



The Monadnock

SHOPPER NEWS

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HOLIDAY
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Ashuelot Concerts Presents Tolstoy-Inspired Winter Chamber Music Concerts



British chamber musicians Louisa Stonehill and Nicholas Burns will perform duos by Prokofiev, Janáček, & Beethoven December 11th, 12th, and 14th.

Ashuelot Concerts will have three upcoming Chamber Music concerts: The Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Thursday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m.; Stonewall Farm in Keene on Friday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m.; and the Bellows Falls Opera House in Bellows Falls, VT on Sunday, December 14th at 3 p.m.

British chamber musicians Louisa Stonehill (violin) and Nicholas Burns (piano) will perform duos by Prokofiev, Janáček, & Beethoven.

This intriguing program explores how music and literature occasionally combine to inspire even more powerful works of art. Connecting the three pieces in this concert through the lens of Leo Tolstoy – particularly his novella *The Kreutzer Sonata* – reveals a powerful intersection of music, psychology, and morality. All three works are centered in the emotional and thematic space carved out by Tolstoy's philosophical engagement with music.

Online booking for all concerts is encouraged in advance as concerts often sell out. For tickets, visit www.ashuelotconcerts.org/events.

Mexica Mexican Restaurant A Culinary Journey To Mexico



Left to right, Jose Merino, Exgar Sanchez, Katherine Musil, and Eduardo Garcia are ready to take care of customers at Mexica Mexican Restaurant. A banner for Franklin Pierce University in Rindge hangs on the wall. Mexica sponsors the sports department at Franklin Pierce University.

(Photo by Marilyn Weir)

Park Theatre's CEO Adapts Charles Dickens' Travelogue In America Book To A One-Man Play

The Park Theatre in Jaffrey has announced the debut staged reading of *Dickens' America*, an original one-man play written by the theatre's Chief Executive Officer, Steve Jackson. The special one-night-only event will take place on the Eppes Stage at The Park Theatre on Saturday, December 13th at 7:30 p.m. It is part of the New England Dickens Fest now through December 21st.

Performed by acclaimed actor Adam Sowers in the role of Charles Dickens and directed by Lisa Bostnar, *Dickens' America* brings to life the celebrated author's 1842 tour of the young United States. Through

Dickens' sharp wit and keen observations, the play explores the promise and contradictions of a nation still finding its identity – themes that resonate as powerfully today as they did nearly two centuries ago. Jackson adapted the play from Dickens travelogue book of his 1842 trip called *American Notes for General Circulation*. The play takes the audience on Dickens trip that starts in Boston, and travels through New England and the mid-Atlantic.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased online at theparktheatre.org/dickens-america, by phone at 603-532-8888, or in person at the box office.

Start Making Sense, A Talking Heads Tribute At The Colonial Theatre Friday, December 19th

Start Making Sense, A Tribute To Talking Heads will perform on Friday, December 19th at The Colonial Theatre on Main Street in Keene at 7 p.m.

This tribute to the modern time genius of David Byrne of Talking Heads celebrates the entire Talking Heads' catalog with a seven-piece band meticulously executing the sounds and iconic live visual elements in every performance. Together these skilled and dedicated musicians enjoy bringing the unique, infectious energy of a Talking Heads live show that you know and love to the stage. The audience will enjoy hits like *Once in a Lifetime*, *Psycho Killer*, *Burning Down the House*, *Take Me to the River*, *Road to Nowhere*, and other songs that have energized, inspired, and healed audiences worldwide.

For more details or tickets, call 603-352-2033 or visit www.thecolonial.org.



John Braun, frontman for Start Making Sense, A Tribute To Talking Heads

By Lori Catozzi Cook

Mexica Mexican Restaurant in Fitzwilliam offers the full Mexican cuisine experience. This popular establishment immerses guests in Mexican flavors, hospitality, culture, and a vibrant atmosphere.

Exgar Sanchez and José Merino opened Mexica Mexican Restaurant in 2024 at 21 Route 12 South (corner of Routes 119 and 12). Both have worked in Mexican restaurants since their teens. After finding the perfect spot in Fitzwilliam, they opened their own authentic Mexican restaurant.

Since then, the restaurant has been welcomed with open arms and even given a great honor by the public through the Best of Monadnock 2025 Readers' Choice Awards: Silver for "Mexican/Latin Restaurant" and Gold for "New Restaurant."

"Our menu is very diverse, combining authentic and modern Mexican cuisine," says Merino. "Whether it's regulars grabbing drinks at the bar or families coming in for dinner, the restaurant is part of this town's identity."

Mexica Mexican Restaurant has an upbeat vibe with lively, festive music and vibrant decor. They offer ample

parking and have a seasonal patio for outdoor dining. The restaurant has become known for its support of local community and school events.

"This is a hidden gem in Fitzwilliam," says Kim Arietta. "The menu has a large variety of meal choices, which includes vegetarian options. You can't go wrong with any of the items listed. Everyone at our table had something different, and everyone was pleased with their final choice. House margaritas are great! They serve chips with salsa and a side of ranch dressing (white sauce), while you peruse the menu and wait for the meal."

"Great place and is already popular," Carl Cramm comments. "Average pricing for the area. Once you place your order, your plates arrive rather quickly compared to other local restaurants. If you want to get your Mex fix, then this is the place!"

Becky Trepanier has this to say about her experience at Mexica Mexican Restaurant: "We are hooked on this place. The seating is so cute, and the staff are so attentive. Heather was a great joy as our server. The food is always delicious, and the house margaritas take the win."

MEXICA, page 16

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Holiday Gift Guide II... 7-14

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PET OF THE WEEK

from THE MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

Stu And Ernie




Meet Ernie and his lively young sidekick, Stu – an adorable, rambunctious guinea pig duo who give off strong Carl and Russell vibes from *Up!* Originally obtained from Petco at different times, these two quickly bonded and have been inseparable ever since. Their previous family loved them but wanted them to have more time and attention than they could give. While still undersocialized and not yet comfortable being handled, with patience and gentle care, Ernie and his energetic buddy are sure to build trust and bring plenty of joy to their new home.

Stu is four and a half years old; Ernie is two and a half. Both are male.

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzey Road just outside of Keene on Route 10 South. Its open hours are Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more about the adoption process and about other adoptable pets at www.monadnock-humane-society.org.

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Salute To Veterans Presented By CV@H And KSC Singers

Cheshire Village @ Home (CV@H) along with the Keene Senior Center (KSC) Senior Singers will present a Salute to Veterans on December 11th at 2 p.m. at the Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro Street in Keene. Refreshments will be served.

The KSC along with CV@H recognize the sacrifices of the veterans who have served to protect this country. CV@H and the KSC invite all veterans as well as the public to experience this lively event.

This social event along with a weekly “Coffee Connection for Veterans” provides some support for those who have served in the United States’ Armed Forces. The “Coffee Connection” is an opportunity for any veteran to gather every Tuesday at the Senior

Center from 9 to 10 a.m. Attendance and discussion is informal.

Cheshire Village @ Home provides services which allow people to remain living in their own homes independently while needing a little help. Some veterans are among the seniors who need help with transportation for medical appointments, groceries, and medicines, as well as help with minor household chores. Monthly CV@H social events, social phone calls, and/or social visits provide opportunities for socialization.

