

Merrimack Valley Happenings...

News of current economic developments and cultural events
from the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council.

February 24, 2010

QUICK LINKS:

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[ARTS, CULTURE, NATURE, RECREATION](#)

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY NEWS



Six Merrimack Valley communities have received funding from a new state program, "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants": **Amesbury** - \$150,000 for a solar PV system on the high school; **Chelmsford** - \$150,000 for a solar PV system at Chelmsford High School; **Dunstable/Groton** - \$70,544 for energy efficiency improvements at Swallow Union School; **Newburyport** - \$116,190 for energy efficiency measures at the Kelley School Community Youth Center; **West Newbury** - \$132,390 for energy efficiency measures at the Dr. John C. Page School and a solar PV installation adjacent to the Town's DPW garage and office; **Westford** - \$150,000 for a solar PV installation at Stony Brook Middle School; *Mass High Tech*: [Mass. clean energy projects garner \\$13M in funds](#)



Amesbury's [Cider Hill Farm](#) received \$30,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture to install a new solar electricity system with 128 photovoltaic panels; [Amesbury News: Amesbury's Cider Hill Farm wins 'green' grant money](#)



The [Lowell Small Business Assistance Center](#) received a \$50,000 grant to establish a small business microloan fund for Greater Lowell. Microloans can be used for starting a business, providing working capital, or for capacity building purposes and will range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Recipients will also receive significant levels or technical support from the Center. *The Lowell Sun*: [\\$50G grant to aid Lowell small businesses](#)

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



[Click here for UMass Lowell news & events](#)

- ❖ Thurs., March 4, 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.: Former Massachusetts Senate and UMass President William Bulger will discuss his new book “James Michael Curley: A Short Biography;” O’Leary Library, Room 222, UML South, 61 Wilder St., Lowell free, open to the public
- ❖ Through March 12: Graphic Design Alumni Showcase - Ads, Logos, Books and More; artists’ reception Weds. , Feb. 24, 3:00-5:00 p.m.; Dugan Hall, UML South, Broadway St., Lowell
- ❖ The **Tsongas Arena** is now owned by the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and has been renamed the [Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell](#).
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 27: [Massachusetts Regional Science Bowl](#)
- ❖ WUML 91.5 FM: community radio programming - [The Long View](#)
- ❖ The [Merrimack Valley Housing Report](#) offers an objective and timely source of information on the state of housing in the region and how it affects our economic and social vitality.



[Middlesex Community College news and events:](#)

- ❖ [Community Education and Career Training](#) noncredit courses for spring 2010; Info: Marci Barnes, 781-280-3669, barnesm@middlesex.mass.edu
- ❖ [Green Energy/Energy Efficiency courses](#)
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: [Summer Camp Open House](#); MCC Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road, Bedford; camps Include: Aviation and Simulation; Project Fashion; Theater; Digital Photography; Twilight and Literature; Film Production; Early Veterinary Training; Lego Mindstorms; Web Design; new this year: [Build-It-Yourself Robotics](#) Workshops for ages 8 – 12; [MCC Hosting Summer Camps Open House](#)
- ❖ Mondays, Feb. 22-May 3: 6:00-9:00 p.m.: [Society of Human Resources Management \(SHRM\) Learning System Test Prep](#)
- ❖ Mar. 1 – Apr. 26, 6:00pm – 9:00 p.m.: [Floral Design Certificate Program](#)
- ❖ MCC [Business and Industry Programs](#) assist employers with writing work-force training grants and offers credit and non-credit courses
- ❖ [ESOL \(English for Speakers of Other Languages\)for Manufacturing courses](#)
- ❖ MCC’s [English Learner Institute \(ELI\)](#) offers a variety of noncredit courses
- ❖ [Online Career Training Certificates - Virtual Information Session](#).



