

ATLAS

December 2025

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment



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FUTURE NEENAH



Brings lights, laughter and local charm ‘A Very Neenah Christmas Market’ brings European-inspired holiday magic to downtown

Downtown Neenah will shine with extra holiday cheer this month as it transforms into a festive winter wonderland for the inaugural A Very Neenah Christmas Market. The new three-day event is set to bring lights, laughter and local charm to the heart of downtown —just in time to kick off the holiday season.

At the center of the celebration is the Galloway Christmas Village in Gateway Park, where visitors can explore 15 charming, illuminated market huts filled with handmade gifts, artisan goods and seasonal treats. Shoppers can enjoy a cup of Galloway’s famous eggnog or sip European-style Glühwein (mulled wine) while browsing unique finds from local makers—the perfect way to cross items off that holiday shopping list.

Adding to the festive fun is a classic holiday carousel, ready to delight children and adults alike. A heated tent filled with food, music and merriment will provide a cozy retreat where guests can relax, warm up and soak in the joyful spirit of the season. Beyond the Market, Downtown Neenah’s shops and restaurants will be decked out for the holidays, offering special menus, promotions and warm welcomes for visitors throughout the weekend.



The market will debut during the A Very Neenah Christmas event from 5 to 8 p.m. Fri. Dec 5 and continue from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat. 6th and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun. 7th.

Visitors can look forward to:

- Holiday shopping in festive, European-style market huts
- Seasonal food and drinks, including eggnog and mulled wine
- A heated tent with food, music and holiday cheer
- Live entertainment and photo opps
- Visits with Santa and family activities
- A classic carousel ride
- Sparkling décor and twinkling lights throughout downtown

“This market brings together the best of our community — local creativity, family fun and small-town holiday magic,” said Michelle Dunning, Future Neenah outreach and development coordinator. “We’re thrilled to share this new experience with residents and visitors alike.”



Live mannequin displays in windows of downtown Neenah businesses and are a holiday favorite at the Friday A Very Neenah Christmas. - Photographs from Future Neenah

The event is made possible through the support of local sponsors and community partners. Galloway Company serves as the presenting sponsor, bringing the Galloway Christmas Village to life. Additional support comes from the Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (Hut Support), Neenah Rotary (Volunteer Support) and partners including the Neenah Joint School District and Neenah-Menasha Firefighters Charitable Foundation.



Holiday Hut Sponsors include *Simplicity Credit Union, Romportl's Contracting, Floors By Angie, DiRenzo & Bomier and Kimberly-Clark.* Festive Fun Sponsors are *Evergreen Retirement Community, Brehmer Law, ABT, and VanSistine Homes/Urban Market Neenah,* with *Stocking Stuffer Sponsors Kerber Rose, Central Temperature, Vizance, and Wendy Tuchscherer.*

Holiday Events

THE ELSEWHERE COLLECTION

AN ELSEWHERE CHRISTMAS
Elsewhere Market is staying open late every Friday & Saturday thru Christmas! Enjoy a festive shopping experience with exclusive holiday discounts, hot drinks & wine, and our new holiday photo backdrop—perfect for family holiday photos. Sip, shop, and make merry all season long!

FRI & SAT
Open until 7:00 PM

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS SALE
Come on in to Elsewhere Market and celebrate our annual 12 Days of Christmas Sale! Enjoy 25% off Market items from Tuesday, Dec 2nd through Sunday, Dec 14th. 'Tis the season to shop + save!

DEC 02
Thru Dec 14

HOLIDAY WREATH CLASS
Join us at the Gibson Social Club for a custom holiday wreath workshop, led by the talented Melanie at North Road Flower Farm. Learn, design & take home your own beautifully crafted wreath.

DEC 09
6:00 PM

BIER HALL HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG
It's our favorite night of the season! Join us at The Gibson Social Club's Bier Hall for a special Christmas carol sing-a-long hosted by the Jerabek Family Band.

DEC 18
Starting at 7:00 PM

ELSEWHERE MARKET & COFFEE HOUSE
534 N MAIN ST. OSHKOSH WI

THE GIBSON SOCIAL CLUB
537 N MAIN ST. OSHKOSH WI



'Vote' for your favorite cup of cocoa and keep the mug!

Winneconne Cocoa Walk highlights village's holiday celebrations

By Cassidy Johnson

Santa's version of a bar crawl is coming to town with the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce's second annual Cocoa Walk.

Typically, when Wisconsinites go from place to place drinking, it results in more of a buzz than a sugar rush, but the Winneconne Cocoa Walk allows for both.

The event from 3 to 7 p.m. Dec. 12 allows participants to walk through town and explore different local businesses while sampling various complimentary cocoa from each.

Several businesses are participating in the Cocoa Walk, including *The Cottage Collective, Winneconne Crafts, Off the Wolf Supper Club, Anchor Nutrition, Compass Boutique, Premier Community Bank, Fin 'n' Feather, Tiny's Sports Bar and more.*

Each business has its own version of hot cocoa — some adding a "twist" like peppermint, with others offering a boozy version with Baileys or Peppermint Schnapps.

The walk starts at the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce on 140 W. Main St. in Winneconne, where participants will be given a free, collectible mug as well



*Last year's participants thoroughly enjoyed the event!
- Submitted Photographs*

as a map and a voting sheet for the "Best Cocoa" competition later that evening.

Participants are encouraged to rate each cocoa on the walk as they go, and then drop the ballot off at the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce before the "Best Cocoa" judging and prize drawing at 7 p.m.

This gives both participants and participating businesses the chance to win a prize, with the "Best Cocoa" competition for participating businesses and the drawing for participants who turn in their ballot.

The judging will "wrap up" the event, though festivities will continue the next day with the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce's fifth annual Celebration of Lights Parade at 4:30 p.m. on Main Street. This year's theme for the Dec. 13 parade is "Christmas in Whoville," featuring a giant Grinch float.

"Sips and Treats with Santa" will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in front of the Winneconne Chamber of Commerce office, where the Winneconne Area Community Foundation will be serving hot cocoa and cookies.

After the parade, the chamber office will be transformed into Santa's Workshop for pictures with Santa from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. "I think [the Cocoa Walk] is a really cool community event," said Cindy Herbert, executive director for the Winneconne Area Chamber of Commerce. "I love watching all the groups of families have fun and dress up; it's just adorable."

Those interested in the Cocoa Walk can buy tickets online for **\$12 at [eventbrite.com/e/winneconne-cocoa-walk-2025-tickets-1625257261219](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winneconne-cocoa-walk-2025-tickets-1625257261219)**. The registration deadline is dependent on how many tickets are sold, so anyone interested is encouraged to get them before they run out.



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ATLAS

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment

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Who we are in the December 2025 ATLAS:

Publisher: Karen Schneider | karen@oshkoshherald.com

Editor: Chris Lusvardi | editor@oshkoshherald.com

Design: Mae Kosciuk | maekosciuk@winneconnenews.com

Contributors: Becky LaDue, Cassidy Johnson, Anya Kelley

Advertising: Kelly Hueckman | kelly@neenahnews.com

Missy Vandermolten | missy@winneconnenews.com

Aurora McDuffie | aurora@oshkoshherald.com



Mark your calendars for the next ATLAS and upcoming 2026 Publication Schedule for **March 4th, June 3rd, September 2nd and December 2nd.**

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Over 80 different vendors!