For more details or to register for the Salute to Veterans, call 603-903-9680 and leave a name and phone number.

Ted’s Shoe & Sport Hosts Try-Before-You-Buy Ice Ramp Demo

Picture a 1000-pound block of ice on a ramp with handrails. Now, imagine trying to walk up that slippery surface with an ordinary pair of winter boots. The result would be disastrous, which is why Ted’s Shoe & Sport hosts an annual Try-Before-You-Buy Ice Ramp event where customers can experience the amazing non-slip technology adopted by NexGrip and Merrell.

“With the prevalence of injuries due to slippery sidewalks and driveways, a list that includes wrist fractures, ankle dislocations, hip injuries, back strains, and head and neck trauma, boots that reduce nasty falls in frigid weather are a must,” says Ted McGreer, owner of Ted’s Shoe & Sport.

NexGrip insulated boots feature a patented cleat system at the heel and a non-slip outsole at the front, allowing the wearer to feel steady no matter the conditions. Merrell offers enhanced traction with Vibram Arctic Grip technology, Vibram’s most advanced cold-weather gripping system, which has three times more grip than other outsoles on wet ice and slippery surfaces. “If you’re concerned about yourself or a

loved one falling this winter, or you’ve heard about these shoes or this event and never tried it, this is definitely worth a look,” says McGreer.

Ted’s Shoe & Sport is located at 115 Main Street in Keene. The Ice Ramp Demo is happening on Saturday, December 13th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more details, call 603-357-8337.

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Heaving A Sigh Of Relief

In the last two weeks of our harvesting season, my fellow farmer and I are always heaving things around: first heaving ourselves out of bed at 4:45 a.m., then heaving around 40-pound bags of carrots or crates of rutabagas and daikon radishes.

But once the CSA season is over, all the heaving we do is heaving a sigh of relief. Now we are in our easy-going time, our clean-up time, our odds and ends time.

1. The first easy-going project is an irrigation task. All summer and fall we'd been wishing our irrigation line for the fall carrots was in better shape. Carrots are slow to germinate, and want to be moist for three weeks before they poke their green heads up.

When we ran the irrigation, half of the bed that had nice red sprinklers got watered, and half of the bed that had yukky red sprinklers didn't. Thus I had several five-gallon buckets at the far end of the garden, and every time we irrigated I would take off the end cap of one irrigation line and fill the buckets. Then I would dip out a yogurt container full and water down the track where the carrots had been sown. Did the carrots germinate? Yes. Was this an efficient use of a farmer's time? No.

One morning after harvest was over, my fellow and I spent four hours replacing the yukky red sprinklers with the nice red sprinklers. We untangled lines, found enough good sprinklers, found the special tool to make the holes in the line to plug in the sprinklers, and got the line all fixed before realizing the line was way too long.

But we were in no hurry; we did it all over again to the right length. We also had to reorganize the piles of irrigation lines, after tossing everything around trying to find the right stuff. Now our piles are tidy and our carrot line is ready for another year.

2. The second easy-going project is for Thanksgiving. My sisters and I divide up making the Thanksgiving dishes, and my little family of three is responsible for mashed potatoes, winter squash, creamed onions, pumpkin pie, and gluten-free dressing.

"Wow," I said, by the third sort-of-easy-going day in the kitchen. "This is a lot of work. I don't know how my mother ever got a whole Thanksgiving meal together by herself."

My daughter, who was making the pumpkin pie, said, "Did you count the four hours freezing the last of the spinach? Did you count the nine hours baking all the seconds and not quite ripe squash, and then adding maple syrup and cooking them down more so they would taste better?"

**Green
Monadnock**

with Kim Peavey



"Did you count sorting through all the boxes of onions to get the littlest ones for the creamed onions, and peeling the celeriac that were too tiny to give out to CSA members? It takes a long time to peel this celeriac. And you don't get much when you do," added my celeriac-peeling fellow.

"Oh, yeah!" I said, relieved that I wasn't completely failing my mother, and that I have two sisters with families that were also busily cooking and baking. Plus I was relieved that Thanksgiving happens in the easy-going, clean-up, odds and ends season.

3. The third easy-going project: we are shoveling dirt from underneath one of our vegetable tables to fill in the holes in front of the tables and in front of the woodshed. Where did all these holes come from?

This is what our daughter said over the summer when she was visiting, kindly helping us on harvest day and marveling as we stumbled into the holes: "Isn't this the definition of comedy? You watch the dog dig holes. You don't fill in the holes. Then you fall in the holes."

Oh ha ha ha! Everything seems funnier in easy-going, clean-up odds and ends season.

Kim Peavey farms and writes from southwestern New Hampshire. She and her family, as well as two teams of draft horses, grow vegetables biodynamically for 100 local families through a CSA garden. See www.hillsidespringsfarm.com for more information on the horse- and hand-powered farm, CSA garden, or Kim's writing.

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Walker Boniface, son of Kyle & Amanda Boniface, Winchester, 3

December 10, 2025
Esme Hall, daughter of Chris & Julia Hall, Keene, 10

December 12, 2025
Adaline Hamilton, daughter of Autumn Hamilton & Josh Hamilton, Winchester, 3

December 14, 2025
Valencia Willis, daughter of Trevor Willis & Jennifer Whitcomb, Winchester, 6
Huckson Bradley, son of Olivia Naeck & Justin Bradley, Swanzey, 11

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Huckson Bradley, Swanzey, 11

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Bahamian Gardens

A couple weeks ago, my husband and I were offered a beautiful trip to the Bahamas in exchange for playing music at a yoga retreat center, also called an ashram. We soon found ourselves on an airplane to Nassau and then on a boat to Paradise Island. This island is small enough to walk across in a few minutes one way and about an hour the other. We stayed at a Sivananda Ashram, a place where renunciates live year-round. They sing and pray, they teach yoga, they share their time and kindness with anyone whom they encounter. What I didn't expect – and I don't know why really – is that they also garden.

Considering the ashram is directly on the ocean-front, as are most Bahamian gardens, they have to deal with a lot of sand and salt. The only fresh water falls from the sky. I'll take you on a mind's eye tour of the place beginning at the ocean. Palm trees, especially coconut palms, dominate the water's edge, along with hedgerows of Sea Lettuce tree. I love that this plant's Latin family name is Goodeniaceae. Sea



Yedida Landis checks out pothos climbing an Umbrella Tree.

bush, a scrubby bonsai-like tree that grows on rocks, and sea lavender, a soft gray-green bush with little white flowers, are also innumerable.

Walking a few yards inland, you would see mid-size waxy, silver-green leafed trees with tiny brown cones all over them – the button mangrove. Other tree species around include the Seagrape tree (a truly bitter fruit), Umbrella trees, tropical almonds, and a few Cook's pine trees.

