

# Fox Cities

MAGAZINE

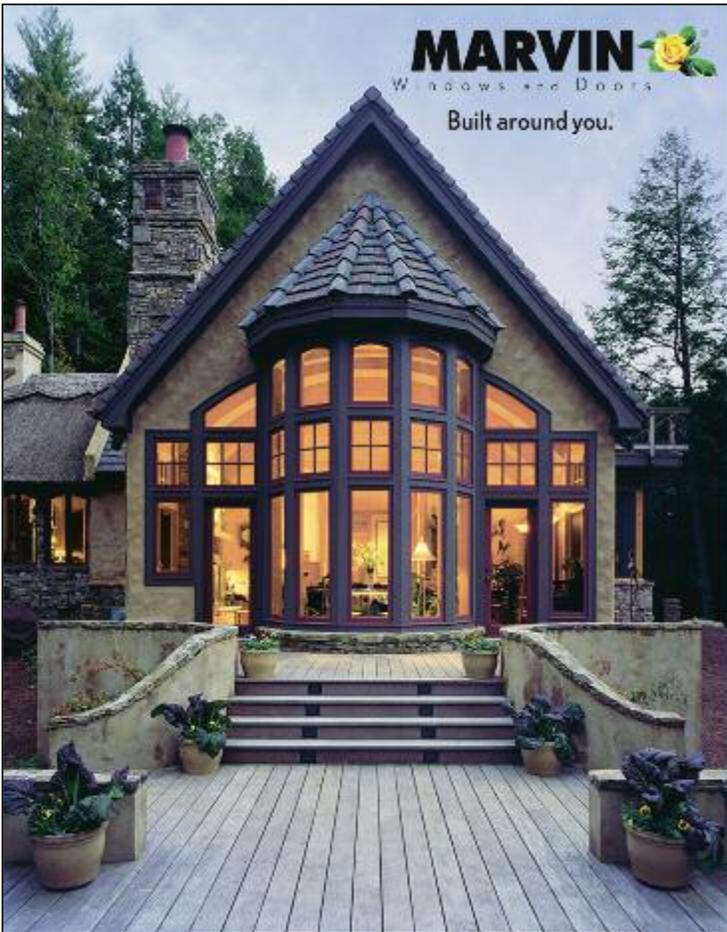


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October 2017

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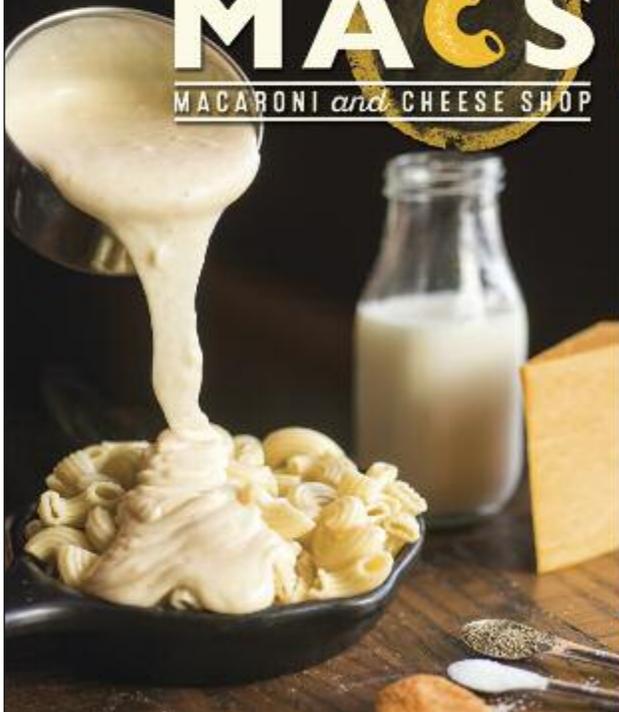
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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



When Frida Kahlo was 23, she had just moved to America with Diego Rivera, four years after she began painting. Kahlo is a source of inspiration for Alyssa Nguyen, 23, who owns and designs at Alyssa & Anna Fine Jewelry in Oshkosh, a brand she began three years ago.

“When I was younger, I always knew I wanted to be in the arts. My parents, they actually gave me an allowance to draw,” she says. “I mean they gave me one and five dollar bills and the designs were nothing, but that’s what they did.”

Along with French jeweler Cartier and Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, Kahlo influences Nguyen’s work, especially in her recent transition to more colorful, busier pieces. While today she works with diamonds, sapphires and other gems, she began in painting.



**Name:** Alyssa Nguyen  
**Residence:** Oshkosh  
**Medium:** Jewelry

“There’s this funny thing in the art community: a lot of people say that you choose your medium based on your personality. I really like watercolors and gouache painting,” she says. “It’s probably because they’re really difficult to control, and you can’t really fix your mistakes. I think I kind of approach life that way: I’m kind of all over the place.”

“All over the place” in her approach to both art and life, Nguyen’s family background draws from a broad variety of places too. Nguyen’s mother is Thai-Laotian, her father Vietnamese, her grandfather taught as a French professor and her sister, Savannah, lived in Milwaukee, where she attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Before she started there, though, Nguyen and her sister took computer-aided design (CAD) classes together.

While CAD helped Nguyen bring her two-dimensional art to 3-D life, this architectural side of jewelry poses some of her biggest challenges. “A lot of the times, you get ideas to make things, but it doesn’t work when you physically build it,” she says. “Because you’re working with a really small object, and a lot of times the way I want a certain stone to sit, it can’t sit that way.”

Nguyen found guidance in Paris, where she recently studied with French jewelry, watch and perfume company Van Cleef & Arpels and practiced gouache painting. Before CAD, French jewelers drafted their designs in this style of watermedia.

“The gouache is where it started: they would make a technical drawing, and then they would make the painting where they would render it as lifelike as they could without looking at a piece to draw. You have to know where you put in the lights and shadows and everything from your mind.”

Intricate gouache “blueprints” of her designs adorn the pale walls of her shop on Oshkosh’s 9th Avenue, where her own glittering display cases reveal how far Nguyen has come in just under two years. Yet her art, she says, remains most important in her work.

“We create everything in house, so all of our jewelry is handcrafted from start to finish,” she says. “We do it mainly because we’re really passionate about the creating versus the business. The business is just so we can do what we love.”



## hidden IN PLAIN SIGHT

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### SEPTEMBER WINNER



**Kelly Cheke, Menasha**

Answer: Neuroscience Group Field entrance at Fox Cities Stadium

— By *Launa Zomosa*

# HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

Have a wicked good time at these events

## Bizarre History of Wisconsin: Strange Stories from Our Past October 9

Paranormal researcher Chad Lewis presents over 100 bizarre newspaper stories from Wisconsin as part of the Fox Cities Book Festival. Learn about strange deaths, ghosts, sea serpents, peculiar people, medical anomalies, oddities, psychic phenomena and UFOs. Free and open to the public. 1:30-2:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

## War of the Worlds October 19-21

Join the Oshkosh Community Players as they present this original script detailing the frightening tale of an extraterrestrial takeover. Seating for these performances will be limited as you will be in the studio with the performers on the Grand Oshkosh stage. 7:30pm. The Grand Oshkosh. 424-2350.

## Zombie Pub Crawl October 27

Free to participate – just show up in costume. The crawl starts at the Badger State taproom and will make its way to other destinations around Lambeau Field stadium. Dress to impress and practice those zombie walks and groans! 7-10pm. Badger State Brewing Company, Green Bay. 634-5687.

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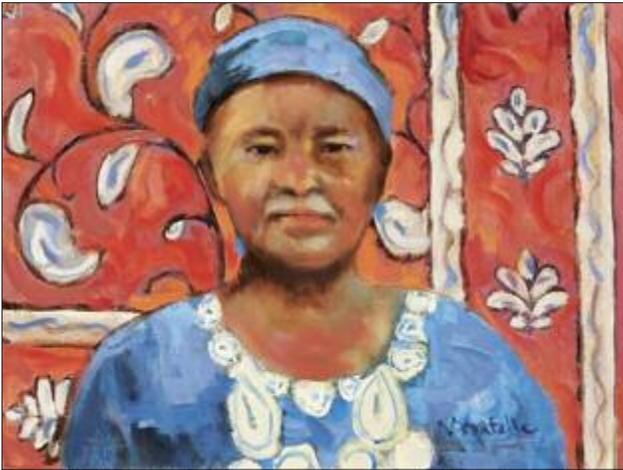
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# not to be missed

For a complete list of current exhibits and our events calendar, go to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com).

## ART & FILM EVENTS



### Artist Reception: Faces of Kenya Works Art Exhibit October 12

A show of recent works by Kathleen Donatelle inspired by photographs of Kenya Works program recipients. Proceeds benefit Kenya Works. 5-8pm. Avenue Art & Company, Appleton. 734-7710.

### Northeast WI Horror Film Fest 2017 October 14-15

The Northeast Wisconsin Horror Film Festival celebrates its second year, continuing to bring together fright enthusiasts and attract new audiences to the wonderful joys of independent horror films. All proceeds from the film festival will once again be donated to the Time Theater of Oshkosh. 10am-7pm. Time Community Theater, Oshkosh. [newhorrorfest.com](http://newhorrorfest.com).



### Book and a Movie October 23

Showing "A Man Called Ove." Read the book first or just enjoy the movie. Kress Family Library, Brown County Library leads a movie/book discussion for those interested. Free. 7pm. De Pere Cinema. 336-4971.

### Monoprints with Benjamin D. Rinehart October 28

This is a free walk-in event in which artist in residence Benjamin D. Rinehart will be sharing some of his printmaking tools and skills. 10am-1pm. Kimberly Public Library. 788-7515.

### Sign Painting Open Studio October 28-29

Join ExAIR artist Shelby Rodeffer for an open studio

exploring the art of sign painting. All ages welcome. Free. 11am-1pm & 1-3pm. John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan. 458-6144.

### Introduction to Letterpress Workshop for Adults October 26, November 9 and 16

This introductory workshop focuses on hand setting wooden and metal type, using found images, setting up the press, and printing. Preregistration is required by October 19. This is one class that meets three times. 6-8pm. Paper Discovery Center, Appleton. 380-7491.

### Silent Film Series: Phantom of the Opera October 30

Get in the Halloween spirit with the classic horror film starring Lon Chaney as the Phantom. Film will be shown with live organ



accompaniment by Frank Rippl. Presented in partnership with the Packerland Theater Organ Society. 6:30pm. History Museum at the Castle, Appleton. 735-9370.

*Information is subject to change. We recommend confirming dates and times with the organizer. To have your event considered for publication, submit online at [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com).*



Melanie McManus

## PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

### Appleton History Speaker Series October 11

Presentation on Voecs Meat Market and Fox Valley Coin, Michelle Griesbach. Free and open to the public. 7pm. St. Bernadette's School, Appleton. 540-3699

### Thousand-Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail October 14

Melanie McManus, author of the memoir "Thousand-Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail," will talk about her record-setting trek along the 1,100-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail. 2:30pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.

### The History of the Tuesday Club October 19

In conjunction with Neenah Historical Society's exhibition "Making a Hometown: Life in Neenah's Progressive Era," the women of the Tuesday Club will intertwine their club's history with local and national history in this engaging presentation. 7pm. Neenah Public Library. 729-0244.

