

# The Boston Globe

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CLOSE-UP ON WESTON, VT.

## Sit and enjoy

Recreation? Yes. Shopping? Sure. Scenic mountain views? Perfection.



The Vermont Country Store in Weston sells a wide selection of items, like kaleidoscopes, that are a throwback to simpler times. (Bill Greene/Globe Staff/File)

By Kathy Shorr

Globe Correspondent / July 23, 2008

That Main Street is also the well-trafficked Route 100 does not detract from Weston's small-town, old-fashioned feel. Many of the attractions of this village, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are within a five-minute walk of the Village Green. For such a small place, Weston has more than its share of claims to fame. It's the original home of the Vermont Country Store, which has been running its mail-order catalog business since the 1940s; the flagship store is still on Main Street. The Weston Playhouse is Vermont's oldest professional theater company. Summer brings additional happenings in the arts, along with plenty of recreation, since the village sits in a valley surrounded by the Green Mountain National Forest. Come fall, you get not only the changing leaves, but two big October events: the annual Weston Antiques Show and Weston Craft Show. But as Sandy Gregg of the local Chamber of Commerce says, one of the area's biggest pleasures is free: "We don't charge to sit on an Adirondack chair with a good book."

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Head four miles north of town on Route 100 to the **Weston Priory** (58 Priory Hill Road, 802-824-5409, [westonpriory.org](http://westonpriory.org)), a community of Benedictine monks. Guests are welcome to attend prayer services several times a day, talk to the resident monks, or

wander the grounds and contemplate the sky's reflection in a pond. Weston is the summer home of Pennsylvania's **Kinhaven Music School** (354 Lawrence Hill Road, 802-824-3365, [kinhaven.org](http://kinhaven.org), free), which holds its classical music summer camp for talented high school students here. It's a more intimate version of places like the Tanglewood Music Center. The final session wraps up Aug. 4, but till then you can enjoy free weekend performances. Student orchestral and chamber music concerts are Fridays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m., with faculty chamber music concerts Saturdays at 8 p.m. **Sundays on the Hill Concerts** (Lawrence Hill Road, [vtchurchonthehill.org](http://vtchurchonthehill.org), adults \$5, children free), most of them featuring classical music, take place from 4-5 p.m. on selected Sundays through mid-September at the nondenominational Weston Community Church, an 1838 Gothic Revival building known locally as the Church on the Hill. Weston opens its expansive historical museums to the public only during warmer weather, so this is the time to visit the **Farrar-Mansur House and Old Mill Museum** (Village Green just off Route 100, 802-824-5294, [vmga.org/windsor/farrar.html](http://vmga.org/windsor/farrar.html), donations appreciated). Farrar-Mansur House Museum is located in the oldest house in the village, built in the 1790s. Museum displays include 18th- and 19th-century furniture, artwork, guns, toys, portraits, clothing, tools, and other artifacts. One of the highlights, though, is from the 20th century: murals painted during the Depression by Works Progress Administration artist Roy Williams. Williams used local residents as models in his depictions of early Weston life. Next door is the old mill and dam, where the waterfall still surges. The mill is filled with a fabulous collection of old tools and machinery. They are also grinding corn again for the first time in decades. A tinsmith has his working studio on the property. Guided tours and demonstrations are Wednesday and Sunday afternoons and all day Saturday through August; Saturdays in September; Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through the first two weeks of October; and by appointment.