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Magazine



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November 2014

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Publishers

Marvin Murphy Ruth Ann Heeter

Managing Editor

Ruth Ann Heeter
raheeter@foxcitiesmagazine.com

Associate Editor

Amy Hanson
edit@foxcitiesmagazine.com

Contributing Writer

Emma Martin

Editorial Interns

Jennifer Clausing
Jessica Morgan Haley Walters

Art Director

Jill Ziesemer

Graphic Designer

Julia Schnese

Account Executives

Angela M. Brandenburg
angela@foxcitiesmagazine.com

Courtney Martin

courtney@foxcitiesmagazine.com

Administrative Assistant/Distribution

Nancy D'Agostino
info@foxcitiesmagazine.com

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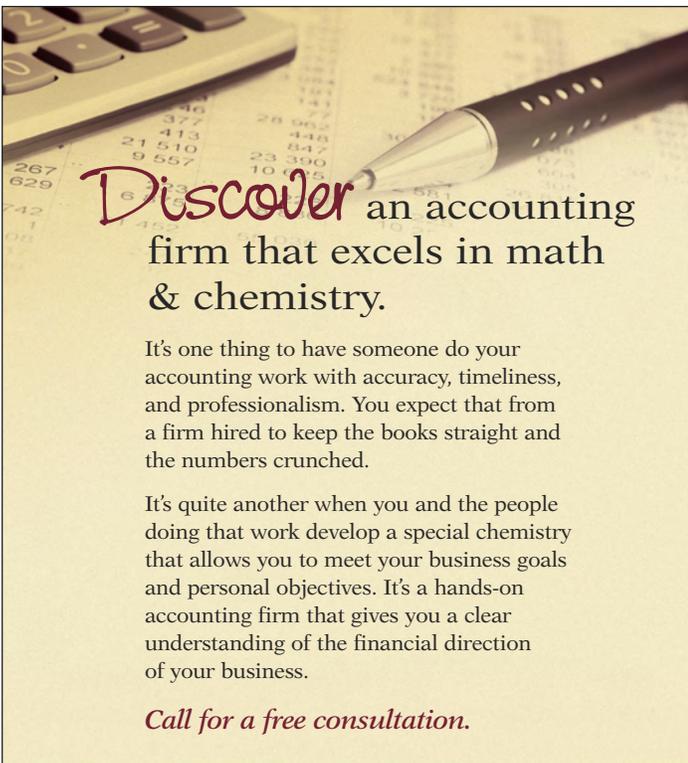


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Schedule your season with these events fit for the family

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- Are you searching for something to do on the weekends? Make sure to watch for our Friday 5 on Facebook where we post our picks for what's going on each weekend in the Fox Cities.

PLUS...

- ▶ **Expanded Calendar Listings** Our online events calendar is updated daily with concerts, classes, exhibits and more. Find out "What's Going On" every day of the week.
- ▶ **Dining Directory** FOX CITIES Magazine's dining guide is searchable by region and offers information on hundreds of area restaurants from fine dining to casual eats.
- ▶ **Blog** Follow our staff blog for an inside look at Fox Cities' dining, arts and cultural happenings.
- ▶ **Downloadable Edition** FOX CITIES Magazine is available for download on our website. Simply click on the magazine cover!

Clarifications:

Larry Chomsisengphet is the general manager of Basil Café in Appleton. The Golden Fork Awards article, which appeared in the October 2014 issue, incorrectly stated his title. Sue Chomsisengphet is the owner.

Due to an omission by source, Judy Sommerfield-Fox was not noted as a co-designer of the "On a Winter's Night" quilt by Piece by Piece in the October 2014 issue.

Cover photo by Jill Ziesemer

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At Home

Greens and glitter
Natural holiday home decor shines this season
By Emma Martin



Arts & Culture

Santa's helpers
Four jolly fellows lend Father Christmas a hand
By Amy Hanson



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Sugar, spice and everything nice
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artist spotlight



Photos by Jennifer Clausing

Art for all seasons

Wenger Johnstone enjoys variety of mediums

Beth Wenger Johnstone has participated in a life-long relationship with art, from art school and a career in graphic design to her artsy hobbies. Her experiences have made her an artist of many mediums—glass, metal, paper, clay, and even soaps and lotions.

Wenger Johnstone attributes the spark to her family. “I come from a family of DIYs, do-it-yourselfers, so it’s always about finding something you like and figuring out how to do it yourself,” she says.

She focuses primarily on glass beads and wire jewelry, a passion she picked up in the mid-’90s when she took her first bead-making class. “It took me a few more years after that to kind of work up the nerve to work with the equipment, because you’re working with tanks of oxygen and propane and torches,” she says.

Her studio has now found a permanent spot in the basement of her Appleton home. Cubbies of colored glass rods and boxes of craft supplies surround the workbench where she molds glass, often while listening to music. “I really enjoy it,” she says. “It’s very relaxing.”

Wenger Johnstone’s glass work takes many shapes and a rainbow of colors. From flora and fauna to eyeball pendants she calls “eye pods,” her body of work displays whimsy that is delightful and at times surprising. “I want it to look like a fantasy. I want them to be fun and kind of silly rather than serious and accurate,” she says. “But I like people to be able to touch them. I just think that there’s a real tactile element to this.”

A hands-on experience is especially important as she teaches art classes at Renaissance School for the Arts in Appleton and The Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass in Neenah.

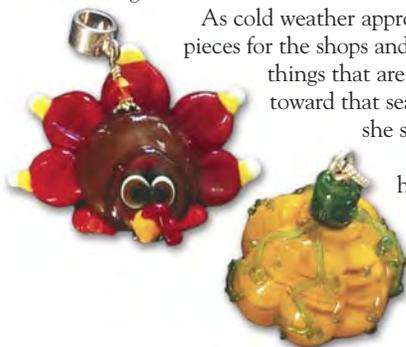
“The Bergstrom has a beautiful studio. It’s kind of one of those hidden secrets that I wish more people knew about,” she says. I’ve taken lots and lots of classes and it’s probably one of the best glass studios I’ve been in.”

As cold weather approaches, Wenger Johnstone prepares for making seasonal pieces for the shops and teaching holiday-themed classes. “My personal preference is things that are a little less literal. I’m more looking for colors that go toward that season than literal things, but I do the literal things as well,” she says.

While she enjoys creating seasonal pieces, practicality rules her style. “If it has colors that could go for Christmas, but also carry over into other seasons as well, I think that people like that better,” she says.

Wenger Johnstone’s holiday pieces can be seen and purchased at the Fired Earth Pottery Annual Open House & Sale Dec. 13–14 from 12–5 p.m.

— By Jennifer Clausing



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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

See Pages 20–21 for details.

Arts events

- 6 | Smokey Joe's Cafe**
This Tony Award-nominated and Grammy Award-winning salute to legendary songwriters Leiber and Stoller is a raise-the-roof, song-and-dance celebration. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 13 | Dancing Pros: Live**
An unforgettable live competition show created by "Dancing with the Stars" pros — Edyta Sliwiska and Alec Mazo. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 7:30-10pm. (800) 895-0071.
- 13-15 | The Crucible**
With homage to the legendary Arthur Miller, and the lives lost in Salem, which he uses to set his story of mob mentality and paranoia, HP asks — What's in a name? Which sin will claim you — greed? grief? ignorance? 7:30pm. The Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2355.
- 14 | Lakota Sioux Indian Dance Theatre**
The story of the birth, death and rebirth of a nation. 7-10pm. Door Community Auditorium, Fish Creek. 868-2728.
- 14, 15, 19, 21, 22 | Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**
Xavier Theatre presents the colorful, high-energy family favorite by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. 7pm, 6:30pm on Nov 19. Xavier Fine Arts Theatre, Appleton. 733-8840.
- 15 | Brad Todd Comedy**
Doors open 30 minutes before each show. 6:30 & 8:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.

- 21 | 3 Blonde Moms**
It's a special "deer hunters widows, ladies' night out and about" when 3 Blonde Moms return with their nationally touring hit comedy show. 7:30pm. Capitol Civic Center, Manitowoc. 683-2184.
- 29 | The Magic of Bill Blagg Live!**
High-energy, grand-scale magic and illusion that will have you rubbing your eyes in disbelief. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 7:30pm. (800) 895-0071.

Music events & concerts

- 2 | Sunday Concert Series**
The Neenah Public Library presents Brothers Bum Mountain. 2pm. Neenah Public Library, Neenah. 886-6315.
- 6 | The Phat Pack — Broadway at its Finest**
Forget any three tenors but this Phat Pack! Keegan, Keith and Ewing perform an eclectic mix of original songs. 7:30pm. The Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2355.
- 7 | An Evening with Mozart**
Valley Academy for the Arts and the Badger State Girls Choir perform. Tickets can be purchased at the Valley Academy for the Arts for \$10. 7-8pm. Valley Academy for the Arts, Neenah. 279-1578.
- 7 | First Friday Concert Series**
The Neenah Public Library presents a performance by Chris Neumeyer. 2pm. Neenah Public Library, Neenah. 886-6315.
- 7 | George Vatchnadze**
Classical pianist George Vatchnadze, an associate professor of piano at DePaul University, has performed with orchestras and in recitals across the United States and around the world. 7:30pm. Capitol Civic Center, Manitowoc. 683-2184.
- 7 | Red Priest**
A BBC Radio favorite, Red Priest is a British quartet famed for its energetic musicality and theatrical stage style, complete with dramatic lighting, props, costumes ... and attitude. 7:30pm. Historic West High School, Green Bay. 338-1801.
- 7, 8 | Lawrence University Jazz Celebration Weekend Concert**
Grammy Award-winning drummer, composer and bandleader Terri Lyne Carrington performs Mosaic on Friday evening. On Saturday evening, Grammy Award-winning drummer Peter Erskine performs with the Lawrence Jazz Ensemble. 7:30-9pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 8 | Disney FANTASIA - Live in Concert**
Disney shares one of its crown jewels of feature animation with a live orchestra concert accompanying scenes from Walt Disney's original "Fantasia" (1940) and Disney's "Fantasia 2000." 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 8 | Stellar Kart**
Stellar Kart returns with a new album, record label and renewed sense of purpose and passion for sharing their faith through music. 7:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.
- 8 | The BoDeans**
Formed in Waukesha in the "early BoDeans days" and following their critically acclaimed debut "Love & Hope & Sex & Dreams," in January 1987, a Rolling Stone reader poll voted them Best New American Band. 7:30pm. Capitol Civic Center, Manitowoc. 683-2184.
- 9 | Music @ the Library**
Featuring the New Horizons Band-Fox Valley performing Veteran's Day songs and other tunes. Families welcome. 2-3pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 9 | Oshkosh Youth Symphony Fall Concert**
The Oshkosh Youth Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonia will kick off their 2014-2015 season with their Fall Concert. This is a free concert and we welcome all ages. 4:30pm. UW Oshkosh Music Hall.
- 10 | Brubeck Brothers Quartet — Tribute to Dave Brubeck**
The Brubeck Brothers Quartet celebrates the spontaneity and tradition of jazz in this tribute to Dave Brubeck. 7-9pm. Door Community Auditorium, Fish Creek. 868-2728.

