whose dedication enriches our community.

The Gordon Preston Outstanding Community Service Award was also presented to Kate Crary, whose exceptional contributions inspire us all.

We sincerely appreciate the hard work and commitment of every volunteer who helps our community thrive!

**LIBRARY VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

Ann Cwik  
 Suzanne Allison  
 Jane Westlake  
 Linda Nelson  
 Rebecca Cowser  
 Kate Crary  
 Mary Clarke  
 Mary Chapman  
 The McKeen Family  
 Dave Preston/OSG Paintball  
 Robb Ellis/T. L. Storer Reservation  
 Hilary Henry  
 Leah Whitney  
 Denise Adjutant  
 Jeannie Terry  
 Mary Ellen Shannon  
 Michelle Hanley  
 Len Hanley

**FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

Jamie Weatherbee

**PARKS AND RECREATION AWARDS**

Jim Hassell  
 Derek King  
 Rick Zanio  
 Mary Ellen Shannon  
 Deborah Coburn  
 Liz Rice Worth  
 Celeste D'Innocenzo  
 Patricia Sanborn  
 Dina Sutton  
 Judith Spicer  
 Chris Killinger  
 Ivan Bellemare  
 Chrissy Roberge  
 Sophie Bellemare  
 Victoria Cowser  
 Dan Chase  
 Judy Chase

**MILFOIL COMMITTEE AWARDS**

Ed Neister





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Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

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**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**

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## LOVE IS IN THE AIR...OR ARE THOSE ICE PELLETS?

by Kristina Schram

Do you know why Valentine's Day is in February, or are you like me and have no clue and prefer to just make stuff up? Okay, fine. I'll be good and go look it up. All right, I'm back. Wikipedia (an impeccable resource) cites a lot of history behind Valentine's Day, with every country having some version of their own history/celebration/saint. The article went on and on and on, so I quickly decided that I didn't want to know that badly. However, I did glean a bit from my swift perusal: Valentine was a martyr, he restored sight to a blind girl, he performed marriages for Christian soldiers because the Romans wouldn't, and there were a lot of people named Valentine back in the day. Nice stuff, but a bit on the bland side, romance-wise. Not once did I see anything about a heroine moving to a small town and finding her true love after opening a bakery/bookstore/antique shop (and giving away half the inventory because she's just so darn sweet), but not before there is some sort of crisis with city hall/a rich banker/the true love. Hallmark has taught me what real romance is and what I read on Wikipedia isn't it. So here we are. Back to where I started. Which means I'm going to make stuff up.



So here's what I think: Valentine's Day ended up in February because it's a month typically filled with cold and ice and bad tempers, and the calendar makers realized they needed to put something interesting here to boost morale or be forced to get rid of the month altogether. Their first attempt was to talk up a saint and his good deeds, but then they decided that maybe saints alone aren't glamorous enough to whip up the necessary enthusiasm to fend off the cold, ice, and bad tempers. So they decided that romantic love and rich chocolate and fragrant flowers would be much more effective at taking our minds off the tedium of February (and more lucrative, to boot). People bought into it (literally), and this allowed us to keep February. Of course, there are those who think romantic love is a sham, and others who don't like chocolate (monsters), and then there are the poor souls who are allergic to flowers. I guess those people are just going to have to suffer from the February blues, or move to a desert.

Or maybe calendar makers were desperate to give this month some oomph because of how hard it is to spell and/or pronounce it. Does anyone even say that first r? I, for one, only pronounce it in my head when I'm trying to remember how to spell the vexing word. Or maybe it's because it's a month that's short-changed. February is so unloved it only gets 28 days (or 29, when we do our leap). Obviously the people who created the calendar wanted it over as soon as possible, too.



Well, now I'm feeling a little sorry for February, a sentiment which, I reckon, will dissipate once the ice pellets start to hit my face. But getting chocolate and flowers and a romantic vacation for two to somewhere warm should tide me over until March, when—you guessed it—we get to venerate another saint!



### **BARNSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Have you ever given much thought to the post offices in Barnstead—when they were established and where they were located? Their locations are designated as Barnstead, South Barnstead, Center Barnstead, and North Barnstead.

Prior to around 1814, there had been no post office here. The first one was established on Province Road, near the southwest corner of the town. Charles Hodgdon was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by Charles Hodgdon, Jr., Charles J. Hodgdon, Noah Robinson, and Samuel D. Nutter, though perhaps not all served in the same locality.

#### **Barnstead (Parade) Post Office**

Postmasters: Hazen Wheeler, Eliphalet S. Nutter, Jonathan M. Tasker, Daniel Chesley, Joseph P. Russell, and Cyrus W. Blanchard.

#### **Barnstead Center Post Office**

Postmasters: Isaac O. Barnes, John Kent, Jeremiah Elkins, John Peavey, Daniel Bickford, Noah C. Huntress, E. C. Drew, Laban M. Saunders, Seth Tasker, and Thomas M. Huse.

#### **North Barnstead Post Office**

Postmasters: Samuel Webster, Thomas P. Hodgdon, Robert S. Webster, Charles E. Walker, and William C. Berry.

#### **South Barnstead Post Office**

Postmasters: Edward Walker and Charles Reynolds.

Many changes have taken place since 1814. Today, we have two post offices, two zip codes, and home delivery service.

