

OTIS OBSERVER

Your Town, Your Neighborhood and You

November 2023 Vol IX Issue 7

Take a Hike ... Literally!

By Sandy Balayan

Berkshire Knapsackers was founded in 1977 and is still going strong. With up to 50 outings a year, and roughly 100 members in their 20s up to 80s, the group has flourished with the common goal of social outings with like-minded people who “value healthy living and an appreciation of nature and the beauty of the Berkshires.”

In a conversation with Joe Doboszynski, who has been a member since 2006, the *Observer* learned that this great organization is open to anyone who shares an interest in outdoor activities such as hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, kayaking and biking. Joe recommends going to their website, www.berkshireknapsackers.org or emailing them directly at berkshireknapsackersgroup@gmail.com for more information, but he was happy to share his experiences as a member of the group. Joe has a summer place in Otis but spends the colder months in the Pittsfield area. Not only is he an avid hiker, he also is a pickleball enthusiast who shared his knowledge with us in a recent issue of the *Observer*.

“We keep it simple. Just sign up for a hike and come prepared with waterproof hiking shoes and a lunch. It is a very low key, friendly and non-demanding group. People join us from all over Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. Our hikes can be laid back and not rigorous, or they can be rigorous. The hike descriptions on the website rate the hikes for distance and difficulty so that hikers can use their own judgment. When you check the website, you see the hikes listed and the locations, as well as an explanation of the terrain. Each



Holyoke Range

Photo: Courtesy of Joe Doboszynski

hike has a leader (volunteers who step up to lead hikes) who can answer any inquiries about that hike,” shares Joe.



Becket Quarry

Photo: Courtesy of Joe Doboszynski

He has made a lot of new friends in the group and enjoys the offerings from September to June, as July and August tend to be too hot and buggy for the group so they don't schedule hikes.

Continued on page 2

AMVETS Post 77
Veterans Pancake Breakfast IS BACK
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 8 - 11 AM
FARMINGTON RIVER SCHOOL, ROUTE 8 IN OTIS.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again. It's been way too long. We know it's been a crazy ride for everyone the last three years.

With the help of the staff at the school, and many veterans, we hope to serve you a great breakfast.

Please come help us support our veterans.



*We Are
Deeply Grateful
to All Our Supporters
for Donating to Our
Ninth Anniversary
Annual Appeal*

*Alice Giarrusso
AMVETS Post 77
Lynn McCann*

We happily welcome any size donation,
from \$1 on up.

Donations can be sent to

Otis Observer
PO Box 533, Otis, MA 01253
or online at
www.otisobserver.com



Next Meeting:

Tues., Nov 14th, from 4:00 - 5:30

Location:

Roosevelt Room, Otis Library
or by Zoom
(email info@otislibraryma.org) for Zoom link

Book:

Nine Parts of Desire
by Geraldine Brooks

Books available at the Otis Library
for anyone to borrow. All are welcome
to join the book discussion!

Take a Hike ... Literally!
Continued from page 1

Some hikes are dog-friendly and that will also be posted on the website. Good hiking shoes are a must but poles, spikes and other equipment is up to the hiker. If the weather is threatening, the hike leader can cancel the hike by notifying the group via email. Anywhere from 4-20 show up for each hike. They try to vary the trails and certainly have done their fair share of hiking along the Knox Trail and in the Otis and Tolland State Forests. They are always looking for suggestions for new locations to hike and travel all over the Berkshires, Vermont, Catskills and surrounding areas for outings.

If you are interested in this group, please check out the website above or email them directly. Joe is also happy to answer any of your questions at dobojc@aol.com ☺



*Adirondacks
Photo: Courtesy of Joe Doboszynski*

Letter from the Principal, FRRSD

This month we are instituting our school-wide behavior and academic incentive program, which motivates and inspires our students to achieve their best. Students can earn dragon eggs by exhibiting behaviors that we focus on to improve character. This month, National Bullying Prevention Month, we will focus on kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. This program is designed to be fun, engaging, and rewarding for all students. The collective efforts of our students and achieving school-wide goals will earn exciting rewards, individual recognition, and special events and activities for the whole school each time the dragon tube is filled.

We also eagerly anticipate **Dinosaur Day**, where a fascinating exhibit of partial Mosasaurus fossils and other intriguing artifacts will be on display.

Our excitement is amplified by the involvement of Alanna Magovern Regester and Nick Regester, renowned for their nationwide dinosaur exhibitions. They are generously dedicating their time, sharing their wealth of expertise and knowledge with our students through three short engaging assemblies. These events promise to provide an exceptional and thrilling educational experience for both PreK-K, 1st-3rd grade and 4th-6th grade students.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to enhance our school community further. ☺

Sincerely,

Laurie Flower, Principal

(See recent events at FRRSD on page 16)



OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS WE DISCOVERED THAT A NUMBER OF ADDRESSES WERE OMITTED FROM OUR ANNUAL APPEAL MAILING. THEREFORE WE ARE PRINTING THE APPEAL LETTER HOPING TO REACH THOSE WHO WE MAY HAVE MISSED.



Your Town, Your Neighborhood and You

July 1, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that this is the 9th Annual Fundraising appeal. Little did we know when we had our first issue eight years ago in 2015 that we would still be going strong with no end in sight! We have more than fulfilled our original mission which remains our guiding philosophy today. We present a forum for local news and for the voices of our wonderful town's people to be heard. We've grown from 12 pages to 24 pages and sometimes even 28! What we hope we get across each issue is the wonderful community spirit in this town. Otis is truly a very special place.

Ads and subscriptions certainly are the foundation of our paper, but, it is the donations from people like you that sustain our operating costs and keep us afloat. We have been overwhelmed by the support from this town and we are asking you today to contribute once again, any amount, to keep us a vital part of this community. OR you can now **donate online at otisobserver.com**.

This is in your hands, and we want to be sure you know how very much we appreciate your donations to the *Otis Observer*. Thanks go out to you and to the loyal group of volunteers that bring you this outstanding publication eleven months of the year.

Best Wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead.

Arlene Tolopko

Publisher and *Otis Observer* Team Member



Donation Form

(Please send donation to: Otis Observer, PO Box 533, Otis, MA 01253)

Yes! I support easy access to important town news. Enclosed is my donation to the *Otis Observer* in the amount of \$ _____

I prefer to remain anonymous

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Seasonal Address (if different) _____

Seasonal Dates _____

*The Otis Observer is a non-profit corporation with a 501(c)(3) status.
All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*

PET PEEVES

By Sandy Balayan

We all have them. Some are more bothered by them than others. You all can probably come up with a list of annoying things that drive you crazy and make you want to complain out loud. They are usually small issues, but still, we all feel the need to share them to get it off our chest. There is validation, and a feeling of camaraderie, when after the pet peeve is verbalized others agree with you.