- 13-14 | An Evening with Cheyenne Jackson**
Enjoy an intimate evening in the Kimberly-Clark Theater with the singer/songwriter who released his first self-penned album "I'm Blue, Skies." 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 14 | Lawrence University Choirs Concert**
Lawrence Concert Choir, Cantala & Viking Chorale perform, conducted by Stephen Sieck and Phillip Swan. 8pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 14 | Ryanhood**
Airtight vocal harmonies, precise guitar riffs and soulfully rich lead vocals create the duo's distinguishable style. 7:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.
- 15 | Ingrid Michaelson**
The Weidner Center for the Performing Arts in Green Bay will present the Lights Out Tour featuring Ingrid Michaelson with special guest Chris Koza of Rogue Valley. 7pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 16 | Lawrence University Brass Ensemble Concert**
Featuring: Jeffrey Stannard, trumpet; John Daniel, trumpet; James DeCorsey, horn; Nick Keelan, trombone; and Marty Erickson, tuba. 5:30-7pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 18 | Lawrence Symphonic Orchestra Concert**
The LSO will perform works by Rossini, Mozart and Poulenc. 8-9:30pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 20 | Jazz at the Trout**
Featuring Jack & Jill Jazz (guitar and vocals). 7:30pm. The Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.
- 21 | John Waller — Christmas & Kenzie Johnson**
John Waller has continually used his gifts as a singer and songwriter best known for songs, "The Blessing" and "While I'm Waiting." Waller articulates what it means to live a God-centered life in a turbulent world. With musical guest Kenzie Johnson. 7:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.

Experience Christmases past at Pinecrest

Looking for the perfect way to celebrate a genuine Christmas experience? The Manitowoc County Historical Society provides a great opportunity to celebrate the holidays with activities featuring traditions of the past. Attendees are invited to enjoy live music, and events both outside in the wintery weather and inside decorated, historic, stove-heated buildings.

Taking place Dec. 13-14, from 11a.m.–3p.m., the event maintains an atmosphere that would make even the toughest scrooge enthusiastic about the holiday. "A Holiday in History at Pinecrest Historical Village is like being a part of a scene right out of a Currier and Ives print. Snow coats the grounds, trees, and buildings as smoke comes out of the chimneys and the scent of the stoves carries throughout the village," says Amy Meyer, director of the Manitowoc County Historical Society.

A few of the outdoor events are weather dependent, such as snowman building, sledding and horse-drawn sleigh rides. Horse-drawn wagon rides will be provided

if the weather is not ideal for the sleigh rides. "With Santa and carolers strolling the grounds, the sleigh ride is certainly reminiscent of years ago," Meyer enthuses.

Once guests' cheeks become rosey, the heated buildings are ideal to enjoy even more Christmas activities. Inside, visitors can help cook treats on the wood stove and create traditional wintertime crafts from various ethnic groups. Participants also can relive popular trades and occupations from the early 20th century, including blacksmithing and cheese making.

Guests can warm up with live Christmas music, too. In the spirit of the holidays, local choirs and school groups will fill historic Niles Church with melodies inspiring Christmas cheer. Various styles of music will be performed, featuring both adolescent and adult performers.

"My favorite piece of this event is seeing our visitors taking a step back from the commercialization of the



Photo courtesy of the Manitowoc County Historical Society.

Christmas season and focusing on the family and ethnic traditions of our ancestors," Meyer says.

If your family is itching for some seasonal fun, stop by Pinecrest Historical Village this holiday.

Visit manitowocountyhistory.org for other events and more information.

— By Jessica Morgan

A traditional take on Christmas

Tinsel, cranberries and strung popcorn. These simple decorations are hallmarks of Christmases past. Hearthstone Historic House Museum in Appleton will be bringing these traditions back to life during its "Victorian Christmas" display and events.



Photo courtesy of Hearthstone Historic House

"Around the house will be things particular to Christmas," says Stephanie Malaney, board president. "We want to give that general feeling of enjoyment."

The decorated museum will open to the public Nov. 29 through Jan. 12, with the exception of the holiday. Normal museum hours are Thursday and Friday beginning at 10 a.m. with last tour at 3:30 p.m., Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. with last tour at 3:30 p.m. and Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. with last tour at 3:30 p.m. Special event programming, including relaxed, docent-stationed tours; carols and music will be held Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6-8 p.m. This year's theme will focus on Victorian traditions from the time period of 1882-93.

Exhibits in the basement of the museum will feature Victorian Christmas cards, a feather tree and period Christmas lights that were once rented to homeowners. Museum visitors also can expect to see greenery, trees in each room, traditional stockings, the dining room set for a feast, poinsettias and more.

Upstairs will feature displays, while the downstairs area is slated to be more hands-on. Activities highlighting the period, such as parlor games and take-home items, also are being planned, says Malaney.

— By Amy Hanson

22 | Apologetic

A four-piece band that specializes in Biblical parodies of pop, rock and alternative songs. The group will perform creative, diverse, sincere and humorous songs from their upcoming CD. 6:30pm. & 8:45pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.

22 | Cum Laude Chorus

Manitowoc County's finest young choral musicians join with the Manitowoc Symphony Orchestra. 7:30pm. Capitol Civic Center, Manitowoc. 683-2184.

22 | Fanfare for the Seasons

Featuring "Peter and the Wolf" and a variety of holiday-themed favorites — including a sing along. The Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra's fall program also will feature the winners of our conductor wannabe competition. 7:30pm. The Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2355.

23 | Lawrence Academy of Music Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Performance

7-8:30pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6632.

23 | Lawrence Academy String Orchestra and Philharmonia Performance

3-4:30pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6632.

28 | Amy Shreve

A Folk-Pop-Celtic style Christmas performance. 7:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.

29 | Roller Mills String Band with Dulcimer

The high-energy string band will play traditional music focusing on the Hammered Dulcimer. 7:30pm. Cup O Joy, Green Bay. 435-3269.

Opening exhibits

9 | 38th Juried Annual

Thru Dec. 28. A juried exhibition in two dimensional media by artists from Door, Brown, Manitowoc, Kewaunee and Oconto counties. Miller Art Museum, Sturgeon Bay. 746-0707.

14 | Neon: Darkness Electrified

Thru summer 2015. Features the vintage neon signs collection of Jed Schleisner. Visitors will discover the science behind neon, as well as the social and advertising history of neon signs. History Museum at the Castle, Appleton. 735-9370.

17 | Annual Juried St. Norbert College Student Art Exhibition

Thru Dec. 5. Featuring recent works of art by St. Norbert College students. Public reception Nov. 20, 5-7pm. Baer Gallery, De Pere. 337-3181.

Community & Cultural events

4, 11, 18, 25 | Creative Journey

The Appleton Public Library invites people to participate and share ideas as we explore and nurture our inner creativity. New members are always welcome. Come join the Journey. 10am-noon. Appleton Public Library, Appleton. 832-6392.

5 | Downtown Book Club

Discuss the preselected book or join us on a "Free-for-All" day where we'll just talk about the books we love, hate and everything in between. Noon-1pm. Appleton Public Library, Appleton. 832-6392.

7 | The Teen Book Club: The Princess Bride by William Goldman

The club is open to teens in grades 6-12. The book club creates an environment for teens to spark new friendships, read books they might not have otherwise read and participate in literary discussions. 4:30pm. Oshkosh Public Library. 236-5211.

8 | ArtFest at Navarino Nature Center

Area artists will display and sell their original art. There will be a food and bake sale also. Proceeds help fund educational programs, offerings and services provided by the center. 9am-3pm. Navarino Nature Center. (715) 758-6999.



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Museum shares season's greetings

Spreading cheer this season is welcome, unless you're a Scrooge. The New London Public Museum is hoping to spread good tidings with its American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes programming.

Visitors to the museum are encouraged to make holiday cards that will be sent to both veterans and active members of the military now through Nov. 29. Cards will be collected at the museum. The idea is tied to the museum's "FOLK: Art & Tradition Exhibit," which is running through Jan. 31.

"I thought wouldn't this be fun to include folk art and military into our everyday lives," shares Christine Cross, the museum's director. She would like card makers to be inspired by the exhibit and use the artwork as a starting point for their designs.

The folk art exhibit includes historic, vintage and contemporary pieces such as metal, woodworking and pottery from Midwest to Southeastern artists. Loaned works from personal collectors are included in the display. Paintings from Will Moses, the great-grandson of Grandma Moses, also are part of the collection.



Painted Mushrooms by Flora Willett Mason. Photo courtesy of the New London Public Museum

Cross, who participated in the national program last year with her husband, will be forwarding the cards to the American Red Cross Oshkosh Chapter who will make sure they are connected with Wisconsin troops.

"Here at the New London Public Museum we have a nice collection of military history," Cross says. "It makes you feel good that you're bringing a little bit of cheer to men and women who are often in stressful situations."

The museum is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission to the public museum, one of only five in the state, is free.

— By Amy Hanson

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11 | Free Legal Assistance

Volunteer lawyers, paralegals and pre-law students from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will be on hand to assist individuals with simple legal questions, forms or referrals to attorneys who offer reduced-cost and/or unbundled services. 4-6pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

11 | Veterans Day Breakfast and Service

All military veterans and their immediate families as well as current military personnel are invited for a complimentary breakfast served by the FVL Student Council. 8-10:30am. Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton. 739-4441.

12 | Soaring for Success Leadership Series

Darren Pleasance will be speaking about how people are harnessing the power of "digital" to grow their businesses, and how emerging trends will shape the business landscape over the coming years. 8-9pm. EAA AirVenture Museum, Oshkosh. 426-4800.

17 | Knit2Together

All experience levels are welcome to join us at this fun, informal knitting circle. Bring your own project, learn new stitches and patterns or learn to knit from the cast-on. 6:30-8pm. Appleton Public Library, Appleton. 832-6392.

19 | Owl Prowl

Join a naturalist and venture out on the Sanctuary trails in search of owls! 4:30pm. Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Green Bay. 391-3671.

20-22 | Semi-annual Book Sale

1,000s of books, audio books and DVDs. Proceeds support the Appleton Public Library. 9am-5pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

11 | The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley 9th Annual Benefit Gala

An elegant evening featuring silent, live and services auctions. 5pm. Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. 734-9603.

14 | Viva Las Vegas, Shining Bright for Youth Casino Night

The third annual event will include table games, a bucket and 50/50 raffle, photo booth and more. All proceeds benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters programs, which aid youth in the Fox Valley. 7:30pm. Waverly Beach, Menasha. 739-3542.

22 | Trivia unplugged

Join WWSP 90FM's Trivia "Oz" Jim Oliva for an informal, fun competition as teams battle to see who has the greatest knowledge from television, music and movies. Registration 3:30-4:30pm, contest 5-9pm and awards at 9 pm. Riverview Gardens, Appleton. 968-6365 ext. 6365.

Fundraisers

2 | The First Great Menasha Library Chili Cook-Off

Restaurants will vie for the title of greatest chili. Purchase a ticket and help decide who wins! Proceeds benefit the library's endowment fund. 12-3pm. Menasha Library. 967-3662.

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- 25 | **Friends of the Library Used Book Sale**
Sale includes books on CD, DVDs and music CDs. Help to keep the book sale green by bringing a reusable bag to carry your purchases. 10am-7pm. Oshkosh Public Library. 236-5211.
- 29, 30 | **Green Bay De Pere Antiquarian Antique Show and Sale**
The proceeds go to local historical projects. 9am-6pm, 10am-4pm. Rock Garden Banquet and Conference Center, Green Bay. 366-6895.

