

Watertown Daily Times

★ AMERICA ★

250<sup>TM</sup>

— 1776 ★ 2026 —

SUMMER

Fun

NNY 360



250 YEARS  
OF FREEDOM  
COMMUNITY  
AND FUN



LOCAL EVENTS ★ OUTDOOR ADVENTURES ★ FESTIVALS & FAIRS ★ FAMILY FUN & MORE!

# Summer fun: What's happening...

## June 27

### Alexandria Bay

**Alexandria Bay Farmers Market:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Fridays**; and 8 a.m. to noon **Saturdays, through Sept. 12**, Swan Bay Resort, 43615 Route 12.

**Summer book sale:** Begins, 9 a.m. **through Monday, Sept. 5**, Macsherry Library, 112 Walton St. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays. Information: [www.macsherrylibrary.org](http://www.macsherrylibrary.org).

### Cape Vincent

**Concerts on the Green:** With Cape Vincent Arts Council, held 4 to 5:30 p.m. select **Saturdays, June 27 to Aug. 15**, Village Green, 357 Broadway St. Free; donations accepted to benefit CVAC. Information: [www.capevincentartscenter.org](http://www.capevincentartscenter.org).

**June 27:** Right Turn, classic rock  
**July 4:** Nuthin Fancy, popular and forgotten from rock-n-roll

**July 18:** Foolish Pride, rock/jam  
**Aug. 1:** Tas Cru Band, soulful blues and Americana

**Aug. 8:** KEX, rock, jazz and pop in Chicago style

**Aug. 15:** Knotty Paddy, high energy Celtic rock

### Clayton

**Grand opening and summer arts kick-off:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Thousand Islands Arts Center, 321 James St. Explore facilities, kids' rafts, gift shop, raffles, giveaways, annual juried exhibition. Free. Information: [www.tiartscenter.org](http://www.tiartscenter.org).

### Fineview

**Patriotic barn quilt workshop:** 9 a.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Wellesley Island State Park, 44927 Cross Island Road. 2'x2' barn quilts with patriotic theme. Cost: \$50. Bring lunch and water bottle.

### Harrisville

**Harrisville Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturdays, through Oct. 31**, Scenic View.

### Henderson Harbor

**The ShelterBox Ride:** 7:30 a.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Henderson Harbor Performing Arts. Benefits ShelterBox USA Emergency Disaster Relief. 50-mile, 30-mile, or 11-mile course. Lunch and ice cream included with registration. Information: <http://www.shelterboxride.com>.

### Hogansburg

**Akwasasne Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturdays, through Oct. 10**, Generations Park, 30 Margaret Terrace Highway. July 18 and 25 and Aug. 15 markets to be held at Akwasasne Library. Information: 518-651-6283 or akwasasnefarmersmarket@gmail.com.

### Lowville

**Lowville Farmers Market:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturdays, through Sept. 26**, Lewis County Fairgrounds, 5485 Bostwick St. Information: <https://www.facebook.com/lowvillefarmandcraftmarket>.

### Malone

**Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Malone Tractor Supply, 3184 Route 11. Information: 518-483-6280.

### Massena

**Community-wide garage sales:** Held **Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, July 28**, throughout Massena. Information, sale registration: [laura@slchamber.org](mailto:laura@slchamber.org).

**"Summer Small Art" exhibit:** With Massena Artists Association, on display **through Monday, Aug. 31**, Massena Public Library, 41 Glenn St. Information: [maapresident2024@gmail.com](mailto:maapresident2024@gmail.com).

### Ogdensburg

**22nd annual Car-B-Que:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Fort La Presentation Association, 22 Albany Ave. Classic automobiles, food trucks, family entertainment.

**22nd annual Car-B-Que:** Registration, 10 a.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Fort La Presentation, 22 Albany Ave. Cost: Classic car registration, \$10. Food, entertainment, games, raffles, and music.

**STEAM Lab Day: Lego:** Learn about the arctic with Lego bricks, all day **Saturday, June 27**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free.

### Old Forge

**Large tote basket:** With Barb Green, 9 a.m. **Saturday, June 27**, View Arts Center, 3273 Route 28. Base measures 6"x13" and basket is approximately 10" high. Cost: \$195; members, \$180; all materials, tools and instructions included. Information: [www.viewarts.org](http://www.viewarts.org).

### Potsdam

**"Meet them at the Encampment":** Living history day mixer with Potsdam Chamber of Commerce, 5 to 7 p.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Ives Park Pavilion. Music by Johnny Dropper, music, light refreshments. Information: 315-274-9000 or [director@potsdamchamber.com](mailto:director@potsdamchamber.com).

**Musical Storytime:** With Potsdam Public Library and Timothy Yip, Crane School of Music professor, 10 a.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Ives Park. Free.

### Pulaski

**"Sunday Artists":** Exhibit runs **through Aug. 16**. Information: [www.salmriverfineartscenter.com](http://www.salmriverfineartscenter.com).

### Sackets Harbor

**"Live at the Bandstand":** Begins, 3 p.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Sentinel Bandstand, Main Street. Free. Live music, beer and taco trucks. Information: 973-943-7523.

### Watertown

**Crochet class: (Amigurumi) Mush-**

**room Plushie:** Noon to 3 p.m. **Saturday, June 27**, The Silver Cauldron, 440 Coffee St. For those comfortable with basic crochet stitches to experts. Pre-payment required. Information: 315-221-4841.

**North Country Neighbors:** For all ages, 1 to 3 p.m. **Saturday, June 27**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free; meet with local businesses, organizations, and community partners. Information: [www.flowerlibrary.org](http://www.flowerlibrary.org).

**Season open:** Open for season, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28**, Jefferson Historical Society, 228 Washington St. Information: <https://www.jeffersoncountyhistoricalsociety.com>.

**Watertown Saturday Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturdays**, JB Wise Plaza. Information: [www.saturdayfarmersmarket.com](http://www.saturdayfarmersmarket.com).

## June 28

### Carthage

**"Join us for 'church'":** New sermon series, "Summer of Songs," 11 a.m. **Sunday, June 28**, First Baptist Church, 511 State St.

### Glensfield

**90th birthday open house:** Celebrating Owen Williams, 2 to 5 p.m. **Sunday, June 28**, 3-G Fire Hall, 6229 Blue St. Refreshments, cash bar; all welcome - presence is all the presents required. Hosted by Mr. Williams' family.

### Norwood

**Norwood Village Green Concert Series:** Concerts held 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted on various dates, Norwood Village Green, 3 Bicknell St. Information, schedule: [www.nvgs.org](http://www.nvgs.org).

**Sunday, June 28:** Tony Trischka's Earljam — "A Tribute to Earl Scruggs"

**Sunday, July 5:** All-Star Big Band with John Fedchock

**Sunday, July 12:** Five Dots  
**Thursday, July 16:** Larry Ham and the Ally Ryerson Quartet with Tom Melito and Lou Pappas

**Sunday, July 19:** Howard Levy Four  
**Thursday, July 23:** Norwoodstock, 6 p.m.

**Sunday, July 26:** David Engel "Pirate School: Sea Dreams"

**Thursday, July 30:** Balla Kouyote  
**Sunday, Aug. 2:** Steve Gratto

**Thursday, Aug. 6:** Brass Firemen  
**Sunday, Aug. 9:** String Solstice

**Thursday, Aug. 13:** Millstone Rounders with Scott Hopkins and Dylan Perillo

**Sunday, Aug. 16:** Northbound  
**Thursday, Aug. 20:** New Horizons Swing Ambassadors

**Sunday, Sept. 13:** A Bluegrass/Fiddle Festival, 4 to 7 p.m.

### Potsdam

**Why Choose? Romance Book Club:** 3 p.m. **Sunday, June 28**, Potsdam Public

Library, 2 Park St. Free.

### Sackets Harbor

**18.12 Challenge and Half Marathon:** 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **Sunday, June 28**, Sackets Harbor State Historic Site, 504 W. Main St. Information: [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com).

**Concerts on the Waterfront:** 3 p.m. **Sunday, June 28**, Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site, 511 State St. Free.

### Saranac Lake

**Pride brunch:** Doors open, 9:30 a.m.; show, 10:30 a.m. **Sunday, June 28**, The Belvedere Restaurant, 102 Bloomingdale Ave. Cost: \$35 (includes brunch); bottomless mimosas and cocktails available for purchase. Hosted by Victoria Bohmore; performances by Michelle Leigh Sterling, Aurora Sterling, Moxie Oxide, Tammie Dee, and Twlyte Starr.

### Three Mile Bay

**Sunday programs:** Held 2 p.m. **various Sundays**, Lyme Heritage Center, 8718 Depot St. Free. Information: 315-649-5452 or [www.lymeheritagecenter.org](http://www.lymeheritagecenter.org).

**June 28:** Cherry Island, with staff from Thousand Islands Land Trust

**July 12:** Legends of the North Country, with Tom Richter, local musician

**Aug. 9:** Heavy Metal Historians, with Larry Corbett, local historian

## June 29

### Clayton

**Impressionism in oil painting:** Noon **Monday, June 29**, Fibonacci 321 Art Gallery, 321 James St. Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/971427655294170>.

### Fineview

**Full Moon Hike: Strawberry Moon:** 9 p.m. **Monday, June 29**, Wellesley Island State Park, 44927 Cross Island Road. Bring headlamp or flashlight; wear weather appropriate clothing.

### Potsdam

**Dungeons and Dragons:** 5 p.m. **Mondays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St.

**Knit and crochet circle:** 6:30 p.m. **Mondays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St.

**"Water Horse":** 6 to 8 p.m. **Monday, June 29**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St. Free.

### Saranac Lake

**Community Conversation Series:** Inspired by "The Fifth Season: Creativity in the Second Half of Life," 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. **Mondays, through July 20**, Saranac Village at Will Rogers, 78 Will Rogers Drive. Information: Janet Reichert, 518-418-6865.

**Guide boat art show:** With Green Side of the Big Apple and Saranac Lake ArtWorks, opening reception, 4 p.m. **Monday, June 29**, Hotel Saranac, Oak

Room. Exhibit on display June 29 to July 6. Information: [www.saranaclakeartworks.org](http://www.saranaclakeartworks.org).

**Sex trivia:** To benefit access to reproductive healthcare in New York State, 5:30 p.m. **Monday, June 29**, The Belvedere Restaurant, 102 Bloomingdale Ave. Prizes for correct answers; hosted by Chrissie Wais. Cost: \$10 suggested donation.

### Watertown

**Music and movement:** For those 5 and younger, 10:30 a.m. **Monday, June 29**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free; with guest Sarah Wolfe. Information: [www.flowerlibrary.org](http://www.flowerlibrary.org).

**"Rising from the Ashes":** Sound bath and meditation, 6 p.m. **Monday, June 29**, The Silver Cauldron, 440 Coffee St.

## June 30

### Cape Vincent

**Cape Street Market:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Tuesdays, through Sept. 29**, Village Green, 357 Broadway St. Information: [www.capevincent.org/capestreetmarket](http://www.capevincent.org/capestreetmarket).

**Watercolor painting:** 10 a.m. to noon **Tuesdays**, Cape Vincent Community Library, 157 N. Real St. Starter watercolor supplies provided.

### Clayton

**Watercolor and Ink:** With Christine Tisa and Scott Ouderkirk, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Tuesday, June 30**, Fibonacci 321 Art Gallery, 44927 Cross Island Road. Lunch break: noon to 1 p.m.

### Lions Falls

**Lions Falls Farmers Market:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Tuesdays, through Sept. 29**, Riverside Park, 6908 Laura St.

### Ogdensburg

**Music and movement:** For those 18 months to 4 years, 11 a.m. **Tuesdays**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free.

### Potsdam

**Story time:** 11 a.m. **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St.

## July 1

### Black River

**Pre-K storytime:** 10 to 11 a.m. **Wednesdays, July 1 and Aug. 5**, Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, 101 Public Works Drive. New storytime monthly, craft and snacks.

### Madrid

**Madrid Dam Music Series:** Held 6 p.m. **Wednesdays, through Aug. 5**, Madrid Municipal Park, 1835 Route 345. Free; donations accepted. Information,

# ONNY to celebrate America's 250th anniversary with Frederic Remington-inspired concert series starting July 1

WATERTOWN — The Orchestra of Northern New York will celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary with a concert program inspired by the life and legacy of famed American artist Frederic Remington, including a featured performance during Watertown's annual Concert in the Park celebration.

The program, titled "Frederic Remington's America — A Celebration of Our Nation's 250th Birthday!", will be conducted by Michael J. Colburn and presented in partnership with the Frederic Remington Art Museum.

The concert explores American history and culture through the lens of Remington's life, drawing inspiration from his family heritage, his upbringing in Northern New York, his travels to Paris and Cuba, and his lifelong fascination with the American West.

Organizers said the program features works by some of America's most celebrated composers, highlighting the nation's musical traditions while reflecting themes that influenced Remington's artwork.

The performance opens with Aaron Copland's "Buckaroo Holiday" from Rodeo, followed by Leroy Anderson's "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and Jay Ungar's "Ashokan Farewell." Additional selections include John Philip Sousa's "Overture to The Glassblowers," highlights from George Gershwin's An American in Paris, Paul Murtha's "Armed Forces Salute," Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" and selections from Richard Rodgers' Oklahoma!

The program concludes with two patriotic favorites: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" and Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

In addition to the orchestra's traditional performances in Potsdam and Watertown, a third concert will be presented in Ogdensburg as part of the collaboration with the Frederic Remington Art Museum.

The orchestra also will perform during the annual Concert in

**THE Orchestra of NORTHERN NEW YORK**  
Sharing the Power of Music Since 1988

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS & NORTHERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PRESENT

Frederic Remington Art Museum

## Frederic Remington's America

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FREDERIC REMINGTON!

COLONEL MICHAEL J. COLBURN, USMC (RET.)  
CONDUCTOR

**WATERTOWN**  
WED., JULY 1  
8 PM  
THOMPSON PARK  
FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT

**POTSDAM\***  
THURS., JULY 2  
7:30 PM  
HOSMER HALL  
SUNY POTSDAM

**OGDENSBURG\***  
FRI., JULY 3  
7 PM  
GEORGE HALL AUDITORIUM  
OGDENSBURG FREE ACADEMY

**MORRISTOWN FIREWORKS**  
FRI., JULY 3  
AT DUSK  
FIRE STATION

**For Tickets and More Information:** Visit [ONNY.org](http://ONNY.org) or Call 315.212.3440

**\*NEWCOMERS ARE FREE!** REQUEST A VOUCHER BY CALLING OR TEXTING THE NUMBER ABOVE

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY | Potsdam CRANE | Northern New York Community Foundation

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ONNY is supported in part by NYSCA, a state agency, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the NYS Legislature.

# Calendar

## From T2

updates: <https://www.facebook.com/madriddamms>.

**July 1:** Northbound

**July 8:** Marty Robinson

**July 15:** Atkinson Family

**July 22:** String Solstice

**July 29:** Josh Barkley

**Aug. 5:** Double Axel

## Malone

**America's 250th birthday party story time:** For those 8 and younger, 11 a.m. **Wednesday, July 1**, Wead Library, 64 Elm St. All ages welcome. Reservations: 518-483-5251.

## Potsdam

**Itty bitty story time:** 10 a.m. **Wednesdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St.

## Watertown

**Farm and Craft Market:** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Wednesdays, through Oct. 7**, Washington Street.

