

# 2025 discover US







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# 2025 discover US

Your Genuine Getaway Awaits



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discover **US**  
is published by:  
**Berlin Journal Newspapers**

Hello and congratulations on picking up this year's *2025 discover US* visitors guide!

Now more than ever, people are looking for ways to escape the hectic day-to-day hustle and bustle that has a habit of wearing you down week after week and month after month. While that "escape" may only last a day, a weekend or hopefully longer, the greater Green Lake County area is the place you've been looking for to get away and relax.

Located in the heart of East Central Wisconsin, Green Lake County has long been known for its historic waters, with Big Green Lake, the deepest inland lake in Wisconsin, welcoming the area's earliest settlers in the mid-1800s. Currently, fewer than 20,000 residents call Green Lake County their year-round home, but so many more visit through every season, enjoying the area's beauty and serenity, which continues to be a beacon for those looking to get away, with families coming back year after year and generation after generation.

No matter when your path brings you back to Green Lake County, the *2025 discover US* visitors guide can help you traverse the area, exploring all this premier, signature destination has to offer, from annual festivals and fundraisers to scenic recreation spots, and from unique local shops to exquisite restaurants.

Working with our partners in the Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau, countless hours go into bringing this guide together at Berlin Journal Newspapers, from reaching out to the more than 100 local groups and organizations who will be planning and hosting events throughout 2025, to contacting the dozens of local businesses whose advertising support makes the publication of this guide possible. From the designing of the ads, to the writing of the articles, to the weeks worth of layout and fine-tuning to be able to put this area's best foot forward, all these efforts are well worth it when people like you take the time to pick up the guide, and not only read it, but use it to plan your visit, however long that visit may be.

This is the official visitors guide of the Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau, which invites guests to relax, retreat and repeat through every season all year long. While perusing the pages of this year's *discover US*, you'll see what makes the greater Green Lake Country area a special place to visit and live.

Using this guide as a launching pad to your next adventure, and on behalf of Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau, the area's various chambers of commerce, local businesses, service groups and communities at large, whether you're visiting for a day or a week or have lived here your whole life, we invite you to discover everything that makes this area special.

Discover our unique shops. Discover our excellent restaurants. Discover our community festivals. Discover our fabulous golf courses, our natural outdoor parks, and our historical museums.

Discover why thousands of people call the greater Green Lake County area home, and discover why tens-of-thousands of vacationers continue to visit year after year and generation after generation.

We invite you to kick back and stay awhile, as you *discover US*.

Berlin Journal Newspapers



# Green Lake's premier garden center



Photo by  
Irina Gagne



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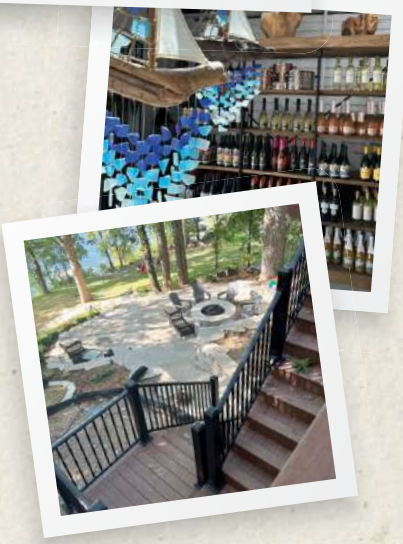
Perennials • Trees • Shrubs • Natives

Garden and Solar Decor • Pottery • Fountains

Wine Market ~ Weekend Tastings

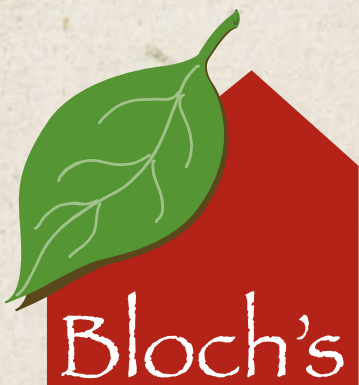
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## RECURRING

### Thrasher Opera House Concerts

Multiple dates • 506 Mill Street, [Green Lake](#)

### Omro American Legion Bingo

Held on the third Monday of each month  
Doors open at 5pm, Bingo starts at 6:30  
Omro Bow Hunters Club, 1230 E. Main

### Meat Raffles

Last Saturday of every month • 1:30–4pm  
BeerBellys, 512 Water Street, [Princeton](#)

### Town Square Bingo

Jan. 25–Dec. 27, 6:30pm • [Green Lake](#)  
Held on last Saturday of every month

### Princeton Historical Society's Stone House and Folklore Museum

April 5–October 25, 11am–3pm  
Open every Saturday and by appointment  
630 & 632 W. Water Street, [Princeton](#)



### Princeton Flea Market

April 19–October 11 • [Princeton](#) City Park  
6am–1pm, every Saturday

#### — Flea Market Food Booth

7am–1pm • Proceeds support local groups

#### — Flea Market 50/50 Raffle

8am–noon • Proceeds support local groups

### Fairwater Historical Society Museum

May 3–Sept. 27 • 104 Main St., [Fairwater](#)  
Saturdays, 1–3pm or by appointment

### Grand River Valley Museum & Train Depot 2025 season

May 3–Sept. 27 • 214 E. John St., [Markesan](#)  
1–4pm every Saturday, or by appointment

### Eureka Lock Opens for Season

May 17 through Aug. 31 • Fox River, [Berlin](#)  
9am–8pm on Saturdays and Sundays

### Berlin VFW Post 2925 Brat Frys

May 21–Sept. 3 • 420 N. Wisc. St., [Berlin](#)  
11am–1pm, every Wednesday

### Town Square Summer Market

May 23–Aug. 29 (No July 4) • [Green Lake](#)  
3–6pm, every Friday, outdoors

### Little White Schoolhouse Museum Birthplace of the Republican Party

1074 W. Fond du Lac Street, [Ripon](#)  
Open daily, May 26–Sept. 1, 10am–4pm,  
and Friday, Saturday & Sunday,  
10am–4pm, through September 28

### Waterfest Concert Series

May 29–Aug. 28 • Riverside Park, [Oshkosh](#)  
Gates open at 5:45pm, every Thursday



### Green Lake Festival of Music

June–August, various dates • [Green Lake](#)

### Ripon Summer Concert Series

June–August • Village Green, [Ripon](#)  
7–10pm, every Friday throughout summer

### Omro Family Aquatic Center

Daily, June–Aug. • 1241 Kiwanis St., [Omro](#)

### Berlin Farmers & Artists Market

Jun. 3–Sept. 30 • Nathan Strong Park, [Berlin](#)  
4–7pm every Tuesday with music, 5–7pm

### Omro Thursday Night Market

June 5–September 18 • Scott Park, [Omro](#)  
4–7pm every Thursday, music schedule TBA

### Berlin Historical Society Museum

June 8–Aug. 24 • 111 S. Adams Ave., [Berlin](#)  
Open 1–4pm, 2nd & 4th Sundays

### Concerts in the Park

June 11–Aug. 20, 6:30–8:30pm • [Green Lake](#)  
Every Wednesday in Deacon Mills Park

### Town Square Art Lab

June 27–Aug. 15, 2–3pm • [Green Lake](#)

### Omro Area Historical Museums

Open during Omro Thursday Night Market,  
certain community events and by appt.  
Old City Hall, Heritage, 144 & 160 E. Main, [Omro](#)

## FEBRUARY

### Sno-Drifters' Snowmobile Ball

Feb. 1, 4–9pm • Walker's Bar & Grill, [Ripon](#)

### Peter Mulvey – Thrasher

Feb. 1, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

### Documentary: Jazz Fest – Thrasher

Feb. 6, 6pm • 506 Mill Street, [Green Lake](#)

### Annual Valentines Sale at Woolbright's River City Antique Mall

February 8–16 • 328 S. Fulton, [Princeton](#)

### NFL Championship Football Party

February 9 • American Legion, [Green Lake](#)

### OACC Dessert Auction

February 9 • 1005 E. Main Street, [Omro](#)

### Ripon Sweet Stroll Sugar Rush

February 15, 5–7:30pm • Downtown [Ripon](#)

### Willy Porter – Thrasher Opera

Feb. 15, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

### American Legion & Auxiliary Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser

Feb. 20, 4–7pm • [Markesan](#) Legion Hall

### Arkansauce – Thrasher Opera House

Feb. 21, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

### WinterFest Trout Derby

Feb. 22 • Deacon Mills Park, [Green Lake](#)

### Tab Benoit – Thrasher Opera House

Feb. 22, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

### Valentine's Day • Friday, February 14

### The Sweet Lillies w/ Adrian+Meredith

Feb. 28, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

## MARCH

### Jesse Roper – Thrasher Opera

March 1, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

### Wedding Expo

March 1 • Town Square, [Green Lake](#)

### Markesan FFA Alumni Farm Toy, Craft Show & Kids Pedal Pull

Mar. 2, 10am–3pm • [Markesan](#) High School

### Matt Schofield – Thrasher Opera

March 7, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

### American Legion Shamrock Dinner

March 13, 4pm • 420 N. Wisc. St., [Berlin](#)

### Marcia Ball – Thrasher Opera House

March 14, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)



### Wearin' & Sharin': The Masquerade Dinner & Auction

March 15, 5pm • Heidel House, [Green Lake](#)

### Ripon FFA Alumni Farm Toy & Country Craft Show

March 16, 9am–3pm • [Ripon](#) High School

### St. Patrick's Day • Monday, March 17

### Rucksack Revolution – Thrasher

March 21, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

### Sonny Landreth & Cindy Cashdollar – Historic Thrasher Opera House

March 22, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

# Calendar of Events

The dates and information listed here are subject to change; please verify.



# APRIL

**Skerryvore – Thrasher Opera House**  
April 3, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**Skerryvore – Thrasher Opera House**  
April 4, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**Markesan Fire Dept. Spring Breakfast**  
April 6, 7–11am • [Markesan](#) Fire Station

**Della Mae – Thrasher Opera House**  
April 10, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**The Brit Pack – Thrasher Opera**  
April 11, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner**  
April 12, 4:30pm • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)

**Easter Egg Dash**  
April 12, 10am • Nathan Strong Park, [Berlin](#)

**OACC Breakfast with the Bunny**  
April 12 • Location and time TBD, [Omro](#)

**Kingston Lions Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 13, 10am • Doc Meyers Park, [Kingston](#)

**Princeton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 13, 11:30am • [Princeton](#) City Park

**Spawning Lake Sturgeon**  
Mid April • Fox River, Downtown [Princeton](#)

**Am. Legion Pasta & Lasagna Dinner**  
April 16, 4–7pm • [Kingston](#) Legion Hall

**BeerBelly's Parent/Child Pool Tourney**  
April 19 • 512 Water Street, [Princeton](#)

**Green Lake Rotary Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 19, 11am • Deacon Mills, [Green Lake](#)

**Markesan Lions Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 19, noon • [Markesan](#) Elem. School

**Princeton Flea Market Opens**  
April 19, 6am–1pm • [Princeton](#) City Park

**Waukau Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 19, Time TBD • [Waukau](#) Youth Center

**Easter Sunday • Sunday, April 20**

**Easter Brunch**  
April 20 • White Lake Beach Resort, [Montello](#)

**Cassie & Maggie – Thrasher Opera**  
April 24, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**Spring WineWalk (Ripon Chamber)**  
April 25, 5:30–8:30pm • Downtown [Ripon](#)

**Tinsley Ellis – Thrasher Opera**  
April 25, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)



**Green Lake Bird Festival**  
April 25–26 • Town Square, [Green Lake](#)

**Sturgeon Celebration**  
April 26 • 424 W. Water Street, [Princeton](#)

**WE Comm. Church Pork Chop Supper**  
April 26, 4–6:30pm • [Waukau](#)

**White Lake Brewgrass Festival**  
April 26 • White Lake Beach Resort, [Montello](#)

**Kingston Lions Chicken BBQ**  
April 27, 11am–3pm • [Kingston](#) Legion Hall

# MAY

**Harry Manx – Thrasher Opera House**  
May 1, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**Unity Hall Rummage and Bake Sale**  
May 2–3, 8am–3pm • [Princeton](#)

**Fish-n-Fun Festival**  
May 2–4 • Doty Street, [Montello](#)



**Adams Rib Memorial Fundraiser**  
May 3 • 538 Mill Street, [Green Lake](#)

**Green Lake Citywide Garage Sale**  
May 3 • Locations vary, [Green Lake](#)

**Kentucky Derby – Heidel House**  
May 3 • 653 Illinois Ave., [Green Lake](#)

**Princeton Citywide Garage Sale**  
May 3 • Locations vary, [Princeton](#)

**Mollie B Polka Concert**  
May 4, 1–4pm • [Berlin](#) High School

**Berlin Lions Club annual Mother's Day Rose Sale**  
May 9–10 • Specific locations TBA, [Berlin](#)

**American Legion Denim and Diamonds Mother-Son Dance**  
May 9, 6–8:30pm • 420 N. Wisc. St., [Berlin](#)

**Paul Thorn Band – Thrasher Opera**  
May 9, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**Paul Thorn Band – Thrasher Opera**  
May 10, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**Berlin Citywide Garage Sale**  
May 10 • Locations vary, [Berlin](#)

**Mother's Day • Sunday, May 11**

**White Lake Mother's Day Brunch Buffet**  
May 11 • White Lake Beach Resort, [Montello](#)

**Karla Bonoff – Thrasher Opera House**  
May 16, 7:30pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)

**4th Annual Princeton Bar Olympics**  
May 17 • 512 Water Street, [Princeton](#)

**Eureka Lock Opens for 2025**  
May 17, 9am–8pm • Fox River, [Berlin](#)

**Omro American Legion Golf Outing**  
May 17, 8am • Lake Breeze, [Winneconne](#)

**Am. Legion & Auxiliary Chicken BBQ**  
May 18, 11am–3pm • [Markesan](#) Legion Hall

**Antique Car, Motorcycle & Vintage Snowmobile Show**  
May 18 • Soldiers & Sailors Park, [Markesan](#)

**VFW Post 2925 Brat Frys Begin**  
May 21, 11–1pm • 420 N. Wisc. St., [Berlin](#)

**Last School Bash**  
May 23, 5pm • Downtown [Markesan](#)

**National Poppy Day • Friday, May 23**  
American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members throughout the area will be selling the red poppy to honor and remember the fallen while supporting the living who have served and continue to serve.

**Omro Citywide Garage Sale**  
May 23–26 • Locations vary, [Omro](#)

**Communitywide Rummage Sale**  
May 24 • Locations vary, [Marquette](#)

**Marquette Historical Society Church Museum Open House**  
May 24, 11–3pm • 240 W. 2nd, [Marquette](#)

**Marquette Volunteer Fire Department Brat Fry & Bake Sale**  
May 24, 11–4pm • Front Street, [Marquette](#)

**Memorial Weekend Pig Roast**  
May 24 • White Lake Beach Resort, [Montello](#)

**Rhubarb Fest Rummage Sale**  
May 24, Time TBD • 1005 E. Main St., [Omro](#)

**Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast**  
May 25 • American Legion, [Green Lake](#)

**Unity's 16th Spring Arts & Crafts Fair**  
May 25, 8am–3pm • [Princeton](#) City Park



**Memorial Day • Monday, May 26**

**38th Memorial Day Classic Car Show**  
May 26, 8am–2pm • Scott Park, [Omro](#)

**Little White Schoolhouse Museum Birthplace of the Republican Party National Historic Site Opens for Season**  
May 26 • 1074 W. Fond du Lac St., [Ripon](#)

**Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony**  
May 26 • Veterans Mem., Scott Park, [Omro](#)

**VFW Memorial Day Ceremony**  
May 26 • [Princeton](#) High School

**Memorial Day Parade and Service**  
May 26, 8am • [Markesan](#) Cemetery

**Memorial Day Parade and Program**  
May 26, 8:30am • Downtown, [Green Lake](#)

**Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony**  
May 26, 9:30am • Riverside Park, [Berlin](#)

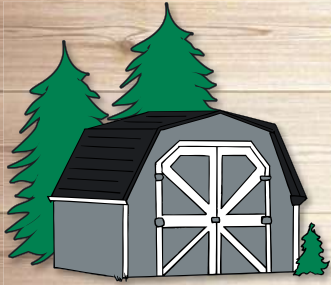
**Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony**  
May 26, 9:30am • Village Green, [Ripon](#)

**Memorial Day Service**  
May 26, 10am • [Kingston](#) Cemetery

**Kingston Historical Society Soup & Sandwich Luncheon**  
May 26, 11am–3pm • [Kingston](#) Legion Hall

**The Low-Phe Life – Thrasher**  
May 29, 6pm • 506 Mill St., [Green Lake](#)





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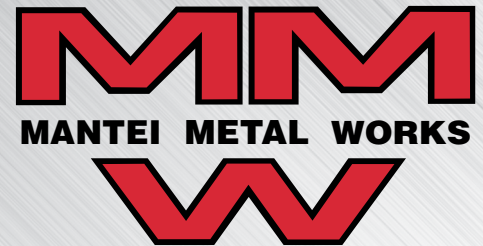


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# JUNE

**Omro Family Aquatic Center Opens**  
Opening TBD • 1241 Kiwanis St., [Omro](#)

**Berlin Farmers & Artists Market Opens**  
June 3, 4–7pm • Nathan Strong Park, [Berlin](#)

**Thursday Night Market Opens**  
June 5, 4–7pm • Scott Park, [Omro](#)

**Green Lake Festival of Music  
46th Season Opener: Reverón Trio**  
June 6, 7pm • 506 Mill Street, [Green Lake](#)

**Ripon Summer Concert Series Opens**  
June 6, 7–10pm • Village Green, [Ripon](#)



**Green Lake Bike 100**  
June 7 • [Green Lake](#)

**Berlin Hist. Society Museum Opens**  
June 8, 1–4pm • 111 S. Adams Ave., [Berlin](#)

**Waukau Youth Days Parade  
and Chicken BBQ**  
June 8, noon • [Waukau Youth Center](#)

**Drivin' Fore the Club**  
June 9 • [Mascoutin Golf Club](#), [Berlin](#)

**Children's Chorus Camp**  
June 9–12 • [Rodman Center](#), [Ripon College](#)

**Festival of Music: V3NTO Brass Trio**  
June 11, 10am • [Ripon Public Library](#)

**Tri-County Threshermen's  
Association 37th Annual Show**  
June 12–14 • [Veterans Mem. Park](#), [Plainfield](#)

**Omro Rushford Volunteer Fire  
Dept. Firemen's Street Dance**  
June 13, 6pm • 502 W. Huron St., [Omro](#)

**Angler/Young Angler Fishing Tourney**  
June 13–14 • [Deacon Mills Park](#), [Green Lake](#)



**June Dairy Days Festival**  
June 13–14 • [Kiwanis Park](#), [Markesan](#)

**June Dairy Days Parade**  
June 14, 7pm • [Downtown Markesan](#)

**Dino Days**  
June 14 • [Town Square](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Omro American Legion Post 234  
Flag Retirement Ceremony**  
June 14 • [Omro Rushford Vol. Fire. Dept.](#)

**Father's Day • Sunday, June 15**

**White Lake Father's Day Brunch Buffet**  
June 15 • [White Lake Beach Resort](#), [Montello](#)

**Festival of Music: Evren Ozel (piano)**  
June 16, 7pm • [Demmer Hall](#), [Ripon College](#)

**Festival of Music: Choral Institute**  
June 18–22 • [Rodman Center](#), [Ripon College](#)

**Juneteenth • Thursday, June 19**

**Festival of Music: Festival Chorus**  
June 21, 7:30pm • [Rodman](#), [Ripon College](#)

**All Saints Festival**  
June 22 • [Shelter #1](#), [Riverside Park](#), [Berlin](#)

**Festival of Music: Composer  
Residency Concert**  
June 22, 3:15pm • [Rodman](#), [Ripon College](#)

**Marquette County Fair**  
June 25–29 • 757 South Main St., [Westfield](#)

**53rd Annual Chicken Chew**  
June 27–29 • [Coloma](#)

**Green Lake Festival of Music:  
Northern Illinois Univ. Steelband**  
June 27, 7:30pm • [Deacon Mills](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Culpepper & Merriweather Circus**  
June 28, 2pm & 4pm • [Markesan](#)

**Waukhara County Dairy Breakfast**  
June 29, time/location TBA • [Waukhara](#)

# JULY

**Antique Tractor Show**  
TBA, 9am–4pm • 106 Main St., [Fairwater](#)

**Puckaway Rod & Gun Club Chicken  
BBQ, Trapshoot & Archery Contests**  
TBA • [Puckaway Road](#), [Marquette](#)



**Let Freedom Ring**  
July 3, 1pm • [Riverside Park](#), [Berlin](#)

**Party on the Pond**  
July 3 • [Town Square](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Independence Day • Friday, July 4**  
For a list of fireworks shows in the area, please see Berlin Journal Newspapers' weekly publications starting in mid-June for a full list of area times and locations.