[NECC news & events:](#)

- ❖ March 5, March 19, April 9 - Free [Grant Writing workshops](#); email registrations only; subject line: AGM WORKSHOPS REGISTRATION; e-mail to Glennys Sanchez, gsanchez@necc.mass.edu or Dawna Perez, dperez@necc.mass.edu.
- ❖ Thurs., Feb. 25, 12:30 p.m.: author Sergio Troncoso – “Finding our Voice: the Role of Latinos in the Cultural and Political Debates of the United States;” Louise Haffner Fournier Education Center, 78 Amesbury St., Lawrence.
- ❖ March 3-26: Faculty Art Show; photography, oil painting, graphic design, and sculpture; [ArtSpace Gallery](#), Bentley Library, Haverhill; reception, Weds., Mar. 3, 3:30-5:30 p.m.; info: Patricia Kidney, chair, NECC Art & Design Department, pkidney@necc.mass.edu.
- ❖ NECC offers associate degrees in [art and design](#), including graphic design, multi media, visual arts and illustration, and a certificate in graphic design/desktop publishing.
- ❖ Read the February issue of [NECC News](#)
- ❖ NECC’s **Learning Communities** allow a student to enroll in two or more different college credit courses with a similar theme, get credit for both, and learn and study with the same group of students. NECC will offer nine learning communities this spring, beginning the week of Jan. 25. [complete list of offerings](#) .
- ❖ Register Now for [Spring 2010 Classes](#) (for credit)
- ❖ [Register for Non-credit Courses](#) and programs
 - Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon: noncredit **natural history courses for families**, Veasey Park, Washington St., Groveland; \$34 each class, includes one adult and one child (additional siblings \$8); March 13: Life in the Sea; April 10: Mineral Madness; May 8: Jaws and Claws; June 12: Incredible Insects; info/register: Mary Shattuck, 978-556-3837, mshattuck@necc.mass.edu
- ❖ [NECC Speakers Bureau](#) offers speakers free of charge on many interesting topics
- ❖ [Workforce Development Services](#) offers customized training and consulting services

- ❖ Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.: weekly info session for prospective students, Behrakis Center, Haverhill Campus
- ❖ Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: weekly info session for prospective students, Lawrence Campus



[Merrimack College news & events](#)



[Enterprise Center at Salem State College news and events](#)

- ❖ [Winter workshops](#) (co-sponsored by the Small Business Development Center (registration required))
- ❖ [Enterprise Center CEO Groups](#) - confidential monthly morning meetings; groups for Emerging CEOs, Established CEOs, Million Dollar CEO

BUSINESS GROUP NEWS



[Merrimack Valley Venture Forum:](#)

- ❖ Weds., May 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m.: [Fundraising Pitch Contest](#); cash prize; applications accepted through March 15; Holiday Inn – Tewksbury



Greater Merrimack Valley
Convention & Visitors Bureau
adventures await

[Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau:](#)



[North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau:](#)

- ❖ [North of Boston 2009-2010 online Visitor Guide.](#)



[Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board](#)



[Valley Works Career Center:](#)

- ❖ Wed., Mar. 10, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: March Madness Job Fair, Northern Essex Community College, Technology Center, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill; [participating employers](#) include: American Resource Staffing, Frito-Lay, Lawrence General Hospital, Raytheon, True Green / ChemLawn
- ❖ Thurs., Mar. 11, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.: Networking for Professionals, ValleyWorks Career Center, 439 South Union St., Lawrence; register: 978.722.7000
- ❖ Business Hiring Incentives – Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) & Hiring Incentive Training Grants (HITG) - contact a Business Service Representative - 978.722.7000



[Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board:](#)



[Career Center of Lowell](#)

- ❖ **U.S. Census Jobs Testing:** English language tests Thurs. Feb. 25, 10:00 a.m., Cherry & Webb Room; Spanish language tests Thurs., Feb. 25, 1:00 p.m., Sampson Room.
- ❖ Thurs., March 11, Vendor Training Forum to update education and training providers on funding opportunities, the latest labor market information and the ITA application process; info/register: Shaun McCarthy, shaun.mccarthy@cclowell.org



[Billerica Community Alliance](#)



[Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce:](#)

- ❖ Wed., Mar. 3, 5:00--7:00 p.m.: Business After Hours & Lowell Devils Game, Tsongas Arena, Lowell
- ❖ Fri., Mar. 12, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: 14th Annual WOW Conference; NECC Tech Center, Haverhill



[Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce :](#)

