

DECEMBER 2019

FOX VALLEY

Exploring Life in the Fox

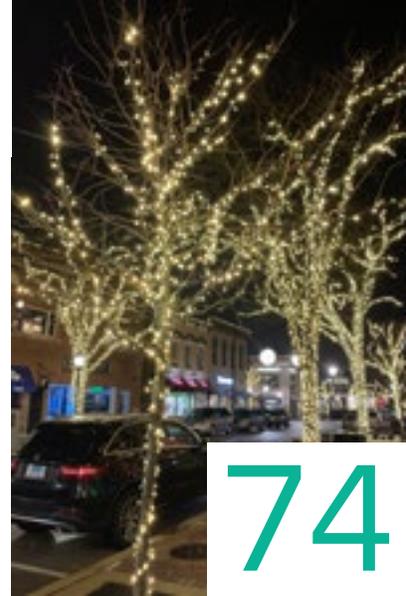
Holiday Express at Blackberry Farm

Breakfast with Santa
Geneva Christmas Walk & Holiday House Tour
Naper Lights
The Polar Express by Fox River Trolley Museum
Santa's Houses
The Nutcracker Ballet
... and more holiday events!

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My passion for learning, teaching and history is undeniable, but I was struggling financially, so I began moonlighting as a bartender just to make ends meet, and unexpectedly fell madly in love with every aspect of the bar business.

For my squad and I it is about so much more than making a great cocktail. It's about memories, music, history and sharing those moments, ensuring you embrace the present, reflect on the past and securing a bright future.

Javier is the President/Historian for The Wildflower Squad which is Bartending Service for Private Events as well as offering consulting for Bar owners who can be reached at 1-630-809-7692 or by email at bookus@wildflowersquad.com.



The Negroni Cocktail Recipe

BY JAVIER VILLANEUVA, THE WILDFLOWER SQUAD

The story of the Negroni begins at the Caffè Casoni in Florence. There's no documented historical account, but it is believed by cocktailians that Count Camillo Negroni invented the drink when he ordered an Americano made with gin in place of the usual soda water. It was a success and not long after, the Negroni family founded the Negroni distillery, which produced a ready-to-drink version of the cocktail that they called Antico Negroni 1919.

The Negroni is a popular Italian cocktail, made of one part gin, one part vermouth rosso, and one part Campari, garnished with an orange peel. It is considered an apéritif.

Enjoy the good vibes

Add all ingredients to your mixing glass, or copper yari, then add ice and stir for 20 seconds. Fine strain into old fashioned glass and garnish with orange swath.

For bartending services at private events call Javier at (630) 809-7692. ■

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Featured Dishes

Must try appetizers, entrees, desserts or cocktails available at local Fox Valley restaurants.



◀ Maui Fish Taco

Our Maui Fish Taco is by far one of our most popular taco at 1910! It can be served blackened, fried or on a lettuce wrap or flour tortilla. It is a unique combination of fresh house made ingredients including a tropical slaw, pineapple tequila salsa and chipotle tartar sauce. Try our Maui Fish or one of our other 6 fusion tacos on Taco Tuesday for half price! Follow us on Facebook or Instagram at 1910geneva for information on our weekly specials.

1910 Geneva
30 W. State Street Geneva, IL 60134
1-630-845-9100



◀ Roasted Bone Marrow with Oyster Mushrooms

Arugula - grilled crostini. It tastes like warm beefy butter slathered on crispy bread. Get yours today!

Catch 35 Naperville
35 S Washington St. Naperville, IL 60540
1-630-717-3500



◀ Surf & Turf Filet Medallions & Parmesan-Crusted Lobster Tail

The best of both worlds. Two of our 3oz medallions topped with Horseradish and Parmesan crusts and a lobster tail topped with garlic butter, herbs and parmesan. Served with roasted root vegetables, Mary's potatoes and steak jus.

Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
3710 E Main St.
St Charles, IL 60174
1-630-940-1000



Seasonal Hand Packed Craft Sundaes

Available every day during each meal period. the options offered change with seasons.

Craft Urban
211 James St.
Geneva, IL 60134
1-331-248-8161



Falafel

Pita bread stuffed with Falafel, spread hummus, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and tahini sauce.

Eden on The River
1 Illinois St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
1-630-945-3332



Porterhouse for Two

Every Wednesday we feature a Porterhouse for two which Includes a 24 oz Certified Angus Beef Porterhouse, two sides and two starters for only \$55.95. Guests can add any appetizer on our menu for ten dollars more. An excellent special for date night!

FoxFire
17 W State St. Geneva, IL 60134
1-630-232-1369



Italian Farm Salad

Leafy Greens | soppressata | onion | peppers | tomato | roasted cauliflower | aged provolone | olives | balsamic.

GIA MIA
3 N. 3rd Street,
Geneva, IL 60134
1-630-405-5544



◀ **Homemade Pecan Crumble Cream Cheese Cake**

This cake is served warm with a homemade caramel sauce usually best served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top. The most popular dessert now at ZaZa's! Our Daily Dessert Special is an absolute MUST this holiday season.

La ZaZa Trattoria
5 S. 1st St. St. Charles IL 60174
1-630-443-9304



◀ **Hoison Pork Chops**

2 - 7oz marinated chops | whipped potatoes | asparagus.

Livia Italian Eatery
207 S. 3rd Street Geneva, IL 60134
1-630-402-6444



◀ **Traditional Fish & Chips**

Guinness battered cod filets, fresh cut fries, mushy peas, house slaw and tartar sauce.

McNally's Irish Pub
109 W. Main Street St. Charles, IL 60174
1-630-513-6300



◀ **Pan Roasted Striped Bass**

Matsutake, dash risotto, fennel-carrot puree, mirin glazed savoy cabbage, marinated beech mushrooms.

Niche
14 S 3rd St Geneva, IL 60134
1-630-262-1000



▲
Miso Glazed Chilean Seabass

Jasmine rice, baby bok choy, pickled onions, crushed peanuts.

ROX City Grill
100 W. Main Street St. Charles, IL 60174
1-630-845-5800

**Carne Asada
Burrito** ▶

Tender arrachera-style grilled steak along with black beans, red rice, lettuce, cheese and pico de gallo, all inside a tasty flour tortilla and ready for you to garnish with your favorite toppings from our Salsa Bar.



Salsa Verde
1850 Lincoln Hwy St. Charles, IL 60174
1-630-444-0673
(Also has locations in Batavia, Oswego and Yorkville)

**The Knockout
Martini** ▶

Our Signature Martini:
SVEDKA Clementine Vodka
Infused with Fresh Golden
Pineapple

Sullivan's Steakhouse
244 S Main Street
Naperville, IL 60540
1-630-305-0230



▲
Chicken Mo Mo

Minced Chicken mixed with our own Nepalese spices and herbs than stuffed in a thin flour wrap, steam and served with Nepalese Chutney. MO MO has become a traditional delicacy in Nepal.

Taste of The Himalayas
110 N. 3rd Street
St. Charles, IL 60174
1-630-444-1575

**Grilled Salmon
Crunchy Basil** ▶

Grilled Salmon fillet topped with mild sweet chili, bell pepper and fried basil leaves. Served with jasmine rice.

Vinothai
3825 E. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174
1-630-443-8461 ■



CHRISTMAS AT ABBEY FARMS

Through December 23rd



Join in the tradition of hunting for your very own Abbey-Farms-grown Christmas tree or select a fresh pre-cut fir tree from Father Andrews' family in upper Michigan! Whether it's Christmas trees, the Pine Tree Cafe, the yummy bakery or a tractor ride Abbey Farms is the place to grow memories and traditions.

Santa on the Farm

You heard right! Santa visits Abbey Farms every year starting the weekend after Thanksgiving and through mid-December. There is a small fee to visit Santa and every visitor leaves with a great memory, coloring book and personal photo or a digital photo to download and print at home!

The 2019 Dates & Times: 11 am - 2 pm on the following days:
November 29, 30 & December 1
December 7 & 8 & December 14 & 15

Pricing: \$10: Enjoy a brief visit with Santa & take your own photo (use your phone or camera).
\$20: Includes above & downloadable digital photo by photographer (up to 3 poses total) .

Fresh Donut & Hot Chocolate

Every Christmas tree purchase comes with a complimentary famous Abbey Farms apple cider donut and small hot chocolate per person!

Of course, just one donut will not be enough, so we will have plenty on hand for you to purchase to take back home, maybe even to snack on the way! Simply present your receipt to at the donut counter and you can start enjoying this tasty treat!

Farmstead Emporium & Bakery

The Abbey Farmstead Emporium Store is stocked full of unique one-of-a-kind goodies and gifts that you cannot find anywhere else! Perfect for that special someone, great for stocking stuffers or maybe just a little treat for you, Abbey

Farms seasonal Farmstead Emporium store has it all!

From bakery items to our famous donuts, fun old-fashioned toys to whimsical bird feeders, collectible ornaments to hand made pottery - Abbey Farms will satisfy all your shopping desires!

The Farmstead Emporium store boasts yummy Abbey Farms branded edible items such as:

- Jams & Jellies,
- Salsas & Hot Sauces
- Fruit Butters & Preserves

- Salad Dressings, Grilling Seasonings & Sauces
- Mustards & Dips
- So much more!

These items are only found at Abbey Farms, so be sure to stock up today! Fear Not! If you run out of your favorite Abbey Farms items you can now purchase from our online store! Click the button above to see what is available!

Abbey Farms
2855 Hart Rd.
Aurora, IL 60504
1-630-966-7775



HAPPY DOGS. WAGGY TAILS.

Our mission is to enrich the lives of dogs and their families by treating them like they are part of our family. If you value your fur babies as family members, not pets, then the Waggy Tails experience is for you.

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 331-215-7836

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Breakfast with Santa

LOCAL LOCATIONS



Catch 35 Naperville

Saturday, December 14th

Seatings available at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Reserve your table today by calling 1-630-717-3500

Children 2 and under free

Children ages 3-12: \$15

13 and Older & Adults: \$25

Catch 35 Naperville-35 S. Washington St. Naperville, IL

Gratuuity and tax are not included in the above prices

Take pictures with Santa, too! Santa will visit tables and be available for pictures throughout the event.

- Santa breakfast buffet includes coffee, tea, and soda.
- Scrooge's Short rib hash
- Saint Nick's Scrambled Eggs
- Yuletide Bacon & Sausage
- Rudolph's Breakfast Potatoes
- Jack Frost's Crab cake Benedict
- Tiny Tim's Mini yogurt parfaits

- Mrs. Claus' Cinnamon Swirl French Toast
- Blitzen's Apple Cinnamon Crepes
- Prancer's Smoked Salmon
- Dasher's Bagels & Cream Cheese
- Kris Kringle's Croissants
- Assorted Holiday Cookies by Santa's Little Elves

<http://www.catch35.com/naperville-breakfast-with-santa-2019/>

35 S. Washington Street
Naperville, IL 60540
1-630-717-3500

DoubleTree By Hilton Lisle Naperville

Sat, December 14, 2019
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Bring the family for a morning of fun with a Breakfast Buffet with Omelette Station, Crafts, a Magic Show, and opportunities for lots of "Selfie" Pictures with SANTA!

Call 630-245-7600 for more information and menu selections!

3003 Corporate W. Drive
Lisle, IL 60532

Fox Valley Park District

Saturday December 21
9:00 am – 10:30 am

Join us for a morning of celebration with Santa Claus! Parents and children will enjoy breakfast, make a craft keep-sake, and have the opportunity to talk and take a picture with Santa. Price is per person. Registration ends December 16.

Ages 1Y & up
R \$13 / N \$20 – Register online!

Prisco Community Center

150 W. Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
1-630-859-8606

Geneva Lions Club 8th Annual Breakfast with Santa

Live Music - Free Photos with Santa. Free crafts table for the kids.

