

The Blandford Bugle

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL THINGS GOOD IN
BLANDFORD: GOOD HOMES, GOOD NEIGHBORS, GOOD FUN.

Vol. 2, Issue 1 Blandford, Massachusetts October 2012 BlandfordBugle@hotmail.com

Don't forget to fill out the survey on www.wiredwest.net to help bring fiber-optic highspeed internet to Blandford.

Halloween in the Hilltowns

With locally grown pumpkins, woods for haunted trails, and fall foliage, there are few better places to celebrate Halloween than in the Hilltowns. Although there are many Halloween traditions that everyone shares, many families also have their own individual yearly rituals. I polled several of my peers to see how they celebrate Halloween.

Naturally, 'Trick or Treating' is a favorite way to spend Halloween. Requirements for having fun for activity are simple: the participant must wear a costume, and love candy. Most everyone falls under these categories, and as a result, most everyone loves Trick or Treating.

One of the best parts is getting to see everyone's costumes. When asked what their favorite Halloween costume from the past was, the members of my poll gave answers that included a unicorn costume worn three years in a row, a dead Goth, an M&M, and even Albus Dumbledore! Most everyone plans on dressing up again this year, even if they're handing out candy now instead of collecting it.

What type of candy do they love to collect the most? Once again, answers vary. Some adore the crunchy tart taste of 'Nerdz' while others prefer the rich chocolate chewiness of a Snickers Regardless, the consensus in the case of Halloween candy is that less is most certainly not more.

Lots of the thrill of Halloween comes from the fact that it is has a reputation for being *spooky*. What better way to prepare for the big night than by watching scary movies in the weeks leading up to it? I was surprised to find that the favorite movie was "It's The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown" instead of a sci-fi thriller. The Halloween classic is, as someone told me in my poll, "Not scary at all, but still adorable."

Most everyone has a scary childhood Halloween moment. When I asked about them, I was told tales of terror involving 'zombies' coming to life in a graveyard, and hooligans hitting pots and pans together in the dark. Most of these events are now looked back on with laughter, because in many cases, there was really nothing to be afraid of.

Each year, Halloween brings something new to remember and cherish. One person told me that their most memorable Halloween was last year when the power was out from a freak snowstorm. Another remembers hay rides around the neighborhood, and a third said that every Halloween is "Special when you're with family!"

Although the actual traditions vary, most everyone agrees that no matter how you celebrate, Halloween is a time of excitement, fun, and community bonding.

Submitted by Charlotte LeBarron

Original Verse

All the folks I saw at home,
I got to help me write a pome.
Hector wants it really soon,
What's a good work rhymes with spoon.

Wants it for the Bugle,
Hope my effort is not futile;
Why does he want it? I know that,
To fill up space and make it fat.

Patty Kieser

August 21, 1936 issue of the Blandford Bugle

PTO News

Heating Oil Raffle: tickets are on sale now to benefit the Chester Elementary School. First prize: 100 gallons of heating oil delivered within the Gateway towns by Wheeler Oil of Chester or \$350.

Second prize: a cord of wood cut, split and delivered.

Just 300 tickets to be sold, \$5 donation per ticket

Drawing: Monday Nov. 5, you need not be present to win.

Buy or sell tickets: contact Michele Crane at mkcrane@verizon.net

Labor Day Coloring Contest Winners

We were thrilled to receive 13 entries in our Labor Day Coloring Contest! All entries were excellent and judging was a very difficult task. Thank you to those who entered. We look forward to next year!

First Place: Mathew Puza

Honorable Mention: Hunter Stockseth

and Jennifer Bouchard

Most Creative: Willow Hicks

Letters To Santa Claus

What do the U.S. Postal Service and Santa Claus have in common?

Neither rain nor snow, icy winding nor gloom of night will keep them from delivering dreams this holiday season.

Letters to Santa may be dropped off at the Blandford Post Office starting the day after Thanksgiving.

Santa and his elves make sure that every letter gets answered.

Stamp is optional.

Letters should be addressed to:
SANTA CLAUS, NORTH POLE

Halloween Party!

