



News Across the Table

Our Neighbors' Table, December 2020 / Edition 5



Heather's Recipe: Strawberry Santa Hats!

Easy to make and your little elves can help too! Wishing you all a warm & wonderful holiday season!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. strawberries with the tops cut off
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- 3-4 TBSP powdered sugar (depending on how sweet you like it)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Vanilla wafers (OREOS are good too if chocolate is your thing!)

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: Wash and dry your strawberries.

STEP 2: Mix the cream cheese, vanilla, and sugar together.

STEP 3: Pipe the cream cheese mixture around the outside edge of the wafer then add a drop of the mixture in the center of the cookie (this helps keep the strawberry on the cookie).

STEP 4: Press the strawberry on top of the mixture to create the white trim on your Santa hat.

STEP 5: Add a drop of the cream cheese mixture to the tip of the strawberry to create the pom-pom on Santa's hat!



Heather Paterson is ONT's Meal Manager. Her delicious recipes are made into meals and available free for takeout every Wednesday from 4pm to 6pm at Main Street Congregational Church, 145 Main St., Amesbury.



Happy Holidays from everyone at ONT!

Holidays Update



We hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving! Now it's time to start planning for Christmas. Our Neighbors' Table will have a variety of holiday groceries the week before Christmas. Please help us prepare for the holiday by filling out the Smart Choice survey to indicate whether or not you'll be shopping with us for your Christmas groceries. This survey will only be used by ONT staff to help us plan for Christmas. You will still need to place your actual order for Christmas groceries by 3pm the day before your desired pick-up. Please refer to the schedule below for exact times and dates. We look forward to celebrating the holidays (from a distance) with the ONT community.

Christmas Grocery Pick-up Extended Hours

Week before Christmas

Tuesday 12/15: 12pm-5pm
Wednesday 12/16: 9am-3:30pm
Thursday 12/17: 9am-6pm
Friday 12/18: 9am-6pm
Saturday 12/19: 9am-2pm

Week of Christmas

Tuesday 12/22: 11:30am-5pm
Wednesday 12/23: 10am-4pm

ONT will be closed for a holiday break December 24th through January 4th. Ordering starts up again on Tuesday, January 5th. Grocery pick up starts again on Wednesday, January 6th.

Apply for SNAP by phone!

Our Neighbors' Table is a SNAP Outreach Partner. We can help you apply for SNAP (food stamps) by phone. Call Tress at 978-388-1907, ext. 18 to apply, help with an open SNAP case, or to answer your questions about SNAP.



SNAP benefits are put on an electronic card that is used like an ATM card or a bank card and can be used at most supermarkets, convenience stores, and some farmers' markets. Income guidelines apply.

This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The SNAP logo is a service mark of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA does not endorse any goods, services, or enterprises.

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Reminder to call if you are running late

Because of limited parking, it is important that you arrive to pick up your groceries on time. If you are going to be more than 15 minutes late, please call us to let us know so we can keep your groceries fresh.

Community Resources: Massachusetts Chapter 115 Veterans' Benefits

The Chapter 115 Benefits Program is run by the Massachusetts Department Veterans' Services (DVS). DVS runs the program in partnership with local Veterans' Service Officers (VSOs). The Program provides financial aid for food, shelter/housing, clothing, and medical care to veterans and their dependents who have limited incomes.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Residency in Massachusetts—1 day
- Honorable Discharge, 180 days of Active Duty Service
- Dependent, spouse, or un-remarried spouse

INCOME GUIDELINES—MAXIMUM MONTHLY*:

- Single—\$2,126
- 2 Person—\$2,873

*may still qualify if over income

ASSET LIMITS:

- Single—\$5,000
- Married—\$9,800

For more information on necessary documentation, or to apply, contact your town's Veterans' Services Officer.

Amesbury, Merrimac & Salisbury:

Jeremiah Murphy, VSO Office, 68 Elm St., Amesbury
978-388-8136

Newburyport:

Kevin Hunt, VSO Office, 331 High St., Newburyport
978-462-2201

Other towns: Contact your local town hall for Veterans' Services Officer contact information and local

Volunteer Profile: Rita Comtois



In 2016, when Rita retired from her job as a psychologist, she knew she wanted to volunteer somewhere to keep busy. An Amesbury resident, she had heard of ONT. She thought she might help out at the Wednesday meal, but when she went to the volunteer orientation, she learned that she was needed to help in the Amesbury Market which was newly built at the time. Rita had no idea then that she would help out in almost every volunteer

position ONT has.

Before the COVID emergency, Rita mostly helped out at check-out and restocking the market, usually 4 days a week. These days you'll find her greeting guests when they arrive and helping to put their groceries in their vehicle twice a week. Rita tells us she enjoys doing this work. She says, "I like the camaraderie of the volunteers. I've gotten to know a lot of the guests. I like the mission. I like what we do and seeing the people we serve."

It is thanks to dedicated volunteers like Rita that ONT is able to serve our guests. Rita says many times guests have thanked her for volunteering and helping to bring them their food. Her response is that the guests are doing as much for her as she is for them. Helping people at ONT has made her feel like she's involved in something important, saying, "It feels like a community."

Amesbury Market location and hours:

194 Main St., Amesbury

See other side for Amesbury hours for Dec. 15th through Dec. 23rd

Wednesdays: 10:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursdays: 12:00pm - 3:00pm and 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Fridays: 9:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Newburyport Market: Thursdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm
Newburyport Senior Center, 331 High St., Newburyport

Merrimac Market: The Merrimac Mobile Market is temporarily

suspended. ONT guests who live in Merrimac are invited to pick up their groceries at our locations in Amesbury or Newburyport.

Grocery orders can be placed online or by phone until 3pm the day before pick-up.

Questions? Comments? Ideas for future newsletters?
Call or email Tress, ONT's Food Resource Advocate at:
(978) 388-1907 ext. 18
or email: tress@ourneighborstable.org

Our Neighbors' Table

194 Main St., Amesbury MA 01913 (978) 388-1907

www.ourneighborstable.org

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