

Free!

FALL 2025 - 2026 WINTER

Free!

TRAVEL GUIDE

Visitor guide to
Central New York Region

and the Southern
Finger Lakes Region



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WELCOME TO OUR 2025/2026 FALL & WINTER TRAVEL GUIDE

The Cortland Area Tribune, nicknamed The CAT is published and distributed every other Wednesday. Look for it at 100's of area businesses in Cortland, Dryden, Whitney Point, Groton, Homer, Marathon, Moravia, Ithaca, Tully & LaFayette. Here's some upcoming issues for you to look forward to!

November 19 – Thanksgiving, Black Friday & Get Ready for Winter Issue

PLUS Last Minute Gift Guide Insert

December 3 – Christmas Issue

December 17 – Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & Health/Fitness Issue

The Cortland Area Tribune
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(607) 844-8228 • tcatribune@gmail.com
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Broome County Festival of Lights - November 17 – January 4, 2026 - Ostiningo Park, Binghamton

2nd Annual Christmas Festival - November 23 - McGraw Community Building, 15 Clinton Street, McGraw

Thanksgiving Market - November 25 - Sweet Land Farm CSA, 9732 RT-96, Trumansburg

Turkey Trot 5K - November 27 - Cortland YMCA, 22 Tompkins St., Cortland

Free Thanksgiving Dinner - November 27 - Varna Community Center, Route 366, Varna

Small Business Saturday - November 29 Ithaca

Christmas at The Vault Sip and Shop - November 29 - 35 Main Street, Cortland

Ornament Glazing Workshop - December 1 - Virgil Community Living Center, 1208 Church Street, Cortland

The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight - December 1 - State Theatre of Ithaca, 117 W State Street, Ithaca

Christmas in Graceland/Dinner Show - December 4 - Cortland Country Music Park, 1824 NY-13, Cortland

Aiello's Ristorante – Celebrating 43 Years of Italian Tradition

Located at 2677 Main Street in Whitney Point, Aiello's Ristorante has been a destination for authentic Italian cuisine for over 43 years.

Known for its warm hospitality, top-quality ingredients, and rich family roots, Aiello's continues to serve guests from across Central New York and beyond.

A Family Legacy

Owners Charlie and Vinnie Aiello carry on the tradition started by their father Vito, who opened the restaurant inspired by their mother's home-cooked meals.

What began as a small pizzeria has grown into a beloved staple known for its consistency, passion, and heart.

Quality That Speaks for Itself

Aiello's uses only the freshest herbs, spices, and 100% imported olive oil. Signature dishes like their Black Angus meats, house-made sausage, fresh mozzarella, and handcrafted sauces are made in-house and served with care.

Beyond the Plate

From the kitchen to the dining room, Charlie and Vinnie are always innovating — bringing new recipes, fine cocktails, and thoughtful touches to the guest experience.

In 2020, they launched Aiello'sRestaurant.com for easy online ordering, takeout, or delivery — offering convenience without sacrificing quality.

Serving the Community

Aiello's is open 7 days a week: Mon–Thurs & Sun: 11am–9pm Fri–Sat: 11am–10pm

Whether it's a cozy dinner, a celebration, or your first visit, Aiello's makes every guest feel like family.

Order online or book your next event at: Aiello'sRestaurant.com

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for specials & updates!

Aiello's Ristorante

Aiello's Ristorante - 2677 Main Street - Whitney Point, New York

Located on the corner of Route 11 and Main Street | 607-692-4114 | www.aiello'srestaurant.com



Award Winning
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Italian Restaurant
for 43 years!



Wreath Workshop - December 4 - The Elm Tree Inn, 2 McLean Road, McLean

Christmas and Light Parade - December 6 - Downtown Ithaca

Santa Arrives - December 6 - Downtown Ithaca

Annual Holiday Craft Fair - December 6 - Dryden Agway, 59 W. Main Street, Dryden

Holiday Brunch - December 6 - Cortland Repertory Theatre, 24 Port Watson Street, Cortland

Stained Glass Star & Moon Workshop - December 6 - Forged From Ashes Studio, 75 E. Court Street, Cortland

Wreath Making Workshop - December 6 - Lime Hollow Nature Center, 3277 Gracie Rd., Cortland

Live Nativity - December 7 - Reakes Country Goods, 4107 Route 13, Truxton

Coffee Hour - December 7 - Center Lisle Congregational Church, 9670 Route 79, Lisle

