

# *The Blandford Bugle*

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

Vol. 2, Issue 4    Blandford, Massachusetts    Winter 2013    BlandfordBugle@hotmail.com

## **Dedicated to the concept of recycling Who does what in Blandford? *We make a visit to the Transfer Station...***

Not too long ago, a couple of Bugle Staffers visited the town's Transfer Station. Formerly known as the dump. It was truly a gorgeously beautiful Blandford fall Saturday. Sunny and warm. An ideal day to make the trip to the facility just off Huntington Road. There were many people participating and receiving lots of help from the Transfer Station staff.

Some residents had not been to the Transfer Station in weeks, months or even years. Some folks revealed to us that their significant other had "never been to the Transfer Station, ever."

After Linda Smith solicited comments from over 30 Transfer Station trash-trippers, it appeared to be just about unanimous that those who utilize the town's refuse removal operation have high regards for how it looks, operates and especially the people who work there. Samples of what your neighbors had to say –

many of the same thoughts repeated time and time again – are as follows:

"This past year has been incredible. The guys are great. I have no complaints."

"There are no problems, except when the bins are full."

"These are fabulous, people who work here, they are great, and the place looks great...neat, clean and tidy."

"These folks are wonderful, and very pleasant people."

Several people referred to their trip to the



A bird's eye view of the Blandford Transfer Station just off Huntington Road.

Transfer Station as a regular “Saturday morning outing.”

Nellie the dog would like you to know that the Transfer Station is really “dog friendly” and with a few wags of the tail, you get a treat.”

Anyone who has the family job of handling the



trash, particularly appreciate the assistance the Transfer Station employees provide. “They always help, they take the bags out of the trunk for me and put it in the compactor.”



So it's a real “Hats Off” to the management and Tim, Vern and Gordon for a well run and truly people friendly Blandford Transfer Station.

As residents, we all appreciate your effort.

Thank you all.



## Hats off!



- ◆ To Fire Chief Brian Care for his life saving effort.
- ◆ To the Blandford Artists for their first successful Artist Trail event.
- ◆ To the Recreation Committee and all the volunteers for their enthusiastic Halloween party at the Town Hall and the Trick or Treat walk in Watson Park.
- ◆ To the Selectmen for the good use of the trust funds for the Winifred Arms Bicentennial Park for the new retaining walls and

fences with protective devices.

- ◆ To the efforts of Rayette Byrnes and everyone who worked and performed to raise funds for Blandford's Volunteer Firefighters.

## History Recycled

by Lori Bocon

Once upon a visit from my uncle and cousin, I learned that the love of antiques runs strong in our family. Another uncle, decades ago along with his wife, ran Holly Hill Antiques in Brewster, Mass. I remember as a youth, no older than ten, letting myself into the barn which served as their gallery to wander the well-worn floor boards in each aisle. My favorite item was a pair of Victorian shoes that had so many eyelets to lace up I often wondered if the previous owner had time to step out after donning and lacing those shoes.

The air in that barn was alive with the stories of those that composed letters on the antiquated desks, youngsters that played with the aged toys, and whose eyes now closed had appreciated the pages in the stack



of leather bound books. The flurry of dust visible against the sunlit panes of glass caused me to wonder

which century it was from. What grand memories.

I still love to touch, hold, smell, and ponder upon items from the past. My visiting cousin, who also dabbled in the antique trade, put it quite eloquently when she said, "Antiques have a soul." That sentiment said it all for me.



Antique dealers are in essence recyclers who through acquired knowledge and a keen eye, happen to get top dollar for all sorts of pre-owned and not always gently used items. Even those people energetic enough to plan and execute a tag sale are recyclers and

those that stop by and make the purchases are re-users. If you buy from your neighbor, you've also just shopped locally!

My recycling habits go beyond all of my daily bins for papyrus, this glass or metal item and that plastic number. I often visit and shop at Goodwill. My purchases have been varied and numerous. Most recently I stopped in for a coffee pot as I seem to have developed a knack for breaking them. All totaled, I've broken five in as many months. Perhaps I should cut back on the caffeine. Goodwill or the Salvation Army is proven ground for one-of-a-kind previously owned items. Recycling is now my excuse to go shopping and I certainly do not mind paying less for my purchases.

