

The Guide to

FREE

North Central Massachusetts



In This Issue...

Come to the Faire!

It's Time to Get Fresh!

Paddle On

Calendar of Events



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The Guide to North Central Massachusetts

Visit North Central Massachusetts

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

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

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Johnny Appleseed Country



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For statewide planning information, www.visitma.com

Happy 250th, Johnny!

Of course you've heard of Johnny Appleseed — he's our official Massachusetts Folk Hero and a national legend.

It's likely that the mention of his name conjures up images of a rag-tag fellow with a stewpot for a hat and a bag on his back, casually strewing apple seeds as he wanders across the countryside. This caricature, familiar to anyone who has read childhood books, is both popular and misleading. Popular, because it gives instant recognition to Johnny and his travels across the country. But misleading because John Chapman — also known as Johnny Appleseed — was actually a successful businessman who helped many pioneers survive and new communities flourish.



Yes, there's so much more to the story of Johnny Appleseed ... and 2024 is a great time to learn about the man and the legend, because we're celebrating Johnny's 250th birthday!

Born right here in Leominster on September 26, 1774, John Chapman was the son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Simons Chapman. Not much is known about his early life other than that his mother died when he was just two years old. His father packed up Johnny and his sister and moved about 50 miles across the state, settling in the Springfield area.

As a young man, Johnny headed west, making a name for himself as a businessman as he travelled for nearly 50 years across a growing nation. Along the way, he planted apple seeds — not scattering them carelessly, but with an eye toward a future market for his crops. He sold, and often gave away, seeds and seedlings to settlers in communities. Historians tell us that Johnny was a vegetarian, a lifelong bachelor, and religious man of peace — a "primitive Christian." He died in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on March 18, 1845.

But his legend lives on! Each year, we celebrate National Johnny Appleseed Day on his birthday, September 26.

His hometown of Leominster will be celebrating Johnny's 250th this fall, complete with a special display at the Historical Society, lectures, a dance, special



school programs and celebratory events at Sholan Farms, the last working orchard in the city. There will be souvenirs, too, including a commemorative coin and stamp cancellation.

You can learn more about Johnny Appleseed at a spot that bears his name: The Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center on Route 2 Westbound, between Exits 103 & 102. The center is stocked with a variety of books suitable for all ages — from coloring books for kids to more serious historical volumes. A display case serves as home to an assortment of Johnny memorabilia, and visitors can purchase first-day stamped postcards bearing the official Johnny Appleseed postage stamp.

Kids might enjoy having their pictures taken with the bronze statue of a youthful Johnny, standing at the entrance to the center! §

The City of GARDNER

CHAIR CITY



Events

Gardner Art & Music Festival
Youth Commission Movies
in Monument Park
Summer Concerts in Monument Park
Square Two's Gardner Birthday
Celebration Downtown
Food Truck Festival
Farmers Market

Recreation

Greenwood Memorial Pool
Gardner Municipal Golf Course
Dunn State Park
Pulaski Playground & Dog Park
Jackson Playground & Skate Park
Crystal Lake Park
North Central Pathway
Perley Brook Trails
Bailey Brook Park

Check our website and social media for updates on upcoming events.

www.gardner-ma.gov

 @GardnerCityHall

 @CityofGardner



A Sweet Stop

March is oh, so sweet here, as maple trees awake from their winter slumber and the clear sap starts flowing — right into waiting tubes and buckets of local maple syrup producers! Maple sugaring season begins when temperatures drop below freezing at night and rise into the 40s during the day, creating a freeze-thaw cycle that causes the maple sap to flow. It's a short season, so be sure to take advantage and enjoy!

Here's a sampling of where you can watch the creation of this early spring treat:

Hollis Hills Farm in Fitchburg is the largest maple producer in eastern Massachusetts, processing sap from about 6,000 taps ... collecting around 80,000 gallons of sap each spring.

The clear sap is then boiled (and boiled, and boiled) until it magically becomes rich, flavorful maple syrup.

During maple season, the retail store is open and stocked with fresh maple treats, hot coffee, buffet breakfast and more. The Sugar House at 340 Marshall Rd. is open on a weekend-by-weekend basis throughout the month, depending on sap flow. Call for their boiling schedule (978-696-3130) and plan to stop by to watch the magic happen!

In Royalston, you can stop by the **Sweet Water Sugar House** at 56 Brown Road to see the boiling happen in a 15 x 20 foot sugar shack. Take a stroll through the woods and see how the sap flows into gravity-fed tubing on its way to become that sweet treat we all love.



Big Head Fred's sugar house at 417 Flat Hill Rd., Lunenburg, is open on weekends during maple season ... look for the maple kettle corn, maple candy and more sweet treats!

Maxwell's Maple is a new, small scale producer in Lancaster. Stop by 370 Goss Lane on a Saturday or Sunday, from 8 am-5 pm, from mid-February to mid-April to watch the process. You just might also find maple cream, maple sugar and fresh syrup snow-taffy, too! Learn more at maxwellsmapple.com. §



THE CITY OF FITCHBURG



ONGOING

FIRST THURSDAYS DOWNTOWN FITCHBURG

Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.
Free admittance 12-7 pm
Farmers Market 3-5:30 pm
through May

TUESDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 30, 6:15-7:30 PM

Yoga in the Gallery
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

THROUGH JUNE 2

On Her Terms: *Feminine Power Embodied, Portrayed by Eakins: Ella Crowell as Model and Student, and Capital Vice: Politics of the Seven Deadly Sins*
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

THROUGH JUNE 23

Ria Brodell: *Butch Heroes*
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Africa Rising: *21st Century African Photography*
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

MARCH

THURSDAY 2, 12-3 PM

"High Tea with Lucy Fay & Friends"
Hosted by Stratton Players
The Fay Club, 658 Main St.

THURSDAY 7

Community Club Expo
YMCA, 55 Wallace Ave.

SATURDAY 16, 11 AM-2 PM

Art at the Intersection of Health and Well-Being
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

FRIDAY 22-SATURDAY 30

Ray Cooney's "Out of Order"
New Players Theater Guild, 15 Rollstone Ave.
3/22, 3/23, 3/28, and 3/29 at 7:30 pm
and 3/24 and 3/30 at 2:30 pm

SUNDAY 24

Curator & Conservator Talk, 2 PM
Words That You Can See, 6-9 PM
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

APRIL

THURSDAY 4, 7 PM

17th Annual Benefit Drag Show "Dancing Queens"
Fitchburg State University
Recreation Center, 130 North St.

SUNDAY 7, 2 PM

Gallery Talk: *On Her Terms: Feminine Power Embodied*
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.
Second date: Sunday, May 19 at 2 pm

SUNDAY 14-SATURDAY 20

Fitchburg Pride: 01420 Week
Assorted venues & locations

SUNDAY 21, 12-3 PM

Fitchburg Celebrates Earth Day
Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St.

THURSDAY 25-SUNDAY 28

26th Annual "Art in Bloom"
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St.

MAY

ALTERNATE FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS, MAY-SEPTEMBER

Mill Street Music Series hosted by The Cellar
Mill Street Plaza, 14 Mill St.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 4 & 5

Fitchburg Arts & Culture Extravaganza
Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St.

SATURDAY 18, 12-5 PM

Annual Food Truck Festival
166 Boulder Dr.

SATURDAY 25, 10 AM

Rock Walk to Rollstone Hill
Meet at the Boulder Art Gallery, 960 Main St.

SUNDAY 26, 6 PM

Memorial Day "White Cross Ceremony"
Monument Park, 597 Main St.

MONDAY 27, 10:30 AM

Memorial Day Ceremony
857 Main St., Upper Common

JUNE

THURSDAY 6 THROUGH OCTOBER, 3-5:30 PM

Fitchburg Farmers Market
Upper Common, 857 Main St.

WEDNESDAY 12, 2-5 PM

DPW Day
Coolidge Park, 198 Townsend Ave.

SATURDAY 29, 1-6 PM

Civic Days: 14th Annual Nashua River Brewers Festival
Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St.

JULY

WEDNESDAY 3, 4-10 PM

Civic Days: Downtown Block Party
Along Main St. (downtown Fitchburg)

WEDNESDAY 3, 5-10 PM

Civic Days: Block Party Open House
Fitchburg Historical Society,
781 Main St.

WEDNESDAY 3, 9 PM

Civic Days: Fireworks Display
Fireworks shoot off from
Rollstone Hill

THURSDAY 4, 10 AM

Civic Days: Independence Day Parade
Parade begins at 265 Summer St. and proceeds along Main St. through downtown

SUNDAY 7, 11 AM-2 PM

16th Annual Amazing Duck Race (Along the Nashua River)
Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St.

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 10 THROUGH AUGUST 21, 6-8 PM

Concerts on the Common
Fitchburg Upper Common (Gazebo), 857 Main St.

THURSDAYS, JULY 25 THROUGH AUGUST 22, 7:45-9:45 PM

Movies in the Park
Fitchburg City Hall Lawn, behind 700 Main St.

AUGUST

TUESDAY 6, 5-7 PM

Fitchburg "National Night Out"
Lowe Park, 174 Elm St.

SUNDAY 18, 2-4:30 PM

Friends of Coggs Hall Concert:
Neurotic Gumbo
Coggs Hall Park, 159 Electric Ave.

WEDNESDAY 28, 9 AM-12 PM

Wildlife Wonders
Coggs Hall Park, 159 Electric Ave.



The Town of Westminister

Welcomes You!

Farmers Market

Fridays, 3 PM - 6:30 PM
May - Oct on Academy Hill Road
www.westminsterfarmersmarket.com

Historical Society Plant

Swap & Sale
Saturday, May 11th 3 PM - 6:30 PM

Looking for great places to hike? Westminister offers many beautiful and picturesque hiking trails!

Town-Wide Yard Sale

Saturday, June 15th 8 AM - 3 PM

Summer Band Concerts

Wednesday Nights, July & August
7 PM - 9 PM

Town Benefit

Sunday, August 11th
11 AM on Academy Hill

Find out more at: www.westminster-ma.gov



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AND
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES ON
UPCOMING EVENTS:

FITCHBURGMA.GOV



@FitchburgMassachusetts



@Fitchburg365

All events are subject to
change or postponement.



It's Time to Get Fresh!

It doesn't get any fresher than this: Juicy strawberries, still warm from the sun-drenched field. Plump blueberries, straight from the bush. Delicate raspberries, sparkling with dew. Bright yellow summer squash, shiny purple eggplants, brilliant red tomatoes, and so much more, ready to take center stage on your table.

Summer's arrival in North Central Massachusetts brings with it great opportunities to visit local farms to pick your own fruit or select from bounteous farmstand displays of fruits and veggies. Unlike pre-packaged berries that have been shipped across the country, these are locally-

grown and fresh as can be! And local roadside stands and farmers markets often offer varieties of vegetables you won't find in the supermarket: purple beans that magically turn green when cooked; Roma tomatoes for your favorite sauce; hot jalapeño peppers, and more!

Whether you want to spend some special family time picking fruit yourself or are anxious to grab some tasty ingredients for baking or jam-making, opportunities abound here.

Don't know where to start? Here's a sampling of pick-your-own farms and farmstands in the region:

Carlson Orchards 115 Oak Hill Road Harvard

Pick your own blueberries, raspberries, sweet cherries and peaches, as they ripen. And don't forget the 20 varieties of apples! Check their Facebook page daily to see what's available, and stop by the farmstand for everything from hard cider to farm-fresh eggs.

Hollis Hills Farm 340 Marshall Road Fitchburg

Love peaches? The Hollis Hills Farm orchard is filled with the sweet treats from mid-July through August. The pick-your-own season starts in June with a half-dozen varieties of strawberries, and continues into fall.

Lanni Orchards 294 Chase Road Lunenburg

This family farm will keep you coming back all summer for strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, seedless grapes, nectarines, plums, pears, apples, Concord grapes...and don't forget the pumpkins in autumn!

Meadowbrook Orchards 209 Chace Hill Road Sterling

You'll find apples, blueberries, nectarines and raspberries and more at this farm run by the Chandler family since 1912.

Red Apple Farm 455 Highland Avenue Phillipston

The blueberries and raspberries are bountiful in July—and apples actually ripen earlier than you might think! Need a little refreshment? Here's a tip to entice the kids: The ice cream window is open, too.

Sholan Farms 1125 Pleasant Street Leominster

U-Pick Blueberries, raspberries, apples and more will tempt you here—along with the great view overlooking the city! This volunteer-run orchard usually holds special events throughout the season, too.

To Market, To Market

Looking for a wide selection of produce, baked goods, handcrafts and more? Swing by a Farmers Market! You can find a listing of markets available every day of the week in the Calendar Section of this *Guide!*



Celebrate the seasons in Leominster

MARCH

- 14-20** **LEOMINSTER YOUTH ART SHOW**
Weekdays, 8:30am – 4pm
City Hall, Tata Auditorium
- 17-23** **PIZZA CRAWL**
Sunday – Saturday, All day
Throughout the city
- 21** **INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**
Thursday, 4 – 6pm
City Hall, Tata Auditorium
- 29** **EASTER FUNDAY**
Friday, 10am – 2pm
City Hall, Tata Auditorium

APRIL

- 18** **INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**
Thursday, 4 – 6pm
City Hall, Tata Auditorium
- 18** **LEOMINSTER EARTHFEST**
Thursday, 6 – 8pm
City Hall, Tata Auditorium
- 22** **LEOMINSTER CLEANUP** (Ongoing until May 22)
All day
Throughout the city

MAY

- 9** **LIGHT THE TOWN PURPLE**
Thursday, 4 – 5pm
City Hall, front steps
- 16** **INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**
Thursday, 4 – 6pm
City Hall, Tata Auditorium
- 18** **CITYWIDE YARD SALE**
Saturday, 8am – 3pm
Throughout the city

JUNE

- 1** **LEOMINSTER FARMERS MARKET**
Saturday, 11am – 2pm
The Common
- 15** **SUMMER STROLL**
Saturday, 3 – 7pm
Downtown Leominster
- 28** **PINK FLAMINGO DAY**
Friday, 5 – 7pm
The Common
- 29-30** **LEOMINSTER BARGAIN DAYS**
Saturday & Sunday, all day
Throughout the city

JULY

- 6** **LEOMINSTER FARMERS MARKET**
Saturday, 11am – 2pm
The Common

AUGUST

- 3** **LEOMINSTER FARMERS MARKET**
Saturday, 11am – 2pm
The Common
- 6** **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**
Tuesday, 5 – 8pm
Downtown Leominster
- 17** **MASSIVE CRAFT BEER GARDEN**
Saturday, 3 – 7pm
The Common
- 27** **DINING UNDER THE STARS**
Tuesday, 6 – 10pm
Central Street

Events are subject to change or postponement. For the most current event information, head to [Leominster Community Development](#).

[facebook.com/leominstercommunitydevelopment](#) or [leominster-ma.gov](#)

Dishing Up a World of Flavor

When you're hungry but just don't know what you're in the mood to munch on, there's no better place to be than at a food truck festival!

Think about it: Beefy Burritos. Chili Dogs. Meatball Parmigiana. Empanadas. Brisket Sandwiches. Polish Kapusta. Good old home-style Mac & Cheese. Or maybe you want to give in to temptation and satisfy that sweet tooth with a chocolate cannoli, candy apple, cinnamon churro or a decadent cupcake. Go for it!

The choices can seem endless, so it's a good thing that there are food truck festivals popping up throughout North Central Massachusetts this year! Whether you're an experienced foodie, or a newcomer to the world of gustatory celebrations, be prepared to enjoy a great community event filled with culinary discovery.

Trucks of all sizes,

colors, and cuisines will be congregating in May in downtown **Fitchburg**, and in June at Verbeck Field in **Devens** and GAR Park in **Winchendon**. You'll find a foodie heaven in downtown **Gardner** in July when streets around City Hall fill with tasty treat trucks, too.

And while they're not necessarily taking center stage, you'll find food trucks converging at the **Nashua River Brewers Festival** in Fitchburg at Riverfront Park, because, you know, beer and great munchies just go together.

Still not satisfied? Swing by the **Spring pro.found Market** in Lancaster in June, or the **Town Benefit Day** in Westminster in August. You can find details on these events and more in the Calendar section of this *Guide*.

Bring your appetite. Bring your friends. And bring a list of the foods you're just dying to try at the next local food truck event! §



Ready to dive in?

Mark your calendar for these events.

May 18 Saturday, 12 – 5 pm Annual Food Truck Festival in downtown Fitchburg.

June 1 Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm
Devens Food Truck & Craft Festival at Verbeck Field, 27 Antietam Street, Devens.
Rain date June 2.

June 8 – 9 Saturday & Sunday, 8:30 am
Spring pro.found Market 2024 at the Lancaster Fairgrounds, 318 Seven Bridge Road, Lancaster.

June 28 Friday, 4 pm
Food Truck Festival and Battle of the Bands at GAR Park, 52 Murdock Ave., Winchendon

June 29 Saturday, 1 – 6 pm
Nashua River Brewers Festival at Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St., Fitchburg.

July 13 Saturday, 12 – 8 pm
Food Truck Festival in downtown Gardner.

August 11, Sunday, 11 am
Town Benefit on Academy Hill, Westminster.



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\$1 Million	Shipping/Distribution
\$500,000	General Dentistry

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- Coffee Cafe Open at 8 AM
- Cider Donuts Made Daily

Open Daily, Year-Round, 9–5



HERE'S THE SCOOP ON SUMMER

You're in the country, where farms and forests abound — so don't be surprised when you find menu options like Cherry Moose Tracks, Cowabunga Crunch, Grasshopper, or Black Raspberry.

Whatever you choose, you know there will be lots of flavor in every scoop of these locally-produced ice cream treats.

No matter where you travel in this region, you're sure to find an ice cream shop that puts a personal twist on the dessert that's been pleasing palates for centuries — some of them churning up that goodness from their own herd of dairy cows!

