

THE BEARS NECESSITIES

The Quarterly Newsletter of Bears Crossing Community

Issue #3 / June 2023



A Well Kept Secret...

BY AMY SYRACUSE, EDITOR

There's a joke that Vermont has four seasons: "almost winter," "winter," "still winter," and "road construction." Having spent much of the past few summers in Bears Crossing, I'm convinced that's a ruse to prevent Flatlanders from discovering the well-kept secret that is the Green Mountain summer. In truth, summers in Vermont are nothing short of spectacular! Yes, there's a bit of road work... But there are also lazy afternoons spent poolside, cozy evenings around the fire pit, and just about any outdoor activity you can imagine to tire you out for that poolside nap.

Picking berries, canoeing, hiking, stargazing, rafting, and visiting some absolutely magical swimming holes rank among my family's favorite summertime traditions. There's also golfing, hiking, biking, boating, stand-up paddle boarding, fishing, shopping at farmers' markets, touring craft breweries, antiques, and dining al fresco. If any of these pastimes pique your interest, see pages 6-7 for some fun-filled seasonal activity suggestions, and pro tips for planning a "nine and dine" outing from Brumms Way owner Talia Polino.

In this newsletter, you'll also find:

- Dates for your summer calendar;
- An update from W&B;
- Results from our T-Shirt Fundraiser;
- Board of Directors news; and more.

If you missed the last two newsletters, visit our [online archive](#) to get up to speed. Black Bear owner Scott Abrams' previous articles on hiking and craft breweries make great summer reads, too! Until next time, I look forward to seeing you poolside, fireside, trailside, at the Creemee Stand, or wherever our paths cross.

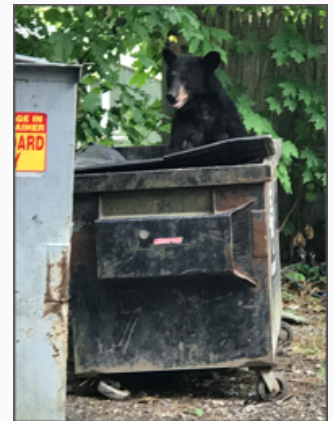
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Special Thanks and Summer Updates from W&B

BY GEORGE FRIEND, PROPERTY MANAGER

With the summer season underway, I'd like to share a few quick updates.

- **Recreation:** This month, the tennis court received pickleball line installation. We've heard different opinions on how well a pickleball plays on a Har-Tru surface. Make sure you buy balls designed for outdoor play. [Onix Pure 2 pickleballs](#) are recommended. The court is prepped. The pool is open—heated to 80 degrees—and the grills are ready and waiting for your next barbecue.
- **Maintenance:** This time of year, weekdays are filled with construction and grounds maintenance, but weekends are typically peaceful. You may have noticed that we recently replaced the fence around the pool area. We will also replace the clubhouse walkway and stairs. Please watch for signage; you may need to use alternate entrances while this work is in progress.
- **Nosy Neighbors:** Black flies and black bears have recently been invading the Community. The flies are now slowing down. The bears will stop searching our dumpster for easy food, *if we can keep food scraps out of the recycling container and the compactor door closed and secure.* It's fun to see bears from afar, but not so fun to meet one face-to-face at the dumpster while holding a garbage bag that smells like last night's dinner. To that end, don't forget that state law requires composting of food scraps. If you're new to composting, there's a primer on page 4 of this newsletter. We also have a new [guide to trash, recycling, and composting in Bears Crossing](#). Please read it thoroughly and share this important information with tenants and guests.
- **SFH Repair Reminders:** If you received a letter about needed repairs to your property and require assistance with addressing the issues, please e-mail W&B at info@wbmvt.com at your earliest convenience.
- **Firewood Delivery:** Due to rainy weather, firewood delivery will take place in June. This delivery is for the *upcoming ski season*. All homes will be allowed one more access to the woodshed by the end of the 2023-2024 ski season.



Prevent close encounters with our nosiest neighbors by properly disposing of trash, recycling, and food waste.

Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to the Community. Working as onsite manager is both challenging and wonderful. Five years ago, I was hesitant to take on such a large responsibility while in retirement mode. But I'm glad I did. Bears Crossing homeowners and the Board of Directors are kind and supportive. I always feel appreciated, and I'm grateful for the Community's generosity. God willing, I look forward to several more years of progress and friendship. Thank you to every homeowner for making Bears Crossing a wonderful place to work.

I hope to see everyone around the Community this summer. Bears Crossing is so much more than a beautiful ski home retreat. Enjoy your downtime in this special place ... and see you soon!

Going on a Bear Hunt: Tracking the 'Bears in the Valley'

If you read the March edition of *The Bears Necessities* newsletter, you're already familiar with the "Bears in the Valley," 39 life-sized bear statues created as part of a Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce art installation back in 2006 and 2007. Each bear was sponsored by an area business and decorated by a local artist with imagery that reflected the sponsor organizations and life in the Deerfield Valley.

After the art installation ended, the Bears in the Valley were auctioned off to bidders at a charity gala benefiting local nonprofits, with many finding forever homes in West Dover and Wilmington. Some—like Bears Crossing's wine-themed bear—are now tucked away in local residential communities. Others stand guard over area businesses or serve as landmarks on busy thoroughfares. Some reside in the elements year-round, while others take shelter when the winter weather arrives.

Where are the Bears in the Valley Now?

Unlike their mammalian counterparts who—for the most part—steer clear of people, the Bears in the Valley aren't shy. Their bold designs, stunning artistic renderings, and vibrant colors tend to attract attention and appreciation from passersby. In fact, you've probably already noticed a few Bears in the Valley in your travels. But there are many more to be found!

A Tracking Challenge

This summer, we're asking the Bears Crossing Community to join a "hunt" to track down as many of the Bears in the Valley as possible. Simply find one (or more) of the Bears in the Valley outside of Bears Crossing. Snap a photo (a "selfie" or maybe even an "ussie"?) with each bear and post your photo(s) to the Bears Crossing Community Facebook Group with the hashtag #bearsinthevalley. Not on Facebook? No problem! You can also e-mail photos to bearsnecessitiesnews@gmail.com. For every

bear you find, we'll reward your efforts with a Bears Crossing decal for use on skis, snowboards, helmets, etc. (See options below.) In addition, we'll feature the best "Bears in the Valley" photos in our Fall newsletter. Good luck, have fun, and happy hunting! -AS



"The Bridge Bear"



"Made in the USA" Bear in the Valley

Stuck on Bears Crossing

Did you miss your chance to land a Bears Crossing decal during the community's recent T-Shirt Fundraiser? Never fear! Participants in our summertime "Bears in the Valley Scavenger Hunt" will be awarded one decal for every photo submitted showing a different Bear in the Valley. Supplies are limited so get started "hunting" today.



These high-gloss waterproof decals can be used on skis, snowboards, helmets, or anywhere else you'd like to display your Bears Crossing pride.

Planning Ahead

June 16 - [Canyon Lift opens for mountain biking and Bluebird opens for scenic chairlift rides \(both offered Friday-Sunday\) at Mount Snow](#)

June 16 to Sept. 15 - [Block Parties with live music and food trucks run every Friday from 5pm to 8pm at Mount Snow's Main Base Area](#)

July 1 - [Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks at Hayford Field in Wilmington](#)

July 2 - [Independence Day Fireworks Celebration at Mount Snow](#)

July 4 - [Wardsboro Fourth of July Parade & Street Fair](#)

July 15 - [4th Annual Barn & Garden Tour hosted by the Rotary Club of Deerfield Valley](#)

July 28 - [3rd Annual Music Festival at Farm Road Estate](#)

July 28 to Aug. 6 - [Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival \(Parade held July 29; Pancake Breakfast on July 30\)](#)

Aug. 12 - [Bears Crossing BOD Budget Meeting & Annual Summer Barbecue](#)

Sept. 2 - [28th Annual Mount Snow Brewers Festival](#)

Sept. 23 - [14th Annual Vermont Wine & Harvest Festival at Mount Snow](#)

Sept. 30 - [Bears Crossing Annual Owners' Meeting](#)

Check the Bears Crossing Facebook Group for announcements about additional community outings (e.g., hikes, pub tours, brewery visits, etc.). For upcoming Deerfield Valley events, visit the [Chamber of Commerce Calendar](#).