**Farmers Market story time:** For those 3 to 5 (all ages welcome), 10:30 a.m. **Wednesdays, through Oct. 7**, side lawn or children's room, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Stories, songs, dance. Information: [www.flowerlibrary.org](http://www.flowerlibrary.org).

**"Frederic Remington's America":** America's 250th anniversary with Orchestra of Northern New York (ONNY), 8 to 10 p.m. **Wednesday, July 1**, Thompson Park. Free. Information: [www.onny.org](http://www.onny.org).

**Toddler story time and crafts:** For those 3 to 5, 10:30 a.m. **Wednesdays**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free; stories, songs, dancing. Information: [www.flowerlibrary.org](http://www.flowerlibrary.org).

## West Carthage

**"Memory Lane" Cruise-in:** Hosted by Carthage American Legion Post 789, 5 to 8 p.m. **Wednesdays, through August**, Price Chopper Plaza, North Broad Street. Food, music, raffles, door prizes. Benefits legion scholarship fund. Information: [www.carthageamericanlegion.org](http://www.carthageamericanlegion.org).

# July 2

## Alexandria Bay

**Summer Concert Series:** Held 8 to 9:30 p.m. various dates, Bonnie Castle Resort, 31 Holland St. Information: [www.bonniecandle.com](http://www.bonniecandle.com).

**Thursday, July 2:** Epic Piano Men

**Thursday, July 23:** The Zep Show

**Saturday, Aug. 8:** Stevie Mac

**Friday, Aug. 14:** Hotel California, the Original Eagles Tribute

**Friday, Aug. 28:** Journey from the Heart

**Sunday, Sept. 6:** Don't Look Back

## Boonville

**Boonville Farmers Market:** Noon to 5 p.m. **Thursdays, through Oct. 1**, Erwin Park, 133089 Park Drive.

## Carthage

**Bible study:** 7 p.m. **Thursdays**, Grace and Truth CC, 20295 County Road 45. Information: 315-771-9344.

## Clayton

**Clayton Farmers Market:** 10 a.m. to

## Summer Fun

4 p.m. **Thursdays, through Oct. 15**, Cerrow Recreation Park Arena, 615 W. Line Road.

**Tommy Dorsey Orchestra:** 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, July 2**, Clayton Opera House, 405 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$40; center, \$45; premium, \$50. Information, tickets: [www.claytonoperahouse.com](http://www.claytonoperahouse.com).

## Lowville

**Lewis County General Hospital Farmers Market:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Thursdays, through Oct. 8**, the hospital, 7785 N. State St.

## Massena

**Kidz Kickstart:** Kid-friendly interactive program, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. **Thursdays**, First United Methodist Church, 189 Main St. Kid-friendly meal, story, creation station, games; free.

**Massena Concert Series:** Held 6 p.m. **Thursdays, through Sept. 3**, Springs Park, 434 S. Main St. Free.

**July 2:** Plan B

**July 9:** JR Murray

**July 16:** Station 45

**July 23:** Benny Bent Tail

**July 30:** Merrick Follett

**Aug. 6:** Divided Roads

**Aug. 13:** Folk Faces

**Aug. 20:** Foolish Pride

**Aug. 27:** New Horizons Swing Ambassadors

**Sept. 3:** Atom Ghost

## Ogdensburg

**Story time:** For those 2 to 5, 11 a.m. **Thursdays**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free.

## Potsdam

**"Frederic Remington's America":** Celebrating America's 250th anniversary with Orchestra of Northern New York (ONNY), 7:30 to 9 p.m. **Thursday, July 2**, Hlen M. Hosmer Concert Hall, SUNY Potsdam, 44 Pierrepont Ave. Free. Information: [www.onny.org](http://www.onny.org).

**Purl jam:** Noon **Thursdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St.

## Sackets Harbor

**Summer Story Time at the Bandstand:** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. **Thursdays, July 2, to Aug. 27**, Sentinel Bandstand, 304 W. Main St. With Hay Memorial Library and special guest readers. Information: [sahlib@ncls.org](mailto:sahlib@ncls.org) or 315-646-2228.

## Watertown

**Baby story time:** For those 2 and younger, 10:30 a.m. **Thursdays**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free; nursery rhymes, wiggles, stories. Information: [www.flowerlibrary.org](http://www.flowerlibrary.org).

**Summer Concerts:** Concerts held 6 p.m. **Thursdays, through Aug. 20**, south lawn, Trinity Episcopal Church, 227 Sherman St. Free; donations accepted.

**July 2:** Arrhythmias

**July 9:** Garland City Fiddlers

**July 16:** Skip Starr and the Renditions

**July 23:** Bad Husbands Club

**July 30:** Rev Theatre: Jack and the Turnip Root (theatre only)

**Aug. 6:** 10th Mountain Division Band

**Aug. 13:** Atkinson Family Bluegrass Band

**Aug. 20:** Ocean's Below

# July 3

## Adams

**Enchanting Adventures:** For those 5 and younger, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. **Fridays, through Oct. 9**, Adams Free Library, 2 N. Main St. Stories, activity or coloring sheet, possible snacks. Free.

## Boonville

**Independence Day celebration:** Featuring live music by Broken Rule, 7 p.m. **Friday, July 3**, Erwin Park. Music, food and fireworks.

## Carthage

**Carthage Farmers Market:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Fridays, through Oct. 9**, Pavilion, 200 Riverside Drive.

## Heuvelton

**Friday karaoke:** With D&A Karaoke, 6 to 9 p.m. **Fridays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31**, Amvets Post 1997, 107 State St. No cover charge.

## Malone

**Concerts in the Park:** Sponsored by Malone Chamber of Commerce, 6 to 8 p.m. **Fridays, July 3 to 31**, Arsenal Green, 7 Church Place. Free; bring own chairs/blankets.

**July 3:** MnM Entertainment

**July 10:** Jimmy Wade and Matrix

**July 17:** Too Tall String Band

**July 24:** Ian Campbell

**July 31:** Mike Mallette

## Ogdensburg

**"Frederic Remington's America":** Celebrating America's 250th anniversary with Orchestra of Northern New York (ONNY), 7 to 9 p.m. **Friday, July 3**, George Hall auditorium, Ogdensburg Free Academy, 2 Lake St. Information: [www.onny.org](http://www.onny.org).

## Watertown

**Irish Road Bowling:** Sponsored by Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL), 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. **Fridays**, Veteran's Memorial Riverwalk. Information: Skylar Hoke, 315-785-8703, ext 284.

**Teen open gaming:** For those 12 to 17, 4 to 5 p.m. **Fridays**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free; video and board games, snacks. Information: [www.flowerlibrary.org](http://www.flowerlibrary.org).

**Women's group:** 1 to 2:30 p.m. **Fridays**, NRCIL, 210 Court St., Suite 107. Conversation, craft projects, snacks. Information, accommodations: Ursula Justice and Alesha Roy, 315-785-8703, ext. 286, or [ursulaj@ncil.net](mailto:ursulaj@ncil.net).

# July 4

## Alexandria Bay

**Fireworks:** From over Boldt Castle, dusk **Saturday, July 4**. Information: 315-482-9531 or [www.visitalexbay.org](http://www.visitalexbay.org).

## Black River

**Lego Club:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Saturdays, July 4, and Aug. 1**, Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, 101 Public Works Drive.

## Brasher Falls

**Monthly used book sale:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **first Saturday of the month**. Badenhausen Public Library, 897 Main St. Pric-

es: Adult hardcover, \$2; adult paperback, \$1; children's hardcover, \$1; children's paperback and board books, two for \$1; children and young adults, one free book per sale. Benefits the library.

## Castorland

**Fourth of July tractor parade:** Meet and greet, 9 a.m., Castorland Fire Department; and parade start, noon, end at Crossroads, **Saturday, July 4**.

## Sackets Harbor

**July 4th and 250th Celebration Weekend:** Held **Saturday, July 4, and Sunday, July 5**, downtown Sackets Harbor, West Main Street. Bicycle parade, live music, games and activities, chicken barbecue, fireworks, picnic.

**July Featured Artist:** Featuring the works of Peter Basta, opening reception, 1 to 4 p.m. **Saturday, July 4**. Works on display through July. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday to Wednesday; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday to Saturday. Information: 315-646-3502.

## Waddington

**250th anniversary:** Of signing of Declaration of Independence, 10 a.m. **Saturday, July 4**, Old Town Hall, Main Street. Church bell ringing, reading of declaration, patriotic songs, officials remarks, refreshments at museum.

# July 5

## Heuvelton

**Dance:** Elderly Brothers Band, 1 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, July 5**; and Blake Lakers Band, 1 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, July 19**, Amvets Post 1997, 107 State St. Cover charge: \$5.

## Mountain View

**Church first service:** With the Rev. John Werley, 11:15 a.m. **Sunday, July 5**, Mountain View Community Church, 7 Church St.

## Sackets Harbor

**Concerts on the Waterfront:** Syracuse University Brass Ensemble, 3 to 5 p.m. **Sunday, July 5**, Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site, 504 W. Main St.

## Saranac Lake

**Camp Guggenheim — summer camp registration:** Session 1: Noon **Sunday, July 5, through Friday, July 10**; Session 2: Noon **Sunday, July 12, through Friday, July 17**; Session 3: Noon **Sunday, July 19, through Friday, July 24**; and Session 4: Noon **Sunday, July 26, through Friday, July 31**, Camp Guggenheim, 1468 County Route 18. Cost: \$450; scholarships available. Registration: <http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp>.

# July 6

## Lowville

**Renaissance Theater Camp:** Lewis County Youth Theater camp, held 1 to 4 p.m. **Mondays, July 6, 13, and 20, and Aug. 3; Wednesdays, July 8, 15, and 22, and Aug. 5; and Thursdays, Aug. 6 and 13**, Lowville Theater. Performance at Lewis County Renaissance Fair. Free. Information, registration: 315-816-

See CALENDAR T5

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American Legion—Salmon River Post 1418  
Fort Covington will host

# Independence Day

## CELEBRATIONS

*4th of July Parade to Honor all our Veterans:*

Starting at noon at the Fort Covington Fire Dept/Rainbow Park. See antique cars, trucks, four wheelers, motorcycles, muscle cars, floats and marching groups including the Spirit of Scotland Band with bagpipers.

Line up starts at 11AM.  
Parade ends at the American Legion. *After parade celebration* with refreshments!

**Friday, July 3rd:**  
Live music with Play Back Band • 7-11pm.  
American Legion | 111 Dundee Road | No Cover!

Call 518-483-3772, 518-358-2396 or  
518-358-4847 for more information.

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# Calendar

## From T4

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## Potsdam

**Summer Camp 2026:** 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Monday to Friday**, North Country Children's Museum, 10 Raymond St. Cost: \$225 per camp week; discount for museum members; scholarships available. Information: programs@northcountrychildrensmuseum.org or www.northcountrychildrensmuseum.org.

**July 6 to 10:** K-Pop Demon Hunters Theater Camp

**July 13 to 17:** Zombie Survival Science Camp

**July 20 to 24:** YouTuber Camp

**July 27 to 31:** Rockets, Explosions, and Drones

**Aug. 3 to 7:** Art and Technology Camp

**Aug. 17 to 21:** NCCM's Got Talent

**Aug. 24 to 28:** Animal Planet

## Watertown

**Children's summer theater camp:** With Watertown Lyric Theater and HarmondNNY Performing Arts Community, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Monday, July 6, to Friday, July 10**, The Strand, 136 Franklin St. Cost: \$50 per student. Included: Music, scripts, and a light snack. Registration: watertownlyrictheater.ludus.com/200534244.

## July 8

## Adams

**Adams Concert Series:** Held 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Wednesdays, July 8 to Aug. 12**, pavilion, Adams Fire Department, 4 N. Main St. In case of rain, moved to Sixtown Meeting House, 27 E. Church St. Free; bring lawn chair; donations accepted.

**July 8:** Let's Cool One

**July 15:** Ron and Nancy Onesong

**July 22:** Quill and Plow

**July 29:** The LaLaLas

**Aug. 5:** KEX

**Aug. 12:** 10th Mountain Division Band

## Cape Vincent

**Summer Reading Program — Week Two-Grow a World:** 10 a.m. **Wednesday, July 8**, Cape Vincent Community Library, 157 N. Real St. Two dinosaur stories and make a terrarium and mosaic kit craft.

## Watertown

**Summer supper cooking class:** Followed by an Al Fresco dinner, 6 to 9 p.m. **Wednesday, July 8**, Dry Hill Ski Area, 18160 Alpine Ridge Road. Cost: \$75.

## July 9

## Adams

**Book Club:** 3 p.m. **Thursdays, July 9, Aug. 13, and Sept. 10**, Adams Free Library, 2 N. Main St.

## Cape Vincent

**Author event:** With Ted Hart, Watertown native, on his book "Vineyards to

Victory," 7 p.m. **Thursday, July 9**, Cape Vincent Recreation Park Center, 602 S. James St. Free.

## Fineview

**Night for Nature:** 5 to 9 p.m. **Thursday, July 9**, Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, County Route 100.

## Potsdam

**24th annual Tour de Potsdam fun walk/run:** Hosted by Jazzercise Potsdam, registration, 5 p.m.; walkers, 5:45 p.m.; and runners, 6 p.m. **Thursday, July 9**, Beal Street parking lot. Cost: \$20; 10 and younger, free when accompanied by registered adult. Information: www.potsdamchamber.com.

**Potsdam Summer Fest:** Held **Thursday, July 9, Friday, July 10, and Saturday, July 11**, throughout Potsdam. Information, schedule: www.potsdamchamber.com.

## July 10

## Carthage

**North Country Music Festival:** Begins, 6 p.m. **Friday, July 10**; 3 p.m. **Saturday, July 11**; and 10 a.m. **Sunday, July 12**. For all ages. Food, displays, merchandise, crafts, and games.

**July 10:** Mr. Weaverface, 6 p.m.; Stranger Than Fate, 6:45 p.m.; Undeafated, 7:30 p.m.; End of 1, 8:15 p.m.

**Saturday, July 11:** Fireworks, 3 p.m.; Jason Dunn, End of 1, Rise of the Raven King, Jake and Terrah, and Thurane

**Sunday, July 12:** Breakfast, 10 a.m.; Undeafated, Adam and Susan, Pastor Adam, Music and Word, Elijah.

## Clayton

**Syracuse Orchestra:** 7:30 p.m. **Friday, July 10**, Clayton Opera House, 403 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$35; center, \$40; premium, \$45. Information: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

## Gouverneur

**11th annual St. Lawrence County golf tournament:** Check in, 8 a.m.; and shotgun start, 9 a.m. **Friday, July 10**, Emerald Greens, 1485 Route 11. Four person, captain and crew; swag bags, hole in one contest, prizes. Cost: \$360 per team. Information, registration: 315-303-2590 or 315-286-4510.

## Hammond

**"The Places We Call Home":** With Indian River Lakes Conservancy, 5:30 to 8 p.m. **Friday, July 10**, Iva Smith Memorial Gallery of Fine Art, 627 Route 37.

## Malone

**20th annual Frank Davio Memorial Golf Tournament:** To benefit Hospice of the North Country, shotgun start, 1:30 p.m. **Friday, July 10**, Malone Golf Club, 79 Golf Course Road. Four-person scramble; men's, women's and mixed divisions; prizes and games. Cost: \$100; members, \$80.

