

Fast Friends Hosts Yard Sale To Benefit Greyhounds

On Saturday, June 24th, Fast Friends will hold a fundraising yard sale and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The community is invited to come and browse new and gently used housewares, books, toys, tools, linens, and more. Lunch and baked goods will be available to purchase. All proceeds will go to support the retired racing greyhounds waiting for their forever homes at Fast Friends.

"Fast Friends found wonderful adopters for 15 retired racing greyhounds last month," says Executive Director Sharron Thomas. "We are committed to placing as many greyhounds as possible, and the yard sales are an important piece of meeting this goal."

All of the greyhounds available for adoption at Fast Friends come from the racing industry. Since racing ended in New England years ago, Fast Friends has been bringing their greyhounds up from Florida, Alabama, and Kansas. The transportation costs are significant and the yard sales are a way for Fast Friends to defray that expense.

"The more we earn at the yard sales, the more greyhounds we can place with families," Thomas explains. "It's really as simple as that."

Fast Friends Greyhound Adoption Center has been placing retired racing greyhounds into loving, responsible homes since 1992. They run an all-breed doggy daycare and boarding facility with an on-site grooming salon to support the adoption program and the care of the more than 40 greyhounds waiting for their forever families at the adoption center. Fast Friends is open every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for anyone interested in learning more about adoption, greyhounds, and other sighthounds, and the services offered.

International Artists Perform At Winchendon Music Festival



Andrew Arceci

Music lovers will want to be in Winchendon, MA this weekend, as a whole weekend of music will be featured, ranging from Old Scots tunes to Italian baroque, from early New England composers to "Great American Songbook."

Andrew Arceci is the director of the events, which will be held at the Old Centre Church (First Congregational Church of Winchendon) on the Old Centre common. All programs are free and open to the public. Each event starts at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, June 22nd, there will be a program featuring Francesco Barsanti's A Collection of Old Scots Tunes (published 1742) with Andrew Arceci and WMF artists.

Friday, June 23rd will offer Jazz interpretations of the "Great American Songbook" as well as contemporary jazz compositions with John Arcaro and Band.

Saturday, June 24th will feature works by Jeremiah Ingalls (1764-1838), as well as other early New England composers with Andrew Arceci and WMF artists.

On Sunday, June 25th, there will be a program of Italian baroque repertoire, including works by Vivaldi, Porpora, Broschi, and Bononcini, with Andrew Arceci and WMF artists.

"We had a good response last year and we thought we'd continue," said Arceci, the festival's founder and director. Arceci's instruments include viola da gamba, violin, and double bass. He is a composer/arranger, scholar, and director of the Collegium Musicum at Wellesley College.

"It's still very much a startup. It's the second year. We've been lucky, but it shows there's interest in having an arts festival in Winchendon," he said.

Arceci has many family connections to Winchendon. The idea of a music festival in town "seemed like something that could be useful for the community ... There isn't much arts-related activity in the area. I think you can have a larger impact at the local level," Arceci said.

"The concerts will be free. It's designed for the community," he said. "For me, an important element is that the programs will be free."

The events are supported in part by the Winchendon Cultural Council, the Ashburnham Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Festivals Program, the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, and the First Congregational Church of Winchendon.

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