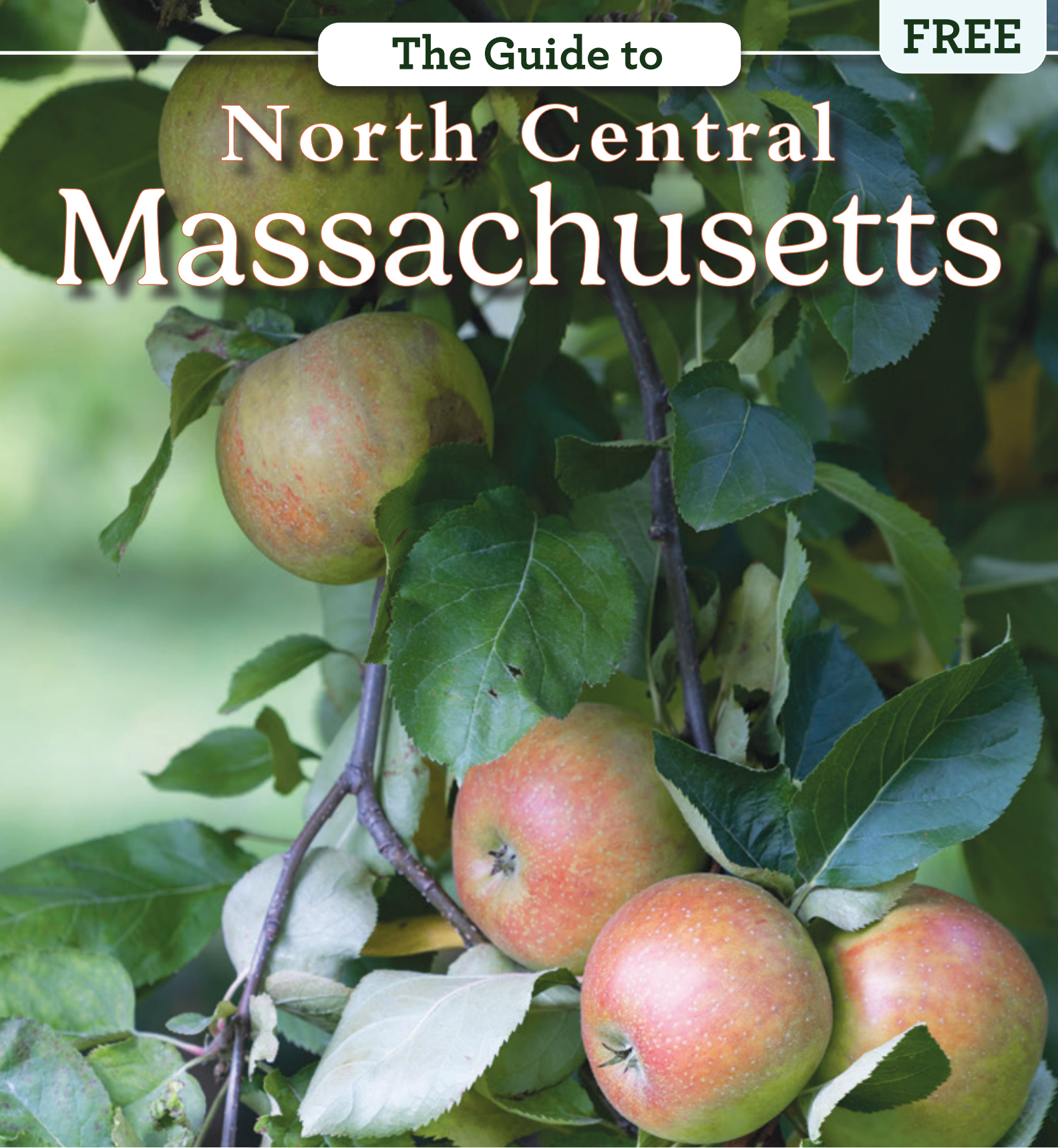


The Guide to

FREE

North Central Massachusetts



In This Issue...

Food for a Feast

Sterling Fair

Hiking Mount Wachusett

Spotlight on Stage



Johnny Appleseed Country | Fall 2025



Year Round
**FAMILY
 FUN**

- ✔ Pick Your Own Fruit for the ultimate farm experience.
 - ✔ Live Music: Enjoy local bands in a picturesque setting.
 - ✔ Visit **The Cidery** for exclusive seasonal flavors and tastings.
 - ✔ Stop by the **Brew Barn** year-round for brews and tasty eats.
 - ✔ Enjoy charming **hayrides** through the farm's scenic landscapes – ideal for all ages!
- ✔ Fresh Cider Donuts ✔ Pumpkins ✔ Apple Cider
 ✔ Homemade Fudge ✔ Farm Store ✔ Family Fun

Visit us at the Stall in Boston or our cozy spots on Wachusett Mountain—perfect settings for unique treats and warm cider donuts!

redapplefarm.com

Scan here to explore all upcoming farm events.



Fairs & Festivals

- Appleseed
- Country Fair
- Thanksgiving
- Harvest Festival
- Winter Lights

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 Social Media!



@redapplefarm

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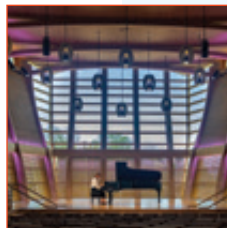
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ABOUT THE COVER:

Fall Cover:

Every fall, families and friends gather at Carlson Orchards in Harvard, MA, to pick apples, enjoy fresh cider, and take in the crisp air and scenic beauty of the season.

Winter Cover:

The Rainbow Tunnel shimmers with color, welcoming visitors to Night Lights at New England Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. Photo by Mala Lam.

The Guide to North Central Massachusetts

Visit North Central Massachusetts

General Information & Main Visitor Center
Phone: 978-534-2302

Volunteer & Sponsoring Member Information
Phone: 978-534-2829

The Guide to North Central Massachusetts is published semi-annually to help visitors discover the pleasures of the region. This complimentary publication is distributed through the state tourist information center; AAA offices in CT, MA & RI; and sponsoring member locations serving visitors and newcomers to North Central Massachusetts. Write to us at 1000 Route 2 Westbound, Lancaster, MA 01523.

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let's get social!

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 @visitnorthcentralma

 @visitNCM

Johnny Appleseed Country



Funded, in part, by The Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.
For statewide planning information, www.visitma.com

HAPPY 251ST, JOHNNY!

Johnny Appleseed Never Gets Old!

Celebrating His 251st Birthday in North Central Massachusetts

Of course you've heard of Johnny Appleseed — he's our official Massachusetts Folk Hero and a national legend. But this year marks something truly special: Johnny Appleseed's 251st birthday! As communities across the region honor his enduring legacy, there's no better time to rediscover the man behind the myth.

North Central Massachusetts is known for its rolling hills, scenic trails, and—of course—its abundance of orchards. Autumn is always the perfect season to celebrate Johnny in the very heart of Johnny Appleseed Country, where honoring his legacy never gets old.

Plan a visit to the Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center in Lancaster, on Route 2 Westbound (between Exits 103 & 102), on September 27 for a slice of birthday cake and a quiet moment to reflect on Johnny's impact on American life.



Who Was Johnny Appleseed, Really?

While many of us grew up imagining Johnny Appleseed as a ragged wanderer with a stewpot for a hat and a sack full of seeds, the real Johnny Appleseed—John Chapman—was far more complex and impactful.

Born on September 26, 1774, in Leominster, Massachusetts, Chapman was a forward-thinking horticulturist, a shrewd businessman, and a deeply spiritual man. Rather than scattering seeds aimlessly, he established apple nurseries with future markets in mind, supplying saplings to settlers heading westward.

A vegetarian and a devout follower of what he called "primitive Christianity," Johnny lived simply, gave generously, and remained a bachelor all his life. He spent nearly 50 years traveling on foot from Pennsylvania to Indiana, cultivating orchards and community ties until his death in Fort Wayne in 1845.

A Legend Rooted in Real History

Johnny Appleseed wasn't just a character from children's books—he was a genuine visionary who helped pioneers survive and thrive. His generosity, humility, and dedication to the land earned him the affection of settlers and Native Americans alike.

He didn't just leave behind apple trees—he left a living legacy of compassion, resilience, and stewardship. Today, that legacy continues to inspire environmental



efforts, educational programs, and the cultural identity of this region.

Whether you're a local or a visitor to North Central Massachusetts, Johnny's story remains a reminder that one person's love for nature and humanity can shape generations.

Celebrate His Legacy

To learn more about Johnny's life and legend, visit the Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center, where you'll find displays, memorabilia, and books for all ages—from children's stories to historical volumes. Families can take photos with the bronze statue of young Johnny, proudly welcoming visitors at the entrance.

The Center is more than a rest stop—it's a tribute to the man whose ideals still take root across the country.

A Folk Hero for the Ages

As we celebrate his 251st birthday, one truth remains clear: Johnny Appleseed never gets old—because the values he lived by remain timeless. His life continues to encourage us to live simply, give generously, and nurture the earth beneath our feet.

In Johnny Appleseed Country, we honor not only his memory—but also the spirit of kindness and growth he planted wherever he went. 🌱



GARDNER

MASSACHUSETTS

— THE CHAIR CITY —

RECREATION

- Gardner Municipal Golf Course
- Dunn State Park
- Pulaski Playground & Dog Park
- Jackson Playground & Skate Park
- North Central Pathway
- Bailey Brook Trails
- Bailey Brook Park



UPCOMING EVENTS

- OktoberFest Party in the Street - September 27, 2025
- Veteran's Day Service - November 11, 2025
- Small Business Saturday - November 29, 2025
- Holiday Stroll & Tree Lighting Ceremony - November 30, 2025
- Caroling with the Mayor - TBD



Check our website and social media for updates on upcoming events and more!





Sterling Fair Preparations in Full Swing for 2025

The two-and-a-half day Sterling Fair—a family-oriented, community, agricultural fair—will take place September 5 through 7, 2025, on the grounds of Sterling Airport, 121 Greenland Road, Sterling.

New in 2025 will be a Saturday presentation on backyard chickens with bee-keeping presentation on Sunday along with all the visitor favorites. As always, parking is free, and there is no entry fee, although attendees are encouraged to purchase Sterling Fair paraphernalia including buttons and T-shirts to help support the fair.

Look for schedule updates as well as livestock and exhibitor entry forms, vendor information, and tractor/horse/oxen-pull entry guidelines at the website sterlingfair.org or on Facebook @ [TheSterlingFair](https://www.facebook.com/TheSterlingFair). 🐾



THE CITY OF FITCHBURG



ONGOING

FIRST THURSDAYS - FREE ADMISSION 12 - 7 PM

Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.
fitchburgartmuseum.org
Farmers Market 3 - 5:30 PM

VARIOUS EXHIBITS - THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7

Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.
fitchburgartmuseum.org
89th Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft, Anne Hopkins: Gathered & Seaworthy Vessels, Call and Response: Monochrome

TARA SELLIOS: ASK NOW THE BEASTS | THROUGH JANUARY 18

Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.
fitchburgartmuseum.org

FESTIVAL: A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN ART | THROUGH MARCH 1

Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.
fitchburgartmuseum.org

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1, 10 AM - 3:30 PM

West Fitchburg Annual Labor Day Road Races & Fitchburg Military Band Concert
Stanley Park Gazebo, "0" Simonds Rd. at Westminster St.
All ages encouraged; 10 AM registration; 12 PM start; band at 2 PM

SEPTEMBER 3 & 17, 10:30 - 11 AM

Story Hour at Hollis Hills Farm - FREE
Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd.

SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 12 - 6 PM

9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit
Fitchburg Municipal Airport
567 Crawford St.

SEPTEMBER 11, 9:55 AM

9/11 Memorial Ceremony
Fitchburg Fire Dept.
Headquarters, 33 North St.

SEPTEMBER 12, 4 - 10 PM & 13, 11 AM - 10 PM

Annual Greek Festival
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
1319 Main St.
Features traditional food, music, dancing.

SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 10 AM - 4 PM

Apple Festival at Hollis Hills Farm
Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd.
Music 2 - 5 PM. Facebook.com/hollishillsfarmMA

SEPTEMBER 13, 11 AM - 4 PM

Chalk Art Festival - FREE
Lowe Park, "0" Elm St.
All ages encouraged to participate.

SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 26, 27, FRIDAY 7:30 PM, SATURDAY 2 PM & 7:30 PM

Stratton Players presents "The Nerd"
Guild Hall at Christ Church, 569 Main St.
Tickets: strattonplayers@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 27, 10 AM - 5 PM

22nd Annual Blacksmith Art & Music Festival - FREE
Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St.
Visit fitchburgforgein.org

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 11 - 13, 11 AM - 4 PM

Autumn Festival at Hollis Hills Farm
Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd.
Visit facebook.com/hollishillsfarmMA

OCTOBER 18, 10 AM - 1 PM

The Rollstone Hill "Rock Walk" - FREE
Walk starts and ends at the Boulder Art Gallery, 960 Main St.
Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water, a friend, and don't forget your camera!

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 12 - 5 PM

Fitchburg Open Studios
569 Main St. & Various locations throughout the city
fitchburgculturalalliance.org

OCTOBER 18, 10 AM - 1 PM

Fitchburg Firefighters Memorial 5K Road Race
Fire Dept. Headquarters, 33 North St.

OCTOBER 21, 7:30 PM

Fitchburg State University "Fall Music Mega-Mix"
Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.
Community Orchestra, Concert Band, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir & Modern Band

OCTOBER 23, 6 PM

History Talk: "Factory Architecture as Seen in Fitchburg's Buildings" - FREE
Fitchburg Historical Society, 781 Main St.

OCTOBER 25, 12 - 3 PM

Trick or Treat on Main Street & Children's Entrepreneur Market
Downtown Fitchburg, along Main St.

OCTOBER 25, 7:30 PM

Outdoor Spooky Movie Night
Lawn behind 700 Main St.

OCTOBER 31, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Halloween (Trick or Treat in neighborhoods)
Throughout the city

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 11, 11 AM

Fitchburg Veterans Day Ceremony
Fitchburg Armory, 14 Wallace Ave.

NOVEMBER 20, 6 PM

History Talk: "Major Taylor - The Fastest Bicycle Rider in the World" - FREE
Fitchburg Historical Society
781 Main St.

NOVEMBER 20, 7:30 PM

Fitchburg State University Community Orchestra & Concert Band
Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

NOVEMBER 29, ALL DAY

Small Business Saturday
Participating businesses throughout the city

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 3, 7:30 PM

Fitchburg State University's "Fitchbyrds" Modern Jazz Band Concert
Kent Recital Hall, 367 North St.

DECEMBER 5-6 & 12-13, 7:30 PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2 PM SUNDAY

Stratton Players presents "Every Christmas Story Ever Told (& Then Some)"
Guild Hall at Christ Church, 569 Main St.
Seasonal comedy for all ages.

DECEMBER 6, 11 AM - 3 PM

Fitchburg Cultural Council's "Winter Bazaar"
Fitchburg City Hall, 718 Main St.
Shop an array of local artisans for handmade gifts.

DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM

Santa Parade & Holiday Tree Lighting
Monument Park to Upper Common
Downtown Fitchburg

DECEMBER 9, 7:30 PM

Fitchburg State University's Choral Kaleidoscope Concert
Weston Auditorium, 353 North St.

JANUARY

JANUARY 9, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Fitchburg Family Improv (hosted by Stratton Players)
Guild Hall at Christ Church, 569 Main St.
Pay-what-you-can format | strattonplayers@gmail.com

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 13, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Fitchburg Family Improv (hosted by Stratton Players)
Guild Hall at Christ Church, 569 Main St.
Pay-what-you-can format | strattonplayers@gmail.com

All events are subject to change or postponement.

CHECK OUR CITY CALENDAR AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES ON UPCOMING EVENTS.

FITCHBURGMA.GOV/CALENDAR



@CityofFitchburg



@CityofFitchburg



@FitchburgMass



Photos courtesy of Ashok and Achla Hingorany.



Forged in Fire

THE FITCHBURG BLACKSMITH FESTIVAL HEATS UP FOR 2025

By Christopher Coyle

Since 2003, the Fitchburg Forge-In Blacksmith Art & Music Festival has been igniting a passion for traditional craftsmanship in the heart of New England. Founded by Ashok and Achla Hingorany, the festival was inspired by European blacksmith competitions and quickly became a local institution—celebrating the artistry, precision, and enduring allure of blacksmithing.

