

Southern RI, Block Island and the Greater Mystic Area



# Summer Fun

## and DINING GUIDE



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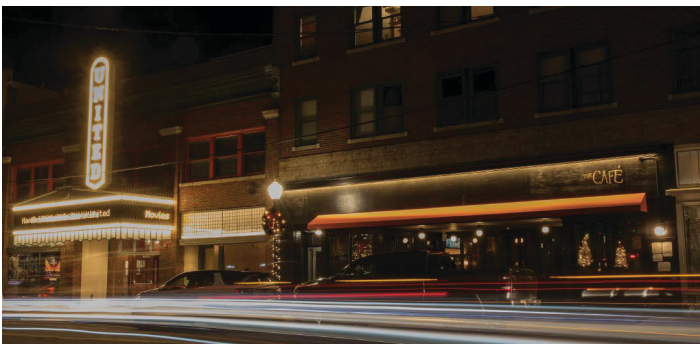
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and DINING GUIDE

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The Westerly Sun  
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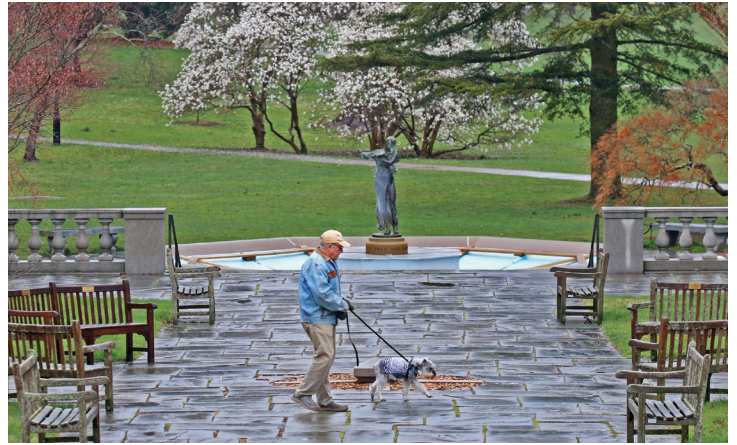


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# Mark Your Calendar

## WESTERLY

### MAY to OCTOBER:

#### Misquamicut Drive-In Movie Theater

Classic movies will be shown on the outdoor movie screen and live concerts will be presented on the stage at the Wuskenau Town Beach, Pondsides Lot, 316 Atlantic Ave., Westerly. For schedule or more information, visit [mbadrivein.com](http://mbadrivein.com).

### MAY 22:

#### Will Evans

Known for his dynamic live performances, Will Evans weaves together acoustic guitar, handpan, didgeridoo, beatboxing, and percussion to create a fluid, organic sound that feels both grounded and expansive. The performance will be at 8 p.m. at the United Theatre, 5 Canal St., Westerly. Tickets are \$30.50. For tickets and more information, visit [unitedtheatre.org](http://unitedtheatre.org).

### MAY 22 to JULY 22:

#### Tom McCoy Summer Fun Run series

The Westerly Track Club will hold free fun runs every Wednesday at 6 p.m. from May 28 to July 30, starting at the back parking lot of the Pleasant View Inn, 65 At-

lantic Ave., Misquamicut. Races include 1/3 mile for children, 1 mile and 5 K. Registration begins at 5:30. No entry fee. For more information and course maps, visit [westerlytrackclub.org](http://westerlytrackclub.org).

### MAY 23, 24:

#### Virtu Art Festival

The 30th annual Virtu Art Festival will be held Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be 150 selected artists from around the country featuring and selling their artwork. Live music and food will be available. Admission is free.

### MAY 25:

#### Westerly-Pawcatuck Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade in Westerly will be held Monday, May 26, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Pawcatuck Shopping Center, 37 South Broad St., Pawcatuck. The parade will continue through the center of Westerly and end in Wilcox Park, where there will be music and a guest speaker at the gazebo.

### JUNE to SEPTEMBER 6:

#### Hop On, Hop Off Harbor Cruises Return to Thames River

Join the park over the weekend to kick off the start of the Hop On, Hop Off Harbor Cruise season! Your ticket becomes an All-Day Pass that allows you to hop on and off at your leisure or enjoy the one-hour loop along the river. [www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/water-taxi/](http://www.thamesriverheritagepark.org/water-taxi/)

### JUNE to OCTOBER:

#### Babcock-Smith House Museum Tours

The Babcock-Smith House Museum, 124 Granite St., Westerly, will be open for tours in June, September and October on Saturdays, 2 to 5 p.m.; and in July and August, Thursdays through Sundays, 2 to 5 p.m. To request a tour on another day, call 401-596-5704. For more information, visit [babcock-smithhouse.com](http://babcock-smithhouse.com).

### JUNE 6:

#### Salt Marsh presents Brooklyn Youth Chorus

Evening performance with piano,

viola, and percussion from the Grammy Award-winning ensemble will be held at the George Kent Performance Hall, 119 High St. at 7 p.m. For more information, email [info@saltmarshopera.org](mailto:info@saltmarshopera.org) or call 860-535-3456.

#### Pride in the Park

Pride is coming to Wilcox Park! Join us as we celebrate Pride Month with activities, gelato, and fun! We'll have local businesses and nonprofits joining to share helpful resources and information. Sat., June 6 from noon to 2:00 p.m. Wilcox Park, 44 Broad St., Westerly, RI [www.westerlylibrary.org/event/pride-park-2](http://www.westerlylibrary.org/event/pride-park-2)

### JUNE 7, 14, 21:

#### Sunday Funday

Sunday Funday is an outdoor marketplace featuring live music, street vendors and artists, and restaurants and bars set up on High Street in downtown Westerly; held from noon to 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 401-596-7761 or visit [oceanchamber.org](http://oceanchamber.org).



Visit the brewery, distillery and beer garden on Canal Street in Westerly!  
[www.greysailbrewing.com](http://www.greysailbrewing.com)  
[www.southcountydillers.com](http://www.southcountydillers.com)

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**JUNE 12:**

**Shakey Graves to perform**

The United, 5 Canal St., Westerly, will host a performance by Shakey Graves on their Fondness, Etc., tour. Concert begins at 8 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit [unitedtheatre.org](http://unitedtheatre.org).

**JUNE 13:**

**Christ Church Annual Tag Sale**

Christ Church, located at 7 Elm St., Westerly will hold their annual tag sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**JUNE 14:**

**Stars and Stripes: Flag Day at the Armory**

On display will be early United States' flags in addition to Rhode Island, Thin Blue and Red Line flags, and displays of Americana. This is a walk-through event. Suggested donation \$5, (children under 10 free). The armory is located at 41 Railroad Ave., Westerly.

**Children's Concert**

Westerly Band presents its annual Children's Concert in Wilcox Park at the bandstand, featuring children's favorites that are enjoyed by all ages. Parade in the park with Mama Bear to "Teddy Bear's Picnic." The concert and parade run from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**JUNE 30:**

**The Mystic Dead**

The Watch Hill Sunset Concert series will host a performance by The Mystic Dead on the green in the village Watch Hill, Bay Street at 6 p.m. The concert is free. Rain date is the following Tuesday.

**JULY and AUGUST:**

**Misquamicut Classic Car Cruise Nights**

Classics, military and specialty cars will be held on Tuesday nights at 316 Atlantic Ave., Wuskenau Beach in the pondsie lot. Featuring DJ The Doc and \$100 prize awarded weekly. No entry fee.

**JULY 3:**

**Special tours of the Westerly Armory**

The Armory will be open for special tours of the entire building in addition to its award-winning museum. Even the tower will be open for a visit and to see the amazing view from up high on the Armory's roof. Free, but donations most welcome. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the armory is located at 41 Railroad Ave.

**JULY 4:**

**Westerly 250 Time Capsule**

Check [oceanchamber.org](http://oceanchamber.org) for more details to come.

**JULY 14:**

**Professor Roots**

The Watch Hill Sunset Concert series will host a performance by Professor Roots on the green in the village Watch Hill, Bay Street at 6 p.m. The concert is free. Rain date is the following Tuesday.



**JUNE 20:**

**Summer Pops**

The Chorus of Westerly will hold its annual Summer Pops Concert in Wilcox Park, downtown Westerly, on Saturday, June 20, at 8 p.m. Raindate is Sunday, June 21. The pre-show starts at 6:00 p.m., with local entertainment. The concert is free and open to the public, although donations will be gratefully accepted. Blankets may not be put down until after 5 p.m. on Friday. For more information, visit [chorusofwesterly.org](http://chorusofwesterly.org) or call 401-596-8663.

**JUNE 17:****Philip Freneau's War Poetry Reading**

Presented by Robert Madison and three readers. On the anniversary of Bunker Hill, and two days before the anniversary of the date that the Bon Homme Richard sailed from France, this group will present a program around Freneau's war poetry at 6 p.m. at the Westerly Library, 44 Broad St.

**Bruce Harris' Birth of the Cool—Celebrating Miles Davis**

The United, 5 Canal St., Westerly, will host a performance by trumpeter Bruce Harris celebrating the music and legacy of Miles Davis in honor of his 100th birthday. Concert begins at 8 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit [unitedtheatre.org](http://unitedtheatre.org).

**JULY 19:****Shovels and Rope**

The United, 5 Canal St., Westerly, will host a performance by Shovels and Rope, acclaimed folk-rock duo. Concert begins at 8 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit [unitedtheatre.org](http://unitedtheatre.org).

