

## OZAUKEE TOURISM

## Get ready for a bountiful holiday season in Oz!

**OZAUKEE COUNTY** — The holiday season will soon be upon us. Whether you continue your longstanding traditions or spark new ones, Ozaukee County has a sleigh full of events to make this holiday memorable.

One of the most cherished Christmas traditions is finding and decorating the family tree. Whether you choose to cut your own or select a pre-cut pine, the aroma filling your home sets the season.

Starting on Saturday, Buechler Farms in Belgium and Sandhill Tree Farm in Grafton invite you to walk their rows of trees and shop their retail holiday gift shops donned with wreaths and unique pine arrangements. Enjoy hot chocolate, candy canes, bonfires and more, and capture all of these memories with unique photo opportunities. Visit their websites for details and specific activities.

**ALL COMMUNITIES****Small Business Saturday**

There is something magical about visiting your local community stores during Small Business Saturday! Shop our quaint communities throughout Ozaukee County on Saturday, Nov. 26 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Some merchants make the day extra special with giveaways and activities!

**Tree Lighting Events**

■ Village of Grafton — Sunday at 6 p.m. at Paramount Plaza in down-

town Grafton

■ Village of Fredonia — Nov. 26 at 6 p.m. at Freedom Park

■ Cedarburg — Nov. 28 from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. in front of the Community Center Gym, W63N641 Washington Ave.

■ Village of Saukville — Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at Veterans Park, 639 E. Green Bay Ave.

■ Village of Thiensville — Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. on the lot in front of Walgreens, at 278 N. Main St.

**BELGIUM**

The holiday gift giving tree located at the Belgium Village Hall is ready for you to make a Christmas wish come true for a local family. Simply pick a tag and fill the want of a Belgium family.

Get those wish lists and letters to Santa written! You can drop them off at the Belgium Post Office, where no stamp is necessary as letters travel to the North Pole by the magic of Christmas!

Once the turkey has been consumed and the last bit of pie served on Thanksgiving Day, take a tour of the homes participating in the Holiday Spirit Lights Decorating Contest.

Watch the Chamber's Facebook page for a map of the homes.

On Dec. 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., celebrate and spread the joy at the European Christmas parade and festivities at the Village Square in Belgium. Light up the night with holiday fun! Among the events the Luxembourg American Cultural Society

invites children to participate in are free crafts and the opportunity to meet St. Nicholas! Activities include free hot chocolate, wagon rides provided by Buechler Farms, a pickle-finding contest, cupcakes and more!

Topping off the fun is the Chamber Chili Cook-off, which will feature chili from five local businesses. Visit [www.belgiumchamber.org](http://www.belgiumchamber.org) for more information.

**CEDARBURG**

The Shops of Cedar Creek Settlement is hosting its 28th annual holiday tradition of Festive Friday Eves. Enjoy live music, gift basket drawings, crafts, wine, food tasting, cookies, cider and an outdoor cookout benefiting Mel's Charities.

The charming Cedar Creek Settlement will be decorated for the holidays to add to the joyful ambiance while you get your holiday shopping done at the 18 unique shops.

This year's Festive Friday Eves schedule begins Friday, with the "Settlement Christmas Showcase" and culminates on Dec. 23 with the "Oh, My! Two Days 'til Christmas."

For additional Friday themes, visit [www.cedar-creeksettlement.com](http://www.cedar-creeksettlement.com).

During Festive Friday Eves, the Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce will be adding to the ambiance of the season with hundreds of glowing luminaries lining the street & trolley rides in downtown Cedarburg!

While enjoying Cedar-

burg's Festive Friday Eves, make sure to stop at the Kuhfuss House in downtown Cedarburg for holiday gift shopping of handcrafted gifts, unique ornaments and décor from local artisans. This historic museum will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday nights. Top off your evening with a special Kuhfuss House wine and s'mores by the campfire.

Experience "An Enchanted Christmas" at the Cedarburg Art Museum on Fridays this week through Dec. 16 as a part of A Cedarburg Christmas. Do you remember as a kid going downtown to see all the decorations? This holiday season, the CAM strives to recreate that magical feeling Friday evenings from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Stop by during museum hours to see the unique exhibitions and shop merry finds and local art in the CAM's gift shop.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting their Washington Avenue Cedarburg workshop most Fridays and Saturdays beginning Nov. 25. On Dec. 9, Santa will be at the Cedar Creek Settlement as part of their Festive Friday Eves celebration. And on Dec. 23, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be strolling throughout the town and posing for photos!