**Neshkoro Firemen's Picnic  
Independence Celebration**  
July 4 • [Fire Station](#), [Neshkoro](#)

**Omro American Legion Post 234  
Pancake Breakfast**  
July 4 • [Location TBA](#), [Omro](#)

**Fourth on the Fox Parade & Celebration**  
July 4 • [Scott Park & Downtown](#), [Omro](#)

**Legion Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast**  
July 4, 7–11am • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)

**Light up the Lake**  
July 4 • [Deacon Mills Park](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Fourth of July Celebration**  
July 5, 11am–9pm • [Marquette Village Hall](#)

**Independence Day Celebration**  
July 5, 4pm • [Princeton City Park](#)

**Green Lake Festival of Music:  
Chamber Music Institute (CMI)**  
July 6–19 • [Rodman Center](#), [Ripon College](#)

**Festival of Music: CMI Faculty Concert**  
July 9, 7:30pm • [Rodman](#), [Ripon College](#)

**Lifest: A Party with a Purpose**  
July 10–13 • [Sunnyview Fairgrounds](#), [Oshkosh](#)

**Eureka Daze**  
July 12, noon • 3114 Liberty St., [Eureka](#)

**Manchester Chute Out  
Professional Bull Riding**  
July 12, 7pm • [Manchester Rod & Gun Club](#)

**Omro American Legion Post 234  
Sheepshead & Kids Fishing Tourneys**  
July 12, 10am–noon • [Scott Park](#), [Omro](#)

**Festival of Music: CMI Faculty Concert**  
July 16, 7:30pm • [Rodman](#), [Ripon College](#)

**"Art on the Vine" at Lunch Creek**  
July 19, 10am–4pm • W1845 Cty. E, [Neshkoro](#)

**Affair for the Square [Town Square]**  
July 19 • [Location TBD](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Festival of Music: CMI Final Concert**  
July 19, 2pm • [Rodman](#), [Ripon College](#)

**Summertime Sip & Stroll**  
July 19, 1–4pm • [Downtown Ripon](#)

**Shoreline Boat Jam 2025**  
July 20 • [Norwegian Bay](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Wisconsin Triathlon Series**  
July 20 • [Deacon Mills Park](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Broadway Music Camp**  
July 21–25 • [Town Square](#), [Green Lake](#)



**EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2025**  
July 21–27 • [Oshkosh](#)

**Festival of Music: Festival Gala**  
July 25, 6–9pm • [Thrasher](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Bugle Mouth Bass Tournament**  
July 26 • [North Riverside Park](#), [Berlin](#)

**Kids in the Kitchen**  
July 28–30 • [Town Square](#), [Green Lake](#)

**Winnebago County Fair**  
July 30–Aug. 3 • [Sunnyview Expo](#), [Oshkosh](#)

**Green Lake County Junior Free Fair**  
July 31–Aug. 3 • 570 South St., [Green Lake](#)

**Wisconsin State American Legion  
Class A Baseball Tournament**  
July 31–Aug. 5 • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)



# AUGUST

**Polish Picnic and Annual Car Show**  
TBA • St. John's Catholic, [Princeton](#)

**Princeton VFW Horseshoe Tourney**  
TBD • 136 N. Farmer Street, [Princeton](#)

**St. James Celebration**  
TBA • St. James Church, [Neshkoro](#)

**Winnebago County Fair**  
July 30–Aug. 3 • Sunnyview Expo, [Oshkosh](#)



**Green Lake County Junior Free Fair**  
July 31–Aug. 3 • 570 South St., [Green Lake](#)

**Wisconsin State American Legion Class A Baseball Tournament**  
July 31–Aug. 5 • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)

**Green Lake Wine Walk**  
August 1 • Downtown [Green Lake](#)

**5th Annual Scooping the Loop**  
August 2, 5–8pm • Downtown [Ripon](#)



**Green Lake Wooden Boat Show**  
August 2 • Deacon Mills Park, [Green Lake](#)

**Green Lake County Community Local Law Enforcement Event**  
August 5 • Location, Time TBA

**Omro National Night Out**  
August 5 • Scott Park, [Omro](#)

**Berlin Boat Club Corn Roast**  
August 8–9 • Pioneer Island, [Oshkosh](#)

**\$10,000 Best for Last Raffle**  
Aug. 9, noon • VFW Post 10452, [Princeton](#)

**Green Lake Fine Art Show**  
Aug. 9–10 • Town Square, [Green Lake](#)

**38th annual Street Cruzers Car Show**  
August 10 • South Riverside Park, [Berlin](#)

**Wauwasha County Fair**  
August 14–17 • 513 S. Fair St., [Wautoma](#)

**Father Marquette Day**  
August 16 • [Montello](#) City Park

**Fox River Runners; Celebrate the Fox Corn Roast** • Aug. 16 • Scott Park, [Omro](#)

**Women on Watson**  
Aug. 16, 9:30–11am • Downtown [Ripon](#)

**14th annual Berlin Kiwanis Club's Steve Coulson Memorial Cookout**  
at Berlin Farmers & Artists Market  
August 19 • Nathan Strong Park, [Berlin](#)

**Markesan Citywide Garage Sale**  
August 22–23 • Locations vary, [Markesan](#)



**Cemetery Walking Tours**  
August 23 • [Princeton](#) City Cemetery

**East Central Benefit Tractor Cruise**  
August 23 • Heatley Farm, [Ripon](#)

**Kingston Krazy Daze Chubfest**  
August 23 • Downtown [Kingston](#)

**Neshkoro Lions host Wisconsin Lawn Mower Racing Association**  
August 23 • Lions Park Arena, [Neshkoro](#)

**Berlin Hist. Society Museum Closes**  
Aug. 24, 1–4pm • 111 S. Adams Ave., [Berlin](#)

**Farmer's Corn Roast**  
August 28 • Downtown [Markesan](#)

**Last Friday Night Summer Concert**  
August 29, 7–10pm • Village Green, [Ripon](#)

**Redgranite Labor Day Festival**  
August 30–September 1 • [Redgranite](#)

**13dot1 Half Marathon, 10K & 5K**  
August 30 • Deacon Mills, [Green Lake](#)

**LakeApalooza Street Dance**  
August 30 • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)

**White Lake Labor Day Wkd. Pig Roast**  
Aug. 30 • White Lake Beach Resort, [Montello](#)

**Anniversary Party** • Aug. 31, noon–5pm  
Rushford Meadery & Winery, [Omro](#)



**Eureka Lock Closes for season**  
Aug. 31, 9am–8pm • Fox River, [Berlin](#)

**Marquette Historical Society Church Museum Open House**  
Aug. 31, 11–3pm • 240 W. 2nd, [Marquette](#)

# SEPTEMBER

**Redgranite Labor Day Festival**  
August 30–September 1 • [Redgranite](#)

**Labor Day** • Monday, September 1

**Dalton Labor Day Picnic**  
Sept. 1, 10–5pm • Dalton Rod & Gun Club

**Last VFW Post 2925 Brat Fry of 2025**  
Sept. 3, 11–1pm • 420 N. Wisc. St., [Berlin](#)

**Puckaway Pigfest** • September 5–6  
Lake Arrowhead Campground, [Montello](#)

**GLAAS Dog Walk**  
Sept. 6 • N6217 Busse Rd., [Green Lake](#)

**WaukauFest**  
September 6 • Waukau Youth Center

**Wisconsin State Chili Cook-off**  
September 6 • Deacon Mills, [Green Lake](#)

**41st Annual Pontiac Car Show**  
September 13 • Scott Park, [Omro](#)



**Final Thursday Night Market of 2025**  
September 18, 4–7pm • Scott Park, [Omro](#)

**Wild Rose Car Cruise, Street Dance**  
September 19, 6pm • [Wild Rose](#)

**Wild Rose Classic Car Show**  
September 20, 8am–3pm • [Wild Rose](#)

**3rd Annual Vineyard Market Day**  
Sept. 20, Rushford Meadery & Winery, [Omro](#)

**Heritage Day at Grand River Valley Museum & Train Depot**  
Sept. 21, 1–4pm • 214 E. John St., [Markesan](#)

**Manchester Rod & Gun Club Fall Picnic**  
Sept. 21, 11am • [Manchester](#) Rod & Gun Club

**Unity's 15th Annual Harvest Faire**  
Sept. 21, 9am–3pm • [Princeton](#) City Park

**GLAAS Rummage Sale Fundraiser**  
Sept. 26–27 • N6217 Busse Rd., [Green Lake](#)

**Golden Days Harvest Fest**  
September 27–28 • Downtown [Green Lake](#)

**American Legion Pancake Breakfast**  
September 28 • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)

**Final Berlin Farmers & Artists Market**  
Sept. 30, 4–7pm • Nathan Strong Park, [Berlin](#)

# OCTOBER

**Princeton Lions Spaghetti Dinner**  
TBD • 136 N. Farmer Street, [Princeton](#)

**Reach the Peak 5K run/walk, 15K run**  
Date/Time TBA • [Mt. Morris](#)

**Ripon Rhythm & Brews Craft Beer Celebration**  
Oct. 10, 5:30–8:30pm • Downtown [Ripon](#)

**Free Vendor Appreciation Market & Last Princeton Flea Market**  
Oct. 11, 6am–1pm • [Princeton](#) City Park



## HalloWINE & Boos

Oct. 11 • Water St., Downtown [Princeton](#)

## Neshkoro Scarecrow Festival

October 11 • Stan O'Gene Park, [Neshkoro](#)



## Oktoberfest Celebration 2025

October 11 • Downtown [Omro](#)

## WE Comm. Church Pork Chop Supper

October 11, 4–6:30pm • [Waukau](#)

## White Lake Rocketoberfest Music and Beer Festival

Oct. 12 • White Lake Beach Resort, [Montello](#)

## Am. Legion Pasta & Lasagna Dinner

October 15, 4–7pm • [Kingston](#) Legion Hall

## Halloween Party at VFW Post 10452

Oct. 24 • 136 N. Farmer Street, [Princeton](#)

## Haunted House • Location TBD

Oct. 24–25 • [Omro](#) Area Community Center

## American Legion Cribbage Tourney

October 25 • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)

## Kingston Lions Chicken BBQ

Oct. 26, 11–3pm • [Kingston](#) Legion Hall

## Waukau Halloween Party

October 26 • [Waukau](#) Youth Center

## Halloween • Friday, October 31

Trick-or-Treating dates and times vary by community. Please see Berlin Journal Newspapers' weekly publications starting in mid-October for a full list from the area.

## Business Trick-or-Treat • October 31

4–7pm • At participating businesses, [Omro](#)

## Chamber of Commerce Trunk-or-Treat

October 31 • Downtown [Markesan](#)

## Trick-or-Treat on Water Street

Oct. 31, 3:30–5pm • W. Water St., [Princeton](#)

# NOVEMBER

## Berlin Lions Club Cheese Box Sale Preorders Begin, [Berlin](#)

4th Annual Am. Legion Chili Supper  
Nov. 6, 4–7pm • 420 N. Wisc. St., [Berlin](#)

Holiday WineWalk (Ripon Chamber)  
Nov. 7, 5:30–8:30pm • Downtown [Ripon](#)

Markesan American Legion & Auxiliary Veterans Day Dinner  
Nov. 8 • American Legion, [Markesan](#)

Veterans Day Social & Dinner  
Nov. 8 • American Legion, [Green Lake](#)

Waukau Annual Souper Supper  
Nov. 8, 4–6:30pm • [Waukau](#) Youth Center

## Veterans Day • Tuesday, November 11

School districts throughout the area host a variety of Veterans Day observances. Please see Berlin Journal Newspapers' weekly publications for dates and times.

## Veterans Day Program

Nov. 11, 10:15am • [Green Lake](#) High School

## Christmas in the Village

November 14–15 • Downtown [Ripon](#)

## Ladies Night Out • November 14

6–9pm • Rushford Meadery & Winery, [Omro](#)

## ABC Group's Light the Park

Nov. 20, 4pm • Nathan Strong Park, [Berlin](#)

## 40th Annual Lighted Holiday Parade

Nov. 20, 6:30pm • Downtown [Berlin](#)



## 23rd Annual Homespun Holidays

Nov. 21–22 • [Markesan](#) Middle/High School

## Thanksgiving • Thursday, November 27

## The Gobbler Turkey Day

## 5K and 1-mile Run/Walk

Nov. 27, 8:30am • Nathan Strong Park, [Berlin](#)

## 30th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov. 27, 11:30am • All Saints Church, [Berlin](#)

## Breakfast with Santa

Nov. 29, 9–11am • 518 Water St., [Green Lake](#)

## Keep the Cheer Here

November 28–29 • [Green Lake](#)

## Holiday Market

November 29 • Town Square, [Green Lake](#)

## Christmas in Princeton

Craft Fairs, Holiday fun & so much more!

November 28–30 • Throughout [Princeton](#)

## Unity's Festival of Trees & Winston's Fur Friends Fundraiser

Nov. 28, 1–8pm and Nov. 29, 8am–3pm

Community Hall, 101 Wisconsin St., [Princeton](#)

## Visit with Santa • November 28

Before parade, 630 W. Water St., [Princeton](#)

## Christmas in Princeton Crafts & Movie

Nov. 28, 6pm • 424 W. Water St., [Princeton](#)

## Lights on Water St. Electrical Parade

November 28, 6pm • Downtown [Princeton](#)

## Hunting Studio Glass Open House

Nov. 28–30 • W5257 Oak Tree Lane, [Princeton](#)

## Holiday Bounty Craft Fair & Mrs. Claus' Kitchen

Nov. 29, 9am–3pm • [Princeton](#) Public School

## Soul Hammer Young Artist Fair

Nov. 29 • 800 State Rd. 23/73, [Princeton](#)

## 7th Annual Elf Extravaganza

Nov. 29, 10am–3pm • Downtown [Berlin](#)

## 9th Annual Berlin Blitz

Nov. 29, 9am–2pm • All Saints Church, [Berlin](#)

## Small Business Saturday • Nov. 29

## OACC Christmas Tree Sale

November 29 • 1005 E. Main St., [Omro](#)

# DECEMBER

## Berlin Lions Club Coupon Book Sale

Books available from members • [Berlin](#)

## Kingston Lions Christmas Cash Bash

Date/Location TBA • [Markesan](#)

## Christmas Tree Lighting with Santa

Dec. 5 • Daggett Memorial Park, [Montello](#)



## Dickens of a Christmas

December 5–6 • Downtown [Ripon](#)

## Breakfast with Santa

December 6 • 1005 E. Main St., [Omro](#)

## Christmas Open Market – Heidel House

December 6 • 653 Illinois Ave., [Green Lake](#)

## Hometowne Holiday & Tree Lighting

December 6 • Veterans Park, [Redgranite](#)

## Jingle & Mingle

Dec. 6, 9am–1pm • Downtown [Omro](#)

## Holiday Celebration and Parade

December 6, 5pm • Downtown [Omro](#)

## Markesan American Legion & Auxiliary Lasagna Dinner

Dec. 7, 4–7pm • [Markesan](#) Legion Hall

## Clausen Family Christmas Show

Dec. 12–13 • 653 Illinois Ave., [Green Lake](#)

## Waukau Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 13, 12:30pm • [Waukau](#) Youth Center

## Friends of the Library Cookie Walk

December 13 • [Princeton](#) Public Library

## Christmas Party at VFW Post 10452

Dec. 19 • 136 N. Farmer Street, [Princeton](#)

## Old-Fashioned Tree Lighting

December 23, 5pm • Downtown [Markesan](#)

## Christmas Day • Thursday, Dec. 25

## Berlin Kiwanis Christmas Dinner

Dec. 25, noon • [Berlin](#) High School

## New Year's Eve • Wednesday, Dec. 31

## New Year's Eve Party – Heidel House

December 31 • 653 Illinois Ave., [Green Lake](#)

• • •

**Please note** — Individual dates and times of the events listed above may be subject to change. Certain events may also require purchase or charge an admission price.

For the most current information, please visit your closest newsstand and pick up the latest edition of the *Berlin Journal*, *Green Lake Reporter*, *Markesan Regional Reporter*, *Princeton Times-Republic* or *Omro Herald*; the area's #1 source for local news, human interest, special event and varsity sports coverage in east central Wisconsin.





# Welcome!

When you think about what makes a vacation unforgettable, three things come to mind: Great weather, memorable experiences and a destination that has everything you and your family enjoy.