Lectures, readings, presentations & discussions

- 3 | **Zambia: Cheetahs, Children and Chitengas**
Youth Services Manager, Katrina Collins, and her mom, Jeanette MacDonald, talk about their family's experiences and efforts to support the animals and people of Zambia. 2pm Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 3 | **Embracing Wellness: Animal Massage**
Bobbi del Plaine will walk you through how to give your animal a therapeutic massage. 6:30-9pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 4 | **Grief Support**
Affinity's grief support groups are monthly adult gatherings for individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one. Offered on the first Tuesday of each month. 2:30pm. Thompson Community Center, Appleton. (886) 236-8500.
- 6 | **Gathering the Greats: Gramps, Gran and Beyond**
Learn how to start your genealogy research. Presenter: Mara Munroe, reference librarian and genealogy specialist. 7pm. Oshkosh Public Library. 236-5211.
- 6 | **Meet Wisconsin Authors**
Meet John Ferak, Investigative Team Editor, Gannett Wisconsin Media, and author of "Bloody Lies: A CSI Scandal in the Heartland." Books for sale and signing. 7-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 8 | **Find Your Ancestors**
A speaker (TBA) will provide information and tools to research your family history. 1-3pm. Appleton Public Library, lower level, Room C. 832-6173.

- 10 | **Spark! Cultural Programming for People with Memory Loss**
Led by a specially trained educator who will engage participants. Coffee and conversation to follow. 2-3:30pm. History Museum at the Castle, Appleton. 733-4089.
- 10 | **Suburban Homesteading — Home Creamery Series**
Neenah Public Library will host the Home Creamery Series: Session Two—Cheese Making. This session will focus on Mozzarella and Ricotta cheese led by Linda Conroy of Moonwise Herbs, Sheboygan. 6:30-8pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 10 | **Understanding Modern Art**
Learn the language of art and the stories behind modern masterpieces with Kristi Helmkamp. 4-5pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 11 | **Wisconsin's Most Haunted Locations**
Join paranormal researcher and author Chad Lewis as he takes the audience on a ghostly journey to some of the most haunted places in Wisconsin. 6:30-7:30pm. Kimberly Public Library. 788-7515.
- 12 | **Passenger Pigeons** 
Stanley A Temple is the Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and former Chairman of the Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development Program in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has spent his career working to save endangered species and the habitats on which they depend. 6-7pm. New London Public Museum. 982-8520.
- 15 | **Find Your Ancestors**
Russell Horton, Records Archivist at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, will be the speaker. He will describe the records available and how to research your military ancestor. 1-1:30pm. Appleton Public Museum. 832-6173.
- 17 | **Embracing Wellness: Mindfulness**
Discover a more mindful you with executive coach and spiritual counselor, Judy Owen. 6:30-9pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

- 17 | **Memory Cafe: Celebrate National Game and Puzzle Week**
For those experiencing early stage dementia, mild memory loss or cognitive impairment, and family and friends of those affected. It's a great opportunity for lively discussions, information, camaraderie and lots of creative fun thrown in. 1:30-3:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 18 | **Strolling Across France on the Way of LePuy**
David Haas' talk will introduce you to the Way of Le Puy and to the pilgrimage route of which it is a part. With text and pictures, Haas will take you with him on the pilgrimage that he did this summer. 7-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 18 | **Taikoza: Japanese Taiko Drum & Dance**
Big Drums, powerful rhythms and electrifying, room-thumping energy. Taikoza is described as a powerful celebration of Asian culture that will leave a lasting memory. 11:30am. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay. 498-5483.
- 20 | **EAA's Aviation Adventure Speaker Series: B-17, The Final Mission**
EAA's Chris Henry paints a picture of what it was like to be a crew member on a B-17 Flying Fortress during combat in World War II. Through archived photos and never-before-seen photos from private albums, Henry tells the personal stories of the brave men and women who took to the sky to defend the freedoms we enjoy today. 7-8:30pm. EAA AirVenture Museum, Oshkosh. 426-6823.
- 20 | **Third Thursdays**
A variety of lectures, workshops and demonstrations developed around nature themes will be presented. 6:30-8:30pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Neenah. 751-4658.

- Films**
- 4 | **Tuesday Night Movie: Earth to Echo**
Free and open to the public. Free popcorn and pop. Rated PG. 6pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
 - 6, 13, 20 | **Thursday Afternoon/Night @ the Movies**
There will be two sessions: 4-6pm and 6-8pm. Appleton Public Library, Appleton. 832-6392.

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Small town boasts big holiday spirit

Downtown Neenah will be bustling with holiday activities and cheer on the night of Dec. 5 as the town's "A Very Neenah Christmas" event kicks off for a night of carols, sleigh rides and other holiday fun.

Photo courtesy of Scanlan Studios.

"It's a wonderful way to bring the family together to celebrate the holidays, and doing so without a commercial aspect," says Pamela Barnes, Future Neenah events coordinator.

The event will begin at 6 pm. with a Rudolph Run from Shattuck Park to the Christmas tree in Gateway Plaza. The race registration fee is \$6, which includes a pair of fuzzy antlers, Rudolph nose and jingle bells to complement participants' holiday costumes.

"We'd love to see more people dress up this year and be creative," Barnes says.

After the run, attendees have the chance to enjoy a carriage ride and carols throughout the city.

"This year, we added more horse-drawn wagons to allow more people to be enjoying rides at once during the event," says Barnes.

The carriage rides are free and rides load and unload at the corner of Wisconsin and Main streets during the event.

There also will be competitions to see who has the most holiday cheer and decorating expertise. A live mannequin display will line the shop windows down Main Street, featuring creative holiday scenes.

In addition, Neenah will be looking especially cheerful as Deck the Downtown debuts this year with wreaths from the Boys and Girls Brigade. The wreaths will be on display from Small Business Saturday on Nov. 29 until the day of the event.

Winners for both competitions will be announced the night of the event and via Facebook.

After seeing all of the Christmas decor, attendees also can watch live ice carving demonstrations and roast a marshmallow in Gateway Plaza.

The night will feature plenty of live Christmas music including carols, a performance by the Badger State Girls Choir, Valley Academy for the Arts Dancers and a bell choir.

"Come and enjoy or participate as much as you'd like," says Barnes. "We've planned the party so families can come have a fun night together to celebrate the holidays."

— By Haley Walters

- 8 | **Warren Miller's No Turning Back**
Revel in winter's heritage as we push the boundaries in Niseko, Japan, the Swiss Alps, Montana, France and more. 7:30pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 405-1194.
- 10 | **Monday Matinee: Jersey Boys**
Join us as we watch "Jersey Boys." Rated R. Runs 134 minutes. 1pm. Shattuck Room, Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 12 | **Midweek Matinee**
This month's film tells the story of an unlikely World War II platoon that has been tasked by FDR with going into Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves. Refreshments will be provided. Rated PG-13. 1-3pm. Kimberly Public Library. 788-7515.
- 18 | **Tuesday Night Movie: Maleficent**
Free and open to the public. Free popcorn and pop. Rated PG-13. 6pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

Classes & workshops

- 1, 8, 15, 22 | **Working with Pastels**
Students will learn how to use this exacting medium and to discover its versatility of application. The course is for beginners and those who want to renew their interest in drawing and painting with pastels. 8am-noon. Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.
- 4, 11 | **Cubist Painting**
Cubism was an art form that proposed a new way to paint a three-dimensional subject on a flat canvas by giving the viewer the chance to experience multiple perspectives all at once. Students will learn how to deconstruct, compose and reconstruct what they see in a new manner. 6-8pm. Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.
- 4, 11, 18 | **Portraits in pastel with Renee Kulfan** 
We will work from our own favorite photo as a reference. Focusing on form, proportion and color likeness, students will gain the technical skills used to create classic realism portraits. 9:30am-noon. The Art Garage, Green Bay. 448-6800.
- 5, 12, 19 | **Personal Finance Classes**
Led by Devin Czech. Nov. 5 - Life Insurance Demystified; Nov. 12 - Basics of Investing; Nov. 19 - Retirement Savings Made Simple. 6-7pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 6, 13 | **Watercolor: have no fear! With Steve Krueger** 
Krueger's goal for the classes is to show students how to make watercolor work for them while having a lot of fun painting and preparing. Demonstrations include mixing colors, painting skies with clouds, trees, rocks and water reflections. Landscapes and still life will be the main focus. 9am-1pm. The Art Garage, Green Bay. 448-6800.
- 8 | **Bug and Flower Glass Beads**
Learn to make a variety of bugs and flowers using flameworking techniques. Beth Wenger-Johnstone, instructor. Call or go online to register. 10am-1pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Neenah. 751-4658.
- 8 | **Curiosity Series**
Folk Art workshop with Shellie Gotham. 10:30-11:30am. New London Public Museum. 982-8520.
- 13 | **Brewing Workshops: Adult Brewing Series**
These are hands-on workshops led by Kevin Cullen during which participants will brew beer. There will be a charge for these workshops. Visit NevillePublicMuseum.org. 6-7:30pm. Neville Public Museum, Green Bay. 448-4462.
- 13 | **Creative Writing @ the Library**
The Appleton Public Library offers Creative Writing sessions led by Sharrise Robinson. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library, Appleton. 832-6392.
- 15 | **Winter Acrylic Painting Workshop**
Design and class by Julie Wilber. All materials included except for brushes. 9am-1pm. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. (715) 758-6999.
- 18 | **Survey Glass Class** 
Try a bit of everything. We will have a chance to try flameworking, fusing and glass enameling all in one class. Beth Wenger-Johnstone, instructor. Call or go online to register. 5:30-8pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Neenah. 751-4658.
- 22 | **Naturally Dyed Scarves**
Participants will learn how to make natural dyes using fruit, vegetables, spices and other natural items. Dyes will be used to decorate two fashionable scarves, one silk and one silk-wool blend, which make great gifts for the holidays. 1-3pm. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London. 779-6433.

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22 | Family Studio

Have fun and be creative when you bring the whole family down to the studios at the Fox Cities Building for the Arts. This month's featured project is plaster turkeys. 9:30am-1pm. Fox Cities Building for the Arts, Appleton. 733-4089.

25 | How to Pick a Good Kids Book

Neenah Public Library is hosting a Parent's Place class to help parents pick out children's books. 6:30-7:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

Children's events

3, 17 | Animal Stories for Preschoolers

Children and their families can learn all about turkeys during Animal Stories for Preschoolers. Sanctuary staff will read the stories "Beauty and the Beaks, A Turkey's Cautionary Tale" by Mary Jane Auch and "The Great Turkey Race" by Steve Metzger, followed by a fun craft project. 10am on Nov. 3, 1pm on Nov. 17. Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Green Bay. 391-3671.

4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28 | Fall Library Storytimes — Toddler Time

For ages 12-23 months, with a caregiver. Join in for an experience that is fun, free and designed to get your child hooked on reading. 10:30am, 9:15am. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

4, 11, 18, 25 | Fall Library Storytimes — Our Time

For ages 3-5, (caregivers welcome for newcomers and transitioning 3-year-olds). Join in for an experience that is fun, free and designed to get your child hooked on reading. 10am. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 | Fall Library Storytimes — Lapsit

For 2-year-olds and younger 3-year-olds, with a caregiver. Join in for an experience that is fun, free and designed to get your child hooked on reading. 10am. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

5, 12, 19, 26 | Fall Library Storytimes — Baby Time

For children birth to 11 months, with a caregiver. Join in for an experience that is fun, free and designed to get your child hooked on reading. 9:15am. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

6, 20 | Page Turners

Join in on this advanced book group for children ages 8-11. Read the book before meeting and plan to stay roughly 45 minutes. 3:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

6, 20 | The Middle Shelf

This new book group is aimed at advanced readers, ages 11 to 14. Preregistration is required in person or by phone. 4pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

7 | Stage Doors Education Series: School House Rock Live!

Based on the hit Saturday morning cartoon series, the show that taught history, grammar, math and more explodes onto the stage with songs updated for a whole new generation! 10am & 12:30pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 465-5101.

