

OZAUKEE COUNTY TOURISM

Looking ahead at resolutions!

OZAUKEE COUNTY — A resolution means being firmly determined to do something or meet a goal. New Year's is a popular time to make a resolution, as January provides somewhat of a clean slate — a fresh opportunity to start over or improve in the new year.

Most common resolutions include bettering ourselves, such as losing weight or exercising more, but let us not forget a resolution can be as simple as vowing to spend more time with loved ones or volunteering more in the community. So we reached out to the Board of Ozaukee County Tourism to ask what 2023 resolutions they have set.

■ **Tara Williams, Belgium Chamber of Commerce executive director**, exclaimed with four busy kids and full-time work, it's a continuous journey to find that perfect balance in life. She identified three resolutions to help achieve that balance.

"The first is to set regular date nights with my hubby," Williams said. "Getting away even for a couple hours is a great tonic for a healthy marriage. We can easily slip away for a delicious Friday night fish fry and old fashioned at Lake Church Inn in Belgium or test our teamwork and access to random bits of knowledge at the Inventors Brewpub trivia nights in Port Washington.

Memories Ballroom in Port also offers a ton of great date night options, from their hilarious Chick-n-Comedy nights to a wonderful variety of quality dinner theater performances."

Williams' second goal is to spend time with friends because laughter with



Submitted photos

Above, From left, Shonda, Mike and Masyn Fay and Nick Schultz enjoy a night of trivia at Inventors Brewpub in Port Washington. **Right**, treat yourself to a night of tapas at the Union House in Cedarburg.

friends is such a wonderful stress reliever.

"I resolve to make the time for Thursday night bingo with friends at Kyote's Bar & Grill in Belgium. It's good, clean, FREE fun, and we even might go home with some silly prizes and gift certificates!"

Williams' third goal is to expand on the quality time she spends with family. As her kids grow older and begin to spread their wings, she realizes how precious every moment spent together is. Her family is going to prioritize regular family hikes down at Harrington Beach State Park in Belgium. She points out that the fresh air, adventures exploring the trails, playing on the beach and time away from screens is rejuvenating and healthy in so many ways.

■ **Kathleen Cady Schilling, executive director at Ozaukee Economic Development**, stated, "My resolution for 2023 is to take time for myself. As a working mom, it is all too easy to put yourself and your wants at the bottom of the list."

Her goal for 2023 is to do one thing each month that she enjoys. It could be grabbing dinner at Ferrante's in Mequon, one of her favorite restaurants; walking the Ozaukee Interurban Trail and stopping for a cold beer at Foxtown Brewery; or spending a day shopping in Cedarburg at the Shops of Cedar Creek Settlement.

"It doesn't have to be big or all day, but just something I want to do for myself," she said.

■ **As we move into 2023, Pam King, Executive**

Director of the Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce, hopes to get back on track with one of her favorite hobbies, walking! "In the winter, walking is much easier with my snow shoes, and I can't wait to check out the trails in our County Parks including Hawthorne Hills, Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve, Tending Nature Preserve, Virmond Park and Waubedonia Park. Typically, my husband and I like to go out early on Sundays. I make sure to time it so that we can stop for a late breakfast or early lunch at places like Daily Taco in Thiensville or Out & Out in Cedarburg, or Dockside Deli or Fork and Tap in Port Washington." Once the weather improves, King looks forward to getting back on the Interurban Trail. With her home located very close to the trail, she loves to venture south from Grafton into Cedarburg or north towards Port Washington. "Either way, I am guaranteed to see lots of wildlife, and the paved trail makes it more enjoyable!"

■ **Tina Schwantes, Ozaukee County Tourism Council president and Executive Director of the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce** stated that one of her New Year's resolutions will be incorporating relaxing activities into her routine on a more frequent basis. There are several Ozaukee County Tourism Partners that provide the opportunity to help her accomplish this. Creating art gives your mind and body a rest from your routine responsibilities so painting pottery or doing a



glass fusing piece at glaze, a studio in Thiensville, will be on her list. Viewing artwork and seeing performing arts is also a source of relaxation. "This year I will slate in activities such as visiting The Cedarburg Art Gallery, Cedarburg Cultural Center, Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts or attending the annual Covered Bridge Studio Tour. Seeing shows at the Cedarburg Performing Arts Center and going to Gathering on the Green concerts will also be on my calendar." Schwantes also added that hiking on scenic trails and being out in nature is very restorative for her, so she plans to rotate between Mequon Nature Preserve and so many other beautiful walking paths that are abundant in Ozaukee County.

■ **Maggie Dobson, Executive Director of the Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce**, expressed that she loves to make unconventional resolutions — so she declared this year "the year of fun!" Dobson points out that there are so many local ways to enjoy our own communities. She personally enjoys a stop at Cedarburg's Handen Distillery or Union House for a cocktail, wandering through Frannie's Market to shop for fun specialty items, and stopping for a bite to eat at The Stilt House.

"There are so many things to do close to home that make for an easy and fun day out, while supporting

local businesses," she said. Dobson wishes everyone a Happy New Year and great success in accomplishing their resolutions!

■ **Cori Rice Kaminsky of White Rice Advertising** is taking the New Year to do BETTER! She firmly stated, "When it comes to New Year's resolutions, a lot of people resolve to eat better ... this year I resolve to eat better, but not like you think! I'm going to eat BETTER! And drink better! That means better chocolates! Better donuts! More luxurious choices off the menu at my favorite restaurants. High end craft cocktails or craft beer instead of a light beer!"

I am resolving to no longer deny myself the amazing treats the world — and Ozaukee County — has to offer, in the name of calories! Tacos? Yes, please! Ice cream? Don't mind if I do! They say good things come to those who wait ... well, I've waited long enough! This is the year of me! Bring it on, Ozaukee County!"

So take some time and decide what goals you have for 2023. What new things do you want to learn? What do you want to be different? What impact do you want to make on your community?

Sticking to resolutions can be difficult. But if you stay persistent and keep trying, you can make real changes. Just think: a year from now, you'll look back and be proud of all the progress you made!



Photo courtesy of Howard Vrankin

Steam fog, also known as arctic sea smoke, forms off of Lake Michigan in Port Washington.