

OZAUKEE COUNTY TOURISM

Ozaukee County fills your calendar with holiday fun!

It's November and you know what that means — it's time to get out those calendars and note all of the wonderful events and activities Ozaukee County has to offer as we're moving through the holiday season! Note: some events require pre-registration.

Friday nights in Cedarburg, through Dec. 22: Cedarburg was just declared the "Most Enchanting Christmastime Main Street in the Country" by OnlyInYourState.com, and for good reason. Cedarburg kicks off its holiday celebration in mid November, and is especially festive on Friday nights throughout the holiday season. Festive Friday Eves at the Cedar Creek Settlement offer fun themed events every Friday featuring live music, holiday activities, crafts, food and product sampling and more from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Outside the Settlement, more than 1,000 luminaries line the streets of historic downtown Cedarburg every Friday night and a free trolley moves shoppers up and down the streets from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., weather permitting.

Merchants and nonprofits up and down the street celebrate with events like the Cedarburg Art Museum's "Christmas at CAM," offering extended evening hours, holiday family photo opportunities, freshly baked cookies, children's activities including art projects and face painting, and, when weather allows, an outdoor beer garden serving beer, wine and hot beverages. Local bars and restaurants like the Stagecoach Inn, Union House, Stilt House and Brandywine offer fun drink and food specials and cozy interiors to warm up shoppers.

Fridays & Saturdays in Cedarburg, through Dec. 30: The historic Kuhfuss House in downtown Cedarburg becomes The Tippy Elf from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., a holiday wonderland with a themed cocktail menu, glowing Christmas lights, garland, elves galore and holiday classics crooning over the speakers.

Open now: Buechler Farms in Belgium opens its "Not Just a Tree" Season. You'll be swept into the magic of the season the moment you enter through the big wooden barn doors and into the rich scent of pine. Choose the perfect tree, wreath or porch planter as you sip a warm drink (spiked or unspiked) and browse beautiful handmade gifts from a variety of local vendors. Kids can visit with Santa, or decorate a cookie or ornament as you shop.



Submitted photo

The Pillar family of Port Washington shops for a Christmas tree at Sandhill Tree Farm in Grafton.

Open now: Pet-friendly Sandhill Tree Farm in Grafton opens for cut-your-own or pre-cut Christmas tree shopping! Browse 35 acres of beautiful Fraser firs, or visit the farm for pre-cut Fraser, Balsam and Canaan firs in the 4 to 12 foot range, plus wreaths and porch pots, unique photo opportunities, a holiday gift shop, treats and more! The farm will be open Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 10 (based on availability) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 24: Enjoy the Black Friday beer release at Inventors Brewpub in Port Washington.

Nov. 25: Reserve your family's spot in advance and enjoy Grafton's Breakfast with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Jolly the Elf. Includes an all-you-can-eat pancake meal with toppings, sausage links, applesauce, juice, milk, coffee and water. Don't forget your camera!

Nov. 25: The Grafton Christmas Parade kicks off the holiday season at 11 a.m. Thousands of spectators gather to watch more than 100 units dance, sing and parade their way up Wisconsin Avenue.

Nov. 25: Raise a glass, a fork or shop 'til you drop in Cedarburg. Experience Cedarburg on Small Business Saturday for a chance to

receive one of the \$500 in Chamber Gift Checks given away to random customers throughout the day, courtesy of Port Washington State Bank! For more information on Cedarburg's Small Business Saturday, go to Cedarburg.org.

Nov. 25: Shop small in Port Washington with the Small Business Saturday Shop Hop. Head to your favorite participating shop early to score one of the custom-designed Port swag bags, full of fun little gifts, deals and giveaways! Each location has a limited quantity, so shop early.

Nov. 26: Paint with Santa at glaze in Thiensville. All five projects are elf themed and include a glass night light, an elf boot ornament to paint, a handprint plate and the sculpting of a clay candy cane. Enjoy pictures with Santa, ice cream, hot chocolate mix in a jar and more.

Nov. 27: Cedarburg's tree lighting features fun kids activities starting at 5:30 p.m., with Santa arriving to light the tree at 7 p.m.