*Information taken from:*

*History of Barnstead, New Hampshire*  
by Jeremiah P. Jewett, M.D.



# February Library Happenings



**Good to Know Info:** We are Closed for Staff Training the 2nd Thursday of the month until 3:00PM (2/13).

**Fridays @ 10:30AM-12:00PM Home School Group:** Join us 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.

**Sat. 2/1 @ 10:00AM-1:00PM Take Your Child to the Library Day:** Celebrate “International Day of Education” with a visit to the library. Check out our book collections and everything the library has to offer. Try your hand at some crafts and games. There will be prizes, too! Snacks will be served.

**Wed. 2/5 @ 6:00-7:30PM Meet and Read (18+):** This month’s book will be “Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking” by Susan Cain. Next month’s book will be “Matrix” by Lauren Groff. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

**Thurs. 2/6 @ 3:00-5:00PM Teen/Tween Styrofoam Print Card Making:** This hands-on card-making workshop allows you to carve your own designs to create fun and unique Valentine’s Day cards.

**Sat. 2/8 @ 11:00AM-12:30PM Small Business Meet & Greet:** This gathering offers an opportunity for local small business owners to get together and discuss ways to promote their businesses. The library is also working on facilitating a Barnstead Business Directory and brainstorming the possibility of a Barnstead Business Association. Light refreshments will be served.

**Tues. 2/11 - Fri. 2/14 @ Open Hours Valentine Card Making:** Stop by the library and make a Valentine’s card for someone you love or admire. We have a craft station stocked with card stock, pretty stickers, markers and crayons, glue sticks, and more. You could even make a card for your lovable local librarians!

**Tues. 2/18 @ 3:00PM Senior Social Club (65+):** Provides activities that foster community and relationship building. The club meets the third Tuesday of the month. Light refreshments will be served.



**Wed. 2/19 @ 12:30-3:30PM The OFML Sewcial Club:** This club meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Bring your sewing or quilting project, along with sewing machines and supplies.

**Thurs. 2/20 @ 7:00-9:00PM Book Speed Dating (18+):** Join us for this late night event and fall in love with a new book from an array of curated choices from popular genres!

**Thurs. 2/20 @ 7:00-9:00PM Late Night at the Library (18+): \*FRESH!\*** The entire library will be full of fun activities for our adult patrons, including Book Speed Dating, trivia, and more! Spend time socializing or cozying up with a good book for this special late night event!

**Fri. 2/21 @ 4:00-6:00PM Family Crafternoon:** A family-focused event that happens every 3rd Friday. Join us as we make a craft and watch a movie. Materials will be provided and light refreshments served.

**Fri. 2/21 @ 6:30-8:00PM Books & Banter (18+):** Come ready for a lively discussion of the last 3 books you have read/are reading. Give the group a brief synopsis of/thoughts on your book so we can discuss.

**Thurs. 2/27 @ 6:00-7:30PM The Tight-Knit Knitting and Crocheting Circle:** 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.

**Thurs. 2/27 @ 6:00PM Meet the Candidates Night:** The library is hosting a gathering at town hall for residents to meet and ask questions of candidates running for school and town positions.

**Fri. 2/28 @ 6:00-7:30PM Let's Write a Novel (16+):** A series of structured classes on the how-to's of writing a book. Provides writers with inspiration, structural hints, and constructive feedback on your work.

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

## Community Events

**School Budget Hearing:** 2/3 at 6:00PM Barnstead Elementary School

**Town Budget Hearing:** 2/6 at 6:00 PM Barnstead Elementary School

**Board of Selectmen Meetings** will be Tuesday 2/11 and Tuesday 2/25 beginning at 5:00 PM at the Barnstead Town Hall.

**PMHS Fishing for Freedom:** 2/15 from 6 AM to 3 PM at Suncook Lakes. Sponsored by the PMHS Honor Society.

**Valentine's Date with the Stars:** 2/15 at 6 PM at TL Storer. Sponsored by NH Astronomical Society and PMHS Honor Society.

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

**JMA School Board Meeting** 2/18 at 6:00 PM at Prospect Mountain High School.

**BES School Board Meeting** 2/19 at 6:00 PM at Barnstead Elementary School.

**BES PTO:** 2/19 at 6PM at Barnstead Elementary School.

**Avery Michaud Memorial Fishing Derby:** 2/22 from 9 AM to 3 PM at Brindle Pond

**Team Lucy Blood Drive:** 2/25 at BES 12 PM - 5 PM

## Secret Kiss Cupcakes

3 1/3 cups all purpose flour

2 cups sugar

1 cup baking cocoa

2 tsp baking soda

1 tsp salt

2 cups buttermilk

1 cup butter, melted

2 eggs, lightly beaten

2 tsp vanilla

30 milk chocolate kisses

1 can (16 ounces) fudge frosting



In a bowl, combine the flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt; mix well.

Combine the buttermilk, melted butter, eggs and vanilla.

Add to the dry ingredients; Mix well.

Fill paper-lined muffin pan 2/3 full. Press a chocolate kiss into the center of each cupcake until batter completely covers candy.

Bake at 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean.

Cool 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Frost cupcakes. Makes about 2 1/2 dozen.

You could also make your own frosting if you don't like using frosting from a can. Add some Valentine sprinkles to dress them up.

Wishing you a lovely February—Stay well, be happy and smile!!

Jeannie