

# FoxCities

MAGAZINE

## THE *Holiday* ISSUE

Hot Holiday Events | Hygge Your Home | Naughty & Nice Seasonal Eats

November 2017

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# FoxCities MAGAZINE

*Celebrating the Place We Call Home.*



foxcitiesmagazine.com

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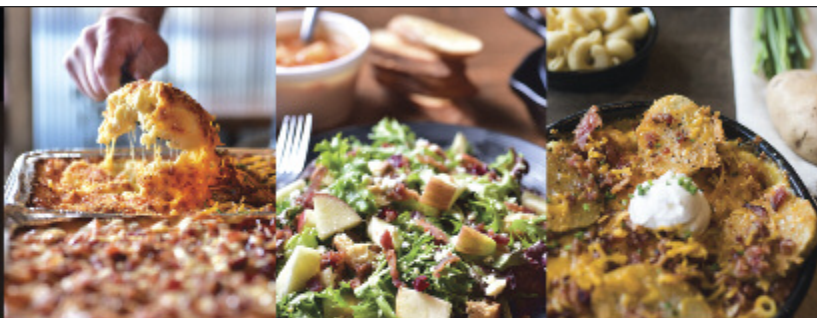
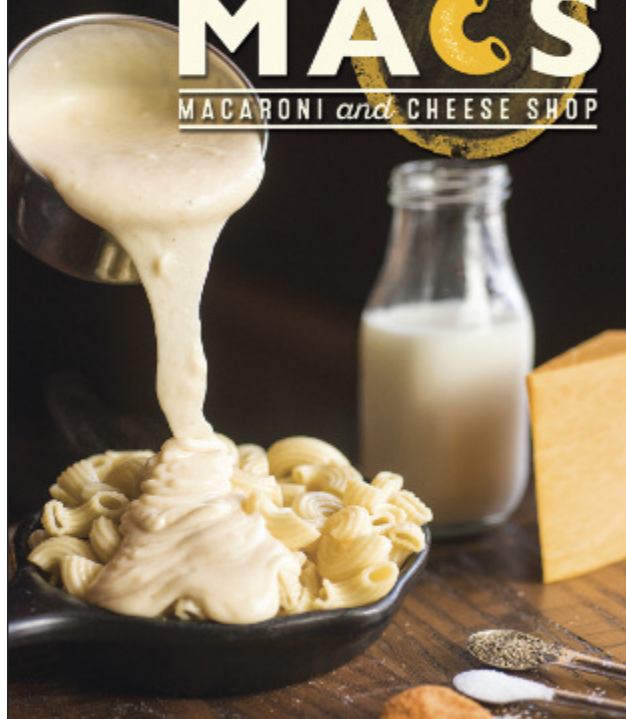




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## Features



### 18 Holiday Hot List

Your guide to holiday cheer

**Correction:** The October issue Golden Fork Award story incorrectly identified the last name of Home Burger Bar's owner, who was interviewed regarding the restaurant's Best Burger win. The owner's name is Mandy Ferg.

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By Amelia Compton Wolff



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By Amelia Compton Wolff



## foxcitiesmagazine.com



FOX CITIES Magazine's online event calendar is the premiere place to find out what's going on during the holiday season.

### PLUS...

- Events Listings and Exhibits
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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Self-starting abstract artist Emily Meder proves that art education doesn't have to come from universities. Instead, she learns from the internet and constantly creating new art, which has found her audience in both the Fox Cities and online.

The kaleidoscopic designs she paints are vivid, enigmatic and otherworldly, but her inspirations come from an unexpected source: nature. Her YouTube tutorial "Sunset with Trees" exemplifies this, embracing nature and the abstract.



**Name:** Emily Meder  
**Residence:** Appleton  
**Medium:** Mixed-media painting

In the video, Meder covers a canvas with rubbing alcohol. This secret ingredient causes the indigo-blue ink globs she carefully places next to come to life, expanding

slightly and roaming the canvas. She adjusts their pathways with a can of compressed air and occasionally spritzes a drop of alcohol or paint to change the background's shape and color depth. Once that's finished, she paints a pair of leafless trees that juxtapose the dreamlike background full of blues, purples, reds and oranges where no one part of the background looks quite the same.

At first glance, the nature influences in Meder's paintings seem unexpected, but she says vibrant, abstract designs are her way of expressing the beauty she finds in nature.

"I stare at trees a lot because I love them. What inspires me is nature, and I kind of create my own form of that. Obviously they're not super realistic. It's just however it comes out on paper," Meder says. "I think it's really beautiful."

Rather than going to college for art, Meder says she teaches herself through "experimenting and practice."

"I'm always learning and changing my techniques," Meder says. "If you don't have the resources to go to school, there's so many resources online where you can learn things."

Meder's paintings have been featured at Copper Rock Coffee Company in Appleton, The Source Public House in Menasha and Flesh Chamber tattoo shop in Appleton. Online, she's active on Instagram, Facebook, Etsy and Redbubble. On YouTube, she makes tutorial painting videos for her nearly 5,000 subscribers.

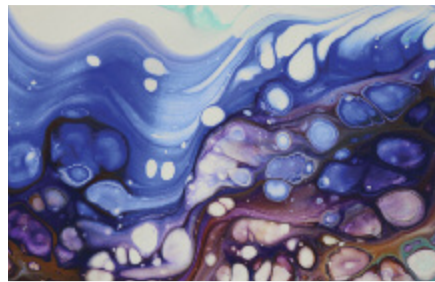
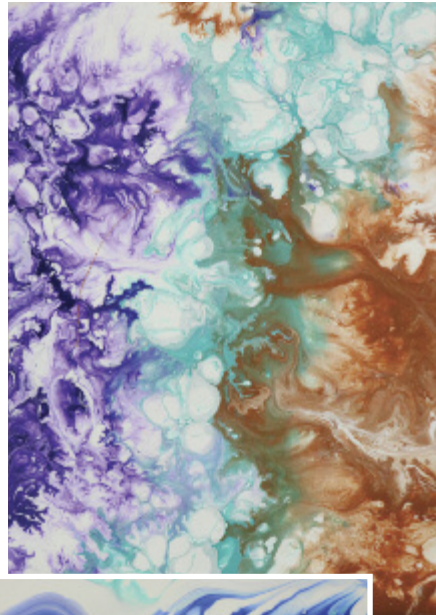
"I take a couple art forms that people seem to be struggling to learn, and I try to make them both learning [experiences] and relaxing."

Meder, who describes herself as "really shy and

reserved," values art as a means of connecting to others.

The goal is "to use creating things to connect with people," Meder says. "People, when they tell me my landscapes are really beautiful, and I see how they react to them, it makes me connect more than I usually do."

For more information about where to find Meder's art, video tutorials and online shops, visit [www.emilymederart.com](http://www.emilymederart.com).



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### OCTOBER WINNER



**Roberta Baxter, Kaukauna**

Answer: *The History Museum at the Castle*

— By Cody Wiesner





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## HOLIDAY CRAFT & BASKET SALE

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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).

## ARTS & CULTURE



Malala Yousafzai

### Repurpose for a Reason November 9

The third annual event will auction items repurposed from the Habitat ReStore to raise money for Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity. Silent auction, raffle prizes, refreshments and live music will also be featured. 5–8pm. The ARTgarage, Green Bay. 593-3921.



### Art After Dark November 16

Explore the museum exhibitions and collection, meet artists and see them demonstrate their skill. 5–7pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Neenah. 751-4658.

### Shopping in the Neighborhood: Neenah's History of Mom and Pop Grocery Stores November 16

Presented by Neenah Historical Society volunteers Becky Heidke-Kwiatkowski and JoEllen Wollank, you'll be amazed to find out how many small grocers were scattered throughout neighborhoods in Neenah. 7–9pm. Neenah Public Library. 729-0244.

### Catalyst Art Show November 18

Back by popular demand, this creative encounter presented by Mouvre is an exclusive evening of art, performance, music, dance and food from the best area artists and beyond. 5–9pm. 222 Building, Appleton. [mouvre.com](http://mouvre.com).