## Sackets Harbor

**1812 Lacrosse shootout tournament:** Girls' and bonus' teams, held **Friday, July 10, Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12**, Madison Barracks parade grounds, Wilcox Road.

## Wellesley Island

**Summerland In Water boat show:** 6 p.m. **Friday, July 10, Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12**, Thousand Islands

## Summer Fun

Club, 21952 Club Road. Inventory, vendors, live entertainment.

## July 11

## Burke

**67th annual summer barbecue:** Hosted by Burke Volunteer Fire Department, 11 a.m. **Saturday, July 11**, Sellers Field, 50 Sellers Road. Menu: Chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans, and dessert. Eat in or takeouts.

## Carthage

**2026 Fireworks Festival:** 4 p.m. until dusk **Saturday, July 11**, Turning Point Park, Water Street.

## Malone

**Sports card and collectibles show:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Saturday, July 11**, Malone Middle School, 15 Francis St. Special guest: Jimmy Mann, retired NHL, signing, 10 a.m. to noon.

## Martinsburg

**Ghost Hunt:** Hosted by Central New York Ghost Hunters and Lewis County Historical Society, 6 or 7:45 p.m. **Saturday, July 11**, Greystone Mansion, 6687 Route 26. Cost: \$40; LCHS members, \$35. Information: www.cnyghosthunters.com/events.

## Ogdensburg

**"Uncover Your Roots":** Genealogy for beginners workshops with Dale Sheldon, veteran genealogist, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Saturdays, July 11, Aug. 8, and Sept. 12**, Ogdensburg History Museum, 206 Ford St. Cost: \$5 per session; members, free. Information: oburghistory-museum@gmail.com.

## Potsdam

**"Paddle for a Clause":** Hosted by Potsdam Holiday Fund, held **Saturday, July 11**, Lehman Park, SUNY Potsdam, 44 Pierrepont Ave. Registration: \$25. Information, tickets: givebutter.com/paddle-for-a-claus-2026/m6pja9.

**Potsdam Rotary Duck Pluck:** During Potsdam Summer Festival, 2:30 p.m. **Saturday, July 11**, Ives Park. Prizes. Cost: \$5 per ticket. Information, tickets: tinyurl.com/duckpluck.

## Tupper Lake

**20th birthday party:** Held **Saturday, July 11**, The Wild Center, 45 Museum Drive. Information: www.wildcenter.org.

## July 12

## Henderson Harbor

**Henderson Art and Heritage Student Art Show:** With music by Whitney Road, 1 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, July 12**, Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association, 12469 County Route 123. Light refreshments served. Information: www.hhpaa.org or lakearts@hhpaa.org.

## Potsdam

**Bike with the Bears:** Community Ride 2026, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. **Sunday, July 12**, Maxcy Hall ramp, SUNY Potsdam, Saranac Lake Drive. Cost: \$20; families with youth riders, free. Scavenger hunt, GPS map on marked route.

## July 14

## Watertown

**Jefferson County Fair:** Held **Tuesday, July 14, through Sunday, July 19**, Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, Coffeen Street. Information, schedule: www.jefcofair.org.

## July 15

## Canton

**Run-Paddle-Run Duathlon:** 4 to 5 p.m. **third Wednesday of the month, through August**, Little River, adjacent to St. Lawrence University campus. 1.25 mile run, 1.25 mile paddle, followed by another 1.25 mile run; start and finish near Little River Boat Launch, Park Street. Free.

## Clayton

**Sincerely Sondheim with Nicholas Rodriguez:** 7:30 p.m. **Wednesday, July 15**, Clayton Opera House, 504 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$35; center, \$40; premium, \$45. Information, tickets: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

## Lyons Falls

**Lego club:** For all children and caregivers, 5 to 7 p.m. **third Wednesday of the month**, Lyons Falls Free Library, 3918 High St. Free. Information: lyflib@ncls.org.

## July 17

## Chaumont

**Adult paper lantern painting:** With Tracey Jean, local artist, 6 p.m. **Friday, July 17**, Lyme Free Library, 12165 Route 12E. Paint 12 inch paper lantern. Cost: \$25. Information, registration: 315-649-5454.

## Clayton

**Decoy and wildlife art show:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Friday, July 17**; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, July 18**, Cerow Recreation Park Arena, 615 E. Line Road. Youth painting contest, display, vintage decoy contest, Art Knapp Memorial Contest, PFC Jack T. Sweet Memorial Contest. Information: Thousand Islands Museum, 315-686-5794 or www.timuseum.org.

## Lowville

**LACS Class of 1966 class reunion:** Held **Friday, July 17, Saturday, July 18, and Sunday, July 19**, at various locations in Lowville. Block of rooms set aside at Riverview Lodge (request "Class of 1966" when reserving to 315-376-2252).

**Friday, July 17:** Meet and greet, 7 p.m., Lowville VFW, 7744 W. State St. Snacks and cash bar; hosted by Terry and Minette Thisse and Arel and Barbara Brown.

**Saturday, July 18:** check-in, 12:15 p.m.; and chicken barbecue, 1 p.m., 1812 House, 7663 N. State St. (Registration required by July 10: Chris Meda, cmeda@rxdlxlink.com or 925-366-9924. Cost: \$25 per person; BYOB.

**Saturday evening:** Squishy's BBQ, 6218 Number Four Road; music and food with beverages available.

**Sunday, July 19:** Breakfast brunch, Jeb's Restaurant, 5403 Shady Ave. or Tug Hill Winery, 4051 Yancey Road (reservation required).

## Sackets Harbor

**54th annual Can-Am Festival:** Held **Friday, July 17, Saturday, July 18, and Sunday, July 19**, downtown Sackets Harbor, West Main Street. Live music, vendors, wine, baseball, speedster challenge, parade, games. Information, full schedule: www.canamfestival.com.

## Saranac Lake

**Third annual Saranac Lake Antique show and sale:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Friday, July 17**; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, July 18**, Saranac Lake Civic Center, 213 Ampersand Ave. Information: www.saranaclakeantiqueshow.com.

## Watertown

**Actual Proof on the Roof:** Live music, 6 to 8 p.m. **Friday, July 17**, The Strand, 136 Franklin St. Cost: \$20.

**Rockin' it for Bill:** Golf tournament to honor life of the late William P. Plante, registration, 9 a.m.; tee-off, 10 a.m. **Friday, July 17**, Willowbrook Golf Club, 25075 Route 37. Cost: \$400 per team; prizes awarded. Information, registration: wppmemorialfund@gmail.com, 315-788-2340, or www.wppmemorialfund.org.

## July 18

## Alexandria Bay

**A Downton Abbey Christmas at Boldt Castle:** Magical, regal evening, 7 to 10 p.m. **Saturday, July 18**, Boldt Castle, 1 Heart Island. Dress in finest Roaring 20s. Cost: \$125; WPBS members, \$115. Includes appetizer buffet, wine bar and round trip transportation; 21 and older only.

## Cape Vincent

**"Science Heroes: Digging It":** Presented by Science Heroes, 10 a.m. **Saturday, July 18**, Cape Vincent Rec Park, 602 S. James St.

## Carthage

**Shootin' Traps for Trips:** 50 bird shoot to benefit Volunteer Transportation Center, 8 a.m. **Saturday, July 18**, Carthage Rod and Gun Club, 4500 Cold Springs Park Road. Team or individual, raffles, no sign ups after 1 p.m. Information: 315-303-2590.

## Croghan

**34th Zwanzigstein Summer Fest:** Hosted by Adirondack Mennonite Association (AMHA), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, July 18**, Mennonite Heritage Farm, 8778 Erie Canal Road. Admission: By donation. Demonstrations, children's passport and stamps, live music, food, hiking, nature trails. Information: 315-346-1122 or info@mennoniteheritagefarm.com.

## Henderson Harbor

**Double Barrel Blues Band:** 6 to 8 p.m. **Saturday, July 18**, Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association, 12469 County Route 123. "Your favorite pet" photo contest. Information: www.hhpaa.org or lakearts@hhpaa.org.

## Heuvelton

**D&A Rock and Roll DJ:** 6 to 9 p.m. **Saturdays, July 18, and 25**, Amvets Post 1997, 107 State St. No cover charge.

# Calendar

From T5

## Lowville

**Winter Heat Golf Tournament:** Registration, 8 to 9 a.m.; shotgun tart, 9 a.m. **Saturday, July 18,** Cedars Golf Course, 9368 East Road. Information, registration: St. Peter's Church, 315-376-6662 or lowvillesec@rcdony.org.

## Watertown

**Volunteer work days:** Held 9 a.m. to

noon **Saturdays, July 18, Aug. 15, and Sept. 19,** Thompson Park.

# July 19

## Mountain View

**Preve Family concert:** 2 p.m. **Sunday, July 19,** Mountain View Community Church, 7 Church St.

## Watertown

**Firework meditation and sound bath:** With Michelle and Tessa, 4 p.m. **Sunday, July 19,** The Silver Cauldron, 440 Coffeen St. Cost: \$20.

## Summer Fun

# July 20

## Carthage

**Vacation Bible school:** 5:30 to 8 p.m. **Monday, July 20, through Thursday, July 23,** First Baptist Church, 511 State St. Music, crafts, games, meal. Free.

## Chaumont

**Monday Music on the Lake:** Hosted by Lyme Performing Arts Council, held 6 p.m. select **Mondays,** outdoor stage, Chaumont Fire Hall, Route 12E. In case of rain, concert moved indoors. Food and beverages available for purchase.

**July 20 :** Grupo Pagan, Latin rhythms, jazz fusion, funk swagger, and blues grit

**Aug. 12:** Big D Orchestra, "funky, southern sweet-stuff"

## Henderson Harbor

**"Jack and the Turnip Root":** With REV Theater, 1:30 p.m. **Monday, July 20,** Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association, 12469 County Route 123. For those 6 and older; interactive performance. Information: www.hhpaa.org or lakearts@hhpaa.org.

# July 21

# July 23

## Clayton

**Robin Wall Kimmerer:** 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, July 23,** Clayton Opera House, 405 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$35; center, \$40; premium, \$45. Information, tickets: www.claytonopera-house.com.

## Malone

**Class of 1976 50th class reunion:** Franklin Academy and St. Joseph's Academy, held **Thursday, July 23, Friday, July 24, and Saturday, July 25,** at various locations.

**July 23:** Meet-up, The Pines.

**July 24:** Casual get-together, 7 p.m. Elks Club. Reservations not necessary.

**July 25:** Golf, play or walk, 9 a.m., Malone Golf Club: Dan Arnold, at dan@arnoldworks.com. Evening event, 6:30 p.m., Malone Amvets, cost: \$16 (includes a heavy hors d'oeuvre buffet and music by Jim Wade). Lunch: Malone Golf Club, reservations necessary. Information: fastjoes1876@gmail.com.



# Concerts in the Park

## ARSENAL GREEN PARK



**JIM WADE**  
JULY 10TH



**M-N-M ENTERTAINMENT**  
JULY 3RD



**IAN CAMPBELLE**  
JULY 24TH



**TWO TALL STRING BAND**  
JULY 17TH



**MIKE MALETTE**  
JULY 31ST

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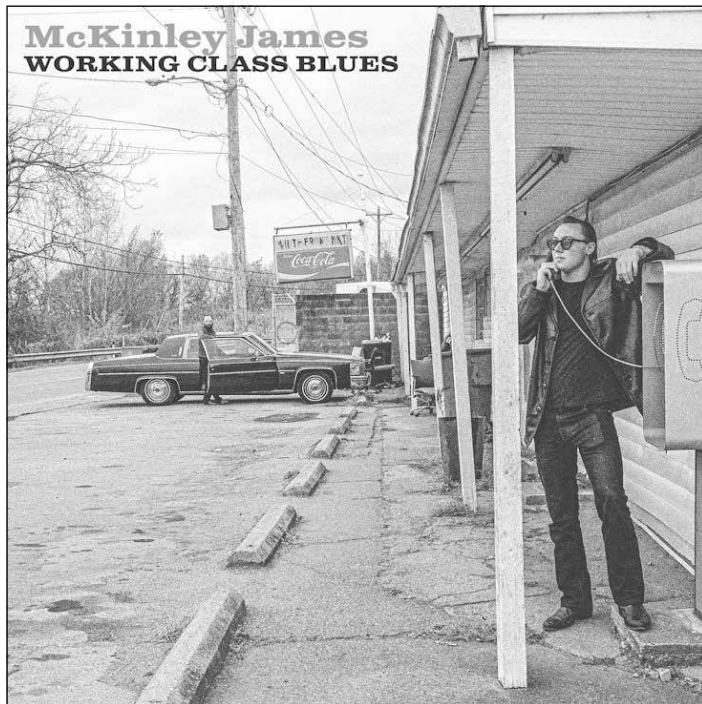
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# Live at the Bandstand a chance to find common ground



**McKinley James returns to Live at the Bandstand on June 27 in Sackets Harbor. His new album is "Working Class Blues." It was recorded at Red Lodge Studios in Nashville.**



**New York City-based group Rae the Band will make its debut performance at this year's Live at the Bandstand.** Facebook/Rae the Band

By **CHRIS BROCK**  
cbrock@wdt.net

SACKETS HARBOR — Live at the Bandstand strikes up its fifth annual concert on Saturday, June 27, but for its founder, the event is about more than about bringing exceptional music to the community.

"We need to connect more — one person at a time," said Ingrid Cleveland Gori.

Live at the Bandstand, a free event, is held at the Sentinel Bandstand at Market Square Park. In 2022, Gori revived an annual musical festival in the village headed by her late father, John H. Cleveland III, who focused on jazz music. He died in 2017 and was a lawyer by trade and a musician at heart. He had also served as president of the Sackets Harbor Historical Society.

Live at the Bandstand is not a jazz festival.

"Our goal is simply to bring outstanding live music to the community and introduce audiences to artists they might not otherwise have the opportunity to see," Gori said.

And that music, Gori said, can work wonders.

"The larger mission of Live

at the Bandstand has always been about bringing people together across our differences," she said. "Music has a unique ability to do that."

She recalled that one year she overheard a gentleman wearing a "very polarizing political ball cap" talking with the long-haired lead singer of one of the Live at the Bandstand concerts.

"At one point he looked at him and said, 'This is the best music I've ever heard,'" Gori said. "In that moment, all the things that normally divide people seemed to fade into the background."

Live at the Bandstand, a nonprofit, is also dedicated to bringing people together through veterans' storytelling events, where Gori has seen similar connections being made.

"At one event, a veteran who had spoken at two of our storytelling programs told me she would probably have to leave early because her husband (also a veteran) was ready to go," Gori said. "Later that evening she pulled me aside and said, 'Look over there. Now I'm ready to go, and he's over there talking to someone.'"

Across the room, the woman's husband was exchanging contact information with another veteran he had met that night.

"She told me he rarely spoke about his military experience and had never attended any veteran support events before," Gori said. "Seeing him engaged in conversation and sharing those experiences meant a great deal to her. It was a small moment, but one I've never forgotten."

Those are the kinds of moments, Gori said, that she hopes can add up over time.

"I don't think any one concert or storytelling event changes the world. But if we can create opportunities for people to connect, listen, and see one another a little differently, then maybe we are helping strengthen the fabric of our community one conversation at a time."