### Hardcore History: A Visit with Frida Kahlo October 24

Meet Frida Kahlo, Mexico's renowned artist. Learn about her life. Hear her comments on some of her works and those of her famous husband, Diego Rivera. Presented by Kay Kuester-Doran. 6pm. Neville Public Museum, Green Bay. 448-4460.

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## SHOWS & PERFORMANCES

### Bell, Book, and Candle by John Van Druten October 4-7

A modern-day witch casts a love spell on her handsome neighbor, then must choose love or losing her powers. Directed by Michael J. Laskowski. 4-6, 7pm, 7, 2 & 7pm. Real Opportunities Building, New London. 982-6060.

### Music In The Attic: 'S Wonderful An Evening of Gershwin October 4-7

Enjoy an evening of music, champagne and dessert in a cabaret setting at this second annual Music in the Attic fundraiser. 7:30pm. Lucia Baehman Theatre in the Communication Arts Center at UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 734-7887.



### Steep Canyon Rangers October 9

Bluegrass band the Steep Canyon Rangers walk the line between festival favorite and sophisticated string orchestra. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.



### Daddy D Music and Comedy October 20

Clean comedy and great songs from the 50's and 60's. Beer and wine available for purchase. Sponsored by Hinnendael & Associates. 7pm. The Thompson Center on Lourdes inside St. Bernadette School, Appleton. 939-3088.

### Fox Valley Concert Band October 20

Featuring Patricia George, flute, in a performance of the concerto written for her by her spouse, Thom Ritter George. Directed by Dr. Marc Sackman. Free. 7:30pm. James W. Perry Hall at UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 832-2625.

### Travis Wall's Shaping Sound, After The Curtain October 27

These visual musicians dazzle audiences as they tell the story of a man fighting to find his creative voice after the death of his one true love. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Launch Wisconsin October 17-18

Join over 2,000 attendees and speakers from startup hotbeds in the Midwest and around the world at Wisconsin's premier entrepreneur innovation and startup conference. 9am-7:30pm. Lambeau Field Atrium, Green Bay. 209-1301.

### Wisconsin Food & Wine Experience October 28

Taste, savor and explore the Wisconsin culinary scene. Cooking demonstrations, chef meet & greets and seminars and panels deliver unforgettable experiences for fans, connoisseurs, purveyors and industry personalities. 1-4pm. Lambeau Field Atrium, Green Bay. 431-8400.

### Houdini 10k November 4

This event, starting at Houdini Plaza in Appleton, will support local charities and provide runners of Northeast Wisconsin with "Houdini-esque" start and finish line entertainment. 9am. Downtown Appleton. 955-7463.



### TEDxOshkosh '17 November 4

A program of local events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At this independently organized event, TEDTalks video and live speakers will

combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. Registration required. 8am-6pm. The Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2350.

### Light-Up Night November 10

Fox Cities Building for the Arts, in partnership with Appleton Downtown, Inc., will kick off the holiday season with family fun and a lighting ceremony. Visit The Trout Museum of Art for Festival of Trees. 4:30-6:30pm. Houdini Plaza, Appleton. 733-4089.

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## KNITTED HOPE

In Greek mythology, three women knitting represented destiny. In the present-day Fox Cities, they represent hope. Gwyned Trefethen, Manuela Lornson and Cyndy Hanson — all of Appleton — came together around four months ago to start the Fox Cities chapter of Knitted Knockers, a volunteer group making breast prosthetics for breast cancer survivors.

After a mastectomy or lumpectomy to remove cancerous tissues, survivors must wait eight weeks to use traditional medical prosthetics. "There's this period when you couldn't use anything, and you would have to walk around looking your

post-surgical self," Trefethen says. "Some people are quite comfortable with that, but ... many women, they don't feel comfortable."

Nor do they feel comfortable with conventional prosthetics: they can be hot, heavy, and a financial drain. The group's knitted and crocheted "knockers" offer a light, soft and free alternative — one which fulfills many different needs.

"I find it fascinating hearing

those different stories because this one thing can do one thing for you and something completely different for me," says Lornson. For each woman, the "knockers" can provide mere physical fillers, emotional support, or a renewed sense of confidence. One time, Lornson says, a heartfelt email from a grateful recipient moved her to tears and made her day.

Success stories like these are a common theme for the group. They've made about 75 sets so far, distributed through Fox Valley Hematology & Oncology, Thedacare, Iris Fine Yarns and the Knitted Knockers Facebook page.

While they don't yet meet as a whole organization, those who knit knockers sometimes belong to other knitting groups, such as Knit One, Purl Two or Hooks and Needles. "A lot of people ... carry them with us when we go places so that we can work on them in our spare time," says Hanson. "It feels good, knowing you're doing something for someone [who] really needs them."

To help provide Knitted Knockers, contact the "Knitted Knockers of the Fox Cities" Facebook page. To receive them, visit the Facebook page, stop by Iris Fine Yarns in Appleton, or contact Thedacare or Fox Valley Hematology & Oncology.

— LZ



## Fox Cities Book Festival

This year's Fox Cities Book Festival is back for its 10-year anniversary and better than ever with exciting new authors and venues.

"Our 10th anniversary marks a new chapter for our book festival. This milestone has given us the perfect opportunity to evaluate the festival and plan for the future," says Ashley Thiem-Menning, vice president of the Fox Cities Book Festival board.

The festival, which had previously been held in the spring, will take place October 9–15. Marketing Committee Co-Chair Jill Swenson says the new dates will keep the festival alive all year round, following a model similar to the one that Mile of Music has implemented. The year will be bookended by the two main events — the Fox Cities Book Festival in fall and the collaborative project of the public libraries, Fox Cities Reads, in spring — with other sponsored events in between.



The festival will welcome two new venues this year. The Draw in Appleton will host all of the poetry events throughout the week and 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna will be the northernmost venue in the festival schedule.

Laurie Halse Anderson, bestselling author of "Speak," will host two lectures on October 10, titled "The Power of Speaking Up: The Writing of and Reaction to 'Speak'" and "Censorship in America: Why Are Adults So Afraid of the Real World?"

Other highlights include returning authors Nickolas Butler, Benjamin Percy and Benjamin Ludwig, all of national acclaim. Butler will host two events on October 11 to read from his latest novel, "Hearts of Men." Percy, a writer for DC Comics, will give a crash course on comic writing and hold a reading from his novel "The Dark Net." On October 14, Ludwig will read from his first novel, "Ginny Moon," narrated by a young autistic girl.

"Our goal for the future is to continue to bring people together to celebrate reading, writing, community and partnerships in new and exciting ways," Thiem-Menning says. With all of the exciting new changes in place, they're off to a great start.

For the full schedule of events, visit [foxcitiesbookfestival.com](http://foxcitiesbookfestival.com).

— KM

# What Women really want

One in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. October is **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month** — a timely reminder to make an appointment for your well-woman exam.

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# OCTOBER EXHIBIT RUN DOWN

*Five to catch this month*



## Reginald Baylor

Oct. 11–Nov. 1. Painter Reginald Baylor uses crisp lines, geometry and high-keyed colors to create artworks that are fundamentally about the American dream — what it was and what it's become. Allen Priebe Gallery at UW-Oshkosh. 424-2235.



## Patrick Earl Hammie: Aureole

Through Nov. 19. An Associate Professor in the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Hammie's work focuses on portraits and the human figure. Wriston Art Center Galleries at Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6621.



## Rosa Jimenez

Through Oct. 31. A celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month exhibiting the new creations of Rosa Jimenez. Her paper collage and paintings, full of color and geometric forms, are inspired by her native Mexico. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.



## Man's Best Friend

Oct. 20–Dec. 30. Displaying a range of two- and three-dimensional media, this exhibition celebrates the selfless contribution and unconditional love that pets bring to our modern day lives. Peninsula Art Gallery, Fish Creek. 868-3455.



## The Art of Tablesettings

Oct. 8–Nov. 5. This beloved annual tradition began in 1973 and features 50 different tables inspired by artwork, curated by the community. Rahr-West Art Museum, Manitowoc. 686-3090.



## Fall Color Run/Walk October 7

Enjoy the splendor of fall foliage at Navarino Nature Center in Shiocton at the 2nd annual Fall Color Run/Walk. Runners and walkers will weave through the trails in the heart of the Navarino Wildlife Area. (Since this is a trail run, there may be tree roots, uneven terrain, mud and water, so plan accordingly.) Event

## Festive Fall Runs

*Warm days and cool nights make autumn the perfect time to pound some pavement.*

proceeds support school programs for local elementary and middle schoolers at the Nature Center. The 5K starts at 9am and the 1-mile kid's run starts at 10:30am. Register online at [active.com](http://active.com) or call 715-758-6999 for more information.

## Haunted Chase Race October 14

Run for your life at the 2nd annual Haunted Chase Race, hosted by the City of Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. This unconventional 5K run at Bay Beach Amusement Park is filled with Halloween thrills and frights including zombie actors to provide a little, ahem, motivation along the route. A timed run for serious runners begins at 4pm, a "less scary" family run starts at 5:30pm and the fear-filled Zombie run commences at 7:30pm.

Runners are encouraged to dress in costume and enter the costume contest at the end of the race. For more information, call the Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry department at 448-3365.

## Hot Cider Hustle October 29

This 5K and half marathon is the perfect mash up of all our favorite fall things – crisp air, hot cider and caramel apples. (All of which will be waiting for you at the finish line). The race begins at 8am in Green Bay's Leicht Park and follows the Fox River Trail before winding back to the park. Feel-good bonus: proceeds from the race benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Wisconsin. Call 224-757-5425 for more information or register at [wisconsinruns.com/greenbayhotciderhustle](http://wisconsinruns.com/greenbayhotciderhustle).

For a complete listing of current exhibits and our events calendar, go to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com).

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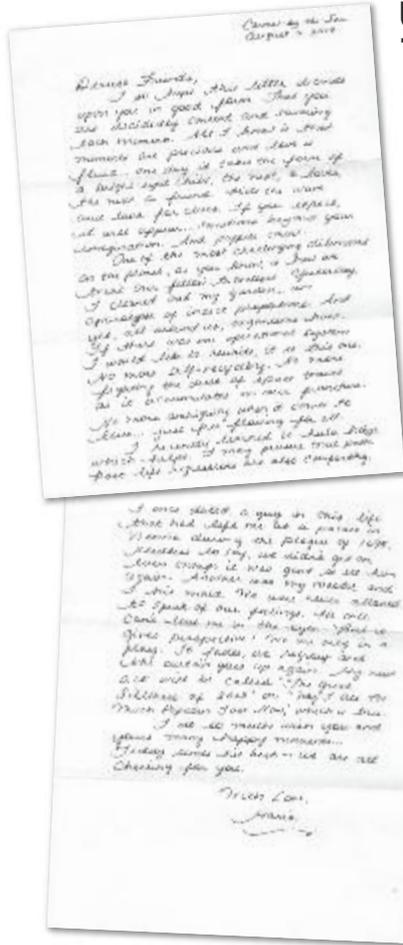
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## UPDATE: The Sundog Letters

In the September issue of FOX CITIES Magazine, we reported that The Sundog Letters, an Appleton-based art project inviting participants to exchange handwritten letters for original art, would accept submissions through the end of the year. This was inaccurate, as there is no deadline in the foreseeable future.