Christmas in Graceland - December 12 - Cortland Country Music Park, 1824 NY-13, Cortland

Burns And Kristy Holiday Concert - December 13 - First Baptist Church in Ithaca, 309 N Cayuga Street, Ithaca

The Nutcracker - December 12, 13 & 14 - The State Theatre Ithaca, 107 West State St., Ithaca

Winter Gear and Toy Exchange - December 13 - First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (FUSIT), 306 N Aurora Street, Ithaca

A Christmas Carol - December 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21 - Center for the ARTS of Homer, 72 S. Main St., Homer

Christmas Pancake Breakfast - December 20 - Glen Aubrey Fire Co. (47), 32 Octagon Street, Glen Aubrey

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November Gift Shop Hours
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December Gift Shop Hours
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CELEBRATING 43 YEARS OF TRADITION & TASTE

2677 Main St., Whitney Point
607-692-4114
aiellosrestaurant.com

LOCATED AT **2677 MAIN STREET** in **Whitney Point**, Aiello's Ristorante has proudly served the community for over four decades. For the past **43 years at the same location**, Aiello's has become a cherished destination for those seeking **authentic Italian cuisine** and a warm, fine dining experience in a small-town setting.

What started as a humble pizzeria, founded with the guidance of their father **Vito Aiello**, has grown into one of **Central New York's premier dining spots**. Brothers **Charlie (Calogero)** and **Vinny (Vincenzo)** have stayed true to their roots, offering the same family hospitality and

commitment to excellence that inspired them in **Mama's kitchen**.

At Aiello's, the difference is in the ingredients:

- **Grade A Black Angus Steaks**
- **Fresh herbs and spices**
- **Top-quality mozzarella**
- **100% imported extra virgin olive oil**

From their acclaimed entrees to their now-famous pizzas, everything is made in-house with care and passion. They continue to innovate, always experimenting with new recipes, cocktails, and experiences for their loyal guests.

Aiello's is proud to offer **takeout and catering services** for events both large and small. In



2020, they became the **first local restaurant** in Whitney Point to launch **online ordering** through aiellosrestaurant.com, making it easier than ever to order for pickup or dine-in.

Not comfortable ordering online? No problem — just call **607-692-4114** to place an order, make a reservation, or schedule your next event.

And don't leave without picking up a **jar of Aiello's own tomato sauce** — made with only the **finest California tomatoes**. The color is incredible, and the taste is even better!

Aiello's is open **7 days a week** from **11:00 AM to 9:30 PM**. Come see why generations have made Aiello's their go-to for exceptional Italian cuisine.





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CHRISTMAS at the MUSEUM
• DECEMBER 14, 2025

See website or Facebook for more details! wardwoharaagriculturalmuseum.org

Curated authentic pieces are arranged to show the details of country life in the past. Familiar scenes display the way life was for local folk, the detail of the collections makes it easy to imagine what is was like back then. Learning from the past guides us toward the future.

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HANDWORK CO-OP

102 W. State St., Ithaca
www.handwork.coop

HANDWORK CO-OP IS AN ARTIST collective located in downtown Ithaca, New York. The co-op first began in 1976 with just 12 craftspeople. Working together, this group opened a retail shop to sell their wares. Through the years, the co-op has since expanded its membership, and is widely

known to feature the most beautiful, skillfully crafted wares in the Finger Lakes region.

Handwork is owned, operated and staffed by its artist members. Each time you visit the store