- ❖ Thurs., Feb. 25, 10:00 am-12:00 p.m.: SBA Workshop, Dracut Library, 28 Arlington Street, Dracut
- ❖ Fri., Feb. 26, 6:00-11:00 p.m.: Dining for Dollars, Holiday Inn, 4 Highwood Drive, Tewksbury
- ❖ Tues., Mar. 2, 9:00 am – 10:00 am – Dracut Business Day, Dracut Library – 28 Arlington St. Dracut, free
- ❖ Tues., Mar. 9, 12:00-1:30 p.m.: Networking at Noon - Sculptor at Strength – 51 Middlesex Street – Suite 107 – No. Chelmsford
- ❖ Thurs., Mar. 11, 10:00–11:00 a.m.: Westford Business Day, Westford Library – JV Fletcher Lane – Westford; free
- ❖ Mon., Mar. 15, 5:00–7:00 p.m.: Mixer, Wyndham Hotel, Andover; \$10 Chamber members, \$20 non-members
- ❖ Tues., Mar. 16, 7:30–9:00 a.m.: Networking on the Three's; Pozitively Young Salon & Spa – 9 Kendall Road, Tyngsboro; free for Chamber members
- ❖ Weds., Mar. 17, 9:00–10:00 a.m.: Chelmsford Business Day, Chelmsford Town Hall, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford; free



[Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Foundation:](#)

- ❖ *Daily News of Newburyport:* [Chamber launches lamppost-naming program](#)



[Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce and Industry:](#)

- ❖ *Daily News of Newburyport:* [Mayor's speech focuses on economic development](#)
- ❖ Find out about Newburyport happenings in the latest issue of [STAY in the LOOP!](#)



[Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce](#)

- ❖ April 7, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. [Business & Consumer Trade & Job Fair](#); Michael's Function Hall, Alpha/River Street, Route 110, Haverhill. \
- ❖ Weds., Apr. 14, 6:00 p.m.: **Salvatore Lupoli**, president of Riverwalk Properties and Salvatore's restaurant, will receive the Ralph B. Wilkinson Good Citizenship Award; speaker: Gov. Deval Patrick; \$95 per person. DiBurro's, Haverhill; *The Eagle-Tribune:* [Governor will speak at chamber dinner honoring 'Sal'](#)



[Young Professionals of Greater Lowell](#)



[Salisbury Chamber of Commerce:](#)

ARTS, CULTURE, NATURE, RECREATION



[Merrimack Valley radio 980WCAP](#) – Thursdays, 9:10 a.m.: MVEDC's **Dave Tibbetts** offers highlights of this week's "Merrimack Valley happenings"; [Listen online.](#)"



[Lowell General Hospital:](#)

Sat., Feb. 27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., [Get Heart Smart Health Fair](#) - heart health screening, including: blood sugar; blood pressure, BMI/body fat %; waist to hip ratio; cardiac risk assessment; Information will also be available on nutrition, stress management, exercise, sleep, smoking cessation, and diabetes; Clark Auditorium; free, registration required; light breakfast available; info/register: 1-877-544-9355 or [online](#).

[Restaurants](#) in the Merrimack Valley



[Click here for](#) dozens of fine restaurants in the Merrimack Valley.

- ❖ Downtown Newburyport has a new restaurant - [Loretta](#); *Daily News of Newburyport*: [Barbecue and seafood eatery to open on State Street](#) [editor's note: thumbs up - good food, friendly service, reasonable prices and comfortable atmosphere]
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[Tupelo Music Hall](#), overlooking the ocean at Salisbury Beach:

- ❖ Fri., Feb. 26, 8:00 p.m.: [Livingston Taylor](#)
 - ❖ Sat., Feb. 27, 8:00 p.m.: [Tom Rush](#)
 - ❖ Sun., Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m.: [Ingrid Michaelson](#); Greg Laswell opening
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The [January/February issue of Merrimack Valley Magazine](#) is now available. The new issue's cover story is "Moving Forward with the Past," about Haverhill's Hamel Mill Lofts, "...a museum of the city's industrial heyday, a model for restoration standards, and a tribute to modern eco-aware design."



