

## **Out & About: 10 Things to do Under the Stars**

by Sandy Perlic

When the heat of the day gives way to cooling temperatures and the sun's rays light the skies far into the evening hours, who can resist heading outdoors for a little fun? Try one of these outdoor activities to spice up your summer:

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Gallery Walk** – Stroll the streets of Old Town Fort Collins and pop in to any of the nearly twenty galleries in the area for a self-guided tour. Much of the work displayed is by local artists and artisans. See [www.fortcollinsarts.org](http://www.fortcollinsarts.org) or contact Arts Alive at 482-2232 for more information. Held 6-9 p.m. on the first Friday of every month, Old Town Fort Collins. Free.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Night on the Town** – Check out downtown Loveland's live entertainment while you eat, shop, and enjoy the incredible range of art displayed at local galleries. Don't miss the Loveland Museum & Gallery's open air Art Market. See <http://www.lovelandheartbeat.com/nightonthetown.html> or call Billie Colson at 669-0889 for more information. Held 6-9 p.m. on the second Friday of every month, downtown Loveland. Free.

**Colorado Shakespeare Festival** – Don't miss the chance to sit under the stars in the University of Colorado's small outdoor theatre and enjoy one of Shakespeare's engaging plays. This year the highly-rated festival features A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Servant of Two Masters, and Julius Caesar. Two more plays are featured at a 400-seat indoor theatre. See [www.coloradoshakes.org](http://www.coloradoshakes.org) or call (303)492-0554 for more information. Held June 22-August 18, Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre, University of Colorado, Boulder. Tickets \$7-54 adults; \$5 kids 5-12.

**Stargazing** – Head away from the city to scrutinize the star-lit skies with the help of experts from the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society. See <http://ncaastro.org> for more information. Held at dusk Fridays June 15 & 22, July 6 & 20, and August 3 & 17 in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) at the end of Upper Beaver Meadows Road. Free, but you must pay admission into RMNP (\$20 for 7-day pass).

**Geocaching** – Wander around Old Town to find the hidden caches. New to geocaching? Think treasure hunting with GPS (global positioning system) units instead of maps. GPS units will be provided, or bring your own. Held 6:30-9:30 Wednesday, August 15, at the Fort Collins Museum. Costs \$5 per person. Space is limited.

**Twilight Swim** – At City Park's playful outdoor pool, two slides, a lazy river, and a play structure offer plenty of opportunities to cool off and have some fun. For more information call 416-2489. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at City Park Pool. Admission costs \$3.50/person.

**Moonlit Hike** – Climb Horsetooth Mountain by the light of the moon. See [www.fcgov.com/recreator](http://www.fcgov.com/recreator) or call 221-6640 for more information. Held on Wednesday, August 1 from 7:30-11 p.m. Registration is \$12; adults only.

**Movies** – Snuggle up in your chair and blanket to watch a flick outdoors. Loveland's Promenade Shops at Centerra feature a movie every Friday at sunset through August 31. See [www.ThePromenadeShopsatCenterra.com](http://www.ThePromenadeShopsatCenterra.com) or call 461-1285 for more information. Free admission, popcorn and cotton candy. And don't forget the local drive-in movie theater, one of only 10 remaining in Colorado. The Holiday Twin Drive-In

shows first-run features every night at dusk. See [www.holidaywindrive-in.com](http://www.holidaywindrive-in.com) or call 221-1244 for more information. Ages 12 and over pay \$5, seniors \$4, children 6-11 \$2, ages 5 and under are free.

**Music** – Get ready to move and groove: free concerts fill the air this summer virtually every night. In Fort Collins, Old Town is the place to be on Friday nights through August 31. Ben & Jerry's FAC Concert Series will bring a selection of musical acts to Old Town Square from 7-9 p.m. And Thursdays are home to the Thursday Night Music and More concerts in Civic Center Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. through August 16. See [www.downtownfortcollins.com](http://www.downtownfortcollins.com) or call 484-6500 for more information. Windsor also hosts Thursday night concerts from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Eastman Park through August 16, including such favorites as Chris Daniel & The Kings. Call 674-2439 for a complete schedule. In Loveland, catch a free concert every Thursday night through August 2 from 7-9 p.m. at Foote Lagoon. See [www.ci.loveland.co.us/Cultural\\_Services/2007\\_SummerEvents.pdf](http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/Cultural_Services/2007_SummerEvents.pdf) for a complete schedule. Estes Park rules the roost with a variety of free concerts every day of the week. Sundays and Mondays feature cowboy sing-alongs at 7 p.m. in Bond Park. Check out Thursday Night Live at 7 p.m. in Performance Park, or the variety of musical guests featured Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 5:30 p.m. in Barlow Plaza. Additional concerts offered at earlier times. See <http://estesparkcvb.com> or call 1-800-44-ESTES.

**Fireworks** – Fort Collins caps off its 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities with its annual fireworks display from City Park at 9:35 p.m. Loveland will provide its aerial display from North Lake Park at approximately 9:15 p.m. In Windsor, The Jurassicasters will take the stage from 7-9:30 p.m. at Eastman Park, followed by fireworks at dark. Wellington's celebration includes a 9:15 p.m. fireworks display east of Library Park.

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