

The lighthouses are 'such a great part of our maritime heritage.'

— Sam Perlman,
Deputy director of the Door County Maritime Museum

Cape Cod colors — hold the salt spray



Photo by Martha Farwell, submitted by the Door County Maritime Museum
A view of Kewaunee Pierhead Lighthouse in the southern gateway to Door County. The 2022 Fall Door County Lighthouse Festival will run Friday to Sunday.



Photo submitted by Destination Door County
An aerial shot of Eagle Bluff Lighthouse during fall. Peak color viewing season typically is around Oct. 10, according to A.J. Frank, owner of Door County Trolley, Inc.

Door County area tours, festivals painted with autumn's brush

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

Door County is home to scenic views throughout the year, but fall is a special season for getaways on Wisconsin's peninsula.

Peak color viewing is usually around Oct. 10, according to A.J. Frank, owner of Door County Trolley, Inc. in Egg Harbor.

"There is lots of fall color around the area, around the light houses and in the little bays and coves," said Frank, who said the trolley company offers nine different scenic tours of the area.

"Most of our tours have some color in them," he said, of the fall season tours.

The fall tourism season can be "extremely busy" in the area, according to Frank.

"We highly recommend purchasing tickets online," he said.

The trolleys are enclosed and heated and therefore used throughout the year, according to Frank, who added that the seating in the trolleys is cushioned.

"One of the nice things about it is the trolley is a unique-looking vehicle that fits with the historic nature of Door County," he said.

The trolley tours are also fully narrated, offering the latest regional information, which Frank said can be helpful even for those familiar with the area.

Tour travelers will learn "history, recommendations on things to do and places to eat," he said.

Especially popular are the business' Scenic Tours, which take in the area's 220-foot limestone bluffs, the Light House Tours and Ghost Tours, according to Frank.

The ghost tours are very popular and frequently sell out months in advance, Frank said.

The business website says the tour includes "tales of ghostly sunken ships, haunted lighthouses and mysterious happenings on the darker side of this spirited peninsula."

For festival enthusiasts, the Fall Door County Lighthouse Festival will run Friday to Sunday, and a portion of each tour will help fund the Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society, according to the museum website.

"The museum has hosted a lighthouse event for many years now, one in the spring and the other in the fall," said Sam Perlman, deputy director of the Door County Maritime Museum.

Perlman said the fall festival tends to be a little smaller in scale. Still, he said tourist activity in Door County has increased as pandemic conditions have improved.

"We are on track to have our second busiest year in our history," said Perlman,



Photo by John Nienhuis, submitted by Destination Door County

Visitors at Koepsel's Farm Market in a recent fall season. Door County is home to more than two dozen farm markets and specialty stores throughout the peninsula and Washington Island, according to Destination Door County.

adding the visitor numbers are second only to last year.

He recommended working with Destination Door County in booking accommodations.

The upcoming lighthouse festival includes air, land-based, boat and adventure tours providing access to all 11 of the county's lighthouses and three neighbors to the south, the website said.

"Many of the tour excursions are unique to the Lighthouse Festival week-

Online Door County resources

- For tickets to the 2022 Fall Lighthouse Festival, visit doorcountytickets.com/events/2022-fall-lighthouse-festival-9-30-2022.
- For more info about the Door County Maritime Museum, visit <http://www.dcm.org/door-county-lighthouse-festivals/>.
- To learn about or buy tickets for a trolley tour through Door County Trolley, Inc, visit doorcountytrolley.com.
- For info about accommodations in the area, visit Destination Door County at www.doorcounty.com.

ends and provide visitors to lighthouses not typically open to the public," the site said, noting for 2022 that

Grassy Island Range Lights in Green Bay harbor and Algoma and Kewaunee Pierhead Lighthouses

Pumpkin Patch Festival

An annual event held on Indigenous People's Day weekend in Egg Harbor, this year's festival will run Oct. 8 and 9. The festival includes "fabulous fall colors and family fun," according to Destination Door County.

"One of Door County's largest festivals with carnival rides, crafts raffles, live music, food and great pumpkin and scarecrow displays," the website said.

south of Door County are open or hosting visitors.