As you travel the byroads of North Central Massachusetts, be sure to plan a stop at one of the farms, dairy bars, or ice cream shops along the way. Looking for more than a cone of coolness? Let your belt out a notch and dig into a sundae, topped with anything from a traditional hot fudge to seasonal treats like strawberry rhubarb in the spring, or apple pie cobbler in the fall.

Down on the Farm

A snack stop becomes country entertainment, too — when you stop to watch the dairy cows in the field at **Rota Spring** dairy bar in Sterling while you're checking out ice cream flavors like Indian Pudding, Ginger, or limited-edition Lavender or Lemon Dream delights.

And **Murdock Farm** in Winchendon has been producing ice cream for over 60 years! Although the farm no longer makes ice cream from its own milk, the creamy dessert is still made on premises, and you can watch the farm's Longhorn and Watusi cattle—along with cows, pigs and goats—roam in the field. The working family farm also has great views, all the way to Wachusett Mountain in Princeton and Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire.

Hungry for More?

Before you dig into that supersize scoop of creaminess, you might want to enjoy a New England lunch of friend clams and scallops, or a

lobster roll. Swing by **Kimball Farm's** Lancaster shop; it's one of the company's four locations and has been scooping up delicious ice cream — made at its store in nearby Westford — for more than a decade.

Stop by on a Friday evening, and you can check out dozens of classic and vintage cars at Kimball's Cruise Night.

Along with ice cream, **Lickity Splitz** in Winchendon has a full menu of lunch offerings, too. And **The Kitchen Garden's** assortment of home-baked pastries — including astoundingly delicious Scandinavian breads that will keep you coming back to Templeton for more.

So Many Choices!

Still searching for the perfect flavor to satisfy your sweet tooth? Plan a visit to **Cherry Hill** in Lunenburg or **Cherry Hill Too** in Townsend. Although they don't make their own confections, the ice cream scooped up at these dairy bars is made right here in Massachusetts by Bliss Brothers. §

Taking a tasty tour of North Central Massachusetts on a warm, sunny day? Here are some great ice cream bars to check out while you see the sights!

- Kimball Farm**
1643 Lunenburg Rd., Lancaster
Kimballfarm.com
- The Kitchen Garden**
268 Baldwinille Rd., Templeton
Templetonkitchengarden.com
- Murdock Farm**
62 Elmwood Rd., Winchendon
facebook.com/
MurdockFarmDairyDairyBar

- Rota Spring Farm**
117 Chace Hill Rd., Sterling
Rotaspringfarm.com
- Hollis Hills Farm**
340 Marshall Rd., Fitchburg
Hollishillsfarm.com
- Lickity Splitz**
231 Main St., Winchendon
facebook.com/
lickitysplitzwinchendon/
- Red Apple Farm**
455 Highland Ave., Phillipston
Redapplefarm.com
- Bolton Orchards**
125 Still River Rd., Bolton
Boltonorchards.co



A Must-See in Every Season

Wonder blooms year-round at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, a 200-acre garden destination in Central Massachusetts.



NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC GARDEN AT TOWER HILL

BOYLSTON, MA

NEBG.ORG



GET OUT!

No, that's not an order. It's an invitation! While North Central Massachusetts is packed with great indoor spots to visit—from museums to breweries, bowling alleys and boutiques—no trip through the region would be complete without some serious outdoor time.

Throughout the rolling hillsides of the region, there are abundant state and local parks with trails to hike, rivers and lakes to paddle, and waterfalls to marvel at.

Take a Hike

Looking to stretch those car-weary leg muscles? Take a leisurely stroll through Fitchburg's **Coggshall Park**, a surprising mecca not far from the city's core, where ducks glide on Mirror Lake and trails meander through stretches of Mountain Laurel and other cooling greenery. Or head out for a walk along the **Nashua River Rail Trail**, which loosely parallels its namesake waterway. Built on a former Boston and Maine Railroad line, the trail starts its Massachusetts route in Ayer and passes through areas that are popular spots for wildlife viewing, including Pepperell Pond, J. Harry Rich State Forest and Groton School Pond. Also in the eastern part of the region, the **Squannacook River Rail Trail** offers an easy 1.8 mile trek in



Doane's Falls. Photo by John Burk.

Townsend, from Depot Street in the town center to Townsend Harbor.

The **Central Rail Trail** has two trailheads with ample parking in Sterling and offers a level and smooth walk through mostly forested scenery. **The Twin Cities Rail Trail**, a 12-foot wide paved path, currently stretches about four miles from First Street in Fitchburg to Carter Park in Leominster, through residential areas, and past several community parks and playgrounds, local businesses, and the Fitchburg Municipal Airport.

Step into the region's history

with a walk along the **Fitchburg Steam Line**! This historic railway line was once used to transport goods and passengers, but today offers a glimpse into Fitchburg's past and its infrastructure, from train stations to bridges and tunnels, right in the heart of the city. There is a 4.15 acre park at 465 Westminster Street, which includes a parking lot for the mile-long walking trail along the Nashua River and Flag Brook.

Need more intense exercise? Look up to the summit of **Wachusett Mountain** in Princeton. The state reservation has marked trails leading to a stunning vista.

Dip In

When it's time to cool off on a warm summer afternoon, head to a popular swimming area like **Lake Dennison** in Winchendon, **Crow Hill Pond** in Leominster State Forest, or **Mirror Lake** in Devens.

State parks, pools and community ponds abound in the region, so you're never far from a great spot to take a cool dip. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) offers an extensive guide to the state park system, complete with tips on finding great spots for swimming (as well as hiking, camping, fishing and even horseback riding). Visit mass.gov to learn more about the wealth of outdoor activities offered.

Babbling Brooks

Do you love the sound of rushing, splashing, tumbling water? Massachusetts reportedly has more than 100 waterfalls categorized as fans, cascades, or plunging falls, ranging from as little as 15 to several hundred feet in length. This region is home to several beautiful



waterfalls tucked in cooling forest glades, including **Doane's Falls** and **Spirit Falls** in Royalston, and **Trap Falls** in Ashby.

In addition to the state DCR website, you can find detailed information about waterfalls across the state at newenglandwaterfalls.com. The Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center on Route 2 in Lancaster also offers a broad range of maps and books featuring great outdoor spots to visit in the region.

Head outside! Stretch your legs, breathe some fresh air, and enjoy the great outdoors here in Johnny Appleseed Country! §



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PUMPKINS
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PADDLE ON!

Put your running shoes away—and grab a paddle. If your competitive spirit has gone into high gear, the place to be is on the water.

The River Rat Race in on the Millers River in Athol and Orange is a decades-long tradition that brings out the strong, the brave, and the adventurous every spring. Depending on Mother Nature’s whims, the river could be running swiftly or more slowly, and the water could be icy or more tolerable, the ambient air temperature comfortably warm or a wee bit frigid.

Canoe Chaos

But whatever the weather and river conditions, the race is likely to be lively, maybe a bit contentious, and not without a healthy dose of laughter as hundreds of canoeists fight their way to the finish line.

Launched as a friendly bar bet, the first race in 1964 attracted a field of 12 canoes. In recent years, upwards of 200 canoes, each paddled by a two-person team, have bumped, bashed and battled 5.2 miles down the Millers River. After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, the race returned in 2023, bringing with it all the excitement that makes the event a local treasure.

The race only last about an hour—but it’s part of a weekend of fun and frivolity, from the friendly Friday night gathering at which paddlers get their canoe starting positions to the Athol Area YMCA Big Cheese 5K road race on Saturday morning, followed by the River Rat Promenade down Main Street. The race itself starts at 1 pm with the firing of a cannon, so even if you’ve staked a spectating spot far down the course, you’ll know when the action has begun.



River Rat Race. Photo courtesy of Athol Police Department.

And, of course, there’s never a shortage of after-race partying!

All Boxed In

If the River Rat Race is a bit too frenzied for your taste, how about something a little less formal—but at least as much fun?

We’re talking about a real homegrown—or in this case, home-made—boat race. Yes, the vessels vying for honors in the Hubbardston Dinghy Dash are all hand-made creations, concocted out of only cardboard and duct tape!

There are no regulations regarding size, shape or symmetry, so a lot of imagination goes into the crafting of these watercraft. With various competition categories, the boats may be occupied (and powered) by a single adult, single youth or a group.

And while the goal may be to win the race, there are

also awards for achievement like creativity, time afloat, and, perhaps the most popular, “best sink.” It’s a given that there will be some speedy and some slow collapses as the cardboard creations meet the challenge of getting wet.

Want to see—or take part in—the action? The Dinghy Dash, scheduled for 10 am on August 24 at Brigham Pond, is coordinated by the Hubbardston Recreation Department; you can register to participate, or just get more information about the race or other town events, at hubbardstonma.us.

Also on tap this season: the Cardboard Canoe Race at the Groton River Greenway Festival on June 9. There’s a full day of fun at the Petapawag Canoe Launch, 11 South Rd., Pepperell, with music, art, free canoe tours, conservation exhibits—and the cardboard canoe race at 3 pm to wrap up the event! See Groton River Greenway Festival on Facebook for details. §

If you love being out on the water, but aren’t ready to go off to the races, you’ll be happy to know there are lots of great places to go boating, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing in this region!

The Nashua River has deep ties to the industrial and agricultural history of the area. For a terrific introduction to the Nashua, check out the programs offered by Nashoba Paddler in Groton. In addition to offering canoe and kayak rentals, these folks provide classes, camps and tours throughout the year. Try a full moon canoeing tour, or bring the family to paddle with beavers!

Learn more about Nashoba Paddler and their programs at nashobapaddler.com.



Cardboard boxes turn into creative canoes at the Dinghy Dash in Hubbardston. Photos courtesy of Hubbardston Celebration. Photos by Katie Young

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What prompted your visit to the country?

Fresh air. Open, green spaces. Farm stands brimming with just-picked fruits and veggies. A chance to visit with a variety of animals.

Looking for all of the above? You'll find it here. If it's some friendly face-time with cuddly, furry, or feathered critters, you're really in luck! On these pages, you'll find dozens of places where you can meet, greet, learn about and chat with a wide variety of animals.



A IS FOR ALPACA

They're cute. They're cuddly. And they're friendly! They always seem to be smiling, maybe because they're happy to see you! If you've never visited an alpaca farm, you're definitely in for a treat when you see and touch the animals. And check out the terrific products—from toys to hats and mittens—crafted from alpaca fiber. Alpacas were only introduced to the United States in the 1980s, so even if you visited farms when you were a kid, chances are you haven't seen these gentle creatures up close and personal.

Here are some farms to visit:
In the Meadow Farm, 40 Page St., Lunenburg. Take a tour,

interact with the alpacas, shop for products or even take a class in knitting or needle felting. Meet Beau, Tucker, Benjamin Buttons and their other alpaca friends (along with some chickens!). Plan your visit at inthemeadowalpacas.com.

Plain View Farm, 130 Gardner Rd., Hubbardston. The alpacas, llamas (and chickens too!) at Plain View love to have company! Whether you want to drop by on a weekend with the family or plan a trip for a group, the animals are ready to welcome you. The farm also has a shop filled with everything alpaca, from dryer balls to multi-colored teddy bears. Check their hours or call to visit. See plainviewfarmalpacas.com.

Other local spots to visit alpacas include the **Harvard Alpaca Ranch**, 58 Old Mill Rd., Harvard; and **Luina Greine Farm**, 65 Common St., Groton.



IT'S A WILD, WILD WORLD

Of course, if you're in the country, there's lots of countryside around—and lots of non-farm animals to see (and hear)!

For a unique way to experience local wildlife, consider a canoe tour with **Nashoba Paddler**, 398 West Main St., Groton. In addition to renting canoes and kayaks, Nashoba Paddler leads canoe tours on local waterways. On their Full Moon Canoeing tour, you'll be on the lookout for owls, beavers, bats, and other night creatures. On a Paddling with Beavers tour, you'll get an up-close look at a beaver lodge and may even be surprised by the loud noise of a beaver slapping its tail on the water. See nashobapaddler.com.

Animal Adventures, 336 Sugar Rd., Bolton offers some hands-on experiences with all kinds of critters. Learn about — and even learn how to hold—Eurasian Eagle Owls, Great Horned, and Barred Owls. Animal Adventures receives over 300 animal surrenders a year, some of which will live here forever, while others get re-homed. They house from 200-400 animals—about 175 species—at any given time. You might meet a lemur, fox, chameleon, or even a skunk! Visit animaladventures.net.



WHOLLY COW!

For totally a moo-velous animal encounter, consider these spots:

Smith's Country Cheese, 20 Otter River Road, Winchendon, where the cows are happy to take a break from their routine to accept a little lovin' from visitors. It's a great spot for the whole family to learn about the making of award-winning cheese, from start to finish. See smithscountrycheese.com.

The cows grazing in the field at **Rota Spring Farm**, 117 Chace Hill Rd., Sterling, are workers, too! They produce the milk used in the farm's

ice cream. You can't get any fresher than that! Watch the cows and goats graze while you enjoy a cone.

Hollis Hills Farm is a 100-acre working farm overlooking Fitchburg. In season, you can pick your own flowers, fruits and pumpkins — but the cows are happy to greet visitors any time of the year! The farm has frequent festivals and band concerts, along with a restaurant, sugar house and tree farm. Visit hollishillsfarm.com.



NOT HORSEING AROUND

You've loved them in Western movies, or maybe cheered while watching the Kentucky Derby on

TV. But there's nothing like meeting a stately horse in person.

At **Cornerstone Ranch** in Princeton, you can take a trail ride, get riding lessons, or just take a leisurely horse-drawn wagon tour, ending with a delicious ice cream treat!

Looking to enjoy a bit of romance? Cornerstone offers a horse-drawn carriage ride to a picnic on Mellon Hill. The woman-owned and operated 55-acre ranch at 29 Dowds Lane also provides pony rides and, when winter blows in, sleigh rides!

Visit cornerstoneranch.org.

Or stop by the **New England Equestrian Center of Athol**, at 802 New Sherborn Rd., a municipal park that has events from April through September—including driving instruction and a Gymkhana series with speed racing games. Visitors are welcome any time! The park is open from dawn to dusk to visit and walk around, and spectators are welcome at events. Visit neeca.org for a full schedule and learn more.



FROM DUCKS TO DONKEYS

Kids just love farm animals—chicks, pigs, cows, and more. This is why you head out of the city for a tour through the back roads of Johnny Appleseed Country! Show the youngsters that milk and eggs don't just magically

appear at the supermarket, and that there are pettable animals besides the family dog or cat. Farms that welcome visitors are spread throughout the region, so no matter where you are, it's easy to pop in for a visit.

Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston, has everything a family could want for a visit: Cute animals—chickens, bunnies, goats and more—for the kids to meet and feed. The store is filled with farm-fresh fruits and products (make sure you try the cider donuts!). There's a brew barn, too, for when you need some refreshment. Pick your own fruits in season, and enjoy festivals many

weekends of the year.

See redapplefarm.com.

Davis Farmland Discovery Farm, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling, can introduce you to some really out-of-the-ordinary farm animals, so be sure to plan a whole day when you visit! The Davis family has garnered a collection of endangered livestock from around the world, so you may not recognize some of the farm's inhabitants. But the kids can also ride a pony, collect chicken eggs, snuggle a goat or feed baby animals — and much more. Check out the farmland experience at davisfarmland.com.



Lords and ladies! Mermaids and trolls! Prepare for a great celebration in the merry town of Wyndonshire!

For one magical day this spring, the new Community Park on Ingleside Road in Winchendon will be transported back in time for a Renaissance Faire complete with royalty, common folk, faeries and other intriguing characters. Visitors to the park on April 27 can shop for unique wares in the marketplace, watch a sword demonstration or dance performance, or munch on a smoked turkey leg (no utensils required), accompanied by a mug of mead.

There will be lots of music, time to wander through a faerie grove and frolic with fae folk, and opportunities to meet the Royals. Come see the rivalries between the Red Baron, the Green Queen, and the Blue King, and engage in a world of activities for all ages.

Let the Battles Begin!

The Knights of Lord Talbot, an education-based reenactment group, will engage in hand-to-hand battle and help set the tone for this days-of-

yore event, right here in ye olde North Central Massachusetts.

As you wander through the Community Park, you're sure to come across a variety of rogues, trolls, bandits, rangers, and village elders. Listen for news from the town crier, who will be announcing events and observing goings-on throughout the day. And prepare to be entertained by the royal jester!

Don a Costume, Join the Fun

Want to join this mystical community? Feel free to come in Renaissance attire! Bring the whole family for an imaginative day—tickets are just \$20 for adults; kids 14 and under are admitted free. \$



Photo courtesy of Knights of Lord Talbot.



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ALL YOU NEED IS ...MUSIC!

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Communities throughout North Central Massachusetts are filled with the sound of music year-round—and whether you'd like to relax with a cold ale at a brew yard, enjoy picnic on a town common, or head indoors to enjoy great acoustics, musical adventures await you here.

World Class Performances

From a brand-new concert hall to the nave of a historic church, the settings are as varied as the sounds you'll enjoy throughout the region.

The new **Groton Hill Music Center** opened in the fall of 2022, ushering in an exciting era of music and education to the region. The 126,000 square-foot music venue, complete with a 1,000-seat concert hall, 300-seat performance hall, teaching spaces and more, continues to welcome internationally-known performers to its 110-acre campus.

Groton Hill was founded in 1985 as a community resource, and the opening of the new Center opened the doors for even greater artistic diversity here.

Concerts at the Groton Hill Music Center this spring feature international superstar violinist Midori, The Borromeo String Quartet, Grammy-nominated pianist John Novacek, and, of course, the Center's own Vista Philharmonic Orchestra! For a less formal experience, check out

the Center's Jam Nights, and join in the Irish, Jazz, and Bluegrass fun.

Scheduled performances are listed in the Calendar section of this *Guide*. For more information about the Center and to purchase tickets, visit grotonhill.org.