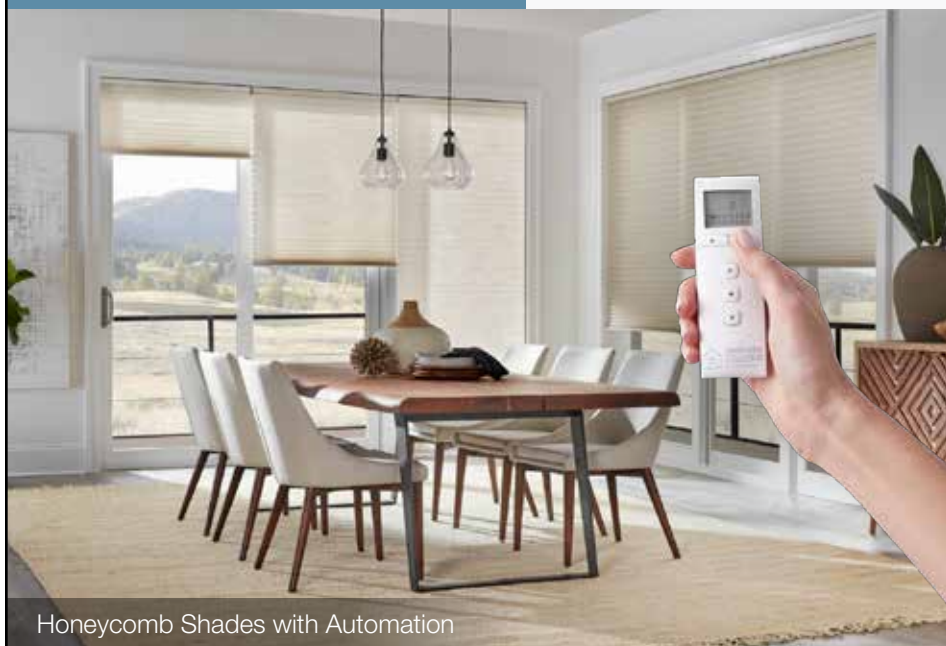
in person, you'll have the opportunity to meet an artist working at the front desk! Our co-op features a diverse range of artisans creating a wide array of work that includes pottery, sculpture, woodworking, glass, jewelry, fiber, wearable art, leather, dried florals, paper goods, fine art and photography. The cooperative also carries a selection of high quality crafts and art from makers around New York and across the country.

We are open 7 days a week at our downtown Ithaca location - 102 W State St, Ithaca. If you want to shop with us online we have a curated selection of what we have available at our brick and mortar which we are continuously updating with new pieces.



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- Lattes & Milkshakes: Pair your treat with a freshly made latte or a creamy milkshake for a perfect blend of flavors.

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Explore our collection of locally made or grown products. From unique gifts to local angus beef,



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For more information, visit truxtonoutpost.com or give us a call at (607) 345-6466. Whether you're stopping by for a leisurely lunch or picking up an order-to-go, Truxton Outpost is your go-to place for delicious food and unique finds. Join us and experience the warmth of our community!

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The shop carries hobby boxes from Topps, Panini, and Upper Deck, along with inexpensive raw cards and an unmatched collection of top singles for Mahomes, Allen, Jordan, and other premier athletes. You'll also find one of a kind signed memorabilia and apparel for a wide variety of teams across the NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL.

Follow on Facebook or Instagram ("Southern Tier Sports Corner") to see the latest big pulls and to save the date for upcoming events. JSA is visiting the shop on Nov. 8th and provides you

the opportunity to have your signed memorabilia (sports and non-sports) authenticated. Trade Nights are monthly, on the third Saturday of the month, with the next one on Nov. 15th. Visit the shop from 4-8pm on Trade Nights for pizza and to trade, buy, and sell cards with fellow collectors. Or just come to hang out, watch games on the big screens, and talk sports!

No matter if you're new to the hobby, or a long time collector, you'll find something special at Southern Tier Sport Corner. Open weekdays from 9:30am - 8pm and weekends from 10am - 8pm, you're always welcome to drop in a quick pack rip or to explore our newest jerseys and apparel. Check out the website (southerntiersportscorner.com) for more information and make sure you visit soon before you finalize your holiday wish list!



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In addition to sales, Leonard's is also known for its **expert vacuum repair services**. Their skilled technicians bring years of experience to every job, diagnosing and resolving issues quickly so your equipment stays in peak condition. A malfunctioning vacuum doesn't have to interrupt



your routine—trust Leonard's to restore it with precision and care.

Comprehensive Cleaning and Restaurant
Supplies

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A Creative Haven for Hobby Enthusiasts

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THRIFTING ROAD TRIPPING

By Shana Karn, TSK Warehouse Vendor Mall Owner

279 Rte. 13, Cortland

THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN a road trip is a "Thrift Road Trip!" And nothing breaks up a long road trip like antique shops, thrift stores and vendor malls. Thrifting while on a road trip is a great way to get a taste of "local flavor." A Thrifting Road trip can be planned, or your plan can be to just thrift along the way. Google [Maps] is a great asset, as are regional small business maps geared toward antique/thrift vendor malls and shops. In our area, NewYorkAntiqueTrail.com offers a glimpse at antique and vendor shops right online. While many small businesses may not have a dedicated website, Facebook and Instagram can be invaluable as they offer glimpses of what you will find inside. TSK Warehouse is on both Facebook and Instagram.

