

Monadnock Region **PROFILE**

2018-2019



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GKCC also provides tourist and relocation information.



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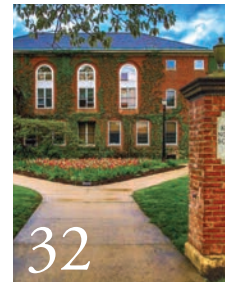


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THE MONADNOCK REGION: THE COOLEST PLACE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF



Scott Hussey

Greetings ... and welcome! We're very pleased to bring you this edition of the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce Monadnock Profile Guide and hope that you'll find the information both interesting and useful.

When I travel outside the region — whether in other parts of New Hampshire, around New England, or in other parts of the country — I often tell people, “it's the coolest place you've never heard of.” In some ways, of course, we like it like that. We like that we're a little isolated, a little quieter

than the city and suburbia, and a little off the beaten track. And yet we're an easy distance from Boston, New York, Hartford and even Montreal. We're right in the center of New England. It's the best of both worlds.

We have a long tradition of advanced manufacturing and other high-tech employers; entrepreneurship; several outstanding colleges and universities; excellent healthcare; a vibrant arts, culture and culinary scene; and some of the most beautiful scenery, wildlife and recreational opportunities anywhere on earth. We're mostly Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins and Celtics fans, although the occasional Yankees, Cubs or Steelers fan is spotted (and we welcome the rivalries).

We're humble, and we're proud. We argue a little — just go to a town meeting — but we do it respectfully and collaboratively. We come together when a conversation is needed, and we work together to improve something we think is already pretty good. We are a community of communities — each with its own history and character, and all with things in common.

Whether you're visiting here, going to school here, working here, or already live in Keene or one of our beautiful surrounding towns, you may have heard people say things like, “there's just something about the place ... I can't put my finger on it exactly, but it's a special place.”

So, as you turn the pages ahead, you'll see that we've asked people who live here to share their thoughts about what makes the Monadnock Region the place in which they've chosen to be. We expect you'll sense a thread of commonality in their stories. And we expect — whether you're visiting for a few days or weeks, or coming to experience our many outdoor activities, or coming to school here, or moving here for a new job or to raise a family or settling into retirement here — that you'll start to understand what we're talking about.

Visit our shops and restaurants. Experience our artists and performers. Drive or bike around our downtowns and our back roads. Go for a hike. Paddle in a kayak. Or just go for a walk. We may be the coolest place some people have never heard of, but now you know.

It is impossible to cover everything there is to know about the Monadnock Region in this publication. So, if you're curious about something, ask us.

All are welcome here!

Phil Suter
President/CEO
The Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce



Bill Gnade

GKCC Staff, left to right: Nancy Bishop, Phil Suter, Christine Hadlow, Deb Hathaway, Phyllis Custer

About us

The Greater Keene Chamber participates in many civic, business and social initiatives throughout the Monadnock Region.

The Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, Inc. is organized to advance the commercial, industrial, educational, cultural, recreational and general welfare of Keene and the surrounding area. We help member organizations thrive in whatever they do by offering social and networking events, such as Business After Hours and the Annual Gala, and enhancing their marketing reach through our highly trafficked website, newsletter, email marketing and event sponsorships.

We help engage member organizations in the public policy arena by informing and educating them about the issues that most affect our region's ability to be “open for business” and competitive. We are “at the table” when issues are discussed and participate in follow-up actions.

In addition to our own projects, we participate in many city and regional civic, business and social initiatives.

We are in the economic development business, focused on promoting member organizations, promoting issues awareness and promoting the region.



WHAT IS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

A Chamber of Commerce is a local organization of businesses that exists to further the interests of businesses and to help keep the local community strong. Business owners in towns and cities form these local groups to work together for the benefit of the business community.

A Chamber of Commerce is not a government body or institution, and it has no direct role in the writing and passage of laws and regulations that affect businesses. Local Chambers work on the local and regional level to bring the business community together to develop strong local networks and business-to-business exchange. They also work with business members and their local governments, such as their mayor, city council and area representatives to develop pro-business initiatives.

CHAMBER HISTORY

The first Chamber of Commerce on the American continent was in New York City and was established in 1768 in order to organize against British taxes on trade. The Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce (GKCC) was founded much later, in 1904.

Our Chamber is typical in that local businesses pay dues to become members, and a board of volunteer directors sets policy, oversees finances and determines the direction of the organization. They also donate their time and expertise to contribute to leadership and fundraising projects. The board hires the Chamber president, who leads and oversees staff and volunteers in and around our office, which serves as a tourist information center and base of operations at 48 Central Square in Keene.

LEARN MORE

Would you like to learn more about the benefits of becoming a Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce member?

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10 things TO LOVE

About Life in the
Monadnock Region



1 Community Spirit: As you will see from the testimonials throughout this publication, there is a strong sense of connection, collaboration and community that isn't found everywhere. Our region is strongly family-friendly. You will find that festivals, events and places are welcoming to children.

2 Recreation: You and your family have a myriad of activities from which to choose. Climb Mt. Monadnock, hike Chesterfield Gorge's 13 acres, ski or snowshoe Granite Gorge, bike on the 42-mile-long Cheshire Rail Trail, skate year-round at Keene ICE, golf and play tennis at the Keene Country Club, take a class or swim at the Keene Family YMCA. The list of recreational opportunities in the region is long!

3 Sustainability: The region is a green economy innovator; the Community Supported Solar Initiative is only one example of how our sustainability mindset informs everything we do.

4 Life-long Learning: Three institutions of higher education (Keene State College, Antioch University New England and Franklin Pierce University) and one community college (River Valley) provide advanced educational opportunities.

5 The Arts: The historical Colonial Theatre, Redfern Arts Center, Arts Tours in several communities, Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music's world-class string quartet, numerous choral groups and many other arts organizations make this region New Hampshire's "Cultural Corner."

6 Local Agriculture: "Pick-Your-Own" farms, CSA (community supported agriculture) farms, farmers' markets and the Monadnock Food Co-op make it easy to eat local.

7 Fairs and Festivals: Enjoy an independent film at the Monadnock International Film Festival (MONIFF), listen to diverse music at the Keene Music Festival, browse art for sale at Art in the Park ...there are fairs and festivals throughout the year to keep you and your family entertained. See page 30 for a listing of events in the region.

8 History: The ancient Lake Ashuelot, Western Abenaki and 18th century settlements, 19th century agricultural and industrial pursuits and 20th century educational and social reforms are all part of the Monadnock Region's rich history.

9 Covered Bridges: The Monadnock Region is home to seven covered bridges, each one unique. County Covered Bridge spans the Contoocook River between Hancock and Greenfield, while the other six bridges are close to each other in Swanzey and Winchester. See page 28 for information on each bridge.

10 Fall Foliage: Whether you travel along one of our highways or wander down a back road, you can't beat the beauty of brilliant red, orange and gold that defines autumn in the Monadnock Region.

WHY ARE WE KNOWN AS THE 'MONADNOCK' REGION?

Monadnock, which comes originally from the Abenaki Native American word for "mountain that stands alone," is now a standard geological term for any singular mountain that rises above the surrounding plain. There are several "monadnocks" around the country—ours is often referred to as the "grand monadnock." This area has a rich cultural history and a tradition of providing inspiration for the works of Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Mark Twain and Abbott Thayer. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the state's oldest nonprofit conservation organization, founded in 1901, is the major landowner on Mt. Monadnock.

For years, Mt. Monadnock has been known as "the second most climbed mountain in the world" (and may now be number one, since Mt. Fuji in Japan has opened an auto road to its summit). There are many routes to the summit where the view extends over several New England states.

Monadnock State Park Headquarters is located at 169 Poole Road in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. The White Dot Trail is the shortest direct steep route to the summit of Mt. Monadnock (1.9 miles) that begins at Monadnock State Park Headquarters.

For a trail map visit:
www.nhstateparks.org/uploads/pdf/Monadnock-State-Park_Hiking-Map.pdf.



Why We LOVE IT HERE

Interviews by Marcia Passos-Duffy

The reasons people visit, live, learn, work and play here are as diverse as the people themselves. Some locate to the Monadnock Region initially for a job or career; others attend college or university here and decide to stay; and others pick the area for its rural character,

good schools and safe communities in which to raise a family. Still others were born and raised here, leave for a while, and circle back to raise a family or retire. Whatever the reason people come here, their stories about why they chose to stay are remarkably similar: the scenic beauty,

a safe place to raise a family, outdoor recreation and the remarkable community spirit. Enjoy their stories — and feel free to share your story on our Chamber Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KeeneChamberOfCommerce.



Sarah Barkhouse and her wife, Vanessa Helgerson, are co-owners of Vera Flora Farm, a small cut-flower farm in Gilsum, N.H.

Sarah Barkhouse and Vanessa Helgerson were both students at Keene State College and decided to stay after graduation; they lived in Connecticut and Massachusetts prior to moving to the area 17 and 19 years ago, respectively. The couple live in Gilsum with their two children. They not only have full-time jobs (Sarah at W.S. Badger Company and Vanessa at Antioch New England) but they also co-own a thriving flower farm business, Vera Flora Farm.

“Since we run a small farm, the seasons (in the Monadnock Region) are especially meaningful and enjoyable,” says Sarah. “We adore late fall and winter months when the farm is less work and we can enjoy fires in the woodstove, snowshoeing in the woods and potlucks with friends.” The couple notes that, as small farmers and business owners, they feel supported by the

community, particularly because of the strong agricultural and local food movement.

“We have received so much support from both our community customer base as well as organizations that aim to help small farmers and promote conservation.”

Sarah and Vanessa enjoy country living in Gilsum, “for the peace, beauty and space to farm ... but we can be in Keene in 15 minutes. It’s the best of both worlds! We feel an incredible sense of community here from our neighbors who are like family, to the greater community. Nearly anywhere you go you bump into someone you know or who you share a connection with, yet it’s still large enough to be constantly meeting new people and discovering new places.”

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Apple picking, hiking, trips to the library, eating locally-produced food

Event: Orchard Hill Pizza Nights in Alstead in the summer

Place: Downtown Keene



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Hiking, bicycling

Place: Mt. Monadnock

Festival: Keene Ice and Snow Festival

Yves Pacifique Gakunde of Keene works for the City of Keene and is a Ph.D. student at Antioch University New England. He has lived in the region for seven years; he previously lived in Rwanda, Africa. He calls this region his “home far from home.”

Yves moved to the Monadnock Region from Rwanda in 2010 to join the environmental studies department at Antioch University New England, where he pursued a master’s program in sustainable development and climate change. He says this 18-month program inspired him to pursue a doctoral degree in environmental studies.

Yves points out that Keene was a perfect place for him to

land because “(it is) not too big to drive me crazy ... I’m not a city person, and not too small to make me bored. There are enough activities happening in Keene and in the surrounding towns. From live music, hiking opportunities, running groups, apple picking events, art gallery, volunteering with various nonprofit organizations, just to name a few.”

But it was not just the activities that drew him in. He says

that the community is welcoming and truly cares for one another.

“You can just walk downtown and have an opportunity to have a conversation with a friend or a total stranger and everyone is eager to listen or to tell a story. I have witnessed in many ways how this community comes together to build infrastructures such as the relatively new YMCA, Keene Ice (Keene’s new state-of-the-art community ice arena), the library renovation, etc. I have also witnessed in many instances how people come together to help a friend who is going through some hardship or who is sick. I can say with confidence that in this community: ‘We are in this together.’ We share the good times, and we have each other’s back,” he says.

But what is it like for someone who hails from a warmer climate to cope with the changing seasons? For Yves, who calls himself a “tropical fish,” it has been an eye-opener, particularly the changing colors of leaves in the fall.

“Before coming to America, I used to see in movies or in books, trees with leaves that have various colors, and I would tell myself that they probably painted them! With my background in biology-botany, I came to learn, in theory, about the leaves changing colors in fall ... (but) it was not until I arrived here in 2010 that I witnessed myself this beautiful magical phenomenon that so many people may take for granted. In fall, I jump in a car and just drive around with multiple stops to take pictures with my cell phone. I just enjoy seeing the beauty that Mother Nature offers to us.”

When winter arrived in his first year here, Yves was at first excited to experience snow, but then “I got tired of snow!” He doesn’t ski or snowboard because of bad knees from intense martial arts training for more than 20 years, so

he spends the winters hibernating, he says. “Watching movies, reading books and catching up with friends.”

Yves has caught the volunteering spirit of the region and does quite a bit in his spare time. He is a member of the Keene Elm City Rotary Club, was involved in bringing the first TEDx event to Keene, and he volunteers with African Educate, a nonprofit organization that supports the education of the orphans and poor children of Buchundura, Uganda.

“I don’t see myself being just a student or just working one job and not volunteering in the community. Volunteering is part of my life, and I consider myself as a happy person; and it’s all because I have a chance to give back to the community through volunteering,” says Yves.

It is this spirit of volunteering and giving back that has endeared Yves to this region.

“A while ago a good friend of mine told me this, ‘We don’t realize that happiness is with us, we just have to go somewhere else to understand.’ I have had a chance to travel in some countries in Africa and Europe; and, from my traveling experience, I learned that there is so much we take for granted, and we may forget how lucky we are. We live in a community where people still want to hear about your news, where you can have a cup of coffee with a friend, share a lunch with a colleague, or even have dinner and a drink with friends ... The beauty of being in a small town and working in the small town like Keene, we don’t spend our time waiting for a train to go to work or home, we don’t spend hours in the traffic jam. We use that time to have those small interactions.”



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Hiking, tennis

Place: Goose Pond, Keene

Shane Gormley and his family live in West Chesterfield; he is the project manager for IT Logistics and Transportation Systems at C&S Wholesale Grocers in Keene. Shane, a native of England, has lived in the region for four years; he has also lived in Pittsburg (N.H.) and Houston, Texas.

Shane Gormley moved to the Monadnock Region from England after completing a study abroad program at Keene State College; while here, he says, he fell in love with the natural beauty of the area.

"The quintessential small-town America feel of Keene; the lively mix of tradition and innovation and the people — including my now wife."

The best part about living in the region, he says, *is* its people.