For a more intimate experience, consider the **Winchendon Winds** concert series, hosted by the historic Unitarian Universalist Church on Winchendon's Central Street. In its 10th season this summer, the 40-piece Winchendon Winds



professional ensemble will present a five-concert series featuring a variety of classical and popular band selections. While the 1866 church is the traditional home to the concert series, one of this summer's performances will take place in the amphitheater at the town's new **Community Park** on Ingleside Road. You can stay up to date with the Winds' events on Facebook. Admission to the concerts is free (donations are accepted). And if you need a snack, the intermission features a refreshment stand complete with home-baked goodies!

The world-class flavor of the local music scene continues in Winchendon with the **Winchendon Music Festival** bringing local, national and international artists to town for concerts featuring classical, folk, jazz and more. Launched in 2016,

this Festival has presented solo, chamber and chamber-orchestra programs at a variety of venues, from the Beals Memorial Library to the Old Centre Church and the Winchendon History & Cultural Center. The festival will return to the stage in August. For up-to-date details, follow WMF on Facebook.

Think a piano is a piano is a piano? Think again! This popular instrument has changed over the centuries, and the sound of today's baby grand is a far cry from that of some of its antique cousins. You can hear the difference, and enjoy performances by pianists from around the world, at the spring series of **Historic Piano Concerts** in Ashburnham. The series of concerts performed on

instruments from the Frederick Collection of Historic Pianos runs on Sunday afternoons, from April 21 through May 26 at the New Dawn Arts Center on Main Street, Ashburnham. The concerts are listed in the calendar section of this *Guide*. Visit FrederickCollection.org to learn more about this unique musical opportunity.

Sips and Sounds

Music may soothe your soul, but sometimes, you need to bolster the body, too. So why not do both, with a visit to a local brewery, winery or restaurant?

Music and refreshment go together, and we've got some hot spots to check out. **The Brew Yard at Wachusett Brewing** in Westminster, **Brew Barn at Red Apple Farm** in Phillipston, **Thirsty Robot Brewing** in

Fitchburg, and **Moon Hill Brewing** in downtown Gardner will satisfy your craving for food, drink and song. Whether you're in the mood for a brisket sandwich, Mediterranean flatbread, or a dinner of Butternut Squash Ravioli—with a locally-brewed beer, of course—you'll find it here, along with a healthy dash of live entertainment.

The Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley has been serving hungry and thirsty travelers since 1740, and dishes up a jam-packed concert schedule, too.

Take a relaxing weekend ride in the countryside to the **Hardwick Winery**, where you can enjoy live music while sampling their collection of 21 award-winning wines!



Out in the Open

Band concerts have been a staple of local life for generations, and you can find a community concert just about any day of the week here in Johnny Appleseed Country!

The Leominster Colonial Band and **Townsend Military Band** are among the long-timers here, but there's no shortage of

community invitations to stretch out on a blanket, set up a lawn chair, even do a little al fresco dancing to the strains of country, rock, blues, and even Dixieland sounds. The music goes on and on almost every day of the week! Sunday afternoons in Templeton. Tuesdays in Leominster. Wednesday evenings in downtown

Fitchburg. Fridays in Winchendon and Westminster. Saturdays in Gardner. The concert listing in our Calendar section will guide you to one of these great New England traditions.

Get ready to tap your toes—and maybe even sing along with your faves—as you enjoy the sounds of North Central Massachusetts! §



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Experience The Wall That Heals This Summer

It's always a moving experience: Standing before the wall, looking at more than 58,000 names, and realizing that each one represents a service member who died in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC, draws visitors to its glistening black surface. Many have tears in their eyes as they gently touch the name of a loved one, a friend, a classmate, or a brother-in-arms.

But not everyone can make the trek to the nation's capital to see the Vietnam wall, or other notable memorials such as the Three Soldiers statue and the Vietnam Women's Memorial, in person. You can, however, experience the emotion of the memorial this summer at Fort Devens—the military installation where thousands of troops were trained for service, in peacetime and in wartime, from World War I through the Gulf War. Fort Devens' era as an Army base ended in 1996, but it continues service as home to the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area.

Bringing the Experience Home

The Wall That Heals—a three-quarter scale replica, spanning 375 feet in length, and 7½ feet high at its tallest point—will be on display at Devens in July, along with a mobile



Education Center. This local visit is one of 33 stops the Wall will make in 2024, starting in Hawaii and ending in Panama City, Florida. Other New England stops will be in Quincy,

Massachusetts, and Biddeford, Maine, just before the Wall's arrival at Devens on July 25. It will remain here until July 28.

According to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the traveling exhibit “honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.”

Since its dedication in 1996, The Wall That Heals has been displayed in nearly 700 communities throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial's healing legacy to millions. The 53-foot trailer that carries The Wall transforms to become a mobile Education Center, featuring a timeline of “The War and The Wall” and providing additional information about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Additional exhibits give visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the collection of items left at The Wall.

You can learn more about The Wall That Heals and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund at vvmf.org. Updated details about the local visit can be found on the Facebook page of Operation Service, a local organization that is working with ClearPath for Veterans NE to coordinate the visit to this region. §

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Sponsored by the Sterling Recreation Department
40 Boutelle Boulevard
April 6, 2024 at 8 AM
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STERLING FARMERS MARKET
1 Park Street, Butterick Municipal Building
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May through October

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Exhibitions, events and more!

SPRING - SUMMER CALENDAR 2024

As this issue of The Guide goes to press, the events listed in this Calendar are scheduled. However, we recommend that you check the organizations on social media or by phone to confirm the event status, masking requirements, and any limits on attendance.

EXHIBITIONS

Through March 17. *Patterns in Bloom*, an orchid exhibition at the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Drive, Boylston. Immerse yourself in bright colors, bold designs, and vibrant patterns that celebrate the artistry of orchids. *Patterns in Bloom* showcases thousands of living orchids displayed in artful arrangements as well as the imaginative sculptural work of artist Molly Gambardella. Experience the creative wonder of this breathtaking orchid exhibition during daytime hours or through an exciting lineup of special events.

Through June 2. *Butch Heroes* exhibition at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Ria Brodell's ongoing *Butch Heroes* series is a revelatory project of historic excavation and Queer reclamation. Since 2010, the Boston-based artist has conducted archival research to find records of people with whom they could recognize a personal kinship—people who were assigned female at birth, but presented as more masculine than feminine and didn't abide by heterosexual norms. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

Through June 2. *Pictured by Eakins: Ella Crowell as Model and Student* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Ella Crowell (1873–1897) was an important figure in the art and life of her uncle, the renowned American artist Thomas Eakins (1844–1916). He famously painted her as a toddler in *Baby at Play* (1876) but was later held responsible for her mental decline and early death. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

Through June 2. *On Her Terms: Feminine Power Embodied* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. *On Her Terms: Feminine Power Embodied* features New England artists who foreground the human body in their work to engage contemporary issues around women's rights. Taking inspiration from concepts including the *Woman Life Freedom* movement, modern rap, historical gynecological tools, and Victorian hair weaving, these artists identify the body as a site of empowerment. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

March 6 through April. *Atomic Artistry* exhibition in the Community Gallery at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg.

March 14–20. Weekdays, 8:30 am–4 pm. *Leominster Youth Art Show* at City Hall, Tata Auditorium, 25 West St., Leominster.

April 2–April 29. *The Material Girls Quilt Guild* exhibition in the Community Gallery at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. See quilts, wall hangings and more created by members of this regional quilters group.

April 25–28. *Art in Bloom* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Enjoy unique floral arrangements and interpretations, crafted by local florists and garden club members that are inspired by various works of art on view and the arrival of spring. Champagne reception April 26 from 6–8pm. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org/art-in-bloom.



Flowers reflect art at the Art In Bloom exhibition at the Fitchburg Art Museum, April 25-28.

May 1–27. *ALFA Artists in the Community Gallery* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. ALFA (Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area) is a lifelong learning institute that serves adult learners in Fitchburg and the surrounding communities. ALFA is sponsored by the Center for Professional Studies at Fitchburg State University in collaboration with volunteer members of the community. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

May 10–26. *Expressionist Landscapes—The First 50 Years Exhibit* at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Solo art exhibit by local contemporary landscape painter and retired fine arts educator Mark Lore. See gardnermuseuminc.com.

June 7–August 25. *Summer Art Exhibit* at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. "Gardner's Open Spaces" a juried exhibition organized the Gardner Area League of Artists, displaying works of art by artists and photographers that showcase more than 15 of Gardner's Open Spaces and Conservation Land. There will be silent auction and raffles. Open 1–4 pm Wednesdays through Sundays.

June 21–September 8. *The 88th Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. One of the oldest juried exhibitions of its kind in New England, this annual exhibition strives to encourage, discover and display the talents of artists and crafters living or working within 30 miles of Fitchburg. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

MARCH

2 Saturday, all day. *The Great Race* at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd., Princeton. The culminating race for the top 30 Race League teams! Come cheer on your favorite team as they fight for the coveted title of the Greatest Night League Team of 2024! Visit wachusett.com.

2 Saturday, 10 am. *Cabin Fever Crawl* at R/C Excitement, 208 Bemis Rd., Fitchburg. Come join us for our Cabin Fever Crawl to knock the dust off those trucks, finish that "dollhouse truck" build and show us your cabin building skills too! We will run our

1/10 and mini course for classes including Class 1 Sportsman; Class 1 Expert; Class 2 Sportsman; Class 2 Expert Class 2 Open. As well as our mini comp. We will also be doing scale truck awards and a scale cabin build off! Visit rcexcitement.com.

2 Saturday, 10 am. *Winchendon Indoor Farmers Market* at 108 Ipswich Drive, Winchendon. See your favorite market vendors with their winter offerings.

2 Saturday, 12–3 pm. *High Tea* with Lucy Fay and Friends at the Fay Club, 658 Main St., Fitchburg. Join the Stratton Players for a convivial afternoon of humor, history, music and excellent collations. Snow date, March 9. Tickets \$49 adults, \$22 children. Visit Stratton Players on Facebook for details.

2 Saturday, 2 pm. *Craftersnoon Chain Maille* at the HUB, 5 Summer Drive, Winchendon. This class will introduce you to the art of chain maille, and show you how to work with scales and rings to start your project. Visit townofwinchendon.com for details.

2 Saturday, 2–4 pm. *Opening Reception for Africa Rising: 21st Century African Photography exhibition* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg.

2 Saturday, 8 pm. *Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters* at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. If you love the Blues and you haven't been to a Ronnie Earl show, do yourself a favor. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

2–3 Saturday & Sunday. *Month Long Maple Barn Breakfast* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets online at hardwickwinery.com. Repeats March 9–10, 16–17, 23–24, 30–31.

2–9 Saturday–Saturday. *Mass Beer Week* at Moon Hill Brewing and Gardner Ale House, 74 Parker St., Gardner. In this celebration of the vibrant craft beer culture that thrives throughout the Bay State, Moon Hill Brewing will be releasing Lost MoonBot (Bot is named H401) a pale ale made with Chaos hops from Four Star Farms. This beer is a collab brew meant to promote House bill 401, which would free the brewpubs to self distribute. Visit MoonHillBrewing.com.

3 Sunday, all day. *The Good Race* at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd., Princeton. The culminating race for the Race League teams ranking 31–61 in the standings! Come cheer on your favorite team as they fight for the coveted title of the Good–est Night League Team of 2023 (apologies to all linguists)! Visit wachusett.com.



Orchids are on display at the NE Botanic Garden in March.

5 Tuesday, 2 pm. *Science in Motion* at Conant Public Library, Sterling. Visit sterlinglibrary.org.

6 Wednesday, 9–10 am. *Orchids of the Exhibition Walk & Talk* at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Drive, Boylston. Join the conservatory garden staff for a special early morning walk and talk through *Patterns in Bloom*: an Orchid Exhibition. Learn more about the 2,000 orchids on display! Repeats March 13. Visit nebg.org.

7 Thursday. *Community Club Expo* at the YMCA, 55 Wallace Ave., Fitchburg. Discover volunteer opportunities and various social, hobbyist & activity clubs. Also learn about local organizations while making new friends too. For events details, contact FitchburgCreative@FitchburgState.edu.

7 Thursday, 12–7 pm. *First Thursday* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Enjoy free admission along with various pop-up activities and events in downtown Fitchburg. Shop at the Indoor Farmers Market from 3–5:30 pm! See intownfitchburg.com/events for updates.

7 Thursday, 6 pm. *Sip & Paint* with The Painted Goat at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. See hardwickwinery.com to register.

8 Friday, 6:30–8 pm. *Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers* at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Repeats March 22. See Revontulet Dancers on Facebook.

9 Saturday, 11 am–2 pm. *Magic on the Mountain* at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Rd., Princeton. Catch Magician Eddie Raymond around the mountain this winter for laughs and dazzling magic tricks! Details at wachusett.com.

9 Saturday, 5–10 pm. *Salsa Lesson* at Classics Pub, 285 Central St., Leominster, to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The Rosa's Warriors team is sponsoring a birthday bash fund-raiser, complete with salsa lesson, raffles and food. Free admission; over-21 event.

9 Saturday, 6–9 pm. *Bingo* at the American Legion hall, 295 School St., Winchendon, to benefit the Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue in Winchendon — an evening out for a good cause. Fifty cents per card to play.

9 Saturday, 7:30 pm. *Vista Philharmonic Orchestra* featuring John Novacek at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. The Grammy-nominated pianist/composer regularly tours the Americas, Europe,

Asia, and Australia as solo recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist. Concert features Bach-Stokowski – Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor; Ravel – Rapsodie espagnole; and Brahms – Piano Concerto No. 2. See grotonhill.org for details.

9–10 Saturday & Sunday. *Month Long Maple Barn Breakfast* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets online at hardwickwinery.com. Repeats March 16–17, 23–24, 30–31.

10 Sunday, 10–11:30 am. *Yoga on the Trails* at Mass Audubon Wachusett Meadow, 113 Goodnow Rd., Princeton. Join certified yoga instructor Jen Songer on this seasonal walk at Wachusett Meadow. Begin with some gentle standing yoga and then head out to explore the trails, pausing along the way to incorporate meditation and yoga practices. Warm up with hot chocolate after your walk. Modifications will be offered to accommodate all levels. Snowshoes are available for rent. Fee: \$6 members, \$10 nonmembers. See massaudubon.org for details.

10 Sunday, 1–4 pm. *Artist Reception for Spring Solo-Art Exhibit* at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Local contemporary landscape painter and retired fine arts educator Mark Lore will present his exhibit "Expressionist Landscapes—The First 50 Years." Meet the award-winning artist, who works in both oils and acrylics and has participated in many local and regional exhibits all over New England. The exhibit will run until May 26 during regular museum opening hours. See gardnermuseuminc.com.

13 Wednesday, 9–10 am. *Orchids of the Exhibition Walk & Talk* at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Drive, Boylston. See March 6 for details. Learn more about the 2,000 orchids on display! Visit nebg.org.

13 Wednesday, 6:30 pm. *Erin Go Bragh – Live Music for the Season* at the Bigelow library, 54 Walnut St., Clinton. David Polansky entertains with Irish ballads and other stuff. He is the consummate entertainer whether his audience consists of preschoolers or adults. Using trumpet, keyboard, and vocals, he calls on an encyclopedic repertoire of standards and original music to "wow" his lucky listeners.



The Flying Irish dancers perform at Great Wolf Lodge on March 17.

14 Thursday, 6 pm. *Irish Step Dance program* at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Museum-hosted reception followed by program. Experience the magic of Anne O'Connell's Irish Step Dancers! Join us for a St. Patrick's Day celebration with a lively performance rooted in traditional Irish dance. Reservations required; see gardnermuseuminc.com.

14 Thursday, 6 pm. *Bigfoot in Massachusetts* at the Bigelow Library, Walnut Street, 54 Clinton. Join Discovery Channel's Ronny LeBlanc from Expedition Bigfoot and Paranormal Caught on Camera for an evening about Bigfoot. Do you have an experience or

a sighting you want to share? Here from Ronny and his personal experiences as well as other encounters that will have you pondering "What if?" Visit Bigelow Library on Facebook.

14 Thursday, 6:30 pm. *Flying Irish step dancers perform* at the Stevens Memorial Library, 20 Memorial Drive, Ashburnham.

14–17 Thursday–Sunday. *Four Days of St. Patrick* at Moon Hill Brewing's Tap Room at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. That's four days of Corned Beef & Cabbage, Steak & Stout Pie and Nitro Poured Stout. Plus on St. Patrick's Day we will be hosting live music by Guns N Clovers from 4 pm to 7 pm.

14–17 Thursday–Sunday. *St. Patrick's Celebration* at Moon Hill Brewing at the Gardner Ale House, 74 Parker St., Gardner. Enjoy four days of Corned Beef & Cabbage, Steak & Stout Pie and Nitro Poured Stout. We top it off on Sunday with Moon Hollow, a trio from Western Mass that will be going all Irish from 2–4 pm. Visit MoonHillBrewing.com.

15 Friday, 6 pm. *Wine & Food Pairing Experience* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

15–16 Friday, 2:30–5 pm & 5:30–8 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am–12 pm & 1:30–4 pm. *Psyanky Egg Decorating workshops* at the Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St., Clinton. Have you always wanted to try your hand at traditional Ukrainian egg decorating, also known as pysanky? In these workshops, participants will learn how to draw on a plain white chicken egg with a special pen, known as a kistka, and melted wax, then color the egg with special dyes. Repeats April 19–20. Visit iconmuseum.org.

15 Friday, 8 pm. *Frankie Boy and the Blues Express* at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Road, Shirley. The group performs unique new blues and some of their favorite covers, with styles ranging from traditional Blues to funk all the way to hip-hop. See bullrunrestaurant.com for tickets.

16 Saturday, 3 & 8 pm. *St. Patrick's Day Celebration* at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. An afternoon and evening of high-energy traditional and contemporary Celtic music (two shows). Visit grotonhill.org for tickets.