**JULY 28:****The Lion Sisters**

The Watch Hill Sunset Concert series will host a performance by The Lion Sisters on the green in the village Watch Hill, Bay Street at 6 p.m. The concert is free. Rain date is the following Tuesday.

**JULY 29:****Tunes on the Dunes**

July 29 at 6:00 p.m. at 365 Atlantic Ave, Westerly, RI 02891

**AUGUST 1:****24th Annual River Glow**

From 7-10 p.m., the summer tradition transforms downtown Westerly-Pawcatuck into a vibrant celebration, featuring glowing bonfires floating on the Pawcatuck River. Festivities begin in Donahue Park with a variety of food vendors, family-friendly activities, and local artisans. Live music by TBD and steel drumming.

**AUGUST 11:****Willie J. Laws Band**

The Watch Hill Sunset Concert series will host a performance by the Willie J. Laws Band on the green in the village Watch Hill, Bay Street at 6 p.m. The concert is free. Rain date is the following Tuesday.

**AUGUST 16:****St. Michael Assumption Procession**

The procession begins at St Michael the Archangel Church, Liberty Street, Pawcatuck, at 11 a.m.

**AUGUST 25:****Zillmusik**

The Watch Hill Sunset Concert series will host a performance by Zillmusik on the green in the village Watch Hill, Bay Street at 6 p.m. The concert is free. Rain date is the following Tuesday.

**SEPTEMBER 13:****Surftown Half Marathon, Relay & 5K presented by Westerly Hospital**

A spectacular beach race featuring stunning views! The half marathon course runs into the pristine neighborhoods of Watch Hill first before entering Weekapaug and running along the coastline and through the picturesque beach community. Register now at <https://www.hartfordmarathon.com/surftown-half-marathon-relay-5k/>

**OCTOBER 9 to 25****The Crucible**

Granite Theatre, 1 Granite Street, Westerly, RI 02891

Experience the gripping tension of Salem in Arthur Miller's iconic drama, *The Crucible*. Set during the infamous witch trials, the play delves into fear, hysteria, and the devastating power of suspicion and betrayal. With complex characters, moral dilemmas, and a story that still resonates today, *The Crucible* is a haunting exploration of truth, integrity, and the human spirit under pressure.

## Stay safe when around fireworks

Fireworks have been integral components of celebrations for centuries. These pyrotechnics originated in ancient China, with their earliest forms thought to be made from bamboo stalks thrown into a fire. Fireworks ultimately evolved into gunpowder-filled paper tubes. Modern fireworks still largely use traditional gunpowder as well as additional ingredients like aluminum and iron to create flashes, bangs and sparks. Additional elements are blended to create the colors that make for vivid fireworks displays.

Fireworks can be a wonder to behold, but there is no denying that shooting them off can be dangerous business. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that eight deaths and an estimated 9,700 injuries involving fireworks occurred in 2023. Of the eight deaths, five were associated with misuse of fireworks and two with a device malfunction. Fireworks injuries increased between 2008 and 2023, which underscores the importance of fireworks safety.

To celebrate safely, the CPSC urges consumers to follow these tips:

- Make sure fireworks are legal where you live and only purchase and set off those that are labeled for consumer use. Never purchase fireworks that are designed for professionals.
  - Children should not be allowed to play with or ignite fireworks. This includes sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures that can reach or exceed 2,000 F, which is hot enough to melt some metals.
  - Stay sober when using fireworks. Alcohol or drug impairment can cause people to act recklessly and make mistakes when handling fireworks.
  - Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case of fire or another mishap.
  - Only light one firework at a time, then move away from it quickly.
  - Soak malfunctioning fireworks in water. Do not try to relight them.
  - Never place any part of your body directly over a firework when lighting the fuse.
  - Never point or throw fireworks at anyone.
  - Douse spent fireworks with water before tossing them in the trash.
- Spectators should remain at a distance from any fireworks being ignited. Fireworks should be lit away from buildings or trees. Many times it is safer to let professionals handle the fireworks since they are trained in the proper safety precautions.



# How to maximize weekend getaways

Extended summer vacations may get all of the glory, but individuals and families needn't feel pressured to go away on week-long trips to get the rest and relaxation they deserve. There is plenty to be said for weekend getaways as well.

Working oneself ragged is no way to enjoy life. In fact, a person could be doing harm to his or her health by working too much, which may lead to lost productivity and burnout in the long run. Experts agree that getting away could be good for mental health. According to psychotherapist Jonathan Alpert, who is the author of "Be Fearless: Change Your Life in 28 Days," a weekend trip can boost mental and emotional health. Alpert says smaller vacations even "pack a bigger punch" than longer ones. Neuroscientists have found that getaways can evoke feelings of calm, banish stress and enable the mind to heal. Furthermore, according to a Gallup study, those who make time for regular trips score higher on the Gallup-Well-Being Index. Weekend getaways simply may be easier to schedule than longer vacations.

The following are some ways to make the most of weekend getaways and why these getaways are so beneficial.

- **Plan ahead.** Weekend getaways generally do not need extensive planning. The logistics are much easier when there are only one or two nights involved in an overnight stay. Sometimes weekend getaways are only day trips, which makes them even easier to set up.

- **Bring pets along.** Short stays may mean it is easier to bring pets. Quite often hotel chains and even homestay accommodations allow pets with the inclusion of a pet cleaning fee. This saves on having to find a pet sitter or a boarder to watch pets while you are away.

- **Book a different locale a few times a month.** Weekend getaways are more affordable than lengthier trips, which means you can see various sights without a big investment. Unlike longer vacations that tie travelers to a specific destination for the duration of the trip, weekend jaunts are short stops at different spots. Try various cities and towns on for size.

- **Avoid boredom.** Anyone who has booked an extended trip away has at times had some boredom set in when the initial wow factor of the resort or trip wears off. In some instances, it may seem as if you've exhausted the list of things to do. Weekend getaways are anything but boring because you're packing so many things to do into a short amount of time.

- **Keep a to-go bag packed.** When the mood hits you, you can dart off to a weekend escape. Keep a packed bag with some essentials at the ready so there's no overthinking the vacation process.

- **Become a loyalty member.** Investigate the loyalty programs of various hotel chains. This way if you find a chain you like and book stays regularly you can earn rewards points. These points may be redeemed for upgrades or even free rooms over time.

Weekend getaways are great ways to rest and recharge without the commitment of time and planning required of longer excursions.



# Mark Your Calendar

## CHARLESTOWN, HOPKINTON, RICHMOND, WAKEFIELD, NARRAGANSETT, & SOUTH KINGSTOWN

### MAY to SEPTEMBER:

#### Stargazing at Frosty Drew Observatory

Stargazing at Frosty Drew Observatory, Ninigret Park, 61 Park Lane, Charlestown, will be held at dusk on Fridays, weather permitting. Learn about the stars at one of the best dark sky sites on the east coast. Admission is free with registration recommended. Donations of \$5 are suggested for visitors over the age of 5. To register or for more information, visit frostydraw.org.

### MAY to OCTOBER:

#### Cross' Mills Farmers Market

From May to October on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., a farmers market will be held at 4219 Old Post Road, Charlestown.

### MAY 28 to JUNE 20:

#### "Little Shop of Horrors"

Theatre by the Sea, 364 Cards Pond Road, Matunuck, will present the musical "Little Shop of Horrors." The show will run Tuesdays through Sundays. Tickets can be purchased at the theater box office, by calling 401-782-8587 or visit theatrebythesea.com

### JUNE to AUGUST:

#### Charlestown Land Trust Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market will be held throughout the summer on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 4150 Old Post Road, Charlestown.

### JUNE 5:

#### The Senders

The Senders will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

### JUNE 12:

#### Three-Legged Dog Three-Legged Dog

will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

### JUNE 14:

#### Field Day at the Washington County Fairgrounds

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm at 78 Richmond Townhouse Road, Richmond, RI. Food, games, music, and more!

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## CHARLESTOWN

Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Information Center  
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**Founder's Day**

General Stanton Inn celebrates America's 250th birthday in colonial style. Revolutionary War soldier demonstrations, fife and drum, children's colonial craft-making, food and drink. Located at 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown.

**JUNE 19:**

**Hurricane**

Hurricane will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**JUNE 20:**

**Environmental Awareness Day**

Environmental Awareness Day will be held at the Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**JUNE 20, 21:**

**Narragansett Fine Art Festival**

The Rotary Club of Wakefield will sponsor the 42nd Annual Narragansett Fine Art Festival on Saturday and Sunday, from 9

a.m. to 6 p.m., in Veteran's Park, 35 Ocean Road, Narragansett. Over 100 artists will display their work, varying from oils, acrylics, photography, watercolor, pastels, drawings, sculpture and more. For more information, visit [wakefielddrotary.com](http://wakefielddrotary.com).

**JUNE 25 to JULY 18:**

**"Grease"**

Theatre by the Sea, 364 Cards Pond Road, Matunuck, will present the musical "Grease." The show will run Tuesdays through Sundays. Tickets can be purchased at the theater box office, by calling 401-782-8587 or visit [theatrebythesea.com](http://theatrebythesea.com).

**JUNE 26:**

**Amber Rose & the Renegades**

Amber Rose & the Renegades will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**JUNE 26 to July 19:**

**"Into the Woods"**

Contemporary Theater, 327 Main St., Wakefield, will perform "Into the Woods," the witty, poignant, and unforgettable musical with Stephen Sondheim's gorgeous score. For tickets and more information, visit [contemporary-theatercompany.com](http://contemporary-theatercompany.com).

