

## **Area Guide Where to Find What Locally**

The following information is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to all the towns around Carroll, just a brief introduction with some favorite recommendations from current parents. It hopefully will give you some ideas of what to do when you've got a few hours to kill before waiting for pickup, when you need an emergency birthday present, or when you want to have lunch with another Carroll parent after a morning meeting.

### **LINCOLN**

Downtown Lincoln – Oxymoron or not?

We argue not, but understanding downtown Lincoln is not as simple as you might think. Take the most simple of questions: where is the center of Lincoln? The center of Lincoln is officially the five-way intersection where the library and flower pots are located (don't ask us why). As you head south, the Town Hall is on the left. It has trail maps if you want to walk or ride your bike in town. On the right is the Old Town Hall and Old Post Office. Keep going and you will hit "South Lincoln" also known as Lincoln Station. This area is the true commercial center, including the Mall at Lincoln Station. Lincoln also has several museums and outdoor spots well worth visiting. A few details:

Lincoln Library: A great space to hang out for a few hours. WiFi internet connection. Closed Monday mornings. 781-259-8465. [www.lincolnpb.org](http://www.lincolnpb.org).

Old Town Hall Exchange. 25 Lincoln Road, in the "old" town hall. A sweet little gift shop with fresh coffee and goodies, clothing, cards, penny candy, etc. This is a volunteer-staffed non-profit organization, with proceeds going to the upkeep of this old historic building. Mon-Fri, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A small, cute, old post office also sits in this building, with very limited window hours, but you can drop mail off 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The main post office is further down at Lincoln Station (145 Lincoln Street).

The Mall at Lincoln Station, by the commuter rail stop. A small shopping center with:

- Donelan's, which is the closest grocery store. 781-259-0144.
- Something Special, a great place for birthday presents for both kids and adults. 781-259-0544.
- The Whistle Stop, for coffee or lunch. In/outdoor seating, good sandwiches, pastries and really gooey brownies. Gift certificates are available (great for teacher gifts). Wednesdays are half-day school in Lincoln, so it gets a little crowded around lunch time. 781-259-8089.
- And a bank, hardware, store, travel agent, etc.

Country Pizza. 161 Lincoln Road. 781-259-4480. Closest pizza to Carroll.

DeCordova Museum

In addition to the wonderful museum, DeCordova has a great sculpture park where children can run and play and parents can get a little intellectual stimulation. The museum also offers art classes for children and adults. It has a good museum shop and a nice café for coffee or a light lunch (the closest lunch place to Carroll) and is open at the same time as the museum. The cost is \$9.00 per adult, \$6.00 for students and seniors, and free to Lincoln residents and children under 6. (If you are just going to the shop or café, tell them at the entrance booth and you won't have to pay.) To get there, take a left out of the Carroll School drive, a right on Sandy Pond Road, and the museum is on the left. Open year round, Tues-Sun, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (museum shop also open on Mondays). 781-259-8355. [www.decordova.com](http://www.decordova.com).

#### Codman Farm

A great place to see some animals, pick up some fresh eggs, or have a picnic. The town of Lincoln owns this low-key farm. Admission is \$1.00 per person. Open Tues-Sun until dusk. Educational programs offered throughout the year. Call 781-259 0456 for details. Located at the corner of Lincoln and Codman Roads. [www.codmanfarm.org](http://www.codmanfarm.org).

#### Codman Estate

This Georgian house was a powerful force in the lives of five generations of the Codman family. Each generation of Codmans left their mark, and the estate that was originally a country retreat gradually came to symbolize the family's distinguished past. This estate on Codman Road is open to the general public June 1 through October 15, Wednesday through Sunday. Admission: \$5. Call for info on hourly tours. 781-259-8843. <http://www.spnea.org/visit/homes/codman.htm>

#### Drumlin Farm

Owned by the Audubon Society, Drumlin Farm is an educational working farm and environmental education center. Drop by for a great farm visit with daily activities and a pleasant walk to the top of the drumlin for a nice view. Gift shop with unique nature gifts, books and toys. Open: Tues-Sun 9:00 am-5:00 p.m. Adults: \$6.00, children and seniors: \$4.00. 208 South Great Road. 781-259-2200. [http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature\\_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin\\_Farm](http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin_Farm)

#### Gropius House

Revolutionary house in terms of design, this house was designed by Walter Gropius, founder of the German design school known as the Bauhaus and one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. He designed this house as his family home in 1937, and all the family possessions are still in place. If you exit Carroll and turn right, it's just down the road a few feet, on the left. Open: June 1-Oct 15, Wed-Sun; Oct 16-May 31, Sat & Sun. Tours on the hour 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Adults: \$10.00; Seniors: \$9.00; Student and kids: 5-12 \$5.00. 68 Baker Bridge Road. 781-259-8098. <http://www.spnea.org/visit/homes/gropius.htm>

#### Minuteman National Park

This park extends into Lincoln, Concord, and Lexington. There are historic buildings open to the public, walking trails, biking trails, a visitors' center, and museums. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/mima](http://www.nps.gov/mima) or call 978-369-6993.