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**B**erlin, a city whose historical roots run deep, is filled with rustic charm, making it easy to see how the city was once the fur and leather capital of the world due to its natural resources and prime location along the beautiful Fox River.

Known for its beautiful parks and simple grace, Berlin is home to more than 5,500 year-round residents with thousands more visiting throughout the year to shop in the unique stores in the historic downtown district, navigate along the Fox River like travelers of old, and take in the many annual festivals and events throughout the year.

Located a short 20-minute drive west of Oshkosh, Berlin continues to serve as an oasis to get away from the hustle and bustle of fast-paced life, allowing all to take a break, sit back, relax, and unwind.

When visiting Berlin, immerse yourself in the self-guided walking tour of the many historic homes and buildings located around the city or spend time at one of the many beautiful parks. Berlin has a unique variety of commercial businesses that are part of the community, putting the city on the map and promoting industrial growth, too.

Remember to explore the incredible variety of events offered or take a stroll around town to visit the small local businesses that add that little extra joy that makes the City of Berlin a community.

No matter what the season, discovering Berlin is always a treat for all. From venturing around the city as it comes to life in the spring or perhaps strolling around on a warm summer day, or breathing in the fresh crisp air on a cool autumn night, Berlin is a great place to be. During the winter, the city is a magical wonderland, with its lighted park full of decorated trees and quick access to the great outdoors. Berlin is a special place to be any time of year!

Regardless if you plan to take a jaunt down the Fox River by boat, canoe, or kayak; go fishing from the shores; spend some time at one of the many community events; or just wander around the city to explore everything it has to offer, Berlin is a great place to get lost in order to find yourself!

Welcome to the city that thrives off of its historical past and continues to grow into the future every day!



# Berlin







The Berlin Parks and Recreation Department oversees Berlin's 10 fabulous community parks in addition to the Berlin Aquatic Center, community shelter houses, and Riverside Park Campground.

Year-round residents and those visiting the community have many opportunities to experience recreational activities and enjoy the great outdoor areas offered in and around the City of Berlin. The most popular of Berlin's parks are undoubtedly Riverside and Nathan Strong parks,



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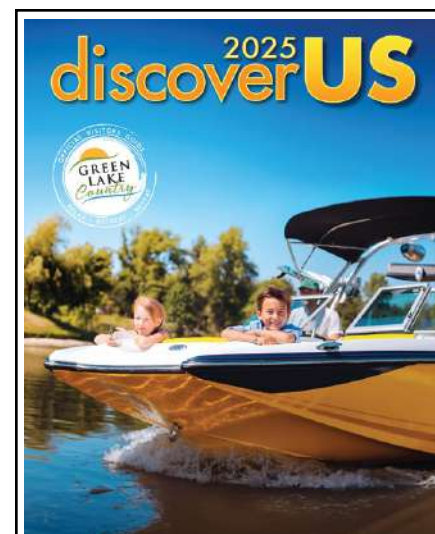
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Country Inn  
El Charro Mexican Restaurant  
Four Corners Restaurant & Bar  
Hong Kong King Buffet  
Izzy's Dockside Diner & Pub  
Jeff's on the Square  
Malchetske's Liquor  
Mama's Deli  
Mastricola's On Broadway  
The Pie Shack  
The Rendezvous Tavern  
Shepard's Drive-In  
Taste of Texas

which each play host to various activities throughout the year.

However, each of Berlin's parks, whether large or small, offer the opportunity to reconnect with nature, relax, and unwind. From the beautiful playgrounds to the different accommodations offered through the Parks and Recreation programs, there is always something for everyone to enjoy!

To learn more about the City of Berlin Parks and Recreation Department or the services offered, please call 920-361-5437.



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# berlin farmers & artists market



First started in 2008, the Berlin Farmers & Artists Market found new life in 2017 with a dedicated committee of volunteers building on the Market's success year after year.

Held in Nathan Strong Park on Tuesday evenings from 4–7 p.m., June through September, the Berlin Farmers & Artists Market's mission is to create a social opportunity for residents and visitors to gather and interact.

Dedicated to educating consumers and sharing knowledge about the products and services of local farmers, artists, artisans, and businesses, the Berlin Farmers & Artists Market hosts live music, starting at 5 p.m., sponsored and supported by local businesses. The weekly market also features a different area nonprofit group fundraiser in the food tent, allowing guests to enjoy a great dinner

while taking in the live music.

Returning with Military Appreciation Night on Tuesday, June 3, and running through the end of September, the Berlin Farmers & Artists Market Committee invites all to stop by Nathan Strong Park on Berlin's east side, located directly on East Huron Street, to enjoy a beautiful afternoon of local goods, live music, food, friends, and fun.

The Berlin Aquatic Center, 225 Webster Street in Berlin, is a prime location to beat the heat and cool off on a hot summer day.

Operated by the City of Berlin and the Berlin Parks and Recreation Department, the Aquatic Center has become a central location for people to gather and play every summer season.

Open during the summer months from noon–7 p.m. Monday–Saturday, and from noon–5 p.m. on Sunday, daily and season rates are available, including family passes.

With a giant 270-foot water slide, zero depth entry area, bubble jets, diving board, waterfall, drop slide, and more, the Aquatic Center is a great destination for people of all ages to visit. For those who are just dropping their kids off at the pool, lounge chairs on the deck, shade umbrellas, and picnic tables are available all day long.

In addition to open swim times,



the Berlin Parks and Recreation Department also hosts multiple specialty programs including Early Bird Swim Monday, Adult Lunch Laps,

and Sunset Swims.

For more information and this year's rates please call 920-361-5426 or 920-361-5437.





Achieving a Better Community, Inc., known locally as the ABC Group, invites all to Berlin's annual "Let Freedom Ring" festival to celebrate America's independence in Berlin on Thursday, July 3, at Riverside Park North Shelter #1. With a kids parade, kids and adult games, live music, the Berlin Farmers & Artists Market, food

# let freedom ring

vendors, beverages, and more, the day is one you won't want to miss!

There's no better setting to celebrate America than beautiful Riverside Park, on the banks of the historic Fox River.



Whether you walk, drive, or motor over on your boat along the Fox River, Riverside Park is the place to be to relax and unwind.

There will be fun for the whole family and, best of all, admission is free, with live music scheduled throughout the day starting at 1 p.m., and heading into the afternoon. Live music continues into the evening, taking a break only for the brilliant fireworks display that will light up the night's sky shortly after dusk.

With planning of one of the area's best Independence Day celebrations ongoing, be sure to look for more information as Berlin's Let Freedom Ring event gets closer.

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street  
CRUZERS car show  
& MEMORIAL event

Rev up your engines and plan to road-trip it to Berlin on Sunday, August 10, for the 38th annual Street Cruzers Car Show in Riverside Park.

The expansive and always-beautiful Fox River plays second fiddle during this favorite annual event, as car enthusiasts from throughout Wisconsin gather to enjoy vehicles of the past, present, and sometimes even the future during a can't-miss day of fun.

For those wishing to show off their vehicles, registration starts bright and early on Sunday morning with cars and trucks remaining on display throughout the day for judging, leading up to the afternoon's awards presentation featuring such coveted trophies as People's Choice, the Mayor's Trophy



and, of course, Best in Show.

With the Berlin Fire Department serving refreshments all day long, plan on stopping by and staying for a while at Green Lake County's largest annual car show.

In 2025, Sunday's Car Show will be preceded on Saturday evening,

August 9, by a special Street Cruzers event. Be sure to pick up a copy of the *Berlin Journal*, the official newspaper of the City of Berlin, for more information on Saturday's pre-show event, as well as everything you need to know about Sunday's 38th annual Street Cruzers Car Show.

38TH ANNUAL

★ BERLIN ★

**Car Show**  
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# celebrate Christmas in Berlin

Nothing brings a community together like Christmas-time, and the City of Berlin will once again kick off the season in style with four signature events on two separate days surrounding Thanksgiving in late November.

## park lighting

Nathan Strong Park is the place to be to celebrate the start of the Christmas season on Thursday evening, November 20, for the official Lighting of the Park, as a delightful feeling of yesteryear brings back the toasty warm feelings of special holiday memories.

Organized by Berlin's Achieving a Better Community, Inc., the event begins at 4 p.m. when the ultimate Yuletide power couple of Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive to meet with children, followed by the official Lighting of the Park at 5 p.m.

With the ceremonial flipping of the switch, 200 Christmas trees, adopted and decorated by area business-

es, organizations, and families, will light up the night. With each tree having a story all its own, following the trees' first lighting on November 20, the trees will remain on display, and will be lit every evening through January 1, giving everyone plenty of time to stroll through the park in wonder and amazement.

## lighted parade

As the Lighting of the Park continues into the evening, one and all are invited to find a spot along Broadway in downtown Berlin, heading back out to Nathan Strong Park for the annual Lighted Holiday Parade.

Organized by the Community Holiday Parade Committee, a division of the ABC Group, the parade welcomes thousands of guests who line the street as dozens of floats, decorated by local businesses and organizations in the chosen theme, celebrate the start of the Christmas season and hand out candy and other goodies to children of all

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ages as the parade moves through downtown Berlin, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 20.

Whether you're part of the parade or viewing it from the side of the road, you're sure to be filled with the Christmas spirit, as the annual Lighted Holiday Parade has become one of many memory-making traditions that help kick off the Christmas season in the City of Berlin.

## elf extravaganza

Following Thanksgiving, make a date to attend the 7th annual Elf Extravaganza, returning to Berlin on Saturday, November 29, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. in support of Small Business Saturday as shoppers get a jump-start on the holiday shopping season.

With carriage rides through downtown and pictures with Santa, Elf Extravaganza showcases not

only local businesses, but also a variety of other local crafters and area vendors who set up in pop-up shops throughout the downtown area.

Sold in advance of the big day, as well as the morning of the event, guests who purchase an Elf Extravaganza tote bag will have the opportunity to visit participating businesses to collect special surprises, while all shoppers will be able to visit Elf Central to register for prizes and partake in the shopping fun.

## berlin blitz

One of the many steps to make in Berlin on November 29 is the 9th annual Berlin Blitz, held from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at All Saints Catholic Church & Regional School, located on Hwy. 49 just south of Berlin, bringing dozens of small, home-based businesses together in one location for a one-of-a-kind shopping experience, all under one roof.

Crafters and vendors specializing in jewelry, home decor, health and wellness products, candles, and much more will be present in addition to a basket raffle, refreshments to keep your energy up, and a visit from St. Nicholas himself.

The event is open to the community and a great way to kick off the holiday season!

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of the area's premier golf course destinations, and are all open to the public from early spring through late fall.

From wide-open fairways to challenging doglegs and from deep bunkers to gently sloping greens, the area's top-rated courses offer an abundant mix of challenges and ease for beginning and veteran golfers of all ages.

If you're looking to explore everything that East Central Wisconsin has to offer, remember to load up your clubs as you hit the road to test your might at the many courses located throughout the area. Here's just a sampling of the courses you'll find:

- **The Golf Courses of Lawsonia**, W2615 S. Valley View Dr., Green Lake
- **Tuscumbia Country Club**, 680 Illinois Ave., Green Lake
- **Mascoutin Golf Club**, W1635 County Trunk A, Berlin
- **White Lake Golf Course**, W1680 Country Club Dr., Montello
- **Wedgewood Golf Course**, 1200 E. Huron St., Omro
- **Two Oaks North Golf Club**, W6650 Meadowlane Court, Wautoma
- **Waushara Country Club**, 2410 Hillside Drive, Wautoma
- **Marlinks Golf Course**, W9998 Country Road C, Wautoma
- **Lake Breeze Golf Club**, 6333 Ball Prairie Road, Winneconne

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**G**reen Lake visitors continue to discover what year-round residents have known for years, and it's easy to see why.

Living the good life in Green Lake involves a four-season treasure trove of fun and adventure as the community offers a bounty of outdoor recreation, intriguing history, and some of the area's largest events.

Great parks and plentiful green spaces highlight the area's richest jewel: Green Lake.

Known locally as Big Green, the county's namesake body of water continues to inspire all who visit, just as it has since the days when Native American tribes made

their annual pilgrimage to the famed waters of Day-cholah. Nothing compares to a day spent on or even near Green Lake, Wisconsin's deepest inland lake.

From pontoons to sailboats, water skiing to swimming, and relaxing beachside or walking along the shoreline, the lake is legendary for creating memories that will last a lifetime. Plentiful fishing abounds, both during the warmer months and when the lake is covered with a sheet of ice as fishing shanties stretch out from the shoreline.

In the winter, Green Lake is transformed into a picture-book village brimming with charm. Sledding hills beckon, hot cocoa and a good book are easy to find, and

# Green Lake



snowmobiles speed by connecting various communities in the area. Lace up your skates near the downtown, and watch for the graceful ice boats when weather conditions are just right.

Come for the lake, but stay for the area's famed golf courses, its unique shops, enchanting beauty and country roads with picturesque scenes around every corner.

Green Lake's historic past is reflected in many of its downtown buildings, and among the gracious older homes located throughout the community that are lovingly maintained. The Green Lake School District is also proud to be a K-12 International Baccalaureate school.

Nearly every event offered in Green Lake is made possible

by the hard work and passion of local organizations, and dedicated businesses, community members, and seasonal residents committed to seeing the area and region thrive.

The summertime Concerts in the Park series, held every Wednesday in Deacon Mills Park, introduces audience members to a wide range of music in a relaxed outdoor setting. Or take a night to discover the talents of acclaimed musical artists from around the world at the historic Thrasher Opera House.

Many more adventures await while exploring everything Green Lake has to offer, as a visit to Green Lake is always filled with fun times and memories to treasure!





Green Lake Festival of Music will celebrate its 46th season with concerts presented primarily in Green Lake and nearby Ripon from June 6 to July 25. This season's theme is Ensemble: Festive Together, a play on the double meaning of "ensemble" as both a musical group and togetherness. A festival season of concerts focused on musical ensembles will bring people from far and near to celebrate music's unique ability to gather people together, all in a convivial atmosphere.

Area residents and vacationing visitors will be able to enjoy several chamber-music concerts as well as a piano recital, choral concerts, opera highlights, and a celebratory Gala over the course of the summer. "Green Lake Festival of Music offers a genuinely priceless opportunity to experience outstanding performances of familiar and new music in welcoming settings," says Sam Handley, the Festival's director.

Since 2016, Green Lake Festival of Music (GLFM) has offered concerts without direct charge, instead relying on generous support from grants, corporations, sponsors, individual donors, and freewill donations at concerts. Throughout its history the Festival has featured a roster of nationally and internationally acclaimed musical artists, many with strong connections to the Green Lake area.

Active involvement has long been a feature of the Festival. Participation in the Choral Programs, June 18–22, is open to accomplished amateur and semi-professional singers from the region and beyond. After a few concentrated rehearsals, Choral Institute-Festival Chorus participants perform large-scale choral works and Composer Residency-Chamber Choir participants perform new smaller-scale



choral works. Some singers opt for full immersion in both workshops. Registration is open now for both programs.

GLFM also hosts the Chamber Music Institute, July 6–19, which provides the opportunity for pre-professional string musicians 18 years and older from around the world to focus on the unique demands of chamber repertoire with outstanding faculty. The experience is transformative for these young musicians, as is apparent in the performances they give throughout the area.

The Chamber Music Institute and the Choral Programs educate and enrich their participants while broadening the performance experience for festival audiences.

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There's no better day to drop a line in the water than during the annual Angler/Young Angler (AYA) Fishing Tournament, returning to Deacon Mills Park and beautiful Big Green Lake on Saturday, June 14.

This year's 17th annual AYA Fishing Tournament, organized by Norton's Dry Dock with sponsorships from numerous local businesses, continues to be a popular draw for anglers of all ages. This youth-based, professional style fishing tournament is held to introduce youth into the sport of



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fishing, promote family values and encourage families, friends, and mentors to continue fishing and enjoying Big Green Lake and the greater Green Lake community throughout the year.

In recent years, some of the first young anglers to participate in the annual tournament have become mentors themselves, taking newer young anglers out onto Green Lake in search of smallmouth bass.

After first picking up their registration packets on Friday, June 13, the action begins early Saturday morning, June 14, as teams spread across the waters of Big Green Lake to find their honey hole to catch their limit. As teams return to dry land Saturday afternoon, weighing in their best five fish before 2:30 p.m., if they're able to move into the lead, by weight, they'll sit on the hotseat until all teams have returned and weighed in.

With a recently expanded field, the annual tournament is restricted to the first 60 teams who register, and spots fill up quickly each year, with the youth anglers in the winning boat each receiving a \$1,500 scholarship, a championship trophy, and their names engraved on the AYA Norton's Dry Dock Cup.

Numerous additional \$1,000 scholarships, depending on event sponsorships, are also awarded to youth on the many second-place teams from the day's competition.

If you or your organization are interested in sponsorship or volunteer opportunities for this year's AYA Fishing Tournament or for more information, please call 920-295-3462.

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## light up the lake

There may be no better time to visit beautiful Green Lake than during the community's annual July 4th celebration held this year on – when else – Friday, July 4!

The day begins with a delicious, homemade pancake breakfast at Green Lake's Willis-Chapel American Legion Post 306. Afterward, the fun continues with games and even more food at Deacon Mills Park, located on South Street in downtown Green Lake, and be sure to head to Dartford Bay for the annual excitement of the themed Boat Parade.

One of the highlights of the day will be the Fourth of July parade, which heads through the central part of the community. Remember to set up your lawn chairs early in downtown Green Lake, as the good spots go fast!

Spectators can then cap off a perfect evening under the stars, as fireworks reflect off the waters of Green Lake over Dartford Bay beginning at dusk.

For more information about Green Lake's star-spangled Independence Day celebration, contact the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce at 920-294-3231.



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Celebrating its 52nd year in 2025, the Green Lake Fine Art Show returns to the Town Square Community Center campus August 9–10.

For over 30 years, the event was spearheaded by Guy Rossberg, a local artist and owner of Wisconsin Gold & Gem. His children, Ali and Mike Rossberg, grabbed the reins when he passed away in 2015 with Emily McCarthy joining Ali in running the show in recent years, before turning the show over to Town Square Community Center leading

up to the 50th annual show in 2023.

Each year, the festival showcases approximately 100 artists cultivated from amongst local talent, throughout the state, and from the entire Midwest to take part in this annual juried exhibit.

Rain or shine, the artists remain on hand throughout the weekend to answer questions about their work and artistic philosophy, in addition to selling their beloved masterpieces to the many visitors looking to expand or begin their



## green lake Fine Art show

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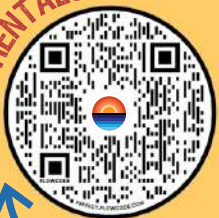


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Sponsored by the Green Lake Rotary Club, the highly anticipated Wisconsin State Chili Cook-Off Championship returns to Green Lake's Deacon Mills Park on Saturday, September 6. The annual event draws some of the best cooks locally and from across the state to create their finest chili recipes on-site during the daylong competition.