There are tours for all levels of activity and accessibility, the site said.

"Some tours involve hiking. Boat tours depart from a variety of locations around the Peninsula, including Sister Bay, Gills Rock and Baileys Harbor," the site said.

Tour tickets are available on the museum website, according to Perlman, who said the festivals are popular and the fall event typically draws around 5,000 people.

The lighthouses are "such a great part of our maritime heritage," he said, adding that they are important to "the maritime history and commerce in the area and throughout the Great Lakes."

A Door County fall experience

Destination Door County offers several tips for those planning a fall visit, according to Jen Rogers, senior media relations manager:

- **Panoramic views** — There are several great spots for

scenic overlooks of fall colors, including Sven's Bluff and Eagle Panorama in Peninsula Park, the Old Baldy lookout at Whitefish Dunes State Park, and Ellison Bluff County Park.

■ **Horseback riding** — Kurtz Corral offers rides among the fall colors on a wooded trail.

■ **Motorcycle** — Door County's Coastal Byway is a 66-mile route along highways 57 and 42 from Sturgeon Bay to the tip

of the peninsula and back. The byway is a National Scenic Byway.

■ **Fall harvest** — Door County orchards offer more than 400 acres of apples and some include pick-your-own hours. Locally grown and made products are available at more than two dozen farm markets and specialty stores throughout the peninsula and Washington Island.

Brooktoberfest brings brat fry and beer stein contest back for 2nd year

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — Can't get to Munich, Germany? Brooktoberfest offers a small-scale alternative.

Everything from polka music to beer stein holding contests, from dachshund dashes to brat frys, the second annual event runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at

Stefans Soccer, 620 Elizabeth Court, just north of Blue-mound Road.

A Kid Zone with inflatables has been added this year.

It's free to enter. For more information visit discoverbrookfield.com, the Town of Brookfield's website.

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Celebrating the holiday of love

A look at ideas both grand and modest for enjoying Valentine's Day

From 'Romance Under the Stars' to oil change with a dinner gift certificate

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

Whether it's dinner, taking in live entertainment or enjoying something simple like flowers and chocolates, there are plenty of ways to celebrate Valentine's Day.

'Romance Under the Stars'

At the Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium in the Town of Genesee, couples can take in the stars at the "Romance Under the Stars Fundraiser."

The event includes "a romantic tour of the universe" at the planetarium by "exploring the beauty of the current night sky," the website said.

"It's a planetarium show that we have put together differently from year to year. We are trying to find the fun and romantic part of the skies," said Lisa Swaney, planetarium director.

She said the hour-long show includes stories, some accompanied by music, and some light-hearted moments including "a few dad jokes."

The program is being offered at 6 and 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, Saturday, Feb. 11 and Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Swaney said if the six scheduled shows sell out, the planetarium will schedule additional time slots.

She said the Valentine-themed show typically draws strong attendance.

"It's really a nice night for everyone," she said, noting that organizers add extra components to the evening for participants.

In the past, this has included a rose, a box of chocolates and a photo in front of the moon for each couple as part of admission.

"We have a few new special things we're doing this year," Swaney said.

While there is quite a bit of effort in researching and putting together "Romance Under the Stars," Swaney said those who work on the show like the project. "I do enjoy working these evenings. The staff enjoys it, too," she said, adding that the fundraiser is one of her favorite Valentine's Day-related events.

"It's something different to do for a good cause," Swaney said. Proceeds from the show will benefit the planetarium and efforts to modernize and continue improving the space, according to Swaney.

"We're very proud of the success we've had and how modern our lobby is," she said, noting that the planetarium is in the process of adding two more exhibit areas.

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"We are trying to find the fun and romantic part of the skies."

— Lisa Swaney,
Director of the Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium, which is hosting "Romance Under the Stars Fundraiser"

"Dye's passion is bringing love and positivity through laughter to everyone he encounters."