Saturday, October 27 6-8 p.m. at Town Hall



The Recreation Committee is trying something new for Halloween this year. We will set up booths behind the school from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. just before the town Halloween Party on Saturday, Oct. 27. The booths will be available to residents who wish to distribute Halloween candy. The idea is that because many of us live in fairly remote areas and don't often get trick-or-treaters, it would be fun to congregate in one area and do some serious trick-or-treating! We will set-up a central warming fire and if we end up with rain or another blizzard, the booths will be moved indoors. Please contact Cara in advance to reserve a table. caramisslynn@yahoo.com or 848-2459.

You can help us!

We are also looking for baked goods and candy donations!



"I Went Hungry on Thanksgiving" by Jack Prelutsky

I was hungry on Thanksgiving,
But couldn't eat a thing,
I couldn't eat a drumstick
And I couldn't eat a wing
I couldn't have the pickles
Or the gravy-covered rice,
The pumpkin pie was luscious,
But I couldn't have a slice.

I was starving for some stuffing
Or a tasty yellow yam,
Or a puffy little muffin
Spread with homemade berry jam.

Our dinner looked delicious,
But I didn't dare to touch,
I went hungry on Thanksgiving -
My new braces hurt so much.

*from the Blandford Elementary School edition of
the Blandford Bugle, November 2008*

Thanksgiving Recipes

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us and who hasn't wished to put a truly new dish on the table to WOW everybody. Maybe what you need to do is put a time tested recipe on the table to WHOA everybody.

The following recipes are from:

The American Family Cookbook 1951 by Lily Wallace
Assisted by fifty-four leading Authorities on *Domestic Science and the Art of Modern Cooking*.

Braised Oxtails
Pigeon Pie
Frogs' Legs Fricassee
Pickled Pigs' Feet
Pigs' Feet à La Russe



Recipes for the Boiling of Lamb, Beef or Ox
Tongue. If you didn't want it boiled you could always
Bread then Bake the tongues. Sweetbreads (10 points if you
know what a Sweetbread is before you read the definition)
The culinary name for the thymus (throat, gullet, or neck
sweetbread) and the pancreas (heart, stomach, or belly
sweetbread), especially of the calf and lamb (although beef
and pork sweetbreads are also eaten).

Squirrel Pot Pie
Possum
Hassenpfeffer (5 points if you knew that was Rabbit)
Boiled Terrapin
Turtle à La King

It's interesting to note that most of the "Game" recipes start with the same four instructions: Skin, dress, draw and clean. It was assumed that you knew how to do that.

Have some of your guests suddenly turned vegetarian? No problem you say, "I've got a dish just for you."
Stewed Head Lettuce (boiled Iceberg Lettuce then cover in white sauce and bake)
Parsnip Puffs
Blushing Bunny (seriously, that's the name of the recipe)
Stewed tomatoes, cheese and eggs.

Dinner was a success and it's time for Dessert:
Sea Moss Pudding (1 cup Sea Moss, *doesn't everyone* have that in their larder, sugar, milk, salt and vanilla)
Pear Brickle (Pears, cream, sugar, vanilla and peanut brittle)
Hickory Nut Tarts
Pork Cake (Yes...Pork...Cake...)

Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence. - Erma Bombeck

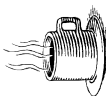



Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow.
- Edward Sandford Martin

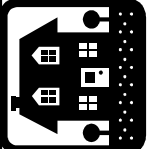

Garden Club News

The Blandford Garden Club is welcoming new members. If interested please call Barbara Blair at 848-2261.