#### NEW AND RETURNING ACTS

Those concert-inspired conversations will continue June 27 with musical acts Rae the Band and McKinley James performing at Live at the Bandstand. Rae the Band is a new act for Live at the Band-

funky" with a blend of original music and covers. Members aspire to honor and lift up the music of their heroes such as B.B. King, Albert King, Aretha Franklin, Mahalia Jackson and Ray Charles.

McKinley James will perform at 5 p.m. He describes his music as a blend of American rock'n roll, amplified soul, and raw rhythm and blues. He has toured with ZZ Top and is quickly gaining national attention. The Nashville-based musician recently released his debut album, "Working Class Blues."

"I first saw McKinley James perform at the 2024 Syracuse International Jazz Fest and immediately thought, 'I have to bring this band to Sackets Harbor,'" Gori said. "McKinley's guitar playing and vocals, combined with drummer Jason Smay's energy and musicianship, created one of the most memorable performances I saw all year. The band has since added a bassist, making the sound even stronger."

In addition to the music,

**See LIVE 18**

GOOD OLE

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[www.ohmvcommunityconnection.org](http://www.ohmvcommunityconnection.org)

# Live

From T7

food trucks from 1812 Brewing Company and Elm Street Taco will be on site. The Elm Street

truck will be stationed along the Ray Street end of Market Square Park, while the 1812 truck will be located along Bayard Street.

The section of Main Street directly in front of the bandstand will be closed.

## Summer Fun

# Clayton fireworks, concert set for July 3 waterfront celebration

CLAYTON — The Clayton Chamber of Commerce and the Phinney Charitable

Foundation will again part-

ner to present Clayton's annual Independence Day fireworks celebration on July 3, featuring a waterfront concert and fireworks display along the St. Lawrence River.

The festivities will begin with a free concert by Bad Husbands Club from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. at Frink Park. The performance is part of the community's waterfront concert series and is sponsored by the Phinney Charitable Foundation.

The evening will culminate with a fireworks display at dusk, approximately 9:45 p.m. Fireworks will be launched from barges positioned in front of Riverside Drive, providing viewing opportunities along Clayton's waterfront.

The annual event has become a popular summer tradition for residents and visitors alike, drawing crowds to the village's riverfront to

See CLAYTON T10

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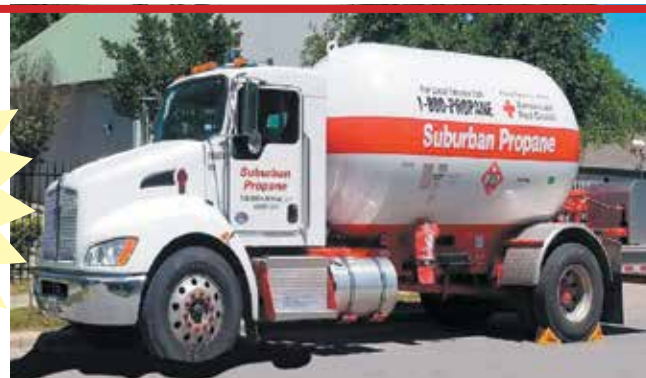
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# Jazz, folk, comedy and more on tap for 11th annual Adams concert series

By **CHRIS BROCK**  
cbrock@wdt.net

ADAMS — For a decade, summer Wednesday evenings in this village have been a hot spot for a variety of music, and that tradition continues this season with the 11th annual Adams Community Concert Series.

The concerts are on six consecutive Wednesday evenings July 8 through Aug. 12 at the Adams Fire Department pavilion behind the fire hall on Main Street. All concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8, with no intermission.

On the bill this season are jazz tunes, country-western ballads, folk songs, musi-

cal comedy, rock 'n roll and stirring sounds of the 10th Mountain Division Army Band. The series is known for highlighting local talent as well as musicians from other parts of the state.

### THE SCHEDULE

**July 8:** Let's Cool One will perform their special brand of jazz instrumental and vocal music. The five-piece Watertown-based group plays swing, bebop, funk and fusion and more. The ensemble has become quite popular in the north country with their vibrant, upbeat sound.

**July 15:** Ron and Nancy Onesong, old friends of the

series who have delighted Adams audiences with their vintage country-western songs and cheerful stage banter, return.

**July 22:** Quill & Plow is a local acoustic trio that plays and sings a variety of music — folk, blues, country, R&B, Celtic and originals.

**July 29:** In recent years, a group of retired teachers known as The La La Las has been entertaining series audiences with music, comedy and dance. Their spirited performances have received



**Ron and Nancy Onesong return to the Adams series on July 15.**  
onesongcountry.com

See ADAMS T10



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## Fiddlers Concert

**Don Woodcock,  
Gretchen Koehler, The  
Rusu Duo & Joel Foisy**

**July 26, 2026 from 6-8pm**  
**First Congregational Church**  
**2 Clay St, Malone NY, 12953**

This event is hosted by the Franklin  
County Historical & Museum Society  
in conjunction with the Wilder Farm

Tours of the Underground Railroad available  
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Ticket \$20 advance  
\$25 at door

Tickets online [www.franklinhistory.org](http://www.franklinhistory.org) or [www.almanzowilderfarm.com](http://www.almanzowilderfarm.com)  
Tickets at the House of History 51 Milwaukee St, Malone, NY, 12953

# 'Flutes on the 4th' returning to historic Sackets site



A previous "Flutes on the 4th" concert by the Silver Tones choir at the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site's Navy Yard. Photo courtesy of SHBSHS

Times staff report

SACKETS HARBOR — The local ensemble Silver Tones Flute Choir will present their third annual "Flutes on the 4th" free concert at the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site's Navy Yard at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 4.

The group plays early American music arranged

for flute choir. The musicians have a variety of flutes as well as four piccolos. The group will play for approximately 30 minutes. Attendees should bring a lawn chair.

After enjoying the music, patrons are invited to take a tour of the historic site's navy yard buildings, stroll the

grounds and follow the history trail. Rain location is the nearby Union Hotel building, 401 W. Main St.

West Main Street will be closed at Market Square Park. Guests should use Washington Street to Hill Street, and then take a right to the navy yard at the Main Street terminus.

## Clayton

From T8

celebrate the Independence Day holiday weekend.

The Clayton Chamber of Commerce and the Phinney Charitable Foundation are

presenting the event, with support from local sponsors, including DORI Marine & Fabrication.

Organizers encourage attendees to arrive early to secure viewing locations for both the concert and fireworks display.

The July 3 celebration

serves as one of the signature summer events in the Thousand Islands region, bringing together live music, community gathering and a fireworks show against the backdrop of the St. Lawrence River.

## Adams

From T9

rave reviews.

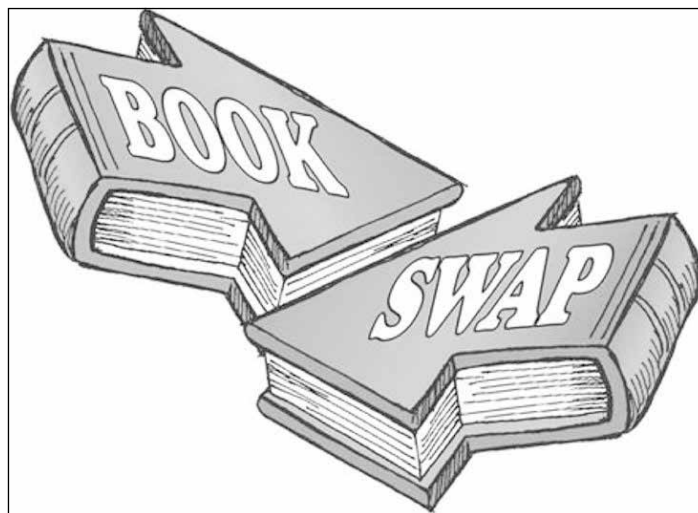
**Aug. 5:** The Chicago-style sounds of KEX will enliven this evening. The 11-piece band of local musicians plays a variety of joyful, up-

beat songs that series organizers say are perfect for a summer night.

**Aug. 12:** A rousing conclusion of the series will arrive via the 10th Mountain Division Army Band. The band performs a range of music including marches, Broadway tunes, jazz standards, classical pieces and popular music.

Concert-goers should bring a lawn chair. The rain venue is the Sixtown Meeting House, 27 East Church St., across from Mirabito convenience store in Adams. The concerts are sponsored by South Jefferson area businesses and individuals, and donations from "passing the hat" at each show.

# Hay library to open summer reading season with book swap



Times staff report

SACKETS HARBOR — Hay Memorial Library invites community members of all ages to celebrate the start of the summer reading season at its Summer Reading Kick-off Book Swap from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday, July 7.

The free event at the library, 105 S. Broad St., marks the official launch of the library's summer reading program and offers an opportunity for readers to discover new books, connect with fellow book lovers and sign up for summer reading.

Participants are encouraged to bring one or two gently used books to exchange for new-to-them titles. Whether you're looking for a beach read, a mystery, a children's favorite or a hidden gem, the book swap is a fun way to refresh your reading list while sharing books with others in the community.

In addition to the book exchange, attendees can learn more about the library's summer reading program, register for upcoming events, and enjoy light refreshments.

"This event is a great way to bring readers together

while kicking off another exciting summer of reading and learning," said Octavia Walker, director of Hay Memorial Library. "We hope families, children, teens, and adults will join us to discover new books, meet fellow readers, and get excited about all the programs we have planned this summer."

The Summer Reading Program encourages participants to read, explore, and engage with their community throughout the summer months through special events, activities, and reading incentives. This year's theme, "Unearth a Story," celebrates curiosity, discovery and adventure through books and learning experiences.

The program is free and open to the public. Community members are welcome to attend even if they do not have books to swap. For more information about the program and upcoming events, contact the library at 315-646-2228, visit haymemoriallibrary.org or follow Hay Memorial Library on social media.

# Concerts

From T3

the Park celebration on July 1 at Thompson Park. The free event, presented by the Watertown Noon Rotary Club in partnership with the City of Watertown and the Northern New York Community Foundation, will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a performance by Ocean's Below.

ONNY will perform later in the

evening, followed by a fireworks display commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary. The event is scheduled to conclude at 10 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. Food vendors will be available on site, and organizers recommend arriving early to secure viewing locations.

Major sponsors for the 2026 event include the Walker Family Community Fund, the Northern New York Community Founda-

tion, Samaritan Medical Center, AmeriCU Credit Union, Watertown International Airport and Watertown Savings Bank.

Organizers said the performances are intended to offer audiences a memorable way to commemorate the United

States' semiquincentennial while celebrating the artistic and cultural influences that shaped both Remington and the nation.



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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90SAPG0159, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking project with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.



## Wilder family to gather at Almanzo's Little House Cast Reunion

Little House's Wilder family will gather in the north country this summer with special guest, Nellie Oleson, at Almanzo's Little House Cast Reunion, which will take place at the Almanzo Wilder Homestead in Burke on July 25 and 26.

This event brings together cast members of the original Little House on the Prairie television series. Dean Butler (Almanzo Wilder), Jennifer Donati (Baby Rose Wilder), Charles Bloom, (Perley Day Wilder) and Alison Arnglim (Nellie Oleson) will be at the historical site where they will be greeting fans and signing autographs all day Saturday and Sunday.

The two day event at the Homestead is part of Wilder Weeknd 2026, which begins on Friday, July 24, when Alison Arnglim will perform her one woman show, "Confessions of A Prairie Bitch", based on her memoir about growing up in the spotlight and living a life being "Nellie" (this show has adult content) at the Chateaugay Town Hall Theater in Chateaugay, NY. Show start time is 7 pm and tickets are \$40.

Saturday and Sunday bring two full days of music, 19th century life skills demonstrations, crafts and food at the Wilder Homestead, with opportunities to meet the cast and get selfies and autographs. The "Heart's Delight" Morgan horses from the William H. Miner Institute will be on site

with demonstrations.

As a fund-raiser for the Wilder Homestead, the cast will be part of a VIP-only dinner on Saturday evening at the Malone Golf Club. VIP ticket holders will also receive VIP seating at Ms. Arnglim's Friday show, two days of admission to the Wilder Homestead, priority parking, and a catered barbeque picnic lunch both Saturday and Sunday.

The weekend culminates in a world-class fiddle concert in conjunction with the House of History in Malone at the historic First Congregational Church.

More event details, including links to ticket options and pre-sales, are at [almanzowilderfarm.com](http://almanzowilderfarm.com).

The Almanzo Wilder Homestead in Burke is the only Laura Ingalls Wilder heritage site with an intact, original structure. The home Almanzo grew up in still stands next to reproduction barns, an orchard, and a replica one-room schoolhouse. It's the site of "Farmer Boy", the second book in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House series. The volunteers and staff of the Wilder Homestead invite the public to step back in time to 1866. The site is located at 177 Stacy Road in Burke, NY.

**TICKETS:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/almanzos-little-house-cast-reunion>

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.almanzowilderfarm.com>

# Jazz/fusion band at The Strand to hit high notes July 17



The jazz/fusion band Actual Proof will perform on the rooftop deck of The Strand Theater on July 17. Photo courtesy of HarmoNNY

By CHRIS BROCK

[cbrock@wdt.net](mailto:cbrock@wdt.net)

WATERTOWN — If you need Actual Proof that the practice of hosting musical acts on the rooftop deck of The Strand Theater has been a smashing success, a band that goes by that name will perform a concert there.

The nonprofit HarmoNNY Performing Arts Community will welcome Actual Proof for an evening of live contemporary jazz on the rooftop deck of The Strand, 136 Franklin St., from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 17.

Last summer, a "Bring Your Own Lunch" series debuted at The NEST at the former Strand Theater and Lamon building on Franklin Street. The series invites people to grab lunch downtown and to bring it to the roof of the building and to enjoy the casual meal while listening to live music. The four-week series concluded

June 25 with the Northern New York Brass Quintet.

Featuring a lineup of musicians Brian Scherer, Ronnie France, Ed Vivenzio and Evan DuChene, Actual Proof delivers a sophisticated blend of contemporary jazz and fusion favorites. Audiences can expect dynamic performances inspired by legendary artists and groups including The Yellowjackets, Weather Report, David Sanborn and Michael Brecker.

Actual Proof will be joined by local saxophonist Brian Scherer.

The regional band regularly performs at venues like CNY Jazz Central in downtown Syracuse, the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles and the Oswego Music Hall. Its lineup of Brian Scherer, Ronnie France, Ed Vivenzio and Evan DuChene delivers a sophisticated blend of contemporary jazz and fusion favorites.

Set against the backdrop of downtown Watertown's skyline, the July 17 outdoor concert offers an opportunity to enjoy live music in an intimate and relaxed setting. Admission is \$20.

The NEST opened last year. It's a hub for performance art and entrepreneurship in the north country. The two-building complex consists of the 1914 Strand Theater and the adjacent circa-1900 Lamon building. The building now houses a 150-seat performing arts facility, once occupied by the historic The Strand Theater, and Jefferson Community College's new entrepreneurial center. NEST is an acronym for neighbors, entrepreneurs, study and teach.



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# Malone Chamber of Commerce Presents 2026 Concert in the Park Series



The crowd enjoys music at the 2025 summer concert series. Richard Rosentreter photo

Malone, NY -- The Malone Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 2026 Concert in the Park Series to be held on the Malone Lion's Memorial Bandstand at Arsenal Green, at 497 East Main Street, Malone.