Woods and Gardens

with Yedida Landis



Huts of all shapes and sizes are tucked in among the trees. To tie the buildings in with the tall trees and larger landscape, the gardeners placed vines and waxy, broad-leafed shrubs all around their bases. Pothos leaves (you know that viny houseplant that nearly everyone has?) larger than my head rose up into the tree canopy. The bushes were mostly shell ginger, broadleaf palm-lily, monstera, Variegated Croton, and Coral hibiscus. Basically, if you were to go in search of a tropical houseplant at a local nursery right now, such as House by the Side of the Road, you would find many of these varieties. The difference is that in the Bahamas they are planted outside and are taller than I am.

All around these bushes and filling in the garden spaces are small, flowering plants. Wax begonias, orchids, Purple Heart, Ixora, Egyptian Star Clusters, and Mexican petunias fill in the spaces between bushes and pathways. Pots of these flowers are also tucked onto porches and between bushes.

Because limestone is prevalent throughout the 700 islands and keys that make up the Bahamas, it is the natural choice for pathways, garden edges, and any sort of stone work. Limestone paths lead from hut to hut, kitchen to temple, boat dock to community space. The gardeners effectively used limestone rocks to create cozy nooks and beautiful ponds along the way.

After thoroughly exploring this garden, I went in search of others. A large Disney World-like resort nearby used the same species of trees and bushes in its planning. The main difference is that the tropical bushes were trained into formal hedging and there were not – for the most part – any small, flowering plants. I was happy to see they used native plants, but it was a little more boring. After getting lost in its maze-like pathways and repetitive gardens (which were very classy, but just not my style), I went in search of Bahamian gardeners with their own home gardens. Fortunately, one woman who helped out at the ashram was excited to talk with me about gardening. She shared that through some multi-government agreement, there is no longer large-scale agriculture on any Bahamian island. This means that all food has to be imported from other countries. Therefore, the cost of food is extremely high. An avocado, for instance, costs \$5. There are coconuts all around; but people can't subsist on those alone. So, she and many of her friends keep small kitchen gardens. As you can imagine, I was delighted to hear this! Her favorites to grow – like many people I know here in New Hampshire – are tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, and herbs – especially basil and parsley.

I suspect anywhere I travel could turn into a garden tour, as it did when I decided to walk across Wales and Ireland many years ago (more on that another time!). The Bahamian gardens reminded me of being in a large conservatory filled with ancient houseplant specimens, except I was walking around outside with salty air and warm, strong winds all around.

Yedida Landis has been teaching organic gardening to children for over 20 years and is Lead Gardener at MacDowell.

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Holiday Gift Guide 2

Special Pull-out Section!

Artist-Led Crafting Classes At The Summit Winery



Lovers of the arts and crafting can enjoy artist-led workshops at The Summit Winery, a fun holiday tradition started by The Rabbit Ridge Artisans. This year's schedule is as follows: Basket Weaving (Friday, December 12th); Make a Granola Brush (Saturday, December 13th); Make a Gingerbread House (Sunday, December 14th); Ornament Workshop (Thursday, December 18th); Watercolor Painting (Friday, December 19th); Square Sparkle Dangle Earrings (Saturday, December 20th); Sterling Silver Spiral & Freshwater Pearl Earrings (Monday, December 22nd); and Hair Bling Workshop (Sunday, December 28th). Classes include a beverage provided by the winery, with wine or non-alcoholic options available. For more details, or to reserve a seat, visit <http://www.RRA-DIY.com>.

Louise Slayton, a Rabbit Ridge artisan.

Park Theatre Dickens Fest Presents A Yankee Christmas With Marple And Rule



Humorists Fred Marple and Rebecca Rule bring "A Yankee Christmas" to the Park Theatre in Jaffrey.

Specialty Gelato Flavors For Christmas At Frisky Cow

Frisky Cow Gelato is churning up some special Christmas gelatos. Christmas flavors are: peppermint crunch, boozy eggnog, gingerbread chocolate chip, white chocolate raspberry, creme brûlée, and cranberry orange sorbet. The scoop shop on Krif road in Keene will be open Thursday through Saturday, December 18th to 21st from noon to 6 p.m. Those who pre-order online will save \$1 per pint. Pre-order pints on-line at: <https://friskycowgelato.com/specialty-gelato-preorders>. The online pre-order page for Christmas flavors will be live the day after Thanksgiving.

Holiday Cookie Stroll This Saturday, December 13th

The Jaffrey Woman's Club is holding a Holiday Cookie "Stroll" on Saturday, December 13th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cookie lovers can stroll along the tables and fill a platter with a selection of homemade, oversized treats. No need to bake for the holidays. Cookies are \$10 a pound. There also will be a raffle for a beautiful, handcrafted gingerbread house. Half of all proceeds will be donated to the Jaffrey Food Pantry. The Jaffrey Woman's Club is located in the Cutler Memorial Building at 33 Main St. in Jaffrey.

Yankee humorists Fred Marple and Rebecca Rule bring holiday hilarity to the Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Friday, December 12 at 7 p.m. "Tis the season to be jolly," Marple says. "Even if you haven't decorated the tree, bought the turkey, or found a present for cousin Earl who invited himself for the holidays." This special live event is part of the 2025 Dickens Fest presented by Viking Voyages. Tickets are \$20, available at the door, online at dickensfest.org, or by calling the box office at 603-532-8888. The Park Theatre is located at 19 Main Street in downtown Jaffrey. Marple will bring the news from his hometown of Frost Heaves, the most under-appreciated town in New Hampshire. Rule will share stories she has collected from across New England. Together, they will introduce Kitty Cat Personal Heaters, Perfectly Good Christmas Trees, and toys for little Yankees like the "Mind Your Own Business Fun Set." It's an evening of laughter, music, and prizes, the perfect way to kick off the holiday season.

YANKEE, page 12

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Christmas Open House At Hinsdale Historical Society

Saturday, December 13th

The Hinsdale Historical Society will host its annual Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 13th at the Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale homestead at 609 Brattleboro Road (Route 119) in Hinsdale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale garrison re-enactors will be on site demonstrating how the colonial people survived drying herbs, playing simple games for entertaining themselves, and making cording for use on the farm. House tours will be conducted by members of the society who will tell the history of the homestead and Col. Hinsdale and his family as well as later families that lived there.

There is no admission charge, but donations are welcomed. For more details, email Sharron Smith at shsmith1@yahoo.com.

USPS Ready To Deliver For 2025 Holiday Season

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is ready to deliver for the 2025 holiday season. Over the past four years, USPS has invested nearly \$20 billion in its facilities and processing capabilities with the goal of realigning the national postal network to meet the mailing and shipping needs of the modern consumer.

Through its investments, the Postal Service has built capacity into its processing, logistics and delivery infrastructure to meet customers' evolving mail and package needs. USPS is implementing strategies to stay ahead of challenges, pulling together its people, technology, transportation, equipment, and facilities into a well-integrated, streamlined mail and package network.

"The Postal Service plans throughout the year to deliver the nation's mail and packages during the high-volume holiday season and we are well prepared and ready to deliver for the American public," says Postmaster General and CEO David Steiner. "For the past several years, the Postal Service has been gaining market share in our package business, which reflects the strong value and excellent portfolio of the shipping options we provide. We expect to see a continuation of this trend in the coming holiday period and to continue winning a larger share of the nation's shipping business."

