

# Safe holiday celebrating — Ozaukee style!

## Submitted by the Ozaukee County Tourism Council

It's the holiday season, and our Ozaukee County businesses are hoping you'll spend your time close to home this year! Sure, things look different this holiday season, but it doesn't mean we can't celebrate in a big (and safe) way to keep in the spirit of the season! Here are some of the local holiday events taking place this season.

■ Looking for fresh cut trees and other décor, along with fun family activities? Buechler Farms in Belgium is doing "safe Christmas" in a big way with their "Not Just a Tree" holiday experience Nov. 21 through Dec. 20. Peruse fresh cut trees, decorative planters, poinsettias, wreaths and other gifts and décor from vendors, including the local Boy Scouts. Beverages, chili and sweet treats will be available. Enjoy Christmas movies in the barn, and Santa's elves will be assisting kids with crafts every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Speaking of Santa, he'll be visiting the farm on the weekends throughout the season! If you're looking for a special family picture, Buechler Farms also offers Christmas at the Farm family photos with Memories by Stephanie. Book a mini session for \$25, and \$5 of every \$25 goes to a child in need during the holidays. Visit [buechlerfarms.com](http://buechlerfarms.com) for times and more information.

■ Cedarburg kicked off its holiday season several weeks ago with regular Friday night festivities, including Festive Friday Eves at the Cedar Creek Settlement, beautiful luminaries lining the streets, and merchant and nonprofit activities around town. While they go all out on Fridays, Cedarburg is delightful all through the holiday season, with daily attractions like holiday films at the Rivoli Theater, their charming Santa's Workshop on the main street, and adorably decorated windows in every shop. Visit [cedarburgchristmas.com](http://cedarburgchristmas.com) to read up on all the happenings this holiday season!

■ Many of us are missing live theater in these challenging times, but Memories in Port Washington is still making safe dinner theater offerings possible with their seasonal entertainment. "Another Night Before Christmas" performances are offered on weekends now through Dec. 13. For show times, to reserve tickets and menu options visit their website at [www.memoriesballroom.com](http://www.memoriesballroom.com).

■ New this year, Grafton is hosting a House Decorating Tour and People's Choice Contest! Visit the 10 homes on their tour and vote for your favorite via the Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. The contest runs nightly from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. until Jan. 3. To download a map of the decorated homes visit



Submitted photo

Santa's mailbox at Belgium Post Office.

<http://www.grafton-wi.org>.

■ Also new this year is Illuminate Ozaukee. For seven nights during the month of December, the Ozaukee Nonprofit Center and more than 50 participating businesses and nonprofits will turn 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. A suggested donation of \$10 per vehicle is appreciated. Visit [ozaukeenonprofitcenter.org](http://ozaukeenonprofitcenter.org) for more information.

■ With Santa opportunities being limited this year,

we're sure kids are working diligently to get their letters to Santa written and dropped off in time! Many of our communities offer Letters to Santa mailboxes around town, but if your child is hoping to hear back from Santa, kids can drop off letters at the Grafton Post Office before Dec. 14, at the specially decorated North Pole mailbox inside Belgium's Post Office by Dec. 15, or mail them to the Cedarburg Junior Woman's Club at CJWC, P.O. Box 205, Cedarburg, WI 53012 before Dec. 15 and they'll get a personal letter back!

■ Belgium residents are also encouraged to post pictures of their outdoor Christ-

mas decorations on the Chamber's Holiday Decorations thread! The photo with the most likes at 9 p.m. on Dec. 18 will win \$100.

■ If you're looking to get out to enjoy the outdoors, Santa's Dash Away 5K in Cedarburg is the morning of Saturday, Dec. 12. They'll be encouraging social distancing at this fun run that benefits Santa's Cedarburg Workshop, but it's a great time for runners and walkers of all ages. Find out more at [cedarburgchristmas.com](http://cedarburgchristmas.com)!

■ Watch for a "Holiday Cheer and Happy New Year" coupon brochure featuring special offers at Mequon and Thiensville area restaurants and shops. The cost is \$10 and proceeds will go to benefit small businesses and charities. It will be a perfect stocking stuffer and offers extend beyond the season. It will be available at the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber office and other area businesses.

■ In Cedarburg, you can buy a beautiful hand-painted ornament of Santa's Workshop for just \$15. They're normally sold during Santa hours at the Workshop, but with COVID restrictions this year, your best bet is to pick them up at one of the merchant locations around town, including Wyndrose Fine Jewelry and the Union House Cedarburg (which also sells warm cookies from its take-out window on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays).

■ The Port Washington

Winter Market is now online for the 2020-2021 Season. This year you can still order the wonderful products from the same Winter Market vendors you know and love in this fun and interactive market! Each vendor will post what they are offering for sale. Comment on their post with what you would like to order. The vendor will then message you with how to pay — paypal, Venmo, etc. Every first and third Saturday you can pick up your purchases at the Inventors Brewpub parking lot from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

To visit all the quaint and warm communities in Ozaukee County, we suggest spending a few days with us. Visitors can find superb lodging facilities throughout the county, including historic, luxurious bed and breakfast inns, full-service hotels, and top-rated budget-friendly motels. Ozaukee County also has an abundance of some of the finest and most popular dining establishments, and all are practicing safe dining this season.

A wide variety of locally owned and operated restaurants, cafes, and delicatessens offer menus to suit every diner's taste and budget.

For more information on lodging, shops, and restaurants, pick up a copy of the Ozaukee County Tourism Guide available at area chambers and visitor centers, visit [www.ozaukeetourism.com](http://www.ozaukeetourism.com) and follow the Ozaukee County Tourism Facebook page. Thank you for being a tourist in your own county!