Concerts will be held every Friday night beginning on July 3rd and are FREE to the public. Concerts run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and feature local and regional musicians. Community members are encouraged to bring their own chairs and enjoy the music. Concerts are family friendly, and you may even want to get up and dance. There will be a food concession available for a fun supper.

July 3rd will feature M n M Entertainment. Merrill McKee, longtime Malone entertainer,

brings fans all kinds of music. He was featured July 2025 with additional performers to the Concerts in the Park line up. M n M has entertained many events in Malone and has helped Zach Scharf with backup. What a great act to kick off the summer series and America's 250th birthday!

July 10th features Jimmy Wade and Matrix, a high-energy, 3-piece rock band that delivers electrifying performances of classic and modern rock and blues. This band delivers fun and diverse setlists; something for everyone!

July 17th brings the Two Tall String Band playing folk, Americana, Celtic, and Old-Time fiddle tunes. A little bit of everything, the Two Tall String Band featuring members: Bruce Lawson, Rod

Driscoll & Hap Wheeler. Over the past few years, the band has been adding in its own interpretations of 50's, 60's and 70's "Americana" to their performances, which has been extremely popular with audiences, who love to sing along with the band on their favorites.

July 24th brings you Ian Campbell, story-driven roots rock solo guitar artist. Ian sings about small victories and the parts of life you don't post about. He is new as a solo artist to the Concerts in the Park line up, but has released two albums, recently *My Own Way*, his second album with songs about trying to hold on, let go, grow up, and stay connected to the people and places that matter. That's Malone.

July 31st rounds out the series with Mike Mallette. Mike is

a long-time favorite playing in Malone, guitar and a smile, Mike is sure to bring good music and vibes to the park!

Malone's Chamber of Commerce continues to work to energize Malone by organizing events for residents to enjoy and to welcome visitors to the area. Many area businesses have donated to the Chamber to provide you with this fun entertainment. Sponsors of the Concert in the Park Series include: Community Health Center of the North Country, Wild Country Radio Station, Café Nouveau, the Red Roof Inn, Always Franklin, Desimo Productions, Adirondack Energy, the Free Trader, Seacomm, Citizen Advocates, Ellis Automotive, Community Connections, Casella, TruNorthern Federal

Credit Union, One Group, U First Federal Credit Union, and Mountain Marketing. Always Franklin provided a sponsorship grant. The Chamber urges you to say thanks by shopping at our local businesses.

"Without their contributions, these concerts would not be possible. We appreciate their dedication to our community," said Mary Scharf, Executive Director of the Malone Chamber of Commerce. So, bring your chairs and enjoy the music.

More information can be found on the Malone Chamber of Commerce Facebook page or at [www.malonechamberofcommerce.com](http://www.malonechamberofcommerce.com) or by contacting our office at (518) 483-3760.

# Italian automobiles take center stage at 1000 Islands Concours d'Elegance Saturday at ABM

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**Times Staff Report**

CLAYTON — Italian automotive design and craftsmanship will be the focus of the fifth annual 1000 Islands Con-

coures d'Elegance on Saturday, June 27, at the Antique Boat Museum waterfront campus.

The event, themed "A Day of Italian Style & Craftsman-

ship," will feature an array of rare and vintage Italian automobiles, including Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Ferrari and Bizzarrini models, alongside a broader collection of classic sports, touring and grand touring cars from Europe, Great Britain, the United States and Japan.

Organizers said the show will include vehicles from the 1950s through the 1970s, including iconic models such as the Corvette, Mustang, Datsun 240Z and Mazda RX-7. Select earlier automobiles and later European exotic cars also will be on display.

Returning for its fifth year, Cars & Coffee will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on the museum's south lawn. The informal gathering allows participants



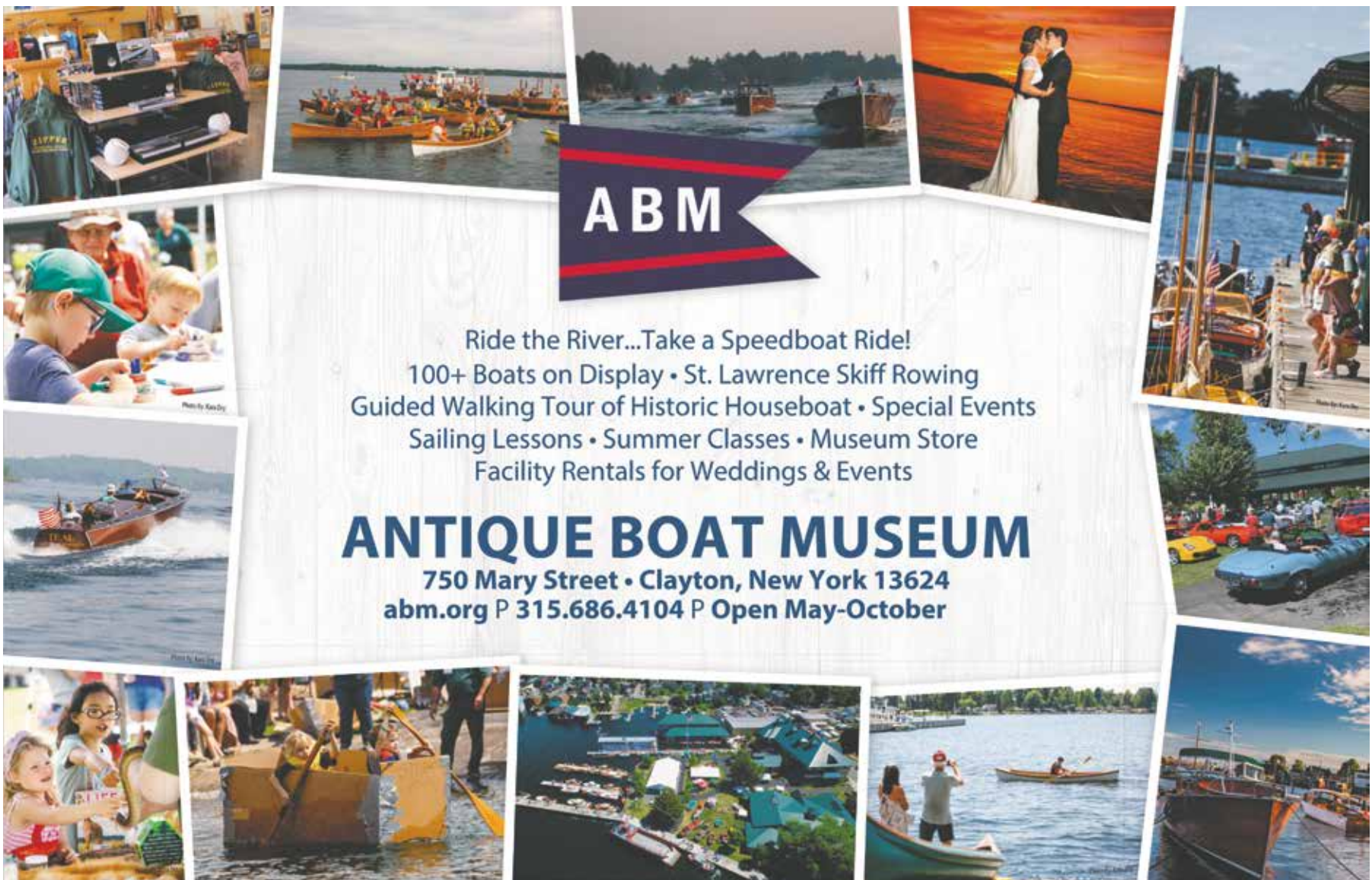
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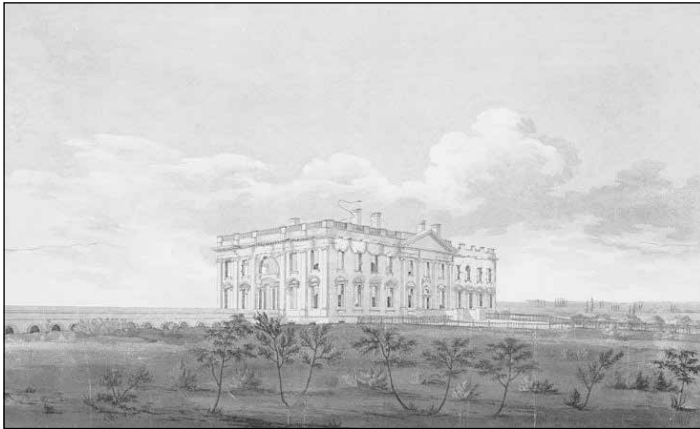


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# Battle of Cranberry Creek event to commemorate War of 1812 engagement



A print shows fire damage to the White House after it was burned by the British during the War of 1812. Library of Congress

WELLESLEY ISLAND — History enthusiasts will have an opportunity to revisit one of Jefferson County's most significant War of 1812 engagements during War of 1812 Day: Battle of Cranberry Creek on July 18 at the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center.

The event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will commemorate the Battle of Cranberry Creek and serve as part of local celebrations marking America's 250th anniversary.

Visitors can experience reenactments presented by the Forsyth Rifles Inc., offering a glimpse into the military tactics and conditions faced by soldiers during the conflict.

The program will also feature presentations by three historians and researchers. Paul Beers, author of *"Pork Barrel Fort, Battle of Cranberry Creek, War of 1812,"* will discuss the battle and display relics recovered from the battlefield. Archae-

ologists Ken Knapp and Ross Holbrook also will share insights into their research related to the conflict and the region's military history.

Members of the Gen. Jacob Brown Chapter of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 will present research on veterans who participated in the battle and honor their service.

Several War of 1812 historical organizations are expected to participate throughout the day. The event also will include live music and food vendors.

Organizers said the event will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about the Battle of Cranberry Creek, considered the second-largest battle fought in Jefferson County during the War of 1812, while exploring the people and events that helped shape the region's history.



A 1967 Bizzarrini Coupe will be on display at the Antique Boat Museum Saturday. Contributed.

## Cars

From T14

to display their vehicles without registration and connect with fellow enthusiasts.

The event also will feature the return of the Youth Judging Program, sponsored by Hagerly. Designed for children ages 8 to 14, the program introduces participants to classic automobiles through guided vehicle evaluations and conversations with owners. A limited number of openings remain available.

Several specialty awards will be presented during the concours.

The Fred Petroske Award honors the best British car on the show field and commemorates the late Fred Petroske, a pioneer in British automobile restoration and import-export operations who was active in the collector car community beginning in the 1970s.

The Brock Yates Award recognizes excellence in sports and race cars. Yates, an automotive journalist and creator of the Cannonball Run, maintained strong connections to the Thousand Islands region and helped inspire the con-



A 1953 Fiat 8V Berlinetta. Contributed.

cept of a concours event at the museum.

The Elliott Hillback Award, known as the Spirit of the River Award, honors the late Elliott Hillback, a former concours co-chair and seasonal Thousand Islands resident who first proposed hosting a concours at the museum more than 15 years ago.

In recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary celebration, organizers also will present a Best American Car award.

Visitors will have an opportunity to vote for People's Choice Awards in several categories, including Marque of the Year, Non-Marque of

the Year, Car I'd Like to Drive Home and Ladies' Choice.

Additional activities include an Italian Style Lecture at 1 p.m. in the Robert O. Cox Auditorium and an awards ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

The concours will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for the general public and free for museum members. Admission includes access to museum exhibits and tours of George Boldt's 1903 houseboat, La Duchesse. Speedboat rides on the St. Lawrence River will be available for an additional fee.

The event is sponsored by Driver's Village and John P. Sposato.

# Lewis County Fair returns with rodeo, truck pulls and family fun in July

LOWVILLE — From roaring engines and rodeo action to livestock shows, midway rides and family entertainment, the Lewis County Fair

will return July 20-25 with a full week of activities celebrating agriculture and community traditions.

The annual fair will feature

some of its most popular attractions, including the New York State Truck and Tractor Pull on July 22, a 4x4 Truck Pull on July 23, the Painted

Pony Championship Rodeo on July 24 and demolition derbies on July 25.

Fairgoers also can enjoy harness racing, horse shows, livestock competitions, agricultural exhibits and midway rides throughout the week. Coleman Bros. Shows will operate the midway, while free entertainment will include glass-blowing demonstrations, Robin's Heavenly

Birds, Mythicreatures and Pompeyo's Dog Show.

Live music will be featured daily, with performances by John Stevens' Doubleshot, Gridlock, Undefeated, Rock Island and several regional acts on Entertainment Island.

The fair will open July 20 with a talent show and officially begin July 21 with

See FAIR T17



**WILDER WEEKEND 2026**

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*Heart's Delight*  
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# Fair

From T16

opening ceremonies, a welcome reception and cheese auction, New York Sire Stakes harness races, dairy competitions, the annual parade through downtown Lowville and a fireworks display.

Agriculture remains at the heart of the fair, with daily competitions featuring dairy cattle, horses, goats, poultry, rabbits and other livestock. Youth exhibitors from 4-H and FFA programs will compete throughout the week in showmanship contests, judging events and educational activities.

Several special days are planned, including Children's Day and Dairy Day on July 22, Healthy Aging Day on July 23, Children's Day on

July 24 and Family Day on July 25. Activities range from a giant sundae celebration and Barnyard Olympics to STEM and robotics programs, crafts, contests and prize giveaways.

One of the fair's unique attractions is Addie's Secret Sensory Garden, a sensory-friendly space open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Forest Park Pavilion. The area offers a quieter environment for visitors who may need a break from the sights and sounds of the fair and includes sensory activities, fidget items and noise-reduction headphones. Special sensory-friendly carnival hours with reduced lights and music also are scheduled.

The fair will also recognize America's 250th birthday with special programming during the week.

For generations, the Lewis County Fair has served as

one of Northern New York's premier summer traditions, drawing families from across the region for a mix of agri-

cultural heritage, entertainment and community celebration.

A complete schedule of

events and admission information is available at Lewis-

CountyFair.org.

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## Saranac Lake Antique Show & Sale



July 17 and 18, 2026

Friday 9am-5pm Saturday 9am-4pm

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Admission \$5 - Good for both days. Early Buyers: Friday 8am \$20.00

[SaranacLakeAntiqueShow.com](http://SaranacLakeAntiqueShow.com)

# Henderson Historical Society offers exhibits, programs throughout 2026 season

HENDERSON — The Henderson Historical Society will welcome visitors from mid-May through mid-October at its campus at 12581 County Route 72, Harborview Road, between state routes 3 and 178.

The society's three historic buildings feature exhibits highlighting local history, genealogy, maritime heritage and early pioneer life.

The centerpiece of the campus is the former 1839 Universalist church, which recently received state historic designation, including special recognition for its 1910 stained-glass windows created by the Horwood studio of Ogdensburg. The building houses a genealogy and local history research center with maps, documents and archives, along with exhibits featuring Tyler coverlets, Native American artifacts, Lansing-Foster and Dulles family memorabilia, school artifacts, antique tools and lace collections.

Visitors can also tour an 1820s log cabin relocated from Ray's Bay to the soci-

ety's maple grove. The cabin is furnished with period and reproduction pieces that offer a glimpse into 19th-century pioneer life.

The Peters-Stevens Boat Annex, built in 2013, showcases wooden boats built in the Henderson area for work and recreation. Highlights include an 1880 Stevens ice boat used to transport supplies to island families during winter, Hammond guideboats, skiffs from the former Tyler Resort, model ships, nautical memorabilia and vintage outboard motors.