Tickets are \$7.00 - Kids 3 and under free
Saturday December 7
7:30 am -11:30 am

Geneva High School Cafeteria
416 McKinley Ave.
Geneva IL 60134

Hotel Arista

When our special guest from the North Pole comes to town, it's a fun-filled day for all! Get family photos with Santa, join in holiday activities with elves and fill up on our famous seasonal breakfast buffet!

Sunday December 15
Three seatings: 9:00 am, 10:30 am and Noon
\$49.95 Adults, \$22.95 Children (3-12), Age 2 & under free



Reserve now at 630-579-7827 or email santa@hotelarista.com

Menu:

Kids Buffet:

- Grinch Pancakes
- Funfetti Pancakes
- Fruit Salad
- Tator Tots
- Chicken Tenders
- Mac n Cheese

Adult Buffet:

- Chef Carved Brown Sugar Bacon Glazed Ham with Pineapple Reduction
- Chef Carved Roasted Flank Steak with Natural Jus & Horseradish Cream
- Brioche French Toast with Bourbon Maple Syrup, Blueberry Compote
- Bacon
- Biscuits and Gravy
- Sausage
- Smashed Crispy Breakfast potatoes
- Smoked Salmon with all the Accouterments and Bagels
- Scrambled eggs with Cheese
- Fresh Sliced Fruit
- Assorted pastries with Fruit Marmalade and Butter
- Spinach and Feta Quiche

Yogurt Bar- Greek Yogurt, Oat Clusters, House Made Granola, Berries and Dried Fruit

Desserts: Assorted Christmas Cookies, Assorted Donuts, Brownie Bites, pot de Crème, Pecan Bites, Apple Pie, Cherry Pie and Lemon Bites

Hot Coco Station with Whipped Cream, Crushed Peppermints, Shaved Chocolate, Sprinkles and Marshmallows

Activities Available: Santa's workshop including train, tinker toys, Holiday Crafts, Photo with Santa, Coloring Pages, Gift for the Kids, Carriage Ride and Hot Chocolate Station.

2139 CityGate Lane
Naperville, IL 60563

Hotel Baker

Breakfast with Santa - Sunday, December 8, 15 and 22 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Scrumptious breakfast, face painting, a meet and greet with Santa, professional photo by Alex Claney Photography (extra fee) - may take unlimited personal photos. Limited seat available - book now.

100 W. Main Street
St. Charles IL 60174
1-630-584-2100

Hotel Indigo

Saturday December 14, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Come one come all to Hotel Indigo Naperville Riverwalk's Santa Breakfast. It's time to get ready for a little Holiday Cheer! Come enjoy a breakfast with your family and Jolly Ole' St. Nick at 11:30 AM. Following breakfast, you'll have your chance to take a picture with the big man himself. Additional activities will include our build your own sugar cookie and hot chocolate stations.





Menu:

- Breakfast Buffet:
- Scrambled Eggs
- Bacon or Sausage
- Breakfast potatoes
- Fruit
- Waffles and French Toast
- Cheese Blintzes
- Coffee, Tea, Milk, Chocolate Milk, or Juice

\$39 per person

\$20 per person 4-12 year olds

Free for 3 and under

Pricing doesn't include alcoholic beverage, taxes, or gratuity

120 Water Street
Naperville, IL 60540
1-630-778-9676

Maggiano's Little Italy

Saturday December 21

9:00 am – 11:00 am

HO! HO! HO! Merry Christmas! Join us for Breakfast with Santa!

Christmas is right around the corner. Have your child bring his or her wish list to show Santa.

Don't forget to bring your camera to photograph your child with Santa.

Breakfast buffet includes:

- Fruit, breakfast pastries, scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, french toast sticks,
- Juice, milk, coffee, tea.

There will also be an activity table for the kids. Each child will fill a bag of reindeer food to take home.

1847 Freedom Drive
Naperville, IL 60563
1-630-536-2270

The Morton Arboretum

December 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, and 23

9:00 a.m

Ginkgo Restaurant

Make lasting memories and holiday traditions this season! Share the excitement as Santa makes his way to the Ginkgo Restaurant. Enjoy a delicious breakfast buffet with Santa and his elves in the scenic Ginkgo Restaurant. All children will have the opportunity to visit with Santa. Bring your camera to capture the memories.

2019 Breakfast with Santa Menu:

- Fancy French Toast - Cinnamon crème brûlée French toast with warm syrup
- North Pole Scramble - Scrambled eggs with cheddar cheese
- Prancer's Potato Hay - Golden hashed browns
- Lovely Branches - Applewood smoked bacon
- Naughty and Nice Brisket - Short rib hash with sweet potatoes and onions
- Winter Waffles - Belgian waffles with house-made berry compote, powdered sugar and warm syrup
- Frosty's Yogurt and Oatmeal Bar - Granola, Mixed Berries, Honey, Cinnamon,

- Brown Sugar, Raisins and Mixed Nuts
- Tables will be preset with Fruit Platters and Assorted Breakfast Pastries
- Beverage Selection Served Tableside
- Regular and Chocolate Milk
- Orange, Apple and Cranberry Juice
- Soft Drinks
- Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea
- Mimosa and Bloody Mary Cash Bar Available

Fees and admission

Kids (3-12) Member: \$32

Kids (3-12) Non Member: \$36

Adult (13 and older) Members: \$38

Adult (13 and older) Non Member: \$43

Children under 3: Free

Registration information:

1-630-725-2066, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

4100 Illinois Route 53

Lisle, IL 60532

1-630-968-0074

Oswego Foundation For Educational Excellence - OFEE

Location: Oswego High School Cafeteria
Saturday, December 7

Seating Times: 8:30 - 9:15 AM and 10:00 - 11:15 AM. Please note that you will not be allowed in until your specific seating time. Enter Through Door 11 - South side of the Building.

Tickets:

Online tickets on sale now! Advanced ticket purchases are strongly recommended! [Click here for tickets](#)

Advanced Tickets:

Ages 0 - 3: Free

Family Pack of Four: \$24

Single Tickets (Ages 4+): \$7, each

At The Door (Based upon availability):

Ages 0 - 3: Free

Family Pack of Four: \$28

Single Tickets (Ages 4+): \$8, each

Oswego High School

4250 Illinois Route 71

Oswego IL 60543

Pheasant Run Resort

A Holiday Tradition

December 8th, 15th & 22nd from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

New Orleans Ballroom

Join the Pheasant Run Family Celebration this holiday season. Enjoy Breakfast with Santa in our New Orleans Ballroom at our St Charles, IL resort Sundays in December leading up to the big holiday. Enjoy our enhanced breakfast buffet while taking in the festive holiday spirit, decorate cookies, decorate a gingerbread house (\$), make crafts (\$), and leave your list with the man in the red suit!

Adults: \$24.95*

Children 6-12: \$12.95*

Children 5 & under: Free

Featuring:

- Scrambled Eggs
- Apple Wood Smoked Bacon
- Stuffed Blueberry Pancakes
- Thyme Sausage Links
- Home Fried Potatoes
- Grand Mainer French Toast
- Assorted Freshly Baked Breakfast Pastries with Sweet Butter and Preserves
- Fresh Seasonal Fruit and Berries
- Fruit Yogurts

Omelet Station

To include: Diced Green and Red Peppers, Diced Tomatoes, Sliced Forest Mushrooms, Diced Onions, Organic Spinach, Diced Virginia Ham, Bacon, and Medley of Cheese

Carving Station

- Slowly Roasted Prime Rib with Rosemary Au Jus
- Country Style Mashed Potatoes

- Spring Vegetable Medley

Desserts

Chefs Selection of Freshly Made Holiday Desserts

Pheasant Run Resort
4051 E Main St,
St. Charles, IL 60174
1-630-584-6300

St. Andrews Country Club

Sunday, December 8
Seatings 9:30 am, 9:45 am, 10:00 am, or 10:15 am
3 yrs. & younger \$4.95
4 – 11 yrs. old \$10.95
12 yrs. & older \$15.95
Tax and gratuity are not included in the prices above.

Pancake Buffet Menu:

- bacon & sausage
- scrambled eggs
- breakfast potatoes

- silver dollar pancakes
- buttermilk & blueberry pancakes
- toppings: butter, syrup, sliced bananas, strawberries in syrup, whip cream, chocolate chips
- coffee, milk, orange juice

Santa will be available for pictures by the tree, so be sure to bring your camera!

2241 Route 59
West Chicago, IL 60185
1-630-231-3100 ext. 114

West Aurora High School

Presented by West Aurora High School Career and Technical Educations Department

Saturday December 7,
Time: 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Cost: \$5/person (Breakfast Only)
\$10/person (Breakfast & Activities)

Join us for breakfast, fun games and crafts, face painting, a sweet shoppe station, and a photo opportunity with Santa! Online ticketing will close at midnight on December 5th.

1201 W. New York Street, Door #22
Aurora, IL 60506 ■



December Events at The Elgin Public Museum of Natural History and Anthropology



Friday, December 6th -- The perennially popular Touching on Traditions exhibit at Elgin Public Museum gets underway with a special fundraiser Opening Night gala! Starting with a Members Only hour from 6-7 pm, then opening to the public from 7-9 pm, there will be raffles, silent auctions, live music, and light refreshments. There will also be a special Storytime with Mrs. Claus at 7:30. Stroll the museum, and enjoy the Touching on Traditions displays of holiday decorations from around the world! Event admission is \$5 per person for museum members, \$10 for adult non-members; \$2 for kids 3-12, free to kids under 3. Elgin Public Museum is located at 225 Grand Blvd., Elgin, inside picturesque Lords Park. No reservations or tickets required. For more info, 847-741-6655.

Saturday, December 7th -- Elgin Public Museum presents Story Hour, a monthly gathering for kids and parents to enjoy, as longtime Educator Marge Fox this month talks about world holiday traditions and reads Michael Brown's Santa Mouse, and a story about Chinese New Year. Free; donations welcomed. No registration required. 11 am -12 pm at Elgin Public Museum of Natural History and Anthropology, 225 Grand Blvd. inside Lords Park. 847-741-6655.



Saturday, December 7th/ Sunday December 8th -- Elgin Public Museum presents Touching on Traditions, a colorful, multicultural display of holiday decorations from around the world. 12-4 pm. Adults, \$2; kids 3-12, \$1; kids under 3 and Museum Members, free. 225 Grand Blvd., Elgin, inside Lords Park. For more info, including group tours during the week and evenings, call 847-741-6655.

Friday, December 13th -- Elgin Public Museum presents Science Night: Traditions. Come learn about worldwide holiday traditions in the colorful atmosphere of the museum's annual Touching on Traditions exhibit! \$2 per person; Museum Members free. Donations welcomed. 225 Grand Blvd., inside Lords Park, 6-8 pm. 847-741-6655.

Saturday, December 14/Sunday, December 15 -- Elgin Public Museum presents Touching on Traditions, a colorful, multicultural display of holiday decorations from around the world. 12-4 pm. Adults, \$2; kids 3-12, \$1; kids under 3 and Museum Members, free. 225 Grand Blvd., Elgin, inside Lords Park. For more info, including group tours during the week and evenings, call 847-741-6655.

Saturday, December 21/Sunday, December 22 -- Elgin Public Museum presents Touching on Traditions, a colorful, multicultural display

of holiday decorations from around the world. 12-4 pm. Adults, \$2; kids 3-12, \$1; kids under 3 and Museum Members, free. 225 Grand Blvd., Elgin, inside Lords Park. For more info, including group tours during the week and evenings, call 847-741-6655.

Saturday, December 21 -- Elgin Public Museum of Natural History and Anthropology celebrates the Winter Solstice! Come all ye Druid Oak Kings and Holly Queens, as we rejoice in the return of a little more daylight every day! Learn about the astronomical reason for the Solstice, and its significance to ancient cultures. Warm cider and treats will be served by a glowing campfire. 6:30-8:00 pm. \$6 non-members, \$4 non-members. 225 Grand Blvd., inside Lords Park. 847-741-6655.