Vendor malls may offer a wider variety of merchandise including, but not limited to, antiques, homemade gifts, local foods, etc. This is

especially helpful if your travel companion isn't as interested in thrifting as you may be.

TSK Warehouse homes over 30 permanent vendors in one convenient location (279 Route 13, Cortland, NY). Vendor shelves and booths are stocked with antiques, crafts, upcycled and recycled pieces, books, clothing, jewelry and new gifts and home décor. At TSK Warehouse, we love chatting with our out-of-town customers and try to share our intimate knowledge of area shops, restaurants and sights so if you are going to be in our neck of the woods, please plan a visit! We are open Wednesday-Sunday 10am-5pm and cannot wait to welcome you!



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Thursday, November 27
Noon-3PM

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Table of 4: \$200.00 Two tickets: \$100.00

DeRuyter Winter Festival 2025

Date - December 6th 2025
Time - 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
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Saturday December 6

Dryden Holiday Celebration

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Watch for other events going on in the Village of Dryden

#DrydenHoliday2025

CULINARY CHRONICLES

BY CHEF KDOT

BREAD PUDDING

Pudding:

- 4 C soft bread cubes (Challah or Brioche)
- 2 C peeled and sliced apples
- 1/4 C raisins
- 1 3/4 C milk
- 1 C brown sugar
- 1/4 C butter
- 2 eggs whipped
- 1 t cinnamon
- 1 t nutmeg
- 1/2 t allspice
- 1/2 t vanilla extract

Vanilla Sauce:

- 1/2 C milk
- 1/2 C butter
- 1/4 C white sugar
- 1/4 C brown sugar
- 1 t vanilla extract

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and grease a 7x11-inch baking dish.
2. Combine bread, apples, and raisins in a large bowl.
3. Heat milk, brown sugar, and butter until melted; pour over bread and mix.
4. Transfer mixture to the prepared baking dish.
5. Whisk eggs, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and vanilla; pour over bread.
6. Bake 40–50 minutes, until center is set and apples are tender.
7. For sauce: boil milk, butter, white sugar, and brown sugar; remove from heat and stir in vanilla.
8. Serve sauce over warm pudding.

Winter Coat & Toy Exchange

December 13th 12-3pm in the Parlor
The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

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CRAFT FAIR AT KENDAL AT ITHACA NOVEMBER 22

11 AM to 5 PM
2230 N Triphammer Rd., Ithaca

RESIDENTS, STAFF, FAMILY AND VISITORS are all welcome to visit Kendal at Ithaca's Fall Craft Fair on November 22 from 11 am to 5 pm. Enjoy a wide variety of homemade goods, participate in a raffle to support the Alzheimer's Foundation and get a head start on holiday shopping! This event is free, and open to the general public. Follow us on Facebook for updates.



SYRACUSE WINE & CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 29

1pm
NYS Fairgrounds, Horticulture Building, Syracuse

WE'RE BRINGING A WHIMSICAL MARKET-STYLE spread filled with: Handcrafted Butters & Syrups – rich, spiced, and perfect for cocktails or cozy cups. Signature Bitters & Teas. Enchanting Flavorings Galore – from orchard-fresh infusions to one-of-a-kind blends. A Touch of Magic – barware, accessories, and even a few of our famous handmade wands for those who like their cocktails with a side of whimsy. Think of it as your one-stop potion shop – whether you're stocking your home bar, looking for a unique gift, or just ready to taste something new, we've got you covered.

Attention Business Owners

Would you like to have an article with photos printed about your business?! Call Judy Kilmer at 607-227-0606 or email tcatribune@gmail.com to find out how!

TURKEY TROT NOVEMBER 27

9 AM – 11 AM
Cortland YMCA
22 Tompkins St., Cortland
runsignup.com/Race/NY/Cortland/CortlandYMCA/BorgWTTurkeyTrot5K

RACE START TIME: 9 AM. Check In to receive Bibs and T-shirts begins at 7:30 AM the morning of, or 12-6 PM on Wednesday, November 26th at the YMCA. PARKING: Parking is limited at the YMCA, on street parking is available.

COURSE: This race goes down Tompkins St, through the SUNY Cortland campus and back. Categories: Fundraiser, Health, Outdoors. Follow us on Facebook for updates.

