



FITCHBURG PRIDE

FITCHBURG'S OWN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

FREE
December 12, 2008
Vol. II, No. 50
36 PAGES
3 SECTIONS

Fitchburg, Massachusetts • www.fitchburgpride.com

YOUR CITY



3

A new center in Cleghorn

NEIGHBORHOODS



9

Cream rises at Chowdah Fest

TEAM FITCHBURG



12

Fitchburg's super dream

SCHOOLS



15

Students art on display

INSIDE

- Your City2-3
- Opinion 4
- Neighborhoods5-9
- Upcoming Events . . 10
- Calendar..... 11
- Team Fitchburg . . . 12
- Faith..... 13
- Schools.....14-15
- Obituaries17-18

READY TO GO



The \$20 million CoCo Key opens Wednesday, next door to a hotel that has undergone a \$10 million rehabilitation. Officials hope it's a new launching pad for economic development in Fitchburg.

BY KAREN MANN
KMANN@FITCHBURGPRIDE.COM

City officials hope that CoCo Key Water Resort brings more than just water slides and amusement to Fitchburg.

The water park does not open to the public until next week, but it has already brought 300 jobs and was one of the largest renovation projects in Fitchburg's history, with \$20 million poured into the water park and another \$10 million into the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel.

"This is a boost for the city both

economically and symbolically," said Mayor Lisa Wong.

Wong said that hotel manager James Wolfe is already taking an active role in working with local businesses.

Ward 3 Councilor Joel Kaddy, whose ward includes CoCo Key and the hotel, said he has been talking with Wolfe about the opportunity the development provides the city as well.

"We have been talking about what we can do to get visitors of CoCo Key into the downtown, to

Continued on page 19

Are we there yet?

Road construction making everyday trips feel longer than usual — here's why

BY ERIC RADVON
ERADVON@LEOMINSTERCHAMP.COM

It's that time of the year when there seems to be errands to run every day, whether it's picking up last-minute gifts or stopping in to visit relatives around town. This year, however, getting from point A to point B might feel more like getting from point A to point Q.

Roads in Fitchburg and Leominster are receiving an overhaul of a magnitude not seen in decades, with the widening of Route 12 standing at the center of the activity. The widening, improvements, and resurfacing

of the main artery through the Twin Cities has caused some long backups as construction crews perform their work and has also pushed traffic onto alternate routes, causing buildups of cars, trucks, and buses to happen earlier — and persist longer — than usual.

Construction began on the Route 12 renovations in spring 2007, and according to the state is slated to be finished in the summer of 2009. The cost of the project is around \$7.5 million, and is funded through the 2009 Transportation Improvement

Continued on page 16



A dining table in a unit at the Johnsonia Building on Main Street is decorated for the holidays, as Alexis Donnelly shows off the table during last Saturday's holiday house tour sponsored by the Fitchburg Historical Society. For more photos from the tour, see Page 2.

PRIDE PHOTO / CHARLES STERNAIMOLO

YOUR CITY



COLONIAL WEST CLASSICS

1989 Chevy Corvette Convertible



Auto, Leather, Loaded, Nice Shape, 80K, Jet Stream Blue, Blue Leather White Top
STK# 2532A.

\$10,995

1956 Ford Thunderbird

312 V8, 3 Spd., 2 Tops



\$29,999

1992 Cadillac Allante



Convertible, 84,000 Miles, 1 Owner with Records, Extra Clean

\$8,999

2008 Harley Davidson Road King Classic



Only 600 Miles, Detachable Shield, Custom Exhaust, Not Stock, Back Rest

\$17,999

2003 Harley Davidson Road King Classic



"Anniversary Edition", 1 Owner, Adult Driven, Extra Chrome & More

\$14,999

2004 BMW Motorcycle



Police Special, Two tone White & Black, Only 14000 miles, Tourpaks, Heated Grips, Adj windshield, side bags, BMW battery tender.

\$6,999

2001 Harley Davidson XLH 1200 Custom Sportster

Low Miles, Customized Out!

\$6,999



2005 Ford Mustang GT Convertible



Smoke Charcoal, Deep Gray Leather, only 18,000 Miles, Auto
STK# 2519

\$14,999

2005 Chevy SSR

Slingshot Yellow, Black Leather, Heated Seats, 1 owner, Adult owned, All the extra's!

\$21,999



Participants in Saturday's holiday house tour sponsored by the Fitchburg Historical Society were able to see many classic holiday scenes in the historic houses, whether it was a harpist at 70 View St. (photo right), or a traditional tree and mantle arrangement at 138 Pleasant St. (photo left). The tour included a half-dozen homes, along with the Rollstone Congregational Church, the historical society building, and the Johnsonia.

PRIDE PHOTOS / CHARLES STERNAINIOLO

FULLY DIGITAL QUALITY FOR JUST **\$495**
Special Limited-time Offer!

Limited Time Offer

If you wait, it'll be too late!



Miracle-Ear®

QUALITY

FOR JUST

A Personalized Hearing Solution

\$495

AudioChoice® Contour Digital Hearing Aid

Hurry! Offer ends Dec. 31st, 2008!

Hear More. Enjoy More. Spend Less.

If you've been wanting to hear better—wait no longer! Now you can enjoy the benefits of a Miracle-Ear hearing aid for just \$495. That's a fully digital, custom fitted hearing aid, for an unbelievable low price.

Professional Services — FREE

Better hearing is our top priority. That's why our professional hearing consultants offer a variety of professional services at no charge. This includes our FREE Ear Canal Inspection* and FREE Hearing Test**.

Additional Special Offer Now Through Dec. 31st, 2008!

BUY 1 GET 1 50%

Buy one, get one 50% off. Hurry in and take advantage of this Year-End Sale with substantial savings on top-of-the-line Miracle-Ear Digital aids.

Offer valid on the ME-1, ME-2 or ME-3 solution systems.

Good only at participating locations only. Special offer applies to purchase of same make or model. 50% discount applies only when first aid is purchased at the regular list price. No other offers or discounts apply. Offer valid on ME-1, ME-2 or ME-3 solution packages. Offer expires 12-31-08.

Celebrate the Miracle of the Holidays!

Offer Expires December 31, 2008!

MIRACLE-EAR CENTER
800 Main Street
Holden, MA
(508) 829-6579

MIRACLE-EAR CENTER
Twin City Plaza
Leominster, MA
(978) 840-3136

MIRACLE-EAR CENTER
Heywood Wakefield Pl
55 Lake St. # F20
Gardner, MA
(978) 632-6883

SEARS HEARING AID CENTER
Auburn Mall
Auburn, MA
(508) 832-5199

Don Gross, Jr., MA Lic. #4



ONE-CLICK AWAY! WWW.COLONIAL-WEST.COM CHECK US OUT ONLINE

COLONIAL WEST

314 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA

978-342-8713

www.buycolonialwest.com

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8-8, Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8:30-5, Sun. 12-4