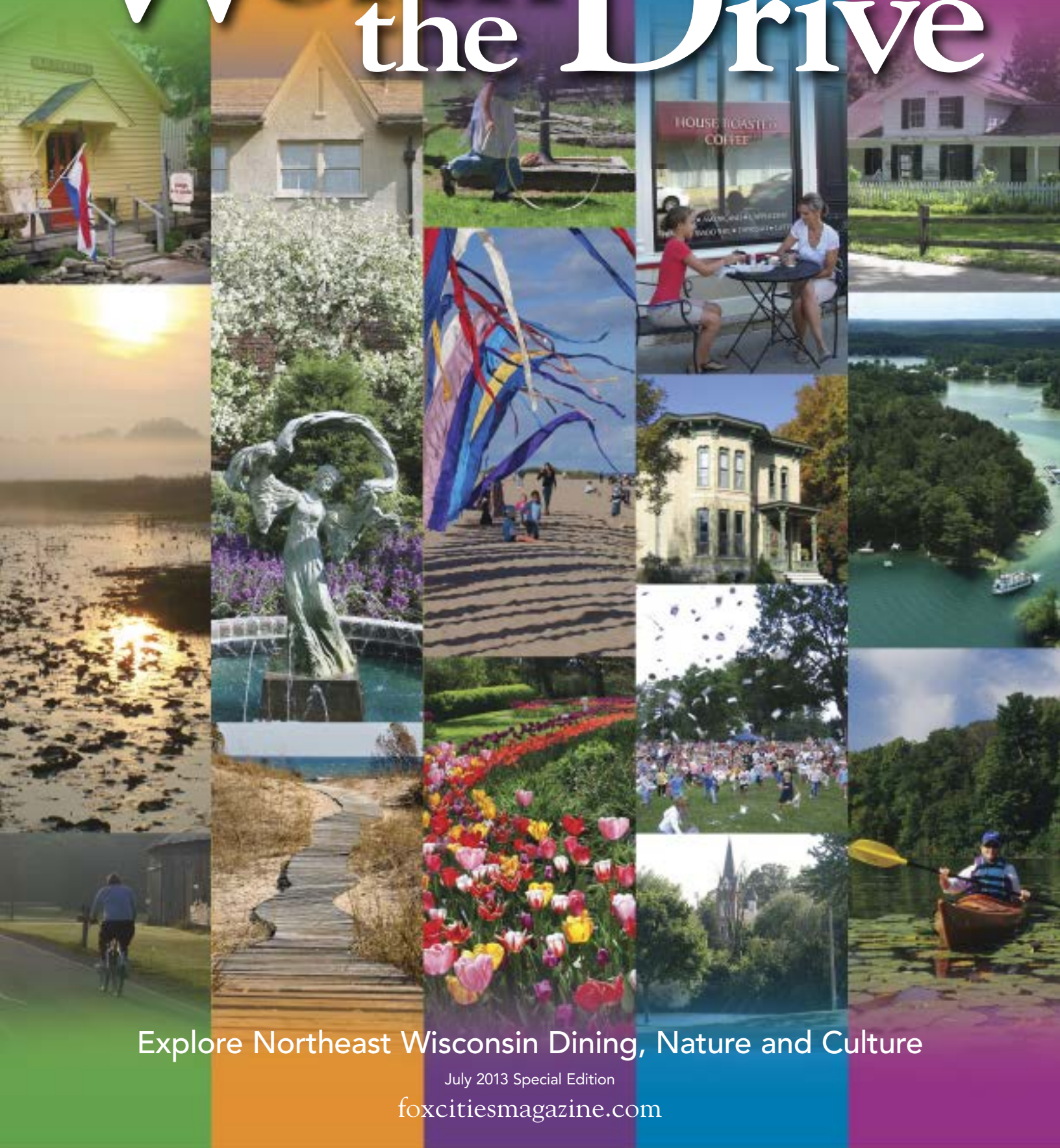


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July 2013 Special Edition

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is a publication of

FoxCities
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Printed at Spectra Print Corporation
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FOX CITIES Magazine is published
11 times annually and is available for the
subscription rate of \$18 for one year.

For more information or to learn
about advertising opportunities,
call 920-733-7788.

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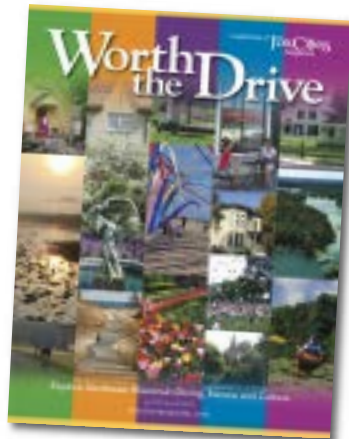
from the publisher



Ruth Ann and I have long had a passion for traveling. And, while planes might be faster and easier than driving, some of the most interesting things we have seen in America we stumbled onto on the way to other places. This is the reason we have driven to nearly every state in the union.

Early on we found ourselves declaring that "We're home!" when after many hours of driving we would find ourselves at Oshkosh. Soon it became Fond Du Lac. And, after making warm acquaintance with most of Wisconsin, our notion of home stretched ever farther afield. Today when we cross the state line one of us will invariably declare "We're Home!"

In this SPECIAL ISSUE we'd like to invite our readers to join us in celebrating the great good fortune we Fox Citians enjoy by looking at our broader vision of "home" and savor the wonderful assets that this view affords us. The field is so rich that rather than cover it all we chose to choose. We intend to concentrate on five easy drives to five places, any one of which will provide a wonderful day trip...or overnigher. We're certain you will find them worth the drive.



Marvin Murphy, Publisher

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featured communities

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Howard/Suamico

City amenities intermingle with natural beauty in these neighboring burbs of Green Bay.



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Kohler

From pedicures to putting greens, opulence abounds in the village that KOHLER Company calls home.



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Manitowoc

Earn your sea legs off the coast of Lake Michigan in Manitowoc, where water and land offer equal amounts of entertainment.



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Ripon

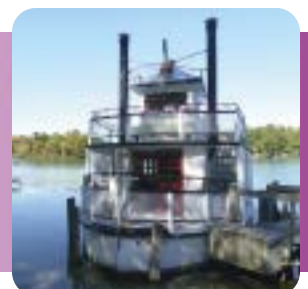
History comes alive in Ripon with its famed college campus, legendary downtown and impressive architecture.



20

Waupaca

This haven for outdoorsmen and nature lovers provides a pristine escape from city life.



Getting There

Take our time-conscious route suggestions outlined here, or throw caution to the wind and hit the back roads for a more scenic drive.



■ Howard/Suamico

From the Fox Cities, head north on Hwy 41. For Howard, take exit 169 for WI-29/WI-32 N/Shawano Ave toward Dousman St. Follow signs for Wisconsin 29 W/Wisconsin 32 N and turn left onto Shawano Ave. For Suamico, take exit 176 for Sunset Beach Rd.

Howard, 32.1 miles/41 minutes;
Suamico, 38.2 miles/45 minutes

■ Kohler

Head out of Appleton by taking WI-47 S. Turn left onto US-10 E/WI-114 Trunk E and take the US-10 E/Oneida St exit, turning right. Turn left onto US-10 E/WI-114 Trunk E. Follow 10 E until I-43 S/US-10 E. Turn right to merge and continue on I-43 S until exit 126. Merge onto WI-23 W/WI-23 Trunk W. Take the County Rd Y exit toward Kohler.

