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The Original Keene Shopper – "The Weekly with a Heart" – 69th Year of Community Service / November 25-December 1, 2026

Our Gratitude Runs Deep: Happy Shop Indie Local Season



By Jen Risley

"I've always believed that a vibrant downtown is the heartbeat of a community, and independent businesses are what give it character," said Ted McGreer, owner of Ted's Shoe & Sport in Keene."Events like Plaid Friday, Small Business Saturday, and the other Shop Indie Local celebrations remind us that where we spend our money matters. After nearly 30 years in business, I've seen firsthand how much local businesses contribute to our community. Especially after the challenges of downtown construction, these events give us a chance to celebrate what makes Keene special. When you support a locally owned business, you're not just making a purchase. You're investing in your neighbors, your community, and its future. And that's something worth celebrating!"

Our gratitude runs deep this Shop Indie Local holiday season. Thank you for choosing more of your products and services from Indie Locals (independent, locally owned businesses), investing your dollars and time locally, and signing our Declaration for Independent Businesses (read our updates below). These choices ripple out, creating more community health and wealth long after we finish our Thanksgiving leftovers.

Visit Plaid Friday Hubs, such as Howard's Leather in Spofford, on Friday, November 27th. Plaid Friday Hubs will photograph visitors decked out in plaid and answer any questions about Plaid Friday. Rosco, the beloved resident corgi and official store greeter at Howard's Leather helping spread the Plaid Friday love.

Shop Indie Local Week Starts Friday

The Shop Indie Local spirit really comes alive this week, as we celebrate Plaid Friday, Small Business Saturday, Artists Sunday, Cider Monday, and Giving Tuesday.

LOCAL, page 25

Toy World ~ Your Local Toy Store

Toys, Games, Models, Plus RC Track & Game Tables



Toy World dream team (L to R): Charles Dockum, owner Justin Wescott, and Steve Levy.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

There's a special kind of magic that happens when a child walks into a toy store. Their eyes widen, their pace quickens, and a world of wonders and possibilities opens up to them. This can also happen to adults.

Toy World in Keene is that special magical place that offers all ages a place to go for a large selection of toys, games, and hobby supplies. Recently opened at 460 West Street (Fairbanks Plaza, aka Kohl's Plaza), Toy World owner Justin Wescott – a former Toy City employee – decided that Keene could not manage without a toy store/hobby shop when the much-loved toy store closed at the beginning of this year.

"This is what I like to do," Wescott comments. "I really like toys."

TOY WORLD, page 18

2027 Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund Now Accepting Applications

The Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund program, in partnership with the Cheshire County Conservation District, is now accepting applications from local farmers. The Farm Fund helps local farms develop their production for wholesale markets, including selling to the Monadnock Food Co-op and Food Connects. Funding supports a range of projects, including the purchase of equipment and infrastructure, farmland conservation, packaging and labeling design needs, and technical assistance.

Interested farmers are invited to an online information session on Monday, December 7th from 5 to 6 p.m. This is an opportunity for interested applicants to get their questions answered and to discuss their project proposals. Registration is required. Visit www.cheshireconservation.org/farm-fund to register or for an application for a request for proposal. Applications are due February 1st.

Electric Earth Concerts Last Show Of Season



Kristopher Tong, violin; Melissa Reardon, viola; Yeesun Kim, cello; and Nicholas Kitchen, violin.

(Photos by Jürgen Frank)

Electric Earth Concerts (EEC) finishes off its 2026 season with a bang, presenting the renowned Borromeo Quartet on Saturday, December 5th at 7 p.m. at the First Church in Jaffrey. Admired and sought after for both its fresh interpretations of the classical music canon and its championing of works by 20th and 21st century composers, the ensemble has been hailed for its edge-of-the- seat performances. This performance will be a smashing, all-Beethoven program.

Admission is $30/person, payable online (www.electriceearthconcerts.org) or at the door via cash or check. To bring great music to young audiences, this season EEC will admit kids and their parents to its concerts free of charge.

BORROMEO, page 22

An Irish Christmas Presented By Peterborough Folk Music Society On Sunday, November 29th



The Peterborough Folk Music Society (PFMS) will present An Irish Christmas at the Peterborough UU Church on Sunday, November 29th at 4 p.m. Doors open at 3:15 p.m. and PFMS's 30th Anniversary video begins at 3:45 p.m. Tickets are $30 online and $35 the day of the show for adults.

John Doyle, Cathie Ryan, and Mick McAuley come together for a rare United States tour this December in An Irish Christmas.

CHRISTMAS, page 22

L-R are Mick McAuley, John Doyle and Cathie Ryan.

(Photo by Desmond Gallagher)

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Wilcox Tree Service, a family-owned business based in Westmoreland, has been serving the Monadnock Region and surrounding communities since 2013, offering a wide array of tree removal services. For more details or to schedule an estimate, the company can be reached at 603-363-8197.

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PET OF THE WEEK
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Saber



Meet Saber! This sweet nine-year-old gentleman is a 100-pound mixed-breed boy with a heart as big as he is. Saber is very dog-social and has excellent canine social skills. He has a good history living with children and has also shared his home with birds, fish, and reptiles. While he hasn't had experience living with cats, there is currently no indication that he would have difficulty with them. More than anything, Saber is a loving, affectionate boy who simply wants to be close to his people and enjoy all the snuggles he can get. Saber is also on a weight-loss journey and would love a family willing to support him in reaching his healthiest self. For those looking for a gentle, social, affectionate companion with plenty of love to give, Saber may be the perfect addition!

The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzey Road, outside of Keene on Route 10 South. It's open Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more at www.monadnockhumanesociety.org.

Christmas Fair At Church In Swanzey

A Christmas Fair will be held at First Congregational Church of Swanzey at 679 Old Homestead Highway on Friday, December 4th from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, December 5th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The fair includes wreaths, swag, holiday decor, baked goods, Christmas crafts, a Christmas Cafe, and raffle baskets.

Holiday Tea, Celebrate the Winter Solstice

The Keene Public Library's Annual Tea Party celebrating winter solstice will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 1 to 3 p.m. at 60 Winter Street.

A presentation by a guest presenter from American Stonehenge to discover the history, traditions, and wonders of the winter solstice. Registration is required; call 603 352-0157 or e-mail akraemer@keenenh.gov.

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The Secret Garden

Earlier in the year, I wrote about Emily Dickinson's home and gardens in Amherst, MA. She is one of many well-known literary figures who worked in and wrote about the gardens around them. Others include Robert Frost, Virginia Wolf, Jamaica Kincaid and – one who is particularly uplifting to me at the moment – Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Please allow me a short digression here. Although I love winter, the end of the gardening season often leaves me feeling a little sad. I have to reorient my entire life and transitions aren't always my forte. My beloved mother-in-law (may she rest in peace) once told me the best way to help a child through tough transitions is to offer a constructive distraction. And so, I like to think I'm creating healthy distractions for myself – cleaning windows, vacuuming behind furniture, and trying new recipes; but, an additional aid is that I'm doing all these things while listening to one of my favorite books, Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*. Although some of the language and ideas in the book are antiquated and inappropriate, this novel has heartened generations of gardeners. As I've been reliving the tale of Mary, Dickon, and Colin, I can't help but wonder about the actual gardens that inspired this book.

In order to learn more, I've turned to another of my favorite authors, Marta McDowell. A few years ago, McDowell published *Unearthing the Secret Garden*, a book that begins with a black and white photo of Frances Hodgson Burnett, leaning with her elbows propped up on a sundial, the bottom of her turn-of-the-last-century, full-length dress snagging on a rambling rose bush. Although Mrs. Burnett (as she was called by her peers) spent much of her adult life in the US, she was born in England and often traveled between the two countries. On one of her visits to England, in search of a new home to rent, she came upon Maytham Hall in Kent. I think it important to note here that Kent is known as the "garden of England" and England is known not only as the easiest country in the world to garden in, but also as "a nation of gardeners."

Up until that point in her life, Mrs. Burnet had been a great admirer of gardens and beauty, but had not had her own gardens. With three acres of walled garden rooms suddenly available, she took up gardening with the same kind of ferocity that she usually reserved for pen and paper.

Under the care of previous stewards, the gardens had been allowed to run wild and she was determined to make them "twice as lovely." Together, with the head gardener who would serve as the blueprint for the character Ben Weatherstaff, she laid plans for the improvement of the kitchen gardens, long floral borders, and formal hedges. I'm happy to say she didn't just direct plans, but could be found kneeling on the ground with her hands in the soil. On such a day, she and the head gardener had gone to look at the walled orchard. The trees were old and in decline. Weeds were everywhere. A sundial stood in the middle, wrapped in climbing vines. A robin hopped out on one of the vines to peer at them. As the



two of them looked around, the head gardener said he would like to plant new fruit trees. Mrs. Burnet gazed at the space and decided that she didn't want to improve the orchard. Rather, she wanted to plant roses and let them use the old trees as supports, so they could crawl across them and dangle from the branches. That is exactly what they did and, if you've read *The Secret Garden*, you would know that image quite well fits the description of the fictional secret garden. In correspondence, Mrs. Burnett also wrote of the naturalized spring bulbs that swept across the lawns between stately old trees, a primrose-covered hillside she could see through a window of the house, and, more often than not, the state of the gardens.

