

# What's Up



# DOWNTOWN



# Quarterly

**A quarterly publication featuring local Downtown Alliances, Main Street Programs and other Downtown Organizations within our communities**

**Special Advertising Supplement to the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel | Wednesday, January 23, 2019**





# GET OUTSIDE!

## Maine's downtowns plan unique winter events

### BY MAINE DOWNTOWN CENTER

*Special to What's Up Downtown*

**Y**es it's winter, but why not try new outdoor things in one of Maine's many historic downtowns? There is no shortage of winter experiences. Think snow-shoeing, sledding, fat bikes, snow golf, pony rides and ice bars.

Maine has 10 National Main Street Communities and 17 Maine Downtown Affiliates and they are all busy places with lots going on this winter. Here is just a small sample:

### Ice Bar, live music and more

The Ice Bar at the Brunswick Hotel & Tavern at 4 Noble St. in Brunswick will be open from Jan. 18-20. There is a fee, but a live band, dancing, a fire pit, games, giveaways, craft cocktails and local craft beer makes it all worth it.

For more information, visit [evensi.us/tavern-ice-bar-brunswick-hotel/239429106](http://evensi.us/tavern-ice-bar-brunswick-hotel/239429106).

### Belfast Winter Whoopla

The Belfast Winter Whoopla happens in Belfast from Feb. 1-3. If you have always wanted to try curling and go to a Whoopla, here is your chance.

To learn more, visit [belfastmaine.org/belfast-winter-whoopla](http://belfastmaine.org/belfast-winter-whoopla).

### Biddeford Winterfest

Biddeford Winterfest is Feb. 1-3 in Biddeford. While this event offers something for everyone, our personal favorite activity is an adult-only sledding party on Feb. 1 from 6-7:30 p.m.!

For more information, check out [biddefordwinterfest.org](http://biddefordwinterfest.org).

### Gardiner Game night

Gardiner Game Night will be held on March 15 beginning at 7 p.m. Yes this event is inside, but who wouldn't want to come play the Match Game? Participants will come up with answers to humorous fill-in-the-blank questions, trying to match answers given by local celebrity panelists.

Learn more at [gardinermainstreet.org/annual-events/2018/3/9/gardiner-feud](http://gardinermainstreet.org/annual-events/2018/3/9/gardiner-feud).

### Lots to experience in Maine downtowns

Enjoy winter in Maine by exploring several of our downtowns. Each offers a unique sense of place that you can't get anywhere else and during each season they provide their own signature activities. Shop, dine and enjoy what Maine is all about.

For more ideas of what to do in a Maine downtown near you, please visit [mainstreet-maine.org](http://mainstreet-maine.org) or follow them on Facebook or Instagram!

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## Welcome to Downtown Augusta

### Dutch-style coffeehouse set to open in downtown Augusta

BY AUGUSTA DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE  
Special to What's Up Downtown



In just a few weeks, Huiskamer Coffeehouse will throw open its doors to begin serving the caffeine-starved employees and residents of downtown Augusta.

Located at 218 Water St. #1, Huiskamer (pronounced House-kahmer) will feature local coffees from Coffee on the Porch and Coffee by Design. The name of the coffeehouse, meaning "living room" in Dutch, is a throwback to popular café style settings in the Netherlands.

"We really wanted to create a space that offers high-quality local products in a relaxed environment," said owner Grace Fecteau. "That in a nutshell is why we called it "Huiskamer."

The coffeehouse will feature free Wi-Fi, comfortable seating, a variety of Dutch artwork and plenty of room to lounge in comfort.

"Selecting downtown Augusta was an easy choice for us," explained Fecteau.

"Over the last 18 months, we've seen Augusta transform into a destination once again. There is something special here and we wanted to be a part of it!"



#### Wedding shop opens on Water Street

Downtown Augusta gained a new retail business this year as Dreams Bridal Boutique and Tuxedo Center moved to 190 Water St.

Established in 2015, Dreams Bridal specializes in a variety of designer wedding gowns, tuxedos and formalwear.

Moving from the Marketplace at Augusta, owner Renee Adams made her decision to relocate downtown after attending Trick or Treat on Water St.

"I wanted to be a part of a community, and seeing all the camaraderie and activity down here that night really cemented my decision to make the move," said Renee.

