



A sign welcomes attendees to East End Park at last year's community celebration.

Lauran Corson Photo

## Woodstock Community Celebration is this Sunday

*Live music, food, cotton candy, and more at East End Park*

By Angie Follensbee-Hall  
 Standard Correspondent

The annual Woodstock Community Celebration will be held on Sunday, Sept. 8, from 2-5 p.m. at the East End Park, a project of the Woodstock Community Trust (WCT). The event is free or by donation and open to all. There will be local food vendors, free cheese samples from Billings Farm, live music, outdoor recreation, a labyrinth to explore, community resources, and the traditional drone photo to cap-

ture the beauty and spirit of the community.

Be sure to bring your appetite to experience the variety of local food options. The

**"Community means a network of people who join together in good times, in bad times, and all the moments in between, to provide support and strength."**

— Emily Friedman, WCT board member

Woodstock Firefighters' Relief Organization will sell grilled chicken and fresh sandwiches for a small fee, (proceeds to benefit the firefighters). You

can try out Sustainable Eats, a local food truck that serves clean, all-natural, antibiotic-free, and organic-sourced foods. And attendees can

grab an adult beverage from the Ottauquechee Yacht Club. Save room for the sweets — Izzy Buss will be spinning colorful cotton candy, and cupcakes will be available to anyone who donates to the

park.

Carry your lawn chairs and picnic blankets to the stage to enjoy your food, or get up and dance! At 2 p.m. the roots-bop, jazz revival band, Route 5, featuring musicians Jakob Breitbach, Christopher Billiau, and Kit Creeger opens the show. Route 5 will have you jump, jive, and bebop with their trio of swing fiddle and double guitar in the style of Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli. At 3:30 p.m., Jim Yeager will take the stage. Yeager has been writing music for over 30 years and has become a fixture in Woodstock's music scene.

Enjoy the beauty of the park during the celebration. The East End Park is a great place to access the river, start a hike on the recently reopened Ottauquechee River Trail, wander through the labyrinth, or



The Woodstock Fire Department cooks up burgers during the 2023 celebration.

Lauran Corson Photo



Izzy and Elli spin cotton candy during the 2023 event.

Lauran Corson Photo

have fun with your kids on the slide and rock scramble.

Emily Friedman, WCT board member, shared her thoughts on why it is important to celebrate together in this way: "Community means a network of people who join together in good times, in bad times, and all the moments in between, to provide support and strength," she said.

"It means to care and feel responsible for one another, recognizing that our joy and well-being are intertwined.

It also means knowing each other well enough and understanding our community so we know what support is needed

last year's floods."

Friedman explained that the Trust is a non-profit organization with a mission to empower teams to improve the quality of life in our community. The WCT provides essential support for local projects that seek to create a healthy, vibrant, and supportive community for people of all ages, identities, and walks of life. Other WCT projects include The HUB See **COMMUNITY CELEBRATION - Page 4C**

### IF YOU GO

**Woodstock  
 Community Celebration**  
 East End Park  
 Sunday, Sept. 8, 2-5 p.m.  
 Free and open to all

and the best way to help. It was this sense of community that allowed us to respond quickly and thoughtfully to events like



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(which provided support to community members during the recent floods), Local Deeds (a deed restriction program that secures housing for local workers), the Ottauquechee River Trail, and the newly-added Woodstock Village Conservancy.

This year's Woodstock Community Celebration event is funded through the Vermont Community Foundation's Arts & Community Spaces: Coming Together After the Floods grant program. Representatives will be available to answer questions about flood resiliency following last summer's catastrophic rains, and speakers from the Ottauquechee River Trail and East End Park will also be available to explain how these projects have rallied after those events.

In the past, The Woodstock Community Celebration (also known as the Woodstock Community Picnic) had been held at Billings Farm. This is the second year it has been held at East End Park.

Friedman shared her thoughts on what makes Woodstock unique: "There's a reason folks travel from many miles away to experience what we all benefit from daily. The forests

and mountains, the culture and history, the river and streams, the local restaurants and businesses, the hiking, biking, skiing, and parks. Woodstock is undeniably special! We seek to ensure the long-term sustainability of this special place for future generations. Both East End Park and the Woodstock Community Trust believe strongly in that ethos and are happy to have an event like this that celebrates that."

The Woodstock Community Celebration will close with the annual drone photo. Friedman explained that this tradition is a wonderful way to take a literal and figurative snapshot of the Woodstock community each year. The photo is a joyful way to look back through past years' images to see what has changed and what hasn't. When the Woodstock Community Trust began hosting this event last year, they knew the photo was a tradition they needed to continue to preserve that important sense of community.

The East End Park is located at 217-03 Maxham Meadow Way in Woodstock. Visit [woodstockcommunitytrust.org](http://woodstockcommunitytrust.org) for additional information.



A group photo, via drone, of 2023 Woodstock Community Celebration attendees. Lauran Corson Photo