What began as a niche gathering now attracts over 8,000 visitors annually to downtown Fitchburg’s Riverfront Park. This all-day event, organized entirely by community volunteers, showcases the talents of blacksmiths from across the region and offers something for everyone—from hands-on demonstrations to toe-tapping live music.

A Glimpse into the Craft

Blacksmithing—or more traditionally, blacksmithy—is the ancient practice of shaping metal, primarily iron and steel, by heating it in a forge and manipulating it on an anvil with hammers and tongs. While blacksmith shops were once staples of every town, the 20th century saw many give way to mechanized manufacturing. Today, events like the Forge-In are preserving this heritage by spotlighting the discipline and dexterity behind each hand-forged piece.

Blacksmith festivals around the country echo this revival, but Fitchburg’s event is widely regarded as one of New England’s premier showcases. Its centerpiece is a live blacksmithing competition, where artisans craft preset projects in front of an audience using nothing but traditional tools and fire skill.

Craft Meets Competition

Competitors are grouped into three divisions:



- ✂ Division 1: Beginners with less than a year of experience.
- ✂ Division 2: Dedicated hobbyists or apprentices with more than one year of experience.
- ✂ Division 3: Professional working blacksmiths.

Each division competes for cash prizes across multiple project categories. In a beloved tradition, a master blacksmith also performs a 90-minute demonstration during the midday break, offering attendees a glimpse into expert-level technique.

Beyond the Anvil

The Forge-In isn’t just about metal. The festival pulses with live music throughout the day, and Riverfront Park comes alive with a wide variety of arts and crafts vendors, local food, and family-friendly entertainment. Thanks to generous support from businesses, individuals, and community organizations, admission is completely free—underscoring the festival’s mission to make the arts accessible to all. ✂

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- \$3 Million Waste Recycler
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- \$4.5 Million Commercial Retail Development
- \$1 Million Shipping/Distribution
- \$500,000 General Dentistry

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Contact Michael Mahlert, EVP Senior Commercial Lending Officer, at **508.499.1887**.

Unlock your potential



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TOWN OF STERLING

Fall 2025 & Winter 2026 Events

STERLING FARMERS MARKET
1 Park Street, Butterick Municipal Building
Fridays 3 PM – 6:30 PM
May through October

STERLING STREET MARKET
Town Common in Sterling Center
Saturdays 10 AM – 2 PM
May through October

STERLING FAIR
Sterling Airport, 121 Greenland Road
Friday – Sunday September 5 – 7
sterlingfair.org

COLOR ANALYSIS
Conant Public Library, 4 Meetinghouse Hill Road
Tuesday, September 16 6:30 PM
sterlinglibrary.org

HOUSE HISTORY WITH HISTORIAN MARIAN PIERRE-LOUIS
Conant Public Library, 4 Meetinghouse Hill Road
Thursday, September 25 6:30 PM
sterlinglibrary.org

LOVE & CHOCOLATE WITH RIVKA
Conant Public Library, 4 Meetinghouse Hill Road
Tuesday, October 21 6:30 PM
sterlinglibrary.org

FRIENDS OF THE CONANT PUBLIC LIBRARY CRAFT FAIR
Conant Public Library, 4 Meetinghouse Hill Road
Saturday, November 22 9 AM – 2 PM
sterlinglibrary.org/friends-of-the-library/





Food for a Feast

Explore the bounty of locally produced food in North Central Massachusetts.

By Sue Cloutier

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our country's independence this year, why not also celebrate independence from national food chains? One meaningful way is to create an entire meal using only locally sourced foods from farms right here in North Central Massachusetts.

Historically, families had kitchen gardens and backyard henhouses, and local farms provided anything else they needed. Today, while lifestyles have changed, the region

still offers abundant opportunities to enjoy fresh, locally produced food straight from the farm.

Starters: Fruit, Cheese, and Bread

A simple and elegant start to any meal includes fruit, cheese, and a fresh loaf of bread. In season, you'll find apples, strawberries, blueberries, and peaches at **Lanni Orchards**, a family-run farm at 294 Chase Road in Lunenburg. Lanni's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program offers

weekly or bi-weekly farm shares—a bag of fresh, hand-selected produce to pick up at the farm. Learn more at lanniorchard.com.

For cheese lovers, **Smith's Country Cheese** in Winchendon is a must-visit. Located at 20 Otter River Road, this family farm specializes in artisan Gouda, cheddar, and Havarti, made from the milk of their 200 Holstein cows. Producing ten pounds of Gouda takes 100 pounds of milk—just one reason their herd is so large.

Continued on page 11



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Saturday, November 8, 2025 • 9 AM~3PM
Narragansett Middle School
464 Baldwinville Rd., Baldwinville MA

Craftspeople from all around New England!

Wide variety of Crafts and Gift Items * Do all your Holiday Shopping early!

COFFEE CAN AUCTION! * CAFÉ OPEN ALL DAY!

Organized by: Phillipston Youth Supporters

For More Information visit
www.narragansettcraftfair.com



Westminster Village Foundation Presents

Westminster Cracker Festival

October 18, 2025 • 10 am – 5 pm

Village Center • FREE admission



10th
annual

Rain or
Shine

Cracker Festival

Arts & Crafts • Food Vendors
Beer Garden • 5K • \$1000 Chili Contest
4 BANDS 10 am – 5 pm
Headliner: THE FOOLS

For more info and race registration visit crackerfestival.com

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125 Still River Rd., Bolton, MA 978-779-2733 www.BoltonOrchards.co

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 Gourmet & Specialty Items

 Fruit Baskets

 Homemade Bakery

Items & Pies

 Coffee Cafe Open at 8 AM

 Cider Donuts Made Daily

Open Daily, Year-Round, 9-5

Continued from page 9

The farm emphasizes sustainable practices and humane animal care. Visitors can observe the cheese-making process and sample the results. Browse their offerings at smithscountrycheese.com.

Greens and Veggies: Straight from the Earth

For fresh vegetables, head to **Bolton Orchards**, conveniently located at the intersection of Routes 117 and 110 in Bolton. Their wide variety of leafy greens and root vegetables make it easy to build a colorful, nutritious meal. Visit boltonorchards.co—that’s right, “.co” not “.com”—for more details.

While you’re there, enjoy lunch at their farmstand deli. Sandwiches, salads, pastries, and specialty coffee make for a perfect mid-day break. You can also sample their small-batch ciders, which vary with each apple harvest. Their pressing method uses pressure instead of pasteurization, preserving the unique flavors of each variety. Be sure to take home a jug.

The Main Course: Farm-Fresh Meats

For the centerpiece of your meal, local farms provide exceptional meat. **Valley View Farm** in Templeton, just off Route

2, is a one-stop shop with a butcher, smokehouse, and retail store. They offer a wide variety of meats and cuts, including custom orders and catering options. The farm also processes game and meat from nearby farms. Visit valleyviewfarmma.com for information.

Another excellent option is **Adams Farm** at 854 Bearsden Road in Athol. This family-run operation has partnered with area farmers for three generations, offering meat from pasture-raised animals free of hormones and antibiotics. They are known for humane practices, with facilities designed by Dr. Temple Grandin. With short notice, they can provide half or whole animals—perfect for pig roasts or special events. Details are available at adamsfarm.biz.

Hollis Hills Farm in Fitchburg, Sholan Orchard in Leominster and Carlson Orchard in Harvard all offer wonderful local foods and drinks, as well as entertainment for the whole family. Carlson's event has a cider barn—the perfect treat for your family this fall!

Sweet Endings and Toasts

Finish your feast with a visit to **Kimball Farm** in Lancaster at 1543 Lunenburg Road (Route 70). Their roadside

stand offers more than 50 flavors of homemade ice cream—choosing just one may be the hardest part of your day! They hand-pack quarts for take-home orders, but call ahead at (978) 534-9800 for large orders.

If you're in the mood for a crisp cider, stop by **The Cidery at Red Apple Farm** in Phillipston. They serve both hard and non-alcoholic ciders Thursday through Sunday. Hours and offerings are listed at redapplefarm.com.

Sue Cloutier is an experienced nature center director specializing in biodiversity and environmental education. She is currently inventorying flora and fauna on her property in New Salem. 🌿





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Groton Hill Music.

RICH WITH MUSIC!

MUSIC PERFORMANCES IN NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

BY CHRISTOPHER COYLE

Live music flourishes throughout North Central Massachusetts, offering a rich mix of performances in charming, welcoming venues—many of which serve food and drink to complete the experience. Whether you're into folk, rock, jazz, or Celtic tunes, there's something for every music lover this fall.

GROTON HILL MUSIC CENTER: A PREMIER CULTURAL VENUE

Opened in September 2022, the Groton Hill Music Center in Groton has quickly become a regional hub for performance and music education. The facility boasts two state-of-the-art performance halls, 35 classrooms, and a dining room, all designed with acoustic precision.

This fall's season begins with a bang:

🎸 **On Friday, September 19**, Loudon Wainwright III and Chris Smither will share the stage. Longtime collaborators since the Boston folk revival of the 1960s, these singer-songwriters promise an evening of storytelling and soul.

🎸 **On September 20**, Will Dailey follows, blending blues, rock, funk, and folk into a distinctive style.

🎸 **On September 26**, Eileen Ivers, celebrated Celtic violinist, takes the stage, showcasing her revolutionary approach to the instrument.

🎸 **On September 27**, Hiromi and her band Sonicwonder perform their Grammy-winning, genre-defying fusion of jazz, funk, and pop.

Visit grotonhill.org for a full concert schedule and ticket information.

BULL RUN RESTAURANT: MUSIC WITH A MEAL

Located at 215 Great Road in Shirley, the historic Bull Run Restaurant has hosted live music for decades. Owned by the same family since 1946, Bull Run offers an intimate setting where dinner and a show go hand-in-hand. Once you've purchased a concert ticket, there's no need for a separate dinner reservation. A \$15 minimum food and drink purchase per person supports the venue's ability to bring in top-tier musical talent.

Fall highlights include:

🎸 **On September 5**, Sonny Landreth and Cindy Cashdollar. Landreth's



The Bull Run.



Davis Farmland.

acclaimed slide guitar playing and Cashdollar's steel guitar artistry promise a powerful set of traditional and contemporary blues.

🍷 **On Sunday, September 7**, The Wolff Sisters deliver rock-driven Americana storytelling with passion and power. As Red Line Roots puts it, they're "a perfect storm" of voice, instrument, and intensity.

🍷 **On September 12**, Experience 1964: The Tribute, a Beatles tribute show that recreates the thrill of the Fab Four's earliest live performances.

For the latest lineup and ticket reservations, visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

MORE LOCAL GEMS FOR LIVE MUSIC

Beyond the headline venues, several other institutions and locations across the region offer excellent musical programming:

🍷 **Thayer Conservatory & Youth Ensemble of New England** (337 Main Street, Lancaster) presents recitals and ensemble concerts. Check thayerconservatory.org for schedules.

🍷 **Fitchburg State University's music department** hosts a variety of public concerts throughout the

academic year. Visit fitchburgstate.edu music for upcoming events.

🍷 **Fitchburg Art Museum** occasionally programs musical performances alongside visual arts exhibitions. Learn more at fitchburgartmuseum.org.

🍷 **Davis Farmland in Sterling** (145 Redstone Hill Road) offers family-friendly weekend music events featuring country, folk, bluegrass, and classic rock. Explore schedules and more at davisfarmland.com.

🍷 **Hollis Hills Farm** (340 Marshall Rd. Fitchburg). Is definitely a go-to place for farm goods as well as live music on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend in season.

🍷 **Westminster Brew Yard**, part of the Wachusett Brewing Company, combines local brews with live music. For details, visit wachusettbrewingcompany.com/information.

🍷 **Red Apple Farm in Phillipston** hosts musical performances at both the farm and the cozy Brew Barn. Listings are available at redapplefarm.com and brewbarnma.com.



Westminster Brew Yard.

🍷 **Robinson and Broadhurst Performing Arts Amphitheater at the Winchendon Community Park** is a beautiful state-of-the-art outdoor amphitheater that hosts a variety of concerts, festivals and other performances. For more information visit townofwinchendon.com/438/Winchendon-Community-Park.

A REGION ALIVE WITH MUSIC

From intimate farm venues to grand concert halls, North Central Massachusetts is alive with music throughout the fall and winter. December in particular sees a burst of performances, so be sure to check local listings regularly for the latest shows.

Whether you're sipping cider under the stars or enjoying a jazz piano in a polished concert hall, the region offers countless ways to enjoy the sounds of the season. 🍷



Why Buy Local?

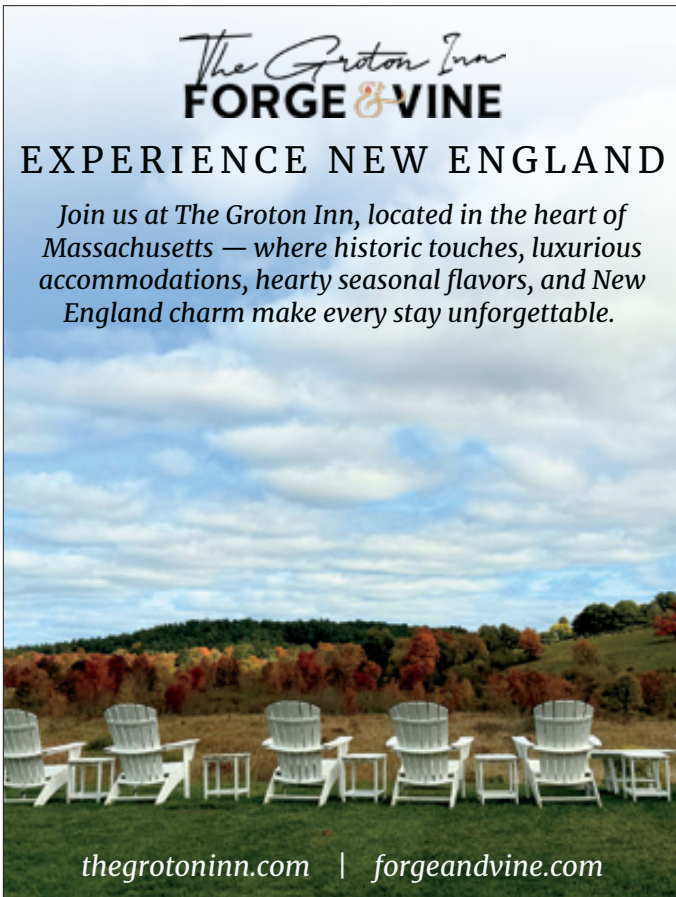
Supporting local farms strengthens the regional economy and preserves our agricultural heritage. It also reduces the environmental cost of long-distance food transport while offering the freshest, most flavorful ingredients available.

This season, consider planning your next meal around the rich offerings of North Central Massachusetts—an act of celebration for both your palate and your community.