NBFD Billing Updates

A few key changes are afoot at North Branch Fire District (NBFD), Dover's municipal sewer plant. Please be aware that NBFD is working to shift customers from receiving paper invoices to e-mail invoicing using the InvoiceCloud system. InvoiceCloud reduces paper usage and provides reminders before a bill is due. But, if you pay through the InvoiceCloud system, you will be assessed a 3% processing fee. Note that you can still pay by check or ACH bank transfer to avoid incurring this extra charge.

In addition, NBFD is now charging excessive usage fees to protect against exceeding the wastewater treatment system's capacity. NBFD will monitor all customers' usage daily during a "peak" winter season week (e.g., between Christmas and New Year's Day, the week of Presidents Day, etc.). Customers will be notified about monitoring dates in advance by mailer and online. Those who exceed their allocated gallonage any day during a monitoring week will be charged \$50 per day that they were over, plus 50 cents per gallon of overage. To confirm your property's gallonage, call NBFD at 802-464-8415. Also, download the [Eye on Water App](#) to check your unit's usage in real time.

Annual Owners' Meeting

The Bears Crossing Annual Owners Meeting will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023. *Please save the date* and plan to participate, whether in person or by Zoom. Also, if you'd like to propose an agenda item for the Condo / SFH Association meetings or the Master HOA meeting, e-mail your Association president and/or reach out to Board President Mike Goodman or Onsite Property Manager George Friend.

Water Quality Report

The state of Vermont requires all public community water systems to provide Consumer Confidence Reports to their consumers by July 1st of each year. Bears Crossing's 2022 Consumer Confidence Report is now available for your review on [W&B's owners' site](#).

On the Board: A MOOving Farewell, Meeting News & More

BY MIKE GOODMAN, BOARD PRESIDENT

Amazing as it seems, another ski season is over, the trees are filling in, and the Board is putting together next year's budget.

Before I tell you what lies ahead, I'll start with a few words about the past. For those who don't know, I'm very sorry to say this was our last ski season with Greg as our MOOover driver. As a parent (and, now, grandparent) of "independent" youngsters, I was always reassured that Greg was the one shepherding them to and from the mountain. We are grateful for Greg's 16 years of service as our shuttle driver. He will be missed, but we wish him all the best in his retirement adventures.

As for BOD business, the next Master Association Board meeting will take place Saturday, Aug. 12th, at 9 a.m. This is our annual budget meeting. The Board moved the meeting to the morning to free up the afternoon for an owners' barbecue on the clubhouse upper deck. Like last summer, we'll be grilling and enjoy live music. Please join us! Details from the Social Committee will follow via e-mail later this summer.

This year's annual full membership owners' meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30th. Where? When? What are we going to talk about? We don't have all of the answers just yet. Again, more details will be sent as the date gets closer.

Before the pandemic, this annual meeting was actually seven individual meetings! Six meetings of the individual Associations (Single Family Home and five Condominium Associations) were followed by the Master Association meeting, all in one September morning. One lasting change from COVID is the streaming of SFH and Condo Association meetings. However, holding seven meetings in one morning presented IT problems that were best solved by scheduling them on separate days. Sometime between the Aug. 12th and Sept. 30th meetings, the six individual Associations will hold their annual meetings via Zoom. Your Association presidents will update you.

As part of these meetings, SFH and Condo Association presidents will be voted in for the upcoming fiscal year (Oct. '23 – Sept. '24). The six individual Association presidents automatically serve on the Master Association Board. The remaining nine positions are filled through election at the annual meeting. Any owner wishing to run for a Master Association Board position will have the opportunity to be included on the ballot. Watch for an e-mail request in the coming months. To join the ballot, you will be asked to provide name, address, and a short biography.