Several free public programs are scheduled during July and August.

Tatting demonstrations will be held Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

On July 11, the Graveyard Geeks will present a program at 10 a.m. on cleaning, preserving and researching cemetery monuments and grave-stones.

Antiques expert Karl Fowler will return July 25 at 10 a.m. for antique appraisals, assisted by the Duo Sues Team.

The annual Henderson Heritage Day and Juried Craft

Show will be held Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature New York state artisans, live music by Tom "24" Ventiquattro, nonprofit organizations, authors, historical exhibits, horse rides, a maze, War of 1812-era reenactors, a special postal cancellation, a tri-school high school art show, a silent auction and food provided by the Henderson Fish and Game Club.

On Aug. 15, the museum will host a special coverlet program at the Six Town Meeting House in Adams. Weaver and textile historian Ms. Goody of Cherry Valley will present a program on Tyler coverlets and examine visitors' quilts free of charge from 10 a.m. to noon. Her presentation begins at 2 p.m. and will include a question-and-answer session. Rare coverlets from several regional historical organizations will be displayed.

The Henderson Historical Society will also participate in the annual History and Genealogy Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 22 at the Jefferson County Historical Society. The



**The Henderson Historical Society is based at the former First Universalist Church of Henderson, which was nominated by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation to the state and national registers of historic places in America. Submitted photo**

event will feature speakers, exhibits and displays from local historians and historical societies. A suggested donation of \$5 will be accepted.

The season concludes with a roundtable discussion on the Underground Railroad from 9 to 10 a.m. Aug. 29 at the Hen-

derson Historical Society.

For more information, visitors are encouraged to contact the Henderson Historical Society or stop by during regular seasonal hours.

## Henderson Harbor arts group unveils summer lineup; seeks permanent bandstand

HENDERSON — The Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association is rolling out a summer lineup of concerts, family theater, competitions and community events aimed at showcasing regional talent and expanding arts programming on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

Highlights include:

July 12 — Henderson Art & Heritage Student Art Show, 1-4 p.m. Music by Whitney Road, light refreshments. Belleville-Henderson, Sackets Harbor and South Jefferson high school students will display work; public voting is \$1. Awards given for first

place in four categories.

July 18 — Double Barrel Blues Band, 6-8 p.m., with a concurrent "Your Favorite Pet" photo contest.

July 20 — Rev Theater presents "Jack and the Turnip Root," 1:30 p.m.; interactive performance open to children older than 5.

July 24 — Houde School of Acting class at the Gill House, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; ages 10-16; sign up at [houde-schoolofacting.com](http://houde-schoolofacting.com).

July 25 — Car show and "Christmas in July" celebration; parade starts at noon. Food, beverages, live music, DJ, classic cars, raffles, 50/50 and awards by category.



Aug. 9 — Corn hole tournament; registration 10 a.m., bags fly at 11 a.m. Two divisions, cash awards; pre-registration suggested \$50, day-of \$60. Food, beverages and

raffles will be available.

Aug. 15 — Ivy's Home band, 5-8 p.m.; six musicians from Rochester and a chicken BBQ; full dinners \$15.

Sept. 6 — The Tenth Mountain Division Band, 1 p.m., annual season-closing performance.

Nov. 21 — Annual Indoor Yard Sale at the Henderson Community Building, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; 18 vendors, big bake sale and lunch served.

The association, formed to provide performing-arts, music and recreation opportunities in Jefferson County, said its goal is to build a permanent bandstand and ex-

pand free or low-cost events to attract larger performances and audiences. The group thanked local funders including the Six Town Community Fund, Watertown Savings Bank, the Henderson Business and Community Council and the Northern New York Community Foundation for support.

For more information, schedules and registration, visit the Henderson Harbor Performing Arts Association website or scan the QR code on the association's brochure.

# Watertown public pools are open for the season

The city's Thompson Park and Flynn pools will be fully open for the season on Friday.

The Thompson Park pool will be open daily from noon to 7 p.m. The Flynn pool, located at North Elementary School, will be open 1 p.m. to

6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. That pool will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Admission is free. The city had set a \$3 fee for everyone to pay for expenses, but the com-

munity raised enough money to avert the fees this season.

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# Lowville Village Band celebrating 200 years



Lowville Village Band co-conductors A.J. McCall and Kelly Kilcer pose with an anniversary banner. Submitted photo

By Chris Brock

cbrock@wdt.net

LOWVILLE The Lowville Village Band, one of the oldest community bands in the United States, will mark their 200th year with a special concert on Wednesday, July 1.

The band's longevity is due to its love of sharing music with

the community and dedicated longtime members like director Arthur J. McCall, who took over conducting duties in 2008 after Millard W. Chamberlain, who conducted for 30 years, stepped down from those duties that year. Chamberlain then played in the band for several years before his passing in 2019.



The Lowville Village Band performs at Veterans Memorial Park. / Submitted photo

The bandstand in Veterans Memorial Park where the Lowville Village Band performs is named after Chamberlain, who was also music director at Lowville Academy.

"When I stepped in, I felt like I had to carry the torch and continue the tradition," said McCall, now in his 36th year of teaching music at South Lewis Central School, where he also conducts the high school band. "We try to keep the tradition going and make sure that people realize how special it is to have a village band that can still play and has the history that we have."

McCall co-conducts the band with Kelly Kilcer, 7-12 music instructor at Lowville Academy. "At a concert, she might conduct five or six songs, and I'll conduct the other five or six," McCall said in a phone interview. "When we are not conducting, we are playing. It works out well."

## 'ONE OF THE OLDEST'

The band was formed in 1826, but it disbanded for a few years during the Civil War, which is why it describes itself

as "one of the oldest community bands in the U.S." Several years ago, the Allentown Band in Pennsylvania contacted Lowville Village Band officials to ask about its history. The Allentown Band was founded in 1828. It has played a "continuously active" role since its first documented performance on July 4, 1828.

"They call themselves the longest-running," McCall said. "We don't care. They are very prestigious. They toured Europe and played Carnegie Hall. That's a little different from our little Lowville Village Band."

But for generations, talented community members from Lowville and the surrounding areas, from teenagers to senior citizens, have contributed their time and talent to provide live entertainment for two centuries. The band often says of their traditional summer concert series in Lowville Veterans Memorial Park, "Come enjoy an old-fashioned outdoor band concert on the lawn."

McCall said that for many years, the band played on the grass at Veterans Memorial Park. But thanks to sponsors

and local donations, the Millard W. Chamberlain bandstand was created. The band performs there each Wednesday evening in July except for county fair week (July 21-25). It also performs the first week of August.

In celebration of the band's 200th year, there will be special events at each Wednesday night concert in the park. The first concert at 7 p.m. July 1 will feature food trucks with dinners and desserts. For the kids, there will be face painting, balloon animals and outdoor games.

The July 1 concert will feature patriotic songs and marches, such as "Americans We" by Henry Fillmore; John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever"; Irving Berlin's "God Bless America", and a tribute to the armed forces with the powerful "Armed Forces Salute" arranged by Robert Lowden.

The band is bringing back two songs not heard in many years; "Civil War Suite" by Harold Walters will feature "The Gathering Clouds" and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

See 200 YEARS T21

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An undated photo of the Lowville Village Band, founded in 1826.

## 200 years

From T20

George M. Cohan's Star "Spangled Spectacular" will feature "Mary's A Grand Old Name," "Give My Regards to Broadway," "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "You're a Grand Old Flag."

McCall said the concert will also include proclamations and a display of band uniforms and instruments. In case of rain, the concert will be held at the pavilion at the fairgrounds.

### FLUCTUATING MEMBERSHIP

There are approximately 55 members in this year's Lowville Village Band.

"It fluctuates," McCall said of members. "We've had as little as 30."

Different music is played each week, he noted. "And we only rehearse for two hours a

week. Times change and people are busy. A lot of our old-timers are either unable to play or have moved south, and many of them, unfortunately, are no longer with us."

McCall said the band tries to be as "flexible and accommodating" as possible.

"It used to be that we had a lot of adults who played in the band for years," he said. "And we'd get top-notch kids who would come in as well, and that cycle would continue. It's great that we have the kids because hopefully when they go off to college, they'll still come back in the summer and play. But it gets a little more challenging because you don't have as many adults, or your veteran players who have already played this music so the younger kids can hear how it goes and learn things."

McCall added, "It's not just us, it's everywhere. The Boonville Concert Band has cut back on concerts. They don't play every week anymore." That band

has been entertaining audiences for over 50 years.

The Lowville Village Band isn't confined to village concerts. At Sunday, it performed at the 54th annual arts and craft fair at Constable Hall. On Wednesday, they are scheduled to perform at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Croghan as part of a parish celebration. Mass is at 5 p.m., followed by a picnic in the park with the band playing at 7.

### 'A GREAT DEAL OF MERRIMENT'

According to the files of the Watertown Daily Times, at its beginning, the Lowville Village Band consisted of less than a dozen members. A 1922 story published in the Times noted that the band was known for its unique wagon designed by Leon Duruz around 1859. Each Saturday night, the wagon was pulled downtown.

"Then Paul Sunderhaft, truckman, arrives and with a horse, draws the wagon to storage again for another week,"

the Times reported "The performance is one which has been handed down for the past two generations and is unique and the cause of a great deal of merriment to out-of-town visitors who persist in lingering on Public Square until the wagon is drawn away."

The 1922 report added: "The wheels of the wagon, it is said, were taken from an old stage coach which ran from Rome to Turin in the early 1860s."

"I'll have to ask if anybody knows where that wagon could have ended up," McCall said.



Last year, the Lowville Free Library and the Lowville Village Band teamed up to give children the opportunity to learn more about musical instruments during a show-and-tell before a concert at Veterans Memorial Park. Here, Jessie Szewil shares the intricacies of the piccolo. Submitted photo

# Living History Days, community mixer coming to Ives Park

POTSDAM — The Potsdam Public Museum, in partnership with the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce and the St. Lawrence County 250th Committee, invites the community to attend Living

History Days: Revolutionary War Encampment on June 27–28 at Ives Park.

This free, family-friendly event will bring the American Revolution to life through authentic reenactments, demonstrations, and interactive experiences. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore a recreated soldiers' camp and learn about daily life during the Revolutionary War.

Scheduled demonstrations include period cooking, fishing techniques, candle-dipping, and musket demonstrations. Reenactors from across the region will participate, with some camping on-site to provide a more authentic historical experience. The Fort de La Presentation Association will also be on-site with an outreach tent sharing information about regional history and the North Country's colonial past.

As part of the weekend, the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will host a Living History Day Community Mixer on Saturday, June 27, from 5-7 p.m. at the Ives Park Pavilion. The mixer will feature refreshments, beverages, and live music by Johnny Dropper, providing attendees with an opportunity to

meet and mingle with reenactors, community members, local businesses, and history enthusiasts.

Advance registration is requested for the mixer by June 23 to assist with planning. To register, contact the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce at [director@potsdamchamber.com](mailto:director@potsdamchamber.com) or (315) 274-9000.

"Living History Days is a unique opportunity to experience history firsthand while bringing the community together," said Melanie Flack, Executive Director of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce. "We're excited to partner with the Museum and local historians to create an engaging weekend for residents and visitors alike."

The event is part of the broader celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and aims to highlight the region's rich history through education, demonstration, and community engagement.

Living History Days and the Community Mixer are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit [www.potsdamchamber.com](http://www.potsdamchamber.com) or follow the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce and Potsdam Public Museum on social media.

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# Famous rapper, singer to close out NYS Fair free concert series

By **KELLY CORBETT**  
syracuse.com

Wyclef Jean is coming to the Great New York State Fair.

The “Ready or Not” singer will close out the Chevrolet Music Series at the New York State Fair’s Suburban Park stage on Monday, Sept. 7 at 6 p.m.

For over 30 years, Jean has been a major figure in hip hop, pop, and reggae. A founding member of The Fugees, he helped create the Grammy Award-winning album *The Score*, one of the best-selling and most influential hip hop albums of all time, featuring hits like “Ready or Not,” “Fu-Gee-La,” and “Killing Me Softly.” He’s also built solo career with eight albums and chart-topping songs like “Gone Till November” and “Sweetest Girl (Dollar Bill).”

More than 40 concerts will take place between the fairground’s two main stages: Suburban Park and Chevy Court.

NYS Fair 2026 concert schedule

Aug. 26, 1 p.m.: The Com-

modores at Chevy Court

Aug. 26, 6 p.m.: Quiet Riot at Chevy Court

Aug. 26, 8 p.m.: All-American Rejects at Suburban Park

Aug. 27, 1 p.m.: The Calling at Chevy Court

Aug. 27, 8 p.m.: Sean Paul at Suburban Park

Aug. 28, 6 p.m.: Brandy Clark at Chevy Court

Aug. 28, 8 p.m.: Melissa Etheridge at Suburban Park

Aug. 28, 9 p.m.: DJ Pretty Mess (Erika Jayne) at Chevy Court

Aug. 29, 6 p.m.: Maddox Batson at Chevy Court

Aug. 30 at 6 p.m.: Air Supply at Chevy Court

Aug. 30, 8 p.m.: Flo Rida at Suburban Park

Aug. 31, 8 p.m.: Ashanti at Suburban Park

Sept. 1, 1 p.m.: Herman’s Hermits starring Peter Noone at Chevy Court

Sept. 1, 8 p.m.: Scotty McCreery at Suburban Park

Sept. 2, 1 p.m.: Wilson Phillips at Chevy Court

Sept. 2, 6 p.m.: Priscilla Block at Chevy Court

Sept. 2, 8 p.m.: Tori Kelly at



Sunset at the New York State Fair on Monday, Aug. 26, 2024.

Suburban Park

Sept. 3, 6 p.m.: Jesse McCartney at Chevy Court

Sept. 3, 8 p.m.: ZZ Top at Suburban Park

Sept. 4, 1 p.m.: Better Than Ezra at Chevy Court

Sept. 4, 6 p.m.: Braxton Keith at Chevy Court

Sept. 4, 8 p.m.: Violent

Femmes at Suburban Park

Sept. 4, 9 p.m.: Shrek Rave at Chevy Court

Sept. 7, 6 p.m.: Wyclef Jean at Suburban Park

## New York State Fair adds 2000s teen heartthrob to free concert lineup

**KELLY CORBETT**  
Syracuse.com/TNS

Jesse McCartney wants to see you and your beautiful soul at the Great New York State Fair this summer.

The New York native is the latest performer to be announced as a musical act. McCartney will take the stage at Chevy Court at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 3. This will be his second time performing at the fair after making his debut in 2021.

McCartney was a member of the boy band Dream Street, best known for the 2001 hit “It Happens Every Time,” before finding success as a solo singer with songs like “Beautiful Soul,” “Leavin” and “How Do

You Sleep.” He also co-wrote Leona Lewis’ smash hit “Bleeding Love.”

The former child star’s credits also include playing JR Chandler on “All My Children,” voicing Theodore in the “Alvin and the Chipmunks” movies, and roles in “Horton Hears a Who,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “Summerland,” “Greek,” “Young Justice,” “Fear the Walking Dead” and “The Masked Singer.”

“We’re thrilled to welcome him to the fairgrounds to entertain fans of all ages with his energetic performance and timeless hits,” said Fair Director Julie LaFave in a press release.