The Groton Inn FORGE & VINE

EXPERIENCE NEW ENGLAND

Join us at The Groton Inn, located in the heart of Massachusetts — where historic touches, luxurious accommodations, hearty seasonal flavors, and New England charm make every stay unforgettable.



thegrotoninn.com | forgeandvine.com

**CELEBRATE ASHBURNHAM ARTISAN/
CRAFTER STREET FAIR**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 2025
10AM- 4PM**

MAIN ST., ASHBURNHAM, MA

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FOOD TRUCKS, BEER & WINE**

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Celebrate the seasons in Leominster

SEPTEMBER

- 5 HISPANIC HERITAGE EVENT**
Friday, 5 – 9 pm, Downtown
- 6 CITYWIDE YARD SALE**
Saturday, 8 am – 3 pm
Participating addresses throughout the City
- 6 LEOMINSTER FARMERS MARKET**
Saturday, 11 am – 2 pm, Monument Square
- 12 FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**
Friday, 5 – 10 pm, Downtown
- 20 JOHNNY APPLESEED FESTIVAL**
Saturday, 9 am – 5 pm, Downtown

OCTOBER

- 4 TRACTOR PARADE**
Saturday, 10 am, Downtown
- 4 LEOMINSTER FARMERS MARKET**
Saturday, 11 am – 2 pm, Monument Square
- 10–31 LEOMINSTER FRIGHTS**
Daily
Participating addresses throughout the City
- 18 MASSIVE CRAFT BEEN GARDEN**
Saturday, 12 – 4 pm, Downtown
- 25 HALLOWEEN PARADE**
Saturday, 1 – 3 pm, Downtown
- 31 TRICK OR TREAT**
Friday, 6 – 8 pm, City of Leominster

NOVEMBER

- November 17–December 18**
FESTIVAL OF TREES
Ongoing til December 18 at 6pm, Hours Vary
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall
- 20 INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**
Thursday, 4 – 6 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall
- 29 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**
Saturday, All Day
Participating businesses throughout the City

DECEMBER

- 5–28 LEOMINSTER LIGHTS**
Fri / Sat / Sun, 5 – 10 pm
Participating addresses throughout the City
- 6 WINTER STROLL**
Saturday, 3 – 5 pm, Downtown
- 6 PARADE OF LIGHTS & TREE LIGHTING**
Saturday, 5 pm, Downtown
- 18 INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**
Thursday, 4 – 6 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall
- 18 FESTIVAL OF TREES CLOSING**
6 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall

JANUARY

- 15 INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**
Thursday, 4 – 6 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall
- 18–24 COFFEE CRAWL**
Sun – Sat, All Day
Participating businesses throughout the City
- 27 GARDENMANIA**
Monday, 6 – 8 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall

FEBRUARY

- 2 GROUNDHOG DAY WITH FEATHERSTONE**
Monday, 8 am, Monument Square
- 17 INDOOR DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT**
Tuesday, 5:30 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall
- 19 INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**
Thursday, 4 – 6 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall
- 20 ONCE UPON A TIME**
Friday, 10 am – 2 pm
Tata Auditorium at Leominster City Hall

Dates subject to change.

facebook.com/leominstercommunitydevelopment or leominster-ma.gov



Winter Adventures in North Central Massachusetts

Cross Country and Downhill Skiing, Snowshoeing, Skating, Ice Fishing, and Even Curling

by John Burke

North Central Massachusetts is an outstanding destination for winter recreation, offering a variety of seasonal activities including cross country and downhill skiing, snowshoeing, skating, ice fishing, and even curling.

Cross Country & Snowshoe Trails

Nature lovers can explore dozens of scenic trails throughout the region:

- A wide range of trails for cross country skiing, snowshoeing, winter hiking, and dog sledding invites exploration of the region's many parks and nature preserves. The extensive trail network at **Wachusett Mountain State Reservation** includes both rugged summit routes and easy paths such as Echo Lake Trail and Balance Rock Trail.

Skiing the Slopes at Wachusett

One of New England's most popular and accessible ski resorts, **Wachusett Mountain Ski Area** features twenty-seven trails of varied terrain on the highest peak in Massachusetts east of the Berkshires. Options range from challenging runs such as the 10th Mountain and Smith Walton trails to numerous beginner and intermediate routes. Instructors provide ski and snowboard lessons, clinics, and racing programs for all ages and skill levels. Visit Wachusett.com for more information.

- Winter hikers are rewarded with spectacular views of Boston, Wachusett Mountain, the Berkshire Hills, and Mount Monadnock from Mount Watatic in Ashburnham. **The Midstate/Wapack and State Line trails** form a 2.4-mile circuit that passes another scenic vista atop Nutting Hill.

Mt. Wachusett

- The contiguous **Otter River State Forest, Lake Dennison Recreation Area, and Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area** feature woods roads and trails winding through the Millers and Otter river watersheds in Templeton, Winchendon, and Royalston. A mostly level 7.5-mile recreational trail loops around Long Pond, part of the Tully Lake flood control basin in Royalston. For more details, visit mass.gov/location/otter-river-state-forest.

- **In Athol, the Bearsden Conservation Area** offers a mix of unpaved roads and woodland paths, with moderate to steep grades on the hills of the Millers River Valley. Learn more at athol-ma.gov/parks-trails/pages/bearsden-conservation-area.

Hidden Gems for Winter Exploration

- During open house events on Saturdays in February, the **Finnish Center at Saima Park** (67 Scott Road, Fitchburg) opens trails for cross country skiing and snowshoeing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with some equipment available for loan. Details at saima-park.org.

- **Leominster State Forest** features smooth woods roads and technically challenging trails along the slopes of Ball, Berry, and Wolf Den hills. In

Willard Brook State Forest (Townsend and Ashby), popular ski routes such as the Friends Trail wind through groves of maple, oak, and pine.

- The diverse habitats of **Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary in Princeton** offer opportunities to observe tracks of moose, bobcats, river otters, and other wildlife. The sanctuary rents snowshoes and allows skiing on designated trails.

- **Groton Town Forest** offers a mix of flat loops and challenging hills across fifteen miles of trails, while J. Harry Rich State Forest provides level terrain along the Nashua River—ideal for beginners and families.

- An extensive network of protected lands and trails in Shirley includes town-owned properties such as **Longley Acres, Holden Road, Ronchetti Conservation Area, and Birchwood Hills**.

Cool on Ice: Skating & Fishing

Ice skaters can enjoy public skating and programs for all skill levels at **Gardner Veteran's Arena**, which offers equipment rentals, a party room, and a snack bar. At the **Wallace Civic Center at Fitchburg State University**, a recently renovated state-of-the-art ice rink hosts public skating, figure skating, and leagues



Winter hiking is also very popular and very accessible. Mount Wachusett and Mount Watatic are popular with winter hikers.

Photos courtesy, John Burke.



for college, youth, adult, and women's hockey.

There is a public skating rink on **Rogers Field** in Devens.

Popular destinations for ice fishing include **Asnacommet Pond** (Hubbardston), **Connors Pond** (Petersham), and **Lake Dennison** (Winchendon), all supporting populations of trout, bass, perch, and pickerel.

From Curling Craze to Classic Sleigh Rides

The sport of curling has gained popularity in recent years, especially during Olympic years. Founded in 1960 and operated by volunteers, the **Petersham Curling**

Club—one of only four in Massachusetts—features two ice sheets for league matches, tournaments, biathlons, and open houses. Visit petershamcurling.org for details.

For a nostalgic winter treat, enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride at **Cornerstone Ranch** in Princeton. After the ride, warm up with hot cocoa at the heated pavilion. More at cornerstoneranch.org.

Whether you're carving turns, exploring wooded trails, or gliding across frozen ponds, North Central Massachusetts offers timeless experiences to savor all season long.

John Burk is a writer and photographer based in Petersham. 🌿



Photos courtesy of Mount Wachusett Community College.



SPOTLIGHT ON STAGE:

COMMUNITY THEATER UNITES AUDIENCES ACROSS NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Community theater offers more than entertainment. It also provides a gateway to new worlds of experience, emotion, and creativity. Supporting local performers and artists, theater can extend a valuable part of communities beyond the Commonwealth.

With thousands of community theaters in the United States, it is no surprise how much of an impact community theater has on the culture of the locals within a given area.

Theatre at the Mount – Gardner

Mount Wachusett Community College's Theatre at the Mount is a cornerstone of regional performing arts, known for its engaging productions and welcoming atmosphere. This season, it will stage a dynamic lineup of musicals, ranging from classic Broadway to children's theater.

• Anything Goes

October 3–4, 10–11 at 7:30 p.m.
Matinee: October 12 at 2:00 p.m.

The Cole Porter musical Anything Goes is packed with unforgettable tunes, dazzling dance numbers, and hilarious hijinks aboard the S.S. American. Follow the madcap antics of a colorful cast of characters, including the charming nightclub singer Reno Sweeney and the lovestruck stowaway Billy Crocker, as they navigate romance and mischief on the high seas.

By Amber Robidoux

With hits like "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "You're the Top,"

• Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

November 28–29, December 5–6 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee: December 7 at 2:00 p.m.

A lively and family-friendly musical composed by the legendary Andrew Lloyd Webber, Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat brings the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors to vibrant life on stage. With catchy songs, dynamic dances, and a heartwarming tale of dreams, betrayal, and triumph, the production includes the electrifying "Any Dream Will Do" and the infectious "Go, Go, Go Joseph."

• Young Frankenstein

February 27–28, March 6–7 at 7:30 p.m.

Matinee: March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

In early 2026, Mel Brooks musical comedy will take center stage at the Mount.

• Children's Theater Performances

In spring, TAM turns the spotlight to younger audiences with two engaging children's productions:

• Have You Filled Your Bucket Today?

• Willy Wonka Jr.

A Special Sensory-Friendly Performance of Willy Wonka Jr. will be held April 4 at 11:00 a.m.,

welcoming audience members of all sensory sensitivities.

More information and ticket details can be found at mwcc.edu/campus-life/tam/shows.

• Mary Poppins Jr. – Mahar Regional School, Orange

The talented students of Mahar Regional School will present Mary Poppins Jr. this November:

Fridays: November 14 & 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: November 15 & 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Matinee: November 23 at 2:00 p.m.

This whimsical musical invites audiences of all ages to revisit the magic of everyone's favorite nanny. Updates and details are available at facebook.com/mahartheater.

More Than a Stage: A Force for Connection

Community theater fosters inclusivity between all ages, genders and stages of life. It provides cast, crew, designers, and audience from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to experience and collaborate on individual productions. Requiring collaboration and the ability to bring people together, community theater creates connection and contributes to a more inclusive society.

Stay tuned for the next issue where we cover Center Stage FSU, New Players Theatre Guild, Stratton Players, and Barre Players. 🌿



HIKING MOUNT WACHUSETT:

A TRAIL FOR EVERY ADVENTURER

By Matt Landry

Whether you're in the mood for a serene stroll through shaded forests, a vigorous ascent to panoramic heights, or a full day immersed in nature, Mount Wachusett offers an unforgettable outdoor experience for hikers of all levels.

A Summit with a View

On clear days, Wachusett's summit rewards hikers with awe-inspiring, 360-degree vistas stretching from Boston's skyline to Mount

Monadnock in New Hampshire. With visibility reaching up to 120 miles, some lucky hikers may even catch a distant glimpse of Mount Washington, the highest peak in the Northeast.

Trail Diversity: 17.5 Miles and Counting

The mountain boasts a well-maintained network of nearly 17.5 miles of hiking trails, with an extended 20+ miles when including cart paths and access roads. The system offers a mix of routes that ascend to the summit or circle the

mountain's base, providing ample opportunities to create loop hikes and varied adventures.

Nineteen officially recognized trails range in length from 0.1 to 1.4 miles, each offering something different—from rocky climbs to gentle forest paths. Trails are well-marked, though hikers are encouraged to carry a map and essentials. For a reliable packing checklist, the Appalachian Mountain Club's "10 Essentials" guide is an excellent resource:

AMC 10 Essentials for Hiking 🌿

Know Before You Go

DOGS are welcome, but must be leashed. Always clean up after pets.

START at the base:

The Wachusett State Reservation Headquarters at 345 Mountain Road in Princeton is a great jumping-off point. The visitor center includes restrooms, maps, weather updates, trail conditions, and seasonal events.

PARKING is available for a seasonal fee (Memorial Day through Halloween).



TOP TRAILS TO TRY

SUMMIT ROUTES

Bicentennial Trail to Pine Hill Trail

Distance: 0.6 miles (one way)

A moderately challenging but immensely popular climb to the summit. With easy access from the state reservation and extensive trail work completed in recent years, this route is essentially a stone staircase leading upward through the forest canopy.

Mountain House Trail

Distance: 0.9 miles (one way)

Beginning at 254 Mountain Road, this historic trail is a favorite among locals. Expect a rocky, well-used path, often muddy after rainfall. Despite its modest length, the Mountain House Trail is a great workout with classic New England charm.



Resources and Trail Maps

Planning your hike? Find maps and detailed info at: **Mass.gov** - Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

Or check out the guidebook:
A Hiking and History Guide to Mount Wachusett

Mount Wachusett is more than just a mountain—it's a year-round invitation to breathe deep, lace up your boots, and reconnect with the natural world. Whether you're there for the summit views or the serenity of a quiet trail, it never disappoints.

Scenic Detours & Lower Loops

Balance Rock Trail

Distance: 0.4 miles (one way)

Located near the main Wachusett Ski Area parking lot, this easy walk leads to the fascinating Balance Rock, a massive glacial erratic delicately perched in the woods. Continue onward via the Old Indian Trail for a summit climb with open-slope views.

Custom Loop Adventure

Combine Echo Lake Road, High Meadow Trail, Jack Frost Trail, and Mountain House Trail for a dynamic loop that ends at the summit. This combination showcases a variety of landscapes, from shaded groves to ski-slope crossings.

Stop in and visit the Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center

Stop in and visit our remodeled Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center with new interpretive signs, artifacts from our region's history, dog park for Fido, covered picnic tables, a water bottle filling station, and much more.

- 🍏 Jams, jellies, honey, hand dipped chocolate Oreos
- 🍏 Maple syrup, candy & freshly-made fudge
- 🍏 Johnny Appleseed Souvenirs, books, & t-shirts
- 🍏 Alpaca socks & mittens
- 🍏 Books about the region and Massachusetts
- 🍏 Lots of brochures for local attractions

Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center
1,000 Rt. 2 West Bound in Lancaster, MA 01523
Between Exits 103 & 102
visitnorthcentral.com | (978) 534-2302



Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center Showcase Events

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of
Free Activities!

Experience what North Central
Massachusetts has to offer!



🍏 Aug

30th

Plain View Farm Alpacas
Hailie's Face Paint
Jae Mannion

31st

Handmade By Rosie Clark
Sand Art

🍏 Sept

1st

Carol Goodman-Kaufman
Miren's Soap - Sean Delay

🍏 Oct

4th

Plainview Farm Alpacas - Barrington Autumn
The Pickle Lady - Helen's Willow Wind
Ann-Marie Perron

6th

In the Meadow - Wicked Good Henna
Sean Daley - Barrington Autumn

11th

Plainview Farm Alpacas - Sean Daley
Dawn's Handmade Crafts - Boy Scouts
The Pickle Lady - Ann-Marie Perron

13th

Plainview Farm Alpacas
Handmade By Dawn
Barrington Autumn - The Remedy

12th

Plainview Farm Alpacas - Boy Scouts
Hailie's Face Paint - Eddie Troxler
Anne-Marie Perron

20th

Plainview Farm Alpacas - Hailie's Face Paint
Bee Nice Farm - Ukele J (Jodie)

13th

Ann-Marie Perron
The Pickle Lady - Bee Nice Farm
Derek Bridges - Boy Scouts

27th

Plain View Farm Alpacas - The Pickle Lady
Sand Art - Rhythm



This program is funded in part by a grant from the Ashby, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Lancaster, Leominster and Royalston Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Westminster Cracker Festival

Saturday, October 18th

10:00 AM—5:00 PM (rain or shine)

Westminster Center, Main Street

5k—Music—Arts & Crafts—Food & Drink

Westminster Historical Society

Christmas Flea Market ~ 110 Main Street

Saturday, Dec 7th ~ 9 AM—3 PM

Sunday, Dec 8th ~ 11 AM—3 PM

Vintage, Unique and Affordable finds or all!!

Farmer's Market

Every Friday 3:00—6:00 PM

Academy Hill through Oct 25th

Trick or Treat

Friday, October 31st ~ 5:00—7:00 PM

Bacon Street / Pleasant St/ South Street

Halloween Bonfire @ 7:00 PM ~ behind Fire Station

Christmas Tree Lighting Event

on Academy Hill ~ December 6th @ 4 -6 PM

(Rain Date 12/7)

Christmas Tree Bonfire

Field behind VFW ~ January 10 2026 @ 4-6 PM

Visit our web site for more upcoming events throughout the season and check out the recreation, hiking & skiing areas at Hager Park, Crocker Pond, Mid-State Trail, Muddy Pond and Wachusett Mountain.

Find it all at: www.westminster-ma.gov



Battle Road, From Lexington to Concord, MA

FROM THE SHOT HEARD
'ROUND THE WORLD

Groton Hill Music Center, Groton, MA

TO THE MUSIC HEARD
'ROUND THE HALL

Revolutions start here every single day.

Come be a part of what's next. massachusetts250.org



Wachusett”. Reflecting on the solitary grandeur of the peak, he wrote:

*“But special I remember thee,
Wachusett, who like me,
Standest alone without society.
Wachusett is, in fact, the
observatory of the state...”*

Other visitors included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott, and John Greenleaf Whittier, who found creative inspiration in the mountain’s sweeping views and peaceful woods.