Saturday, December 28 -- Elgin Public Museum and Friends of the Lords Park Zoo present Bison Feeding! Get an up-close and personal look as the zoo's elk and deer are fed, then actually help serve breakfast to bison Becky, Drew and Takoda! Meet first inside the museum for a short presentation on bison. Bright and early, 7:00-8:30 am. Space is limited to 12 people per month, so make your reservation as early as possible. \$5 per adult, \$2 kids 3-12; under 3 and Museum Members free. 225 Grand Blvd., inside Lords Park. 847-741-6655.

Saturday, December 28/Sunday December 29th -- Elgin Public Museum presents Touching on Traditions, a colorful, multicultural display of holiday decorations from around the world. 12-4 pm. Adults, \$2; kids 3-12, \$1; kids under 3 and Museum Members, free. 225 Grand Blvd., Elgin, inside Lords Park. For more info, including group tours during the week and evenings, call 847-741-6655.

Elgin Public Museum of Natural History & Anthropology
225 Grand Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60120 ■

Santa on Broadway in Downtown Aurora



Santa is stopping by shops along Broadway in downtown Aurora this December as Santa on Broadway returns.

Children can enjoy a visit and pictures with Santa from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the following locations:

- On Saturday, Dec. 7, Santa will stop by The Cotton Seed Creative Exchange, 8 N. Broadway
- On Saturday, Dec. 14, Santa will be at Aurora Regional Fire Museum, 53 N. Broadway.
- On Saturday, Dec. 21, Santa will visit La Quinta de los Reyes, 36 E. New York St.

The events are free, and cookies will be donated by La Central Bakery and Cinco de Mayo Bakery.

Santa on Broadway is sponsored by Broadway business owners with assistance from Aurora Downtown, a nonprofit organization of business and property owners in downtown.

Families are encouraged to bring their camera or phone for photos with Santa. Children will also receive a free candy cane.

For more information about holiday events in downtown Aurora, visit www.auroradowntown.org.



GOLF, SOCIAL & DINING
MEMBERSHIPS



630-584-4000

EVENTS@ROYALFOXCC.COM

ROYALFOXCC.COM

4405 ROYAL AND ANCIENT DRIVE
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174

Geneva History Museum Events



Annual Geneva Giving Trees & 18th Century Crèche Display

Visit the Geneva History Museum for family-fun holiday displays. The Feature Gallery will be decked out with nineteen Christmas trees decorated by local nonprofit organizations. Vote for your favorite with your dollars online at GenevaHistoryMuseum.org or at the museum. The tree that receives the most votes earns all of their donations and the others split their donations 50/50 with the Geneva History Museum.

Bring the family and take your holiday photo in our antique sleigh. Continue the popular tradition of the Geneva holiday season and view the 18th century Neapolitan Crèche, or manger scene, displayed in the same seventeenth

century French provincial corner bed in which it was displayed at The Little Traveler as early as 1930. Kate Raftery, originator of The Little Traveler, acquired the collection of figures constructed of terra-cotta, wood, wire and fiber, while traveling Europe and created a holiday tradition for Geneva's community centered around the display.

These holiday displays will be available for public viewing with free admission at the Geneva History Museum, 113 South Third Street from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays thru Saturdays, November 26 until December 21. Special evening viewing from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, December 6 during the Geneva Chamber of Commerce Christmas Walk.



Museum Merry Mixer Fundraiser

Enjoy appetizers, music and raffle prizes at this cocktail party fundraiser for restoration efforts of the Geneva History Museum's 18th century Crèche, or nativity from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 12 at 113 South Third Street. Reservations are \$35 per person and includes appetizers and one drink ticket. Call 630-232-4951 or visit GenevaHistoryMuseum.org to register or learn more. ■



Naper Settlement Events and Programs

Naper Settlement is pleased to present the following events and programs during December 2019. General museum admission is at a reduced winter rate of \$5.25 for adults, \$4.75 for seniors (62+) and \$4 for youth (4-12). Naperville residents with proof of residency, children under 4 and members are free. For more information about a specific event, please visit our website at www.Naper-Settlement.org.

Cup of Cheer™ House Walk, Holiday Market, & Tea

Thursday, December 5 & Friday, December 6 • 9 AM–4 PM
\$55/Thursday; \$40/Friday

The Martin Mitchell Mansion will be one of the homes featured on this year's Cup of Cheer™ House Walk. This National Historic Landmark will be expertly decorated for the holidays by the Naperville Garden Club. For more information on Cup of Cheer™, visit www.NapervilleGardenClub.org.

Yuletide Festival & Fair

December 5-8, 12-15, & 19-22 • Hours vary
Free Admission
Make your holiday merry and bright at



the new Yuletide Festival and Fair! Experience the joy of the holiday season with live entertainment, art and craft vendors, wintry food and beverages, twinkling lights, and more! Learn more at www.NaperSettlement.org/Yuletide

Martin Mitchell Mansion Holiday Tours

Saturdays, December 7, 14, 21 • 9–11 AM
\$10/Adult, \$8/Members; registration required
Get in a festive holiday mood when you tour the Martin Mitchell mansion, decorated by the Naperville Garden Club. Recommended for ages 12 and up.

History Speaks Lecture Series: The Hidden History of Dickens' A Christmas Carol

Sunday, December 8 • 4–5 PM
Non-Members: \$10/adult, \$9/youth (4-12) and students
Members: \$8/adult, \$7/ youth (4-12)
Author and presenter Rochelle Pennington shares the stories and history behind this Christmas classic. This lecture will be held in Century Memorial Chapel. ■



Oswego Christmas Walk



The Village of Oswego invites you to the annual Christmas Walk Celebration, held on Friday, December 6th – Sunday, December 8th throughout Oswego. The festivities begin on Friday, December 6th, from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. in downtown Oswego.

The night will begin with Toyland Train rides, the Sledding Hill (giant slide), ice skating rink, ice carving demonstrations, strolling carolers and characters, holiday music, kids crafts and games, delicious food vendors and shopping opportunities in the wonderful downtown businesses on Main Street. At 7:00 p.m., the Silent, Illuminated Fire Truck parade will make its way down Main Street. Fire trucks from Oswego and other local fire departments will participate in this annual event. Stop at the Little White School museum, hosted by the Oswegoland Park District, to enjoy crafts, music, and treats.

Don't miss a Visit with Santa from 5:30-8 p.m., hosted by the Garden Faire. Bring your cameras to capture that special moment with Santa! Delicious and tantalizing food will be available along Main Street. At HudsonCrossingPark, which is located at the corner of Harrison and Washington Street, enjoy the splendor and



beauty of the Fox River as you and your families enjoy a ride on the Belgian Draft Horse Hay Ride.

The festivities will continue on Saturday, December 7th with a Pancake Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oswego, Fox River Academy of Music and Art, Oswego Senior Center and the Oswego YMCA at the District 308 Center (old Traughber Junior High). From 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., this event will include a delicious breakfast, games, crafts and pictures with Santa.

The annual Holiday Cookie Walk will take place in downtown Oswego from 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Purchase your holiday tin and then visit all of the participating merchants for a homemade holiday cookie. Don't miss all of your Country Market

favorites at the old Fire Station #1 as the Oswego Park District host the Holiday Country Market from 9:30-3:30 p.m.

The festivities continue on Sunday, December 8th with Oswego Family YMCA Jingle Bell Jog, Holiday House Walk and much more!

Join the Village of Oswego for this festive event as we begin the Holiday Season at the annual Oswego Christmas Walk. For a complete list of activities, please visit our website at www.oswegoil.org or call 630-554-3618. ■

Geneva Christmas Walk & Holiday House Tour



Tradition and surprise. It wouldn't be Christmas without them, and Geneva's Christmas Walk and House Tour offer both. This year both are supported by Little Red Barn Door.

Friday evening, December 6 begins with Graham's Chocolates First Candy Cane of the season being presented with great fanfare followed by the arrival of Santa Lucia, the Swedish symbol of the season, who will offer Swedish cookies to merry-makers. The new Christmas Tree on the Courthouse lawn is lit and then young and young at heart will wait with anticipation as Santa Claus arrives. Santa and his trusted elf will then open their gingerbread home for visits from excited children while All Chocolate Kitchen recreates their record breaking candy cane.

Serenaded by carolers, families stroll Geneva's historic marketplace, nibbling on fresh-roasted chestnuts, and dodging into brightly lit shops and restaurants along the way.



Those who aren't downtown, might be touring holiday-decked homes. The Christmas House Tour (Dec. 6; 10 am-8 pm & Dec. 7; 10 am-5 pm) also another tradition, but thanks to the diversity of homes and the creativity of local designers, it's filled with unexpected treats.

Eagle Brook Charmer:

Situated on a quiet cul-de-sac amid towering trees, this cedar and stone home is decked out for the season. Built in 1996, this 3,508 square foot home exudes hospitality and lightheartedness. The homeowners are creative, enjoy projects and appreciate a flea market find. Many of those finds have been incorporated into the home during remodels, both inside and out.

Festively decorated by The Little Traveler (630.232.4200).

English Cottage: This English cottage family home built in 1928, is loaded with personality, warmth and charm. Family mementos and photographs have been wonderfully blended with antiques and relaxing furnishings to create a comfortable home full of laughter and love.

Festively decorated by Geneva Garden Club (630.742.1217) and Plandscape, Inc. (630.365.2558) with contributor Country Naturals (630.232.1172).

Custom Home: Found on a friendly neighborhood street, this 2008 home has a bit of whimsy at every turn. As you enter the expansive foyer, architectural details such as transom windows, plantation shutters, oak hardwood floors and iron spindles, that lead





to the second floor, catch your eye. *Festively decorated by Floral Wonders (630.945.6559) and Neri Landscape (630.443.4722) with contributor Little Red Barn Door (630.402.0072).*

Historic gem: Sheltered under thick trees, almost hidden from the road, sits this historic farmhouse and barn. Through the renovations, the homeowners preserved the early 1900's home's charming simplicity, but also brought it into the 21st century by opening the layout and adding French doors and windows for extra light. The result is a timeless home with modern amenities that cater to the family's lifestyle.

Festively decorated by Gatherings By Design (630.880.8792) and Plandscape, Inc. (630.365.2558) with contributor Cocoon (630.232.8340).

Architectural Beauty: An exquisite grand door entices you into this exceptional abode. Built in 2004, this home is full of precision workmanship. The terra cotta tile, archways and wrought iron are a reference to the homeowner's Spanish heritage. Crown molding, transom windows and glazed ceilings are just a few of the WOWs you will see throughout the home.

Festively decorated by Strawflower Shop/Rug

Merchant (630.232.7141) with contributor Town & Country Gardens (630.232.6685).

Tickets include a holiday tea and are available for \$35. Proceeds are used to decorate Geneva for the holiday season. Purchase at the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, 8 South Third St., online at genevachamber.com or at any of the locations listed below (in Geneva unless indicated otherwise). Call 630.232.6060 to pre-order over the phone. Tickets will not be for sale at the homes.

Cocoon, 212 S. Third St. – 630.232.8340

Country Naturals, 316 Campbell St. – 630.232.1172

Floral Wonders, 200 S. Third St. – 630-945-6559

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse, 2010 E Main St., St. Charles – 630.377.6288

Little Red Barn Door, 227 S. Third St., Ste. 205 – 630-402-0072

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, 1308 Commons Dr. – 630.208.1484

The Little Traveler (gift gallery), 404 S Third St. – 630.232.4200

Please note: the above locations accept cash and check (made payable to Geneva Chamber). This event may sell out. ■

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Holiday Lights at Mooseheart



Join us for our 10th Annual Holiday Lights display, running 5:00 pm -9:00 pm nightly through Tuesday, December 31st. Holiday Lights at Mooseheart is one of Chicagoland's largest light displays! The lighted route is approximately 1.8 miles and has more than 80 lighted displays to view.

Even though Santa is extremely busy this time of year, he couldn't turn down an opportunity to visit Mooseheart! For six nights this year – Dates TBD – the \$10 admission price (per vehicle) includes not only the Holiday Lights show, but also a chance to see Santa Claus at the Mooseheart fieldhouse. Santa will sit for free photos starting at 5:30PM and the line will be shut at 8:30PM, with those in line still allowed to see Santa. In addition to Santa Claus, the fieldhouse will also be a place where children can enjoy a crafts, holiday music, hot chocolate, and Christmas cookies.