**June 27, July 18 and August 15:**

**Farmers Markets**

Our Farmers Market brings together local growers, makers, and small businesses for a seasonal gathering rooted in community. Fresh produce, handmade goods, flowers, and thoughtfully crafted products — all in one welcoming space. Come shop local, connect, and support the people who grow and create right here in our community. 5153 Old Post Road, Charlestown, RI. Admission is FREE!

**JUNE 27:**

**Classic Car Show**

General Stanton Inn, 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown, hosts the annual car show featuring

classic and antique cars. The lobster shack will serve food, non-alcoholic and adult beverages.

**JUNE 28:**

**Annual Summer Festival**

Local band performs all day. Vintage vendors, local crafters, children's games, beer tents, seafood and barbecue. Free family event. General Stanton Inn, 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown.

**JUNE 29 to SEPTEMBER 19:**

**Narragansett Parks & Recreation 2026 Summer Series**

Get ready for a summer filled with music, movies, and unforgettable nights by the sea—all FREE and open to the public! Grab your chairs, blankets, and your favorite people. Concerts on the Beach – Mondays, 6:30–8:00PM. Gazebo Concert Series – Fridays, 6:00–7:30PM (Veteran's Park). Movies on the Beach – Wednesdays at Dusk (Cabana Horseshoe)

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# KINGSTON CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Kingston Chamber Music Festival will host a series of concerts.  
For more information, programs, and ticket information visit [kingstonchambermusic.org](http://kingstonchambermusic.org)  
or email [boxoffice@kingstonchambermusic.org](mailto:boxoffice@kingstonchambermusic.org).

### Concert 1: 250 Years – A Chamber Music Journey from 1776 to Modern America

Date: Friday, July 24, 2026  
Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM  
Location: Edwards Hall 64 Upper College Road, South Kingstown, RI 02881

### Concert 2: The British Are Coming

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2026  
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Location: Edwards Hall 64 Upper College Road, South Kingstown, RI 02881

### Concert 3: Mozart and Britten

Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026  
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Location: Edwards Hall 64 Upper College Road, South Kingstown, RI 02881

### Off-Campus Concert: Conversation with Bach

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026  
Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM  
Location: 383 Old North Road South Kingstown, RI 02881

### Concert 4: Between Worlds

Date: Friday, July 31, 2026  
Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM  
Location: Edwards Hall 64 Upper College Road, South Kingstown, RI 02881

### Concert 5: Nightingale's Encore

Date: Saturday, August 1, 2026  
Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM  
Location: Edwards Hall 64 Upper College Road, South Kingstown, RI 02881

### Concert 6: Youth and Memory

Date: Sunday, August 2, 2026  
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Location: Edwards Hall 64 Upper College Road, South Kingstown, RI 02881

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**Narragansett Fireworks**  
Thursday, July 2 or Friday, July 3  
(at dusk)

**JULY 4:**

**South Kingstown Fireworks**  
9:00PM

**JULY 3:**

**Rhode to Bali**  
Rhode to Bali will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**JULY 4:**

**Quonnie Fourth of July 4-Mile Fun Run**  
Held at 98 Ninigret Ave, Charlestown (Quonochontaug), this event starts at 7:30 AM (registration online only).

**JULY 8 to AUGUST 1:**

**“Love’s Labour’s Lost”**  
Contemporary Theatre, 327 Main St., Wakefield, will present Shakespeare on the Saugatucket: Love’s Labour’s Lost” at 7 p.m. on various days on the riverfront patio. For tickets and more information, visit contemporarytheatercompany.com/season or call 401-218-0282.

**JULY 12:**

**Bluegrass Festival**  
Top Rhode Island bluegrass bands perform live under the tent all day. Seafood and barbecue, local craft beers, bourbons. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs. General Stanton Inn, 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown. Tickets are \$20, children free.

**JULY 17:**

**The Hitmen**  
The Hitmen will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**JULY 19:**

**Stanton Music Festival**  
Top Rhode Island bluegrass bands perform live under the tent all day. Seafood and barbecue, local craft beers, bourbons. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs. General Stanton Inn, 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown. Tickets are \$20, children free.

**JULY 23 to AUGUST 15:**

**“Titanic, The Broadway Musical”**  
Theatre by the Sea, 364 Cards Pond Road, Matunuck, will present the musical “Titanic, The Broadway Musical.” The show will run Tuesdays through Sundays. Tickets can be purchased at the theater box office, by calling 401-782-8587 or visit theatrebythesea.com.

**JULY 23 to 25:**

**Narragansett Blessing of the Fleet**  
The Narragansett Lions Club Blessing of the Fleet features a three-day festival with food,

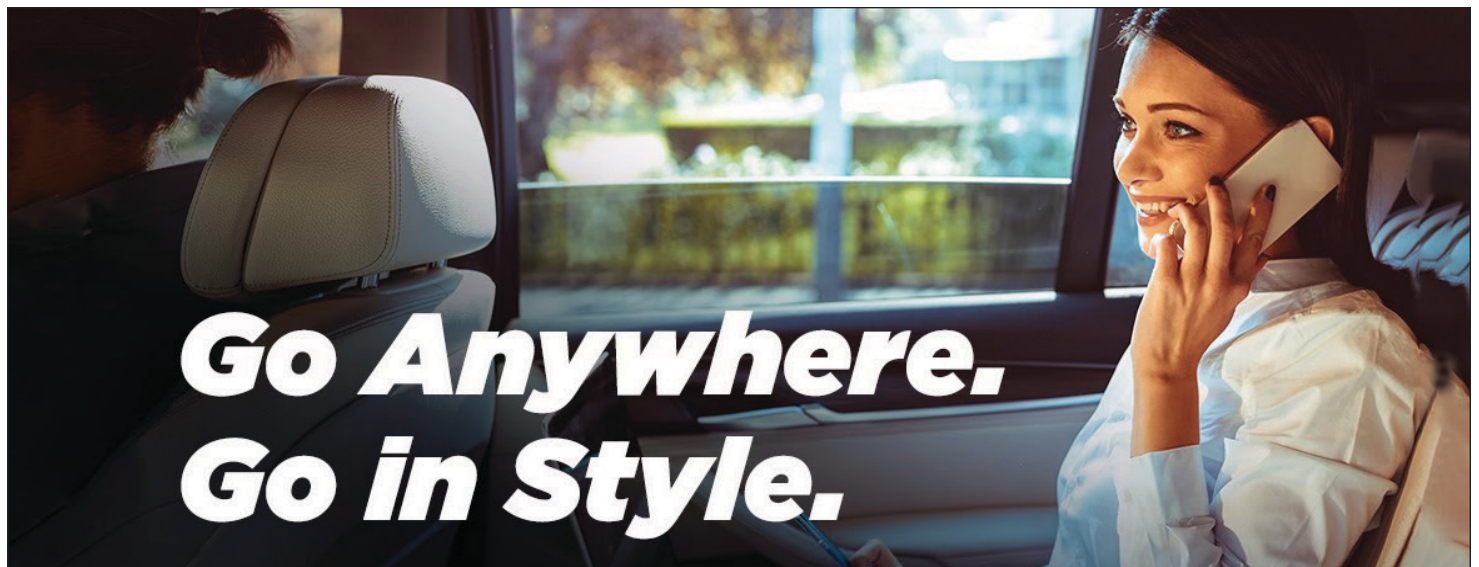
games, rides, beer tent and live music, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 4 to 10:30 p.m., at Memorial Square in Narragansett; a 10-mile road race on Friday beginning at 6 p.m.; and the Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, at noon, at Salty Brine State Beach parking lot, Galilee. For full schedule, visit narragansettclub.org.

**JULY 26:**

**Lobster Festival**  
A classic New England lobster bake with boiled lobster, corn on the cob and clam chowder, served under the music tent. Family friendly, seating is limited. General Stanton Inn, 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown.

**JULY 29:**

**Nick Bottone Track Mile**  
Free timed measured one-mile runs in Ninigret Park, 5 Park Lane, Charlestown. At 6 p.m., a children’s run of 1/3 mile will be held, followed by the mile races. Sponsored by the Westerly Track and Athletic Club. Registration required. Visit westerlytrackclub.org to register.



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**July 31:**

**The Side Cars Band**

The Side Cars Band will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**AUGUST 2:**

**Country Music Festival**

Top Rhode Island country music artists perform live under the Stanton tent. Seafood, barbecue, beer, and bourbon. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs. General Stanton Inn, 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown. Tickets are \$20, children free.

**AUGUST 7 to SEPTEMBER 12:**

**“The Importance of Being Earnest”**

Contemporary Theatre, 327 Main St., Wakefield, will present “The Importance of Being Earnest” on various days and times. For tickets and more information, visit [contemporarytheatercompany.com/season](http://contemporarytheatercompany.com/season) or call 401-218-0282.



**AUGUST 7 to 9:**

**Charlestown Seafood Festival**

The Charlestown Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Seafood Festival at Ninigret Park, Route 1A, Charlestown on Friday, noon to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The event will include food vendors serving seafood, including lobsters, steamers, chowder, fish and chips and clam cakes, Rockwell Amusements rides, live music performances throughout the weekend and fireworks on Saturday at 9 p.m. Rain or shine. View more festival details at [charlestownri-chamber.com](http://charlestownri-chamber.com).

**AUGUST 7:**

**The Complaints**

The Complaints will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**AUGUST 12 to 16:**

**Washington County Fair**

The annual Washington County Fair will be held Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., at the fairgrounds, 80 Richmond Townhouse Road, Richmond. The fair will feature day and evening events, livestock exhibits, arts and crafts, tractor pulls, antique car show, pie eating contests, continuous musical entertainment, a wide variety of food, rides, and a featured music performance every night. For more details on daily events, visit [washingtoncountyfair-ri.com](http://washingtoncountyfair-ri.com).