Pops of pink accent walls along with plush couches and chandeliers, soften up the white brick interior creating an inviting space at her new location.

"I am so thrilled to be downtown," said Renee. "This move has proved to be an exciting time for us and everyone down here has been so welcoming!"



Contributed photo

Visit Renee Adams, owner of the newly opened Dreams Bridal Boutique and Tuxedo Center at 190 Water St. in Downtown Augusta.

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## Welcome to Downtown Gardiner



### Fun and frivolity don't hibernate in downtown Gardiner

BY GARDINER MAIN STREET  
Special to What's Up Downtown

Gardiner continues to build momentum after an incredible summer that brought more people to Gardiner than at any other time in recent history. The momentum continues downtown with new businesses and building owners who are looking to lease to high quality tenants. Winter and spring events provide plenty of opportunity to get locals and visitors through the colder months as we wait in great anticipation for the for sturgeon to start jumping in the Kennebec by our little city this spring.

#### Johnson Hall

Johnson Hall is presenting its popular "Maine Event Comedy" shows monthly. These performances, for mature audiences (21+), will tickle your funny bone with jokes about life in Maine, the meaning of life and everything in between. Visit the Johnson Hall website [johnson-hall.org](http://johnson-hall.org) for their full lineup of comedy, music and all theater performances.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Make sure to put the following events on your calendar so you don't miss all the fun that's yet to come:

**April 20:** Spring Fling

**June 22:** Greater Gardiner River Festival

**Oct. 12:** Swine & Stein Oktoberfest

**Nov. 2:** Early Bird Shopping

**Nov. 30:** Small Business Saturday

**December:** Days of Light Celebration, including the Annual Tree Lighting, Parade of Lights and Annual Latke Party and Chanukah Celebration.





Contributed photos

## Gardiner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

### Upcoming events at Johnson Hall

**Jan. 19:** Maine Event Comedy presents Steve Scarfo, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jan. 23:** Business After Hours, 5 p.m.  
**Feb. 2:** Capital City Improv, 7:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 9:** Gawler Family, 7:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 23:** An Evening with Paula Cole, 7:30 p.m.  
**March 9:** AudioBody – music comedy and technology, 2 and 6 p.m.  
**March 16:** Maine Event Comedy, 7:30 p.m.  
**March 23:** Galumph – acrobatics, visual effects, physical comedy, 7:30 p.m.  
**March 29:** Chris Smither, 7:30 p.m.  
**March 30:** Picture of Dorian Gray Presented by Open Book Players who perform literary works in the tradition of readers theater.  
**April 13:** “An Evening with Livingston Taylor, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.  
**May 26:** John Davidson at Johnson Hall, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

### SpinOff Studio

SpinOff Studio is kicking off the new year with “Mindful Mondays” weekly from 5-8 p.m.

The evenings include a variety of movement and dance, healthy snacks with a recipe to share, stretching exercises, breathing exercises, positive affirmations, mindfulness and relaxation. This activity is suitable for all ages and abilities.

A suggested \$5 drop-in donation (kids 10 and under FREE) supports programming at SpinOff.

### Twin Tuesday offerings

Tuesday evenings are busy on Water Street thanks to “Open Mic Night” at NICHE, INC. from 5-8 p.m. and “Trivia Night” at Two Gramps Brewing.

**Above:** AudioBody brings its own mix of music, comedy and technology to Johnson Hall for two shows on March 9. – music comedy and technology, 2 and 6 p.m.

### Open Mic Night

All musicians are welcome at Open Mic Night to listen or play (regardless of skill). NICHE, INC. hosts a friendly non-judgmental atmosphere for you to dust off the old guitar or play in front of people for the first time.

### What is ... Trivia Night?

Just down the street, Two Gramps Brewing is packed weekly with people anxious to test their knowledge with Trivia. Each week is themed to keep folks on their toes. Trivia starts at 7 p.m. yet be sure to come early for a handcrafted burger and one of Joe’s brews!

### Gardiner Main Street Game Night

Gardiner Main Street will bring it’s annual, epic “Game Night” to downtown on Friday, March 15. After playing “Gardiner Feud” for two years, this year’s Game Night will feature “Match Game.”