Mooseheart Child City
S. Lincolnway (Rt. 31) Mooseheart, IL 60539
1-630-966-2200 ■

7th Annual Naper Lights



Naperville Sunrise Rotary, in partnership with the Water Street Downtown Naperville, Marquette and Ryan Hill Group presents the 7th Annual Naper Lights event conveniently located in Downtown Naperville on Water Street and along Naperville's beautiful Riverwalk.

Water Street will be converted into a winter wonderland with a combination of holiday displays and music. There is no charge for visitors to Naper Lights. Admission is FREE! Donations are Accepted.

Through December 27, 2019, Everyday from 4:00 – 6:00 PM

LOCATION: 120 Water Street • Naperville, IL 60540

NaperLights.com ■

Festival of Lights at Phillips Park in Aurora November 22nd - December 26th



One of the largest free outdoor drive-through holiday light displays in Northern Illinois, the Aurora Festival of Lights, returns for its 13th year in 2019 with even more dazzling displays that will delight both adults and children.

Buses are welcome! Clearance is 13 feet, 6 inches.

Presented in partnership between the Rotary Club of Aurora and the City of Aurora, this signature winter event is a drive through of more than one mile of spectacular lighted displays at Phillips Park, 1000 Ray Moses Drive, Aurora, IL 60505. We have new displays every year – come see the new dancing arcs and the expanded Ice Rink. You will also enjoy Santa's Toy Factory, Old Man Winter, elves and reindeer, holiday trains, gigantic snowflakes, beautiful lighted swags on the fence line surrounding the zoo and other seasonal favorites.

Last year we had over 30,000 cars visit the four-week event. The festival is free, but the Rotary Club does accept donations that benefit local charities. This FREE drive-through light show is open every night from the day after Thanksgiving through the day after Christmas.

7 days a week 5 pm – 9 pm

Phillips Park
1000 Ray Moses Drive
Aurora IL 60505



The Polar Express™

Presented by The Fox River Trolley Museum



Departure Location: Jon Duerr Forest Preserve - 35W003 Route 31, South Elgin, IL

Chris Van Allsburg's book *The Polar Express* comes to life when the train pulls out of the station with your family on board on November 24 and 30, December 1, 13, 14, 15, 24, 28, and 29, 2019. Please see the reservation system via the link below (available as of June 1) for available times.

The train will transport you to the "North Pole" where Santa will be waiting. Experience the joy of watching the children's faces when the train arrives at the North Pole.

At the North Pole, Santa will board the train, greet each child and hand them their own small gift. There will be caroling, sing-alongs with professional musicians, cookies and hot chocolate making this what will surely become an annual holiday tradition for the whole family.

Fares (varies by date) November 24, 30, December 1, 28, 29: \$35, December 13, 14, 15, \$40, December 24: \$50

If you have additional questions regarding the Polar Express at the Fox River Trolley Museum, please contact us at: foxtrolleytickets@foxtrolley.org, or call 312-473-0993. ■

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Elburn, IL 60119

North Central College November Events



Dec. 1, Exhibit: Throughout the month of December, North Central will host Zylene Schlosberg's exhibit at its Schoenherr Gallery, 171 E. Chicago Ave. Drawing inspiration from the East and the West, ancient and contemporary, Schlosberg creates a provocative exhibit. Gallery hours of operation include Monday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from Noon to 5 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public. To learn more about the exhibit, contact Gallery Director Nickole C. Lanham at 630-637-5375 or nclanham@noctrl.edu.

Dec. 1, Exhibit: Throughout the month of December, North Central College's Oesterle Library Gallery will host an exhibit entitled, "Exploration 2019." The exhibit is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This exhibit—located at 320 E. School St.—showcases works by Chicago Calligraphy Collective (CCC). To learn more about the exhibit, call the box office at 630-637-SHOW(7469) or visit northcentralcollege.edu/show.

Dec. 3, Concert: On Dec. 3 from 7:30–8:20 p.m. at Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago's premiere caroling group, The Caroling Party, will perform their annual "Friends and Family Concert." This free concert will include a variety of hymns, carols and contemporary Christmas songs. For more information, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.

Dec. 6, Concert: On Dec. 6 from 8—10 p.m., in the seventh annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert, members of North Central College's internationally-acclaimed jazz faculty will perform well-known holiday favorites with a jazz twist. The jazz faculty artists include vocalist Janice Borla, saxophonist Mitch Paliga, trumpeter Art Davis, trombonist Tim Coffman, vibraphonist Brad Stirtz, pianist Chris White, bassist Kelly Sill and drummer Jack Mouse. This event is co-presented by Flashpoint Creative Arts and will be hosted at the Madden Theatre, 171 E. Chicago Ave. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. For more information or to buy tickets, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.

Dec. 7, Concert: On Dec. 7 from 7—8 p.m., enjoy a cappella Christmas music, cookies, candy canes, hot cocoa and holiday cheer at "I'm Dreaming of a Sonata Christmas: An Evening with Sonata Problem." This event features the Voices of Praise Gospel Choir and will be hosted in the Larrance Academic Center, 309 E. School St. For more information, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.

Dec. 7, Event: On Dec. 7 from 7-11 p.m., Abstract presents "Slay Bells!" For one night only your favorite Chicago Drag Queens and Kings will perform at Madden Theatre, 171 E. Chicago Ave. Admission is \$1 at the door. For more information, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.

Dec. 7, Concert: On Dec. 7 from 7:30—9:30 p.m. and Dec. 8 from 2-4 p.m., Naperville Chorus presents "Another Swingin' Christmas with the Pete Ellman Big Band." Made up of 120 voices, the Naperville Chorus will perform holiday favorites under the direction of Jeordano Martinez and Jon Warfel. In the spirit of holiday giving, Naperville Chorus partners with Toys for Tots for this event and invite their guests to donate an unwrapped gift at the concert. A receptacle for gifts will be in the lobby as guests enter the venue. This event will be hosted at Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave. Tickets range from \$20-25. For more information or to

buy tickets, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.



Dec. 8, Concert: On Dec. 8 from 7-9 p.m., enjoy a unique blend of country, classical, Broadway and current pop music with the Texas Tenors. Marcus Collins, John Hagen and JC Fisher are breathtaking vocalists that use humor and their cowboy-charm to keep their audience entertained. This concert will be hosted in Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton Ave. Tickets range from \$30-50. For more information or to buy tickets, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.

Dec. 9, Concert: On Dec. 9 from 7:30—9:30 p.m., Picoso, a mixed chamber ensemble comprised of the flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano and composer in residence, will perform works by Ran, Brahms and Cordero. This performance will cross boundaries of time, tradition and culture. This is a free event and will be hosted in Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave. For more information, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.



Dec. 14, Concert: On Dec. 14 Robin Spielberg presents "Spirit of the Holidays Sing-A-Long." The first showing is from 10-11 a.m., and the second showing is from 1-2 p.m. This will be an evening filled with traditional Christmas

carols, winter favorites and tales that uplift and inspire. Join Spielberg and the Lincoln Junior High Varsity Choir directed by Ross Berkley, in a concert that will be sure to put you in the spirit of the season. Tickets range from \$6-12. The concert will be hosted in Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton Ave. For more information or to buy tickets, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.



Dec. 14, Concert: On Dec. 14 from 8-9:30 p.m., popular brass ensemble, Canadian Brass will perform at Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave. The audience can expect brass standards as well as a wide-ranging library of original arrangements. The ensemble's members include Chuck Daellenbach on tuba, Christopher Coletti and Caleb Hudson on trumpets, Achilles Liarmakopoulos on trombone and Jeff Nelsen on the horn. Tickets range from \$40-50. For more information or to buy tickets, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.

Dec. 15, Concert: On Dec. 15, in their annual holiday concert, the DuPage Symphony Orchestra presents "Tis the Season." There will be two showings on Sunday; the earlier performance runs 2-3 p.m., and the later performance runs from 4-5 p.m. This performance features Christmas and seasonal works as well as a special holiday visitor. This event will be hosted in Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E. Chicago Ave., with tickets ranging from \$8-23. For more information, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event.

Dec. 16, Transfer Info. Session: Transfer info sessions are for prospective transfer students interested in learning more about academic choices, transfer admission process, scholarships and financial aid. These sessions also offer students the opportunity for an unofficial transcript evaluation or an on-the-spot admission decision. Both are on a first-come, first-serve basis and require a completed application and transcripts. For more information and to register call 630-637-5800 or visit northcentralcollege.edu/visit.



Dec. 20, Performing Arts: From Dec. 20—22, DanceWest Ballet will present its 26th production of "The Nutcracker" in Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton Ave. Friday's performance will be from 7-9 p.m., and Sunday performance will be from 1-3 p.m. There will be two showings on Saturday; the earlier performance runs 1-3 p.m., with evening performances running from 5-7 p.m. Tickets range from \$33-38. For more information or to buy tickets, visit finearts.northcentralcollege.edu/event. ■

Santa House in St. Charles



We must have some very good little boys and girls in St. Charles... because Santa Claus will be here every Saturday and Sunday through December 22! Visit with Santa at the Santa House sponsored by In Towne Self-Storage in the First St. Plaza!

First Street Plaza
St. Charles IL
60174



Santa at Fox Valley Mall



Children and their families are invited to drop off letters to Santa, share their Christmas wish lists with Santa Claus and have a professional photo taken from through December 24th in Santa's festive holiday home on the Lower Level near Macy's.

Hours*:

Monday - Saturday 10am - 9pm
BREAKS 1pm - 2pm & 5pm - 6pm

Sunday 11am - 6pm
BREAK 2pm - 3pm

*hours may vary on days with extended holiday hours
Fox Valley Mall - 195 Fox Valley Center Aurora, IL 60504
1-630-851-7200

Santa House on Naperville Riverwalk



Santa House presented by Woody Buick GMC, began November 30 and ends Sunday, December 22. Located on the Naperville Riverwalk at Jackson Ave. and Webster St., Santa House is open to the public on weekends and Tuesday - Thursday. Visiting Santa is free, with the option of purchasing photos with Santa at \$8 each or \$15 for two. Tuesday-Friday hours are 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday hours are 12:30 - 6:00 p.m. No advance reservations are needed during the public event hours.

The Park District gratefully acknowledges the many generous sponsors and enthusiastic volunteers that support Santa House and make it a unique community event.

Visit <https://www.napervilleparks.org/santahouse> for more information and to make reservations. ■

lifestyle



Ann Marie Guenther is known as Naperville's Most Organized woman and the Face of Facebook! Ann Marie declares that clutter is unproductive and sucks the money out of your bank account as well as the time out of your day. That Girl Organizes keeps homes and businesses productive all over Chicagoland. Check out her video on Facebook for more tips at www.Facebook/thatgirlorganizes.guru or That-GirlOrganizes.com. Questions about organizing? Call 630.673.3637

That Girl ORGANIZES

Christmas is Coming! Take the Chaos Out of Christmas in 3 Ways



BY ANN MARIE GUENTHER, OWNER OF THAT GIRL ORGANIZES

Thanksgiving and Black Friday are a thing of the past, and there are only weeks until Christmas. What is a girl to do? Get organized, of course, and keep calm. Buckle up, here we go!

I started this trend, long before it was popular: Handwritten Christmas cards are lovely, but are they necessary? That Girl Organizes, Ann Marie Guenther has been putting a family Christmas picture on Social Media for friends and family for over ten years. Why spend the time addressing cards, stamping and sending them for the recipient to look at and toss two weeks later? Alternatives are a family email blast with a letter of the year's happenings and a picture or a social media post where you tag folks who may be interested. How easy is that? Spend more time with family than sending handwritten cards, and with postage being a fortune now, you could take your family out for an event with your savings.