16 Saturday, 4–8 pm. *St. Urho's Dinner Dance*. Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Saima-park.org. Reservations required: finnishcenter@yahoo.com.

16 Saturday, 7:30 pm. *BriezyJane & the Hurricanes* at the Boulder Café, 880 Main St., Fitchburg. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at "the Bouldah."

16–17 Saturday & Sunday. *Month Long Maple Barn Breakfast* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets online at hardwickwinery.com. Repeats March 23–24, 30–31.

17 Sunday, 5:15 pm. *Flying Irish step dancing troupe performs* at the Great Wolf Lodge, 50 Great Wolf Drive, Fitchburg.

17 Sunday, 1 pm. *Hunt for the Pot of Gold* at Carlson Orchards, 115 Oak Hill Rd., Harvard. Join the search for the pot of gold left behind by the Leprechaun! Gather family and friends to see what kind of mischief has taken place in the orchard. Great for kids of all ages. Visit carlsonorchards.com.

17 Sunday, 3 pm. *Concord Chamber Music Society presents Yefim Bronfman* at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Yefim Bronfman stands among a handful of artists regularly sought by festivals, orchestras, conductors and recital series. His commanding technique, power and exceptional lyrical gifts are consistently acknowledged by the press and audiences alike. Visit grotonhill.org for details.

17-23 Sunday--Saturday, all day. *Pizza Crawl* in Leominster. Take a tour of local pizza shops and then vote for your favorite! Visit Leominster Community Development on Facebook for a list of participating restaurants.

19 Tuesday, 8 pm. *Nickel Creek Live* at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. GRAMMY Award-winning trio Nickel Creek — mandolinist Chris Thile, violinist Sara Watkins, and guitarist Sean Watkins — brings its extensive headline tour to Groton in support of their new album "Celebrants!" Details at nickelcreek.com/tour.

21 Thursday, 4-6 pm. *Indoor Farmers Market* in Tata Auditorium, City Hall, 24 West St., Leominster.

22 Friday, 7-9:30 pm. *Salsa Dance Party* at Mt. Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner. Theatre at the Mount presents an evening of Salsa Dancing for Adults. No partner necessary! We will teach the basic steps in Salsa Dancing (as well as some flashy and fun moves) for the first hour and a half and then give you time to perfect and dance all those fun moves during the social dance portion afterwards. \$20 program fee. Visit mwcc.edu/tam for details.

22 Friday, 8 pm. *The Del McCourty Band* performs Bluegrass at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. For more than 50 years, Del McCourty’s music has defined authenticity for hard-core bluegrass devotees as well as a growing number of fans only vaguely familiar with the genre. Visit grotonhill.org.

22 Friday, 8 pm. *Kat Riggins Blues Revival* at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. Full of power, rasp, and grit, Riggins can belt out one of her contemporary blues originals one minute, then deliver a tender, sultry standard the next. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

22-24 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm; Sunday, 2:30 pm. *Ray Cooney’s Out of Order* at the New Players Theatre Guild, 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. Out Of Order is a funny show about a man named Richard, whose seemingly infinite capacity to improvise his way through the consequences of his shenanigans is massively tested. Repeats March 28-30. See nptg.org.

23 Saturday, 8-10 am. *Pannukakku Breakfast* and Vendors at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Saima-park.org or Facebook: Friends of Saima Park.

23 Saturday, 11 am. *Easter Egg Hunt* at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon.

23 Saturday, 2-5 pm. *Fox and the Dragon* perform at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Husband & wife duo performing covers from the 90s, classic rock, and folk, with originals as well. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

23-24 Saturday & Sunday. *Month Long Maple Barn Breakfast* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets online at hardwickwinery.com. Repeats March 30-31.

24 Sunday, 6 pm. *Owl Handling Class* at Animal Adventures, 336 Sugar Rd., Bolton. Learn about all of the owls of Animal Adventures and even learn to hold one. You will learn about our Eurasian Eagle Owls, Great Horned, and Barred Owls. Visit animaladventures.net.

24 Sunday, 6-9 pm. “*Words that You Can See*” at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Local and regional hip-hop artists will screen and discuss their music videos as well as perform.

27 Wednesday, 7:30 pm. *Lúnasa performs* at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is

a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Visit grotonhill.org.

28 Thursday, 6:30 pm. *Spirit Gallery* at the SK Pierce Victorian Mansion, 4 W. Broadway, Gardner. Spirit Circle: Open Forum Messages from your Spirit guides, angels, animal totems, medical intuition and past loved ones with Brandie Wells at the Victorian Haunted Mansion. Reservations required. Visit AmericanCenter.as.me for tickets.

28 Thursday, 7 pm. *Trivia Night* at the HUB, 5 Summer Drive, Winchendon.

28 Thursday, 8 pm. *Isidore String Quartet* at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. This red-hot young quartet was founded in 2019 at the Juilliard School and was launched on their current trajectory by winning one of the most prestigious awards in chamber music at the 2022 Banff Competition. Visit grotonhill.org.

28-30 Thursday & Friday, 7:30 pm; Saturday, 2:30 pm. *Ray Cooney’s Out of Order* at the New Players Theatre Guild, 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. See March 22-24 listing for details. Visit nptg.org for tickets.

29 Friday, 10 am-2 pm. *Easter Funday* at City Hall, Tata Auditorium, 25 West St., Leominster.

29 Friday. *Charcuterie Workshop* featuring Good Craze Charcuterie at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. See hardwickwinery.com to register.



Davis Farmland opens for the season on April 11.

29 Friday, 8 pm. *Liz Longley* performs at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. This singer-songwriter based out of Nashville has earned accolades from some of the most prestigious songwriting competitions in the country. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

30 Saturday, 9:45 am. *Easter Parade and Egg Hunt* on Templeton Common, Routes 2A & 101, Templeton. Wear your decorated caps and bonnets, bring a basket or container to hold the Easter Eggs you find. Hunt begins promptly at 10 am. See Templeton Lions Club on Facebook.

30 Saturday, 10 am-4 pm. *Easter’s Great Gathering* at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. Visit redapplefarm.com for details.

30 Saturday, 7 pm. *New Black Eagle Jazz Band* at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. For fifty years, from Symphony Hall to Singapore, the New Black Eagle Jazz Band has delighted audiences worldwide with its infectious, soulful and uplifting style of traditional New Orleans jazz. Visit grotonhill.org.

30-31 Saturday & Sunday. *Month Long Maple Barn Breakfast* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets online at hardwickwinery.com.

APRIL

3 Wednesday, 6:30 pm. “*40 Whacks*” – *The Lizzie Borden Case* at Conant Public Library, Sterling Senior Center, 4 Meetinghouse Hill Rd., Sterling. See sterlinglibrary.org.

4 Thursday, 10 am. *Survival & Knife Safety* at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Museum-hosted morning coffee at 9:30 am, program at 10. Tim Swanson, founder of Owl Eyes Wilderness Survival, will talk about safety and teach a fire-starting project (attendants will make their own feather sticks). Tim’s knives, knife sharpeners, fire starters, patches, T-Shirts, and hats will be available for purchase. Reservations required; see gardnermuseuminc.com.

4 Thursday, 12-7 pm. *First Thursday* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Enjoy free admission along with various pop-up activities and events in downtown Fitchburg. Shop at the Indoor Farmers Market from 3-5:30 pm! See intownfitchburg.com/events for updates.

4 Thursday, 7 pm. *Dancing Queens* at Fitchburg State University Recreation Center, 130 North St., Fitchburg. FSU’s Gay Straight Alliance presents a drag show event designed to entertain and enlighten. Proceeds benefit LGBTQ Student Scholarship at the university. Tickets \$5 student, \$10 general public.

4-7 Thursday-Saturday. *Spring Fling* at the Petersham Curling Club, 250 N. Main St., Petersham. Watch the club’s annual mixed/open Bonspiel! The PCC Spring Fling packs great curling, food, and entertainment into an experience you won’t want to miss! Visit petershamcurling.org.

5 Friday, 6 pm. *Wine Glass Paint & Sip* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets at hardwickwinery.com.

6 Saturday, 8 am. *Sterling Recreation Road Race* Sponsored by the Sterling Recreation Department, 40 Boutelle Boulevard, Sterling. Sterling Recreation Road Race (runsignup.com/sterlingrecreuns).

6 Saturday, 10 am. *Toy Town Indoor Farmers Market* at 108 Ispwich Drive, Winchendon. See your favorite market vendors with their winter offerings.

6 Saturday, 10 am-2 pm. *Shop, Sip and Bowl* at the Makers Alley, 273 Central St., Winchendon. Shop local makers, crafters, bakers and buy local. Coffee, drinks and snack provided by the youth-led Sunshine Café. Bowling open to the public from 10-5.

6 Saturday, 6 pm. *Messages from the Other Side* featuring Psychic Medium Susan Ouelette at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets at hardwickwinery.com.

6 Saturday, 7:30 pm. *Vista Philharmonic Orchestra* featuring Midori at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Maestro Bruce Hangen is thrilled to welcome superstar violinist Midori to the grand Concert Hall stage, one of the most outstanding violinists of our time! Visit grotonhill.org.

7 Sunday, 12 pm. *Erin Brockovich talk* at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. The Bull Run Speaker Series presents: Erin Brockovich, legal researcher turned author who uncovered the poisoning of a small town’s water by Pacific Gas & Electric two decades ago. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

7 Sunday, 2-3:30 pm. *Gallery Talk and Tour* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg Learn about the On Her Terms: Feminine Power Embodied exhibition that runs through June 2. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

9 Tuesday, 7-9 pm. *Jam Night* at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Three genres, three rooms, one bar. Pick your favorite genre — Irish, Jazz,

Bluegrass — and play, move from room to room, or just hang out with friends to listen over a pint. Ages 16+ welcome \$10 admission. Visit grotonhill.org for details.

11 Thursday. *Season Opening* at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. Davis Farmland kicks off the 2024 season with a bumper crop of baby animals and over 50 MOO-velous attractions, events and shows! See davisfarmland.com.

11 Thursday, 6:30 pm. *Finding Inner Peace and Health* at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Certified Life/Wellness/Stress Management Coach and Independent Clinical Social Worker Kelly Knowler has worked in the human services field for over 20 years. She will be offering a guided meditation to address the chakras in the body, allowing for relaxation, healing and mindfulness. She will also bring a variety of essential oils and give a brief presentation on how to use them.

12 Friday, 6 pm. *Comedy for a Cause* at the Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens, hosted by Pinard Landscaping and Clear Path for Veterans. Support local Veterans while enjoying a hilarious show, dinner buffet at 6 pm, and comedy starting at 7:15 pm. See Clear Path on Facebook for details.

12 Friday, 6:30-8 pm. *Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers.* All are welcome! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Repeats April 26. Visit Facebook: Revontulet Dancers.

12 Friday, 7 pm. *Nissitissit String Quartet* at the Shirley Meetinghouse, 41 Brown Rd., Shirley. This string quartet offering multi-generational concerts that are fun and engaging for a wide audience! Visit shirleymeetinghouse.org.

12 Friday, 8 pm. *Seth Rosenbloom and Sonya Rae Taylor* perform blues-rock at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

13 Saturday, 10 am-4 pm. *Spring Psychic Fair* at the Winchendon History and Cultural Center, 6 Lincoln Ave., Winchendon. Skilled and intuitive psychics will be on hand to offer personalized readings, providing insights into the past, present, and future. From tarot cards to crystal ball gazing, attendees can choose from a variety of divination methods. Artisans specializing in spiritual and mystical creations will showcase their talents. \$5 admission.

13 Saturday, 11 am. *Disney’s Finding Nemo Jr.* at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St., Gardner. This musical adaptation of the beloved 2003 Pixar movie features memorable songs such as “Just Keep Swimming,” “Fish Are Friends Not Food,” and “Go With the Flow,”. Visit mwcc.edu/tam for tickets.



Paddlers do battle at the River Rat Race on April 13.

13 Saturday, 1-5 pm. *River Rat Race* on the Millers River in Athol and Orange. The Athol Lions Club brings excitement to town with the 59th running of the 5.2-mile, no-holds-barred race from the Alan Rich Environmental Park in Athol to the Riverfront Park in Orange. See hundreds of canoeists battle for bragging rights and prize money. Visit riverratrace.com.

13 Saturday, 6 pm. *Spring Fling Five Course Wine Dinner* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets online at hardwickwinery.com.

13 Saturday, 8 pm. *An Acoustic Evening and Dwayne Higgins* at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

13 Saturday, 8 pm. *Snarky Puppy* performs at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. At its core, the band represents the convergence of both black and white American music culture with various accents from around the world. Visit grotonhill.org.

13–21. *Vacation Week* at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. It’s school vacation week and Davis Farmland is celebrating with hands-on daily animal encounters, daily events, hayrides and over 50 MOO-velous attractions!

14-20. *Fitchburg Pride Week* throughout Fitchburg. For details, visit NoWoCoPrideOfficial on Facebook.

17 Wednesday, 1-4 pm. *Artmaking Workshop* for Youth: Me & My People at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

18 Thursday, 4-6 pm. *Indoor Farmers Market* at City Hall, Tata Auditorium, 25 West St., Leominster. Event continues with EarthFest from 6-8 pm.

19 Friday, 2-3:30 pm. *Gallery Talk and Tour* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg Learn about the On Her Terms: Feminine Power Embodied exhibition that runs through June 2. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

19 Friday, 7:30 pm. *Out of the Ordinary Concert* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Unusual instrumentation in two well-known pieces and a long-neglected female composer are certainly out of the ordinary, but we think you’ll find that the music is extraordinary. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

19-20 Friday, 2:30-5 pm & 5:30-8 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am-12 pm & 1:30-4 pm. *Psyanky Egg Decorating* workshops at the Icon Museum and Study Center, 203 Union St., Clinton. Have you always wanted to try your hand at traditional Ukrainian egg decorating, also known as pysanky? In these workshops, participants will learn how to draw on a white chicken egg with a special pen, known as a kistka, and melted wax, then color the egg with special dyes. Visit iconmuseum.org.

19-20 Friday & Saturday, 8 pm. *Dark Desert Eagles* at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. The #1 Eagles Tribute band presents a stunning musical tribute to America’s Greatest Rock Band in the peak of their career! Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

20 Saturday. *Earth Day Event* at North Middlesex Regional High School Parking Lot, Townsend.

20 Saturday, 10:30 am. *Square Foot Gardening* at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Drive, Boylston. Learn about this unique way to garden, which will help you grow more in less space, costs less than traditional row planting and makes gardening more accessible in many ways. Visit nebq.org.

20 Saturday, 7 pm. *Gospel Night Concert* at the Shirley Meetinghouse, 41 Brown Rd., Shirley. Local singers and musicians present a program of favorite Gospel songs. Visit shirleymeetinghouse.org.

20 Saturday, 7:30 pm. *Contra Dance* at the Groton Grange, 80 Champney St., Groton. The Groton Grange building becomes a dance party, and you don’t have to have any dance experience to join. Local band the Contra Banditos will be playing their traditional old-time fiddle and Americana music. Bring a partner or come alone. Visit the grange on Facebook.



Martin Sexton performs at the Bull Run Restaurant on April 20.

20 Saturday, 8 pm. *Martin Sexton* performs at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Singer/songwriter Martin Sexton has influenced a generation of contemporary artists. Visit grotonill.org.

21 Sunday 10 am-3 pm. *Earth Day Celebration* at In the Meadow Farm, 40 Page St., Lunenburg. Join us on the farm for our Celebration of the Earth. Local artisans and farms will be offering their best. Activities for everyone. Photo booth with the alpacas to benefit our Walk for Hunger Team. A great day of family fun! Visit inthemeadowalpacas.com.

21 Sunday, 12-3 pm. *Fitchburg Celebrates Earth Day* at Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St., Fitchburg. Family-friendly event dedicated to raising awareness about the environment & impacts of pollution on our planet. Learn about environmentally sustainable habits and how to take meaningful action for a healthier Earth.

21 Sunday, 3 pm. *Nashoba Valley Chorale – Far Past War* at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. This passionate and engaging program showcases the chorus alongside members of the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra through a diverse group of composers. Visit grotonhill.org.

21 Sunday, 3 pm. *Pianist Yukiko Sekino* performs at New Dawn Arts Center, 84 Main Street (Rte. 12) Ashburnham. The opening concert of the spring season of Historical Piano Concerts, featuring pianos from the Frederick Collection. Admission \$15, students and children free. Season passes available. Visit FrederickCollection.org for details.

21 Sunday, 6 pm. *Owl Handling Class* at Animal Adventures, 336 Sugar Rd., Bolton. Learn about all of the owls of Animal Adventures and even learn how to hold one. You will learn about our Eurasian Eagle Owls, Great Horned, and Barred Owls. Holding will be done with Obi the Eagle Owl and Felix the Barred Owl. Visit animaladventures.net.

25 Thursday, 7 pm. *Trivia Night* at the HUB, 5 Summer Dr., Winchendon. Visit townofwinchendon.com.

25-28 Thursday-Sunday. *Art In Bloom* at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Enjoy unique floral arrangements and interpretations, crafted by local florists & garden club members that are inspired by various works of art on view & the arrival of spring. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

26 Friday, 6 pm. *Mr. Strickland* performs at Wachusett Brewery, 175 State Rd. East, Westminster. Visit wachusettbrewing.com.

26 Friday, 7 pm. *Classical Collective Salon* featuring various musicians at the Lawrence Library, 15 Main St., Pepperell.

27 Saturday, 8-10 am. *Pannukakku Breakfast & Vendors.* Finnish oven pancake, bacon, sausage, Finnish coffee bread, fruit, juice, coffee/tea/cocoa. \$10. Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See the Facebook Friends of Saima Park.

27 Saturday, 8:30 am-12 pm. Flea Market. Proceeds benefit our scholarship fund. Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Saima-park.org, On Facebook, see Friends of Saima Park.