As in years past, the Postal Service will also prioritize morning parcel delivery, enhanced scanning technology and extended retail, and pick-up delivery hours at popular Post Office locations. It will also continue to offer the lowest postage rates in the industrialized world.

For tips on mailing and shipping preparation, ordering free shipping supplies, packaging guidelines (including restricted and prohibited item information), and post office location hours, visit www.usps.com or the USPS YouTube channel.

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Staying Merry Through The Holiday Season

We're right into the holiday season, so shouldn't we automatically feel merry? You would think so, but that isn't always the case.

Friends and family see your beautiful family photo on your holiday cards that they receive. What they didn't see was all the shopping and planning you had to do to find the right outfits, and the umpteenth photo that had to be taken to get it just right.

You and your partner seem to be the ultimate couple at the holiday party. But what they didn't see is the argument you both had while trying to get out the door on time, or the many calls you had to make to track down a babysitter.

Christmas can be a whirlwind mix of festivities, preparations, juggling schedules, and sometimes frustration. So, it's important through this busy season to keep everything in perspective to truly stay merry.

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Remember Your Priorities

To focus on your priorities during the holidays, it helps to set boundaries – you are one person, so don't agree to everything that comes your way. Think quality over quantity when it comes to activities and time spent with loved ones. And be sure to make time for yourself and your own well-being.

Don't Overschedule Yourself

One thing that is sure to make you miserable at this time of year is if you overschedule yourself. Decide in advance what you can realistically commit to and politely decline invitations that don't align with your priorities. This way, you are protecting your time and energy.

Communication Is Key

Keep your spouse, partner, and children abreast of everything going on throughout the holidays, so everyone is clear of expectations. The party, outing, or activity might be on your mind all the time, but that might not be so for the rest of the family. Make sure to go over the upcoming week's schedule for a gentle reminder.

Embrace Simplicity

It's okay to keep things simple this time of year. Keeping traditions and meals uncomplicated will bring you more joy instead of striving for perfection.

Keep Your Eye On What Matters

Sometimes when we get caught up in the holiday season, we lose focus on what really matters. Think about those favorite holiday memories and what made them special; this is what will give you joy. Focus on making new memories. Even simple ones, like building a snow fort with the kids, riding around to look at holiday lights, or taking a stroll down Main Street together.

Don't Try To "Keep Up With The Joneses"

This idiom is especially relevant at this time of year when financial and social expectations can be a little high. This can lead to getting into debt and all the stresses that go with it. So, "you do you" is truly appropriate during the holidays.

Let Unimportant Things Go

A perfect holiday? Sounds like a myth that will create unnecessary stress, and besides, perfection is overrated. Focus on what feels genuinely good to you rather than striving for unattainable expectations. Also, there are a lot of mixed emotions happening around the holidays. Allow yourself to have those emotions instead of pressuring yourself or others to be constantly happy.

Cherish Each Other

The holidays are a time of connection with family and friends. Make sure you have deliberate connections with the people you most hold dear. You can do this through new traditions or through experiences like baking, volunteering, and other activities together.

Don't Forget The "Me" Time

Plan some "me" time between your active schedules. Blocking out time for hobbies, reading, listening to music, or taking a walk can help you feel relaxed and rejuvenated.

Stay In The Moment

As true and meaningful moments happen to you throughout the holidays, dwell in that feeling, stay in the moment. The outcome: happiness, contentment, and feeling cheerful and merry.


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Friday, Dec. 12

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER
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Winter Holiday Concert: Wendy Keith & Walden Whitham 7pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. **603-563-8080.** info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

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Troy Historical Society's Cookie Tour 10am-4pm. Kimball Hall, 4 Depot St., Troy. Get a cookie, check out exhibits, & share some holiday cheer.
The Hinsdale Historical Society Christmas Open House 10am-3pm. The Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale Homestead, 609 Brattleboro Rd., Hinsdale. The Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale Garrison re-en actors will be on site demonstrating how the colonial people survived. House tours will be conducted by members of the Society telling the history of the homestead and Col. Hinsdale and his family as well as later families that lived there. Donations are welcomed. Sharon Smith: ahsmith1@yahoo.com.
20th Annual Currier & Ives Cookie Tour 10am-4pm. Self-Guided Tour-15 Stops. Visit the theatre, inns, restaurants, unique boutiques and gift shops, and historical societies of the Monadnock Region, as businesses open doors to the public to share homemade holiday cookies! See ad on pg 14 for stop locations & ticket info. **603-242-6495.** www.currierandivescookie tour.com.


LECTURES & WORKSHOPS
Christmas Watercolor Workshop: Olha Necheporenko 10:30am. Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main St., Jaffrey. Paint beautiful Christmas cards in watercolor. Whether you're a beginner or already love watercolor, this workshop is designed to inspire you and help you capture the cozy spirit of the holidays. Jaffrey Civic Center: **603-532-6527.**


EVENTS, page 14

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Winter Holidays Concert In Dublin Saturday, December 13th



Talented, seasoned performers, Wendy Keith and Walden Whitham will be at the DubHub/Dublin Community Center at 1123 Main Street in Dublin at 7 p.m. as they perform songs to celebrate the winter holidays on multiple instruments, including vocals, guitar, flute, clarinet, Celtic harp, and more. There is a suggested donation of \$15 at the door.

Wendy Keith and Walden Whitham

Free Gift Wrapping Events Masiello's Holiday Helping Hands

The Masiello Group at 69A Island Street in Keene is giving back to the community with two free gift wrapping events: Thursday, December 18th and Monday, December 22nd with drop-off after 8 a.m.

The "Realtor Elves" will wrap

people's gifts – ribbons, bows, tags, and all – when the unwrapped gifts are left off on those two days.

Participants need to leave a name on each gift for labeling. Gifts will be ready for pick up later that afternoon. Limit 10 gifts per person.

Christmas Watercolor Workshop With Olha Necheporenko This Saturday

The Jaffrey Civic Center will host a Christmas Watercolor Workshop on Saturday, December 13th, at 10:30 a.m.

Participants will create two to three festive watercolor illustrations under gentle, step-by-step guidance. The workshop is suitable for all skill levels

and provides an opportunity to capture the cozy spirit of the holidays while enjoying seasonal music, the aroma of gingerbread, and the company of fellow creatives.

For more details, contact the Jaffrey Civic Center at 603-532-6537.



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A Holly Dolly Christmas: A Country Christmas Cabaret

On Saturday, December 13th, A Holly Dolly Christmas: A Country Christmas Cabaret will take place at Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret at 82 Main Street in Keene. The show starts at 7 p.m. Prior to the cabaret, doors open at 5 p.m. for dinner.

This glitter-soaked celebration of Dolly Parton includes her country contemporaries, Reba, Shania, and others. Hosted by Miss Ginger Souless and a cast of rhinestone-studded performers, the evening includes the show followed by a festive dance party at 9 p.m.

This is an 18+ event. Tickets are \$15 for the show and dance party, and \$5 at the door for the dance party only. For more details, call 603-354-3377. For tickets, visit www.madamesherri.com/events.

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Christmas Presence Concert In Swanzey

On Saturday, December 13th, the First Congregational Church of Swanzey at 679 Old Homestead Highway will hold a Christmas concert, Christmas Presence, with Pepper Choplin from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is by donation.