**AUGUST 14:**

**Take It to the Bridge**

Take It to the Bridge will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**AUGUST 20 to SEPTEMBER 13:**

**“You’ve still got a friend”**

Theatre by the Sea, 364 Cards Pond Road, Matunuck, will present the musical “You’ve still got a friend.” The show will run Tuesdays through Sundays. Tickets can be purchased at the theater box office, by calling 401-782-8587 or visit [theatrebythesea.com](http://theatrebythesea.com).

**AUGUST 21:**

**Barfly**

Barfly will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

**AUGUST 23:**

**Blues Music Festival**

Top Rhode Island blues artists perform live under the Stanton tent. Seafood, barbecue, beer, and bourbon. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs. General Stanton Inn, 4115 Old Post Road, Charlestown. Tickets are \$20, children free.

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### AUGUST 29:

**Rebels, Tom Petty tribute**  
The Rebels will perform as part of the Gazebo Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m., at Gazebo Park, 5 Ocean Road, Narragansett. The concert is free.

### SEPTEMBER 4 to 6:

**Rhythm and Roots Festival**  
The Rhythm and Roots Festival will be held Labor Day Weekend at Ninigret Park, Route 1A, Charlestown. Camping opens Friday at noon. The stage and vendor area opens at 4 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Music begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, and 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. To purchase tickets, visit [rhythmandroots.com](http://rhythmandroots.com).



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# The various types of summer camps

Parents have lots of options at their disposal when choosing summer camps for their children. Competition for summer camp can be fierce, as camps only have a limited number of openings, many of which fill up quickly once enrollment begins. So it's in parents' and kids' best interest to identify their summer camp options early so they can be ready to pounce when enrollment begins.

### Sports camps

Sports camps are wildly popular. Sports camps tend to specialize in one sport, like basketball, soccer or football, and may be overseen by a local high school coach and his staff. These camps are a great way for kids to have fun playing a sport they love, and also serve as a great opportunity for young athletes to learn the fundamentals of a given sport and fine-tune their existing skills or, in the case of less experienced children, develop new ones.

### Outdoor-centric camps

Sometimes characterized as adventure camps or nature camps, these offerings tend to be centered around physical activities that bring children into direct contact with the great outdoors. Kayaking, rafting, zip-lining, hiking, and rock climbing are just some of the outdoors activities children may be introduced to over a typical summer at outdoor-centric camps. Some outdoor-centric camps also teach survival skills, and many pride them-

selves on preparing campers to take on leadership positions on outdoor excursions.

### STEM camps

STEM camps incorporate activities that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math into each day's offerings. Campers may be part of teams that design and build robots. Coding a website also may be a project campers take on at a STEM camp. Parents concerned that STEM camps keep kids indoors for much of the summer are urged to ask staffers how much time kids spend outside and away from screens while enrolled at the camp. Many STEM camps make a concerted effort to offer ample outdoors time, but it's best to ask prior to enrolling a youngster in STEM camp.

### Arts camps

Arts camps may introduce children to activities like painting and drawing or performance arts like theater and dancing. These camps also cater to kids with ample experience in artistic pursuits, and some may specialize on a particular one. So arts camps can be great for both newcomers and more experienced children.

### Religious camps

Religious camps are another popular option. These camps emphasize faith-based teachings and spiritual activities but also tend to incorporate more traditional camp experiences, like



outdoor play and other pursuits, into their daily schedules. Religious camps may be offered to congregants and non-congregants alike.

Academic camps and special needs camps are some additional summer camps options families can consider as they seek to ensure youngsters have a fun and memorable summer.



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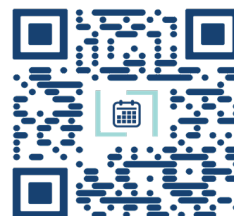
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[SOUTHCOUNTYHEALTH.ORG/SCHEDULE](https://southcountyhealth.org/schedule)

# High Volume, Higher Stakes: How Triage Guides Summer ER Care

Recent reporting in the Providence Journal highlighted that Rhode Island has the third longest average emergency department wait times in the country at 3 hours and 40 minutes.

That statistic understandably raises an important question: How did we get here?

Across Rhode Island and much of the country, emergency departments are facing increased demand, workforce shortages, and higher patient acuity. But one of the other significant local drivers is the primary care shortage. An estimated 300,000 Rhode Islanders are currently without a primary care provider (PCP). Without access to timely primary care, many patients turn to emergency departments and express care centers for sick visits and chronic condition management — care settings that were never designed to function as a substitute for primary care. For patients and families, that can translate into longer waits and greater anxiety.

## Why Wait Times Occur

Emergency departments use a triage system to quickly assess patients and determine the severity of their condition. Individuals experiencing life-threatening symptoms — such as chest pain, stroke-like symptoms, severe breathing difficulty, or major trauma — are treated immediately. Patients with less critical conditions may wait longer, especially during periods of high volume.

Other factors that influence wait times include:

- The number of patients arriving at the same time
- The complexity of cases being treated
- Availability of inpatient beds for patients who need admission

“Emergency departments are designed to treat the sickest and most seriously injured patients first,” said Peter Graves, MD, MBA, Medical Director of the Emergency Department at South County Health. “That means care is prioritized by medical need, not by arrival time. If someone who arrives after you is seen first, it’s because their condition is more urgent. Emergency care today is also more complex than ever. We’re seeing patients who are older, who have multiple chronic conditions, and who may require more extensive testing and coordination. All of that affects throughput.”

## Why South County Health Is Different

While Rhode Island’s statewide average



Dr. Ryan Hudson Vice Chief of Emergency Services at South County Hospital

wait time approaches four hours, South County Hospital’s current average walk-in wait time is 45–60 minutes.

For South County Hospital Emergency Department patients utilizing the digital Get in Line feature before they arrive, the average wait drops to 27. While this tool does not bypass triage or delay care for critically ill patients, it improves flow and reduces time spent in the waiting room for appropriate cases.

Additionally, with organizational investments in access and provider recruitment efforts in primary care, South County Health has successfully scheduled or reassigned approximately 10,000 new primary care patients over the past year, thereby relieving pressure on the emergency department.

“Emergency medicine is a safety net,” Dr. Graves said. “We are always here, 24-7, when something serious happens. But the stronger the overall healthcare system is — from primary care to specialty services — the better it functions for everyone.”

## When to Go to the Emergency Department

One of the most important steps patients can take is understanding when emergency care is appropriate.

Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department immediately if you experience:

- Chest pain or pressure
- Sudden shortness of breath
- Signs of stroke (face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty)
- Severe bleeding
- Head injury with confusion or loss of consciousness
- Severe abdominal pain

- High fever in a very young infant

For non-life-threatening conditions — such as minor injuries, mild infections, or routine illnesses — express care centers or primary care providers may be appropriate alternatives and often have shorter wait times.

“Choosing the right level of care helps both the patient and the overall healthcare system,” said Dr. Graves. “When emergency departments are reserved for true emergencies, we’re better able to deliver rapid, lifesaving treatment to those who need it most.”

## Steps Patients Can Take

While emergencies are unpredictable, a few proactive measures can help reduce stress and delays:

- Keep a current list of medications and medical conditions readily available.
- Know your health history, including allergies and past surgeries.
- Bring identification and insurance information if possible.
- Consider using digital pre-registration tools if offered by your local hospital.

Some hospitals now offer online pre-check-in features that allow patients to provide basic information before arriving. While these tools do not bypass triage or guarantee immediate treatment, they can streamline the registration process.

“At our emergency department, we’ve seen how digital tools like Get in Line can help improve flow for appropriate patients,” Dr. Graves noted. “It doesn’t replace triage, and it won’t delay care for someone critically ill, but it can make the overall experience more efficient.”

Visit [southcountyhealth.org](https://southcountyhealth.org) to learn more.



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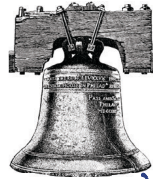


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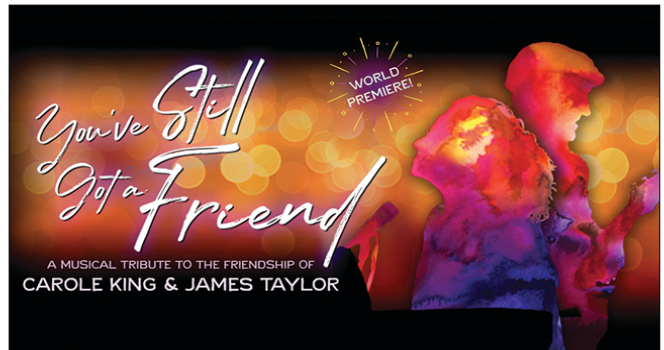
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## WICKFORD, NORTH KINGSTOWN AND NEWPORT

### JUNE 19 to 21:

#### Newport Flower Show: "Pearls of Newport"

Newport Preservation Society's Newport Flower Show will be held Friday to Sunday at the Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Ave., Newport. The show includes floral designs, special garden exhibits, free lectures and demonstrations. For more information on daily events and tickets, visit [newportflowershow.org](http://newportflowershow.org) or email [events@newportmansions.org](mailto:events@newportmansions.org).