70.8 miles/1 hour 27 minutes

■ Manitowoc

From Appleton, take WI-47 S/S Appleton Rd to merge onto US-10 E/WI-441 N. Take the US-10 E/Oneida St exit and turn right. Turn left onto US-10 E/WI-114 Trunk E. Continue to follow US-10 E until County Rd R/N Rapids Rd where you take a right. Turn left onto County Rd Jj and turn right onto N 11th St. Turn left onto Washington St to downtown Manitowoc.

46.1 miles/1 hour 10 minutes

■ Ripon

Head south on Hwy 41 toward Oshkosh. Take exit 116 for WI-44 S/WI-91 W and turn right. Continue to follow WI-44 S/Wisconsin Trunk Highway 44 S through Pickett. Turn left onto WI-44 S/Douglas St. Turn right onto E Fond Du Lac St toward downtown Ripon.

40.9 miles/51 minutes

■ Waupaca

From the Fox Cities, take WI-47 S/S Appleton Rd to US-10 W/WI-441 S. Continue to follow US-10 W. Exit onto WI-49 N/W Fulton St toward Waupaca.

43.3 miles/46 minutes



These directions are for planning purposes and do not account for construction, traffic, weather, or other events that may cause interruptions. We recommend consulting the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website for detour information (<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/road/workzones.htm>).

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A photograph of two middle-aged women with blonde hair, smiling and hugging each other. The woman on the left is wearing a pink shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a blue and white striped shirt.

Howard/Suamico

With the retail and dining offerings of an urban getaway and the scenic beauty of a wilderness retreat, these side-by-side villages north of the city of Green Bay have the perfect mix of metropolitan and rural.

Mountain Bay Trail

Running 83 miles from Howard to Wausau, this trail sits atop an abandoned railroad grade. Offering a compacted crusher dust surface for walkers, bicyclists and even equestrians, a \$4 daily pass grants access to this peaceful path. Access to the eastern trailhead is located on Lakeview Drive just off Riverview Drive.



A NEW Zoo picnic area.

Photo courtesy of the Village of Suamico.

Chives

Located in an historic building permeated by a casual ambiance, Chives offers eclectic cuisine sure to please diners partial to every flavor. Sit at the Chef's table where you have a front row view of the world-class kitchen and are served a special six-course meal. Open Tu–Th, 11am–9pm; F & Sa, 11am–10pm.

NEW Zoo

Satisfy your taste for the exotic by feeding the New Zoo Giraffes Hodari and Zuri, or have a private penguin viewing, including a behind the exhibit experience. Open 9am–6pm every day of the week. 434-7841.

Lifespa

Offering a wide range of personal pampering packages, Lifespa is everything from a luxurious getaway to a lunch break sanctuary. With their unique foot sauna, herbal compresses and lengthy couples massages, you can customize your relaxation to suit your destressing needs. 434-2204.

Maplewood Meats

With products ranging from fresh cuts and custom processing to smoked sausages and deli products, this family founded business has a 30 year history of providing an extensive selection of meats to northeast Wisconsin. 865-7901.

Reforestation Camp

Look out over 1,600 acres from the observation tower of the Reforestation Camp, or hit the ground for hiking, fishing or shooting. Picnic by a secluded pond or take advantage of the rental shelters to experience the charm of this preserve. 4418 Reforestation Road, Green Bay.

Zesty's

Making fresh custard all day long, Zesty's delivers the rich, velvety flavor true custard lovers have come to expect. Made in old-fashioned machines, the creamy cool treats will top off any day in the sun. Open 11am–9pm all week.

Sensiba Wildlife Area

Somewhere between the open canopied forested wetland and the cattail-dominated marsh of this state owned wildlife preserve lies a haven for a collection of rare birds and plants. As a migratory stopover for many unique waterbirds, every amateur ornithologist should consider pulling on some waders and stepping into this wetland. Located off Sunset Beach Road.



Photo courtesy of the Village of Suamico.



Photo courtesy of the Village of Suamico.

Rustique Pizzeria & Lounge

Watching pizza soar into the air is only the beginning of an evening at this restaurant housed in a century old chapel. The original vaulted wooden ceilings meet New York style dough in a delightful mix of contemporary and classic. Open Tu–Th, 4pm–close, F–Su, 11am–close. Closed Monday.

AmericInn of Green Bay West

At this family-friendly hotel, children under 12 stay free. For a romantic getaway, book a whirlpool and fireplace suite. On-site fitness center, homestyle breakfast, heated pool and high-speed internet included. 434-9790.

Village Green Golfing

Play a quick nine holes on this expansive municipal golf course. Open from dawn to dusk, golfers of all skill levels have an equal opportunity to lose a ball in the newly added creek or admire the immaculately maintained greens. 434-3939.

Legends Brewhouse

For a delicious rack of ribs and a specialty brew, Legends Brewhouse is unforgettable. With unique beers brewed at each restaurant, this taste of local culture has everything from award winners to neighborhood favorites. Open M–Sa, 11am & Su, 10am.

Howard/Suamico Historical Society Museum

Visitors can learn about the heritage of the Howard and Sumaico Villages at this member-run museum. Open the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 10am–12pm.

Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve



Josephine's Pizza and Pastaria

Not many restaurants serve a delicate antipasto alongside a Chicago-style deep dish, but Josephine's menu runs the gamut from rustic Tuscan Italian to stuffed slices. Indulge in some calamari or go straight for the calzone. Open M–Th, 11am–9pm; F & Sat 11am–10pm. Closed Sunday.

Thornberry Cottage

From candles to cattails, home décor takes on a distinctive Midwestern warmth within Thornberry Cottage. Boasting a boutique featuring local artists and home care products with an emphasis on natural alternatives, everything hints of small town family life, rustic charm and a homey appeal. Open M–Sa at 10am.

The Bottle Room

Wine enthusiasm is only part of the appeal of this inviting space. Relaxing with a couple friends by the outdoor fire pit on a mild summer's evening is an unbeatable experience, especially when paired with a vast selection of drinks and live music. Open M–Th, 11am–10pm; F & Sa, 11am–12am; Su, 12pm–8pm.

Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve

Set out from the West Shores Interpretive Center to hike the nine miles of trails that run through the marshes and forests of the preserve. The 920 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands offer a look back at the lands and lifestyle of prehistoric Indian tribes. The interpretive center is open M–F, 9am–4pm; Sa & Su, 12–4pm. 434-2824.

Duck Creek Golf Center

Work on your putting game in Duck Creek Golf Center's serene atmosphere between waterfalls, spray fountains and gardens or let out frustration at the driving range. Open in the summer 9am–10pm daily. 498-2797.

Kayaking at sunset.



Photo courtesy of the Village of Suamico.

VISIT WITH OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES!

Enjoy a walk through the zoo and refreshments in the Mayan Restaurant.

Ask about holding your birthday party, or company event here – it's a wild time!



The NEW Zoo is one of only six AZA accredited zoos in the country that does not receive local or regional public tax support for its annual operations.



While you're here, don't forget to feed the giraffes and shop the Paws and Claws Gift shop!