"I consider the people within the Monadnock Region the glue that holds the fabric of our

society together. There is a strong collective desire to make the region thrive, mixed with genuine kindness and a strong sense of regional pride, which infuses the Monadnock Region with a level of passion that is unparalleled."

Shane notes that he has learned about this regional pride and passion firsthand by participating in the Leadership Monadnock Program (a Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce program) and working at C&S Wholesale Grocers for the past four years.

"Despite employing (more than) 17,500 people across the

U.S.," notes Shane, "C&S has found a way to retain a family feel, which I really appreciate."

Shane says he made a very purposeful decision to live in the countryside, feeling that it would have a good impact on his children.

"I feel very fortunate to live in West Chesterfield, near Lake Spofford, not far from Keene and Brattleboro, and surrounded by state parks, like Pisgah and Chesterfield Gorge. So far we have been visited by turkeys, deer, foxes and a skunk."

Like many newcomers (and natives) to the region, Shane has delved into volunteer activities at work and in the community; he is currently a committee member for the Keene Downtown Revitalization Project, which he says he hopes will "bring a lot of joy, and benefits, to the people of Keene and the surrounding areas." He also participates in C&S voluntary events, such as building a playground for Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities, donating to the United Way, and participating in National Hunger Month.

"My wife and I enjoy our roles in the community, and feel well integrated, due in part to the strong presence our employers have in the area (C&S Wholesale Grocers and Cheshire Medical Center/ Dartmouth-Hitchcock respectively) ... because of the size of the community we also have

a remarkable opportunity to get involved and make a difference," he says.

Shane feels an incredibly strong sense of community in his adopted home, more so than any other place he has lived, he says.

"The folks in this region are highly creative and innovative — highlighted by the number of local businesses and the success of organizations such as the Hannah Grimes Center. They are also generous and compassionate — emphasized by the number of nonprofits, volunteer opportunities and the fantastic people who make them happen; many of whom I had the pleasure to meet during my time in the Leadership Monadnock Program and at C&S."

What makes the Monadnock Region different? He says that the rural charm is "irresistible."

"The quaint main streets bustling with local businesses; the strong sense of belonging that blossoms from the community working tirelessly together to bring exciting events to life; the farms, the parks, the trees. Everything in the Monadnock Region has a 'craft' appeal to it, as though every minute detail has been carefully reviewed, selected and deployed with aplomb, to leave behind an inescapable feeling that the Monadnock Region is something very special."

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Scott Hussey

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Keene Chorale, hiking, gardening, kayaking, snowshoeing, baking, enjoying fresh local produce (and canning, freezing and pickling that fresh local produce)

Place: The Walpole Library

Event: Walpole Old Home Days

Antonia Andreoli is a partner at Galloway Real Estate of Walpole. Antonia, who has been in the region since 1967, hails from Agawam, Massachusetts.

Antonia and her husband moved to the area for teaching jobs, and were immediately drawn to the small town of Walpole and its surrounding farms.

"It reminded me of growing up in the 50s in rural western Massachusetts, but that environment was already changing by the late 60s. By the time our children were born in the late 70s, we knew that this is where we wanted to raise them."

And it turned out to be a good choice, she says.

"One daughter said that growing up in Walpole was like growing up in a Norman Rockwell painting. In spite of the loss of many family farms, the rural agricultural environment that surrounds our towns as well as the 'big city' of Keene is still a major plus for the region."

Antonia has enjoyed running a small business in Walpole, Galloway Real Estate, which has been in the same location on Main Street for more than 60 years.

"We are a locally-owned realty; my business partner, Cindy Westover, is from a family that has been in Walpole since the mid-1700s! My 50 years here makes me a newcomer!"

Antonia and her late husband taught generations of local high school students.

"That local history and those connections make me feel part of this community, participating in the organic process of continuity and change as families' housing needs grow and evolve over time ... and we are able to help with that process."

In her spare time, Antonia runs the scoreboard for the Fall Mountain Regional High School volleyball games in the fall. She also cooks for the Warming Shelter in North Walpole and chairs the worship committee at the Walpole Unitarian Church. She also enjoys traveling to the relatively nearby cities of Boston, Montreal and Quebec City.

"But I love returning to the peace and green spaces of Walpole. We have great places — just not so many of them. We have museums — just smaller." 🌿

Why

WE LOVE IT HERE!

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Howard Printing, Inc.



A trip to the Monadnock Region and southwestern New Hampshire is a unique combination of old-fashioned sensibilities merged with modern openness to new ideas. Keeping our Main Streets and downtowns thriving is important to us. We have embraced the “buy local” movement. We want to preserve our historical places. We want to preserve our agricultural heritage. We want to go green. We love a good festival. And locals will greet you with a friendly “good morning” on the street. Spend a few days visiting our region’s charming “big city,” Keene (population: 23,406), and then spend time meandering along winding tree-lined roads that lead to small towns and villages that dot our many hills and valleys. No matter what season you’re in, be prepared to be charmed and delighted by our New England hospitality and scenic beauty. You may never want to leave.



Foliage TOURS

Searching for a good foliage route to take in the Monadnock Region is like searching for good wine in France — you can't go wrong. Here are just two of many tried and true routes that will give you about 40 miles each of excellent views and good Monadnock hospitality. Consult with your host for other fine tours.

Tour #1: Once Around the Mountain. Starting from Peterborough, take Route 101 west for five miles to Route 137. Turn left on Route 137 heading south to Jaffrey. In Jaffrey, there are plenty of reasons to get out and stretch, including the Civic Center Exhibits, the Amos Fortune Home and the old Red Schoolhouse that has been fully restored.

Next head west on Route 124. This road, more than 12 miles of scenic splendor, will bring you along the southern edge of Mt. Monadnock to the town of Marlborough. It rises over fair-sized hills and dips into beautiful lowlands. When you reach Marlborough, turn right onto Route 101, heading east; although this is a main highway, it skirts lovely Dublin Lake and bisects Dublin.

If you still have time, turn left 2 miles east of Dublin on Route 137. This will bring you to the picturesque village of Hancock. Continuing through Hancock, Route 137 connects with U.S. 202. Turn right on 202 for a relaxing and scenic ride back to Peterborough.

Tour #2: The River Valley Run. This journey will take you from Keene on the Old Walpole Road. From the center of Keene, head north on Court Street for approximately 3 miles. You will come to the junction of Rt. 12A and should continue straight through that intersection. Following the Old Walpole Road approximately 12 miles will bring you into the stately, picture-perfect town of Walpole. Be sure to stop and see the local Historical Museum.



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Just west of Walpole is the main highway, Route 12. Four roads from the center of town will bring you to Route 12, within one mile. Turn left on Route 12 until you reach Route 63. You will bear right on Route 63 for approximately 1.5 miles, until you reach River Road on your right. By following River Road for approximately 7 miles, you will be meandering along the beautiful banks of the Connecticut River. It will eventually connect with Rt. 9, a major highway. Turn left on Route 9 for a quick 10-mile return to Keene, past Spofford Lake. 🍁

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Colony House:

A B&B IN THE HEART OF KEENE

By Lisa Cook

Historical, classic and unassuming, the Colony House Bed & Breakfast is quietly nestled in the bustling historical district of downtown Keene. The Federal-style brick structure is home to Joslin Kimball Frank, and a home away from home for guests seeking the charm of a quintessential New England Bed & Breakfast.

Built in 1819 as a private home by local merchant Timothy Hall, the house was purchased by Horatio Colony — the youngest member of the wool manufacturing Colony family — in 1863. Three generations of the Colony family occupied the home until its sale in the 1970s. The extensive fields and gardens that originally surrounded the home were replaced by commercial buildings and streets as the city of Keene grew. However, grass, hedges, stone and brick paths have recently replaced the former dirt driveway, restoring the warmth of green space to the downtown historical district.



Lisa Cook

Colony House Bed & Breakfast

104 West Street
Keene, NH

603-352-0215

colonyhouse104.com

Joslin Kimball Frank's life took an unexpected turn when she found the former home of her great-grandparents vacant and for sale. Fearing the historical building would be demolished, she relocated from Manhattan (abandoning her plans to move to Boston) to purchase the house. Fifteen years later, with

restoration that spanned more than a decade and earned her the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Achievement Award for outstanding restoration, Kimball Frank continues to enjoy sharing her home with family and guests.

The interior of the home offers a sophisticated warmth, says Kimball Frank. "I have kept the rooms very simple, as I believe beauty lies in the architecture itself."

High ceilings and large windows allow for ample light. The classic and stylish furnishings are a blend of antiques and found items. The rooms have retained most of their original configurations with the additions of private bathrooms in the guest rooms.

The 5,000-square-foot building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, divides naturally into two parts — a private residence for the owner and a full separate living space for the bed and breakfast.

Guests have a private entrance with living room, pantry and breakfast room on the main floor, and four guest rooms with private baths on the second floor. Kimball Frank notes that guests enjoy the luxury of ironed sheets, modern conveniences and a European-inspired expansive continental breakfast of fresh fruits, yogurt, local eggs, ham and artisanal cheese, pastries, juices, locally roasted coffee and a variety of fine teas.

The Colony House — within walking distance to downtown shops, eateries, arts venues, parks, and trails — truly exhibits an opportunity to step into the past and enjoy being present in historical Keene. 🍷



Lisa Cook

COLONY HOUSE

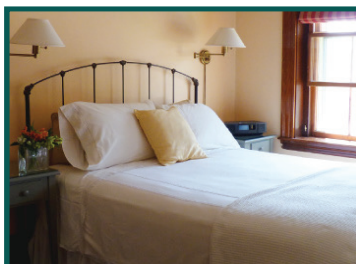
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Points OF INTEREST

Situated in the “heart of New England,” the Monadnock Region is the perfect base from which to explore New England’s many scenic, recreational and historical points. Easy day trips can be made to most of the popular destinations in the Northeast. Check with the local Chambers of Commerce for details on these and other points of interest.



Elegant Rose Studios

United Church of Christ:

(1786-88), Central Square, Keene. (National Register)

Colony Block:

(1870), Central Square, Keene, is a fine example of a commercial city block. It is Second Empire Victorian style and includes the office of the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce. (National Register)

Ashuelot River Park:

West Street, Keene, is a 46-acre park donated to the city in 1960 and placed in preservation. It has gardens and wooded areas along the Ashuelot River for walking, running and cycling.

Two Arch Stone Bridge:

(1840) upper Court St., Keene, was built without mortar and is sustained by its arch of stone.

Horatio Colony Museum:

(1806), 199 Main St., Keene. This Georgian style home houses the collection of Horatio Colony (1900-1977), grandson of Keene’s first mayor. He traveled worldwide collecting artwork and treasures from Americana to Oriental.

Wyman Tavern:

(1762), 339 Main St., Keene, is a Georgian style wood frame home owned by the Historical Society of Cheshire County and retained as a period house museum. In October 1770, the trustees of the newly-formed Dartmouth College met in the north front parlor for their first meeting. In 1775, Keene’s patriots met here to commence their march to Lexington, Massachusetts. (National Register)

Historical Society of

Cheshire County: 246 Main St., Keene, located in an Italianate brick mansion built in 1870.

Elliot Mansion:

(1810), Main Street, Keene. This is one of several Main Street homes that became part of Keene State College — and care has been taken to retain its historical character. Of special note is the mural in the front foyer, painted by Barry Faulkner, a Keene native who gained national prominence as an artist. His work can be seen in several buildings in Keene, at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and the entrance to Rockefeller Center in New York City. (National Register)

Walpole Village:

Walpole Town center with its village green surrounded by homes with a mix of Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival and eclectic styles of architecture. Near the village center is the Walpole Academy (1831), which houses Walpole’s archives and museums. (National Register)

Park Hill Meetinghouse:

Westmoreland. Construction began in 1762 and was completed in 1779 in its present location atop Meetinghouse Hill. It is one of the loveliest meetinghouses in the county. It has four columns 30 feet tall and 18 to 20 inches in diameter, that were hand turned from local trees. The steeple includes a bell cast by the Paul Revere Foundry.

Chase’s Mill:

(1884), Mill Hollow, East Alstead, works as it did in 1884. All machinery is run by water including a large table saw, jointer and wood planer.

Stone Arch Bridge:

(1863), Gilsom, is one of the few remaining dry-laid bridges (no mortar), and spans the Ashuelot River. (National Register)

Stone Arch Bridge:

Stoddard, twin arch bridge built without mortar.

Swanzy Historical Museum:

West Swanzy. Houses an authentic stagecoach and restored Amoskeag steam fire pumper.

Veteran’s Memorial Hall:

(1837), Richmond. Built for the Universalist Society as their meetinghouse, the dedication was given by Hosea Ballou (1771-1852), an influential leader of Universalism who was born in Richmond. (National Register)

Amos Blake House:

(Circa early 19th century), Fitzwilliam. Home of the Fitzwilliam Historical Society and Museum, it was the house and law office of Amos Blake (1836-1928). Displays include schoolroom, general store, physician memorabilia and military artifacts.

Second Rindge Meetinghouse:

(1797), Rindge. The largest meetinghouse in New England. The steeple is short in proportion to the rest of the building. Legend is that it was deliberately shortened to accommodate the fire department. The hand pump used to fight fires was unable to produce a stream of water above the weathervane, so the townspeople cut 12 feet from the steeple. (National Register)

Center Cemetery:

(1770), Marlborough. This is also the old center of town and affords a wonderful view of Mt. Monadnock.

Jaffrey Historic District:

Jaffrey Center. Thirty-six significant dwellings includes the Meetinghouse (1775), Little Schoolhouse Museum (1822), Melville Academy (1833) and the old burial ground behind the meetinghouse where three of Jaffrey’s most prominent citizens are buried: Amos Fortune, Hannah Davis and Willa Carter.