— Milwaukee Improv promo of "Laughtentime's Day" with comedian Jeff Dye



Photo submitted by Carrabba's

Carrabba's Italian Grill in Brookfield is hosting a specialty four-course dinner for two costing \$65 available starting today and running through Sunday, Feb. 19, according to the restaurant.



Photo submitted by The Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium

A photo from a previous Valentine's Day-themed event at the Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium in the Town of Genesee. This year, the planetarium will host "Romance Under the Stars" at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, Saturday, Feb. 11 and Tuesday, Feb. 14.



Photo submitted by Milwaukee Improv

Comedian Jeff Dye will perform at Milwaukee Improv's "Laughtentime's Day" at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14 in the Town of Brookfield. Dye recently starred in NBC's comedy adventure series "Better Late Than Never" and is currently guest co-hosting "Access Live" for NBC, according to the Improv website.

tentime's Day" comedian Jeff Dye will entertain audiences at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14 in the Town of Brookfield.

Dye is a comedian, actor, host, prankster and Bigfoot enthusiast, according to Improv's website.

He recently starred in NBC's comedy adventure series "Better Late Than Never" and is currently guest co-hosting "Access Live" for NBC, finished filming "The Wedding Year" with director Robert Luketic, and shot an episode of "The Brian Regan Show" for Netflix, the site said.

"Dye's passion is bringing love and positivity through laughter to everyone he encounters," the event website said.

For chocolate enthusiasts, Indulgence Chocolatiers at The Corners of Brookfield is hosting a Valentine's Day "Wine, Cheese and Chocolate" event starting at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 14.

"Attendees will be led through various red wines that will each be



Photo submitted by Skylight Music Theatre

Skylight Music Theatre in downtown Milwaukee announced recently that Nobel Catering will operate Skylight Bar & Bistro, beginning during "Evita" performances through Feb. 19. Noble Catering, part of F Street Hospitality, will offer food and beverage service beginning two hours prior to matinee and evening performances in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, according to a press release.

paired with a corresponding cheese and indulgence confection," the site said.

Dinner for two

At Carrabba's Italian Grill in Brookfield, guests are invited to celebrate the Italian way, according to the restaurant.

Carrabba's is hosting a specialty four-course dinner for two available starting today and running through Sunday, Feb. 19, according to an email from the restaurant.

The menu includes: a first course to share either calamari, shrimp scampi or tomato caprese with fresh burrata; a choice of one per person of creamy Parmesan house, Caesar or Italian salad,

Mama Mandola's Sicilian Chicken Soup or soup of the day. Third course selections include pasta, seafood, specialties and steak selections, and the fourth course includes either Solon do Cioccolata Chocolate Dream Cannoli Cake for two or Tiramisu.

For those looking to hit the road for date night, the website OpenTable has rounded up the "100 Most Romantic Restaurants in America for 2023" based on diner reviews, according to a release.

OpenTable dubs itself a resource for "helping restaurants of all sizes thrive" and "enabling diners to find and book the perfect table for every occasion."

Four of those listed are in the

Chicago area: 3 Arts Club Cafe at RH Chicago, Andy's Jazz Club, Meson Sabina in Naperville, and Mon Ami Gabri in Lincoln Park.

For those looking to maximize efficiency in their Valentine's expenditures, Bob's Main Street Auto & Towing in West Bend is offering a month-long promotion, which is offered annually, according to the shop.

Come in for an oil change and get a gift certificate to the Little Red Inn in St. Lawrence, according to the business' Facebook page.

The February special is \$49.95 for a semi-synthetic oil change or \$59.95 for a full-synthetic oil change.

Both options include a \$30 dinner gift certificate.

Valentine's ideas

Skylight Bar & Bistro

What: Skylight Music Theatre announced last week that Noble Catering will operate Skylight Bar & Bistro, beginning during "Evita" performances Feb. 3 to 19. Noble Catering, part of F Street Hospitality, will offer food and beverage service beginning two hours prior to matinee and evening performances in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, a press release said. Patrons will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis, the statement said.

Menu: Togarashi popcorn, malt vinegar chips and black garlic onion dip, as well as seasonal cheese and charcuterie board, the release said. Dessert items will include hazelnut bombaloni and Belgium chocolate fudge cake.