### Short Story Night November 13

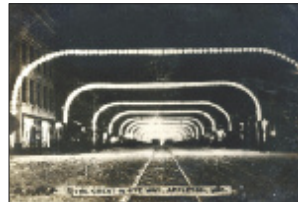
Do you enjoy talking about literature but don't have time for a traditional book club? Join us for a relaxed hour of discussion, trivia and more. Find a copy of each month's story at [neenahlibrary.org/shortstory](http://neenahlibrary.org/shortstory). 7–8pm. Lion's Tail Brewing Co., Neenah. 215-6443.

### An Afternoon with Ruthanne Bessman November 26

Join origami artist Ruthanne Bessman as she presents a hands-on program on how to make a variety of models. A classical music host on Wisconsin Public Radio, Ruthanne has been folding and teaching origami worldwide for 30 years. 11am–3pm. The Trout Museum of Art, Appleton.

### He Named Me Malala: Screening and discussion November 28

At 15 years old, Malala Yousafzai was riding the bus home from school when gunmen forced the bus to stop. Shot in the head, Malala survived and this is her story. This documentary is rated PG-13. Registration is requested but not required. 4–6pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.



### Appleton Historical Society History Fair December 2

Join the Appleton Historical Society for its annual History Fair, a celebration of Appleton's history. 9am–12:30pm. City Center Plaza, Appleton. 540-3699.

*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).*

## MUSIC

### Jazz at The Trout November 16

Gene Bertoncini ft. Janet Planet and John Harmon. Opening performance at 6:30pm by Lawrence University Student Jazz Trio. 7:30pm. The Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.



### Six Appeal Vocal Band November 16

Without a single instrument, six young men deliver an unbelievable a capella performance. The group blends talent, charm and comical personalities, taking the a capella show to a whole new level. 7:30pm. The Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2350.

### Fox Valley Symphony European Tour November 18

Lawrence University graduate and guest vocalist Katherine Harth joins FVSO for Wagner's Tristan und Isolde. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

### Miles Davis' Birth of the Cool November 29

Drawing upon the influences of bebop and European impressionism and scored for an unusual instrumental nonet, this recording of the 1957 album Birth of the Cool imagined a new future for jazz. An ensemble of UWGB music faculty and friends will recreate the album from the restored manuscript. Historian Clif Ganyard will introduce the concert. 6:30pm. Fort Howard Hall, Weidner Center for the Performing Arts. 465-2726.



Janece Schommer  
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## PERFORMANCES

### Roustabout: The Great Circus Train Wreck

November 9-11 & 16-18

Historical fact and fiction combine to resurrect the stories of five unknown circus performers who met their fate when an American military train plowed through a circus train outside of Chicago in 1918. 7pm, except 18, 2pm. Baehman Theatre at UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 832-2646.

### Swan Lake

November 15

The Russian Grand Ballet presents one of the world's most famous ballets, Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. This full-length classical production features the rarely seen Waltz of the Black Swans and marks the first time the Russian Grand Ballet has ever performed in Green Bay. 7:00pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 465-2726.



### The Fantasticks

November 16-19

Young neighbors, Luisa and Matt, fall in love, but their feuding fathers are determined to keep them apart. When bandits threaten Luisa, Matt heroically saves her. Their fathers rejoice and they all lived happily ever after. Not quite. 16-18, 7:30pm. 19, 2pm. Fredric March Theatre at UW-Oshkosh. 424-4417.



### One Man Star Wars Trilogy

November 25

Charles Ross will stun and amaze you with his fun, energetic and entertaining performance of One-Man Star Wars® Trilogy! 4 & 7pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

### Waitress

November 28-December 3

Waitress and expert pie maker, Jenna dreams of a way out of her small town and loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town's new doctor may offer her a chance at a fresh start while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes for happiness. 28-2, 7:30pm. 2, 2pm. 3, 1 & 6:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS



### Natural Dyeing Workshop

November 18

In this three-hour workshop, you'll learn where to forage natural dye materials, how to prepare fabrics and textiles, dyeing techniques and finishing. You'll leave with a with five recipes and fibers you hand dyed to reference as you continue to dye your own fibers. Tickets required. 10am-1pm. The Draw, Appleton. 608-286-1511.

### Holiday Wreath Make & Take

November 28

Patrons will have the opportunity to make and take a holiday wreath with direction from a master gardener who will demonstrate how to make a wreath using live evergreen boughs. Registration required. 5:30pm. Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library. 788-7515.

### Bee House Workshop

December 2

Join Appleton Seed Library and the Appleton Pollinator Project for this free, DIY bee hotel workshop. Meet the creative team behind this local pollinator project and make a bee hotel to bring to your yard. Registration required. Geared toward adults and children over five years. 10am. Appleton Public Library. 832-6177.

### Paper Bead Jewelry Workshop

December 9

Create gorgeous gifts out of paper beads you make yourself. We provide everything you need to make a necklace and bracelet and teach you techniques to make more at home. Preregistration is required by December 5. 1-3pm. Paper Discovery Center, Appleton. 380-7491.



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## Santa Calling

Win Parent of the Year this Christmas by signing up your child to receive a phone call from the big guy himself. Through this City of Appleton Parks and Recreation Department program, Santa Claus will give your child a ring to encourage their good behavior and spread a little seasonal cheer.

The Santa Calling program is offered to Appleton children ages 3 to 8. Santa's schedule is tentative (he's busy, you know), but he plans to make calls on Monday, December 4. Children ages 3–6 will be called between 5–7 p.m. and ages 7–8 from 7–8 p.m.

Santa Calling forms can be downloaded at [appletonparkandrec.org](http://appletonparkandrec.org) and are also available at the Appleton Public Library. Complete a form and return to the Parks and Recreation office or email to [aprd@appleton.org](mailto:aprd@appleton.org) by December 1.

—ACW

## FIVE FESTIVE HAPPENINGS

*Celebrate the season at these upcoming events.*



### Light-Up Night November 10

Fox Cities Building for the Arts, in partnership with Appleton Downtown, Inc., kicks off the holiday season with family fun and a lighting ceremony at 6pm. Stroll down College Avenue and enjoy decorated storefronts. Many businesses will be open with special offers and holiday refreshments. 4–7pm. Houdini Plaza, Appleton. 733-4089.



### Merry-Time Festival of Trees November 11–December 12

Enjoy dozens of decorated Christmas trees scattered throughout the galleries. Decorated by local businesses and organizations, each tree is adorned with beautiful ornaments and surprises. Daily, 10am–5pm. Door County Maritime Museum, Sturgeon Bay. 743-5958.



### Deck the Halls November 18–December 31

This annual exhibition showcases the historic Sawyer home decorated in its holiday splendor reminiscent of the times. The life-size Christmas Village exhibit windows feature a wonderful display of recreated scenes from favorite classic holiday movies. Tu–Sa, 10am–4:30pm. Su, 1–4:30pm. Oshkosh Public Museum. 236-5799.



### Christmas at the Pond December 3

Witness Santa's arrival to town, take a holiday book walk, make s'mores, listen to holiday caroling, be amazed by the Christmas light display and enjoy cookies and treats. 6–9pm. Memorial Park, Kimberly. 788-7507.



### Holiday Hayride December 8

Take a ride through the beautifully decorated streets of the Menasha Island, visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, view the reindeer and sample hot beverages and cookies! Tickets required. 5–8:30pm. Memorial Building, Menasha. 967-3640.



## LAST CALL

Three exhibits to catch ASAP

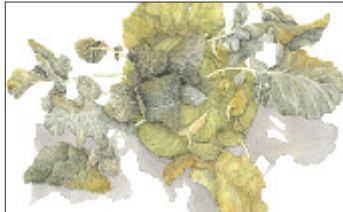


### **Mirth & Melancholy: The Circus in Modern Art** Through November 19

The prints and paintings featured in this exhibition show artists' fascination with the circus. While some express the entertaining and lighter side of the circus, others depict a more melancholy scene. Often, these two sides are represented in tandem, reflecting the artists' own contradictory feelings about the rapidly changing world around them. Wriston Art Center Leech Gallery at Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6621.