Harrisville Mill Village:

Harrisville. The only surviving unaltered 19th century industrial community in the United States. Survives as a perfect example of early industrial architecture for textile mills. (National Historic Landmark)

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

Redfern Arts Center, on Brickyard Pond at Keene State College, 229 Main St., Keene • 603-358-2168

Sharon Arts Center, 475 Rt. 123, Sharon • 603-924-7256

The MacDowell Colony, 100 High St., Peterborough • 603-924-3211

Thorne-Sagendorph, Art Gallery, at Keene State College, 229 Main St., Keene • 603-358-2720

Aquarius Fire Museum, Peterborough Fire Department, 16 Summer St., Peterborough • 603-924-3211

Cathedral of the Pines, 75 Cathedral Entrance, Rindge • 603-899-3300

Fitzwilliam Historical Society, Fitzwilliam • 603-585-7742

Franklin Pierce Homestead, Hillsborough • 603-478-3165

Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies, at Keene State College • 603-358-2490

Walpole Historical Society, Main Street, Walpole • 603-756-4861

Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music, 410 Apple Hill Rd., East Sullivan • 603-847-3371

Peterborough Players, Middle Hancock Road, Peterborough • 603-924-9344



LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE:



Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce

603-352-1303
www.keenechamber.com
info@keenechamber.com

Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

603-924-7234
www.peterboroughchamber.com
staff@peterboroughchamber.com

Greater Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce

603-464-5858
www.hillsboroughchamber.org
info@hillsboroughnhchamber.org

Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce

603-532-4549
www.jaffreychamber.com
info@jaffreychamber.com

Rindge Chamber of Commerce

603-899-5051
www.rindgechamber.org
info@rindgechamber.org

Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce (VT)

802-254-4565
www.brattleborochamber.org
info@brattleborochamber.org

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Jarvis and Marcia Coffin

...who own The Hancock Inn and Fox Tavern located in the tiny town of Hancock, moved to the region six years ago from Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Jarvis and Marcia Coffin moved to the area when they purchased the Hancock Inn, which they did, in part, to be closer to parents who lived in the region. This town of 1,600 people, is special in that each building on Main Street is part of the National Register of Historic Places.

But the best part of living in a small town surrounded by hills, forest and countryside, is that they are so close to nature, "And ... the nearest stop light to our house is seven miles away!" says Jarvis.

While it feels far away from everything, it really isn't, notes Jarvis.

"It's got a great mountain, from the top of which you can see Boston, 75 miles away. It's a reminder that while it feels far away, it really isn't."

The couple enjoy the changing beauty of the landscape and the arrival of new, seasonal foods, "... such as early

spring lettuce, corn on the cob in the summer, apples in the fall, and long simmering stews in winter."

They look forward to Old Home Days in their town every year, which happens the third weekend in August.

"Old Home Days is a New Hampshire tradition that towns celebrate at different times all summer long," explains Jarvis. "It is like a rolling carnival."

What makes the Monadnock Region special is that it has retained its traditional landscape and architecture.

"Elsewhere, even in New Hampshire, the best of what a region has to offer can be exploited, commercially," says Jarvis. "Marcia and I call it vacation sprawl. Here, in the Monadnock Region, people are united in opposing that sort of exploitation. In nearby Harrisville, for instance, a monument to New England



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Hiking

Festival: Old Home Days in Hancock

Places: Hancock and Keene

preservation, the town carefully curates its historic village without relying on offers from far-away places such as Hollywood." 🍷



WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Jamie Trowbridge

...of Dublin is Yankee Magazine's president; he has lived in the Monadnock Region almost all his life. He moved to the region from New Jersey with his family when he was four years old.

Jamie Trowbridge never tires of the region's natural beauty and its people even though he has lived here practically his entire life.

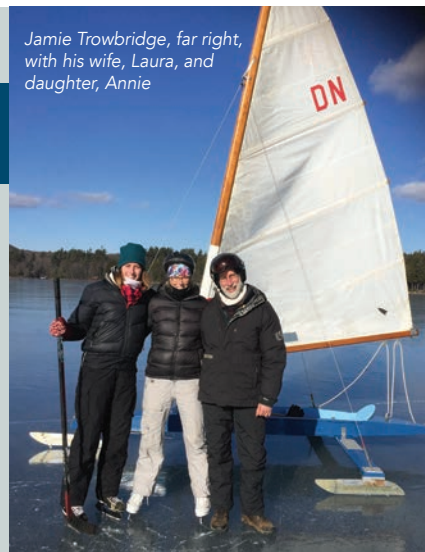
"The natural beauty is inspiring, and its charming villages are comforting," he says. The residents, he says, strike just the right balance between down-home friendliness and cultural sophistication.

"It's the combination of these two elements — the place and the people — that make it a special place to live."

His favorite annual event in the region is the MacDowell Colony's Medal Day.

"It's a chance for the specialness of the Monadnock Region to rub off on the city folk — and vice versa. It doesn't matter which artist they are honoring; we go regardless. I know, as I approach the big tent at MacDowell on a sunny Sunday in August, that I'm going to go home feeling a little smarter." 🐾

Jamie Trowbridge, far right, with his wife, Laura, and daughter, Annie



Courtesy photo

FAVORITE THINGS

Place: Dublin Lake

Event: MacDowell Colony's Medal Day

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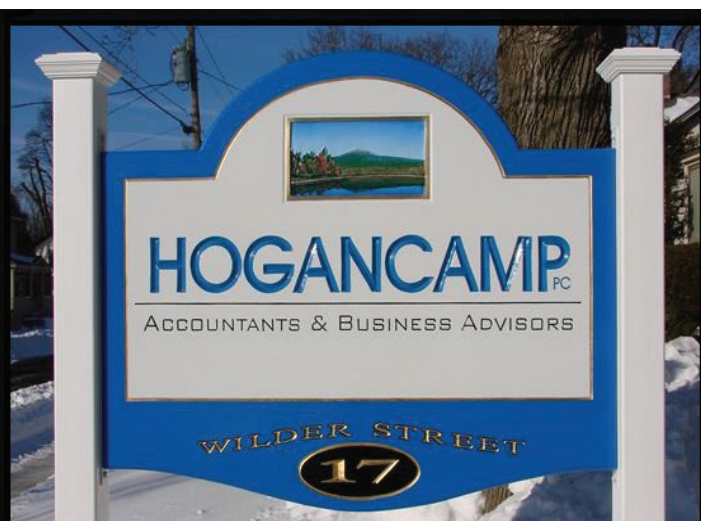
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In 2017, U.S. News and World Report ranked New Hampshire the #2 best state to live in the nation. One of the reasons New Hampshire (and the Monadnock Region) ranks high is because of its healthy and active population. Why are we, as a population, so healthy? Maybe it has to do with the opportunities to exercise in nature — the state, after all, leads the nation in forested land (89 percent). We also have many opportunities to encourage those who are healthy to remain healthy; and many organizations and services to help if there is a health challenge. And here, in the Monadnock Region, there is another important element to health: A caring community that is there to help one another in times of need.



HEALTHY MONADNOCK: BECOMING THE HEALTHIEST COMMUNITY IN THE NATION

The Monadnock Region has a robust healthcare system that supports community members in their wellness goals. Our healthcare services begin with Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene (CMC/DHK), an award-winning regional hospital with a large multi-specialty physician practice as the cornerstone. Other healthcare leaders include Home Healthcare Hospice and Community Services, Monadnock Developmental Services, Phoenix House, Monadnock Family Services, MAPS Counseling Services, and many public and private organizations working to support the health of our community.

In the spring of 2007, Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene set an ambitious goal for us to become the healthiest community in the nation. This initiative, Healthy Monadnock, offers programs to motivate Monadnock Region residents (Champions) and local organizations (Organizational Champions) to live, share, and model healthy behaviors, and inspire them to influence others in their social networks. To learn more about the Healthy Monadnock initiative, visit www.healthymonadnock.org. 🌿

“I think that residents of the Monadnock Region, for the most part, feel that we are all in this together. There’s not a lot of coming and going; most of us are in it for the long haul. It pays to know your neighbors. Without compromising our live-free-or-die sense of independence, we know we have to take care of one another.”

— Jamie Trowbridge, Dublin

KEENE’S BICYCLE MAYOR: A FIRST IN THE U.S.

This small corner of New Hampshire is the only place in the United States with a Bicycle Mayor – Tiffany Mannion. The program, launched by ByCs in Amsterdam, engages and connects bicycling leaders from around the world, people who actively promote a future with happier, healthier cycling citizens. Other countries with Bicycle Mayors include Brazil, Mexico, The Netherlands, Australia, Canada and Lebanon.

Mannion is connecting Keene’s riders with a website, online newsletter and social media. She is helping create local two-wheeled opportunities such as bike kitchens, themed group rides, cycling education classes, and bicycle-friendly designations in neighborhoods. She is working to see more confident riders on more bikes, more often. Connect with the Bicycle Mayor of Keene at www.bicyclemayorofkeene.com and join the ride. 🚲



KEENE CENSUS

Subject	Percentage
Total Population 2015	23,403
Total Population 2010	23,409
Square Miles	37.2
People per square mile	628.3
Median age	33.5 years
0-9	8%
10-19	18%
20-29	20%
30-39	11%
40-49	10%
50-59	12%
60-69	11%
70-79	6%
80+	5%
Female	55%
Male	45%
Caucasian	93%
Black	1%
Asian	2%
Hispanic	2%
Native American	0.2%
Foreign Born	3.9%
Civilian labor force	12,204
Unemployment rate	4.1%
High School Graduates	93.30%
Bachelors Degree	40.40%
Masters Degree or higher	17%
Per Capita Income	\$29,383
Median household Income	\$52,636
Persons below poverty line	17%
Mean travel time to work	15.5 minutes
Number of households	9,319
Persons per household	2.2
Married couples	49%
Number of housing units	9,961
Single unit	49%
Multi-unit	46.60%
Mobile home	4.40%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$183,100



The town of Westmoreland by Steve Hooper

LOCAL TOWN INFORMATION

Town	Zip Code	Phone (603)	Town/City Email	Town/City Website	School Admin. Unit
Alstead	03602	835-2986	townofalstead@comcast.net	www.alsteadnh.org	SAU 60
Chesterfield	03443	363-4624	admin@nhchesterfield.com	www.nhchesterfield.com	SAU 29
Dublin	03444	563-8544	selectmen@townofdublin.org	www.townofdublin.org	SAU 1
Fitzwilliam	03447	585-7723	fitzbos@wivalley.net	www.fitzwilliam-nh.gov	SAU 93
Gilsum	03448	357-0320	gilsumrocks@gmail.com	http://www.gilsum.org/	SAU 93
Hancock	03449	525-4441	n/a	www.hancocknh.org	SAU 1
Harrisville	03450	827-3431	selectmen@harrisvillenh.org	www.harrisvillenh.org	SAU 29
Hinsdale	03451	336-5719	tchinsdale.nh@myfairpoint.net	www.town.hinsdale.nh.us	SAU 92
Jaffrey	03452	532-7445	townmanager@townofjaffrey.com	www.townofjaffrey.com	SAU 47
Keene	03431	352-0133	plittle@ci.keene.nh.us	www.ci.keene.nh.us	SAU 29
Marlborough	03455	876-3751	townclerk@marlboroughnh.org	www.marlboroughnh.org	SAU 29
Marlow	03456	446-2245	townofmarlow@netryders.com	www.marlow-nh.org	SAU29
Nelson	03457	847-9043	townclerk@townofnelson.com	www.townofnelson.com	SAU 29
Peterborough	03458	924-8000	administration@townofpeterborough.us	www.townofpeterborough.com	SAU 1
Richmond	03470	239-4232	richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com	www.richmond.nh.gov	SAU 93
Rindge	03461	899-5181	townclerk@town.rindge.nh.gov	www.rindgenh.org	SAU 47
Roxbury	03431	352-4903	townofroxburynh@myfairpoint.net	http://roxburynh.org/	SAU 93
Stoddard	03464	446-3326	stoddardtownhall@myfairpoint.net	www.stoddardnh.org	SAU 24
Sullivan	03445	847-3316	sullivantownclerk@myfairpoint.net	www.ci.sullivan.nh.us	SAU 96/29
Surry	03431	352-3075	selectmen@townofsurry.org	www.surry.nh.gov	SAU 29
Swanzy	03431	352-7411	selectmen@town.swanzy.nh.us	www.town.swanzy.nh.us	SAU 93
Troy	03465	242-7722	selectmen@troy-nh.us	www.troy-nh.us	SAU 93
Walpole	03608	756-3672	sdowning@walpolenh.us	www.walpolenh.us	SAU 60
Westmoreland	03467	399-4471	townofwestmoreland@myfairpoint.net	www.westmorelandnh.com	SAU 29
Winchester	03470	239-4951	selectmen@winchester.nh.gov	www.winchester-nh.gov	SAU 94/29



HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Alstead

Alstead Center Congregational
Alstead Village 3rd Congregational
East Alstead 2nd Congregational

Chesterfield

Asbury United Methodist
Universalist

Dublin

Dublin Community
Fairwood Bible Chapel
Mountain View Bible

Fitzwilliam

American Christ Power Mission
Fitzwilliam Community
Trinity Baptist

Gilsum

Gilsum Congregational

Hancock

First Congregational Church

Harrisville

Congregational
First Congregational
St. Joseph's

Hinsdale

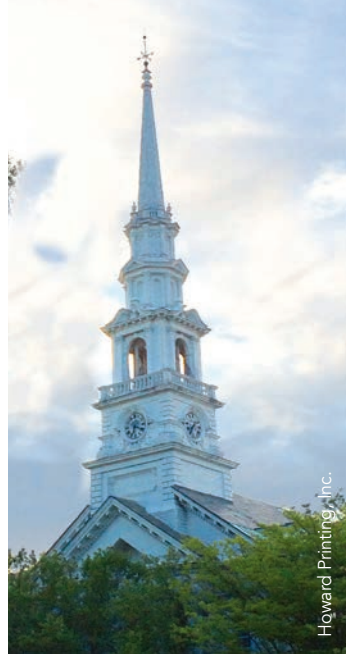
First Congregational Church
North Hinsdale Community Church
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Jaffrey

Calvary Assembly of God
First Congregational
Harvest Christian Fellowship
Hope Fellowship Church
Jaffrey Bible Church
First Congregational
Jaffrey Presbyterian
Monadnock Friends Meeting
Pilgrim's Baptist
St. Patrick's
United Church of Jaffrey