Sat., Feb. 27, 3:00 p.m.: Seminar: "Decorating with Antiques;" \$15; "road show" appraisal, light refreshments; proceeds benefit the [Merrimack Valley Food Bank](#); [Webster Greene Antiques & Interiors](#), 7 Hampshire St., Methuen Square



[What's Up Haverhill:](#)

- ❖ Sat., Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m.: **Baby Boomer Bash** sponsored by the [Haverhill Recreation Department](#); [Michael's Function Hall](#), 12 Alpha Street, Haverhill; live music by "Summer of '67;" cash bar, hors d'oeuvres; tickets \$25, available at the Citizen Center, 10 Welcome Street, Haverhill, online at www.activityreg.com, or at the door for \$30; info: 978-374-2390, Kathy ext. 11, Rita ext. 16.
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[Haverhill Historical Society/Buttonwoods Museum:](#)

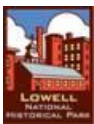


We Build Strong Kids, Strong Families, Strong Communities. **Thur., Mar. 4, 7:30 a.m.:** "Y For All" campaign kickoff breakfast, Northern Essex Community College Technology Center, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill, R.S.V.P. to Tracy Fuller, 978.374.0506, fullert@northshoreymca.org



Sun., Feb. 28 - Mar. 8- [Lowell Women's Week 2010](#) "Women Stories: Crystallizing Our Role in History and Our World"

- ❖ **Mon., Mar. 1, 7:30–9:00 a.m.: Lowell Women's Week Breakfast Celebration;** guest speaker Ambassador and Philanthropist Swanee Hunt; UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center , 50 Warren St., Lowell; \$25; info: Maria Cunha, 978-656-3104, cunham@middlesex.mass.edu
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[Lowell National Historical Park](#), 246 Market Street, Lowell:

- ❖ Visitor Center hours through Mar. 14 - 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; free; Boott Cotton Mills Museum:9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; \$6, ages 6-16 & Students \$3; under 6, free

Lowell Travelogue Series - "virtual visit to a different National Park each week; free:

- ❖ Sun., Feb. 28, 2:30 p.m.: Maggie Walker National Historic Site/Richmond National Battlefield
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 6, 12:30-1:30 p.m.: New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 13, 2:30 p.m.: Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 20, 2:30 p.m.: Adams National Historical Park
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 27, 2:30 p.m.: Minuteman National Historical Park
- ❖ Sat., Apr. 3, 2:30 p.m.: Roger Williams National Memorial
- ❖ Sat., Apr. 10, 2:30 p.m.: Boston National Historical Park
- ❖ Saturday, April 17, 2:30 p.m.: Lowell National Historical Park
- ❖ Thurs., Apr. 22, 2:30 p.m.: John Muir National Historic Site
- ❖ Sun., Feb. 28 - Mar. 8, 2010 - [Lowell Women's Week 2010](#)

Urban Village Arts Series (UVAS): free:

- ❖ Tues., Mar. 23, 7:00 p.m.: musician Jenny Riddle and poet Jim Dunn
 - ❖ Thurs., Apr. 15, 7:00 p.m.: poet Todd Hearon and musician Michael Murray
 - ❖ LNHP and [Lowell Heritage Partnership](#) seek nominations of organizations or individuals who contribute to historic preservation & cultural heritage; two awards in each field, one to a high school/college student, one to the broader community; nominations by Mar. 5.info: Cheryl Clark, cheryl_clark@nps.gov, 978-275-1700.
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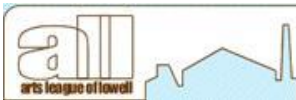


[Western Avenue Studios](#), 122 Western Avenue, Lowell:

- ❖ Sat., March 6, 12:00-5:00 p.m.: Open Studios (first Saturday of every month)

[Loading Dock Gallery](#) at Western Avenue Studios

- ❖ Through Feb. 28: Body & Soul," Susan Jaworski-Stranc and Gail Zwerling
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[Arts League of Lowell \(ALL\) Gallery](#), 246 Market Street, Lowell

- ❖ Feb. 28 to Mar. 27: **Secondary Colors:** Artwork by Lowell's Middle School Students; reception: Sat., Mar. 6, 1:45-3:45 p.m.; performance TBA: 2:00 p.m.
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[The Brush Art Gallery](#), 256 Market Street, Lowell

Feb. 28 to Mar. 27 - Primary Colors - Artwork by Lowell's Elementary School Students; reception: Sat, Mar. 6, 1:00-3:00 p.m.; performance by the Lincoln School Special Chorus: 1:30 p.m.