It's hard to get through an entire day without a pet peeve popping up. In fact, an entire episode of the old *I Love Lucy* show was dedicated to just this topic. On a rainy day with the four friends stuck inside, Fred's jingling of coins and keys in his pocket, Ricky tapping on things, Lucy stirring her tea and Ethel licking each finger as she devoured chocolates, became one of the most popular episodes! No one can say they aren't annoyed by something, and our Otis population was very vocal when I asked the question, "What is your pet peeve?"

We can all relate to this question and as part of the human condition, many of them were repeated by person after person. Here goes. I couldn't possibly include them all so I will paraphrase and list.



- People who are late.
- Complaining about work at work.
- Loud chewers or chewing with mouth open.
- Leaving grocery carts in random spots.
- People who breathe on you.
- Not putting things back where they go.
- Interrupting.
- Difficulty in reaching your doctor.
- Movie talkers.
- Cracking gum.
- Not picking up after dog.
- People who complain but offer no suggestions.
- Line cutters.
- Crumbs left on counters.
- Leaving toilet seat up.
- Forgetting to empty dryer lint trap.
- Cracking knuckles.
- People without stickers at town beach.
- Tapping fingers, pens, toes.
- People who are judgmental..
- Texting or talking on phone while around others.
- Saying, "It is what it is."
- Scraping silverware on plate.
- Predators taking chickens from coops.
- Oversharing on social media.
- How Otis center has become a ghost town.
- Cellophane on lampshades.
- Stepping on a wet floor with socks on.
- Great Barrington roundabout, why?
- People who have to one-up you.
- People who blow grass and leaves into the street.
- Bed sheets not tucked in properly.
- Not emptying your voicemail box so no one else can leave a message.
- People in a hurry all the time.
- People too lazy to recycle.
- Tag Sale signs not taken down.
- Beer cans, nips, and garbage on the sides of our beautiful roads.
- When you tell someone you have a headache, they immediately say,



★ **DINE IN OR TAKEOUT**

*HOUSE SPECIAL PRIME RIB
(thursday-saturday)

FISH & CHIPS
FIRE-GRILLED SALMON
GREAT SALADS
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KNOX CHICKEN PICCATA

Great appetizers & more!



INDOOR CORNHOLE EVERY WEDNESDAY
\$5 PP-6PM SIGN-UP

Check out our full menu & event info at:
knoxtrailinn.com
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Follow us on Instagram @theknoxtrailinn

★ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ★

Knox Trail Trivia Night-Thursdays 7pm
(except Thurs Nov 2nd)

Nov 4th Melissa Brinton Band 8pm

★ **NOVEMBER 11th** ★
1/2 PRICE FOR VETERANS
1/2 PRICE FOR HEROES ALL DAY!
Proof of service required-Alcohol not included

Nov 11th Brother Sal Blues Band 8pm
Nov 18th Fan Addicts Band 8pm
Nov 19th The Hilltown Blues Jam 2pm
Nov 25th The Side-Tracked Band 8pm
(NO COVER CHARGE FOR BANDS)

OPEN WED-FRI 5-9PM ★ SAT 12-10PM SUN*12-9PM ★ 413-269-4400 ★ 1898 EAST OTIS RD (RT 23) EAST OTIS, MA

“Oh I had one yesterday,” and then go on and on about how bad their headache was. What you were actually saying was, “I have a headache, stop talking,” and they continue to one-up you with every headache story about themselves they can think of.

- When your neighbor’s motion detector lights go on and off constantly and shine in your windows. Also, the bright lights impede your ability to see the brilliance of the stars on a clear Berkshire night.
- Getting a text chain that people are constantly remarking on or sending emojis. Also, multiple texts from the same person who could just write it all in a longer text and stop hitting up your phone.
- Empty or abandoned houses that are not cared for and you have to live next door to. You keep your property pristine but no one does anything about the mess you have to live near.

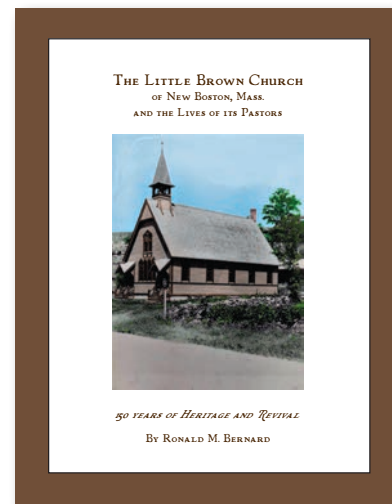
- Grammar errors like pronouncing the “T” in often, then/than, may I/can I, library/liberry, etc.
- Boating issues: drivers not paying attention; passing too quickly and closely to other boats; not respecting those anchored in coves relaxing by going too fast and creating huge wakes; playing music too loud; jet skis screaming up and down the lake at all hours; passing too close to docks and causing damage.



- Car issues: Driving too slow on Route 23 and too fast on side streets; loud trucks on Algeria Road at 4:30 a.m.; cutting corners on turns and crossing into your path; not using turn signals; traffic; rude drivers; tailgating; not using headlights in the rain or at dawn/dusk; waiting in traffic or at a light and having to hear someone else’s subwoofer shaking your car and ears. 🚗



Bird on a birdhouse. Photo taken in Tolland.
Photo: Dave Modzelewski



Sandisfield History Book Coming Soon

A new book by history writer, **Ron Bernard** has been announced. Over some 400 pages, *The Little Brown Church*, tells the story of the Congregational churches in Sandisfield from 1754 through today and particularly the definitive history of the venerable New Boston church and its congregation since inception in 1874.

This book includes fascinating biographies of 44 pastors who presided at the historic church which celebrates its congregation’s 150th anniversary next year. Many ministers simultaneously presided in local Congregational churches, notably in Otis. For example, included are the life stories of Otis native and first ordained woman, Rev. Charlotte Brown Whitney and long-time beloved Otis pastors, Rev. Clarence Perry and Rev. Earl Heck who remain in living memory here.

Much more than a history of a church, the book offers original and expanded research about local families and organizations that shaped social life in our communities. Anyone interested in local history will find much to enjoy in this book.

A special pre-publication price of \$25 is available for orders received before November 15th. The book is expected to be available in December. *All net proceeds benefit New Boston Congregational Church.*

To order, please contact: **ronbernard@aol.com** / Tel **(413) 269-0012**.