More than 40 concerts will

take place on two main stages: Suburban Park and Chevy Court. Suburban Park will host the Fair’s largest concerts in the New York Experience area on the west end near Gate 10, in the back of the Midway and past the Expo Center. Chevy Court is located near Gate 1, next to the Center of Progress Building and by the Dairy Products Building. Both have limited seating available.

All Suburban Park shows will be held at 8 p.m. each evening, while Chevy Court will feature shows daily at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Two special additional shows will also take place at 9 p.m. each Friday at Chevy Court.

Last year’s lineup included a variety of artists performing



Fans watch as Shaggy performs at the Suburban Park Stage at the NYS Fair on Aug. 31, 2025. The fair’s 2026 lineup includes more than 40 concerts. Warren Linhart/NYS Fair

rock, rap, country, pop and other genres. Jessie Murph, Shaggy and Lynyrd Skynyrd drew the biggest crowds of 2025 with more than 30,000 fans each.

No tickets are required for concerts. All are free with admission to the fair, which will cost \$8 again this year — and free for seniors 65 and older and kids 12 and under.



# Norwood Village Green CONCERT SERIES 2026

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## SEASON SCHEDULE

ALL CONCERTS BEGIN AT 7 P.M. EXCEPT AS NOTED

Info: [www.nvgcs.org](http://www.nvgcs.org)



**TUES., JUNE 2 • 5 - 9 PM**

**SLCMEA Event**

Local School Groups, followed by Phoenix Jazz Collective at 7 pm

**THURS., JUNE 4**

**Koehler and Kelly "Fiddling with Traditions"**

2 NNCS In-school programs; public concert at 7 p.m.



**THURS., JUNE 11**

**Sheri Zorn w/Paul Meyers and Brian Melick**  
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**THURS., JUNE 18**

**Northern Symphonic Winds**

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**THURS., JUNE 25**

**The Gibson Brothers**

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**SUN., JUNE 28**

**Tony Trischka's Earljam Project**

a tribute to Earl Scruggs Grammy nominated & IBMA awarded



**SUN., JULY 5**

**John Fedchock**

2-time Grammy nominee, guest artist w/ All Star Big Band, directed by Wally Siebel

**SUN., JULY 12**

**Five Dots**

Jazz / Pop / R & B / Fusion



**THURS., JULY 16**

**Ally Ryerson Quartet**

with Larry Ham, Tom Melito & Lou Pappas- Jazz Flute

**SUN., JULY 19**

**Howard Levy Four**

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**THURS. JULY 23**

**NORWOODSTOCK • 6 PM**

20 local musicians to benefit Norwood-Norfolk Raymondville Outreach Program



**SUN., JULY 26**

**David Engel Pirate School**

"Sea Dreams" - Bring your pirate "stuff"



**THURS., JULY 30**

**Balla Kouyate**

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**SUN., AUG. 2 • 6PM Juggling Workshop**

**Steve Gratto Juggling for the Family**

**THURS., AUG. 6**

**Brass Firemen**

Sporting their new wheels. "Ain't she pretty...Ain't she nice, Gonna look her over...once or twice."



**THURS., AUG. 9**

**String Solstice**

an eclectic local group w/ violin, vocals, guitar, cello, & keyboards



**THURS., AUG. 13**

**Millstone Rounders**

with Crane Alums Scott Hopkins and Dylan Perillo - an unique blend of Americana

**SUN., AUG. 16**

**Northbound**

Stellar musicians an integral part of Series over the years



**THURS., AUG. 20**

**New Horizon's - Swing Ambassadors**

directed by Paul Buell

The Norwood Village Green Concert Series is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts and the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. It is also supported by the Town of Potsdam and the Village of Norwood and several foundations, many businesses, other organizations, and many individuals. It is also supported by a large, faithful, and generous audience providing donations, encouragements and assistance when needed. THANK YOU!

# 22nd annual Car-B-Que set for June 27 in Ogdensburg



While there are more than cars at Car-B-Que, there are also cars! The variety is so wide, there are nearly 30 trophies ready to be awarded. Classic car registration is \$10 per vehicle. Chamber photo

OGDENSBURG — A historic waterfront property will transform into a hub for classic automobiles, food trucks, and family entertainment as the 22nd Annual Car-B-Que classic car show returns to the city.

The regional summer kick-off event will take place Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fort La Presentation Association property, at 22 Albany Ave. Organized with support from the Fort La Presentation Association, the Kiwanis Club of Ogdensburg, and the City of Ogdensburg, the festival is free to attend.

In a bid to expand the event's regional draw, organizers have introduced a new element this year by inviting antique dealers and collectible treasure vendors to showcase their wares alongside traditional automotive displays.

The daylong event features a broad lineup of activities for families and children, including free kids' activities, a bounce house provided by J and J Bounce House and Party Rentals, and a "Touch-A-Truck" installation coordinated by the Kiwanis Club of Ogdensburg. Regional DJ Ryan Woodard will provide live mu-

sic, and the event will host a 50/50 raffle.

Mobile food and beverage vendors will be on-site, including The Lemon Drop, Mr. Ding Ice Cream Truck, The Grub Tub, Thousand Island Winery, and In-Law Brewing Co., LLC. The St. Lawrence Valley SP-CA, Inc. will also be featured

among the participating vendors.

The competitive cornerstone of the event remains its judged car show. Classic car registration is \$10 per vehicle. Backed by dozens of local corporate sponsors, organizers will hand out a variety of specialty trophies, including "Best

of Show" sponsored by St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union, as well as cash prizes for "Longest Distance" from Blue Heron Realty and the "Hard Luck" award from Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper and VanHouse, CPA.

The awards lineup also features several specialty memorial trophies. The awards for Best Truck, Best Corvette, and Best Mopar will be presented in memory of Wayne Izzo, while UD Trophies will sponsor an award in memory of Don Morley.

Vendor registration remains open, with rates set at \$50 for

St. Lawrence County Chamber members, \$75 for non-members, and \$25 for non-profit organizations. Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/5xhsjefj>.

WellNow Urgent Care and Ogdensburg Family Practice are serving as the event's primary corporate sponsors.

Area residents seeking registration forms or additional details can contact Ogdensburg Community Coordinator Laura Pearson at 315-386-4000, extension 6, or via email at [Laura@SLCchamber.org](mailto:Laura@SLCchamber.org) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/5xhsjefj>.



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## Red, White & Boom, Love Massena Day highlight July events



Love Massena Day, hosted by New Testament Church, returns to Alcoa Park on July 4. Bob Beckstead/Watertown Daily Times

### By Bob Beckstead

bbeckstead@wdt.net

MASSENA — The Massena community will get a double dose of fun in July.

It starts on July 2 with “Red, White & Boom” to celebrate America’s 250th anniversary, and continues on July 4 with the return of Love Massena Day, an annual event hosted by New Testament Church.

“Red, White & Boom is moving along nicely,” said Jason Hendricks, the digital brand manager for the town and village of Massena and one of the organizers.

He said it will be an afternoon of music, food, vendors and community from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Massena Arena, rounding out with a fireworks display sponsored by the village of Massena.

“Red, White & Boom brings together food trucks, beverage vendors, live music, local vendors, and a fireworks display presented by the village of Massena,” Hendricks said.

The headlining musical act will be Gypsy Road.

“Gypsy Road will be our main act. They are a Fleetwood

Mac cover band, so we’re ready to roll on that one,” he said.

He said the location of the fireworks show is still to be determined. Before they light up the sky, however, Hendricks suggested heading to Springs Park at the conclusion of Red, White & Blue to enjoy more music from Plan B as part of the Massena Summer Concert Series.

Learn more about the event at <https://www.exploremassena.com/redwhiteandboom>.

Two days later on July 4, New Testament Church will host Love Massena Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alcoa Park. Organizers said the free family fun day will include free hot dogs, chips, popcorn, snow cones, face painting, bounce houses and more.

“You don’t want to miss it,” they said.

Love Massena Day has been a staple of the summer calendar since its inception in 2013. The first event in 2013 featured everything from music to food, face painting to balloon creations, and basketball to tennis.

The event was coordinated by Compassion North in cooperation with the Greater Massena Ministerial Association and has continued to grow over the years.

The first event was meant to do something positive in an area that at the time had seen crime ranging from an attempted abduction to drug trafficking.

Looking ahead on the calendar, Hendricks said they’re still working on plans for the return of “Rockin’ the River” at the Massena Town Beach.

“The big things is Rockin’ the River is rolling ahead. The planning is going on for that,” he said.

The event is scheduled for Aug. 15. BONFIRE: A Tribute to AC/DC will be returning to provide some of the live music. They had headlined last year’s event.

The inaugural Rockin’ the River: Beachapalooza! event drew approximately 3,000 people to the Massena Town Beach in 2024, and the event has continually grown since then.

## Civil War Reenactment Weekend set for July 25-26 at Fort Tribute



MADRID — The sixth annual Civil War weekend at Fort Tribute will be held Saturday, July 25 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and continues through Sunday, July 26 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. held at Fort Tribute on the grounds of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum, 1755 State Highway 345, Madrid.

Highlights of the event include visiting Union and Confederate camps, historical demonstrations, such as period cooking (common soldier’s meal), mail call and 1860s women’s fashion.

Balladeer Linda Russell will entertain the “civilians” and soldiers with “The New York Volunteer: Songs and Stories of the Civil War.” Russell accompanies herself on hammered and mountain dulcimers, guitar and penny whistle.

There will also be period music; book lectures, plus demonstrations of artillery firing and a Children’s Muster, which illustrates how members in a military unit are formally gathered, especially for inspection.

Live battle reenactments are

held on Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. The culture and lessons of reenactments help us understand the sights, smells, and sounds of history.

Some additional attractions at SLPEM include a one-room 1800’s schoolhouse and log cabin, carriage barn, heritage fibers building, shingle mill, blacksmith shop, farmhouse, and more.

Fort Tribute which opened in 2020 is a Civil-War era historical interpretive center with nine separate buildings located on the grounds of the St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum in Madrid. It also has the only single Civil War monument to recognize the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from St. Lawrence County that fought in the War 1861-1865.

For more information about the Fort visit Facebook forttribute or its website [www.forttribute.org](http://www.forttribute.org) or [slpowermuseum.com](http://slpowermuseum.com).

# Save the River Offers Floating Classroom Experience for Teens

CLAYTON – Middle and high school students ages 12-17 are invited to participate in a unique Floating Classroom experience on July 2, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The program will kick off at the Thousand Islands Land Trust's Discovery Center, located by the Clayton Village Docks, where students will learn

about the St. Lawrence River ecosystem.

At the Discovery Center, students will engage in hands-on lessons led by esteemed university scientists, including Dr. John Farrell. Participants will explore topics such as fisheries, river health, and invasive species before taking a boat ride to the Thousand

Islands Biological Station on Governor's Island.

After enjoying lunch aboard a Clayton Island Tours boat during a guided tour of the Thousand Islands, students will disembark at the Antique Boat Muse

See FLOATING T31



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# Thousand Islands Arts Center opens new facility

Times staff report

CLAYTON — The Thousand Islands Arts Center officially opened the doors to its new home June 22, celebrating the completion of a \$7.7 million expansion project that leaders say will transform arts education, exhibitions and preservation in the region for decades to come.

Community leaders, patrons, donors and supporters gathered at the center's new 13,000-square-foot facility at 321 James St. for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the culmination of years of planning, fundraising and construction.

The move represents a dramatic expansion for the organization, which previously operated from a 1,500-square-foot building on John Street. The new facility triples classroom capacity, more than doubles gallery space and provides a permanent, climate-controlled home for the center's internationally recognized collection of more than 20,000 handwoven textiles and a research library containing more than 2,250 titles.

Among those participating in the ribbon cutting were Executive Director Mia Ramseier, Board Chair Kathy Elliott, Curator Emerita Sonja Wahl, Lindsay Turley of the New York State Council on the Arts, Allan Newell, Leslie Rowland, Fred Schmitt, Jonathan Taylor and Chris Murray.

"Today we celebrate our community's collaboration, creativity and a fierce commitment to our mission to bring arts and culture to the North Country," Ramseier said. "Our ribbon-cutting marks the official beginning of an exciting new chapter, bridging 60 years of creative tradition with the opportunities of tomorrow."

The project was announced in 2023 after the organization received a \$2 million grant through the New York State Council on the Arts' Large Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture program. The required matching funds were provided by an anonymous donor, while the remaining project costs were supported through a community fundraising campaign and additional grants.



**The Thousand Islands Arts Center celebrated its new building on Monday morning.** Alec Johnson/Watertown Daily Times



**The Thousand Islands Arts Center celebrated its new building on Monday morning.** Alec Johnson/Watertown Daily Times

Ramseier said the organization raised more than \$5 million in private donations in just over a year.

Outside the new building, engraved pavers purchased through the center's "Step Up for the Arts" campaign line the walkways leading to the entrance, recognizing many of the donors who helped make the project possible.

"This is part of our Step Up for the Arts paver campaign," Ramseier said. "I just love this — see-

ing supporters front and center."

The center's new main gallery will host its inaugural exhibition, "Along the River's Edge," which opens Wednesday. The juried show features painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics and mixed-media works by regional artists.

According to Arts Center officials, the exhibition attracted a record-breaking response this year, with more than 325 submissions and approximately 160 works accepted for display.

floor also includes community meeting space available for events and gatherings.

The move coincides with the organization's 60th anniversary and launches a week of public events designed to introduce the community to the new facility.

The opening reception for "Along the River's Edge" will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, with a preview for patrons beginning at 4 p.m. Artwork on display will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting both participating artists and the Arts Center.

The week's festivities conclude with a grand opening and Summer Arts Kick-Off event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The free public event will feature guided tours of the galleries, classrooms and textile collections, along with children's activities, raffles and information about upcoming summer programs.

The project was funded through a combination of private donations and grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Northern New York Community Foundation, the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Arts Center officials said the organization will retain ownership of its former headquarters at 314 John St. as part of an expanding campus that also includes its pottery studio and future plans for an outdoor public art park.

The Arts Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Pottery studio classes are offered by appointment and can be scheduled by calling 315-686-4123, ext. 205.

Finders Keepers, the gift shop and consignment store, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

The first floor also features a gift shop focused on work created by regional artists and the new Sonja Wahl Weaving Gallery, which highlights the organization's identity as home to the only handweaving museum in the United States.

The gallery includes permanent exhibits explaining the art and history of weaving, while rotating displays will showcase items from the center's collection.

Below the gallery, a climate-controlled collection and research area houses the center's textile archives on high-density movable shelving designed to preserve fragile and historically significant pieces.

The facility's second floor contains three classrooms, including the Mary and Ted Mascott Children's Classroom, replacing the single classroom available in the organization's former headquarters. Each classroom accommodates up to 16 students and is equipped to support virtual programming.

A third-floor weaving studio and research center provides space for looms, educational programming and access to the center's library collection. The

# Birds Rise Above it All

By Bridgett McCann

Thousand Islands Land Trust

## HONORING THE LEGACY OF SHERRI SMITH

Editor's Note: This story was first published by *Thousand Islands Life*.

For many readers of *Thousand Islands Life*, the arrival of a new birding column was always something to look forward to—an invitation to slow down, look closer, and see both birds and the landscapes they inhabit in a new light. For decades, those reflections—written by Sherri Smith, known to many longtime readers as Gerry Smith—were a highlight.