Keene

Assembly of God
Christ's Evangelical
Church of Christ
Church of the Nazarene
Congregation Ahavas Achim
Crossway Church
First Baptist Church of Keene
First Church of Christ Scientist
First United Pentecostal
Hope Chapel
Keene Friends (Quaker)
Keene State College Campus Ministry
Monadnock Covenant
Newman Center
Next Level Church
Praxis Church
Salvation Army
Seventh Day Adventist
St. Bernard's Parish
St. George Greek Orthodox
St. James Episcopal



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St. Margaret Mary Parish
Sturtevant Chapel
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints
Trinity Lutheran
Unitarian-Universalist
United Church of Christ

Marlborough

Federated Church of Marlborough

Marlow

Marlow United Methodist

Munsonville

United Methodist, Chapel by the Lake

Nelson

Nelson Congregational
United Parish

Peterborough

All Saints Episcopal Church
Unitarian Church
Peterborough United
Methodist Church
Divine Mercy Parish
Union Congregational Church
Monadnock Congregational Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
First Church-Church Scientist
St. Peters Catholic Church
Next Level Church
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints
Divine Mercy Rectory

Richmond

Community United Methodist
St. Benedict Center

Rindge

Advent Lutheran Church ELCA
Cathedral of the Pines

First Congregational
Monadnock Full Gospel
West Rindge United Methodist

Spofford

Grace Community Evangelical
Free Church
United Methodist
New Life Pentecostal Chapel

Stoddard

Stoddard Congregational

Sullivan

United Congregational

Surry

Beth-el Bible

Swansey

Christian Life Fellowship
Community Bible Church
Cornerstone Baptist
Faith Bible
First Congregational
Jehovah's Witnesses
New Covenant Community Chapel
Seventh Day Adventist
The Village Church

West Swansey Community
Church Temple
Congregational Church of Temple

Troy

Christ Lutheran
Immaculate Conception
Trinitarian Congregational
Troy Baptist

Walpole

First Congregational
St. John's Episcopal
St. Peter's
Unitarian Universalist

Westmoreland

Reformed Bible Church
Union Church
Westmoreland United Church

Winchester

Grace Christian Fellowship
St. Stanislaus Church
United Church of Winchester
Westport Community Church

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Catholic Charities
603-357-3093
Child & Family Services of NH
800-640-6486

Alcohol/Drug Abuse

Alcoholics Anonymous
and Al-Anon
800-593-3330
Monadnock Substance Abuse
Service
603-357-3007
Monadnock Voices for Prevention
603-357-1922
Phoenix House Comprehensive
Addiction Treatment Services
(Dublin)
888-671-9392
Phoenix House Comprehensive
Addiction Treatment Services
(Keene)
603-358-4041

Animal Care

Monadnock Humane Society
Swansey
603-352-9011

Business/Commerce

Better Business Bureau
603-224-1991
Greater Keene Chamber of
Commerce
603-352-1303
Greater Peterborough Chamber
of Commerce
603-924-7234
Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce
603-532-4549
Monadnock Economic
Development Corp.
603-352-4939
See Business Resources, Page 42
for more

Childcare

Footsteps Daycare and Learning
603-357-1475
Harrisville Children's Center
603-827-3905
Keene Day Care Center
603-352-2129
Monadnock Community Day Care
603-532-8424
RISE for Baby and Family
603-357-1395
Sophia's Hearth Family Center
603-357-3755
The Winchester Learning Center
603-239-7347

Children/Youth

Big Brothers/Big Sisters
603-352-9536
Boys Scouts
800-221-0009
Cheshire YMCA/Camp Takodah
603-352-0447
Child and Family Services
800-640-6486
Child Support Enforcement
800-723-5437

Division for Children and Youth
603-357-3510
E.L.M. Community Center
603-239-4316
Family Strength
603-357-8772
Foster Grandparents Program
603-668-1990
4-H Youth Development
603-352-4550
Girl Scouts
800-654-1270
Head Start
603-352-7512 x4160
Impact Monadnock
603-352-4209
Jaffrey Recreation Department
603-532-7863
Juvenile Conference Committee
603-357-9810
Keene Family YMCA
603-352-6002
Keene Housing Kids Collaborative
603-352-0109
Keene Parks and Recreation
603-357-9829
Monadnock Region Child
Advocacy Center
603-352-0738
RISE for Baby and Family
603-357-1395
Rural Family Friends
603-352-7512
Youth Resource Center
603-357-2848

Head Start
603-352-7512 x4160
Impact Monadnock
603-352-4209
Jaffrey Recreation Department
603-532-7863
Juvenile Conference Committee
603-357-9810
Keene Family YMCA
603-352-6002
Keene Housing Kids Collaborative
603-352-0109
Keene Parks and Recreation
603-357-9829
Monadnock Region Child
Advocacy Center
603-352-0738
RISE for Baby and Family
603-357-1395
Rural Family Friends
603-352-7512
Youth Resource Center
603-357-2848

Community Support Services

Monadnock United Way
603-352-4209
Southwest Region Planning
Commission
603-357-0557
Southwestern Community Services
603-352-7512
The River Center (Peterborough)
603-924-6800

Counseling/Mental Health

Alzheimer's Disease Services
603-357-4400
Catholic Charities
603-357-3093
Cheshire Medical Center
603-354-5400
Compassionate Friends, Inc.
603-532-7554
MAPS Counseling Services
603-355-2244
Monadnock Family Services
603-357-4400

Disability Services

Cedar Crest, Inc.
603-358-3384
Easter Seals
603-355-2244
Friendly Bus/City Express
603-352-8494
Monadnock Developmental
Services
603-352-1304

Monadnock Worksource
603-924-3326
NH Association for the Blind
800-464-3075
New Hope/New Horizons
603-352-3610
RISE Early Intervention and
Prevention
603-357-1395
Vocational Rehabilitation NH
Division
603-357-0266

Domestic Violence

Monadnock Center for
Violence Prevention
603-352-3844

Education/Training

Adult Education
603-357-9041
Adult Tutorial Program
603-357-9041
Continuing Education Keene
High School
603-357-0088
Continuing Education Keene
State College
603-358-2290
Head Start
603-352-7512 x4160
New Hampshire Vocational
Rehabilitation
603-357-0266
Red Cross
603-352-3210
UNH Cooperative Extension
603-352-4550

Employment

NH Department of Employment
Security
603-352-1904
NH Job Training Council
603-358-1082

Energy/Environment

Cheshire County Conservation
District
603-756-2988
Fuel Assistance Program
603-352-7512
Harris Center for Conservation
Education
603-525-3394
Weatherization Program
603-352-7512

Family Planning/Pregnancy

Child and Family Services of NH
800-640-6460
Pregnancy Resource Center
of the Monadnock Region
603-358-6460
Planned Parenthood
603-352-6898
Prenatal Clinic-Home Health Care
603-352-2253

Financial Assistance/Welfare

Consumer Credit Counseling
Services
800-660-5609
Keene City Social Service
603-357-9809
Medicaid
603-357-3510
NH Division of Health and Human
Services
603-357-3510
Social Security Administration
603-352-3487

Food/Material Assistance

Community Kitchen
603-352-3200
Food Bank
603-352-1990
Food Stamps
603-357-3510
Friendly Meals
603-352-2253
Meals on Wheels
603-352-2253
St. Vincent de Paul at
St. Bernard's Church
603-352-3525
Salvation Army
603-352-0607
Southwest Community Services
603-352-7512
WIC Program
603-352-7512

Health

AIDS Services
603-357-6855
American Red Cross
603-352-3210
Cheshire Medical Center/
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene
603-354-5400
Division of Public Health
603-357-3510
Health Department of Keene
603-352-5440
Home Health Care, Hospice and
Community Services
603-352-2253
Lifeline
603-354-5400
Monadnock Community Hospital
603-924-7191
Partners in Health
603-352-1304

Housing/Housing Assistance

Cheshire Homes, Inc.
603-352-5459
Cheshire Housing Trust
603-357-7603
Emergency Shelter
603-357-1654
Hundred Nights Shelter
603-352-5197
Keene Housing Coalition
603-352-7512
United Church Shelter
603-532-7047

Legal Services

New Hampshire Legal Assistance
800-562-3994
Public Defender Program
603-357-4891

Recreational/Social

Cheshire County YMCA
603-352-0447
Cheshire Fair Association
603-354-4740
Grand Monadnock Arts Council
603-357-3906
Jaffrey Recreation Center
603-532-8698
Keene Family YMCA
603-352-6002
Keene Parks & Recreation
603-357-9829
Keene Senior Center
603-532-8698

Senior Services

Castle Center for Adult Care
603-358-8281
Elder Care Program
603-352-7512
Friendly Bus/City Express
603-352-8494
Friendly Meals
603-352-7525
Harper Acres
603-357-4589
Keene Senior Center
603-352-5037
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
603-352-2088
Rural Family Friends
603-352-7512
Telephone Reassurance Program
603-352-5037
See more listings on page 25.

Suicide Prevention

Emergency Services at
Monadnock Family Services
603-357-4400
Samaritans
603-357-5505

Transportation

Community Volunteer
Transportation Center
877-428-2882
First Student, Inc.
603-352-2303
Friendly Bus/City Express
603-352-8494

Volunteers

Monadnock Volunteer Center
603-352-2088
Red Cross, for Medical
Appointments
603-352-3210
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
603-357-6893

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COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Greater Keene Rotaract Club
www.elmcityrotary.org

Keene Elm City Rotary Club
www.elmcityrotary.org

Keene Lions Club
www.keenelions.com

Kiwanis Club of Keene
www.keenekiwanis.org

The Rotary Club of Keene
info@keenerotary.org
www.keenerotary.org

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE



Jim Rousmaniere

...of Roxbury, moved to the region from Baltimore 36 years ago; he works from home as an independent writer.

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities:

Beekeeping, racquet sports, snowshoeing, forestry

Place: Dublin Lake

Festival: The Wyman Tavern Brewfest (Keene)

Jim Rousmaniere, retired president and editor at The Keene Sentinel, the region's daily newspaper, now keeps busy as an independent writer and as an active member in his community: He is a Roxbury selectman and is president of the Cheshire County Historical Society.

"These associations connect me to my surroundings," he says.

Jim adds that the best part of living in the Monadnock Region is the collaborative spirit of its people.

"There is a collaborative can-do spirit in the DNA," he says. 🌱

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SENIOR LIVING

Opportunities for seniors in the Monadnock Region to stay active and involved are abundant. Physical health is a primary component to staying engaged in community life. Structured physical activities for seniors are available through the Keene and Peterborough Recreation Centers, the Keene Senior Center and the Keene Family YMCA. The beautiful parks and hiking trails provide excellent opportunities for spending time in nature. Eating well is also important! There are several community garden sites for seniors, nutrition counseling, and, if needed, Meals on Wheels. Being an active senior also requires finding meaningful engagement with others and ideas. The Keene State College CALL (Cheshire Academy for Lifelong Learning) program allows seniors to enroll in courses as varied as any college curriculum. Book, game and social groups meet regularly throughout the region and are welcoming to new members. The Monadnock Volunteer Center (RSVP) connects seniors with opportunities to assist others in the community and offers a home visiting program for homebound seniors. Advice to assist seniors regarding benefits, resources and activities is readily available at Servicelink via their website at nh.gov/servicelink or by calling 1-866-634-9412. 🌱

SENIOR LIVING

Information Clearinghouses

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services
312 Marlborough St., Keene
1-800-541-4145 (toll-free)
www.hcsservices.org

Monadnock at Home
PO Box 422, Jaffrey
603-371-0809
www.monadnockathome.org

New Hampshire Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services
129 Pleasant St., Concord
603-271-9203
www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/beas

Servicelink
105 Castle St., Keene
603-357-1922
www.servicelink.nh.gov/locator/keene.htm

Southwestern Community Services
63 Community Way, Keene
603-352-7512
www.scsheps.org

Assisted Living/Retirement Communities

Bentley Commons
197 Water St., Keene
603-352-1282
www.bentleyatkeene.com

Hillside Village Keene
877-411-2796
www.hillsidevillagekeene.org

Langdon Place of Keene
136A Arch St., Keene
603-357-3902
www.geneshihcc.com/LangdonPlaceKeene

Maplewood Assisted Living Apartments
201 River Rd., Westmoreland
603-399-4912
www.cheshirecounty.us/maplewood/assisted-living

The Prospect-Woodward Home
194-202 Court St., Keene
603-352-6051
www.prospectwoodward.org

RiverMead
150 RiverMead Rd., Peterborough
603-924-0033
www.rivermead.org

The Scott-Farrar Home
11 Elm St., Peterborough
603-924-3691
www.scott-farrar.com

Summerhill Assisted Living
183 Old Dublin Rd., Peterborough
603-924-6238
www.summerhillal.com

Nursing Homes

Applewood Rehabilitation Center
8 Snow Rd., Winchester
603-239-6355
www.geneshihcc.com/Applewood

Genesis Keene Center
677 Court St., Keene
603-357-3800
www.geneshihcc.com/Keene

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
20 Plantation Dr., Jaffrey
603-532-8762
www.goodshepherdrehabcenter.org

Langdon Place of Keene
136A Arch St., Keene
603-357-3902
www.geneshihcc.com/LangdonPlaceKeene

Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Rd., Westmoreland
603-399-4912
www.cheshirecounty.us/maplewood

Pheasantwood Center
50 Pheasant Rd. Peterborough
603-924-7267
www.geneshihcc.com/PheasantWood
www.harborsidehealthcare.com

Westwood Center
298 Main St., Keene
603-352-7311
www.geneshihcc.com/WestwoodNH

Social and Recreational Opportunities

Chesterfield Senior Center
Chesterfield Town Hall
Chesterfield
603-363-8071

Hinsdale Seniors
Millstream Community Center, Hinsdale
603-336-5726

Jaffrey Seniors
Jaffrey Recreational Dept., Jaffrey
603-532-7863

Keene Senior Center
70 Court St., Keene
603-352-5037
www.thekeeneseniorcenter.org

Senior Corner
Peterborough
603-924-8000

Walpole Seniors
Congregational Church, Walpole
603-756-3604

Winchester Seniors
E.L.M. Community Center, Winchester
603-239-4316

Day Programs

Castle Center Adult Day Program
312 Marlborough St., Keene
603-355-8281
www.hcsservices.org/longtermcare/castle-center

Monadnock Adult Care Center
22 North St., Jaffrey
603-532-2427
www.mfs.org/monadnock-adult-care-center

Educational Opportunities

Cheshire Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL)
Keene State College Continuing Education Office
229 Main Street Keene
603-358-2290
www.keene.edu/academics/conted/call

Volunteer Opportunities

Monadnock RSVP Senior Center
64 Main St., Suite 212, Keene
603-357-6893
22 North Street, Jaffrey
603-924-7350
www.monadnockvolunteercenter.org



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WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Milena Lima

...of Keene, moved to the region from Brazil two years ago. She works at C&S Wholesale Grocers.