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Brown County
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As the largest developed park in the Brown County park system, Pamperin boasts everything from a wooded disc golf course to formal gardens. Entrance is located on County RK off of Packerland Dr. Open 8am to sunset.



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Not to be Missed

- Every Tuesday evening from July 9–August 20, music lovers gather in Suamico's Vickery Village for Concerts in the Village. Enjoy music, food and a market from 6–8 pm. Guests should bring their own chairs.
- Heads up, bargain hunters. The Howard Suamico Community Sidewalk Sale Days on August 8–10 will have you in shopping nirvana. Maps are available at Howard/Suamico gas stations and grocery stores.
- Northshore Bank's Zoo Boo (October 11–12; 18–19; 25–26) at the NEW Zoo offers families a safe environment for trick-or-treating and special activities such as a haunted hayride the first two weekends.

BrainFreeze

Serving the Chocolate Shoppe's premium, farm-fresh ice cream, BrainFreeze offers the perfectly painful remedy for a hot summer day. Proudly made from rich Wisconsin cream, this treat is not at all low-fat, perfect for those living the high life. Open M–Th, 12pm–8pm; F, 12pm–9pm; Sa, 11am–9pm; Su, 11am–8pm.

hey daisy!

Bringing a youthful flair to the women's fashion scene, this boutique is constantly updating and setting trends. Pick up a reusable earth day bag to save some green with every purchase. Open M–F, 10am–6pm; Sa, 10am–5pm.

Country Inn & Suites – Green Bay North

Convenience and affordability intersect at this hotel located smack dab between Howard & Suamico. WiFi, fully-equipped fitness center, heated pool and breakfast buffet included. 884-2000.

Mimi's Yogurt

A brand new source of froyo for the hot summer months, Mimi's offers the delicious taste of frozen yogurt to young and old. Stop in for a sweet treat whenever the craving strikes. 944-5061.



Zoo Boo

Uncle Mike's Bake Shoppe

Lauded for their custom cakes and all around masterful use of frosting, Uncle Mike's is also a fine place to grab a sandwich and a smoothie if your sweet tooth needs a break. Open M–F, 6am–6pm; Sa, 6am–4pm; Su, 6am–12pm.

Vickery Village

Most of the structures at Vickery Village date from the late 19th century, and are both historic sites as well as functional shops and restaurants. Grab dinner in the old general store, or practice interior design in the old town hall. Hours vary by establishment. www.vickeryvillage.net

Vandervest Harley Davidson

A family owned and operated business that now has the added moniker of being family built. The Green Bay store is a log-and-tin rustic cabin with interior finish and outdoor landscaping done by the Vandervest family themselves. Customers can relax on the stone patio, look out over Duck Creek and imagine driving off into the sunset on their new Harley. 498-8822.



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Kohler

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Horse & Plow

If you're looking for a good beer and burger joint, this is the place. With cozy booths and a beautiful wooden bar, the atmosphere in the tavern is one of timelessness. Features both American and European brews. Open daily 11am–10pm. Bar open until midnight on Sunday–Thursday and until 1am on Friday and Saturday. Reservations recommended for groups of five or more people. (855) 444-2838.

The Shops at Woodlake

Filled to the brim with luxurious specialty boutiques, this shopping destination is the perfect complement to your spa weekend. From gardening to toys to clothing for adults and children, this shopping center has something for everyone in the family to enjoy. For store hours and all other questions, call 459-1713.

Blackwolf Run Golf Course

The recent site of the 2012 US Women's Open, Blackwolf Run is a stunning and challenging golf course that every golfer should visit at least once. This course is full of meadows and ravines that will make your next game a stimulating one. To reserve your tee time, call (855) 444-2838.

Inn on Woodlake

Perched on the shore of Wood Lake, this dog-friendly inn offers cozy accommodations and easy access to Kohler's wilderness and world-famous golf courses. (800) 919-3600.

Craverie Chocolatier Cafe

With a beautiful view of Woodlake and a cozy fireplace surrounded by leather armchairs (and a crystal chandelier to boot), Craverie is as decadent as the sweets it sells. Get there early to score a chocolate and sea salt croissant. They tend to sell out by noon. Open 8am–6pm daily. 208-4933.

River Wildlife

This private country club is located in the middle of a beautiful wilderness. Hunting, archery, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing are just a few of the activities available for the adventurous at heart, while those who are looking for a more leisurely escape can relax at the beautiful River Wildlife cabin. 457-0134.

Fashionistas and foodies seeking a luxe getaway will find what they are looking for in this quaint village. Glamorous accommodations, five-star dining and award-winning golf courses, Kohler has a little of everything from pedicures to putting greens.

Sandhill



Photo courtesy of Kohler Co.

The Immigrant Restaurant

With the combination of contemporary cuisine, its award winning Winery Bar, and the inviting atmosphere, the dining experience at the Immigrant Restaurant is hard to find anywhere else in Wisconsin. Dining room open from 5:30–9pm on Friday and Saturday. Winery Bar open Fridays and Saturdays from 5–11pm. Reservations strongly recommended. (855) 444-2838.

Sandhill

This deluxe cabin is located in the middle of 350 acres of pure nature in nearby Mosel, Wisconsin. With beautiful views and recreational options all year round, Sandhill doesn't disappoint travelers who are looking for a true retreat from the doldrums of daily life. (800) 344-2838.

Kohler Waters Spa

This five-star spa offers almost every amenity you could ask for, along with an atmosphere of opulence and tranquility. Whether you're looking for a single treatment or you want to spend a full day in the spa, your time at the Kohler Waters Spa will be unique from any other spa experience in the state. 444-2838.

Kohler Gardener

Looking for a beautiful way to redecorate? Check out the garden-themed decor at the Kohler Gardener. Besides Mackenzie-Childs furnishings, the Gardener also carries an array of plants, books, and pottery to add the perfect accent to your home. You can shop online or call 458-5570 for more information.

Not to be Missed

- Take advantage of summer specials in the open air at The Shops at Woodlake Kohler Summer Sidewalk Sale from July 26–28.
- Sample an incredible selection of wine and gourmet foods during the 13th Annual Food & Wine Experience October 17–20. You will have the opportunity to attend a wide variety of cooking demonstrations and group meals with a perfect combination of food and wine. And, of course, all of the amenities of the American Club will be available for you.
- The 31st annual Wisconsin Holiday Market on November 22–24 will feature nearly 100 vendors of handcrafted, one-of-a-kind and holiday-themed goods. It's the perfect opportunity to find a unique gift or add to your collection of holiday décor.
- Experience an evening of amazing cuisine at a Five-Star Dine Around on December 5. Enjoy five incredible courses, each served in a different Kitchens of Kohler restaurant, accompanied by a wine pairing and chef presentation.
- The Wisconsin Wood exhibit (July 7–October 6) at ARTspace at The Shops at Woodlake Kohler showcases the range of woodcraft as practiced by Wisconsin artists. Featured artists reveal a love and respect for their materials in the creation of timeless pieces to be treasured by generations.