Jackie Beat: Pretty Lady Christmas At Madame Sherri’s Sunday, December 14th

International drag legend Jackie Beat will performa Pretty Lady Christmas at Madame Sherri’s on Sunday, December 14th at 6 p.m. The doors will open at 5 p.m. for dinner.

Beat will deliver this holiday extravaganza with live vocals, razor-sharp comedy, and her beloved outrageous

song parodies – *Alcohololidays*, *Santa’s Baby*,” and others. This event is for 18+.

Madame Sherri’s Restaurant & Cabaret is at 82 Main Street in Keene. For more details, call 603-354-3377. For tickets, visit www.madamesherri.com/events. No refunds.

Park Theatre Dickens Fest Presents A Yankee Christmas With Marple And Rule

YANKEE, Continued from page 7

Marple is the unofficial spokesman for the mythical town of Frost Heaves, mostly because everyone else has a real job. He has appeared on *New Hampshire Chronicle*, on the radio, and in the homes of most of his friends, usually right around dinner time.

Rule, host of *Our Hometown* on NHPBS, has been telling stories for more than 30 years, at libraries, historical societies, church groups, and charitable organizations across New England. She is the author of several

books including *Headin’ for the Rhubarb*, *A NH Dictionary* (well, kinda) and *That Reminds Me of a Funny Story*.

A Yankee Christmas is family friendly and appropriate for all ages. The Park Theatre is a state-of-the-art film and performing arts center. “We are wicked excited to be appearing at the Park Theatre,” says Marple. “Let’s just say it smells a lot better than the grange hall in Frost Heaves.”

For more details, visit www.dickensfest.org.

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More Gifts From The Kitchen

*The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious;
as among ourselves we say of even a trifling gift,
“It comes from a hand we love,”
and look not so much at the gift as at the heart*
— Martin Luther

For those of you who enjoy making and giving gifts of food from your own kitchen, here’s a continuation of ideas from last week’s Cooking Corner.

Sugar Plums

This must be one version of what children “nestled all snug in their beds” were dreaming about. I often repeat this recipe during the holiday season since some people have requested the recipe after misplacing it; or perhaps you never found it in the first place.

Ingredients:
1/2 cup dried apricots
1/4 cup dried figs
1/4 cup golden raisins
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/4 cup sweetened grated coconut
2 tablespoons orange liqueur (Grand Marnier or Cointreau) – purchase those ‘nips’ at the NH Liquor Store coarse or granulated sugar

Finely chop apricots, figs, raisins, pecans, and coconut in a food processor or by hand. Blend ingredients together and moisten with the orange liqueur. Shape mixture into one-inch balls, pressing gently to make sure ingredients stay packed together. Roll each ball in coarse sugar. Store in airtight container in refrigerator between pieces of waxed paper; sugar plums will keep up to one month. Package in paper doilies, forming each doily into a cone. Tuck in a sprig of holly if desired and attach a gift label. Makes about three dozen sugar plums.

Cooking Corner

with Nancy Adams



Fruited Rice Mix

This makes a nice gift presented in a pretty bottle or jar. Attach a tag with instructions for how to use (see below).

Ingredients:
3 cups uncooked long grain rice
3 tablespoons dried minced onion
1 tablespoons curry powder, more or less
4 tablespoons instant chicken bouillon
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped dried apples
1/2 cup golden raisins
1/4 cup toasted slivered almonds

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Store in airtight container or bottle. Makes about four and a half cups of rice mix. Gift this mix with a directions tag for

Instructions to make Fruited Rice:
In a two-quart saucepan, combine 1 cup rice mix with 2 cups water and 1 tablespoon butter; cover tightly. Bring to a boil; reduce to medium low and simmer 30 minutes, or until water is absorbed.

Blue Cheese-Pecan Crackers

These make a great gift for anyone who likes blue cheese. Package these crackers in a tin or container, perhaps with a bottle of wine or another beverage.

Ingredients:
1 cup blue cheese, crumbled
1/2 cup butter
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 cup flour

1/2 cup pecans, lightly toasted and chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients expect pecans in a bowl; mix well. Add chopped pecans. Form dough into one-inch balls. Put on an ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten each dough ball to two and a half inch rounds with a fork. Bake about 30 to 35 minutes. Makes 35 crackers.

Cranberry-Orange Marmalade

This is a simple marmalade meant to be kept refrigerated. Gift it with some biscuits, muffins, homemade scones, or a loaf of bread.

Ingredients:
2 cups fresh cranberries
2/3 cup orange juice
3 teaspoons grated orange peel
1/2 cup sugar

Combine ingredients in two-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until cranberries “pop” and mixture thickens slightly, about 20 minutes; stir occasionally. Store in refrigerator. For gift giving, put marmalade into antique jar or decorative jelly jar with an attached pretty spoon; tag should indicate “keep refrigerated” to two or three weeks.

Doggie Treats

With only one ingredient, sweet potato slices are budget friendly, easy to make, and a great gift for any dogs on your gift list.

Ingredients:
2 sweet potatoes

Preheat your oven to 250 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Use a knife or mandolin to cut the sweet potato into cross-wise pieces or lengthwise slices for larger chews, depending on the size of the dog. Try and cut the slices uniformly as possible so they are about one quarter-inch but no thinner. Arrange them in a single layer on the baking sheets

and bake for two and a half to three hours, flipping once halfway through until they are shrunken and dried out – some pieces will likely be a bit crispy, while others are a bit chewy. Let cool, then store in air-tight container in the fridge for about three weeks. Package in doggy bags; tag “refrigerate up to three weeks.”

Homemade Kitty Treats

This three-ingredient treat, put together by the folks at Jefferson Animal Hospital in Louisville KY, is sure to please even finicky felines.

Ingredients:
1 (12 oz.) can of tuna, salmon, mackerel, or even chicken
1 large egg
1 cup whole wheat flour

Preheat oven to 350. Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix thoroughly. Grease two or three cookie sheets. Using oiled hands, shape mixture into teaspoon-sized treats and place on cookie sheets. Bake for approximately 20 minutes, until dry and browned. Once cool, store in jars with gift tag noting to store up to two to three weeks in refrigerator, or freeze for longer period of time.

Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. Nancy welcomes suggestions – send them to: Nancy P. Adams, 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.



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Holiday Events – Craft Fairs, Concerts, More

EVENTS, Continued from page 10

Saturday, Dec. 13

MISCELLANEOUS

A Holly Dolly Christmas: A Country Christmas Cabaret 7pm. Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret, 82 Main St. Doors open at 5 for dinner. Show at 7. Dance Party at 9. Glitter-soaked celebration of Dolly Parton and her country contemporaries. Hosted by Miss Ginger Souless and a cast of performers, the evening includes the show followed by a festive dance party. \$15(Show + Dance Party), Dance Party only \$5. 18+ event. **603-354-3377**.
Holiday Cookie Stroll 10am-1pm. Jaffrey Woman's Club,

33 Main St., Jaffrey. Tables of homemade treats. \$10/pound. Raffle for handcrafted gingerbread house.
Holiday Home Tour 11am-4pm. Explore six homes in Walpole. Self guided tour. \$30 per person. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at the Walpole Town Hall, 34 Elm St. Each ticket grants admission to all six homes.