Contestants will try to come up with answers to humorous fill-in-the-blank questions, the object being to match answers given by local “celebrity” panelists. Johnson Hall’s own Mike Miclon will host this evening of entertainment.

This event has been a popular night to bring people who are hibernating in the comfort of their homes out and into downtown to enjoy some laughs as a community. Game Night also features a silent auction that includes “experiences you can’t normally buy” to help Gardiner Main Street raise money for its community programming.

Follow Gardiner Main Street on Facebook or visit the website [gardinermainstreet.org](http://gardinermainstreet.org) to stay up to date on this event and other exciting happenings in the community.

Discover Gardiner!



Welcome to  
Downtown  
Skowhegan

# Don't miss the fun Skowhegan is hosting activities for all

BY MAIN STREET SKOWHEGAN  
Special to What's Up Downtown

### Skijoring, ice fishing, and more to be featured at Somerset SnowFest

The Skowhegan area will celebrate all things winter during the first annual Somerset SnowFest Feb. 8-10.

Taking place in Skowhegan, Madison, and Canaan, the festival is being coordinated by nonprofits Main Street Skowhegan and Lake George Regional Park. Activities will include an ice-fishing derby, dog sled rides, ice skating, snow tubing, an ice bar, a brunch walk, a trail of lights, and Skijor Skowhegan, the Northeast’s only equestrian skijoring competition.

Skijoring means “ski driving” in the Norwegian language, and it is a popular sport in Scandinavia and in the American Midwest. Skijor Skowhegan will be a team time-trial race where a horse and rider pull a snowboarder or alpine skier down a 1,000-foot track of gates and three 2-foot jumps.

For more information on Somerset SnowFest including a full schedule of events, visit [sometersnowfest.org](http://sometersnowfest.org).



Courtesy Gallatin Valley Skijoring Association  
Getting some air takes on a whole new meaning when it’s Skijoring time.

### Skowhegan Maple Fest adds Maple Madness Basketball Tournament

Skowhegan’s annual Maple Fest — slated for Friday, March 22, through Sunday, March 24 — celebrates Somerset County’s status as the nation’s top maple-producing county, with 1.73 million taps.

The flagship event is the Saturday morning pancake breakfast featuring locally sourced foods, including — of course — Somerset County maple syrup.

More SKOWHEGAN, PAGE 5

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Jonathan Wheaton

Skowhegan Maple Fest features a Sap & Syrup Shuttle.

## Skowhegan

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The weekend will include other returning favorites such as the maple leaf scavenger hunt and the Sap & Syrup Shuttle to local maple houses.

New this year will be an antique tractor exhibit, music DJed by community radio station HooSkow 98.1 FM, and Maple Madness, a three-day basketball tournament featuring more than a dozen youth basketball teams.

Maple Fest culminates with Maine Maple Sunday, March 24, when sugarhouses all over the state are open to the public and offer free syrup samples and demonstrations on how maple syrup is made. Many farms offer games, activities, treats, sugar bush tours and more.

Visit [mainstreetskowhegan.org](http://mainstreetskowhegan.org) for more details as the event gets closer.

### 2018 MAIN STREET SKOWHEGAN HIGHLIGHTS

#### Business Profiles

Monthly profiles of businesses and organizations in Skowhegan were written and promoted. These profiles are among our most-visited web-

site pages — find them at [MainStreetSkowhegan.org/business-profiles](http://MainStreetSkowhegan.org/business-profiles).

#### Entrepreneur Challenge

Amanda Leigh Clark, LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) was selected as the winner of the \$23,000+ incentive package from the Maine Street Skowhegan Savings Entrepreneur Challenge. Clark opened River Trail Counseling & Wellness Center in Skowhegan in the summer of 2018.

#### Brand/marketing expertise

Web design, graphic design, and marketing services were offered to local businesses and organizations.

#### #ShopSkowhegan

A year-round shop local program that is free and open to any Skowhegan business was kicked off in 2018. For every purchase at a participating local business, patrons can sign up to win a \$25 gift card. Learn more and find deals — join the #ShopSkowhegan Facebook group.