In the 1930s, the land saw a different kind of preparation—as trails were cleared for recreation, many were later repurposed as training grounds for the 10th Mountain Division, which would go on to fight in the rugged terrains of World War II.

Preserving the Past

Though the summit houses are gone, and the ghosts of Wachusett may never speak, the mountain remains a living monument to centuries of stories, both told and untold. 🌿

To learn more about Mount Wachusett’s history:

1

Visit the Princeton
Historical Society

2

Explore the Princeton
and Westminster
Public Libraries

3

Purchase “A Hiking
and History Guide to
Mount Wachusett”
at wachusettguide.com

4

And visit the region’s
Johnny Appleseed
Visitor’s Center 1000
Route 2 Westbound,
Lancaster

“But special I remember thee, Wachusett, who like me, Standest alone without society.

Wachusett is, in fact, the observatory of the state...”

FALL —WINTER 2025/26 Calendar

In this issue of The Guide to North Central Massachusetts, we introduce you to lots of great places and special events. But new concerts, new fairs, and new adventures pop up every day in the vibrant communities across this region.

The following Calendar pages offer a sampling of the great events you can enjoy here; to keep up to date on all the fun, use the QR code on this page, or visit our constantly-expanding website calendar at visitnorthcentral.com.

There's so much to see and do here—we don't want you to miss a thing!



EVERYTHING YOU LOVE ABOUT NEW ENGLAND

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VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR ONLINE!



@visitnorthcentralma



visitnorthcentral.com



WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Friday Nights (Sept). *Cruise Night* at Kimball Farm, 1543 Lunenburg Rd, Lunenburg.

Tuesdays, 6 pm-8 pm. *Tap Into Trivia* at Moon Hill Brewing Co & Gardner Ale House, 74 Parker St, Gardner.

Wednesdays, 6 pm-8 pm. *Live Music* at Moon Hill Brewing Co & Gardner Ale House, 74 Parker St, Gardner.

Mondays 4 pm-8 pm. *Buck a Shuck Oysters* at Moon Hill Brewing Co & Gardner Ale House, 74 Parker St, Gardner.

Tuesdays 1 pm-4 pm. *Mahjong* at the Senior Center, 33 Shattuck St, Littleton.

Mondays 11:15 am-1:15 pm. *Line Dancing* at the Senior Center, 33 Shattuck St, Littleton. Beginners followed by advanced. \$5 per session.

Thursdays, 10 am-10:30 am. *Read to Your Bunny Story-Time*, at Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. This is a baby story-time for children ages 12 to 24 months old and a caregiver. We will dance, sing songs, listen to playful stories.

Tuesdays 10 am-10:30 am. *Preschool Story-Time* at the Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Stories, music, and motion for children ages 3-5.

Thursdays (16 Oct-20 Nov) 10 am-11 am. *Me, You, We!* at Children's Program Room, 1st Floor, Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Join us for a six-week playgroup focusing on social-emotional skills, geared to children ages 3 to 4 and their caregivers. There will be early learning activities, music & movement, stories, and more! Fun take home activities will be provided, too, such as playdough, bubbles, puppets, and more! Registration required.

Wednesdays 10 am-10:30 am. *Terrific Twos Storytime* at Leominster Public Library, Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 30 West St, Leominster. Two-year-olds and a caregiver are invited to join us for stories, music, and fun! Younger and older siblings are welcome to join us too!

Thursdays. *Knitting Group* at Program Room, Fitchburg Public Library, 166 Boulder Dr Suite 108, Fitchburg.

Sundays 9 am-2 pm. *Jazz Brunch* at The Pauper's Pantry, 695 Main St, Fitchburg.

Ongoing Through 31 Dec 11 am-5 pm. *Tara Sellios I Ask Now the Beasts* at Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St, Fitchburg.

Mondays 3 pm-8:15 pm. *Finnish Language Classes* at Finnish Center of Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Variety of classes for beginners and advanced.

Wednesdays-Sundays. *Variety of Concerts* at Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Road, Shirley. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com for more details.

Thursdays-Sundays. *Concert Series* at Groton Hill Music, 122 Old Ayer Road, Groton. Visit grotonhill.org for more details and tickets.

SEPTEMBER

1 Monday – 31 October. *Stranger Plants* at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Discover a captivating world of unusual plants! Explore bizarre shapes, vibrant colors, and extraordinary adaptations that redefine how you view nature. In this unique exhibition, immerse yourself in imagined ecosystems and experience out-of-this-world plants artistically crafted to celebrate the wild beauty of unique, strange, and exceptional species not found anywhere on planet Earth. Included with general admission. For details: nebg.org.

1 Monday, 10 am-5 pm. *Labor Day Sale & Craft Beer Party* at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd, Princeton.

2 Tuesday, 1 pm-2 pm. *Growing Places Market* at Grounds, Ayer Library, 26 East Main St, Ayer.



Hiking Mt. Wachusett.

2 Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7 pm. *Soccer Combine* at Game On Fitchburg, 100 Game On Way, Fitchburg. Got \$5? Join us for a fun-filled evening with \$5 pick-up soccer, \$5 beers, and \$5 games—winners take home prizes! Members play for free! Email igor.gameonfitchburg@gmail.com.

3 Wednesday, 10 am-10:45 am. *Happy Leaves Story and Craft*, at Children's Program Room, 1st Floor Leominster Public Library 30 West St, Leominster Children ages 3-7 and caregivers are welcome to join us for storytime celebrating colorful autumn leaves. We will read *A Very Big Fall* by Emmy Kastner and then create our own fun and friendly fall leaves, inspired by the ones in our story. Registration required.

3 Wednesday, 10:30 am-11 am. *Storytime at Hollis Hills Farm* at Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd, Fitchburg.

3 Wednesday, 5 pm-9 pm. *Bike Night* at Kimball Farm, 1543 Lunenburg Rd, Lunenburg.

3 Wednesday, 6 pm-7:30 pm. *Adult Craft Night: Fabric Pumpkins* at Program Room, Fitchburg Public Library 166 Boulder Dr Suite 108, Fitchburg. Join us to create these adorable fabric pumpkins! All materials provided. Registration Required.

4 Thursday, 5 pm-9 pm. *LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration* at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Join the Garden to celebrate the week of Pride Worcester and the LGBTQ+ community through a lively evening of festivities, including music, a drag show, local LGBTQ+ vendors, community organizations, and more! Free. For details: nebg.org.

5 Friday, 5 pm-9 pm. *Cruise Night* at Kimball Farm 1543 Lunenburg Rd, Lunenburg. This will wrap up the summer long Friday nights event. Come get 1 last glimpse and these classic cars and some of our legendary ice cream!

5 Friday, 5 pm-9 pm. *Hispanic Heritage Event* at Monument Square, Downtown Leominster. The Hispanic Heritage Event returns to Leominster! In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to Saturday.

5-7 Friday, 5 pm-11 pm; Saturday, 9 am-11 pm; Sunday, 9 am-11 pm. *The Sterling Fair* at Sterling Airport, 121 Greenland Rd, Sterling. A family oriented, community fair with an emphasis on

agriculture and education will be back again in 2025. New for 2025 are presentations on keeping back yard chickens (Sat) and bee keeping (Sun). All the visitor favorites such as the horse and oxen pulls, farmers market, Gillette Midway, exhibit hall, livestock show, frog jumping, tractor pull, Perkins Belgian horse parade, food and craft vendors, helicopter rides, fireworks, and live entertainment will be back for this year's edition.

6 Saturday, 11 am-2 pm. Farmers Market. at Monument Square, Downtown Leominster.

7 Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Free First Sunday at The Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St, Clinton.

7 Sunday, 12 pm-2 pm. Music on the Porch at Shirley Town Hall, 7 Keady Way, Shirley. Featuring Bongo Mary and the Aquarians.



Sterling Fair, Sterling.

8 Monday, 2 pm-4 pm. Career Resources + Assistance at Program Room, Fitchburg Public Library, 166 Boulder Dr Suite 108, Fitchburg.

10 Wednesday, 6 pm-7:30 pm. Board Games for Adults! at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

11 Thursday, 3 pm. Teen Treat Workshop, at Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Rd, Harvard, Registration required. Visit harvardpubliclibrary.org.

12 Friday, 5 pm-10 pm. Leominster Food Truck Festival at Monument Square, Downtown Leominster. In the event of inclement weather, the Food Truck Festival will take place on Saturday.

12 Friday, 6 pm-8 pm. Custom Hat Burning at Hardwick Winery, 3305 Greenwich Road, Hardwick. Come hang with us for our hat burning class! Hats and accessories are provided. We'll be burning adorable cowboy hats, each hat is



BBQ Fest at Wachusett Mountain.

adjustable and comes in a few different neutral colors. Different embellishments will be available to further customize your hat. Not recommended for children under 10. Purchase tickets online hardwickwinery.com.

12 Friday, 6:30 pm. Movie Night at the Park—Wicked: Sing-Along, Winchendon Community Park, 88 Ingleside Rd, Winchendon. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and favorite snacks for a family-friendly sing-along screening of *Wicked* that everyone will enjoy! FREE admission – just show up and sing along!

13 Saturday. Farm Harvest Social at Winchendon Community Park, 88 Ingleside Rd, Winchendon.

13 Saturday, 9 am-3 pm. Hubbardston Field Day at Hubbardston Historical Society, Curtis Rec Field, 20 Gardner Road, Hubbardston.

13 Saturday, 10 am-4 pm. St. Edward's Annual Fall Festival at St. Edward the Confessor Parish, 10 Church St, Westminster.

13-14 Saturday & Sunday 10 am-4 pm. Apple Festival at Hollis Hills Farm 340 Marshall Rd, Fitchburg. There will be a variety of PYO apples, local vendors, live music, and specialty food and drinks.

13 Saturday, 10 am-4 pm. Lowe Park Chalk Art 3rd Annual Festival at 174 Elm St, Fitchburg.

13-14 Saturday & Sunday 11 am-5 pm. BBQ Fest at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd, Princeton. Fire on the Mountain! Wachusett keeps things hot with a festival celebrating all things barbecue. Pick from some of the best smoked and grilled food in the region, with cold beer to wash it down. Featuring live music and family-friendly entertainment both days.

13 Saturday, 11 am-5 pm. Shirley Fest at Shirley Center Common. Enjoy the entertainment, shop the sales booths, support the food booths run by local organizations. Email email@shirleyarts.info.

13 Saturday, 1 pm-4 pm. Free Admission Day at The Gardner Museum, 28 Pearl St, Gardner, FREE admission day for their sports exhibit "Calling All Sports Fans". The exhibit will have displays of Professional Athletes and Olympians from the Greater Gardner area. Also Greater Gardner area High Schools will have sports displays. Four local sports authors, Mark Bodanza, Chris Daly, Jay Gearan and Mike Richard will be on hand to autograph their books. The WooSox Mascot, Smiley, will make an appearance from 2-2:45 pm and the MWCC Mascot, Monty, will also appear during the event for all to enjoy! Other surprises are also planned on this special day!

13 Saturday, 2 pm-7 pm. Harvard Fall Fest at Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Rd, Harvard.

15 Monday, 10 am-11 am. Dragons Love Tacos: The Kate and Bill Holloway Interactive Story-time at Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Children ages 3-6 and their caregivers are invited to join us for an interactive story-time with Strega Mama! We'll read *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin, sing songs, play games, become a taco, and more!

16 Tuesday, 10 am-10:30 am. Two Dinosaurs Are Better Than One at Leominster Public Library 30 West St, Leominster. Children ages 3-7 and their families are invited to join us for a puppet show with Anna Sobel of Talking Hands Theater. Audience members meet different kinds of dinosaurs from the Jurassic Era and find out what the dinosaurs plan to do about that big carnivore, Allosaurus, who is pushing everyone else around! Catchy, original songs, and bright tabletop puppets make this show a hit with kids!

17 Wednesday, 10:30 am-11 pm. Storytime at Hollis Hills Farm at Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd, Fitchburg.

17 Wednesday, 1 pm-4 pm. Drop-in Board Game Afternoon at Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster Ages 18 and up.

18 Thursday, 5 pm-8 pm. Fox and the Dragon at Forge & Vine, 128R Main Street, Groton. Join us at the Forge & Vine for some live music!

19 Friday, 11 am-5 pm. I Now Pronounce you Lucy Stone at Hubbardston Historical Society, 4 Burnshirt Rd, Hubbardston. A captivating portrayal of a 19th Century suffragist and vocal supporter of human rights. Suggested Program Donation: \$5 Members; \$10 Nonmembers.

19 Friday, 8 pm. Boulder Comedy Night at The Boulder Café, 880 Main St, Fitchburg.

19 Friday, 7 pm-9:30 pm. Swing, Swing, Swing at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St, Gardner. Tickets \$20 Join us for an exciting 2.5 hour Swing Dance Event where you can learn the basics of East Coast Swing, no partner required! Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com. Email g_steele@mwcc.mass.edu.

20-21 Saturday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Sunday, 10 am-3 pm. The pro.found Fall Market 2025 at Lancaster Fairgrounds, 318 Seven Bridge Rd, Lancaster.

20 Saturday, 9 am. 32nd Annual Johnny Appleseed Festival in Downtown Leominster. Join us for the city's biggest event celebrating the legendary Johnny Appleseed for food, games, crafts, music, and fun for all ages including the world-famous apple crisp!



32nd Annual Johnny Appleseed Festival.

20 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm & September 21, 10 am-4 pm. Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society and the New England Chapter of the Gesneriad Society Show & Sale at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Discover the amazing variety and beauty of these well-loved houseplants through fantastic displays, demonstrations and workshops for all ages, and a selection of unusual and rare begonias and gesneriads for sale. Included with general admission. For details: nebg.org.

20-21 Saturday-Sunday, 11 am-5 pm. Kidsfest at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd, Princeton. Wachusett's 34th Annual KidsFest is a weekend full of fantastical encounters, fun for the whole family!

20 Saturday, 2 pm. Pastel Artwork Display and Demonstration at Shirley Historical Society Museum, 182 Center Rd, Shirley.

20 Saturday, 2 pm-3 pm. Beer Can Museum at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

22 Monday, 10 am-11:30 am. Fall Equinox Hike at Boutelle Conservation Area. This is a 2-mile, moderate hike through a meadow and wooded trails. See remnants of an old farm, a hidden vista of Leominster, and a chance to see wildlife such as deer, and turkeys. Wear hiking boots, bring water to drink, a snack, and wear long-sleeved shirt and pants. Dress in layers. Hiking sticks are helpful to bring if you have them. Learn more through the Leominster Recreation Department.

23 Tuesday, 3 pm. Teen Maker Day at Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Rd, Harvard, Registration required.

25 Thursday, 6 pm-7 pm. Jumpin' Juba -- Music for All Ages at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

25, 26-27 Thursday, 4 pm-7 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 9 am-4 pm. Used Book Sale at Levi Heywood Memorial Library, 55 W Lynde St, Gardner. -- Members Preview: Night memberships can be purchased that evening. Open to the public.

26 Friday, 10 am-10:45 am. Explore and Play at Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Children ages 1-3 and their caregivers are invited to join us for a casual, self-directed program. Children will have the chance to interact with each other and their caregivers through hands-on play and activities. Join us for the ball roll game, silliness with scarves, a short, pop-up story, stacking play, waffle blocks, and kinetic sand! These activities are fun and help children with their motor skills. Stay for as long or short of a time that works for your child! Registration required.

27 Saturday, 9 am-8 pm. Gardner's 20th Annual Oktoberfest at Parker St, Gardner.

27 Saturday, 10 am-9 pm. 4th Annual Celebrate Ashburnham Street Fair at Main St, Ashburnham.

27 Saturday, 10 am-4 pm. Ashby 34th Annual Pumpkin Festival at Ashby Common. Our annual festival has over 40 local crafters/vendors, animals, live music, kids' games, food, raffles and more.

27 Saturday, 10 am-4 pm. GrotonFest Fall at Legion Field Common, 75 Hollis St, Groton. GrotonFest Fall is a celebration for the senses—shop handmade crafts, cozy home décor, aromatic candles, and unique artisanal goods while indulging in delicious baked treats, sweet confections, and savory bites



Blacksmith, Art & Music Festival.

from local food vendors. Live music, entertainment, and dancing bring the festival to life, creating an unforgettable experience for the entire community.