Kitchen Clean Out:

Your kitchen is the hub of your home. Take everything out of the pantry and discard old food. Straighten out the rest. If you want this organized like a boss, I know a great organizer (LOL) who adores kitchens and will organize your pantry so beautifully that Rachel Ray would be jealous.

Set a timer for 15 minutes. Make quick decisions regarding pots and bakeware. If you wonder where it came from or your first thought is, "gross," donate it.

“Don’t Cook Your Goose!”

A priest named Jan Hus in the early 14th century known for this funny saying meant, “don’t get yourself in trouble!” I don’t know anyone who makes goose for Christmas. Have you ever had a nervous breakdown around the holidays?

For too many of us, the “perfect” holiday includes doing everything on your own like a superhero. Remember doing the gift purchasing/wrappings, joining four cookie exchanges, church parties, neighbor’s parties, hosting a dinner or three, and barely being able to smile when donating your time to a local charity? That’s called burn out!

STOP!

Spread the love but in small bursts. Sit your family down and ask what their one favorite thing about Christmas is, then focus on that. You may be surprised that your family wants to

make a fire on the porch, have cocoa with tiny marshmallows, and watch Home Alone under blankets while eating your famous candy cane cookies. Did you feel the pressure melt away between the first scenario and the second?

The holidays are not about how much you can cram in, but about what matters to your family and doing those things well. Your family doesn’t want you stressed out and angry after all. “Just chill,” as my teens say. You can truly enjoy the holidays doing a lot less. Try it!

If you want a gorgeous and functional home for the holidays, That Girl Organizes is offering a 20-hour package for only \$1500 (save \$500) for the first five clients who call with code **FOXY25** through 12.15.19. This holiday special will sell out fast. Call today at 630.673.3637.

Have yourself a stress-free and enjoyable Christmas at last! Happy holiday hugs to my Fox Valley friends, Ann Marie Guenther. ■



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Ami Christianson is the owner of "One Salon and Bridal Company in St. Charles." A full service salon offering organic hair coloring, hair extensions, facials, lash extensions, waxing, spray tanning, specializing in bridal hairstyling and air brush makeup. Ami realized the demand for Brides, and clients to have all the services they are looking for in ONE convenient location. Her salon styling team has won numerous awards including "The Knot Hall of Fame", the best of "Wedding Wire", and is Rated as A Top Wedding Vendor in the USA.



Custom Design Bridal Gowns by Caroline Devillo will be available at One Salon and Bridal Company

BY AMI CHRISTIANSON, OWNER OF ONE SALON AND BRIDAL COMPANY

Everyone knows we love Brides! We have passionately styled beautiful bridal hair and flawless airbrushed makeup for hundreds of brides and bridal parties. Our dedication to bridal beauty is now growing. Beginning January 1, 2020 One Salon and Bridal Co will be offering custom design bridal gowns by Caroline Devillo. That's right, ONE stop bridal beauty shop. We are beyond excited, and honored to have Caroline part of our bridal team.

Caroline debuted her first collection in New York the fall of 2003. Her Couture Bridal line is inspired by the classic elegance and timeless sophistication of

the golden age of cinema. She opened her first retail space spanning 9 years in Chicago Bucktown. While raising her 3 children her gowns were exclusively sold at Nordstrom around the country. Now she is ready to get back to her roots, working with brides directly in her home town of St Charles, partnering with One Bridal Company.

“Creating a full service, boutique style experience for brides has always been my dream.”
- Ami Christianson. Now my dream is coming true. We will also be offering bridal coordination/event planning, and florists referrals all at one convenient location.

Brides are very busy, planning, working, researching...we are here to make the process of planning their wedding a fun, easy, and BEAUTIFUL!

All are welcome to stop in and preview our new full-service Boutique style full service Bridal Co. “ONE” SALON AND BRIDAL CO. Happy New Year. Cheers to beginnings.
Ami Christianson

www.theonesalon.com

www.onebridalcompany.com ■



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Meet Vanessa Kapus the owner of Aquaduct Plumbing Services and is also in the process of starting a new business venture currently in development. Besides running a successful business, Vanessa is a Mom of two smart, funny and handsome boys ages 7 and 4 who's been married for 6 years to her husband and biggest supporter, Jason Kapus.



Gift Ideas for Mom

BY VANESSA KAPUS, FOUNDER OF THE LOCAL MOMS

Are you looking for the perfect holiday gifts for mom? We reached out to several mompreneurs for gift ideas including beauty products, coffee sleeve, safe cleaning products, and more. Hope this makes shopping this year a little less stressful.

Maskcara Beauty-Palette Builder

I found an amazing makeup routine that is quick, simple and customized just for you!

This is for busy mama's and is also perfect for middle aged skin! Just spare 5 minutes for a dewy, airbrushed look!



You can get your entire makeup routine for a minimal price after sending me a makeup free selfie! I can then get you professionally color matched! From there I can send you a link to order!

Susan Mackenzie-Maskcara Beauty - I have a private Facebook group that you can feel free to join to check out some amazing before/after pictures and tutorials! [You can shop here](#)

[Simple Makeup With Susan- Facebook group](#)

AJ Creations-Knitted Coffee Sleeve

AJ creations creates a variety of coffee sleeves. It cuts down on the waste created by disposable coffee sleeves. Best suited for a standard size travel mug without a handle or a perfect fit for your Starbucks cup. Great gift for a mom who loves her coffee!



Angie Hibben- AJ Creations
Follow AJ Creations on Facebook

Pampered Chef- New Deluxe Cooking Blender

Blenders are not just for Smoothies anymore! Pampered Chef's new Deluxe Cooking Blender is any Mom's dream blender. Our new Deluxe Blender has 8 different setting and doesn't just blend, it actually cooks with a setting that heats up to 220 degrees Fahrenheit and it also has a SELF CLEANING setting! With our Deluxe Cooking Blender Mom can make smoothies, milkshakes, soups, sauces, jams, alternative milks, and nut butters with just the push of a button!



Contact me for more details on the Deluxe Cooking Blender or other amazing Pampered Chef kitchen tools and gadgets.

Laurie Dudzienski- Independent Consultant for Pampered Chef
lauriedudzienski@gmail.com
<https://pamperedchef.com/pws/ldudzienski>

Norwex- Safe Haven 5 Set

Your Safe Haven starts here. With water alone, these 5 Norwex products work together to get

your entire home super-clean, super-fast, and even help you reduce chemicals as you go!

The Safe Haven 5 Set includes: EnviroCloth, Window Cloth, Dusting Mitt, Cleaning Paste & Laundry Detergent

The dynamic duo of our EnviroCloth and Window Cloth handle most of your cleaning projects with Norwex Microfiber and water only. The plush Norwex Microfiber Dusting Mitt has electrostatic action that attracts and holds dust and dirt like magic! Quickly clean window blinds, picture frames and more with just a swipe. Rely on Cleaning Paste for those really tough cleaning jobs—and our Laundry Detergent to help reduce chemicals and get your clothes their cleanest. Everything you need for making your home cleaner and safer, more quickly!



Begin with the Safe Haven 5 Set to significantly reduce most of the harmful chemicals in your home.

Jen Mendoza-Independent Norwex Consultant
https://jmendoza.norwex.biz/en_US/

PartyLite-Balsam Snow

This is not your ordinary candle. The PartyLite guarantees the wax is free of toxins and is 100% natural & lead-free. They have so many options of scenes to choose from. My personal seasonal favorite is the Balsam Snow.



Kim Haugen- PartyLite Consultant
<http://www.partylite.biz/sites/kimhaugen?fbclid=IwAR1wO3MimKCjpU1pueH9BvET2CUwL2l-Vhoa185yhTjRbCpOViNj3xFAXDPs>

For more info on The Local Moms follow us on Facebook and Instagram. ■



Tomas Szklarski has spent most of his life working in Television/Film Production. He learned how to think on his feet as well as how to stay cool when things don't quite go as you planned, which is important when working with dogs. A few years ago he decided he needed a change. He created Waggy Tails with the ultimate goal to open a dog daycare facility in the area. He enrolled in Catch Canine Trainers Academy to study dog training to learn all he can about dogs. He is a certified PetTech instructor in Pet CPR, First Aid and Care. He also volunteers with a local open intake shelter, his experiences from volunteering have helped to guide his mission to help dogs stay out of shelters. www.waggytails.pet



TOMAS SZKLARSKI, OWNER OF WAGGY TAILS

Do dogs talk? Yes they do! But their language is Body Language and us as humans, are sometimes really bad at reading it. You might be saying in your head, well, what about barking? Barking can be equated to humans yelling. There are many different types of barks, from demand barking, like when they want something and you won't give it to them. There is barking to try and let some dog or person or anything really know to get out of their zone. There is also barking that says I am really scared right now and I don't want to bite but I am getting ready to if the thing that scares me doesn't back up or go away.

I am going to focus on body language that dogs use to talk with us. Most dog bites don't happen out of nowhere. You hear people say, "The dog didn't give any warning" or "We were having a good time and then he bit." In more cases than not, the dog was giving signals that it was uncomfortable, but we as humans, didn't read what the dogs body language was trying to tell us.

When a dog bites, 99% of the time, it's because the dog is afraid or uncomfortable with the situation and everything they have tried to tell us through body language isn't working. They don't know what else to do to make it stop except bite.

Take a look at this graphic. It's called the Ladder of Aggression. It shows you many of the common ways dogs show us their discomfort before they bite. A dog biting is the last resort when everything else has failed and it really needs whatever is bothering it to stop.

This graph illustrates when a dog does certain behaviors, how stressful the dog is generally. This graph isn't meant to show how it happens all the time. When a dog bites, there are a lot of variables, like how much the stress or threat is posing on the dog, which could escalate the dog to a bite faster than other times. Some dogs may have a high threshold and it would take a lot for them to bite. Unfortunately, some people train out or reprimand

the growl or snaps, which doesn't give the dog those options before biting. So when that happens, the dog just goes for a bite because it doesn't have anything else to try and keep the stressor or threat away.

Dogs can also let us know how comfortable they are by their eyes. If you didn't know, dogs are not comfortable being hugged. It is unnatural for dogs to hug each other, in reality it's seen more as an aggressive gesture, unlike for humans where we hug all the time. Some dogs tolerate it more than others. Dogs can let us know with their eyes if they are stressed or uncomfortable, by doing something called whale-eye. It's when you see the whites of their eyes more than you usually would. If you are seeing the whites more than usual, then your dog is really stressed and uncomfortable and you need to stop whatever is causing it.

We all know that "guilty" look dogs have when we think they did something wrong and we think they know what that is. In reality, dogs have a short attention span. For example, your dog pees on the floor while you are out for a few hours. If you don't catch your dog peeing at that moment, by the time you come home

2 hours later, your dog has already moved on from peeing on the floor. But you say, he looks guilty?

What is really happening is that your dog is reading your body language of being angry and feeling your energy. Remember, dogs are really good at reading body language. What happens when you see pee on the floor? Your body tenses up, your tone of voice may change, your facial expressions change.