It would be another decade before she'd complete her book, *The Secret Garden*, but Frances Hodgson Burnett had laid the foundation for it in her own life long before. It's amazing how following her newfound passion for gardening and an intuition to not cut down an old orchard contributed to Mrs. Burnet writing one of the most beloved children's books of the early 20th century. May we all be wise enough to follow our own intuitions large and small; and, if anyone ever finds themselves in Kent, the rose garden in the walled orchard still stands and is open to the public on select days each year.

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

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Swanzey DPW-Facility Open House To Address Critical Upgrades And Tax Impact

The Town of Swanzey Department of Public Works (DPW) invites community members to attend an informational open house on Saturday, December 5th, at 9 a.m. The event will take place at the current DPW facility located at 98 Pine Street.

The purpose of the event is to provide residents with a first-hand look at the current facility and explain why an upgrade is critical to protecting town employees, equipment, and taxpayer investments. Currently, the DPW facility faces severe space constraints that directly impact daily operations. The work areas are undersized for modern equipment, creating challenging and unsafe working conditions. These tight spaces slow down storm response times, forcing staff to install heavy snowplows outdoors during severe weather.

Open house attendees will have the opportunity to tour the facility and speak with staff and management. This interaction aims to help residents better understand how the current infrastructure impacts safety, efficiency, and service levels, as well as how the proposed solutions will resolve these issues.

Town management will present the financial plan for the project. Due to a year-over-year reduction in existing debt service, the inclusion of the new DPW project debt will not increase property taxes from last year's levels. All Swanzey residents and taxpayers are encouraged to attend to learn how this project protects town assets while maintaining a stable tax rate. For more details, the Swanzey DPW can be reached at 603-352-7116.

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Ducks In A Row, Face The Music, And Steal My Thunder

I had so much fun researching the origins of idioms in my last column that I wanted to keep on that same path. When you hear an idiom, how many times have you wondered where the saying came from? Maybe some of these discoveries will help answer those questions.

Ducks in a Row

This is probably one of my favorite sayings that I actually use a lot. There are many thoughts on the origins of the phrase. One is simply a momma duck leading a line of ducklings as she walks. And then there is another duck-related origin tied to the image of ducks flying in formation. Another idea derives from shooting galleries where plastic ducks were all lined up in a row to shoot down more efficiently. One more possible origin is linked to the punt gun, used in the 19th and early 20th centuries. These guns were super heavy to carry, so duck hunters mounted them on boats and tried to line up as many birds as they could with one shot – get all your ducks in a row. This phrase means to get completely organized.

Break a Leg

This was a popular saying used in the 1920s and 1930s in the theater world. It was believed to bring bad luck by saying "good luck," so instead they would say the opposite so as not to jinx themselves.

Cut to the Chase

"Cut to the chase" means to get straight to the point. This idiom is said to have come from the 1920s, the era of silent films. There was only so much creativity at that time, so filmmakers followed the same basic structure for their motion pictures. When the movie started to feel a bit boring, the director would add a chase scene; thus, cut to the chase.

Face the Music

There are a couple of different theories about where this idiom came from. One is a military theory that dates back to the 1830s. When a soldier was discharged from the Army for dishonorable conduct, the dismissal included the soldier being paraded out of the camp in a "walk of shame." This was accompanied by loud beating of drums or a band playing. The soldier was forced to "face the music." Another popular theory traces the saying back to the theatre. In earlier times, the orchestra pit was typically located at the front of the stage, between the performers and the audience. When actors or performers were on stage, they literally had to "face the music" coming from the orchestra. If overcome with stage fright, actors knew they had to confront, or turn, toward the musicians.

Monadnock Family
with Lori Catozzi Cook



Caught Red-Handed

"Caught red-handed" is said to date back to 15th-century Scottish legal proceedings where the culprit was referred to as being caught with "red hand." It turned into the phrase we now use around the 19th Century when Sir Walter Scott wrote in his novel, Ivanhoe, "I did but tie one fellow, who was taken red-handed and in the fact, to the horns of a wild stag." Published in 1819, this novel turned out to be a huge bestseller, which helped spread this idiom all over the English-speaking world. Today, caught red-handed has kept to its legal origins: discovering someone doing something wrong while they are doing it.

Steal My Thunder

To steal someone's thunder dates back to 1704, when English playwright John Dennis invented a new method of creating the sound of thunder that was used in his play *Appius and Virginia*. Though the play was unsuccessful, shortly after that, the thunder method was used in a performance of *Macbeth*. The playwright was not happy and stated, "They will not let my play run, but they steal my thunder."

The Ball is in Your Court

This idiom's meaning – that it's your turn to take action – is said to originate with the game of tennis. In tennis, the ball's position determines which player is responsible for its next move. Thus, "the ball is in your court."

Go Down in Flames

This saying is said to originate during World War I. Airplanes at that time were made of wood and canvas and were extremely flammable. When a plane was shot down, it often would catch fire and then tumble to the ground in a fiery ball. "Go down in flames" quickly spread beyond the military world and is now commonly used to mean fail miserably.

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November 29, 2026
Silas Southard, son of Marc Southard, Bennington, 12

Sage Jean LaBounty, daughter of Timothy LaBounty & Chelsea Nadeau, Hinsdale, 1

Ozziette Grace Wilbur, daughter of Austin Leroy Wilbur & Skyla White, Manchester, 3

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Planting Parsnips

I love parsnips. They are relatively easy to grow; aren't bothered by mice, moles, or voles; and survive the winter in the garden. I started planting them in the fall several years ago.

During the fall, I get their beds ready. I clean up whatever was planted there this year and get all the weeds out of it. Adding compost, aged manure, alfalfa pellets, rock dust, and powdered seaweed, I use my hands to blend it into the soil. Once that is done, I take out two half-filled five gallon buckets of the soil. I rake the rest flat and bring the buckets into the house.

I then wait until the weather turns really cold. I don't want my seeds to germinate until the spring so I often wait until the ground freezes. Broadcasting the seeds onto the soil, I use the stuff brought into the house to cover them up. They will stay there all winter and germinate once it warms up.

Once they come up, I thin them so that everybody has room to grow into a nice sized parsnip. They grow all summer long and look lovely by the fall. However, I don't eat them then. Parsnips improve their flavor by being frozen, and there is always so much to eat in the fall. By leaving them in the ground, I have a huge bed of parsnips to eat in the spring when food can be sparse. They should be eaten up before they start to grow too much. However, I do leave a good-sized patch to go to seed. It can be hard to find parsnip seeds in the fall so this gives you plenty to sow. The first year that I let some go to seed, there were only two or three plants. The Upper Valley Seed Savors told me that in order to get the proper genetics it is important to let 20 or 30 plants go to seed. So that is what I now do.



The seeds are ready to harvest in July or August. They are very obvious and easily fall off the plants. I bring out a yogurt container and knock them in. I then let them dry on a cookie sheet before putting them in a glass jar in the fridge. You will have enough to share with many of your friends!

Carrots can be planted in this way as well. This will give you some nice, early carrots in the spring. Letting carrots go to seed can be problematic, though. If there is any Queen Ann's Lace growing within a mile of your carrots, you run the risk of having them cross breed. They will not come back true if that happens. One of the most common mistakes that people make with carrots (or parsnips) is not thinning them enough. If they germinate well, there can be a dozen carrots in an inch of soil. Most of those should come out. It's hard, but these seedlings can be fed to the chickens or put into the compost.

Seed catalogs are starting to arrive. My *Pinetree Garden Seeds 2027* catalog has been the first to come. This is a great nursery to buy seeds where you don't want to plant a whole lot of one variety. Tomatoes, for example – people often like to plant several different varieties. You can get 25 seeds of Black Krim for $2.70 or Mortgage Lifter for $2.45 or 35 seeds of Romas for $2.55. For peppers, you can get 20 seeds of King of the North for $2.55 or 20 seeds of cayenne for $2.55. More on seed catalogs to come...

Celeste and Bob Longacre have been living sustainably for almost 50 years. Her book, "Celeste's Garden Delights," details exactly how to do this and is available at many local businesses. Celeste is also looking for venues to do kvass demos.

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Friends Of Pisgah Ribbon-Cutting Celebration And Hike December 5th

Friends of Pisgah will have a ribbon-cutting celebration and hike on Saturday, December 5th at 10 a.m. Gather at the Kilburn trailhead on Route 63 in Hinsdale.

The hike will be a 3.5 mile loop circling Kilburn Pond via the John Summers Trail, with a stop to celebrate and christen the recently constructed covered bridge over Baker Brook. Folks who choose to participate just in the bridge celebration may return to the Kilburn parking lot for a shorter 1.5 mile hike. For this beginner/intermediate-level hike, pack water, snacks, and wear warm clothes and boots appropriate for rugged terrain.

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Maple Hill Nursery & Greenhouses Has Christmas Trees At Two Locations



Bobby Ward, left, and Scot Cleverly of Maple Hill Nursery & Greenhouses are getting prepared for Christmas tree sales on Main Street (corner of Davis Street) in Keene.