Winter Farmer's Market provides holiday fun from Thanksgiving to Easter

By Cassidy Johnson

The outdoor Oshkosh Farmers Market is over, but the fun doesn't have to be.

This winter, the Oshkosh Farmers Market will be having its 13th annual winter farmers market from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on **select Saturdays until April 18** rotating between the Oshkosh Arena and Oshkosh Convention Center. The indoor farmers market season started Nov. 15.

Participants can choose from over 80 different vendors supplying a variety of artisan goods from mandala art, rings made out of silverware, soap making and much more, with OFM's Market Manager Michelle Schmid-Schultz saying she's "pretty excited" for all the new vendors coming in.

Produce will also be sold, such as sweet potatoes, mushrooms, apples, carrots, squash and more.

Similar to recent years, the winter farmers market will have both a Kid's Day Feb. 7 and Christmas Bazaar days Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, including free visits and photos with Santa on Dec. 20.



Views of the Oshkosh Convention Center and vendors during a market day. - Submitted Photographs

During the Kid's Day, children will have the opportunity to make and sell their own items as a part of their Young Entrepreneur Program.

The Rotary Club of Oshkosh covers booth fees, and kids pay \$5 "so they understand it costs money to make money," Schmid-Schultz said.

The Wave Robotics team of Oshkosh will also be making an appearance for Kid's Days.

"The last time we had them at the arena, they had robots playing basketball," Schmid-Schultz said. "That was pretty fun."

According to Schmid-Schultz, they also allow kids to make their own paper rockets, which can be launched slingshot-style into the bleachers.

There will also be an after-Christmas sale Jan. 3, with holiday items and other merchandise being sold at a discount.

An Easter Market & Spring Bazaar will be held April 4, featuring more spring-like items and a free selfie booth with the Easter bunny.

Keeping with the artisan theme, they are also welcoming back the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association on April 18 for their WRAP art competition and show after a year hiatus.

"We usually have 30 to 50 artists come and display their artwork," Schmid-Schultz said. "It's an art competition that functions statewide; it's really cool."

Whether you're looking for Christmas gifts, holiday decorations or unique artisanal pieces, the winter farmers market has tons of holiday fun for both friends and family.



Seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables are available. - Submitted Photographs

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time to make a list!

Tis the Season to Celebrate in Oshkosh!
Enjoy these holiday highlights, and more!

- Celebration of Lights** EAA Grounds
Now–Dec. 31, 5:30–9pm | Over 1M
twinkling lights, Santa visits (through
Dec. 23), horse-drawn rides & more!
- Nutcracker in the Castle** Paine Art
Center | Now–Jan. 5 | Tour 20 themed
rooms & 70 trees inside the stunning
Paine mansion.
- Downtown Holiday Parade** | Dec. 4, 6:15pm
Tree lighting + parade with the theme “*Stories
That Spark the Season!*”
- EAA Christmas in the Air** | Dec. 6, 10am–3pm
Free family fun at the EAA Aviation Museum!
- Holly Jolly Holiday Pass** | Shop local, earn prizes:
bit.ly/hollyjollyholidaypass
- Holiday Market at The Howard** | Dec. 6,
10am–4pm | Shop artisan vendors, meet Santa
& enjoy festive bites.
- Reindeer on the Square** | Dec. 13, 1–4pm
Live reindeer, kids’ music, cocoa & cookies in
Opera House Square!
- Oshkosh Farmers Markets** | 9am–12:30pm
Dec. 13: Holiday Market | Dec. 20: Santa visits!
- The Grand Oshkosh** | All December | Enjoy holiday
musicals, live shows & *Nutcracker The Ballet*.
- Time Community Theater** | All December |
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season!



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A Rare Delicacy in a Small Town

The Truffle Pig

By Cassidy Johnson

Opening earlier this year, the Truffle Pig is an authentic Italian fine-dining restaurant in Oshkosh designed to transport guests to feel like they're in Italy.

A truffle pig is a domesticated pig trained to find and unearth truffles, a type of mushroom considered a delicacy due to its rich flavor and rarity. This rare delicacy can be found across Europe, but the best black truffles are said to be found in a small town in Italy called Alba in the Piemonte region.

Much like their namesake, the new "Truffle Pig" authentic Italian restaurant located in a portion of the former Oshkosh Northwestern building is a rare delicacy found in a small town.

The once-newsroom is now donned with Italian-inspired architecture and décor down to the columns, vaults and mural of the Rialto Bridge in Venice in the main dining hall.

The scene is also filled with authentic Italian cuisine and servers providing an upscale dining experience to guests.

Chef Cristiano Bassani and General Manager Riccardo Lupi each bring authentic Italian dining knowledge and nearly 80 years of experience to the table at the Truffle Pig.

Bassani was born and raised in Bergamo, Italy, where he was influenced by his mother and grandmother to start culinary school at 14 years old.

Bassani has worked in restaurants around the world for almost 40 years, including Italy, New York, the Virgin Islands, Chicago and California – experiences that he has carried with him while developing his craft.

Bassani said that he prioritizes seasonality, simplicity and sourcing the best, freshest ingredients, down to having a different menu for each season.

"Everything in my kitchen is fresh," Bassani said. "I don't buy anything frozen, other than ice cream."

Bassani has curated the menu with traditional Italian dishes, from bolognese to carbonara to Bassani's "forte," risotto. He has also included a taste of his childhood in Italy with some recipes from his mother and grandmother such as the Polpetta Cristiano, which is Italian meatballs with fresh tomato sauce and Parmigiano.

Bassani has also added more adventurous dishes, such as "La Dolce Vita" (or "The Sweet Life"), a flatbread topped with



Bar Area - Ameena Ryan Hainey Photography



A bonus room off the main dining room is available for intimate gatherings, specialty parties, etc.

- Ameena Ryan Hainey

burrata, mozzarella, pears, truffle honey and toasted walnuts.

There's also a dish where Bassani comes to the table and finishes it off in a Parmesan cheese wheel, which patron Maria Juarez said was her favorite part of the meal.

"My favorite dishes were the Margherita Pizza and the Spaghettoni Cacio e Pepe," Juarez said. "The cherry on top was the head chef coming out and finishing the pasta in a Parmesan cheese wheel, which was delicious."

The restaurant's desserts are also made fresh in-house, with Bassani saying that their flourless chocolate cake is the best-seller.

Lupi was also born and raised in Italy in a city called Genoa, where working for his family's restaurant inspired him to go to hospitality school, also at age 14.

"I grew up in the environment," Lupi said. "I really fell in love with the beauty, the flavors and the delicious Italian food."

He has also worked around the world for 40 years in hospitality, travelling to California, Miami, Portofino and Washington D.C.

Lupi injects knowledge from all of these experiences, particularly from Italy.

"When people come to my house, I don't want to send them out; I want to enjoy the company and treat them. That's Italy, it's like that," Lupi said. "We want to bring that same mindset in an upscale environment."

Lupi said that the service at the Truffle Pig is the "polished" and "elevated" fine-dining experience combined with the warmth and friendliness of the Midwest.