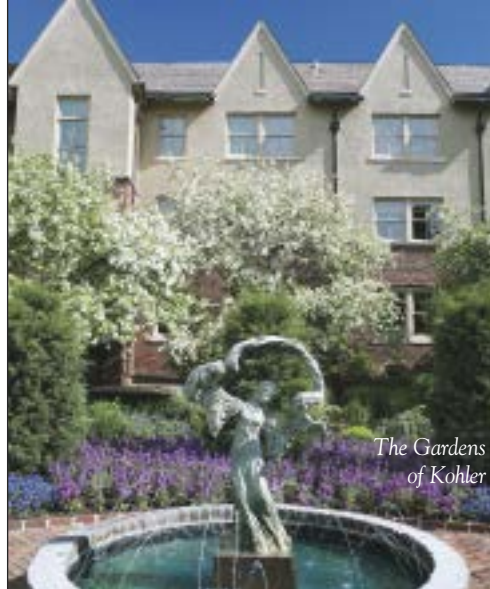


Photo courtesy of Kohler Co.

Waelderhaus Tours

The Waelderhaus is a beautiful wood and iron house in the woods. Kasper Albrecht designed the house in the traditional Austrian style of the Bregenzerwald region, where the Kohler family is originally from. Tours are offered daily at 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm, except on holidays.

Tomczyk Cabin

If you love a truly rugged experience, a stay at this secluded cabin may be for you. Located in the River Wildlife Nature Preserve, the cabin is free from indoor plumbing and running water, but gives its guests a pure experience in the middle of nature. To request membership in the River Wildlife club, call 457-0134.

Kohler-Andrae State Park

Only a short drive from Kohler, the Kohler-Andrae State Park has beautiful landscapes, including dunes and various hiking trails through its woods and along its Lake Michigan shoreline. For those wanting to camp, fish, or hunt, Kohler-Andrae is the perfect destination. Opportunities for both summer and winter sports available. 451-4080.

The Wisconsin Room

The Wisconsin Room originally served as a dining hall for the immigrants who came from Europe to work for Kohler in the early twentieth century. Now, visitors can sample dishes made from locally-sourced products, including seasonal selections of meat, fish, and produce. Reservations recommended. Breakfast served M–Sa, 7–11am; Su, 7–9am. Sunday brunch 9am–1pm. Dinner served Sa–Th, 5:30–9pm. Seafood buffet on Fridays from 5:30–9pm. (855) 444-2838.

The Gardens of Kohler

If you're in the mood for some leisurely activity that doesn't involve a trip to the spa, a walk through the Gardens of Kohler may be for you. Created by Walter J. Kohler, Sr. in 1913, the garden has become a series of flourishing paths around Kohler. 458-5570.

Kohler Design Center

Kohler's showcase combines innovative designs with American history and appreciation for the industrial process. Walk through the kitchen and bathroom showrooms, take an "Industry in Action" factory tour, or meet with a Kohler designer to brainstorm ideas for your own living space. You can also take some time to explore the museum and the Arts and Industry Gallery. 457-3699.



Photo: Michael Leschisin, image Studios

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Whistling Straits Golf Course

Whistling Straits Golf Course

This majestic golf course was crafted amongst the rolling hills along the beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline. Golf Digest ranked this course second on their list of the best public golf courses in the country for 2013-2014, and it was recently named the site of the 2015 PGA Championships. To reserve time at the course, call (855) 444-2838.

River Wildlife's Lodge Restaurant

This unique restaurant is located in a small log cabin, but it's worth the effort of making reservations far in advance. A seasonal menu, rustic decor, and extensive wine offerings make River Wildlife's Lodge undeniably worth the drive. Open M-Sa, 11am-2pm; F & Sa, 5:30-9pm. Brunch served Sundays from 11am-1:30pm. 457-0134.

Bulitz Carriage Rides

The Bulitz Farm offers romantic carriage rides in both summer and winter months (they have enclosed carriages for the winter). Whether you need a carriage for a wedding, a birthday party, or just because, Bulitz Carriage Rides are a relaxing way to sightsee in beautiful Kohler. Call 467-2782 to make an appointment.



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Financial strategies for beyond the 'Fiscal Cliff'

Tips to take charge of your financial future in the current tax environment

With the agreement reached at the eleventh hour of 2012 to avert components of the so-called "Fiscal Cliff," nearly all taxpayers will be affected in some way. With that in mind, there are still many things you can do this year to prepare for potential additional tax changes and to take control of your financial situation.

Below are ten options from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for you to consider as you plan for your financial future in 2013 and beyond.

- 1. Consider an IRA qualified charitable distribution.**
 People 70½ and older, who are required to take minimum distributions from their traditional IRAs may give up to \$100,000 directly from their IRAs to qualified charities. This will satisfy the required minimum distribution, or RMD, requirements and no taxes will be due on the amount of the contribution.
- 2. Know your tax bracket.**
 Now that tax rates are higher at some levels, it's more important than ever to know which tax bracket you fall into. Ask your financial representative and accountant about strategies to keep your taxable income at a reasonable level.
- 3. Consider converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.**
 Given current historically low federal tax rates, you may want to consider locking in now and paying taxes while rates are low for most people. If you choose to convert later, you may be doing so at a higher rate.
- 4. Look closely at your 401(k) contributions.**
 You may want to consider making after-tax Roth 401(k) contributions, due to the low tax rates. Conversely, higher-income earners may want to focus on making pre-tax 401(k) contributions to decrease their taxable income.
- 5. Consider investing in municipal bonds.**
 The interest earned on municipal bonds is generally exempt of federal income tax and can help to diversify your overall portfolio.
- 6. Consider cash value life insurance.**
 In addition to protecting your family financially after you die, fixed cash value life insurance also can help you reach your broader financial goals while you're living by helping you to diversify your assets.
- 7. Understand the benefits of inherited IRAs.**
 They can help your beneficiary take distributions over the maximum period allowed by federal required minimum distribution (RMD) rules, and give your assets the potential to continue to grow tax-deferred for your heirs.
- 8. Consider harvesting long-term capital gains.**
 Sell eligible assets while top tax rates for most taxpayers on long-term capital gains is just 15%.
- 9. Consider using unneeded life insurance and annuity contracts to pay long-term care insurance premiums.**
 The exchange may be free of federal income taxes and help preserve your estate and way of life. This is especially important to households hit by the 3.8% Medicare surtax and higher income tax rates.
- 10. Review your financial and estate strategies.**
 Based on history and our debt situation, it's likely federal (and state) income tax rates will increase sometime in the future. Review your financial and estate strategies and take appropriate actions now that estate law is permanent.

"Taking the opportunity to take a closer look at the recent changes and how they might affect your financial future is critical," says Janelle Fuhrmann, Managing Partner with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. "Change seems to be constant and working with a financial services professional can help to ensure you're adequately prepared no matter what happens in 2013."

Thrivent Financial is represented in the local area by a number of financial representatives. Individuals interested in contacting a local Thrivent Financial representative can call the East Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Region in Appleton at 920-224-9100 or by visiting www.thrivent.com.

About Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit, Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping approximately 2.5 million members achieve financial security and give back to their communities. Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services. Thrivent Investment Management Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial creates and supports national outreach programs and activities that help congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. For more information, visit Thrivent.com. Also, you can find us on Facebook and Twitter.

The discussion of taxes in this piece is not intended to be comprehensive and is subject to change at any time. Tax law and regulations are complex and depend on individual circumstances. We make no guarantees regarding tax treatment—federal, state, or local—of life insurance or other assets.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its respective associates and employees cannot provide legal, accounting, or tax advice or services. Work with your Thrivent Financial representative, and as appropriate your attorney and/or tax professional for additional information.