# chili cook-off

An International Chili Society-sanctioned event, when the day is all but done, judges will announce their final decisions, with the top 10 best chili recipes recognized leading up to the announcement of the Wisconsin State Chili Cook-Off Champion.

Along with bragging rights, the winning team also receives the opportunity to compete at the World Championship.

While creativity is definitely encouraged, competitors must adhere to the simple rules enforced by the International Chili Society. Teams are able to use any combination of meat, spices, and the like, but beans and noodles are strictly forbidden.

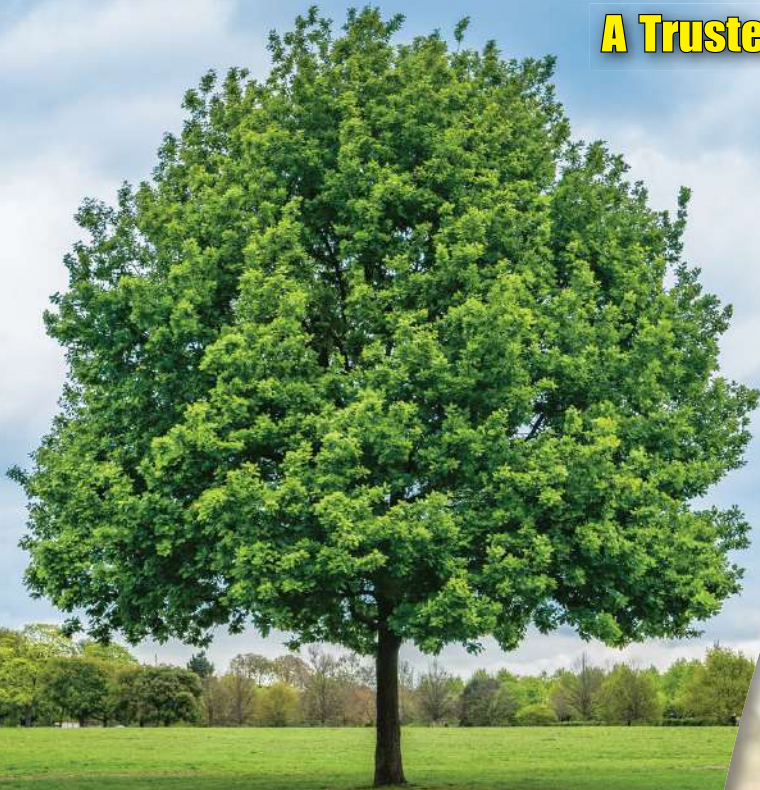
Proceeds from the event are used by the Green Lake Rotary Club to support youth and community activities in the Green Lake area throughout the year.



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Nothing says “autumn in Green Lake” like the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce’s signature event, Golden Days Harvest Fest, set to return on Saturday and Sunday, September 27–28.

Celebrating its 37th year in 2025, all are invited to enjoy the festival’s full complement of family-friendly activities as thousands of festival-goers head to downtown Green Lake, ready to celebrate the arrival of autumn.

# Golden Days



From shopping at the various craft and farmers market booths, to experiencing the live music in the heart of downtown Green Lake, to partaking in a variety of raffles and silent auctions, the possibilities for

fun are nearly endless.

Spectators can play games, gaze at hundreds of antique and collector vehicles during Sunday’s car show, and enjoy a delectable sampling of cuisines provided by area service



organizations and restaurants during Taste of Green Lake.

Also be sure to visit Playground Park for a season’s bounty of children’s games, live animals, clowns, balloon creations, face painting, and more, but don’t miss the annual Harvest Fest parade Saturday afternoon.

A popular area attraction, this parade is sure to enchant you with live music, amazing feats, decked-out floats, and the welcoming smiles of area businesses and local service groups.

For additional details about the 37th annual Golden Days Harvest Fest, contact the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce at 920-294-3231 and look for more information in Berlin Journal Newspapers’ various publications, including a special Golden Days Harvest Fest section, highlighting the event, that is published one week prior to the weekend.



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Green Lake may be one of the smaller counties in Wisconsin, but you'll be hard-pressed to find a better turnout from its residents at the Green Lake County Fair than anywhere else in the state!

With hundreds of live animals and just as many exhibitors, along with the area's largest midway, two nights of truck & tractor pulls, a demolition derby, and dozens of food stands, not to mention free admission during its entire four-day run, it's easy to see why the Green Lake County Fair is known throughout the area as the "Best Little Fair Around".

## Green Lake County Fair

"Best Little Fair Around"

Set to return from July 31– August 3, the Green Lake County Fair returns in 2025 with the theme "Candyland", and offers a sweet time in a fun, safe, family-friendly environment where Green Lake County youth and adults can demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired through various project areas and life in general.

Throughout the extended weekend, exhibitors from across the county will compete for blue ribbons, trophies, and bragging rights in numerous categories from baking to gardening and from woodworking to photography, as well as several livestock shows featuring cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry, and rabbits.

Featuring live music, a number of entertainment stages, strolling acts, crafts and more, the Green Lake County Fair



boasts the largest midway in the area with games and rides hosted by A&P Enterprise Shows in addition to track events Thursday–Saturday evening.

With so much to see and do, you're sure to work up an appetite, and the county fair has got you covered there too, with a number of specially-chosen food vendors to cover every taste imaginable including gyros, pizza, tacos, barbecue and even fresh-squeezed lemonade to wash it all down while beating the late summer heat. And remember to stop by the Farm Bureau for all your favorites like burgers, grilled cheese, barbecue, loaded baked potatoes and more.

As always, the Farm Bureau barn is the place to go for a variety of freshly baked, homemade slices of pie topped with a free scoop of ice cream, courtesy of the Green Lake County Dairy Producers. And for those traditional "county fair treats," be sure to check out the midway for cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, and more!

A truly free fair, the Green Lake County Fair does not charge for parking or a gate admission at any time, as guests are invited to come and go as they please, but with so much fun packed onto the fairgrounds at 570 South Street in Green Lake, why would you ever want to leave?

For a complete preview of the 2025 Green Lake County Fair, be sure to pick up a copy of the *Berlin Journal*, *Green Lake Reporter*, *Markesan Regional Reporter* or *Princeton Times-Republic* leading up to the fair. Berlin Journal Newspapers, in coordination with the Green Lake County Fair, publishes an extensive fair guide detailing all the upcoming exhibits along with a full schedule of events for all four days, July 31–August 3.

It's Wisconsin at its best, and while there may be 72 county fairs across the state every summer, nothing beats the Green Lake County Fair, the Best Little Fair Around!







# History of area's future firmly rooted in stories of area's past

Migrating from Vermont in 1831, several years before Wisconsin was even officially recognized as a state, Luther Gleason, the first resident of what would eventually become Green Lake County, settled near what is now the Village of Marquette, in southern Green Lake County.



Originally part of Marquette County, which fully organized in 1848, the same year Wisconsin became an official state, Marquette's first county seat was established near its first resident in Marquette.

After 10 years, however, an Act of Legislation in 1858 established the eastern half of Marquette County as the newly formed Green Lake County, naming Berlin as the county seat. Four years later in 1862, Green Lake County citizens voted to move the county seat to Dartford, which eventually changed its name to Green Lake, with the first courthouse being built in Dartford one year later.

As time passed, the history of the greater Green Lake County area continued to grow, as various historical societies were established to

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**Little White Schoolhouse**  
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**Markesan Historical Society**  
214 E. John Street  
Markesan, WI 53946  
920-398-3359

**Marquette Historical Society**  
240 W. Second Street  
Marquette, WI 53947  
920-394-9361

**Princeton Historical Society**  
630 and 632 W. Water Street  
Princeton, WI 54958  
920-295-9008

**Ripon Historical Society**  
508 Watson Street  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-748-5354

document and remember the unique histories of the various towns, villages, cities and the tens-of-thousands of residents that have called the area home for well over 150 years.

To help share the decades worth of history with residents and visitors alike, historical societies throughout the area curate and operate a dozen different museums, many with regular weekly hours during the summer months, allowing local history buffs the opportunity to look into a time that has long since passed and learn about where they, their parents and grandparents, and more have come from.

Are you familiar with Berlin's

rich brewing heritage? What about the world famous Fairwater waterwheel? Like so many others in the Markesan area, do the details of the Mackford Murder mystify you? And remember to stop by the Little White Schoolhouse, listed on the National Historic Registry, and widely recognized as the birthplace of the Republican Party.

With one of the youngest, yet largest Amish settlements in the state as well as a deep history and respect for the Native Americans that once called it home, the greater Green Lake County area's future is deeply rooted in its past as each community's historical society invites you to come and explore.



**M**arkesan sits in the heart of southern Green Lake County, as it has been for more than 160 years, nestled amongst acres upon acres of rolling farm fields and numerous lakes filled with fish just waiting to be caught.

First established as the Town of Granville, the community was renamed Markesan in 1858, and incorporated as a city in 1859. Known for continuing a rich tradition of agriculture, Markesan was once listed among the top five wealthiest communities in the nation, and has been an influence in the area since the railroad came to town in the 1880s.

Helping make the city the community it is today are a host of charitable service organizations that lend a helping hand in many ways. The Markesan Lions Club, Markesan Kiwanis, and American Legion, just to name a few, are always supporting the city and its citizens, donating funds, hosting events, and participating in the many festivals and celebrations each year.

Home to one of the premier museums in the area, the Grand River Valley Museum & Train Depot, curated by the Markesan Historical Society, is dedicated to preserving the area's history, while the Markesan Public Library, located on North Bridge Street since 1930, offers a treasure trove of books, programs, and activities for all ages year-round.

Nearby, Little Green Lake, Lake Puckaway, and the White River Marsh State Wildlife Area provide a wonderland for anglers, hunters, and nature enthusiasts of all ages.

There is no shortage of fun times to be had in Markesan, with its many celebrations throughout the year. The highlight every summer is undoubtedly June Dairy Days. Celebrated in early June, this weekend-long event features a midway with rides and games for kids, live music on both Friday and Saturday nights, a huge fireworks show on Friday night, and the largest parade in the tri-county area on Saturday evening.

The fun continues later in the summer with Farmer's Corn Roast, featuring free sweet corn roasted on-site for all, followed by November's Homespun Holidays, both organized by the Markesan Area Chamber of Commerce, who invites all to come see for themselves why families have called Markesan home for over 160 years.

# Markesan & Grand River Valley







# 2025 EVENTS

JUNE DAIRY DAYS  
June 13 & 14

CIRCUS  
June 28

FARMER'S CORN ROAST  
August 28

TRUNK OR TREAT  
October 31

HOMESPUN HOLIDAYS  
November 21 & 22

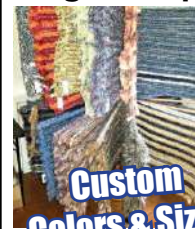
The Markesan Chamber of Commerce proudly organizes and hosts several events throughout the year, bringing together the community that continues to support our business members.



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Officially dedicated on Memorial Day 2024, the central triangle area at the entrance to the new portion of Markesan Memorial Cemetery is the latest effort by community supporters and organizers to honor Markesan's Veterans.

The KIA Memorial took its first steps following the return of the remains of Navy Hospital Apprentice 1st Class Keefe R. Connolly to Markesan in November 2021.

Connolly was only 19 years old when he paid the ultimate price during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, serving on the *USS Oklahoma*. His remains were identified in February 2021 and later brought home, where he was honored with his final resting place in what has become the Killed in Action (KIA) Memorial.

This memorial recognizes Connolly, Tom Smith, and the other Markesan individuals killed in action from the Civil War to the present day. The central area is wheelchair accessible, with the memorial's red, white, and blue stones meant to reflect the flag.

Also included in this area is the Tom Smith Memorial Flagpole, which was upgraded in November 2023. Smith graduated from Markesan High School in 1966 and went into the Navy after high school, serving on the *USS Westchester County*. A Quartermaster Second Class, he was killed during an explosion when he was still on ship after his tour of duty had ended. Smith is buried next to his grandparents in the older part of Markesan Memorial Cemetery.

As part of Abendroth-Connolly American Legion Post 284's Memorial Day observance, Markesan saw



the dedication of the KIA Memorial, as well as the new flagpole, on Monday, May 27, 2024.

Markesan's KIA Veterans include:

- Civil War - Fred Domes, H.P. Friday, Charles Ludtke
- World War I - William Hinz, Franklin Abendroth, Carl Dretske, William Broder, Lester Wagner
- World War II - Brice Clark, Keefe Connolly, George Stroschein, Ray Charles Nixon, Benjamin Krenz
- Korean War - Morris Gensch, Raymond Brown
- Vietnam War - Tom Smith

The Markesan Cemetery is located on Hwy. 44, heading out of the City of Markesan to the southwest, and is accessible year-round, weather permitting.

A community event of epic proportions, the Grand River Valley will once again pay homage to the area's rich and longstanding agricultural tradition when Markesan's annual June Dairy Days returns, June 13-14.

The weekend features a host of exciting activities for kids of all ages including live music on both Friday and Saturday nights. Friday night regularly features a huge fireworks display at dusk, while Saturday is highlighted in the morning by the Agribusiness Breakfast and recognition ceremony. The huge June Dairy Days parade will wind its way through the community in the evening.

Boasting the largest lineup in the tri-county area, the June Dairy Days parade regularly features several dozen entries, with countless tractors of all ages, big rigs, and classic cars, in addition to a variety of community floats decorated by local businesses and service organizations.

The parade is so big, by the time the first floats finish the approximately two-mile route, the last entries haven't even started! And if you like collecting candy at parades,



be sure to bring a big bag to carry home all the treats you collect!

Additional activities throughout the weekend include Chamber Bingo, Ballweg Implement's Kids Pedal Pull, a beanbag toss tournament, and more. If you're looking for good food, you'll have your pick with the Green Lake Pork Producers Pig Roast, Agribusiness Breakfast, Markesan Lions Food Tent, Markesan Fire Department Watering Hole, and the Little Red Dairy Barn all weekend long.

Organized and hosted by the Markesan Area Chamber of Commerce, the Markesan Fire Department, and the City of Markesan with the help of numerous volunteers, June Dairy Days is one of the largest festivals in Green Lake County.

Welcome the summer season in Green Lake County while celebrating the area's farming community by visiting Kiwanis Park on South Bridge Street in Markesan on Friday and Saturday, June 13-14. You'll be glad you did!





## manchester chute out

If you've never been to a real bull-riding rodeo, now's your chance!

Fast paced, heart-pounding professional bull riding action returns to Green Lake County at the Manchester Rod & Gun Club's 20th annual Manchester Chute Out. Gates open at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, with the show beginning at 7 p.m.

A sanctioned stop on the National Federation of Professional Bull Riders circuit, the Chute Out hosts some of the best riders and toughest bulls around, making it one of the most action-packed and popular events in the entire county each year.

Between eight-second bursts of ex-

citement, the comic adventures of the evening's emcee and the event's rodeo clown promise to entertain the crowd as they trade stories and one-liners. In recent years the event has also seen the addition of ladies' barrel racing for added fun for the massive crowd.

Each year a select number of guests are invited to enter the arena during various contests for the adults, with kids entering the ring for the always-popular kids candy toss as the action inside the ring comes to a close.

Following the Chute Out, the fun continues late into the night with the Manchester Rod & Gun Club's annual barn dance.

Renamed in 2023 in honor of Dennis "Farmer" Grahn, the streets of downtown Markesan will once again run yellow with melted butter when Farmer's Corn Roast returns on Thursday, August 28.

## farmer's corn roast

Hosted by the Markesan Area Chamber of Commerce in downtown Markesan, the popular event features live music, kids games, and the always popular free corn roast.

Cooked up on-site on the original grill stand designed by Farmer Grahn over a decade ago, well over 1,000 ears of freshly picked sweet corn will be served up, as the Mark-

esan Area Chamber of Commerce keeps the butter melted and the salt shakers full. With a new batch of corn coming off the fire about every 15 minutes, the golden kernels never turn cold as guests are invited to eat all the corn they can while on the grounds, with carryout available later in the evening.

Additional refreshments will also be available for purchase from the Markesan Sno-Drifters snowmobile club, but leave room for a scoop of your favorite ice cream from Green Lake County's own Little Red Dairy Barn followed by more live music, games and more.

Be sure to pick up the *Markesan Regional Reporter* throughout the summer for more information on Farmer's Corn Roast and all the activities Markesan and the Grand River Valley have to offer.

While July 4th falls on Friday in 2025, the community of Marquette in southwestern Green Lake County will celebrate the nation's independence on Saturday, July 5.

Organized by the Marquette Volunteer Fire Department and the Marquette Historical Society, the highlight of the day is undoubtedly the Fire Department's horse pull – the biggest and best in the area – starting at 12:30 p.m. Throughout the event, the Marquette Volunteer Fire Department will be selling brats, hot dogs, and other food and refreshments with proceeds from the day's festivities going to the Marquette Volunteer Fire Department equipment fund. Don't forget to get your raffle tickets!

Also not to be missed, the Marquette Historical Society's annual pie, ice cream, and root beer float social and silent auction is a delicious treat that will help you beat the summer heat!



The day won't be done until the evening concludes with music and the area's largest fireworks display at dusk.

Please also keep in mind, festivities in Marquette also typically include a wonderful 4th of July parade, winding through the streets of Marquette at 11 a.m. and ending at Marquette Village Hall. However, as of the printing of this publication (in early 2025), expected road construction may result in the parade's hiatus for just one year.

For additional details about Marquette's 4th of July fun, be sure to pick up a copy of the *Markesan Regional Reporter* for updates leading up to July 5.



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 for yourself.**

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**NEW! Playground Sets**

The Christmas season returns to Markesan on Friday and Saturday, November 21–22, during the Markesan Area Chamber of Commerce's 23rd annual Homespun Holidays.

## homespun holidays

The signature event of the weekend is undoubtedly the Homespun Craft Fair, featuring over 50 crafters and vendors from throughout the greater Grand River Valley area selling unique, homemade and handmade items, perfect for those hard-to-shop-for people on your gift-giving list.

The day will also feature the always popular Homespun Silent Auction, with gift baskets perfect for boys and girls of all ages, donated by local businesses. Raising thousands of dollars each year, proceeds from the auction benefit the Markesan Food Pantry, which aids families in need in over a dozen different communities throughout the greater Markesan area.

While mom and dad shop through the crafts, kids can have a blast in Saturday's Chamber of Commerce Kidz Zone, which features a bounce house, make-and-take crafts, cookie decorating, and visits with the one and only Santa Claus!