### JUNE 10:

#### Lafayette Band Concert

The Lafayette Band will perform a free RI250th concert at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Bandstand, 10 Beach Way, North Kingstown. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

### JUNE 21:

#### Lafayette Band Concert

The Lafayette Band will perform a free RI250th concert at 5 p.m. at the Varnum House Museum, 57

Peirce Street East Greenwich, RI. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

### JUNE 24:

#### Lafayette Band Concert

The Lafayette Band will perform a free joint concert with Rhode Island Wind Ensemble at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Bandstand, 10 Beach Way, North Kingstown. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

### JULY 2 to 19:

#### Newport Classical Music Festival

For 57 years, Newport Classical has turned the "City by the Sea" into a summer destination for music lovers. With 30 concerts across 11 venues, from cliff-side lawns to gilded mansions, audiences experience the sights and sounds of Newport like never before. Newport Classical showcases classical music as a living art form, presenting artists and programs that are diverse and ever-evolving in intimate

and iconic venues that make every performance one-of-a-kind. Whether you're discovering a new composer, revisiting a beloved work, or experiencing a timeless piece in a fresh way, the 2026 Festival offers a world of music waiting to be experienced. There will be chamber music, opera, and themed events throughout the festival. For more information, visit [newportmusic.org](http://newportmusic.org) or call the box office at 401-846-1133.

### JULY 4:

#### Patriotic Parade of Sail

Celebrate our nation's Independence Day "dressed to impress" from the Town Beach, with a fun, free event to also celebrate our community's historic maritime prominence. Boaters: registration is required, please. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Town Beach (viewing location), North Kingstown, RI.

#### Independence Day Concert

The Lafayette Band will host an Independence Day Concert at

the Lafayette Bandstand, 10 Beach Way, North Kingstown, at 7 p.m. Raindate is July 6. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

**DON'T MISS THIS!**

### JULY 11,12:

#### Wickford Art Festival

The Wickford Art Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Wilson Park, 211 West Main St., Wickford. Artists all over New England and beyond exhibit and sell their art. Admission is free for visitors. For more information, visit [wickfordart.org](http://wickfordart.org).





## Ideas for fun on family vacations

Vacations are a great way to escape the daily grind and relax while making memories. A large percentage of travelers will be doing so as families. School breaks make summer a great time for families to get away, although savvy family travelers also buck the trends and opt to travel when the crowds may be lighter. Certain vacations and activities are best geared toward family vacationers. Explore these ideas before booking a vacation.

- Stay at an all-inclusive resort. Whether you stay on domestic soil or travel abroad, an all-inclusive resort is a fine option for families. That's because once the trip is booked and paid for, all of the food, most of the beverages and many amenities are all handled. That means families can simply check in and start having fun. All-inclusive resorts may feature board games, water sports, movie nights, and even kids-only dance clubs.

- Play miniature golf. Miniature golf games and warm summer evenings are a perfect match. Most resort towns have at least one mini golf course to test skills on the small-scale links. During times when the weather may not be ideal, indoor mini golf can be an entertaining diversion.

- Set up camp. Campsites and RV parks offer a bevy of activities for active families. Not only is there the excitement of sleeping away from home and next to nature, but certain campsites also

serve as small, self-contained resorts with offerings like pools, hot tubs, golf courses, tennis courts, or boating options as part of their featured amenities.

- Take a sight-seeing tour. Check the local travel guides to see which type of entertaining or educational tours are available nearby. There are trolley tours, boat tours, bike tours, and walking tours that present the area sights in an informative light. The benefit of a tour is that all the work is removed and all tourists have to do is show up and enjoy the experience.

- Spend a day swimming. Plenty of family vacations revolve around time around the pool or along the coast. Swimming doesn't require much gear, and as long as the weather is amenable, it's possible to while away the hours for most of the day. Even after sundown, the beach can be a go-to spot for bonfires, music and fun. Remember to lather on the sunblock so that sunburns do not derail vacation plans.

- Explore the thrills and attractions. Plan a family vacation a stone's throw away from an amusement park so that everyone can get their hearts racing on roller coasters and other fast-paced amusements. Theme parks have various rides that are geared toward different age groups.

Families can enjoy many recreational pursuits while on vacation this summer.

### JULY 12:

#### Historic Music of Newport

The Lafayette Band will host a concert at Touro Park, 128 Mill St., Newport, RI, at 6 p.m. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

### JULY 15 and 22:

#### Summer Concert with North Kingstown Community Chorus (NKCC)

The Lafayette Band will perform free concerts at Lafayette Bandstand at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Bandstand, 10 Beach Way, North Kingstown. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

### JULY 24 to 26:

#### Newport Folk Festival

The Newport Folk Festival will be held Friday to Sunday at Fort Adams State Park, located off of Harrison Drive, Newport. There will be performances, storytelling and workshops. For more information, visit [newportfolk.org](http://newportfolk.org).

### JULY 29:

#### Penultimate Summer Concert

The Lafayette Band will perform a concert at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Bandstand, 10 Beach Way, North Kingstown. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

### JULY 31 – AUGUST 2

#### Newport Jazz Festival

The Newport Jazz Festival will be held Friday through Sunday at Fort Adams State Park, located off Harrison Drive, Newport. For ticket information, parking, performers and schedule, visit [newportjazzfest.org](http://newportjazzfest.org) or email [info@newportfestivals.org](mailto:info@newportfestivals.org).

### AUGUST 5:

#### Lafayette Band Concert Summer Finale

The Lafayette Band will perform a concert at 6:30 p.m. at the North Kingstown Library, 100 Boone St., North Kingstown. For more information, visit [lafayettebandri.org](http://lafayettebandri.org).

### SEPTEMBER 11 to 14:

#### International Boat Show


The Newport International Boat Show will be held Thursday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Newport Yachting Center, 4 Commercial Wharf, Newport. The event encompasses all makes and models of powerboats and sailboats ranging from 16 ft. to 85 ft. For tickets and parking information, visit [newportboatshow.com](http://newportboatshow.com).

## Gala Preview Party

Friday, July 24, 2026  
6pm to 9pm  
5pm VIP entrance for all Patron and higher ticket holders


Weekend Hours

July 25 & 26, 2026  
10am to 5pm




### THE NEWPORT SHOW

*Antiques, Art & Esquisite Objects*



TheNewportShow.com

A Benefit for the  
Newport Historical Society  
and the Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Newport County



# Martha's Vineyard Fast Ferry



Did you know you can hop on the fast ferry from Rhode Island and arrive in the heart of Martha's Vineyard in only 95-minutes? Our ferry avoids all the Cape Cod traffic and offers convenient dockside parking. Depart from Quonset Point, North Kingstown and save 3 to 4 hours of travel time each way. You will enjoy scenic views down Narragansett Bay and through Vineyard Sound past the Elizabeth Islands.

The ferry arrives in Oak Bluffs, with white sand beaches, numerous gift shops, restaurants and hotels just steps away. With five other towns close by, you can rent a bike, scooter, a car or purchase an advanced sightseeing tour of the entire island.

Advance reservations are recommended.  
Operates May through September



## RHODE ISLAND FAST FERRY

Departs from Quonset Point, North Kingstown  
**401-295-4040**

Scan QR code for schedule & reservations

## Lighthouse CRUISES & Newport Harbor Tours

Enjoy an afternoon aboard Rhode Island Fast Ferry's Lighthouse & Newport Harbor Sightseeing Cruise. Our tour will provide you with the best way to see Narragansett Bay aboard the largest most luxurious sightseeing catamaran in all of New England.

This 95 minute narrated tour will view 10 lighthouses, 10 islands and other popular sights including sailing under the Jamestown and Newport Bridges, past Castle Hill, Hammersmith Farm, Ocean Cliff, Clingstone "House on the Rock", Fort Adams State Park, and many waterfront mansions. You will also sail through famous Newport Harbor viewing multi-million dollar yachts, and numerous vintage sailing vessels. Advance reservations are highly recommended.



[rhodeislandbaycruises.com](http://rhodeislandbaycruises.com)  
**401-295-4040**



Operates May through October  
Departs from Quonset Point, North Kingstown

Scan QR code for schedule & reservations





## TAKE A CRUISE OUT ON THE BAY

It's just 37 miles wide and 48 miles long, but it boasts 400 miles of beautiful unending coastline. Rhode Island didn't come by the name "Ocean State" by chance; when you're surrounded by that much water, you just gotta give it a nod. That's what the Rhode Island Fast Ferry does every single day they're on the water. They respect our waters and want to show them off to tourists, residents, and to people who just want to get on the Bay, not knowing all we've got. They do it by offering several options to have a fun day or extended vacation on Narragansett Bay or cruising to the island of Martha's Vineyard. Pack a tote and take your seat aboard the Martha's Vineyard Fast Ferry, leaving from Quonset Point, North Kingstown, you'll enjoy the wind in your hair aboard the Julia Leigh, a new high-speed catamaran with plenty of leg room, three decks and plenty of business-class amenities. You won't have to fight the Cape Cod traffic to pick up the ferry to Martha's Vineyard since the Rhode Island Fast Ferry is just a short ride from anywhere in Rhode Island. Once you arrive in Oak Bluffs the largest town on Martha's Vineyard, you'll be right in the center of everything that makes the Vineyard so special and a favorite of U.S. Presidents. Optional sightseeing tours, bike rentals and car rentals are available just steps away from the ferry dock, so put this on your bucket list for a Summer Must Do!