Sunday, Dec. 14

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

The Keene Pops Choir: A Moment of Peace 3pm. St. James Episcopal Church, 44 West St., Keene. \$15. keene-pops@gmail.com.

FAMILY FUN

Santa Party: Home Alone Movie Screening 1pm. Park Theatre, 19 Main St., Jaffrey. Come in cozy pajamas. Visit with Santa and take pictures before the movie. Free admission. **603-532-8888**. www.theparktheatre.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jackie Beat: Pretty Lady Christmas 6pm. Madame Sherri's Restaurant & Cabaret, 82 Main St. Doors open at 5 for dinner. International drag legend Jackie Beat delivers her annual holiday spectacular with live vocals, comedy, and outrageous song parodies. Expect brand-new numbers sprinkled among iconic classics like "Alcohololidays," "Santa's Baby," and more. Event 18+. **603-354-3377**.

Holiday Home Tour 11am-4pm. Explore six homes in Walpole. Self guided tour. \$30 p/person. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at the Walpole Town Hall, 34 Elm St. Each ticket grants admission to all six homes.

Thursday, Dec. 18

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Christmas Cantata "A Child Is Born...All Is Well" Keene Church of the Nazarene and Monadnock Covenant Church Combined Choir. 6pm. Keene Church of the Nazarene, 55 Maple Ave. Admission is free/open to the public, and all are welcome. Light refreshments following the presentation.

Saturday, Dec. 20

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Keene Jazz Orchestra: Holiday Swing Dance 7:30pm. Best Western Plus, 401 Winchester St., Keene. Bella Holtz, vocalist. \$15/\$12 students. Available at Toadstool Keene, Prime Roast, & on website. www.keenejazzorchestra.org.

FAMILY FUN

Santa Party 1pm. Richmond Public Library, 19 Winchester Rd., Richmond. Come celebrate all things Santa with a Santa scavenger hunt, cookie decorating and crafts. There might even be a visit from the jolly old elf. **603-239-6164**.

Sunday, Dec. 21

MISCELLANEOUS

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony 4pm. The Chapel by the Lake, 529 Granite Lake Rd., Munsonville. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome.

20th Annual Currier & Ives

COOKIE TOUR

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Place: Best Western Plus, Keene

Tickets \$15, \$12 students, available at Keenejazzorchestra.org, Toadstool Keene, & Prime Roast

ENTERTAINMENT

and DINING

Wednesday, Dec. 10

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Wrong Turn: The American Eugenics Movement 6pm. Putnam Exhibit Hall, 246 Main St., Keene. Dr. Graham Warder of Keene State College will present this lecture.

MISCELLANEOUS

Teen Sit & Scribble 5:30-6:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Ages 12-19 looking for a group of writers to share with and learn from. Judgment free writing group. Share stories & ideas. Eleanor Green: **603-352-0157**. egreen@keenenh.gov.

Thursday, Dec. 11

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Cheshire Village at Home Event: A Salute to Veterans 2pm. Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro St., Keene. Keene Senior Center Senior Singers. Register at **603-903-9680**.

Club Alive: Keene Edition 7pm. Showroom, 20 Commercial St., Keene. Wide-ranging mix of Keene-based dancers, musical acts, actors, poets, DJ, barbershop chorus for surprising artistic collaborations and unpredictable celebration of crowd power. Reserve free tickets at www.thecolonial.org/.

Friday, Dec. 12

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Celebration of Jane Austen's 250th Birthday 6pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Screening of a film adaptation of one of Austen's classic works. Feel free to dress up in Regency costume.

Sacred Circle Dance 6:30pm. Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 25 Main St. All dances are taught. Beginners are welcome. No partner is necessary. Wear comfortable shoes. The program is free. Donations are appreciated and will benefit "End 68 Hours of Hunger." lucy@poetryofthedance.com.

Peterborough Folk Music: Adam Ezra 7pm. Bass Hall, 19 Grove St., Peterborough. Pop-Up Acoustic Show. \$40. **603-318-9196**. www.pfmsconcerts.org.

Turn It Loose! 8pm. Mole Hill Theatre, 898 Gilsum Mine Rd, Alstead. Legendary Cheshire County Classic Rockers. BYOB and snacks ~ no hard liquor. Mole Hill Theatre events are all ages and family-friendly. Dennis Molesky: **603-352-2585**. info@molehillnh.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Acupuncture 5-7pm. Better Life Acupuncture, 17, 93rd St., Suite 124, Keene. \$50 for new patients and \$40 repeat patients. Book online or by text **603-239-2475**. www.betterlifeacupuncture.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive 9:30am-2pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Donors are asked to call or visit to schedule appointment at **800-733-2767**. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Saturday, Dec. 13

DINING PLEASURES

\$5 Takeout Ham Dinner 4-6pm. Samuel E. Paul Community Center, 61 South Street, Troy. Ham, mashed potato, carrots, roll. Troy Recreation Department: **603-313-2243**.

FAIRS & SALES

Adult Fiction Pop-Up Sale 11am-2pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Supports programming at the library. **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Laser Engraved Glasses Workshop 10:30am-12:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Use epilog laser engraver. Each participant will leave with two glasses. To participate, complete the online tutorial: Introduction to the Makerspace and the Epilog Laser Engraver Certification Tutorial on the library's website. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenh.gov.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Acupuncture 9am-3pm. Better Life Acupuncture, 17, 93rd St., Suite 124, Keene. \$50 for new patients and \$40 repeat patients. Book online or by text **603-239-2475**. www.betterlifeacupuncture.com.

D&D & Teens 12-2:45pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Join DMs for an exciting D&D oneshot adventure. Materials such as dice and note-taking items will be provided. Eleanor Green: **603-352-0157**. egreen@keenenh.gov.

Sunday, Dec. 14

MISCELLANEOUS

Journey Dance: Dr. Caitlin Clarke 1-2pm. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. Move through emotion, intuition, and sensation. No choreography, no performance. Exploration, freedom, and joy to inspiring music. \$25. **603-762-3129**. www.alohakeene.com.

MYSTERY PHOTO

from THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY

The first person to answer the question correctly at 9:30 a.m. or after on Friday will receive a certificate for \$25 to The Pub. Call The Monadnock Shopper News, West Street in Keene, at 603-352-5296. You may win only one contest every three months. Only one call per person per week. No walk-ins, please.

(Prepared by the Historical Society of Cheshire County)



What family operated this well-known local ice cream bar?

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



ZenTangle: Gracie Buckman 3-5pm. Aloha Keene, 83 Court St., Keene. Buckman, ZenTangle trained, returns to help create an ornament with a round Zendala tile. Tangleing is meditative by nature. All materials provided. \$20. **603-762-3129**. www.alohakeene.com.

Mon., Dec. 15

MISCELLANEOUS

Teen Crafternoon: DIY Pop-Sockets 3:30-5:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Middle and high schoolers, making popsockets of our own design. Eleanor Green: **603-352-0157**. egreen@keenenh.gov.