#### Walden Pond State Reservation

Take a swim or a hike. Walden Pond has a sandy beach and life guards as well as walking trails. Take a right out the Carroll School drive, a right on Route 126, and parking for the pond is on your right. \$5.00 parking fee; yearly passes available. 978-369-3254.

## CONCORD

Concord has three shopping areas: Concord Center with shopping and restaurants; Concord Depot with shopping, a few restaurants, video stores, pizza, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks; and West Concord where you can find a huge variety of shopping from an excellent wine store to a terrific bakery. The newly constructed Concord Visitors Center has all sorts of guides to the area: Dining and Lodging, Walking Map, and Shopping and Services. Check out the website at [www.concordchamberofcommerce.org](http://www.concordchamberofcommerce.org) or visit it at 58 Main Street, Concord

## CONCORD CENTER

To get there, take a right when leaving Carroll School onto Baker Bridge Rd. Then, take another right on 126, cross Route 2, follow the street (Walden Street) all the way into Concord, turn right or left for shopping and food. There are over 30 shops in downtown Concord. Some of the favorites are listed here.

Concord Bookshop. 65 Main Street. This is a bookstore that is child and user friendly, the kind of place where you can say, "I heard about this book on the radio the other day and it was kind of about this thing" and they will not only find it for you, but will have read it. 978-369-2405

Footstock. 46 Main Street. Great shoes, boots and other footwear. 978-287-4034

Grasshopper Shop. 36 Main St. Women's specialty clothing 978-369-8295.

Perceptions. 58 Main St. Women's specialty clothing and jewelry. 978-369-6797

Concord Shop. 25 Walden Street. Gifts and kitchenware. 978-371-2286

Sally Ann Food Shop. 73 Main Street. Fresh baked breads, pastries, cakes, coffee, sandwiches, soup, and salads. Carry out only. 978-369-4558

Helen's Café. 15 Main Street. (Formerly Brigham's) Family style restaurant with Brigham's ice cream. Dine in or carry out. 978-369-9885

Back Alley Café. 12 Walden Street. Fresh baked goods, croissants, muffins, bagels, cookies, sandwiches, soups, coffee, soy shakes. Dine in or carry-out. 978-369-6636

Colonial Inn. Fine Dining. 978-369-9200

The Concord Cheese Shop. 29 Walden Street. Purveyor of the world's finest foods, including wines and cheeses from around the world. Great sandwiches to take out. 978-369-5778  
[www.concordcheeseshop.com](http://www.concordcheeseshop.com).

Artful Image. 16A Walden Street. Craft Gallery, gifts, and jewelry. 978-371-2353

Concord Toy Shop. 4 Walden Street. Fun gifts, games, and puzzles. They gift wrap! 978-369-2553

And much more....

### **CONCORD DEPOT**

Concord Depot can be found by following the directions to Concord Center and making a left on Main Street and forking left. When you come to the traffic light at the corner of Sudbury and Thoreau Street, you are in Concord Depot. Go straight and you will go over the tracks and you will find the following businesses on the left:

Country Kitchen – 181 Sudbury Road. "The Little Yellow House Next to the Tracks." Coffee, soups, salads, and sandwiches for carry out.

Serafina Ristorante – Northern Italian Dining- Nice lunch for a quiet meal. 978-371-9050 (a little more expensive)

Ace Hardware, CVS

If you go over the tracks and look left you will find:

Chang An. Concord Crossing. Very good Chinese food. Pleasant to eat in, speedy "10 minute" take out. 978-369-5288.

For the Birds. 26 Concord Crossing. Bird related products, books and gifts.

Paul Bryant Macintosh Store - Concord Crossing

If you stay at the light and look right you will be at Dunkin Donuts.