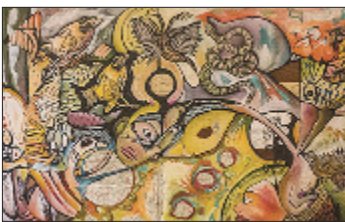
### **Diverse Directions: 65th Anniversary Exhibition by The Wisconsin Watercolor Society** Through November 24

The theme for this exhibit features how unique and diverse watercolor paintings can be presented. From soft and subtle colors to strong saturated pigments, the subjects of the paintings will be diverse as well. Landscapes, florals, portraiture, abstraction and non-objective will all be represented in this show. Plymouth Arts Center. 892-8409.



### **Dawn Patel** Through December 10

Door County artist Dawn Patel works in a variety of medium – acrylic painting, collage, printmaking, textile wearables and mix media, with dreams sometimes inspiring her imagery. Her exhibition includes examples from across her diverse range of making and includes a sculptural installation. Closing reception December 10, 5–7pm. Aylward Gallery at UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 832-2824.



## Wisconsin Startup Week

Matt Cordio, founder of the technology recruitment platform Skills Pipeline, launched Milwaukee Startup Week in 2016. The initiative presented 25 events highlighting entrepreneurial resources, from investor connections to mentorship.

This year Cordio launched Wisconsin Startup Week as a statewide effort to connect high-growth startup communities throughout Wisconsin. Ten communities, including Oshkosh, Appleton and Green Bay, are participating in the inaugural event occurring November 6–12.

Cordio says the Wisconsin Startup Week initiative unifies the state in celebrating entrepreneurship which is essential to Wisconsin's economy.

"One of the unique aspects of Wisconsin Startup Week is its focus on highlighting resources for entrepreneurs that already exist in these communities," Cordio says. "Many people have ideas for businesses, but don't know where to go in their community."

Wisconsin Startup Week aims to bring visibility to existing resources as well as connect startup leaders throughout the state. Each night of the week will focus on a different community. Events include a speaker and startup showcase presented by Digital Fertilizer in Green Bay, a panel discussion and happy hour at Lion's Tail Brewery in Neenah and a lunch hour workshop at The Grind Coworking Space in Oshkosh.

The week's events, many of which are free or

low-cost, aren't only for entrepreneurs. Cordio says business leaders who want to engage startups, investors looking for projects to fund and curious community members are all invited.

"We want everyone to come," he says. "It's meant to be a collaborative, open-source event."

For information on events taking place in the Fox Cities, visit [wistartupweek.org](http://wistartupweek.org).

—ACW



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## WWI and The Fox Valley

World War I remains a "Forgotten War" in comparison with other major U.S. conflicts, but on its centennial anniversary, the Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha hopes to change that by chronicling the history and significance of the Great War through five thought-provoking presentations and a memorable exhibit.

The event will partially depict local efforts during the war, including those of Menasha's Company E of Wisconsin's National Guard fourth infantry division, and focus will also be placed on comparing WWI's efforts at home and abroad with other wars. Spectators will leave considering and evaluating how history remembers these events having broadened their understanding of WWI through a local perspective.

"History, in many ways, is about how groups of people and individuals experience a particular event at the local and personal

level. By studying how people in the Fox Cities experienced World War I, we gain a much fuller and more nuanced understanding of its impact," says Steven Sheehan, event speaker and professor at UW-Fox Valley.

Various history experts will present during five separate days. On November 5, historian Tom Sutter will discuss how WWI is remembered today. Then Sheehan will recount on November 9 how the war began and why the U.S. got involved, followed on November 11 by the Menasha Historical Society's own Rhys Kuzdas, speaking on Company E's local influence on the war. On November 16, UW-Sheboygan history professor Mark Karau will

analyze the development of the war, showing the factors that influenced its progression and end. Finally, UW-Fox English professor Scott Emmert will demonstrate how WWI is depicted in literature, art and film on November 20.

All the events are free and open to the public. For those excited to learn more about the Forgotten War, there will be exhibits on the art wall and in display cases in the foyer and circulation room November 1 through 30. More information can be found at [www.menashalibrary.org](http://www.menashalibrary.org) or by calling the reference desk at 967-3690.

—CW



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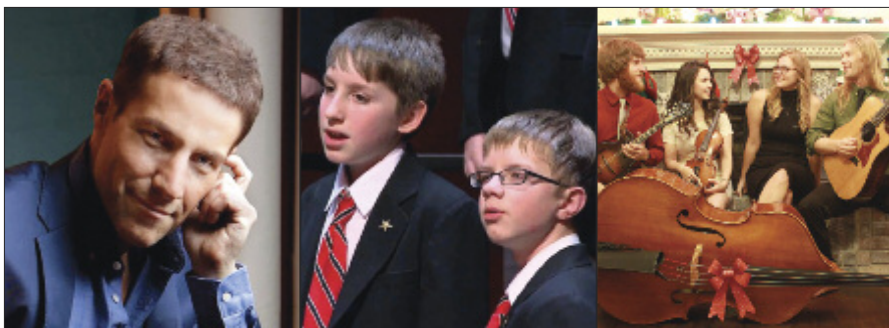
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## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

*Music to evoke that holiday spirit*



### **Jim Brickman: A Joyful Christmas** November 16

Jim Brickman delivers the sound and spirit of the season with carols, classics and original songs on his 21st holiday tour. Holiday music brings Yuletide memories to life as Brickman helps you escape from the holiday hustle-bustle and keeps your days merry and bright. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

### **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols** December 2

Join the Appleton Boychoir as they ring in the season with the beautiful message of the angels through favorite Yuletide melodies and Biblical lessons. The massive pipes of the Brombaugh organ resonate as the soaring treble voices of the choir lead the audience in song! The Copper Street Brass quintet of Minneapolis will be joining the boys for second season. 1 & 4pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 955-2224.

### **The Barefoot Movement Christmas Show** December 7

Called "one of the most promising bands on the bluegrass scene" by CMT Edge, The Barefoot Movement offers everything from soulful ballads to energetic banjo-driven beats and holiday favorites. 7:30pm. The Grand Oshkosh. 424-2350.



## ***Aluminized Holiday***

In 1959, Aluminum Specialty Company of Manitowoc developed the Evergleam aluminum Christmas tree, a "space-aged" design that became an instant classic. This holiday, more than 40 different sizes, styles and colors of vintage Evergleam aluminum trees will return to the city where they were originally manufactured over 50 years ago. "Evergleams On Eighth," a community event that runs from November 17 to January 7, features more than 30 downtown Manitowoc storefronts "aluminized" for the season.

Downtown Manitowoc, a nonprofit organization, worked with two Manitowoc natives who are avid Evergleam collectors. Their collections include nearly 300 aluminum trees, including some very rare varieties and also numerous color wheels and rotating tree stands.

Guided trolley tours of the participating storefronts will be available on several days during the holiday season. Due to the vintage nature of the trees, some displays are not lighted, so it is best to attend during daylight hours. For a map of locations and to purchase trolley tickets, visit [downtownmanitowoc.org/EvergleamsOnEighth](http://downtownmanitowoc.org/EvergleamsOnEighth).

For more information, call 901-6999 or 901-0043.

—ACW

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# Hurricane Heroes

By Cody Wiesner and  
Amelia Compton Wolff

*The Fox Valley responds to  
Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria*

When natural disasters as dangerous as Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria strike, the Red Cross relies on fast and diligent responses from thousands of volunteers down to the local level. Fox Cities residents like Red Cross volunteer Jenna Geiser went to Texas after less than a day of notice, managing shelters and distributing donated relief supplies to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

On-location support from the Red Cross isn't the only way locals lend support to such disasters. Geiser says "anyone can do a job, locally or nationally." That's certainly been true in the Fox Cities, where residents have not only volunteered to help victims, they have also donated blood, rescued animals and aided Texas cattle ranchers and their livestock.

## A Swift Response

This summer and fall, the United States and Caribbean Islands saw some of their most costly and devastating natural disasters to date. Hurricane Harvey hit Texas on August 25, Hurricane Irma hit Florida on September 10 and Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico on September 20, each as Category 4 storms.

When disaster strikes, the whole is only as good as the sum of its parts, and that's why providing hurricane relief requires aid from local communities all over the country.