To keep your energy up, the Homespun Holidays snack shack, managed by the Markesan American Legion Auxiliary, will feature a variety of hot foods and tasty treats.

So be sure to mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, November 21–22 and make a plan to visit Markesan and get a start on your Christmas shopping!

**2 sisters piggly wiggly**

Open Daily at 6 a.m.

Bakery, Deli, Beer, Liquor,  
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 & Household Needs



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 Restaurant: 920-398-3484

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W3699 Heritage Rd., Markesan, WI 53946

Summer Hours (Mid April - September)  
 Wed. & Thurs. 9 am - 4:30 pm; Fri. & Sat. 8 am - 4:30 pm  
 Winter Hours (October - Mid April) Fri. & Sat. 8 am - 4:30 pm

Directions: 1/2 mile north of intersection (by Wayside) Hwy 44 & Hwy 73 and 3/4 mile west of Hwy 73 on Heritage Rd.  
 OR 4 miles west of Markesan on Cty. Rd S, cross Hwy. 73 to Heritage Rd.



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 www.randolphfh.com  
 Jamie Minnema,  
 Funeral Director, Manager

**Kohls Community Funeral Home**  
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 920-324-5547  
 www.kohlsfh.com  
 Carlyanna Kanthack  
 Funeral Director





First founded in 1977 in Southwestern Green Lake County is one of the state's younger Amish communities, but it has quickly become the largest such settlement in Wisconsin.

## Handcrafted Handmade Homegrown

While traveling along Hwy. 44 through Kingston and Dalton, you'll find no shortage of horse-drawn buggies to wave at as you travel between bakeries, greenhouses, furniture stores, cheese shops, and more.

Any trip through "Amish Country" is certain to include scenic drives through the area's rolling farmlands as the community's rich history and traditions unfold in front of you.

While visiting and exploring the area, guests are respectfully asked to keep the following rules of etiquette in mind:

- While driving, keep a particular eye out for horse-drawn buggies and wagons, especially at night. Amish buggies will travel on the side of the road, and when passing, please leave as much room as possible. At night, avoid using your car's high beams when you see a buggy coming from the opposite direction. Please



also avoid prolonged use of your car horn, if you need to use it at all, as the sound could spook the horses and cause them to run out in front of your vehicle or off the roadway into the large sloping ditches.

- Once you arrive at your destination, be respectful of your hosts. With many of their shops on the same land as their homes, be mindful to only enter the business. Do not enter private residences or property without permission.

- While visiting an Amish business, also keep in mind that not every person will be open to accepting company on the personal homestead. Just like you, most residents prefer not to be disturbed by strangers knocking on their front door with questions about their culture. If you are sincere in wanting to learn more about Amish heritage and culture, a terrific first step is to support an Amish owned business and talk with the shopkeeper. However, the

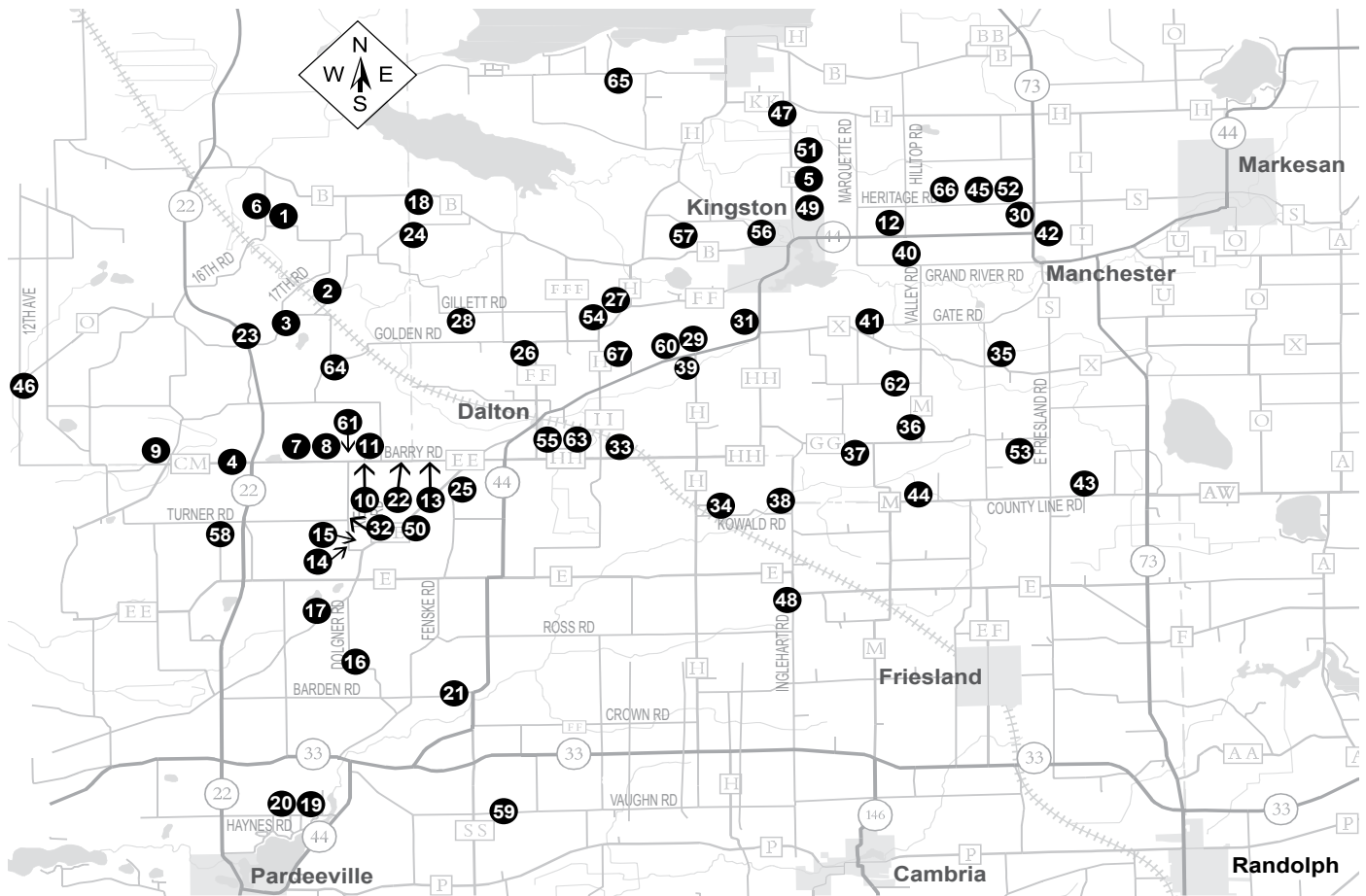
shopkeeper is still running a business, and if there are a number of customers in the store, he or she may not have time to answer all your questions.

- As mentioned earlier, while visiting Green Lake County's Amish businesses, you are sure to see a number of horses as well as other livestock. When it comes to horses that are secured to a hitching post or rail, or horses that are harnessed to a buggy or wagon, it is best not to attempt to feed or pet them. The same can be said about other livestock and animals. When you are visiting an Amish business, you are visiting an Amish home, not a petting zoo.

- Perhaps most important when visiting the area, guests are asked not to take photos or videos of the Amish people. Most Amish believe posing for photographs to be prideful and therefore unacceptable.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40





# Handcrafted Handmade Homegrown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

Photos of their horses, homesteads and buggies are allowable, if done in a respectful and unobtrusive manner. The key rule of thumb is to avoid recognizable pictures of any Amish faces.

• Lastly of note, Amish businesses are not open all day, every day. In fact, many are closed on Sundays and other days coinciding with religious observances. As is their culture, you likely will not be able to call ahead to check a business' hours, so if you are uncertain, be mindful of each business' hours, which will normally be posted outside.

Green Lake County's Amish settlement is a popular, regular destination for people in East Central Wisconsin, as well as throughout the

## KEY FOR MAP LOCATIONS

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Pine Lumber                                   | 23. Woodside Greenhouse                        | 45. Pine Grove Greenhouse                |
| 2. Bontrager Cabinets                            | 24. Kuntry Road Greenhouse                     | 46. Nature Trails Bakery                 |
| 3. Metal Buildings                               | 25. Maple Lane Furniture                       | 47. Gar-Lin Gardens                      |
| 4. Custom Vinyl Windows                          | 26. Hill Top Repair                            | 48. BP Lumber                            |
| 5. Kingston Custom Cabinets                      | 27. Shady Lane Furniture                       | 49. Long Lane Greenhouse                 |
| 6. Happy Hollow Bakery                           | 28. Maple Grove Cabinets                       | 50. M&M Pet Supply                       |
| 7. Weaver Cabinets                               | 29. Weaver Enterprise                          | 51. Hillcrest Supply                     |
| 8. Schwartz Greenhouse                           | 30. Oven Fresh Bakery                          | 52. Mast Finishing<br>- Also Refinishing |
| 9. Millers Small Engine                          | 31. Miller Cabinet Shop                        | 53. Eicher's Woodworking                 |
| 10. Mast Buggy Shop                              | 32. Cedar Lane Furniture                       | 54. Farmer's Woodworking                 |
| 11. Mast Bent & Dent                             | 33. D&L Metal Buildings                        | 55. Tri Corner Shed                      |
| 12. Sloping Acres Greenhouse                     | 34. Sandhill Cabinets                          | 56. Fresh Fried Pies                     |
| 13. Mishler's Country Store                      | 35. Tiny Acres Greenhouse                      | 57. Pine Crest Greenhouse                |
| 14. Pleasant View Bakery                         | 36. Pine Ridge Country Store                   | 58. Clearview Quilt Shop                 |
| 15. Miller Wood Shop                             | 37. Kingston Creamery                          | 59. Rosevale Greenhouse                  |
| 16. Woodside Harness Shop                        | 38. Salemville Greenhaus                       | 60. Rock Hill Canvas                     |
| 17. Lakeside Fabrics                             | 39. Troyer's Bakery                            | 61. Homestyle Furniture                  |
| 18. Fairview Discount                            | 40. Grand River Greenhouse                     | 62. Eagle Valley Engine                  |
| 19. Townline Furniture                           | 41. Handmade Rugs, Carpets,<br>Runners         | 63. Bell Fountain Timber<br>Products     |
| 20. Townline Greenhouse                          | 42. Station 44, Wayside<br>Repair & Restaurant | 64. Skyhurst Farm                        |
| 21. Fox River Greenhouse<br>& Hand Woven Baskets | 43. L&L Furniture Shop                         | 65. Puckaway Cabins                      |
| 22. Otto's Produce<br>& Greenhouse               | 44. Chair Shop                                 | 66. Heritage Structures                  |
|  |  | 67. Country Kitchen                      |

entire Midwest. It is not uncommon for guests to spend the better part of an entire day exploring the area and hopping from shop to shop.

While visiting, be sure to fol-

low the "golden rule" and treat the Amish people, their businesses, and their personal property the way you would like to be treated, and you are guaranteed to have an amazing time!



**Rock Hill  
Canvas**

W5498 State Road 44  
Dalton

**Oven Fresh  
Bakery**

W3699 Heritage Rd.  
Markesan

**Mishler's  
Country Store**

W5115 Barry Rd.  
Dalton

**L&L  
Furniture**

W3114 Co. Line Rd.  
Randolph

**Woodside  
Greenhouse**

N914 St. Hwy. 22  
Dalton

**Handmade Rugs,  
Carpets, Runners, Quilts  
& Wall Hangers**

W4460 Cty. Hwy. X, Markesan  
1.5 miles off of Hwy. 44 on Cty. X

**Visit the Heartland  
of the Grand River Valley**

**Pine Ridge  
Country Store**

N763 Cty. Rd. M  
Cambria

**Tri Corner  
Shed**

N1188 Cty. Rd. HH  
Dalton

**Kingston  
Creamery**

W4481 Hwy. GG  
Cambria

**Eagle Valley  
Engine**

W4511 Winding Lane  
Cambria

**Puckaway  
Cabins**

W5669 Puckaway Rd.  
Markesan

**Fresh  
Fried Pies**

741 Main St., Dalton  
1 mile west of Kingston on Cty. B

**Pine Crest  
Greenhouse**

W5439 Cty. Rd. B  
Kingston

**Grand River  
Greenhouse**

W4260 Grand River Rd.  
Markesan

**Hillcrest  
Supply**

N2742 Cty. Rd. B  
Markesan

**Maple Lane  
Woodshop & Showroom**

N9896 Cty. Rd. EE  
Dalton

**Homestyle  
Furniture**

W2182 Barry Rd.  
Pardeeville

**M&M  
Pet Supply**

W5111 Barry Rd.  
Dalton

**Rosevale  
Greenhouse**

W4273 Vaughn Rd.  
Cambria

**Country  
Kitchen**

N976 Cty. Rd. H  
Dalton

**Heritage  
Structures**

W3818 Heritage Rd.  
Markesan

**Skyhurst Farm  
Pastured Meats**

W2201 Golden Road  
Dalton

**Kuntry Road  
Greenhouse**

W1716 Grand Ave.  
Dalton

**Bell Fountain  
Timber Products**

W6388 Cty. Rd. HH  
Dalton

**Sloping Acres  
Greenhouse**

W4376 Hwy. 44  
Markesan

\* To learn more about the businesses with a BOLD border, see their display ads in this publication!





**K**ingston and Dalton, located along Highway 44, west of Markesan, serve as a gateway to the heartland of the Grand River Valley and host a wide variety of homegrown businesses sought out by shoppers seeking quality goods.

Spread throughout the area, offering home-baked, handmade and handcrafted items, shoppers never leave empty-handed. With farms, dairies, greenhouses, merchants, and craftsmen, the area boasts many great items, including rocking chairs, fresh honey, every sort of plant, and even furniture made by local woodworkers.

Also known for its outdoor activities, the nearby Grand River Marsh State Wildlife Area has more than 8,000 acres of nature, offering numerous opportunities for outdoor fun with fishing, hunting, bird-watching, boating, and hiking, plus just hanging around in nature enjoying nature.

A good time is always available in Kingston and Dalton, with celebrations throughout the year, highlighted by Kingston Crazy Daze Chubfest and the Dalton Labor Day Picnic.

Such events would not be possible without the many service organizations in the area.

The Kingston Lions Club is a driv-

ing force for the community, and does more than its share of donating, helping, and cheering on the area. Recently rechartered, the Duwane "Sonny" Walker American Legion Post 395 of Kingston is always available to march in any parade representing the area's Veterans, while the Kingston Historical & Preservation Society maintains a local museum filled with the community's rich history.

Together, these organizations put on dinners, fundraisers, pie and ice cream socials, and generally make life better for all, whether you're visiting for a weekend or a month, or if you call the area home.

# Dalton & Kingston



After combining forces for a rockin' fun weekend in recent years, Kingston Krazy Daze Chubfest is set to return in 2025, promising a full day of fun for the whole family to enjoy, capped off by live music to close out the day on Saturday, August 23.

Bring your friends and enjoy the Kingston Krazy Daze Chubfest parade, beanbag toss tournaments, pony rides and more – be sure to grab a slice of fresh-baked pie from the Kingston Historical Preservation Society. There are so many varieties to choose from, you should probably get one of each to make the decision that much easier. Just make sure to top your slices off with a scoop of ice cream from the Little Red Dairy Barn!



Marking the end of the summer season, everyone in the family is sure to have a great time at the annual Dalton Labor Day Picnic held this year on Monday, September 1, at the Dalton Rod & Gun Club.

While softball, volleyball and even beanbag toss tournaments will be held throughout the weekend, starting on Friday, August 29, Monday will host the bulk of the festivities to extend the long holiday weekend just a little further.

Events kick off at 10 a.m. at the Dalton Rod & Gun Club including fire department water battles, ongoing trapshooting competitions, a 3D archery shoot, pony rides for the kids, and more.

Refreshments will be available all day long, including brats and burgers, as well as the Markesan Lions Club's famous chicken BBQ with



all the trimmings – just make sure you get to the grounds early. They've been known to sell out quickly!

With fun and activities for the

whole family, Dalton is the place to be on Monday, September 1, for one of the biggest and best Labor Day picnics around.

**MISHLER'S  
COUNTRY  
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---

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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
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Canvas**

Nathan & Wilma Jean Miller

- BOAT COVERS
- PONTOON DECKS
- MARINE UPHOLSTERY
- CUSTOM BIMINI FRAMES

W5498  
State Rd 44,  
Dalton

Closed  
Sundays

FREE  
ESTIMATES





**M**ontello serves as the gateway into Marquette County, Green Lake County's neighbor to the west, and is known as the Shore Fishing Capital of Wisconsin, living up to its motto, "No boat? No problem!"

Serving as the county seat, Montello is located on the Fox River and is home to about 1,500 people who are reminded on a daily basis that you don't have to plan a trip to the big city to find a wonderful variety of things to see and do.

If you're new to visiting the area, you'll surely want to take time to experience the small-town hospitality and charm that Montello has to offer. Home to the oldest tree in Wisconsin – a towering and majestic cottonwood near the courthouse and downtown area, just off Highway 23, Montello is Marquette County's gateway to year-round fun,

particularly for those with an affinity for the great outdoors.

Whether you're taking in the view of the four granite waterfalls at Daggett Park, browsing the shops in the historic commercial district, casting your fishing lines in any one of the nearby lakes or rivers, watching for barn quilts, enjoying a leisurely tube ride down the Fox River, or exploring the trails at picturesque John Muir Park, the Montello area entices visitors to come back for more no matter what the season.

With an annual event lineup featuring Fish-n-Fun Festival the first weekend of May, the ever-popular Father Marquette Day in mid-August, and the city's tree-lighting with Santa Claus on the first Friday of December, Montello offers plenty of things to see and do throughout the year. Come and explore everything the community has to offer!

# Montello



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## John Muir memorial park

If you love the outdoors, you undoubtedly already know the name John Muir.

The co-founder of the Sierra Club, and often referred to as the patron saint of the American wilderness, Muir was born in Scotland in 1838. Immigrating with his family to the United States in 1849, the family started a farm near Portage, which has since been designated a National Historic Landmark.

While the Redwood Forest known as Muir Woods in California may be the most well-known park with John Muir's name attached, it is not the only park to be connected to this champion of the outdoors.

Nestled in Marquette County, just outside of Montello in the Town of Buffalo, the 159-acre John Muir Memorial Park, N1424 County Road F, Montello, is open year-round and invites visitors to explore

the outdoors in every season.

Owned by Marquette County and designated a State Natural Area in 1972, Muir Park contains a variety of upland and wetland communities surrounding 30-acre Ennis Lake, so named for the Ennis family who joined the Muirs in first settling the area.