Laugh with Carolyn

Our resident joke teller, Carolyn Lawry, shares another one of her gems with us this month. Long known for sharing whatever tickles her funny bone with family and friends, Carolyn is a delight to talk to and loves to share her great sense of humor with the readers of the Otis Observer.

In an ancient monastery far away, a new monk was assigned to check the manuscripts on which his venerable brothers had spent their lifetimes. After a few days of proofreading, he asked if anyone ever made errors. He questioned if these copies should ever be checked to the originals. One of the elder monks proceeded to descend into the belly of the monastery where the originals were stored. After a week, he had not returned so the monks went to the belly of the old building to find him weeping copiously while prostrate on the stone floor. The ancient monk looked up at them and said, "Oh Lord, the word should have been *celebrate*." ☺



AMVETS Christmas Fund Drive

AMVETS Post 77 would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who contributed to our Christmas fund drive last year. We were able to provide \$7,600 in Amazon gift cards to dozens of families in the area, allowing them to make a difficult time a little brighter for their children.



We hope that you can help again this year. The goal is to raise enough money to make sure all of the children have a great Christmas and with your help we can do it. We want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

Please contact Tom Soules at (413) 429-1119 with any questions about this program and to discuss eligibility to receive a gift card.

Donations can be sent to AMVETS Post 77, P.O. Box 587, Otis, MA 01253. Please make checks payable to AMVETS Post 77. ☺

OTIS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Otis Community Garden Winds Down

By Joan Katter

As the leaves are turning red and gold (fingers crossed for a beautiful foliage season) our garden is winding down. It's producing a last crop of fall colors and veggies – intrepid lettuce, kale and Swiss chard are joined by lovely yellow tomatoes and baby squash, and even some flowers on the tomato and squash plants. They just haven't gotten the message that winter is coming. And the marigolds are looking magnificent – the epitome of "late bloomers!"



The Last Hurrah

Photo: Joan Katter

Volunteers continued harvesting and delivering to the food banks Wednesdays and Fridays until the end of September. So our neighbors have enjoyed quite a bit of very local produce, and a good assortment of vegetables as well.

We're always looking for new members to plant, tend the garden, harvest, deliver and, as a bonus, share in the bounty! If you'd like to participate next summer email otismagarden@gmail.com with your contact information. All that's required is a donation of \$40 and a commitment to work in the garden for one hour each week. Our garden guru, Eve Kummel, will reply with details.

See you next summer! ☺

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Ya Gotta Have Heart!

By Arlene Tolopko

Lisa had a real purpose in walking the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk in Boston on October 1st. In 2022 Lisa Galasso's mother was diagnosed with brain cancer so she decided to help fundraise for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Unfortunately, her mother's cancer was discovered too late, but treatment extended her life for six months.

At 54 years old, Lisa decided to walk the entire 26.2 mile Boston Marathon route from Hopkinton to downtown Boston. Ordinarily she walks eight miles, but in this event her three children and their partners met her at the halfway mark and completed a half marathon. After the walk, Lisa's worst complaint was that she was a little sore the next morning, but pleasantly satisfied that she completed it. Her team raised \$6000, with the theme "Hearts and Soles for Meg" (in honor of her mother). Tee shirts were printed with the same theme. Lisa's mom had in the past created quilts with hearts which she gave to her children and grandchildren. Thus, the theme of "hearts" for the race.

Lisa and her family have a home on Big Pond in Otis which, prior to her marriage, her husband bought in 2001. He and Lisa met ten years ago. Lisa also has a private practice as a clinical psychologist in Otis. For two years they travelled around the country in an RV while Lisa worked from the road with her patients. They have since sold the RV, settled down, and spend their summers in Otis.

Lisa and Lon got married on August 5, 2022, just before her mother's passing. They got married on her mother's wedding anniversary. ☺



Top Photo: Lisa Galasso and her grandbaby at the event

Photo: Lon Brotman



Bottom Photo: Lisa's team at the finish line. Lisa is third from right.

Photo: Jimmy Fund volunteer



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The Reel World of Films

By Eileen W. Cohen

Fear Fest continues this month when the slasher film, *Thanksgiving* is released on November 17th. Following a Black Friday riot that ends in a tragedy, audiences will get their fill of horror, gore and thrills watching an uninvited guest/killer wearing a pilgrim mask, tear through a Massachusetts town (don't worry - it's not Otis) carving his way into Thanksgiving dinners. And his name happens to be John Carver. Even the film's tagline, "There Will Be No Leftovers" can send chills down your spine. *Grey's Anatomy*, Patrick Dempsey, (Dr. Derek Shepherd), landed the lead role in the movie. *Thanksgiving* is legendary director/screenwriter/producer Eli Roth's first fiction

feature since his 2018s twin releases, a remake of *Death Wish* starring Bruce Willis and *The House With A Clock in Its Walls*. Roth, who is mostly associated with the horror genre, a.k.a. splatter films, like *Cabin Fever* and *Hostel*, has also taken a shot at acting. He appeared as the Bear Jew in Quentin Tarantino's film, *Inglorious Basterds* and as a concert tycoon in the TV drama series, *The Idol*. Given the speed at which films have been moving from theaters to streaming services, it's possible that *Thanksgiving* may show up on your television screens. This highly violent and bloody film may not be for the weak of heart, but if you do decide to see it, make sure you have dinner after the film.

The DreamWorks PG, computer animated musical film, *Trolls Band Together*, is a sequel to the 2020 *Trolls World Tour* and the third installment in the Trolls franchise. The star-studded cast (Anna Kendrick and Justin Timberlake) are reprising their voice roles from the previous

films. After two films of friendship and constant flirting, Poppy and Branch are now officially a couple. When one of Branch's brothers gets kidnapped by a pair of evil villains, Poppy and Branch embark on a dangerous and emotional journey to reunite Floyd with the other brothers. Comedienne Amy Schumer joins the cast in her role as Velvet, a villainous popstar who is responsible for the kidnapping. After the film leaves theaters it will stream on Peacock and then move to Netflix. Fans of the franchise will hear the 10-time Grammy Award winning artist, lead singer, Timberlake, and his group NSYNC, perform an original song called *Better Place*, marking the group's first song in 22 years. Timberlake recorded *Can't Stop The Feeling!* for the first *Trolls* movie in 2016 and *The Other Side* for the second movie in 2020. *Trolls* are based on the long-running story line of Thomas Dam, a Danish woodcutter who invented them. The story is told that Dam created the first Troll for his daughter of wood when he was too poor to buy her a toy. When the other children in his village saw his creation, they also wanted one and that's when Thomas Dam started his own company, Dam Things.