Where: The bar and bistro are on the second floor of Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee.

Romance Under the Stars

What: Treat your special someone to a romantic tour of the universe at the Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium, according to the website. The event includes an exploration of "the beauty of the night sky with your Valentine in the comfort of the planetarium." Recommended for ages 18 and up.

When: 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, Saturday, Feb. 11 and Tuesday, Feb. 14. If shows sell out, the planetarium will add additional showtimes.

Where: Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium in the Retzer Nature Center, S14-W28167 Madison St., Town of Genesee

How much: \$30 per couple. Proceeds from the shows will benefit the planetarium.

Tickets available at: <https://hdplanetarium.ticketleap.com/>

Laughtentime's Day with Jeff Dye

What: A performance by comedian Jeff Dye at Milwaukee Improv. The show is for ages 21 and up, according to the website.

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Where: The Milwaukee Improv, Main Room, at The Corners of Brookfield, 20110 Lower Union St., Brookfield.

How much: \$20 for general admission. Limit six tickets per person.

More info: improv.com

Valentine's Wine, Cheese & Chocolate

What: Participants will be led through various red wines that will be paired with a corresponding cheese and indulgence confection.

When: Starting 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Where: Indulgence Chocolatiers at The Corners of Brookfield, 320 High St., Town of Brookfield.

How much: \$40 per person.

More info: www.indulgencechocolatiers.com or call 262-202-8731 for reservations.

Couple's Candlelit Valentine's Hike

What: Enjoy a romantic candlelit hike or snowshoe with your loved one followed by a blessing and talk by Father Mark Niehaus in the St. Francis Hall in the Main Building, according to the event website. The hike ends with a fire, hot chocolate and snacks.

When: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Where: Catholic Ecology Center, W1468 County Road NN, Neosho.

How much: \$20 per couple.

More info: catholicecologycenter.org.

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Cool things to do when temps dip

Festivals, activities and entertainment set for the cold season

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

The holidays may be wrapped up, but several area communities have festivals planned to help beat the wintertime blues.

The Waukesha JanBoree returns for the 38th year from Jan. 13 to 22, featuring about 50 different activities.

"There are lots of things to do for families and children and couples, both indoors and out," said Joanna Adamicki, special event coordinator for the city of Waukesha.

The majority of events are free, according to Adamicki, who said some of the events do require registration, which can be found on the event website.

This year's event theme is "Call of the Wild," Adamicki said.

"That's reflected in some of the activities. Our opening day at Lowell Park includes a survival skills camp," she said, noting participants can navigate with a compass and pan for gold.

Opening day, scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13, will also include ice skating and sledding — weather permitting, a live DJ and a campfire, according to Adamicki.

"It's a big night for us. There is an ice sculpting demonstration with carvers carving over 3,500 pounds of ice. We have some national and international snow sculptors coming. There will be a beer garden going on and fireworks and lots of activities," she said.

"And that's just the first day." Adamicki said a laser light show mimicking the aurora borealis will be held on Saturday evening, at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. in Lowell Park.

She said organizers anticipate the 10-day festival will draw anywhere from 20,000 to 30,000 attendees.

"People come from all over. We've had people from as far as Green Bay and many from northern Illinois," Adamicki said.

Winter Warm-Up

The West Bend Winter Warm-Up will be held Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 and 22.

The festival started in 2019 and has grown since then, according to Gina Biertzer, executive director of the Downtown West Bend Association.

"The weekend of the events the streets are usually pretty packed," said Biertzer, who said the event now draws thousands of visitors and this year will feature more than 60 ice sculptures downtown.

The downtown streets remain drivable, but the sidewalks are typically busy with traffic, according to Biertzer.

The festival will include a live ice sculpture demonstration on Saturday, also offers music, enter-



Photo submitted by the city of Waukesha

Participants warm up at a previous Waukesha JanBoree. "There are lots of things to do for families and children and couples, both indoors and out," said Joanna Adamicki, special event coordinator for the city of Waukesha, about the 10-day festival.