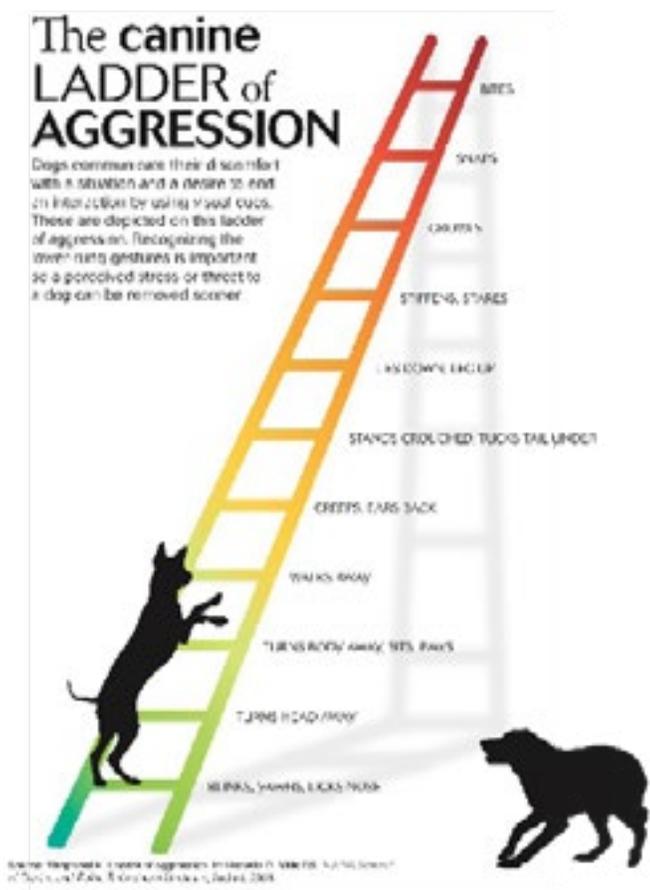
When your dog sees this, it starts doing something called an appeasement behavior, of which there are many, like lifting a paw or rolling over on it's back. When your dog sees you are mad, it gives that look we all know to try and get you to not be mad. Unless you catch your dog in the act, your dog has no idea why you are mad at it, it just knows you are mad and wants to do what it can to get you to not be mad anymore.

Another way a dog can talk to you is through it's tail. Not all waggy tails are the same, just like not all barks are the same. A comfortable tail wag would be horizontal to it's body and relaxed/loose back and forth. If a dogs tail is sticking up past the 45 degree line, then that is considered a more aroused dog. It's no longer considered a relaxed dog, maybe it's excited to play with another dog, or it is barking at a dog through a fence for example. The tail usually is moving faster and is stiff. If a dog is scared or really unsure of a situation, then it's tail will likely be between it's legs, which I think most people understand.

I really could go on and on about dog body language and what they tell us. There are many books written about it and I know I left some things out, but I wanted to give more of an overview. I am more than happy to discuss in more detail about dog body language, you can reach out if you have more questions.

Once you start to see how your dog talks to you, you will have a better understanding of what your dog is feeling and can help it navigate the world in a less stressful way.

Waggy Tails
(331) 215-7836



feature



Holiday Express Lights Up Blackberry Farm

Bring the family for a magical and memorable experience – just like visiting the North Pole!

Blackberry Farm is a winter wonderland amid thousands of twinkling lights, festive holiday decorations and happy holiday music. Take a ride on the Holiday Express train – a charming tour around scenic Lake Gregory – and enjoy a hay wagon ride, too. Back in the historic pioneer village, you'll enjoy crafts, a reindeer food bar, story readings of holiday classics at the one-room schoolhouse and...a special visit with Santa. Food and drinks available for purchase. All ticket sales are final.

Holiday Express Hours

Thursday, Dec. 5, 12 & 19: 5 to 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13 & 20: 5 to 8 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 7-8, 14-15 & 21-22: 2 to 7 p.m.

Holiday Express Activities

Santa and his elves will be at Blackberry Farm each weekend, collecting children's wish lists at the Early Streets Museum. There's a sleigh full of other activities, including:



Gift Shop: Find antique vintage toys and stocking stuffers.

A Huntoon Christmas: Visit holiday displays and get a holiday themed tattoo!

North Pole Oasis (Carriage Museum): Warm up with indoor crafts and great Christmas music. Concessions are available for purchase. Stop by the Reindeer Food Bar and create a feed bag to put out on Christmas Eve.



Candy Cane Village (Adventure Playground): Enjoy Blackberry's beautifully lit playground (weather permitting).

North Pole Depot: All Aboard the Holiday Express Train!

Winter Sleigh Ride: Dash through the snow on a cozy hayride.

Reindeer Training Facility (Pony Ring): Santa's reindeer are training for the big day – come see ponies trying to join his team!

Little Elf Hobby Shoppe (Weaver's Cabin): Create a bird feeder to keep birds fed throughout the winter.

Sugar Plum Playland: Explore the winter-themed sensory table. This attraction closes at dusk.

Gingerbread School House: Listen to classic holiday stories while keeping warm by our real wood burning stove.

Kringle's Café: Stop by Santa's favorite café for some delicious hot cocoa and treats. Also featured is a lineup of special guests, including:

Dec. 8 – Mrs. Claus Story Time, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dec. 15 – World's Tallest Toy Soldier, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 21 – Ice Carving Demonstration, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 22 – a Mrs. Claus Story Time, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Blackberry Farm
100 S. Barnes Rd
Aurora, IL 60506 ■

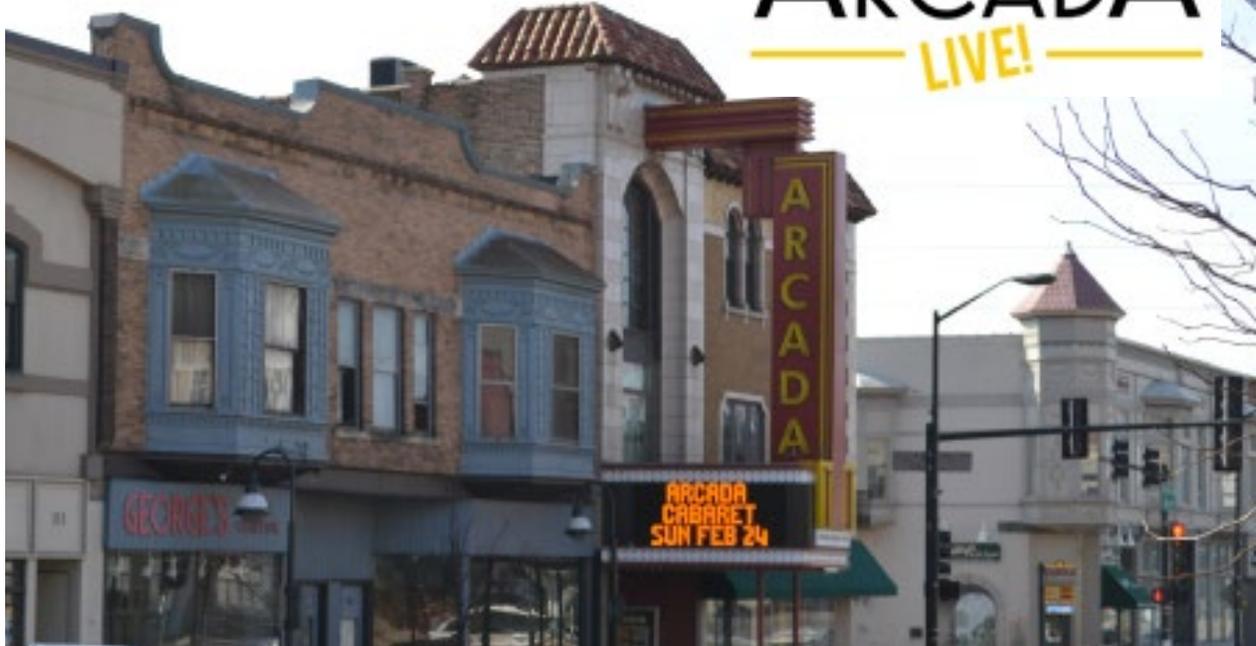
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Upcoming Shows at The Arcada



Bret Michaels Christmas Party

Michaels first rose to fame as the frontman of Poison. As one of rock's most iconic and enduring bands, Poison defined the fast, gritty, and glamorous rock 'n' roll scene. Since the band's beginning, Poison has achieved massive success- releasing eight studio albums, four live albums, and selling over 30 million records worldwide and 16.5 million records in the U.S. alone. FRIDAY, DEC 6
8:00 PM



Tower of Power

Oakland, California music legends Tower of Power - the most dynamic and distinctive band of survivors in Soul Music - is roaring into its unprecedented 50th anniversary as energized and inspired as ever! SATURDAY, DEC 7
8:00 PM



Top Of The World...A Carpenters Christmas

Top Of The World is The World's Premiere Tribute to The Carpenters! Fronted by singer Debbie Taylor, her Karen Carpenter vocal resemblance is absolutely astonishing. She is backed by a seven piece band consisting of top-notch, professional industry musicians who have had amazing careers in their own right. The band members are all multi-instrumentalists and at times use 3 keyboards to recreate the incredibly complex arrangements created by Richard Carpenter. The attention to detail paired with saxophone, trumpet, flute and many more instruments complete every song to perfection!

SUNDAY, DEC 8

2:00 PM



Wizards Of Winter Holiday Rock Show

A Holiday Rock Event for the Whole Family Featuring former members of Classic Rock giants- The Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Rainbow, Alice Cooper, Ted Nugent Band, The Irish Tenors along with Broadway and Theater veterans THE WIZARDS OF WINTER perform a holiday rock opera titled "The Christmas Dream".

SUNDAY, DEC 08

7:30 PM



\$10 Silent Film Night – The Gold Rush

Big Jim, a gold prospector during the Klondike Gold Rush, has just found an enormous gold deposit on his parcel of land when a blizzard strikes. The Lone Prospector gets lost in the

same blizzard while also prospecting for gold. He stumbles into the cabin of Black Larsen, a wanted criminal. Larsen tries to throw the Prospector out when Jim also stumbles inside. Larsen tries to scare both out using his shotgun but is overpowered by Jim, and the three agree to an uneasy truce allowing them all to stay in the cabin. Live accompaniment provided by Chicagoland's premiere organist Jay Warren!

TUESDAY, DEC 10

8:00 PM



Ho Ho Hoey...The Gary Hoey Christmas Show

Gary Hoey's annual "Ho Ho Hoey Rockin' Holiday Tour" has become a tradition with radio stations and families coast-to-coast. It's a must see show for adults and

kids alike. Hoey has been a driving force behind instrumental rock Christmas music since 1995 after his version of "The Twelve Days Of Christmas" hit the airwaves with its crunchy guitars and metal flavor.

THURSDAY, DEC 12

7:30 PM



Laurel and Hardy Film Festival

3 Laurel and Hardy Classics! Live accompaniment will be provided by Jay Warren on the historic 1920's Arcada Theatre Organ!

SATURDAY, DEC 14

11:00 AM



Ides of March Christmas Show

Since 1964 Chicago's IDES OF MARCH have thrilled audiences throughout the United States and Canada with their mix of rocking guitars, brilliant brass,

and heartfelt vocals. Their live shows are legendary for their energy and sheer enjoyment.
SATURDAY, DEC 14
8:00 PM



The Lettermen

Tony Butala, Donovan Tea, and Bobby Poynton are The Lettermen. Their signature letter sweaters may only make a brief appearance at each Lettermen performance,

but the undeniable Lettermen harmony is non-stop. From their first hit in 1961, "The Way You Look Tonight", through current hits of today, the sound is patently Lettermen.
SUNDAY, DEC 15
3:00 PM

Trans Infinity Orchestra...The Trans Siberian Holiday Show Salute Starring INFINITY

Christmas music, Classical music, and Rock music all in one great, family-friendly show! INFINITY has NO limits or boundaries. They light up the stage with their unique vocals and instrumentals of hits from Boston, Bon Jovi, Led Zeppelin, Styx, Queen, REO Speedwagon and of course their signature group...Journey.
SATURDAY, DEC 21
8:00 PM



The FIXXmas Tour

For FIXX fans everywhere, the spirit of the season is about to embrace us once again. After a triumphant summer run of dates that saw the band dig deep into its legacy,

this year's FIXXmas Tour promises to surprise and please even the most ardent FIXX fan. Joining us on this year's jaunt which kicks off on December 3rd in Alexandria, Virginia is the acclaimed singer/songwriter, Royston Langdon.
FRIDAY, DEC 20
8:00 PM



RATT

As the story goes, RATT helped pioneer Hollywood's legendary Sunset Strip sound and scene in the 1980's. Created by lead singer songwriter

Stephen Percy 1982. Percy regrouped with friend Robbin Crosby (also from San Diego) then changed the name of his band to RATT. The band rehearsed and played the clubs in and around L.A. for over a year.