11 | Not-so-Scary Halloween Crafts for Kids

A craft program for ages 3 and up. The library will supply the materials and examples — your child takes home a completed seasonal craft. Younger children must be accompanied by a caregiver. 9am-noon. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

28 | Baby Story Times

Baby story times are for babies birth to age 2 with a parent or caregiver. Older siblings may attend. The focus is on songs, finger plays, rhymes, music and movement, board books, baby playtime, developmental and age appropriate activities for babies and toddlers. 10am. Menasha Public Library Children's Department. 967-3670.

30 | Legos @ the Library

Bring a bucket of your own Legos and see what you can create in an hour! 1:30-2:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

More on the Web

Expanded Calendar Listings

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Vintage Garden

Greens and Glitter

By Emma Martin

Natural holiday home decor shines this season

As Thanksgiving dinner leftovers occupy refrigerator shelves, Christmas holiday decor begins to fill homes with cheer in anticipation for the festivities of December. Freshly cut trees are trimmed with ornaments, natural wreaths adorn front doors and green garland is placed on fireplace mantels.

The holiday decorating trends of the 2014 season are integrating more natural and reclaimed elements such as greens, pine cones and barn boards. New colors are entering the holiday decor scene and there is no limit to how many rooms get a touch of Christmas. Decorations can be found in kitchens, bedrooms, and even in bathrooms.

Begin with green

"Natural wreaths and garlands are always popular, but people are now adding different elements to the greens to make them unique. They are adding funky ribbons, yarns and buttons," says Lisa Gavronski of Cedar Harbor in Appleton.

When searching for natural greens to decorate your home, Greg Curtiss of The Wreath Factory in Menasha and Plymouth has some advice. "Look

for freshness and fullness, you always want to beware if needles are dropping."

"Our signature mixed green combination consists of balsam, cedar and pine. It provides a very lush and vibrant look," shares Matt Trotter also of The Wreath Factory. Trotter adds, "Bay leaf, which is typically used for cooking, is another great addition of texture and scent to a mixed green combination."

Toni Watry of The Vintage Garden in Appleton explains, "For home exteriors, people stick with using fresh greens. However, for the interior of homes, many people are tucking fresh greens into faux greens, because natural greens are more challenging to keep inside."

Bringing in nature

Natural greens are being enhanced with other items from nature this holiday season, especially birch bark. "It's a way to bring the outdoors inside your home to enjoy," says Casee Meach of Branching Out and Company in Appleton.

"Oversized pine cones and dogwood are always popular materials. People also are using a lot of skinny birchwood logs in decor items such as centerpieces," says Trotter.

Curtiss agrees, "Birch is the latest craze, it's a nice element that gives a bright white look to things."

"Natural red berries are also being used," adds

Watry. For pops of color, berries or winter flowers from nature also can be added to holiday decorations.

Many rooms, rustic trend

"A lot of holiday decorating is utilizing the rustic feel of upcycled or reclaimed materials such as barn boards," shares Watry. The reclaimed and vintage vibe also is carrying into how the trees in homes are decorated.

Watry explained that Christmas trees are now being found in many rooms of homes. For trees in kitchens, some people are using antique utensils as decorations. Similarly, on trees placed in children's bedrooms items such as vintage baby booties adorn the branches.

"In some larger homes especially, owners are incorporating four, five, even six trees," adds Watry.

Meach says, "We often recommend for people to subtly incorporate natural greens, large pine cones, birch bark, berries and other decorations with more of a winter feel throughout their home. Decorations can then extend beyond the holiday season into January and February."

Twiggy wreaths are a staple design piece that Watry suggests. They provide a natural, rustic look that is versatile and can be used for every season by changing it up with different materials and color additions.

Colors of Christmas

When thinking of the holidays, the traditional colors of red and green come to mind, but you don't have to be limited to the traditional. Many more colors are now found in holiday decorations for the home.

"People are definitely adding more colors to their holiday decor, blues, silver and different shades of green are popular right now," says Gavronski.



Wreath Factory

Curtiss adds that peacock colors such as teals, blues and jewel-toned greens also are being incorporated into decorations for the holidays this season.

To go with the rustic trend, Meach shares that warmer browns, champagne and creamy white colors are brought into decor for a more natural look.

So, if you've always dreamed of a Christmas



Wreath Factory

Care Q&A for long-lasting natural greens

To prevent green holiday wreaths, garland and trees from turning brown and brittle follow these tips. Proper care will help decor last through the holidays!

When is the best time to buy natural greens for the holidays?

"People typically purchase holiday wreaths and natural decor from mid-November until mid-December," says Matt Trotter of The Wreath Factory.

For individuals who have holiday parties planned into late December, Greg Curtiss also of The Wreath Factory recommends waiting to purchase greens until early December. Buying in early December will help to keep the fresh and full look of the greens until the New Year.

How does the weather impact how long natural greens will last?

Curtiss shares, "Hold off on the purchase of your wreaths and garland if the weather is warm, they won't stay as fresh. Also, be mindful of placement. Natural greens placed in southern exposure areas won't last as long."

"It is best if the temperature remains below 40 degrees," adds Trotter.

Where is the best place to store natural greens?

Trotter's tips are:

- Keep greens cool and out of direct sunlight in a place such as a garage or basement.
- Use a piece of cardboard to keep the natural greens off of a cement floor. Placing them directly on the floor will dry them out.
- Lightly spritz the greens with water for hydration.

What type of care does a real Christmas tree need?

"The best way to care for your tree is give it a fresh cut just prior to bringing it into your home," advises Tina Nohl also of The Wreath Factory. In addition to a fresh cut, she says that the key to tree care is to never let it run out of water.

Nohl has the following tips for tree watering:

- Always add one tablespoon of granulated sugar or corn syrup to each quart of water used to hydrate the Christmas tree.
- For the first two days, water the tree with warm water.
- After the first two days, cold water can be used to water the tree.
- Remember to water the tree daily.



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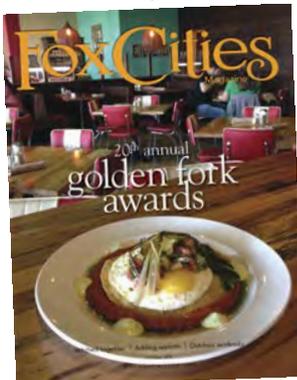
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Branching Out

Continued from Page 14

tree filled with non-traditional holiday colors, now is the time to embrace the array of new colors that are on trend. A consultation with a design professional will help ensure the colors you envision will look beautiful together and coordinate well with the style of your home.

If you prefer to stay with the traditional holiday colors, there are ways to add some variation without moving entirely away from red and green. "People are taking the traditional green and red and mixing it up by adding colors such as lime green or a deeper red," says Trotter.

Sparkle and shimmer

The holidays often conjure up thoughts of shiny gifts and glittery ornaments. Trotter shares a design technique to add shimmer to your natural greens, "Adding different silk foliage with glitter is a way to make natural greens pop and sparkle for the holidays."

Watry agrees, "There is definitely a lot of glitter being used this year."

Even with the trend of natural, rustic holiday decorations, glitter can be subtly added to give pieces a holiday feel. Curtiss adds that he always adds a touch of glitter to his designs.



Cedar Harbor

Holiday home

As people gather in their friends' and family members' homes for holiday celebrations and round robin events this year, they will find a mix of traditionally decorated homes and those that are embracing the unique trends of 2014. Trotter says, "A lot of people still like the traditional holiday look, but there are those that are looking for something a bit different, too."

"People are definitely finding ways to incorporate their own elements into their holiday decor through do-it-yourself projects found on Pinterest," shares Meach.

This holiday season, take note of the trends, find what best suits your style and home, and enjoy the beauty that surrounds the season.



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Neenah
(920) 722-9600



Nesting Cardinal
Natural mixed material

The Wreath Factory
220 Main St., Menasha
(920) 886-9989



Christmas Owl
Handcrafted glass ornament

Avenue Art & Co.
1350 W. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 734-7710



Whimsical Tree
Felt

Scatter JOY!
1879 N. Casaloma Dr., Appleton
(920) 739-6123



Hometown Exclusive

Award-winning ornament art by Jacqueline Johnson (Fox) and Emily Reetz (Santa).

Blue Moon Emporium

227 E. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 205-2114



Handcrafted Bird
Mixed materials

Back Again Furniture & Home Decor
110 W. North Water St. New London
(920) 982-2961



Our Team Fan Ornaments

MJ Weidert
Fused glass

Wild Apple

210 Main St., Menasha
(920) 886-6636



A Charming Collage

Salvaged table leg adorned with vintage fabric, brooch, buttons and feathers.

Lemonade Design & Art Co.

104 High St., Wrightstown
(920) 532-4330



Snow Friend

Handmade mixed material

Cedar Harbor

611 Morrison St., Appleton
(920) 740-4669



Glass Bead & Tinsel Garland

Handcrafted glass

Avenue Art & Co.

1350 W. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 734-7710



Boy Sledder

Handcrafted 1970s vintage.

Water Street Vintage, LLC

207 W. North Water St.
New London
(920) 982-9826



Fa La La Birdie

Wood and wire

Scatter JOY!

1879 N. Casaloma Dr., Appleton
(920) 739-6123



Mercury Swirl Songbird

Blown mercury glass

The Wreath Factory

N6625 Hwy. 57, Plymouth
(920) 893-8700



Farm Fresh

Porcelain

Neville Public Museum

210 Museum Place, Green Bay
(920) 448-4460



Leader of the Pack

Blown glass

Neville Public Museum

210 Museum Place, Green Bay
(920) 448-4460



Gilded Pinecone

Handcrafted

Fresh Expressions

1011 W. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 257-3973



Light Up Wisconsin

Wrapped glass bulb

Cedar Ridge Crafts & Gifts

1197 W. Winneconne Ave.
Neenah
(920) 722-9600



Angel with the Red Shoes

MJ Weidert
Fused glass

Wild Apple

210 Main St., Menasha
(920) 886-6636



Snowman

Handcrafted 1970s vintage.

Water Street Vintage, LLC

207 W. North Water St.
New London
(920) 982-9826



Cardinal Christmas

Painted cast resin

Familiar Grounds Gourmet Coffee & Extraordinary Gifts

206 N. Pearl St., New London
(920) 982-4332



◀ Downtown for the Holidays in Downtown Appleton starts Nov. 14!

Kick off the holiday season by viewing and voting for your favorite window display on Nov. 14. Plus enjoy carolers, refreshments, visits with Santa, special offers, the Christmas Parade, Small Business Saturday and more! Sixty-plus unique boutiques perfect for your holiday shopping, 70-plus pubs, clubs and restaurants perfect for your holiday party! All the details at appletondowntown.org.

Keeping up a sweet tradition ▼

Family owned and serving our community since 1928, **Bult's Quality Bake Shop** has plenty of holiday treats to choose from! Everything is made from scratch and with love. Be sure to get your orders in for Stollen, gingerbread cookies and sugar cookie cut outs (available decorated or not). Stop in to warm up with a latte, chai or coffee! Open Monday–Friday, 6 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday, 6 a.m.–noon. 114 W. North Water St., New London. (920) 982-4091. Like us on Facebook.



▼ Discover 'the best kept secret on the riverfront!'

Atlas Coffee Mill & Café now offers a space for groups up to 200 guests. "The Gathering Room," makes Atlas the destination for your corporate gatherings, team building events, retirement parties, rehearsal dinners, anniversaries and other private functions. We offer special event menus and a complement of coffees, wines and beer in a relaxing atmosphere with the gracious service that you've come to expect from "the best kept secret on the riverfront!" 425 W. Water St., Appleton. (920) 734-6871. atlascoffeemill.com.



Become a guardian angel ▶ for an animal in need!