The Rhode Island Fast Ferry is not limited to just Martha's

Vineyard. You may want to enjoy a Sightseeing Cruise on Narragansett Bay and through famous Newport Harbor. Sailing under both the Jamestown and Newport bridges you'll get a waterside look at the Newport mansions which flourished during the Gilded Age. Many of them are open for tours, so you may want to plan an on-land trip to this City by the Sea... How about an historic lighthouse tour where you'll sail past 10 islands while learning all about 10 historic Narragansett Bay lighthouses. There are plenty of opportunities to take pictures or videos while you cruise in style with the wind in your hair and a cold beverage in hand! When you cruise the bay on the Julia Leigh you will be in first-class style aboard the largest catamaran ferry in the Northeast. There are three decks featuring comfortable indoor and outdoor seating, air conditioning, a full-service snack bar, and a fully stocked beverage bar with beer, wine, and spirits. The restrooms are always pristine, and the staff is helpful, knowledgeable, and fun. Narrators will both educate and entertain you throughout the length of your cruise. We highly recommend you book your cruise ahead since summertime is peak time, and these cruises are very popular and do sell out. Another benefit of making a reservation gives you an advanced discount rate for doing so. Once you arrive, you'll find free dockside parking for all lighthouse Cruises so get on the Bay and Have Fun!

# 2026 SUMMER

## RHODE ISLAND FAST FERRY

### MAY 26 thru JUNE 30

#### Lighthouse Cruises & Newport Harbor Tours

Take a narrated 90-minute cruise on Narragansett Bay viewing 10 lighthouses, 10 Islands, waterfront mansions, sail through Newport Harbor and under the Jamestown & Newport Bridges. Free dockside parking.

#### Martha's Vineyard Fast Ferry

Hop on a fast ferry for an easy day trip to the island of Martha's Vineyard from North Kingstown. This scenic fast ferry ride arrives in the heart of Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard conveniently located near all the shops, beaches, and restaurants.

### JULY & AUGUST

#### Lighthouse Cruises & Newport Harbor Tours

Take a narrated 90-minute cruise on Narragansett Bay viewing 10 lighthouses, 10 Islands, waterfront mansions, sail through Newport Harbor and under the Jamestown & Newport Bridges. Free dockside parking.

#### Fireworks Cruise

July 4: This 2-hour cruise will put you in the front row for a spectacular Fireworks display on Narragansett Bay. If the fireworks are canceled for any reason the tickets are fully refundable. Reservations are highly recommended. Free dockside parking.

#### Martha's Vineyard Fast Ferry

Hop on a fast ferry for an easy day trip to the island of Martha's Vineyard from North Kingstown. This scenic fast ferry ride arrives in the heart of Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard conveniently located near all the shops, beaches, and restaurants.

### SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

#### Lighthouse Cruises & Newport Harbor Tours

Take a narrated 90-minute cruise on Narragansett Bay viewing 10 lighthouses, 10 Islands, waterfront mansions, sail through Newport Harbor and under the Jamestown & Newport Bridges. Free dockside parking.

#### Martha's Vineyard Fast Ferry

Hop on a fast ferry for an easy day trip to the island of Martha's Vineyard from North Kingstown. This scenic fast ferry ride arrives in the heart of Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard conveniently located near all the shops, beaches, and restaurants.

All cruises as well as the Martha's Vineyard Fast ferry depart from Quonset Point in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Reservations are highly recommended and also offer a discounted rate.

Please visit [fastferry.com](http://fastferry.com) for more information or call (401) 295-4040.



RHODE ISLAND  
FAST FERRY

Scan QR code for schedule & reservations



Lighthouse  
CRUISES

Scan QR code for schedule & reservations



## Make the most of a national park visit

Many countries feature a national park system. Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Stephen Mather, and Horace M. Albright were the founders of what would become the National Park Service of the United States. On March 1, 1872, Yellowstone National Park in the territories of Montana and Wyoming became America's first national park, which led to a worldwide national park movement. The NPS says today more than 100 nations contain nearly 1,200 national parks or equivalent preserves.

National parks can be ideal spots to visit. In fact, many national parks do not even charge an entrance fee, so they can be affordable options for individuals and families who want to take in the majesty of nature and wildlife. Whether you're visiting for the first time or are a repeat customer, these tips can help you make the

most of a national park trip.

- **Time your visit correctly.** Some parks are open year-round while others are not. Learn the operating schedule to determine when to visit. Also, the timing of a trip will depend on what you hope to gain from the experience. For example, many parks are quite busy during the peak of summer. If it's quiet and reflection you're after, it's probably best to visit during a less hectic time of year.

- **Consider in-park lodging.** If the national park you're visiting has a national park lodge, think about using it for your accommodations. You'll get to maximize time spent in the park, and won't have to travel long distances each day from a hotel or another lodging place. Also, there's nothing like waking up to the awe-inspiring vistas in national parks.

- **Identify what you want to do.** National parks can be massive

and you won't be able to see every sight in just one visit. It's better to pick one goal and stick to it, so identify some things you feel you must do on an upcoming visit.

- **Utilize the park rangers.** Make visiting the ranger station your first stop in a national park. Park rangers know the park intimately and will have the insider information needed to guide your trip and keep you trucking along successfully.

- **Try camping for a night.** Unplug and remove yourself from the confines of indoor spaces. These parks are some of the best places to sleep under the stars. Leave no trace, and remember to be mindful of campfires, making sure they're completely extinguished before setting off anew.

- **Utilize the internet.** The NPS has various online resources you can use. Find A Park enables you to select from a list or search

for parks by certain criteria, and there's also online park maps. These are easily accessible resources at your disposal.

- **Follow the rules.** Oftentimes visitors get too close to wildlife or even feed them. The NPS says a "fed bear is a dead bear." In 2022, Parks Canada staff said a fox and one of her kits (babies) which had grown used to being fed by humans were struck and killed by vehicles in Gros Morne National Park. Similar stories happen each year. Feeding or approaching wild animals can cause them to lose their natural fear of people. This endangers both the animals and park visitors. Follow the rules and regulations to ensure that national parks can be enjoyed for years to come.

National parks are wonderful places to vacation.

# Mark Your Calendar

## BLOCK ISLAND

### May 26-29:

**Block Island Film Festival.**  
Block Island Maritime Institute.

### May 29:

**Liberty Tree planting ceremony.**

### June 13:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: First Block Island Farmers Market of the season. Legion Park.

### June 17:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### June 20:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### June 24:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### June 27:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### June 28:

**Block Island Arts & Crafts Guild Fair.**  
Historical Society. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### ConserFest.

Champlin's Marina from 12 to 7 p.m. Or SE Lighthouse?

### July 1:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**DON'T MISS THIS!**

### JULY 4:

#### Fourth of July Parade

The Block Island parade starts in front of The Oar on West Side Road at 11 a.m. Visit [blockisland4th.com](http://blockisland4th.com) for more information.

#### Fourth of July Fireworks

Annual fireworks display at dusk, about 9 p.m., from the Block Island Town Beach Pavilion, Corn Neck Road, is easily viewed from all points on the island. Visit [blockisland4th.com](http://blockisland4th.com) for more information.

### July 8:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

#### Blues on the Beach with Neal Vitullo Band

Fred Benson Town Beach. 5:30 – 7 p.m.

### July 9:

**Dirty Blue Shirts** presents "The Web We Weave," at 6 p.m. A program on women

and their wardrobes during the American Revolution. Block Island Historical Society.

### July 11:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### July 12:

**Block Island Arts & Crafts Guild**  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Historical Society.

### July 15:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### July 15:

**Blues on the Beach**  
5:30 – 7 p.m.: Blues on the Beach with Otis and the Hurricanes.

### July 18:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### July 18 and 19:

**Mannissean Tribal Powwow**  
Solviken.

### July 20-23:

**Tri-State Canyon Shootout Fishing Tournament**  
Champlin's Marina.

### July 22:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### July 25:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**Great Salt Pond Swim 11**  
11 a.m. Andy's Way. Sign-up with the Committee for the Great Salt Pond.

### July 26:

**Block Island Arts & Crafts Guild Fair**  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Historical Society.

### July 29:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### August 1:

**Block Island Triathlon**  
Starts at Fred Benson Town Beach at 9 a.m.

**Mary D. Ball**  
5-9 p.m. Sullivan House.

### August 2:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

### August 5:

**Farmers Market**  
9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**Blues on the Beach**  
5:30 – 7 p.m.: Blues on the Beach with Rob Davis and the Half Baked Horns. Fred Benson Town Beach.

**August 6:**

**Ray Rickman and Rob Dimmick of Stages of Freedom**

6 p.m., Ray Rickman and Rob Dimmick of Stages of Freedom present, "From Bondage to Freedom: Rhode Island's Revolutionary Black Patriots." Block Island Historical Society.

**August 8:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**August 8-10:**

**Block Island Arts and Artists Festival**

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Narragansett Inn.

**August 9:**

**Block Island Arts & Crafts Guild Fair**

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Historical Society.

**August 12:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**August 13:**

**Summer Symphony**

5 – 7 p.m. Champlin's Marina.

**August 15:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**August 19:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park..

**Blues on the Beach**

5:30 – 7 p.m.: Blues on the Beach with Johnny Trama and the B3 Kings. Fred Benson Town Beach.

**August 20:**

**Michelle Girasole presents a program on Catherine "Caty" Littlefield Greene**

a Block Island-borne woman who married Continental Army General Nathanael Greene. 6 p.m.

**August 22:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**August 23:**

**Block Island Arts & Crafts Guild Fair**

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Historical Society.

**August 26:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**August 29:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**September 2:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**September 5:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**September 6:**

**Run Around the Block 15K Road Race**

12:30 p.m. Starts at Isaacs Corner.