#### Small Business Saturday

The fourth annual Passport to Savings program took place on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24. Shoppers who made a purchase at a participat-

More SKOWHEGAN, **PAGE 6**

## PLANNED 2019 EVENTS IN SKOWHEGAN

#### Somerset SnowFest

Feb. 8-10, Skowhegan, Madison, and Canaan  
[SomersetSnowFest.org](http://SomersetSnowFest.org)

#### Maple Festival

March 22-23, Downtown Skowhegan  
[MainStreetSkowhegan.org](http://MainStreetSkowhegan.org)

#### Skowhegan Home Show

May 11, Skowhegan Fairgrounds  
[SkowheganHomeShow.com](http://SkowheganHomeShow.com)

#### Cheese, Brews and Bread

June 23, Skowhegan  
[WesArts.org](http://WesArts.org)

#### Kneading Conference

July 25-26, KVCC—Alfond Campus  
[KneadingConference.com](http://KneadingConference.com)

#### Maine Artisan Bread Fair

July 27, Skowhegan Fairgrounds  
[KneadingConference.com](http://KneadingConference.com)

#### River Fest

July 31-Aug. 3, Downtown Skowhegan  
[SkowheganRiverFest.com](http://SkowheganRiverFest.com)

#### Dinner in the Park

Aug. 3, Coburn Park  
[DinnerInThePark.com](http://DinnerInThePark.com)

#### Skowhegan State Fair

Aug. 8-17, Skowhegan Fairgrounds  
[SkowheganStateFair.com](http://SkowheganStateFair.com)

#### Open Studio

Aug. 10-11, Central Maine  
[OpenStudioMaine.com](http://OpenStudioMaine.com)

#### Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival

Aug. 31, Downtown Skowhegan  
[SkowheganCraftBrewFest.com](http://SkowheganCraftBrewFest.com)

#### Small Business Saturday

Nov. 30, Skowhegan  
[MainStreetSkowhegan.org](http://MainStreetSkowhegan.org)

#### 27th Annual Holiday Stroll

Dec. 6-7, Skowhegan  
[MainStreetSkowhegan.org](http://MainStreetSkowhegan.org)

— Main Street Skowhegan

Contributed photo  
Snowtubing at Eaton Mountain in Skowhegan.



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## Skowhegan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ing local business were entered into a drawing for a gift card to a locally owned business of their choice.

### Skowhegan Moose Festival June 8-10, 2018

With an estimated 6,000 people from all over the Northeast, the moose festival at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds drew record-breaking attendance compared to past moose lottery drawing events. As a result of media outreach from our moose fest PR firm, Smithsonian Magazine named Skowhegan one of the 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2018!

### Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival

In its third year, on September 1 drew 1,200 people to town—from all over Maine, all five of the other New England states, Canada, and states around the country including New York, Texas and the Carolinas.

### Run of River Whitewater Recreation Area

In collaboration with the Run of River Committee, \$93,000 for the whitewater park and \$10,000 for downtown trail development was raised with other grants pending.

### Kennebec on Fire

A grant application, in collaboration with the Wesserunnett Arts Council, was submitted for this project that will place sculptures with fire braziers in the river, similar to WaterFire in Providence, R.I. Sculptures will be lit during festivals and events. If the grant is received, the majority of this grant funding will be used for artist commissions with the intention of giving preference to local artists.

### Videos to promote the region

As a Kennebec Valley Tourism Council member, Main Street Skowhegan directed six days of filming to create a series of videos to promote visitation to the region and Skowhegan.

### Outdoor Sport Institute (OSI) Community Partnership

On Skowhegan's behalf, Main Street applied for and was accepted as an OSI Community Partner and is leading the development and implementation of an action plan for engaging local residents in outdoor activities, from walking to whitewater paddling. OSI will help provide training, programming, and free gear for community members to borrow.

To view the full Main Street Skowhegan 2018 annual report, visit [mainstreetskowhegan.org/annual-reports](http://mainstreetskowhegan.org/annual-reports).

## Welcome to Downtown Waterville



## Waterville has lots to do, see and enjoy this winter

BY WATERVILLE CREATES!

Special to What's Up Downtown

W elcome to the new year – ready for our predictions? We predict that it's going to be a very busy winter for those who like to stay active in Waterville. We have a number of community events, art exhibitions, concerts, theatrical performances and outdoor activities happening between now and the end of March. This is great news for parents as well as anyone who likes to keep busy even when the snow is flying fast and furious.