The Fox Cities provided relief to affected communities, thanks to organizations like the Community Blood Center (CBC) in Appleton and the Red Cross' Northeast Wisconsin Chapter.

During the first half of September, America's

Blood Centers asked the CBC for 20 units of red blood cells, but they sent 140 to Hurricane Harvey victims instead, giving 15 percent of their weekly supply. Although Texas needed a lot more blood than what the CBC could give, the Fox Cities played an important role in meeting their need.

"Texas probably used thousands of units per day," says Kristine Belanger, vice president of donor service at the CBC. "[The CBC is] part of a network of stations worldwide. Blood centers in other areas come to help when another is in need."

The CBC also sent platelets to Hurricane Irma

victims. Platelets are important because they help the blood clot, preventing further loss, but preserving and shipping platelets across the country is easier said than done.

"Platelets are only good for five days, so anything they collected was used before the hurricane happened," Bellanger says.

The CBC had to collect 69 all-new units and ship them to Florida on short notice, but according to Bellanger, both employees and donors worked extra hard to provide enough platelets in time.

"Donors were the heroes. They stepped up when we really needed them," she says, "[and] we had [employees] come in for special shifts for the weekend. Everyone was committed to doing their part."

The Red Cross in Northeast Wisconsin helped the hurricane efforts substantially as well, sending large numbers of volunteers and staff to locations affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

"We've been thin, to say the least," says Barbara Behling, communications manager at the Oshkosh Red Cross. "Every day, we're sending people to help."

Behling says that although response teams sometimes cannot travel to Florida immediately due to severe road conditions, the Red Cross can study weather patterns to determine when hurricanes hit.

"You know several days in advance when they're going to hit. This has helped people get to a safer place or recognize they need to prepare or fend for themselves because first responders won't



Jenna Geiser at a Red Cross distribution point in Houston.



be able to get to them,” Behling says. “Once the roads were safe, we were able to get there by car.”

For disaster workers, being the barrier between a hurricane victim’s life and death is part of the job. Deanna Culver of Appleton saved a choking man in an Irving, Texas shelter.

“She moved over [to the man], provided the spots on the back, and the elements did not dislodge. She was able to get her arms around the gentlemen who was of a larger girth and was able to give abdominal thrusts, and it dislodged,” Behling says. “She was credited with saving that gentleman’s life.”



### Puppy Love

Humans weren’t the only species affected by the hurricanes. Thousands of animals, including domesticated pets and strays, were impacted as well.

One Appleton-based nonprofit, Saving Paws Animal Rescue, decided to help. Saving Paws is a 100-percent volunteer-run organization founded in 2006 with the mission to rescue homeless animals. Co-Director Glenda Stadler says for the past four years, Saving Paws has partnered with Houston

K911, another nonprofit that works to reduce stray animal overpopulation in the Houston area. Houston’s stray animal population was already high, but after Hurricane Harvey hit it increased dramatically. Stadler contacted Houston K911 and learned they were in dire need of animal food and supplies.

“We put out a post on Facebook that we were going to do a donation drive and take some supplies down to Houston, and the response was absolutely overwhelming,” Stadler says.

Donations began pouring in from as far as Port Washington and Northern Wisconsin. “We had to get a warehouse donated to hold all the donations,” Stadler says. Over Labor Day weekend, Stadler and her team drove to Houston in two vans containing 7,000 pounds of animal food, water, crates and supplies. One of the best moments of the trip for Stadler was seeing the reaction from her Houston K911 contact.

“When we opened the van, she was kind of speechless,” Stadler says. “They were so very appreciative.”

Once the vans were emptied of supplies, they were filled with foster dogs to be brought back to Wisconsin. “We brought back 13 dogs that were already in foster programs to open up space for animals displaced by the hurricane and hopefully help reunite some of the animals with owners down there,” Stadler says.



A 6-month-old Lab mix named Max was one of the 13 dogs Savings Paws rescued from Houston. Alan Tanner, a brand manager for Kimberly Clark in Neenah, and his family of six adopted Max shortly after he arrived in Appleton.

“With four kids, we knew we needed a special dog,” Alan says. “When we met Max, the kids were pulling his ears and tail and he took it like a champ. It didn’t bother him at all.”

While it was Max’s laidback personality that ultimately won the Tanner family over, his connection to Hurricane Harvey was personal for Alan, who has a brother living in Houston.

“Being so far away, there wasn’t a lot we could do,” he says, “but this felt like a concrete way we could help and open up an awesome foster home for another dog that really needs it.”



*Continued*



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## Relief for Ranchers

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture, the state leads the nation in its number of farms and ranches, with 248,800 farms and ranches covering 130.2 million acres. In 2012, Texas' number one commodity by cash receipt was cattle to the tune of \$10.5 billion.

Threats to the cattle industry mean threats to the foundation of the Texan economy. No one understands this better than Fremont residents Eric and Nicki Scott, director of livestock sales for MWI Animal Health and agricultural company representative for Bo Brown Company, respectively. The Scotts have decades of experience in the animal health industry, so when Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the husband-and-wife team knew the impact would be devastating and were compelled to act.

In 24 hours, the Scotts collected enough donations from friends and neighbors to fill their horse trailer with 5,000 pounds of supplies. When they left for Texas, the only plan was to meet a group of Eric's coworkers who work in the Beaumont, Texas area.

"I knew all the rural areas where my guys work were really affected, so that's where we wanted to focus," Eric says. "We figured we'd just meet up and drive until somebody needs help."

When they arrived in Texas, the Scotts discovered cattle neck-deep in water, flooded vet clinics and exhausted ranchers. They began distributing animal health products like antibiotics, vaccines, needles and syringes to area animal shelters and a temporary veterinary clinic set up in a vacant car dealership.

The Scotts were stationed at a ranch belonging to one of Eric's clients in Devers, Texas. Nicki helped treat some of the cattle and horses that suffered foot abscesses and infections from standing in water for days. They also served a community meal for the locals, which provided a much-needed emotional break.

"On two different nights we met up at a fairgrounds and fed all the ranchers who were working all day," Eric says. "It was the first time those ranchers had gotten together since the storm hit a week ago. They had been going 24/7 and could finally come and get a steak sandwich and a beer."

The Scotts worked in Texas



affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The Rebecca Foundation is a partner agency of Jake's Diapers and had 14 active chapters throughout Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico that were unable to meet needs due to the hurricanes' impact.

Bowers says the partnership capitalizes on each organization's strength – Jake's Diapers will collect, prepare and provide diapers and The Rebecca Foundation will distribute them. To date, the team has delivered 547 cloth diaper kits to Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Bowers is also partnering with CaringCrowd, an online crowdfunding platform powered by Johnson & Johnson, which is matching all donations to support her efforts in hurricane relief and rebuilding. Donors are fully funding projects supporting Puerto Rico in a matter of days and sometimes hours, Bowers says.

for five days before returning home. It was difficult to leave, Nicki says, when there was so much more work to be done. Eric says his memory is burned with images of homes with all their contents sitting curbside.

"It really makes you think about what everybody says, that's it's just stuff, it doesn't matter," Nicki says, "but it's different when you're in there with rubber gloves and boots on."

## Wrapped in Hope

Natural disasters can leave vulnerable populations completely devastated. In an effort to meet basic survival needs, other essential necessities are often forgotten.

"When you think about disaster relief, you think about food, clothing and shelter. You don't think about diapers," says Stephanie Bowers, co-founder and executive director of Jake's Diapers in Kaukauna. "But the impact of diapers is sanitation, hygiene and access to education. It's so basic, but so overlooked."

Bowers founded Jake's Diapers in 2013 to provide diapers to babies, children and adults in extreme poverty, both locally and globally. Now the nonprofit organization is partnering with The Rebecca Foundation's Cloth Diaper Closet, a diaper bank, to provide diapers for children



"We are breaking Johnson & Johnson's fundraising records because of the work we are doing," Bowers says.

Even with all this success, the need for diapers is far from met – 3,000 babies remain on the hurricane relief waiting list. Bowers says efforts in Puerto Rico will continue for the foreseeable future.