"We're in Wisconsin, we want to embrace the mentality, the mindset of the people here," Lupi said. "We don't want to be too snobby."

Juarez said she enjoyed both the friendliness and the efficiency of the service.

"The service was great," Juarez said. "Food came out at the perfect times. Right when we'd finish a course of our meal, the next one would be on the way soon after."



Fittingly, the Truffle Pig also provides Tartufo, which is either summer or winter black or white alba truffles shaved fresh at the diners' tables.

Lupi also has an extensive knowledge of wines, and Truffle Pig has over 250 wines, 200 of which are imported from Italy.

The restaurant also serves classic Italian coffee drinks, such as macchiatos, cappuccinos, Americanos and correttos. They also have specialty coffee drinks, such as espresso martinis and their "signature caffè," the Brasiliano.

Or diners can do what Lupi says the Italians do and have some espresso after their meal.

The pair was brought together for this restaurant after a mutual friend, Carmello Imbrogno, told them about these jobs his cousin, Franco Bessia, was consulting for.

Bessia was consulting for T.J. Rogers, who is an Oshkosh native, billionaire and president of SNW Team that bought the building in 2021 from ProVisions, who had taken over the building after Oshkosh Northwestern's lease was up.

There are different plans for the other section of the former Oshkosh Northwestern building.

According to Bassani, Rogers has started construction on a new 32-room hotel next door, complete with a "big, beautiful bar," in the lobby.

The project doesn't stop there, however, as the hotel will also include six different shops; "a tailor shop, a flower shop, a jewelry



View of the elegant main dining room.

Italian-born Executive Chef Cristiano Bassani and General Manager Riccardo Lupi in the wine cellar.
- Ameena Ryan Hainey Photography

store, a cheese and wine store, a candy store and a grab-and-go deli," with the project set to be open at the end of 2026, according to Bassani.

In the meantime, diners can enjoy an elevated dining experience at this hidden delicacy, which Juarez calls "The perfect date night spot."

The Truffle Pig is open 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and 4 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 224 State St. Reservations for dining and private events can be made on their website trufflepigwi.com, although walk-ins are also welcome.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Heading into Year 2 of managing the Oshkosh Arena, VenuWorks of Oshkosh is booking more shows. Come check us out!



DEC 3

CRAZY TRAIN: AMERICA'S OZZY TRIBUTE
Ozzy Osbourne Tribute Band
7-9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)
Ozzy's Birthday Bash! Celebrate with us!



DEC 4

LONESTAR-COLLIN RAYE CHRISTMAS & HITS
Country Christmas with Lonestar and Raye
8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.)
A night of holiday cheer & country music



DEC 20

OSHKOSH FARMERS MARKETS
Holiday Market & Bazaar
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Santa will be at the market with 60+ vendors!



DEC 20

MURDER UNDER THE MISTLETOE
Murder-Mystery Dinner Theatre
7-9 p.m.
Laughable Productions presents, includes chef-attended dinner buffet in ticket pricing



DEC 28/29

UW-OSHKOSH'S BSN WINTER CLASSIC
2-Day Basketball Tournament
All day both days; check website for game times
UWO's men's & women's teams will compete



DEC 31

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS
Harlem Globetrotters 100 Year Tour
2 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.)
New Year's Eve basketball fun for all!



JAN 31

OSHKOSH LOVE YOUR PET EXPO
A Day of Fun & Learning for Pet Lovers
19 a.m.-4 p.m.
Vendors, entertainment & educational workshops, all supporting OHS, Christine Ann & OPD K9 Unit.



FEB 13-15

KUNES RV & CAMPING SHOW
Complete Show for RV & Camping Enthusiasts
All-day events each day; check website for times
See the latest models of RVs/campers/equipment.



FEB 27-28

BATTLE FOR THE LAKE RODEO
Wildhorse Productions & Sandburr Rodeo Event
7 p.m. both Friday & Saturday (Kids Night)
Thrilling indoor rodeo bull & bronc riding action!



MAR 12

BERT KREISCHER PERMISSION TO PARTY
Stand-up Comedy Show Featuring Bert Kreischer
7-10 p.m.
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Returns for its 19th season!

Nutcracker in the Castle brings the classic story to life

By Jonathan Richie

The Nutcracker in the Castle returns for the 19th season at the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh. Visitors can experience the wonders of the classic story with tours, candlelight walks and treats.

The exhibition spans 20 lavishly decorated settings along with 70 Christmas trees throughout the historic Paine mansion.

Over 20,000 visitors visit the Paine for this exhibit every year.

The story of the Nutcracker dates back to the 1800s. The classical ballet written by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky set on Christmas Eve comes to life inside the Paine. The exhibition gives people the chance to wander the halls of the Paine Mansion.

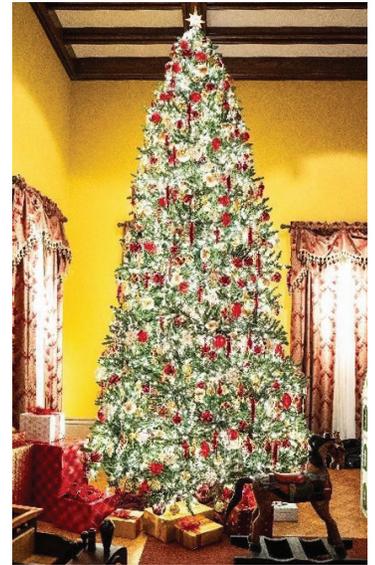
"I'm not aware of any museum or historic house that does anything like the Paine's Nutcracker in the Castle. Our historic house becomes the setting of a fairytale, and guests get to enter into the story," said Paine Center Executive Director Aaron Sherer. "It's a magical experience you can only find here."

The sweetest aspect of Nutcracker in the Castle is the Sugar Plum Fairy's Cupcake Cafe, which is located in the Conservatory on the Paine property. The cafe can be visited before or after a tour of Nutcracker in the Castle. There will be cupcakes, hot cocoa, milk and coffee available for purchase and possibly a visit from a fairy from the Land of the Sugar Plums. For those who can't make it to the Paine, no need to worry there is a virtual tour available on the Paine website that goes through the 20 rooms with great detail to immerse guests in the space.

Self-guided tours of the exhibits run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 5. The Paine is closed on Christmas Day but will be open on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Guided tours are also available for those who wish to see the Paine with live musical, acting and dance performances. These tours take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 4. On Fridays and Saturdays tours run from 5 to 8 p.m. and from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Reservations for the self-guided, guided and candlelight tours can be made on the Paine Arts Center website. For more information go to thepaine.org/event/nutcracker-in-the-castle.



Holiday tree in all its glory for Nutcracker in the Castle - Photograph by Jim Koepnick



Ballerinas capture the fairytale. - Photograph by Jim Koepnick

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

ONGOING THROUGH . . .