Cheshire County Conservation District: Opportunity Fund 4:30pm. Zoom Informational Session. Making a meaningful long-term impact on wildlife habitat and biodiversity on your property. Register at www.cheshireconservation.org/events.

Tues., Dec. 16

ARTS, MUSIC, THEATER

Cheshiremen Chorus: Weekly Meeting & Singing 6:30pm. United Church of Christ-Keene, 23 Central Square. All men welcome. Use Vernon St. entrance. **877-312-7467**. www.cheshiremen.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Keene Pride Youth Book Club: The Girl From the Sea 5:30-6:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St. Discussion of The Girl From the Sea by Molly Knox Oster-tag. There will be snacks, crafts, and the chance to talk about this month's pick. Eleanor Green: **603-352-0157**. egreen@keenenh.gov.

Books & Banter: Persuasion 5:30pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. Austen's final completed novel, a brilliantly insightful story of regret, second chances, and courage. **603-924-8040**. www.PeterboroughTownLibrary.org.

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Takeout Ham Dinner In Troy December 13th

A Takeout Ham Dinner will be take place at the Samuel E. Paul Community Center at 61 South Street in Troy on Saturday, December 13th from 5 to 6 p.m. Hosted by the Troy Recreation Department, the \$5 takeout menu includes a generous portion of ham, mashed potatoes, carrots, and a roll.

Mexica Mexican Restaurant – A Culinary Journey To Mexico

MEXICA, Continued from page 1

Sanchez praises his team for the impact they’ve made toward the success of the restaurant. “Our team has evolved into an efficient, family-friendly, and professional service.”

“This establishment is a wonderful place to enjoy a meal,” says Richard Thackston. “The combination of a friendly atmosphere and delicious food is always appealing. A lively bar with well-crafted drinks adds to the overall experience. One of the great local businesses that’s thriving. They contribute so much to the community’s character and offer unique dining experiences.”

Whether you’re stopping by for lunch, dinner, or happy hour, every bite at Mexica Mexican Restaurant is an experience for the senses when it comes to authentic Mexican cuisine. The professional chefs use quality ingredients to make every dish flavorful. And guests will find generous portions at fair prices.

“From our mouth-watering tacos to our savory enchiladas, our menu features a range of authentic dishes that will satisfy any craving,” says Merino.

Guests can indulge in the extensive menu at Mexica Mexican Restaurant, which includes classics like Carnitas, Chile Verde, Dos Amigos, and Chimi-changas; vegetarian favorites like Enchiladas Rojas, Veggie Fajitas, and Enchiladas Rancheras; soups and salads; a variety of burritos, enchiladas, quesadillas, fajitas, and tacos; and a large selection of chicken and seafood dishes with a Mexican flair. There are also many options on the kids’ menu.

“If you like authentic Mexican cuisine, this place is for you,” adds Ernie Burkart. “Very friendly service, reasonable prices, and best of all, the taste!”

Regular patron, Tara Chasse, has this to say: “Service is always great, even on super busy nights. The food is amazing. Great flavors, and it all tastes so good. Really can’t recommend this place more.”

Besides a little piece of Mexico in every bite, this local hot spot has a substantial collection of beverage options from its full bar. Happy Hour is not just an



Thomas Alejo is making sure there will not be a shortage of onions as he chops them in preparation for the day at Mexica Mexican Restaurant in Fitzwilliam. (Photo by Marilyn Weir)

occasional event at Mexica Mexican Restaurant, it’s a weekly tradition: Mondays through Fridays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Happy Hour includes house margaritas for \$6.50, select draft beer for \$3.99 (16 oz.) or \$7.99 (32 oz.), and half-off appetizers. Mondays and margaritas go hand-in-hand here, as margaritas are \$6 all day for guests. Taco Tuesdays is \$2 for hard or soft tacos with purchase of a drink (dine-in only).

“Always incredible food, and the staff is always friendly and appreciative of their customers,” says Jacob Ries. “The food comes out nice and quick, with excellent quality every time. Even the chips and salsa (and whatever that magical white salsa is!) are superb. Definitely happy customers in this house. Keep up the great work!”

“A very pleasant surprise,” says Joshua Morin, about his first time at the restaurant. “The atmosphere is warm and welcoming, and the staff is amazing. The menu is a refreshing blend of traditional and imaginative. The flavors... absolutely phenomenal.”

Mexica Mexican Restaurant is open daily at 11:30 a.m. and closes Sundays at 8 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays at 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays at 10 p.m.

“Get ready to savor the rich and vibrant flavors of Mexico at Mexica Mexican Restaurant,” says Sanchez.

For more details or take-out, call 603-585-2201 or visit www.mexicanh.com.

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Laser Engraved Coaster Workshop At Keene Library

The Keene Public Library at 60 Winter Street will host a Laser Engraved Coaster Workshop on Thursday, December 18th from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants will use an epilog laser engraver and learn how to make custom designed coasters out of either wood, cork, or slate. Each participant will leave with four coasters.

To participate in this workshop, attendees must complete the online tutorials: Introduction to the Makerspace and the Epilog Laser Engraver Certification Tutorial. Visit <https://my.nicheacademy.com/makerspacetutorials>. Tutorials must be completed by Thursday, December 12th; if not, the reservation will be cancelled and opened to a person on the wait list.

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Dartmouth Health’s Cheshire Medical Center Launches
Community Campaign With Transformational \$25 Million Gift



(L-R): Mark Gavin Cheshire Medical Center’s board chair, Jane Larmon and Rob Therrien capital campaign committee co-chairs, and VP of Philan-

Cheshire Medical Center, a member of Dartmouth Health, has announced a community-led \$42 million fundraising capital campaign to modernize its 52-year-old facility and better serve the growing needs of its patient population for decades to come. The campaign has already raised \$39.2 million, with \$2.8 million in additional donations needed to meet their goal.

The campaign, called “Our Community, Our Future,” seeks to raise \$42 million in capital funds to support three critical areas of need for the nonprofit medical center. These include improvements to and expansion of operating room facilities, an expansion of Dartmouth Cancer Center services, and an outpatient service expansion including enhancement and improvements to existing services.

“From its earliest days, Cheshire Medical Center has been a bedrock of compassionate, community-centered care for generations of patients and their families across this region,” said Joseph L. Perras, MD, president and CEO of Cheshire. “With the public launch of this campaign, we are giving our community the power of partnering with us to build a new

future for the medical center, one that will make a measurable difference in their own lives, and to our ability to care for patients in the community. From the most innovative facilities and technologies to supporting surgery and cancer care, to greater access and advanced outpatient medical services and physicians we are going to transform our care delivery.”

Though launching publicly now, this campaign has been years in the making. It is built on the generosity of early donors who have pledged significant gifts, including a \$25 million transformational, anonymous gift from a local Keene family made in 2024 – the largest single gift within the Dartmouth Health system in its history. Broad community participation in the public phase of the campaign will be crucial to taking the final, critical steps toward completion.

“For a small city like Keene, surrounded for many miles by rural towns, the importance of Cheshire Medical Center, offering the personal touch of a community hospital with all the resources of an academic health system, can’t be understated in the region,” said Joanne M. Conroy, MD, CEO and president of Dartmouth Health.