27 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Wyndonshire Renaissance Fair at Winchendon Community Park, Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Hazza! Winchendon Parks & Recreation Commission hosts the first Wyndonshire Renaissance Faire! See the story on Page 18 of this Guide for details. There will be demonstrations, performances, music and more. Dress up and immerse yourself in this exciting experience! Tickets are \$20 and kids 14 and under are free.

27 Saturday. Fruit & Blooms Festival at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Enjoy a celebration of Spring wines! Visit hardwickwinery.com.

27 Saturday, 8 pm. Porch Party Mamas at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. This Boston-area band of four female musicians present a moving blend of folk, country, Celtic and blues. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

28 Sunday, 8 am. Spring Fishing Derby at the Leominster Sportsmen's Association, 1455 Elm St., Leominster. Cast a line, maybe win a prize! Kitchen will be open for breakfast and lunch. Hourly door prizes, and a prize for the longest trout. Tickets, \$15.

28 Sunday, 2-3 pm. Artist Talk at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg Artist Maria Yolanda Liebana discusses the On Her Terms: Feminine Power Embodied exhibition that runs through June 2. Visit fitchburgartmuseum.org.

28 Sunday, 3 pm. Chester Brezniak, clarinet performs at New Dawn Arts Center, 84 Main Street (Rte. 12) Ashburnham. (Pianist TBD at press time). Second concert of the spring season of Historical Piano Concerts, featuring pianos from the Frederick Collection. Admission \$15, students and children free. Season passes available. Visit FrederickCollection.org.



Art in Bloom at The Fitchburg Art Museum.

MAY

1 Wednesday, 6:30 pm. Nibbling on Native Plants in Your Backyard and Beyond at Conant Public Library, 4 Meetinghouse Hill Rd., Sterling. See sterlinglibrary.org.

2 Thursday, 12-7 pm. First Thursday at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Enjoy free admission along with various pop-up activities & events in downtown Fitchburg. See intownfitchburg.com/events for updates.

3 Friday, 7:30 pm. Off Brand Improv returns to the New Players Theatre Guild, for one night only! Enjoy a fun night at 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. Visit NPTG online.

3 Friday, 7:30 pm. Mill Street Music Series hosted by The Cellar, Mill Street plaza, 14 Mill Street, Fitchburg. Local musicians perform live music in an outdoor setting on alternate Friday and Saturday evenings through September. For details, visit the Mill Street Cellar on Facebook.

4 Saturday, 9 am-12 pm. Sterling Department of Public Works Open House, 171 Worcester Road, Sterling. Visit sterling-ma.gov.

4-5 Saturday & Sunday. Healthcare Appreciation Weekend at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. Davis Farmland is thanking all healthcare workers by giving these heroic individuals a free admission ticket and half-price admission for their immediate family. Visit DavisFarmland.com for tickets and more info.

4-5 Saturday & Sunday. Fitchburg Arts & Culture Extravaganza at Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St., Fitchburg. Fitchburg Creative presents a carnevale of cultures in a street festival. Performers and attendees wear traditional clothing, perform ethnic and folk dances, sing, eat & celebrate. For arts/culture programming details, visit: intownfitchburg.com/events.

5 Saturday, 11 am–2 pm. 4th Annual Walk the Fields for Hunger, at In the Meadow Farm, 40 Page St., Lunenburg. The alpacas will be waiting in the field for you to join them in helping to Send Hunger Alpacin'. A \$5 per person donation will give you access to our fields where you can interact with the alpacas, complete our Alpaca Info Trek, and help our Walk for Hunger Team raise badly needed funds. Visit inthemeadowalpacas.com.

5 Sunday, 3 pm. Pianist Ivan Gusev performs works by Debussy and Scriabin at New Dawn Arts Center / Ashburnham Community Church, 84 Main Street (Rte. 12) Ashburnham in the spring season of Historical Piano Concerts, featuring pianos from the Frederick Collection. Admission \$15, students and children free. Season passes available. Visit FrederickCollection.org for details.

6-10 Monday-Friday. National Nurses Week & National Teachers Week at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

9 Thursday, 4-5 pm. Light the Town Purple at City Hall, 25 West St., Leominster. Come help us Light the Town Purple! This event is in support of the upcoming Relay for Life - Greater Gardner Area, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. If you are a survivor, come ring our cancer survivor bell. If you are going through cancer, we want to cheer you on with hope! See Light the Town Purple on Facebook.

9 Thursday, 6:30 pm. Just Policing at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Edward Cronin will give a presentation about his experiences as Gardner Chief of Police (1995-1998), and on his book "Just Policing – My Journey to Police Reform" which will also be available for purchase. He is an award-winning, innovative and progressive leader for police reform in both America and internationally. Reservations required; see gardermuseuminc.com.

10 Friday, 6:30-8 pm. Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers. All are welcome! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Repeats May 24. Visit the Revontulet Dancers on Facebook.

10 Friday, 7 pm. Billy & the Jets Concert at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

11 Saturday, 10:30 am. Introduction to Horticultural Science & Botany at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. This class will provide an introductory review for the home



Porch Party Mamas perform at the Bull Run Restaurant on April 27.

gardener of plants and their parts, botanical nomenclature, and plant identification of leaves and flowers through the use of horticultural language. It will also cover soil science, sustainability, and biodiversity in the garden, and the critical plant/insect/animal systems that make it all happen. Visit nebg.org.

11 Saturday, 2 pm. Barbie FUN Day at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Visit townofwinchendon.gov.

11 Saturday, 3-6:30 pm. Plant Swap & Sale at the Westminster Historical Society, 110 Main St., Westminster.

11 Saturday, 7:30 pm. Vista Philharmonic Orchestra – Season Finale at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. The orchestra led by Maestro Bruce Hangen performs Beethoven – Symphony No. 3 (“Eroica”) and Stravinsky – The Rite of Spring. Visit grotonhill.org.

11-12 Saturday & Sunday. Mother’s Day Weekend at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. Kids bring your mom admission free to Davis Farmland! Enjoy over 50 MOO-velous attractions, events and shows!

12 Sunday. Mother’s Day at the Moon Hill Brewing and the Gardner Ale House, 74 Pleasant St., Gardner. Bring your mom out to our full service brewpub for some solid home cooked food, and full-service beverage and craft beer. Sunday brunch from 9 am – 3 pm, too. Visit MoonHillBrewing.com.

12 Sunday, 3 pm. Historic Piano Concert featuring Jessica Gould, soprano, and pianist Gail Olszewski at New Dawn Arts Center, 84 Main Street (Rte. 12) Ashburnham in the spring season of concerts featuring pianos from the Frederick Collection. Admission \$15, students and children free. Visit FrederickCollection.org for details.

14 Tuesday, 7-9 pm. Jam Night at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Pick your favorite genre — Irish, Jazz, Bluegrass — and play, move from room to room, or just hang out with friends to listen over a pint. Ages 16+ welcome \$10 admission.. Visit grotonhill.org for details.

16 Thursday, 5:30 pm. Annie Fields at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Living Historian, Playwright, Producer, and Actress Judith Kalaora, will portray poet, philanthropist and social reformer Annie Adams Fields (1834-1915). Reservations required; see gardnermuseuminc.com.

17-19 Friday, 6-9 pm; Saturday 11 am-6 pm; Sunday, 12-4 pm. GALA Art and Music Festival at Red Apple Farm, (Brew Barn) 455 Highland Ave, Phillipston. Artist reception Friday, art exhibition with more than 100 artists, demonstrations, vendors, children’s activities, face painting, music and more all weekend. Free admission. See galagardner.org.

18 Saturday, 10 am- 4 pm. Apple Blossom Festival at Sholan Farms, 1125 Pleasant St., Leominster.

Enjoy a craft fair, music, live entertainment, food trucks, a butterfly release parade (2:30 pm), kids’ activities, free wagon rides, and much more at Leominster’s volunteer-run orchard. Visit sholanfarms.com.

18 Saturday, 12-5 pm. Annual Food Truck Festival in downtown Fitchburg. Hosted by Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority and city of Fitchburg, featuring a full range of food styles and cuisines. For details, visit: intownfitchburg.com/events.

18 Saturday, 2:30-10:30 pm. Black Diamond 40th Reunion Music Festival at the Snowbound Club Inc., 130 Baldwinville Rd., Winchendon.

18 Saturday, 6-9 pm. Paddling with Beavers on the Nashua River in Groton. Evening is the best time to spot beavers! Paddling through their natural habitat, you will get an up-close look at a beaver lodge and may even be surprised by the loud noise of a beaver slapping its tail on the water to frighten us away. Easy, flat-water, 4 miles roundtrip led by Nashoba Paddler. Registration required at nashobaPaddler.com.

18 Saturday, 7 pm. Ensemble Lyrae at the Shirley Meetinghouse, 41 Brown Rd., Shirley. Inspired by the natural beauty and brilliance of the constellation Lyra, bringing together four uniquely and highly talented musicians. While each shines as a soloist, together, these women form deep connections in performing quartets and trios. Visit shirleymeetinghouse.org.

18-19 Saturday, 10 am-4 pm and Sunday, 10 am-3 pm. Spring Fling at Plainview Farm, 130 Gardner Rd., Hubbardston. Visit the alpacas and llamas, shop local vendors, enjoy a snack or lunch. See plainviewfarmalpacas.com.

18-19 Saturday & Sunday, 11 am-3 pm. Safety Weekend Festival at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. Kids can climb on a fire truck, check out the inside of an ambulance, police car, and even put out a pretend fire. Safety officers and vehicles will be on hand. All active firefighters, EMTs, police officers, armed service personnel, correctional officers, veterans, and their immediate family are admitted free when accompanied by the safety officer with valid service I.D. Visit DavisFarmland.com for more info.

19 Sunday, 3 pm. Greater Gardner Community Choir Annual Spring Concert at Bethany Baptist Church, 72 Ryan St., Gardner. Faure’s Requiem and Songs for the Journey by Kevin Siegfried will be performed accompanied by chamber ensemble. Directed by Diane Cushing.

19, Sunday, 3 pm. Historic Piano Concert at New Dawn Arts Center / Ashburnham Community Church, 84 Main Street (Rte. 12) Ashburnham. Pianist Olga Vinokur performs in the concert series featuring pianos from the Frederick Collection. Admission \$15, students and children free. Visit FrederickCollection.org for details.

19 Sunday, 6 pm. Owl Handling Class at Animal Adventures, 336 Sugar Rd., Bolton. Learn about all of the owls of Animal Adventures and even learn how to hold one. You will learn about our Eurasian Eagle Owls, Great Horned, and Barred Owls. Holding will be done with Obi the Eagle Owl and Felix the Barred Owl. Visit animaladventures.net.

23 Thursday, 6:30 pm. Foraging Edibles at your Doorstep at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. Local “Modern Pioneer” Lauren Roy will empower, and educate the audience on living more naturally and in the art of foraging as a way of saving money. Reservations required; see gardnermuseuminc.com.

23 Thursday, 8 pm. Rufus Wainwright performs at the Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Rufus Wainwright has established himself as one of the great male vocalists, songwriters, and composers of his generation. Visit grotonhill.org.



Maestro Bruce Hagan leads the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra on May 11.

23 Thursday, 8 pm. Louisiana Calling with Sonny Landreth & The Iguanas at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. Enjoy a mind-blowing musical trip through the scenic soundscape of the bayou. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

24-26 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm; Sunday, 2 pm. Sealed For Freshness at New Players Theatre Guild, 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. Need a laugh? Visit a Tupperware party attended by five seemingly 1950s-era women...in 1968. See nptg.org for details and tickets. Repeats May 31-June 2.

25 Saturday, 8-10 am. Pannukaku Breakfast & Vendors. Finnish oven pancake, bacon, sausage, Finnish coffee bread, fruit, juice, coffee/tea/cocoa. \$10. Loaves of coffee bread for sale. Program to follow at 10:15. Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd., Fitchburg. See the Friends of Saima Park on Facebook.

25 Saturday, 10 am. Rock Walk to Rollstone Hill in downtown Fitchburg. Meet at the Boulder Art Gallery, 960 Main Street, for this free event open to all. It’s a slow and easy walk, complete with a discussion of the history of the Rollstone Boulder and more. Call 978-345-0345 for questions or other details.

25 Saturday, 7:30 pm. Contra Dance at the Groton Grange, 80 Champney St., Groton. The Groton Grange building becomes a dance party, and you don't have to have any dance experience to join. Local band the Contra Banditos will be playing their traditional old-time fiddle and Americana music. Bring a partner or come alone. Visit the grange on Facebook.

25-26 Saturday & Sunday 11 am- 4 pm. Spring Fling Craft Fair & Food Festival at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

26 Sunday, 3 pm. Historic Piano Concert at New Dawn Arts Center, 84 Main Street (Rte. 12) Ashburnham. Hwaen Ch’uqi & Emi Okumura, perform with four-hands and/or two pianos in the spring season of Historical Piano Concerts, featuring pianos from the Frederick Collection. Admission \$15, students and children free. Season passes available. Visit FrederickCollection.org for details.

26 Sunday, 6 pm. White Cross Ceremony at Monument Park, Main Street, Fitchburg. The city honors those who died in wars with a moving ceremony on Memorial Day weekend.

31 Friday, 7:30 pm. Sealed For Freshness at New Players Theatre Guild, 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. See nptg.org for details and tickets. Repeats June 1-June 2.

JUNE

1 Saturday, 9 am-2 pm. Country Fair at 1225 Chestnut St., Athol. The Athol Congregational Church’s 72nd annual fair features entertainment, rummage sale, baked goods, raffles, crafts, food, activities for kids, and more.

1 Saturday, 11 am-2 pm. Leominster Farmers Market on the Common in downtown Leominster.

1 Saturday, 11 am-6 pm. Devens Food Truck & Craft Festival at Verbeck Field: 27 Antietam Street, Devens. Enjoy food vendors, craft vendors, a beer tent, music, and fun activities. Rain date, June 2.

1-2 Saturday, 7:30 pm; Sunday, 2 pm. Sealed For Freshness at New Players Theatre Guild, 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. Need a laugh? Visit a Tupperware party attended by five seemingly 1950s-era women...in 1968. See nptg.org for details and tickets.

2 Sunday, 10 am. Jessica Buchanan in the Bull Run Restaurant Speaker Series, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. Meet the author of “Impossible Odds: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six.” Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

4 Tuesday, 5:45 pm. Nature walk with Mike Potsaid at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd., Fitchburg. See Friends of Saima Park on Facebook. Free. Donations welcome.

4 Tuesday, 6:30-8 pm. Fitchburg State University Orchestra Open Rehearsal under the Pavilion. Bring a picnic and enjoy the music! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Visit Saima-park.org. Repeats June 11.

6 Thursday, 6 pm. Summer Art Exhibit Reception at the Gardner Museum, 26 Pearl St., Gardner. This Summer Exhibit “Gardner’s Open Spaces” is a juried exhibition organized the Gardner Area League of Artist, and runs from June 7 until August 25 during regular museum opening hours.

6 Thursday, 3-5:30 pm. Opening Day of the Fitchburg Farmers Market on the Upper Common, 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Hosted by Growing Places and the city of Fitchburg. Visit fitchburgfarmersmarket.org. Market runs each Thursday through October.

7-8 Friday, 3:30 pm; Saturday, 3 pm. Greater Gardner Relay for Life at Mt. Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner. Local community raises funds for the American Cancer Society, with walker pledges, raffles and more. Visit relayforlife.org/gtrgardnerma.

8 Saturday, 9 am-2 pm. Hubbardston Fair at Curtis Rec Field, Route 68, Hubbardston. Lots of things to do for all ages, food truck, local artists & crafters, activities, a band playing in the Bandstand. Rain date June 9.

8 Saturday, 2 pm. Founders Day event at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

8 Saturday, 7 pm. Creeque Alley at the Shirley Meetinghouse, 41 Brown Rd., Shirley. Creeque Alley is an acoustic duo featuring Dan Kirouac and Sean Fullerton. Their music program pays tribute to traditional American Folk music and “Feel Good” Folk Rock and pop hits from 1962-1969. Visit shirleymeetinghouse.org.

8-9 Saturday & Sunday, 8:30 am. Spring pro,found Market 2024 at the Lancaster Fairgrounds, 318 Seven Bridge Road Lancaster. Vintage, vintage inspired, handmade, artisan, and creative vendors showcase their products. Food trucks and live music. Rain or shine. Kids under 12 free. .

9 Sunday, 2-4 pm. Dixieland Stomp concert on Templeton Common, Routes 2A & 101. Bring the family, a blanket or lawn chair ... even a picnic lunch to enjoy the toe-tapping music on beautiful Templeton Common. Rain date, June 16.

9 Sunday, 11 am-4 pm. Groton Greenway River Festival at Petapawag Canoe Launch, 11 South Rd., Pepperell. Enjoy a day filled with nature, music, and community vibes! Canoe tours, conservation exhibitions, art, and a cardboard canoe race. See the River Festival on Facebook for updates.

11 Tuesday, 7-9 pm. Jam Night at Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton. Three genres, three rooms, one bar. Join us as we open Groton Hill's inspiring facilities to jammers from across the region. Ages 16+ welcome \$10 admission. Visit grotonhill.org.

12 Wednesday, 2-5 pm. DPW Day at Coolidge Park, 198 Townsend St., Fitchburg. City of Fitchburg showcases the importance of its Dept. of Public Works, with family-friendly activities

14 Friday, 5-9 pm. Cruise Nights at Kimball Farm, 1543 Lunenburg Rd., Lancaster. See as many as 350 antique and unique cars from Corvettes to Model T's — plus DJ, raffle prizes, Grill & Seafood Shack, and our legendary ice cream. Visit kimballfarm.com. Repeats June 14, 21, 28.

14 Friday, 6:30-8 pm. Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers. All are welcome! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. On Facebook, see Revontulet Dancers.