Maple Hill Nursery & Greenhouses is selling Christmas trees at two locations. Shoppers can stop at the corner of Main and Davis streets in Keene with convenient off-street parking. There is something for everyone with these fragrant varieties – Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir, and Cook Fir trees from table-top size to 10-plus feet tall.

Shoppers also will find trees in various sizes, plus wreaths, roping, greens, Christmas cactus, kissing balls, poinsettias, centerpieces, cemetery planters, decorations, and house plants at Maple Hill's location on Route 10 South in Swanzey. Wreaths can be custom decorated if ordered ahead of time.

Both locations are open daily through Christmas. For more details, call 603-357-2555, visit www.maplehillnursery.com, or stop by.

Holiday Open Sugar House December 6th At Woodard's Sugar House

Woodard's Sugar House in Surry will hold its ninth annual Holiday Open Sugar House on Sunday, December 6th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sale will offer 20 percent off all maple products, and the chance to fill Christmas stockings with something sweet this holiday season. Also available will be handmade wreaths from Autumn Rose Acres Farm.

The sugar house is located at 1200 Route 12A. For more details, call 603-358-3321 or visit www.woodardsugarhouse.com.

St. George To Hold Christmas Bazaar

St. George will hold its Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 5th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church at 70 West Street in Keene.

The bazaar will feature Greek pastries and crafters offering arts, candles, paintings, jewelry and handcrafted gift items. A homemade Greek lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., including spanakopita, Greek chicken soup and stuffed grape leaves.

Moo-ve Over, Santa!



"Am I not too cute for words?" asks Poppy, a miniature Zebu cow – now full grown at two-and-a-half years old. She's eager to greet visitors at Crescendo Acres Farm in Surry.

Hub 50+ Holiday Fair December 5th

The Hub 50+ (formerly The Keene Senior Center) invites the community to its Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 5th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 312 Marlboro Street, Suite 100, in Keene. A light lunch will be available. "The Holiday Fair is a wonderful way for the community to kick off the season, find unique gifts, enjoy homemade treats, and support the Hub 50+," Kim Rumrill, executive director, said. "We encourage everyone to bring a friend and join us for a fun and festive day."

The festive event offers holiday shopping, homemade baked goods, raffle opportunities, and seasonal activities while supporting programs and services for 50 and better adults.

One of the biggest attractions of the fair will be more than 60 themed raffle baskets. Attendees may purchase raffle tickets for chances to win a gift basket or participate through "Buy Now" and silent auction options. The Holiday Gifts and White Elephant Table will feature unique treasures and affordable gifts. Additional activities include a 50/50 raffle and an opportunity to take photos with Santa. For those looking to complete some holiday shopping while supporting a local nonprofit organization, the Hub 50+ Holiday Fair offers something for everyone.

For more details, contact the Hub 50+ at 603-352-5037 or visit www.hub50plus.org.

Small Pond Productions Presents "A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2026" (And A "Merry Spoofmas!")



Casey Volikas, Zoë Ferrin, Sonia Kibbee and Sarah Manning rehearsing for Small Pond Productions' "A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2026."

The Small Pond Productions family is back with its annual holiday show on December 3rd through 5th at 7:30 p.m. and December 5th and 6th at 2 p.m. Tickets are $20 general and $15 for seniors/students. All performances will be held at the Community House of Marlborough, Route 101, 160 Main Street, in Marlborough. Tickets will go fast; call the ticket line at 603-242-2314. If special seating arrangements are required, mention it when calling, otherwise, it's first-come, first-serve. Pay by cash or check at the door; credit cards are not accepted.

This will be a chance to enjoy the season with both old and new favorites, directed by Traci Booth with music directed by Walt Sayre. Following the music program this year, the troupe will present something a little different … "A Merry Spoofmas!" A series of small skits they guarantee will have the audience laughing and looking at the holiday season in a whole new way.

This year's cast is Barb Andrews, Matt Axsom, Casper Bemis, Rich and Traci Booth, David Chase, Andy & PJ Cooke, Jeannie Donohoe, Ren Doyle, Zoë Ferrin, Sarah Flower-Finch, Oliver and Tara Gillard, Bryan Hebert, Emma Keating-Tuttle, Sonia Kibbee, Ray Mahoney, Sarah Manning, Lisa Perreault, John Sansone,Walt Sayre, Katie Sibley, Carin Torp, and Casey Volikas. they believe that if this show, suitable for the whole family, cannot get folks into the holiday spirit, nothing can.

The big "guy" himself, will be taking a mini break before the big day to stop in and visit with Small Pond.

For more details about this show, visit the website at www.smallpondpresents.org or go to their Facebook page.

Holiday Fair In Harrisville December 5th, 6th



Susan Weller pottery



Kate Kilgus weaving



Horse Hill Studio All Things Leather Donlin Forman and Jaya Lord

The fourth annual Holiday Fair in Harrisville will take place Saturday and Sunday, December 5th and 6th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year, the fair takes place in two locations: the historic Granite Mill Building Spinning Room (69 Main Street) and the newly renovated Village Community Center (25 Church Street, next to the General Store). Local artisans and makers are once again coming together to offer a wide range of unique, handcrafted gifts for the holiday season. Both locations are wheelchair accessible.

Some of the high quality items that will be available are: original paintings and photographs, Linocuts, a variety of fine leather items, hand-crafted jewelry, custom furniture, pottery, fiber arts, hand-carved spoons, wooden bowls and cutting boards, handmade baskets, heirloom quality textiles, and more.

Lunch items and other holiday-themed treats will be for sale by The Harrisville Community Church. Other food items may be purchased at the Harrisville General Store.

For more details, e-mail info@harrisvillepottery.com.

Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill Candlelight Christmas At The Colonial Theatre

On Sunday, December 6th, world-acclaimed Irish tenor Emmet Cahill will perform Candlelight Christmas at The Colonial Theatre on Main Street in Keene from 7 to 9 p.m. He will take the audience on a musical journey, allowing them to connect with their most cherished memories through beautiful songs.

Cahill, the star of PBS's phenomenon Celtic Thunder, has been widely hailed as Ireland's "most exciting young tenor." News of his sold-out debut concert at New York's Carnegie Hall has turned heads with audiences throughout North America, and he is quickly building a reputation for being the golden voice of this generation.

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



Monadnock Covenant Church Holiday Craft Fair

On Saturday, November 28th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monadnock Covenant Church will host a holiday craft fair featuring a wide assortment of gift items, including wood products from various woodworkers, including bowls, rolling pins, cutting boards, Christmas ornaments and coat racks; homemade soaps; artisan breads and cookies; crocheted market bags and animals; glass art, including vases with fairy lights and winter decorations; knitted items such as cotton dishcloths, hats and ornaments; mixed-media home and Christmas décor and gifts; colorful quilted table runners, cord keepers, and plastic bag holders, as well as fair-trade jewelry and fabric items created by artisans in Kenya and India, helping not only the artisans but others in their community as well. Lunch will be served and there's plenty of free parking. Monadnock Covenant Church is located at 90 Base Hill Road in Keene.



Steve Riley, one of a handful of woodworkers selling their wares at Monadnock Covenant Church, preparing to turn a small bowl on a lathe in his workshop.

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Keene Unitarian Universalist Church Solstice Market, Welcome Yule



Eloise Clark at the Keene Unitarian Universalist Church's Solstice Market.

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church (KUUC) will host The Solstice Market this December, continuing a longtime holiday tradition in the Monadnock Region. Formerly known as the church's annual Greens Sale, the event begins Friday, December 4th, with cider, songs, and other seasonal merriment.

Shoppers can browse holiday greens, distinctive Berry Bowls, selected crafts, homemade baked goods, lively entertainment, and more to welcome the season. The popular Café returns on Saturday, December 5 with beverages and baked goods throughout the day, and a selection of soups available after 11 a.m. Jack in the Green will be performing on Saturday at 11 a.m.

The Solstice Market will be open Friday, December 4th from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 5th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Welcome Yule is a community celebration of the winter solstice and the gradual return of longer days. The program will feature songs, dance, and readings. The Jack in the Green Morris Dancers will also perform, complete with bells. Welcome Yule is set for Sunday, December 20th at 10 a.m.

Both events offer an opportunity to enjoy the season, connect with neighbors, and celebrate the traditions that bring the community together.

The winter solstice has been marked for millennia by cultures around the world. The tradition of bringing evergreens into the home dates back to ancient celebrations of the season, symbolizing life and renewal during the darkest days of the year.

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 69 Washington Street.





















Walpole Artisans Create Joy For The Soul

The magic of Christmas is on full display in Walpole with special holiday events hosted by the Walpole Artisans. The popular cooperative, formed in 2004, includes the work of over 20 local and regional artisans, featuring such mediums as wood, glass, pottery, jewelry, fiber, paintings, photography, wearables, skin products, and many more gift and seasonal items.

"Most of us artisans are working members and you will always find one of us behind the counter to assist you," says Jim Lorette, of Rarematerial. In what can be described as a "feast for the eyes and a joy for the soul," Walpole Artisans will host "Mistletoe Madness" on Saturday, December 5th, "Friends Mingle & Jingle," on December 12th, and "Procrastinator's Paradise," on December 19th. All three events will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Walpole gallery, located at 52 Main Street, and will include light food and beverages. The gallery's regular hours on all other days are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details, visit walpoleartisans.org, or visit their Facebook page.