If you decide to venture out to Goodwill, a tag sale, or an antique fair, spend a few moments wondering who wore, drank from, ate off of, displayed in their home, or played with the items. It makes for an energizing exercise for the imagination. If, in the end, you make a purchase, you become part of that item's history.

## Letters to Santa

It's a long way to the North Pole and you want to make sure your letter gets there early enough for Santa to read it and write back to you.

Please place your letter in the special **Santa's Mail Box** located inside the Blandford Post Office by Dec. 20. Santa will try very hard to answer every letter, even if they're posted after that date. Letters to Santa may be dropped off in Santa's Post Box anytime. Stamp is optional.



## A hug is the perfect gift; one size fits all and nobody minds if you exchange it.

It's been around forever... remember the slogan "Thrifty is nifty". Everyone over a certain age remembers it but now it's an actual holiday, held each year on the Thursday before Christmas: National Regifting Day Dec. 19, 2013. Many office holiday party's are held on this day and research shows that 40 percent of office party gifts are regifted. Re-gifting is green; think of it as pre-cycling, the "*reuse*" that comes after "*reduce*" but before "*recycle*".



We know what you're thinking. Re-gifting is tasteless, tacky and in extreme cases, downright insulting. Forget the stigma: Re-gifting keeps perfectly good items out of the waste stream and with a little thought the practice can be more meaningful than giving something new. You might actually find that re-gifting is rewarding and even downright fun.

That's the approach Fran Korten takes with a new tradition she started for her 70th birthday. On the holidays, she asks her guests to avoid bringing gifts. Instead, she pokes through her own possessions and finds gently-used items that she doesn't use much, wraps them up and the guests open and swap until virtually everyone leaves with a used item they like. The old "Yankee Swap" has become new again.

What's a "Yankee Swap" you ask? It's a holiday party game that emphasizes a less-than-serious gift exchange that results in uproarious laughter and the goal is to entertain rather than gain.

Generally, Yankee Swaps need a minimum of six participants and have been known to result in playful rivalries between players trying to get sought after gifts. In its most basic form each participant supplies one wrapped gift. The gifts are placed in a holiday pile and participants decide in what order they will take turns selecting them. The first person opens a wrapped gift and the turn ends. On subsequent turns, each person gets the choice of "stealing" an already opened gift or choosing a wrapped one from the gift

pile. When a player's gift is stolen, they can choose to steal an opened gift from someone else or select a replacement gift from the pile of wrapped presents. Each turn ends when a gift is unwrapped. The game is over when the last person has taken their turn (there are endless variations). Gifts are typically inexpensive or humorous used items from home.

This is not an "all or nothing" game, it's just a little fun thrown into what many times ends up being a stressful holiday. A great way to make sure everyone has a wonderful time is to send the game rules out to your guests in advance. Make sure that everyone knows this is a game and is being played for fun and that "stealing" a gift from someone is expected and encouraged and the wackier more outrageous the gift the better...because it's a game. Keep it all in perspective and always be respectful to each other.

The morning after the "Swap" you may find yourself with a truly funny but un-useable item. You may want to keep it to regift next year or donate it to the Goodwill or Salvation Army maybe even try to sell it on the internet. The "greenest" option may be to post it on Freecycle.org, (the ultimate Yankee Swap) an online database where people can post items they no longer want and look for things they do. Nearly 7 million people around the world use it, keeping 700 tons of stuff out of landfills every day and reducing the need to produce more products and packaging. Truth be told we've been brainwashed for decades by the media, retailers and advertisers showing lavish Christmas home displays and huge, gaily wrapped Christmas gifts. Non-stop advertisements, catalogs with outlandish items displayed with smiling families, shopping malls stuffed to the gills with every conceivable gadget and gizmo that is purported to show our love if we buy them. The message of materialism bombards us from every direction.