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¹ Municipal Bonds are subject to risks which include, but are not limited to, credit risk and interest rate risk. Some issues may be subject to state and local taxes and/or the alternative minimum tax. Any increase in principal value may be taxable. Bonds are subject to price change and availability. If you sell prior to maturity, you will receive current market prices, which may be more or less than you paid. Interest generated from municipal bonds is generally expected to be free from federal income taxes. If the bonds are held by an investor resident in the state of issuance, state and local income taxes such as interest income, may be subject to federal and/or state AMT. Investing in municipal bonds for the purpose of generating tax-exempt income may not be appropriate for investors in all income tax brackets. Please consult your tax advisor for detailed discussion on your specific situation. These and other risks are described in the Fund's prospectus.

Investing in a mutual fund involves risks, including the possible loss of principal. The prospectus contains more complete information on the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the fund, which investors should read and consider carefully before investing. Prospectuses are available from a Thrivent Financial representative or at Thrivent.com.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

62522

Manitowoc

Explore the nautical heritage of this port town, known as “Clipper City” in honor of its shipbuilding past, located along 30 miles of western Lake Michigan coastline.



Rahr-West Art Museum

Rahr-West Art Museum

Named “One of the 10 Great Places to See Art in Smaller Cities” by USA Today, the museum’s exhibition wing features two large galleries and hosts approximately 10 temporary exhibitions annually. Visitors may also peruse the mansion’s collection of 19th, 20th, and 21st century contemporary and decorative arts. Hours: M–F, 10am–4pm; Sa & Su, 11am–4pm.

Westport Bed & Breakfast

History is showcased in this 1879 Italianate Victorian style inn just steps from Manitowoc’s riverfront. Meander along the flower garden path, play a game of croquet on the lawn or read a book in the swing on the wrap-around porch. Awake to a four-course candlelight breakfast in the dining room each morning. 888-686-0465.

Courthouse Pub

Located in the town’s historic district right across the street from the County Courthouse, Manitowoc’s only microbrewery offers soups, salads, sandwiches and a diverse lineup of entrées. Stay for an after-dinner drink or take home a half-gallon growler of your favorite microbrew. Open M–F, 11am–9am; Sa, 4–9:30pm.

8th and York Restaurant & Lounge

This casual, yet upscale dining destination serves modern American and Thai cuisine in its historic location — a 1920s renovated bank. Serving breakfast and lunch Tu–Sa, 7am–3pm, dinner service 5–9pm.

West of the Lake Gardens

The late John and Ruth West created this 6-acre estate nearly 80 years ago. It features multiple gardens as well as a new reflecting pond. More than 900 feet of herbaceous borders with colorful annuals frame the gardens located along Lake Michigan’s coastline and the Mariners Trail. Take a trip during July or August to experience its full-bloom splendor. Open daily 10am–5pm, Mother’s Day to mid-October, weather permitting.

Rock ‘N Blues Haus

The Cajun and American menu is set to live rock, blues and country music several nights a week. Open for lunch W–Sa at 11am. Full menu served W–Sa. Sunday brunch 10am–2pm.

Lincoln Park Zoo

From a great horned owl to a snow leopard, visitors to the Lincoln Park Zoo on the banks of the Little Manitowoc River can observe an assortment of species including birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The zoo strives to achieve natural exhibits that benefit the animals and educate visitors. Summer hours: M–Su, 7am–7pm.

Wisconsin Maritime Museum

Explore the country’s most completely restored WWII submarine — the USS COBIA — moored next to this Smithsonian affiliated museum. Stroll the streets of a 19th century shipbuilding town and discover the rich maritime history of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes region. (Did you know Manitowoc is the only city in the country to have streets named after submarines?) 684-0218.



Wisconsin Maritime Museum



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Photo courtesy of Manitowoc Area Visitor & Convention Bureau

Pinecrest Historical Village

Located in the rolling Ice Age Kettle Moraine countryside, this 60-acre outdoor interpretive museum of local history features more than 25 historic buildings with period furnishings from Manitowoc County's early settlers. Explore at your own pace or utilize the free audio tour devices. Open May 1–October 24, 9am–4pm. 684-5110.

The Fat Seagull

Burgers, sandwiches and an epic Friday fish fry await at this landmark restaurant. Beer lovers have 17 draft options to choose from including craft, regional, microbrews and domestic beers. Open seven days a week, 11am–close.

Mariners Trail

This hard-surfaced, six mile trail runs along Lake Michigan, connecting Manitowoc and the neighboring town of Two Rivers. Walk, bike, run or skate while enjoying the lakeshore breeze and scenery. Make the walk out to the Breakwater Lighthouse for photo ops.

Manitowoc Marina

Spend a day sightseeing, rent a kayak or put your boat in Lake Michigan at the marina. Bike rentals are also available. 682-5117.

Not to be Missed

- Celebrate acoustic music at Acoustic Fest, a free, day-long festival on July 20 in Washington Park. This diverse showcase of acoustic musicians disperses proceeds through educational scholarships.
- The Rahr-West Museum is hosting Frank Lloyd Wright: Architecture of the Interior until August 4. The exhibition explores the design of Frank Lloyd Wright's houses, often considered his greatest architectural accomplishment.
- Named one of the Top Five Funkiest Festivals in the country by Reader's Digest, SputnikFest commemorates the 20 pound piece of Russian Sputnik IV which landed in the middle of the street on the corner of N. 8th and Park on September 6, 1962. Dress your pet for space travel or create your own aluminum foil costume on September 7.
- The Manitowoc Farmers Market is an open-air market in the 8th Street Historic District featuring an assortment of fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, honey, bakery and crafts. May 18–Oct 26, Saturdays, 8am–2pm. Jun 11–Oct 8, Tuesdays, 12–6pm.
- Hear tales of haunted lighthouses, tragic shipwrecks, and unsolved mysteries of the Great Lakes during the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's 5th Annual Maritime History Ghost Walk on October 25 & 26. More info at 684-0218.

Green Street Food & Spirits

This restaurant's convenient location close to the Lake Michigan Carferry dock makes it a natural stop for visitors on the move, but locals swear by the Friday perch. Serving M–Th, 11am–2pm & 4–10pm; F, 11am–11pm; Sa, 4–10pm; Su, 3–10pm.

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Photo courtesy of Manitowoc Area Visitor & Convention Bureau

Manitowoc Family Aquatic Center

Take a break from the heat at this municipal pool equipped with features such as a large zero-depth area, a mushroom waterfall, floor fountains, a diving board, lazy river, sand playground and even an open and enclosed waterslide. Public swim daily, 11am-4pm & 5-7pm. 686-3590.

Beerntsen's Confectionary

No road trip is complete without a stop for sweets. This old-fashioned candy store and ice cream parlor serves sundaes, hand-dipped chocolates and candies to the delight of both young and old. 684-9616.