15 Saturday, 8 am-3 pm. Town-wide Yard Sale in Westminster. Stop by the Historical Society building, 110 Main St., for a map of sale locations.

15 Saturday, 2-6 pm. Nashoba Rock N' Brewfest at The Fairgrounds at Lancaster, 318 Seven Bridge Rd., Lancaster. The Joseph and Leslie Carr Foundation presents this fest, with over 30 breweries and other libation vendors, food trucks, yard games and live bands. We will to rock your socks off while helping raise money to help those in need. Tickets, \$50.

15 Saturday, 3 pm-7 pm. Summer Stroll in Downtown Leominster. This annual event is a celebration of Leominster throughout the years with a focus on the '50s and '60s. Parade, music, dancing in the streets, classic car show, face painting, pony rides, sand sculptures, a misting tent, classic cars and vendors. For details, see Leominster-ma.gov.

15 Saturday, 9 am-2 pm. Summer Lawn Fair at Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St., Winchendon. Lawn Fairs have been running at UUCW since the 1860's, when the first summer flea market was held to help finance the construction of the building. Peruse a selection of crafts, artwork, yard sale and freecycle items, food and more! Visit uucw.ncmuuc.org/summer-fair.

15 Saturday, 8 pm. Carol O'Shaughnessy at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. Carol returns to The Bull Run Restaurant with 'Off The Cuff ... An evening of music and comedy, Anything Can Happen?!' featuring The Tom LaMark Orchestra. Visit bullrunrestaurant.com.

15-16 Saturday & Sunday. Father's Day Weekend at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. Kids bring your dad admission free to Davis Farmland! Enjoy over 50 MOO-velous attractions, events and shows! Visit davisfarmland.com.

15-30 Daily. The Summer of Reptiles starts at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. Enjoy daily, hands-on reptile shows, tortoise exhibit, eye-spy turtle pond, giant snakes, lizards, alligators and other slitherin' summer FUN! Visit davisfarmland.com.

16 Sunday, 1-3 pm. Wine Glass Paint & Sip at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Petting zoo. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

16 Sunday. Father's Day at Moon Hill Brewing and the Gardner Ale House, 74 Parker St., Gardner. Father's Day is different from Mother's Day. Dad knows! We break out the steaks and lobster along with our full menu of favorites, including Sunday Brunch from 9 am-3 pm. Visit MoonHillBrewing.com.

18 Tuesday, 6:30-8pm. Fitchburg State University Orchestra Open Rehearsals under the Pavilion at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Repeats June 25.

20 Thursday, 5:30 pm. Flying Irish Annual Hooley at the Finnish American Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd., Fitchburg. Tickets required; visit flyingirish.com for details.

21 Friday. Full Moon Canoeing Tour on the Nashua River in Groton. Set out by canoe at dusk and as darkness approaches, watch the moon rise, being on the lookout for owls, beaver, bats, and other night creatures.

22 Saturday, 2-4 pm. Garden Tea Party at the Narragansett Historical Society, 1 Boynton Rd., Templeton. Relax with music while snacking on dainty sandwiches, pastries, tea and lemonade in the beautiful garden. Tour the Society building, exploring its exhibits of life in days gone by. Donation requested for the tea. Visit the Narragansett Historical Society (Templeton Museum) on Facebook.

22 Saturday, 5 pm. Reminiscents Concert at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

22 Saturday, 6 pm. Summer Concert at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner. Let "Elvis" transport you back to a great musical era! Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

22-23 Saturday & Sunday. Americana/Bluegrass Festival at the Brew Barn at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. See redapplefarm.com.

23 Sunday, 9 am-12 pm. Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge Paddling Tour in Harvard. Join Nashoba Paddler for a day on the river! The tour begins at the visitor center where we'll learn about the refuge and the creatures that inhabit this protected place. You'll have a chance to explore the river, and take a hike around the refuge. Easy, flat-water, four-mile roundtrip. Registration required at NashobaPaddler.com.

23 Sunday, 10 am-3 pm. Finnish Summer Festival ("Kesäjuhla") at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg, complete with a chess tournament, outdoor games, chicken barbecue, hot dogs, beverages, Finnish coffee bread, music, folk dancers, and a cultural program. Visit Saima-park.org, or Facebook Friends of Saima Park.

23 Sunday, 1-4:30 pm. Introduction to Zentangle at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Intended for those who are not yet acquainted with the Zentangle process or those who want to review the basics and learn new tangles.

28 Friday, 4 pm. Food Truck Festival and Battle of the Bands at GAR Park, 52 Murdock Ave., Winchendon. Free admission. Visit townofwinchendon.com.

28 Friday, 5 pm-7 pm. Pink Flamingo Day at Monument Square, Main Street in downtown Leominster. The Plastics City celebrates its hometown kitschy lawn decoration, the famous pink flamingo! Created in 1957 at Union Products, this bright bird has been reproduced more than 20 million times and has become an international pop culture item.

28 Friday, 7 pm. Classical Collective Salon featuring various musicians at the Lawrence Library, 15 Main St., Pepperell.

29 Saturday, 6 pm. Summer Concert at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring Mr. Strickland. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

29 Saturday, 1-6 pm. Nashua River Brewers Festival at Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St., Fitchburg. Taste dozens of craft brews and artisan ciders under the big tent as the city kicks of its Civic Days celebration. Live music & food trucks. Tickets: \$35 in advance or \$40 at the entrance. Visit beersforgood.com for ticket & musical performer details.

29 Saturday, 10 am. Fourth of July Parade in Pepperell, beginning at Town Hall and proceeding

along Main Street. There will be a family fun night from 6-10 pm with carnival games, slides, food trucks and more, followed by a 20-minute fireworks show on the Varnum Brook Back field.

30 Sunday, 10 am-12 pm. Intro to Eco-Printing on Paper at the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Dr., Boylston. Explore the alchemy of water, plant materials, heat, and metal and end up with beautiful prints. Visit neb.org.

JULY

3 Wednesday, 4-10 pm. Downtown Block Party along Main Street in Fitchburg. The city's biggest annual gathering celebrates civic pride and attracts visitors from throughout the region. Enjoy a diverse range of food vendors, an assortment of fun activities, and a great mixture of live entertainment. Immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of Fitchburg!

3 Wednesday, 5-10 pm. Block Party Open House at the Fitchburg Historical Society, 791 Main St., Fitchburg. View the "Highlights of Fitchburg History" exhibit. Free. Visit fitchburghistoricalsociety.com

3 Wednesday, 9 pm. Fireworks Display in Fitchburg. This visually spectacular fireworks display, shot off from top of Rollstone Hill, is best viewed from downtown spots along Main St., Boulder Dr. and in Riverfront Park (51 Commercial St.).

4 Thursday, 10 am. Independence Day Parade in downtown Fitchburg. Parade begins at 265 Summer St. and proceeds along Main St. through downtown. Don't miss the largest July 4th parade in Central Massachusetts, from Summer Street along Main Street to Fitchburg's historic Upper Common.

6 Saturday, 11 am-2 pm. Leominster Farmers Market on the Common in downtown Leominster.

6 Saturday. Red, White & Berry Festival at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

6 Saturday, 6 pm. Summer Concert at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring Holding Back. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

6 Saturday, dusk. Movie Night at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. \$5 admission. Visit the Park on Facebook.

7 Sunday, 11 am-2 pm. Amazing Duck Race along the Nashua River. Head to Riverfront Park, 51 Commercial St., to experience this beloved local tradition on the Nashua River. Purchase numbered ducks in advance or just before the race, compete for prizes, and enjoy a day of family fun.

8 & 10 Monday & Wednesday, 6 pm. Sterling Summer Concert Series on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling Center. Enjoy concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings through August 19.

9 Tuesday, 5:45 pm. Nature Walk with Mike Potsaid at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Saima-park.org. Free. Donations welcome.

9 Tuesday, 7:30 pm. Concerts in Carter Park, 125 Main St., Leominster. The 30-piece Leominster Colonial Band performs programs of music varied enough for everyone to enjoy. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, seating is limited. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at Leominster City Hall.

10 Wednesday, 6-8 pm. Concerts on the Common at 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Opening program of this concert series that runs through August 21. Live music enjoyed is a lovely park setting, hosted by city of Fitchburg. Bring your own seating and food.



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11 Thursday, dusk. Movie Night at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. \$5 admission. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

12 Friday, 6 pm. Wine Glass Paint & Sip at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets at hardwickwinery.com.

12 Friday, 6:30-8pm. Finnish Dance Lessons at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd., Fitchburg. Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers. All are welcome!

13 Saturday, 12-8 pm. Food Truck Festival in downtown Gardner. The streets around Gardner City Hall turn into a foodie haven ... from candy to cannoli, potatoes to pierogi, you're likely to find something to tempt your taste buds, along with music and more!

13 Saturday, 2 pm. Giant Games FUN Day at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Free. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

13 Saturday, 5-8 pm. High Powered Mutants concert at Curtis Rec Field, Route 68, Hubbardston. Rain date of the following evening.

13 Saturday, 6-9 pm. Bingo at the American Legion hall, 295 School St., Winchendon, to benefit the Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue in Winchendon — an evening out for a good cause. Fifty cents per card to play.

13-14 Saturday & Sunday, 10 am-6 pm. Blueberry Jamboree at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. Fill up your bucket with fresh pick-your-own blueberries, all while sipping on an ice cold Blueberry Cider or trying Bart's Homemade blueberry ice cream and blueberry-glazed cider donuts. And of course, there's BBQ firing up the grill, local vendors/crafters, and live music. Repeats July 20-21.

14 Sunday, 2 pm. Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra performs at the bandstand on Templeton Common, Routes 2A & 101. This 19-member band presents up-tempo classics from the swing era as well as arrangements of music from contemporary artists. Bring the family, a blanket or lawn chair, even your picnic lunch and enjoy the "big band" sounds. Rain date, July 28.

15 & 17 Monday and Wednesday, 6 pm. Sterling Summer Concert Series on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling Center. Enjoy concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings through August 19.

16 Tuesday, 7:30 pm. Concerts in Carter Park, 125 Main St Leominster. The 30-piece Leominster Colonial Band performs programs of music varied enough for everyone to enjoy. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, seating is limited. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at Leominster City Hall.

17 Wednesday, 6-8 pm. Concerts on the Common at 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Live music enjoyed in a lovely park setting. Bring your own seating and food.

18 Thursday, 6 pm. Sip & Paint featuring the Painted Goat at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Purchase tickets online at hardwickwinery.com.

18 Thursday, dusk. Movie Night at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. \$5 admission. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

19 Friday, 6 pm. Cailte Kelley Summer Concert at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Free admission. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

20 Saturday, 10 am-2 pm. Summer Festival & Chicken BBQ at the Otter River Sportsman's Club. Lord Road, Templeton. St. Martin's Church presents its annual event, with raffles, handcrafts, theme baskets,

free activities for kids, and a great chicken dinner. Visit St. Martin's Facebook page for details. Reservations for the dinner are strongly suggested.

20-21 Saturday & Sunday, 10 am-6 pm. Blueberry Jamboree at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. Fill up your bucket with fresh pick-your-own blueberries, all while sipping on an ice cold Blueberry Cider or trying Bart's homemade blueberry ice cream and blueberry-glazed cider donuts. And of course, there's BBQ firing up the grill, local vendors/crafters, and live music.



Visit the ComicCon on July 20 in Leominster.

20 Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Plastic City ComicCon at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster. At Plastic City Comic Con, fandom meets affordability in the world of comics and pop culture! This annual one-day event is filled with fun, family-friendly activities. Admission \$10, kids 12 and under, free. See their Facebook page for updates.

20 Saturday, 1 pm. Sip & Script Calligraphy Workshop at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

20 Saturday, 6 pm. Summer Concert at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring Ashbrook Hanes. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

21 Sunday, 3 pm. Kids Concert at Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. \$10 admission. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.



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22 & 24 Monday & Wednesday, 6 pm. *Sterling Summer Concert Series* on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling. Enjoy concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings through August 19.

23 Tuesday, 7:30 pm. *Concert in Carter Park*, 125 Main St Leominster. The 30-piece Leominster Colonial Band performs programs of music varied enough for everyone to enjoy. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, seating in the park is limited. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at Leominster City Hall.

24 Wednesday, 6-8 pm. *Concert on the Common* at 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Live music enjoyed is a lovely park setting. Local bands perform a range of musical styles. Bring your own seating and food.

25 Thursday, dusk. *Movie Night* at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. \$5 admission. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

25 Thursday, 7:45-9:45 pm. *Movies in the Park*, on the lawn behind City Hall, 700 Main St., Fitchburg. Experience a free, family-friendly summer evening with movies under the stars every Thursday through August 22.

25-28 Thursday–Sunday, 24 hours a day. *The Wall That Heals* at Antietam Field, Devens. The Wall That Heals exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

26 Friday, 6:30-8 pm. *Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers*. All are welcome! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Revontulet Dancers on Facebook.

27 Saturday, 8-10 am. *Pannukakku Breakfast & Vendors*. Finnish oven pancake, bacon, sausage, Finnish coffee bread, beverages. \$10 Program to follow at 10:15. Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Saima-park.org.

27 Saturday, 10 am-1 pm. *Family Paddling* with Turtles on the Nashua River in Groton. Enjoy a special guided trip up the river and into a pond area filled with painted turtles and a couple of elusive snappers, guided by the experts from Nashoba Paddler. Spend some time exploring and learning about these creatures and then stop for lunch before heading back. Easy, flat water, three miles roundtrip. Register at NashobaPaddler.com.

27 Saturday, 5-8 pm. *The Big Random concert* at Curtis Rec Field, Route 68, Hubbardston. Rain date of the following evening

27 Saturday, 6 pm. *Summer Concert* at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring Gold Dust. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

29 & 31. Monday and Wednesday, 6 pm. *Sterling Summer Concert Series* on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling Center. Enjoy concerts on Monday and Wednesdays through August 19.

30 Tuesday, 7:30 pm. *Concert in Carter Park*, 125 Main St Leominster. The 30-piece Leominster Colonial Band performs programs of music varied enough for everyone to enjoy. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, seating in the park is limited. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at Leominster City Hall.

31 Wednesday, 6-8 pm. *Concerts on the Common* at 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Local bands perform a range of musical styles. Bring your own seating & food.

AUGUST

1 Thursday, 7:45-9:45 pm. *Movies in the Park*, on the lawn behind City Hall, 700 Main St., Fitchburg. Experience a free, family-friendly summer evening with movies under the stars every Thursday through August 22.

1-31 Daily. *The Summer of Reptiles* at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Rd., Sterling. Enjoy daily, hands-on reptile shows, tortoise exhibit, eye-spy turtle pond, giant snakes, lizards, alligators and other slitherin’ summer FUN! Visit davisfarmland.com.

2 Friday, 6 pm. *Wine Glass Paint & Sip* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

3 Saturday. *Blues & BBQ* at the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

3 Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. *Chili Cook Off* in Winchendon. Get ready for a hot time at the 40th Massachusetts state chili cook off presented by the Winchendon Kiwanis Club, at the Bull Spit Brewery, Summer Street in Winchendon. Music, family activities, and, of course lots of chili-tasting! Vote for your favorite. Visit Winchendon Kiwanis on Facebook.

3 Saturday, 11 am-2 pm. *Leominster Farmers Market* on the Common in downtown Leominster.

3 Saturday, dusk. *Movie Night* at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. \$5 admission. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

3 Saturday, 6 pm. *Summer Concert* at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring Remedy. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

4 Sunday, 2-5 pm. *Sunday Jazz* at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Repeats August 11, 18, 25. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

5 & 7 Monday and Wednesday, 6 pm. *Sterling Summer Concert Series* on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling Center. Enjoy concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings through August 19.

6 Tuesday, 5-7 pm. *National Night Out* at Lowe Park, 174 Elm St., Fitchburg. Fitchburg Police Department & NewVue Communities host a family-friendly event including presentations, a resource fair, community performers, free refreshments & games for kids.

6 Tuesday, 5-8 pm. *National Night Out* in Downtown Leominster. See Leominster Community Development on Facebook for details.



The Wall That Heals comes to Devens July 25-28.

6 Tuesday, 5:45 pm. *Nature Walk with Mike Potsaid*. Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Saima-park.org, Facebook Friends of Saima Park. Free. Donations welcome.

6 Tuesday, 6:30-8 pm. *Fitchburg State University Open Rehearsals* under the pavilion. Bring a picnic and enjoy the music! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Saima-park.org or on Facebook Friends of Saima Park. Free.

6 Tuesday, 7:30 pm. *Concert in Carter Park*, 125 Main St Leominster. The 30-piece Leominster Colonial Band performs programs of music varied enough for everyone to enjoy. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, seating in the park is limited. In the event of rain, concerts will be held at Leominster City Hall.

7 Wednesday, 6-8 pm. *Concert on the Common* at 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Live music enjoyed is a lovely park setting. Local bands perform a range of musical styles. Bring your own seating and food.

8 Thursday, 7:45-9:45 pm. *Movies in the Park*, on the lawn behind City Hall, 700 Main St., Fitchburg. Experience a free, family-friendly summer evening with movies under the stars every Thursday through August 22.

9 Friday, 6:30-8 pm. *Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers* at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. All are welcome. See the Revontulet Dancers on Facebook.

9-10 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm. *The Prom* at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St., Gardner. Four eccentric Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage. So, when they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town prom, they know that it’s time to put a spotlight on the issue...and themselves. Visit mwcc.edu/tam for details and tickets. Repeats Aug. 16-18.

9-11 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm; Sunday, 2 pm. *Children’s Summer* show at New Players Theatre Guild, 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. The name of the show couldn’t be announced as this Guide went to press, but it’s sure to be a peachy experience! Visit NPTG.org for tickets and details. Repeats August 16-18.