A walking trail allows you to enjoy the area that first encouraged Muir to preserve these perfect pockets of nature for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Published in 1913, in *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*, John Muir wrote, "Oh that glorious Wisconsin wilderness! Everything new and pure in the very prime of spring when Nature's pulses were beating highest and mysteriously keeping time with our own! Young hearts, young leaves, flowers, animals, the winds and the streams and the sparkling lake, all wildly, gladly rejoicing together!"

Open seasonally April through October.  
Call for hours & reservations 608-297-2278

**2025 Season Begins**  
**Friday, April 18**

**\$5 OFF Large Pizza**  
With this ad. Valid 2025

One per customer. Not to be used with other discounts or coupons.

Casual Bistro  
overlooking beautiful White Lake  
N4785 19th Ave, Montello, WI  
Off Hwy 23 halfway between Montello & Princeton

**Nightly Specials & Events**  
**Memorial Day through Labor Day**

**White Lake  
Beach**

Montello, WI

**Nightly specials  
and family friendly events.**

**Check website for more information.**





## neshkoro lions lawn mower racing

A truly unique racing experience returns in 2025 when the Neshkoro Lions Club will once again host the Wisconsin Lawn Mower Racing Association (WILMRA) on Saturday, August 23, at the Lions Park Arena & Pavilion, located one mile north

of Neshkoro on Hwy. 73.

WILMRA was started in 2005 as a local chapter of the national United States Lawn Mower Racing Association (USLMRA).

A growing sport among racing enthusiasts and novices alike, WILMRA hosts some of the na-

tion's fastest lawn mowers, traveling the State of Wisconsin, putting on races for fairs, festivals, events, and numerous other venues.

Join the Neshkoro Lions for a full day of family fun, delicious food fresh off the grill, games, raffles, races, and a host of other activities!

**N**eshkoro invites families to live and play in the community, and visit or vacation throughout the year. Stop for a visit in Neshkoro, and you'll quickly find that the people are some of the friendliest around.

The small community of just around 400 residents is situated on the banks of the picturesque White River. Plentiful history is a hallmark of the town, and today's residents are proud to honor the community's past with beautification projects that enhance the area's natural splendor. In fact, small pockets of beauty are tucked everywhere you look.

Neshkoro has much to offer both residents and visitors alike.

The mill pond and surrounding natural areas, like pristine Tuttle Lake, provide plenty of recreational opportunities.

The vibrant natural countryside around Neshkoro is home to a vineyard, creating the perfect afternoon day trip.

New life has been breathed into the community's former elementary school, which is now home to a community center and popular thrift store.

Neshkoro is known for fun family events such as the Neshkoro Enhancement Committee's Scarecrow Festival – a fall favorite for many throughout the area, and summer brings musical entertainment of various genres to the gazebo on a weekly basis.

One of the area's best church picnics, a spectacular fireworks display and Fourth of July festivities, and even more activities replete with small-town charm, make this community a must-see destination.

In the winter, Neshkoro welcomes those fond of ice fishing to compete in the Lions Club Ice Fisheree and spend a day in the village.

A seasonal highlight for many throughout the Neshkoro area is the Neshkoro Enhancement Committee's annual Scarecrow Festival, held in Stan O'Gene Park.

## SCARECROW festival

The 2025 festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, with a full slate of family fun.

The heart and soul of this big day is the scarecrow contest. Each year, area businesses, youth, and individuals pull out all the creative stops by entering a scarecrow, or a scene featuring multiple scarecrows, in the contest.

Those attending the event can enjoy viewing the scarecrows and voting for their favorite. In addition, festival guests can enter raffles and shop for unique gifts or delicious, locally-produced food among the many downtown arts and crafts vendors.

And there's no shortage of enjoyment for the little ones, with children's activities at the Scarecrow Festival like pony rides, a petting farm, and other fun things to do.

So head on down to Stan O'Gene Park for a lovely fall day full of fun and memories the whole family will enjoy.

# Neshkoro



**SPRINGS GROUP REAL ESTATE**

**DAN BUNCH**  
Realtor / Broker  
608-297-0731  
Dan.Bunchexp@gmail.com

**BARBI GALARNO**  
Real Estate Agent  
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Kicking off Independence Day weekend in 2025, the Neshkoro Area Fire Department will be hosting its annual July celebration on Friday evening, July 4.

# neshkoro independence celebration

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- Smoked Pulled Beef - Chuck Roast
- Smoked BBQ Ribs
- Smoked Brisket
- Smoked Prime Ribs

**Scan for Menu**



Omro is known to be “Historically Connected by Nature,” and it’s easy to see why.

Built on the banks of the beautiful Fox River, the City of Omro has been living up to a legacy of visitors and explorers who started coming to the area in the early 1600s. First settled by Winnebago Native Americans as a fur-trading post, it is said the community’s name came from a French trader and blacksmith, Charles Omereau.

By the late 1800s, Omro was already a major rail stop and hosted fairgrounds for Winnebago County, with a business community that included carriage factories, machine works, and glass shops. Since the 1980s, the former manufacturing center has gone through a revitalization process that has looked at the city as a bridge to the future while honoring and recognizing its rich past through such milestones as a historical walking tour, the Scott Park pavilion project, and the designation of the historic downtown district.

While respecting its glorious past, Omro continues to look ahead to the future with an unbeatable combination of community, social and cultural resources, such as the Carter Memorial Library, the Omro Area Community Center, Future Omro Chamber and Omro’s amazing parks system.

Recent revisions to the City of Omro Comprehensive and Outdoor Recreation plans detail Omro’s smart-growth approach to nurturing its current community strengths, which will further aid development to keep Omro on the forefront of state destinations.

In addition, University of Wisconsin research led to Omro’s designation as a “gain/maintain” community, a place notably capable of drawing and sustaining high numbers of younger residents. This designation has increased Omro’s desirability as a destination, while all ages continue enjoying a city well-known for its remarkable blend of urban and rural assets, making Omro an ideal place in which to live, work, and play.

Area amenities cover every season, from golfing, biking, boating and fishing, to hunting, snowmobiling, ice skating, and more. For anyone shopping among the heritage buildings of Omro’s popular business district, be sure to take some time to check out the wildlife along the riverbanks, or take a stroll around nearby majestic Terrell’s Island to see how Omro combines natural grandeur with urban-style innovation and vision.

Come and be “Historically Connected by Nature” in Omro, the place that is fun and thrilling for families and friends of all ages.

# Omro











# omro family **Aquatic** center

Looking to beat the summer heat? Look no further for a wet and wild adventure than the Omro Family Aquatic Center, 1241 Kiwanis Street, in Fred C. Miller Park. The Aquatic Center is set to open for the 2025 season in early June with daily hours from noon–7 p.m. all summer long.

The pool is fully staffed by certified lifeguards who protect patron safety, provide first aid when necessary and maintain facility cleanliness so all can enjoy the water, which is always a perfect 80–82 degrees.

Along with open recreational swimming, the Aquatic Center also offers swimming lessons, water aerobics, private party rentals, special events and more, with changing rooms, locker rentals, and concessions all available on-site.

The Omro Family Aquatic Center includes a zero depth entry level cement beach that slowly transitions to a 12-foot deep diving well, meaning that even the youngest swimmers can play in water that is at the right depth for their abilities and comfort.

The center also includes two intertwining spiral slides, a plunge flume slide, a frog shaped toddler slide, a one-meter diving board, 48-inch lap lanes, water jets, and two water activity centers.

Daily admission varies, based on age, and season passes are available for both individuals and families. For more information, call the Omro Family Aquatic Center front desk, May–August, at 920-685-0781.



## free recreational **rental** use

Launch from Stearns Park and take a relaxing paddle on the Fox River courtesy of the City of Omro – free of charge!

Two kayaks and two canoes are available to reserve by calling Omro City Hall, 205 S. Webster Avenue, at 920-685-7000.

Users must be at least 18 years old and wear appropriate life jackets, which are also available from the city. Minors are not allowed to use the watercraft unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

Call today to reserve your canoe or kayak and enjoy some fun on the Fox!



## thursday **night** **market**

Scott Park, located on the Fox River, makes a perfect backdrop for fresh, locally grown produce throughout the summer and early fall during Omro’s Thursday Night Market, held 4–7 p.m. every Thursday from June 5–September 18, just a stone’s throw from Main Street in downtown Omro.

The 2025 season marks the 16th year for the market, which has become a favorite local event that provides a premier showcase for area

farmers, artisans, and crafters offering their one-of-a-kind products for residents and visitors alike.

The market’s run features performances by area musicians for “Music at the Market.” As the 2025 season draws closer, a full schedule of Music at the Market dates will be announced.

The Omro Thursday Night Market welcomes participants, from local farmers and licensed food vendors to artists and crafters. For more information, please visit [futureomro.org](http://futureomro.org).



Remembering the brave men and women who have served America throughout its history, Memorial Day in Omro is highlighted by Monday morning's Memorial Day parade on May 26, making its way through the streets of the city starting at 9 a.m.

## 38th annual memorial day

The parade leads members of the public to the morning's observance, hosted by Omro's Daugherty-Hamilton American Legion Post 234, at the Omro Veterans Memorial in Scott Park.

As five panels that list area Veterans' names are read aloud, commemorative flowers are provided to family members for placement at the memorial, followed by a ceremonial rifle salute and the playing of taps by the day's honor guard.



Memorial Day 2025 will also mark the 38th annual Memorial Day Car Show in Omro, hosted on the Fox River shoreline by Future Omro Chamber from 8 a.m.–2 p.m., adding to Omro's unforgettable holiday celebration, with free admission to the public.

While gazing at the many daz-

zling, classic vehicles, make sure to visit the Future Omro concessions fundraiser in the pavilion, along with other vendors in Scott Park. And if you're looking for unique finds and outstanding deals, look no further than the always exciting Omro Citywide Garage Sale, running May 23–26 throughout the community.

There's no better time to celebrate the Fourth of July than on July 4th, and that's exactly what the City of Omro does every year with Independence Day festivities set to return in 2025 on Friday, July 4, to help kick off the long Independence Day weekend.

This star-spangled event draws huge crowds to Omro each year to enjoy beloved traditions including a grand, colorful parade down Omro's historic Main Street.

Between pancakes in the morning and fireworks at dusk, guests are invited to enjoy a slice of pie and some ice cream under the clock tower, visit the Arts & Crafts Fair, try your hand at the various children's games and activities, and the July 4 parade.

Omro's scenic Scott Park plays host to several events, including a huge cookout with live music from the Omro Area Community Band and the evening's featured artist.

And remember, Omro's Fourth is the only place where you'll see hundreds of rubber ducks take to the lagoon for Future Omro Cham-



ber's annual "Quacker 500" duck race, offering thousands of dollars in cash prizes.

Celebrating America's birthday is never more fun than in Omro – which *always* celebrates the Fourth of July on the 4th!

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Lobster • Bluegill  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
1 1/2 lb. Chicken  
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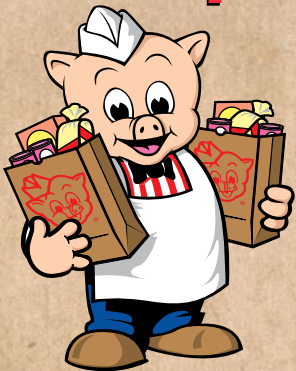
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Omro's booming business community makes each year's Oktoberfest a flagship event for locals and visitors alike.

Bringing innovation and ideas together to generate thrills is just part of what drives Omro's businesses, which continue to build on Oktoberfest's success, bringing thousands to the community year after year.

Returning in 2025 on Saturday, October 11, favorite Oktoberfest events include a craft and vendor fair, Kids Korner activities, a cornhole tournament, pumpkin carving, a pie eating contest, a chili cook-off, and so much more.

Working as one, the Omro business community bands together to host the family-friendly Oktoberfest each year, which thanks the greater Omro community for the support shown to local businesses throughout the year.

The Christmas season returns to Omro on Saturday, December 6, with Future Omro Chamber's Holiday Celebration and Holiday Parade.

With holiday fun lasting throughout the day, the event is highlighted by Saturday evening's annual Holiday Parade through downtown Omro at 5 p.m., as guests line the street to see all the floats and catch a glimpse of the one and only Santa Claus!

Look for additional details about the event, including the 2025 parade theme, in the City of Omro's official newspaper, the *Omro Herald*, in the weeks leading up to the event.





Green Lake County is blessed by its wealth of habitats for birds and wildlife, and many good birding locations can be found along trails with open access to the public. Depending on the time of year, some places will vary considerably in what birdlife might be present, while other sites might provide great opportunities to find birds during any season. In general the best time of year for bird-watching is spring and summer – especially April through July – when migrants are passing through, or individuals are engaged in territorial displays and breeding activities.

Over 260 bird species have been found in the area, including a nice variety of waterfowl, hawks and owls, woodpeckers, thrushes, sparrows, warblers, and finches. Some of the favorites include: common loon, American white pelican, wild turkey, American woodcock, pileated woodpecker, scarlet tanager, and indigo bunting. In winter, one can sometimes encounter a rough-legged hawk, snowy owl, northern shrike, snow bunting, and both crossbills. Some of the unusual or rare birds that have been found here have been Iceland gull, yellow rail, golden eagle, snowy plover, summer tanager, Carolina wren, Bohemian waxwing and Harris' sparrow.

Starting relatively close to the lake, there are a number of Green Lake Conservancy sites that can provide



## Birds of a Feather

### Green Lake County has a thriving birdwatching community



a good bird-watching experience. One of the best is Sunnyside Conservancy, which is located along Silver Creek Inlet, off Lakeview Drive, and contains several lagoons and about two miles of trails. Other conservancy hiking areas include Hammer's Trail and Winnebago Trail, both are located within the Green Lake Conference Center and overlook the lake. Norwegian Bay Conservancy is another excellent place to go, and has a long boardwalk that extends through a marsh to the shore of Norwegian Bay.

A little farther from the lake are two very large state-owned properties that can provide wonderful birding opportunities. One is the White River Marsh State Wildlife area, located north of Princeton and southwest of Berlin; and the other is Grand River State Wildlife Area, just west of Kingston. Another good option is the Snake Creek Wetlands Trail, which follows an abandoned railroad right-of-way between Swamp and St. Marie roads.

*Courtesy of Tom Schulz,  
Wildlife Artist/Ornithologist*



Oshkosh's popularity as "Event City" continues to grow every year. From airplanes to music to sports and more, there is something for everyone in Winnebago County's largest city.

Internationally known, Oshkosh is the center of the aviation universe one week every year as hundreds of thousands of people and tens of thousands of planes visit Wittman Regional Airport for the 72nd annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, July 21–27. Visitors can spend a day or the whole week getting an up-close look at all manner of aircraft and the latest technological breakthroughs in the world of aeronautics.

Want music? Well, take your pick. Lifest, one of the largest Christian music festivals in the nation, is set for July 10–13 at the Sunnyview Expo Center, and there is also music every week on Thursday evening, Memorial Day through Labor Day, at Waterfest at the legendary Leach Amphitheater.

Oshkosh is certainly close enough to some of the biggest sports venues in the state, but there is no reason to leave the city for high-caliber athleticism. The Milwaukee Herd of the NBA's G-League makes its home in Oshkosh Arena, where it shares the court with the championship-winning Wisconsin GLO women's basketball team.

Oshkosh Arena offers a wide range of opportunities to kick back and relax. The venue, which has its own restaurant, hosts everything from concerts to professional wrestling events, boxing cards, and even the occasional roller derby match.

Menominee Park, along beautiful Lake Winnebago, offers a perfect picnic opportunity on a summer day and while you're there, check out the easily walkable zoo or take a paddle boat ride around Miller's Bay.

If that isn't enough, visitors to Oshkosh can also check out the EAA AirVenture Museum, which is open year-round; Oshkosh Public Museum; the breathtaking exhibitions at the Paine Art Center and Gardens; or the unique Grand Opera House.

Oshkosh features a wealth of shopping opportunities at a myriad of stores including the outlet mall, also yearly car shows and food truck nights at South Park, and the picturesque Wiouwash Trail, for that nice hike or bike ride.

No matter when you visit Oshkosh, there is always something fun waiting.



# Oshkosh









# EAA AirVenture oshkosh 2025

It's one of the biggest events in Wisconsin every summer and a great time for all, "plane" and simple.

Setting yet another new record a year ago with 686,000 guests – the sixth time in the event's history to welcome attendance over the 600,000 mark – the 72nd annual EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2025 is looking to be even bigger and better when it returns July 21–27.

More than 10,000 aircraft routinely make the sojourn to Oshkosh every year, bringing flight enthusiasts from around the globe to the event. Visitors can see everything from vintage warbirds and the historic planes of World War II that helped shape America's victory, to the supersonic military jets of today. Get up close and see the planes put through their paces during the daily air shows.

There is also a nod to the future of the flight industry with the latest innovations in the world of aircraft on display, and with the regular litany of demonstrations, forums, and presentations that are put on throughout

the week, it's a dreamworld for anyone interested in the aviation arena.

"Our annual goal is to create a gathering of people and airplanes that is found nowhere else in the world, and continue to improve the experience for EAA members and visitors," said EAA Chairman and CEO Jack J. Pelton.

While specific activities and aircraft will be announced as they are finalized, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2025 will surely impress one and all while continuing to provide fun for the whole family with longstanding youth activities and programs, including such popular offerings as the hands-on KidVenture display and program area; technology, innovation, and education options throughout the grounds; and extraordinary events such as daily air shows and more than 1,500 forums, workshops, and seminars.

Mark your calendars for the 72nd Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in convention, scheduled for July 21–27, and enjoy a week at the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration.

## Waterfest

Located along the beautiful Fox River in downtown Oshkosh, the legendary Leach Amphitheater is home to Waterfest, a weekly celebration of all styles of music throughout the summer.

Held weekly, every Thursday, Memorial Day through Labor Day, Waterfest welcomes an array of musical acts allowing spectators the opportunity to sit back, relax, and enjoy. Last year's lineup included heavy hitters like Los Lonely Boys, Copper Box, Gin Blossoms and Better Than Ezra, just to name a few. The lineup is always top-notch and includes something for everyone.

But Waterfest, which was first

held in Oshkosh in 1985, is more than just music. It's about the atmosphere at this beautiful outdoor venue that welcomes patrons who make the short walk from downtown, to those who use the Fox River to reach the site, dock their boats, and

watch the shows from there. And all who stop by can enjoy the variety of affordable food and beverage options sure to fulfill any craving.

Admission to Waterfest varies in relation to the main act and is free for U.S. Armed Forces Veterans.



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The secret is out. Green Lake County draws in anglers of all ages hook, line and sinker, so grab your rod, reel, and tackle box and get ready to catch your daily limit! It's just a matter of picking that perfect spot to wet your lines.