Please make a difference in the life of a homeless pet this holiday season. **Fox Valley Humane Association** is accepting donations for sponsorships of animals in need. A Guardian Angel (\$40) helps support basic needs, an Archangel (\$80) helps with additional expenses. Your donation earns you a certificate and ornament with a photo of the animal you're sponsoring. Visit foxvalleypets.org or call (920) 733-1717.



Go on a bargain shopping spree! ▶

Dressing in your holiday best doesn't have to break your budget! Shop the best closets in the Valley at **A Dee Vine Consign**. Whether you're a savvy shopper or have yet to experience the thrill of finding the perfect bargain, you'll love finding your favorite brands in like-new condition, up to 70 percent off mall prices. Check us out on Facebook! 3319 College Ave., Appleton. (920) 733-5000.



◀ There's room at the Inn

With spacious queen suites, whirlpool and fireplace suites, complimentary continental breakfast, free high-speed internet connections, and a location close to unique shops and restaurants, the **Kress Inn** is a perfect place to stay while visiting family and friends. Special packages available. 300 Grant St., De Pere. (920) 403-5100 or (800) 221-5070. kressinn.com.



Naughty or nice ... ▼

Your pet deserves a present under the tree from Santa. Find the perfect gift at **Lucy's Closet Pet Boutique**. We have everything a dog desires, from coats and collars, to toys and treats. You'll also find fun gift items for people who love cats and dogs. Pets welcome! 129 W. Wisconsin Ave., Downtown Neenah. Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. lucysclosetpetboutique.com.



Give the gift of original art! ▼

At **The Hang Up Gallery** you'll find paintings, prints, jewelry and ceramics by local artists. Sunset Hill Stoneware coffee mugs, bowls and dinnerware. Exceptional, creative framing for your art, photos, and memorabilia. Artist supplies for the amateur to professional. Find gifts that will be cherished by everyone! 204 W. Wisconsin Ave., Downtown Neenah. (920) 722-0481. hangupgalleryoffineart.com.



◀ **Get the party poppin'**

At **Mike's Popcorn**, it's all about quality ingredients, perfect blends, family and above all, satisfied customers. Pop into our retail location for a variety of gift options this holiday season. You'll quickly taste why you can't top our pop! 3071 Progress Way, Kaukauna. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (920) 810-3708. mikespopcorn.com.



◀ **A holiday original**

Hand-cut, fragrant greens and botanicals are gathered to create **The Wreath Factory's** Signature Wreaths. Each one is a lush, long-lasting work of art. Explore the entire collection online or in our showrooms, where themed Holiday displays spill out from three vintage storefronts downtown Menasha. Stop in for inspiration, gifts or merely a festive atmosphere! Two Locations: Menasha at 220 Main St. (920) 886-9989 or Plymouth at N6625 State Road 57. (920) 893-8700. wreathfactoryonline.com.



See one of the Midwest's premiere holiday attractions ▶

Christmas Stars is a Broadway-style revue featuring more than 250 performers. This year's show includes favorite Christmas tunes, traditional carols, eye-popping production numbers, a re-creation of New York's Christmas parade and a stunning "Living Nativity" finale to bring home the true "reason for the season."



Performances are Dec. 4–7, 11–14 at Xavier Fine Arts Theatre in Appleton. For tickets and showtimes, call (920) 733-8840 or go to christmasstars.org.

Easy cheesy holiday gifts ▶

Locally owned & operated for five generations, **Lamers Dairy** takes the stress out of holiday gift giving.

Choose from a selection of gift boxes featuring Wisconsin cheese & other delicious Wisconsin products, or let us create a custom gift just for you. Shipping and on-line ordering available. N410 Speel School Rd., Appleton. (920) 830-0980. lamersdairyinc.com.



◀ **Steeped in tradition**

The **Hearthstone Historic House Museum** presents "A Victorian Christmas" from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11 during regular tour hours. The Dec. 5, 12, 19 and 26 evening tours from 6–8 p.m. will feature special programming including docents, carols and music. Admission: Adults, \$8; AAA/Seniors, \$7; Children ages 5–7, \$5. 625 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton. (920) 730-8204. hearthstonemuseum.org.



◀ **The perfect gift...**

For the chocolate-lover on your list! Celebrating more than 25 years in the Fox Valley, **Vande Walle's Candies** creates all of their confections from scratch with the finest ingredients. Appleton's destination for indulgent treats offers everything from salted caramels and handcrafted truffles to award-winning wrapped caramels. Visit us Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m. & Sunday, 10am–6pm. 400 N. Mall Dr., Appleton. (920) 738-7799. vandewallecandies.com.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

NOVEMBER

Now thru 29 * HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES

Stop by the museum and make a card for an active duty service member. New London Public Museum. 982-8520.

8, 16 * HOLIDAY WONDERS SHOPPING EXPO AND CRAFT FAIR

Shop more than 75 vendors. 10am-4pm. Sunnyview Expo Center-Winnebago County Fairgrounds. (800) 366-4189.

13 * OSHKOSH HOLIDAY PARADE

Begins at Ceape Avenue and Main Street. 6:30pm. Main Street, Oshkosh. 303-2265.

14 thru Dec. 7 * FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Trout Museum of Art will be filled with festive trees and wreaths decorated in a variety of themes by area businesses. Trees and wreaths will be up for auction until Dec. 4. A reception will be held Dec. 4 to finalize bids. Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm; Sun, noon-4pm. The Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.

14 * HOLIDAY KICK OFF, WINDOW DISPLAY CONTEST AND "DATE NIGHT DOWNTOWN"

Enjoy the window displays, carolers and sales. 6-9pm. Downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

14 thru Dec. 31 * DOWNTOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Stroll the Avenue and shop the 60-plus unique shops or enjoy the 70-plus pubs, clubs and restaurants! Downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

15 thru Dec. 9 * MERRY-TIME FESTIVAL OF TREES

A grand extravaganza of trees. 10am-5pm. Door County Maritime Museum. 743-5958.

18-23 * A CHRISTMAS STORY

Produced on Broadway by the film's original Ralphie, Peter Billingsley. Tues-Fri. 7:30pm, Sat. 2pm & 7:30pm, Sun. 1pm & 6:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

21 * ON BROADWAY LIGHTING CEREMONY

Kick off the holiday season with the illumination of the Broadway District's tree lights. Live music and a visit from Santa. 5-8pm. Historic Downtown Green Bay on Broadway District. 437-2531.

21 thru Jan. 5 * NUTCRACKER IN THE CASTLE

"The Nutcracker" story unfolds in the Paine "castle" with the historic rooms elaborately decorated as the fantastic scenes of the beloved holiday fairy tale. The Paine Art Center and Gardens, Oshkosh. 235-6903.

21 thru Dec. 27 * A FRANK'S CHRISTMAS

Visit the Christmas windows of days gone by at Prange's as they come to life. Matinee 1pm. 8pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 494-3401.

22 * FARM MARKET FAMILY FUN DAY DOWNTOWN

Photos with Santa, story times, carolers and cookie decorating with Mrs. Claus. Downtown Appleton. 10am-4pm. 954-9112.

22 * GREEN BAY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Parade will start at 130 E. Walnut Street. Downtown Green Bay. 10am. 437-3425.

23 thru Jan. 11 * DECK THE HALLS

Stop in to participate in the activities, events and exhibits including a Christmas Village and Sawyer Family Traditions. Tues-Sat, 10am-4:30pm; Sun, 1-4:30pm. Oshkosh Public Museum. 236-5799.

24 * HOLIDAY RECITAL

Enjoy the repertoire of the Junior & Senior choirs of the Appleton Boychoir. 5:30pm. First Congregational UCC Sanctuary, Appleton. 955-2224.

25 * DOWNTOWN APPLETON CHRISTMAS PARADE

Begins at the corner of State Street and College Avenue, then head east on College Avenue to Drew Street. 6:30pm. Santa Scamper begins at 6:03pm. 954-9112.

25 thru Dec. 31 * OSHKOSH CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

From the 100-foot tree and sculptured scenes to the animated light displays; the twinkling beauty and holiday music allows visitors to escape to a magical place. Mon., Dec. 22, 5-9pm; Tues.-Sun, 5-9pm. Menominee Park, Oshkosh. 303-9200.

26 thru Jan. 4 * CHRISTMAS IN THE MANSION

Ribbons, packages, lights and frivolities will warm your visit with a chorus of traditions from Christmases past. Tue.-Fri. 10am-4pm, Sat. & Sun. 11am-4pm. Rahr-West Art Museum, Manitowoc. 683-4501.

28-30 and Dec. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-30 * GREEN BAY BOTANICAL GARDEN'S WPS GARDEN OF LIGHTS

More than 250,000 lights crafted into botanical-themed spectacles! Visit gbbg.org for more info. 5-9pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay. 490-9457.

29 * RIDERS IN THE SKY — CHRISTMAS THE COWBOY WAY

Revitalizing the Western music tradition the Riders' enchanting live performances retain the open-plains spirit of cowboy music. 7-9pm. Door Community Auditorium, Fish Creek. 868-2728.

DECEMBER

2 * ELECTRIC CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

Starts at Wisconsin and Depot, goes down Wisconsin to Hwy. 55, then South to Third Street; West on Third to end at Reaume. Join us at City Hall after the parade for cookies and hot chocolate with Santa. 6pm. Municipal Building, Kaukauna. 766-6335.

3 * HOLIDAY BARBERSHOP BISTRO DINNER SHOW

This concert is produced around a holiday radio show with The Fox Valleyaires performing live in studio. One Button Short and Street Corner Harmony will also perform. Dinner, 6:30pm. Entertainment, 7:30pm. Grand Meridian, Appleton. 766-1861.

4-7, 11-14 * CHRISTMAS STARS 2014

A cast of more than 250 performers of all ages will present a dazzling holiday revue featuring Christmas songs, dances, recreation of New York's Christmas parade and a live nativity scene. Various times available. Xavier Fine Arts Theatre, Appleton. 733-8840.

Botanical garden shimmers for holidays

For its 18th winter season, the Green Bay Botanical Gardens, along with Wisconsin Public Service, is putting on a light display of a different genus.

The WPS Garden of Lights features more than 250,000 LED lights in dazzling horticulture and botanical-based displays.

"The caterpillar is huge and has lights of every color of the rainbow. It looks so different from the outside than it looks when you're inside," says Eileen Wesener, special events manager of

the Green Bay Botanical Gardens.

After the 30- to 45- minute walking tour, visitors can warm up in the Winterberry Cafe with refreshments and enjoy holiday tunes performed live by high school groups and local musicians.

Dave Barkow, facility supervisor of the botanical gardens, designs the light display. While many staples, like the caterpillar, remain the same, Barkow varies the layout and crafts a new structure each year.

The display, which takes approximately two months to set up, is constructed by Northeast Wisconsin Technical College students and completely assembled by volunteers.

The Garden of Lights will be open to the public Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 5-9 p.m., Nov. 28 through Dec. 30, excluding Dec. 24-25. Visitors are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets in advance at Festival Foods locations to avoid waiting in line.

— By Jennifer Clausing

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5 **A VERY NEENAH CHRISTMAS**

A family walk/run, bell choir, Santa, carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides and ice carving. 6-8p.m. Downtown Neenah. 722-6335.

5 **THE CHRISTMAS ON THE AVENUE CONCERT**

Davina and The Vagabonds perform. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. Doors open 6:30pm; concert 7:30pm. (877) 508-9191.

5-6 **UW-MANITOWOC LAKESHORE ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS**

Celebrate the holiday with Christmas music by the UW-Manitowoc Lakeshore Wind Ensemble. 7:30-9:30pm. Capitol Civic Center, Manitowoc. 688-2184.