Even better? There's a little something for everyone!

### Castonguay Square

January is an ideal month for reflection – self or otherwise! In January, Waterville Creates! is reflecting on the past, present and future use of Waterville's most-historic public greenspace, Castonguay Square, in its newest exhibition, "Reimagining Castonguay Square" – now open to the public in the new Sters Gallery at Common Street Arts, located in the Hathaway Creative Center at 10 Water St. Gifted to the city by land deed in 1840, "The Commons" was renamed Castonguay Square in 1921 for Arthur L. Castonguay, the first soldier from Waterville to be killed in action in World War I. The Square has undergone several re-designs in its long history, with the last major renovation occurring in 1986.

Now, during what is a time of significant new investment and transformative change in Downtown Waterville, Waterville Creates! is leading a public redesign process for Castonguay Square. Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts Our Town program with additional support from the City of Waterville and Colby College, the design project aims to involve diverse voices and perspectives in reimagining this important civic space and its role in our community. "Reimagining Castonguay Square" integrates three-dimensional design concepts created by teams of citizens during a public design charrette



Photo courtesy of the  
Waterville Historical Society

"The Commons" circa 1900's, now known as Castonguay Square.

held in November 2018 with historic images of Castonguay Square from the Waterville Historical Society. The exhibition will run through Feb. 16.

### Waterville Opera House

If side-splitting romantic comedy is more your thing, you're in luck – the Waterville Opera House will present its hilarious new winter comedy, "A Fox On The Fairway," on opening night, Friday, Jan. 25.

Featuring an all-star cast of comedic community actors, "A Fox on the Fairway" tells the story of two headstrong men, Henry Bingham from Quail Valley Country Club and Dickie Bell from Crouching Squirrel Country Club. The two lifelong rivals are competing against each other in the Annual Inter-Club Golf Tournament where the winner takes all bragging rights – including Mrs. Bingham's beloved Antique Shop!

When the flirting gets out of control the rivalry unexpectedly goes beyond the tournament and into matters of the heart. "A Fox on the Fairway"

More WATERVILLE, PAGE 7

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# Waterville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

runs Jan. 25 through Sunday, Feb. 3. For tickets or more information, contact the Waterville Opera House Box Office at 873-7000.

## Maine Film Center

This winter is also an amazing time to see some of the best films ever made by Mainers and filmmakers around the globe as the Maine Film Center celebrates legendary Maine movie icon John Ford, during the "John Ford: 125 Years Film Festival," Feb. 1-10.

Movie buffs in Waterville can catch some of John Ford's most-acclaimed films at the Waterville Opera House and Railroad Square Cinema during the Festival. For a complete schedule of films and showings, visit [mainefilmcenter.org/ford125](http://mainefilmcenter.org/ford125).

## Cinema Explorations

In addition to the Festival, the Maine Film Center will continue to present its winter film series, Cinema Explorations, dedicated to fostering the voices and choices of our local community of film lovers.

Programmed by a volunteer steering committee to present works of cinema from around the world and encourage the shared experience of communal film viewing and thoughtful discus-



Waterville Opera House photo

The cast of "A Fox On The Fairway," a production of Waterville Opera House.

sion, the next film screenings will be "What Price Hollywood?" (Jan. 26-27), a movie adapted from the same Adela Rogers St. John story that has also inspired four films.

"A Star Is Born" and "Hale County This Morning, This Evening" (Feb. 2-3) is an inspired and intimate portrait of a place and its people observing the lives of two African-American men over five years.

## Quarry Road Trails

One thing you can be sure of this winter — there will be snow. There's no better place to enjoy all of this snow in Waterville than Quarry Road Trails, offering miles of groomed trails for

cross-country skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing and of course sledding on the BIG hill!

Kick off your winter with Quarry Hill Road at their Soup and Ski event on Jan. 24 or Feb. 7 and mark your calendars now for Winter Fun Day featuring free skiing on Feb. 16. For more information on Quarry Road Trails, visit their website at [QuarryRoad.org](http://QuarryRoad.org).

## Waterville Historical Society

If Reimagining Castonguay Square whets your historical appetite this winter, be thankful the Waterville Historical Society has been busy planning some incredible new lectures and talks for February and beyond at the Redington Muse-

um! Join them for a lecture on "Franco-American Women in Waterville" on Feb. 13 and a talk on the "1944 Waterville Champion Basketball Team" on March 14. As always, Waterville Historical Society lectures are free and open to the public.