Blandford Events Calendar

October	2012	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Don't forget to get your coffee at the Blandford Store!</p> 	<p>1 Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>2 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m.</p>	<p>3 4 Historical Society 7:00 p.m. Presentation by Joe Carvalho on a new addition of his book, <i>Black Families in Hampden County Massachusetts, 1650-1865.</i> Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>	<p>4 Historical Society 7:00 p.m. Directors' Meeting Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>	<p>5 Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>8 Library CLOSED Columbus Day</p>	<p>9 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Historical Society 7:00 p.m. Directors' Meeting Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>	<p>12 COA: 1:30 p.m. Movie <i>Matinee The King's Speech.</i> Popcorn & Beverages provided Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>15 Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>16 COA: 1 p.m. Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Clinic Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>22 Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>23 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>	<p>26 Chester Elementary Halloween Dinner Dance 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. For dinner tickets call: (413) 685-1360 Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>27 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>	
<p>28</p>	<p>29 Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p>		<p>Falls Brook Farm 39 Herrick Road · Blandford, MA 01008 Fresh Eggs! Pastured raised hens handled with care. Open Wednesday through Sunday 8 am to 6 pm. 413.848.2846 · FallsBrookFarm@verizon.net www.FallsBrookFarm.com</p> 		

Blandford Events Calendar

November	2012	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 <p>Mary Mangini - Broker REALTOR Berkshire and Hilltown Specialist (413) 454-2008 Cell (413) 848-2253 Home Mary.Mangini@NEMoves.com Lifelong resident of Western Mass</p>		1 Library open 1-8 p.m.	2 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	3 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
4	5	Library open 5-8 p.m.	<p>Election Day COA room open for coffee & Snacks Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>	7	8 Historical Society 6:00 p.m. Annual Meeting; Pot Luck Supper: program-HOUSES and INDUSTRIES of North Blandford by Pat Lucas. Library open 1-8 p.m.	9 COA: 1:30 Movie Meeting <u>Second Hand Lions</u> Popcorn & Beverages Provided Library open 5-8 p.m.	10 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
11	12	Library CLOSED Veterans' Day	13 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	14 COA: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. From Moscow to St. Petersburg by Peter Langmore	15 Library open 1-8 p.m.	16 Library open 5-8 p.m.	17 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
18	19	Library open 5-8 p.m.	20 COA: 1:00 p.m. Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Clinic Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	21	22 Library Closed Thanksgiving	23 Library open 5-8 p.m.	24 Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
25	26	Library open 5-8 p.m.	27 Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	28	29 Library open 1-8 p.m.	30 Library open 5-8 p.m.	<p>Order your Pizza from the Blandford Store! 848-2800</p> 

Blandford Events Calendar

December		2012																											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																							
 <p>Blandford Animal Hospital Blandfordanimalhospital@earthlink.net</p> <p>Dr. Hazel Holman Veterinarian Blandfordanimalhospital1@vetcon.net</p> <p>Route 23, P.O. Box 769 Blandford, MA 01008 Phone: (413) 848-2057</p> 		<p>The Russell Inn Italian American Family Style Restaurant Eat in or Take out Owned & Operated by The Peluso Family Keno & Lounge Rte 20, Russell MA 01071 (413) 862-3608</p>		<p>Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>		<p>Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>		<p>COA: 1:00 p.m. Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Clinic Knitting Club at the Library 2-4 p.m. Library open 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library: CLOSED Christmas Day</p>		<p>Library: CLOSED Christmas Day</p>																	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>Tree Lighting, Historical Society 5:00 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 5-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 1-8 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Craft Fair Historical Society All Day</p>		<p>Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>		<p>Library open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p>	

Blandford Winters and their traditions

Winters were not easy times in Blandford. There was a lot of snow and often, ice. Winter started early and ended late. The coldest part of Blandford was out Chester Road, beyond Martin's...*the Maples*. Looking through files at the Historical Society only brought one mention of Halloween; Harold Lloyd used to build a bonfire at a brook, and "tell ghost stories to the neighborhood children" according to his grandson Joseph Roberts

A list of Winter traditions must include the Blandford Fox Club dinners. Held the first Saturday in November from 1899 to 1983, the 84th and final Fox Club dinner was held in 1983 because women would not cook nor serve; and the event collapsed. The dinner's demise made national news, with a clipping sent from California to prove it.

Chestnuts were gathered after the first frost up on Birch Hill. When left to sit, they became sweeter.

A Blandford winter tale was passed along by Pros(per) Montovani. His family owned a farm at the end of George Millard Road and later they lived at the top of Main Street in the mustard yellow house.