Joaquin Phoenix, (*Walk The Line*, *Her*) an actor known for playing challenging, dark and unconventional characters, will now portray Napoleon Bonaparte in this historical, military action epic film. *Napoleon* details the checkered rise and fall of the notorious French Revolutionary Wars commander and Emperor. Adapted from a screenplay by David Scarpa, the film is a personal look at Napoleon's "origins and his swift, ruthless climb to becoming Emperor. Audiences will witness an addictive and often volatile relationship with his wife, Empress Josephine" played by Vanessa Kirby. Napoleon led his country into many battles, the most famous and his greatest victory was, The Battle of Austerlitz a.k.a. The Battle of the Three Emperors fought in 1805 against the countries of Austria and Russia. Legendary director/producer Ridley Scott (*The Blade Runner*, *Thelma and Louise*) chose Phoenix for this role after successfully working together on the film *Gladiator*, but also witnessing Phoenix's transformative acting skills in the movie, *Joker*. *Napoleon* will feature multiple, sweeping battlefield scenes, keeping audiences riveted to their seats.

Enjoy the autumn leaves and until next time ... ☺



Eileen is a retired NYC school administrator and college professor. She is a part time Otis resident and an ardent cinephile with a love of creative writing, cooking and grandparenting.

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OTIS FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

By Terry Gould

Although it is not yet Halloween as I write this, the Otis Food Pantry is looking forward to Thanksgiving and the holiday season. We have big news to share. Due to the work and diligence of Mary Kay Pinkham and Cathy Prenosil, the Otis Food Pantry has been given 501(c)(3) status by the IRS. Donors can deduct contributions they make to us under IRC Section 170. As we move into our fourth year, it was time to take this step and we are grateful to Mary Kay and Cathy for making this happen.

We have been enjoying late summer and fall vegetables and fruits at the pantry. The Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires treated many food pantries to bright blue bags packed with all the ingredients for a Harvest Soup along with the recipe. This wonderful treat went home with our families and a few hours later I received a text, complete with photo of the lovely soup that was made and enjoyed by one of our families. Soup is a wonderful way

to enjoy supper as the evenings start to be chilly. We are grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of the Jewish Women's Foundation.

We are also grateful to the people who remembered the pantry as they closed summer homes and cleaned cabinets, sharing non-expired, non-perishables with us.

People often ask what we need at the pantry. My answer is generally to think of something you look for every day and would miss if it wasn't on your shelf; a favorite brand of peanut butter or jelly, a box of your favorite brownie mix, your preferred brand of coffee and always a box of your favorite cereal. When I shop for the pantry, I think about what I, myself, would enjoy and what I would serve my family and I go with that.

We will coordinate with the Knox Trail Inn once again this season as they promote their "pay it forward" campaign to make holiday meals available.

The pantry will also be holding our holiday recipe sacks campaign to be distributed on Wednesday, December 20th, during our regular pantry hours. We ask that folks put together a simple family favorite recipe, placing all the ingredients into a bag with the recipe

stapled to the outside of the bag; something simple that you remember and enjoyed as a family. The pantry will purchase extra eggs and stick butter to add to any recipes that need it. This bag should be delivered to the pantry on Monday, December 18th or Tuesday the 19th for distribution on Wednesday the 20th. We do this for fun so that our families will have a new recipe to try together and perhaps start a new tradition.

The Otis Food Pantry is thankful for the continued care and support from all of you. The Otis community is special. You always step up and always think of your neighbors and friends. Thank you. ☺



sandisfield ARTS CENTER

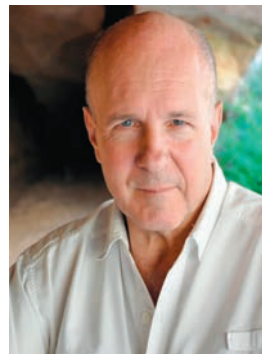
★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 3
GALLERY EXHIBIT: "CONNECTED"



A curated exhibit showcasing 11 artists with ties to our area. The exhibition asks what connections we can make to foster a community in our corner of the world. Included are Peter Biamonte, Jess Cofrin, Susie Crofut, Jacob Fossum, Falcon Liana (2023 Daniel Manacher Prize Winner), Josie Miner, Linda Mironti, Jaye Alison Moscariello, Daisy Noyes, Abbe Stahl, Setsuko Winchester, June Wink. **Opening reception 4-6 pm. FREE.**

SAT., NOVEMBER 25, 4 PM
SIMON READS



Join us for a reading by **Simon Winchester** and a discussion of his 2023 book **Knowing What We Know: The Transmission of Knowledge from Ancient Wisdom to Modern Magic.**

"A delightful compendium of the kind of facts you immediately want to share with anyone you encounter ... Simon Winchester has firmly earned his place in history ... as a promulgator of knowledge of every variety ..."

— **New York Times**

This event is FREE to attend.

FOR DETAILS VISIT SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG



OTIS LIBRARY NEWS

By Brad Havill

As the weather changes with Anights becoming longer, this seems a perfect time to head to the library for an afternoon visit and look for something new to read or watch. I would like to highlight a few new things at the Otis Library.

We have added a puzzle table to the Roosevelt Room that can hold a pretty large puzzle. Something interesting about this **puzzle table** is that it sits on a turn table which helps to bring all sides of the puzzle to you, rather than needing to walk around the table. Another feature is four very long drawers that hold puzzle pieces. I'm sure that you, dear reader, can understand the value of these drawers for organizing pieces by color.

The library recently began hosting a **book club** that has been well attended since its inception. During the book club's monthly meeting, they suggest a book that they would like to read two months

in advance. This enables us to obtain many copies in as many formats as possible far enough beforehand that everyone has a chance to have and read the book without pressure. The library provides a Zoom link in case you are unable to attend in person but want to take part. Next meeting's details:

November, 14th, 4-5:30 p.m.

Nine Parts of Desire by Geraldine Brooks

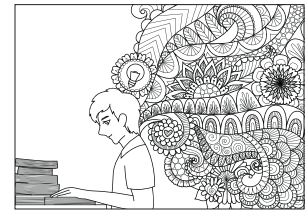
We are also introducing a **cookbook club**. Unlike our regular book club, this involves patrons coming to the library to pick out a recipe. The challenge is to make the recipe exactly as it is written in the book. We will then all gather at the library and have a sort of potluck to try as many, or as few, of the recipes as interest you. For our first book we have chosen *Wild Sweetness: Recipes Inspired by Nature* by Thalia Ho. This cookbook is all desserts! We will meet **Friday, November 10th from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.** for our initial meeting.