## Youth Art

The saying goes that March is "In like a lion, out like a lamb" but not here in Waterville. Here it's "In like a lion, out like a YAM" as Waterville Creates! once again brings Youth Art Month (YAM) to Common Street Arts the entire month of March. YAM showcases the positive impact and association between local art teachers and their students from kindergarten through high school.

This month-long exhibition celebrates the positive effects of art education and Common Street Arts is thrilled to host this exhibition for the fifth consecutive year. This year's theme is "Your Art, Your Story." To celebrate the theme of stories, CSA will host programs including Grandparents' Day, a family paint night, and more. Join Common Street Arts on Wednesday, March 6, for the opening of Youth Art Month! For more information, visit [CommonStreetArts.org](http://CommonStreetArts.org).

There are many free events to participate in this winter in downtown Waterville, including Snow Sculpting Day. Find details for all the activities online at [WatervilleCreates.org](http://WatervilleCreates.org). Now get out there and enjoy the season!

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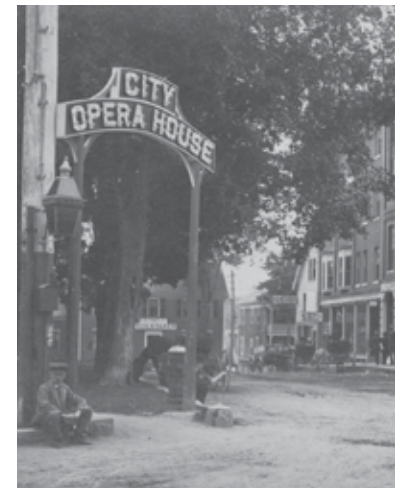


Dr. Kerry Kaplan, Dr. Peter Paradis and Dr. Lesley Sobek

# Experience the Arts in Waterville

## January 23–March 30

Date	Event	Location
Jan. 14–Feb. 16	Reimagining Castonguay Square	Sterrs Gallery, Common Street Arts
January 24	Brews and Blankies	Waterville Brewing Company
January 24	Soup and Ski	Quarry Road Trails
January 25	PechaKucha Waterville V.30	Colby College
Jan. 25–27, Feb. 1–3	A Fox On The Fairway	Waterville Opera House
January 26–27	What Price Hollywood?	Railroad Square Cinema
January 29	Telling Your Truth	Waterville Public Library
January 30	Art Happy Hour	Waterville Brewing Company
February 2	The Met: Carmen	Waterville Opera House
February 2–3	Hale County This Morning, This Evening	Railroad Square Cinema
February 8–10	Maine Pond Hockey Classic	Snow Pond
February 9	The Bolshoi Ballet: Don Quixote	Waterville Opera House
February 10	The Bolshoi Ballet: La Bayadere	Waterville Opera House
February 13	Lecture on Franco-American Women in Waterville	Redington Museum
February 14	Art Date Night	Waterville Brewing Company
February 16	Snow Sculpting Day	Castonguay Square
February 16–17	The Third Wife	Railroad Square Cinema
February 18–22	Winter Maker Camp for Kids	Common Street Arts
February 23	Northern Stars Planetarium	Common Street Arts
February 24	NTL: Macbeth	Waterville Opera House
March 2	The Met: La Fille du Régiment	Waterville Opera House
March 2–3	Budapest Noir	Railroad Square Cinema
March 4–30	Youth Art Month (YAM)	Sterrs Gallery, Common Street Arts
March 9	Family Paint Night	Common Street Arts
March 9	Shemekia Copeland	Waterville Opera House
March 10	The Bolshoi Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty	Waterville Opera House
March 16–17	Ice man	Railroad Square Cinema
March 16	Grandparent and Grandchild Day	Common Street Arts
March 30	Art Yoga for Kids	Common Street Arts



Waterville Creates! promotes, supports and grows our community's arts and cultural assets in order to strengthen Waterville as a vibrant creative center, increase access to creative opportunities for residents and visitors, and advance community and economic development goals. Learn more about these events or list your own event at [watervillecreates.org](http://watervillecreates.org)

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