9-11 Friday-Sunday. *Bolton Fair* at the Fairgrounds at Lancaster, Rt. 117, Lancaster. Enjoy the midway, food, entertainment, a motorcycle and monster truck show, animal shows and contests, Clydesdale horses and so much more at this old-fashioned agricultural fair. Visit boltonfair.org.

10 Saturday, 12-9 pm. *Winchenstock 2024* at the Amphitheater at Winchendon Community Park, 88 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Enjoy a full day’s lineup of music by local bands, to benefit the Winchendon Community Action Committee.



Paddle with Turtles on July 27 in Groton.

10 Saturday, 2 pm. *Animal FUN Day* at Winchendon Community Park, 86 Ingleside Rd., Winchendon. Free. Visit Winchendon Community Park on Facebook.

10 Saturday, 5-8 pm. *Ambient Sojourn Band concert* at Curtis Rec Field, Route 68, Hubbardston. Rain date of the following evening

10 Saturday, 6 pm. *Summer Concert* at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring 4Ever Fab, playing Beatles music. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

10-11 Saturday & Sunday, 9 am. *Peach Festival* at Carlson Orchards, 115 Oak Hill Rd. Harvard. Visit carlsonorchards.com to confirm date—the peaches ripen on Mother Nature’s schedule!

10-11 Saturday & Sunday, 10 am-6 pm. *Sunflower Festival* at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. Join us for a fun, family-friendly day of pick-your-own sunflowers and other sunflower-themed festivities over two weekends! Past activities have included hula hooping, tie dye, live music, and a craft fair of unique arts and jewelry. Repeats August 17-18.

11, Sunday, 11 am. *Town Benefit* on Academy Hill, Westminster. Music, food trucks, raffles, carnival games, 5k race, vendors and more ... raising funds for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

11 Sunday, 2-5 pm. *Sunday Jazz* at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Repeats August 18, 25. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

12 & 14 Monday and Wednesday, 6 pm. *Sterling Summer Concert Series* on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling Center. Enjoy concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings through August 19.

13 Tuesday, 6:30-8 pm. *Fitchburg State University Orchestra Open Rehearsals* Under the Pavilion at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Saima-park.org. Free.

14 Wednesday, 6-8 pm. *Concert* on the Common at 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Live music enjoyed is a lovely park setting, hosted by city of Fitchburg. Bring your own seating and food.

15 Thursday, 5:30-7:30 pm. *Annual Classic Car Show* sponsored by the Sterling Senior Center, 36 Muddy Pond Road. Visit sterling-ma.gov/senior-center.

15 Thursday, 7:45-9:45 pm. *Movies in the Park*, on the lawn behind City Hall, 700 Main St., Fitchburg. Experience a free, family-friendly summer evening with movies under the stars every Thursday through August 22.

16 Friday, 6 pm. *Summer Concert* at GAR Park, 52 Murdock Ave., Winchendon. Visit townofwinchendon.com for details.

16-18 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm; Sunday, 2 pm. *The Prom* at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St., Gardner. See August 9-10 listing for details. Visit mwcc.edu/tam for tickets.

16-18 Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm; Sunday, 2 pm. *Children’s Summer*



The Leominster Colonial Band performs on Tuesday evenings in Carter Park.

show at New Players Theatre Guild, 15 Rollstone St., Fitchburg. See August 0-10 listing for details. Visit NPTG.org for tickets.

17 Saturday, 3-7 pm. *MASSive Craft Beer Garden* on the Common in downtown Leominster. Your ticket provides access to breweries from across Massachusetts; you pay for beers as you visit each brewery. (This is not a sampling event.) Live music, lawn games, food trucks. Visit Leominster-ma.gov for details.

17 Saturday, 2-11 pm. *PACC Car Show & Rock Concert* at the Polish American Citizens Club, Kendall pond Rd., Gardner.

17 Saturday, 6 pm. *Summer Concert* at Monument Park, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring Jumpin Juba. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

17-18 Saturday & Sunday, 10 am-6 pm. *Sunflower Festival* at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. See August 10 listing for details.

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18 Sunday, 11 am-4 pm. *Go Fly a Kite* with the Narragansett Historical Society at Brooks Field, 325 Baldwinville Rd., Templeton. Come fly a kite or watch the master fly his giant kites. There will be face painting, hay rides, giant bubbles to play with, fudge, popcorn, ice cream, burgers and dogs, and music by the Williams Brothers. Free admission. Visit the Narragansett Historical Society (Templeton Museum) on Facebook.

18 Sunday, 2-4:30 pm. *Neurotic Gumbo concert* at Coggs Hall Park, 159 Electric Ave., Fitchburg. Enjoy free summertime entertainment in a lovely outdoor setting. Visit coggs hallpark.org.

18 Sunday, 2-5 pm. *Sunday Jazz* at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Repeats August 25. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

19 Monday, 6 pm. *Sterling Summer Concert* on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling Center. Enjoy concerts on Monday and Wednesday evenings through August 19.

20 Tuesday, 6:30-8 pm. *Fitchburg State University Open Rehearsals* under the pavilion. Bring a picnic and enjoy the music! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. See Saima-park.org. Free. Donations welcome.

21 Wednesday, 6-8 pm. *Concert on the Common* at 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Live music enjoyed is a lovely park setting, hosted by city of Fitchburg (Parks & Rec.) Local bands perform a range of musical styles. Bring your own seating & food.

22 Thursday, 6 pm. *Harvest Five Course Wine Dinner* at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

22 Thursday, 7:45-9:45 pm. *Movies in the Park*, on the lawn behind City Hall, 700 Main St., Fitchburg. Experience a free, family-friendly summer evening with movies under the stars.

23 Friday, 6:30-8 pm. *Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers*. All are welcome! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. On Facebook: Revontulet Dancers.

24 Saturday, 8-10 am. *Pannukakku Breakfast & Vendors*. Finnish oven pancake, bacon, sausage, Finnish coffee bread, beverages. \$10. Loaves of coffee bread for sale. Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Visit Saima-park.org.

24 Saturday, 10 am. *Dinghy Dash* at Brigham pond, Hubbardston. What could be more fun than a cardboard boat race? Build a boat out of cardboard and duct tape — the fastest one that paddles around all the buoys without sinking wins! Visit Hubbardston Celebration on Facebook.

24 Saturday, 6 pm. *Summer Concert at Monument Park*, Central and Park streets, Gardner, featuring Big Random. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

25 Sunday, 2-5 pm. *Sunday Jazz* at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

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27 Tuesday, 5-10 pm. Dining Under the Stars on Central Street, Leominster. Enjoy a meal outside and relax while you listen to live music. Admission is free, pay only for what you want to eat and drink.

28 Wednesday, 9 am-12 pm. Wildlife Wonders at Coggs Hall Park, 159 Electric Ave., Fitchburg. Bring your family for an immersive exploration into the world of wildlife. Breakfast provided.

31 Saturday, 10 am-6 pm. Opening Day for the Applesseed Country Fair at

Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston, a three day extravaganza of music, vendors, food and fun! Pick your own apples, take a wagon ride, feed the farm animals, see local crafters and vendors, and, of course, enjoy beer and cider from Moon Hill Brewing in the Brew Barn. Continues September 1-2.

31 Saturday, 11 am-4 pm. Fall Craft Fair & Food Festival at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Continues Sept. 1. Visit hardwickwinery.com.



Fly a Kite (and make giant bubbles!) in Templeton on August 18.

ONGOING

Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am, Mid-April through October. Alpaca Yoga at In the Meadow Farm, 40 Page St., Lunenburg. Call 978-696-3332 or email inthemeadow40@gmail.com to register and confirm class.

Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm. May through October. Sterling Street Market at Town Common in Sterling Center, Route 12. Crafters and growers set up shop in this outdoor market.

Tuesdays, through April 30, 6:15-7:30 pm. Yoga in the Gallery at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg.

First Thursday of the month, 12-7 pm. Free First Thursdays in Fitchburg. Enjoy free admission at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg, along with various pop-up activities and events in downtown Fitchburg. Details at intownfitchburg.com/events.

Thursdays, July 25 through August 22, 7:45 - 9:45 pm. Movies in the Park on the Fitchburg City Hall lawn, behind 700 Main St. Experience a free, family-friendly summer evening with movies under the stars.

Fridays, 6:30-8pm, April through August. Dance with the Revontulet Folk Dancers. All are welcome! Finnish Center at Saima Park, 67 Scott Rd, Fitchburg. More info or to confirm date: 603-831-0836. Facebook: Revontulet Dancers.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sundays, March to early May, 6-8 pm. Franco O'Malley's Sunday Night Sound Bites in the Brew Barn taproom; and after May 24, on the outdoor stage, at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. See Red Apple Farm on Facebook.

Sundays, every Sunday in August, 2-5 pm. Sunday Jazz at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick. Repeats August 11, 18, 25. Visit hardwickwinery.com.

Mondays, starting May 27, 5-8 pm. Blue Mondays Music Series every Monday night in the Brew Barn taproom at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. See Red Apple Farm on Facebook.

Wednesdays, 6 pm. Lose Your Blues Wednesdays at the Bull Run Restaurant

215 Great Rd., Shirley. Live local blues in the tavern every week. No cover.

First Wednesdays of the month, 6-10 pm. Irish Session at the Boulder Café, 886 Main St., Fitchburg. Bring your instrument, grab a pint, and come pick and sing with us while Jon Bonner leads the pub on a musical Journey from Ireland to Appalachia. Every first Wednesday of the month at 6pm! Come join in the shenanigans... Slainte!

Thursdays, 7-9 pm. Trivia Night with Maria at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley.

Thursdays, March through early May, 6-8 pm. Trivia Night with Ryan Murphy in the Brew Barn taproom at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. See Red Apple Farm on Facebook.

Fridays. Piano with Maestro Steven Higgs at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley.

Fridays, March to early May, 6-8 pm. Live Music in the Brew Barn taproom at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Fitchburg. See Red Apple Farm on Facebook.

Third Friday of the Month, 7-9 pm. Open Mic Night at the Lawrence Library, 15 Main St., Pepperell.

Fridays & Saturdays, 7:30 pm. Mill Street Music Series hosted by The Cellar, Mill Street plaza, 14 Mill Street, Fitchburg. Local musicians perform live music in an outdoor setting on alternate Friday and Saturday evenings through September. For details, visit the Mill Street Cellar on Facebook.

Fridays-Sundays, 7 pm. Live music in the Cider Barn at Carlson Orchards, most weekends through the summer. Check the website carlsonorchards.com for updated listings.

Saturdays. Live Music in the Tavern at the Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Rd., Shirley. No cover charge.

Saturdays, starting May 24, 12-3pm and 4-7pm outdoors on the Brew Barn Stage at Red Apple Farm, 455 Highland Ave., Phillipston. See Red Apple Farm on Facebook.

Saturdays & Sundays, 2-5 pm. Live local music, year-round, at Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, 3305 Greenwich Rd, Hardwick. Updated schedules are posted at hardwickwinery.com.

Saturdays, March 23, April 20, May 25. 7:30 pm. Contra Dance at the Groton Grange, 80 Champney St., Groton. The Groton Grange building becomes a dance party, and you don't have to have any dance experience to join. Local band the Contra Banditos will be playing their traditional old-time fiddle and Americana music. Bring a partner or come alone. Visit the grange on Facebook.

Saturdays, 6:30 pm. Third Saturday of the month, Fresh Ground Coffeehouse at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 66 Elm Street, Gardner.

BAND CONCERTS

Sundays, mid-July through August, 5-7 pm. Summer Concert Series at Winchester Park, 20 Memorial Drive, Ashburnham.

Mondays and Wednesdays, mid-July through mid-August, 6 pm. Sterling Summer Concert Series on the Town Common, Route 12 in Sterling Center.

Tuesdays, mid-July through mid-August, 6:30-8:30 pm. Concerts on the town bandstand in Pepperell.

Tuesdays, July 9 through August 6, 7:30 pm. Concerts in Carter Park, 125 Main St Leominster, with the 30-piece Leominster Colonial Band.

Wednesday Nights in July & August, 7-9 pm. Summer Band Concerts on Academy Hill Road in Westminster.

Wednesdays, July 10 through August 21, 6-8 pm. Concerts on the Common at 857 Main St., Fitchburg.

Thursdays, 7:30 pm. June through August. Concerts on the Common, Route 13, Townsend.

Saturdays, mid-July through early August, 5-8 pm. Summer Concerts at Curtis Rec field, Route 68, Hubbardston.

Saturdays, mid-June through August, 5 pm. Concerts in Monument Park, Park Street, Gardner.

FARMERS MARKETS

Sundays and Thursdays, 10 am to 5 pm. June to October. 960 Mass. Ave., Lunenburg.

Wednesdays, 3-6 pm from the last week in May to the last week in October at Academy Hill, Westminster.

Thursdays, 3-5:30 pm June through October. Fitchburg Farmers Market at the Upper Common, 857 Main St., Fitchburg. Hosted by Growing Places & the city of Fitchburg. See fitchburgfarmersmarket.org.

Thursdays, 4-7 pm. Templeton Farmers Market on the library lawn, Boynton Road, Templeton. Growers, crafters, and music through September.

Thursdays, 4-7 pm and Saturdays, 10 am-1 pm, at Pleasant and Front streets, Winchendon.

Fridays May through October, 3 pm to 6:30 pm. Sterling Farmers Market at the Butterick Municipal Building, 1 Park Street, Sterling.

Third Saturday of the Month at Waterford Street School, Gardner.

Saturdays, 9 am-12 pm, June through October, Meetinghouse Hill, Ashburnham.

Saturdays, 10 am-1 pm. August through October, 22 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard.

CAR SHOWS/CRUISE NIGHTS

Every Tuesday at 5 pm, (weather permitting) at VFW Post 7389, Westminster. Park your car in the field or come on up and check out the classic cars! Burgers and Dogs available until we run out! Beverages can be purchased inside or out and brought in the field! Public is encouraged and always welcome.

Fridays, 7-11 pm. Cruise Night at the Polish American Citizens Club (PACC), 171 Kendall pnd Rd., Gardner. Bring your classic car and enjoy great music and dancing in the pavilion.

Friday nights, 5-9 pm at Kimball Farm, 1543 Lunenburg Rd., Lancaster. See as many as 350 antique and unique cars from Corvettes to Model T's — plus DJ, raffle prizes, Grill & Seafood Shack, and our legendary ice cream. Visit kimballfarm.com.

Every Other Wednesday, 4-8 pm. Bike Night at Kimball Farm, 1543 Lunenburg Rd., Lancaster. Come down to show off your bike, "talk bikes" with other bike lovers, enjoy dinner from our Grill & Seafood Shack and top it off with our famous, legendary ice cream.

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Game On Sports Performance Center

100 Game On Way, Fitchburg




978-956-4111

gameonfitchburg.com  

A premier sports center, offering both indoor and outdoor sports, lessons, camps, clinics, tournaments, 6 axe-throwing lanes, a bar, arcade room and a restaurant.

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

Avidia Bank

470 Lancaster St., Leominster

800-508-2265

avdiabank.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 of 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.

Leominster Credit Union

20 Adams St., Leominster

978-537-8021

leominstercu.com 

LCU is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative with seven branches in Clinton, Leominster, Sterling and Worcester.

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.

BREWRIES, WINERIES & CIDERIES

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/ 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.

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

978-248-1220

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

facebook.com/pineacres 

Twice voted Park of the Year nationally!

We offer tenting to waterfront sites, rustic cabins, RV rentals. Big rig friendly! 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 encompass 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 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.

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 and culture. Visit the Winchendon Rail Trail, or the Amphitheater for a concert or sample delicious food, in all they have to offer.

EDUCATION

Applewild School


120 Prospect St., Fitchburg
978-342-6053

applewild.org   

Applewild School provides excellent, affordable education to families in North Central Massachusetts.

Cushing Academy


39 School St., Ashburnham
978-827-7000

cushing.org 

A private, coeducational college-preparatory school for boarding and day students. Services approximately 400 students in grades 9-12 and a postgraduate year.

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

mwcc.edu   

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.

The Last U-pick Orchard in Johnny Appleseed's Birthplace


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23RD ANNUAL APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL & CRAFT SHOW
MAY 18, 10AM-4PM

U-PICK APPLES, BLUEBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, PEACHES
Seasonal Fruit & Produce • Check our website for hours.

TOURS AND HIKING

Great place for family and company outings.

FARMSTAND OPEN LATE JULY

Check our Facebook or webpage for hours.



Sholan Farms is owned by the City and operated by the Friends, a 501(c)3 volunteer organization.
Volunteer Opportunities – Throughout the year; pruning, planting, general farm work, office work and more.

www.sholanfarms.com • 1125 Pleasant St., Leominster, MA • Email: info@sholanfarms.com
Farm: 978-840-3276 • Mail: PO Box 632, Leominster, MA 01453

St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School
45 Harvard St., Fitchburg
978-342-3212
stbernardscchs.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
brookfieldorchardsonline.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 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
978-820-1199
plainviewfarmalpacos.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.
Devens Common Center
31 Andrews Pkwy., Devens
978-772-0188
devenscommoncenter.com
A celebrated convention facility and wedding venue located in the heart of historic Devens. Our well-appointed property offers the perfect meeting space for all your needs.

The Marlborough House
9 Ling Street, Marlborough, NH
603-876-0004
themarlboroughhouse.com
The perfect New England setting to accommodate your wedding, corporate events, concerts, live performances and more.

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
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.

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.

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
978-632-3420
heywood.org
Community-owned hospital licensed for 134 bed, located in Gardner, MA. The Staff includes courtesy, and consulting physicians in primary care and a multitude of specialties.

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
Boxborough Regency
242 Adams Place, Boxborough
978-263-8701
boxbororeregency.com
Centrally located in suburban wooded area, the Hotel & Conference Center offers the perfect location for family getaways, romantic weekends, and corporate travelers.

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/boslt-courtyard-boston-littleton
Located at exit 80 off I-495, just minutes from Route 2 in The Point complex with restaurants, shops & entertainment

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 put-put golf.