Sun Dec 14 Elsewhere Market & Coffee House: 12 Days of Christmas Sale! *25% off all Market products
531 N Main St • Oshkosh

Wed Dec 31 Oshkosh Celebration of Lights
1858 Neunteufel Ave • Oshkosh

Batley's Grill & Bar Buy 3 Gift Cards, Get 1 Free
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Bridgewood Resort Buy \$100 Gift Certificate
Get \$25 Gift Card to Batley's • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Mon Jan 5 Nutcracker in the Castle • The Paine Art Center and Gardens • 1410 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

DECEMBER

Wed Dec 3 Crazy Train: America's Ozzy Tribute
with opener Johnny Wad • 7pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Dec 4 Live Music and Tree Lighting Ceremony • 5pm
Opera House Square, Oshkosh

Downtown Oshkosh BID Holiday Parade • 6:15pm

Bier Hall after Oshkosh Parade with a special
Madrigal Performance • Gibson Social Club, 537 N Main St

Lonestar Christmas and Hits Tour • 8pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Fri Dec 5 First Friday Concert: Mike Malone Trio Plays
Vince Guaraldi • 2pm
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

A Very Neenah Christmas • 5pm • Downtown Neenah

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa • Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

Christmas at the Octagon House • 5pm
The Octagon House • 343 Smith St, Neenah

Encore Handbell Ensemble presents Christmas
Classic • 6pm • St Paul's United Church of Christ
1250 Leonard Point Road, Oshkosh

Morgan House Tour • 6pm • 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Fri Dec 5 Oshkosh Youth Choir Candlelight Concert • 6:30pm
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave • Oshkosh

A Very Peanuts Christmas with The Mike Malone Trio
8pm • Becket's • 2 Jackson St, Oshkosh

Sat Dec 6 Timeless Treasures Christmas Bazaar • 8am
Peace Lutheran Church • 1228 S Park Ave, Neenah

The Grinch Family Christmas • 9am
Washington Park • 631 Winneconne Ave, Neenah

A Very Neenah Christmas Market • 10am
Downtown Neenah

Holiday Open House • 10 am
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass • 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

Jingle Bark Bash • 10am
Winneconne High School • 100 Wolf Run, Winneconne

Sat Dec 6 EAA Christmas in the Air • 10am
EAA Aviation Museum • 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Lunch with the Grinch, Buddy the Elf & Santa! • 11am
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Oshkosh Youth Choir: Carols and Sing-Along • 2pm
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Dec 6 Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra presents **Together**
3 and 7pm • 1010 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

Race for the Light 5K Run/Walk presented by
Oshkosh Area United Way • 4:30pm
EAA Education Center • 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Gallery Walk • 6pm • Downtown Oshkosh

A Very Divas Christmas presented by The Grand Oshkosh
7pm • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Die Hard • 7pm
Time Community Theater • 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Sun Dec 7 A Very Neenah Christmas Market • 10am
Downtown Neenah

Countdown to Christmas Craft & Vendor Fair • 10am
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh



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Sun Dec 7 **Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 12pm
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

YMCA of the Fox Cities Winter Music Recital - 1pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church · 200 N Commercial St, Neenah

Neenah Community Band Winter Concert - 3pm
Neenah High School Performing Arts Center
500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

UW-Oshkosh Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band - 7pm
Theatre Arts Center · 1010 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

Mon Dec 8 **Christmas with Lorie Line - 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Short Story Night - 7pm
Lion's Tail Brewing Co · 116 S Commercial St, Neenah

Tue Dec 9 **Finish the Lyrics Live: Holiday Edition - 6pm**
Venue 404 · 404 N Main St, Oshkosh

Holiday Wreath Class with North Road Flower Farm - 6pm
Gibson Social Club · 537 N Main St, Oshkosh

**Oshkosh Area Music Teachers Association
Winter Recital: Winter Wonderland - 6:30pm**
Oshkosh Public Library · 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

"A New Santa Claus in Town" Christmas Theater Show
presented by the **Fox Valleyaires Men's Barbershop Chorus**
7pm · Neenah HS Auditorium · 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

Wed Dec 10 **Christmas with John Berry -
The 29th Annual Tour - 7:30pm**
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Thu Dec 11 **Future Neenah Cookie Crawl & Luminary Night
4:30pm** · 135 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Sgraffito for Beginners - 5:30pm
Bergstrom Mahler Museum of Glass · 165 N Park Ave, Neenah

**Rock Infused Orchestra Christmas in the Vault 2025
7pm** · Venue 404 · 404 N Main St, Oshkosh

From Kids 1 to 92 - 7:30pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Fri Dec 12 **Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 1pm**
EAA Grounds · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Cocoa Walk - 3pm · Downtown Winneconne

Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wright Brothers Banquet - 5pm
EAA Aviation Museum · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

Santa Claus (1959) at Friday Fright Night - 7pm
Time Community Theater · 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Fox Valley Concert Band Wisconsin - 7:30pm
Neenah High School · 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

From Kids 1 to 92 - 7:30pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Dec 13 **Crazy Craftsmas - 9am**
Sunnyview Expo Center · 500 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am
Oshkosh Convention Center · 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 9am
EAA Grounds · 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Family Discovery Days - 11am
Oshkosh Public Museum · 1331 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs. Grand Rapids Gold - Noon
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Reindeer on the Square - 1pm · Opera House Square, Oshkosh

Harmony Lane Christmas Market - 2:30pm
Fellowship Hall · First Presbyterian Church
200 S Church St, Neenah

Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh

Celebration of Lights - Parade 4:30pm · Winneconne

Celebrate with Santa Parade - 5pm
Town of Winchester Fire Dept · 8522 Park Way, Larsen

Band-O-Rama Concert - 6pm · Frank Schade Fieldhouse
Oshkosh North High School · 1100 W Smith Ave, Oshkosh

Celebrate with Santa Meet and Greet - 6:30 pm
Winchester Town Hall · 8522 Park Way, Larsen

The Muppets Christmas Carol - 7pm
Time Community Theater · 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Brady Lee: Home for the Holidays - 7pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sun Dec 14 **Crafts and Cookies on the Art Bus - 8am**
The Plaza and Globe Coffee · 229 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Wisconsin Ice Fishing Expo - 9am

Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves - Noon
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon
Cavanaugh Carriages · 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah

GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 12pm
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah

Movies with Friends: The Santa Clause - 1pm
Oshkosh Public Library · 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Community Band Carol Sing-Along - 7pm
The Grand Oshkosh · 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Mon Dec 15 **Lions Club of Butte des Morts Annual Holiday Party
Holiday Hayride and Visit from Santa - 5pm**
5068 Washington St, Butte des Morts

Tue Dec 16 **Wisconsin Herd vs. Iowa Wolves - 6pm**
Oshkosh Arena · 1212 S Main St., Oshkosh

A Swingin' Christmas with Erin Krebs & Friends - 7pm
The Waters · 1393 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Wed Dec 17 **Holiday Harmony - 6pm**
Morgan House · 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Thu Dec 18 **Santa Hat Run - 6pm**
Lion's Tail Brewing Co · 116 S Commercial St, Neenah