CNC Links

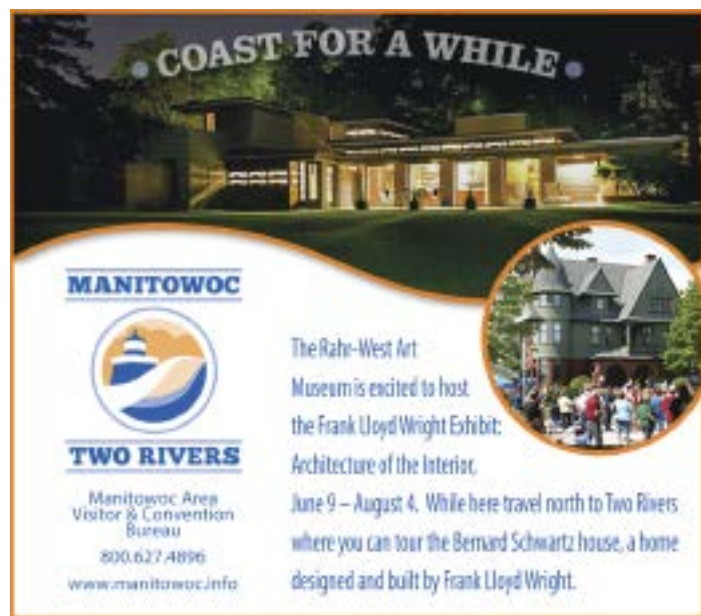
Spend a day at Manitowoc's newest executive 9-hole golf course built around a 3-acre lake. The Clubhouse restaurant offers fine dining and an old fashioned fish fry every Friday. Open daily. 726-1800.

Capitol Civic Centre

"The Jewel of the Lakeshore" is a former 1920s movie house now home to local performing arts organizations, touring Broadway productions, arts education activities and civic events. Free tours available. Call 686-6436 for upcoming show information.

Birch Creek Inn

Abundant quirky charm awaits at this inn located on Manitowoc's city limits. Many travelers enjoy spending a quiet evening in the lending library or savoring a sunset from one of the inn's many sitting areas. Guest rooms all have private entrances. 684-3374.



MANITOWOC

TWO RIVERS

Manitowoc Area Visitor & Convention Bureau
 800.627.4896
 www.manitowoc.info

The Rahr-West Art Museum is excited to host the Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibit: Architecture of the Interior, June 9 – August 4. While here travel north to Two Rivers where you can tour the Bernard Schwartz House, a home designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Ripon

Rippin' Good Cookie Outlet

They don't call Ripon CookieTown, USA for nothing. (In 1996 Governor Tommy Thompson proclaimed the town as such.) At the Rippin' Good Cookie Outlet store, sample the cookies that made Ripon famous and pick up some treats to take home, by the package or the case. Open Tu-F, 8am-4:30pm & Sa, 8am-1pm.

Historic Ripon Walking Tours

Experience Ripon's unique array of architectural styles, from Watson Street's 19th century business district to the residential area south of downtown which boasts fully restored Victorian Painted Ladies. Learn about the city's history as "The Birthplace of the Republican Party" while walking (or driving) these tours. Brochures and maps available at the Ripon Chamber office or the Little White Schoolhouse Museum.

Roadhouse Pizza

When hunger strikes, nothing satisfies quite like a traditional, thin crust pizza and a pint. Roadhouse Pizza, marked by a beckoning neon arrow, serves up all that in addition to a substantial sandwich and appetizer menu. Weekend nights are prime for live music lovers, as the restaurant hosts local bands and musicians to serenade diners. Open at 4pm Wednesday-Sunday.

Marcus Campus Cinema

Take in a film at the first Marcus Cinema founded in 1935. The theater is located in Ripon's historic downtown and is the only Marcus Theatre to maintain just one charming screen. 748-2506.

Alibi's Dining and Spirits

From traditional pub favorites to steak and seafood, this family establishment offers a taste of traditional supper club dining. Open Tuesday-Sunday. 748-7400.

From its well-preserved architecture to its rich historical heritage, visitors will soon discover why this lively university town was named one of Budget Travel magazine's Coolest Small Towns in America.

Treasury Restaurant

An eclectic selection of tapas and seasonal entrees make up the menu at Treasury, a 150-year-old bank turned "casual fine dining" restaurant in historic downtown Ripon. Have a cocktail at the epic marble bar before being whisked to "the vault," a preserved strongroom available by reservation, for a private dinner with friends. Open at 5pm Tu-Sa.



Italianate Home on
Ripon Walking Tour

Photo courtesy of Ripon Chamber of Commerce

Vines & Rushes Winery

Taste the fruit of Ripon's soil at this winery established on a family farm. From dry reds to a sweet rosé, Vines & Rushes wines represent the hardy grapes able to withstand cold winters. Sample the spoils in the onsite tasting room. Summer hours: W, Th & Su, 1-4pm; F, 10am-7pm; Sa, 12-5pm.

Northwestern Trail

Ideal for walking and biking, this three and a half mile trail begins at the Ripon Public Library and offers its visitors great wildlife viewing possibilities. You may encounter deer, woodchucks and even the occasional fox.

CJ Rodman Center for the Arts

Ripon College's Center for the Arts includes Demmer Recital Hall for musical performances, Benstead Theatre for performing arts and the Thomas E. Caestecker Wing for the fine arts. The newly renovated Caestecker Gallery hosts exhibitions for resident and guest artists and features an outdoor sculpture garden. Gallery hours: Tu-F, 1-5pm & 7-9pm; Sa-Su, 2-6pm and during evening performances.

Suki's Teddy Bear Store

Suki Lee, a master furrier, handcrafts one-of-a-kind fur teddy bears and other creatures such as rabbits and mice. These works of art are a must-have for the serious collector. Lee also repairs, restyles and relines leathers and furs. M-F, 11am-4pm; Sa, 11am-1pm. We recommend calling to confirm daily hours. 745-2223.

Ceresco Prairie Conservancy

Trails meander through wetland areas and feature the impressive sights of a mesic prairie, an oak savanna and a glacial moraine. Runners, walkers and hikers will enjoy the paths that also connect with South Woods Crystal Creek.




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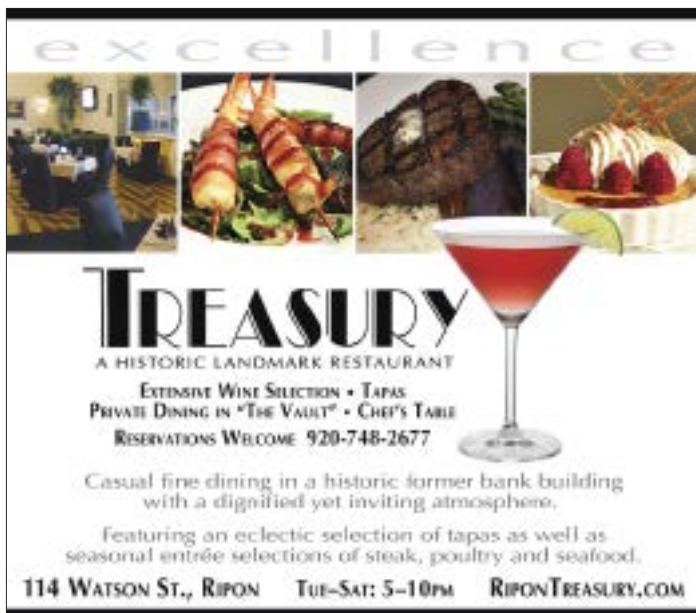
Cookie Daze • August
Septemberfest • September
Ladies on the Loose • October
Holiday Open House • November
Dickens of a Christmas • December

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Not to be Missed

- Downtown Ripon's Village Green comes alive during the Watson Street Farmers Market (June–October), featuring fresh, local produce. Tuesdays, 4–7pm & Saturdays, 7am–12pm.
- From the folk stylings of Dead Horses to the blues of Reverend Raven, the free Ripon Summer Concert Series on the Village Green showcases a variety of musical genres for music lovers of all ages. For a concert schedule visit riponmainst.com.
- The Twilight Tour Garden Walk on July 14 features six fabulous area gardens along with wine and cheese sampling. More information at the Ripon Chamber of Commerce, 748-6764.
- Cookie Daze, the festival that began as a tribute to Ripon baking the World's Largest Cookie in 1994, returns August 3. At this family friendly festival, young festival goers anticipate the Cookie Drop where they wait beneath the Fire Department's tallest ladder truck, eager for thousands of cookies to literally drop from the sky.
- Experience the Victorian era at Dickens of a Christmas, December 6–8, in Ripon's downtown historic district when storefronts are staged with characters depicting old time settings, visitors can breakfast with Santa and tour holiday homes. More information at the Ripon Chamber of Commerce, 748-6764.