"When the larger group project is revealed then there may be a cut off to meet the deadline, but even so, letters received after will still be read and responded to with care," says the anonymous organizer.

About 15 letters, ranging from a short sentence to six pages in length, have already been submitted.

Letters have come from as far as Georgia, California, and Kentucky with the rest being from Fox Cities residents.

Every letter has received a different response in the form of original art. The painting created in response to the letter shown here was a pastiche of artist Christopher Wool's work, which emphasizes every artistic gesture. After each layer of paint, sections were sanded before another layer of paint was added. This was done multiple times to achieve the finished painting.



Responses could even be in the form of materials intended for the recipient to create their own piece. "We sent a couple packs of professional chalks to a kind lady with two young daughters," the artist says. "In our minds, the gift was the afternoon they could spend together creating their art."

To participate, send handwritten correspondences to:

The Sundog Letters  
P.O. Box 1514  
Appleton, WI 54912

—ACW



## Cheers!

"Hop" on these beer events in the Valley

### Northeast Wisconsin Craft Beer Festival October 7

This year's festival, presented by Festival Foods, will feature over 200 beers from 50 different breweries with unlimited sampling as well as hors d'oeuvres and live bluegrass music from Noah John and Ringing Iron. Green Bay Packers Homebrewing Club will be at the event to share information about making your own beer. 5-9pm. Shopko Hall, Green Bay. 494-3401.

### TASTE! 2017 A Brewfest Event October 13

Fundraiser for St. Gabriel School. Attendees can taste from more than 40 handcrafted brews and a variety of wines, as well as soda and coffee for non-drinkers. If you're looking to complement your beverage, over 25 local food vendors will provide a slew of options. 6-10pm. The Ballroom at The Reserve, Neenah. 722-7796.

### Downtown Appleton Craft Beer Walk October 14

Enjoy Downtown Appleton at this year's Craft Beer Walk where participants will stroll downtown and sample two different beers at each bar or restaurant. Learn more about your favorites from brewery representatives, who will be present at each location to talk about their brewing style and varieties of beer. Register online at [beerwalkwi.com](http://beerwalkwi.com). 3-8pm. Various locations, downtown Appleton.

—KM

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## Morbid Curiosities: 99 Ways to Die

On October 18, visitors to the Neville Public Museum in downtown Green Bay will get a rare opportunity to see the museum's collection of deadly artifacts in a one-night-only event titled "Morbid Curiosities: 99 Ways to Die." The event, with tours at 2 and 6 p.m., will provide museum patrons ages 12 and above with an up-close-and-personal look at these rarely-seen pieces.

"Our collection is 100 years old," explains Neville Curator Lisa Kain. "There are millions of objects back there."

Visitors will see items such as taxidermy made with arsenic and chemicals like asbestos (used for medical purposes in the past) as well as deadly weapons such as knives, sabers, longswords and guns from all different time periods. The museum has taken measures to ensure viewers' safety, keeping more dangerous items behind glass. Kain says the exhibit will feature items from collections worldwide including countries such as Japan and Germany.

This is not your average museum tour – Neville employees like Kain, who wouldn't usually be involved in museum tours, will lead groups through the exhibit and provide special insight into the different objects, even handling ones that are not behind glass. The tour will feature activities for participants like scavenger hunts and art projects, making for an interactive and fun experience. Kain says that the exhibit is "great for a date night, especially around Halloween time."

To register for a tour, visit [nevillepublicmuseum.org](http://nevillepublicmuseum.org).

— KM

## HOMETOWN HISTORY

*Unearth local lore at these events*



### History Happy Hour October 18

From Civil War mustering to civic debate and engagement, our taverns were integral in shaping our county's history. A short historical overview of the Waverly Inn will take place at 6pm. Ages 21+. Donations benefit Manitowoc County Historical Society's Meeme House Inn restoration project. 5:30-6:30pm. Waverly Inn, Two Rivers. 684-4445.



### A Toast to Appleton History October 19

Appleton Historical Society is hosting a craft beer, wine and cheese fundraiser to toast our beautiful and historic city. 6-9pm. The Grand Meridian, Appleton. 540-3699.



### Dinner Program: Good Night Ladies October 26

Dinner is followed by dancing, pantomimes and historic costumes – etiquette and fashion from days gone by. Karen Cowan, Carol Jones and Vivian Tomlinson will unveil the age-old secrets of "feminine mystique." Registration required. 5pm. Neville Public Museum, Green Bay. 448-4460.

## The Power of Story

*with NPR's Ari Shapiro*



**October 14**

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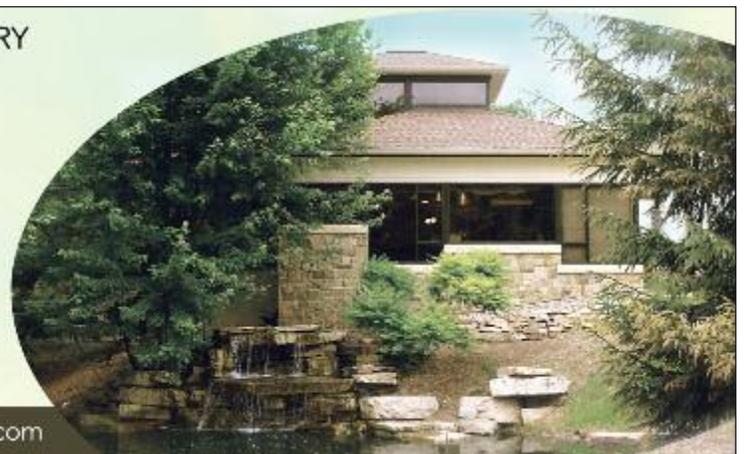
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# FOX CITIES Fall Round Up

By Kate Morton & Amelia Compton Wolff

*Autumn is something to be celebrated in the Fox Cities. We've rounded up all our fall favorites, from festivals to food, in one handy guide to help you have the best cider-sipping, sweater-wearing, pumpkin-carving season yet.*

## Pumpkin King

For at least the last 15 years, local pumpkin carving enthusiasts Kevin Rades and his wife, Sarah, have been delighting young and old with their family pumpkin-carving display at 1225 E. Harding Dr. in Appleton. The family-friendly display, which features dozens of intricately carved and sculpted pumpkins, will be on view October 27–29 from 5–9 p.m. each night. Below, Kevin shares some of his expert pumpkin carving tips:



**Select quality pumpkins.** Rades is loyal to the pumpkins grown at Sunny Hill Farm in Green Bay, but wherever you get yours, he suggests picking pumpkins with at least one smooth side. "If they have lots of bumps and character, they are harder to carve," he says.

**Prep pumpkins well.** When it comes to a successful carving, preparation is key. "All of the prep work that isn't fun is what you need to do to have cool patterns work," Rades says. Take special care to gut and clean the pumpkin thoroughly. Rades says carvers should thin the walls of their pumpkin to

about an inch thick, otherwise saws will have a hard time cutting through. Rades uses an electric drill attachment to thin the walls, but you can also scrape the interior by hand.

**Use a carving pattern.** Leave freehand carving to the experts. Rades recommends selecting a pattern and using a photocopier to size it to your pumpkin. "Everything I carve is from a pattern, so really anybody can do this," he says. "I get a lot of patterns from [zombiepumpkins.com](http://zombiepumpkins.com) for a membership fee." Rades says Pumpkin Master brand patterns are easy for beginners and readily available at local stores.

**Pin and poke.** While there are several different ways to transfer patterns to your pumpkin, Rades swears by the old-school pin-and-poke method. "We pin the patterns onto our pumpkin and then poke tiny holes through the paper, so when carving you just connect the dots," he says. "It's tedious, but it's still the best."

**Practice makes perfect.** Rades puts on his display because he loves the reactions it gets from viewers. He never wants to take carving too seriously and neither should you. "Have fun with it and don't get discouraged if one pattern doesn't work," he says. "Just try another."

—ACW

## SEASONS'S BEST: Farmers Market Edition

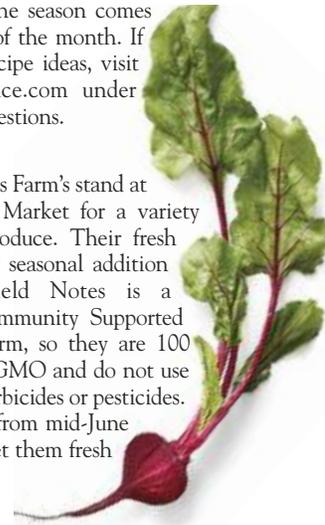
Celebrate the fall harvest at one of the Fox Cities' many farmers markets. Here are some of the best seasonal buys.

### Spinach

Available at Oshkosh and Neenah Farmer's Markets, Green Valley Acres has the best to offer when it comes to greens. Pick up some fresh spinach before the season comes to a close at the end of the month. If you are looking for recipe ideas, visit [greenvalleyacresproduce.com](http://greenvalleyacresproduce.com) under the "farm" tab for suggestions.

### Beets

Stop by Field Notes Farm's stand at the Neenah Farmer's Market for a variety of quality, healthy produce. Their fresh beets make for a tasty seasonal addition to the kitchen. Field Notes is a Certified Organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, so they are 100 percent organic, non-GMO and do not use chemical fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. The beet season runs from mid-June through October, so get them fresh while you can!



### Cauliflower

Visit Jim's Produce, based in Appleton, for tasty, locally-grown cauliflower at the Menasha Farm Fresh Market. The cauliflower season runs from June through October, so pick some up before the last Menasha farmers market on October 26, which will feature trick-or-treating, live music and Halloween activities.

### Fried Apple Pie

For something sweet, head to Yoder's Essen Haus' popular stand at the Downtown Appleton Farm Market and try one of Sylvia and David Yoder's deep-fried hand pies. The Yoders, based in Cecil, make all of their ingredients from scratch to create a delicious, fried apple pie finished off with a homemade glaze.

—KM

## Color Update

According to the official Travel Wisconsin Fall Color Report, this year residents of the Fox Cities can expect to see peak fall color the third week of October. Plamann Park, on Appleton's northside, offers lovely color viewing with 257 acre of hills and trails.

Trot across the Trestle Trail Bridge in Menasha or climb the observation towers at High Cliff State Park in Sherwood and Ledge View Nature Center in Chilton for panoramic views. Looking for a scenic drive? Foliage fiends should skip Highway 41 and try cruising the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago instead.





## FALL TO-DO: Make pumpkin mules

Head to Osorio's Latin Fusion in Appleton for this cocktail that is featured on their special October menu. Co-owner Kimberly Finnell says whipping one up at home is a breeze too. Simply start by filling a copper mule mug with ice. Add 1 1/2 ounces of Revel Stoke pumpkin whiskey, juice from half a lime and 5 ounces Barrett's ginger beer. Finish with two dashes of ground cinnamon, put your feet up and enjoy.