Christmas Open House At The Hinsdale Historical Society

On Saturday, December 5th, The Hinsdale Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas Open House from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the historic Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale Homestead on Route 119 in Hinsdale. This event is free.

House tours will be offered continuously throughout the day, giving visitors the opportunity to explore the rooms, learn the history of the homestead, and enjoy simple seasonal touches inspired by the colonial era. The Hinsdale's Garrison Company will be showcasing what life was like in colonial Hinsdale.

Holiday Bazaar Set For November 28th

The VFW Post 5613 will be hosting their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 28th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VFW Hall on Hathorn Road (off Route 202) in Jaffrey.

There will be more than 40 tables of art and various handcrafted items, Christmas and home décor, cards, jewelry, candles, personal care items, plus product vendors. There will be live music, a bake sale, and hot and cold lunch items available for purchase. Santa will visit from approximately 9 to 11 a.m. and raffle winners will be announced around 1:30 p.m.

Admission is free. For more details, contact Tracy at vfwaux5613holiday@gmail.com.



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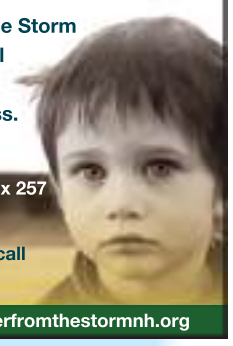
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Christmas Craft Fair In Nelson Saturday, December 5th



Kim Monty with her crafts at the Nelson Church Christmas Craft Fair.

The Nelson Church Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Local crafters will have their goods for sale to help with Christmas shopping. Treats and coffee will be for sale by local Scouts. The facility is ADA accessible.

The Nelson Congregational Church is located at 830 Nelson Road.

Free Photos With Santa In Keene November 28th

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate – The Masiello Group's Keene office will offer free photos with Santa on Saturday, November 28th, from 10 a.m. to noon at 69A Island St.

The event is open to the community.


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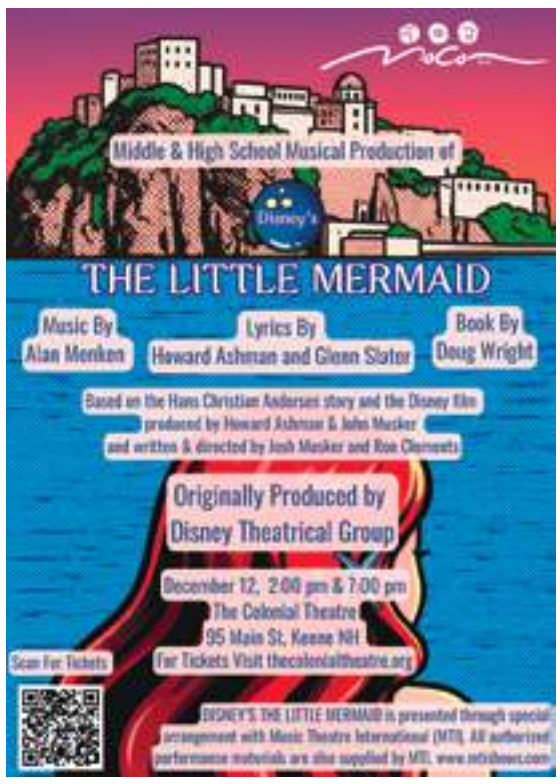

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Looking At Leftovers With A Positive Attitude

Leftovers, for me, are a way of avoiding waste, making do, and providing a quick meal. I don't look at leftovers as "a casserole" (although that's what they often are), but as a careful combination of prepared various food ingredients. This holiday season, many of us might prepare dinners using turkey, ham, lamb, roast beef, or brisket. I hope this week's recipes will provide a few new ways to enjoy some of your leftovers. Just, perhaps, it is all in the attitude!

Hot Turkey Calzone

Turkey, cheese, bacon and apple blend together in this family-friendly sandwich that's perfect for any meal. Makes six servings.

Ingredients:
1 tablespoon cornmeal
1 lb. frozen pizza dough, thawed (or your own)
2½ cups thinly sliced cooked turkey
8 slices cheddar cheese
5 lean bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
1 small tart apple, peeled and thinly sliced
1 large egg, beaten
1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning

Sprinkle cornmeal on a lightly greased baking sheet. On a floured surface, roll dough into a 15-inch circle; transfer to pan. Arrange half the turkey over half of the dough. Top with the cheese, bacon, apple, and remaining turkey. Fold dough over filling and pinch edges to seal. Cut three slashes in the top for steam to escape. Brush with egg and sprinkle with Italian seasoning. Bake at 400 degrees until golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Let stand five minutes before cutting.

New England Turkey And Corn Pie

Nice flavor combinations that will make six servings.

Ingredients:
3 cups chopped, cooked turkey
3 large eggs, well beaten
3 cups milk
2 tablespoons flour
1½ cups corn, frozen or canned
1/2 cup minced onion
1/4 cup minced green or red pepper
1/4 cup sautéed mushrooms
salt and pepper to taste

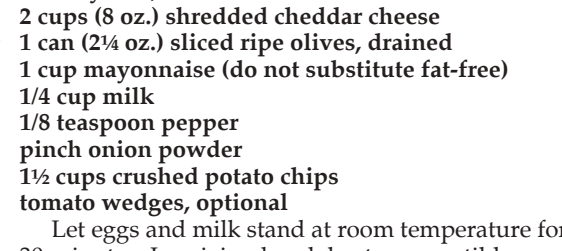
Place turkey in the bottom of a lightly greased 10-inch quiche or pie dish. In a bowl, beat together eggs, milk and flour. Add remaining ingredients to egg mixture and pour over the turkey. Bake at 325 degrees for about one hour and 15 minutes, or until knifes comes out clean.

Indonesian Curry

This hurry-up curry dish using leftover lamb or beef is filled with special flavors of apple, coconut and raisins. If you like, add some toppings of your own, such as chopped scallions, almonds, etc. Serve with rice. Makes four servings.

Ingredients:
5 tablespoons butter, divided
1 cup chopped onion
2 peeled and chopped apples
4 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons curry, or to taste
1 can beef consommé
1/2 to 1 cup water
juice of 1 lemon
2 cups leftover lamb, diced
cooked rice for 4 servings
raisins and shredded or flaked coconut for toppings

In a skillet, melt two tablespoons butter; sauté apples and onion until tender. Add rest of butter, flour, and curry, blending well with whisk. Add beef consommé, whisking and stirring. Add one-half cup of water, or more as needed, to make the consistency you like; add juice of lemon. Add lamb; taste and add additional curry, if desired. Stir well and cook at a low simmer, covered, for 30 to 40 minutes, adding additional water if needed. Serve on rice; top with raisins and coconut.



Ham Loaf

Ground ham and pork combine to make this tasty loaf, topped with special sauce.

Ingredients:
1 lb. leftover ground ham and 1 lb. ground pork
1/2 cup cracker crumbs
1/2 cup whipping cream
2 tablespoons dry mustard

Topping Sauce: 1/2 cup brown sugar; 1/2 cup wine vinegar; 1/4 cup water, if vinegar tastes too strong; 1/4 teaspoon powdered cloves; 1/4 cup stick-slivered blanched almonds, optional

In a bowl, with your hands combine ham loaf ingredients well; press mixture into a bread pan. In a small bowl, mix together topping sauce ingredients; pour half the sauce over the ham loaf. Bake in 350-degree oven uncovered for 10 minutes; cover and bake an additional 45 minutes, basting with the remainder of the sauce. If desired, then place stick-slivered almonds all over and bake 15 minutes longer. When ready to serve, pour off sauce from the pan into a gravy boat before slicing and serving.

Popover with Hot Turkey Salad

A popover "bowl" is a unique way of serving this eye-pleasing dish. Feel free to omit the ripe olives if you don't like them. Serves 10 to 12.

Ingredients:
2 large eggs
1 cup milk
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 cups cubed cooked turkey (or chicken)
4 celery ribs, diced
2 cups (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese
1 can (2¼ oz.) sliced ripe olives, drained
1 cup mayonnaise (do not substitute fat-free)
1/4 cup milk
1/8 teaspoon pepper
pinch onion powder
1½ cups crushed potato chips
tomato wedges, optional

Let eggs and milk stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. In mixing bowl, beat eggs until lemon-colored and foamy. Add milk, flour and salt; beat just until smooth (don't over-beat). Pour into a greased 10-inch pie plate. Bake at 400 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until deep golden brown. Immediately prick with a fork in the center to allow steam to escape. In a saucepan, combine turkey, celery, cheese, olives, mayonnaise, milk, pepper, and onion powder; cook and stir over low heat until heated through. Stir in potato chips and spoon mixture into popover. Garnish with tomato wedges if desired. Serve immediately.

Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. She has been featured as one of Yankee Magazine's great New England cooks. Nancy welcomes suggestions – send them to: Nancy P. Adams, 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.



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Holiday Upcoming Events In The Region

Friday, Nov. 27

FAMILY FUN

Kiwanis Club of Keene Tree Lighting Celebration 5-7:30pm. Central Square, Keene. Entertainment and singalong. Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Reading of the classic "T'was the Night before Christmas." Cocoa and cookies.

