



The Monadnock

SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 62nd Year of Community Service / July 29-August 4, 2020

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Allen Bro's ~ Something For Every Season Farm Market, Deli, Bakery, Ice Cream Stand, Garden Center, Nursery, Gift Shop, And More



What would a summer be like without corn-on-the-cob? You don't need to find out as Allen Brothers Farms has a lot of it! Pictured in the local store is owner Stacey Allen, the wife of third generation of owners Tim Allen.

By Lori Catozzi Cook

Allen Brothers Farms in Westminster, VT started out as a farmstand in 1956, and over the years has evolved into a year-round, four seasons site consisting of a farm market, bakery, deli, convenience store, garden center, greenhouse, gift shop, nursery, tree farm, and so much more.

From the burst of color that takes over the greenhouses in the spring, to the bountiful harvest from the fields in the summer, each season

at Allen Brothers Farms (Allen Bro's) is special. In the autumn, customers will find colorfully-stunning garden mums and mountains of pumpkins and gourds. Once fall is over the garden center turns into a Christmas shop embellished with wreaths and holiday trimmings, and well-stocked with gift ideas.

"People ask us why we do what we do," says Stacey Allen, wife of Tim Allen, third generation owners of this family-owned operation. "We love our community and our staff, and we just want to keep growing."

The farm market sells all native produce picked fresh daily. There is an abundance of seasonal veggies and fruits, and the greenhouses and nursery are chocked full of plants, trees, perennials, vegetables, and herbs that are grown on 20 acres of the property. And come fall, Allen Bro's will be flooded



Taylor McGreer is pictured checking the progress of tomatoes in one of the many greenhouses at Allen Brothers Farms.

with mums (over 20,000 each year!).

"May was a record-breaking month for our garden center," Stacey adds. She correlates this surge to people staying home more often working on their yards and gardens during the pandemic. Soil, mulch, fruit trees, perennials, and anything garden related have been flying out the door. But the nursery staff was prepared with a second crop this year, so colorful products to plant, hang, or display are plentiful.

The unique convenience store at Allen Bro's offers a diverse selection of merchandise, including Vermont gifts, maple products, fine wine and craft beer (Liambro Tasty, Alchemist, and Four Quarters are some of the popular brands), their own raised beef and pork, Vermont cheeses, basic staples, and more.

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Atlas Fireworks Festival August 7th, 8th Recycled Percussion This Saturday

New Shows Announced: Guster, Badfish and Martin Sexton

Atlas Fireworks will present a double header of live music followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Friday, August 7th will feature the music of The Grateful Dead and Saturday, August 8th will feature the music of Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers. Folks in the Monadnock region are undoubtedly familiar with the annual Jaffrey Festival of Fireworks, and know Atlas puts on a spectacular show.

Atlas has been captivating audiences with unparalleled displays for over 60 years. Each Atlas display is designed by an experienced pyrotechnic artist who combines both creative and scientific methods to create a truly magical experience. This commitment to excellence has earned Atlas a reputation of providing the finest displays in the industry.

A Grateful Jam will take to the stage before the fireworks show on Friday, August 7th, featuring Zach Nugent (formerly Jerry Garcia Band) and Tony Markellis (Trey Anastasio Band). On Saturday August 8th, Won't Back Down, America's utmost authentic Tom Petty tribute act, will recreate the sound of Tom Petty's music while preserving the integrity of the finest Tom Petty concert. Each live and in person concert will be followed by a massive fireworks show from Atlas. Tickets are also available for "fireworks only" for Atlas double header weekend at www.drive-in-live.com.

This Saturday, Drive-In Live will welcome New Hampshire's own junk rock superstars Recycled Percussion to Cheshire Fairgrounds in Swansey on Saturday, August 1st at 3 and 8 p.m. The Chaos & Kindness crew will bring their drumming/comedy/music show seen on *America's Got Talent*, Las Vegas, and the Super Bowl. This is New Hampshire's only live and in-person Recycled Percussion shows. Those who want to see these guys live in 2020 should not miss these shows.

Drive-In-Live has also announced three new performances to its line-up for August: Guster will



be performing on Saturday, August 15th for two performances at 3 and 8 p.m. Badfish – A Tribute to Sublime will perform Friday, August 21st at 8 p.m. Martin Sexton will perform on Friday, August 28th at 8 p.m. Tickets for all shows are on sale now.

Located just outside Keene, Drive-In Live will take place every Friday and Saturday until October 10th in the south parking lot of the Cheshire Fairgrounds, adhering to the state guidelines for drive-in movie theaters and all best safety protocols set by the CDC. Social distance drive-in theater guidelines set by the state will be enforced. Attendees purchase one ticket per mid-sized vehicle. Cars will have two parking spaces and will be parked in a staggered fashion for unobstructed sightlines. Attendees will be able to bring lawn chairs and sit, or dance, in the empty spot to the left of their vehicle.

Tickets for Drive-In Live range from \$60 and \$169 per vehicle. More details, tickets, and guidelines can be found online at www.drive-in-live.com. Drive-In Live is produced by M.E. Productions.

Shining A Light On Local Food, Farms And Our Food System

By Jen Risley

For the eighth year, let's shine a light on local food, farms, and the Monadnock Region food system during New Hampshire Eats Local Month, a month-long celebration of our state's harvest in August. Discover more at www.nheatslocal.org.

What do we mean by a food system? Our food system includes all the pieces needed to bring local food from the farm to our plates: the soil, farm workers, transportation networks, markets and more -- everything needed to grow, harvest, and distribute these goods to us. These pieces come together to form our local food system. Please dig in and enjoy this bounty of updates!

Fertilizing Edible Education

The Cornucopia Project, based in Peterborough, cultivates community health through edible education at nine elementary school gardens, learning kitchens, and a student-powered educational farm.

"Learning comes to life in the garden," shared Lauren Hudd, programs director at The Cornucopia Project. "Students who work with (us) show increased

interest in nutrition and agriculture, impacting their future choices and vegetable consumption at home."

Despite COVID-19, The Cornucopia Project's educational farm continues to sell organically grown produce to local restaurants, institutions, and community members. This year, they have also donated produce to their local food pantry, provided remote lessons to 250 students, and grew over 3000 seedlings for home gardeners. And their best news of 2020, they just received a two-year Farm to School grant from the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to expand their programs to more schools in our region! Learn more at www.cornucopiaproject.org.

Connecting Markets and Farmers

This year, Food Connects – a food hub based in Brattleboro, VT – built a 1000 square foot cooler and freezer and completed a crowdfunding campaign for their "Growing Local Food Markets in the Monadnock Region" project. This campaign, run through The Local Crowd Monadnock, raised \$10,000 to enhance food safety and expand farmers' access to markets in the Monadnock Region. Discover more at www.foodconnects.org.

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