Finally, owners planning to rent their units must now have a Certificate of Occupancy AND Inspection Report from the Fire Marshal on file with the Association through W&B. Please contact info@wbmvt.com with questions.

In other news, the pool is open (thank you, George!) and the Development looks great (thank you, W&B, 802 Dirt, and Sage it Ain't Sow Gardening!). Hopefully, the black flies are leaving soon. Come up, come out, and enjoy the summer. I look forward to seeing many of you in shorts and sunglasses on Aug. 12th, and to cooking you a hotdog and/or hamburger.

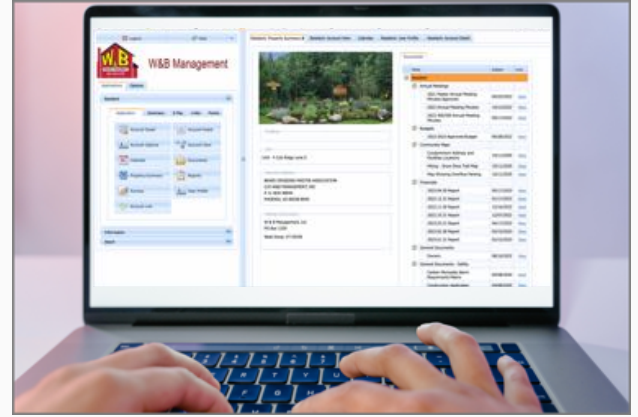


Bears Crossing 101: Keep Track of HOA Information Through W&B's Owners' Site

For second homeowners, there's double the property information to keep tabs on. W&B Property Management's Owners' website can help. Accessible by login, this resource houses essential Bears Crossing Homeowners Association information, including Master, Single Family Home, and Condo Association meeting agendas and minutes; governing documents; budgets; HOA account and payment information; a directory of owners; and more.

Not currently using the site? Had no idea it existed? Here's what you need to know to get up to speed:

- Start by bookmarking the site in your browser for easy access. See <https://wbmaintenance.vmsclientonline.com/default.aspx>. (Note: This interface replaced the old bearscrossing.net site back in December 2020.)
- You'll need your user ID (also known as your Bears Crossing HOA account number) and your password to log in. If you need help tracking this information down, W&B's office staff is happy to assist. Simply call the office at 802-464-5749 or e-mail info@wbmvt.com. -AS



Access the [W&B Owners' Site](https://wbmaintenance.vmsclientonline.com/default.aspx) using your account number and password.



According to Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, if every Vermonter composted, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as taking 7,000 vehicles off the road annually. And that's not all... Processing food waste through composting conserves space in landfills. It also creates a steady supply of nutrient-rich soil that supports healthy plant growth and reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers. In short, small changes to how you discard food waste—simply taking an extra minute to place scraps in a composting bin instead of a garbage can—has the potential to yield big benefits for the environment. That's why Vermont became the first state to legally require composting back in 2020, and why Bears Crossing is working diligently to ensure composting in our Community is as easy and convenient as possible.

If you're new to composting, you'll be happy to hear that it's a relatively simple process.

- First, familiarize yourself with Bears Crossing's [Jora composting tumbler](#), found next to the small garage-like building in the waste disposal area on Polar Bear North.
- Next, separate compostable waste from regular trash. You can compost parts of food items that are typically discarded rather than eaten (e.g., peels, rinds, cores, eggshells, seeds, pits, coffee grounds, loose-leaf tea, and fats/oil/grease). You can also compost food that wasn't finished (i.e., plate scraps or leftovers that went bad). Avoid composting bones, paper towels, cartons, plastic produce bags, stickers on produce, or coffee filters.
- When visiting Bears Crossing's composting tumbler, add only the compostable food scraps to the bin that is unlocked. Then add an equal volume of wood shavings from the metal can below the composting tumbler.
- Close and lock the bin door.
- Finally, spin the tumbler around to mix up the contents.

W&B staff regularly check and maintain the composting equipment. Notably, topsoil created through Bears Crossing's composting efforts stays in the Community. According to Onsite Property Manager George Friend, our home-composted soil is used to repair damage caused by plows in the spring and to remediate erosion throughout the year.

