

Worcester County/Central MA Convention & Visitors Bureau



Tourism Tidbits

March 2, 2005



WORCESTER PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL
MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

C O M I N G S O O N

Professional Baseball Returns to Worcester!

For the first time since 1934, a Pro Baseball Team will call Worcester Home. The eight-team "Can-Am League" includes a pair of Massachusetts rivals, and will play a 92-game schedule, including 46 home games, from late May through early September. Check out their website www.worcesterprobaseball.com.

** The CVB will be offering media partnerships with the new team. Watch for this important blast!

Special Olympics is NEXT WEEK, March 11-13th.



"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." - Special Olympics Oath

Watch for our new coupon booklets to hit the stands! If you aren't included in this issue, get onboard for the next quarter. **Don't miss out** on this important and most affordable opportunity!

****FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER****

***** Annual Membership Drive 2005 *****

The CVB's annual membership drive is scheduled for March 31st & April 1st.

Didn't volunteer yet, well it's NOT too late! Call TODAY!

*Volunteers and prize donators for this fun event can contact **Diana Casavecchia @ 508-755-7400 ext. 224.***

♥ **Would you like to participate in the CVB's next monthly mailing?**

- This mailing includes a snapshot of CVB happenings, events and updates.

As a member you have the opportunity to include one 8 ½ x 11 flyer!!!

- The flyer and/or copies need to be received by the CVB no later than the 3rd Friday of each month.
- Cost: \$100 for single-sided, \$125 for double-sided, or \$75 discounted rate for those who supply their own copies. For more information, please contact Diana Casavecchia at (508) 755-7400 ext. 224 or dianac@worchester.org.

Special thanks: to last month's mailing sponsors: Accurate Staffing and the Publick House Historic Inn!

- ♥ We would also like to thank all of those who renewed their memberships this past month.

♥ The next **Hospitality Host Meeting** will be held at the Crowne Plaza (Worcester) – March 23rd @ 8 AM. Please mark your calendars for this meeting, **we will be finalizing everything for the MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!** *We are recruiting a new chair for Hospitality Host! You could be our next leader!*

****A SAMPLING OF UPCOMING EVENTS****

Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary

Become a Broad Meadow Brook Trail Walker, feed the birds, or take "Birds of Massachusetts: Spring Session" class. For all March 2005 Programs check out their website at www.massaudubon.org or call (508) 753-6087.

Berlin Orchards is offering:

A pruning workshop, Saturday March 12, 2005 at 10 AM. The orchard manager will demonstrate pruning and training techniques on apple, peach and pear trees. To register for this class call 978-838-2400.

Mechanics Hall Presents:

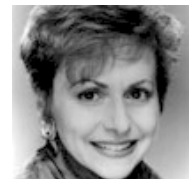
- Anthony Kearns, internationally acclaimed Irish Tenor, performs on March 6, 2005 at Mechanics Hall, Worcester. Call (508) 752-0888.
- China Philharmonic Orchestra – on March 14th, 2005 from 8PM-10:15 PM.

WICN Public Radio and Mechanics Hall

Celebrate Women's History Month at the upcoming Free Spring Brown Bag Concerts. Some of the finest female musicians from New England and around the world will perform live at Mechanics Hall in front of a live audience as well as a world-wide audience on WICN's airwaves.

Marlene VerPlanck - Wednesday, March 9 at noon

The New York Times said, "She may be the most accomplished interpreter of popular material performing today!" She still sings the great standards and best of the new composers in elegant style.



Toots Thielemans, Kenny Werner & Oscar Castro-Neves – Live in concert March 19th.

Reserved seating \$30. Purchase tickets by calling WICN at (508) 752-0700 or online at www.wicn.org.

Music Worcester

Music for Kids Series March 6th, 2005 3pm at Tuckerman Hall. This innovative a cappella ensemble is able to create beautiful vocal harmonies as well as the sound of drums, guitar, keyboards and horns. Call 508-754-3231 or visit www.musicworchester.org.

City of Worcester is sponsoring “Spring Arts at the Station”

Union Station, Worcester, MA - March 19, 2005

An arts fair and sale highlighting the creative people of Central Massachusetts. See the event website for more information: www.dsquared.org/sats.html.

Vaillancourt Folk Art will be holding their 11th Annual Collector's Weekend

Friday, April 29, Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1st.

Sign up early to paint your own VFA collectible Santa and meet other collectors from around the country. For more information call (508) 865-9183 or visit their website at <http://www.valfa.com>.

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area Presents Mountainside Women's Fest!

Friday, March 4th - 8:30 am - 3pm. Have a delightful, full day on The Mountain -- just for women. Your day includes a lift ticket, a continental breakfast a buffet lunch and a chair massage during the afternoon. There will be an après ski party.

Public House Historic Inn, Sturbridge, MA – Now – March 31st in Ebenezer’s Tavern. Check out their calendar.

Did you know that springtime is baby time at **Southwick’s Zoo**? During the spring many new arrivals are born each year at Southwick’s Zoo!