Whether it's challenging the depths of Big Green Lake, testing the shallow waters of Lake Puckaway or maybe casting into the currents from the shoreline of the Fox River, there's something for every angler out there. Although fishing is a year-round activity, there are two distinct seasons and two different types of fishing that await anglers in Green Lake County.

The open-water season hits its prime when the temperature starts to climb in the summer months, while the unique fun of walking on the frozen lakes and drilling a hole in the ice to pull out a catch calls to anglers in the winter months.

Both types of fishing bring plenty of anglers to the waters of Green Lake County and offer up trophy-sized rewards to those able to outwit their finned opponents.

The most notable fishing destination in Green Lake County is none other than Big Green Lake. The nearly 8,000-acre lake is the deepest inland lake in Wisconsin with a maximum depth of 236 feet. It's serviced by eight different boat landings to provide easy access to all corners of the lake.

The depths of Big Green offer up walleye, trout and even some northern pike, while the various bays on the lake's calm outskirts are perfect for producing scores of panfish – especially in the winter. Bass and catfish are also plentiful along the



## The fish are itching for you to drop them a line

shorelines and can be found hiding in the natural vegetation of the lake.

Little Green Lake, located due south of its big brother, and just north of Markesan, is smaller and calmer but just as popular a destination for anglers. The lake measures 462 acres with a maximum depth of 28 feet and is one of the best spots for walleye in the state.

Want more of a challenge? Little Green is a musky-hunter's paradise. But be careful when you try to bring one of those into your boat. They grow so big in Little Green Lake that those monsters may just thrash you out of the boat! Or you can go after the wealth of panfish and bass the lake has to offer, which can be turned into a tasty dinner once the day is done.

Also in the southern half of the county, Lake Puckaway offers another unique challenge for anglers with its more than 5,000 acres of

shallow water.

How shallow is Lake Puckaway? Well, most adults can touch the bottom anywhere within the lake's parameters with a maximum depth of only five feet, but be mindful, the lake floor is covered with vegetation, which is why the lake holds a wealth of fish just waiting to be caught. The most common catches will be walleye or catfish, however, don't be surprised to land a northern pike, largemouth bass or the occasional musky.

Before hitting any of the lakes, check out the local boating and fishing ordinances and make sure your fishing licenses are up to date.

And if the fish prove stingy, don't worry, there are a number of amazing lakeside restaurants throughout the area where you can sit back with your friends and talk about the ones that got away, while embellishing your stories about the ones that didn't!







RAYMOND "DUKE" SCHLAEFER  
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# Princeton





Princeton is a gem in the crown of the Fox River waterway, serving as an oasis of outdoor recreation, a treasure trove of rich history and a shopper's paradise of unique items along with a reinvented downtown with big-city style.

From the days of Father Marquette to steamboats and agriculture, industry, and its famous antique and retail shopping, historic Princeton offers something for everyone, year-round and in every season.

Filled with warmth and charm, the people and local business owners truly make Princeton the community it is, boasting a strong feeling of belonging where people are friendly and helpful, and the roots of hometown pride run deep.

No matter when you visit, you'll find ample opportunities to kayak and canoe on the Fox and Mecedun rivers, head out for a walk, or enjoy a run on one of Princeton's picturesque back roads, not to mention the three bike trails throughout the community that take riders on some of the most scenic vistas around.

A history-lover's paradise, Princeton is a community devoted to reverent appreciation of its extensive historic past. Not enough can be said about Princeton's history, with everything from lovingly-renovated downtown buildings to tiny rural cemeteries to explore.

In winter, there are even more opportunities to savor the great outdoors – such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and fat tire bicycling.

People of all ages are proud to call Princeton home, and the city is highlighted by its excellent schools and churches, plus a recently completely renovated public library. Princeton is honored to be known as having the oldest church picnic in the state, and as the home of Wisconsin's largest weekly outdoor flea market, which starts its next great 50 years in 2025, and continues to bring thousands of bargain-hunters to the area every season.

The antique shops throughout Princeton, plus the retailers of Water Street and beyond, provide a whole world of unique shopping opportunities sure to please.

With splendid dining establishments to satisfy your cravings, and lodging throughout the area, not to mention festivals and events for the whole family to enjoy throughout the year, Princeton is the perfect destination for a multi-day family vacation.

From arts and crafts fairs to celebrating the winter holidays in style, opportunities for fun exist around every corner just waiting to be found.

Whether you're a resident of Princeton or just visiting, explore what the community has to offer – there's always something new to discover!





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www.MNMAntiqueMall.com  
 MNMAntiqueMall@centurylink.net

While bargain hunters visit the Princeton Flea Market from April to October, treasure hunters from near and far know that additional finds can be found year-round at Princeton's several antique stores and malls.

# antique shopping in princeton

Well-known for its exquisite variety of excellent antiques, beloved collectibles, and awe-inspiring treasures, Princeton's antique shopping meccas are some of the first landmarks spotted by those entering the community for the first time. Attracting customers in search of a particular item to add to their collection or that perfect gift for someone who loves unique treasures from yesteryear, you're sure to have a smile on your face as you spot that something special that brings back fond memories.

Shops such as Woolbright's River City Antique Mall and MNM Antique Mall are located right at the edge of the Famous Princeton Flea Market and are an antique lover's paradise, featuring everything from architectural salvage, primitives, vintage, furniture, farm and garden, jewelry, glassware, and holiday decorations among their extensive offerings.

Be sure to stop by next time you're in town. There's no telling what treasures you'll find!

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“Inspired by the rich history of Wisconsin small towns – from Spring Green to Door County – that owe their vibrancy in part to a group of artist-friends, PARC hopes to strengthen Princeton’s reputation as an arts destination through investments that increase support for local artists and invite more residents and visitors to make art in the community,” said Greg Wright, President of the Board of the Princeton Art Collective (PARC) to Princeton’s Board of Zoning Appeals in early September 2024.

The presentation led to approval, by the City of Princeton, for the crane mural by artist Nick Goettling on the side of Twister, LLC, 602 West Water Street, in downtown Princeton.

The mural depicting cranes flying toward the river was officially unveiled just one month later on October 5, 2024.

Dennis Galatowitsch, owner of Twister, said, “We were asked, by Greg Wright, if we would volunteer a building wall for a mural. We had



to do some tuck pointing before the wall was ready for the mural. The community stepped in to help. Greg Wright and Matt Trotter were there as well as Jennifer from Knickerbocker Landing and Dennis Orlov from Field Blend Wines.”

“The mural is completely awesome. We love the concept. It pays homage to the history of Princeton and to Princeton’s relationship with

the whooping crane,” concluded Galatowitsch.

Carol Bielski, organizer of the Crane Fest for eight years after taking over from Mary Beth and Operation Migration, said, “I think the mural is very beautiful and pretty cool.”

The mural continues to stand as a sight to behold, regularly drawing attention from visitors to Princeton’s downtown area during shopping trips, visits to see the sturgeon spawning, or during Princeton’s various events, with PARC continuing to plan future art installations in the city for current residents and future visitors to enjoy.

## historic walking tours

Available year-round, the self-guided tour throughout Princeton features more than 50 locations with historic plaques that are either mounted directly on buildings or on freestanding pedestals. Access to the walking tour is available through your mobile phone or tablet. Visit the historic area at [princetonhistorictour.com](http://princetonhistorictour.com), or you can view the map and information by going to the City of Princeton website, [city-of-princetonwi.com](http://city-of-princetonwi.com), and look under the “Tourism” tab to find a map showing the various plaque locations along with stories and pictures.

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For more information on everything Princeton has to offer, pick up a copy of the 2025 Princeton Visitors Guide.

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## cemetery walk

Did you know that Princeton has its own Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Potter's Field, which is the final resting place for the poor, unknown, and others with no families?

Did you know Princeton was under quarantine in 1883 as a small-pox epidemic swept through town, wiping out entire families?

These and many other facts from the community's rich, historic roots will be shared for the amazement of all at the "Tombstones Come Alive" guided cemetery walking tour, held this year on August 23, at the Princeton City Cemetery located on Highway 73.

The annual walking tour fosters a sense of appreciation for the city's former residents and the real-life stories that they lived. History comes alive for guests as costumed volunteer actors share interesting facts about the lives of actual residents from Princeton's past. Each resident's story is dutifully researched throughout the year, often in coordination with ancestors whose family history continues to be passed from generation to generation.

Educational and entertaining, the cemetery walk also serves as a fundraiser and raises awareness of the city's ongoing efforts to preserve and restore older headstones and retaining walls that surround various gravesites, while compiling information about those buried in the cemetery.



## polish picnic

After celebrating more than a century of "Polish Picnic" fun, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church doesn't rest when it comes to providing an outstanding afternoon of relaxing enjoyment, year after year.

Long-heralded as having the oldest church picnic in the state, the Princeton parish is ready to keep the fun going strong with games, music, and excitement at its Church Picnic and Annual Car Show.

The annual event is typically held in mid-August, however as of this guide's publication, the 2025 date has not yet been set. Be sure to check out Berlin Journal Newspapers' full slate of publications, in early August, for updates on the full slate of things to see and do.

Typical events include a delicious old-fashioned meal of beef and chicken with all the trimmings. Homemade pies, cakes, and other desserts will tempt your sweet tooth, and other concessions will be available throughout the day.

With live music, classic games, a large assortment of raffles, and plenty of opportunities to visit and share stories and laughs, the day is sure to be one to remember! The picnic also features a car show as classics from across the state will line the shady church grounds.

The event is held rain or shine, and begins after Sunday services at approximately 11 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 125 Church Street in Princeton.

## Christmas in Princeton

Nothing rings in the holiday season each year like the annual Christmas in Princeton, November 28–30, which offers a magical time for families and friends to enjoy the warmth and charm of festive events throughout the area. From the fantastic Lights on Water Street Electrical Parade, to visits with Santa, delicious goodies to savor, and plenty of shopping opportunities for everyone on your list, Christmas in Princeton has it all!

This beloved annual event features multiple opportunities for children to visit with Santa Claus and share the special items on their wish lists, along with a spectacular nighttime electrical parade that's followed by the ceremonial lighting of the city's beautiful Christmas tree.

To get a jump on your gift-giving list, a wide assortment of craft fairs are held throughout the greater Princeton area, and several business open houses welcome guests with special holiday offerings.



From Breakfast with Santa to Unity's Festival of Trees and so much more, you never know what you'll come across when you celebrate Christmas in Princeton, and you won't want to miss a thing!

With planning for the event continuing throughout the year, look for more information, including a full schedule of events, in the special *Christmas in Princeton* section, published by Berlin Journal Newspapers leading up to the event.





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# THE famous princeton flea market

Welcoming visitors from near and far from mid-April to mid-October, the Famous Princeton Flea Market begins its next 50 years in 2025 as "Wisconsin's Largest Weekly Outdoor Flea Market" continues going strong year after year.

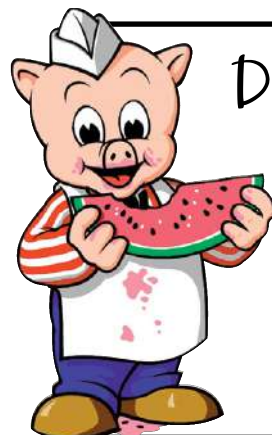
The Flea Market regularly welcomes over 100 vendors who register to set up shop each and every week throughout the season, with still several dozens more coming to Princeton City Park sporadically throughout the spring, summer and early fall months, guaranteeing you're sure to see something different every time you visit!

Opening this season on April 19, the Princeton Flea Market will once again amaze visitors and residents with a wide array of items available for purchase including fresh produce, cheese, baked goods, antiques, books, clothing, crafts, jewelry, and handcrafted furniture, among the many other offerings.

Held every Saturday from approximately 6 a.m.–1 p.m. through October 11, the Princeton Flea Market regularly attracts thousands of visitors each Saturday, rain or shine. With free parking and wide walking lanes in Princeton City Park, the large crowds never feel crowded. To keep your energy up, be sure to check out the tasty treats sold at the Flea Market Food Booth in the middle of the park, which are served by different Princeton-based organizations each week.

Once you've seen everything at the Flea Market, be sure to head downtown for a delicious lunch at one of Princeton's many great restaurants located throughout the community, and then, why not make a day of it by continuing your adventures at the unique shops and antique malls of Princeton?

For more information, please contact the Princeton Chamber of Commerce at 920-295-3877.



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Ripon is known by many names – CookieTown USA, the birthplace of the Republican Party, and the location of the very first Marcus movie theater – and for nearly 8,000 year-round residents, it’s known as home with thousands more visiting every year.

Founded in 1849 by David P. Mapes, who would go on to found Ripon College just two years later, Ripon continues to be a historic city for residents and visitors alike.

One of the most popular destinations in the community, Ripon’s downtown Main Street features dozens of unique boutique shops and restaurants, with the area also serving as host to sev-

eral of the city’s most popular annual events including wine walks, sweet strolls, Septemberfest, and Dickens of a Christmas, just to name a few.

Located just south of downtown, Ripon’s annual free Summer Concert Series is held every Friday night, June–August, at the Village Green on the corner of Watson and Seward streets.

Widely recognized as the birthplace of the Republican Party, Ripon’s Little White Schoolhouse was designated a National Historic Site in 1974 and continues to offer a glimpse into the past, where America’s earliest political leaders gathered to change the political climate of the United States. Today, the schoolhouse is home to a museum

detailing the Republican Party’s early beginnings in addition to hosting various speakers throughout the year.

A nationally known and respected institution, Ripon College further enriches the community with various art shows, musical concerts, plays, and speakers, in addition to numerous sporting events throughout the year as a member of the NCAA Division 3 Midwest Conference.

With numerous shops and popular restaurants located in historic downtown and throughout the community, Ripon continues to be a great place to connect and spend time with friends, whether you call the area home or are just visiting for a day, a week or more.

# Ripon





There's no better way to spend your day than by strolling through downtown Ripon with a tasty beverage or a sweet treat in your hand, and the Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce is offering five opportunities to do so in 2025.

The new year kicks off with the Sweet Stroll Sugar Rush on Saturday, February 15, where guests will have the opportunity to sample seven delectable desserts from 5–7 p.m.

Next, enjoy getting outside after a long Wisconsin winter with a trip to Ripon for the Spring WineWalk on Friday, April 25. During the event, which takes place from 5:30–8:30 p.m., businesses will become “tasting

rooms” where attendees may sample up to 16 different wines throughout the evening.

Always a beautiful time to visit Ripon, the Summertime Sip & Stroll is set for Saturday, July 19, from 1–4 p.m. where 15 stops await, offering guests a sparkling assortment of seltzers, teas, lemonades and other offerings.

Heading into the fall, the Rhythm & Brews Craft Beer Celebration returns on Friday,

October 10, from 5:30–8:30 p.m., offering guests the opportunity to sample up to 14 specialty seasonal craft brews at participating businesses.

One month later, before the cold weather settles in, downtown Ripon will see the return of the Holiday WineWalk from 5:30–8:30 p.m. on Friday, November 7. Guests will once again have the opportunity to enjoy up to 16 different samples, from a selection of over 40 wines, throughout the evening.

During all five events, participating businesses will serve as stops, with several additional shops throughout downtown Ripon also staying open outside of normal hours for guests to stop in and shop, with proceeds from the events benefiting beautification projects throughout downtown Ripon and community festivals, including Christmas in the Village and Dickens of a Christmas.

Please keep in mind, that all five events require tickets to participate, and due to each event's growing popularity, please be sure to contact the Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce for more information and ticket availability.

A thriving blend of businesses, from restaurants to retail, line historic downtown Ripon, making it easy to see why the area is a favorite spot to shop and dine for locals while continuing to draw thousands of visitors throughout the year.

Having seen a renaissance in recent years, several new businesses have opened their doors in downtown Ripon, which now boasts an eclectic mix of cosmopolitan stores for every taste, lively pubs, tasty restaurants, and relaxing coffee shops serving as the cornerstone of the city.

## downtown ripon

A three-time semifinalist of the Great American Main Street Award, Ripon's downtown is a hub of activity whether you're shopping, grabbing a bite to eat, or just strolling through the area with friends, in addition to serving as a location-host to favorite annual community events such as Dickens of a Christmas, Scooping the Loop, and the Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce's famous wine walks, sweet stroll, and beerfest, just to name a few.

At the southern end of downtown Ripon, you'll find the Village Green where the Ripon Summer Concert Series is held every Friday night throughout the summer months, allowing guests to enjoy the beautiful Wisconsin summer evenings with the companionship of family and friends. Week after week, the area is treated to an outstanding lineup of blues, rock, jazz, country, and other music styles in a quaint outdoor setting, every Friday evening from June through August.

With plenty of green space to spread out on, guests often bring blankets or lawn chairs so they can sit back, relax, and unwind after a long week. Come and see, and you'll be sure to be dancing in your seat by the end of the first song!

From home decor to the latest fashion, and from board games and hobbies to antiques, downtown Ripon has it all. And to keep up your energy, be sure to check out the many restaurants offering the area's best pizza, authentic southern barbecue, local microbrews, or even a tall ice cream cone to cool down on a hot summer day!

wine walks  
sweet strolls

& rhythm  
& brews





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## summer concert series

Returning to the stage at the Village Green in historic downtown Ripon, the Horicon Bank Ripon Summer Concert Series is set to return this summer with concerts running from 7–10 p.m. every Friday night, June–August.

The Summer Concert Series encompasses a wide range of musical genres including country, blues, classic rock, and other styles, and is free to the public at the Village Green, located on the southern end of historic downtown Ripon at the corner of Watson and Seward streets.

A variety of beverages will be available and guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, or you can simply dance the night away! Please note, carry-ins are not allowed in the park as beverage sales help cover the entertainment expenses in order to keep the Summer Concert Series a free event for all to attend.



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A beloved annual event that brings people back to the area year after year, Ripon's 35th annual Dickens of a Christmas returns to downtown Ripon in 2025 for a fun-filled weekend, December 5-6.

The Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to ring in the holiday season with a visit to the always heartwarming and memorable annual Christmas tradition. With several favorite events anticipated to return, the Victorian-themed Dickens of a Christmas festival never disappoints.



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The weekend includes activities such as Friday evening's Dickens Holiday Parade, Saturday morning's Breakfast with Santa, and, of course, Saturday evening's Living Windows display.

A mainstay at Dickens of a Christmas, making it the area's favorite Yuletide season destination since its inception, the highly anticipated Living Windows are hosted each year by several downtown businesses, where area residents take the place of mannequins to make

for a truly unique visual experience as the scenes depicted tell their own Christmas story.