Milena Lima has only been in the region for two years and already she has picked up some of the New England idioms. When asked about the best part of living in the region she says, "The Monadnock Region is a *wicked* charming part of New Hampshire."

She loves the architecture, beautiful scenery, and great restaurants. Even though she hails from a warmer climate she says that the four seasons allow her to fully enjoy each season.

"The fact that you can walk along parks during the spring, enjoy the lakes in

the summer, go for a hike while seeing the fall foliage and seeing beautiful snow days makes it very easy to enjoy it."

Milena is still a relative newcomer and says that everything is different from Brazil, "from the weather to the culture ... I am yet to learn and discover everything this region has to offer."

But either to live permanently or for just a visit, Milena says that, "It is definitely worth getting to know the Monadnock Region." 🌿

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Hiking

Festival: Strolling of the Heifers, Brattleboro, Vermont

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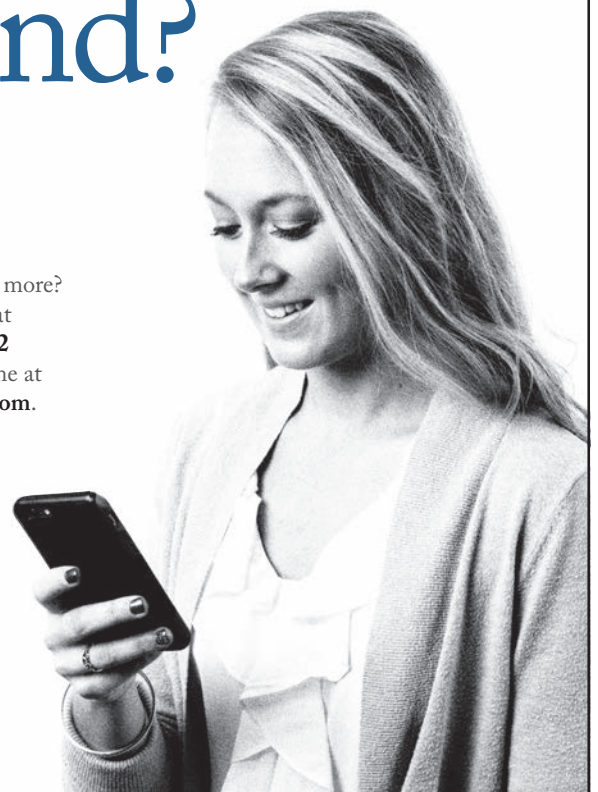


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—Mari Brunner, Planner
Southwest Region Planning Commission



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healthymonadnock.org





Coombs Bridge, by Denis Tangney Jr., iStockPhoto

The Covered Bridges

OF THE MONADNOCK REGION

By Marcia Passos-Duffy

Covered bridges are a symbol of America's simpler times. They are picturesque, inspirational and even romantic. While they are viewed today as a quaint throwback to a bygone era, these wood bridges were originally designed with an intense Yankee-like practicality in mind.

Without a covering, a wood bridge exposed to the elements would last only 15 to 20 years. That common sense approach to cover wooden bridges has paid off: Some covered bridges have lived on into the 21st century – thanks in part to a Federal program to help restore many of the still-standing covered bridges that were on the brink of collapse after decades of neglect.

While there were more than 10,000 covered bridges in the U.S. in the 19th century, there are still about 750 still standing – and functional. Fifty-four of those covered bridges are in the state of New Hampshire; of those seven are in the Monadnock Region.

Here is a glimpse of these Monadnock Region covered bridges (they are state numbered). Note that these bridges are not only pretty to look at, but today serve as functional bridges over rivers and streams. When you drive through a covered bridge, slow down and take the time to look at the engineering marvel of its protecting roof, with criss-crossed braces extending from the top to the bottom.

Ashuelot Covered Bridge

(NH #1)

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p5.html

Winchester, N.H.

Built in 1858, renovated in 1999

This bridge is considered by local historians to be one of New Hampshire's most elaborate covered bridges. It originally was built to transport wood across the Ashuelot River for use by the Ashuelot Railroad. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Coombs Covered Bridge

(NH #2)

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p7.html

Winchester, N.H.

Built 1837, renovated in 1971

The bridge, which spans the Ashuelot River, was named for its original builder and owner, Anthony Coombs. It was used for social and commercial purposes; and it is still used today. It listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Slate Covered Bridge

(NH #4)

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p9.html

Swanzy, N.H.

Built 1862, rebuilt 2001

The bridge was named for the Slate family, who lived nearby. The bridge suffered many mishaps in its history including collapsing under a team of oxen in 1842, damage from a snowplow in 1987 and a fire in 1993. The bridge was rebuilt in 2001 for \$900,000.

Thompson Covered Bridge

(NH #5)

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p11.html

Also called "West Swanzy Bridge"

West Swanzy, N.H.

Built in 1832, rebuilt 1976

In 1973 it was posted for 6-ton limit, just enough for an *empty* school bus so when school buses were filled, drivers simply asked students to get off the bus, walk the bridge, and re-board on the other side. In 1976 a new concrete and steel bridge was built nearby for buses and trucks. This bridge, now posted at a 3-ton limit, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sawyer's Crossing Covered Bridge

(NH #6)

Also called "Cresson Covered Bridge"

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p13.html

Swanzy, N.H.

Before 1771, reconstructed in 1859 and 1996

When the bridge was renovated in 1859, town folks celebrated in a big way: with lanterns hung from the rafters, a four-piece orchestra, lunch at midnight and dancing through the night. The bridge also became famous in 1953 when its image was used on a Chesterfield cigarette Christmas carton. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Carlton Covered Bridge

(NH #7)

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p15.html

Swanzy, N.H.

Built in 1789, rebuilt 1869 and 1996

The records say that the original bridge was built at a cost of "15 pounds." According to local lore, the bridge was put up by barn builders because the truss construction is so similar to that used in barns. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (This bridge is pictured on the cover of this publication.)

County Covered Bridge

(NH #8)

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p17.html

Hancock and Greenfield, N.H.

Built 1832, rebuilt in 1937, renovated 1981

A flood swept away the original bridge in March of 1936. The bridge was rebuilt using funds from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration project. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 🌿



Carlton Bridge by Ken Hathaway



Cresson Bridge by Ken Hathaway

"The American covered bridge has inspired more poets and painters than has perhaps any other familiar object of our native landscapes."

— David Steinman,
author of *Bridges and Their Builders*,
1941



COMMUNITY EVENTS

January

Winterfest, Winchester
www.winchesterspeedway.net/Events.html
Wintertime at Granite Gorge Ski Area
 thru Mid-March, Keene
www.granitegorge.com

February

Keene Ice and Snow Festival, Keene
www.facebook.com/Keene-NH-Ice-Snow-Festival-249483592152/

March

Stonewall Farm's Annual Sap Gathering Contest, Keene
www.stonewallfarm.org
HOLI: Festival of Colors
www.hscn.org

April

Monadnock International Film Festival (MonIFF)
 Monadnock Region
www.moniff.org
NH Builders Association of Southwestern NH Home Show
www.keenehomeshow.com

May

Stonewall Farm, Dancing of the Ladies, Keene
www.stonewallfarm.org
Children and the Arts Festival, Peterborough
www.childrenandthearts.org

June

Apple Hill Chamber Music Summer Concert Series, June-August, Nelson
www.applehill.org
Wyman Tavern Festival, Keene
www.hscn.org
Gilsum Rock Swap & Mineral Show, Gilsum
www.gilsum.org/rockswap
Artisans Fair, Hillsborough
www.hillsboroughartisans.com
Swanzy Old Home Days
www.swanzyoldhomeday.org/
Keene Art Walk
www.keeneartwalk.com
Fitzwilliam Strawberry Festival
 Facebook: @fitzwilliamhistoricalsociety.org
The Farmers' Market of Keene
 Tuesdays and Saturdays, June – October
www.keenefarmersmarket.com
Jaffrey Community Farmers Market
 Mondays June – September
www.jaffreycommons.org
Keene Swamp Bats
 June – August
www.swampbats.com

July

Jaffrey River Fest
Concerts on the Common, Jaffrey
www.teamjaffrey.org
The Park Theatre Summer Movie Nights
 July & August, Jaffrey
www.theparktheatre.org
Hillsborough Balloon Festival and Fair
 Hillsborough
www.balloonfestival.org

Monadnock Buy Local Independents Week
www.monadnocklocal.org
Festival of Fireworks, Jaffrey
www.jaffreychamber.com/events/fireworks/
Hillsborough Living History Event
 Hillsborough
www.livinghistoryeventnh.com

August

Cheshire Fair, Swanzy
www.cheshirefair.com
MacDowell Colony Medal Day, Peterborough
www.macdowellcolony.org
Hillsborough Art Studios Open Tour
www.hillsboroughartisan.com
Wyman Tavern Brew Fest, Keene
www.hscn.org

September

Art in the Park, Keene
www.monadnockareaartists.org
Keene Music Festival, Keene
www.keenemusicfestival.org
Winchester Pickle Festival, Winchester
www.facebook.com/Winchesterpicklefest
Clarence DeMar Marathon
www.clarendedemar.com
Monadnock Fall Festival
 Facebook: @monadnockfallfest

October

Blessing of the Animals Star Gazing Event (with Monadnock Music)
www.cathedralofthepines.org
Scarecrows on the Common, Jaffrey
www.jaffreycommons.org
Peak into Peterborough
www.peterboroughchamber.com
Monadnock Pumpkin Festival, Keene
www.monadnockpumpkinfestival.org
Cheshire Craftsmen's Fair
 Facebook: @CheshireCraftsmen
Fall Foliage Art Studio Tour
www.fallfoliageartstudiotour.com
Ghostly Gorge Haunted Hayride
www.granitegorge.com
Keene Pumpkin Festival
www.pumpkinfestival.org

November

Kristallnacht Commemoration
www.keene.edu
Annual Veterans Day Service, Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge
www.cathedralofthepines.org
Monadnock Buy Local Plaid Friday
 Friday after Thanksgiving
www.monadnocklocal.org
Tree Lighting Festival, Keene
www.keenekiwanis.org

December

Currier & Ives Cookie Tour
www.currierandivescookie.com
Christmas at the Inn, Troy
www.east-hill-farm.com

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Michael Petrovick

...of Caitlin + Petrovick Architects of Keene, makes his home in Frankestown; he has lived in the region for 21 years. Previously, he lived in Albany, New York, and New York City.



Scott Hussey

Mike Petrovick was attracted to the region for the rural charm, natural beauty and the many options for outdoor activities and relatively easy access to Manchester (N.H.), Boston and New York. He particularly enjoys the Monadnock Music's summer performances (www.monadnockmusic.org).

"I enjoy classical music ... this festival's mission is to bring exceptional performance to the beautiful towns and villages while highlighting the region's historical architecture," he says.

Mike decided to make his home 21 years ago in rural Frankestown, which is his favorite place in the region

because, he says, "Aesthetically, it's quintessential New England. The people are interesting and eclectic, with a sense of Yankee spirit and ingenuity."

In his spare time, Mike is active in his church and any activity that helps communities "sustain their rural character in a changing world."

He is a past board member and president of Monadnock Music, board member and president of Pathways for Keene, and works as a ski instructor at Crotched Mountain Ski and Ride.

Small towns, he says, are dear to his heart: "... because small town survival relies on community."

And in the Monadnock Region, there are many small towns in which to put down roots.

"People tend to get involved in their community or in the region, which generally contributes to the culture of the area." 🌿

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Downhill skiing, hiking, boating, mountain biking

Festival: Monadnock Music

Place: Frankestown



WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Adam Kossayda

...lives in Harrisville and works in Keene as an attorney with the law firm Bragdon & Kossayda PC. He was hired by the firm after law school and moved to Keene from Boston 11 years ago.

Adam Kossayda was a single guy from the city when he was interviewed by Keene-based attorney Steve Bragdon who asked him, "What are you going to do here?" Adam said he'd ski in the winter and fish in the summer.

"So he hired me, then introduced me to my beautiful wife, Sarah, a year later ... and here I will stay!"

Adam still fishes and skis, and is also playing hockey for the first time in 20 years.

"I've become part of the community, something I never did when I lived in the city," he says.

He continues, "I had never understood what it meant to be part of a community, but living here was easy. Friends encourage you to participate and it is actually fun, rather than 'community service' in the legal sense!" 🍃



Scott Hussey

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Beekeeping, racquet sports, snowshoeing, forestry

Place: Dublin Lake

Festival: The Wyman Tavern Brewfest (Keene)

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Learn HERE

Learning is lifelong, and in the Monadnock Region there are many opportunities to learn: from toddlerhood well into the senior years. Along with five public school districts serving more than 40 towns, there is an ample selection of private/independent and/or preparatory schools, preschools, a thriving community education program, and various workshops, classes and lessons to take. Enjoy a watercolor painting class, learn horseback riding, bone up on computer skills, and more. There are several institutions of higher education in the Monadnock Region — Keene State College, Antioch University New England, Franklin Pierce University and River Valley Community College — that bring in diverse ideas and people, and a youthful vitality to the region. For seniors, the Cheshire Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL) is a remarkable opportunity for seniors to continue learning in a college environment at a very low cost. The CALL program is affiliated through the Institute Network with ELDERHOSTEL, now known as Road Scholar.



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All of this happens every day at the Cheshire Career Center located in Keene High School. The Cheshire Career Center is one of 23 career and technical education centers around the state serving 21 towns from Fall Mountain, Keene and Monadnock High Schools. More than 900 enrolled students are benefiting from the outstanding career and college opportunities being offered.