- Thu Dec 18 Winter Arrangement - 6pm**
The Cottage Collective • 118 E Main St, Winneconne
- Bier Hall Holiday Sing-Along with the Jerabek Family Band**
7pm • Gibson Social Club, 537 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Fri Dec 19 Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm**
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - 5pm**
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah
- Cookies with Santa - 6pm** • Fox Crossing Community Ctr
1000 Valley Road, Fox Crossing
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 7pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- A Christmas Carol - 6pm**
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha
- Sat Dec 20 Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Lunch with the Grinch, Buddy the Elf & Santa! - 11am**
Batley's Grill & Bar • 1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Horns a Plenty Christmas Concert - 2pm**
Church of the Incarnation • 900 N Mason St, Appleton
- Oshkosh Chamber Singers presents A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - 2 and 5pm** • Trinity Episcopal Church
Algoma Boulevard at Division Street, Oshkosh
- A Christmas Carol - 7pm**
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha
- Open Late for Holiday Shopping until 7pm**
Elsewhere Market, 531 N Main St, Oshkosh
- GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - 3:30pm**
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- Sun Dec 21 Sleigh Rides on the Farm & Cider with Santa - Noon**
Cavanaugh Carriages • 3910 Fairview Road, Neenah
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- A Christmas Carol - 4pm**
The Attic Theatre • 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha
- Peter Mayer Stars & Promises Christmas Tour - 7pm**
Our Savior's Lutheran Church • 809 S Commercial St, Neenah
- Mon Dec 22 Water City Jazz Orchestra: Big Band Christmas - 8pm**
Fletch's Local Tap House • 566 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Sat Dec 27 Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Sun Dec 28 Bow Hunt Holiday Drop In - Noon**
Woodey's Bar and Grill • 700 W Main St, Winneconne
- GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - Noon**
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic - 1pm**
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

- Sun Dec 28 Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 2pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Mon Dec 29 Live Animal Presentation with J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue - 10am** Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave
- UW-Oshkosh BSN Winter Classic - 1pm**
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Nutcracker the Ballet presented by Valley Academy for the Arts - 7pm** • The Grand • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh
- Wed Dec 31 Noon Year's Eve - 11am**
Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh
- Harlem Globetrotters - 2pm**
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- New Year's Eve Party featuring Fork in the Road**
Winkler's Westward Ho • 4905 County Rd S, Oshkosh

JANUARY

- Fri Jan 2 Morgan House Tour - 6pm** • 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh
- Sat Jan 3 Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Oshkosh Gallery Walk - 6pm** • Downtown Oshkosh
- Sun Jan 4 GB Gameday at Batley's Grill & Bar - Noon**
1010 Cameron Way, Neenah
- Mon Jan 5 Wisconsin Herd vs College Park Skyhawks - 6pm**
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh



Full Coffee Bar | Breakfast & Lunch Served Daily
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Downtown Oshkosh | 531 N Main St | Open Tuesday - Sunday 7am - 3pm

Thu Jan 8 **Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick** presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 9 **Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick** presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Jan 10 **Winnegamie Dog Club Show - 7am**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Washington Park Winter Festival - 11am
Washington Park - 631 Winneconne Ave, Neenah

Weekend Comedy by Jeanne Bobrick & Sam Bobrick presented by **Oshkosh Community Players - 2 & 7pm**
The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave., Oshkosh

Sun Jan 11 **Winnegamie Dog Club Show - 7am**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Youth Doubles Bowling Tournament - 10am
Revs - 275 N Washburn St, Oshkosh

Movies With Friends: The Sandlot - 1pm
Oshkosh Public Library - 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Mon Jan 12 **Sew A Winter Woodland Quilt - 5pm**
It's Sew Rite - 1821 Harrison St, Oshkosh

Wed Jan 14 **Wisconsin Herd vs Maine Celtics - 6pm**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Jan 15 **Oshkosh Chamber Annual Meeting - 5pm**
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 16 **Friendly Puzzle Competition - 6pm**
Fox Crossing Community Center - 1000 Valley Road

Wisconsin Herd vs Maine Celtics - 7pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 16 **Girls Night: The Musical - 8pm**
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Sat Jan 17 **Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am**
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Westchester Knicks - 7pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Jim Witter's Piano Men 2 - The Sequel - 7pm
The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

NHS Jazz Stompin' at the Savoy - 7pm · Neenah HS
Performing Arts Center - 500 Rocket Way, Fox Crossing

Mon Jan 19 **Wisconsin Herd vs Westchester Knicks - 6pm**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Jan 22 **Wisconsin Herd vs Noblesville Boom - 11:30am**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Oklahoma presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Fri Jan 23 **Oklahoma** presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Sat Jan 24 **Cinderella** presented by the **Missoula Children's Theatre 3 and 7pm** · The Grand Oshkosh, 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Oklahoma presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Noblesville Boom - 7pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sun Jan 25 **WI Herd Card Show** presented by **Cardboard Legacy 10am** · Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Oklahoma presented by **Oshkosh West Choirs - 7pm**
Alberta Kimball Auditorium - 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Thu Jan 29 Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Fri Jan 30 Fox Crossing Parks & Recreation's **Daddy Daughter Winter Formal - 5:30pm**
Bridgewood Resort - 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah

Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Love Your Pet Expo - 9am
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Stuffed Animal Clinic - 10:30am
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Wisconsin St, Neenah

Sat Jan 31 **Party on Poygan** · Woodey's Bar and Grill
700 W Main St, Winneconne

Empty Bowls - Oshkosh Soup Dinner - 4pm
The Howard - 405 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 7pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Steely Dane: The Ultimate Steely Dan Tribute 7:30pm · The Grand Oshkosh - 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

FEBRUARY

Sun Feb 1 Neenah HS Winter Drama presents **O. Henry's Guide to the Present - 2pm** · Neenah HS Black Box Theater
500 Rocket Way, Neenah

Mon Feb 2 **Beginning Quilting by Machine Class - 1:30 or 5pm**
It's Sew Rite, 1821 Harrison St., Oshkosh
(6 consecutive Mondays through March 9)

Fri Feb 6 **Fox Cities Golf Expo - 1pm**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

First Friday Concert: Cat Plan - 2pm
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Sat Feb 7 **Morgan House Tour - 6pm** · 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Winter Flight Fest - 8am
EAA Aviation Museum - 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Farmers Market - 9am
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Fox Cities Golf Expo - 10am
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Read to a Dog - 10pm · Oshkosh Public Lib - 106 Washington Ave

Oshkosh Gallery Walk - 6pm · Downtown Oshkosh

Sun Feb 8 **Fox Cities Golf Expo - 10am**
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Mon Feb 9 **Wisconsin Herd vs Birmingham Squadron - 6:30 pm**
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Tue Feb 10 **Oshkosh Chamber Economic Outlook Breakfast - 7am**
Oshkosh Convention Center - 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Birmingham Squadron - 6pm
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Thu Feb 12 **Hadestown: Teen Edition** Osh North HS • 7pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Fri Feb 13 **The Powerplay Trio** • 5pm • Paynes Point Hook &
Spear Fishing Club • 1934 S Commercial St, Neenah

A Beary Special Night • 6pm • Fox Crossing Community Ctr
1000 Valley Road, Fox Crossing

"An Affair of the Heart" Dance & Raffle Benefit
(Fox Valley Spina Bifida) • 7pm • Bridgewood Resort, Neenah

Hadestown: Teen Edition presented by Osh North HS • 7pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Sat Feb 14 **Family Discovery Days** • 11am
Oshkosh Public Museum • 1331 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh

JED • 1pm and **Star Six Nine** • 5pm
Paynes Point Hook & Spear Fishing Club
1934 S Commercial St, Neenah