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

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
www.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
Ronbouchardautostores.com/rb-racing-museum.html
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.

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area
94 Jackson Rd., Suite 311, Devens
978-772-3654
freedomsway.org
We are committed to promoting, preserving, enhancing, and curating the natural, cultural, and historical resources within our 45 communities.

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.

Launch Trampoline Park
118 Commercial Rd., Leominster
978-237-5600
Launchtrampolinepark.com/
Leominster
Facility rentals available, any size group welcome! Check website of info and times.

Mully's Indoor Golf Lounge
44 Old Princeton Rd., Fitchburg
978-696-3152
mullysindoorgolf.com
We are the new premier indoor golfing facility, experience golfing with Trackman, the best simulators in the industry.

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.

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.

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 Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
113 Goodnow Rd., Princeton
978-464-2712
massaudubon.org/wachusett
A former farmstead with historic buildings, barns, spectacular scenery, woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. 12 miles of trails; facility rentals, snowshoe/canoe rentals.

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
winchendonhistory.com
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.

Worcester Brave Hearts Baseball
39 Jolma Road, Worcester
508-438-3773
Worcesterbravehearts.com
If you're looking for affordable family fun, you've come to the right place! We offer exciting, hustle baseball, involving some of the best young talent that New England has to offer.

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873 Main St., Ashby
873cafe.com
Serving fresh and locally sourced

THE 141ST BOLTON FAIR
An Old Fashioned Agricultural Fair
Friday Aug. 9th – Sunday, Aug. 11th
Midway • Food • Entertainment • Working Craftsmen
Low Admission Price

- Motorcycle & Monster Truck Show
- Animal Shows & Contests
- Kids' Country • Demo Derby
- Clydesdale Horses
- Exhibit Hall • Farmers Market
- Commercial Vendors

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REAL ESTATE




food, Chef Smith and his team work to create delicious, savory and beautifully plated meals for every visitor.



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. Top entertainment, trivia night, Friendly Friday sing-along and Saturday Jazz. Holds up to 300.

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.

Chopsticks Restaurant of Leominster
21 Commercial Rd., Leominster
978-534-0020  
chopsticksleominsterma.com
Chopsticks Restaurant & Bar offers authentic and delicious tasting Chinese & Japanese cuisine. Come experience our friendly atmosphere and excellent service.

Comeketo Brazilian Steakhouse
23 Sack Blvd., Leominster
978-466-1224
comeketo.com   
At Comeketo we are pleased to bring Brazilian-style Rodizio to our friends and family.

Dairy Queen
18 Sack Boulevard, Leominster
978 798-1053  
www.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.

Delicious Dips
94 Franklin Road, Fitchburg
978-516-6124 
deliciousdipsbp Paige.com
A small woman owned business. We pride ourselves on providing fresh, quality chocolate covered treats and baked goods.

Gold Bowl
22 Ashby State Rd., Fitchburg 
978-348-2088 | goldbowl8.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.

Identity Coffee Lab
35 Main Street, Fitchburg
identitycoffee.com  

Explore our Collection of rare coffee blends and awaken your senses with coffees from around the globe.

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.

Kimball Farm in Lancaster
1543 Lunenburg Rd., (Rte 70), Lancaster
978-534-9800
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.)

Legends Bar & Grille
68 Airport Road, Ste. 10, Fitchburg
978-342-6500
legendsbarandgrille.com  
Come and enjoy the great variety of menu items for you!

Main Street Gift and Café
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.

Moe's Southwest Grill
865 Meriam Ave., Leominster
978-401-2657   
moes.com/find-a-moes/
massachusetts/leominster
Fresher than fresh burrito, bowl or whatever you're craving made from our 20+ fresh and flavorful ingredients.

Moon Hill Brewing / Gardner Ale House
74 Parker St., Gardner
978-669-0122
gardnerale.com   
A family-oriented brewpub/restaurant with a bistro style menu, 12+ award-winning beers on tap. Open daily with Sunday brunch buffet, 9am-3pm.

Old Mill Restaurant & Country Store
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.)

Rise & Grind Café and Smoothie Bar
805 Main Street, Fitchburg
riseandgrindcafema.com  
We offer specialty coffees, tea, smoothies or enjoy one of our breakfast or lunch sandwich/panni/or flatbread.

The Pauper's Pantry
695 Main Street, Fitchburg
978-660-2314  
finickyforkcatering.com
Creating exceptional cuisine with simple, local and fresh ingredients.

Simply Sweet by Christine Inc.
206 Meriam Ave., Leominster
978-235-6634
onesweetcake.com  
Simply Sweet by Christine specializes in fresh baked goods and beautiful delicious cakes and for any occasion.

Singapore Restaurant
170 Whalon Street, Fitchburg
978-345-0132 
singaporefitchburg.com
The key to our success is simple: providing quality consistent food that taste great every single time.

Slattery's Restaurant
106 Lunenburg St., Fitchburg
978-342-8880
slatterysrestaurant.com 
Cozy, long-standing pub with outdoor seating offering a large American menu and numerous draft beers.

Slavin in the Kitchen
313 Longley Road, Groton
508-320-6994 
slavininthekitchen.com
Our creativity and attention to detail is what stands us apart from other caterers with extraordinary quality, sensational flavor and spectacular presentation.

Taco John's
536 Main Street, Leominster
978-252-0775
locations.tacjohns.com/ma/leominster/536-n-main   
We serve traditional Mexican food with a twist. By fusing bold flavors with south-of-the-border spices for Bigger, Bolder, Better flavors.

The Central Cup, Coffee & Cupcakery
139 Central St., Leominster
thecentralcup.com  
We make our orders from scratch, daily, with the finest ingredients. Besides our desserts, we offer fresh quality coffee and espresso drinks.

The Fix Burger Bar
14 Monument Sq., Leominster
978-534-5900
thefixburgerbar.com   
Customized fresh beef, and over 40 toppings to choose from, allowing guests to enjoy a signature “Fixed-Up” burger topping it off with a great beer, amazing craft drinks or shake.

The Lazy Bubble
112 Main St., Ste. #5, Pepperell
978-925-9777
thelazybubble.com  
Chef Chris' unique style of International Comfort Foods utilizes local, organic ingredients in our scratch recipes.

Zeda's Pizza / Bad Larry's
65 Laural Street, Fitchburg
1 Main Street, Lunenburg
978-342-9876 | 978-582-9876
zedaspizza.net
badlarrysbarandgrill.com 
More than just a pizza place. We feature from scratch cooking, large portions, and an extensive menu. Dine in, takeout, or delivery.

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aliciasspiceco.com   
All Natural, Gluten Free, Kosher, Keto, Vegan and low Sodium spices and focus on wholesome ingredients.

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978-874-0521
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Gotta Dance!

Do your feet start tapping the minute the music starts? Or do you love watching the fancy footwork of experienced dancers? Have you been dying to learn line dancing, but don't know where to begin? Whether you love to dance—or love to sit and see talent on display—the answer to your wishes can be found right here in Johnny Appleseed Country!

Line Up! The very mention of “country” is likely to conjure up images of synchronized boot-stomping country line dancing. And you can find plenty of opportunities to get your feet moving in this region. Here's a tip: check out the Facebook pages for the **Wachusett Brew Yard** in Westminster, or local sporting clubs like the **Snowbound Club** in Winchendon, **Hubbardston Rod & Gun Club**, or **Templeton Fish &**

Game Club. Most have options for beginners and “beyond beginners,” so you're sure to find just the right fit for you. **Add a Little Heat** Love salsa? You can dance the night away at **Mt. Wachusett Community College** in Gardner on March 22. No partner? No problem! You can learn the basic steps in salsa dancing (as well as some flashy and fun moves) for the first hour and a half and then have time to perfect and dance all those fun moves during the social dance portion afterwards. Visit mwcc.edu for details. **Think Green** If you're fascinated by Irish step dancing, you're in for a treat. The **Flying Irish** troupe has several exhibitions scheduled in the region this season, along with their annual Spring Feis competition. Based out of their studio in Ashby, the dance school students are sure to entrance audiences with their colorful costumes



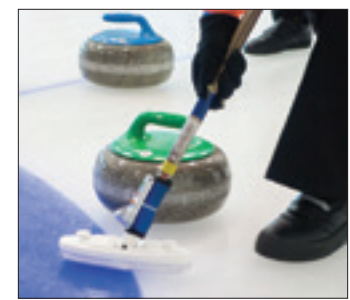
and intricate routines. Thumb through the calendar in this guide, or follow their Facebook page to find details about their exhibitions in **Ashburnham** on March 14 and the **Great Wolf Lodge** in Fitchburg in April, as well as their participation in the **Pepperell Fourth of July parade**. And for a day packed with Irish music and dance, look into the New England dance championships in **Townsend** in April. You can learn more about the dancers and their upcoming events at flyingirish.com. **Finnish It** This regions' residents come from many ethnic backgrounds, including a hardy group of Finnish descendants who have a home-away-from-home at **Saima Park** in Fitchburg. Along with frequent Saturday breakfasts featuring Finnish foods, the group hosts a Finnish dance troupe, the Revontulet Folks Dancers. Join them for some dancing fun—and lessons!—on the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month. Visit the dancers' Facebook page to learn more about this fun Finnish experience. §

Hot Tickets



Get Swept Away!

You've watched it on TV when the Winter Olympics rolled around, and wondered why the heck those people were using brooms to sweep the ice. Maybe you started to figure out just how points are scored, and maybe even started to get the hang of the strategy being used by the curling teams. But if you'd like to know more about the game, or spend an evening cheering on a local team just for fun, check out the Petersham Curling Club. There's a “Learn to Curl” program from 6 to 8 pm on March 15. Visit petershamcurling.org



Rock On!

It's an easy hike, a history lesson, and an opportunity to enjoy fabulous views, all rolled into one! On May 25, stop by the Boulder Art Gallery on Fitchburg's Main Street and join local artist Peter Capodagli for a stroll to the top of Rollstone Hill. You'll



learn about the history of the Rollstone Boulder (which was brought down the hill in pieces and re-assembled at the top of the Upper Common) and the quarries atop the hill. Your reward for expending the exercise to reach the summit? A great view of the city below, and a peek at the outdoor art gallery created by generations of Fitchburg High School seniors. The walk from the Boulder to The Rock starts at 10 am and leads you past several historic and interesting sites, as it loops up Rollstone Hill and back to the Common.

It's Just Ducky!

Forget the Kentucky Derby and the Boston Marathon. Fitchburg has a race you can watch without wearing a fancy hat or standing for hours along a country road in all kinds of weather. It's the Amazing Duck Race, and it turns the spotlight on the river that once powered industry

throughout the city and region. The race is a key ingredient in Fitchburg's annual Civic Days celebration. Picture it: thousands of bright yellow rubber duckies floating, bobbing, swirling their way downstream, heading toward Riverfront Park and their cheering admirers. Why all the cheering? Well, each of those duckies has a sponsor hoping to win a prize. And you don't have to spend hours waiting for the results: the winning ducks usually cross the finish line in less than 30 minutes! Race day, though, is about more than just the speed of the yellow toys—it's a day filled with music, activities for kids of all ages, face-painting, food and tons of fun. This year's event runs from 11 am to 2 pm on Sunday, July 7 at Riverfront Park on Commercial Street in Fitchburg. Bring the family for a ducky day of fun!



Take Time to Relax!

Feeling stressed? Need to stretch your body and your mind? Want to immerse yourself in the calm of the countryside? We've got just what you need: Yoga with the Alpacas! Let your worries fade away in the warmth of the sun, the chirping of birds, and the soft hum of alpacas as you focus on mindful yoga movements on the farm. On Saturday mornings from mid-April through October, In the Meadow Farm at 40 Page St. in Lunenburg offers Yoga with the Alpacas, a one-hour session that will help you relax after a busy week. And you don't need Yoga experience—the program is great for beginners, too. You'll get a chance to meet these gentle animals up close and personal, shop for cute and practical products made from alpaca fiber, and head home feeling rejuvenated! Learn more at inthemeadowalpacas.com.

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A NEW NAME FOR A SPECIAL PLACE



For nearly two decades, art-lovers from around the world have come to North Central Massachusetts to view the spectacular collection of icons at a museum founded by local industrialist Gordon Lankton.

The Clinton attraction became the only museum in the United States solely dedicated to Russian icons, holding the largest collection of its kind in North America, and one of the largest private collections outside of Russia.

This year, the familiar Museum of Russian Icons at 203 Union St. has taken on a new identity: it's now the Icon Museum and Study Center, offering access to the country's largest collection of icons and Eastern Christian art, as well as research resources and programs for scholars. The museum complex

holds a permanent collection of over a thousand Russian, Greek, and Ethiopian icons and Orthodox works of art. In addition to its permanent collection and various special exhibitions, the museum hosts a lively slate of cultural and scholarly programs.

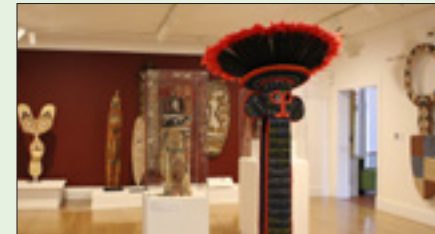
The war in Ukraine, not surprisingly, played a role in the name change. "The thing is, we do break with Russia and its politics because war destroys everything. But we do not break with Russian culture. We want to show this magnificent culture as world culture," Simon Morsink, the museum's executive director, said when the change was announced in October 2023. At the same time, it accompanied an expansion of the collection to include sacred icons from a broader diversity of Eastern Christian cultures. §

WHAT IS AN ICON?

An icon is an image of a holy person or event created by an iconographer who follows the strict standards of the Orthodox Church. Icons range in size from the very small (for home use) to very large (for cathedrals). It is not worshiped, but rather venerated and used in prayer. Traditionally unsigned, icons are considered a window or portal into a divine realm. Icons have been described as a bridge between heaven and earth. Its visual language reflects the culture and traditions of the Eastern Christian world.

Short Stops

Of course you love exploring the Great Outdoors... and when you've had enough fresh air, or the weather isn't right for a foray into the forest, there are still lots of great things to enjoy in North Central Massachusetts! Here are a few spots, both indoors and out, to explore — and you can find even more places to visit in the "Places to Visit" section in this Guide!



A World of Art

You can view art from around the world—or from right here in Johnny Appleseed's back yard—at the Fitchburg Art Museum!

Visiting any time of the year, you might tour the African art gallery, discover the secrets of ancient Egypt (yes, there's a mummy!), or explore the art, life, and legacy of FAM Founder Eleanor Norcross. The Museum explains that Eleanor Norcross "was a charming, graceful, fiercely intelligent artist and patron passionate about improving the lives of others through cultural enrichment...her vision for an arts center in this city remains the driving force behind FAM's mission today."

Part of that mission is providing local artists—who live or work in a 30-mile radius of the city—with an opportunity to exhibit their works in a juried show, the annual Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft, one of the longest-running juried exhibitions in New England. The 88th Regional Exhibition runs from June 21 through September 8 this year. Stop in, and vote for your favorite work!



What's Your Treasure?

If it's Sunday, you can bet local residents are headed to Rietta Ranch on Route 68 in Hubbardston.

The sprawling flea market has been a mecca for bargain hunters, antique lovers, and folks searching for unique treasures. Baseball trading cards. Vintage magazines. Coins. Stamps. Toys. Computers. Assorted bric-a-brac. Whatever you're looking for, there's a good chance you'll find it here.

Thousands of shoppers flock to Rietta's acres of vendors on Sundays from April through the fall. Billed as at one of the most popular flea markets in the Northeastern U.S., Rietta Ranch has been a weekend adventure for more than 50 years.

Spending the day? Keep your energy up with a stop at the concession stand or Long Ranch Bar.

But keep a few tips in mind: Pets are not allowed on the property. Much of the flea market is an open area, so on a sunny day, be sure to slather on some sun-block. And wear comfortable shoes, because you're likely to do a lot of walking!



Fit for a King?

You've hiked through fields and forests, enjoyed concerts, and munched your way through food truck festivals.

Still looking for something different to do in North Central Massachusetts? How about visiting a castle? Well, it's not a complete castle—but there's enough of it standing to set your imagination loose (and let your stretch your travel-weary legs a bit).

Bancroft's castle was built by General William Bancroft atop Gibbet Hill in Groton in 1906. Built as a gift for his wife, Bancroft intended it as a bungalow to accompany a larger castle-like house. Unfortunately, he ran out of funds before the additions became reality.

In 1918, physician Harold Ayres bought the bungalow and converted it into a sanitarium. Then it took on another life in the 1930s, when the Groton Hunt Club used it for entertainment. Tragically, a July 4 fireworks celebration in 1932, led to a fire, leaving only the exterior stone walls of the bungalow intact.

Today, Bancroft's Castle, located on Lowell Road, is a protected open space with trails available for walking. You can take a fairly easy hike uphill to the ruins, and enjoy beautiful views.

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NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
Lodging

Legend									
* – No pool, but has a babbling brook		# of Rooms	Free Breakfast	Restaurant on Site	Wedding Venue	Swimming Pool	Gym/Fitness Center	Banquet/Meeting Spaces	Pets Allowed
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◆ – Indoor waterpark									
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EVENT CALENDAR



Maria Yolanda Liebana, *The World according to April 26th, 2023*, acrylic, molding paste, and mixed media collage on wood panel. Courtesy of the artist.

On Her Terms: *Feminine Power Embodied*

ON VIEW: FEBRUARY 3-JUNE 2, 2024

Taking inspiration from concepts including the Woman Life Freedom movement, modern rap, historical gynecological tools, and Victorian hair weaving, these artists identify the body as a site of empowerment. Whether represented through stark archival photography, delicate graphite drawings, or a dazzling maximalist aesthetic, the feminine form becomes an intimate place to reclaim personal agency and reckon with systems that politicize gender.