To date, use of the composting equipment has been slow yet steady. But improved communication and education have the potential to bolster usage, increasing soil production and yielding real benefits. You can help by composting your household's food scraps during your stay in Bears Crossing and by spreading the word to neighbors and guests.

For more information about composting, please visit [Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation](#) website. -AS

Fundraiser Surpasses Goal; BX Swag Sale Raises \$2358 for Deerfield Valley Rescue

Bears Crossing's first-ever T-Shirt Fundraiser in March was a resounding success, selling 145 t-shirts and hoodies featuring a new Community logo. The effort raised \$2358.96 for Wilmington-based nonprofit Deerfield Valley Rescue (DVR), exceeding the fundraising goal by more than 50 percent. The funds will be used to equip DVR's new ambulance with an electronic safe box, which securely stores and tracks controlled medications administered by paramedics during calls.

On behalf of the Deerfield Valley Rescue organization, Business Administrator Heidi Taylor expressed her sincere appreciation for the generous contributions from Bears Crossing fundraiser supporters. "As our operation serves 270 square miles, we are appreciative of your support," she said. "[It] enables DVR to continue to provide quality pre-hospital care to the communities in southern Vermont."

In April, Amy Syracuse, the fundraiser's organizer, visited Deerfield Valley Rescue's Stowe Hill Road headquarters to deliver the check, meet with Emergency Medical Technician Charles Putnam, and tour the organization's facilities.

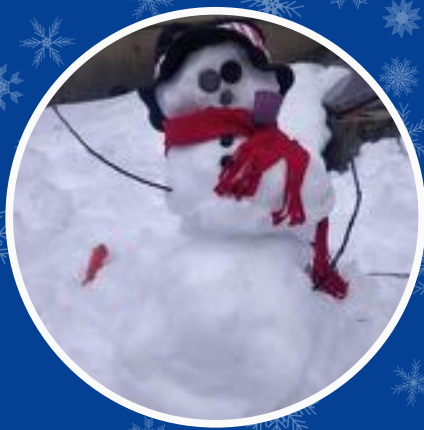
"It's incredible to see first-hand the high level of care and commitment that Deerfield Valley Rescue provides," said Syracuse. "Thank you to the many Bears Crossing homeowners who supported the fundraiser and who can now—literally—wear their Bears Crossing pride. This effort was a win-win-win—for Deerfield Valley Rescue, Bears Crossing, and the entire Valley."

Note: Fundraiser supporters are eligible to receive a Bears Crossing decal for each item purchased. If you haven't already received your decal(s), please e-mail Amy Syracuse at asyracuse@gmail.com to make arrangements.



EMT Charles Putnam gratefully accepted Bears Crossings' fundraiser donation and showed off the essential impact of the community's charitable contributions.

Congratulations to the 2022-23 Snowman Contest Winners!



"Best Traditional Snowman"
Morgan P.
Bears Den Road



"Most Creative Snowman"
The Marks Family
Cub Ridge Lane



"Manager's Choice Snowman"
The White Family
Cub Ridge Lane

Summer Fun in the Deerfield Valley: The Best Local Golf Courses to Play Nine...

BY TALIA POLINO

Whether you're looking for peaceful solitude or an afternoon outing with friends, playing golf is never a bad choice. There are a number of fantastic, well-rated courses right in Bears Crossing's backyard. Not only is the golf itself great, but the courses offer a number of events and activities to entertain golfers and non-golfers alike. So when you're looking to tee up a good time, be sure to check out these options.

Home Away From Home

If you're in search of friendly faces, visit the [Mount Snow Golf Club](#), where you'll likely bump into Golf Pro and Mount Snow favorite Mat Conroy and bartender extraordinaire Tim Manther. In addition to offering great hospitality, the course is very highly regarded. According to Mount Snow's website, "The Mount Snow Golf Course has matured into one of Vermont's premier mountain courses and has been rated one of the top five in the state by *Golf Digest*. Designed by New England course architect Geoffrey Cornish, our 18-hole championship course has also been named one of the top 10 resort courses in the country by *SKI Magazine*." Lessons are available. There are leagues for both men and women, as well as an open Friday couples' nine-and-dine. The Fairways Restaurant has delicious drink specials; a mouthwatering menu filled with classics like fish tacos, Cobb salad, and a crispy chicken sandwich; and [live music every Saturday](#) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. through Oct. 7th.