**September 9:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Manisses parking lot.

**September 11-13:**

**Block Island Pride**

Various locations.

**September 12:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**September 13:**

**Block Island Arts & Crafts Guild Fair**

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Historical Society.

**September 16:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Manisses parking lot.

**September 19:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**September 20:**

**Passport to the Arts open studio tour**

**September 23:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Manisses parking lot.

**September 26:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**September 30:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Manisses parking lot.

**October 3:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Legion Park.

**October 7:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Block Island Farmers Market. Manisses parking lot.

**October 10:**

**Farmers Market**

9 – 11:30 a.m.: Last Block Island Farmers Market of the season. Historical Society.

**Block Island Arts & Crafts Guild Fair**

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Historical Society.

**October 11:**

**Block Island Half Marathon**

Race begins at Fred Benson Town Beach Pavilion at 12:30 p.m.

**November 27-29:**

**35th Annual Holiday Shopping Stroll**

Downtown.

**November 28:**

**The Adrian Mitchell 5K Block Island Turkey Trot**

Walk or run this 5K post-holiday event and work off some carbs. Race starts at 1:30 p.m. Start and finish lines at the Fred Benson Town Beach Pavilion.



# Pool safety strategies to keep in mind this summer

Pools are great spots to beat the heat and enjoy some exercise. They're also ideal spots for children to socialize with their friends away from screens.

As inviting as pools can be, it is important that swimmers recognize that safety is paramount, particularly for those who have the benefit of backyard pools. The organization Stop Drowning Now indicates that an average of 3,500 to 4,000 people drown each year in the United States, with 10 drownings occurring each day. In addition, 6,500 non-fatal injuries are treated in hospital emergency departments each year, with a significant percentage of these incidents involving children under the age of 15 injured in residential pools.

Pools are fun spaces that should not elicit fear. These swimming pool safety tips can help safeguard swimmers of all ages.

## Install barriers

Barriers like tall, self-latching

fences and gates (with vertical panels not easily scaled) can deter unmonitored entry into a pool area. Such safety precautions are mandatory in many towns and cities, even if there is a separate fence around the perimeter of the yard. Additional safety precautions can include special ladders that roll down or lock for above-ground pools, and alarms that sound if someone opens a pool gate without homeowners' knowledge.

## Close supervision

Lifeguards are stationed at public pools to keep careful watch of swimmers. The role of lifeguard at pools on private properties must be filled by responsible adults. Children should never be allowed to swim without someone monitoring the water at all times. Swimmers should be asked to exit the pool in the event the adult monitoring the pool needs to head indoors for a minute or if the adult's attention is pulled else-

where while outside. When hosting a pool party, hosts can consider hiring a lifeguard to watch the pool so they can handle hosting duties elsewhere.

## Learn to swim

Although it's possible to drown in mere inches of water, the likelihood of drowning is lower for experienced and skilled swimmers. Enroll children in swim lessons so they can learn the proper techniques. Until kids' swimming skills are strong, it may be advisable for them to wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket when in the water. Inflatable water wings and other devices are not guaranteed lifesaving devices.

## Keep the pool clean

A pool should be properly maintained and sanitized to remain a safe space. The primary pool sanitizers include chlorine and bromine, which help prevent algae and bacterial growth. Maintaining a proper pH in the water

increases swimmer comfort and helps the sanitizer work optimally.

## Dive carefully

Swimmers should always enter the pool feet-first, unless there is a diving board and a safe diving depth. The American National Standards Institute says the minimum depth of a diving board in a swimming pool is 7.5 feet, but some municipalities have their own recommendations. A depth of nine feet often is recommended for safer diving.

## Walk, don't run

It's tempting to run around the perimeter of an inground pool, especially when kids are having fun. But wet surfaces become slippery, and it's easy to slip and fall, risking injury or falling into the pool water.

Swimming pool safety is vital to keep everyone out of harm's way.



# Mark Your Calendar

## STONINGTON, PAWCATUCK, MYSTIC, NORTH STONINGTON, NEW LONDON & GROTON

### MAY 17 and EVERY SUNDAY

#### US Coast Guard Eagle tours

Every Sunday until it leaves for Sail 250 events. While moored in New London, the Eagle will be open for free, self-guided, topside public tours on Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Located at Fort Trumbull State Park, 90 Walbach St., New London.

### MAY to OCTOBER:

#### Stonington Village Farmers Market

The Stonington Farmers Market is held every Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon, May through October, at the Velvet Mill parking lot, 22 Bayview Ave., Stonington. Items for sale include locally grown vegetables and fruits, jams, a variety of baked goods, meats, fish, cheeses and more. Craft vendors rotate weekly. Visit [sviastonington.org/farmers-market](http://sviastonington.org/farmers-market) for more information.

#### Mashantucket Pequot Museum

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum, 110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, features award-winning, interactive, multi-media exhibits about the land and its native people. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or tickets call 860-396-6910 or visit [pequotmuseum.org](http://pequotmuseum.org).

### MAY 24:

#### Norwich Cape Verdean Festival

The Cape Verdean Santiago Society will host a celebration of Cape Verdean culture, music, food and community at Howard Brown Park from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, visit [norwichcvsantiagos.wixsite.com/cvss](http://norwichcvsantiagos.wixsite.com/cvss).

### MAY 30:

#### Aged to Perfection: Artisanal American Cheeses

The Yellow Farmhouse Education Center, 389 North Main St., Stonington, will host guided tastings and expert storytelling with award-winning artisan Brian Civitello. 21+ Tickets are \$65. For tickets and more information, visit [yellowfarmhouse.org](http://yellowfarmhouse.org).

### JUNE to OCTOBER:

#### Denison Farmers Market

Denison Farmers Market, held at the Denison Homestead, 120 Pequotsepos Road, Mystic, will be open Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. Local fruits and vegetables, meat, honey, eggs, maple syrup, herbs, jellies and preserves, pies, hemp products, prepared Middle Eastern foods, grass fed beef, free range chicken will be available. Visit [denisonhomestead.org](http://denisonhomestead.org) for more information.

### JUNE 6 to 21:

#### Connecticut Early Music Festival

The Connecticut Early Music Festival's 44th season will present six concerts in southern Connecticut the first three weekends in June. For schedule and tickets, visit [ctearlymusic.org](http://ctearlymusic.org).

### JUNE 9:

#### Summer Sounds Band Concert

Noank-Mystic Community Band will perform at 7 p.m. Mystic Pipes and Drums will perform pre-concert. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](http://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

### JUNE 12-13:

#### Gardens by the Sea garden tour

"Gardens by the Sea," Stonington Garden Club's popular garden walking tour of rarely seen private gardens in the Borough of Stonington. This popular event, last held in 2022, is expected to attract over 2,000 visitors from across New England. Ticket purchase link and detailed information about the tour can be found at [stoningtongardenclub.org/garden-tour](http://stoningtongardenclub.org/garden-tour).

### JUNE 13,14:

#### Strawberry Festival

The third annual festival will be held at Olde Mistick Village, 27 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Fresh strawberries, jams and pies and all things strawberries. For more information, visit [oldemistickvillage.com](http://oldemistickvillage.com).

### JUNE 16 to AUGUST 29:

#### Summer Glow Makes You Feel Fine!

Now you can Glow with us Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in July and August. 715 Noank Ledyard Road Mystic CT 06355

Listen to music as you climb in the trees on a warm summer night, we even give you cool glow bracelets and necklaces and wearables to create your own glow look. Climb after dark when the sun goes down and the lights come up. Feel the summer breeze shifting through the treetops as you take on aerial challenges you'll love! Jam to summer tunes and experience the magic of TreeTrails at night. <https://treetrails.com/mystic-ct/>

### JUNE 16:

#### Summer Sounds Band Concert: Time and Changes Jazz Orchestra

Time and Changes Jazz Orchestra will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](http://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

### JUNE 19:

#### Concert on the Green: Amanda Pascali

Blending folk/Americana influences with Mediterranean, Balkan, and Latin rhythms Pascali's songs are powerful tales of America told through the eyes of immigrants and those who have always felt like the "other". The concert begins at 6 p.m. at the green in Stonington, 32 Water St.

### JUNE 23:

#### Summer Sounds Band Concert: As Time Goes By

As Time Goes By swing band will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](http://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

### JUNE 24:

#### Art in Gardens with Robert Baldwin

An art-history talk on gardens and artworks from early modern Europe to the present hosted by La Grua Center, 32 Water St, Stonington, beginning at 6 p.m. Suggested donation \$5.

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**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER  
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GARDE ARTS CENTER

SATURDAY, 06.27.26 | 8:00 PM

This performance is part of the lead-up to Wynton Marsalis' final season as Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and Music Director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Sponsored by: WSHU, Thames River Gallery & Attorneys Linda Mariani & David Neusner

**OUR HOUSE**

THE MUSIC OF

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SUNDAY 08.16.26 | 7:00 PM

Unparalleled musical experience as "OUR HOUSE: The Music of CSNY" assembles to perform the Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young repertoire with an extraordinary ensemble of FAMILY & FRIENDS.

**REVISITING CREEDENCE**

SUNDAY, 08.23.26 | 7:00 PM

Revisiting Creedence brings the legendary sound of CCR roaring back to life in a high-energy, hit-filled concert experience led by world-class performers with authentic roots in the band's iconic legacy.

**MAGIC ROCKS:  
ILLUSIONIST LEON ETIENNE**

SATURDAY, 09.26.26 | 8:00 PM

A high-energy, family-friendly spectacle of world-class illusions, award-winning sleight of hand, and rock-and-roll showmanship that's stunned audiences from Radio City Music Hall to international stages and hit TV shows like America's Got Talent.