## FIVE FALL MUST-DOS

*Pack up the kids and make a family day of "autumming"*

### 1. Pick pumpkins and apples

Take advantage of the fall harvest and pick your own produce. Peter's Pumpkin Patch in Kaukauna offers pre-picked squash and gourds and their own raw honey as well as pick-your-own pumpkins. Polly's Pumpkin Patch in Chilton is another choice with 50 different kinds of pumpkins and a 15-acre corn maze. Star Orchard in Kaukauna features a pick-your-own apple orchard and pumpkin patch. Along with its orchard, Apple Valley Orchard in De Pere also has a walking trail and animal area with sheep, goats and other farm animals.



### 2. Explore a corn maze

Feeling adventurous? Corn mazes are always a fun experience to take on with friends and family. Meuer Farm in Chilton hosts an annual corn maze for the fall season and also offers hayrides and an activity area for kids. Dairy View Country Store in Sturgeon Bay has a corn maze as well, with three different optional games that involve finding different checkpoints within the



maze for those who want an extra challenge. With a train ride, animals and mini golf as well as a corn maze, Sunny Acres Farm in Oshkosh is another great place to visit.

### 3. Take a stroll through the fall colors

Get some fresh air while taking in the beautiful vibrancy of fall leaves at a local nature preserve or park. Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton has 8.5 miles of scenic trails with two observation towers, perfect for taking in the fall colors from above. Be sure to check out the preserve's Romp in the Autumn Swamp event with hayrides, a trick-or-treat trail,

Halloween-themed activities, face painting and s'mores by the bonfire on October 22 from 3-7 p.m. High Cliff State Park in Sherwood is a popular fall color destination with thick forests and beautiful views of Lake Winnebago. At 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna, hikers will find plenty of wildlife and 240 acres of lush forest and scenic views of the Fox River.

### 4. Go on a hayride

Enjoy the autumn scenery with a hayride, a fall tradition that kids and adults alike will enjoy. Kill two birds with one stone and get a pumpkin from Hidden Stream Farm's patch in Oshkosh along with the ride. Cavanaugh Carriages in Neenah also gives hayrides through the woods and has farm animals and a pumpkin patch, too.

### 5. Take a trip on the Great Pumpkin Train

Take your family to the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay and ride the Great Pumpkin Train to the pumpkin patch to pick out your own pumpkins. The train runs on both Saturday, October 14 and Saturday, October 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. The day will also include music, crafts and games for children of all ages. Visit [nationalrrmuseum.org](http://nationalrrmuseum.org) for more information.



—KM

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## Top Fall Festivals

### Pumpkin Harvest Celebration

Thru October 31

Pick out a free pumpkin (with admission) from Mulberry Lane Farm's 10-acre patch in Hilbert to get into the fall spirit. Don't forget to check out some of the adorable farm animals as well—visitors can milk a cow, cuddle up with kittens and even ride a pony. If it's a colder autumn day, stop by the concessions stand to grab a cup of piping hot apple cider or hot chocolate. Farm hours vary, call 989-3130 to plan your visit.



### Autumn Harvest Fest

October 7

Visit Waupaca's Autumn Harvest Fest on County Road QQ for an interactive, family-friendly day of festivities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees can see the stunning fall colors from the water on boat tours at Harbor Bar or hitch a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch. The fest will also include artist demonstrations including chainsaw carving, craft and food vendors and live music from The Rotten Bros featuring Arian. Be sure to stop by the Amish bakery stand for delicious baked goods, a big hit at the festival. Call 715-412-1423 for details.

### Harvest Fest

October 7

Join Downtown Menasha business owners for the 1st annual Harvest Fest on October 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festively decorated for the season, the day will feature a costumed pet parade, pumpkin pie eating contest, specials at participating businesses, refreshments, live music, in-store demos, caramel apples and give-a-ways. For more info contact Sandi Pufahl of La Belle Maison at 456-9490 or Greg Curtiss of The Wreath Factory at 886-9989.

### Harvest Moon Festival

October 14

Play under the moon at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London during the 15th annual Harvest Moon Festival. See smiling jack-o-lanterns, take a ride on a wagon filled with fresh straw and observe the live critters who visit the center. The evening, which runs 5 to 9 p.m., will be filled with stargazing through telescopes, the Great Pumpkin Walk, learning sessions, games and much more. Snacks and beverages will be for sale. Call 779-6433 for more information.



—KM

## FALL TO-DO:

### Survive a haunted trail walk

With the light of a single lantern, challenge yourself to survive what waits for you in the woods at The Hallows, a haunted trail walk at Neenah's Memorial Park on October 6 and 7 from 7-10 p.m. The event is hosted by Youth Go, Inc., a non-profit youth drop-in center located on the Neenah/Menasha border. Call 722-1435 or visit youthgo.org for more information.



## FALL TO-DO:

### Build a Scarecrow

Join the Neenah Parks & Recreation staff for its annual Build-A-Scarecrow Day on October 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet at Neenah's Riverside Park Pavilion and decorate your own scarecrow with adult clothes and props that you bring from home or pick up from a local thrift store. Frame, twine and straw are provided. Register by calling 886-6060.

## PUMPKIN-FLAVORED EVERYTHING

Must-try local foods featuring the season's most ubiquitous ingredient

### Spice-Infused Pumpkin Gelato

The weather may be cooling, but that won't deter die-hard gelato fans from indulging in a chilly treat, especially when we are talking about the spice-infused pumpkin gelato from The Knotted Cone, Gelato Co. This gelato is made with a combination of pie spices and 100 percent pure pumpkin that is blended and frozen for serving. Another popular fall flavor is the roasted almond chai gelato served with an optional-but-encouraged drizzle of Wisconsin maple syrup. Expect to find The Knotted Cone truck at events throughout the Valley until November. For dates and times, visit [theknottedcone.com/events](http://theknottedcone.com/events).



### Pumpkin Spice Crème Brûlée

Move over, pumpkin spice lattes – this crème brûlée from Rye Restaurant in Appleton might just be the best way to enjoy the flavors of fall. Nick Morse, head chef at Rye, says that this fall favorite incorporates seasonal flavors like clove, ginger and cinnamon. With a smooth, creamy custard and a hard caramel crust, the dessert is garnished with a homemade gingersnap cookie and spiced candied pepitas (pumpkin seeds) to add just the right amount of texture.

### Spicy Pumpkin & Ham Soup (and a pumpkin pie latte)

Fall is undoubtedly soup season and the spicy pumpkin and ham soup at Shellates in Neenah is a great way to kick it off. Owner Shelly Baeten says the soup's spice comes from a little jalapeno that adds a nice heat to the savoriness of the pumpkin. "It is definitely one that people love," Baeten says. "Customers start asking for it by mid-August." Make sure to save room for dessert – Shellattes is well-known for its homemade pumpkin pie latte. "It's not just a bottle of syrup. We make it all homemade with real pumpkin," Baeten says. Just like the soup, the pumpkin pie latte is a seasonal item that is only available during the fall.



▼ It's time to book your holiday party!

**Atlas Waterfront Café** offers space for groups up to 200 guests. "The Gathering Room" makes Atlas the destination for your corporate meetings, team building events, retirement parties, rehearsal dinners, anniversaries, weddings and other private functions. We offer special event menus and a complement of coffee, wine and beer in a relaxing atmosphere with gracious service. 425 W. Water St., Appleton. (920) 734-6871. atlascoffeemill.com.



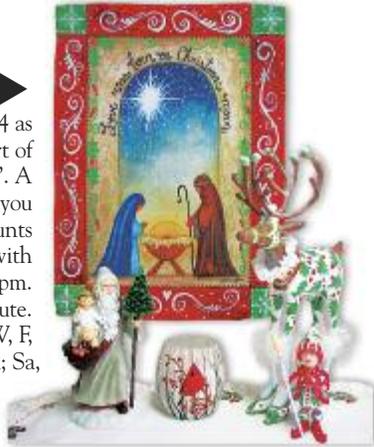
► Your Harvest Home Destination

Stop in at **La Belle Maison**, a full service interior design studio and retail shop, for all your fall and Halloween decor needs! We also feature repurposed vintage furniture, original art and jewelry. **Save the Date – our Holiday Open House is November 3–5!** 220 Main St., Menasha. (920) 456-9490. On Facebook at La Belle Maison LLC-Menasha.



► Christmas Open House

Please join us Saturday, November 4 as we thank our patrons for the support of our effort to be "Builders of Faith". A unique shopping experience awaits you at **The Carpenter**. Special discounts and drawings throughout the day, with a luncheon from 11am to 2pm. 120 E Main St., Little Chute. (920) 788-6978. Store hours: M,W, F, 9am–6pm; Tu & Th, 9am–7pm; Sa, 9am–4pm. Follow us on Facebook @thecarpenterlittlechute.



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► Fall Into Fashion LADIES DAY DOWNTOWN

Those who love food, fashion, and fun, should plan to be at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel on Saturday, October 14 at 9 a.m. For just \$15, you'll enjoy a fashion show, coffee bar and pastries, a SWAG bag, prize drawings and sweet deals offered by local merchants. Visit [appletondowntown.org](http://appletondowntown.org) for details on this and other events year round!

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23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL  
**Golden Fork Awards**

By Laura Zornosa and Amelia Compton Wolff

*Welcome to the 23rd Annual Golden Fork Awards  
(otherwise known as The Oscars of Food in the Fox Cities).*



Upsets abound in this year's reader poll that tips a hat to the best local restaurants, chefs and dishes – long-time winners were ousted and underdogs emerged victorious. Because our readers have big appetites, we added several new categories this year including Best Cheese Curds, Best Craft Cocktail, Best Curry and Best Seasonal Menu. It's a lot to digest.

Head to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) to sound off on this year's results. Stay hungry, friends.

### BEST OVERALL

If there was a big winner in this year's Golden Fork Awards, it was **Houdini's Escape Gastropub in Appleton**. The four-year-old restaurant was voted Best Overall, dethroning Carmella's Italian Bistro which had received the accolade every year since 2010.

Houdini's also picked up Forks for Best Ambiance, Best Salad, Best Waitstaff, Best Happy Hour and Best Appetizer.

"All around the area, restaurants are stepping up their game, it's not just us," says Interim General Manager Justin Stilp. "Our style of food is up and coming. We were one of the first gastropubs in the area, so we set the pace."

Regarding its Best Overall win, Stilp says the entire Houdini's team contributes to its success.

"From managers to dishwashers to hostesses, everyone plays such an important role in making a restaurant great, no one can be overlooked in that," he says.

Overlooked they weren't. Diners voted Houdini's Best Waitstaff, a coveted award each year. Head Server Preston Ferrell says when it comes to service, customization is key.

"We as servers are people readers," he says. "We make sure that we tailor the experience to each table and that the guests get the most out of their visit. I always see new faces, but every night of the week I have a regular I know by name. It's about creating connections."

In addition to service, Houdini's scored points for its atmosphere, winning the Golden Fork for Best Ambiance. Stilp says the restaurant's open kitchen, which was renovated and expanded in 2015, allows guests to experience something new with dinner.

"You can see the flames raising up as the chefs make pasta and see the chefs communicating," he says. "A lot of people don't see that side of a kitchen. It's a show."

If you're looking to sample Houdini's award-winning dishes, Stilp recommends the roasted beet salad or grilled Caesar, two of the best-selling salads on the menu. For appetizers, you can't go wrong with the popular tuna crunch – seared Ahi tuna dredged in a sweet crunch cereal topped with sesame soy glaze.