Do not miss the monthly **Lego club**, whose next meeting is **Saturday, November 18th from 1-2 p.m.** This is a chance to get out and show off how well you or your child can build with Lego bricks. All creations are then displayed in the library from one meeting to the next. We provide the Lego bricks. You provide the creativity.

Have you thought about being a Friend of the Library? Our next **Friends of the Library meeting is November 1st at 6:30 p.m., both in person and on Zoom.** The Friends, as they are commonly known, are a non-profit volunteer group that works closely with the library with which they are affiliated to provide support and

advocacy. They work on fundraising to help libraries to expand programming, purchase materials, or new supplies that the library might need. If this sounds like something that you would be interested in joining, please reach out to the library.

Our next **story walk** is *Bear Says Thanks* by Karma Wilson. This will be up onwards from November first and for the month. The story walk is on the Farmington River Walk behind St. Mary's of the Lakes.



There are far too many new titles to list, but here is a sample.

MAGAZINE: *Gray's Sporting Journal*

NON-FICTION:

- Kracht, *The Field Guide to Dumb Birds of the Whole Stupid World*
- Kidder, *Rough Sleeper*
- Donald, *Not Just for the Boys: Why We Need More Women in Science*
- Schrage, *An Economist Walks into a Brothel*
- Smilios, *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurse Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis*

FICTION:

- Atkinson, *Normal Rules Don't Apply: Stories*
- Abdoullah, *Perfectly Nice Neighbors*
- Follett, *The Armour of Light*
- King, *Holly*
- Vance, *Blessing of the Lost Girls: A Brady and Walker Family Novel*

GRAPHICS:

- Christie and Al-Green, *Murder on the Orient Express: The Graphic Novel*
- Gendry-Kim, *The Naked Tree*

MOVIES:

- *You Hurt My Feelings*
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The Rural ETHICIST

I Gave Up Clicking Up

By Katharine Adams

Why does this mean so much to me? My gas price at the pump came out even. You read that right: the automatic pump clicked off exactly, precisely on the dollar.

It was mildly thrilling, a mystical experience. The planets aligned to produce a minor miracle of numeric nuance. I stood there, staring at those nice, even numbers displayed on the screen. I felt elated, gratified and oddly rewarded.

It appealed to the side of me that needs to trim frayed edges. It lit up the order-hound within who enjoys clearing away (read: eating) any crooked, remaining crumbs from an otherwise crisp, negative-space wedge removed from a berry pie.

Why so satisfying that the pump would shut off on top of the dollar, with 99 other chances to land on some finicky, in-between number?

It was like winning the lottery. Only I had to fork it over, rather than receive a windfall.

The ridiculousness is that somehow, an automatic pump shutoff at \$39.00 felt like a triumph over \$38.98—despite my spending 2 cents more.

“Let’s unpack that,” muses my inner pretend-psychologist.

“Vnpacking their bosomes with wordes,” mentions a 1612 text called *Meditations*, in the earliest known psychological use of the term.

Barry Markovsky, a social scientist at the University of South Carolina, studies the way pseudoscience blooms into popular beliefs. Such claims are, “typically absurd from a scientific perspective, but they’re great for illustrating how brains, people, groups

and cultures work together to create shared meaning.”

He relates how “the brain has evolved a fantastic capacity to find meanings and connections,” and that doing so “once meant the difference between survival and death.”

Even if pure survival isn’t at stake, the brain is rewarded when it detects patterns and shows of stability. We gain little shots of dopamine.



Gas pump

Photo: Katharine Adams

In grade school, we learned rounding up numbers is an easy solution, when an approximate answer will do. As a “big picture” view, it helps us move along to the next item on our never-ending agenda.

Maybe rounding up to the nearest dollar also makes us feel like we’ve outwitted the comical nuisance of the .99-cent marketing gimmick?

It feels like more work to balance my checkbook when stuck futzing with small change. A greater mind might appreciate the built-in math refresher—but no, I doggedly prefer the small change. Unchanging.

So I might click up at the pump just once or twice, by two or three pennies.

Which turns out isn’t at all wise, gas-wise. It can damage the car’s vapor recovery system by saturating the charcoal canister within with fuel, causing the “check engine” light to

illuminate. It is best to stop fueling when the pump stops.

The shame of my numeric indulgence, such public disrespect to my vehicle. “Look over there, Mervin,” tongues have surely wagged, “that woman is clicking up!”

Turns out it is not our cars that have the say in when a fuel pump cuts off. There is no car-side mechanism to stop drinking when a vehicle feels full to near-burping.

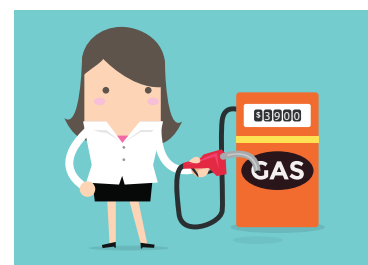
In his droll treatise, “This Is Why the Gas Pump Keeps Shutting off on You All the Damn Time,” Jason Torchinsky explains that a gas pump that keeps annoyingly cutting off does not mean something’s wrong with your car.

Modern gas pumps include many safety-related changes, “Just as you’d expect from a publicly-used machine that’s basically one lighter away from becoming a stationary flame thrower,” Torchinsky writes.

So what causes a gas pump to shut off? A small pipe called a *venturi*, running alongside the gas nozzle. *Ventura Highway* begins running through my head. I wonder if the pipe inspired the America song? When the end of this little pipe becomes submerged with rising gas, it stifles the air pressure, holding the nozzle handle open, shutting off fuel flow.

Absorbing texts like *Methodology for Evaluating Fuel Nozzle Dispenser Characteristics* and *Fractal Analysis of Fuel Nozzle Surface Morphology* cover this topic in great depth, for those keen to learn more.

Meantime, I gave up clicking up. It’s a minor compulsion to wrestle, but then I think how pocket change is a form of building blocks. ☹



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ASTROLOGY ✨

Giving up the Ghost

By Hilary Harley

Not a season for the faint of heart, November's Scorpio cosmic energy reveals what lies beneath the surface of our lives and look at what must be seen. The aftershocks of the October 28th Full Moon eclipse uncover *everything*. Revelations abound. Our values, both moral and monetary are shifting. What once seemed vitally important is morphing, replaced by more pressing matters or deepening value of certain situations.