[athm American Textile History Museum](#), 491 Dutton Street, Lowell:

❖ Through April 18: Aprons: Fifties FUNctional Fashion



[Whistler House Museum of Art](#), Lowell:

Feb. 28 to Mar. 27 Full: Spectrum: Artwork by Lowell's High School Students; reception: Sat., Mar. 6, 2:00-4:00; performance TBA: 2:30 p.m.

❖ Mar. 3 – Apr. 17: Ginger Levant: Landscapes and Still Lives; reception Sat., Mar. 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m.



[Revolving Museum](#), 122 Western Avenue, #217, Lowell:



[119 Gallery](#), 119 Chelmsford St, Lowell



[New England Quilt Museum](#), 18 Shattuck Street, Lowell:

❖ Through Feb. 25: Masters: 40 Contemporary Art Quilters; works by artists from around the world including Australia, the UK, Japan, Israel, Hungary, France, South Africa, Denmark, and Belgium



Through March: [Verde aka: Vicki Sue Green](#), Centro Restaurant & Bar, 24 Market Street, Lowell



[Lawrence General Hospital](#):

❖ Thurs, March 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.: Celebrating Women “An Evening of Champagne and Chocolate;” celebrate the opening of the new Imaging Services Pavilion; Lawrence General Hospital, 1 General St., Lawrence; free admission, valet parking; info/RSVP: 978-946-8220, publicAffairs@LawrenceGeneral.org



[Lawrence Heritage State Park](#), One Jackson Street, Lawrence:

❖ Through April: “**Pemberton Mill, January 10, 1860**” exhibit about the disaster which killed 88 workers.
❖ Sat., Feb. 27, 1:00-4:00 p.m.: “An (Un)civil Action ” - historians Robert Forrant and Jim Beauchesne on the Bread and Roses Strike of 1912; tour of selected locations, excerpts from the documentary film, John Brown's Holy War and discussion; free, open to the public.



[Essex Art Center](#), 56 Island Street, Lawrence:

❖ Register for [Spring 2010 classes](#)



Newburyport High School

Gallery 118, [Newburyport High School](#):

- ❖ Through Feb. 28: "Low Tech Photo Show" featuring guest artists John Raleigh and Sara Connor; free.

THE ACTORS STUDIO

OF NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

[The Actors' Studio of Newburyport](#):

- ❖ Feb. 11- 27: **Alice in Wonderland**; The Tannery, Mill #1, Newburyport; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info.](#)



[Firehouse Center for the Arts](#), Newburyport:

- ❖ Feb. 3–Mar. 21: Gallery -Paintings by Elizabeth Harty; Wed. – Sun., 12:00-5:00; free.
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 27, 8:00 p.m.: Peter Boie: Magic for Non-Believers; [buy tickets online – MVARTS.INFO](#)
- Fri., Mar. 5, 8:00 p.m.: New England Light Opera - Happy Days are Here Again: A New 1930's Revue; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 6, 2010 7:30 p.m.: Home Concert Series: Frederick Moyer; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 6, 8:00 p.m.: HipHop Dance with Jose Eric Cruz (aka "3D"); [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Mon., Mar. 8, 7:30 p.m.; Tues. Mar. 9, 7:30 p.m.: **George Winston**; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)



BRIDGE GALLERY

[Bridge Gallery](#), 1R Water Street, Newburyport:

- ❖ Through February: "**Winterscapes**"
- ❖ Trunk sale continues through February



[Newburyport Art Association](#), 65 Water Street, Newburyport:

- ❖ [Winter courses, lectures & workshops](#)
- ❖ Feb. 12-Mar. 7: **NAA Winter Juried Show 2**: acrylic, oil, sculpture, fine crafts, digital art, printmaking



[The Provident Bank's](#) Amesbury Lobby for the Arts:

- ❖ Through Mar. 5: **Helen Marie Hamel, Impressions of Color in Nature**; The Provident Bank, 5 Market St, Amesbury; (also on display at Haverhill Road branch, Amesbury).



Fri., Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m.: author Richard Nocera will read and sign copies of his book, "[Women Own All the Vaginas: Why Men Do What they Do](#);" Jabberwocky Bookshop, Tannery Mall, 50 Water St., Newburyport.

