

Family-friendly holiday events you don't want to miss!

By the Ozaukee County Tourism Council

Ozaukee County is flush with holiday happenings this season, but here are some family-friendly events you won't want to miss!

Grafton

■ Visit Reindeer Row in downtown Grafton from now until Jan. 7. The Paramount Plaza is decorated for the holidays, including 14 8-foot reindeer decorated by local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Check out the Holiday Home Decorating Contest Tour through Jan. 3. Load the kids in the car and visit the village and Town of Grafton to see 14 homes decorated for the holidays and vote for your favorites on Facebook. Visit www.grafton-wi.org for details and to download a map of the tour.

■ The Kapko Kids2Kids Winter Wonderland is a fun drive-through light display that will delight the whole family! Open most nights now through the holidays, it offers millions of lights, three mesmerizing light tunnels, hundreds of inflatables and holiday décor pieces, a rink for ice skating villagers, a Nativity scene, Santa's Workshop with live reindeer, a bustling Christmas Village and more. Now through the holidays, it's open 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 5-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Please note, Winter Wonderland will be closed today and Dec. 24-25.

■ Weather permitting, bundle up to enjoy skating at Veteran's Park, sledding at Lime Kiln Park, and hiking on the Interurban Trail.

Cedarburg

■ Illuminate Ozaukee in Zeunert Park in Cedarburg offers another fun drive-through light display! The Ozaukee Nonprofit Center and more than 50 participating businesses and nonprofits turned Zeunert Park in Cedarburg into a winter wonderland of holiday lights. Visitors are invited to wind through the park in their vehicles while enjoying the twinkling lights of the season. The park is open Thursdays to Saturdays through Dec. 23.

■ Festive Friday Eves at

the Cedar Creek Settlement are always a great destination for families, with live entertainment, treats and great holiday shopping. But the fun doesn't stop there! The rest of downtown Cedarburg comes alive on Friday nights with beautiful luminaries, free trolley rides, Santa visits at Santa's Workshop, cozy beer/mulled wine gardens, the "new to Cedarburg" retro Kooky Cooky House and more!

■ Cozy up with An Enchanted Christmas in the outdoor courtyard at the Cedarburg Art Museum on Friday nights, with lighted trees, holiday music, projected Christmas films, and a snowman scavenger hunt. Stay warm with our freshly baked cookies, hot chocolate and cider (spiked options available), and fire pits.

■ Every night through Dec. 23 (and during the day on weekends) the Rivoli Theatre offers great holiday classics on the big screen. From "Elf" and "Rudolph" to "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Bishop's Wife," there's something for everything — and each ticket is only \$4!

■ The Cedarburg PAC welcomes Herman's Hermits, An Olde English Christmas, on Friday. For more information and tickets, visit cedarburgpac.com.

■ Cozy up with the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts' Hooked by Design. The exhibition features over 40 wool art rugs, perfect to warm your family up on a chilly day.

Port Washington

■ Every third Thursday of the month (Dec. 16 this month), downtown Port will bring a little extra fun with live music on the sidewalk and around downtown, sidewalk shopping and later retail hours, food and drink specials and more.

■ Get your picture taken with Santa in a snow globe Dec. 17 and 18, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.! Come on up to Upper Lake Park to meet Santa in his giant snow globe, give him a high-five, and even get your wish list into the North Pole mailbox. Letters will be provided to complete at the park or bring your own handcrafted letter to place in the North Pole mailbox. Pre-registration is required.

■ Port Washington's Indoor Winter Market is 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday with local food and crafts, live music and more. You'll enjoy this warm and welcoming place where the community can gather to buy amazing local and fresh food, and handcrafted products.

■ Looking for a walk-through holiday light display? Come on downtown to enjoy the Lakeside Lights at Rotary Park for the holiday season — the whole park is lit up into a magical winter wonderland!

■ How about a New Year's Eve party that's kid-friendly and encourages you to show up in your pajamas? Inventors Brewpub's NYE Pajama Party is back this year, ringing in the new year with friends, snacks, games, party favors and more! The party starts at 6 p.m. Dec. 31, and offers free sprite for the kiddos and free bubbly for the adults at their ball drops (10 and midnight)!

Belgium

■ Not Just a Tree at Buechler Farms runs through Dec. 19. Enjoy a family day shopping for a fresh-cut Christmas tree, plus vendor shopping, food, kids ornament workshops, Santa visits, Christmas photos and more!

■ The Letters to Santa mailbox is available at the Belgium Post Office. No stamp necessary as this mail travels by magic. Submit your letters by today so Santa has time to write back before his big night!

■ Village residents can enter a photo of their holiday lights for a chance to win \$100 as part of the Holiday Spirit Contest! A map of all the lights for community viewing will be available, and voting will take place on Facebook. The house with the most votes on their Facebook photos at the end of the contest will win \$100.

Mequon

■ Try your hand at Jonathan Clark's Kitchen at the Jonathan Clark House in Mequon on Thursday. This family-friendly cooking tutorial event will show participants how the first settlers made shortbread cookies versus how a shortbread cookie with preserves is made in our kitchens today. Hot cocoa and wine from Cedar Creek Winery will be available. Afterward, participants will be invited to taste



Submitted photos

Get your picture taken with Santa in a snow globe Dec. 17 and 18, at Upper Lake Park in Port Washington.



Port Washington's Indoor Winter Market is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Inventors Brewpub, featuring local food and crafts, live music and more.

both the Laura Ingalls cookie and the Executive Director's special thumbprint shortbreads preserve cookies. Contact the Jonathan Clark House at www.jonathanclarkhouse.com or on Facebook to register.

Saukville

■ Ready to get out and enjoy nature? Sign the family up for Riveredge Nature Center's Night Ski, Snowshoe and Candlelit Hike on Friday. Enjoy the beauty and serenity of a crisp snowy evening on skis or snowshoes. Traverse trails lighted by the soft glow of lanterns, or those trails lit only by the light of the moon and stars.

For more information,



Illuminate Ozaukee sees dozens of businesses and nonprofits turn Zeunert Park in Cedarburg into a winter wonderland of holiday lights. The park is open Thursdays-Saturdays through Dec. 23.

pick up a copy of the Ozaukee County Tourism Guide available at area chambers and visitor centers, visit and follow the Ozaukee County Tourism Facebook page. Thank you for being a tourist in your own county!