Make sure to consider the ever-changing menu of daily specials and features, recommends Stilp, as this is often the testing phase for items that may be added to the menu in the future. Chefs are given plenty of creative license, so here you'll find some of the most interesting dishes prepared with seasonal ingredients.

"A lot of times with features, we won't modify them because our chefs take the time to put in that love and each ingredient is a factor to that. Don't be afraid to try goat cheese and potato chips on a burger," Stilp says.



Continued

# 2017 GOLDEN FORK AWARD WINNERS LIST

## BEST OVERALL

**Houdini's Escape Gastropub**  
RUNNER UP: Carmella's Italian Bistro

## BEST NEW RESTAURANT

**M.A.C.S.**  
RUNNER UP: Parker John's Pizza & BBQ

## BEST WORTH THE DRIVE

**Black Otter Supper Club**  
RUNNER UP: Copper State Brewery

## BEST AMBIANCE

**Houdini's Escape Gastropub**  
RUNNER UP: Carmella's Italian Bistro

## BEST WAITSTAFF

**Houdini's Escape Gastropub**  
RUNNER UP: Carmella's Italian Bistro

## BEST APPETIZER

**Houdini's Escape Gastropub**  
RUNNER UP: Greene's Pour House

## MOST VEGETARIAN FRIENDLY

**The Source Public House**  
RUNNER UP: Basil Café

## BEST STEAK

**George's Steakhouse**  
RUNNER UP: Mark's East Side

## BEST SEAFOOD

**Mark's East Side**  
RUNNER UP: Red Ox Seafood & Steakhouse

## BEST FRIED/BROASTED CHICKEN

**Mary's Family Restaurant**  
RUNNERS UP: The Cozy Corner & Van Abel's (tie)

## BEST FISH FRY

**Mark's East Side**  
RUNNER UP: Greene's Pour House

## BEST PIZZA

**Muncheez Pizzeria**  
RUNNER UP: Cranky Pat's

## BEST DESSERT

**SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery**  
RUNNER UP: Town Council Kitchen and Bar

## BEST SALAD ENTRÉE

**Houdini's Escape Gastropub**  
RUNNER UP: SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery

## BEST BURGER

**Home Burger Bar**  
RUNNER UP: Milwaukee Burger Company

## BEST SANDWICH

**All Season's Coffeehouse**  
RUNNER UP: Greene's Pour House

## BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

**SAP Brunch, Brown Bag & Bakery**  
RUNNER UP: WeatherVane

## BEST HOMESTYLE/COMFORT FOOD

**The Cozy Corner**  
RUNNER UP: Mary's Family Restaurant

## BEST DINER/CAFÉ

**Little Diner Xpress**  
RUNNER UP: Third Street Diner

## BEST CURRY

**Sai Ram Indian Cuisine**  
RUNNER UP: Basil Café

## BEST ASIAN FOOD

**Basil Café**  
RUNNER UP: GingeRootz Asian Grille

## BEST SUSHI

**Katsuya**  
RUNNER UP: Island Sushi

## BEST MEXICAN FOOD

**Solea Mexican Grill**  
RUNNER UP: Antojitos Mexicanos

## BEST ETHNIC FOOD

**Sai Ram Indian Cuisine**  
RUNNER UP: Apollon

## BEST CUP OF COFFEE

**Copper Rock Coffee Co.**  
RUNNER UP: Seth's Coffee

## BEST DINE-IN DELI

**New York Deli**  
RUNNER UP: Green Gecko

## BEST LATE NIGHT DINING

**Muncheez Pizzeria**  
RUNNER UP: Sal's Pizza

## BEST BAR & GRILL

**Greene's Pour House**  
RUNNER UP: Home Burger Bar

## BEST SUPPER CLUB

**Mark's East Side**  
RUNNER UP: Red Ox Seafood & Steakhouse

## BEST CRAFT COCKTAIL

**Town Council Kitchen and Bar**  
RUNNER UP: Ambassador

## BEST HAPPY HOUR

**Houdini's Escape Gastropub**  
RUNNER UP: Ground Round

## BEST SEASONAL MENU

**The Source Public House**  
RUNNER UP: Town Council Kitchen and Bar

## BEST CHEESE CURDS

**Milwaukee Burger Company**  
RUNNER UP: The Source Public House

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Owner Eric Jacobson says the restaurant is committed to sourcing as much as they can locally, including produce from the Downtown Appleton Farmers Market as well as their own garden, Wisconsin-brewed beer and recently they even began raising their own beef cattle.

"We're grazing them right now, trying to fatten them up," Jacobson says. "We are constantly trying to raise the bar – the quality of service, quality of the product, the atmosphere, all of it."

—ACW



### BEST NEW RESTAURANT

A Wisconsin childhood consists of a few things: wobbling sausage races, Halloween costumes over snow suits, and warm macaroni and cheese. Nick and Jackie Morse's **Macaroni and Cheese Shop**, or M.A.C.S., aims to embody the familiar comfort of mac and cheese — first in the Wisconsin Dells and now in Appleton.

M.A.C.S. opened its doors in the Fox Valley almost a year ago, when it brought its "fast casual" hot skillet to County Road KK. Nick Morse never tires of his signature dish. "It's not just plain mac and cheese," he says. "Our staff puts in a lot of heart and soul into the prep and cooking techniques, following recipes, and keeping up standards."

A lot more goes into each toast-topped pan than mere macaroni. While Morse's favorite Popeye Mac features grilled onion, mushroom, spinach and provolone, the Original Mac contains a rich family history.

The house recipe was "passed down through a generational recipe that family members have used," Morse says. "It's ... pretty much the heart and soul of the restaurant."

Culinary juices run through Nick and Jackie's veins: both sides of the family own and operate restaurants. M.A.C.S.' rustic hardwood and brick allows them to explore these familiar foods in fresh ways.

Customers may be well-versed in the popular Chicken Bacon Ranch Mac's toppings, but – as Nick puts it – "when they actually try it, they see how the flavor profile mixes together and they actually taste the chicken and the bacon that we're cooking in house and hand-cutting and seasoning ourselves with our staff."

Nothing sits in a food warmer, and as much cooking as possible is done from scratch. If comfort food were a place, Morse says, it would be here.

"I think it feels just like the dishes you're getting in front of you: it's comfort," he says. "I think it encompasses that: the enjoyment, the comfort, and... the down-home Wisconsin feel to it."

—LZ

Continued

## BEST BURGER

**Home Burger Bar** is a family restaurant in more ways than one. For Mandy Greg, owner and operator with her own family, running the College Avenue business isn't too tough; it's just like having people over for dinner.

There is one small twist, however: Home Burger Bar is known for its monthly specialty items (from the peanut butter, banana, barbeque PB Nana-Q to the ham and mango pineapple salsa Hawaii 920) and creative sandwiches. "You've just got to try it, at least once," Greg says. "And then we have customers that are going right down the list. They want to try one of everything."

On one side of the patty, the Signature Home Burgers span a wide variety. On the other, the meat of the bar and grill

is in its hamburgers alone. "If you're going to do something, you want to be good at it," Greg says. "That's why we scaled down our menu to have just burgers."

It was just those burgers that propelled Home Burger Bar from its local roots to internet fame. An April Fool's prank began with the family recreating "Bob's Burgers" and ended with 95 thousand Reddit upvotes, showcasing the staff's personality. "We always get that it's just so welcoming and comforting in here, and I'm like, 'We're just being ourselves,'" Greg says. "I think it's awesome that we don't have to try, and that they feel that."

The small, tight knit staff lends itself to this authenticity, as do the light fixtures built from Wisconsin license plates. "When I named this 'Home,' it doesn't mean like this is your home," Greg says. "It's meant in the way that Wisconsin is our home ... Everything that we love in Wisconsin is in here."

—LZ

## Best Worth the (25-minute) Drive

*"I voted for **Black Otter Supper Club** because they have an incredible salad bar, lots of fresh options, as well as an amazing steak and fish menu on Fridays. Definitely worth the trip to Hortonville for a steak that is not only huge, but always cooked to perfection."*

— Bailey Rusch, Appleton

## New Category: Best Craft Cocktail

If you aren't versed in the world of mixology (and even if you are), reading through the cocktail lineup at **Town Council Kitchen and Bar** in Neenah may prompt some Google searches. Zucca Rabarbaro? Cara Cara? Boomsma Cloosterbitter? These ingredients all exist and can be found behind the bar at Town Council, which won the first Golden Fork ever awarded for Best Craft Cocktail.

General Manager Sean Hathaway Casey approaches his cocktail program as both a science and an art. The restaurant,

which won the Golden Fork for Best New Restaurant in 2016, has stood out for putting its unique fingerprint on classic drinks. Two that proved so popular they were put on tap are the Charctails Garden Gimlet made with cilantro-infused gin and the TCKB Old Fashioned.



The Old Fashioned includes both brandy and bourbon, fernet branca and

aromatic bitters. Order it sweet and it will be seasoned with citrus oleo saccharum (a sweet, citrusy mixture that translates to "oil sugar"). Apple cider vinegar is used in sour preparations. "It's by no means the old fashioned you get in New York or down the street, it's the one you will only get here," Hathaway Casey says.

Imbibers have about a dozen specialty cocktails to choose from at Town Council, including a daily featured drink, the two draft cocktails mentioned above and an ever-changing lineup of menu creations that highlight house-made infusions, syrups and shrubs (vinegar-based syrups made with fruit, sugar and other ingredients). This fall, Hathaway Casey says the menu will include a new light and herbal dry sherry cocktail with green tea. A new spin on the gin sour will replace the whiskey sour.

Constructing these kinds of cocktails takes time, so Hathaway Casey has a recommendation – double down and order a cocktail and beer up front.

"I always order a cocktail with a beer on the side, so by the time that first cocktail's gone I still have a beer to nurse while the next one is coming along," he explains. "I wish more people would do that. Come in here, order a beer and a cocktail right away and just get after it."

—ACW

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## Q & A: Liza Sterletske

General manager, Milwaukee Burger Co.  
(winner of Best Cheese Curds)

### How does it feel to have won "Best Cheese Curds?"

*We're very excited about that. One thing that we've become really, really famous for is our cheese curds, so ... we're excited about it, but it's not a surprise, because we have such a loyal following ... We love the idea of overindulgent dining, and we do everything from scratch in the restaurant. We hand-patty our burgers, we make all our own sauces, we buy very high-quality products, so I'm very proud of the fact that we are a non-processed type of restaurant.*

### What is your most popular dish here?

*We have two burgers on the menu that are our most popular items: we have a Cheese Curd Burger that has two of the same cheese curds actually on the burger, inside the bun, and we have a Hickory Smoked Barbecue Cheddar Burger; they're both very, very good ... Big and bold is important to us. This isn't necessarily the restaurant to come to if you're on a diet or looking to be healthy. This is the*



*restaurant to come into when you just wanna throw caution to the wind and be about what Wisconsin is about.*

### How would you describe the atmosphere at Milwaukee Burger Company?

*We do a lot of cool sports events and we've become a craft beer destination, but what I love about the restaurant is I have a really fun team. You wouldn't be surprised to see my staff singing and dancing in the restaurant ... We want you to have fun when you're here. It's so important in this day and age to get back to the roots of what we eat ... I use the expression when I go to tables all the time: 'It looks like you have that I-hit-a-wall-face,' because our food is that indulgent where I can tell right away when they need boxes. And that's what I love about it.*

—LZ

## BEST DINER/CAFÉ



The sunflower oil Little Diner Xpress sizzles in costs this American restaurant three times more than cheaper, traditional oils. Customers don't notice the difference, says co-owner Rod Bergman, but the team feels better serving healthier foods.