"We are up to 547 kids directly impacted by the hurricanes who we are helping," Bowers says. "It might not seem like a lot, but one at a time is how you make things happen."





# Ornamental Elegance



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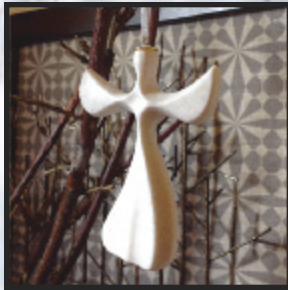
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**Angel**  
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**Dancer**  
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**Shepherds Afield Nativity**  
*Interior hand-painted blown glass*

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(920) 788-6978



# Holiday Hot List

Your guide to holiday cheer



## Thanksgiving on Serendipity Lane November 9-11 & 15-19

George and Jane are ready to celebrate Thanksgiving with their quirky family, but when Jane asks each member to share a serendipitous event from their recent lives, everyone gets more than they bargained for. Presented by Green Bay Community Theater. 9-10 & 15-17, 7:30pm. 11 & 18, 4 & 7:30pm. 19, 2pm. Robert Lee Brault Playhouse, Green Bay. 435-6300.

## Holiday Window Walk November 10

Stroll the Avenue to view the decorated storefronts of downtown, take advantage of refreshments, register to win gift certificates and enjoy special offers in the shops! Free. 6-9pm. Downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

## BID Tree Lighting Ceremony & Windward Wealth Strategies Holiday Parade November 16

After many years of the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce running the parade, the Downtown Oshkosh BID will organize the parade, starting with a tree lighting ceremony at 6pm, parade at 6:30pm. This year's theme is "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Free. 6-8pm. Opera House Square, Oshkosh. 303-2265.

## Letters to Santa November 17

Join Mrs. Claus for an evening of fun! Write a letter to Santa and enjoy music, crafts, activities and experiments from our "Frozen: Science and Art" exhibit. Registration not required. 5-7:30pm. Paper Discovery Center, Appleton. 380-7491.

## Paper Crafting Workshop: Snowflake Blocks November 18

Select, prepare and paint wooden blocks to hold beautiful hand-cut paper snowflakes. All materials and supplies are provided. Designed for adults and children 13+ with an accompanying adult. Preregistration is required by Nov. 14. 1-3pm. Paper Discovery Center, Appleton. 380-7491.

## Downtown Appleton Christmas Parade November 21

The largest nighttime parade in the Midwest with the theme "Christmas Lights on Parade" begins at State St. and College Ave. heading east to Drew St. 7pm. Downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

## WPS Garden of Lights November 24-December 30

For the 21st year, experience the magic of WPS Garden of Lights, encompassed by more than 250,000 twinkling lights, and create extraordinary holiday memories with your family and friends at the Garden this winter. Weekends, 5-9pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

## 'Tis the Season: Feature Star Show November 24-25, December 1-2, 8-9, 15-16 & 22-23

Discover the astronomical significance of this most joyous time of the year that concludes with a possible explanation for the most famous star in Christianity, the Star of Bethlehem. Each show concludes with a tour of the current nighttime sky as seen from the Fox Valley and Northeast Wisconsin. 3:45-4:30pm. Barlow Planetarium at UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 832-2868.

## Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis November 26

The spirit of the season comes alive with the signature sound of Mannheim Steamroller. The group's first Christmas album, Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, was released in 1984 and revolutionized the holiday season music category. 6:30-10pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

## Russian Grand Ballet presents "Nutcracker" November 28 & 29

Tchaikovsky's lustrous music and the magnificent choreography of Marius Petipa have made "The Nutcracker" a must-see for children of all ages. Russian Grand Ballet's full-length classical production features Russia's brightest ballet stars. 7pm. Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2350.

## Laser Holidays: Family Laser Show November 30, December 7, 14 & 21

Laser Holidays is a fun experience for everyone and gives new meaning to the term "holiday lights." Laser lights are set to a rocking holiday soundtrack. 3:45-4:30pm. Barlow Planetarium at UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 832-2868.

## Christmas Stars November 30 & December 1-3, 7-10

This Broadway-style, holiday extravaganza features singers, dancers and actors age five through senior citizens. Gorgeous costumes, beautiful sets, lighting and staging make it one of the Midwest's premiere holiday attractions. 30, 1-2, 7-9, 7pm. 2-3, 9-10, 1pm. Xavier Fine Arts Theatre, Appleton. 733-8840.

## Grignon Mansion Christmas Tours December 1-3 & 8-10

Learn about Christmas traditions and the Grignon family. Tours will feature candlelight tours after dark, live music, crafts, cookie decorating and wassail (hot spiced cider) and milk punch (eggnog) samples. There will be trolley rides on Saturday and horse-drawn carriage rides on Sunday. 1 & 8, 5-8pm. 2 & 9, 1-7pm. 3 & 10, 12-4pm. Grignon Mansion, Kaukauna. 766-6106.

## A Christmas Carol: The Musical December 1-2 & 14-16

Ebenezer Scrooge is a prosperous curmudgeon who believes that personal wealth is far more valuable than the happiness and comfort of others, but he's forced to face his selfish ways when three ghosts on Christmas Eve lead him through his past, present and future. 1-2 & 14-15, 7pm. 2, 2pm. 16, 12 & 4pm. Broadway Theatre, De Pere. 445-5669.



## A Very Neenah Christmas December 1

Start the holiday season with this Neenah tradition. Downtown storefronts are transformed into live mannequin displays featuring holiday and winter scenes. A wide range of events for the whole family, including a Rudolph Run, Santa, bell choir and horse-drawn carriage rides. 6-8pm. Wisconsin Ave. & Commercial St., Neenah. 722-1920.



### Christmas in the Air

December 2

Roam the EAA Aviation Museum to find more than 20 local musical, choral and dance groups performing on various stages! Don't miss the arrival of Santa Claus as he flies in by helicopter at noon to visit with all of the children! Free. 10am-4pm. EAA Museum, Oshkosh. 426-4800.

### Children's Christmas Gift Workshop

December 2

Kids make six gifts. Our volunteers wrap each gift. Cookies and hot cocoa are served. Advanced registration required. 10am-12pm. 1-3pm. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Menasha. 720-9349.

### Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra Holiday Celebration

December 2

Join the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra as they carry on this family-friendly holiday tradition. Celebrate the joy of the season through song, featuring the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra with Andrew Sewell conducting. 7:30-9pm. The Grand Oshkosh. 424-2350.

### Kimberly Community Band Holiday Concert

December 3

Join the Kimberly Community Band for their festive and free holiday concert. A social with punch and cookies follows the concert and Santa will visit with treats for the kids. 2-3pm. JR Gerrits Middle School, Kimberly. 659-9041.

### Holiday Concert with Tom Pease

December 5

That wild, antic songster returns for a concert filled with those lovable Tom songs and jokes! Don't miss this concert filled with songs old and new, plus some seasonal joy and good cheer. No registration necessary. 6:30pm. Elisha D. Smith Public Library, Menasha. 967-3670.

### The Spirit of Christmas Past

December 9 & 16

Learn about the development of Christmas, when it became an American tradition and how it would have been celebrated during different periods of Wisconsin's early history. Meet Old World Santa for a treat and take a family photo with him. 12-6pm. Heritage Hill, Green Bay. 448-5150.

### Yule Loggers: A Lumberjack Christmas

December 7 & 12

This year's annual show will include performances by the Fox Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus, guest Fox Cities community chorus members and many performing groups. Dec. 7 at the Grand Meridian, Appleton. Cocktails at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:30pm, show at 7:30. 968-2621. Dec. 12 at James W. Perry Hall at UW-Fox Valley, Menasha. 7pm. 757-6153.

### Hollywood Christmas

December 9

Join the Fox Valley Chorus as they celebrate the songs of the season from your favorite Christmas movies and shows - a cappella style, of course! Featuring guest quartets and small groups. 2 & 7pm. St. Mary's Central High School Jane Bergstrom Theatre, Neenah. 982-5639.