Across the street on the left is Starbucks

If you turn right at the lights you will be on the main shopping street of Concord Depot, Thoreau Street where you will find:

MBTA – commuter rail station

Concord Flower Shop - 109 Thoreau St. 978-369-2404

La Provence – 105 Thoreau St. French cafe with fine Provincial cuisine, rotisserie chicken, breads, pastries and deserts. A nice lunch or breakfast spot, casual but really good. 978-369-9948

Sorrento's Brick Oven Pizzeria - 58 Thoreau St. Pizza, pasta, subs, salads, calzones, dine in or carry out. 978-369-0938

Several nice salons/spas (Saffron is one recommended by this writer) and more.

## **WEST CONCORD**

West Concord is only about 12 minutes from Carroll and has a little downtown well worth exploring. To get there, go west on Route 2 just a few miles and turn left on Route 62, and go for about half a mile. Route 62 forks to the left by the 99 Restaurant; take the right fork for the shopping district. You can usually easily find on-street parking.

West Concord has been described as the "funky" part of Concord. Some highlights (listed here from north to south) include:

West Concord Super Market. 24 Commonwealth Avenue. Historic family-run supermarket. Small, friendly, with a good butcher shop where they cut your certified Angus beef to order. Local products and excellent rotisserie chicken. 978-369-9225. No website, but here's an on-line review: [http://www.roadsideonline.com/gfl/04\\_gflwestconc.html](http://www.roadsideonline.com/gfl/04_gflwestconc.html)

Adventures in Wine. 53 Commonwealth. Nice wine and cheese shop. 978-369-2545.  
[www.adventuresinwine.com](http://www.adventuresinwine.com).

Concord Teacakes. 59 Commonwealth. Popular little shop with great scones, shortbread, coffeecakes and other prepared foods. Also gifts, coffee and a few tables if you want to eat it there. 978-369-7644. [www.concordteacakes.com](http://www.concordteacakes.com).

Twin Seafood. 2 Church Street. Very high quality fresh seafood market. Also takeout including grilled platters and good clam chowder. 978-371-9030. [www.TwinSeafood.com](http://www.TwinSeafood.com).

Yoga and Nia for Life. 50 Beharrell Street. A superb yoga center with a variety of classes offered during the day. Drop-ins welcome at all classes. 978-371-0088. [www.yogaandniaforlife.com](http://www.yogaandniaforlife.com).

Concord Shoe Repair. 88 Commonwealth. The real deal.

Phillips Fine Paint & Wallcoverings. 95 Commonwealth. Quasi-famous paint supply and decorating center with good service. 978-359-3606.

Debra's Natural Gourmet. 98 Commonwealth. A natural foods store with large selection of natural supplements/remedies and nutritious food. Knowledgeable, helpful and friendly staff. People come from all over. 978-371-7573. [www.debrasnaturalgourmet.com](http://www.debrasnaturalgourmet.com).

West Concord 5 & 10. 106 Commonwealth. A step-back-in-time five-and-dime with almost anything you need. Come when Wal-Mart's got you down. Highly recommended. 978-369-9011. No website, of course.

The Gatehouse. 110 Commonwealth. No, not our Gate House, this one is a gift/clothing shop with unique, colorful items.

Nashoba Brook Bakery. 152 Commonwealth. Yes, this is where they actually make (and you can observe them making) that great slow-rise bread. They also have a casual café with sofas, WiFi, premium coffee and lunch items, where one wouldn't feel out of place eating alone. It is a bit hard to find, located across the street from the Chrysler Dealership, just before the Gulf Station in an old brick warehouse set back off the road. 978-318-1999. [www.slowrise.com](http://www.slowrise.com).

This list is not complete. We've left some stuff out for you to discover on your own.

#### **FURTHER AFIELD**

Burlington Mall: Mall shopping is just 15 minutes away. Anchor stores are Filenes, Macy's Lord & Taylor, and Sears. There are at least an additional 126 stores. The Rainforest Café is one of many full service restaurants in addition to the food court. Take 95 North, exit #32B/32A, left at fork in ramp and left again. 75 Middlesex Turnpike.

The Mall at Chestnut Hill and The Atrium: Looking for an upscale shopping experience with unique stores you won't find just anywhere? Pleasant shopping experiences are just 20-25 minutes away. A sampling of stores are: Bloomingdale's, Barney's, Shreve Crump & Lowe, Tiffany's, Restoration Hardware, and The Apple Store, to name a few. Take 95 South, Exit #20A (Route 9 East) follow about 3 miles. The Atrium will be on the right and has valet parking and the Mall will follow on the left (but you take a right to loop under Rt. 9).

Crate and Barrel Outlet: For those bargain hunters, this store is 20-25 minutes away at 460 Wildwood Avenue in Woburn. Take 95 North, Exit #36 toward Woburn, slight right onto Washington, right on Olympia and left on Wildwood. 781-938-8777.