MISCELLANEOUS

Putney Craft Tour 10am-5pm. Celebrating 48 years. 23 working Studios. Glassblowers, potters, jewelers, painters, more. Wine and cheese tasting. www.putneycrafttour.com.

Saturday, Nov. 28

FAIRS & SALES

Keene Holiday Craft Show 9am-3pm. Keene High School, Arch St., Keene. Over 100 crafters from all over New England. Handmade gifts for that special someone. Community event for all ages.

Holiday Bazaar 9am-2pm. VFW Post 5613, Hathorn Rd., Jaffrey. 40-plus tables of handcrafted items & local vendors. Lunch concessions. Bake sale. Raffle. Santa visit.

Christmas Market & Bazaar 9am-8pm. ELMM Community Center, 21 Durkee St., Winchester. 50 vendors, photos with Santa, food, sleigh rides, biergarten, live performances.

FAMILY FUN

Free Photo with Santa 10am-12pm. Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate The Masiello Group, 69A Island St.,Keene. **603-352-5433**.

MISCELLANEOUS

Putney Craft Tour 10am-5pm. Celebrating 48 years. 23 working Studios. Glassblowers, potters, jewelers, painters & more. Wine & cheese tasting. www.putneycrafttour.com.

Sunday, Nov. 29

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Peterborough Folk Music Society: An Irish Christmas 4pm. Peterborough UU Church, Main St., Peterborough. Doors open at 3:15. **603-318-9196**. www.pfmsconcerts.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Putney Craft Tour 10am- 5pm. Celebrating 48 years. 23 working Studios. Glassblowers, potters, jewelers, painters & more. Wine & cheese tasting. www.putneycrafttour.com.

RELIGIOUS

"As the Urn Turns," : A Thanksgiving Family Service 10am. Keene Unita rian Universalist Church, 69 Washington St. Singing and a fun play about kindness in hard times, adapted from the folktale, The Samovar. Choir will sing and the offering will be shared with the Community Breakfast at the Hundred Nights Shelter, in honor of Sue Hay who started this breakfast. All ages are welcome to participate in the service, followed by a coffee hour.

Thursday, Dec. 3

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Small Pond Productions Presents: A Classic Christmas Jubilee 7:30pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Holiday music, more. $20, $15 seniors/students. **603-242-2314**. www.smallpondpresents.org.

Friday, Dec. 4

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Small Pond Productions Presents: A Classic Christmas Jubilee 7:30pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Holiday music & more. $20, $15 seniors/students. **603-242-2314**. www.smallpondpresents.org.

FAIRS & SALES

49th Annual Pine Hill Holiday Fair: Adults Only Shopping High Mowing School, 77 Pine Hill Drive, Wilton. Live music, handmade wares, coffee and treats. Handmade jewelry, woolens, paintings, blown glass, and pottery. www.highmowing.org/holidayfair.

Christmas Fair 4-6pm. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. Wreaths, swags, decor, other decorations. Basket raffle, holiday bakery. Christmas cafe. **603-352-6689**. office@swanzeyucc.org.

Christmas Fair 4-7pm. United Church of Christ, 23 Central Square, Keene. Crafts, knitted items, homemade goods, silent auction, mystery packages, indoor plants, berry bowls, wreaths and baked goods and much more. Light supper. **603-352-4136**.

FAMILY FUN

The Twinkling Silo: A Cozy Winter Market, Merriment Stonewall Farms, 242 Chesterfield Rd., Keene. A Two-Day Holiday Celebration & Shopping Experience. Holiday cheer, festive shopping, and seasonal delights at The Twinkling Silo.! www.stonewallfarm.org.

Saturday, Dec. 5

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Small Pond Productions Presents: A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Holiday music & more. $20, $15 seniors/students. **603-242-2314**. www.smallpondpresents.org.

Small Pond Productions Presents: A Classic Christmas Jubilee 7:30pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Holiday music & more. $20, $15 seniors/students. **603-242-2314**. www.smallpondpresents.org.

FAIRS & SALES

Old Homestead Garden Club Green Sale 8am-1pm. Keene Dillant Hopkins Airport, 80 Airport Rd., Keene. Holiday wreaths, berry bowls, and other holiday greenery. Proceeds help to fund scholarship program for area HS Seniors. oldhomestead@nhfgc.org. www.oldhomesteadgardenclub.org/.

Christmas Fair 9am-1pm. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. Wreaths, swags, decor & other decorations. Basket raffle, holiday bakery. Christmas cafe. **603-352-6689**. office@swanzeyucc.org.

Holiday Open House 9am-3pm. The Basketcase Gift Shop, 99 West Main St., Rindge. Offerings from local artist Sharon Digennaro are pottery, glass, ornaments, night lights, silk scarves, fused glass and mixed media. **603-971-0005**.

VFW Auxiliary Craft Fair 9am-3pm. VFW, 35 Main St., Winchester.

Holiday Craft Fair 9am-2pm. Monadnock Regional Middle/High School, 580 Old Homestead Hwy, Swanzey. Unique handmade treasures, beautiful creations, one-of-a-kind gifts, and local vendors. monadnocknh@end68hoursofhunger.org.

EVENTS, page 16

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Annual Greens Sale
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Beautiful Holiday Wreaths, Centerpieces, Swags & Berry Bowls.
Proceeds benefit our Scholarship Fund & other club projects.
Old Homestead Garden Club

Monadnock Covenant Church
Holiday Craft Fair
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Holiday Upcoming Events In The Region

EVENTS, Continued from page 15

FAIRS & SALES

St. George Christmas Bazaar 9am-3pm. St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 70 West St., Keene. Lunch served 11am-2pm. Greek pastries, crafters.

Christmas Fair 9am-2pm. United Church of Christ, 23 Central Square, Keene. Crafts, knitted items, homemade goods, silent auction, mystery packages, indoor plants, berry bowls, wreaths and baked goods and more. Coffee Shop 9-1:30. **603-352-4136**.

Holiday Fair 9am-1pm. the hub 50+, Formerly The Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro St., Suite 100, Keene. Gift basket raffle, food, treats, 50/50 raffle, white elephant sale, holiday gifts, bake sale, and photo op with Santa. **603-903-9680**. www.thehub50plus.org.

St. Nicholas Bazaar 9am-2pm. Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K St., Turners Falls, MA. Polish foods. Pierogi. Luncheon.

Christmas Craft Fair 10am-3pm. Nelson Congregational Church, 830 Nelson Rd., Nelson. Treats, beverages by local Scouts.

Pine Hill Holiday Fair 10am-3pm. High Mowing School, 77 Pine Hill Drive, Wilton. Live music, handmade wares, coffee and treats. Children's activities and experiences. Vendor's marketplace features items priced especially for children, too. Fair admission is free, although fees apply for some activities and food.

FAMILY FUN

The Twinkling Silo: A Cozy Winter Market & Merriment Stonewall Farms, 242 Chesterfield Rd., Keene. Holiday cheer, festive shopping, and seasonal delights at The Twinkling Silo. www.stonewallfarm.org.

Hinsdale Historical Society Christmas Open House 10am-3pm. The Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale Homestead, 609 Brattleboro Rd. Re-enactors will be on site demonstrating how the colonial people survived. House tours telling the history of the homestead and Col. Hinsdale and his family as well as later families that lived there. Free, family-friendly event.

MISCELLANEOUS

Christmas Open House 10am-3pm. Hinsdale Historical Society, 609 Brattleboro Road, Hinsdale.

Sunday, Dec. 6

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

53rd Anniversary TubaChristmas 1pm. Mabel Brown Room(L.P. Young Student Center), KSC. Featuring collegiate and community performers. Free to the public.

Small Pond Productions Presents: A Classic Christmas Jubilee 2pm. Community House, 160 Main St., Marlborough. Holiday music & more. $20, $15 seniors/students. **603-242-2314**. www.smallpondpresents.org.

Emmet Cahill Candlelight Christmas 7-9pm. The Colonial Theatre, 95 Main St., Keene. Star of PBS Phenomenon Celtic Thunder. $45/$39/$35. **603-352-2033**. www.thecolonial.org.

FAIRS & SALES

Holiday Open House 9am-3pm. The Basket Case Gift Shop, 99 West Main St., Rindge. Offerings from Sharon Digennaro are pottery, glass, ornaments, night lights, silk scarves, fused glass and mixed media. **603-971-0005**.

MISCELLANEOUS

Holiday Open Sugar House 10am-3pm. Woodard's Sugar House, 1200 Route 12A, Surry. 20% off all maple products. Hand made wreaths from Autumn Rose Acres Farm. **603-358-3321**. www.woodardssugarhouse.com.

Thursday, Dec. 10

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Cheshire Village at Home: The Keene Senior Singers 2pm. the hub 50+, formerly The Keene Senior Center, 312 Marlboro St., Suite 100, Keene. Holiday music and a salute to veterans. Refreshments. **603-903-9680**. www.thehub50plus.org.

Saturday, Dec. 12

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Joy To The World, A Gift of Holiday Harmony 2026 3pm. Heberton Hall, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter Street. The Keene Public Library and the Keene Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society host Joy to the World: Holiday Harmony 2026, a musical gathering. Amy Kraemer: **603-352-0157**. akraemer@keenenn.gov.