"This is the focus that we're directing our business toward: we want to have as much organic product as we can," he says. "Our philosophy is to give people the best for the most reasonable cost."

The Appleton restaurant's grocery list reveals ingredients sourced close to home: organic coffee from Milwaukee, farm-fresh eggs from Humpty Dumpty Eggs

in Reedsville, local dairy from Modern Dairy in Kaukauna. Yet decadent breakfast foods like cherry-stuffed French toast maintain the traditional diner fare and feel.

"I don't know if you remember the old TV show 'Cheers' years ago," Bergman says. "When somebody would walk [into] the bar, which was on this TV show, they would all call out their name. It's kind of like that."

Like the fictional bar, Little Diner Xpress focuses all its attention on one location alone, all the better to foster a cozy vibe. One 24-hour location creates work enough for now, from the breakfast crowd to the "bar rush" late at night.

"It's difficult always being on call — when you have a 24-hour business and you don't have a large management staff," Bergman says. "Our phone can ring at any hour, and we have to be prepared for that. ... But it works out well because of our people."

The staff moves in an endless dance among the booths; no mug is left unfilled. They're the "front line" here, and epitomize the diner's focus on each customer.

"We value every single person that works for us," Bergman says. "Every single person, regardless of what they do; if it's a bus person, a server, a cook; we have a maintenance guy [who] comes in and does cleaning. It's all important."

Continued

### Best Fried/Broasted Chicken

*"Mary's Family Restaurant has always been a go-to place for homestyle cooking and comfort food, good menu selection and friendly service. Their broasted chicken dinner and their chicken and dumpling soup is the best I have ever had. In fact, any time someone is sick in our family the first request is for Mary's chicken and dumpling soup!"*

— Tracy Schwartz, Grand Chute

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## Q & A: Nicole DeFranza

Co-Owner, SAP (winner of Best Dessert and Best Breakfast/Brunch) and Carmella's Italian Bistro

In your opinion, what makes SAP's breakfast award-winning?

*I think our success for breakfast is rooted in our quest to use the best possible ingredients, sourced locally when possible.*



*I believe our guests not only love our food and abundant choices (breakfast, lunch and dinner all day), but also appreciate our staff who are always smiling and continuing our mission to give every guest the best possible experience. This can only happen when our front of house and back of house are*

*working together and providing the support each needs to thrive. Both [co-owner] Kristen and I are in awe of the amazing teams that work so hard at SAP and Carmella's. We would not be who we are without them!*

What makes SAP's desserts special?

*I think what strikes me the most is how beautiful and colorful the dessert cases always look, very reminiscent of those I was in awe of during my travels throughout Europe. I think it's safe to say that Kari Mueller is one of the best pastry chefs in the state, and we are so lucky to watch her hard at work every day and to enjoy the fruits of her labor. The demand from our guests for her delicious creations keeps her so busy that she now has a team of pastry chefs, all of whom have blossomed under her leadership. She weaves the most unique flavors together in a way that lets the ingredients shine. Never too sweet, just honest and pure.*

Any knockout desserts that people have to try?

*Part of what's great about Kari is her quest for something new and different, but if you get the chance, you absolutely must try her lemon meringue tarts or her carrot cupcakes with cream cheese icing — two of my personal favorites.*

—ACW

## BEST SANDWICH

It's all made from scratch at **All Seasons Coffeehouse**, from drinks and eats to its bright energy of a summer street.

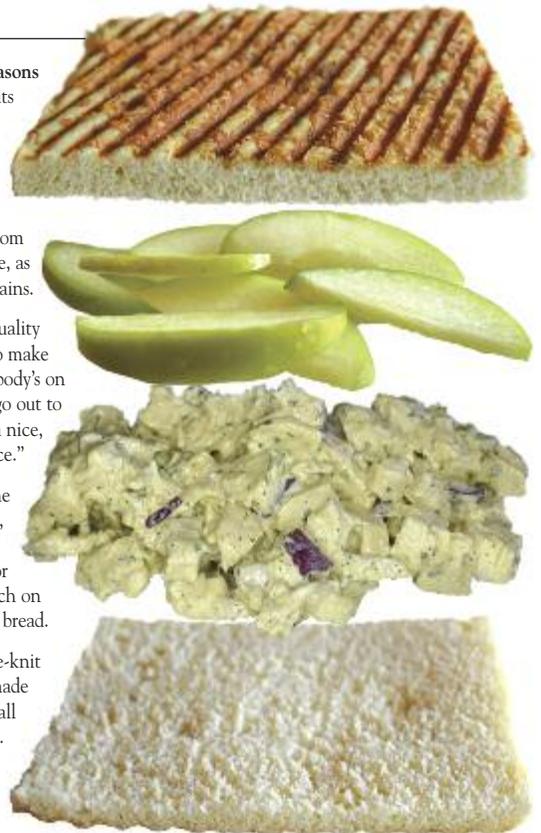
Chatter flows through this mom-and-pop business like coffee, as lunch dates rub elbows with solo workers and one-on-one meetings. There is room for everyone - and their budget - here, as owner Liz Stuck explains.

"I just feel like we really have good quality for a good price, and I really wanted to make sure we did that because I know everybody's on tight budgets," she says. "It's a treat to go out to lunch, and I wanted people to have a nice, hearty sandwich for a good price."

Known for its coffee and hospitality, the restaurant features a range of soups, sandwiches and salads as well. Customers return "again and again" for its Pesto Chicken Salad Sandwich on homemade focaccia bread.

The coffeehouse is a paradox: a close-knit establishment dedicated to products made in-house, with the variety and flavor of all the seasons.

—LZ



Pesto Chicken Salad Sandwich

## How We Roll: Best Sushi

Sushi can quickly make either friends or foes – raw fish seems to be a polarizing food, go figure. But at **Katsuya of Japan** in downtown Appleton, even the most sushi-skeptical will be baited by the restaurant's commitment to freshness and flavor. "Katsuya always has the freshest ingredients that I can trust when it comes to anything related to seafood," says Calvin Klapa of Darboy, who voted for Katsuya, helping the restaurant secure the Golden Fork for Best Sushi. "A hidden gem that is no longer on the menu, but is still the absolute best is the Dancing Nakashima." This deep fried nakashima roll is available to those who know to ask for it (wink wink). Matt Lind of Appleton advocates for Katsuya's new style sashimi that features seared tuna topped with mango salsa and citrus sauce. "Katsuya is my favorite place for sushi because the fish is very fresh and top quality," he says. "Their tuna tataki with mango salsa is incredible. I order it every time I visit."



—ACW

## BEST CUP OF COFFEE

The perfect cup of coffee is to Bill Heiges as Moby Dick was to Captain Ahab.

"It's something that we're always in search of—that perfect cup," says Heiges, who heads roasting operations for Copper Rock Coffee Company in downtown Appleton. "Coffee is constantly changing. Our attitude is you're never going to be perfect, but you're always in pursuit of it."

**Copper Rock Coffee Co.**, winner of the Golden Fork for Best Cup of Coffee, has been a staple of downtown Appleton for nearly 15 years and has been roasting beans in-house for the past 10. With a second location on Appleton's Northside and a third inside Copper State Brewery in Green Bay, coffee lovers throughout Northeast Wisconsin don't have to search hard for their favorite cup.

To help in his pursuit of the perfect cup, Heiges has assembled a cupping team made up of employees, customers and colleagues who conduct blind tastings and scorings of each roast. "We grade the coffee and compare notes and see what we like the best," he says. The coffees that make the cut are served up to Copper Rock customers.

Heiges owns the coffee empire and roastery with his wife, Emily, and this fall the Heiges are making a significant investment in their roasting operations. Three years ago they purchased a legendary vintage German coffee roaster and spent the last two years rebuilding it using original parts but adding new motors, bearings and controls. Heiges says this new roaster will provide time-tested quality with modern day convenience and will increase roasting control

for a more nuanced product.

While coffee is certainly at the forefront of the business, Brandt Swardenski of Neenah says the personal service keeps him coming back. "A quality cup of coffee is more than the roast of the beans. It is the entire experience the makes the brew," he says. "I could brew coffee at home, but starting my day with Copper Rock provides more than caffeine, but a foundation of human kindness and beauty to begin my day."



—ACW

## New Category: Best Curry

It all started with an undying love for biryani, an Indian dish made with rice, spices and meat.

"Eleven years ago when I came from India, the first thing I Googled was 'Where do I find biryani?' and I came directly from the airport [to Sai Ram] to eat," says Siva Rajarathinam, whose wife Priya Sivakumar now owns the restaurant which first opened its doors in 1999.

Rajarathinam had no way of knowing his future when he made that fateful Google search 11 years ago, but Fox Valley diners are sure glad it turned out the way it did – they awarded **Sai Ram Indian Cuisine** Golden Forks for Best Curry and Best Ethnic Cuisine.



Sivakumar took ownership of the restaurant two years ago when the original owners decided to retire. Since then, the family has been

working diligently to uphold the quality and flavor that diners had grown accustomed to over the past two decades.

## BEST HOMESTYLE/COMFORT FOOD

When a restaurant's social media hashtag is #cozylove, it tells you something about the kind of joint it is. **The Cozy Corner** has been serving up helpings of #cozylove to customers since it opened in Appleton in 2012, so it's no wonder the restaurant snagged the first place fork for Best Homestyle/Comfort Food.

"I think it reminds people of home. It reminds people of their grandparents and mothers and their good, old comfort food," says Owner Natasha Banks of her restaurant, which serves Southern food and barbecue with blues music on the side. For the true comfort food experience, Banks recommends the fried chicken, collard greens or red beans and rice (or all of the above). "The flavors are unique and unexpected, and the red beans have a little kick to them," she says.

## Best Asian Food

*"The menu at Basil Café features some of the best flavor combinations I have ever tried. Regardless of the appetizer, entrée or dessert, one most certainly enjoys a unique and authentic meal. I've expanded my food horizons and each thing I order is my new favorite dish."*

— Amanda Cihak, Appleton

"We make fresh food. We don't keep anything heated," Rajarathinam says. "We make it all fresh no matter how hard it is. That's the secret."

Preparing dishes the authentic way and never compromising on quality keeps the restaurant on the top of its game.

"We use the best products and don't worry about the money," Rajarathinam says. "We think about the food, that's our satisfaction. I don't feel like it's a business."

For those new to Indian cuisine, Rajarathinam recommends letting the manager know and they will be happy to make suggestions and answer questions. Rajarathinam says you can't go wrong by ordering either of the two top-rated dishes – chicken makhani or navaratan korma – and, of course, the biryani.