27 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. 22nd Blacksmith, Art & Music Festival at Boulder Dr, Fitchburg. The festival is designed to promote the craft of blacksmithing and the arts. The exciting Forge-In live competition, where blacksmiths create preset projects using traditional fire and anvil methods, makes this an unusual event. Enjoy live music, arts, and craft vendors.

27 Saturday, 11 am-4 pm. Townsend's Fall Festival at Townsend Common. Come and see crafts. Paint your own pumpkins. Build your own scarecrow. Enjoy games, food, and DJ entertainment.

27 Saturday, 11 am-8 pm. Oktoberfest Party in the Street at Gardner Ale House. It's our 20th Oktoberfest. It all started in 2006, when we were only 3 months old! We had a few kegs, a tent in the back parking lot, and waited for folks to show up to a Bavarian-style beer bash. And you did and it got bigger every year.. From 2006 till now, we've kept it running. 20 Oktoberfests with steins and sausages, beer and brass bands, kids dancing, adults acting like kids and the kind of community party that made Gardner take notice of itself. So number 20 is a big deal! And it will be our 15th Chair Luge! Who's counting? We are!

27-28 Saturday & Sunday, 11 am-5 pm. Oktoberfest at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd, Princeton. A German folk festival with a New England accent. Authentic German beer fans and local craft breweries alike gather on the mountain for Wachusett's 7th annual Oktoberfest. With daily stein hoisting and keg toss competitions, there's always an occasion to raise your glass.

27 Saturday, 12 pm-6 pm. Central Mass Irish Festival at Winchendon Community Park Amphitheatre, 88 Ingleside Road, Winchendon. Get ready for a shamrockin' good time! Celebrate Irish

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culture with an unforgettable evening jam-packed with live performances by, Sláinte, Devri and The Pourmen. Feast on delicious fare from local food vendors and don't miss out on the festival favorite — green beer flowing all night long! Whether you're Irish by blood or Irish at heart, this is one celebration you won't want to miss.

27 Saturday, 2-5 pm & September 28, 10 am-3 pm. New England Dahlia Society Show & Sale at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Discover everything from dime-sized minion blooms to giant dinnerplate dahlias when you experience the spectacular displays of this dazzling flower specialty. Enjoy drop-in lectures, get dahlia-growing advice from the experts, and browse beautiful bouquets for sale. Included with general admission. For details: nebg.org.

27 Saturday, 2 pm-3 pm. Live Music: History and Legends through Song at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

27 Saturday, 2:30 pm-3:30 pm. Succulent and Flower Suncatcher Crafternoon at Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Children ages 8-13 are invited to join us for a Succulent and Flower Suncatcher Crafternoon! Participants will paint one succulent and one flower suncatcher and then "plant" them in pots filled with vibrant gravel. If you don't have a green thumb, that's quite alright. These succulents and flowers just need sunlight! Registration required.

27 Saturday, 6 pm-10 pm. 2nd Annual Murder Mystery Dinner & Silent Auction at Great Wolf Lodge, 150 Great Wolf Dr, Fitchburg. \$85 per person or \$750 per table. This year's theme? A Class Reunion like no other... where old

friendships, rivalries, and secrets come to life—some more dangerously than others.

28 Sunday, 12:30 pm. Guided Tour of Shirley Shaker Village at Shirley Historical Society, 182 Center Rd, Shirley. Reservations required. Email mail@shirleyhistory.org.

29 Monday, 12:30 pm. Multilingual Stories and Play at Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Children ages 3-5, and their families are invited to join us for an interactive story-time with book reading, and an activity for children and parents to connect. Our Storyteller Nana will be speaking and reading in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Registration required.

OCTOBER

1 Wednesday, 10:30 am-11 am. Storytime at Hollis Hills Farm at Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd, Fitchburg.

1 Wednesday, 6 pm-7 pm. Sunflower Fun at Children's Program Room, 1st Floor, Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Children ages 7-13 are invited to "plant" a sunflower in a pot, and make a smiling sunflower wreath. Don't have a green thumb? No worries! These sunflowers don't require any watering. Registration required.

1 Wednesday, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. Adult Craft Night: "Terror"ariums at Program Room, Fitchburg Public Library, 166 Boulder Dr Suite 108, Fitchburg. Registration required.

3-4 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm; 10-11 Friday-Saturday, 7:30 pm; 12 Sunday, 2 pm. Anything Goes at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St, Gardner. This high-energy show is packed with unforgettable tunes, dazzling dance numbers,



The Icon Museum and Study Center.

and hilarious hijinks aboard the S.S. American. Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com.

4 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm & October 5, 10 am- 4 pm. New England Carnivorous Plant Society Show & Sale at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Don't miss this exciting weekend showcasing your favorite insect-eating plants! Enjoy captivating displays and an interactive Venus flytrap feeding station, learn tips and tricks from experienced growers, and browse hundreds of carnivorous plants for sale. Included with general admission. For details: nebg.org.

4 Saturday, 8 am-2 pm. Annual Autumn All Town Yard Sale at Shirley.

4 Saturday, 8 am-2 pm. Farmers Market, Monument Square, Downtown Leominster.

4 Saturday, 3 pm-4 pm. Library LEGO Friends at Children's Program Room, 1st Floor, Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Join the Dr. Martin T. Feldman Children's Room for a fun-filled afternoon building LEGOS with friends! This



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program is suitable for ages 6-12. Registration required.

5 Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Free First Sunday at The Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St, Clinton.

5 Sunday, 11 am-3 pm. Alpaca Fall Fest at In The Meadow Farm, 40 Page St, Lunenburg. The Alpacas are throwing their annual party! Visit the farm for a fun family friendly event. There will be local artisans and farms, activities, and of course the alpacas will be greeting everyone.

6 Monday, 6 pm-7 pm. Fall Scarecrow Pastel Drawing at Children's Program Room, 1st Floor Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Children ages 10-13 are invited to join us for a fall scarecrow pastel drawing workshop with artist Merry Beninato. Starting with simple lines and shapes, and following step-by-step instructions, students will complete a finished work to take home! This drawing class is geared for success, fun, and for building confidence in students' art skills. Registration required.

7 Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7 pm. Soccer Combine at Game On Fitchburg, 100 Game On Way, Fitchburg. Got \$5? Join us for a fun-filled evening with \$5 pick-up soccer, \$5 beers, and \$5 games—winners take home prizes! Members play for free! Email igor.gameonfitchburg@gmail.com.

8 Wednesday, 6 pm-7:30 pm. Board Games for Adults! at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

9 Thursday, 3 pm. Teen Maker Day at Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Rd, Harvard Registration required.

10 Friday, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Fun Family Improv

at Stratton Players, 569 Main St, Fitchburg. An entertaining session of making up characters and using props and costume pieces to improvise comedy. Pay what you can, donations & everybody welcome. Email strattonplayers@gmail.com.

11 Saturday, 9 am-8 pm. Hardwick Fireman's Association 5th Annual 1st Alarm at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd, Hardwick. We're back! Are you ready for a good time? Once again we've got car show, burnouts, bonfire, food trucks live music and more!

11-13 Saturday-Monday, 11 am-4 pm. Fall Fest 2025 at Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd, Fitchburg. There will be PYO pumpkins, PYO apples, local vendors, live music, kids crafts, and specialty food and drinks! Join us for a weekend full of fun, music, delicious food, and good times.

11 Saturday, 6 pm. Autumn Sunset Social at Winchendon Community Park, 88 Ingleside Rd, Winchendon. A fusion of the season's best farm flavors in food and drinks featuring pumpkins, festive foods, and costume contests.

11 Saturday, 2:30 pm-3:45 pm. Paint a Pumpkin Lantern at Children's Program Room, 1st Floor Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Kids ages 8-13 are invited to join us to paint a pumpkin lantern with the Pottery Paintin' Place of Lunenburg! Paint your lantern a traditional orange, or any other color you can imagine. Finished lanterns will be fired, then returned to the library in time for Halloween. Registration required.

11 Saturday, 5 pm-8:30 pm, 9 pm-1 am. Dinner & Spirit Gallery with Karen Tatro at Fitchburg Armory, 14 Wallace Ave, Fitchburg Dinner & Spirit Gallery - \$75 per person.

11 Saturday, 5 pm-9 pm. Townsend's Haunted

Trail & Spooky Vendor Fair at Townsend Public Library, 12 Dudley Rd, Townsend.

12 Sunday, 6 pm. PumpkinFest on the Common at Shirley Center Common.

12 Sunday, 12:30 pm. Guided Tour of Shirley Shaker Village at Shirley Historical Society, 182 Center Rd, Shirley. Reservations required. Email mail@shirleyhistory.org.

14 Tuesday, 6 pm-7:45 pm. Great Puzzle Race Redux at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton. Registration required.

15 Wednesday, 10:30 am-11 am. Storytime at Hollis Hills Farm at Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Rd, Fitchburg.

15 Wednesday, 1 pm-4 pm. Drop-in Board Game Afternoon at Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Ages 18 and up.

16 Thursday, 4:30 pm-8 pm. Chili, Chowder



Fall Food Truck Fest at Wachusett Mountain.

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Children under 9, \$6⁰⁰

www.leominsterumc.org

Taste Off at The Brew Barn at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave, Phillipston. Tickets \$25.

16 Thursday, 6 pm-7 pm. Live Music: Hungrytown at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

18 Saturday, 8 am-2 pm. Ashburnham Townwide Yard Sale in Ashburnham; Buy maps: 84 Main St., 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Cost: \$20 for your address on the map or \$25 to set up at New Dawn Arts Center. To register, visit newdawnarts.org, call 978-252-4124 or email info@newdawnarts.org.

18 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Westminster Cracker Festival, 10 Village Square, Westminster. A free event for all, celebrating 10 years! Rain or shine.

18-19 Saturday-Sunday, 10 am-5pm; 25-26 Saturday-Sunday, 10 am-5 pm. AppleFest. Apples and Autumn are New England favorites! Wachusett Mountain's AppleFest is your ticket to both, featuring every apple-flavored treat from candy to cocktails, and one of the most unique bird's eye views of Fall foliage in Massachusetts. Enjoy hot apple cider, fresh cider donuts, apple soda & more from the Red Apple Farm stand. Over 100 local artisans at our Artist & Crafter Market. Extended to two weekends due to popularity!

18 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm & Sunday 19, 10 am-4 pm. American Craft Fair at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Celebrate the artistry of craftsmanship with an event that brings together some of the region's finest makers of handcrafted ceramics, prints, jewelry, woven goods, artisanal treats, and more. Included with general admission. For details: nebq.org.

18-19 Saturday & Sunday, 12 pm-5 pm. Fitchburg Open Studios 2025 at Main Street Studios, 569 Main St, Fitchburg. Connect with audiences,

network with other artists, and share your creative work. Registration required.

22 Wednesday, 7 pm. The Long Run - Songs of The Eagles at Clear Path for Veterans New England, 84 Antietam St, Devens. Enjoy a performance by a tribute band at Clear Path for Veterans New England. Members can also bring guitars to play along.

24 Friday, 12-5 pm & Saturday, 10 am-5 pm & Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Boston Chapter of Ikebana International Show & Sale at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Ikebana, Japanese for "arranged flowers" or "living flowers," considers characteristics of line, color, mass, and space as well as asymmetry to create harmonious natural arrangements. Learn about the art of Ikebana and enjoy viewing beautiful arrangements that showcase various styles. Included with general admission. For details: nebq.org.

25 Saturday, 2 pm-3:30 pm. Cemeterariums. Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

25 Saturday, 2 pm. Have You Filled a Bucket Today? at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St, Gardner. Based on Carol McCloud's award-winning books and Ann Marie Gardinier Halstead's The Bucket Filling Fairy, this lively and colorful production teaches the magic of kindness and appreciation through the fun concept of "bucket-filling." Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com.

26 Sunday, 12:30 pm. Guided Tour of Shirley Shaker Village. at Shirley Historical Society, 182 Center Rd, Shirley. Reservations required. Email mail@shirleyhistory.org.

28 Tuesday, 3 pm. Teen Treat Workshop at Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Rd, Harvard. Registration required; jhayes@cwmmars.org.

NOVEMBER

1 Saturday. FilmFest at the Meeting House, at Shirley Meeting House, 41 Brown Rd, Shirley.

1-2 Saturday & Sunday, 11 am-5 pm. Fall Food Truck Fest at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd, Princeton. When winter is around the corner we invite our favorite food trucks for one last pumpkin-spiced party to say goodbye.

2 Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Free First Sunday. The Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St, Clinton.

4 Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7 pm. Soccer Combine at Game On Fitchburg, 100 Game On Way, Fitchburg. Got \$5? Join us for a fun-filled evening with \$5 pick-up soccer, \$5 beers, and \$5 games—winners take home prizes! Members play for free! Email igor.gameonfitchburg@gmail.com.

6 Thursday. Free First Thursday at Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St, Fitchburg.

8 Saturday, 9 am-2 pm. 20th Annual Holiday Fair



Off The Cuff, at Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner.



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& **Cookie Sale** at Friends of the Hazen Memorial Library, 3 Keady Way, Shirley. We will have vendors, crafters, and local artists as well as fantastic cookies for a one stop shop for your Holiday shopping!

8 Saturday, 9 am-3 pm. 46th Annual Narragansett Craft Fair at Narragansett Elementary School, 460 Baldwinville Rd, Baldwinville.

9 Sunday, 10 am. Journey Home Road Race at 84 Antietam St, Devens. A 5k/10k run/walk in support of Veterans and First Responders.

12 Wednesday, 6 pm-7:30 pm. Board Games for Adults! at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

14 Friday, 9 am-6 pm; 15 Saturday, 9 am-4 pm. Nature as Imagination: You, Your Camera & Rauscher Farm at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library. 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

14 Friday, 7 pm-9:30 pm. Off The Cuff at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St, Gardner. This welcoming, laughter-filled session is designed for beginners and seasoned performers alike. Tickets \$20. Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com. Email contact g_steele@mwcc.mass.edu.

16 Sunday, 2 pm. Annual Shirley Historical Society Meeting and Program at Shirley Historical Society, 182 Center Rd, Shirley. Remembering the 1976 Shirley Bicentennial Celebrations.

19 Wednesday, 1 pm-4 pm. Drop-in Board Game Afternoon at Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Ages 18 and up.

22 Saturday – January 4, daily. Night Lights: Dazzling Gardens at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Revel in the wonder of the winter season with friends, family, and more than a quarter million lights! Enter an illuminated world where stars of the botanic garden shine, and where sparkling



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experiences and one-of-a-kind light displays inspire joy to last all year. It's a celebration of nature like you've never seen before—bright, bold, and full of dazzle. (Closed November 27, December 24 & 25, and January 1) Ticket prices vary; Garden Members receive a discount. For details: nebg.org.

22-23 Saturday & Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Thanksgiving Harvest Festival at Red Apple Farm 455 Highland Ave, Phillipston. Enjoy artisan crafts, pony rides and hayrides, live music, blacksmith demonstrations, and the iron farmer!

23 Sunday, 12 pm-3 pm. Thanksgiving Farmers' Market & Bake Sale at Hubbardston Historical Society, 4 Burnshirt Rd, Hubbardston. Get farm fresh products for your holiday table.

28-29 Friday-Saturday, 7:30 pm; 30 Sunday, 2 pm. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St, Gardner. This lively and family-friendly musical, composed by the legendary Andrew Lloyd Webber, brings the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors to vibrant life on stage. Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com

DECEMBER

1 Monday, 10 am-11 am. Kids Rock! A Kids Music Concert at Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster. Join us as Monument Square Community Music School presents a children's concert. This concert features an all pro band that will play original and popular songs for children. This program is suitable for children ages 5 and under and their caregivers.

2 Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7 pm. Soccer Combine at Game On Fitchburg, 100 Game On Way, Fitchburg. Got \$5? Join us for a fun-filled evening with \$5 pick-up soccer, \$5 beers, and \$5 games—winners take home prizes! Members play for free! Email igor.gameonfitchburg@gmail.com.

4 Thursday. Free First Thursday at Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St, Fitchburg.

4 Thursday, 5 pm-9 pm. 2025 Holiday Spectacular at Perry Auditorium, 95 Pleasant St, Gardner. Semi-formal attire requested. Registration required. Visit business.gardnerma.com/events.

5-6 Friday-Saturday, 7:30 pm; 7 Sunday, 2 pm. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St, Gardner. This lively and family-friendly musical, composed by the legendary Andrew Lloyd Webber, brings the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors to vibrant life on stage. Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com.

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Namaste on Broadway at Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner.