Dec. 1 to 23: Cedarburg's Rivoli Theatre's Holiday Film Festival opens, featuring favorite holiday films every night through December 23, plus matinees on the weekends.

Dec. 1 through Dec. 23: Illuminate Ozaukee, an amazing drive-thru Christ-

mas light display facilitated by the Ozaukee Nonprofit Center, opens Fridays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dec. 2: Enjoy Christmas on the Corner in Port Washington, featuring scavenger hunts, carriage rides, Christmas crafts, window displays and the annual tree lighting ceremony followed by a Christmas parade and winter fireworks. Downtown Port Washington, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dec. 3: Enjoy a European twist on Christmas at Belgium's European Christmas festivities! The street parade kicks off at 4:30 p.m., leading to the Village Square, where St. Nick will greet the children. Guests can warm up with free hot chocolate, soup, chili and hot dogs, with canned food and cash donations being accepted for the Ozaukee Food Alliance. Enjoy free admission to the Luxembourg American Cultural Society where kids can make snowflakes out of Luxembourgish books, do a scavenger hunt, listen to carolers and live music and hear St. Nick read a story!

Dec. 3: Enjoy Breakfast with Santa at the Thiensville Fire Department from 8 a.m. to noon.

Dec. 5: The Mequon Nature Preserve is proud to announce the launch of books entitled ABC @ MNP and Colors @ MNP written by MNP Executive Director Kristin Gies. These books would make the perfect holiday gift for your little ones! There will also be fun activities and food at this free 11 a.m. launch party event. No reservations required.

Dec. 6: Create two holiday

treats perfect for parties (white chocolate orange bark and Christmas mint patties) at a Festive Christmas candies class at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts in Cedarburg.

Dec. 7: Enjoy tasty snacks and beverages while stitching together felted seasonal and holiday designs you can use as magnets, ornaments, or gift toppers at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts in Cedarburg.

Dec. 8 to 10: More than 40 exceptional Cedarburg Artists Guild artists showcase their works at the annual Holiday Art Fair in downtown Cedarburg. Shop for handmade gifts and artwork just in time for the holidays! (Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Dec. 8-17: Memories Ballroom in Port Washington features "A Tuna Christmas." In this hilarious show, it's Christmas in Tuna, Texas, the third-smallest town in Texas and two news personalities report on various Yuletide activities.

Dec. 9 & 16: You don't want to miss Port Washington's Winter Market. Shop from amazing wares like handmade gifts, soaps, dog treats, organic produce, honey, bread, cheese, maple syrup and more! 9 a.m. to noon inside Inventors Brewpub.

Dec. 9: "Elf Yourself" at Cedarburg's Santa Dash Away 5K to benefit Santa's Workshop

Dec. 9: Get some fun holiday shopping done at the Winter Market at Mequon's Foxtown Station from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event will feature food, family-friendly

activities and an opportunity to meet Santa.

Dec. 10: Enjoy Mequon's Winter Wonderland at the Mequon City Hall from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Take pictures with Santa or Judah the Maccabee, enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides, make and take crafts and cookies and hot beverages around a fire and more!

Dec. 10 through Jan. 1: Load your family and friends into the car and drive through the village and town of Grafton to view the homes participating in the Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Vote for your favorite house on the Grafton Chamber of Commerce Facebook page until Dec. 31. Participating homes will be lit from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Dec. 16: The music sensation Rockapella brings their holiday magic to the Cedarburg PAC with "A Rockapella Christmas" at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 21: Bring the littles to Port Washington to meet Santa in the Snow Globe at Heart of the Harbor during December's Third Thursdays event! Warm up by the Heart of the Harbor fire sculpture, enjoy live Christmas music and some sweet treats as you stroll through historic downtown Port Washington from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For information on these and other Ozaukee County establishments, visit www.ozaukeetourism.com and follow the Ozaukee County Tourism Facebook page. On behalf of the Ozaukee County Tourism Council, thank you for helping to make Ozaukee County a wonderful place for all to live, work and visit.



Submitted photo

Port Washington offers the rare winter fireworks during its Christmas on the Corner event on Dec. 2 in downtown.