Get festive and discover the joy of giving original art this holiday season. The Cedarburg Artists Guild Holiday Art Fair is a weekend art and craft show Dec. 2 to Dec. 4 in downtown Cedarburg at the Cedarburg Community Center. You'll find original arts and crafts for everyone on your shopping list. Every piece is handmade, created with care by Cedarburg Artist Guild members.

On Friday, Dec. 9, Mrs. Claus and Union House Cedarburg will be hosting a "Christmas in the Burg Mouse Walk" based on the newly released children's book by author Reed Graf. Families will gather on the cozy back patio of the Union House, surrounded by heaters and a dancing fire, while Mrs. Claus reads the book aloud. They'll then head off on a "mouse walk," visiting the locations mentioned in the book and collecting treats along the way. Preregistration is required.

Help keep Santa's Workshop in downtown Cedarburg during the holiday season by participating in the 8th annual Santa's Dash Away 5K to be

held Dec. 10 at 8:30 a.m. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome to join in the holiday spirit and participate in a 5K run/walk where all proceeds go directly toward A Cedarburg Christmas, which coordinates the Santa's Workshop each holiday season.

Information on these and many other holiday happenings can be found at [www.cedarburgchristmas.com](http://www.cedarburgchristmas.com).

**GRAFTON**

Celebrate the magic of the season with the Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce's "I'll be Gnome for Christmas" events! On Sunday at 6 p.m., become a part of a community tradition by joining the Grafton High School Chamber Singers during the tree lighting and outstanding citizen and community group ceremony at Paramount Plaza.

The smell of maple syrup, the sounds of delight and the robust exclamation of Ho, Ho, Ho will fill the walls of Circle B Recreation for Breakfast with Santa on Nov. 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Not only will guests enjoy a delicious breakfast buffet but families will get pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus and costumed characters, face-painting, a letters to Santa station and more. Advanced reservations are required for this event — learn more at [www.grafton-wi.org](http://www.grafton-wi.org).

Who doesn't love a parade? The 42nd Grafton Christmas Parade in Downtown Grafton on Nov. 26 is marked as the largest of its kind north of Milwaukee. The spectacular parade begins at 11 a.m. at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Washington Street (Highway 60). Bundle up, pick a spot and bring a bag of candy so you can enjoy the more than 120 entries.

As you travel around Grafton, watch for the sparkling lights and joyful decorations as a part of the Holiday Home Decorating Contest which runs Dec. 4 to Jan. 6 with lights on from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For a map of homes and more information on all these events, visit [www.grafton-wi.org](http://www.grafton-wi.org).

All aboard! The Polar Express is set to depart from John Long Middle School in Grafton on Dec. 3 at 9 a.m. This magical journey to the North Pole to see Santa and the wonders of his workshop includes caroling, cookie decorating, trolley rides, a train display, letters to Santa, making of "reindeer food," photos

with Santa and a special gift for all participants! Tickets MUST be purchased in advance. Register online at <https://bit.ly/polarexpress2022> for \$7 plus service fee, or for \$7 at participating PWSB Branches starting Friday Nov. 4. Children 2 and under are free.

**MEQUON-THEINSVILLE**

Follow the sweet sounds of the Homestead High School Choir to the annual Village of Thiensville Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 2 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will be held in the Walgreen's parking lot, 278 N. Main St. in Thiensville. Enjoy hot chocolate and refreshments while visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Join the Mequon community for the Winter Wonderland on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It will be a magical evening of holiday spirit, twinkling lights, horse and carriage rides, local choirs and winter fun. Take a photo with Santa in the Isham Day House or Judah the Maccabee in front of a Menorah, make your own ornament, decorate cookies, jump in a Gingerbread Bounce House and enjoy food from Mr. P's Grilled Cheese and beverages from Ruby Tap.

**PORT WASHINGTON**

Christmas on the Corner in Port Washington on Dec. 3 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. boasts traditional Christmas activities that include cookie and ornament decorating, photos with Santa, live reindeer, letters to Santa, horse and carriage rides, a hot cocoa bar and an Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt! Stay for the parade at 6:15 p.m. with fireworks to follow! These are the only fireworks in Ozaukee County in December.

Also, on Dec. 3 in Port Washington, the Christkindmarket will take place between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the American Legion Post 82 at 435 N. Lake St. Local artisans will offer holiday gifts for purchase. No admission fee.

Enjoy the wonders of this holiday season by visiting Ozaukee County shops, restaurants and lodging facilities — look for specials and holiday events throughout the season. Visit [www.ozaukeetourism.com](http://www.ozaukeetourism.com) to see our partner listing.

Wishing you and yours a joyful and memorable holiday season. See you around Ozaukee County!



Submitted photo

The Grafton Chamber Singers will be on hand with their carols at Grafton's tree lighting ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday in Paramount Plaza.