5-6 **VICTORIAN TEA AT HISTORIC HAZELWOOD HOUSE**

Includes a luncheon, short program and a tour. 1-3pm. Hazelwood Historic House, Green Bay. 437-1840.

5, 12, 19, 26 **VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS**

Experience Victorian Christmas traditions. 6-8pm. Hearstone Historic House Museum, Appleton. 730-8204.

6 **A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Modeled after the historic festival at Kings College, Cambridge, the ceremony includes seasonal music and readings. 1-4pm. Lawrence University Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 955-2224.

6 **CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR**

A day full of holiday cheer; treats; music and dance; and a visit from Santa Claus. Weather permitting, he may even make his arrival via helicopter! 11am-4pm. Eagle Hangar, EAA AirVenture Museum, Oshkosh. 426-4800.

6 **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

Kids are welcome to enjoy activities, choose three Christmas crafts and decorate cookies. 11am-2pm. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. (715) 758-6999.

6 **HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SALE**

Featuring more than 30 artists and craftspeople. Free admission and parking. 9am-2pm. Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Appleton. 731-0849.

6 **HOLIDAY BELLS ARE RINGING IN THE GLASS STUDIO**

Make a glass bell ornament during the Holiday Open House. 10am-1pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Neenah. 751-4658.

6 **LIVE NATIVITY**

Gather with the animals in a Belgian Cathedral barn for carols and seasonal readings. Dress warm and bring a small flashlight and bell to ring. 7-8:30pm. The Bridge-Between Retreat Center, Denmark. 864-7230.

6-7 **THE NUTCRACKER**

Presented by the Makaroff Youth Ballet, in collaboration with the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. Accompanied by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the Lawrence Academy Girl Choir. Sat 7:30pm, Sun 1pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

8 **COOKIE DECORATING EVENT**

Join us for a continental breakfast, cookie decorating and entertainment for the whole family. 9-11am. Thompson Community Center. 225-1700.

9 **CAROLING, CAROLING**

Performance by the Fox Valleyaires, One Button Short and Street Corner Harmony which is produced around a holiday radio show with a chorus. The Badger State CORO Angeli Girl Choir also performs under the direction of Dr. Kevin Meidl. 7-8:30pm. Perry Hall, UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 734-9495.

12 **THE LETTERMEN CHRISTMAS SHOW**

7:30pm. Capitol Civic Center, Manitowoc. 683-2184.

12-14 **GREEN BAY NUTCRACKER BALLET**

The Northeastern Wisconsin Dance Organization performance. Various times. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 433-3343.

13 **HOLIDAY MAKE & TAKE**

Make eight gifts and wrap them up with the assistance of volunteers. Registration is due by Nov. 30. 9-11am or 11am-1pm. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London. 779-6433.

13 **LAWRENCE ACADEMY OF MUSIC GIRL CHOIR**

2pm & 7pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6632.

13, 20 **THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST**

Performers, crafts, stories, wagon rides and a visit from Santa. Bring a canned food item and receive \$1 off admission. Noon-6pm. Heritage Hill State Historical Park, Green Bay. 448-5150.

13-14 **A HOLIDAY IN HISTORY**

Celebrate holiday traditions of the past. 11am-3pm. Pinecrest Historical Village, Manitowoc. 684-4445.

15 **CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND DESSERT**

Join us for the sounds of Christmas, desserts and coffee. 1-3pm. Thompson Community Center. 225-1700.

18 **CORY CHISEL'S EVENING OF HOLIDAY MISCHIEF**

Appleton's hometown balladiere returns to rock the Chapel with original and holiday tunes. 7pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel. Mileofmusic.com.

19 **BOOGIE AND THE YO-YO'Z - CHRISTMAS WITH YOU**

7:30pm. The Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2355.

19-20 **HOLIDAY POPS**

The Green Bay Symphony Orchestra, The Dudley Birder Chorale and Birder Studio of Performing Arts present a program of carols and holiday favorites. Fri, 7:30pm. Sat, 2:30pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 465-2726.

20 **CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAPEL**

Featuring Christmas songs, sing-alongs and a candle-lit finale. 2pm, 7:30pm. Lawrence University Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-9700.

20 **HOLIDAY FUN FEST**

Thrivent's Avenue of Ice, Santa, reindeer, horse-drawn carriage rides and more! 10:30am-2:30pm. Houdini Plaza and College Avenue, Downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

20 **SWITCHBACK A MIDWESTERN CHRISTMAS**

Lots of audience involvement and singing along. 7:30pm. Thrasher Opera House, Green Lake. 294-4279.

21 **THE OAK RIDGE BOYS: HITS AND CHRISTMAS SHOW**

3pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 465-2726.

22 **LORIE LINE — THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

Featuring Fab 5 and a special vocalist. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

27 **JIM BRICKMAN ON A WINTER'S NIGHT**

Sounds of the season with lush instruments and soaring vocals. 7:30pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 465-2726.

31 **MILE OF MUSIC'S NEW YEAR'S ENCORE EVE**

Six artists return to ring in the New Year in style. Dinner, 5pm; concert, 8pm. Radisson Paper Valley Hotel Grand Ballroom, Appleton. 733-8000.



A new kind of Christmas story

The Fox Cities Performing Arts Center will feature the story of 9-year-old Ralphie on his quest for a genuine Red Ryder BB Gun as he convinces his parents, and Santa Claus, to grant his Christmas wish.

“A Christmas Story, The Musical” is a family friendly 2012 sold-out Broadway show on its first national tour. It will be showing in Appleton Nov. 18-23 at the Fox Cities P.A.C.

Audiences will share in Ralphie's battles with bullies, an unfortunate encounter with a cold flag pole and a disgruntled shopping mall Santa Claus on his way to ensure he receives the perfect Christmas present.

This time around, the story will be set to award-winning music, providing audiences with a new twist to the old story.

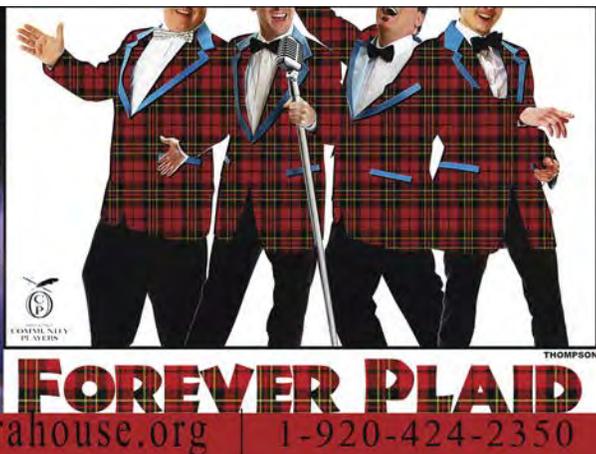
“This production features a brand-new holiday score by composer/lyricist team Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (and) big dance numbers by choreographer Jason Sparks,” says Tara Brzozowski, director of marketing and public relations. “This song writing team was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Score for their work on this show.”

The musical is produced by the original Ralphie himself, Peter Billingsley, and features a talented crew of musicians who will perform all of the memorable scenes audiences have enjoyed for three decades.

“From leg lamps to pink bunny pajamas, this show features all of your favorite scenes from the beloved holiday movie,” Brzozowski says.

Audiences have the chance to mix up their holiday tradition and head over to the Fox Cities P.A.C. for an evening of Christmas comedy and music, just be sure to turn all leg lamps off before leaving the house.

— By Haley Walters



Grand Opera House

www.grandoperahouse.org

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By Amy Hanson

Four jolly fellows lend Father Christmas a hand

When it comes to busy jobs, none quite top that of being the big man in the red suit. What with making a list, checking it twice, visiting with children, keeping track of workshop production, training the reindeer, trying on his holiday finest, trimming his beard and eating Mrs. Claus' cookies, there's barely time to rest up before loading the sleigh to be on his merry way. Of course, there's also making it around the world in one special night, squeezing through chimneys with a rather large sack full of goodies and leaving just the right present under the tree. Yes, Santa Claus is a busy character indeed, so it's no wonder he could use a few good men to help fulfill his duties.

In the quest to find the eager elves behind the beard, four fellows stepped forward in their shiny black boots. This is their story of the days before Christmas.



Tim Noll,
The Polar Express

The magic of *The Polar Express* was enough to lure in Tim Noll, 38, of Appleton. He hopped aboard to become Santa five or six years ago. He's now stationed in the premium car at the

front of the train when it comes to the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay.

"You get to be the star of the show," he says. "Those are the small victories I love. The parents say, 'Oh my gosh, she's never talked to Santa before.' You have to start the dialogue with them."

Noll is on the car the whole time and sits in the kitchen area, but he's observing what he can prior to making his grand entrance.

"Then, I can really freak them out because I know their names," he jokes. He also may appear a bit on the skinny side since he doesn't wear padding to fill out his belly. Noll does, however, try

to reinforce positive habits, like brushing teeth and eating healthy, which is always welcome by parents.

He also takes vacation from his job traveling to teach accounting and payroll software at car dealerships to commit to the entire 22-date run.

"For me, I don't hesitate to take vacation because I get a lot out of it as well. It's a good way to enter into the holiday season," says Noll who learned an important life lesson when he met a young boy who was dealing with Leukemia. He had a conversation with him, signed his book and his whole family was in tears.

"That changed me from then on," Noll admits. "(Life) can change so fast for all of us."

Jeff Pockat,
Mayfair

Who knew Santa worked in a hardware store during his off season? Well, with all of his tinkering with toys in the workshop, it only makes sense that Jeff Pockat would take up residence at Krueger's True Value in Menasha managing the tool department when he's not busy as Santa. Since he keeps his whiskers and hair long year round, he's been known to get a few sideways glances at the store.

"I do it as the kids come in," says Pockat who has been there 21 years. "I just say, 'This is what Santa does when he's not at the North Pole.'"

Since stepping into his boots, Pockat has made his way around the states including stints in Texas, Northern California and Pennsylvania. He has recently settled into a gig at the Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa and signed a contract to stay there for another three years in addition to his previous four. He will take up his post for seven weeks beginning Nov. 8 and is the only Santa to appear at Mayfair. When times are slow, you may hear

Pockat strumming on his Irish harp, a hobby he's had for 30 years.

"I remember people and their dogs, too," Pockat jokes. "I love the kids. The magic of the kids coming—either being dazzled or terrified."

Pockat refers to being Santa as a ministry in a sense. On one occasion at Fort Hood, he encountered a young boy who wanted his daddy home for Christmas only to learn that he had been killed in Iraq two weeks earlier. Another meeting with a little boy choked Pockat up as well. The boy told Santa that he always had his picture taken with his sister and Santa before Christmas, but that year would be different. The youngster was alone since his sister had passed away. He asked Pockat if he could hold a picture of her so they could still be together in the photo.

There have been happy times for Pockat, too. Like when a mother approached Santa to see if he'd help in surprising her daughter with her dad's return from overseas. "There wasn't a dry eye. It was just wonderful," he recalls. Or, when he was able to surprise a little girl with a puppy placed in a carrier he had received prior to her visit. "About four weeks later they came back and it was five times the size!" he chuckled. There have been engagements, too. "We get all kinds of fun things," Pockat shares. He also gets visits from the Milwaukee Ballet, a barbershop group and the police department has befriended him by keeping him fueled with Starbucks coffee, Pockat notes.

And, you may also see him on TV this holiday season as he recently filmed a TV ad campaign for the Green Bay Packers Pro Shop.

"The malls keep me so busy that I don't really have time for anything else," says Pockat.