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- Fifteen different career track programs.

Visit www.cheshirecareercenter.org or connect on Facebook at CheshireCareerCenter.

Call (603) 352-0640 ext. 3464 for more information or to arrange a tour.

Learning for Life:

At Keene State College Office of Continuing Education

Natalie Neilson (pictured) started taking classes through the Keene State College Office of Continuing Education while working full time at a transitional living program for young adults. Today, with a Keene State bachelor's degree in psychology, Natalie is the Greater Monadnock Region Continuum of Care Facilitator at the Center for Population Health at the Cheshire Medical Center, a Dartmouth-Hitchcock affiliate.

Focused on substance misuse prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery, Natalie explains, "I work to convene community partners involved in this continuum in order to create a more coordinated and effective system for our community. I love what I do. Taking classes through Continuing

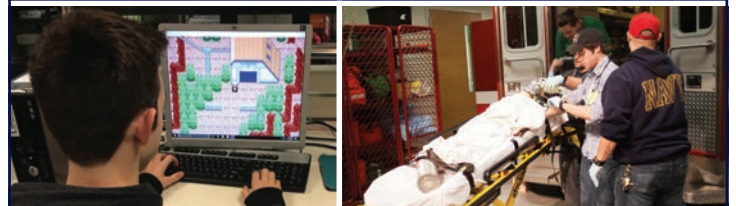


Education was a phenomenal way to start the ball rolling and pursue a degree. The supportive staff helped me explore options to find what would work best with my crazy schedule."

The KSC Office of Continuing Education is a great resource for those living in the Monadnock Region, offering more than 40 areas of study to get you where you want to go, flexible scheduling (including day and evening classes), and academic advising to help make the right choices for you.

Visit keene.edu/ce or call 603-358-2290 for more information.

Get a head start on work and college at Cheshire Career Center and be prepared for life after high school!



Programs available to 10th through 12th grade students in Cheshire and Sullivan counties.



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603.352.0640 x3434 or www.keene.k12.nh.us/cc**

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Keene High School
43 Arch Street
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LOCAL SCHOOLS

Public Schools

SAU 29:

Cheshire Career Center
603-352-0640
<http://cheshirecareercenter.org/Welcome.html>

Chesterfield School
603-363-8301
www.chesterfield.k12.nh.us

Franklin Elementary School (Keene)
603-352-1712
www.franklin.keene.k12.nh.us

Fuller Elementary School (Keene)
603-352-1245
www.fuller.keene.k12.nh.us

Harrisville Wells Memorial
603-827-3272
www.wellsmemorialschool.org

Jonathan Daniels Elementary School (Keene)
603-352-8012
www.daniels.keene.k12.nh.us

Keene High School (KHS)
603-352-0640
www.keene.k12.nh.us

Keene Middle School
603-357-9020
www.kms.keene.k12.nh.us

Marlborough School
603-357-9002
www.marlborough.k12.nh.us/

Marlow's John D. Perkins Elementary School
603-446-3307
www.marlownewhampshire.org/school.php

Nelson School
603-847-3408
www.nelson.k12.nh.us

Symonds Elementary School (Keene)
603-352-3405
www.symonds.keene.k12.nh.us

Westmoreland School
603-399-4421
<http://www.westmoreland.k12.nh.us>

Wheelock Elementary School (Keene)
603-352-2244
www.wheelock.keene.k12.nh.us

SAU 92:

The Hinsdale Middle/Senior High School
603-336-5984
www.hnhhsd.org/~hhs

SAU 94:

Winchester School
603-239-4381
www.wnhhsd.org

SAU 1:

Dublin Consolidated School
603-563-8332
<http://conval.edu/schools/dcs/home>

SAU 47:

The Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District
603-532-8100
www.sau47.k12.nh.us/

SAU 60:

The Acworth School
603-835-2270
www.sau60.org

The Alstead Primary School
603-835-2482
www.sau60.org

The Fall Mountain Early Learning Center
603-835-6314
www.sau60.org

The Fall Mountain Regional School District
603-826-7756
www.sau60.org

The North Walpole School
603-445-5450
www.sau60.org

Sarah Porter School
603-835-2260
www.sau60.org

Vilas Middle School
603-835-6351
www.sau60.org

Walpole Primary School
603-756-4241
www.sau60.org

Walpole Elementary School
603-835-4728
www.sau60.org

Private Schools

Community Christian School
603-357-4600

Dublin Christian Academy
603-563-8505
www.dublinchristian.org

Dublin School
603-563-8584
www.dublinschool.org

Hampshire Country School
603-899-3325
www.hampshirecountryschool.org

Heritage Christian School
603-899-6700
hcsnh2.sharepoint.com/Pages/default.aspx

High Mowing School
603-654-2391
www.highmowing.org

Immaculate Heart of Mary School
603-239-6495
<http://ihm.catholicism.org>

Keene Montessori
603-352-4052
www.keenemontessorischool.org

Meeting School
603-899-3366
www.meetingschool.org

Monadnock Waldorf School
603-357-4442
www.monadnockwaldorfschool.org

Montessori Schoolhouse of Cheshire County
603-352-3301
www.mshocc.org

Mountain Shadows School
603-563-8170
www.mountainshadowsschool.com

Northfield Mount Hermon School
413-498-3000
www.nmhschool.org

Orchard School
603-835-2495
www.theorchardschool.org

Pine Hill Waldorf School
603-654-6003
www.pinehill.org

Pioneer Junior Academy
603-399-4803
www.pioneerjunioracademy.org

St. Joseph Regional School
603-352-2720
www.stjosephkeene.org

Trinity Christian School
603-352-9403
www.tcskeene.com

Victory High School
603-532-6119
www.victoryhigh.org

Walpole Village School
603-756-4246
www.walpolevillageschool.org

The Well School
603-924-6908
www.wellschool.org

Continuing & Higher Education

Antioch University New England (AUNE)
603-357-3122
www.antiochne.edu

Franklin Pierce University
603-899-4000
www.franklinpierce.edu

Keene School District Community Education
603-357-0088
www.keenecommunityed.org

Keene State College
603-352-1909
www.keene.edu

River Valley Community College
603-542-7744
www.rivervalley.edu

Charter Schools

LEAF Charter School
(Grades 9-12)
theleafschool@gmail.com
www.leafschoolnh.org

MC2 Charter School-Keene
(Grades 9-12)
603-283-0844
www.mc2school.org/mc2-monadnock-home

Surry Village Charter School
(Grades K-6)
603-357-9700
www.surryvillagecharterschool.org

Surry Village Charter School-Keene Campus
(Grades 7-8)
603-439-6030
www.surryvillagecharterschool.org



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WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Nikki Sauber

...who works as an Impact coordinator for Monadnock United Way, lived in Keene, Swanzey and Gilsum before moving to Nelson the summer of 2017. She has lived in the region for five years and previously lived in Massachusetts.

Nikki Sauber moved to Keene in August 2012 to pursue a master's degree in environmental studies at Antioch University New England. She didn't expect to stay longer than the time it took to get her degree.

"During my time (at Antioch) however, I became involved in some of the amazing community work that goes on here. I became hooked on the region's unique, collaborative spirit and decided to stick around to find a full-time job. I'm glad I stayed!"

Nikki goes on to say that the community of the Monadnock Region is like no other she has known.

"I've never felt like I was truly a part of a community until moving here. The people are kind, genuine and generous, and you can always count on someone (or some organization) to help you out in times of need. While I don't have any actual family living here, I feel like I've found family in my Monadnock Region friends and neighbors."

Nikki says that while there are many places in the country that offer good work and professional environment, and other places that offer great recreational opportunities, there are few places that offer both.

"But the Monadnock Region does," she says. "These song lyrics from musician Jason Mraz sum up my sentiments quite well: 'You don't need a vacation when there's nothing to escape from.'"



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Cross-country skiing, hiking, canoeing

Festival: Uplift! Music Festival, Greenfield

Place: The Harris Center for Conservation Education, Hancock

She also points to local politics as a breath of fresh air.

"The leaders of this region are continually committed to community improvement. This is especially true when it comes to supporting young professionals and families," says Nikki. "They really want to hear what issues are affecting us and how we can come together to address them. This region is one of the few places where I've actually felt 'heard' by public officials." 🍷

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Work HERE

Once you visit the Monadnock Region, you'll want to consider staying!

If you are interested in finding work, there are jobs in the region. Unemployment hovers at a lower-than-national average, less than 3 percent for both Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties. Industries are diverse — from machining, to high tech, to green industries, to farming and local food enterprises. If entrepreneurship is more your style, the opportunities for advice and help in starting a business in the region is plentiful; starting with the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship and the Small Business Development Center, both in Keene. If you are retired and looking to keep busy with meaningful work, the opportunities are endless — from animal rescue to teaching children to read; start with the Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center for ideas.



Advanced Manufacturing

IN THE MONADNOCK REGION

By Vic Kissell

Advanced precision manufacturing and high technology may not be the first thing many people mention when talking about the Monadnock Region, but there is a long history of it here – with more than 80 manufacturers in our area producing components that range from aerospace quality bearings, diamond turning machines, precision optics to modular buildings and furniture. And we have many other manufacturers producing components

and machine parts for a global market in classified programs. We are very proud of our manufacturing sector.

As is the case throughout New Hampshire, and many other parts of the country, we face a shortage of skilled workers – especially at a time of low unemployment. Here in Keene and the Monadnock Region, we are working collaboratively on ways to expand our skilled workforce in thoughtful and impactful ways.

A decade ago, representatives from area manufacturing companies began to meet regularly with representatives of our education community, and government officials, to identify specific needs and build training/education programs to meet those needs. This initiative, known as the Regional Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing (RCAM) has served as the launch pad to enhance career track opportunities in manufacturing.

Strong relations with our educational community assist with educational attainment for both new and incumbent

workers – supporting employee enrichment and opportunities to move to higher paying positions, as well as creating more entry level positions. At Maxcess, over 30% of our new hires arrive directly from Keene's Cheshire Career Center. We also utilize River Valley Community College and Keene State College for employee advancement. Our success relies on the educational system we have established, and community comradery to match business needs and educational outcomes.

We invite you to join the excitement around manufacturing in our region – whether as a company seeking to locate here, or as a person looking for a well-paid and stimulating career! 🍀

Vic Kissell is Senior Manufacturing Supervisor at Tidland Corporation in Keene, a Maxcess International Company.

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Peter Hansel

...is president of Filtrine Manufacturing Company, a fourth generation family-owned business located in Keene. He has lived in the region for 38 years; he previously lived in Riverside, Connecticut; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and San Francisco and Pasadena, California.

Peter Hansel's family business moved to New Hampshire from New Jersey; he joined the company after the move. The decision to move, he says, was made by his father, "but I don't regret his decision. Compared to our previous location in New Jersey, this region offered the ability to live near our shop, to hire employees with a good work ethic, to enjoy the beautiful area and yet not be so remote that we can't take advantage of Boston or New York City if we want to," he says.

The best part about living in the region, he says, is the natural and cultural environment.

"The community is small enough for anyone to get involved as much or as little as they want and to feel that they can make a difference," he says.

"The scale is small enough and the people independent enough that we feel we can solve our own problems or at least make a good effort." 🍀



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Skiing, skating, fishing, swimming, sailing, hunting, jogging, gardening

Festival: Art in the Park/Art Walk, Keene

Place: His family's cottage on Lake Nubanusit



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Scott Hussey

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Eliezer "Eli" Rivera

...of Keene, is the Cheshire County Sheriff who has lived in the region for 28 years. Before moving to Keene, he lived in Newport, Rhode Island.

Eli Rivera moved to Keene in 1989 when he married Jen, who is a native of Keene. Each year he and his wife look forward to Pizza Nights at Orchard Hills Breadworks in Alstead, which is held every Tuesday evening from June to August.

"It's a great community event with local nonprofit organizations raising funds, great music, awesome pizzas and great people," says Eli.

Summertime is also the season to visit Kimball Farm in Jaffrey, he says.

"The food and ice cream is excellent, and we always bump into friends and family who also love Kimball's."

In fact, activities in the spring, summer and fall are Eli's favorites.

"I am not too fond of the winter, but I've learned to cope," he admits.

Eli lives in a lovely Keene neighborhood that is within walking distance to Wheelock

Park and several schools.

"(It is) very safe to raise a family, and the neighbors watch out for each other. The neighborhood means a lot to my wife, who was raised in the same area."

The couple's two boys were raised in this neighborhood, and both attended public schools.

"They were both well prepared when they left the area to pursue higher education and a career," notes Eli. Unfortunately, he says somewhat wistfully, the careers that they sought took his boys to San Francisco and New York City.

"For most of the time I've lived in Keene I've been in public service," says Eli. This has allowed him to have a close connection with the people of Keene.

"I tell friends and family that Keene has been a great place to live, work and raise a family." 🐾

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Bicycling, beekeeping, outdoor cookouts, hiking

Place: Kimball Farm (Jaffrey)

Event: Orchard Hill Breadworks' Pizza Nights (Alstead)



WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Karen Lyle

...was born and raised in Washington State and has lived in the area "Since Sun Foods needed quarters for their carts!" ... which, for the record, is more than 20 years ago. Karen is the owner of Creative Encounters, a national award-winning window display store on Main Street. She employs 10 people in her store, which she notes, hail from Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Cape Cod, Illinois and include native Keenites. "It gives us a broad perspective," she says.

Karen Lyle, a Keene downtown merchant, says that she loves the Main Street vibe and the eclectic mix of folks she meets.

"There is a less hurried approach to life. (And I love) the appreciation from tourists and locals with our customer service," she says.

In her spare time, Karen volunteers at a variety of local organizations including the Community Kitchen, Arts Alive, Downtown Business Group, Art Walk, Historical Society, Colonial Theater,

United Way, Women's Crisis Service and more. It is no wonder, the Keene area, she says, is "the most involved and giving community in the country."

Karen says she fully enjoys the region's "five seasons" (she is including our infamous mud season), including the "wardrobe changes, skiing, visual variety, spring flowers, fall leaves, tourists visiting in amazement," she says.

