

# FALL FUN

## DEC announces Free Fishing Day

ALBANY — The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced Saturday, Sept. 27 will mark the next Free Fishing Day in New York.

“The September 27th free fishing day is particularly special because it coincides with National Hunting and Fishing Day, a celebration of the incredible angling opportunities our state provides,” said DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. “Free fishing days are the perfect time for newcomers to learn to freshwater fish or for experienced anglers to bring others outdoors to enjoy the many abundant waterways across New York.”

This annual Free Fishing Day coincides with National Hunting and Fishing Day, which was designated

## Norfolk Fall Festival set for Oct. 2-4

NORFOLK — The Norfolk Fall Festival will begin Thursday, Oct. 2 and conclude Saturday, Oct. 4 with a variety of events and activities for people of all ages.

The following is the schedule of events:

**Thursday, Oct. 2**

5:30 p.m.: Kick off spaghetti dinner at the Norfolk Fire Department; and

6:30 p.m.: Halloween house judging.

**Friday, Oct. 3**

3:30-7:30 p.m.: Food trucks, large vendor show; Flossy Fairy Floss Cotton Candy, face painting and balloon animals; bounce houses, slides and obstacle course; train and tractor rides; free caricature pictures by Joe Ferris;

6 p.m.: Kid Halloween Candy Hunt;

6 p.m.: Kids magic show with Presto Pete and the Incredible Chris;

4-7 p.m.: Live music by punk rock band, Lost Within; and

8 p.m. to midnight: Open mic at Coach Tavern.

**Saturday, Oct. 4**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Cabbage roll sale, food sale, candy sale, Christmas table, crafts and religious articles at Father Amyot Parish Center, Morris Street;

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Large vendor fair;

10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.: All Aboard for Autumn at the Depot, Furnace Street;

11 a.m. : Parade down West Main Street;

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.: Bounce houses, obstacle course and slides, train and wagon rides and food trucks; Flossy Dairy Floss Cotton Candy, face painting and balloon animals;

Noon: Pumpkin derby sign-ups;

12:30 p.m.: Pumpkin derby races;

Noon – 4 p.m.: Petting zoo and pony rides; Her-Petology;

2-5 p.m.: Music by Nick Rycroft;

5-9 p.m.: 50’s Sock Hop Jolly Agers celebrating 50 years – wear your poodle skirts; and

6 p.m.: Pool tournament at Coach Tavern.

For more information, contact (315) 261-3670.

by Congress in 1972. The day helps encourage people to experience, understand, and appreciate traditional outdoor sports and recreation and abundant natural resources, while also recognizing hunters and anglers for their leadership in fish and wildlife conservation.

Free Fishing Days further support Governor Hochul’s “Get Offline, Get Outside” initiative that promotes physical and mental health by helping encourage New York’s children and

families to put down their phones and computers, take a break from social media, and enjoy recreation and outdoor social gatherings.

The final free fishing day for 2025 will take place on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. On Free Fishing Days, New York residents and non-residents alike may fish for free without a fishing license. Free Fishing Day participants are reminded that, although the requirement for a fishing license is waived during free fishing days, all other fishing regulations remain in

effect. When not participating in Free Fishing Days, anyone 16 years of age and older must have a current New York State fishing license to fish. Fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. More information on purchasing a fishing license can be found on DEC’s website.

**OPEN Indigenous Peoples’ Day Weekend! October 11, 12, 13**

**TOURS: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10, 12, & 2 MONDAY 10 & 12**

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# FALL FUN

## Slimefest Saturday at Potsdam museum

POTSDAM — The North Country Children’s Museum will celebrate Worldwide Day of Play with SlimeFest on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families can explore the science of polymers and non-Newtonian fluids by trying a slime buffet, stepping into a pool of oobleck, testing a vacuum chamber, and more.

Worldwide Day of Play is a international effort encouraging children and families to get moving, play, and learn together. Sponsored by Nickelodeon and the Association of Children’s Museums, the event is included with museum admission and membership. No preregistration is required. The North Country Children’s Museum is located at 10 Raymond Street, Potsdam. For more information, visit [www.northcountrychildrensmuseum.org](http://www.northcountrychildrensmuseum.org)

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### WHAT’S NEW??

#### Lakeview Oktoberfest Brunch

- Sat & Sun 11AM -2 PM
- Bavarian Waffles, Chicken Schnitzel, Saurbraten Hoagie, German Choc Brownie
- History of Oktoberfest Beer Tasting

### ADD TO THE FUN!

- Lakeview Stagecoach rides
- Oktoberfest Cooking Classes
- Healing Woods Wellness Workshops

### WHAT’S TIMELESS!!

#### Speakeasy & Great Camp Dinners

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- History of Ancient Tonics & Brews Tasting

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# MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

It’s that time of year again - for the period **October 15—December 7** you’ll have an opportunity to review your current **Medicare Advantage Plan and Part D Plan**, Find out the changes they are making for 2026, and if necessary, change to a plan that will better suit your needs.  
**Changes will take effect January 1, 2026**

You should be reviewing your current plan to see what if any changes have been made to the following...