He learned the importance of resting and keeping nourished early on after taking on his new persona. During his first season, Pockat admits to adding an extra 20 pounds that didn't come from padding, but rather too much fast food.

To hone his skills, Pockat also enrolled himself in Santa School in Michigan.

"I met my agent down there and like 30 other



Santas at the same time," he recalls. "That was a neat experience getting to meet and talk to other Santas." Pockat learned more about the history of St. Nicholas; particulars like never promise a child anything, keep hands visible in photos and how to dress; and proper care for his hair, beard and mustache.



Rolland Genske,
Menasha and more

It all started in 1977 for Rolland Genske of Menasha. He put on his first of three Santa suits, three years after getting married. The beard, however, is authentic and gets spruced up with a bleaching each season.

"It was always something I wanted to do, but I couldn't find a suit big enough without the padding," the 70-year-old says with a hearty chuckle. "When I was a kid, we always had the Santas with the red noses from the corner bar and I thought, I could do better than that."

Last year, due to health issues, Genske had to scale back his appearances, but continues to look forward to the 2014 season. "Stubbornness kept me going," he says. "God gave me this gift and I have no idea why."

Many families are part of Genske's annual itinerary for visits, which are scattered across the Fox Cities and beyond. For one family, he's on his fourth generation this year, while another he's visited with a woman from the day of her birth to age 25 — she also now has children of her own. A variety of area businesses also have requested that Santa make an appearance. Volumes of scrapbooks and other mementos preserve the memories Genske holds dear.

"Growing up with my hometown of Black Creek, the location is the same, but the faces have gotten older," Genske jokes.

"There isn't a person who can imagine how big kids' eyes get when they see Santa Claus," he adds.

Genske, who has no children of his own, especially looks forward to visits on Christmas Eve and morning. "That is when Santa Claus makes his visit and he comes to see the special kids," he says.

But, he credits his wife, Judy, with allowing him to continue to put on the suit. Just don't call her Mrs. Claus.

"She is my Rudolph. My navigation co-pilot because she gets me where I need to go," says Genske.

Of course, if the weather turns, "that's when Santa has to grab the reins and drive the sleigh himself," he says. "People always think that Santa knows everything, but I always tell them that the North Pole has computer glitches."

Robert "Bob" Lumley,
Christmas in the Air

By land, sea or sleigh, Santa manages to get where he needs to go. Sometimes, he even travels by air.

"The helicopters and me never have quite gotten along, but it's the only helicopter I'll get into" confesses Robert "Bob" Lumley, Experimental Aircraft Association member and board member, who takes on the Santa persona for EAA's Christmas in the Air in Oshkosh. "It's quite a dynamic way for Santa to arrive. ... It's a very special time for me. I love the people. I love the kids."

Lumley, 71, inherited the privilege of being Santa from EAA founder Paul Poberezny who passed away in August 2013. Poberezny, the event's first Santa, asked Lumley almost 20 years ago if he'd take a shot at playing the part. When he first started, he made his entrance through the back doors of the hangar on a gator.

"I was honored," Lumley shares. "I never thought twice about it. I went out and I bought a Santa suit." Of course, when Lumley took over the reins, Poberezny shared some friendly advice to let him know he should speed up the line of children who were waiting for a visit.

"People underestimate just how bright they are," says Lumley who also is a father and grandfather. "Kids believe in Santa. ... Sometimes, they just look at you in awe."

When not in the suit, Lumley is a senior estimator and vice president of a construction firm in the Milwaukee area and commutes from



Mark your calendar

Dec. 6 | Christmas in the Air

Get into the holiday spirit at EAA's annual Christmas in the Air, a free community event for all ages! Join in a day full of holiday cheer; treats; local music, choral, and dance groups; and a visit from Santa Claus. Weather permitting, he may even make his arrival via helicopter to visit all the children! Watch the sky at noon. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Eagle Hangar, EAA AirVenture Museum, Oshkosh. 426-4800.

The Polar Express

Tickets for the 2015 Polar Express rides at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay will go on sale July 25. This year's event is sold out. Watch nationalrailmuseum.org for more details.

Brookfield for the event.

"There's nothing better than the Oshkosh part of it," says Lumley. "It's something I'm very proud of. As long as EAA wants me as Santa Claus, I'll do what I can. Santa Claus hasn't changed, he's still the same. I think we owe it to our kids and grandkids to go back to some simpler times."

Of course, there's always the unexpected moments that put life into perspective ... even for Santa.

Lumley recalled an experience from eight or nine years ago that still sticks with him. A 6- or 7-year-old girl was waiting in line by herself for her turn to speak to Santa. When Lumley, asked what she would like for Christmas, she replied that she'd like to talk with her Daddy. He assumed he was possibly in the service or away from home, but her answer shook him, "My Daddy is in heaven."

"I told her you could still talk to your Daddy, 'Just go to a quiet place to talk to him and he'll hear you,'" Lumley recalls. "I don't know why I said that or where it came from. Her face just lit up. That is probably the very best. The kids year after year surprise you." Lumley spotted the little girl again later peering at him and noticed she was still beaming.

The spirit of Santa can bring joy to young and old alike. 'Tis the season for a bit of magic and wishing everyone stays on the good list.



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Sugar, *spice* and everything nice

By Amy Hanson

Baking bonus

For additional cookie recipes shared by Pat Boldt and Chief Tim Lambie, read this story online at foxcitiesmagazine.com.

Holiday cookie recipes create lasting traditions

There's something about Christmas cookies and a tall glass of milk that makes one's mouth water. And, if they're good enough for Santa, why wouldn't you want to dive into the cookie tin?

This holiday season, we asked six community members to dust the flour off their favorite cookie recipes that make this time of year special to them. Get your aprons and rolling pins ready.

Pat Boldt, philanthropist

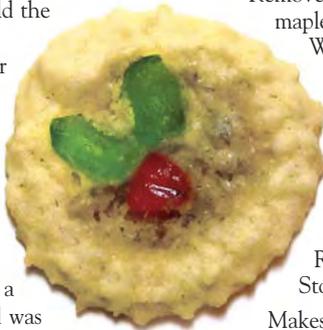
In the late 1960s through '80s, Pat Boldt was a lean, mean baking machine when it came to the annual bake sale fundraiser at Memorial Presbyterian Church in Appleton. The now 88-year-old community philanthropist and Appleton resident assembled and sold the baked goods.

"I was one of the bigger producers," she recalled with a chuckle. "The one that I made the most, and was my signature cookie, was the spritz."

Boldt's spritz cookie isn't your average spritz, however. Hers includes a mixture in the center and was adorned to look like a wreath. While Boldt still makes spritz for the holidays, she has retired her wreaths.

"I wore out one spritz maker, literally," she shares of the original cookie press, which came from her mother who used it to decorate cakes. As luck would have it, Boldt was able to find a similar replacement at a rummage sale and has continued to bake "the cookies grandma makes," which her grandchildren, ages teen to 30, look forward to each Christmas.

"I used to give cookies away like crazy," Boldt says. "Most people want to make bar cookies now."



Spritz Wreaths

- 1 cup butter, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups sifted flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup finely chopped pecans
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- ¼ teaspoon maple flavoring (optional)
- Candied cherries, red and green

Cream butter and sugar together. Add egg yolks and vanilla. Beat well. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Blend into butter mixture.

Remove ½ cup of dough and mix with pecans, maple syrup and maple flavoring. Set aside.

With star disk in cookie press, form 1½-inch circles, not too close together, on an ungreased cookie sheet. Place about ¾ teaspoon of the nut mixture into the center of each cookie. Trim with bits of candied cherries — one red with one green on each side — to simulate holly.

Bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes.

Remove immediately to cooling racks.

Store in tins or freeze.

Makes 5 dozen cookies.

Gene Rosin, mayor of Kaukauna

The holidays bring Gene Rosin back to his grandparents farm, just north of Kaukauna, where the now mayor of the community recalls sledding down in the pasture in his youth.

"Whenever we would go back to the house, Grandma would always have something whipped up for us to eat and this would be my favorite," shares Rosin of his maternal grandmother, Christine Verhagen's, sugar cookies. He'd even assist her at times by going down to the barn with a ladle and kettle. "She would say, 'Go out, and get

me a couple dippers of cream," he says. On occasion, eggs also would be needed to make the treasured treat.

Today, Rosin carries on the tradition of Verhagen's recipe with his five grandchildren, ages 7 to 16. His eldest, has taken the most interest in baking, Rosin notes of his grandson.

"I think the ingredients with her using the farm-fresh cream and eggs is what I enjoyed most," Rosin says. "There are a couple little secrets she always included. She had her notes at the end (of the recipe)."

Old-fashioned Sugar Cookies

- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter (or margarine), softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 tablespoons cream
- 3 cups flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt

First, beat egg in large bowl. Add sugar and butter, blend well. Add vanilla and cream. Add the rest of the dry ingredients. Roll out mixture on powdered sugar and use with cookie cutters or form into round balls. Bake at 400 degrees for 5-8 minutes on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Makes 2-3 dozen depending on size of cookies.

Diane Bishop, Community Clothes Closet

Handmade gifts from the heart often mean the most. For the past seven years or so, the Community Clothes Closet has made cards to send to donors. One year, 92-year-old volunteer Melva Rew of Menasha made the experience a



little sweeter for Executive Director Diane Bishop.

"I had mentioned sugar cookies were my favorite," recalls Bishop of a conversation that she had with Rew during a work session. The card theme for the year was a "snowman" and toward the end of making 6,000-plus cards, everyone was getting a bit slap happy. What Bishop didn't expect was that Rew would recall what she had divulged and take the time to present her with a thoughtful, yet funny gift. That holiday season, a basket of cookies showed up. But, they weren't just any cookies.

"She decorated them to look just like the snowman on the cards," Bishop says noting Rew's dry sense of humor.

"That present meant more to me than anything else I received that year. ... That's one of the things that made it really special. She wasn't one of those grandma types who made cookies." While it may not have been "good for her waistline," Bishop ate the cookies and kept the basket, along with an angel pillow Rew made her the following year to match that year's card theme.

"Sometimes, the best gifts are made from the heart, given from the heart," Bishop shares. Rew had volunteered for the organization for at least a dozen years prior to her passing last year.

Melva's Sugar Cookies

- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1¾ cups sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 tablespoon of vanilla extract

Mix the first 4 ingredients together in a large bowl. Set aside. In a second bowl, beat sugar and soften butter with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Refrigerate dough 2 hours or until firm. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Roll dough on floured surface ¼- to ½-inch thick. Cut into shapes with your favorite cookie cutter. Place cookies 2 inches apart on baking sheet. Bake 6 to 8 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheets 30 seconds. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Makes 4 dozen cookies.

Jennifer Stephany, Appleton Downtown Inc.

"When we were little, my mother (Sandy Froehlich) would bake a ton of cookies, caramels and candies each holiday season—starting at Thanksgiving," says Jennifer Stephany, executive director of Appleton Downtown Inc. "The cut-out cookies we could decorate were by far my favorite, but the cream cheese cookies were so rich tasting they were hard to resist. My sister and I would sneak into the garage where my mom kept the cookies in Tupperware containers and sneak a few

of our favorites. Good times!"

The finished product wasn't the only thing that Stephany would swipe a bite of when it came to the cookies.

"I would steal little pinches of the dough and enjoy that almondy goodness," she shares. "It's a pretty cookie. It sounds so cheesy, but I love the cherry on top. I would pick that off first." Stephany's 4½-year-old daughter, Isabella or "Izzy" for short, started baking with her mom during last year's holiday season and helping to add either candied cherries or Hershey's Kisses on the top of each cookie. "Apron, rolling pin, the whole nine yards. It takes a little more time, but it's so much fun," Stephany says.