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DICKENS CHRISTMAS A SKANEATELES TRADITION STARTING NOVEMBER 28

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING you for Dickens Christmas in 2025! The Event Dates will be 12-4 pm: November 28, 29 & 30, December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 and 24 12-2:30 pm on Christmas Eve. Detailed information for this event will be available on our Facebook page or visit our website skaneateles.com.

HAM AND TURKEY PARTY DECEMBER 6

6:30pm
Lisle Fire Company & Lisle Med Team
9990 Main St, Lisle

FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL NOT be ready till 7 PM. Sweet chicken chili, Potato soup and hot dogs. \$7 admission at the door.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR DECEMBER 6

9AM to 2PM
Dryden Agway
59 W. Main St., Dryden
(607) 844-8663
adryden1@twcny.rr.com

GET YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING DONE at Dryden Agway with our amazing craft vendors. All booths are locally handmade items. PLUS enjoy face painting and pony rides! This is not an event you want to miss! Check out our website and follow us on Facebook



PHOTOS WITH SANTA DECEMBER 12-14

Downtown Cortland Repertory Theatre
24 Port Watson Street, Cortland
800-427-6160 • cortlandrep.org

- Fri., Dec. 12: 6pm - 8:30pm
- Sat., Dec. 13: 10am - 12pm & 2pm - 4pm
- Sun., Dec. 14: 1pm - 3pm

COME AND ENJOY CRT DOWNTOWN's beautiful walk-through Winter Wonderland display, with multiple "selfie-spots" for your holiday memories. Admission is \$1 per adult (18 up) at the door. Photo with Santa is \$10 per set up. Photos will be emailed the next week, or for an additional \$10, photos can be printed onsite. Free milk and cookies, donated by the CRT Guild and Trinity Valley.

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THE DOWNTOWN ITHACA WINTER HOLIDAY BASH DECEMBER 6

Downtown Ithaca Commons
downtownithaca.com/winterholidaybash

ONE DAY - TWO EVENTS

Celebrate the holiday season with Downtown Ithaca's Winter Holiday Bash! This festive one-day celebration will bring joy and cheer to the Commons with two fantastic events designed for the whole family.

Santa's Arrival

11 AM - 2 PM / Santa Arrives at 11:30 AM

Experience the magic of the season as Santa Claus makes his grand arrival! Families can enjoy holiday activities, take photos with Santa, and immerse themselves in the festive spirit.

Silent Disco

6 PM - 8 PM

Dance under the stars at our evening Silent Disco! Grab a pair of headphones, choose your favorite

channel, and dance the night away to holiday beats in a unique, immersive experience.

Please note: All Adults above the age of 18 must provide a valid form of I.D. All Children must be accompanied by an adult and must supply a valid form of I.D. One I.D. per Family of 4. Valid forms of I.D. are Student ID card or Driver's License.

Don't miss this memorable day full of holiday fun and festivities!

Artisan Gift Market

Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 AM-5 PM

Press Bay Backlot, Alley, and Court (Corner of Geneva & Green Streets)
pressbayalley.com

Find the perfect holiday gifts at this open-air Winter Artisan Market featuring 40 local makers! Explore unique art, crafts, and gifts while enjoying live music, warming stations, and delicious food and drinks. Celebrate the season while supporting local artisans. For more Info head to pressbayalley.com

Cookie Walk 2025

11 AM-3 PM

cookiewalk@tchabitat.com

Mark your calendar for Habitat for Humanity's beloved Cookie Walk!

This year's Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6th. The Walk will open promptly at 11 am and will run until 3 pm (or until the cookies are sold out) in Center Ithaca on the Ithaca Commons! Consider pre-ordering (link to order form) cookies to skip the line and get the best selection! They make great gifts for friends, family, teachers, caregivers and are perfect for your holiday entertaining! Now Seeking Bakers! Want to bake and/or volunteer at the event? Please contact cookiewalk@tchabitat.com or 607-844-3529!

Directions & Parking

Parking Information: Enjoy free parking at all three Downtown Ithaca garages (Seneca, Green, and Cayuga) on the following dates: Thanksgiving Weekend: November 28 - December 1 (Thursday - Sunday). Christmas Week: December 23 - December 27 (Monday - Friday). Take advantage of this convenience while visiting Downtown for the Winter Holiday Bash and other seasonal festivities!