Foothills Theatre Company -

- Miss Saigon - Mar 3rd - Apr. 10th, 2005
- Rounding Third – Apr 14th – May 8th, 2005

DCU Center

You can still buy tickets for several upcoming events tickets by visiting www.ticketmaster.com or calling 508 755-6800.

Concert & Show Dates

- March 3-6 Disney on Ice: Beauty and the Beast
- March 9 Worcester IceCats vs. Portland Pirates
- March 10-13 2005 Spring Home Show
- March 11 Special Olympics Winter Games Opening Ceremony
- March 12 Worcester IceCats vs. Providence Bruins
- March 13 Worcester IceCats vs. Philadelphia Phantoms
- March 30 Worcester IceCats vs. Providence Bruins
- Mar 31 – Apr 3 2005 Boat Show
- April 2 Andrea Bocelli in Concert

Blue Man Group to perform at the Special Olympics Massachusetts Winter Games Opening Ceremony Friday, March 11. For more information visit www.specialolympicsma.org

Blue Man Group is best known for its award-winning theatrical productions which critics have described as “ground-breaking,” “hilarious,” “visually stunning” and “musically powerful.” These performances feature three enigmatic bald and blue characters who take the audience through a multi sensory experience that combines theatre, percussive music, art, science and vaudeville into a form of entertainment that is like nothing else.

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Presents:

The Glengarry Bhoys will be performing in honor of St. Patrick’s Day March 18th, at the Lakeview Park Myriad Ballroom in Mendon. Visit www.blackstonevalley.org for more information.



EcoTarium

Through March 31st, don’t miss Turtle Travels, a traveling exhibit presented at the EcoTarium. Participants can learn about turtles and their habitats by wandering through a life sized board game to get a feel for a turtle’s terrain. Visit them at www.ecotarium.org.

Preservation Worcester

Announces its 21st Annual Noontime Series on Worcester Architecture will be taking place from noon-1pm on March 15th. Participants will learn about the tools and strategies used, have a chance to ask questions and become involved in the work of the organization. Free to members and only \$5 for non-members call: 508-754-8760 or visit them online at www.preservationworcester.org.

Second Annual Sturbridge Area Maple Days

March 11 - 13 and March 18 - 20

Old Sturbridge Village joins local sugarhouses, restaurants and other establishments in this celebration of the change of season! Visit www.sturbridge.org.

Worcester Art Museum April 3-September 25, 2005

Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague, 1500-1800

This landmark exhibition, a collaboration of Clark University, College of the Holy Cross and the Worcester Art Museum, explores how society and art responded to the bubonic plague. It comprises approximately 37 paintings, on loan from around the world, by artists working in Italy during the Renaissance and Baroque periods.

For more information, e-mail information@worcesterart.org or call 508-799-4406.

The Historic Salem Cross Inn

The Salem Cross Inn Restaurant presents The ABC's of Cooking & Wine Dinner Series March 11th, April 1st, 8th, and 22nd. Discover the art of cooking. Tickets can be ordered online at www.salemcrossinn.com, or call (508) 867-2345.

****REMINDERS to MEMBERS****

Enter Your Events on SocialWeb.Net!

Please be sure you are entering all your events on the www.socialweb.net and requesting it be listed on the appropriate calendars (WCCVB, City, etc.) This calendar is the reference point used by a number of organizations to pull events to promote, let clients know about, etc. **Set up a free account today!**

Don't forget to check out www.Massvacations.com and make sure your events on the calendar.

****CONVENTION DEPARTMENT NEWS****

The Worcester County Convention & Visitors Bureau is proud to welcome the following events:

- March 11-13 **Special Olympics Massachusetts Winter Games**
- March 17-20 **NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament**
- March 25-26 **NCAA Men's Ice Hockey Tournament**
- March 24-25 **New England Ice Managers Conference**

We still need NCAA basketball volunteers. Contact Bryan Lavin at (508) 755-7400 x 225!

Direct On-line Reservation Service (DORS)

The CVB has a direct online reservation service (DORS) available to its members. This site is currently up and running on our website while some final adjustments are being made. The service is only available to members of the CVB. For more information visit www.getdors.com or call Bryan Lavin at the CVB at 508 755-7400.

The next **Worcester County Hotel Association Meeting** is March 24th at the Best Western Yankee Drummer Inn.

Worcester Sales Task Force meeting will be March 8th at the DCU Center at 3:00pm.

****GROUP TOUR NEWS****

Group Tour Meeting Schedule: March 9, 2005 @ 9:30 am – Wachusett Village Inn.

18th Annual Governors Conference on Travel & Tourism - March 29-30, 2005

Visit www.massvacation.com/conference to use their new Online Registration. For more information please see attachment.

Group Tour Operator FAM Tour for June 2005: either 3 or 4 days - June 25 - 29th. Participant sign-up sheet to be distributed to members.

Don't forget to check out the **New Regional Itineraries** being continuously added to the web site. To view please go to www.worcester.org click on *regional information* then *Central Mass suggested itineraries*. Members are encouraged to work with fellow members to create additional full day and half day itineraries. Feel free to contact Jeannie with any questions.

****CVB CONTACTS****

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