### Holiday Ballroom Dance party

December 10

Take a break from the hectic holiday season with an elegant afternoon on the dance floor! Get moving to music with a DJ, sip a refreshing drink, meet new people, watch dance demonstrations and mix it up with other dancers. Lesson at 11am. Dance, 12-3:30 p.m. John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan. 458-6144.

### Holiday Fun Fest

December 16

Enjoy fun for the whole family featuring live music, visits with Santa, cookie decorating with Mrs. Claus, story time and games inside the Farm Market.

The Holiday Handcrafted Gift Market will be back inside City Center as well. Enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides, refreshments and more. All day. City Center Plaza and Downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

### Christmas at the Chapel

December 16  
Join newVoices for one of the most joyous Christmas traditions in

the region as they present concerts of sacred songs and hymns. Celebrate Christmas with 75 voices lifted in praise and joy to proclaim the true meaning of the season! Featuring the Lawrence Academy of Music's Young Men's Choir. 2-4pm & 7:30-9:30pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-9700.

### The Nutcracker

December 16 & 17

Watch talented local dancers from Makaroff Youth Ballet tell the classic holiday tale of Clara's adventures with the Prince and his army of toy soldiers, the Mouse Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy, accompanied with live music by the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and the Appleton Boychoir. 16, 7:30pm. 17, 1pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

### Christmas Carol Sing

December 17

Hosted by the Oshkosh Area Community Band and featuring the Madrigal Singers from Oshkosh North, Oshkosh West and Lourdes High Schools, this free annual event allows the audience to sing your favorite carols with the Madrigals. Free-will offerings will benefit the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Center. 6:30-7:30pm. Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2350.

### Mile of Music's New Year's Encore Eve

December 31

Ring in 2018 with a night of handcrafted, calendar-flipping fun! 8pm-12:15am. Radisson Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center, Appleton. 750-5020.

### Menasha New Year's Eve Celebration

December 31

24th annual event with live TV coverage from Curtis Reed Square, featuring Channel 5. Enjoy live music, giveaways, a midnight ball drop and fireworks. Free. 10pm-12:30am. Curtis Reed Square, Menasha. 967-3640.



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### Celebrate the Season With Us!

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After the hustle and bustle of Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping, please take a moment to remember pets in need on #Giving Tuesday, November 28th. Your donation to the **Fox Valley Humane Association** provides food, shelter and medical services to the pets in our care until they find their forever homes. Together we can save more lives! To donate or adopt visit [www.foxvalleypets.org](http://www.foxvalleypets.org).



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# HOW TO *hygge* YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Amelia Compton Wolff



*Even with 4,000 miles between us, Fox Cities residents and people from Denmark have something in common – we both endure some of the longest, darkest winters around. When it comes to winter coping mechanisms, our Danish counterparts have an edge in the concept known as hygge (pronounced hoo-guh). Danes developed hygge as a way to find enjoyment in the bleak days of winter as it celebrates life’s simple pleasures like hand-knit blankets, flickering candlelight and coffee with friends. “It’s definitely more of a feeling. It’s not necessarily something you can go out and buy,” says Leslie Wilson, owner of Bellwether Interior Design in Neenah.*

While central to Scandinavian culture, the concept has only recently made its way this side of the Atlantic. The word itself has no direct English translation, but hygge focuses on creating warmth, coziness and contentment. Sometimes it can be interpreted as the art of creating intimacy in your home, so the holidays are a natural time to hygge up. We spoke to local interior design experts who suggest seven ways to hygge your home for the holidays and all winter long.





### Keep rooms clean and uncluttered.

Hygge embraces a minimalist approach to decor with the philosophy that a serene space leads to a serene mind. This is easier said than done, especially during the holidays when clutter is at an all-time high. “We tend to over-accessorize during the holidays,” says Rebekah Myers, head designer at Branching Out & Co. in Appleton. “So don’t be afraid to put pieces away.” Clearing space creates a clean landscape for seasonal items to shine. One of the most well-intentioned clutter creators during the holidays is greeting cards. Instead of displaying them on prime mantle real estate, Wilson suggests attaching them to a festive ribbon hung above an entryway. “If you don’t have tons of space, you always have wall space or over a doorway that adds an extra element without adding clutter because it’s not on a tabletop,” she says.

### Arrange seating to encourage conversation.

“This concept is all about coziness, family and friends, so you want to create an environment that’s conducive to conversation and laughter,” says Greg Curtiss, designer at The Wreath Factory in Menasha. “Seating often faces the TV. Change that.” Seating arranged in a circular grouping is more conversation-friendly, Curtiss says. Don’t forget to offer extra blankets and plenty of pillows so guests can linger comfortably. “I always have a basket of knit stockings or slippers for guests to slip on and curl up with a blanket,” Curtiss says. Wilson suggests switching out an everyday coffee table with a

plush ottoman that can serve as additional seating, if needed.

### Create ambiance with secondary lighting.

Harsh overhead lights, begone – cozy lighting is a main tenet of hygge. Fireplaces provide the warm glow that hygge is known for, but the same effect can be achieved with string lights, candles and lamps. “We love mixing candles on a mantle or in a tablescape, using various heights of pillar candles or pairing chunky and taper candles in different holders,” says Casee Meach, sales and marketing director at Branching Out & Co.

During the holiday season, Wilson opts for earthy-scented candles, like those with notes of fresh pine and tobacco. She also recommends adding candle wall sconces to keep tabletops free

### HYGGE (hoo-guh)

*The Oxford English Dictionary defines hygge as “a quality of cosiness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being, regarded as a defining characteristic of Danish culture.”*





from unnecessary clutter. Don't discount battery-operated flameless candles either, Curtiss says. New models look like the real thing and can be set to a timer or operated with a remote control. Plus, there's no safety concern.

### Decorate with natural materials.

Connecting with nature is central to hygge and luckily the holiday season offers ample opportunity to bring the outdoors in. A no-brainer method is to opt for a real Christmas tree, but there are many ways to incorporate plants and natural elements. Meach is a fan of large fiddle-leaf figs in decorative containers that can breathe life into a room in more ways than one. "Not only are they pleasing to the eye, but many plants create oxygen in the home and certain ones, like lavender, have calming effects," says Myers. Bonus: adding aromatic evergreens like pine, cedar and balsam to your decor will fill your home with the scent of Christmas. Curtiss favors Port Orford cedar. "It's a long, flat branch, and when it dries, it doesn't lose the needles," he says. "I like tucking it in bookshelves and around mantles."

### Incorporate meaningful items.

Handmade decor adds instant character. If you don't have a mantle, Curtiss suggests hanging a birch log on the wall with some cup hooks screwed to the bottom from which stockings can hang. "It brings in that natural element, but also provides texture and interest," he says. Display keepsakes from your travels or pieces that hold sentimental value even if they don't adhere to this year's holiday decor theme. It's okay to mix vintage Christmas tree ornaments with new ones or to pair your heirloom china with modern flatware. "It's your home and your memories," Wilson says. "It's more interesting when things have a story behind them. They're conversation pieces." And good conversation is totally hygge.



### Add layers of texture.

If color is intimidating, create visual interest with textural layers. During the cold winter months, Wilson recommends layering wools, furs and knits, whether with throw pillows and blankets or rugs. "Another big trend is macrame," Wilson says. "You can add texture on walls with a hanging as well." Curtiss likes to add throws and pillows in a monochromatic color scheme of grays, creams and whites, but in different textures and even various patterns. "People are afraid of mixing patterns like polka dots and stripes," he says, "but as long as it's the same color family, go for it." In order to achieve that hygge coziness, Meach says it's important to soften hard surfaces and lines. "Add flowers and fresh greens

to soften a centerpiece on a hard surface," she says. "It offsets the texture to give it that warmth."

### Focus on people, not things.


Candles and fuzzy socks are great, but true hygge is a philosophy of mind and spirit. At its center is the ability to slow down and savor the little things, most of all being the company of people you love. To best serve the family and friends you welcome into your home this holiday season, Curtiss says you must appeal to all parts of their being, and it rarely requires any money. "You want to hit all the senses – the sounds, the smells, the visuals, the touch, the tastes," he says. One of Curtiss' favorite soundtracks is the simple crackling of a fireplace. Mulled cider smells as great as it tastes. Cozy fabrics look and feel luxurious. Most importantly, lively conversations and heartfelt sentiments are balm for the soul.