The rich beauty of Scorpio reveals treasures as layers are pulled back. While not a light and frothy time, 'tis the season of silver linings. But getting to that silvery side of life may require heavy lifting. If you avoid the hard parts and dirty bits, they will only wait for you. Focus on priorities. One matter to prioritize now is purchasing any holiday gifts during November. The energy is clear this month, making it great for shopping before December's retrograde Mercury.

Four days into November, Taskmaster Saturn turns direct motion. In soulful Pisces, Saturn requires us to shed parts of yourself that you have *outgrown*. You may love pieces of those selves, like comfortable outfits or shoes. Now, however, we are called to step into different patterns and values which take time to grow into.

In this transitional season, allow yourself to grieve. Let it all out. Grief is an essential path on the emotional wheel. Grieving isn't fun; *but it heals*. On the other side of it, you'll have deep perspective of how far you've come.



Smoothing our path heading into Veteran's Day, Valuable Venus enters Libra on Thursday, November 9th. Visit an art exhibit, decorate your home, host friends and create something beautiful. The next day, Messenger Mercury shifts into Sagittarius on Friday, November 10th. Your mind seeks answers; you may feel inclined to take a class or explore. *This is an excellent time to book travel for the holidays and 2024.*

Freedom-loving Sagittarius Mercury wants the truth. As the New Moon in Scorpio approaches on Monday, November 13th tightly conjoined to Mars, ask why you want a certain

goal, relationship or lifestyle. Be honest with yourself, then carefully hand-write 3-5 intentions or goals to focus on for the next month and season.

At mid-month, our intuition is spot on with Scorpio Sun-Mars aligning to Neptune in Pisces. *Trust your gut!* If you are weighing choices, *feel* into your options. Get out in nature to clear your mind between November 14-19th. You will gain clarity about the direction to take.

On Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23rd, the Sun joins Messenger Mercury in Sagittarius followed by Mars two days later on the 25th, shifting the balance of cosmic energy from intense Scorpio to adventurous Sagittarius. Sagittarius shines the light of truth on everything and everyone. Time to give up the ghost as there is no escaping the Full Moon's glare on Monday, November 27th.

The Gemini Full Moon makes big announcements. So if you are launching any projects or endeavors, you will be noticed. For anyone with on-going legal concerns, prepare to hear something about your case, perhaps even a final decision, on or around this Full Moon.

Sagittarius teaches us academically or through life lessons. Watch for all kinds of tests, not just the classroom kind. So when you find yourself in a sticky spot, ask, "What am I supposed to learn from this situation?" What is the lesson inviting you to see differently? No matter how old we are, each one of us is teachable and learnable. You live, you learn. ☯

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Otis resident Hilary Harley is a counseling astrologer and hosts *Mystical Messages* podcast. She is an art aficionado, a community volunteer, the mother of two daughters and owner of an elderly Tibetan Terrier.





By Sandy Balayan

For the Otis memories column this month, we have canvassed the town and asked people for their best memories of the summer of 2023. As the days get shorter and colder, let us all read and reread this wonderful collection of the joys of Otis summers.

- Spectacular sunsets.
- Camping with family and friends.
- Rock the Dock on the Rez.
- Days at the Otis Town Beach.
- Fireworks.
- Fishing on hot days.
- Gate Island Parade.



Gate Island parade

Photo: Katie Douthwright

- Boating on our beautiful lakes.
- Musical Bingo at the Knox.
- Perfecting a five person water-ski pyramid.
- Impromptu jam sessions.
- Listening and dancing to great bands at the Knox.
- Listening to John Denver as we cruise the lake just before sunset. Watching the warm sun glistening on the water.
- Enjoying boat rides and dinner with friends.



Five-person pyramid

Photo: Abbie Battista

- Celebrating birthday and milestones with family.
- The honor of taking care of an elderly family member.
- Having family and friends at the lake house and adding to 45 years of great memories.
- Teaching grandchildren how to kayak and kneeboard for the first time.
- The birth of a second child (congratulations to the Mackbach family from the OO).
- Rebuilding our happy place and keeping childhood memories alive in our new home. ☹

“Otis Memories” is an ongoing way to share your Otis memories with the community. If you have an idea for an article or think one of these memories would be a good feature, let us know. We also welcome old photographs. Send memories and ideas to otismemories@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you!

NAME THAT OTISITE

There was no winner in last month’s Name that Otisite Contest. The photo was submitted by Ed Strickland and pictured his maternal grandmother, **Mildred (Denning) Warren**. After serving on the Ration Board in WW II, she became town clerk and treasurer in 1947 or 1948 and served until 1960 when the Warrens moved to Florida. ☹

PHOTOS NEEDED!

Care to join in on the fun? Do you have a family photo you would share with the *Otis Observer*?

Scan a photo and send to Lynne Geane at lynnegane@gmail.com with identifying information, your name, phone and email address. Or we'd be glad to pick up your photo, scan it and return it to you.

You could be in on our contest. Who will guess the identity of your photo?

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Farmington River Elementary Family News

Recent Events at FRRSD

The Joy of Reading

Preschool and Grade 5 students cozy up in the gym for their combined PJ Reading Day activity. Students were allowed to bring in their favorite stuffed animal as a reading buddy, blankets, pillows and a stack of books for a cozy read. Principal Flower paid us a visit too, and is pictured here enjoying a picture book with the students.



2nd Grade News

Today the second graders were able to observe the water cycle in action. We have been studying the states of matter, and today saw how a liquid can change to a gas when heat is introduced! We have been also learning about fog and cloud formation.



6th Grade Standing Desks



Recently the 6th grade purchased two standing desks for students to use during the day. Students use these desks as a way to have some movement while working. They have proven to be quite popular. The desks seem to be always in use and often times there is a waiting list for students to use them.

One of the reasons for getting these desks is that sitting for long

periods of time has negative health effects on all people. Allowing students to stand during school promotes movement. Studies have shown that being physically active increases brain elasticity. Brain elasticity is the brain's ability to grow while learning. Yes, our brains grow when we learn. with movement increasing brain elasticity, students may be able to learn more easily.

Other studies have shown that movement, including standing, stretching, and walking, can help with brain focus. Observing students using the standing desks, I have seen them more focused than when they are sitting. It is my hope that we can purchase more standing desks for the future so that more students can enjoy both the brain and health benefits of movement. ☺



OTIS HISTORY

The Story of the Founding of Our Constitution

Part Four

By Peter Cameron

In last month's column we saw that the Constitutional Convention had finished its work, producing what we now know as the United States Constitution, minus the Bill of Rights. For it to take effect, nine of the thirteen states had to ratify it.