Photo credit: [Mount Snow Facebook Page](#)

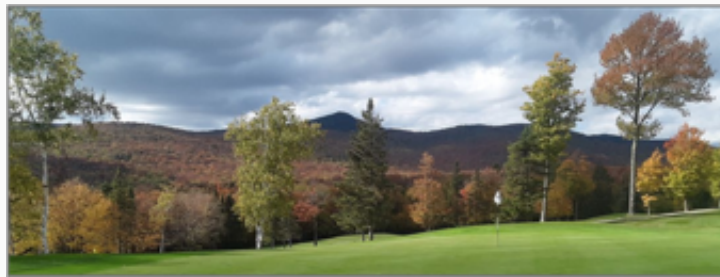


Photo credit: [Haystack Golf Course Facebook Page](#)

Our Fair Neighbor

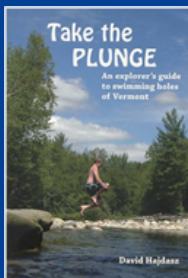
Just a few minutes from Bears Crossing, you'll find [Haystack Golf Course](#) and The Stack Restaurant. The course is picturesque, with rolling hills and vistas, but still approachable for players of all levels. As described on the Haystack Golf Course website, "Haystack Golf Course offers a classic, manicured layout with challenging greens and breathtaking scenery. Designed by acclaimed architect Desmond Muirhead in 1972...There is a full-service golf club offering a fully stocked golf pro shop, a practice range, putting green, golf instruction by PGA Professionals and home to The Stack Restaurant." The Cleanthes family keeps an active Facebook presence and makes sure social media followers stay informed about special events at the course and restaurant.

The Long Drive

Just 20 minutes north of West Dover, there's the stunning [Stratton Mountain Golf Course](#), where you can mix and match play on three different nine-hole courses. As described by *Golf Magazine*, "The golf is superb at this all-inclusive resort, which boasts a scenic and challenging championship 27-hole course that played host to six LPGA tournaments. The Forest, Lake, and Mountain all have their own charm and danger, and are designed to be playable for any level golfer." The course is bustling with activity all week long. There are Thursday night scrambles with a shotgun start, and a Tuesday Night Men's League. In addition, lessons are available and group outings are welcomed. After a round of golf, relax with craft cocktails, beer, wine, and a full menu at the Green Apron Restaurant overlooking the course.

Off the Beaten Track

Sometimes you just want to get away from it all! Here are some summer suggestions for when you need a break from the norm.



[Bartleby's Books](#) in [Wilmington](#) sells this fantastic guide to Vermont's swimming holes. Snap one up and discover what summer in the Green Mountain state is all about.



Looking to try something new and different? [Willow Park Disc Golf Course](#), an 18-hole beginner- to intermediate-level course in Bennington, is a hole in one!



If you don't own a boat, [High Country Marine](#) is your gateway to exploring Lake Whitingham. Rental options run the gamut, from stand-up paddleboards and kayaks to bayliners and the Tiki Pontoon.

...and Top Picks for the Season's Best Al Fresco Dining

BY TALIA POLINO

With warmer weather and longer days upon us, it's the perfect time to explore all that the Deerfield Valley has to offer when it comes to dining al fresco. Our area is already known for its charming and cozy winter spots, where we sip cocktails fireside and dine on comfort foods. But summer brings with it new life, vibrance, and outdoor fun, with a little something for everyone's unique tastes and styles. Here are a few favorites to consider while you enjoy some summer downtime at Bears Crossing.