—ACW

As of August 10, there's been twice as much Cozy love going around. That's when Banks opened a second location in Kaukauna. She says requests from Kaukauna residents prompted her to open the second store. "We saw it as a good opportunity to spread out and serve more customers," Banks says. The Kaukauna location has the same soulful vibe and menu as the flagship store, but operates different hours. (Cozy Corner Kaukauna is open Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Banks says the reception both restaurants have received from the community is nothing short of heartwarming. "We are truly grateful for the love we receive from our Appleton and Kaukauna customers," she says.

—ACW

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## ASK CHEF JEFF

Have a culinary question for Chef Jeff? Go to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) and click Community Chat.

**Q.** What cuts of meat benefit the most from braising? Any general braising tips? —Colby, Little Chute



**A.** Braising is a combination cooking method that utilizes both dry and moist cooking methods on tough pieces of meat. Tough cuts come from the part of animals that move a lot like shoulders and legs. The term “braising” is generally applied to large pieces of meat in the same way that the term stewing is applied to small pieces of meat. Both processes use dry heat first to brown the meat by searing the outside and developing flavor by creating a deep brown exterior. Then flavorful broth or stock is added to cover the meat and cooked under medium-low moist heat to slowly break down the muscles over several hours until they become fork tender and ready to enjoy. Two important things to remember when braising include flavor development and technique. The browning process (known as the maillard reaction) is important to develop that rich umami flavor of seared meat and can only be achieved with dry heat. Once liquid is added, browning can no longer occur. The flavor components of the liquid are also really important as they will definitely influence the finished product. The stock or broth, as well as the vegetables, herbs and spices all have a tremendous impact on the finished product.

► To read more from Chef Jeff and get his recipes, go to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) and click on columns.

Chef Jeff Igel is Program Director of Culinary Outreach at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. “Chef Jeff” has spent his entire career in the restaurant and hospitality industry, serving in many capacities.



### Best Dine-In Deli

*“I voted for New York Deli for the Best Dine-In Deli because I love their sandwiches. My favorite is the ham panini. Hubby loves the Reuben. I like the atmosphere as well. Great customer service!”*

— Gay Curtiss, Appleton

### BEST MEXICAN CUISINE

Aside from the food of his Mexican hometown, Eduardo Sanchez’ most memorable meals are those eaten at his mother’s home every Sunday. Sanchez owns and operates Solea Mexican Grill, with locations in Neenah, Menasha and Appleton, where his team works hard to treat each guest like family.

“When they ask me: ‘where do I work?’, I say I work in the hospitality business,” Sanchez says. “Food is a little part of the whole business.”

In addition to the quality of the food — like Sanchez’ favorite huachinango alcaparrado, or red snapper with capers — proper service is key to success. Hospitality and community involvement go “de la mano” (hand in hand) here.



“We do a lot for the community, because we believe —and when I say ‘we,’ I’m talking about my employees and myself—we believe that we’re here because of them,” Sanchez says.

The vibrant hues of Solea’s interior—warm red walls and ceilings embellished by bright limes and marigold suns, draw visitors in like the Veracruz port. The staff chat in Spanish, breaking off to welcome customers.

“Everyone who walks through the door, we know them very well ... It’s not another customer for us; it’s like a guest, like family,” Sanchez says. “My employees always hug people, always shake hands, always smile. We go above and beyond what people expect, that’s what we try to do.”

—LZ

### New Category: Best Seasonal Menu

Maintaining a seasonal menu is no easy task for Drew Steinke, chef at The Source Public House in Menasha. It requires flexibility, creativity and adaptability.

“The menu changes about five to six times a year. It’s really hard because it depends on what’s coming in and out of season and the growing season in Wisconsin is short,” Steinke says. “I have to play it by ear and create the menus around that.”



It seems the extra effort has paid off for the restaurant which picked up first place Forks for Best Seasonal Menu and Most Vegetarian Friendly. During the summer season, Steinke sources produce from half a dozen local farms. The restaurant’s kitchen-side garden, with vegetables like cucumbers, tomatoes, herbs and salad greens, supplements what he procures from local growers.

“I don’t want to order frozen vegetables that you just throw in the microwave. That’s not why I started doing this,” Steinke says. “I don’t even have a walk-in freezer. Some people at home have more freezer space than I do at work. We’re not your normal restaurant.”

With each menu change, about 80 percent of the offerings get a shake up, but diners can always count on several vegan and vegetarian dishes. A couple favorites are the harvest pasta where spiraled zucchini serves as fettuccini and the BBQ sweet potato sandwich with vegan coleslaw on a pretzel bun.

“People think of vegan and vegetarian food as being bland and unflavorful, but it’s all about how you season it and cook it,” Steinke says. “It’s a very small portion of the population that we’re catering to, but at the same time it’s taken off like crazy.”

The Source’s commitment to local products and sustainable practices is appreciated by consumers and inspiring to employees like Steinke, who joined the team in 2016.

“This industry can beat you up, but cooking here brought me back to how I felt when I first started,” he says. “This place got me to start love cooking food again.”

—ACW



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### The Appleton Street Sports Bar & Grill

124 N. Appleton St., Appleton 731-8885  
At Appleton Street Sports Bar & Grill you'll find appetizers, salads, gourmet burgers, made-from-scratch pizza and more. For Friday fish lovers there's pan-fried walleye, haddock, perch and panko crusted shrimp served with your choice of side. Try the blackened salmon or haddock with a side of steamed garlic broccoli or roasted root veggies for a healthy option. We source locally from The Meat Block, Quaker Bakery, Laack's Cheese and more. Ask about our private party room with fireplace. Official Wisconsin Badgers Alumni venue! Open Tu-Sa, 11am. Happy hour daily 3-6pm; Fr, 1-6pm.

### Carmella's: an Italian Bistro

716 N. Casaloma Dr., Appleton 882-4044  
Experience authentic Italian cuisine in a European-style setting with a lively atmosphere and knowledgeable, welcoming staff. Select from pastas, entrées, appetizers, salads and sandwiches any time of day. Our divine desserts are all made in-house by our pastry chef. During warmer months, our secluded patio offers an al fresco dining experience unlike any other. We also offer a private dining area for small groups, and off-site catering. Winner of six 2016 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards, including Best Overall. Hours: Su, Tu-Th, 11am-9pm; F & Sa, 11am-10pm. Reservations accepted for parties of six or more. [carmellastbistro.com](http://carmellastbistro.com).

### Christiano's Real Italian Brick Oven Pizza

1964 S. Koeller St., Oshkosh 891-7100  
W1917 State Hwy 23, Green Lake 294-3200  
200 W. Main St., Wautoma 787-7262  
Old-world techniques combined with modern flavors ensure quality and taste is always fresh at Christiano's. Stop by for delicious Italian cuisine including specialty pizza, pasta, sandwiches, calzones and gelato. Our bread and pizza dough is prepared fresh every day and our pizza sauce is made from tomatoes canned within six hours of being picked from the vine. With our many options and a kids menu to boot, we have something for everyone. Come in M-Sa, 11am-10pm, call at 891-7100 or order online at [christianospizza.com](http://christianospizza.com).

### Debé Cheesecake and Corporate Catering

[debecheesecake.com](http://debecheesecake.com) 720-5400  
Home of "Lunch in the Little Red Box" – the Valley's finest box lunch! Debé Cheesecake and Catering is committed to bringing you exceptional food. Made with quality ingredients. Our sauces are made fresh in our kitchen with no extra additives. Our breads and desserts are baked fresh daily. With your first bite, you will know it was worth the extra effort! Email: [debecheesecake@gmail.com](mailto:debecheesecake@gmail.com).

### GingerRootz Asian Grille

2920 N. Ballard Road, Appleton 738-9688  
Discover how the finest ingredients come together to create a new world of flavor. Stop in for lunch or dinner in our contemporary dining area, or relax in the lounge with a drink from our full service bar. Have a special event on the horizon? From business meetings to

birthdays, our private banquet room will spice up any party. We also offer off-premise catering for parties of all occasions. Our cozy patio will be open as weather permits. Open daily 11am-9:30pm. Offering complimentary appetizers during Bar Happy Hour: 4-7pm, Su-Th; after 8:30pm, F & Sa. Daily Dining Happy Hour specials 3-5pm. [gingerrootz.com](http://gingerrootz.com).

### Houdini's Escape Gastropub

1216 S. Oneida St., Appleton 574-2616  
From the beautiful brick patio with glowing fire tables, to the spotless open concept kitchen, Houdini's offers a magical dining experience unlike anywhere in the Fox Valley. A selection of more than 160 local, craft and microbrew beers, and a rotating wine list complement our seasonal food offerings and daily chef's specials. Unexpected menu items aren't the only things mesmerizing guests—enjoy a special plated brunch menu on Sundays or sip on a craft cocktail while watching the chefs work their magic. Open M-Sa at 11am, Su at 9am. [houdiniescape.com](http://houdiniescape.com).

### IL Angolo Restò-Bar

201 N. Appleton St., Appleton 993-8811  
To enjoy original gastronomy from France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Egypt and Morocco, IL Angolo is the ideal place to celebrate the Mediterranean feast, creating for you the most diverse and original dishes prepared with recipes of each region, specializing in high-grade cuts and the freshest catch of the day, prepared with the best selection of local herbs and spices, fresh produce from the local farmer's market, as well as imported ingredients and artisan products. M-Sa, 5-10pm. [ilangolo-appleton.com](http://ilangolo-appleton.com).

### Island Sushi

N162 Eisenhower Dr., Appleton 993-2222  
Island Sushi is home to the only floating sushi bar in the Fox Cities. Select unlimited plates from boats in the "sushi moat" as they float by as well as custom order your favorites from the chef. Perfect for diners who wish to try several types of sushi, our endless variety of raw and cooked rolls plus other specialty items will keep you snagging plates all day or night. Sip a craft cocktail at our adjacent bar where you can also enjoy à la carte made-to-order sushi rolls. Open M-Sa, 12pm-9pm; Private parties available on Sundays.

### Mr. Brews Taphouse

201 S. RiverHeath Way, Appleton 815-3516  
Nestled along the Fox River, offering spectacular water and wildlife viewing, Mr. Brews Taphouse features 48 tap craft beers and a selection of wines to accompany our gourmet burgers and fresh cut fries/chips. We also offer chicken, turkey burgers and vegetarian options, as well as salads and a kids menu. Check out our website and find us on Facebook for upcoming events. Reserve our mezzanine for your next gathering. Join us for happy hour M-F, 3-6pm. Open Su-Th, 11am-11pm; F-Sa 11am-midnight. Connect with us on Untappd for our current beer selections! [mrbrewstaphouse.com](http://mrbrewstaphouse.com).

### Pisco Mar

528 W College Ave, Appleton 221-3346  
Nestled in the heart of downtown Appleton, Pisco Mar offers a warm, relaxed atmosphere that balances sophisticated gastronomy with friendly service. Enjoy our unique twist of flavors with a selection of entrées from the sea and signature steak dishes, including excellent wines to pair with your dinner. We have a spacious bar and comfortable lounges for your special occasion. Parking is available at the back of Flanagan's parking lot. M-Th, 5-9pm; F & Sa, 5-10pm. Su, closed. [piscomarappleton.com](http://piscomarappleton.com).