The ratification process began almost immediately. States met to consider the proposed Constitution. By January 9, 1788, Delaware, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut and Pennsylvania had ratified it. That was five of the nine states needed. In swing states like Massachusetts, New York and Virginia, the outcome was far from certain.

Massachusetts looked especially bleak. John Hancock controlled the vote and was on the fence. Federalists pointed out, to the egotistical Hancock, that a man of his political prowess certainly would be considered for the vice presidency or even the presidency. Enamored, Hancock delivered the final voting block and Massachusetts ratified the Constitution. That was six states down with seven to go.

In New Hampshire, the convention considering ratification, adjourned without a vote. In Rhode Island, a popular referendum defeated ratification 10 to 1. The Federalists were nervous. Then Maryland, who most thought would vote it down, resoundingly voted for ratification 63 to 11. Seven yes votes, one no, with four states to go. Then on July 2, 1788, the New Hampshire convention reconvened and ratified. Eight ratified, one denied ratification, and three states to go.



In late July, the Confederation Congress was in session when they received word of the New Hampshire vote. Then a messenger burst in and reported that several days prior South Carolina had voted for ratification, the 9th state. The President of the Congress arose and named a committee to put the new Constitution into effect.

Eventually New York and Virginia voted to ratify, but the margin in both states was razor thin. They demanded that a Bill of Rights be added. Jefferson, who was overseas during the Constitutional Convention, wrote Madison that a bill of rights was "what people are entitled to, against every government on earth."

Early in 1789, Madison, then a member of the House of Representatives, shepherded 17 amendments through the House. That was trimmed to twelve in the Senate. On October 2, 1789, President Washington sent the twelve amendments, that would become the Bill of Rights, to the 13 States for ratification. By December 15, 1791, three fourths of the states had ratified them. The Constitution and accompanying Bill of Rights were now the law of the land. The process had taken over two and a half years.

Many compromises were necessary in creating the Constitution, some good, some bad. The division, economically, socially and culturally between the northern and southern states was a major stumbling block throughout the process. The codification of slavery stands out as the worst offense. The slavery issue would, 71 years later, give birth to a civil war. Slavery would not be abolished until 1865.

Looking at who crafted the Constitution, we see rich, socially empowered politicians, who held their own interests in the highest regard. Sadly, today we would call that "politics as usual." Many think that the rights and needs of the common man had been ignored during the convention, and still are today.

All of that notwithstanding, our Country has faced many crises, and the Constitution has withstood them all. New attacks by national political figures calling for suspension of the Constitution or ignoring it altogether, threaten dictatorship. The only thing stopping them is the Constitution.

Good or bad, the Constitution of the United States of America is the law of the land. Late in life James Madison declared in a letter, no government can be perfect and, "that which is the least imperfect is therefore the best government." ☺

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Peter Cameron is an Otis, MA resident and a retired policeman. He is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University with a B.S. in History with a concentration in U.S. Colonial History.

SOON ...

By Diane Provenz, Co-chair
Otis Historical Commission

She sits on top of the hill and her 1,000 lights look out at the town. But SOON, forlorn, abandoned no more! Feel the anticipation and excitement growing.

The first shovels will start their work to create a new and exciting venue— **The Otis Cultural Center**. It's been seven years in the making, but the Otis Historical Commission, supported by the Otis Preservation Trust and the citizens and residents of Otis are proud to announce that work will begin in earnest this fall. She's almost 200 years old so of course at that age a little (okay, a lot) of renovation needs to be done. What you don't know is that the interior is in pretty good shape. The elements have done little to spoil her.

What was once St. Paul's Episcopal Church will become the Otis Cultural Center. La Rochelle Construction (the firm that did the work on the East Otis Schoolhouse) was the winning bidder and will start working on the foundation this fall. Their contract is being funded by a generous grant from the Mass Cultural Commission (\$200,000), Mass Historical Commission (\$100,000) and matching funds from the Otis Preservation Trust.



Dig we must—so the first phase will include excavation of the existing crawl space and first floor supporting structure for backfilling and new concrete footings. This will include slab



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on grade and support structure for first floor framing and mechanical and electrical work for a new dehumidification system as well as lighting in the newly constructed basement. In addition, remediation work is needed to disinvite our “guests,” the powderpost beetles. This was an unexpected addition to what needs to be done to ready St. Paul’s for its new status. Otis Preservation Trust has already turned over the funds to get this done. We may even have money on hand to fix the spires on this go-round.

Special thanks go to our Co-chair, Gail Gelburd. Without Gail’s grant writing talents we would not have achieved this much. Additional thanks to the rest of the OHC: Celeste Watman, Joel Meyers, Hal Kobrin and Tom Ragusa and of course to the Otis Preservation Trust: President Stephanie Skinner, Geoff Pigman, Tricia Smith, Hilary Harley, Melva Eidelberg, David Modzelewski, and new members Amanda Tepper and Sam Maher as well as past President Lynne Geane.

One more person who has been instrumental in helping this process along is Brandi Page, our Town Administrator.

One of the grants we’ve received mandates that the monies be spent by September 30, 2024 so you can expect to see tangible progress to get the Otis Cultural Center completed.

Of course, there wouldn’t be an article to write without an appeal to our community in two ways. We invite you to consider joining us in this effort. It does take a village. Even if you have only a few hours to help, there’s much still to be done. Call us to chat and learn where you can help. The second way to help is to donate to our efforts. You’ll soon be receiving an appeal letter asking for your support. Every dollar counts. We’ve raised more than \$700,000 and are looking to raise another \$500,000 to complete this task. Call Diane Provenz—(516) 697-0549, Gail Gelburd—(860) 208-2223 (Co-chairs OHC), or Stephanie Skinner—(617) 905-6873 to discuss recognition opportunities. ☺



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Notice Otis Series

Notice Otis Event

By Hilary Harley

The Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust (OPT) are hosting the first Notice Otis Series cultural event of the 2023-24 season featuring historian **Dennis Picard** presenting, *Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts* on **Thursday, November 9th, 2023 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.**

Folklore holds that the Hessian soldiers of the Revolutionary War period were blood thirsty mercenaries purchased by King George the Third to fight in the rebellious colonies. They are often associated in our mind's eye with the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow fame. But is that a truthful depiction of these citizens of the German states? Even though there were no battles

during the American Revolution in western Massachusetts, there were, in fact, Hessians here. Hear how these men got to our area, why they were here, who they really were, and in the end, why some stayed.