Hadestown: Teen Edition presented by Osh North HS • 7pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 7pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Sun Feb 15 **Movies with Friends: Disney's Princess and the Frog**
1pm • Oshkosh Public Library • 106 Washington Ave, Oshkosh

Hadestown: Teen Edition presented by Osh North HS • 2pm
Fox Cities PAC • 400 W College Ave, Appleton

FROZEN The Broadway Musical presented by
Winneconne High School • 2pm • WCAC • 100 Wolf Run

Fri Feb 20 **Battle on the Bago** • ALL DAY
Miller's Bay in Menominee Park • Oshkosh

Fri Feb 20 **Hypnotized: Fleetwood Mac Tribute & Eagles Tribute**
7pm • The Grand Oshkosh • 100 High Ave, Oshkosh

Wisconsin Herd vs Greensboro Swarm • 7pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Jolly Jester Theater for Children presents **Newsies Jr.**
7pm • Oshkosh West High School
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Sat Feb 21 **Battle on the Bago** • ALL DAY
Miller's Bay in Menominee Park • Oshkosh

Oshkosh Farmers Market • 9am
Oshkosh Convention Center • 2 N Main St, Oshkosh

Read to a Dog • 10pm • Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave

Jolly Jester Theater for Children presents **Newsies Jr.**
2 and 7pm • Oshkosh West High School
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Sat Feb 21 **Wisconsin Herd vs Greensboro Swarm** • 7pm
Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sun Feb 22 **Jolly Jester Theater for Children** presents **Newsies Jr.**
2pm • Oshkosh West High School
Alberta Kimball Auditorium • 375 N Eagle St, Oshkosh

Mon Feb 23 **Read to a Dog** • 4pm • Oshkosh Public Lib • 106 Washington Ave

Thu Feb 26 **Wisconsin WWII POW Camps** presentation by the
Neenah Historical Society • 6:30pm
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Fri Feb 27 **Special Family After Hours Event: Campout** • 6:30pm
Neenah Public Library • 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Battle for the Lake Rodeo presented by
Wildhorse Productions and Sandburr Rodeo Productions
7:30pm • Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Sat Feb 28 **Battle for the Lake Rodeo** presented by
Wildhorse Productions and Sandburr Rodeo Productions
7:30pm • Oshkosh Arena • 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh



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Come to the 'Ugly' Ornament Party on Friday, December 19th for Nostalgic Holiday Fun!

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& register for classes!

1131 S. Commercial St. Neenah
rrcreativespace@gmail.com
rootandrunnercreative.com



Winnebago County offers festive, frugal ways to give with heart

A Very Thrift Christmas!

By Becky LaDue

Thrifting for Christmas gifts is more than just a trend—it's a joyful, budget-friendly way to spread holiday cheer while embracing creativity and sustainability. Across social media and Main Street alike, more shoppers are turning to thrift and resale stores to find unique treasures with stories to tell.

From that cozy vintage sweater, nostalgic ornament, or a quirky piece that perfectly fits a loved one's personality, each item carries the fun of the hunt and the warmth of thoughtful giving. And for those looking to shop with heart, Winnebago County offers plenty of local options where every purchase supports a good cause.

St. Vincent de Paul – Neenah & Oshkosh

1425 S Commercial St, Neenah & 551 Jackson St, Oshkosh

A treasure trove of holiday finds is on display at these massive stores located on the south side of Neenah and the north side of Oshkosh.

Inside the Neenah store you'll find six full holiday aisles offering everything from Christmas glassware, ornaments, village pieces, wreaths and trees to linens and wrapping paper in a clean and friendly atmosphere.

The Oshkosh location boasts a special area for Christmas finds and weekly tag sales for even deeper savings.

During the holiday season, St. Vincent De Paul also distributes winter coats to those in need; vouchers for Christmas trees and decorations; and toys for children (items within store) with the only qualification being that you live in the county and need help.

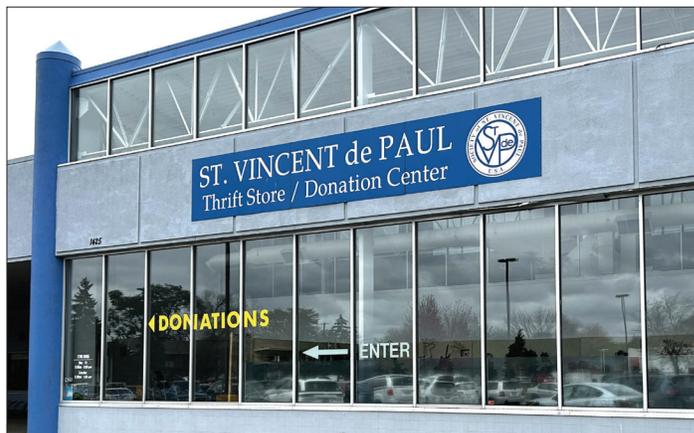


Proceeds benefit those in need in Winnebago County, offering food, housing, and medical assistance.

Stores are open Monday through Saturday, each with varying hours.



Aisles of finds await at Goodwill in Oshkosh and Neenah!
- Photograph by Becky LaDue



Holiday treasures can be found at St. Vincent De Paul in Neenah.

- Photograph by Becky LaDue

Goodwill Thrift Stores – Neenah & Oshkosh

907 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah & 1600 W 20th Ave, Oshkosh

Whether you're shopping to score that one-of-a-kind treasure, to support a great cause or to help keep items out of landfills, Goodwill is a great option for your holiday treasure hunt. While aiding in its mission to provide pathways for people who are underserved, underrepresented and/or disadvantaged to find sustained employment and improved financial stability, approximately 90 cents of every dollar from your holiday shopping sales is reinvested back into its mission.

Each store offers holiday aisles year-round for thrifty fun, and this time of year you'll find TREES, TREES, TREES and many brand-new holiday items at a deep savings.



Store hours for each location are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays offering many opportunities to shop.

Winneconne Thrift & Gift – Winneconne

911 E Main Street, Winneconne

Step inside this beloved community gem and you'll find what regulars affectionately call "Christmas on steroids" during the months of November and December. Each year, volunteers transform the shop into a dazzling Christmas boutique filled with ornaments, trees, linens, and themed dinnerware—beautifully curated and displayed.

All proceeds go back into the community, with donations growing from \$2,000 in 2008 to over \$100,000 in 2024, supporting more than 75 charities.



Store hours: Tuesday 9–2,
Wednesday/Friday 10–3,
Thursday 10–6, Saturday 10–2.

This holiday season, skip the chaos of big-box shopping and enjoy the charm of a local treasure hunt. You'll save money, find one-of-a-kind gifts, and support causes that make Winnebago County shine a little brighter.

Second Chance Thrift Store – Oshkosh

753 N Main St, Oshkosh

This unique and strategically located thrift store is a worthy stop in your holiday thrifting journey.





An eclectic mix of holiday decor line the shelves at Winneconne Thrift & Gift.
- Photograph by Becky LaDue



Festive finds at every turn to greet shoppers!
- Photograph by Becky LaDue

Once home to Sterling Gardens floral shop, this tidy little store offers big charm. Holiday décor mingles with vintage clothing, from graphic tees to retro jackets and even classic snow-mobile suits.



Proceeds support the Lutheran Food Pantry and local families in need. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

offers exclusive discounts and birthday perks once signed up.