[Powow River Poets](#) Reading Series:

- ❖ Sat., March 13, 3:00 p.m.: Diana Der-Hovanessian and Alfred Nicol; Jabberwocky Bookshop, 50 Water St., Newburyport; Open Mike follows the reading; light refreshments; free, open to the public



[Merrimack Repertory Theatre](#):

- ❖ Tues., Mar. 9, 6:00-8:30 p.m.: MRT Benefit Wine Tasting, Stonehedge Inn, Tyngsboro; "Top 25" wines from the largest wine cellar in New England; \$45
- ❖ Feb. 11–Mar. 7: Black Pearl Sings! by Frank Higgins(regional premiere)
- ❖ Mar. 18–Apr. 11: World Premiere Comedy by Richard Dresser
- Apr. 22–May 16: The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead by Robert Hewett.



Lowell Memorial Auditorium:

- ❖ March 9 & 10: [Stomp](#)



Exsultemus:

Fri., Mar. 12, 7:00 p.m.: acclaimed vocal ensemble performs Pergolesi's Lenten masterpiece, "Stabat Mater"; St. Anne's Church, 8 Kirk St., Lowell; free



Westford artist [Emily Piper](#) uses salvaged items in everything she makes, often doors, chairs and windows. Her studio/classroom/company is called Rumphius, from the children's book, 'Miss Rumphius,' by **Barbara Cooney** of Pepperell. *Westford Eagle*: [Westford artist uses recycled material](#)

- ❖ Sun., Feb. 28, noon - 2 p.m.: [PCA art gallery](#) – art of **Emily Piper**: In Style with Creativity Unhinged, A Bevy of Finely Dressed Ladies Painted on Vintage Doors.



PCA Westford's Parish Center for the Arts:

- ❖ Fri., Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m.: Friday Night Art Lectures: American Artists in Europe; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Fri. Mar. 5, 8:00 p.m.; Sat., Mar 6, 3:00 & 8:00 p.m.: [Nashoba Players - Ain't MisBehavin'](#) [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sun., Feb. 28, noon - 2 p.m.: [PCA art gallery](#) – art of **Emily Piper**: In Style with Creativity Unhinged, A Bevy of Finely Dressed Ladies Painted on Vintage Doors.
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 13, 8:00 p.m.: **Eight to the Bar**; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sun., Mar. 14, 3:00 p.m.: Barn Dance; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 20, 4:00 p.m.: **Minsoo Sohn** ~ Virtuoso Pianist; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 20, 8:00 p.m.: Elliot Steger; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sat., Apr. 10, 8:00 p.m.: **Christian Howes**; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)



Westford Academy Performing Arts Center, 30 Patten Road, Westford

- ❖ Fri., Mar. 19, 8:00 p.m.: Comedian Bob Marley; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)



Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra (MVPO)

- ❖ Sun., Mar. 7, 2:30 p.m.: March concert -Julie Scolnik will perform the Carl Reinecke Flute Concerto in D, Opus 28; works by Dvorak and Elgar; Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover; \$18 (adults), \$14 (seniors and students); [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Sun., Apr. 25, 2:30p.m.: April concert – works by Berlioz, Schumann, Brahms; David Gross, Piano; Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover; \$18 (adults), \$14 (seniors and students); [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)



Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover:

- ❖ Fri., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.: "Come Together" a Tribute to the Beatles
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 6, 7:30 p.m.: The Makem Brothers with Mickey and Liam Spain
- ❖ Fri. Mar. 12, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.: [Treble Chorus of New England](#): **The Italian Girl in Algeria**; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#).
- ❖ Fri., Mar. 26, 7:30 p.m.: Forbidden Broadway

- ❖ Fri., Apr. 16, 8:00 p.m.; Sat. Apr. 17, 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.; Sun., Apr., 18, 2:00 p.m.: [Pentucket Players](#): "Man of La Mancha;" [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)
- ❖ Fri., Apr. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Merrimack College Jazz Ensemble



[Treble Chorus of New England](#):

- ❖ Fri. Mar. 12, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.: [The Italian Girl in Algeria](#); Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#).