“From the beginning, this campaign has been powered by the people who live and work here, and every gift – no matter the amount – moves us closer to providing the world-class facilities and services our patients deserve,” said Sandra Phipps, Cheshire’s vice president of philanthropy and community relations.

To learn more about “Our Community, Our Future” and to get involved, visit cheshiremed.org/cheshire-health-foundation.

STOCK WATCH

Listings At Close of Market December 5, 2025 • Courtesy of RBC Wealth Management
Dow Jones Closed 47,954.99 238.57 • Prime Rate 7.00% (0.00)

	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Honeywell (Allied Signal)	191.33	(0.86)	Danaher Corp. (Kollmorgen)	226.25	(0.53)
Becton Dickinson (C.R. Bard)	193.96	(0.06)	Merck (Hubbard Farms)	99.72	(5.11)
Toronto Dominion Bank (TD Bank)	88.32	4.39	Deluxe (NEBS)	20.89	0.57
PC Connection	58.26	0.22	Teleflex (Jaffrey)	120.50	6.08
Bank Of America (Fleet)	53.95	0.30	Timken (MPB Corp.)	83.21	1.82
Corning Inc.	85.97	1.77	M&T Bank Corp. (People's United)	195.11	4.89
Ametek, Inc. (Precitech)	199.80	1.91	Dover Corp. (Markem)	191.09	5.81

PRECIOUS METALS			COMMODITIES		
	Close	Week's Change		Close	Week's Change
Silver (\$ per ounce)	58.84	1.92	Wheat (cents per bushel)	535.75	(2.75)
Gold (\$ per ounce)	4,228.60	(16.90)	Corn (cents per bushel)	445.00	(2.25)
Platinum (\$ per ounce)	1,643.61	(31.36)	Soybeans (cents per bushel)	1,105.25	(32.00)
			Cattle (cents per pound)	227.38	9.55
			Crude (\$ per barrel)	60.13	0.67

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Christmas

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Coram Deo

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Being Mindful Helps Us Heal Our Earth And Ourselves

How can we start to heal Mother Earth? The planet has endured massive clear cuttings of forests, fracking for oil, widespread toxic oil spills, melting glaciers, high levels of carbon dioxide emissions, and much more. Where do we even begin?

A first step is to develop a sense of connection with the natural world by entering it with a moment-to-moment awareness of what our senses tell us. We can tune into the sound and feeling of the wind on our skin; smells of damp, decomposing leaves; and colors and details of plants, trees, birds and animals nearby.

When I step into the woods or spend time near the ocean, I feel embraced and peaceful as I leave the noise and high-speed pressure of the material world behind. In the woods I am alert to a woodpecker hammering a hollow tree as the sunlight filters in, illuminating and casting shadows, glistening on a pond and warming my face.

At the shore a briny scent greets me along with the lull of steady incoming waves. I walk in a peaceful, meditative state and feel a determination to help preserve these places.

“Practicing mindfulness in nature is not just about getting outside and experiencing the natural world, it’s about cultivating awareness of our interconnection by immersing ourselves and being fully present to the beauty of the wonders that surround us,” according to the Mind and Life Institute blog from May 18th, 2024 (Four ways Mindfulness in Nature Can Help Us Heal Ourselves and the Earth.)

We often don’t remember that the earth we live on has given us all the elements that make up our bodies, the late Thich Nhat Hanh, world renowned Buddhist teacher, peace activist, and author says in his book, Love Letter to the Earth (2013, Parallax Press). “The Earth is not just the environment we live in. We are the Earth and we are always carrying her within us,” he writes.

His teachings say that knowing this can transform our relationship to the earth and we can care for her differently.

“We tend to think of the Earth as inanimate matter because we’ve become alienated from it. We are even alienated from our own bodies,” he writes, adding that we get so caught up in our work and our problems that we forget we are more than just our minds.

As we forget to pay attention to and take care of our bodies and the earth we have both become sick. If we understand the earth as a living, breathing organism, we can heal ourselves and heal the earth as well, Nhat Hanh continues in his book. “With record-breaking storms, floods and heat waves, not

only is this beautiful planet sending out an SOS, but humans and other living beings are suffering too,” reports Mindful online magazine.

individual, societal, and planetary wellbeing,” the Institute blog explains.

The Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center members have led past meditation walks and gatherings in the natural world at Distant Hills Garden in Walpole and the Butterfly Garden at Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services.

Future mindful walks at Emerson Brook Forest in Gilsum are in the works in connection with the Sustainability Project.

To learn more about mindfulness and what we offer at our center, go to mindfulnesskeene.org

Diana Damato, writer and member of the Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center for more than 20 years, has experienced how this practice helps her cope, grow, and appreciate moments of joy.

Healing Perspectives with Diana Damato



Mindfulness teacher Sebene Selassie echoes that we are not separate from nature; we are one with it. She says that the lighthouse in this storm of disruption is found in our innate connection to the earth.

The Mind and Life Institute says modern science now confirms nature’s healing power, a concept long understood by ancient wisdom traditions.

“By combining mindfulness with the healing power of nature, we embark on a transformative journey toward

Two Events At Aloha This Sunday

Dr. Caitlin Clarke has recently studied JourneyDance at Kripalu Yoga Center. She will now share this amazing form of freedom in a class called “JourneyDance: Move through emotion, intuition, and sensation to awaken your whole self.” There is no choreography, no performance – just exploration, freedom, and joy to inspiring music. It will take place December 14th from 1 to 2 p.m. and will cost \$25.

From 3 to 5 p.m., ZenTangle-trained Gracie Buckman returns to Aloha to help attendees create an ornament with a round Zendala tile. Tangling is meditative by nature. All materials will be provided. The cost is \$20. It is a creative and relaxing experience, and attendees will go home with something to share.



Dr. Caitlin Clarke was once a professional dancer.

Monadnock United Way Raises Over \$72,000 On GivingTuesday, Fueled By Community Generosity And Challenge Grants

Monadnock United Way (MUW) announced that the community rallied together on GivingTuesday to raise more than \$72,000.

This achievement was made possible by the generosity of the community who raised \$36,439 – which was matched dollar for dollar by challenge grants provided by John and Jean Hoffman and Guyer and Son Roofing. Their leadership inspired others to give, helping MUW surpass its GivingTuesday goal of \$30,000 and deepen its impact.

MUW’s Peer-to-Peer Fundraising Group, made up of board and community members, raised \$12,444 in individual contributions, further amplifying the impact and demonstrating the powerful effect of working together toward a goal.

“We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support shown on GivingTuesday,” says Katie Gardella, director of Resource Development and Community Engagement. “These funds will go directly toward strengthening vital programs and community initiatives that ensure everyone in our region has the opportunity to thrive.”

The \$72,878 raised will support MUW’s ongoing work to improve the lives of people throughout the region, including efforts focused on early childhood success, youth well-being, and economic mobility for individuals and families.

For those who would like to contribute to the campaign, which ends on Wednesday, December 31st, visit muw.org and click on the donate button.

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Please contact Branden@mworksource.org or Patti@mworksource.org for more information on our positions and to schedule an interview.
You can also call us at 603-924-3326



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