We're led to believe that a perfect Christmas can only be ours if we spend oodles of precious time and cash on "all the trimmings" and of course, gifts. Before you can say "Bah, humbug!", we're whipping out the charge card and having a frustrating, terrible time. As a consequence, we ignore, forget or just don't have time for the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is not a competition and it shouldn't be about "buying love." It isn't about the expensive gifts or the elaborate trimmings... those are extras and while they're fun to have, they REALLY aren't needed. **Simple is good** and being frugal is an age old idea.

## Winter Calendar

### December

### January

### February

	December		January		February	
Sun	1	Tree Lighting 5:30pm Hist. Soc.		<b>Selectboard Meetings</b>		<b>Library Hrs:</b>
Mon	2			<b>Mondays 7pm Town Hall</b>		Mon, Tues & Fri 5-8
Tues	3	Knitting at Library 2-4				Thurs 1-8 & Sat 10-4
Wed	4		1			
Thurs	5	Toddler Time at Library 3:30	2	Toddler Time at Library 3:30		
Fri	6		3			
Sat	7	Craft Fair 10-4 Hist Soc	4		1	
Sun	8		5		2	
Mon	9	Special Town Mtg 7:00 PM	6		3	
Tues	10	Knitting at Library 2-4	7	Knitting at Library 2-4	4	Knitting at Library 2-4
Wed	11		8		5	
Thurs	12	Toddler Time at Library 3:30	9	Toddler Time at Library 3:30	6	Toddler Time at Library 3:30
Fri	13		10		7	
Sat	14		11		8	
Sun	15		12		9	
Mon	16		13		10	
Tues	17	Knitting at Library 2-4	14	Knitting at Library 2-4	11	Knitting at Library 2-4
Wed	18		15		12	
Thurs	19	Town Employee Info Mtg 6 PM	16	Toddler Time at Library 3:30	13	Toddler Time at Library 3:30
Fri	20	<b>Get your letters to Santa!</b>	17		14	
Sat	21		18		15	
Sun	22		19		16	
Mon	23		20		17	
Tues	24	Knitting at Library 2-4	21	Knitting at Library 2-4	18	Knitting at Library 2-4
Wed	25		22		19	
Thurs	26	Toddler Time at Library 3:30	23	Toddler Time at Library 3:30	20	Toddler Time at Library 3:30
Fri	27		24		21	
Sat	28		25		22	
Sun	29		26		23	
Mon	30		27		24	
Tues	31	Knitting at Library 2-4	28	Knitting at Library 2-4	25	Knitting at Library 2-4
Wed			29		26	
Thurs		<b>Town Ice Rink Open!</b>	30	Toddler Time at Library 3:30	27	Toddler Time at Library 3:30
Fri		<b>(Contingent Upon Weather)</b>	31		28	
Sat					29	
Sun					30	
Mon					31	



## Salvaged Sports Gear

I've been playing all kind of sports for several years and have received all sorts of hand me down, or recycled sports equipment. I have received everything from old golf clubs from an uncle, indoor soccer shoes from a friend, and even a baseball bat from my mom! However, there is one special piece of sports equipment that was more important to me than anything else. My father had a close friend that loved baseball, but didn't have a son to play catch with. When I was young we would throw the ball around and I thought it was really great that an adult wanted to play catch with me! Well one day my father's friend gave me his old glove that he had from when he was young. It looked really old, and not very appealing, but I didn't care. Every time I used the glove, I caught the ball. I even used the glove while playing on the high school team. Whenever I made a play, I looked down at the dirty, old glove and smiled thinking about the meaning behind the recycled glove.

- Denver Yost

## Winter Gear Drive

This year, the Gateway Regional Junior High School Blue-and-Gold Committee will sponsor a coat drive from November 21st to December 5th. This group will be collecting washed, gently used coats for adults and children in the local area. This is the second year of the coat drive. The community was very generous last year in donating a total of eighty-five coats.