Ripon College Historical Museum

This museum displays and documents the history of Ripon College in photos and artifacts. Open Monday–Friday, 8am–12pm and 1–5pm. 748-8325.

Larson's Famous Clydesdales

One of the country's only places to see more than a dozen famous Clydesdales up close, this family-friendly destination offers a 90-minute guided tour with plenty of photo opportunities, a museum and Clydesdale gift shop. 748-5466. larsonsclydesdales.com

Zuzaks' – Big John's Fine Divery

Here, food is as much a spectacle as it is sustenance. Famous for their burgers, Zuzaks' selection of specialty "friez" are a must-try (and see). We recommend the Scooby Fries, topped with hot dog slices and nacho cheese, followed by the You're Kidding Fries for dessert – fries à la mode with your choice of vanilla, chocolate or twist ice cream. 748-3211.

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South Woods

Located off Union Street, this popular nature area features several paths winding through a variety of natural habitats. The nearby Annie Starr Woods, open to the public, was created by glaciers and is an

excellent place to escape the city noise.

Monster Rummage and Antiques

If you're the lucky type, take a chance and spin by this eclectic shop brimming with antiques and treasures. It just may be open. If you're not so lucky, consider calling ahead and making an appointment. The store is open by chance. 748-2491.

Ridgewood Inn

This pet-friendly hotel offers a convenient location and value for guests. Family owned and operated, the inn is located near various restaurants and shopping districts. Breakfast and wireless internet included. 748-2253.

Fat Bruce's Bakery & Eating Kitchen

This casual kitchen, located in the heart of Ripon's downtown, offers from-scratch bakery items, house roasted coffees, daily sandwich and soup specials, fresh salads and paninis. Open 7am-4pm Tu-Sa. fatbruces.com



Little White Schoolhouse

On March 20, 1854, a grassroots meeting at this simple frame schoolhouse resulted in the formation of a new political party and sparked a national movement. This historic landmark and museum, billed as the birthplace of the Republican party, is open to visitors throughout the year. 748-6764.

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Waupaca

This natural wonderland is nestled among 22 spring-fed lakes, boasting ample outdoor activities in a unique landscape of glacier-made sand plains, deep ravines, rivers and kettle lakes.

Ice Age Trail

While walking the Ice Age Trail, it is easy to enjoy the present — dense forest and rolling prairies both spotted among numerous lakes and rivers — but this trail also tells the story of Wisconsin's glacial past. Some rock outcrops on the trail date back nearly 2 billion years. Access point off of Hwy 54.

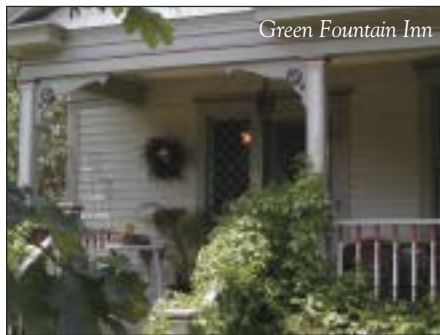


Photo courtesy of Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce

Cronies Café & Espresso Bar

Order a delicious latte on the go or savor it with your morning paper amongst the local art on the walls at Cronies. Homemade breakfast and lunch served daily. M–Sa 7am–3pm; Su 9am–1pm.

Phantom Art Gallery

This art gallery, thriving in its third year of operation, is a community collaboration of artists, business owners and residents in an attempt to encourage maintenance of existing art and continued creation of new art. The mediums of the six featured artists range from wool to jewelry to watercolors. Located in the window display of an empty building on the corner of Main and Fulton Streets, exhibits change every three months. 715-258-9999.

Green Fountain Inn

The atmosphere of the Green Fountain channels the grandeur of the Roaring 20's. The baby grand piano and fireplace in the sitting room invite guests to come together. The Inn is also connected to the Secret Garden Cafe & Back Door Bakery. 715-258-5171.

T-Dub's Public House

The historic field stone structure built in 1868 is now home to this pub located on Cooper Street. Seasonal and local food along with a great selection of beer, wine and whiskey fuel the friendly small-town atmosphere at T-Dub's. Pub: M–Th, 4–11pm; Fr–Sa, 4pm–midnight. Restaurant: M–Tu, 4–9pm; W–Th, 4–9:30pm; F–Sa, 4–10pm.

Jr's Petting Zoo

Get a closer look at over 40 types of animals and birds, both exotic and native to the region. Barnyard animals are also popular at this family-friendly destination. Open daily 10am–6pm. Friday, 10am–8pm.

River Ridge Trail

This 22-mile stretch of trail straddles Wisconsin's northern and southern eco-regions. Hikers and bikers alike can enjoy the unique blend of ecosystems within the urban greenspace that the city has helped to preserve. Access points off of Hwy 22 and Hwy 10.

Beasley Lake Bed and Breakfast

This private and secluded house is the only overnight lodging available directly on the Chain O' Lakes of Waupaca. Relax on the lake and enjoy the breathtaking gardens. 715-258-2000.

Hutchinson House Museum

Built in 1854 and converted to a museum in 1957, The Hutchinson House acts as the headquarters of the Waupaca Historical Society. It provides the community with a history library, a genealogy research space and a community room. Open Saturdays, Sundays and Summer holidays 1–4pm, or by appointment. 715-256-9980.

Holly History & Genealogy Center

This historical center, also run by the Waupaca Historical Society, collects virtually anything related to Waupaca history. Historical displays are changed regularly, and the center has a genealogical library with genealogists on hand to assist research. W & F, 12–4pm; Sa, 9am–12pm.

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Downtown Waupaca

Photo courtesy of Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce

Crystal River Bed & Breakfast

The rural setting of this 1853 farmstead is a perfect weekend getaway. Enjoy the meandering paths through fields and woods, a labyrinth, and bluebird houses. 715-258-5333.

Hartman Creek State Park

This hidden gem has nearly 1,500 acres that houses a plethora of trails amongst the crystal clear Chain O' Lakes. Paddle the river system via canoes or kayaks, or explore the forest through camping and horseback rides. Access point off of Hwy 54 and Hwy 22.