FAMILY FUN

Holiday Ornament Making 11am-2pm. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Get creative with three different ornament-making stations. Suitable for all ages, children under 9 should be accompanied by an adult. **603-924-8040**. www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org.

Saturday, Dec. 19

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

New York Theatre Ballet: The Nutcracker 1-5:30pm. The Colonial Theatre, 95 Main St., Keene. This holiday ballet, danced to Tchaikovsky's score, is set in Art Nouveau style circa 1907. $39. **603-352-2033**. www.thecolonial.org.

Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday, December 5th
10 am-3 pm

Treats & Beverages by local Scouts
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PLAID FRIDAY

Stuart & John's: In Person And Online Shopping

Stuart & John's, located at 31 NH Route 63 in Westmoreland, is a gem of long-standing in the Monadnock region. Known for their quality maple products, their sugar house, and their restaurant, the familiar red buildings have been a destination for families both in and out of state for decades.

The business offers maple syrup, maple candy, maple cream, and Stuart & John's merchandise. In-person holiday sales take place on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through December 20th.

The restaurant is open for the last days of the season from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 28th and Sunday, November 29th. It will reopen in February.

For more details or to order online, go to stuartandjohns.com or reach them at 603-399-4486.

Currier & Ives Cookie Tour December 12th

Twenty-one years and still going strong, the annual Currier & Ives Cookie Tour will take place on Saturday, December 12th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year, there are 14 stops on the tour. The price is $20 per person and tickets may be bought (cash only) at the following tour locations: Frogg Brewing, The Park Theatre, and the Inn at East Hill Farm. Refreshments and treats are served at each stop on the tour.

The following businesses are participating this year: The Cozy Cottage, The Optimist Café, Frogg Brewing, Terrapin Glassblowing Studio, The Park Theatre, Monadnock Country Café, Jaffrey Historical Society, Troy Historical Society, The She Shed, Inn at East Hill Farm, Monadnock Inn, Endless Treasures, 21B Bar & Grill, and Maura's Embroidery Unlimited.

For more details, call 603-242-6495 or visit currierandivescookietour.com.

Christmas Fair At United Church Of Christ/ Keene

On Friday, December 4th and Saturday, December 5th, the United Church of Christ (UCC) in Keene will host its Christmas Fair. The fun begins on Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. and a light supper will be available. Saturday starts at 9 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. with a Coffee Shop running until 1:30 p.m.

This popular fair features crafts, knitted items, jewelry, a silent auction, Grandmother's Treasures, mystery packages, stationery, berry bowls, indoor plants, wreaths, homemade baked goods, candy, and preserves.

Cash, credit cards, and checks are accepted for payment.

The UCC in Keene is located at 23 Central Square.

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PLAID

Toy World ~ Your Local Toy Store

TOY WORLD, Continued from page 1

Wescott brought along Charles Dockum, who was also an employee of Toy City and is now the manager at Toy World. Customers could also see another familiar Toy City face – Steve Levy, the owner of Toy City who is now a consultant for Wescott's new business.

Lee Johndrow from Facebook's "Positive Things Happen in Keene, NH" says: "I was pretty sad when Toy City was closing; I had been going there for decades. Then I saw Toy World was opening, yay! The shelves are getting stocked, and there are more cool things coming."

"Awesome toy store opened by the guys who used to work at Toy City," Anthony Hancock says. "My one-stop for miniatures and paint. Also, best place to find the toys my kids love – Calico Critters, Magna Tiles, Lego, and much more. I love the new convenient location. Every time I go shopping now at Aldi, I can swing by the toy store!"

"Now that Toy World has opened, people have been thankful that a real toy store is back," Wescott adds.

Wescott started construction in September with a vision of using all local sources – signage, construction supplies, etc. – which is a direct boost to the neighborhood economy. He was involved in all demo to construction aspects of this project that resulted in 7200 square feet to include merchandise space as well

TOY WORLD, page 19



Toy World owner Justin Wescott tries his hand at Gravitas, the original Vermont-stone stacking game.

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FRIDAY

Toys, Games, Models, Plus RC Track & Game Tables

TOY WORLD, Continued from page 18

as a room specifically designed for an RC (remote control) course and three game tables.

RC hobbyists can get the ultimate interactive experience on the 1/10 RC track, and a RC 1/18 to 1/24 scale crawler course will also be set up. Wescott is an RC enthusiast and says that this is his niche and that customers appreciate his experience when shopping for what they need.

For die-hard Warhammer fans, Toy World offers miniature and figurine collections to keep a person unplugged and engaged. The game tables are for miniature games and board/card games, and also includes a terrain table that has a surface to create immersive settings, structured gameplay, and wargaming opportunities using miniatures.

Toy World sells higher-quality games and supplies than people will find at big box stores. Probably one of the biggest pluses to this locally owned and operated toy store is the passion for games and hobbies that all the staff have, which trickles down to the best customer service one could hope for.

At Toy World, you will find something for the youngest of family members; there is an aisle full of developmental and sensory toys to pique the curiosity of kids from six months and up.

For fidgety fun, there is an array of fidget toys – perfect for stocking stuffers! Is your child interested in dress-up play? This toy store can accommodate that. Customers will find craft kits, fairy houses, baby dolls, adorable Calico Critter sets, animal and Harry Potter figurines, CAT construction toys, drawing books for young budding artists, Doinkit Darts, marble runs, puppets, Douglas cuddle toys, workbooks, activity books, and coloring books (including adult coloring books).

There is an entire section of science and STEM kits to inspire and encourage learning that includes chemistry, robotics, geodes, crystals, and more by National Geographic, Thames & Kosmos, and other popular brands.

There is a whole aisle dedicated to models of all types, including Bandai/Gunpla. Model planes, battleships, and cars – like John Wick's '69 Ford Mustang, Supernaturals '72 Chevelle SS, and the Scooby-Doo Mystery Machine – can be found here.

Jigsaw and 3D puzzles galore by CobbleHill, White Mountain, and other names will be found at Toy World. For family fun, customers will find classic games (Monopoly and Ticket to Ride) as well as popular newer games that bridge the gap.

Toy World is open daily: Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will be closed for major holidays. For more details, call 603-352-3131 or visit www.facebook.com/toyworld.

















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2026 Kurn Hattin Annual Meeting Defined By Momentum And Transition

Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children, located in Westminster, VT, recently held its Annual Meeting of Trustees and Incorporators. On the heels of historic momentum and strategic transition for the residential and academic community, the board elected five new incorporators to three-year terms: Jahyde Bullard (Pittsfield, MA), Deb Hamel Gay (Hernando, FL), Bruce Maysilles (Advance, NC), Heidi Schwieger (Keene, NH), and Cynthia Staniszewski (Swarthmore, PA).

In addition, the board re-elected seven incorporators to another term: Heather Hunter (Grafton, NH), Lyssa Jackson (Gansevoort, NY), Shannon Nolan (Boston, MA), Michael Obuchowski (Montpelier, VT), Bob Swartz (Keene, NH), David Therrien (Alstead, NH), and Rennie Washburn (West Chesterfield, NH).

New Trustees, to serve three-year terms, include Charles Kelsey (New London, NH), and Shannon Nolan. Previous trustees include Susan Johnson (Walpole, NH) and Leslie Rennie-Hill (Harwich, MA) who were re-elected to the position.

For officers and executive committee members serving one-year terms, Vice President Eric Velto (Springfield, VT) and Chairman Jerry Bardwell (Middleboro, MA) were re-elected. Toni Ciampaglione (Keene, NH) was appointed to serve as the new board president, with Charles Kelsey replacing her as treasurer. Diane Bazin (Westminster, VT), previous incorporator, was elected to serve as secretary. Retiring President Christopher Hackett (New Smyrna Beach, FL) will remain on the board as a trustee.

"For 132 years, Kurn Hattin has weathered change, evolved with the times, and remained committed to our fundamental mission: transforming the lives of children and their families. We are still here. And we are still making a difference," says Executive Director Sue Kessler.

Kessler also recognized Hackett for his "leadership and commitment" during his time as board president, especially in an "important period of transition." Kurn Hattin staff, the "heart and soul" of the organization, were praised for their "compassion, dedication, creativity, and deep commitment to the children's success."

Another highlight of the afternoon was the official unveiling of a championship banner to celebrate Rezig Akot '25 and his outstanding 2025 track & field season. Akot became the 2025 Vermont Middle School State Champion in discus with a throw of 112' 8". His accomplishments, now represented in the Wheeler Gymnasium, will inspire the Kurn Hattin athletes that follow in his footsteps.

Marked by inspiring new leadership, the event represented exciting potential for Kurn Hattin and the power the organization has in transforming lives. For more details, visit www.kurnhattin.org.

Winchester National Bank Renovation In Full Swing



The Historic National Bank in Winchester is getting a facelift. The 1847 brick Greek-Revival building will undergo a complete transformation.

The Historic National Bank in Winchester is getting a facelift. Under the direction of the Winchester National Bank Committee (WNBCC), the 1847 brick Greek-Revival building will undergo a complete transformation, helping to restore it to its original form.