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## BEERRECIPES

As the whirlwind of the holiday season approaches so do the traditions that accompany it. Many of us will find ourselves amongst family, friends or coworkers as we celebrate the season. Steeped in a rich history and a holiday heritage of its own, Stella Artois is the perfect beer to ring in the holidays.

First launched as a Christmas beer to celebrate the holiday season as a gift to the people of Leuven, Belgium, Stella Artois received its name from 'Stella' the Latin for the word 'star' while Artois referenced the former head brewer's namesake. Only intended to be available on a limited basis, the beer was so well received that it was available for subsequent holidays and then year around.

Now the number one Belgian beer in the world, Stella Artois boasts a pleasantly bitter flavor and a refreshing finish compliments of a floral hop aroma, balanced with a fruity malty sweetness and a crisp hop bitterness making it a flexible choice for a variety of food pairings. Served in an iconic chalice, Stella Artois pairs well with grilled steak and roasted chicken, cheeses including cheddar and gouda as well as steamed mussels. Chef Peter Kuenzi, owner and operator of Zuppas Café & Catering, 1540 S. Commercial St., Neenah provides a classic holiday recipe with a Stella twist.

### STELLA ARTOIS BRINED TURKEY

#### Ingredients

- 1 10-12 lb. turkey
- 6 12 oz. bottles Stella Artois
- ½ cup kosher salt
- 12 bay leaves
- 8 fresh rosemary sprigs
- 8 cloves of garlic, sliced
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon dried sage
- 1 teaspoon black pepper



#### Instructions

Place turkey in a pail or large bowl. Pour beer over turkey. Add salt, bay leaves, rosemary and sliced garlic. If necessary add just enough water to cover turkey. Cover and marinate in refrigerator for 24 hours.

Drain turkey, discarding beer mixture. Place turkey, breast side up, on a rack in a roasting pan. In small bowl stir together the melted butter and minced garlic. Brush on the turkey. In another bowl mix together paprika, thyme, onion powder, sage and pepper. Sprinkle evenly over entire surface of turkey; rub in with your fingers.

Roast in a 325 degree oven for 2 ½ to 3 hours or until juices run clear and turkey is no longer pink. Remove turkey from oven. Cover with foil and let stand for 10 to 15 minutes before carving.

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# NAUGHTY OR Nice

By Amelia Compton Wolff

*Decadent holiday treats and health-conscious counterparts*

**R**eal talk: no one is starting a diet during the holidays. November kicks off the season of culinary decadence, and hey, we are fully on board with that. But for those who want to indulge a little more strategically, there are nice (or “nicer”) alternatives when you’ve overdone it on the naughty treats. Here we present both sides of the coin and leave the decision up to you – no judgments.



## NAUGHTY: CHAMPAGNE AND CHEESE

What’s merrier than a glass of bubbly? Champagne signifies celebration and is enough to put anyone in the holiday spirit, especially when it’s paired with truffle-Parmesan popcorn and cheese. At Uncorked Bistro in Neenah, you can order a festive glass of Moët Imperial Brut Champagne with exotic fruit aromas (think peach, pineapple and honey) and fresh crispness. To balance its seductively smooth flavor, Uncorked Manager Kris Lavery says the Moët Imperial Brut Champagne pairs nicely with hard cheeses, nuts and smoked fish. We’ll cheers to that.

## Nice: CHAMPAGNE SALAD

The champagne salad at Draft Gastropub is one part saint, one part sinner. “Our chef wanted you to hear the name of the salad and immediately feel like you’re indulging in something upscale and a little sinful,” says Shirley Vazquez, co-owner of Draft Gastropub which opened its new north Appleton location on September 5. On the saintly side, the salad includes ingredients like fresh field greens, sliced grapes and mini heirloom tomatoes. On the other, there’s candied oranges and pecans, zinfandel-poached pears and goat cheese. It is all tossed in a homemade champagne vinaigrette for a little festive flair, no designated driver required.



use extra veggies like cabbage, carrots, cilantro and green onion served on top of romaine lettuce.” At fewer than 200 calories a pop, these egg roll bowls are something to feel good about.

## NAUGHTY: FRIED EGG ROLLS

Sometimes after a marathon day of holiday shopping, baking and gift wrapping, takeout is the only answer for growling tummies. Mai’s Deli in Appleton is a go-to for Asian carry-out, offering curries, noodles, stir fries and some of the best deep-fried egg rolls around – crispy on the outside, bursting with flavor on the inside. Mai makes them fresh, by hand, each morning, frying them until they are a delicious golden brown. The filling consists of bean thread noodles, carrot, cabbage, and onion and your choice of chicken, pork or vegetarian. The essential sweet and sour sauce comes on the side.

## Nice: EGG ROLL BOWL

Deep-fried foods are delicious, but they come with high calorie counts. At Eggrolls Inc in Appleton you can satisfy your egg roll craving with a gluten-free egg roll bowl which offers all the flavor of a traditional egg roll at a fraction of the caloric value. “For the egg roll bowls, we take the insides of an egg roll and flash fry them for a couple minutes in a hot wok,” owner Blong Yang says. “We

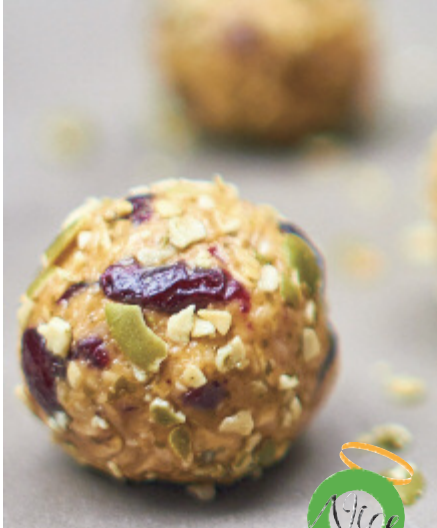
## NAUGHTY: FRUITCAKE

For one of the finest fruitcakes, look no further than Vande Walle’s Candies in Appleton. Steve Vande Walle says their recipe dates back to 1916 and is the only one used since his father bought the business in 1974. The traditional German fruitcake is loaded with glazed fruits such as red and green cherries, golden pineapple and raisins, as well as pecans and walnuts. A small amount of butter-rich batter holds all that decadence together. “When you slice this fruitcake and hold it up to the light, it will shine through the fruit and it looks like a stained glass window,” Vande Walle says. “This is the highest quality fruitcake you can make.” Don’t be swayed by fruitcake’s bad rap, says Vande Walle who argues, “If you’ve never had it, you don’t know how good it can be.” Find Vande Walle’s fruitcake mid-November through the New Year in store and online.



### Nice: BOUNTII BITES

If you find yourself reaching for another piece of fruitcake after January 2, try the Bountii Bites from Freshii in Appleton instead. These bite-size morsels satisfy a sweet tooth, but are packed with nutrient-dense superfoods like peanut butter, honey, coconut, dried cranberries and pumpkin seeds. "The main ingredient, peanut butter, provides the powerful antioxidant vitamin E, bone-building magnesium and immunity-boosting vitamin B6," owner Desiree Nerenhausen says. "Pumpkin seeds are not only perfect for fall, but they also contain heart healthy magnesium, zinc which aids in immune support and plant-based omega-3 fats."



### NAUGHTY: HOT TURKEY SANDWICH

The hot turkey sandwich at Third Street Diner in Menasha is comfort food at its finest. Here, oven-roasted turkey breast is served open-faced on two slices of white bread and covered with poultry gravy. The knife-and-fork sandwich is served with real mashed potatoes and the vegetable of the day (and, let's face it, veggies always taste better covered in gravy too). The plate is like a Thanksgiving dinner whenever you need it. Owner Michelle Meyer guarantees the mashed potatoes are the real deal – never instant – and so worth the indulgence.