**THE MACHINE  
PERFORMS PINK FLOYD**

FRIDAY, 10.09.26 | 8:00 PM

The Machine has forged a 30+ year reputation of extending the musical legacy of Pink Floyd performing a diverse mix of The Floyd's extensive repertoire, complete with faithful renditions of popular hits as well as obscure gems.

**JIM HENSON'S  
FRAGGLE ROCK**BACK TO THE ROCK LIVE  
SUNDAY, 10.11.26 | 3:00 PM

Back to the Rock LIVE A family stage musical from The Jim Henson Company follows Gobo, Red, Mokey, Wembley, and Boober on a quest to find a lost stone that can bring people together, featuring puppetry from Jim Henson's Creature Shop and music from Fraggles Rock: Back to the Rock.

**HARRY CHAPIN'S  
GREATEST STORIES LIVE**

FEATURING THE CHAPIN FAMILY EXPERIENCE

SATURDAY, 10.17.26 | 8:00 PM

Iconic performances and timeless hits from Harry Chapin's Greatest Stories LIVE performed by The Chapin Family. Don't miss this unforgettable night of music!

**A.J. CROCE PRESENTS  
CROCE PLAYS CROCE**

SUNDAY, 10.25.26 | 7:00 PM

A.J. Croce performs Croce Plays Croce, a special performance celebrating the timeless songs of his father, Jim Croce, alongside favorites from A.J.'s own acclaimed catalog. Don't miss this unforgettable night of music and stories.

**PAUL MECURIO  
PERMISSION TO SPEAK**

SATURDAY, 11.07.26 | 8:00 PM

Permission to Speak is a one-of-a-kind live show where Emmy-winning comedian Paul Mecurio transforms real audience stories into a hilarious, unscripted, and deeply human theatrical experience—no two performances ever the same.

**AN EVENING WITH  
SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS**CHRISTMAS CARAVAN  
FRIDAY, 12.18.26 | 8:00 PM

A must-see holiday show where SNZ's Jimbo Mathus fuses 1920s jazz, klezmer, and old-time music into a joyful, high-energy mix of festive warmth and speakeasy swing.

**JUNE 26 to 28:****WoodenBoat Show**

The annual 34th WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport, 75 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic, will be held daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wooden boats of every type will be on display including cruising yachts, launches, runabouts, fishing boats, performance powerboats, daysailers, dinghies, rowboats, canoes, performance shells, multi-hulls and racing boats. Museum admission provides access to both the WoodenBoat Show and Mystic Seaport. For more information, visit [thewoodenboatshow.com](http://thewoodenboatshow.com) or call 800-273-7447.

**JUNE 27:****Parade, Muster and  
Colonial Fair**

to be held at the North Stonington Historical Society. Activities, booths, and vendors. Try on historic costumes, children's colonial games, working models of the mills of "milltown," colonial style jewelry, historic house, dye house and gardens. For more information, including schedule, visit [northstoningtonhistorical.org](http://northstoningtonhistorical.org).

**JUNE 30:****Summer Sounds Band  
Concert: Thames River  
Big Band**

Thames River Big Band will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](http://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

**JULY 3 to 5:****Independence Day  
Weekend**

715 Noank Ledyard Road Mystic CT 06355  
Spark Into Independence Day Weekend At TreeTrails!  
Bring the whole family out for a day of adventure! Climb and zip through the trees and follow it up with a classic BBQ! We have plenty of space for you to bring your own extra activities! We offer great discounts for groups of 10 or more! Call ahead to reserve your space: 570-534-7515  
<https://tree-trails.com/mystic-ct/>

**JULY 4:****America's 250th  
Celebration – Groton's  
4th of July Parade**

Join Groton Parks and Recreation and the entire community as we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with an incredible Independence Day Parade. This is a free family event starting at 10 a.m. at the Poquonnock Plains Park.

**JULY 4:****Stonington Borough  
4th of July Parade**

The parade starts at 10 a.m. at Wadawanuck Square and participants walk down Water Street to Cannon Square and then march up Main Street back to Wadawanuck Square. The Declaration of Independence will be read in Wadawanuck Square immediately following the parade. Followed by a free ice cream social.

**Mystic Seaport Museum  
Independence Day  
Celebration**

Features a 19th-century-style "Antiques and Horribles" parade at noon, plus 19th-century games and activities, and a dog parade at 3 p.m. 75 Greenmanville Ave, Mystic, CT 06355, 860-572-0711. For more information email [info@mysticseaport.org](mailto:info@mysticseaport.org)

**JULY 6:****Ward Hayden and  
the Outliers**

Blue Monday Concerts will host a performance by Ward Hayden and the Outliers at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St., Mystic at 6 p.m. The concerts are free, with donations gratefully accepted for the Stonington Education Fund and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. For more information, visit [facebook.com/blue.monday.1](http://facebook.com/blue.monday.1).

**JULY 7:****Community Art Exhibit  
Opening Reception**

Artist reception will be held on Tuesday, July 7, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road. The exhibition will be on view during the months of June and July 2026. For more information, call 860-441-6750 or visit [grotonpl.org](http://grotonpl.org).

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**Summer Sounds Band Concert: Old Lyme Town Band**

The Old Lyme Town Band will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](https://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

**JULY 9 to 12:**

**North Stonington Agricultural Fair**

The annual North Stonington Agricultural Fair will take place Thursday to Sunday at the North Stonington Fairgrounds, 21 Wyassup Road, North Stonington. The fair features tractor pulls, animal shows, live entertainment, hay bale toss, ham and bean supper, arts and crafts, vegetables, fruits, baked goods and much more. For more information, visit [northstoningtonfair.org](https://northstoningtonfair.org).

**JULY 13:**

**Loaded Wagon**

Loaded Wagon will perform as

part of the Blue Monday Concerts at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St., Mystic at 6 p.m. The concerts are free, with donations gratefully accepted for the Stonington Education Fund and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. For more information, visit [facebook.com/blue.monday.1](https://facebook.com/blue.monday.1).

**Loaded Wagon**

Blue Monday Concerts will host a performance by Loaded Wagon at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St., Mystic at 6 p.m. The concerts are free, with donations gratefully accepted for the Stonington Education Fund and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. For more information, visit [facebook.com/blue.monday.1](https://facebook.com/blue.monday.1).

**JULY 14:**

**Summer Sounds Band Concert: Middletown Symphonic Band**

The Middletown Syphonic Band will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-

3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](https://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

**JULY 18:**

**FloatSwella**

The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and North Swell will hold FloatSwella from 1 to 4 p.m. The event is a paddlecraft-only rally and concert with bands on a floating stage on the Mystic River north of Mystic drawbridge off Gravel Street. Visit [mysticchamber.org](https://mysticchamber.org) for more information.

**Concert on the Green: Sean Nelson & New London Big Band**

La Grua Center, 32 Water St., Stonington, will host a performance by Sean Nelson & New London Big Band at 6 p.m. on the lawn. Attendees may bring lawn chairs or blankets as well as picnics; no liquor allowed. The concert is free. For more information, visit [LaGruaCenter.org](https://LaGruaCenter.org) or call 860-535-2300.

**JULY 20:**


**Sugar Ray**

Blue Monday Concerts will host a performance by Sugar Ray at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St., Mystic at 6 p.m. The concerts are free, with donations gratefully accepted for the Stonington Education Fund and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. For more information, visit [facebook.com/blue.monday.1](https://facebook.com/blue.monday.1).

**JULY 21:**

**Summer Sounds Band Concert: Waterford Community Band**

The Waterford Community Band will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](https://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).



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**JULY 26:**

**Blessing of the Fleet**

Procession begins around noon from the commercial fishing dock and processes around the village and back to the docks for the blessing ceremony.

**JULY 27:**

**Sugar**

Blue Monday Concerts will host a performance by Sugar at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St., Mystic at 6 p.m. The concerts are free, with donations gratefully accepted for the Stonington Education Fund and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. For more information, visit [facebook.com/blue.monday.1](https://facebook.com/blue.monday.1).

**JULY 28:**

**Summer Sounds Band Concert: The Westerly Band**

The Westerly Band will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket

or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](https://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

**AUGUST 1:**

**Stonington Village Fair**

The Stonington Village Fair commemorates the 1814 Battle of Stonington. The community event features games, music, food, used book sale and crafts. It is held in Wadawanuck Square, Stonington Borough, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**AUGUST 4:**

**Summer Sounds Band Concert: 102nd Army Band of the CT National Guard**

102nd Army Band of the CT National Guard will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](https://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

**AUGUST 5:**

**Summer Sounds Band Concert: Noank-Mystic Community Band**

The Noank-Mystic Community Band will perform at 7 p.m. The concert will be held at Mystic River Park, 10 Cottrell St. The performance is part of the weekly community band series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information call 860-271-3388 or visit [facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic](https://facebook.com/SummerSoundsMystic).

**AUGUST 16:**

**St. Michael Assumption Procession**

The procession begins at 11 a.m. at St Michael the Archangel Church, Liberty Street, Pawcatuck.



**AUGUST 8,9:**

**Mystic Outdoor Art Festival**

The Mystic Outdoor Art Festival will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in downtown Mystic to the Mystic Seaport Museum. Over 200 artists and craftsmen will have their work on display and for sale along the route. The seaport will have a Children's Art Park with art themed activities for children. A performing arts stage will be located in Mystic River Park. For more information, visit [mysticchamber.org](https://mysticchamber.org).





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