"The bank building is a wonderful part of Winchester's history," says Rene Brewer. Work to date has included the removal of the remaining asphalt (from previous store) and the Jersey barriers, erection of granite posts and chains, improvements to the grounds (loam and seeding), roof repairs, exterior painting, woodwork and masonry repair, bulkhead replacement and drainage improvements. The next priority projects are updates to the electrical, heating, and plumbing. Funding for this work came from in-kind work, cash donations, fundraisers, raffles and grants. The town has received an L-Chip grant and NH Preservation Alliance grant for some of the work. All totaled it is about $100,000.

The town acquired the property, which is comprised of three lots, one with the bank building by donation in 2023. One lot was the former Mr. Mike's gas station/convenience store. Once the current repairs are completed, it will be used for community events and as a welcome/art center for visitors and residents. The project will not only preserve an important piece of Winchester's history, it will enhance downtown by creating a vibrant community space to promote the assets Winchester has to offer.

"Great strides have been made with grants, fundraisers, and private donations," says Margaret Sharra, and to help raise additional funds, the committee will hold their third annual Art Auction and Holiday Celebration, December 9th, the biggest fundraiser of the year. For more details, or to donate to the project, call 603-762-2341.

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Peace

Peace is a more perfect creation of tomorrow that we start today: a wish, a dream to manifest, a heart yearning to grow future beauty, a seed to plant.

Do you pause when confronted with real beauty, do you see it in ordinary places, find it in life and faces, and in the hearts of each of us? Do you bring beauty into your life and create beauty between you and others? Do you sow seeds?

Healing Perspectives
with Rosie Carey



There is a place in your heart where you hold the sweetness of your soul. Can you, do you, bring your essence into the world to brighten and make beautiful your home, your relationships, your endeavors? Do you know to do this? It is important, it is awareness and choice that makes it happen. Be a little more gentle with yourself and others; be compassionate. Notice what is needed; step-up.

In thinking about what you are thankful for this season, let your heart also open in gratitude. An open heart in gratitude manifests love, a gentle spirit, a vision for a peaceful world. It is not so much thinking, but an act of doing and becoming. And this act changes you. It can also be contagious. We start here with opening our hearts and minds. In the time to follow between now and the new year, the peace of the season might be the internal peace we manifest.

Peace is where we're going. Peace is the guiding light of your spirit and mine. It is your input and mine toward creating a better world. As we are, we become. Each individual being is a powerful agent of change. The seeds go everywhere.

As we gratefully come together to embrace the heart and hearth of our homes and families, pause for a moment. Rest in the hope that the light, and love, and essence, of each of our hearts will come to unity and encircle this world. Imagine a gratitude wave that hugs the earth.

Peace is love lifted, mixed with a little inspired vision, poised to become reality. Peace connects us all. We yearn together, we dream together, we grow in spirit, and then we become the peace we seek.

We call upon infinite wisdom, divine light, guardians of the four directions, asking for blessings for each other; we pray for awareness and good health, fulfillment for our children, and love within and without our family. We inspire each other to create a better life, a better way to be in the world. With our hope, we generate a circle of energy to embrace, a circle of love that unites us all, and then we step up and into that circle. We become the vision.

Rose Carey is the founder of LifeLight Healing Center at 206 Washington Street, Keene. Sensitive to energy fields, she clears your aura and home of unwanted darkness. 603-852-8300.

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Electric Earth Concerts Last Show Of Season

BORROMEO, Continued from page 1

Inspiring audiences for 35 years, the Borromeo has been the ensemble-in-residence at New England Conservatory for over three decades, and at the Taos School of Music since 2005. The Borromeo also serves as quartet-in-residence at the Heifetz International Music Institute, where first violinist Nicholas Kitchen is Artistic Director.

The program includes the Beethoven String Quartet No. 7 in F Major, Op. 59, No. 1, "Razumovsky" is the first of Beethoven's three "Razumovsky" quartets, composed in 1806 and published in 1808. It was commissioned by Prince Andrey Razumovsky, then the Russian ambassador to Vienna. This quartet is the first of Beethoven's middle period quartets and departs in style from his earlier quartets. It requires a greatly expanded technical repertoire.

Beethoven String Quartet No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 131 was completed in 1826. It was Beethoven's favorite of his late quartets. It is said that upon listening to a performance of this quartet, Schubert remarked, "After this, what is left for us to write?"

To hear the Borromeo Quartet online, visit https://www.borromeoquartet.org/media/video.

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HCS And SCS Announce Transition Of Transportation Services

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) and Southwestern Community Services (SCS) have announced that SCS will take over operation of HCS's Greater Keene-area transportation services effective July 1, 2027. The transition includes City Express, Friendly Bus, paratransit service, and the weekly medical transportation service to the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, VT, and Dartmouth Hitchcock in Lebanon. When SCS assumes operations, riders can expect the same routes, stops, schedules, fares, buses, and service names.

The transition will allow HCS to focus more fully on providing home healthcare, hospice and other community-based services, while placing transportation with an organization that already operates public transit as part of its core mission. It also positions the region's transportation system for future improvements and expansion that have been under study for several years.

An Irish Christmas Presented By Peterborough Folk Music Society

CHRISTMAS, Continued from page 1

This festive celebration brings three of Irish music's most beloved performers to the stage in a program woven through with song and story, from cherished carols and traditional tunes and airs to newly composed songs for the season.

All three have toured together before, and their chemistry on stage is undeniable. Doyle, Ryan, and McAuley are looking forward to bringing An Irish Christmas to audiences across the United States, a warm and joyful evening of music and story in the finest Irish tradition.

For more details or to purchase tickets, go to https://pfmsconcerts.org/ or call 603-318-9196.

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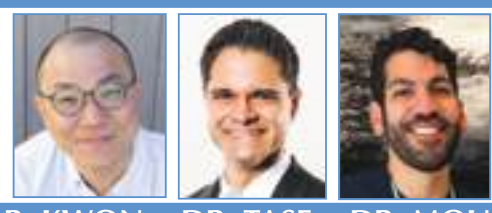
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ENTERTAINMENT and DINING

Wednesday, Nov. 25

FAMILY FUN

Storytime 10am. Richmond Public Library, 19 Winchester Rd., Richmond. Stories, songs, and an easy craft for toddlers and preschoolers. Richmond Public Library: **603-239-6164**. library@richmondnh.us.

MISCELLANEOUS

Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-1:30pm. Ingenyx, 50 Plantation Drive, Tall Pines Industrial Park, Jaffrey. **800-733-2767**. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Veterans Yoga Project: Mindful Resilience 12-1pm. Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Rd., Rindge. Wednesdays & Fridays. All are welcome. By donation. info@cathedralofthepines.org.

Friday, Nov. 27

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

The Jesus is Lord Tour 6pm. Whitcomb Hall, 17 Main St., W Swanzey. Coffee with Jesus. Thomas Travers: **603-381-9077**.

MISCELLANEOUS

Veterans Yoga Project: Mindful Resilience 12-1pm. Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Rd., Rindge. Wednesdays & Fridays. All are welcome. By donation. info@cathedralofthepines.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30-5pm. Millstream Community Center-Hinsdale, Millstream Community Center, 19 Main Street. Donors are asked to call or visit to schedule appointment at **800-733-2767**. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Saturday, Nov. 28

MISCELLANEOUS

Knitting Circle 10am-12pm. Richmond Public Library, 19 Winchester Rd., Richmond. Drop-in group for hand-crafters of all abilities. Richmond Public Library: **603-239-6164**. library@richmondnh.us.

Sunday, Nov. 29

RELIGIOUS

Worship With Us 10am. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. **603-352-6689**. office@swanzeyucc.org. www.swanzeyucc.org.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

MISCELLANEOUS

Red Cross Blood Drive 8am-1:30pm. Fall Mountain Regional High School, 134 Fall Mountain Regional High School Road. **800-733-2767**. www.RedCrossBlood.org.

Thursday, Dec. 3

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Tabitha Meeks 7-8pm. Showroom, 20 Commercial St., Keene. Vintage, fun energy and throwback music. $35/$25. **603-352-2033**. boxoffice@thecolonial.org.

For holiday-related coming events, see the gift guide included with this week's paper.

The PageTurners Book Club At Conant Public Library

On Wednesday, December 2nd, the PageTurners Book Club will be held at Conant Public Library on Main Street in Winchester at 6 p.m.

The discussion will be about the book *Strangers on a Train* by Patricia Highsmith. Books are available for check-out at both Richmond Public Library and Conant Public Library.

MARCO POLO GARDEN

MYSTERY PHOTO

The first person to answer the question correctly **at 9:30 a.m. or after on Friday** will receive a $20 gift certificate to Marco Polo Garden on Main Street in Keene. 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)



This building was part of what Cheshire County institution?



The winner of last week's Mystery Photo Contest was Jim Wright of Keene. This Cheshire County village is West Swanzey.

53rd Anniversary TubaChristmas At Keene State College December 6th

The 53rd Anniversary TubaChristmas at Keene State College will be held on Sunday, December 6th at the Student Center in the Mabel Brown Room on the second floor.