"We feel safe here," she says of living in Keene. And, she adds, "... our rotary system provides endless amusement." 🌿



Scott Hussey

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Biking, hiking, water sports, swinging on a hammock, picnics

Events/Festivals: Ashuelot Concert Series, Artwalk, Art in the Park, MusicFest, craft fairs

Places: The Green Wagon produce farm, bike path and trails, Keene Library



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THE MONADNOCK REGION'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

By John Kondos

Perhaps living in such a beautiful area has fed the commitment to preserving it for future generations. The property of biological systems to remain diverse and productive indefinitely is the essence of sustainability.

Locally, this is manifest in the conservation of the natural landscape by the Monadnock Conservancy (www.monadnockconservancy.org), the Harris Center for Conservation Education (www.harriscenter.org), and the extensive efforts to cultivate local agriculture yielding numerous farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture farms and innovative programs, such as Monadnock Menus (www.foodconnects.org/monadnock-menus.html), which connects farmers and institutional and commercial buyers.

Our region is characterized by a spirit of cooperation and commitment to coming together to get things done. Proactive approaches to challenging issues from housing, jobs, education and transportation are signs of a society committed to sustainability.

Business

Monadnock Region companies such as W.S. Badger Co. (www.badgerbalm.com), a pioneer in bringing the B-Corp to New Hampshire, and Bensonwood (www.bensonwood.com), a leading manufacturer of high quality, energy efficient timber frame buildings and homes, contribute to the diversity in the economy that makes our region sustainable.

Transportation

Initiatives to conserve energy and generate clean power are essential to sustainability. Locally, the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable

Transportation-MAST (www.mastnh.org) encourages more bicycle, pedestrian and mass transportation commuting through its Rack it Up! and Complete Streets programs.

Energy and Climate Change

The revitalization of hydropower in the repurposed 19th-century mill complex by Historic Harrisville (www.historicharrisville.org) is an iconic blend of resilience, economic prosperity and historic vitality.

The NH Community Supported Solar initiative (www.greenmonadnock.org/community-supported-solar) is an element of the vibrant Monadnock Buy Local (www.monadnocklocal.org) commitment, an approach to financing solar projects that retains tax, investment, energy and labor dollars in the community while providing access to solar to underserved segments.

The City of Keene opted to maintain the Paris Climate Accord, has a climate action plan and has encouraged building on the Community Supported Solar model.

Education

Keene State College (www.keene.edu/sustain/initiatives.cfm.html) relies on used vegetable oil for heating, composts food waste, has an innovative sustainability curricula, and a strong student workforce supporting recycling and sustainability.

Antioch University New England offers several related degree programs, including its “green MBA” in sustainability (www.antioch.edu/new-england/degrees-programs/business-management-leadership/mba-in-sustainability) and an increasingly valuable Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience (www.communityresilience-center.org). 🌿

John Kondos is a founder of Home-Efficiency Resources (www.home-efficiency.com); the Monadnock Sustainability Network (www.greenmonadnock.org) whose mission is to promote credible, sustainable practices in the region); and the Monadnock chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/NH_Monadnock).

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Carmelina Stella

...owns Miranda's on Main (a women's clothing store) in Keene. She moved to the region 19 years ago from New York City.

Carmelina Stella says it was “beyond thrilling” to grow up in Brooklyn and begin her career in New York City. But living in Keene and being a small business merchant on Keene's Main Street has given her “an appreciation for nature, and especially an appreciation for a slower pace of life.”

Carmelina still travels to New York City for buying shows for her business, and says she loves it.

“But once I see (Mt. Monadnock) on Route 9 on my way back from those buying trips, I know that I am home,” she says.

“My family often visits me in Keene, and they always say that this town, especially on Main Street, reminds them of the movie, ‘It's a Wonderful Life.’ They are right! We do have a wonderful life living in the Monadnock Region. We are truly blessed to live, work and play here.” 🌿



Scott Hussey

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Walking

Place: The drive on Route 101 through Dublin



THE KEENE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

The Keene Young Professionals Network (KYPN) is a vibrant and growing group of 21- to 40-year-old professionals from the Monadnock Region. The organization usually holds one or two events every month, including monthly social events at local bars and restaurants, educational panels on topics such as career building and networking, facilitated conversations with local politicians and business leaders, recreational sports competitions and volunteer nights at local nonprofits. Attending these events is a great way to check out various local venues, meet other young professionals, socialize and make career connections.

KYPN is run by a steering committee that meets monthly and is broken down into sub-committees, which include a social committee,



Alex Baxter

an education committee, a community service committee, a public relations committee and a membership committee. KYPN is always looking for new faces to join them. Please go to facebook.com/YPNKeene or call the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce at 603-352-1303 for more information. 🐾

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Zach Luse

...of Keene, N.H. is owner of Paragon Digital Marketing. He has lived in the region for seven years; he previously lived in Chicago.

Zach Luse says he moved to Keene as a “trailing spouse” and needed to live within commuting distance of Brattleboro, Vermont. After visiting western Massachusetts, southeast Vermont and southwest New Hampshire, he fell in love with Keene and the surrounding area and moved within city limits.

“Keene has a lot to offer aside from being a picturesque city with an amazing downtown,” he says. “The more I learned about Keene, the more I knew it was the right place to raise my kids and start a business.”

The best part of living in the area, he says, is its strong sense of community.

“This is one of the most caring and giving communities, I’ve ever lived in.”

Zach, who owns a high-tech digital marketing business in Keene, says that he located his business in the region because

of the local talent, which he describes as “good (and) hardworking.” He also points to initiatives such as Live Free and Start, which are making the state more business and start-up friendly.

“The state government is making good progress in making its services for businesses easier to use ... and (is) moving toward more digital and efficient ways of doing things.”

Zach sums up living in the Monadnock Region as a nearly perfect place to get away from long commutes and raise a family in a safe community with good schools and “good values,” he says.

“Not only is the community strong, its close-knit and small. You’re not just another face lost in the crowd like you are in a big city like Chicago ... the quality of life here is far better.” 🐾



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Hiking, biking, skiing, music and the arts

Place: The networks of rail trails, hiking trails and mountain biking trails around Keene



BUSINESS RESOURCES

The Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization serving the Greater Keene and Monadnock Region's business and nonprofit community, providing business referrals, networking, community involvement and workforce development. The Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce is an excellent source for business coaches, financial and professional services companies and individuals whose services can be accessed through our Member Directory, in this magazine and on our website.
48 Central Sq., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-352-1303
www.keenechamber.com

Arts Alive! Inc. is a nonprofit organization working to sustain, promote and expand access to arts and cultural resources in the Monadnock Region. Arts and culture are community assets that enhance financial strength, health and wellness and social capital in the communities where they are supported.
15 Eagle Ct., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-283-0944
info@monadnockartsalive.org
www.monadnockartsalive.org

The Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship educates, supports and assists in the successful development of entrepreneurs who are committed to building a vibrant community. Through the incubator, workshops, annual CONNECT event and many other programs, Hannah Grimes helps entrepreneurs overcome obstacles and develop the businesses they've always dreamed of.
25 Roxbury St., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-352-5063
www.hannahgrimes.com

Hannah Grimes Marketplace is a dynamic retail store with an exclusive focus on local products. The Marketplace helps build local businesses and connect businesses to regional customers. Now, with more than 300 members, the Marketplace is a hub for locally made goods.
42 Main St., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-352-6862
www.hannahgrimes.com/marketplace

Keene State College Continuing Education provides both on-site and online business courses. Students of all ages come for job enhancement or career change.
229 Main St., Keene, N.H. 03435
603-358-2290
www.keene.edu/conted

Monadnock Economic Development Corporation specializes in helping businesses relocate and find commercial and industrial space.
51 Railroad St., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-352-4939
www.monadnock-development.org

The New Hampshire Division of Economic Development — which includes its sub-agencies, the NH Business Resource Center (BRC) and the International Trade Resource Center (ITRC) — acts as a single point of contact for businesses at all stages in their growth cycle with the majority of their programs and services provided at no cost. In addition to providing assistance in a broad spectrum of areas — ranging from licensing and financing to permitting and workforce training — BRC works in conjunction with federal, regional, local and other state agencies, as well as with private sector partners, to deliver a comprehensive array of services.
172 Pembroke Rd., P.O. Box 1856 Concord, N.H. 03302-1856
603-271-2591
www.nheconomy.com

The NH Small Business Development Center (NHSBDC) Keene Office, provides no charge, confidential one-on-one business management coaching and advisory services, specializing in small business topic training and special economic development programs focused on Cheshire, Sullivan and parts of Grafton, Hillsborough and Merrimack counties.
Keene State College, Blake House
Keene, N.H. 03435
603-358-2602
www.nhsbdc.org

RCAM (Regional Collaboration for Advanced Manufacturing) is a partnership of the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, Keene State College, the Keene School District and River Valley Community College. The goal is to establish a clearly defined set of training opportunities for both potential and incumbent workers in the manufacturing sector.
Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce
48 Central Square, Keene, N.H. 03431
603-352-1303
www.keenechamber.com

River Valley Community College offers business and industry courses along with specialized certificate programs. Also able to perform customized training at businesses.
438 Washington St., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-357-2142
www.rivervalley.edu

Monadnock SCORE mentors are a group of primarily retired executives with a wealth of experience, providing free and confidential business mentoring. SCORE helps entrepreneurs develop business plans, explore growth opportunities and project cash flow. It also offers workshops on various business subjects and has local information about markets, regulations and resources.
34 Mechanic St., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-352-0320
www.monadnockscore.org

Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) is one of nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire established under RSA 36. This region covers a 35-town area in Cheshire, western Hillsborough and Sullivan Counties. SWRPC works in partnership with the communities of the Southwest Region to promote sound decision-making for the conservation and effective management of natural, cultural and economic resources.
20 Central Sq., 2nd Floor
Keene, N.H., 03431
603-357-0557
www.swrpc.org

The State of NH Business Resource Center helps new and existing businesses by offering workforce training grants, layoff aversion counseling, research and development tax credits and energy audits, and refers companies to resource partners regarding financing, exporting and selling to the government.
443 Winchester St. (Rt. 10 South), Keene, N.H. P.O. Box 1856 Concord, N.H. 03302
603-271-2591
www.nheconomy.com

University of NH Cooperative Extension has outreach offices in every county with educational opportunities and resources for natural resource-based businesses, including farming, value-added products and specialty foods.
800 Park Ave., Keene, N.H. 03431
603-352-4550
www.extension.unh.edu

USDA Rural Development offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural and other cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their member operations. They provide technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs and promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools.
10 Ferry St., Concord, N.H. 03302-2233
603-223-6041
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/NH-VTHome.html>

Work Ready NH is a tuition-free workforce development program tailored to meet the needs of job seekers and career builders as well as provide training in the specific skills employers are seeking in their current and future employees.
www.ccsnh.edu/workforce-training/workready-nh

MONADNOCK REGION LARGEST EMPLOYERS

**Cheshire Medical Center/
Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic-Keene**
www.cheshire-med.com

C & S Wholesale Grocers
www.cswg.com

Keene School District
www.sau29.org

Keene State College
www.keene.edu

Monadnock Regional School District
www.mrsd.org

MilliporeSigma
www.emdmillipore.com/US/en

Osram-Sylvania
www.sylvania.com/en-us

Monadnock Community Hospital
www.monadnockcommunityhospital.com

NH Ball Bearings
www.nhbb.com

Smith Industrial Medical Systems
www.smiths-medical.com/careers

Markem-Imaje
www.markem-imaje.com

Market Basket
www.marketbaskethq.com

Liberty Mutual/Peerless Insurance Company
www.peerless-ins.com

National Grange Mutual Insurance
www.msagroup.com

Teleflex
 TFX Medical OEM
www.teleflexmedicaloem.com

United Natural Foods
www.unfi.com

Franklin Pierce University
www.franklin Pierce.edu

Jaffrey-Ringe School District
www.sau47.org

Timken Super Precision
www.timken.com

Plum Pak
www.keeneymfg.com

Wal-Mart
www.walmart.com

Maplewood Nursing Home
www.cheshirecounty.us/maplewood

Town of Swanzey
www.town.swanzey.nh.us

Fenton Family Dealerships
www.fentondealerships.com

Hannaford Brothers
www.hannaford.com

W.S. Badger Co., Inc.
www.badgerbalm.com

Mountain Industries
www.themountain.com

HCP Packaging USA Inc.
www.hcpackaging.com

Shaw's Supermarket
www.shaws.com

Source: Economic & Market Information Bureau, NH Employment Security, December 2016

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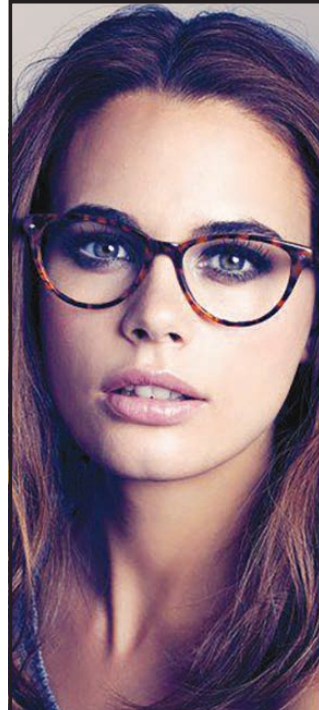
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We don't make a big deal about what makes the Monadnock Region such a great place to "play" ... but we should! The most climbed mountain in the world, Mt. Monadnock, is visible from many towns in the region and easily accessible. Our thriving arts community (the percentage of solo artists per capita is higher than the national average) is visible everywhere. This creativity is an essential component of our local economy: A recent study found that nonprofit arts and culture organizations surveyed generate millions of dollars in annual economic activity in the Monadnock Region — supporting more than 500 full-time equivalent jobs and generating nearly \$2 million in local and state government revenues (according to the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 national economic impact study).



Apple Hill

EMBODIES WHAT MAKES THIS REGION UNIQUE

By Tony Paradiso

About a year ago I attended a planning retreat at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in Nelson, New Hampshire. The postcard beauty of its secluded location was apparent. What wasn't evident, until my second visit, was that the organization exemplifies all our region's aspirations.

Apple Hill focuses on providing annual summer chamber music workshops to 300 students from around the world. Not exactly a mainstream enterprise. Yet, since the early 1970s, more than 12,000 students have attended its programs.