John Whitty Stone
Photo: Picard file photo

for research and implementation of programs and events at several historic sites and museums. He has authored many articles on the lifestyles and folkways of New England. Picard has taught at Westfield State University in Massachusetts as well as served as a member and president of the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Valley History Network. He serves as a member of the editorial board of the *Country School Journal* and grants committee of the Country School Association of America. He recently retired after 27 years at Storowton Village Museum, West Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Otis Preservation Trust (OPT) works with the Historical Commission to organize and preserve the history and heritage of Otis, MA for future generations by supporting efforts to preserve, restore, repurpose and educate about buildings, monuments, lands and memorabilia of Otis. OPT is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization operated for fundraising and educational purposes. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Dennis D. Picard has been a museum professional in the living history field for over forty years. He began his career in 1978 at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts and served on the staff of Hancock Shaker Village. Picard is the recipient of various grants

The event is via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2023. To register or for more information, please visit: www.otispreservationtrust.com; or www.townofotisma.com. There is no charge to attend this event. Donations are welcome. ☺

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Prior to entering real estate sales, my profession was building, a profession I continued for many years in conjunction with being a real-estate agent. Many clients have found that background very helpful, whether preparing a house for sale, or discussing the possibilities of a potential purchase or repairs that might be needed.

It is my philosophy that the path to success is through helping clients to the best of my ability. In doing so, I have made many wonderful friends over the years. If you have questions about buying or selling real-estate, please feel free to call anytime to discuss them.



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Prepared by Sue Brofman

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NOVEMBER

- 1. Otis Town Hall is open from 8 am – 3 pm, Monday - Thursday. Town Hall**
- 2. Town Hall will be closing at 12 pm on Nov. 22 – Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving**
- 3. Council on Aging Center will be closing at 12 pm on Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving**
- 4. Otis Winter Library Hours effective October 14**
 - **CLOSED Sunday, Monday, Tuesday**
 - **Wednesday – 11 am - 5 pm**
 - **Thursday – 12 pm - 6 pm**
 - **Friday - 11 am - 5 pm**
 - **Saturday – 9 am - 1 pm**
- 5. Otis Food Pantry open every Wednesday 9 – 11 am**
- 6. Rec Center - Temporarily Closed**
- 7. StoryWalk, children and adults will enjoy a reading of “Bear Says Thanks” by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman, while taking a walk along the Farmington River Trail.**
- 8. Farmington River School Closed November 10 for Veteran’s Day and November 22 - 24 for Thanksgiving**

Wed., Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 (closes at 12 pm) and 25, 9 am – 2 pm, **Council on Aging Open**, Otis Town Hall, for information call Eila at **(413) 269-0103** or email at eilabell2@aol.com

Wed., Nov. 1, 9 am – 2 pm, **Council on Aging, Foot Nurse** by appointment, Otis Town Hall, for information call Eila at **(413) 269-0103** or email at eilabell2@aol.com

Thurs Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 30 (**cancelled Nov. 23**), 10 - 11 am, **Chair Yoga, Connie Wilson**, Ages 12+, Otis Town Hall, call or email Otis Rec Center for more information **(413) 269-4541, otisrec@verizon.net**

Sat., Nov. 4, 11, 18 and 25, 9:30 – 10:45 am, **Mat Yoga, Connie Wilson**, Ages 16+, Kripalu Yoga, all levels, Otis Town Hall, call or email Otis Rec Center for more information **(413) 269-4541, otisrec@verizon.net**

Mon., Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10 am – 2 pm, **Council on Aging Open**, Otis Town Hall, for information call Eila at **(413) 269-0103** or email at eilabell2@aol.com

Mon., Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10:30 – 11:30 pm, **Council on Aging Fitness Class** with Michelle from Soules Fitness, Otis Town Hall, for information call Eila at **(413) 269-0103** or email at eilabell2@aol.com

Mon., Nov. 6, 9:30 am – 2 pm, **Council on Aging Haircuts**, Otis Town Hall, call for an appointment, Eila at **(413) 269-0103** or email Eila at eilabell2@aol.com

Mon., Nov. 6, 7 – 8 pm, **School Committee Meeting**, Farmington River Regional Elementary School

Mon., Nov. 6, 7 - 9 pm, **Zoning Board Meeting**, Otis Town Hall

Tues., Nov. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 10 am, **Otis Play**, parent/child playgroup best for children birth – 5 years of age, this is a free program, no registration required, Otis Town Hall

Tues., Nov. 7, 4:30 – 6 pm, **Historical Commission**, Otis Town Hall

Wed., Nov. 8, 6 – 8:30 pm, **Cultural Council Meeting**, Otis Town Hall

Thurs., Nov. 9, 6 pm, **Otis Library Meeting (in person and Zoom)**, inquire at info@otislibraryma.org for more information, Otis Library

Thurs., Nov. 9, 7 pm, **PTA Meeting (Zoom)**, Farmington River Regional Elementary School

Thurs., Nov. 9, 7 pm, Historian Denis Picard will deliver a free presentation via zoom: "**Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Massachusetts**," sponsored by the Otis Historical Commission and Preservation Trust. Register at: otispreservationtrust.com

Fri., Nov. 10, 7 pm, **Farmington River Regional Elementary School CLOSED for Veteran's Day**

Mon., Nov. 13, 9 am, **Council on Aging Board Meeting**, Otis Town Hall

Mon., Nov. 13, 2 - 4 pm, **Board of Assessors Meeting**, Otis Town Hall

Mon., Nov. 13, 7 - 9 pm, **Planning Board Meeting**, Otis Town Hall

Tues., Nov. 14, 6:30 - 8 pm, **Town of Otis Select Board Meeting**, Otis Town Hall

Thurs., Nov. 16, 12 noon, **Council on Aging, Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Knox Trail Inn**, all are welcome, Cost \$25. Call Eila at **(413) 269-0103** ext. 5 by November 1 for reservation and menu choice.

Fri., Nov. 17, 10 am - 12 noon, **Council on Aging Brown Bag Program**, Otis Town Hall, for information call Eila at **(413) 269-0103** or email at eilabell2@aol.com

Fri., Nov. 17, 10 am - 12 noon, **CHP Wellness Van Clinic**, if you need to be seen for a sick visit or wellness check, or, if you need a COVID vaccine or booster, call **(413) 528-0457** to schedule your appointment, Otis Town Hall

Tues., Nov. 21, 6 - 9 pm, **Conservation Commission Meeting**, Otis Town Hall

Wed., Nov. 22, **Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Hall closes at 12 noon; Farmington River Regional Elementary School closed Nov. 22 - Nov. 24**

Tues., Nov. 28, 6:30 - 8 pm, **Town of Otis Select Board Meeting**, Otis Town Hall



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