

# 7 Ways that YOU can Support Downtown Waterville AND Build Community

## #1

### Shop Downtown and Shop Local!

Whenever possible, patronize Downtown's wide array of locally owned businesses. These businesses are owned by your friends and neighbors – the same people who coach local sports teams, sponsor community arts events, and serve on the boards of local nonprofits. They also provide excellent customer service because they know you – your likes and dislikes, your children's wish lists, your wife's favorite gemstone, your husband's hobbies. Most importantly, they spend *their* money locally, too!

## #2

### Attend a Downtown Event!

Downtown Waterville hosts a year-round calendar of events designed to appeal to all ages – events like Harvest Fest, Arts Fest, and the Main Street Madness 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament – as well as weekly events based at local businesses, such as Thursday Night Trivia at Mainely Brews Restaurant & Tavern, Sunday Jazz Brunches at Soup to Nuts Coffee House, and nightly live music at The Speak Easy, Midnight Blues Club, and many other locations. All this without even mentioning the fabulous programming at the Waterville Opera House. When you attend a Downtown event, you are guaranteed to run into a neighbor or an old friend you haven't seen in far too long. Visit [www.watervillemainstreet.org/events.php](http://www.watervillemainstreet.org/events.php) for more information.

## #3

### Dine at one of our Downtown Restaurants!

Downtown Waterville is PACKED with fabulous, locally-owned restaurants. Whether you are looking for lunch, dinner, or a late-night snack, you can find it in Downtown. Authentic Lebanese food, Thai, Vietnamese, and Chinese cuisine, eclectic American fare, pizza, delicious pub food... the list goes on. And, guess what? Because they are locally owned, many of these restaurants purchase fresh food at the Downtown Waterville Farmers' Market, patronize other downtown businesses, host the art walks, and support local events and organizations.



Downtown businesses will be open until 8pm every Thursday night between Thanksgiving and Christmas. You can find gifts for the whole family - from furniture to jewelry, clothing to housewares - in Downtown's rich array of independently owned shops. While you are visiting, enjoy a delicious dinner at one of our many fabulous restaurants, where gift certificates are also available. Also, enjoy special holiday entertainment coordinated by WMSt every Thursday night and enter a FREE raffle for \$500 Downtown Dollars.

Visit [www.watervillemainstreet.org](http://www.watervillemainstreet.org) for a list of participating businesses, planned activities, and raffle details.

# #4

## Go on a Downtown Art Walk!

On the second Thursday of every other month, around a dozen businesses host the Downtown Art Walk, offering refreshments and a chance to meet the artists whose work is on display. The Art Walks, which coincide with regular openings at Blue Marble Art Gallery (153B Main Street), highlight the amazing talent of our local artists and offer something for everyone! **The next Downtown Art Walk is Thursday, December 13, 4-8pm, which is also an Alive After 5 shopping night in Downtown.** Visit [www.watervillemainstreet.org](http://www.watervillemainstreet.org) for more details!

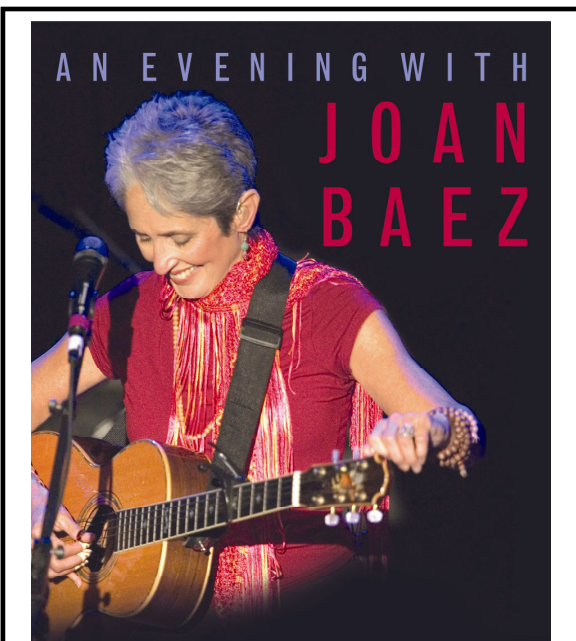
# #5

## Shop at the Farmers' Market!

The Downtown Waterville Farmers' Market features a variety of locally produced food, including bison, beef, pork, chicken, cheese, milk, pies, bread, herbs, salves, perennials, eggs, and nearly every vegetable under the sun! How does shopping at the Farmers' Market help Downtown Waterville? It promotes the concept of buying local, it builds community as shoppers visit not only with the people who grow their food but also their neighbors who shop there, and in the big scheme of things, it helps people to realize that downtown revitalization and farmland preservation are two sides of the same coin. If you are thinking it is too late to support the market this year, we have good news! **The Farmers' Market is now YEAR-ROUND, with the next Winter Market scheduled for December 20, 2-4pm.** Visit [www.watervillefarmersmarket.org](http://www.watervillefarmersmarket.org) for details!



Explore your creative side at Freshwater Arts, Downtown Waterville's community based arts education center. Freshwater Arts offers a wide variety of classes for adults and children. **Our winter session starts on February 4.** Visit [www.freshwaterarts.org](http://www.freshwaterarts.org) for more information!



Don't miss **Live at the Opera House** in Downtown Waterville, featuring rare acoustic performances by Rustic Overtones on December 29th and Joan Baez on March 24th. Call 207-873-7000 to purchase tickets, or visit [www.liveattheoperahouse.com](http://www.liveattheoperahouse.com) for more information.

# #6

## Volunteer!

Downtown is home to a number of nonprofit organizations working to create positive change in our community, including Hardy Girls Healthy Women, the Waterville Public Library, REM, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, Waterville Opera House, and of course, Waterville Main Street. Whether you are interested in serving on a committee or board or volunteering for a specific event, like a Downtown clean-up, YOU can be part of creating a vibrant future for Downtown and the greater community.

# #7

## Get Connected!

Stay up to date on what's happening in your downtown. The best way to do that is to sign up for the monthly What's Up in Downtown e-newsletter, which highlights upcoming events, special sales, new businesses, and much more! Sign up at [www.watervillemainstreet.org](http://www.watervillemainstreet.org). Don't forget to tell your friends, family, and colleagues, too!