Family Friendly

Everyone already loves the arcade and consistently good, casual food that *The Last Chair* is known for... but did you know that they offer one of the largest outdoor decks for summertime dining, a deck bar with fresh seasonal cocktails (Spiked Blueberry Lemonade, anyone?), lawn games, live music and a rotation of seasonal menu additions? Kids can still enjoy the arcade with its large garage door opening right onto the deck and grab ice cream from the ice cream truck just off the deck. On brisk evenings, grab a seat near one of the free-standing heaters and you won't miss a summertime beat!



Photo credit: [The Last Chair Bar & Grill Facebook page](#)

Cocktails and Summer Dreams

If you're looking for a trendy craft cocktail bar with a big personality, stop into *Deerfield Bar & Bottle Shop*, where you'll be welcomed by proprietors, John and Lindsay (both sommeliers!). At this hidden gem, tucked away in the Mount Snow Marketplace Plaza on Route 100, the cocktails are always crisp, fresh, and made with seasonal ingredients. There's an indoor bar, as well as an inviting outdoor patio with string lights, bistro tables, and lounge furniture.

The shop is also known for its carefully curated wine selection. While sipping wine or cocktails, add a lite nosh to your order. You can choose from homemade hummus platters, farmers' boards of cheese and charcuterie, and a rotating selection of other tasty bites. My favorite cocktail is the DBB G&T, especially when strawberry is featured. *Note: This is a 21+ establishment.*

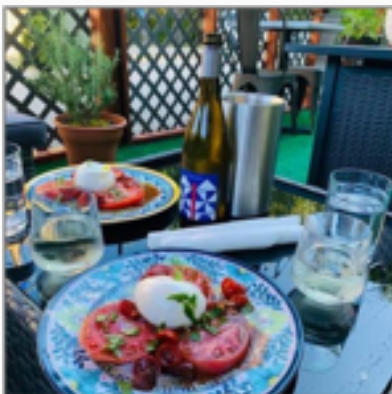


Photo credit: [Deerfield Bar & Bottle Facebook page](#)

Take Me Away

A Deerfield Valley icon that exudes luxury, the *Hermitage Inn* has been transformed by relatively new owners Mary Lou Ricci and Tim Hall. For alfresco dining aficionados, it's a slice of summer paradise. While the Inn's impressive Tavern and Main Dining Room are wintertime fine dining staples, the bluestone patio shines in the summer with a view of the impeccably manicured grounds, an adjacent fire pit, and occasional live music. In addition to an extraordinary menu showcasing items from local producers, such as Boyd Farms and Dover Hill Creamery, the Inn hosts special events, tastings, and dining experiences. This summer, look out for a Wine Dinner in the Inn's apple orchard, with a six-course farm-to-table tasting menu that complements the Staglin Vineyard line-up of wines being featured.



Photo credit: [The Hermitage Inn Facebook Page](#)

Summertime Sweets



Chill Out

Let's be honest... It's not officially summer until you've enjoyed a maple creemee from the Creemee Stand, Wahoo's, Sprague's Sugarhouse, or all three! But Sticky Fingers offers a delicious change of pace with homemade hard ice cream and ice cream sandwiches. The newly revamped Jerry's Deck / Valley Craft Ales at the Old Red Mill Inn also frequently features gelato made onsite with fresh locally-sourced ingredients.

Creemee Stand

716 Route 100, Wilmington
www.creemeestand.com

Wahoo's Eatery

2 White's Road, Wilmington
wahoos Eatery.com

Sticky Fingers

210 Route 100, West Dover
www.stickyfingersvermontbakery.com

Sprague's Sugarhouse

1631 Route 100, Jacksonville

Jerry's Deck @ Old Red Mill Inn

18 North Main Street, Wilmington



Take Your Pick

Vermont's incredible pick-your-own blueberry season begins in July. Call ahead to check availability. The season's start date and duration depend on weather conditions and picking traffic.

Boyd Family Farm

25 East Dover Road, Wilmington
www.boydfamilyfarm.com

Dutton Berry Farm

407 Route 30, Newfane
[@duttonberryfarm](#) (Instagram)

Olallie Daylily Garden

129 Auger Hole Road, South Newfane
www.daylilygarden.com