6 Saturday, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Holiday Puzzle Race! at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton. Registration Required.

6 Saturday, 12 pm-4 pm. GrotonFest Winter at Prescott Community Center, 145 Main St, Groton, The Groton Inn, 128 Main St, Groton. From the fresh scent of pine trees to the irresistible aroma of seasonal treats and hearty comfort foods, every moment at GrotonFest Winter is designed to bring holiday cheer to the whole family. Immerse yourself in sparkling Christmas décor, twinkling lights, and beautifully handcrafted gifts, all while enjoying the magic of the season.

7 Sunday. Vespers at the Meeting House at Shirley Meeting House, 41 Brown Rd, Shirley.

7 Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Free First Sunday at The Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St, Clinton.

9 Tuesday, 3 pm. Teen Maker Day at Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Rd, Harvard, Registration required.

10 Wednesday, 6 pm-7:30 pm. Board Games for Adults! at Community Room, Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St, Clinton.

12 Friday, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Fun Family Improv at Stratton Players, 569 Main St, Fitchburg, An entertaining session of making up characters and using props and costume pieces to improvise comedy. Pay what you can, donations welcome – everybody welcome. Email strattonplayers@gmail.com.

16 Tuesday, 3 pm. Teen Treat Workshop at Harvard Public Library, 4 Pond Rd, Harvard, Registration required. Email jhayes@cwmar.org.

21 Wednesday, 1 pm-4 pm. Drop-in Board Game Afternoon at Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster, Ages 18 and up.

JANUARY

4 Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Free First Sunday at The Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St, Clinton.

6 Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7 pm. Soccer Combine at Game On Fitchburg, 100 Game On Way, Fitchburg, Got \$5? Join us for a fun-filled evening with \$5 pick-up soccer, \$5 beers, and \$5 games—winners take home prizes! Members play for free! Email igor.gameonfitchburg@gmail.com.

21 Wednesday, 1 pm-4 pm. Drop-in Board Game Afternoon at Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor,

Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster, Ages 18 and up.

30 Friday, 7 pm-9:30 pm. Namaste on Broadway at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St, Gardner, Tickets \$20, Join us for an unforgettable evening that merges mindful movement with the magic of Broadway show tunes! Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com. Email g_steele@mwcc.mass.edu.

FEBRUARY

1 Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Free First Sunday at The Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St, Clinton.

3 Tuesday, 5:30 pm-7 pm. Soccer Combine at Game On Fitchburg, 100 Game On Way, Fitchburg, Got \$5? Join us for a fun-filled evening with \$5 pick-up soccer, \$5 beers, and \$5 games—winners take home prizes! Members play for free! Email igor.gameonfitchburg@gmail.com

5 Thursday. Free First Thursday at Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St, Fitchburg.

18 Wednesday, 1 pm-4 pm. Drop-in Board Game Afternoon at Large Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Leominster Public Library, 30 West St, Leominster, Ages 18 and up.

27-28 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm. Young Frankenstein at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St, Gardner, Based on the cult classic film, this show follows the story of Frederick Frankenstein, a young neurosurgeon who inherits his grandfather's infamous Transylvanian castle and laboratory. Visit mwcc.universitytickets.com *Continues on Friday & Saturday, Mar. 6-7, 7:30 pm; Sunday, Mar. 8, 2 pm.*



WINCHENDON FALL FESTIVAL

Central Street, Winchendon

Saturday, October 11 • 10am–5pm, rain or shine

Live bands Bounce House/Face Painting Food Trucks
Local Artists Performances Kids' Activities Over 150+ vendors

Local Restaurants

www.TownofWinchendon.com

facebook.com/Winchendon-Fall-Festival-2285999178280306

Ad Sponsored by the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority

MEMBER'S Directory

Places to visit, people
to see, things to do!

ANTIQUES

Hobart Village Antique Mall





445 Main St., West Townsend
978-597-0332 | hobartvillage.com 
An antique mall featuring 80 dealers; new country furniture, farm tables, Amish-made oak furniture and collectibles from local estates.

Jeffrey's Antique Co-op Mall



54 Chase Rd., Lunenburg
978-582-7831
jeffreysantiquecoopmall.com 
Multi-dealer antique shop with eclectic and ever-changing stock of antiques and collectibles, furniture, country décor, vintage toys, and more.

ART GALLERIES



Diamond Heart Art Studio

112 Main Street, Gardner
978-516-3040    
diamondheartsartstudio.com
A husband and wife team of artists creating abstract art and crafts, and classes.

Gardner Area League of Artists (GALA)

52 Murdock Ave., Winchendon
Galagardner.org  
Visit GALA's unique Art Gallery and immerse yourself in artwork in various mediums and affordable prices. Rotating art shows, workshops and gift shop.

New Dawn Arts Center


84 Main Street, Ashburnham
978-235-3691  
newdawnarts.org
We work to unite the community around the arts, through programming that makes arts education, appreciation, and presentation available to our greater region.

ATTRACTIONS




Davis Farmland

145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling
978-422-6666
davisfarmland.com   
The largest sanctuary of endangered farm animals in North America. U-Pick apples and pumpkins in the fall. Opening mid-April – October.

Funstuf Party Place

791 Water St., Fitchburg
978-342-5000
funstufpartyplace.com 
Let us help you bring more FUN to your event. Remember, at Funstuf Party Place "It's All About the Party!"

Great Wolf Lodge




50 Great Wolf Drive, Fitchburg
978-343-9653   
greatwolf.com/newengland
Weatherproof family fun, with a massive 84-degree indoor waterpark, exclusive to resort guests; MagiQuest; indoor ropes course and more.

BANKING


All One Credit Union

20 Adams St., Leominster
800-649-4646
all-onecu.com  
AOCU is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative with seven branches in Clinton, Leominster, Sterling and Worcester.




Avidia Bank

470 Lancaster St., Leominster
800-508-2265
avidiaibank.com   
A \$1 Billion mutual community bank, with branch offices in Hudson, Clinton, and Leominster.



BankHometown

9 Sack Blvd., Leominster
888-307-5887
bankhometown.com 
For over 125 years, we have believed in always doing the right thing. For us, that's our customers and communities.

Enterprise Bank and Trust Company

420 John Fitch Hwy., Fitchburg
978-656-5689
enterprisebanking.com   
Personalized, comprehensive banking solutions.

Fidelity Bank

9 Leominster Conn., Leominster
800-581-5363  
fidelitybankonline.com
We are experts in Personal Finance. Fidelity Bank provides financial services to help our customers get where they want to be.

GFA Credit Union

229 Parker St., Gardner
978-632-2542
gfafcu.com 
As a member of GFA, you are an owner. Your deposits help the first-time home owner buy their home or support a small local business.




IC Credit Union

300 Bemis Rd., Fitchburg
800-262-1001
iccreditunion.org  
We strive to go beyond products and services and help our members achieve financial wellness.

Rollstone Bank & Trust

780 Main St., Fitchburg
978-345-1061 | rollstonebank.com
RBT is a full-service community bank specializing in commercial banking and wealth management since 1846.

TD Bank



470 Main St., Worcester
800-322-3264
tdbank.com   
TD Bank Massachusetts, has 160 branches in Mass. and Southern New Hampshire, including Fitchburg, Leominster, Gardner, Athol and Orange.

Workers Credit Union


815 Main St., Fitchburg
978-345-1021 | wcu.com  
We are a full-service financial institution offering competitive deposit and loan products. Founded in 1914 with 16 branches.

BEAUTY

Hey Good Look'n Salon and Spa

370 Summer Street, Fitchburg
978-345-2308  
hglsalon.com
Hair, Nails, Waxing. Cosmetics, Pedicures and Massage Therapy.


House of Beauty Supply

653 N. Main Street, Leominster
978-840-3070 
Newly opened, we sell all kinds of hair extensions, wigs and hair care products.

Keith Kartanos Hair Studio

130 Lancaster Street, Leominster
978-580-7944
Hair specialist.

LG Moda Salon & Boutique

1009 Central Street, Leominster
978-401-0289  
Professional Hair, Color Stylist, Nail Techs, Waxing, and specializes in anti-aging products & Women's Clothing.

Lush Rx Aesthetics

646 Central Street, Suite 3, Leominster
978-212-9333  
lushrx-aes.com
Providing safe and effective solutions curated to your individual beauty and wellness needs.

MY SALON Suite

94 Watertower Plaza, Leominster
508-500-9000  
mysalonsuite.com/leominster
My Salon Suite offers prime salon suite rentals for beauty, health and wellness professionals. Elevate your creative business in our suites, featuring uniquely designed, upscale spaces that inspire creativity and professionalism.

BREWERIES, WINERIES & CIDERIES


Carlson Orchards, Inc.

115 Oak Hill Rd., Harvard
978-456-3916
carlsonorchards.com   
Open July to November. Pick your own fruit in season from apples, peaches, cherries, nectarines, blueberries, and raspberries. Over 100 acres of fruit orchards.

Hardwick Vineyard & Winery

3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick
413-967-7763
hardwickwinery.com  
This Winery is home to a Federal style mansion and a timber frame barn. Six varietals of French hybrid grapes are used to make our award-winning wines.

Moon Hill Brewing and Gardner Ale House

74 Parker St., Gardner
978-669-0122
gardnerale.com   
Gardner Ale House is a family-oriented brewpub and restaurant, with a casual, bistro style menu, 12+ award-winning beers on tap and live music.

Mountainside

213 Mountain Rd., Princeton
978-464-0300  
www.mountainsideprinceton.com
Enjoy afternoon tea, lunch, or the beer garden on the weekends. They offer catering and have space for private events and parties.

Red Apple Farm Cidery

455 Highland Ave., Phillipston
978-249-6763  
redapplefarm.com
Dry & semi-sweet flagship hard ciders, special blends & heritage varieties available. Outdoor cider garden, country store and Moon Hill beer on tap.

Thirsty Robot Brewing

265 Summer St., (Rear), Fitchburg
978-895-5931  
thirstyrobotbrewing.com
A ragtag collection of misfits who find solace in working hard to produce beer that you will enjoy. Specializing in New England IPAs.

Wachusett Brewing Company, Inc.

175 State Rd. E, Westminster
978-874-9965
wachusettbrew.com  
Open 7 days a week for you to enjoy our great food, live music, and our award-winning beers. Visit us online.

CAMPING

Lamb City Campground

85 Royalston Rd., Phillipston
978-249-2049 | lambcity.com  
Family owned/operated for over 30 years. With 280 sites, full hookups, 17 pull thru, tenting, RV rentals, cabins, sewage disposal, store, 2 rec halls, 3 pools, more.

Pine Acres Family Camping Resort

203 Bechan Rd., Oakham
508-882-9509 fb.com/pineacres 
Twice voted Park of the Year nationally! We offer tenting to waterfront sites, rustic cabins, RV rentals. Boating, fishing, pool, kids splash pad.

The Pines Campground


39 Davis Rd., Ashby
978-386-7702
thepinescampground.com 
A four-season family campground with a pool, showers, weekend activities, store, heated bathroom, firewood, ice, picnic areas, and recreation hall.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Town of Ashburnham

32 Main St., Ashburnham
978-827-4100
ashburnham-ma.gov
The "Town of Many Lakes" is home to Mount Watatic and the multi-state Midstate Trail. Enjoy vibrant arts, shops and dining.


City of Fitchburg

718 Main St., Fitchburg
978-829-1801 | fitchburgma.gov 
Enjoy attractions from Fitchburg State University to historic downtown architecture and the Fitchburg Art Museum.

City of Gardner


95 Pleasant St., Gardner
978-257-4136 | gardner-ma.gov 
The Chair City is evolving, manufacturing is growing, technology companies are expanding, and new businesses are opening, in the heart of Massachusetts.

City of Leominster


25 West St., Leominster
978-534-7500
leominster-ma.gov 
Leominster encompasses the very essence of New England, from a hilltop apple orchard to a lively downtown, 26 miles of trails, 12 annual events, with unique shops and restaurants.

Nashua River

Watershed Association

592 Main St., Groton
978-448-0299
nashuariverwatershed.org 
Conserve open spaces for water quality, wildlife habitat, farms, forests, and recreation.


Town of Lunenburg

17 Main St., Lunenburg
978-582-4130
lunenburgma.gov 
The Town maintains a rural flavor, with farms and orchards.

Town of Pepperell

1 Main Street, Pepperell
978-433-0333
Town.pepperell.ma.us 
Known for its community spirit and quaint New England charm, Pepperell provides numerous opportunities to explore nature as well as a variety of attractions for visitors to enjoy.

Town of Sterling

1 Park St., Sterling
978-422-8111
Sterling-ma.gov 
The town retains much of its small-town atmosphere. Famous residents include Ebenezer Butterick developed dress patterns and Mary Sawyer's pet lamb who inspired the poem, "Mary Had a Little Lamb".

Town of Townsend

272 Main Street, Townsend
978-597-1700
Townsendma.gov
Outdoor life abounds in Townsend and country life is how to best describe living and visiting the town.

Town of Westminster

11 South St., Westminster
westminster-ma.gov
With Wachusett Mountain, Leominster State Forest and the Midstate Trail, Westminster is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts.



The Last U-pick Orchard in Johnny Appleseed's Birthplace
Since 2001
Sholan Farms
CHECK FACEBOOK & WEBSITE FOR UPDATED HOURS
U-pick peaches, raspberries, & blueberries: July-September
Check website or call for hours
FARMSTAND HOURS
Opening Weekend August 30-31
Hours: August-October: 10am-5pm
Farmstand open weekends in November
CHOOSE WELLNESS HEALTH FAIR
September 28
COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS WALK TO REMEMBER
October 4
HARVEST CELEBRATION WEEKEND
October 11-12
CHRISTMAS TREE HOURS
November 28 until sold out. Open 10am-5pm
CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW
Beginning November 28
Open to the public for hiking and picnicking throughout the year
Field trips, tours & outings throughout the year. Check our hours on our website or Facebook.
Call 978-407-4147 for tour information
DONATIONS WELCOME
www.sholanfarms.com • 1125 Pleasant St., Leominster, MA
Farm: 978-840-3276 • Mail: PO Box 632, Leominster, MA 01453






*The Lazy Bubble.
112 Main St., Pepperell.*

Town of Winchendon


109 Front St., Winchendon
townofwinchendon.com 
Routes 202, 12, 140, pass through the quiet Town of Winchendon. A town rich in history, culture and the Winchendon Rail Trail and New Amphitheater.

EDUCATION



Applewild School

120 Prospect St., Fitchburg
978-342-6053
applewild.org   
Applewild School provides excellent, affordable education to families in North Central Massachusetts.

Fitchburg Public School

376 South St., Fitchburg
978-345-3200
fitchburg.k12.ma.us 
One district where all means ALL, every student, every day, no exceptions.




Fitchburg State University

160 Pearl St., Fitchburg
978-345-2151
fitchburgstate.edu   
FSU offers undergraduate and graduate programs with an emphasis on career-orientated learning. With liberal arts, and selected majors in traditional arts and sciences.

Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech School

1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg
978-345-9200
montytech.net 
"Monty Tech" name has become synonymous with innovative career, technical training programs and exceptional academic programming.

Mount Wachusett Community College

444 Green St., Gardner
978-632-6600   
Offering quality education at affordable prices, MWCC offers several degree and certificate program options to fit your life goals.

Sizer School



500 Rindge Rd., Fitchburg
978-345-2701
sizerschool.org 
Commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, Sizer seeks to send graduates into the world who THINK for themselves, CARE about others, ACT creatively and responsibly.

St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School

45 Harvard St., Fitchburg
978-342-3212
stbernardsccchs.org 
It's been 100 years and St. Bernard's continues to graduate some of the region's best and brightest young men and women.

FARMS

Bolton Orchards

125 Still River Rd., Bolton
978-779-2733
boltonorchards.co  
Specialty food store, deli, produce, bakery, flowers, gift baskets, local apples and cider available year-round. Old-fashioned ice cream and coffee café.


Brookfield Orchards

12 Lincoln Rd., North Brookfield
508-867-6858
brookfieldorchards.com 
A family friendly country store supplying locally grown delicious apples for over 100 years! The 5th Generation farm is the quintessential New England experience.

Carlson Orchards, Inc

115 Oak Hill Rd., Harvard
978-456-3916
carlsonorchards.com   
Open July to November. Pick your own fruit in season from apples, peaches, cherries, nectarines, blueberries, and raspberries. Over 100 acres of fruit orchards.