FRIDAY, DEC 27

8:00 PM

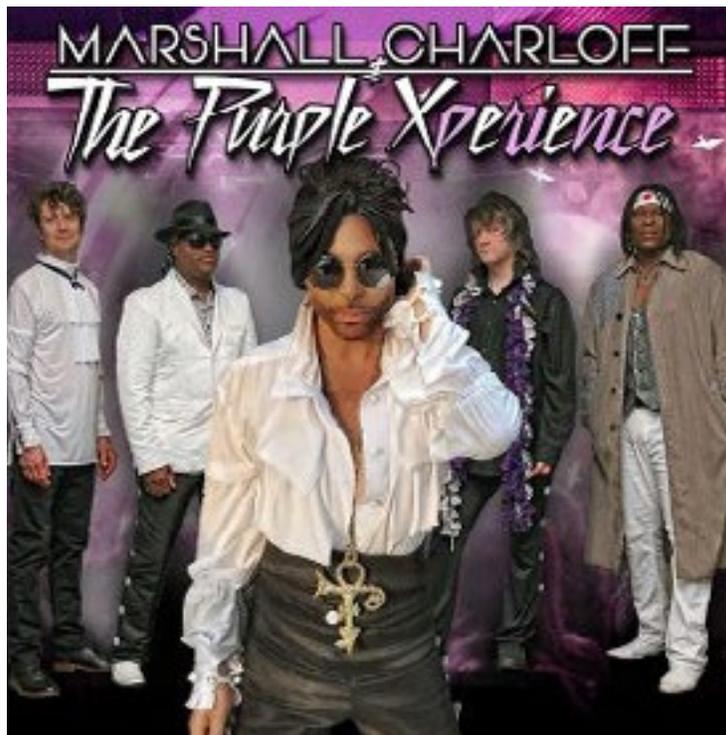


The BoDeans With Special Guest Dan Tedesco

They're back again this year after their last sell out show! Get ready to hear songs like "Good Things" "You Don't Get Much", and "Idaho".

SATURDAY, DEC 28

8:00 PM



New Years Eve Prince Party With Marshall Charloff And The Purple Xperience With Opening Act Hip Pockit

Purple Xperience is a five-piece group hailing from Prince's birthplace, Minneapolis, MN. They have been touring around the country since it's inception in 2011 by Dr. Fink and front-man Marshall Charloff – bringing the greatest and most authentic production of Prince and The Revolution in the world to audiences of all generations. Since 2011 Purple Xperience has entertained well over 300 thousand fans and has shared the bill with The Time, Cameo, Fetty Wap, Gin Blossoms, Atlanta Rhythm section, and Cheap Trick.

TUESDAY, DEC 31

9:00 PM ■

For tickets, call 630-962-7000 or visit www.oshows.com.



Nothing But Treble presents All the World Rejoices

December 14th at Highland Avenue Church

Nothing But Treble, Elgin's premier women's choral ensemble, invites you to celebrate the holiday season with a concert featuring music from a variety of times and places on Saturday, December 14, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. at the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, 783 W. Highland Avenue, Elgin.

The program will present works as diverse as a Nigerian carol, a 13th-century French carol, an a capella setting of a Trinidadian carol, and an American hymn tune set in bluegrass style. The audience will be treated to traditional holiday fare as well as a novel Pentatonix arrangement of "Up on the Rooftop" and a piece based on a Finnish reindeer call.

Choral music enthusiasts will recognize composers Z. Randall Stroope, Ola Gjeilo, Dan Forrest, Shawn Kirchner, and Stephen Hatfield among those represented in the evening's concert.

Through the generosity of an Elgin Arts Commission Individual Artist Grant, NBT welcomes the collaboration of numerous instrumentalists, including accomplished youth musicians from the Larkin High School Visual and Performing Arts Academy and

the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra's Maud Powell String Quartet.

Join Nothing But Treble on December 14 in this musical celebration of the season! Admission will be a freewill offering.

NBT's founding artistic director, Ms. Rosalind Zager, is relocating. The ensemble is currently accepting applications for an interim conductor, beginning in January 2020. Qualified applicants may send their resumes to Debby Walters at jndawalters@sbcglobal.net. New singers are invited to join in January. NBT rehearses at the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren on Monday evenings, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. ■



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Winterfest Art Market

December 13 through December 15



12:00 PM - 12:00 AM

The Winterfest Art Market is a three-day art & fine craft sale in collaboration with Water Street Studios and Artisan Collective Batavia. Join in for an ultimate winter celebration and shopping experience featuring fine art, fine crafts, and fine food & drinks. It's a party you don't want to miss over three days in December.

Water Street Studios
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Batavia, IL 60510
1-630-761-9977 

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Disney's Beauty and The Beast At Paramount Theatre in Aurora Now through January 19th

Great dancing candlesticks! Just wait to see what Aurora's Paramount Theatre has in store for Disney's Beauty and the Beast, November 13, 2019-January 19, 2020 at the beautiful Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. in Aurora. Press opening is Friday, November 22, at 8 p.m.

The Beast, Belle and everyone's favorite enchanted castle characters from one of our most beloved animated films will come to incredible new life at Paramount, ready to thrill, entertain and amaze young and old alike. Per usual, Paramount has big plans for Beauty and the Beast, with a blockbuster production sure to ignite imaginations, enthrall senses, excite emotions and literally open pages to so much possibility. Entire families will be enchanted by classic song-and-dance numbers like "Be Our Guest," "Belle" and "Beauty and the Beast."

Returning to direct and co-choreograph her fourth holiday season spectacular in a row is Paramount's Amber Mak, hot on the heels of last season's The Wizard of Oz, which earned her Jeff nominations for Best Musical/ Large and Best Director, her eye-popping Elf The Musical, and her puppet-filled The Little Mermaid before that.

Paramount favorite Paul-Jordan Jansen, who won hearts last season as the Cowardly Lion in The Wizard of Oz, and earned the Jeff Award for Best Actor in a Musical as Sweeney Todd in 2017, also returns as the Beast. Making her Chicago debut as Belle is Beth Stafford Laird, a veteran of the first national tours of Anastasia, Newsies and Ghost The Musical, and the international tour of Beauty and the Beast.

Celebrate the power and wonder of live theater at the majestic Paramount where a two-story Christmas tree and spectacular lobby also await, decorated to create memories for

a lifetime. Previews of Beauty and the Beast start November 13. Press opening is Friday, November 22 at 8 p.m. Performances run through January 19: Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Thursdays at 7 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Exceptions: No 1:30 p.m. matinee Wednesday, November 13. No show Thursday, November 28 (Thanksgiving). Added shows Friday, November 29 at 3 p.m. and Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m. No shows Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas). Added matinees Thursday, December 19 at 1:30 p.m., December 26 at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesday, December 31 at 3 p.m. Note: All Friday performances in January (January 3, 10 and 17) begin at 7 p.m. Saturday show times in January (January 4, 11 and 18) are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Single tickets are \$36 to \$74. For tickets, visit ParamountAurora.com, call (630) 896-6666, or stop by the Paramount box office Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Beauty and the Beast is recommended for ages 5 and up for including some scary moments.

Note: Paramount offers live, real-time ASL interpretation for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing at one performance of each Broadway Series production. Beauty and the Beast will be presented with live ASL interpretation on Friday, December 27 at 8 p.m. Patrons can purchase \$30 tickets with special seating for this performance with the code ASLPARAMOUNT. Or, ask the box office about a discounted subscription package for Paramount's three remaining ASL interpreted Broadway performances during the 2019-20 season.

The Second City's Holiday Revue: The Good, the Bad & The Ugly Sweater Nov 29-Dec 22

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.

In the Copley Theatre in the North Island Center, 8 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora
Tickets: \$37

It's the most depress...no...sorrow...no... wonderful-ish time of the year! Take a handful of The Second City's best and brightest comedians, roll 'em around in some tinsel and eggnog, throw in your ugliest holiday sweater and before you can say "Aunt Shirley is drunk and trying to put antlers on the dog again," you've got another holiday show ready to roast the chestnuts outta all the things we lovingly loathe about the holiday season. Don't miss Paramount's annual end-of-year holiday tradition bringing The Second City's renowned brand of festive hilarity to downtown Aurora's 173-seat Copley Theatre, a stage so intimate you're never more than 70 feet from all those seasonal songs and hilarious skits. Note: this production is for audiences 18 years and older due to strong adult language and content. ■



Side Street Studio Arts Bring Curated Pop-Up Experience to Downtown Elgin



Side Street Studio Arts (SSSA), located in the heart of downtown Elgin, will open a pop-up shop, MADE, just in time for holiday shopping. MADE will feature the original artworks of area artists, as well as SSSA and Elgin Fringe Festival merchandise. MADE will open Small Business Saturday, November 30 at 10 am and remain open through Sunday, December 22.

Located in one half of SSSA's LAB space at 13 S. Spring St., MADE features the original work of area artists, including BaM! (Bruce Bachelder and Mike Rende), Erin Cramer, Crighton Studios, Jane Erlandson, Conor Goetz, Horror Floral, Ivette De Santiago, Karl Jahnke, Natalie Pivoney, Jess Rocha, Melina Scotte, and more. All MADE sales will be split between the artists and SSSA to support all of the non-profit organization's year-round programming.

"This is a test run," said SSSA Founder and Executive Director Tanner Melvin. "We are hoping MADE is wildly successful, and allows us to host a store to sell artists' work year round. We think it is a perfect compliment to the other wonderful retail options available in downtown Elgin"

Not only are these talented individuals supplying their artworks, but some will also be working store hours to offset costs, and allow more money to go back to the artists.

SSSA's Gallery, located right next door to MADE at 15 Ziegler Ct., will feature the final weekend of *Before My Eyes*, an instant film exhibition, curated by Elgin artist Brian Garbrecht, featuring the work of photographers from all over the United States. And, the Gallery will also play host to its annual Small Business Saturday deals on arts education classes and Lab memberships, and have SSSA's brand new INKTOBER calendar available for purchase.

"Our annual Not-So-Silent Auction opens in the Gallery on Small Business Saturday as well," said SSSA Founder and Executive Director Erin Rehberg. "Every year artists and groups donate artwork and experiences, and area businesses donate gift certificates, and we partner them with SSSA classes and programs for bidding onsite and online, as our fundraiser for Giving Tuesday."

This year, there are 12 lots available for bidding, which range from a package from Elgin Public House and Chamber Music on the Fox with a starting bid of \$35 to a full year of unlimited art classes for a young artist at SSSA with a starting bid of \$600. More info is available at Not-So-Silent Auction at Side Street on Facebook.

Side Street Studio Arts was founded in 2013 by Melvin and Rehberg as an outlet for the artists of Elgin. Side Street's mission is to provide an inclusive space, run by artists, encouraging all aspects of the artistic process from creation to curation. For more information any of SSSA's programs, visit sidestreetstudioarts.org, call 847-429-2276 or email info@sidestreetstudioarts.org.

Side Street Studio Arts
15 Ziegler Ct.
Elgin, IL 60120
1-847-429-2276 ■



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Norris Cultural Arts Center Presents Nutcracker Ballet

December 21 and 22 in Production by Engage Dance Theatre

The Nutcracker ballet returns for the first time in many years to the main stage of the Norris Cultural Arts Center for three performances, Saturday, December 21, and Sunday, December 22, in a production by Engage Dance Theatre of Crystal Lake.



Performance times are 1 and 5 p.m. on December 21 and 1 p.m. on December 22. Visit www.NorrisCulturalArts.com for a link to online ticketing.

"We are excited to share our Nutcracker production, including Clara, Drosselmeyer, the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince, plus a cast of more than 100 dancers performing to Tchaikovsky's timeless music," said Courtney Petrocci, artistic director, Engage Dance Theatre. "We couldn't ask for a better setting than the Norris Cultural Arts Center to present this beloved holiday classic, which is sure to enchant audiences of all ages."