At an October 1986 Historical Society program, he told of owning a giant toboggan, a Double Ripper – as long as two eight-foot tables – which carried 15 to 18 riders. "First, Warren Bedurtha would drive his big Pierce Arrow truck down the hill (Main Street). Then about ten minutes later, we'd start at The White Church. This is a fact," he said, "we would go all the way to the package store (Base Camp) without stopping. When we went by Fowler Farm down here, we were traveling. He'd (Bedurtha) be waiting with the truck. We would hitch on the Ripper and he would haul us back. We were good for about two slides a night."

Trevor Judd wrote about early Christmases in *Yarns of a Yankee Youth, story of my childhood*. Christmas circa 1890s was very different.

"In those days, nobody in Blandford had a private



1936 Looking East on Main Street

Christmas Tree, not for any lack of trees as there were all around us beautiful spruces, pines and the feathery hemlocks, but everybody pitched in to assist in the concerted selection, cutting, hauling, erection and decorating of two large community trees that reached from floor to

ceiling; sometimes in the Church, but frequently in the large single space without posts over the cheese factory.

Groups of people spent days stringing popcorn lines, making and hanging cornucopias of many colors filled with Christmas candy, (and everybody got one) red seed pods from wild roses, still on the branches, mingled with small red and green candles that were clipped on all over the massive trees. After the Christmas program, when the distribution of gifts started, the candles were lighted – an invitation to calamity, but nothing interfered with these community Christmas celebrations."

Judd recounted the story of gift distribution. He allowed as how there was one youngster - Frank - related to "the prolific Higgins tribe in and around North Blandford, so that kid had more relatives than a toad has warts." His parents (we assume he lived with them) lived in Albany, according to Judd, and most likely to his consternation as well.

Frank sat in a front seat and would yell "Here" when his name was called, apparently one too many times for Judd. Each tree had what Judd called an "official picker-off-er" who called the name out for each gift under the tree. Frank's name was called frequently, almost every other gift had his name on it. Judd envied

"that kid" who "redeemed himself by finally entering the ministry" and devoting himself to good works, and eventually retiring to North Blandford.

Christmas in the center Chapel was a large gathering, too. All children would put on a program, and every child was invited to participate and received an orange and a candy.

Cutting ice to sell to 'summer people' began in the early 1900s by Charles Hayden. Doris Hay-

den's husband, Ralph, continued the business. After Christmas, the pond, near Birch Meadow Farm and Crooks Road, was a skater's delight. The pond was eventually scuttled by Springfield Water as being 'dirty.'

Today the Historical Society hosts an annual Christmas Tree lighting with caroling followed by hot chocolate and assorted Christmas cookies. The First Congregational Church Choir carols at homes as well.