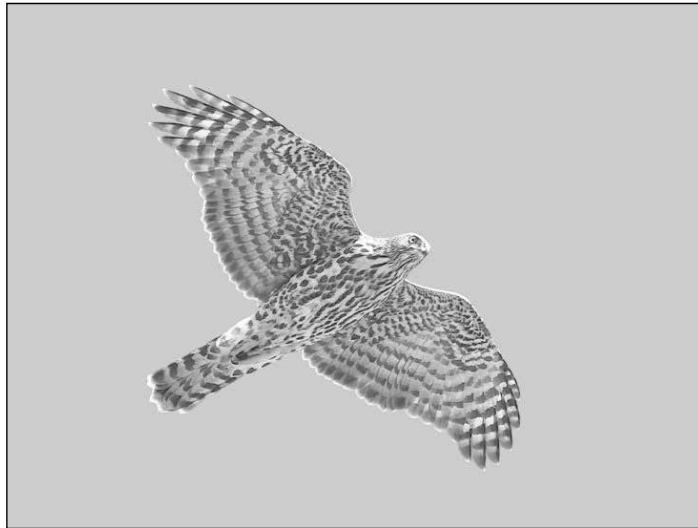
A renowned ornithologist, Smith invited readers to notice the natural world around them: the flash of wings over the St. Lawrence River, the distant cry of a hawk riding a thermal, or the quiet presence of a warbler tucked among summer leaves. Her writing blended scientific knowledge with a contagious sense of wonder, reminding readers that birds are not just passing visitors in the sky, but essential threads in the ecological fabric of the Thousand Islands. Smith had a remarkable gift for translating the science of birds into stories that made people pause, look up, and feel connected to the living landscape around them.

At the end of her communications, our friend Sherri often included a signature phrase that captured both her admiration for birds and her outlook on life: “Birds rise above it all.”

Today, that phrase has become the inspiration for a new conservation initiative led by the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) and the Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) designed to carry Smith's passion forward, protect habitats, support bird-focused education, and foster a love of birds for generations to come.

### Seeing the World Through Feathers

One of Smith's greatest gifts as a writer was her ability to make complex natural history both understandable and memorable. Rather than simply



**The Northern Goshawk — one of Smith's favorite birds and the inspiration behind TILT's Birds Rise Above It All endowment — soars through the forests she loved. Fierce, elusive, and powerful, it stands as a fitting symbol of her legacy and dedication to bird conservation. Learn more about the fund at [tilandtrust.org/sherri-smith-birds-rise-above-it-all-fund/](http://tilandtrust.org/sherri-smith-birds-rise-above-it-all-fund/).**

describing birds, she brought them vividly to life.

Writing about the American Bittern, a secretive marsh bird more often heard than seen, Smith captured the male's remarkable territorial call and display with characteristic humor and clarity. After observing the bird during its booming performance, she wrote,

*“Having observed male American Bitterns delivering this performance my impression is that they look about to explode. Clearly though it works for their lady love and, although declining, the species persists.”*

Moments like these reveal what made Smith's writing so distinctive. Her work explained behavior and ecology with scientific accuracy, while using language that invited readers into the experience of being outdoors. It made the sounds of a marsh or the rhythms of a forest feel real and immediate.

Smith also reminded readers that birds are more than fascinating creatures: they are indicators of the health of the environments we share. In writing about Northern Harriers, she noted that the species serves as a sign of healthy ecosystems,

*“Northern Harrier as a breeding species is an indicator of generally intact ecosystems... If we hopefully get it right, Northern Harriers will float above the open habitats of our region for eons to come.”*

This perspective reflects an important ecological truth: when bird populations thrive, it often means the landscapes they depend on—forests, wetlands, shorelines, and grasslands—are functioning as they should.

### A Landscape Connected by Migration

The Thousand Islands region lies within the Atlantic Flyway, one of North America's major migratory routes. Each spring and fall, millions of birds travel along this corridor between northern breeding grounds and southern wintering habitats. What makes the Thousand Islands especially crucial is its mix of open grasslands, forests, wetlands, islands, and shorelines that provide safe stopovers for resting, feeding, and nesting. For many species, these habitats are irreplaceable refueling stations on journeys that can span thousands of miles. Loss or degradation of these areas can directly impact the survival of migratory birds.

Smith often used familiar species to illustrate these remarkable patterns of movement. Writing about the Ovenbird, a small forest warbler more easily heard than seen, she described its distinctive song as “teacher, teacher, teacher,” noting that the bird arrives in northern forests each May and departs again by early autumn.

These seasonal arrivals and



**Smith inspiring the next generation of bird watchers and citizen scientists, encouraging everyone to take part in initiatives like TILT's annual Loon Census. Her belief in hands-on involvement helped communities connect with conservation in meaningful ways. Contributed.**

departures form a rhythm that defines the natural world of the region. For Smith, paying attention to that rhythm was a way of understanding how landscapes are connected far beyond the horizon.

Conservation organizations like TILT play a vital role in protecting these critical habitats. By conserving land along rivers, marshes, and forests, the Land Trust ensures that birds passing through this corridor have the resources they need to complete their migrations. This stewardship supports the birds while maintaining ecological integrity, benefiting all wildlife and the communities that depend on healthy landscapes.

For years, Smith highlighted stories of conservation successes, celebrating the people and projects that safeguard the region's wildlife and inspiring generations of readers to become stewards themselves. Reflecting on the recovery of Bald Eagles after decades of decline, she noted that increased public awareness and stronger environmental protections had helped the species rebound, writing that Bald Eagle populations are now “soaring.” Her voice blended optimism with realism, celebrating victories while urging vigilance. These stories remind readers that the presence of birds today is often the result of hard-won environmental progress, a principle that continues to guide TILT's work across more than 15,000 acres of

conserved land.

### Birds and People: A Shared Responsibility

Smith believed strongly that conservation is a shared responsibility. She encouraged participation in citizen science initiatives such as the Christmas Bird Count, the Loon Census, and eBird, highlighting that even small contributions help monitor species and inform conservation strategies. Writing about the importance of systematic observation, she explained, “Systematic data gathering on important habitats in our region... will greatly contribute to assuring these birds remain part of our natural communities.”

Her enthusiasm for sharing knowledge was evident at local events like TILT's annual Zenda Farms Community Picnic, where she could turn a casual encounter as the resident and self-proclaimed “bird nerd” into a lesson in discovery. As a renowned ornithologist, she dedicated much of her time to helping the community understand the importance of birds in the landscape, and if you knew Smith, you know she wasn't afraid to ruffle some feathers in the name of bird conservation.

### Carrying Sherri Smith's Legacy Forward

Inspired by Smith's life and work, TILT and the Northern New York Community Foundation have established the Birds Rise Above It All Fund, a permanent endowment supporting

# Legacy

From T29

bird conservation, habitat restoration, and education across the Thousand Islands region. After last year's \$25,000

**Summer Fun**  
match was fully claimed, the Community Foundation has offered another \$25,000 in 2026, giving donors a renewed chance to double their impact.

The fund supports projects that restore critical wetlands, grasslands, and forest edges; engage students, families, and visitors in educational programs; and encourage participation

in citizen science programs. By protecting migratory stopovers and breeding habitats, the fund ensures that birds can safely traverse the Atlantic Flyway and that people can continue to experience the ecological richness of Northern New York.

Smith's vision of community involvement, data-driven conservation, and long-term

stewardship is embedded in every aspect of the fund. She once wrote, "Dedicated people who cared... gave them that future," a reminder that lasting conservation depends on both people working together to protect the habitat birds rely on. Through the Birds Rise Above It All Fund, that vision continues. For more information regarding the Fund, please contact Terra Bach, Development Director, at 315-686-5345.

### Looking Up

Smith helped readers notice what often goes unseen: the call echoing from a hidden marsh, the pulse of migration overhead, or the quiet persistence of wildlife adapting to a changing world. Through her writing, she reminded us that birds are more than creatures of flight—they are messengers of the landscapes we share and indicators of the health of our natural world. Her words continue to inspire us to pause, to look, and to act, ensuring that these connections endure. Because as Smith so beautifully wrote, no matter the challenges, birds rise above it all—and so can we.

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# 25 Years. One River. Endless Ripples.

**MORE THAN 150 PADDLERS EXPECTED FOR PADDLE FOR BETTERMENT'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN ALEXANDRIA BAY**

**ALEXANDRIA BAY, 1000 ISLANDS, NY** — On the morning of July 11, paddlers from near and far are expected to launch onto the iconic waters of the St. Lawrence River as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards fill Alexandria Bay for the 25th Annual Paddle For Betterment Poker Run—one of the most unique and scenic paddling experiences in the Thousand Islands.

Part river adventure, part poker run, and part community celebration, Paddle For Betterment has become one of Alexandria Bay's most anticipated summer traditions.

For 25 years, Paddle For Betterment has brought people together to celebrate community, adventure, and the St. Lawrence River while supporting local individuals, families, organizations, scholarships, and community projects throughout Alexandria Bay.

This year, the Alexandria Bay Chapter of The Foundation for Community Betterment proudly celebrates the event's Silver Anniversary, inviting both longtime participants and first-time paddlers to become part of a tradition that has become woven into the fabric of life along the river.

What began as a small community fundraiser in 2001 has grown into one of the region's most beloved summer events. Along the way, hundreds of participants have experienced the beauty of the Thousand Islands while helping create a Ripple Effect of kindness throughout the community.

This year's anniversary theme, "Where the River Becomes a Tradition," reflects the deep connection many participants feel to both the event and the river itself.

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**PADDLE**  
for  
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WHERE THE RIVER BECOMES A TRADITION.

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Presented By: The Foundation for Community Betterment

25 YEARS. ONE COMMUNITY. ENDLESS RIPPLES.

"The St. Lawrence River has a way of getting into your blood," said Erica Garlock, Co-Chair of Paddle For Betterment. "For many people, Paddle For Betterment has become more than just an event. It's a tradition that marks the season, brings people together, and celebrates everything we love about life in the Thousand Islands. Some participants have been with us since the beginning. Others will be joining us for the very first time. No matter when you start, once you've experienced Paddle For Betterment, you become part of the story."

Unlike a traditional race, Paddle For Betterment is designed for everyone—from experienced paddlers to first-time participants, families, seasonal residents, and visitors discovering the

Thousand Islands for the first time.

Participants travel a scenic route through the St. Lawrence River by kayak, canoe, skiff, or paddleboard, collecting playing cards at designated checkpoints along the way. At the finish, the best poker hands earn prizes, creating a fun and relaxed atmosphere where the focus is less about speed and more about enjoying the journey.

Along the route, paddlers experience breathtaking views of the Thousand Islands, including Boldt Castle, freighters, historic waterfront cottages, hidden coves, and the natural beauty that has made the region one of North America's most treasured destinations.

The morning begins with one of the event's most memorable traditions—a

ceremonial Fire Boat Water Salute as participants launch from Alexandria Bay's Village Beach and begin their adventure on the river.

Yet Paddle For Betterment is about far more than paddling.

Over the past 25 years, the event has helped generate more than \$400,000 in support for local individuals, families, organizations, scholarships, and community projects through The Foundation for Community Betterment.

"People often register because it sounds fun," Garlock said. "They come back because of how it makes them feel. It's an opportunity to spend time on one of the most beautiful places in the world while helping make a difference right here in our community."

Whether you're returning for your 25th paddle or joining for your very first, this year's event is an opportunity to become part of a tradition that has been bringing people together on the St. Lawrence River for 25 years.

For many participants, Paddle For Betterment marks the true beginning of summer in the Thousand Islands.

#### EVENT DETAILS

- Saturday, July 11, 2026
- Village Beach – Alexandria Bay, New York
- Check-In Begins: 8:00 AM
- Launch: Approximately 9:00 AM following the Fire Boat Water Salute
- Adult Registration: \$50
- Youth Registration: \$25
- Save \$5 on registration through July 9 using promo code GIVE5
- Register Online: [www.CommunityBetterment.org/AlexandriaBay](http://www.CommunityBetterment.org/AlexandriaBay)

## Get hands-on in the Antique Boat Museum Boatyard this season

This season, the Antique Boat Museum invites you to roll up your sleeves and learn from skilled craftspeople through the 2026 Boatyard Classes. From traditional paddle-making and woodworking to canvas bag-making, bronze casting, and staining and brightwork, each class offers a chance to build lifelong skills while exploring the craftsmanship behind boats and life on the water.

#### Boatyard Classes

**July 11:** Family Birdhouse Building in Partnership with Save the River Price: \$40 per family | \$36 for members This hands-on family workshop focuses on protecting migratory birds. Participants will learn about local species and build wooden birdhouses designed to support them.

**August 11 & 13:** Canvas Bag Making with Molly Voth & Adam Stanisz Price: \$50 | \$45 for members Attendees will craft their own canvas boat bucket or traditional ditty bag, suitable for various uses and easily stowable. This workshop blends functionality and style for avid boaters and nautical craft lovers.

## Floating

From T27

um. There, they will take part in several interactive programs, including an Aquatic ROV exploration session with the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Unit and a Mock Oil Spill Cleanup lesson with a specialist from the Department of Environmental Conservation's Spill Response Division.

Throughout the day, Save the River will also run a selection of its most popular educational programs.

Parents can register their teens for the event online. A liability and photo release agreement will be required. Drop-off is at the Discovery Center at 9 a.m., and pickup will be at the Antique Boat Museum at 3:30 p.m.

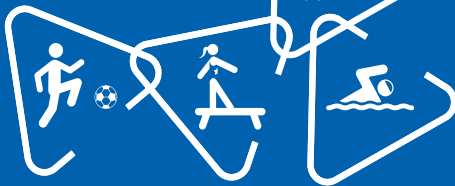
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## Antique Boat Museum partners with Future Fisherman Foundation for free youth program: Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs

CLAYTON — The Antique Boat Museum (ABM) is proud to continue its collaboration with the Future Fisherman Foundation by hosting Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs, a FREE two-day educational program for youth ages 8–17. This acclaimed program will run July 7–8, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at ABM's scenic waterfront campus in Clayton, NY.

Developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation, Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs introduces young people to the joys of angling while using the sport to promote healthy choices and life skills. Participants will explore the basics of fishing, fish biology, and the importance of environmental stewardship, all while developing critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving abilities.

Local fishing guide Tom Gillette of Classic Charters will lead the instruction, providing hands-on lessons and personal expertise over two mornings of fishing and outdoor education. The program will conclude with a traditional 1000 Islands Shore Dinner—a

memorable way to celebrate new friendships and skills.

Thanks to the generosity of the Future Fisherman Foundation and local supporters, the program is entirely free of charge. Students will also receive their own fishing gear to continue practicing the hobby beyond the classroom.

"ABM is thrilled to offer this experience to local youth and hopes to spark a lifelong appreciation for the water, conservation, and the outdoors," said Molly Voth, Museum Educator. "It's about more than just fishing—it's about giving young people confidence, community, and a sense of belonging."

Class size is limited to 18 students, and advance registration is required. Book online now at [www.abm.org](http://www.abm.org).

ABM and the Future Fisherman Foundation also welcome community involvement through donations of funds or fishing gear to support this important work. For more information or to contribute to the program, please contact Molly Voth at [mvoth@abm.org](mailto:mvoth@abm.org) or 315.686.4104 ext. 225.



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