Sholan Farms

1125 Pleasant St., Leominster
978-840-3276 | sholanfarms.com 
The last working apple orchard in Johnny Appleseed's birthplace, offers walking-hiking trails, picnic area, cross-country skiing, U-Pick fruits and Christmas trees.

Hollis Hills Farm

340 Marshall Rd., Fitchburg
978-696-3130
hollishillsfarm.com 
Family owned and operated with their own maple products, local ice cream, pick your own fruits and flowers. Outdoor bar and restaurant open seasonally.

In the Meadow Farm

40 Page St., Lunenburg
978-696-3332  
inthemeadowalpacas.com
Farm offers a complete alpaca experience. Shop for all things alpaca, take a tour, interact with the alpacas, take a felting/ knitting class. Yoga on Saturday mornings April–October.

Lanni Orchards

294 Chase Rd., Lunenburg
978-582-6246
lanniorchards.com 
One stop shop for everything local. Wines, Craft Beers, Hard Ciders, Smith's Cheese, Dom's meats, chocolates, and cut flowers.

Meadowbrook Orchards

209 Chace Hill Rd., Sterling
978-365-7617  
meadowbrookorchards.com
Operated by the Chandler family since 1912. They harvest apples, blueberries, pumpkins, nectarines and raspberries. Farm-store and bakery.

Plain View Farm

130 Gardner Rd., Hubbardston
774-258-1194
plainviewfarmalpacas.com 
Stop by to see and meet the alpacas! Shop for quality alpaca items yarn, socks, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters and more!

Red Apple Farm

455 Highland Ave., Phillipston
978-249-6763
redapplefarm.com  
Country store has pies, dumplings, cider, donuts, fudge, fresh produce. Pick apples, peaches, berries, pears, pumpkins, potatoes, sunflowers. Visit the animals and take a hayride. Visit the Brew Barn, Cidery, and BBQ kitchen.

Rota Spring Farm

117 Chace Hill Rd., Sterling
978-365-9710
RotaSpringFarm.com 
Old-fashioned homemade ice cream made on the premises, fresh produce and grass-fed beef. Watch the cows grazing, or come pet the goats.

Wildwood Farm

50 Wood Rd., Westminster
978-340-8347 
Wildwood Farm LLC is a rustic 1700's working farm in the heart of New England offering a unique wedding experience.

FUNCTION FACILITIES

The 228 in Sterling
228 Leominster Rd., Sterling,
978-870-0605
the228insterling.com  
Formal indoor accommodations up to 95; covered patio; BBQ/picnic area; covered shelter; and a beautiful gazebo for your on-site wedding ceremony and photos.

FURNITURE

LaChance Interiors, Inc.
501 W. Broadway (Loft), Gardner
978-630-3299
lachancefurniture.com
American-made solid wood and finely crafted upholstered furniture. Offering classic traditional styles to the soft-modern designs of today.

GOLF

Ellinwood Country Club
1928 Pleasant St., Athol
978-249-7460
ellinwoodgolf.com  
Ellinwood Country Club in Athol boasts a unique 18-hole layout with nine holes designed by Donald Ross and another nine designed by Geoffrey Cornish.



Gardner Municipal Golf Course
152 Eaton St., Gardner
978-632-9703
Gardnergolfcourse.com  
Four sets of tees await golfers of all abilities from beginners to pros. Call to set up your tee time today and try their 6131-yard tee.

Oak Hill Country Club
840 Oak Hill Rd., Fitchburg
978-342-2717
oakhillcc.org  
A prestigious, member-owned private country club located in Central Mass. Oak Hill is the perfect club to satisfy golfers and families alike.

Settlers Crossing Golf Course
994 Northfield Rd., Lunenburg
978-582-6694
settlersgolf.com  
Nine-hole golf course featuring rolling hills, stone walls, tree-lined fairways and views of Mt. Wachusett.

Templewood Golf Course
160 Brooks Rd., Templeton
978-939-5031
templewoodgolfcourse.com 
Nestled in the heart of Central Massachusetts, Templewood offers a serene retreat for golfers of all skill levels. With lush fairways, challenging greens, and panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, our course provides an unforgettable golfing experience. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, you'll find our course welcoming and beautifully maintained, offering a perfect blend of nature and sport.




HEALTH CARE


Convenient MD
20 Commercial Road, Ste #2, Leominster
978-798-6896
convenientmd.com  
We bring the best to everything we do, with caring and experienced clinicians, modern clinics, and a patient-first mindset that inspires every step we take.

Heywood Hospital
242 Green St., Gardner
978-463-3420
heywood.org   
A non-profit, community funded hospital with over 200 staff.

UMass Memorial - Health Alliance Clinton
60 Hospital Rd., Leominster
978-466-2000
healthalliance.com  
A full service, acute care hospital with advanced medical technology and specialty services. Member of UMass Memorial Health Care network.

LODGING

Chocksett Inn
59 Laurelwood Rd., Sterling
978-422-3355
chocksettinn.com   
A 25-room, all-suite hotel, full kitchens. Meeting rooms, function spaces, both indoors and outdoors. Specializing in relocations, long-term stays.

Colonial Hotel
625 Betty Spring Rd., Gardner
978-630-2500
colonial-hotel.com  
One of Central Mass. most romantic hotels & wedding venues. This 112-room hotel, idealizes New England charm & quintessential hospitality.

Courtyard by Marriott Boston Littleton
102 Constitution Avenue, Littleton
978-440-5040
marriott.com/en-us/hotels/bostl-courtyard-boston-littleton   
Located at exit 80 off I-495, just minutes from Route 2 in The Point complex with restaurants, shops & entertainment.



Country Roads
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
November 8th - December 7th
20th ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOUR
PRIZES! SPECIALS! SALES!
A scenic back roads experience of New England charm through:
WINCHENDON
PHILLIPSTON
TEMPLETON
HUBBARDSTON
GARDNER
BARRE
PETERSHAM
BALDWINVILLE
Explore unique country shops, family farms & boutiques
SHOPS OPEN YEAR ROUND



SMITH'S
FARMSTEAD CHEDDAR
RAW MILK CHEESE
SHARP
FARMSTEAD CHEDDAR
RAW MILK CHEESE
CHILI PEPPER
FARMSTEAD CHEDDAR
RAW MILK CHEESE
SMOKED
from our farm, to your home.
we are proud to be your local family dairy!
www.smithscountrycheese.com
FOLLOW US!   @smithscountrycheese






130 Gardner Road (Route 68) Hubbardston, MA • 774-258-1194
Meet the Llamas & Alpacas!
Offering Tours, Walks, and Weekend Yoga.
Call or message for more info.
check Facebook & website for upcoming events.
Giftshop, Alpaca clothing and yarn.
Open Sundays, 10am - 4pm
or by appointment
plain view Farm
Alpacas & Llamas
www.plainviewfarmalpacas.com
See our website or Facebook pages for special events






Central Massachusetts #1 Horseback Riding Ranch
CORNERSTONE RANCH
Trail Riding, Riding Lessons, Adults & Kids Programs, Picnics
Pony Rides, Birthday Parties & Outings, Horse-Drawn Rides
CornerstoneRanch.org
FUN FOR ALL AGES!
HORSE-DRAWN RIDES WITH S'MORES AND COCOA AT THE CAMP FIRE
CORNERSTONE RANCH
CHOOSE YOUR RIDING ADVENTURE

DoubleTree by Hilton

99 Erdman Way, Leominster
978-534-9000   
Leominster.doubletree.com
Spacious accommodations, modern amenities, indoor pool, fitness center.

Great Wolf Lodge

150 Great Wolf Dr., Fitchburg
978-343-9653   
greatwolf.com/newengland
Massive 84-degree indoor waterpark. Battle a dragon while playing MagiQuest, challenge the climbing wall or play a round of putt-putt golf.

The Groton Inn

128 Main St., Groton
978-448-6600 | thegrotoninn.com 
Situating on the footprint of the original Groton Inn, with professionally designed guest rooms, meeting and banquet rooms and the Forge & Vine restaurant.

Howarth House Bed & Breakfast



81 Ross St., Fitchburg  
978-342-2851 | howarthhouse.com
Since opening in 2009, the Howarth House Bed and Breakfast has provided 5-star accommodations on over three beautiful acres in Fitchburg, MA for discerning guests. Our quiet respite is close to a variety of activities and attractions in Fitchburg, as well as several wonderful restaurants and breweries to help you savor your central Massachusetts bed and breakfast getaway even more.

MUSEUMS

Fitchburg Art Museum

185 Elm St., Fitchburg
978-345-4207   
fitchburgartmuseum.org
The Museum is a catalyst for learning, creativity, and community building in the heart of North Central, Mass. Experience our art historical collections, contemporary New England art, education programs. Plan your visit today!

Fort Devens Museum

94 Jackson Road, Devens
978-772-1286   
fortdevensmuseum.org
Museum is a private non-profit that collects, preserves, and shares artifacts and stories that tell the history of Camp Devens and Fort Devens from 1917 to the present.


The Icon Museum and Study Center

203 Union St., Clinton
978-598-5000  
iconmuseum.org
Founded in 2006 by industrialist Gordon B. Lankton. The largest private collection of its kind in North America and outside Russia.

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

11 French Drive, Boylston
508-869-6111 | nebg.org   
Tower Hill Botanic Garden is proud to be a place where everyone belongs, where wandering is always welcome, and where no two visits will ever be the same.

RB Racing Museum

300 Lunenburg St., (rear), Fitchburg
978-345-7227 
ronbouchard.com/rb-racing-museum/
RB Racing Museum, honoring the local NASCAR legend Ron Bouchard. See Ron's 1981 Talladega winning #47 car.

RECREATION

Cornerstone Ranch

29 Dowds Ln., Princeton
cornerstoneranch.org   
Riding lessons, trail riding, birthday parties, horse-drawn rides, and year-round activities for all ages.


FunStuf Party Place

791 Water St., Fitchburg
978-342-5000
funstufpartyplace.com 
Entertainment center where toddlers, kids, teenagers and adults all can have a blast in the arcade and playground. "It's All About the Party!"

Groton Hill Music Center

122 Old Ayer Road, Groton
978-486-95214
grotonhill.org
Founded in 1985 as a community resource for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. For over 35 years, we've been a leader in music education and performance. Sharing the transformative power of music.



Mulligan's Miniature Golf

124 Leominster Rd., Sterling
978-422-5022
mulligansminigolf.com 
Outdoor, 18-hole mini-golf course with glow-in-the-dark nights & a snack cart; open April-October.




Nashoba Paddler, LLC

398 West Main St., Groton
978-448-8699
nashobapaddler.com 
Canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard rentals, tours, and instruction on the Nashua River. Easy paddling on a beautiful, forested river. Group discounts. Open May - October.

RC Excitement

208 Bemis Rd., Fitchburg
978-342-3374
RCexcitement.com  
The premier racing complex in the northeast, home to family racing fun, with indoor/outdoor tracks to challenge all skill levels. Hobby and RC repair shop.




Wachusett Mountain Ski Area

499 Mountain Rd., Princeton
978-464-2300
wachusett.com   
With a 1,000-foot vertical drop, 2,006-foot elevation, 26 trails, 8 lifts. Big mountain skiing close to home.

Winchendon History and Cultural Center

151 Front St., Winchendon
978-297-2142 
winchendonhistoricalsociety.org
The Center exhibits its large collection at the 22-room Murdock-Whitney House Museum. A new Toy Museum features Converse Toys.

Worcester Railers HC


105 Commercial St., Worcester
508-365-1756
railershc.com   
The Railers are a professional ice hockey team based in Worcester. The team is a member in the Northern Division of the Eastern Conference of the ECHL.

RESTAURANTS/ FOOD

Aroma Joe's

200 New Lancaster Rd., Leominster
719-649-7190
aromajoes.com   
Fueling the modern world by focusing daily on the customer.

Bull Run Restaurant

215 Great Rd., Shirley 
978-425-4311 | bullrunrestaurant.com
Restaurant and entertainment venue set in an historic 1740 Tavern. Entertainment, trivia night, Friendly Friday sing-along and Saturday Jazz.



Carlson Orchards, Inc.

115 Oak Hill Rd., Harvard
978-456-3916
carlsonorchards.com   
Open July to November. Pick your own fruit in season from apples, peaches, cherries, nectarines, blueberries, and raspberries. Over 100 acres of fruit orchards.

Cherry Hill Ice Cream

826 Leominster Rd., Lunenburg
978-582-7955
53 Main St., Rte 119, Townsend
978-597-0011
cherryhill-icecream.com  
With locations in Townsend and Lunenburg, our Ice Cream stands focus on Customer Service and a great family experience.

Dairy Queen

18 Sack Boulevard, Leominster
978 798-1053  
dairyqueen.com/en-us/locations/ma/leominster/18-sack-boulevard/15819/
Soft-serve ice cream & signature shakes top the menu at this classic burger & fries fast-food chain.

Dutch Kitchen Bake Shop & Deli

12 John Fitch Hwy, Fitchburg
978-345-1393  
dutchkitchenbakeshop.com
Everything served is always fresh-made and traditional, with only the highest quality ingredients.

El Friquitin de Jenny

35 Main Street, Fitchburg 
fb.com/people/El-Friquitin-de-Jenny/100091731296818/
El Friquitin de Jenny specializes in Street Food, Sandwiches, Catering Services and more representing the Taste of our Puertorrican Culture!

Evie Cakes

35 Main Street, Fitchburg
781-424-1932 
fb.com/p/Evie-Cakes-100073247574057/
The menu continues to grow every day with new flavors of specialty cupcakes, brownies, cookies, and more. Custom cake orders available, made with love just for you!

Gold Bowl

22 Ashby State Rd., Fitchburg 
978-348-2088
goldbowlfitchburg.com
With years in business, we adhering to the principle "customer is the King." We always are aiming to assure you a remarkable dining experience.

Hollis Hills Farm

340 Marshall Rd., Fitchburg
978-696-3130
hollishillsfarm.com 
Family owned and operated with their own maple products, local ice cream, pick your own fruits and flowers. Outdoor bar and restaurant open seasonally.

Ikiaremy Sweets & Restaurant

314 Central St., Winchendon 
978-660-8091
fb.com/p/Ikiaremy-Sweets-Restaurant-100060519784168/
Puerto Rican food with takeout favorites like pork and rice, empanadillas, alcapurrias, and more. Indulge in our variety of desserts, plus custom cupcakes, birthday cakes, and wedding cakes. Flavor and tradition in every bite!

Il Forno Restaurant

494 Electric Ave., Lunenburg
978-345-2511
il-forno.com   
Bustling family-run eatery featuring wood-fired pizzas & other classic Italian dishes plus BYOB.

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kimballfarm.com  
For over 75 years, Kimball Farm has served its famous, homemade ice cream, and providing some of the freshest seafood around. Open (April-Oct.)

KRO's on the Common in Templeton

10 Baldwinville Rd, Templeton
978-652-5780
krosonthecommon.com  
Enjoy local food from area farms!

Legends Bar & Grille

68 Airport Road, Ste. 10, Fitchburg
978-342-6500
legendsbarandgrille.com
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40 Main St., Leominster
978-534-5090 
mainstreetgiftandcafe.com
Stop by for a delicious breakfast or lunch. Sit, relax and chat or look around at our unique selection of cards and gifts.




Victor's on Main

423 Main Street, Fitchburg
978-343-5719 
Freshly made Dominican cuisine located in downtown Fitchburg. Come and sample a taste of the islands.

Mera's Cakes

150A Main St., Fitchburg
978-394-5356 
fb.com/mermarpuertoricancake
Mera's Cakes specializes in Dubai chocolate bars, Dubai strawberry cups, cheesecake, fresh lemonades, breakfast sandwiches, cold brew coffee, and more.



Moon Hill Brewing and Gardner Ale House

74 Parker St., Gardner
978-669-0122
gardnerale.com   
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Mountainside Bakery & Cafe

213 Mountain Rd., Princeton
978-464-0300  
mountainsideprinceton.com
Enjoy our from scratch bakery, locally roasted coffees, hearty soups and sandwiches and coveted frosted cinnamon buns on the weekends!

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69 State Rd. E, (Rte 2A E), Westminster
978-874-5941 | 1761oldmill.com  
Full-service family restaurant serving delicious meals with old-fashioned hospitality. Lunch and dinner menu daily. (Open Tue.-Sun.)