### Nice: TURKEY CRANBERRY WRAP

Spats Food & Spirits in Appleton serves up a taste of traditional turkey and cranberry in a better-for-you wrap. The wrap is made with diet-friendly grilled turkey, cranberry port relish, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato and onion on a garlic herb tortilla. "It's a great wrap because we use port relish, which gives it a kick and a little different flavor than just typical cranberry," says Bill Nubert, owner of Spats. It comes with a choice of side, but select the fiber-rich sweet potato fries if you can't bring yourself to order the side salad. If a cold wrap won't hit the spot on a winter's day, it can also be ordered hot and comes in a warm tortilla with melted cheese.

### NAUGHTY: MINI PUMPKIN WHOOPIE PIES

Whoopie pies may be the world's most irresistible dessert. Who can say no to buttercream frosting sandwiched between two pillowy pumpkin spice cookies? Festive and fun, these two-bite pumpkin whoopie pies from All Seasons Coffeehouse in Appleton are filled with buttercream frosting made with homemade vanilla bean extract. Head Baker Veda Stuck says customers love the light and airy consistency of the cookies that resemble a pumpkin spice cake. If you feel like playing Santa, order a dozen in advance and surprise your coworkers at the office party.



### Nice: PUMPKIN SPICE SMOOTHIE BOWL

The pumpkin spice smoothie bowl from Bona Fide Juicery, opening on Appleton's College Avenue in November, is a health-conscious, vegan alternative to pumpkin pie. The smoothie base, which is a lean 170 calories, is made with organic banana, nutmeg, nutrient-rich pumpkin, cinnamon and vanilla almond milk. The bowl is topped with chia seeds, crumbled vegan graham crackers, walnuts, soy whipped cream and a sprinkle of



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## ASK CHEF JEFF

Have a culinary question for Chef Jeff?  
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Community Chat.

**Q.** What is brown butter and how can it be used? —Ginger, Appleton



**A.** Brown butter is unsalted butter that has been melted over low heat until it separates into its two primary components of butter fat (also known as clarified butter) and milk solids. The butter fat floats and the milk solids rest on the bottom of the pan and when allowed to continue to cook over low heat, the milk solids will toast or brown, giving them a pleasant nutty flavor and brownish tan color. The butter fat and browned milk solids are then stirred back together producing brown butter. If the butter fat is used without reintroducing the browned milk solids, it is known as ghee, which is a staple of Indian cuisine.

Brown butter has a very subtle richness and can be used melted or cooled which makes it quite versatile. It is often used in the preparation of baked items including frostings, sweet breads, sauces and many different types of cookies like chocolate chip and butter cookies. On the savory side, brown butter is often used with pasta dishes like gnocchi and couscous. The richness of browned butter also pairs well with delicate fish like flounder and sole as well as enhancing shrimp and scallops.

Once you prepare brown butter and get a taste for it, you will probably find there are lots of ways to use it to enhance your culinary creations.

► 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.



cinnamon to make it taste way more decadent than it actually is. Chris Strauss and Nicole Lindquist opened Bona Fide Juicery's De Pere location in May 2017. The Appleton location will be the pair's second store.

### NAUGHTY: HONEY BOYS

Sometimes tradition can dictate decadence. Hill Top Bakery in Kaukauna has been famous for their "honey boys," a spin on traditional gingerbread men, since the 1960s. The beloved honey boys are made with lebkuchen, a traditional Christmas sweet from Nuremburg, Germany that is thicker and softer than gingerbread, lightly spiced and loaded with honey. The boys are decorated with buttercream frosting and an assortment of holiday candies. Hill Top owner Lynn Engel says the lebkuchen dough starts soft, but "Once it dries, it's a good dunker in your coffee." Honey boys can only be purchased in the store, but Hill Top also offers do-it-yourself honey house kits made with the same lebkuchen dough that can be shipped worldwide.

### Nice: GINGERBREAD MUFFIN

Healthy gingerbread? It's a thing at Happy Bellies Bake Shop in Appleton. Their gluten- and dairy-free gingerbread muffins are made with organic spices and cage-free eggs, topped with walnuts and chocolate chunks. Happy Bellies also uses lower glycemic sweeteners in their treats like agave nectar and coconut palm sugar. Foods that



are low on the glycemic index are processed into glucose more slowly by the body and cause less dramatic fluctuations in blood glucose and insulin levels. When gingerbread is this nutritious, it's easy to justify the indulgence.

### NAUGHTY: EGGNOG LATTE

Eggnog is basically Christmas in a glass and luckily for our waistlines, its consumption is pretty stickily refined to the holiday season. The drink is high in calories, sugar and fat, but the holidays are not the time to be reading nutrition labels. For a fun take of the ubiquitous holiday beverage (and a little caffeine pick-me-up), try the eggnog latte at Seth's Coffee with locations in Little Chute and Appleton. The latte is made with a double shot of espresso and topped with steamed

Lamer's Dairy famous eggnog and a sprinkle of nutmeg. According to owner Seth Lenz, the drink is "creamy, smooth, and outrageously delicious."

### Nice: EGGNOG ROOIBOS

This naturally caffeine-free eggnog rooibos from Fava Tea in Appleton has the rich, creamy taste of eggnog without the calories. The aroma is sweet and smooth, reminiscent of a gooey cinnamon roll drizzled with icing or cinnamon sticks simmering in heavy cream. You might even get whiffs of pine trees, buttery popcorn and fresh-from-the-oven snickerdoodle cookies. The tea has a fresh cinnamon flavor and creamy mouthfeel, just like eggnog. With flavors of pound cake and nutmeg, it's perfect for the holiday season – whether you're sipping a mug at the office or opening presents on Christmas morning.





## WHERE TO DINE

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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. [carmellasbistro.com](http://carmellasbistro.com).

### Cozy Corner

111 N. Walnut Street, Appleton

364-9563

107 E. 2nd. Street, Kaukauna

462-4186

BBQ ribs, pulled pork, catfish, chicken & waffles, hush puppies and mashed potatoes—Cozy Corner serves up the down-home, finger-licking good flavors of the South like no other in the Fox Cities. Owner Natasha Banks uses her own mama's family recipes. Voted Best Homestyle/Comfort Food in FOX CITIES Magazine's Golden Fork Awards, Cozy Corner treats you like family and the atmosphere is "oh so cozy" you'll want to make yourself at home again and again. Appleton: Tu–Th, 11am–8pm; F & Sa, 11am–9pm; Su 11am–7pm. Kaukauna: Th–Sa, 11am–9pm; Su, 11am–7pm. [TheCozyCorner1.com](http://TheCozyCorner1.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).

### Gingerootz 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 complementary appetizers during Bar Happy Hour: 4–7pm, Su–Th; after 8:30pm, F & Sa. Daily Dining Happy Hour specials 3–5pm. [gingerootz.com](http://gingerootz.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.

### Little Diner Xpress

1939 N. Richmond St., Appleton

734-9962

Awarded FOX CITIES Magazine's Golden Fork for Best Diner/Café three years running, the full menu at Little Diner Xpress can be enjoyed day or night. This affordable little gem offers a great build-your-own craft burger menu including an organic grass-fed burger option and fantastic breakfast items like indulgent cookies and cream stuffed french toast. Organic coffee and espresso drinks, reduced GMO foods, locally-sourced ingredients and healthier options set this diner apart. Relax in the cozy atmosphere 24 hours a day. *Eat Anytime!*

### 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 holiday 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).

### SAP

708 N. Casaloma Drive, Appleton

252-2194

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).

### The Source Public House

890 Lake Park Road, Menasha

830-2050

The Source Public House features local food, craft beer and live music. Our food is clean, fresh, natural and sustainable served in a casual atmosphere. We feature 14 Wisconsin craft beers on tap in addition to a full wine and cocktail menu. The wall art is all from local artists and available for purchase. In the evenings we have a large stage and sound system featuring live music. Check our website for music dates and details. [thesourcepublichouse.com](http://thesourcepublichouse.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

1540 S. Commercial St., Neenah

720-5045

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





The hustle and bustle of Appleton's College Avenue is well established. Photographer Craig Augustine captured this image of downtown Appleton at a rare moment of quiet. "There was the stillness of this late December night, the freshly falling snow and the timed change of traffic lights down the Avenue," he says. Augustine sees the footprints in the snow as a sign of the life that exists outside the calm depicted in this vacant city winter scene.



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