For more information, contact Engage Dance Academy at 815-477-0033. ■

Holiday Tradition Cruises Across Lake Geneva



On Board the Lake Geneva Cruise Line Santa Cruise Passengers See Lighted Holiday Displays and Santa Emerge from His Hideaway

Gather your family and friends to celebrate the spirit of the season with a trip to Santa's Hideaway on the Lake Geneva Cruise Line Santa Cruise. The signature Santa Cruise, that has become a holiday tradition for many, starts the day after Thanksgiving and runs through January 4th. On board the Santa Cruise, passengers see lighted holiday displays and watch as Santa emerges from his hideaway.

Lake Geneva Cruise Line's historic boats are staffed with a cruise director, decked out with twinkling lights, and filled with holiday music and cheer. The enclosed and heated boats guarantee a cozy ride for family and friends as they hear the story about Santa and his helpers and how he uses Lake Geneva as his summer residence and a place to test all the toys he is building. Children are amazed when the

tour boat hovers just offshore at Santa's Hideaway and Santa emerges to wave and call out each of the children's names.

During the 40-minute Santa Cruise, passengers have time to join in sing-a-longs and enjoy a cash bar stocked with adult and children's beverages. Tours depart daily on the half-hour beginning at 4:30 p.m. The 8:30 p.m. weekend tours are for adults only and feature a guest singer on certain dates.



The Santa Cruise departs from the Cruise Line's winter harbor located in Williams Bay at Gage Marine & Pier 290. Ticket holders have a chance to enjoy a walk through the Santa Cause's Christmas Tree Festival (located in Gage Marine's Wood Boat & Event Center) before boarding

the boat. Featuring eight trees creatively trimmed by local non-profits, this winter wonderland is guaranteed to bestow joy upon all ages.

"Some refer to our Santa Cruise as the watery Polar Express," said Bill Gage, president and owner of Gage Marine, Lake Geneva Cruise Line and Pier 290. "A way to spread holiday joy and give back to the community, the Santa Cruise is another way for locals and visitors to enjoy lake life," added Bill.

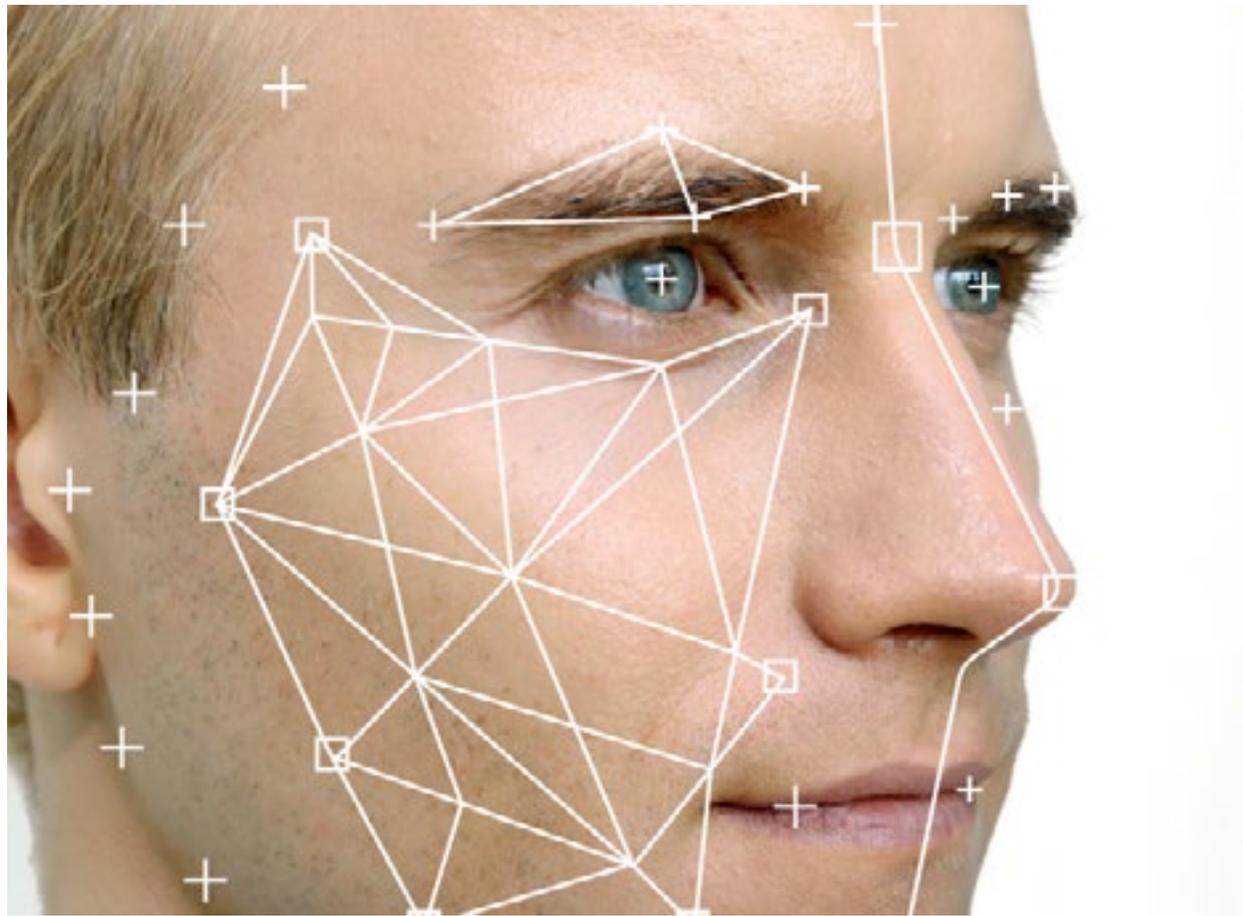
Santa Cruise regular ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors (65+ years), and \$15 for youth and children (4-17 years). Prime



time ticket prices are \$29 for adults, \$27 for seniors (65+ years), and \$19 for youth and children (4-17 years). Purchase tickets at santacruiselakegeneva.com.



William P. Boznos is the founding attorney of Boznos Law. He brings a unique 360 degree perspective to its advice and advocacy. He has served as in house senior counsel for a Fortune 500 Company for over a decade. In addition, he has served as Director of Human Resources and Vice President of Human Resources for both privately held and large publicly held companies for years, including Harrah's Casinos, the largest gaming operation in the world. This unique background gave him an unprecedented access to company CEO's, human resources departments, and the corporate insight you need. He has represented both individuals and business owners.



New Interview Privacy Protection Set To Take Effect January 1, 2020 Just How “Intelligent” Are Your Hiring Practices?

BY BILL BOZNOS, BOZNOS LAW OFFICE

Illinois lawmakers have passed new legislation, The Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act, which governs the use of artificial intelligence (“AI”) during the interview process. The new law is effective January 1, 2020 and will impose new restrictions and obligations on employers using AI in the hiring process.

Artificial Intelligence can be helpful in sorting through an applicant pool to narrow down the applicants who companies may want to bring in for an interview or hire. During the hiring process, facial recognition technology can be used to analyze an applicant’s facial features (i.e. brow raising, eyes widening, smiling, etc.) as well as the use of language and verbal skills (i.e. passive or active voice,

speed, tone, etc.) to infer characteristics that may correlate to job performance. The other side of the coin is that an argument can be made that the use of this technology perpetuates gender, racial, age and other biases that can lead to employment discrimination.

The new law imposes an informed consent obligation on employers seeking to use this technology, regardless of size or revenue. This is somewhat similar to an employer's obligation under Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) which requires written consent from an individual before the collection of biometric identifiers. Under the new law dealing with AI, employers, regardless of size or revenue, must do all the following, when considering an applicant for a job interview BEFORE asking that applicant to submit to a video interview:

1. Notification: Employers must notify applicants that AI will be used in the video interview process for the purpose of analyzing an applicant's facial expressions and to consider the applicant's fitness for a particular position. Applicants must be provided with an information sheet prior to the interview detailing how AI works and the characteristics used for evaluation;
2. Consent: the applicant must give written consent to be evaluated by an AI program during the interview process. An employer does not need to consider an applicant who refuses to consent;

3. Limits on AI use: Employers may not share applicant videos, except with persons whose expertise is necessary in order to evaluate an applicant's fitness for a particular position; and
4. Data Destruction: If an applicant requests destruction of the video interview, the employer must comply within 30 days upon receiving the request, as well as instruct anyone with a copy of the to destroy their version of the video.

Illinois is the first state in the country to have a law dealing with artificial intelligence in the hiring process. Other states may soon follow. At the Federal level the EEOC has been taking notice of big data technologies and the potential that the use of such technology may be in violation of existing employment laws. While the EEOC does not yet have a policy on AI-based tools in the workplace, it has expressed the view that employers must consider the potential exposure and risks to privacy when handling employee data generated by this emerging technology

With over 34 years' experience in advising employers and employees on workplace issues, let Boznos Law work with you to ensure you are ready to meet the challenges posed by the changes to the employment laws. Call Bill Boznos today at (630) 375-1958 or contact us at www.boznoslawoffice.com/contact-us through our website. ■

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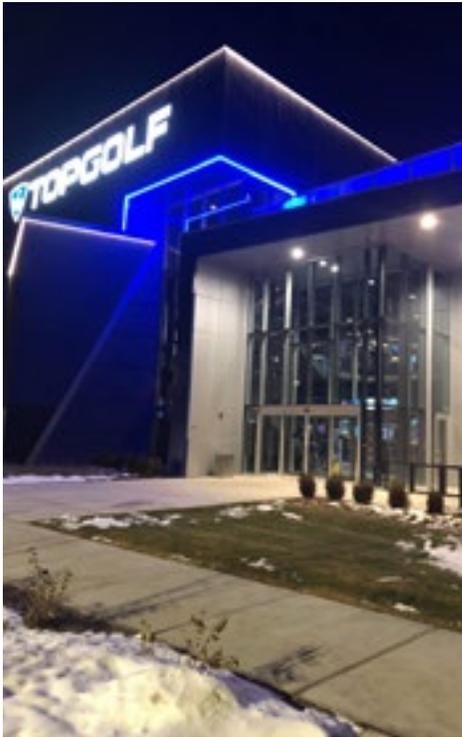


Grand Opening at Spotted Fox Ale House in Carpentersville

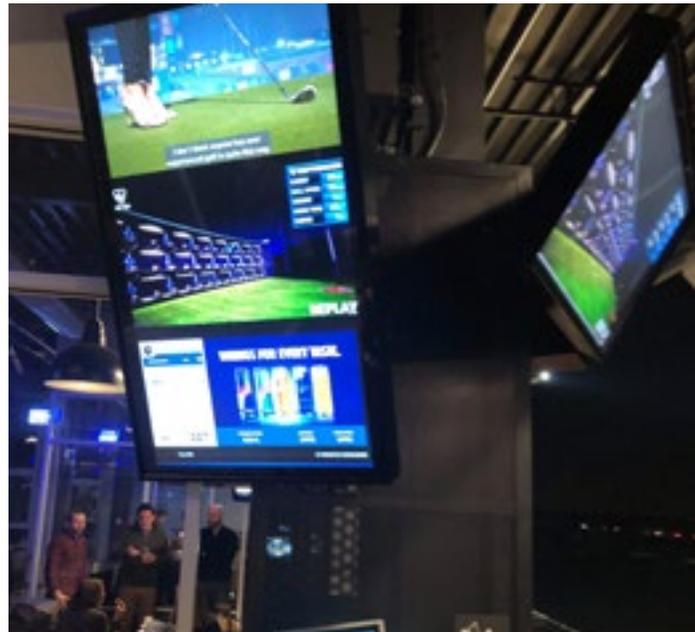


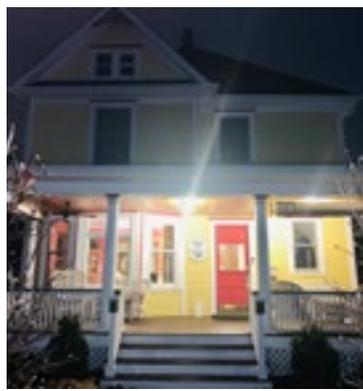


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