Hours for AbleLight:
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Closed on Sunday

AbleLight Thrift Shop – Neenah

846 Fox Point Plaza, Neenah

The AbleLight organization's mission—serving for over 120 years—is to support and advocate for people with developmental disabilities to ensure they have security, dignity, and hope. Through dollars raised at their seven thrift stores they serve 750+ individuals offering 3.8 million hours of support in 2024.

Shoppers can browse a tidy and well-stocked store filled with traditional and unexpected holiday items. Wednesdays bring 25% off for seniors and military members, and a new rewards program



AbleLight Thrift Store, Neenah
- Photograph by Becky LaDue

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**TOGETHER is
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THE CRYSTAL BALL

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 7–10pm

A Gala & FUN-raiser for
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

The Ballroom at The Reserve
116 South Commercial Street, Neenah

Please join us for an unforgettable evening of music by critically acclaimed *Kate Voss & The Hot Sauce*. Dancing, live and silent auctions, artful cocktail attire, and amusements await!

Visit bmmglass.com/the-crystal-ball/, call 920.751.4658, or scan the QR code.



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Making sure fans have fun! EAA Winter Flight Fest takes flight

By Cassidy Johnson



Skiplane taking off. - Photograph by Connor Madison



Building a glider at the Family Flight Fest - Photograph by Connor Madison

Holiday fun will take flight at The Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) 5th annual Winter Flight Fest from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb 7.

This family-friendly event has a variety of interactive activities and experiences at the museum all day, including the skiplane fly-in.

"You can spend the whole day here, for sure," said Drew Stephani, EAA's Communication Specialist. "[We] have all sorts of little activities and hands-on stuff."

The all-day museum event include interactive activities such as the Rotorcrafting activity, the Paper Airplane Launcher and the Pararescue Challenge.

The Rotorcrafting activity allows participants to build their own helicopter from recycled household materials, complete with a working motor.

The Paper Airplane Launcher activity gives participants the chance to make and launch their own paper airplane through a powered launcher, and the Pararescue Challenge gives participants the opportunity to build a parachute and put it to the test in EAA's wind tunnel.

Constructing paper airplanes and designing a parachute at the Family Flight Fest
- Photographs by Connor Madison



Winter Flight Fest also has a variety of interactive activities, such as the Wright Flight Simulator, the Indoor Model Airplane Flying activity and Aviator BINGO.

For the opportunity to experience what the Wright Brothers would have experienced over 120 years ago on the first-ever powered flight, you can check out the Wright Flyer Simulator. Afterward, head on over to Aviator BINGO for some aviation-themed fun.

Visitors can also check out the Indoor Model Airplane Flying activity to see radio-controlled model drivers build and fly RC model airplanes, what Stephani calls "the really fancy RC stuff."

"My favorite parts [of WFF] are the RC model demonstrations," Stephani said. "The people that do it are very impressive. Some of them are even powered by rubber bands, which is pretty interesting."

The skiplane fly-ins are also set to take place at the festival all day alongside the complimentary chili lunch, depending on the weather.

According to Stephani, organizers need "the perfect amount of snow" for the skiplane fly-in to take place.

Those who wish to participate only in the skiplane show do not require museum admission, and are welcome to enjoy the chili lunch free of charge.

All events inside are free with admission. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 62 and up, \$12 for youth ages 6-18 and free for children 5 and under and EAA Members. For more information, go to www.eaa.org.



Visitors view the skiplane at the Fly-in
- Photograph by Connor Madison



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Returning for its 24th year

Celebration of Lights celebrates lights, legacy

By Cassidy Johnson

Nothing quite says Christmastime like Christmas lights. Luckily, Friends of the Oshkosh Parks has a longstanding event and community tradition with 2.4 miles worth of them.

Returning for its 24th year, Oshkosh's Celebration of Lights is back to turn the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) grounds into a Christmas wonderland through Dec. 31. The light display started on Nov. 28.

Suzu Dawood, an Oshkosh resident for 20 years, expressed her excitement. "I've gone to the celebration of lights every year since I can remember," Dawood said. "I look forward to it every time."

Dawood's favorite CoL nights are the Free Community Nights, which have been amped up a bit this year. Thanks to sponsors, there will be five community nights. Each now includes free admission to the EAA Aviation Museum.

The first Free Community Night took place Nov. 30, with the next four taking place every Sunday in December, which includes Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28.

As CoL does every year, there's a variety of other special "nights" celebrating different types of lights and people, including visits with Santa and wagon rides.

Santa will be at the end of the lights in Santa's Lodge from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. through Dec. 23 for children to hand-deliver their letters and see if they made the Nice List.

For the chance to ride through the sea of lights on a horse-drawn wagon, wagon rides will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis every Monday and Wednesday in December until Dec. 17.

Reservations can be made now by contacting CoL coordinator and Discover Oshkosh Sales & Services Manager Jodi Jensema at jodi@discoveroshkosh.com or (920) 303.9200.

Gear up for the 23rd Annual Race for the Light 5K Fun Run/Walk for Oshkosh Area United Way for the opportunity to run through the light show and experience it in a whole new "light" for \$35 starting at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 6. Participants who haven't previously picked up their race packet can do so starting at



3:30 p.m. The race kicks off at the EAA Youth Education Center located at the EAA Aviation Museum

There will be a Veterans Night on Dec. 9 to honor service members, featuring a patriotic display and free admission for all veterans in their vehicles. The next day, there will be the first installment of Senior Night, with the second installment on Dec. 18. Seniors receive a discounted entrance rate of \$10 per vehicle, with busloads only \$2 per person; the bus driver is free.

Another donation night will be Dec. 12, this time for the Oshkosh Area Humane Society Night. Members will be on-site to collect donations, and participants that make a donation can get a \$5 discount on their carload.

Celebration of Lights will be "wrapped" up with "Night of the Torches," now "Nights of Torches," Dec. 27-31 in which solar-powered torches will dot the scene of Christmas lights.

Throughout the month, a special area will be set up on the grounds in memoriam to the late Leon Thompson, who passed away this summer, "because of all that he did and added to Celebration of Lights to make it what it is," Jensema said.

Thompson served as both President of FoOP (Friends of Oshkosh Parks) and as Santa Claus for Celebration of Lights for decades. He was also a teacher for 32 years at Oshkosh West High School.

Thompson had served as Santa for CoL for over 20 years since the event's beginning in 2001, with his wife, Wendy Thompson, serving alongside him as Mrs. Claus.

"Celebration of Lights couldn't have had a more amazing Santa role," said founding CoL member Craig Burnett. "Many very lucky children were graced by his presence."

Thompson later took over organizing CoL in 2011 while he was teaching and coaching baseball and softball at Oshkosh West, after Tom Stephany, the Oshkosh Parks director at the time, passed away.

Thompson served as Santa until 2022, as president of CoL until 2021, and as its vice president until his passing this summer.

"[His passing] was very rough, but he really had an amazing career, an amazing life; he just wanted to spread cheer everywhere," Jensema said. "The legacy's going to keep on, and we're gonna continue making him proud and adding to this event because that was what his wish was."

Another way Thompson is being honored is with the Leon Thompson Youth Leadership scholarship through the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.

The scholarship "provides financial support to high school student(s) in our community to attend leadership development programs," according to the Chamber's website.