Wheelhouse Restaurant

Most well-known for their pizza, with sauce and dough made from scratch and topped with sausage ground and made in house, the Wheelhouse has been a family gathering place for over 30 years. Live music and entertainment throughout the year. M-F, open at 4pm; Sa-Su open at 11am.

House of George Antiques

Antique books, coins, collectibles and remnants of Wisconsin history can be found at this shop which also features handmade gifts and crafts. Open 10am-5pm daily. 715-258-7150.

Clear Water Harbor

This happening waterfront restaurant and bar is a fantastic meeting place for all ages. There is live entertainment every weekend and kids can feed the birds out on the dock. Homemade sandwiches, soups, salads and desserts are served daily 10am-midnight.

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where to dine

GingeRootz Asian Grille 2920 N. Ballard Rd., Appleton. 738-9688. Discover how the finest ingredients come together to create a whole new world of flavor. Stop in for lunch or dinner in our contemporary dining area, or relax in the Zen Lounge with a drink from our full service bar. Have a special event on the horizon? From business meetings to birthdays, our banquet room is sure to spice up any party. Open daily 11am–9:30pm; bar open 11am–close; Happy Hour, M–Th, 4–7pm with complimentary appetizers with drinks. gingerootz.com

Zuppas 1540 S. Commercial St., Neenah (in the Shops at Mahler Farm, next to Copps Food Center). 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. Zuppas Green Room is perfect for intimate weddings, rehearsal dinners, presentations & meetings, corporate functions, family gatherings, and birthday parties. Our patio is open for the season! M–F, 8am–8pm; Sa, 11am–3pm; closed Su. Visit zuppas.com for daily specials.

Apple Tree Lane Bed & Breakfast

This Victorian farmhouse built in the 1880s sits along the Crystal River. The large covered porch overlooks the perennial gardens. The Orchard Room is a gathering space where one can read a book or watch a game on TV. 715-258-3107.

Ding's Dock Canoe Trips

Ding's is a great place to take a day off for canoeing, fishing and picnicking. Go for a 3-hour excursion on the Crystal River, or rent your own boat for the day. 715-358-2612.

Lang's Pottery

Jim Lang has been making decorative and functional high-fire stoneware by hand since 1990. Come by to see his gallery, and you may even get to watch Lang at work in his studio. M–Sa, 10am–4pm; Su, 10am–1pm.

Simpson's Restaurant

Simpson's vast menu, including steaks, seafood, and pasta dishes, is matched by its wide selection of wine and 15 beers on tap. Open 11am daily, 4pm on Saturday.

Secret Garden Café & Back Door Bakery

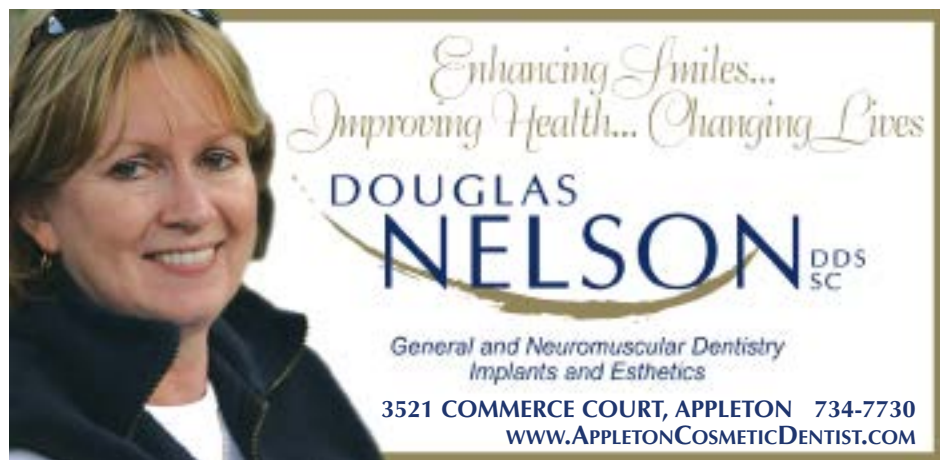
This small restaurant provides a secluded setting for a romantic special occasion. Dine on antique china while overlooking the garden. Enjoy the homemade bread, seasonal soups and fresh salads. The cafe also features outdoor grilled pizza & wine on Thursdays in the summer. Bakery: Tu–Sa 7am–2pm. Cafe: Tu–Sa, 11am–2pm. Dinner by reservation.

Natures Edge Resort

The resort, which overlooks Goose Neck and McLean Lakes, offers nightly cabin rentals. The homey wood cabins are heated for the winter. 715-258-7488.

Cleghorn Bed & Breakfast

Antiques and Amish furnishings paired with modern conveniences including a whirlpool and a fireplace make Cleghorn a unique blend of country charm and modern convenience. 715-258-5235.



Not to be Missed

- The sixth annual Antique & Classic Wooden Boat Show on July 13 showcases antique fiberglass, aluminum or wooden boats from 40 years ago or earlier. Follow the parade through the Chain O' Lakes following the show.
- Art on the Square brings a diverse mix of art, music and theater to the Waupaca Town Square. Art workshops and street performers are scattered amongst an expansive farmer's market during this participatory festival taking place August 16 & 17.
- Music, dance, demonstrations and a German themed pig roast are all part of Uber-Festival on August 25 from 11am–2pm. 715-258-5521.
- Trevor Stephenson, Artistic Director of the Madison Bach Musicians, will host an after-school program and give an evening concert lecture during the Bach Festival from September 30–October 6. Other concerts and a "Bach Around the Clock" JS Bach open mic event are among the activities during this week-long festival.
- Hidden Studios, a tour of nine working studios and over 20 artists across Central Wisconsin, will display their work during Art Along the Ice Age Trail on October 4. Appreciate man-made beauty alongside the natural beauty of the fall foliage.

Waupaca Arts Center

The Arts Center fosters the Waupaca community's creative abundance, providing a space for artists to show and sell their art, various local art events and several classes and workshops. Tu–Sa, 10am–4:30pm; Th, 10am–8pm. 715-258-3741.



Reverend Raven at the Blues Festival.
Photo by Craig Libuse.

Waupaca Woods

The Woods provides a homey eating atmosphere. You can either dine in the sunroom or next to the fireplace. For a big, hearty breakfast in the morning – or any time of day – the Woods is your place. M–F, 7am–9pm; Sa & Su, 7am–3pm.

Waupaca Community Theater

Currently in its 16th year of operation, the Waupaca Community Theater and Community Children's Theater will be producing "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and Disney's "The Little Mermaid Jr." respectively. July 26–27, 7:30pm; July 28, 2pm; August 1–3, 7:30pm. CCT: July 22–26, showtimes TBD. 715-256-1008.

Weasels

Weasels is best known for their pizza and "Pretty Good Chili." Dine in and enjoy the selection of beers on tap. Feast on the pizza buffet on Sundays and weekdays. Take out and delivery options are also available for the homebodies. Open daily, 11:30am–midnight.

Chain O'Lakes Marine

The marine's full service garage can fix up virtually any problem your boat might have, large or small. Indoor and outdoor storage is also available. 715-258-8840

Waupaca Train Depot

In 2004, restoration began on this historic sandstone building with a Spanish tile roof and three waiting rooms, each with a private fireplace. Today, the depot displays various railroad artifacts including train equipment and a telegraph. On August 17 stop in for Art at the Depot. Tours can be made by appointment. 715-256-9980.

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