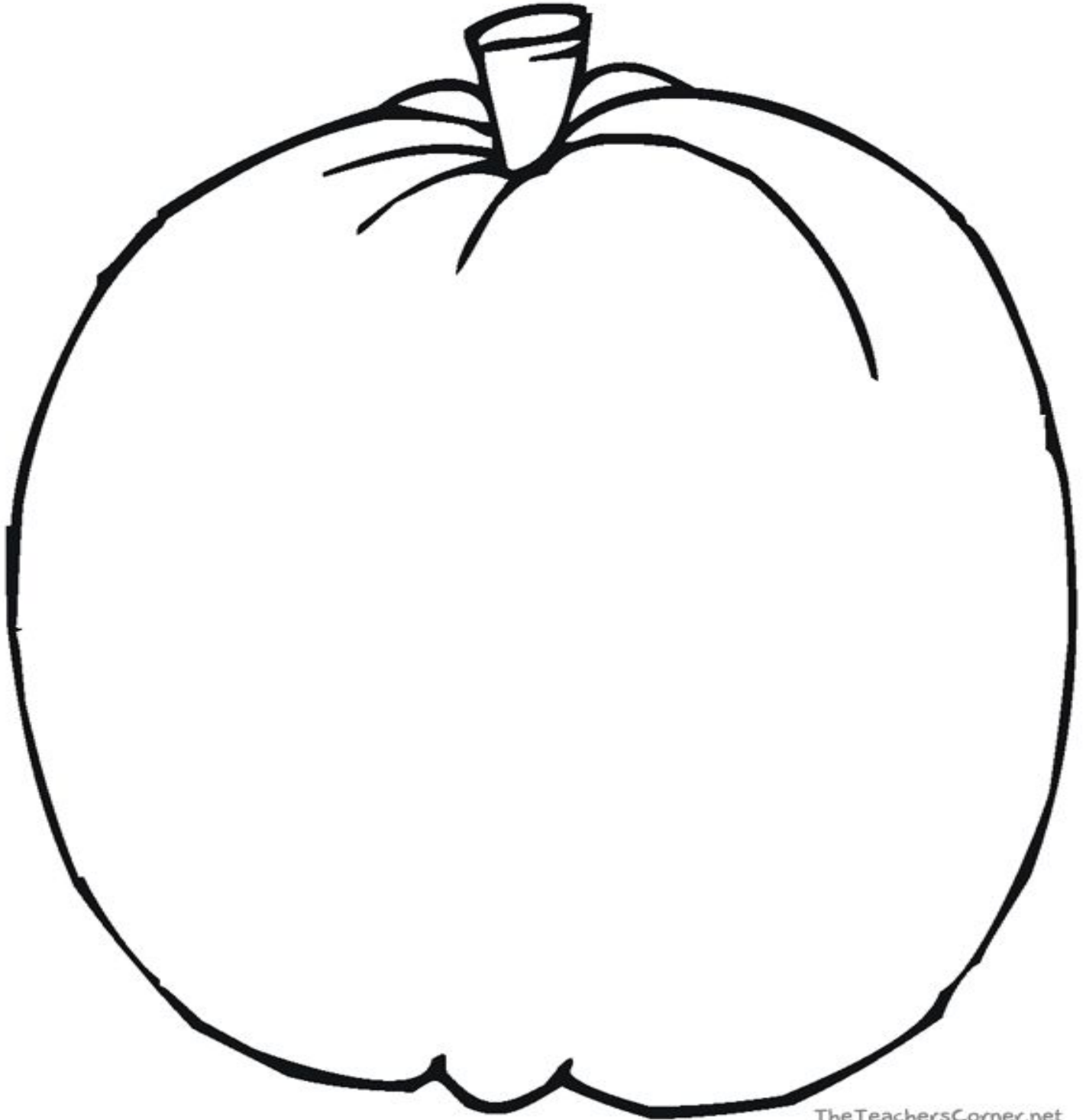
Storms are no strangers to Blandford and have put the town in the headlines on more than one occasion. There were significant storms, with significant damage in November 1921, an ice storm; in December 1942 Blandford was isolated by an ice storm and then hit again in January 1943 with another ice storm. In 1958 snow paralyzed Hilltowns, and again in January 2002. More recent storms include the most memorable 2008 ice storm and last year's Halloween snow event.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

Get creative, silly or spooky with your pumpkin design! Feel free to paint, paste, glitter, you name it!

Please drop your pumpkin creations off in one of the collection boxes located at the Post Office, Library, Town Hall or Blandford Store. Or mail it to: Cara Letendre 61 Chester Road, Blandford MA 01008. Entries must be received by 10/26/12 at the latest.

All entries will be displayed at the town Halloween Party on Saturday, October 27th at the Town Hall.



TheTeachersCorner.net

Name: _____ Age: _____ Phone Number: _____

The Blandford Bugle
P. O. Box
Blandford, MA 01008

PRSR STD
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ZIP CODE 01008

All Blandford things you need to know

Postal Patron
Blandford, MA 01008



Photo by: *Linda Coffee*

The Blandford Bugle

Send all communication to:
The Blandford Bugle C/O Recreation Committee
Blandford, MA 01008 Or, Drop in the town box outside town hall
Or, Email us at blandfordbugle@hotmail.com

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