The recipe likely originated with Stephany's maternal grandmother, Ruth Arnst. Stephany recalls starting to bake around 1st grade with her grandmother and mother. Froehlich no longer bakes since she is now coping with the effects of Parkinson's disease. "That responsibility now falls to my sister (Cindy Braun) and I to carry on the holiday tradition," Stephany shares.

Cream Cheese Dainties

- ½ cup (1 stick) margarine
- 1 3-ounce package cream cheese
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup of flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1½ cups Rice Krispies cereal, crunched
- Candied cherries, cut in half or chocolate Hershey's Kisses

Cream together margarine, cream cheese, sugar and almond extract. Mix all dry ingredients and add into cream cheese mixture. Chill for at least one hour. Shape into balls. Roll in cereal and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Make a little thumbprint and top each with a cherry or Hershey's Kiss. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-14 minutes.

Makes 2½ dozen cookies.

Chief Tim Lambie, Town of Greenville Fire Department

Making cookies has always been a family affair for Chief Tim Lambie of the Town of Greenville Fire Department. He grew up making them with his brother and sister and went on to continue the experience with his wife of 36 years, Debbie.

"Both of us were brought up doing that, decorating Christmas cookies," Lambie shares.

The couple started baking together and brought their now grown children into the fold when they were 2 or 3, he notes. Now, it's a family day he shares not only with his son and daughter, but also his four grandchildren—two grandsons, ages 4 and 2, and two granddaughters, ages 4 and 2.

"The grandkids are in there too helping," he says. "The older ones have been doing it a while



Time-honored treasure

The oven is at the heart of any marathon baking session. We Energies keeps those of the electric variety humming around the holidays in areas of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, but the business also has helped in preserving the tradition of baking. The We Energies Cookie Book has been around for more than 85 years, with the first edition published in 1928.

"For many of our customers, the holidays officially begin when they reach for their favorite We Energies Cookie Book," says Gale Klappa, chairman, president and chief executive officer of We Energies. "We're honored to be part of the holiday traditions of families near and far."

More than 30 recipes, from We Energies customers, will be featured in this year's book, which will be available online, along with archived books, at we-energies.com/recipes beginning Nov. 3. A signature event will be held Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fox Cities Stadium, home of the Timber Rattlers, in Appleton. The public is welcome to pick



up a free Cookie Book, enjoy hot cocoa and take photos with the reindeer. Books also will be available at satellite locations following the event. A record 215,000 copies will be printed this year for

distribution across We Energies' service areas.

"It turns into kind of a holiday event. Everyone is in the holiday spirit," says Cathy Schulze, senior communications specialist. "I think for a lot of people it's tradition. Their grandma had it in the house, their mom had it in the house and today the tradition continues."

Fifty six recipes, from more than 100 entries, made the cut this year for testing by employees in the downtown Milwaukee offices. People are welcome to submit their original recipes year round, which can be done online. A push for new entries usually begins in January, says Schulze.

"When we stopped producing the Cookie Book in 1997, many customers were sad to see it go," she adds. "When we brought the tradition back in 2006, people were thrilled. We are happy to offer this as a goodwill gesture to our customers every year. The book is free to customers and has no impact on their rates."

— By Amy Hanson

ask Chef Jeff

Have a culinary question? Send us an email or go to our website and click on Your Input.

Q. I'm hosting a multi-course dinner party. What tips do you have to help me plan a meal that progresses nicely? Are there rules for each course? —Emily, Little Chute



A. Emily, here are some tips I would share. To begin, I would map out the whole dinner party. Answer the basic questions of who, what, when and where. If you have to answer why, don't have the party! These questions will lead you to the how. Consider who your guests are and what they might enjoy for dinner. Then, decide what you will prepare and when it needs to be prepared. Prepare as much as you can ahead of time, and keep in mind the time it takes to prepare, the time it takes to finish and the timing of each course with the other courses. Don't forget to pair the beverage that will accompany each course. Wine is always a popular choice for dinner parties because there are thousands of flavor profiles from which to choose. If you plan out your dinner party in this way, you will avoid some common errors like producing way too much food or repeating flavors and textures. It also helps to look at the whole dinner party experience so you can avoid overstuffing your guests. If you think about it, you literally could have a 15-course meal if the portions were appropriately sized.



Chef Jeffrey Igel is the chair of the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Department at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. "Chef Jeff" has spent his entire career in the restaurant and hospitality industry, serving in many capacities.

DRINK OF THE MONTH

Recipe courtesy of:
Houdini's Escape

Do you love pumpkin? 'Tis the season and now you can add it to your favorite drink. Brian Presby, Houdini's Escape general manager, shares his take on an old fashioned recipe.

PUMPKIN OLD FASHIONED

1 orange wedge Ice
1 maraschino cherry 1 1/2 ounces Kessler Bourbon
Simple syrup (see below) 1/2 ounce Gran Gala
Bitters Cola

Hand muddle orange and cherry with Homemade Pumpkin Maple Simple Syrup. Add dash of bitters. Next, fill a rocks glass with ice. Add bourbon and Gran Gala. Top with soda.

Homemade Pumpkin Simple Syrup

1 small can pumpkin puree
Hot water (fill can from puree)
4 ounces maple syrup

Combine ingredients and mix thoroughly.

and now the younger ones are coming in. It's a neat experience. When we mention we're going to make cookies they get excited."

Among the recipes the clan mixes up each year is Debbie's grandmother's recipe for Santa's Thumbprints, a sugar cookie. The only time the cherished recipes are made are during the holidays.

Santa's Thumbprints

1 cup shortening
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups oatmeal
1 6-ounce package semi sweet chocolate chips



Beat shortening. Gradually add sugars and beat until fluffy. Add egg, vanilla and almond extract. Sift together flour, baking soda and salt. Stir into creamed mixture. Blend in oats. Shape dough into small balls and place on ungreased cookie sheets. Press thumb in top of each one. Bake 10-12 minutes at 375 degrees. Melt chocolate chips. Spoon a little chocolate into each thumbprint. Chill until chocolate is firm.

Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Jan Smith, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

Passed from one generation to the next, Jan Smith is proud of a recipe that has been in her family for five generations, which originated in Sicily, Italy and has been carried on by her mother, Rose Smith.

"My mother actually put quantities to what was essentially an oral tradition," shares Smith, executive director of the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass. "I recall asking my grandmother, in Italian we called her, 'Nana,' for her biscotti recipe and she began with, 'Well, I start with a 10 pound bag of flour ...'"

Smith is fond of the inexact nature of the Cuchidatti recipe, a filled cookie with a biscotti base.

"Sometimes, my mother or grandmother would be willing to give us a glob of dough and after we would have manhandled it for a while, they would throw it in the oven for us," Smith says.

And, while it is a bit of an unusual recipe that requires extra work, Smith sees value in the end result.

"The finished cookie is delicious, but it is not the cookie itself that matters in the end," Smith says. "It is the social aspect, the continuing of heritage and tradition, the creativity and the warmth of sharing the space in



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your mother's or grandmother's kitchen with a cup of coffee, an enormous clay bowl, flour spilling about, the laughter and the sharing with satisfied tasters at the end."

Cuchidatti

Biscotti dough
Filling
Powdered sugar glaze
Nonpareils

Cut out circles from the dough. Use about 1 teaspoon of filling per section of dough, depending on size preference of cookie, and fold over. Crimp the edges of the dough. Bake 15-20 minutes at 350 degrees until cookies are golden brown.

Cool and frost with a light powdered sugar glaze and decorate with multicolored nonpareils.

Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Biscotti dough

1 cup sugar
1 cup (2 sticks) margarine
3 eggs
1 tablespoon vanilla or ¼ teaspoon anise oil
4 cups flour
1 tablespoon baking powder

Cream sugar and margarine in separate bowl. Beat eggs. Add vanilla or oil. Add eggs to sugar mixture; add flour and baking powder. Knead well until dough is smooth, but not sticky.

Filling

1 14-ounce bag dry Kalamata or Calimyrna figs
2 naval oranges, medium-sized (washed, quartered)
½ cup sugar
1½ cups water
½ cup walnuts, chopped

Grind figs and oranges together in a food grinder. Place mixture in a 2-quart saucepan, along with sugar and water. Cook until mixture thickens; about 15-20 minutes.

Remove from heat, add walnuts and cool thoroughly before placing the filling on the cookie dough.

Powdered sugar glaze

1 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon of vanilla
1-2 tablespoons of milk
1 tablespoon of melted butter

Blend all ingredients together.



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Sai Ram Indian Cuisine

253 W. Northland Ave., Appleton. 733-3003.

One of the finest authentic Indian restaurants in the Midwest and winner of seven FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards for Best Indian food. We offer a menu of options from vegan and vegetarian, to chicken, lamb, seafood and beef. All dishes are prepared fresh to suit your taste. Not a curry fan? No problem! Try our famous tandoori or biryani dishes in our newly remodeled, candlelit dining room. Lunch: M-Sa, 11am-2pm. Dinner: M-Th, 4:30-9pm; F & Sa, 4:30-9:30pm. SaiRamCuisine.com.



SAP

708 N. Casaloma Drive, Appleton. 257-2194.

Sap offers breakfast and lunch classics any time of the day! We use locally sourced eggs from organic-fed chickens in all of our dishes, and our pork is from a farm down the road. Stop in for a coffee or espresso drink and a from-scratch pastry or dessert from our bakery case. Our deli case is full of artisan Wisconsin cheeses and meats, organic rotisserie chickens and house-made favorites. No time to sit down? Order to go! On warmer days, we'll open the garage doors on our four-seasons patio. Winner of six 2014 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards, including Best new restaurant. Open M-Su, 7am-8pm. sapbrunch.com.

Stone Cellar Brewpub

1004 S. Olde Oneida St., Appleton. 731-3322.

Located in the Between the Locks, a 156-year-old historic brewery building. Stone Cellar Brewpub features the Fox Cities' best handcrafted, national award-winning beers made on premise. The restaurant features an extensive menu including steaks, seafood, pasta, burgers, award-winning pizza, creative appetizers and traditional pub favorites. In addition, enjoy our selection of gourmet sodas made in the brewery. We even have Appleton's oldest beer garden! Come enjoy the unique atmosphere, experience excellent food and great service. Brewpub fare with a flair! stonecellarbrewpub.com.

Vince Lombardi's Steakhouse

333 W. College Ave., Appleton. 733-8000.

Located inside the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel. Honored with the NFL's Most Valuable Property (MVP) Award in 2009. Extraordinary steaks, superb wines and legendary service. Enjoy world-class dining set among Coach Lombardi's personal memorabilia and classic photos. Experience a commitment to excellence in food, beverages and service that is commensurate with the standards of our namesake. The award-winning restaurant features extraordinary USDA prime cuts of beef and a wine list that Wine Spectator Magazine has named "one of the most outstanding in the world." vincelombardisteakhouse.com.

Zuppas - Market, Café & Catering

1540 S. Commercial St., Neenah. 720-5045.

Our top-flight chef team led by Chef Peter Kuenzi, urban cafeteria setting and penchant for local ingredients, ensure that your food is creative, fresh and ready fast. For breakfast, lunch and dinner, Zuppas Café offers chef-prepared soups, sandwiches, salads and more. Enjoy handcrafted pastries and desserts with coffee or take home a variety of fresh prepared salads and entrees from our deli. Our Green Room is perfect for your personal or business gathering. M-F, 8am-8pm; Sa, 11am-3pm; closed Su. Visit zuppas.com for daily specials.

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