### *The drop-off locations will be at;*

The Littleville Elementary School Lobby (during normal school hours)  
 The Gateway Regional High School lobby (during normal school hours)  
 Holy Family Church on Route 20 in Russell (anytime—box will be located outside)  
 The Hilltown Community Health Centers in both Huntington and Worthington (during normal business hours)  
 The Gateway Community Center/Hilltown Social Services Building Route 20 in Huntington (across from the fire station) (anytime—located outside)  
 Coats will be collected and available for Hilltown families from December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Gateway Community Center/Hilltown Social Services Building in Huntington

## From Antique to Chic

Last week, Gateway Regional High School celebrated America Recycles Day. Students wore green, signed pledges, and participated in a recycling challenge during lunch. In the cafeteria there was a poster with a list of items that could be recycled. While looking over the list, I realized that one item people may not generally think of recycling is clothing. There are so many things that can be done with a bag of old clothes and a morsel of creativity.

One fun and easy use for old t-shirts is to make them into pillows or pincushions. In the past, I have simply cut the sleeve off of a t-shirt, sewed one end shut, stuffed it, and sewed the other end. This requires very little sewing skill, so it is a great project for children who are learning to sew (under supervision of course.) To make your pillow even more appealing, you could easily sew on some colorful buttons or create a border of ribbon.

Are you unready to part with your favorite pair of worn out jeans? A great way to use old jeans is by making jean purses. Simply cut the legs off of the jeans, sew shut the leg holes, add a shoulder strap (which can easily be made out of ribbon,) and then decorate it. A few years ago, I made a bunch of these purses as Christmas gifts, and they were a hit! Since there are so many different colors of jeans, types of fabric, shapes of buttons, and lengths of ribbon, each purse is totally unique. Plus, your jeans don't go to waste!

Do you feel that your wardrobe could use a boost? There are a variety of easy ways to embellish your clothing. My sisters and I have spent many a rainy afternoon cutting, gluing, and sewing in an attempt to create a new look. One of our favorite ways to spice up a boring t-shirt is by cutting fringe into the hem of it. If you're willing to get really creative, it's also fun to string beads onto each piece of fringe and then tie a knot to make sure they don't slip off.

*Charlotte LeBarron*

## Tile Work at Reasonable Prices



**Do you have a tile job that you've been wanting to get done? I can do your kitchen or bath backsplash, tub/shower surround, mudroom or other floor. Professional results at lower labor costs. Skilled, honest and clean worker.**

**Free estimates call (413) 848-2119 or (413) 977-3823 or email [lisalajoie@verizon.net](mailto:lisalajoie@verizon.net)**



Dating is not just for singles.

Let me explain what I mean. Every couple should have a regular date night no matter how long they have been together. Setting aside a night exclusively for the two of you - without kids or interruptions - is a sure way to keep romance alive. I would prefer to stay home on my date night than go to a restaurant. I don't care what we do; it could be a simple pizza in front of the television or an elaborate meal with stemware. But every date night must include sustenance; seriously, you need to keep your strength up for all those romantic activities...like Wii Bowling and Guitar Hero.

I have a few meals I have served, such as Spiced Rummy-Orange Chicken, which is a cheap no-brainer. Does that say something about those dinner partners? If I want to really impress a man, I break out the Beef Wellington or Duck à la Moi. Also included is a recipe that has become an urban legend, Glamour's Engagement Chicken. The way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Oh, and guys, most women find it sexy when a man cooks for them, you could even get away with serving me Velveeta Shells and Cheese, especially if you wear an apron and do the dishes afterwards.

Let's start with the easier, Duck à la Moi. This is a dish that I Frankensteined together after eating something similar at a restaurant. You can use either legs or breasts.

Be aware that duck is all dark meat and will be greasy if not prepared correctly. Start by scoring the skin with a paring knife, try not to cut into the meat. Heat the skillet over high heat and spray it with Pam; I don't use olive oil because the duck produces its own oils. Season with salt and pepper; place duck in the pan skin side down. This should be pressed into the pan so weigh it down with a brick or smaller skillet. I don't have a definitive cook time on this dish; just cook it until crispy on both sides, somewhere between fifteen and twenty minutes. When the duck is done, drain it on paper towels to remove excess fat. Top with a sauce made from a half cup of mixed berries and two tablespoons of blackberry brandy; bring the sauce to a boil and let it cook a bit to reduce. I serve this with rice pilaf and a tossed salad. If you really don't care for duck you can make this dish with chicken, just use oil when searing it in the pan because there is not as much fat in chicken.