Parkhill Pizza

96 Franklin Rd., Fitchburg
978-343-7100
parkhillpizza.com
Park Hill Pizza serves delicious Pizza, Pasta, Salad and much more. We are open 7 days and look forward to serving you.

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814 North Main St., Leominster
978-534-1555
pizzakingleominster.com 
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695 Main Street, Fitchburg
978-660-2314  
finickyforkcatering.com
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117 Chace Hill Road, Sterling
978-365-9710
rotaspringfarm.com 
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206 Meriam Ave., Leominster
978-235-6634
simplysweetcakeshop.com  
Simply Sweet by Christine specializes in fresh baked goods and beautiful delicious cakes and for any occasion.

Slattery's Restaurant

106 Lunenburg St., Fitchburg
978-342-8880
slatterysrestaurant.com 
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35 Main St., Fitchburg
978-602-6240  
facebook.com/taco.queen.2025
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thecentralcup.com  
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112 Main St., Ste. #5, Pepperell
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thelazybubble.com  
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Available at The Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center
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DeBonisFlowers.com

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Diamond Hearts Arts Studio

7 Wall Street #1, Fitchburg
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diamondheartsartstudio.com
We're a wife and husband team of artists creating abstract acrylic painting and crafts in Central Mass.




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342 Baldwinville Rd.,
PO Box 157, Templeton
978-939-8146

Forty delicious flavors of homemade fudge. We sell our famous fudge at craft shows, fairs, festivals and at the Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center.

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goldengirlgranola.com   

Produces gourmet granola products. Flavors including Forest Maple and Chocolate Decadence, can be found in grocery and specialty stores.

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268 Baldwinville Rd., Templeton
978-939-8558

templetonkitchengarden.com 

Baked goods, Finnish coffee bread, made daily in our kitchen, gifts, specialty foods, books, and more. Ice cream shop open May-October.

The Good Earth Farm & Garden Center

633 W. Broadway, Gardner
978-632-0991  

thegoodearthfgc.com

The Good Earth (TGE) is not your average farm and garden center. We strive to be much more. Our goal is to promote the well-being of the entire community.

Nutrishop Fitchburg

228 Whalon Street, Fitchburg
978-627-3675  

nutrishopfitchburg.com

Stop by today so we can help get you started on the right track towards your healthy goals!



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100 Crawford St., Leominster
978-534-7668 

fb.com/rootsnaturalfoods

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Sage Home Collection


137 Mill Street, Leominster
978-798-1347  

sagehomecollections.com

Sage Home Collections is a plant boutique with hand-selected plants, curated gifts, crystals, and more!

Smith's Country Cheese



20 Otter River Rd., Winchendon
978-939-5738

smithscountrycheese.com  

Old fashioned traditions of creamy Gouda, Havarti, and cheddar cheeses. We also carry gourmet local food items, home décor, and more!

Tomten Biketown, LLC

1029 Central St., Leominster
978-840-3221


tomtenbiketown.com  

Tomten Biketown is a place to celebrate bicycles and bicycle culture. Our team is passionate about riding, and we are dedicated to serving and growing the local bicycle community and beyond. Tomten welcomes everyone - young and old, seasoned riders to those just beginning their journey, competitors to leisure riders.

SERVICES

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978-829-1780

fitchburgpubliclibrary.org 

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polarbev.com  

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978-343-3766

sales@kzone1053.com 

WPKZ 105.3FM & AM1280 is your local community radio station and Sox affiliate, news, traffic, and more from 5 am-7 pm.

WXLO Radio

250 Commercial St., Worcester
508-752-1045

wxlo.com   

104.5 XLO has a transmitter in Leominster at about 677 feet. Its signal is one of the biggest in the area spanning over 100 miles and covering all of Central New England.



SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS!



Main Street Gift & Cafe. 40 Main Street, Leominster.



*Groton Hill Music Center.
122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton*

Quick Picks

Add Art Hopping to Your Fall Travel List!

In the cute Petersham Center, lies the **Petersham Art Center** at 8 North Street — a mile north of Petersham Common.

An all-volunteer, non-profit home for the arts since its beginnings in 1912, Petersham Art Center showcases fine craft and art of the region and beyond. Welcoming volunteers organize sales from exhibitions and operate a gift shop.

Open Saturdays from noon to 4 pm.
(978) 724-3415.

Visit: fb.com/petershamartcenter

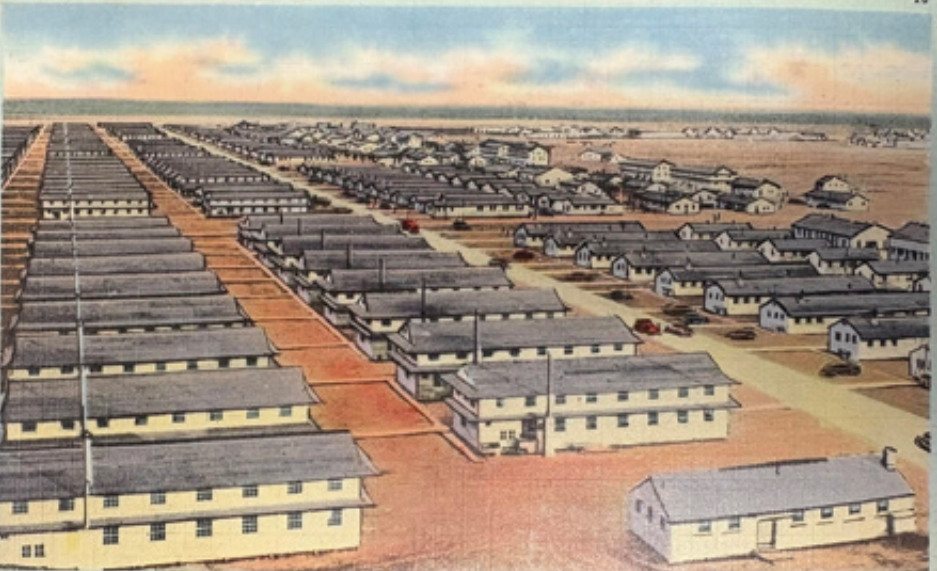
The Fort Devens Museum, located at 97 Jackson Road #305 in Devens, was incorporated in 2000. The, non-profit, Fort Devens Museum, collects, preserves, and shares artifacts and stories that tell the history of Camp Devens and Fort Devens, once New England's largest US Army base. More than a million men, women, and children have passed through Fort Devens.

Exhibits include photographs, letters, documents, equipment, uniforms, and personal artifacts from those who lived, trained, and worked at Camp and Fort Devens. Those with items to donate or place on loan will contact the museum.

Open from 10 am to 3 pm on Tuesdays, Fridays, and the third Saturday of each month.
(978) 772-1286.

Visit: fortdevensmuseum.org

Air View of Barracks at Fort Devens, Mass.



Postcard of Fort Devens.

Fitchburg's Fall Favorite

by Helen Obermeyer-Simmons

Fitchburg Open Studios offers a free, self-guided art discovery tour on October 18 and 19. Fitchburg Cultural Alliance coordinates the event.

The Fitchburg Open Studios tour includes Boulder Art Gallery, Main Street Studios, Fitchburg Historical Society and Gallery Marquee in Fitchburg along with Creative Connections Gift Shop and Gallery in Ashburnham and Gallery Sitka in Shirley.

For participating artists, the open studios tour offers a chance to introduce their work to new audiences, make new connections, and set the stage for future interactions.

With the city of Fitchburg as core of the tour, Open Studios branches off to include artists in neighboring communities within an easy drive

of each other. Visitors may obtain a brochure, plan the day, and even enjoy leaf peeping along the way.

Whether art lovers, new to the art scene, or simply curious about art and the creative process, visitors will find Open Studios an opportunity to experience working spaces, exhibition spaces, and studios of the region's accomplished artists. Artists will welcome visitors to meet them, network, watch demonstrations and techniques, and view creative spaces and processes. Artwork will be available for sale directly from the source.

In its sixth year, Fitchburg Open Studios has become an annual event. Each stop offers its own unique and varied experience. Visitors may visit as many studios as they wish.

Participants say Fitchburg Open Studios qualifies as a unique opportunity and an inspirational event, a great way to meet people passionate about art and an opportunity to talk shop while interacting with artists in their personal studios and workspaces.



Fitchburg Open Studios at FAM, 2022.

Fitchburg Open Studios is Back!

Under auspices of Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, artists and galleries open their doors to visitors on Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19. Mass Cultural Council and Fitchburg Cultural Council support the event.

2025 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

Boulder Art Gallery
960 Main Street • Fitchburg

Gallery Sitka
2 Shaker Road, D101 • Shirley

The Idea Lab
721 Main Street • Fitchburg

Iphigenia Gossios Burg
Artist

Main Street Studios
21 Atlantic Avenue • Fitchburg

Atom the Artist
Artist and tattooer

Heather Barros
Artist

Ricardo Barros
Photographer and writer

Toad Hallow Studios
33 Summer Street • Fitchburg

Jessica Clarke
Artist

Main Street Studios
675 Main Street • Fitchburg

Katarina Bloomingdale
Artist

Digi Chivetta
Artist

Jennifer Jones
Musician

Sarah Kelsey
Artist
Thomas Moser
Mixed media artist

Shara Osgood
Artist

Brian Otundo
Artist

Carolyn Quirk
Artist

Ukulele J
Musician

Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19

Fitchburg Art Museum
185 Elm Street • Fitchburg

Helen Obermeyer Simmons
Artist

Young Coff33 Productions
923 Main Street • Fitchburg

AlleyCat Wool Primitives
149 Highview Street • Fitchburg

Diane Sicard
Artist

New Dawn Art Center
84 Elm Street • Ashburnham

Clara Dennison
Artist

Creative Connections Gallery
56 Main Street • Ashburnham

Randy LeSage
Artist

Rick Roth
Artist

Linda Williams
Artist/weaver

Country Weaver
863 West Road • Ashby



Two Local Fitchburg Staples

Slattery's:

Fitchburg's Beloved American Gem

Nestled almost right downtown in Fitchburg on **106 Lunenburg Street** just a few blocks from **Fitchburg State University** and the **Wallace Ice Arena**, Slattery's has been a community fixture since its founding in **1934**. What began as a working man's bar evolved over the past thirty years into a full service dining destination under the stewardship of chef owner **Dave Celuzza** while maintaining its welcoming, hometown spirit.

Why Slattery's

Historic Charm — With roots going back nearly a century, Slattery's delivers a sense of local history.

Warm, Neighborhood Vibe — Slattery's anchors the community. Filled with locals, it is a great place to connect with family and friends and to make new friends..

Excellent Menu & Drinks — From classic comfort dishes like **fried zucchini sticks, potato skins, lobster mac & cheese, and mozzarella gnocchi & meatballs** to seasonal turkey dinners and an array of salads, burgers, and small plates—Slattery's welcomes every palate including with vegetarian and gluten free options.

Perfect for the Fitchburg Explorer

For travelers visiting Fitchburg, Slattery's makes an ideal stop to refuel after exploring the **Fitchburg Art Museum** or **Coggs Hall Park** or walking the **Steam Line Trail along Nashua River**.

With outdoor dining (weather permitting) and a friendly bar, Slattery's suits a variety of moods and group sizes—say a family-sized dinner in a cozy corner.

Parking is convenient, and the menu includes kid-friendly options.

Local Favorites & Standout Dishes

Slattery's offers signature dishes including those here you'll want to try:

- ➔ FRIED ZUCCHINI STICKS WITH HORSERADISH CREAM
- ➔ LOADED POTATO SKINS WITH TOPPINGS
- ➔ RICOTTA GNOCCHI & MEATBALLS
- ➔ SHRIMP SCAMPI
- ➔ OLDE ENGLISH FISH & CHIPS

Practical Info for Tourists

Open: Tuesday–Sunday, typically from 11:30 AM to 9:00 PM (hours may vary; confirm before visiting). Closed Mondays.

Pricing: Mid range (\$\$), around \$25 per person for a nice meal, more with drinks. Group meals can be around \$50 each with drinks and apps.

Accessibility & Amenities:

Wheelchair accessible, outdoor seating, full bar, takeout and delivery available. Ideal for families, solo diners, and sports fans.

Slattery's provides private rooms available for year round events including graduations, showers, & more.



*Legends Bar & Grille in Fitchburg.
68 Airport Rd, Fitchburg.*

Food & Drinks That Impress

Visitors highlight standout dishes like:

- MAC & CHEESE
- STEAK TIPS
- BURGERS & WINGS
- CHICKEN WRAP & CAJUN FRIES

Drink offerings include local beers such as selections from Moon Hill Brewery of Gardner and creative cocktails and mocktails perfect for winding down after a day of sightseeing.

A Hub for Game Watcher & Social Nightlife

Whether you're excited to catch a Red Sox game or just enjoy friendly banter with locals, Legends delivers. With high- and low-top tables and a bustling bar, it's ideal for travelers looking to engage in Fitchburg's social fabric or simply unwind with a cold drink and good company.

Beyond the Food: For the Fitchburg Explorer

Situated just a short drive from downtown and close to attractions

like **Fitchburg Art Museum**, **Coggshall Park**, and **Nashua River trails**, Legends counts as perfect for a casual dinner or post adventure meetup.

Parking is easy, and the setting feels relaxed yet lively—just what visitors often seek after a day of local exploration.

Practical Visitor Info

Open Hours:

Wednesday & Thursday:

11:30 AM–8:30 PM

Friday & Saturday:

11:30 AM–9:30 PM

Closed Sunday through Tuesday

Legends doesn't take reservations, so drop-in dining is best.

Pricing: Extremely reasonable—most dishes fall under \$20, making it a budget friendly option.

Ambience: Lively with occasional noise but a festival-like energy on busy nights. The layout includes a large bar and an additional room likely used for events. 🍷

Legends Grille & Sports Bar:

A Local Destination for Travelers

Located at 68 Airport Road in Fitchburg, Legends Grille & Sports Bar has been a community staple since 2012 offering a welcoming sports-bar atmosphere paired with unexpectedly refined American fare.

Why Legends

More than Just Game Day — It is a go-to for sports fans with numerous TVs broadcasting local and national sports.

Delicious from Scratch — The menu relies on scratch-made dishes and weekly specials. They have earned a reputation for some of the best burgers and mac & cheese around.

Friendly Service & Local Charm

— Patrons often remark on the welcoming servers and cozy setting. Legends can get lively and noisy when busy.

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Legend

- * – No pool, but has a babbling brook
- ◇ – Indoor pool
- ◆ – Indoor waterpark

	# of Rooms	Free Breakfast	Restaurant on Site	Wedding Venue	Swimming Pool	Gym/Fitness Center	Banquet/Meeting Spaces	Pets Allowed
Boxborough Regency 242 Adams Place Boxborough 978-263-8701 boxbororegency.com	143	•	•	•	•	•	• (15) Cap. 500+	•
Chocksett Inn 59 Laurelwood Road, Sterling 978-422-3355 chocksettinn.com	26 Suites	•	•	•	*	•	• (2) Cap. 275	•
Colonial Hotel 625 Betty Spring Road Gardner 978-630-2500 colonial-hotel.com	112 5 Suite		•	•	◇	•	• (7) Cap. 400	•
Courtyard By Marriot Boston Littleton 102 Constitution Avenue Littleton 978-440-5040 marriott.com/en-us/hotels/bosit-courtyard-boston-littleton/overview	115				•	•	• Cap. 50	
DoubleTree by Hilton 99 Erdman Way, Leominster 978.534.9000 leominster.doubletree.com	187 22 Jr. Suites		•	•	◇	•	• (15) Cap. 550	
Great Wolf Lodge New England Waterpark 150 Great Wolf Drive Fitchburg 800-905-9653 greatwolf.com/newengland	406 96 Suites		•	•	◆	•	• (7) Cap. 500	
The Groton Inn 128 Main Street, Groton 978-448-6600 thegrotoninn.com	60 5 Suites	•	•	•		•	• (5) Cap. 150	
Maguire House 30 Cobb Road, Ashburnham 978-827-5053 maguirehouse.com	3	•	Nearby					
SpringHill Suites by Marriott/Devens Common 27 Andrews Parkway, Devens 978-772-3030 devenscommoncenter.com/devens-common-center-accommodations	120	•	Nearby	•		•	• (5) Cap. 500	

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