All tuba, euphonium, sousaphone, and baritone players are invited to join and perform with the ensemble. Registration is at 11 a.m. with a $15 registration fee for players. Rehearsal is at 11:30 a.m. , a lunch at 12:30 p.m. (pizza and gluten-free options, salad, water will be provided, or BYO), and the free concert that is open to the public will be held at 1 p.m.

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Saturday, December 5 • 7pm
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Students may attend for free.
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CELEBRATE LOCAL

Win $50 Gift Certificate To One Of These Businesses

To enter, find these words (taken from Jen Risley's column) in the word search.

Mail your completed puzzle to The Monadnock Shopper News, PO Box 487, Keene, NH 03431, snap a photo of it and e-mail it to shopper@shoppernews.com, or fax it to 603-357-9351. One entry per person per month, please.

Don't forget to choose one of the businesses on the Celebrate Local pages as your preferred $50 gift certificate!

Deadline is Friday, December 18th.

Last month's winner was Beatrice Boufford, who chose a $50 gift certificate to Cheshire Floral Farm.

C	Q	F	F	H	H	M	H	X	C	Q	D	K	B	M	P	J	H	W	D	Z	U	X	W	E
A	Z	Q	O	N	W	E	P	Q	C	J	C	J	T	U	I	Y	D	N	S	F	K	N	V	P
J	D	Z	J	B	A	P	G	E	D	A	M	D	N	A	H	T	E	P	X	F	Y	D	J	V
N	O	G	N	O	H	N	E	H	F	J	R	W	U	C	Q	I	T	O	R	X	C	J	A	D
D	O	R	V	B	G	S	Z	U	L	Z	K	T	F	T	Q	S	E	W	S	R	X	M	T	X
I	U	A	Q	Q	E	E	Q	D	X	X	W	N	I	D	K	O	Z	E	F	D	D	R	R	S
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C	S	I	V	T	F	Z	H	R	D	A	M	R	N	H	N	N	U	Q	T	Q	B	N	I	C
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C	I	D	E	R	A	N	Z	U	N	Y	Z	B	Y	T	C	M	M	D	T	A	Q	U	G	D
K	I	X	D	M	G	N	I	V	I	G	O	L	C	S	T	S	A	X	H	H	X	S	A	N

Word Bank: plaid • gratitude • unique • artisans • handmade • festive • joy • cider • generosity • giving • economies • essential • power • holidays

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CELEBRATE LOCAL

Our Gratitude Runs Deep: Happy Shop Indie Local Season

LOCAL, Continued from page 1

Get inspired at tlcmonadnock.com/shopindielocal.

Plaid Friday

For the seventeenth year, independent businesses and community members throughout the Monadnock Region will celebrate Plaid Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, on Friday, November 27th. Wear plaid on Friday to show off your support for our local economy and reaffirm your commitment to buying local this holiday season: tlcmonadnock.com/plaidfriday.

Why Plaid?

Early Plaid Friday organizers shared, "Plaid Friday comes from the idea of weaving the individual threads of small businesses together to create a unique fabric that highlights the diversity and creativity of independent shops."

Several locally owned businesses in our region have volunteered to photograph you decked out in plaid and answer questions about Plaid Friday. TLC Monadnock will post these Plaid Friday photos throughout the day on our Facebook page at facebook.com/monadnocklocal. Stay tuned for a full list of hubs at tlcmonadnock.com/plaidfriday#hubs.

"Goodwin Family Farm is hosting our first-ever Plaid Friday Makers Market to highlight several talented local artisans and crafters," shared Heather Goodwin, co-owner of Goodwin Family Farm (goodwinfamily.farm) in Surry. "As a small family farm, we understand the effort it takes to get products into the marketplace. The focus is on small-batch, handmade, unique gifts and decor. Our hope is to create a fun, family-friendly event that will unite small local makers this holiday season."

Downtown Keene will roll out the plaid on Plaid Friday. Check out the decorated storefronts and warm up at a Cocoa Crawl stop starting at 2 p.m. Shoppers can grab a free cup of hot cocoa from any of the following downtown Keene merchants on Plaid Friday: Clays, Corner News, Keene on Cookies, Life is Sweet, Local Burger, Magnolia on Main, Mon Amie Fine Jewelry, Shadow & Soul, Ted's Shoe & Sport, Ye Goodie Shoppe, and YOLO Café. Starting at 5 p.m., enjoy the magic of the Kiwanis Club of Keene tree lighting ceremony at Central Square. Stay tuned for updates: facebook.com/Keenedowntown.

"At BADMamaBear (badmamabear.com) in Keene, we pour our heart and soul into everything in the store, whether it be something handmade by BADMamaBear or items meticulously curated to fit the store's unique vibe," shared owner Jess Clay. "Being a part of the Shop Indie Local Holiday Campaign will hopefully help lead people to my small (but mighty) gift shop!"

In Walpole, the Walpole Artisans invite you to embrace the season's spirit with unique handmade crafts, delightful treats, and festive joy all weekend long, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: walpoleartisans.org.

"Participating in Shop Indie Local events is a way for us to celebrate the people and businesses that make the Monadnock Region special," said Elizabeth Hamshaw, general manager at The Cheshire Horse (cheshirehorse.com) in Swanzey. "We get to know our customers, their families, and their animals, and those relationships mean so much to us. These events encourage people to explore local shops, meet their neighbors, and see what our community has to offer. We're grateful to be part of it and to help keep that spirit thriving."

Small Business Saturday

Let the Plaid Friday spirit continue on Small Business Saturday, November 28th. No matter how you get involved, every little bit makes a big difference: tlcmonadnock.com/shop-small.

Peterborough will be bustling this Small Business Saturday! Don't miss the Living Local Art Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church. Then stick around for the MAXT Holiday Night Market on Small Business Saturday, 2 to 7 p.m. at Peterborough Town Hall. Enjoy art vendors, live music, an outdoor bar and warming station, and the town's tree lighting. Discover more at maxtmakerspace.org/pages/night-market.

Artists Sunday

November 29th is Artists Sunday, a celebration of local artisans and a reminder for you to shop with your favorite local artists and makers during the holiday season. Think of it as Plaid Friday but for the arts: tlcmonadnock.com/artists-sunday.

Enjoy Artists Sunday with the Rabbit Ridge Artisans at Summit Winery in Westmoreland from noon to 5 p.m. You'll experience an artisan market full of unique handmade gifts, do-it-yourself classes, wine tastings, and door prizes. Can't make it on Sunday? The fun continues Thursdays through Sundays into December. Learn more at rabbitridgeartisans.square.site.

Cider Monday

Instead of Cyber Monday, a day when online merchants offer special deals, we invite you to Cider Monday on November 30th. Stop in for free cider from participating Cider Monday businesses. Also, if you choose to shop online, choose local too! Learn more at tlcmonadnock.com/cidermonday.

Giving Tuesday

A global generosity movement, Giving Tuesday on December 1st encourages you to give in any way you can. Organizers share, "Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to give." Research shows that the joy of giving remains bright, while the joy of getting fades quickly. Learn more at tlcmonadnock.com/givingtuesday.

Declaration for Independent Businesses Update

We continue to collect signatures for our Declaration of Independent Businesses. Read the full Declaration and add your name at amiba.net/declaration.

Why Independent Businesses?

We believe in the power of local economies, anchored by strong independent businesses, to serve as the essential building blocks of a better country and a better world. We know that local economies become stronger as they become more self-reliant in basics like food, energy, and water. When more of the economy is owned locally, there are better jobs, higher wages, stronger tax bases, and more entrepreneurship. An economic foundation built on independent businesses can, and has been proven to, achieve more economic justice, greater environmental stewardship, broader equity and inclusion, and stronger democracies.

Monadnock Region signers include: Steven Barlow, Shaker Style; Martha Behrens-Temple, 17ROX; Missy Blanchard, MB Massage Studio; Beth Caldwell, RGBC Associates; Deb Caplan, Blue Fern Gallery; Martin Castriotta, Earthcraft Design/Village Roots Permaculture; Alicia Drakiotes, Alicia Drakiotes Fine Art Studio; Noah Elbers, Orchard Hill Breadworks; Wink Faulkner, Red House Advisors, LLC; Sarah Gilliatt, Main Street Cheese, LLC; Edward Haas, Keene Downtown Group; Rob Hamm; William Littles, Steele's Stationers; Katy Locke,Monadnock Food Co-op member-owner; Zach Luse, Paragon Digital Marketing; Sue Mahoney, The Soapbox Studio; Carla Mansfield, Howard's Leather; Valerie Piedmont, The Sustainability Project; Patti Powers, Cheshire Garden; Jennifer Risley, TLC Monadnock; Josephine Russell, Aloha Keene; Mitchell Shakour, The Monadnock Shopper News; Chuck Weed; Roger Weinreich, Good Fortune Jewelry & Pawn; Sue Weller, Harrisville Pottery; Brandie Wells Roof, Shadow and Soul Emporium; Deb Wojtkielewicz, Horse & Buggy Feeds; and you?

Together, we're generating ripples that create new jobs, charitable contributions, and community prosperity – what a gift! Happy Holidays, Monadnock Region!

Jen Risley loves cultivating our local economy through her work with TLC Monadnock, The Main Street Journal, Monadnock Sustainability Hub, and the American Independent Business Alliance.

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