### Sai Ram Indian Cuisine

253 W. Northland Ave., Appleton 733-3003  
One of the finest Authentic Indian restaurant in the Midwest and winner of 16 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards. We offer a menu of options from Vegetarian and Vegan to chicken, Lamb, Seafood and Beef. All dishes are prepared fresh to suit your taste. We also offer variety of best Indian appetizers, famous Tandoori and Biryani Dishes. Lunch: M-Sa, 11am-2pm. Dinner: M-Sa, 4:30-9pm. [sairamcuisine.com](http://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 the 2017 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards for Best Breakfast/Brunch and Best Dessert. Tu-Su, 8am-8pm. [sapbrunch.com](http://sapbrunch.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](http://vincelombardisteakhouse.com).

### Zuppas – Market, Café & Catering

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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](http://zuppas.com) for daily specials.

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# OUT ON THE TILES

By Amelia Compton Wolff

*Liven up your living space with the latest tile trends*



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## HOLDING PATTERN

From arabesque to houndstooth to plaid, patterned tiles have proven to be one of the year's most popular trends with boldly patterned floors leading the pack. With a heightened interest in craftsmanship, patterned tiles with a little worn texture create old-world, handmade charm while still feeling current. Global-inspired patterns are also popular and can be seen in the Havana Collection Deco Mix from Paramount Flooring, carried at Total Floor Covering in Appleton. This collection mimics the cement tiles that line the patios, walkways and walls of Cuba. Patterns range from Spanish-inspired to art nouveau to art deco. Rachel Johnson, interior designer at Total Floor Covering in Appleton, says this tile can be used in both indoor and outdoor applications, but looks especially good in foyers.

1. *Paramount Flooring Old Havana Mix at Total Floor Covering.*

## PIECE BY PIECE

Mosaic tile adds drama to an array of spaces. This diamond-patterned tile by Rhyme Mosaics is in one of the year's hottest colors—gold—and mixes smooth tiles with textured ones for extra depth. The tiles are made with a blend of marble dust and resin that creates the unique surface definition. "This is the jewelry," says Jim Marquardt, showroom manager at ANN SACKS in Kohler. "It brings that little bit of bling and shine to anything you want to do." Marquardt says mosaics work great as an accent mixed with other tiles or go big by creating a powder room statement wall.

2. *Rhyme Micro Diamond in Oro at ANN SACKS.*

## DARK THOUGHTS

"People are channeling their darker side with black tile," says Cali Basten, a sales associate and designer at The Tile & Stone Gallery in De Pere. Designers are loving the sophisticated look of a matte black hexagon tile floor with black grout or black-on-black tile fireplace surrounds and kitchen backsplashes. If an all-black floor seems intimidating, you can still get in on the trend by choosing tile patterned with black as well as other shades. Basten says AKDO's Passage Revival tile is popular with her clients. The ANN SACKS Scribe collection of water jet mosaics have been etched to create a whimsical surface texture. The Flame pattern in Nero captures the essence of an overall dark tile in a trendy herringbone pattern.

3. *AKDO Passage Revival tile at Tile & Stone Gallery*
4. *Scribe Flame in Nero at ANN SACKS.*

## GEOMETRY CLASS

Create a dramatic accent wall or statement floor with geometric shapes and lines. ARTO's 6-inch hexagon in Normandy Cream achieves the look of an urban loft but in an unexpected pattern. While the shape du jour is certainly the hexagon, overall trends are favoring geometric patterns, like AKDO's newest marble mosaic collection, Luminous. Luminous's Beam pattern can be rearranged to create several patterns including chevron, square and a diagonal stripe. Johnson says adding a little color to a geometric pattern can enhance it even more. "Teal adds a nice pop of color and greens add color while acting as a neutral," she says. The art deco-inspired Paire Strobe tile in Verde from ANN SACKS features sophisticated jade stone with a decorative brass inlay.

5. *AKDO Luminous Beam in Calacatta with Gold at Tile & Stone Gallery.*
6. *ARTO 6" Hexagon in Normandy Cream at Tile & Stone Gallery.*
7. *Paire Strobe in Verde at ANN SACKS.*

## MADE WITH LOVE

Tiles made by hand (or made to look that way) provide an organic, effortlessly cool appeal. "A handmade tile may have more texture to the face of it without perfect edges," says Caitlyn Vanboxel, interior designer at The Tile & Stone Gallery in De Pere. "It gives you a much higher-end look while adding depth and interest." Marquardt suggests the Gem Collection by Kelly Wearstler for a handcrafted tile with an unexpected pattern that captures the nonconformity found in nature.

8. *Gem Elope by Kelly Wearstler in Azure at ANN SACKS.*

## LIVING LARGE

When it comes to tile, bigger is better. "Tiles in 12x12 are so far gone," Vanboxel says. "Everything is 12x24 or 16x16 or more unique shapes and sizes." Oversize hexagons are particularly popular. "A lot of people are used to the classic, small hexagon tile floor, but the past few months the trend has been a 6- to 8-inch hexagon and now it's getting even larger," Vanboxel says. Johnson says clients are requesting larger tiles for both aesthetics and practicality. "The larger the tile means less grout and that means less cleaning is required," she says. This 12x24 wood grain tile offers the warm, rustic look of natural wood planks with the water-resistance of tile.

9. *Ascot Petrified Wood tile in Musk at Total Floor Covering.*



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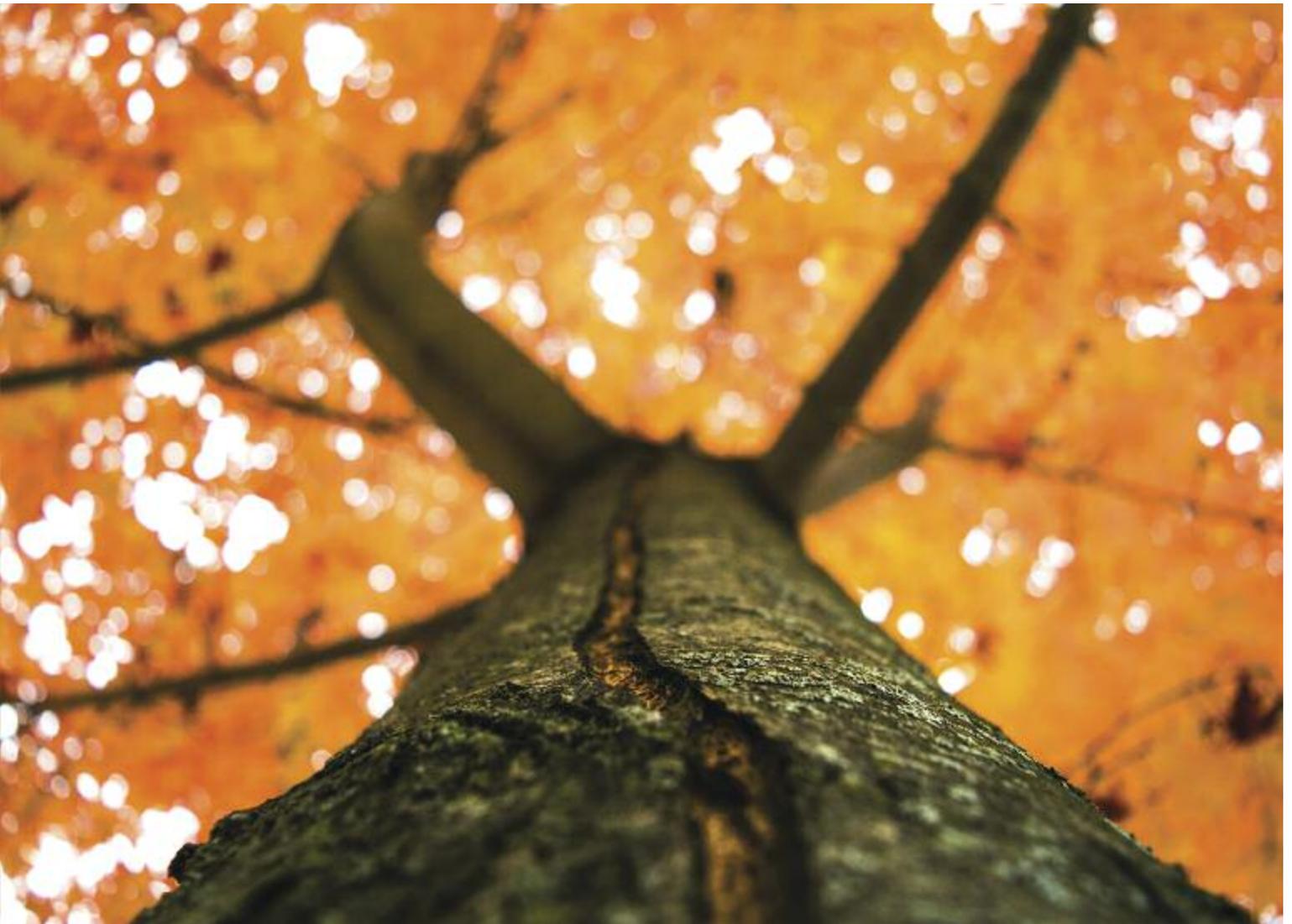
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October is a colorful month in the Fox Cities, as seen in this image captured by photographer Rick Ripp. It was taken near Lawe Street in Appleton by the trestle bridge. "Along the trail there were several of these trees, all extremely red in color," Ripp says. "This particular one caught my eye because of the crack running all the way up it. From the trunk perspective, the line leads into the sea of red that is autumn in Northeast Wisconsin. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to capture this."

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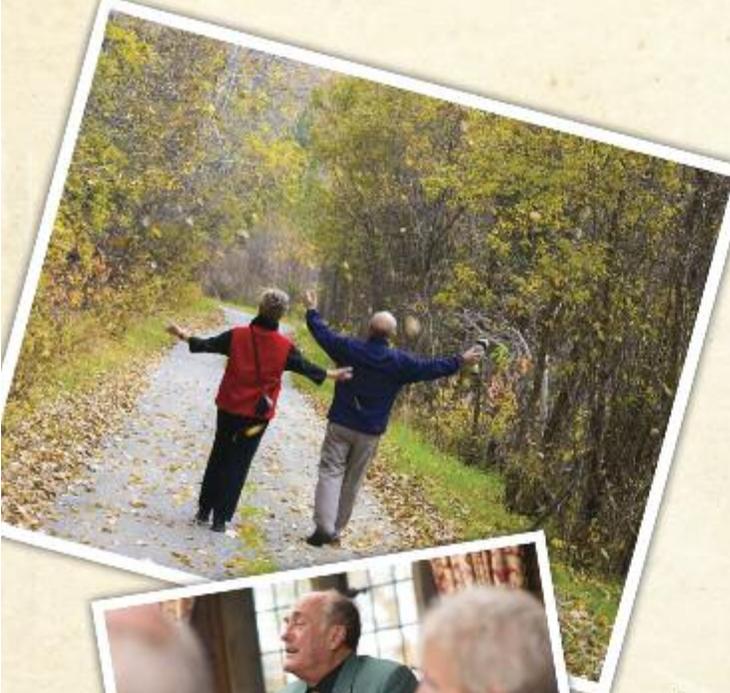
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