Those who knew him say Thompson will be greatly missed, but his contributions will continue to shine at Christmastime in Oshkosh and bring joy to the community.

"I love Celebration of Lights," said Dawood. "I think it's such a cute way to bring the community together and allow for some holiday spirit and fun for our city."

Regular admission is **\$20 per carload, with up to \$5 off with a donation of either a sealed hygiene item or a non-perishable, in-date food item.**



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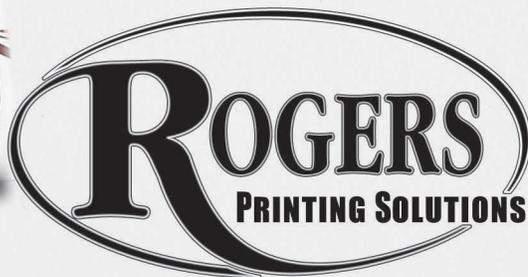
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Give a gift to the local economy by shopping local this season!

Locally-owned businesses provide options for holiday shopping

By Anya Kelley

As shoppers look for places to shop during the holiday season, they often see it as a time to shop locally. By supporting small businesses, shoppers reduce their carbon footprint by keeping transportation emissions low, bolstering the local economy and finding unique gifts for their loved ones. It's seen as a win for everyone.

Options for shopping at locally-owned businesses are available throughout Winnebago County.

Lily and Sparrow

119 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah

Lily and Sparrow offer a wide variety of handmade and curated home goods and clothing. The highlight of their selection is the wood framed artwork that they make in their warehouse located in Winneconne. They have a fun selection of holiday themed goods, and the décor rotates often. Best sellers from Lily and Sparrow include flameless glass candles, cotton crocheted potholders and coasters, stone dishware and wood framed signs.



Lily and Sparrow is located at the heart of historic downtown Neenah. The windows are filled with holiday decorations and a full-sized Christmas tree.

– Photograph by Anya Kelley

Sante Wine Bar and Bistro

108 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah

Sante Wine Bar and Bistro is a chic establishment located in downtown Neenah serving a curated selection of over 300 bottles of wine, specialty cocktails and small bites. Bottles are available for purchase, and the food is as locally sourced as possible. Sante also has an exclusive wine club offering a tiered membership scale for affordability. Members get their own happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m. every Monday through Thursday and a monthly pick up of two bottles of wine. Sante is “anti-snobbery” and prides itself on a community built around a love for wine.



Storefronts decked out for the holidays downtown Oshkosh.

– Photograph by Anya Kelley

Everweld Jewelry Co

124 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 220, Neenah

Permanent jewelry is all the rage right now, and Everweld offers 300 different chains and a selection of fun charms to choose from. The chains can be welded to fit a wrist, neck or finger and a variety of metals including sterling silver and gold fill are available. Fresh for the holiday season, Everweld has started offering permanent bangles as well. Gift cards for sessions are offered with no minimum amount required and appointments are available by walk in or can be scheduled online.



Elements Unleashed

224 W. Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

There is nowhere better than Elements Unleashed to find stellar pieces for your fashion forward friend. The boutique is filled to the brim with curated items made from high quality fabrics like genuine leather with new arrivals coming often. They specialize in high quality pre-owned fur pieces and offer professional cleaning and care services including repairs. All the fur products are second-hand making each purchase environmentally friendly.





In downtown Neenah, anyone looking for a break can take a moment to sit with a president of the past. Main Street features bronze statues of Abe Lincoln, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, though Franklin isn't a president, lounging on benches. During the winter, the statues wear scarves. - Photograph by Anya Kelley

Yetti Yums

110 Algoma Boulevard, Suite B, Oshkosh

Yetti Yums is a candy store with a twist. They offer a huge selection of freeze-dried candy including skittles, laughy taffy and jolly ranchers. There is also a selection of freeze-dried ice cream and cheesecake. If nothing in their brick-and-mortar store strikes a shopper's fancy, Yetti Yums accepts requests and has an online storefront as well.



Elsewhere Market and Coffee House

531 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Elsewhere is a two-part coffee shop and marketplace offering sustainable home goods, hand crafted jewelry, décor and more. The vibe is very summer in Italy chic, and the beauty and home products are non-toxic and made from clean ingredients, making their selection perfect for the hippy, health-conscious friend. For a new or expectant mom, they also offer a selection of vintage children's clothes and toys located in the back of the market.



Gardina's Kitchen and Bar

448 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Gardina's has a marketplace of wine and spirits featuring highly sought-after craft beers, whiskey and wine. They have a selection of budget-friendly options and offer gift cards for both the market and the restaurant.



Adventure Games and Hobby

408 N. Main St., Oshkosh

Adventure Games and Hobby carry a huge selection of table-top board games, card games, customizable figures for Magic:



Red's Boutique and Market is located on an iconic corner of Main Street in Winneconne across from the Fin 'n' Feather. - Photograph by Anya Kelley

The Gathering and Dungeons and Dragons, Lego sets and more. They also have a selection of hundreds of rare cards from a variety of games worth up to thousands of dollars.

Red's Boutique and Market

100 W. Main St., Winneconne

Red's is a one stop shop for everything from artisanal snacks and sauces, wool socks, kitchen accessories and bath and body products. The brands carried include stonewall kitchen, Carmie's kitchen soup mix, Tillen Farms, INIS, California Mango and many more.



Chez's Crafts n Crap

113 Grant St., Winneconne

Chez's offers a variety just as fun as their name. They offer a selection of locally made goods like Twin Lane candles and wax melts, Wolf River Maple's maple syrup and handcrafted jewelry. They offer a leather koozie that can be customized with images and text making for a sweet, personalized gift and birch bark roses that are each made to order making each one unique.



Winneconne Thrift and Gift

911 E. Main St., Winneconne

Thrift and Gift has a selection of home goods, clothes, décor, jewelry and more for super low prices. From minx jackets to linens to antique China, Winneconne's premier thrift store makes holiday shopping easy, sustainable and affordable. They also donate large sums of their revenue back into the community making the shopping experience a gift in itself.



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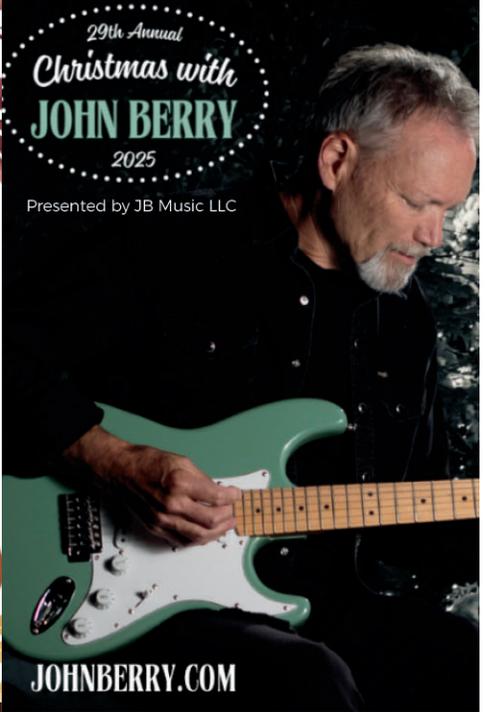
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