[Pentucket Players](#):

- ❖ Fri., Apr. 16, 8:00 p.m.; Sat. Apr. 17, 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.; Sun., Apr., 18, 2:00 p.m.: "Man of La Mancha;" Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)



[Crossroads Coffeehouse](#), 3 Great Pond Road, North Andover:

- ❖ Sun., Mar. 13, 8:00 p.m.: [Corin Ashley Trio](#) \$12
- ❖ Sun., Apr. 10, 8:00 p.m.: [Terri Hendrix & Friend](#); \$15
- ❖ Sun., May 8, 8:00 p.m.: [Adam Ezra Group](#); \$15.



[Joppa Flats Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary](#), Newburyport

- ❖ Feb. 28-April 11: Plum Island artists Donna Osborne and Mary Ann Varoski; "Everyday Views Become Special;" opening reception Sun., Feb. 28, 2:30 p.m.



[Tsongas Arena, Lowell](#):

- ❖ The Tsongas Arena is now owned by the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and has been renamed the [Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell](#).
- ❖ Home of the [Lowell Devils](#) professional hockey team
- ❖ Home of the [UMass Lowell Riverhawks](#) hockey team
- ❖ Fri., March 12.: tickets on sale for Curious George Live



[Essex National Heritage Area](#):

- ❖ Thurs., May 20, 6:00 p.m.: [Essex Heritage Hero Award](#); recognizing honorees: Nicholas Costello of Amesbury, Maria Miles of Salisbury and Byron Matthews of Newburyport; Tupelo Music Hall, Salisbury



[Kimball Farm, Haverhill](#) offers horse-drawn sleigh rides with panoramic views of the Merrimack River, ending with hot cider or cocoa.



Advocates for the 3,500-acre [Harold Parker State Forest](#) in North Andover have formed [Friends of Harold Parker](#), with the goal of maintaining the forest's trails and making the park a destination to more people in surrounding towns. The forest offers various recreational activities, including hiking, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, camping and picnicking; *North Andover Citizen*: [Harold Parker has new group of supporters](#)

- ❖ Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. ["Beat the Winter Blues"](#) hiking series; two hours; free, open to the public. Meet at Harold Parker HQ, 305 Middleton Rd. North Andover.



You don't need to drive far to enjoy the snowy delights of winter sports in the Merrimack Valley:

- ❖ [Nashoba Valley Ski Area](#), Westford: snow tubing lessons; equipment rental; [Outlook Restaurant](#).
- ❖ [Ski Bradford](#), Haverhill: 13 trails, 3 triple lifts, 8 lifts, 3 rope tows; glade and night skiing; snowboarding.
- ❖ [Amesbury Sports Park](#): snow tubing



For **cross-country skiing** in the Merrimack Valley, visit these [state parks](#):

- ❖ [Georgetown-Rowley State Forest](#)
- ❖ [Harold Parker State Forest](#), North Andover
- ❖ [Maudslay State Park](#), Newburyport
- ❖ [Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsboro State Forest](#)

... and these sites, owned by The Trustees of Reservations:

- ❖ [Ward Reservation](#) (Andover/North Andover)
- ❖ [Old Town Hill](#) (Newbury)
- ❖ [Weir Hill](#) (North Andover)

[Holt Hill at Ward Reservation](#) in Andover and North Andover is the highest point in Essex County. The 420 foot hill offers great views and superb sledding.



Andover's [Ironstone Farm](#) offers the benefits of horseback riding in one of the region's only heated indoor arenas. Every other week, the farm hosts a "Friday Night Fun" ride for adults who would like to try horseback riding, info: (978) 475-4056

[Challenge Unlimited at Ironstone Farm](#)

- ❖ Fri., Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m.: Celebrity Bartender Night; [The Claddagh Pub and Restaurant](#), 399 Canal St., Lawrence; info: Megan Loughney, 978-475-4056, meganloughney@challengeunlimited.org



[Lowell Spinners](#): Group tickets and Mini Plans now on sale for the 2010 season; individual tickets available online Mar. 16.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



April 8 – 10: [Lowell Film Festival](#), will showcase films of Hollywood's Golden Age of the 1930s, including "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "It Happened One Night," and the original "Grapes of Wrath."



April 23 and 24: [Newburyport Literary Festival](#); *Daily News of Newburyport*: Best-selling lineup; Port Literary Festival snags top writers for its next chapter.

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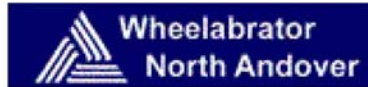


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