



"STOCKBRIDGE MAIN STREET AT CHRISTMAS (HOME FOR CHRISTMAS)," 1967, LICENSED BY NORMAN ROCKWELL LICENSING, NILES, IL; FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF THE NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

BY ALISON GREGOR  
Special to Newsday

**Y**ou can visit the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., to gaze at the master illustrator's painting of this quintessential New England town — or, on Dec. 6, you can stand on Main Street itself and see the same snow-covered scene re-created.

Even without antique Fords or locals dressed in vintage clothing, Stockbridge's quaint Main Street would be a throwback to another era. But for one December day every year, the street is transformed into a festive re-creation of Rockwell's "Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas (Home for Christmas)," originally published in McCall's magazine in 1967. About 50 antique cars are parked

in their places, children play on the sidewalk, the wreaths and Christmas lights glow and a bright red '56 Mercury Montclair drives slowly past with a Christmas tree on its roof.

Rockwell made Stockbridge his home for 25 years, until his death in 1978, and his studio space on Main Street (included in the original painting with a twinkling Christmas tree in its plate-glass window) still exists. Nestled in the Housatonic River Valley of the Berkshire Mountains, the village, with about 2,300 residents, has become an emblem of small-town New England living, and there's an abundance of holiday activities for winter visitors.

Rockwell's painting, top, is the inspiration for the annual "Main Street Stockbridge at Christmas."



## What to do

No visit to this New England village would be complete without a trip to the **Norman Rockwell Museum** (413-298-4100, [nrm.org](http://nrm.org)). With the world's largest collection of his original paintings, the museum also has an ample selection of his Saturday Evening Post covers (the inspiration for readings of classic Saturday Evening Post holiday stories for all ages, Dec. 26-31). The museum currently has an exhibit of the newly digitized photographic archive that Rockwell used to create the verisimilitude of his paintings, and there will be a holiday celebration Dec. 5. Another place to head for holiday jubilee in Stockbridge is the **Berkshire Botanical Garden** (413-298-3926, [berkshirebotanical.org](http://berkshirebotanical.org)), which has a special exhibition of wreaths, seasonal blooms and greens, herb products and holiday decorations.



Rockwell lived in Stockbridge for 25 years; above, last year's re-creation of the famous painting

## Holiday shopping

You can hunt for holiday gifts at a handful of Stockbridge shops. **Williams and Sons Country Store** (413-298-3016) is what every old-fashioned general store should be, with jams and jellies, penny candy, homespun tablecloths and blue calico dinnerware. It also sells postcards, candles, tea and other gifts. The Mews is a warren of tiny back-alley shops, including **Heirlooms The Mews** (413-298-4436), where it's easy to spend a little cash on eye-catching jewelry, and **Vlada Boutique** (413-298-3656) for sophisticated women's clothing and accessories. While the Holsten Galleries (one of the first studio glass galleries in the country to show contemporary art glass) has now closed after 31 years, another showcase for contemporary glass artwork has replaced it. **Schantz Galleries** (413-298-3044, [schantzgalleries.com](http://schantzgalleries.com)) exhibits some of the same artists, such as Dale Chihuly, William Morris and Lino Tagliapietra.

Closer to home, see Rockwell's work at a special LI exhibit



**newsday.com**  
/travel





## Where to eat

Once you've had enough of candy canes, Christmas cookies and fruitcakes, there are plenty of options for a Christmaside feast in Stockbridge.

### UPSCALE

The massive Red Lion Inn on Main Street has three restaurants, including the main **Red Lion Dining Room** (413-298-5545), serving contemporary regional cuisine; the cozy **Widow Bingham's Tavern** (413-298-5545) for more intimate dining; and the **Lion's Den** (413-298-1654), which serves traditional pub fare by the fireside.

### CASUAL

Nearby, you'll see people clustering at the casual **Theresa's Stockbridge Café and Main Street Market** (413-298-3915), which serves fresh sandwiches and pizza. It's the site of the original Alice's Restaurant (though the Thanksgiving dinners of the Arlo Guthrie song were actually held in a deconsecrated church in nearby Great Barrington).

### Once Upon a Table Restaurant

(413-298-3870, [onceuponatablebistro.com](http://onceuponatablebistro.com)) is a snug European-style bistro with simple decor and a delicious, constantly changing menu. The grilled Alaskan salmon burger with guacamole is a hearty creative lunch, while dinner trends toward pastas and fish or meat in tasty sauces.



The Widow Bingham's Tavern is one of three restaurants in the Red Lion Inn.

PHOTO BY KRISTIAN SEPTIMIUS KROGH

## Main Street weekend

The re-creation of Rockwell's popular painting, which attracts enough visitors to almost double the town's population, is the highlight of a weekend of revelry. On Saturday, Dec. 5, visitors can take a self-guided tour of a dozen of the town's historic homes and buildings, including the former Rockwell house. Other events include a 6 p.m. caroling luminaria walk starting at the historic Red Lion Inn (30 Main St.) and continuing to the First Congregational Church (4 Main St.), where a concert featuring Christ-

mas music begins at 7:30 p.m. For the Sunday, Dec. 6, re-creation of the Rockwell painting (noon to 2 p.m.; the event goes on if it snows heavily, but without antique cars), Main Street is closed to regular traffic. Activities include horse-drawn rides, holiday music with carolers, jesters, a Santa's workshop and a visit by the Jolly Old Elf himself. The **Stockbridge Chamber of Commerce** (413-298-5200, [stockbridgechamber.org](http://stockbridgechamber.org)) can provide more information on the entire weekend.

## Only One Palm Beach. Only One Resort. Only The Breakers.

Only one legendary oceanfront resort in North America offers you everything under the sun – The Breakers Palm Beach. While respecting our rich heritage, we've spent \$250 million over the past decade to continually provide an unparalleled array of on-site activities and amenities, including championship golf, rejuvenating spa services, distinctive dining and world-class shopping for a one-of-a-kind vacation.

Experience even more from your getaway with up to \$200\* per night of Breakers Rewards, our exclusive incentive to help you make the most of every moment.

1-888-BREAKERS (273-2537) | [thebreakers.com](http://thebreakers.com)

THE BREAKERS®  
PALM BEACH

Once you stay, you'll understand.™

\*Breakers Rewards are offered in conjunction with rack rates from January 4 – April 22, 2010; rewards are applied as a \$100 or \$200 nightly credit based on room type reserved. Rewards apply to dining, spa, golf, shopping, family activities and more. Not valid toward daily room rate, tax, watersports, transportation services, dry cleaning, babysitting or gift cards. Not available to groups. Black-out dates: February 10 – 17, 2010. Restrictions may apply.