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LIVE NATIVITY BENEFIT DECEMBER 7

Noon to 3

JOIN US FOR OUR 30TH Annual Live Nativity Benefit, to share a gift with a special local family and community. With this gathering of characters, animals, music and food (hot dog and chili roast) we hope the Christmas spirit is enjoyed. Every twenty minutes a new group of folks, young and old exchange provided robes, wings, Shepard staffs and baby Jesus. We so appreciate the folks that have done this for years, but there is always room for anyone or any group that would like to join a setting (no lines spoken). Just give us a call ask for Kay at 607-842-6322, to sign up for a time in our casual nativity scene. It's a fun memory to make with family and friends. We hope you can take the time for the road less traveled and stop in at our farm market at Reakes Country Goods, 4107 Rt. 13, Truxton. You might be surprised to find a treasure here on the front porch, produce, gift or antique shop. We appreciate those who still shop Small Town USA.

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December 12

Doors: 6:30 PM / Show: 7:30 PM

December 13

Doors: 2:00 PM / Show: 3:00 PM

December 14

Doors: 2:00 PM / Show: 3:00 PM

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9:30-12noon

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APRIL 18 & 19, 2026

THE CNY MAPLE FESTIVAL is located in one of America's best small Towns-MARATHON!

The 2026 Maple Festival will celebrate the Marathon Community's 54th Maple Festival! The Maple Festival is a long standing testimony to the Community's willingness to work together. The Festival has become a spring time tradition not only in the Marathon Community but it has become a tradition for the thousands of guests who look forward to being in Marathon each spring. From the earliest settlers collecting sap in wooden buckets to the modern producers using a tap line, the customs, stories, and traditions of making maple syrup will be shared on Maple Festival weekend. With two generations of Maple

Festivals now under their belt, the Marathon Community has achieved some customs of their own. If it is spring time, it is time to be in Marathon, to enjoy one of nature's sweetest gifts. From pancakes dripping with the sweetness of maple syrup to maple bacon infused with that goodness, don't miss this annual event. All things maple lead to Marathon, where folks will be welcoming you! Follow us on our Facebook page CNY Maple Festival



CREATURE FEATURE FLYING THROUGH FALL, DROPPING INTO WINTER

AUTUMN FINDS VARIOUS DUCK SPECIES migrating through the Southern Tier. Some are early fall migrants, while others linger longer into the season; and while some will journey long distances, others won't fly too far, so long as weather conditions allow for open water. The timing of fall migration can vary from year to year based on various factors, including availability of food, weather (particularly the arrival of cold fronts), and waning daylight. These factors can trigger ducks to abruptly move south in large pushes.

The **common goldeneye** is among the last migratory waterfowl species to leave in the fall. This medium-sized diving duck often lingers into November or until inland waters begin to ice over. Many goldeneyes migrate along the Atlantic Coast where wintering habitats include coastal bays, estuaries, larger lakes, and rivers. Nicknamed the "whistler" by hunters for the distinctive sound its wings make in flight, the goldeneye feeds primarily on aquatic invertebrates, crustaceans, mollusks, fish and their eggs, with seeds and vegetation making up only a small part of its diet.

The goldeneye is named for its striking gold-colored eyes which are set in a large-sized head. In breeding season, the male sports a dark, iridescent green head with a prominent white spot between the black bill and eye, and white-striped, black underparts. The female has a chestnut-brown

head, mottled gray-brown back, and white belly. Winter begins courtship time, when the male goldeneye performs elaborate, complex displays to attract mates.

Not all wildlife flies the coop for winter. The **fisher** is one such hardy creature. It neither hibernates nor migrates, although it may increase its range during the season's colder months as prey becomes less abundant. While it lacks a primary winter den site, the fisher finds shelter in protective nooks scattered throughout its territory; these might be tree cavities, blow-downs, or spaces under rocks. The thick, plush coat that helps it stay warm throughout winter is colored in rich shades of brown with darker points on the rump and tail.

Contrary to common urban myths, *the fisher is actually a silent, secretive creature that very rarely kills cats*, as proven by studies on the stomach contents of over 1,000 fishers. It prefers natural prey – mostly small mammals like rabbits and squirrels -- and is one of the only animals that hunts porcupines. The fisher is also a masterful climber, and when it drops out of a tree into deep snow, it may leave behind a full body impression, including its long, thick tail that accounts for one-third of its entire length.

Article by Margie Manthey

Common Goldeneye photo by Calibas/Wikimedia Commons

Fisher photo by Tammy Nash



Photo: Tammy Nash



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UPSTATE

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