Apple Hill's mission is to create, perform, teach and broaden the appreciation of chamber music through the development of educational programs. Through its signature program — Playing for Peace — it strives to cultivate connection and understanding among people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.

The National Endowment for the Arts reported that in 2012 only 8.8 percent of Americans had attended a classical music performance in the previous 12 months. And the Nielsen 2016 mid-year music industry report indicated that classical music accounted for a mere 2.1 percent of total music sales. The demand dynamics for Apple Hill's "product" makes the organization's success stand out nationwide.

The organization also employs a creative approach to relationship-building and marketing. The Playing for Peace program requires traveling



Beth Pelton

to, and recruiting from, regions experiencing conflict. To help facilitate this, they enlisted the support of the U.S. State Department. But they went a step further by entering into an arrangement with embassies to trade concerts at local schools in exchange for funding the student costs to attend Apple Hill in the summer.

In 2017, Apple Hill started opening Sunday rehearsals to the students and the public. For the students, it's another learning opportunity. For the public — although not a typical concert experience — visitors can enjoy music and uniquely observe the behind-the-scenes efforts that go into creating a concert. For free.

As such, it offers a roadmap for the whole region on how to achieve its economic development goals. 🍁

Tony Paradiso runs a Wilton, New Hampshire-based consulting firm.

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Jim Murphy

...an artist and musician, moved to Keene with his wife 43 years ago from Dayton, Ohio. He is a professional painter and musician, singer/songwriter and band leader. "This area is so incredibly rich in the arts," he says.

When Jim Murphy and his wife moved to Keene, he was familiar with the area and thought it would be a great place to find jobs and raise a family.

"We were right," he says. "(Keene) is about 23,500 people. It's about the same population as when I moved here but has gotten much more vibrant."

His West Keene home has woods, a brook and a pond in his backyard, "all teeming with wildlife. I can feel like I live in the woods and be a few miles from downtown. For me... perfect." 🍁



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Walking through the woods with a camera

Festivals/Events: The Monadnock International Film Festival, Keene Music Festival, Art in the Park

Place: Downtown Keene



ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts Education

Acting Out
603-357-5882

Andy's Summer Playhouse
603-654-2613
www.andysummerplayhouse.org

Art Happens
603-654-2287
Facebook: @ArtHappensNH

Artist to Artist/Arts Alive!
603-352-6011
www.monadnockartsalive.org/artist-to-artist

Hot Glass Art Center
866-740-5101
www.hotglassartcenter.com

Keene Public Library
603-352-0157
www.keenepubliclibrary.org

MacDowell Colony
603-924-3886
www.macdowellcolony.org

MoCo Arts
603-357-2100
www.moco.org

Monadnock Violin Studio
603-762-6340
Facebook: @MonadnockViolinStudio

Music All Around
603-357-4693
www.musicallaround.net

New Hampshire Dance Institute
603-355-8911
www.nhdi.org

Peterborough Art Academy
603-924-4488
www.peterboroughartacademy.com

Peterborough Town Library
603-924-8040
www.peterboroughtownlibrary.org

Sharon Arts Center/NH Institute of Art
603-924-7256
www.nhia.edu/campus-life/sharon-arts-center

Terrapin Glass Blowing Studio
603-593-5073
www.terrapinglass.com

Historical Societies

Historical Society of Cheshire County
603-352-1895
www.hscnh.org

Monadnock Center for History and Culture
603-924-3235
www.monadnockcenter.org

Museums and Galleries

Cathedral of the Pines
603-899-3300
www.cathedralofthepines.org

Cheshire Children's Museum
603-903-1800
www.cheshirechildrensmuseum.org

Historic Harrisville
603-827-3722
www.historicharrisville.org

Horatio Colony Museum
603-352-0460
www.horatiocolonymuseum.org

Jaffrey Civic Center
603-532-6527
www.jaffreyciviccenter.com

Mariposa Museum and World Culture Center
603-924-4555
www.mariposamuseum.org

Swanzy Historical Museum
603-352-4579

The Friendly Farm
603-563-8444
www.friendlyfarm.com

Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery
603-358-2720
www.keene.edu/tsag

Music

Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music
603-847-3371
www.applehill.org

Electric Earth Concerts
603-522-3352
www.electricearthconcerts.org

Keene Chamber Orchestra
603-847-3475
www.keenechamberorchestra.org

WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Reagan Messer

...executive director/artistic director of dance for MoCo Arts, moved to the area 15 years ago from Boston to be closer to family (his wife grew up in the area). He grew up in the South and now lives in Keene.

Reagan Messer says he has always lived in big cities until he moved to the region.

"I didn't expect to stay here for as long as I have been here," he says.

What has kept him here?

He says there are three things: "It is a wonderful place to raise a family, the support for the arts, and the community and how everyone comes together and supports everything going on to make this the wonderful community and region that it is."

One thing he doesn't like, he adds, is the winter.

"Growing up in the South I have to say winter is not so fun ... although

I am used to it after 25 years in the Northeast," he says, and adds that winter activities are not at the top of his list.

"Summer is my favorite as it means spending time at the lake and outdoors, and the temperature is nowhere as bad as (the) South."

Reagan feels a deep sense of community in the region and sees it embodied in the wide range of interests of the people.

"In each one of (these interests) — the arts, sports, running, biking, etcetera — you see a passion for that interest almost to the fanatical. I believe the sense of community in this region makes it a wonderful place to live or visit." 🍁



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Water skiing, spending time with his kids

Place: The region's lakes



ARTS AND CULTURE

Keene Community Music Center
603-352-6011
www.keenemusic.org

Monadnock Chorus
www.monadnock-chorus.org

Monadnock Folklore Society
www.monadnockfolk.org

Monadnock Music
603-852-4345
www.monadnockmusic.org

Music on Norway Pond
www.musiconnorwaypond.org

Peterborough Children's Chorus
705-740-6110
www.peterboroughchildrenschorus.com

Peterborough Folk Music Society
603-827-2905
www.pfmsconcerts.org

Peterborough Music Company
603-924-2145

The Keene Music Festival
603-499-7435
www.keenemusicfestival.org

The Thing in the Spring
www.thethinginthespring.com

Theater/Movies

Actors Theatre Playhouse
(West Chesterfield)
877-666-1855
www.atplayhouse.org

Actors Circle Theater (Peterborough)
603-924-3876
www.actorscircletheatre.org

Branch River Theatre (Marlborough)
603-876-6131
www.branchrivetheatre.org

Keene Cinemas
603-357-5261
www.keenecinemas.com

Mole Hill Theatre (East Alstead)
603-352-2585

Peterborough Community Theatre
603-924-2255
www.pctmovies.com

Peterborough Players
603-924-7585
www.peterboroughplayers.org

Redfern Arts Center (Keene)
603-358-2168
www.keene.edu/arts/redfern/

The Colonial Theatre (Keene)
603-352-2033
www.thecolonial.org

The Park Theatre
www.theparktheatre.org

The Wilton Hall Town Theatre
603-654-3456
www.wiltontownhalltheatre.com

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WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Dianna Costello

...of Keene, is the director of the Monadnock International Film Festival, a four-day long event that happens in the region each April. Dianna moved to Keene from Los Angeles two years ago to run the film festival.

Dianna Costello says that the best part of living in the Monadnock Region is the people and friendships she has made in the two years since her move from Los Angeles. Despite being a relative newcomer to the area, Dianna says she feels a deep sense of community.

"It was so easy to meet and bond with people when I moved here," she says.

Dianna enjoys all the seasons, from fall, "picking apples and raking leaves," to winter, "shoveling snow ... seriously, day after day of gorgeous LA weather can get monotonous," to spring, "planting a garden ... okay, I lied, but it's on my bucket list." In summertime, she enjoys picking blueberries and riding her bike.

Her most favorite spot in the region is Walpole Mountain View Winery for, "Sipping wine ... overlooking picturesque rolling hills and valleys."

Dianna recently moved from Walpole to a residential neighborhood in downtown Keene; while farther away from her favorite winery, it is closer to her work.

"When you work long hours, it's great to be home in just three minutes."

What makes the Monadnock Region different from LA?

She says, "When I drove from Walpole to Keene, I'd see more cows, horses, turkeys, deer, foxes, skunks and raccoons than cars. I even saw a bear once!" 🐻



FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Hiking, biking, photography

Festival: Monadnock Film Festival

Place: Walpole Mountain View Winery



WHY WE LOVE IT HERE

Ritu Budakoti

...of Keene moved to the region from India five years ago. She is director of education, training and accreditation with the Practicing Perfection Institute, Inc. Her first name in Hindi means “season,” so, she says “It is evident that I enjoy all seasons ... my favorite is fall; there is something magical about it.”

Ritu, a native of India, says that her work with Practicing Perfection Institute brought her to this region.

“I find this region to be beautiful, calm and serene place to live and have a family. We don’t feel lost in the crowd as in the case with big cities. It is a friendly place to live in.”

While Ritu and her family have lived in Keene several years and it “has begun to feel like home,” she says she has friends from all over the world, and this small town has given her the opportunity to understand and accept the ideology of the ancient Sanskrit phrase, *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, which means “the world is one family.”

Part of embracing her new community has been volunteering; recently Ritu and her friends have founded a small group, Keene India Association, which is working to do fundraisers and cultural events in the community. So far the group has made

a small donation to the Community Kitchen, helped with food supplies to the Hundred Nights homeless shelter, and have offered Indian arts and crafts at the Monadnock Fall Festival. The purpose of the Keene India Association, she says, is to give back to the community where we live. They also are working to create awareness about Indian culture and tradition, educate people about Indian immigrants and establish and sustain inter-cultural links in the community.

In her five years in the region, Ritu says she has now begun to feel a sense of community, “... and I believe in my heart it is going to grow stronger.”

She adds that the onus is as much on the individual as it is on any community to reach out and connect.

“I do feel that there is still work we all need to do to make this an inclusive community where we all thrive because we are united in diversity.”



Scott Hussey

FAVORITE THINGS

Activities: Running, exercising at the gym, dancing, meditation

Festival: Monadnock Pumpkin Festival

Ritu sums up her new world here in the Monadnock Region: “This region cannot be described; it can only be experienced ... It is so diverse in aspects of not only seasons but people from different cultures living here.”

Her five-year-old describes it this way: “Keene is the best place to live in because it is my home.” And that, says Ritu, says it all. 🍁

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Wheelock Park	50	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●		●				●				●		●
Robin Hood Park	145	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●			●					●			●	●		
Ellis-Harrison Memorial Park	4.9	●		●	●	●															●						
Fuller Park	5	●	●	●		●	●											●	●		●		●				
Keene Forestry Park	12.4	●										●															
Stone Arch Bridge	1.7	●		●												●								●			
Shadow Lake	11.5	●		●												●					●				●		
Ladies Wildwood	15.3											●									●						
Central Square Common	0.3									●											●						
Edgewood Park	1.8					●																					
Water St. Park	0.5	●																		●							
Hickey-Desilets Park	1.3					●															●						
Drummer Hill	145											●															
Goose Pond Woodlands	194.5	●										●				●						●		●			
Beech Hill	105											●															
Ashuelot River Park	45	●	●	●		●				●		●									●	●		●		●	
Dinsmoor Woods (Greenbelt)	13		●																								
Gilbo Avenue Skate Park, Skateboard/Rollerblade/Bike Park		●																									
Stearns Hill											●																
School Property Used By Parks and Recreation																											
Jonathan Daniels	50	●			●	●	●	●	●											●			●				
Cleveland School	3.5	●				●			●	●																	
Fuller School	10.4	●				●			●											●			●				
Tilden School	1								●																		
Franklin School		●				●			●														●				
Wheelock School		●				●			●											●			●				
Symonds School		●				●			●											●			●				
Roosevelt School		●				●			●											●			●				
Other Facilities Used By Parks and Recreation																											
Cheshire Fair Ice Arena		●	●																							●	
Surry Mountain Dam		●	●	●		●				●	●	●		●	●	●					●			●			
Otter Brook Dam		●	●	●		●				●	●	●			●	●					●			●			
Arboretum at Keene State College		●		●						●											●			●			



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Kennedy Information, LLC
603-357-8100
www.KennedyInfo.com

Monadnock Broadcasting Group
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www.monadnockbroadcasting-group.com
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LAST WORD

THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY

By Hank Knight



Photo by Marcia Passos-Duffy

Hospitality is a familiar word for most of us. We use it to speak of the generosity of spirit that welcomes others into our midst.

We use it to identify industries that serve guests as their clientele — restaurants and hotels, e.g., the term signals a welcoming spirit to others and is typically associated with making room for guests in one's home or at one's table for a meal — or in the rooms and tables one provides as a service to others.

We live in circumstances in which we encounter others whom we do not know with increasing frequency — whether as potential hosts or guests. Being met with hospitality — or greeting others with its grace — can make all the difference.

The word *hospitality*, itself, harkens to an ancient practice of welcoming strangers into one's community, providing food, entertainment, care and safety to those for whom shelter is being provided. Indeed, the words “hospital” and “hospice” are derived from the same root and point to the welcoming care being provided.

An ancient story about the patriarch Abraham captures the spirit of hospitality. According to legend, Abraham's tent was open on all sides.

Strangers were welcomed regardless of the direction from which they approached. Echoing the story from Genesis 18, strangers could count on the tent of Abraham and Sarah as a refuge from their travels where they would be welcomed, fed and tended with care.

An ancient virtue, hospitality is just as important now as in ages past. We live in circumstances in which we encounter others whom we do not know with increasing frequency —

whether as potential hosts or guests. Being met with hospitality — or greeting others with its grace — can make all the difference.

The truest indicator of the quality of life in a community just may be the kind of hospitality that distinguishes it — how its people welcomes others, residents and visitors alike. The Monadnock Region is distinguished by individuals and organizations that practice hospitable care for its fellow residents and visitors. Indeed, from the simplest acts of recognition to our care for those in need, the practice of hospitality is the mark of a community's character.

When we see yard signs around the region that declare, “All are Welcome Here,” we are reminded of this fundamental truth about the power of the hospitality we seek to practice.

Dr. Hank Knight is the director of Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College.



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