**Monthly Premium • Yearly Deductable • Co-Payments for Medications**

Make sure the medications you are taking are still being covered.

**Beginning October 15, you can visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) to compare plans, call your current plan for information or use the contact information below.**

For additional information and assistance with comparing plans and determining if you may be qualified for any other assistance programs, please contact the **Franklin County Office for the Aging at 518-481-1526**



# FALL FUN

## Harvest Festival and Civil War Reenactment Coming to the Wilder Farm!

The Almanzo and Laura Ingalls Wilder Association (ALIWA), in partnership with the NYSV 118th Adirondack Regiment of Civil War Re-enactors (118th N.Y. Volunteer Infantry Company F), is proud to host our annual Harvest Festival and Civil War Living History event at the Wilder Homestead in Burke, NY on September 27 and 28, beginning at 10:00 AM both days. Exciting battles will take place both afternoons. The event, which is facilitated entirely by volunteers, commemorates the fall agricultural harvest and the 160th anniversary of the American Civil War.

During the event, Wilder Homestead visitors will be able

to step back in time to experience what life was like for our forefathers during this difficult, dangerous, and violent chapter in American history. They'll observe skirmish reenactments, weapons drills, military camp life, and other compelling recreations of incidents and occurrences that were regularly taking place at that time, along with displays and vignettes that depict the daily-life events that ensued during the American Civil War era. And they'll be able to meet and talk with the re-enactors, who share their experiences, their knowledge of our nation's past, and their insights into what it must have been like to be alive during the Civil War.

There will be life-skills demonstrators on hand, a wandering fiddler, cider pressing, and traditional games for kids. Visitors can tour the Wilder home, barns, and one-room schoolhouse on their own with guides on hand to answer questions. Food will be available for purchase.

ALIWA board member and volunteer, Richard Gast, makes the observation that, "these dramatizations offer a unique opportunity to experience Civil War history in a way that textbooks simply cannot provide. The true-to-life inspired reenactments immerse spectators in the past. They engage all of the senses and bring the realities, the challenges, the hardships,

and the culture of that time period to life, in accurate, representative settings that are relatable and accessible to people of all ages".

The Wilder Homestead is located at 177 Stacy Road, Burke, NY. Admission is \$16 for adults; \$15 for seniors; \$9 for children ages 6-16; free for children ages 5 under 5; free for active military personnel with ID. More detailed information can be found at [www.almanzowilderfarm.com](http://www.almanzowilderfarm.com)



The fields and trees at the Wilder Homestead are the perfect backdrop for the Civil War skirmish reenactments. This year's Harvest Fest & Civil War Living History event takes place on September 27 and 28. Skirmishes will be at 2:00pm on Saturday and 1:00pm on Sunday. Rick Auger Photo



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# FALL FUN

## NYPA hosting Wildlife Festival at Hawkins Point Visitors Center

MASSENA — The New York Power Authority (NYPA) will host its annual Wildlife Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Frank S. McCullough Jr. Hawkins Point Visitors Center in Massena. The event is free and open to the public.

The Wildlife Festival will offer fun for the entire family, featuring live animal exhibits, nature displays, arts and crafts, and a variety of entertainment. Returning exhibitors include the Nicandri Nature Center, Reptiles Forever, and Her-patology, among others.

Attendees can enjoy bounce houses, a petting zoo with farm animals, chainsaw carving demonstrations, electric train rides, wagon rides and hands-on craft projects. Birds of prey will also be on display during the event.

Hawkins Point is the admission-free visitors center for the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project and offers many hands-on exhibits on electricity, energy, the environment and area history. Visitors can hop on a bicycle generator and turn pedal-power into electricity or have a hair-raising experience with static electricity using the Van de Graaff generator.

The visitors center also features an

audio-visual terrain map that charts the course of the mighty St. Lawrence River between Ogdensburg and Massena. A wood-carved map detailing Jacques Cartier's exploration of the St. Lawrence River is on display at Hawkins Point. Visitors can also enjoy panoramic views of the project's power dam. A community room is available for public use.

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1: For residential customers who pay \$2/gallon of propane and use similar MMBTUs to our 1,005 therm average per residential household. Source: [www.nyserda.ny.gov/Energy-Prices/Propane/Average-Propane-Prices](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Energy-Prices/Propane/Average-Propane-Prices)