If you really want to impress - make Individual Beef Wellingtons. These appear to be very difficult to make but really it's not true, and the results are worth it.

Start by searing two one-inch thick *filet mignons* seasoned with salt and pepper in a screaming hot pan. Cook about five minutes on each side to caramelize the meat. Traditionally, Beef Wellington is made with pâté and mushrooms, but I do not groove on the fungus so I use a spinach mixture. Sauté one minced garlic clove with one finely chopped shallot until softened; then mix in about half a box of frozen spinach and season with salt and pepper. If you don't like spinach, sauté mushrooms with a splash of white wine or use roasted red peppers.

Now, to assemble. Wellingtons are wrapped in puff pastry and you will only need one sheet to cover the two fi-

lets. Cut the pastry in half and roll it out a bit, then place some of the vegetable mixture in the center, top it with a filet, wrap it up nice and neat, brush with an egg wash and bake at 350 degrees for ten minutes or until golden. I usually serve this with a sauce made from mashed avocado, sour cream and a tablespoon of dry ranch salad dressing blended together. A nice side dish to accompany your Beef Wellington is garlic-mashed potatoes; these are good because what man doesn't love mashed potatoes.

A few months ago I saw a segment on the Today Show about Glamour Magazine's recipe for Engagement Chicken, a meal that is said to ensure a marriage proposal. It seems that twenty-six years ago one of the magazine's editors made this for her boyfriend, who loved it and proposed to her a month later. Over the years, the magic recipe was passed around the office, always resulting in engagements. I found it in one of my back issues but have yet to use it on anyone; smart move on my part; so here it is, the famous Engagement Chicken recipe - and I expect feedback from any single lady who serves it to her boyfriend. Let's see if it really entices a proposal.

Start by preheating the oven to 400 degrees then take a three-pound whole bird wash, drain and let dry for about fifteen minutes. Pour half a cup of fresh lemon juice over the bird, inside and out and season with salt and pepper. Prick two whole lemons three times with a fork and place deep inside the bird's cavity. Place it breast side down in a rack placed in a roasting pan, lower the oven heat to 350 degrees and bake uncovered for fifteen minutes. Remove it from the oven and use two wooden spoons to turn it breast side up and cook it for thirty-five minutes more. Test for doneness by inserting a meat thermometer into thigh and hope for a reading of 180 degrees, continue baking if needed.

Let the chicken rest for a few minutes before serving with the juices. Now make sure to follow these steps to a tee if you want a proposal, any deviation could result in undesired reactions. Seriously, who knows what could happen, but the last thing you want is Prince Charming turning into Prince Slacker and taking up residence on the corner stool at the local watering hole.

I suppose I should give you the recipe for the Spiced Rummy-Orange Chicken even though I consider this an every night meal and it has no magical qualities.

Season four boneless chicken breasts with salt and pepper and sauté in olive oil. Once the chicken is cooked through remove it from the pan and add one can of frozen orange juice. Melt this down, and then stir in four tablespoons of spiced rum to make the sauce; voila, you are done. I usually serve this dish with couscous. I really like this meal but honestly there is nothing special about it.

Now if one of these meals does not melt your honey's heart and land you a little blue box filled with happiness, or whatever else you want, then I don't know what will. But, seriously, make time for your special someone, show them you care by treating them to a special meal prepared by your own two little hands.

Remember actions speak louder than words, well in most cases they do; I have been known to raise my voice a little.



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

*All Blandford things you need to know*

PRSRT STD  
Huntington, MA

Permit No. 112  
Zip Code 01050

Postal Patron  
Blandford, MA 01008



Historical Society Christmas Tree Lighting

# *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](mailto:blandfordbugle@hotmail.com)

Published quarterly by The Blandford Recreation Committee  
Deadline for March/April/May issue is February 15.

Editor: Cara Letendre

Contributing Editor: Mary Kronholm

Editorial Board: Kate Fletcher, Mary Kronholm, Cara Letendre, Lynn McCann, Linda Smith