Other Dickens of a Christmas attractions to bring out the holiday spirit include the eclectic Enchanted Forest of beautifully decorated trees, unforgettable live musical performances, Gingerbread House Contest, the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter's annual Dickens of a Christmas Bake Sale, and much more fun for the entire family.

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Small and unassuming, Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse is a simple frame schoolhouse, the first school in the Town of Ripon in fact, having opened its doors in October 1853.

Like many schoolhouses of the time, the building was more than just a place where students went to learn, and while many a schoolhouse dotted the countryside in communities throughout the country, Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse is the only one that holds the distinction of being the birthplace of the Republican Party.

Community schoolhouses also served as town meeting places, and the Little White Schoolhouse was no different, figuring prominently into the history of the United States of America.

Feeling the vitality of his Whig party had vanished on a party platform that no longer commanded the attention of the people, Alvan E. Bovay, a young lawyer from New York, had settled in Ripon with his family in 1850.

Frustrated by the anticipated passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which would extend slavery west, Bovay called a meeting to be held on March 1, 1854, at a church in the Village of Ripon where those present adopted resolutions speaking out against the proposed Nebraska Bill being debated in the Senate at the time.

The bill was passed by the Senate two days later, and it was believed it would also pass the House, leading Bovay to call a second meeting, this time in Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse, at which time a formal vote dissolved the local Free Soil and Whig parties as three former Whigs, a Democrat, and a Free Soiler were chosen as the committee of the newly formed Republican Party.

The date was March 20, 1854.



## The Little White Schoolhouse and the Republican Party

In the months that followed, the new party quickly swept through the states, growing larger with every member that joined. Jackson, Michigan, would later be recognized as the location of the first state Republican convention, with a meeting hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, being recognized as the location of the first Republican National Convention. Each of the three locations were granted landmark status by the U.S. Department of the Interior, but Jackson, Michigan, and the meeting hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, would not have been possible if the Republican Party had not first been born in Ripon, Wisconsin.

The Little White Schoolhouse continues to serve as a museum that contains artifacts that relate the story of that all-too-important meeting in March 1854, along with other stories that tell about the founding of Ripon and what school life was like for children in the 1850s.

Moved over the years in order to preserve its historic status, in early 2023, the Little White Schoolhouse was moved to its current location at 1074 West Fond du Lac Street, allowing for increased visibility and greater access with better parking for guests and bus tours.

The Little White Schoolhouse is available to visitors throughout the year with daily hours from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. from Memorial Day, May 26 through Labor Day, September 1. Following Labor Day, the Little White Schoolhouse is open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. through the end of September. Tours may also be arranged by contacting the Ripon Chamber of Commerce at 920-748-6764 during the fall and winter months.

The building also hosts various events throughout the year and may be rented for private occasions to give your next meeting or gathering a historic flair.

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And what better way to get away from it all and reconnect with friends and family than with a bag of marshmallows around a campfire? Or maybe you want to get away from all the distractions and sit down with a good book on the banks of a river or lake? And with many campgrounds so close to walking trails, not to mention the many ATV/UTV road routes, the ability to explore the many area communities during a fun hike or ride will create additional memories that will surely last a lifetime.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 72

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

When compared to other lodging, especially for large groups who like to spread out instead of being cramped in a single room, many find camping a more affordable way to visit new areas, allowing them to extend their stay, splurge on an extra meal out, or just set some money aside for another weekend getaway later in the year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 74

<b>HIKING TRAILS</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Norwegian Bay Wetlands</li> <li>2 Assembly Creek &amp; Springs/Hammers Trail</li> <li>3 Winnebago Trail</li> <li>4 Forest Avenue Oak Savanna</li> <li>5 Highknocker Trail</li> <li>6 Sunnyside Conservancy</li> <li>7 Guskey/Miller Prairie</li> <li>8 Pool's Hill Nature Preserve &amp; Sugar Island Wetlands</li> <li>9 Mitchell Glen (Guided Tours Only)</li> <li>10 Tuleta Hill Prairie</li> <li>11 Tichora Conservancy</li> <li>12 Wick Nature Preserve</li> <li>13 Snake Creek Wetlands Trail</li> <li>14 South Woods</li> <li>15 Black Bridge Nature Trail</li> <li>16 Riggs Park Nature Trails</li> </ol>	<b>BIKING ROUTES</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Loop the Lake</li> <li>2 Lauree's Trail</li> <li>3 Northwestern Trail</li> <li>4 Mascoutin Valley State Trail</li> <li>5 East End Loop</li> <li>6 Ceresco Praire Mtn. Bike Trail</li> <li>7 Little Green Loop</li> <li>8 Huckleberry Loop</li> <li>9 White River Marsh Loop</li> <li>10 Forest Ridge Loop</li> <li>11 Ext. Little Green Lake Loop</li> <li>12 Marquette/Grand River Route</li> <li>13 Amish Country Route</li> </ol>	<b>CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCHES</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Assembly Creek Landing</li> <li>2 Spaulding's Bridge Landing</li> <li>3 Lake Street Launch</li> <li>4 Marquette City Landing</li> <li>5 Wicks Landing</li> <li>6 Princeton Lock and Dam</li> <li>7 Heistand Park</li> <li>8 St. Marie Boat Ramp</li> <li>9 Berlin Landing</li> <li>10 Riverside Park Landing</li> </ol>	 <b>PARKS</b>  <b>BOAT LAUNCHES</b>  <b>BEACHES</b>  <b>GOLF COURSES</b> <b>POOLS/SPLASH PAD</b>
	<b>DOG PARKS</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Ripon Dog Park</li> <li>2 Green Lake Dog Park</li> </ol>	<b>DISC GOLF</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Zobel County Park</li> <li>2 Riverside Park</li> <li>3 Markesan Athletic Field</li> <li>4 Riggs County Park</li> <li>5 Murray Park</li> </ol>	



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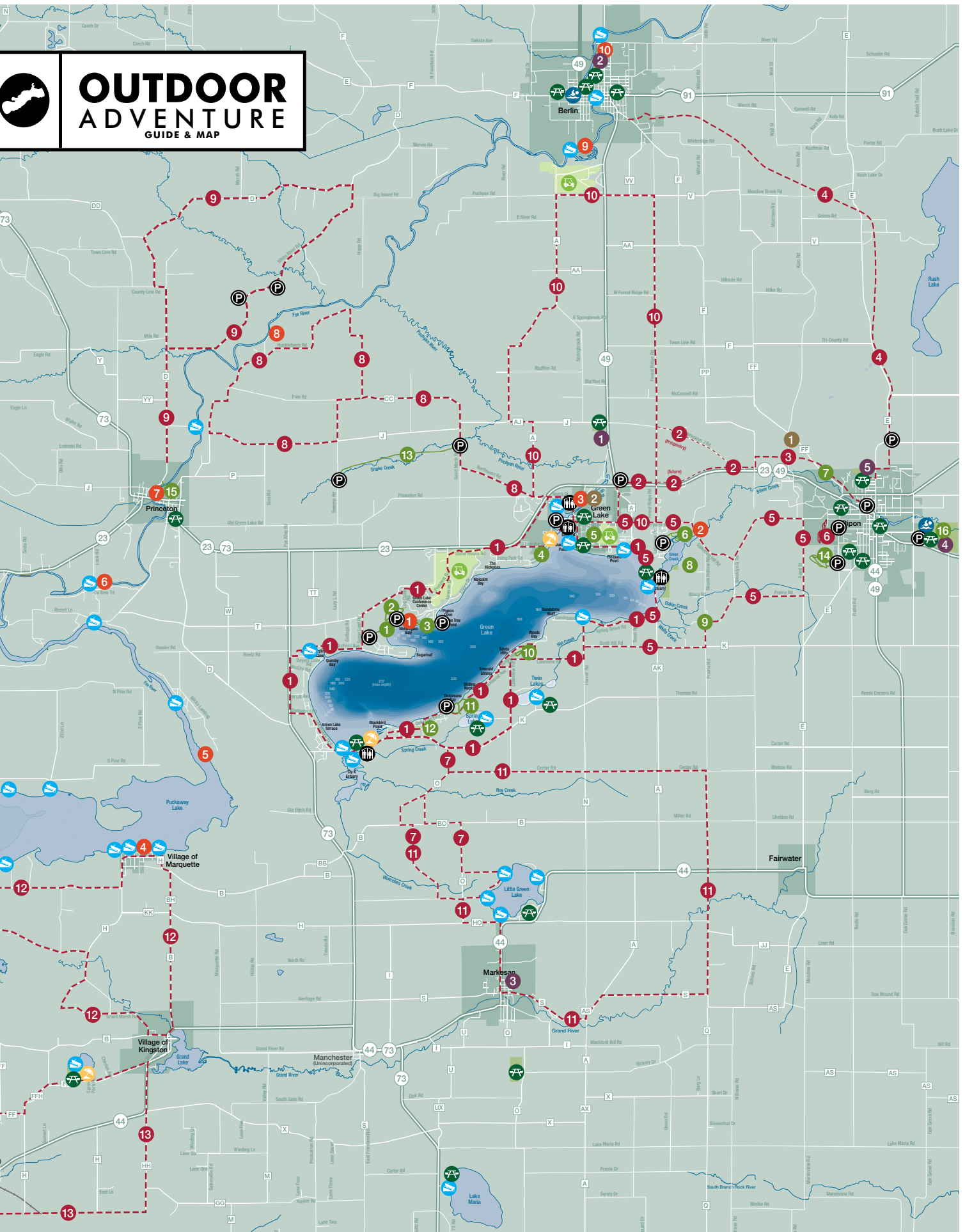
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# OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GUIDE & MAP







CONTINUED FROM PAGE 72

Every year, thousands of visitors to the greater Green Lake County area enjoy one of more than a dozen different campgrounds in East Central Wisconsin for the amenities they provide and the additional memories they create. Whether you have an RV to hook up or are content with pitching a tent, local campgrounds provide the opportunity to be close to a community's events while still allowing you to get away from it all.

When choosing your campground, be sure to ask about special events they may be hosting on-site, from concerts to family festivals. Many campgrounds also often offer playgrounds, firepits, hiking trails, swimming opportunities, and more.

Even if your favorite campground is in a neighboring community from where you live, the fun you'll have and the memories you'll make are endless, and it's all as easy as walking out your front door.



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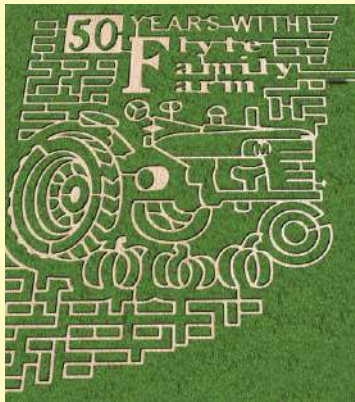
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**2025 Events:**

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**R**edgranite, a small rural village nestled in eastern Waushara County, boasts big energy throughout the year for residents and visitors alike. The village was once a popular mining town that became widely known in the late 1800s when large boulders of red rock were discovered. Finding the rock, a red mahogany granite, so rich and beautiful in color, villagers named the community after it and Redgranite was born.

The village quickly became known to quarrymen near and far, who helped the city grow in leaps and bounds by mining the granite and other hard stone from the six active quarries that once operated in Redgranite. The town quickly continued to grow into a prime place for small-town living, offering a friendly community where its neighbors became like family, and everyone knew each other's names.

Many who pass through Redgranite enjoy a stop at the

Redgranite Quarry, the area's most recognized quarry and one that remains open to the public via a wondrous trail. The quarry offers a beautiful backdrop, with breathtaking scenery in the spring, summer or fall to breathe in some fresh air during a short hike.

Redgranite, as well as the area surrounding the village, offers great enjoyment of the outdoors, with places for hunting, fishing, boating, and camping. It's a nature lover's dream, with beautiful parks offering places for families or groups of friends to enjoy.

Taking pride in its hometown roots, the Village of Redgranite has a host of small businesses and eateries that are as welcoming as the people themselves.

A village built on hard work and old-fashioned kindness, Redgranite is a destination to explore, play, and discover no matter what time of year, and no matter how long your visit.

# Redgranite





# Redgranite Labor Day

Known throughout East Central Wisconsin for hosting one of the area's longest Labor Day weekends, Redgranite has become a traditional place where families, friends, and neighbors gather together to celebrate and enjoy the last summer weekend of the year.

In fact, the Redgranite Labor Day celebration has even earned the distinction of being the longest-running annual celebration of the holiday throughout the State of Wisconsin, with the long weekend

paying tribute to the country's workforce and offering a fun-filled family event this year on Saturday through Monday, August 30–September 1.

Highlights throughout the weekend include an amazing lineup of live musical performances, raffles, prize drawings and much, much more. With a weekend full of arts and crafts, food, music, and fun, Redgranite Labor Day has something for everyone, and is something that many wait for each year.

The final day, Labor Day Monday,

hosts the much anticipated holiday parade, complete with traditional floats, candy, and curbs lined with kids and adults. The day continues with ice cream, a chicken BBQ and afternoon entertainment.

This year's Labor Day Festival in Redgranite will start on Saturday, August 30 and run through Monday, September 1.

Mark your calendar and plan to visit, relax, and enjoy the extended Labor Day weekend in Redgranite where the fun awaits you!




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# Waushara County

**W**here Up North begins! One look at the towering pines and crystal-blue waters alongside its scenic roadways, and it becomes readily apparent why Waushara County prides itself on being "Where Up North Begins."

A perfect haven for lovers of outdoors, no matter what the season, Waushara County has something to offer anyone who indulges in all that Mother Nature has to offer.

Despite its modest size of just 648 square miles, the county calls itself home to about 100 lakes, offering more than 600 miles of shoreline waiting for everyone from swimmers and boaters to avid fishermen to explore.

A popular statewide destination among sporting enthusiasts, Waushara County boasts 7,000 acres of public hunting and fishing areas. Those more inclined to just enjoy the scenery while still catering to their affinity for the outdoors can take in the sights along nearly 300 miles of snowmobile trails, as well as many picturesque biking and hiking trails. Thrill seekers won't want to miss the chance to soak up the scenery from the slopes at Nordic Mountain, an area hot spot for skiing and snowboarding aficionados.

Also home to many of the area's most well-maintained county parks, including the Mount Morris Park affording spectacular views

of the serene countryside, Waushara County has something to keep the young and old alike entertained throughout the year. Those visiting during the temperate seasons will want to remember to pack their golf bags, as 45 holes at Waushara Country Club and Two Oaks


## Four Seasons to Smile!

North Golf Club are sure to put their skills to the test.

Visitors who prefer the indoors will want to enjoy a concert or show at the acclaimed McComb/Bruchs Performing Arts Center in Wautoma, which draws many popular and award-winning acts catering to all tastes.

Not interested in live entertainment but still looking for something fun to do indoors? Waushara County is also a favorite among shoppers and diners, making it a perfect place to enjoy an unforgettable meal or find a keepsake to commemorate their stay.

Don't take our word for it, though ... come and see what Waushara County has to offer you!

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# 2025 EVENTS



**Special Needs Prom**  
May 10, 2025

**Coloma Chicken Chew**  
June 27, 28 & 29, 2025



**Waushara County Dairy Breakfast**  
June 29, 2025

**Waushara County Fair**  
August 14-17, 2025



**Wild Rose Classic Car Show & Cruise**  
September 19, 2025 (Cruise)  
September 20, 2025 (Show)



**Tri-County Threshermen's Association**



**37th Annual Show**  
**June 12, 13, 14, 2025**  
Veterans Memorial Park • Plainfield, WI 54966  
Show Info: Chris Cutts 920-765-2193  
Flea Market: Mike Williams 715-256-1275  
Tri-County Threshermen's Association on Facebook



Whether you're shopping with the goal to complete a collection or prefer to casually peruse the merchandise until something special catches your eye, there's not a more exciting time for bargain hunters than when the area's annual citywide garage sales come to town.

A highly anticipated time of year, once the winter snows thaw, Wisconsin's garage sale season is soon to arrive with sellers setting up shop in their garages, yards and driveways, as buyers hustle from sale to sale, looking for whatever may catch their eye.

With so many amazing sales to choose from on any given weekend, to find your way to the best sales around, be sure to pick up a copy of *The Billboard*, the area's top free weekly shopper, available on newsstands throughout the greater Green Lake County area, where you'll find ads for any number of garage, yard, rummage, and estate sales.

## Citywide Garage Sales

And for the biggest bang for your buck, be sure to mark your calendar for the area's five primary citywide garage sales, where you'll find bargains galore and gone-but-not-forgotten items that are sure to ignite treasured memories from many a year past.

In 2025, the area's citywide garage sales are set for:

- Green Lake: Saturday, May 3
- Princeton: Saturday, May 3
- Berlin: Saturday, May 10
- Omro: Friday–Monday, May 23–26
- Markesan: Friday & Saturday, August 22–23

Leading up to each community's event, you'll find a special citywide garage sale insert in *The Billboard*, published every Tuesday, as well as each community's official hometown newspaper, the *Berlin Journal*, *Green Lake Reporter*, *Markesan Regional Reporter*, *Princeton Times-Republic*, and *Omro Herald*. Each community's four-page garage sale insert is sponsored by local businesses and includes a listing of the best garage sales in each community's citywide event to help you find exactly what you're looking for.

Additional garage sale ads during the

citywide sales, and throughout the year, can also be found in the *Feature Section*, the second section included with each hometown newspaper, published every Thursday, all year long.

Area residents interested in hosting a garage sale during their community's citywide event, or at any time throughout the garage sale season, may call Berlin Journal Newspapers at 920-361-1515 or email [classifieds@theberlinjournal.com](mailto:classifieds@theberlinjournal.com) to place your ad.

Ads for the special citywide garage sale sections must be placed approximately three weeks before each citywide event

for the best chance of seeing a busy beeline of hungry bargain hunters heading right to your front door. Prepay for your ad, and you'll also receive a free garage sale sign to help direct shoppers straight to your sale!

Throughout the summer, or at any time during the year, the deadline to place a classified ad to be included in all six of Berlin Journal Newspapers' upcoming week's publications is Friday at noon of the week before your sale will be held.

Please call 920-361-1515 or email [classifieds@theberlinjournal.com](mailto:classifieds@theberlinjournal.com) for more information.



A full list of garage sales will be available in *The Billboard* and in the local Berlin Journal Newspapers publications, along with a convenient map/flyer before each event.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES!

**Green Lake: May 3**

**Princeton: May 3**

**Berlin: May 10**

**Omro: May 23-26**

**Markesan: August 22 & 23**

Contact Berlin Journal Newspapers for more information  
920-361-1515

[classifieds@theberlinjournal.com](mailto:classifieds@theberlinjournal.com) • [ads@theberlinjournal.com](mailto:ads@theberlinjournal.com)





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