"We're in Wisconsin, and you want to get out and enjoy what the state has to offer."

— Joanna Adamicki,

Special event coordinator for the city of Waukesha, including Waukesha JanBoree



Photo submitted by the city of Waukesha

Fireworks at a previous Waukesha JanBoree. The 10-day festival returns for its 38th year from Jan. 13 to 22, featuring about 50 different activities.



Photo submitted by Gina Biertzer

Ice sculpting in progress at a previous West Bend Winter Warm-Up. This year's festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 and 22 and will feature over 60 ice sculptures downtown, according to Gina Biertzer, executive director of the Downtown West Bend Association.

tainment and specials at area restaurants and retailers.

"There are warming stations and free hot cocoa," Biertzer said. "The Bend Theatre will have entertainment music during the day and at night there is a comedy show."

Regner Park, which is within walking distance, will be home to the "Hugh Jass Fat Tire Bike Race" from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21.

The race draws winter bikers for races through area parks and the event title, associated with the statewide winter race series, "makes everybody laugh," Biertzer said.

For those looking for nighttime activities, Biertzer said at night the ice sculptures are illuminated. "If you walk through at night, it's really pretty and tranquil," she said.

Nearby at Lac Lawrann Conser-

vancy, the nighttime luminary walk has been popular in years past, according to Biertzer.

"Last year, there were over 2,000 people," said Biertzer, who said following the walk there will be music and a campfire outside the conservancy's 1860s barn.

Throughout the festival, there are plenty of warm-up places, according to Biertzer, who said the event is all within walking distance and most of the shops

will have maps available.

The weather has been warmer than the usual January temperatures, so organizers said to keep that in mind if planning to take in activities like ice sculpting.

Adamicki said JanBoree organizers do have a contingency plan in place for festival activities like ice and snow sculpting if the temperatures are not cold enough.

At the West Bend Winter Warm-Up, there have been years when the ice sculptures did not last a long time.

"The time to come to see them is that weekend," said Biertzer, who added that cold nighttime temperatures can help the sculptures refreeze.

Those planning the area festivals say they are a chance for people to enjoy some activities after the holiday rush and also to enjoy the state's colder season.

"We're in Wisconsin, and you want to get out and enjoy what the state has to offer," said Adamicki, who said it is good to stay active during the winter.

"You have to get out and enjoy it and have fun," she said. "There's so much to get out and see, and I hope people have a chance to check things out."

In West Bend, Biertzer agreed.

"This is the post-holiday celebration," she said, describing the winter festival as being scheduled during a period that can be "a bit of a lull time."

"You're stuck in the house. It's cold. This is an opportunity to come downtown and have a reason to be really outside," Biertzer said.

"To get that fresh air and see everything."



Photo submitted by Gina Biertzer

Participants in a previous Fat Tire Bike Race in West Bend. The event is one of many scheduled for the annual West Bend Winter Warm-Up, which this year will be held Jan. 21 and 22.

Winter festivals

Waukesha JanBoree

What: A 10-day festival around Waukesha with more than 50 activities scheduled for children, adults and families. Waukesha JanBoree is produced by the city of Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department along with many partners, including the Waukesha County Park System, according to the event website.
Where: Various locations.
When: Friday, Jan. 13 to Sunday, Jan. 22.
For more info and a full list of activities visit: www.janboree.org.

Delafreeze

What: The fifth annual DelaFREEZE event, providing live ice carvings and activities throughout the Delafield area.
Where: The Delafield area. A walking map is available online.
When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14.
More info: www.delafreezefest.com.

Winter Warm-Up

What: A weekend festival of activities and entertainment, including more than 60 custom-crafted ice sculptures, according

to the event website.
Where: Downtown West Bend.
When: Saturday, Jan. 21 and Sunday, Jan. 22.
More info: www.downtownwest-bend.com.

Lac Lawrann Conservancy Winter Luminary Walk

What: A candlelit hike through the conservancy.
Where: Lac Lawrann Conservancy, 300 Schmidt Road, West Bend.
When: 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21.
How much: Free.
More info: www.downtownwest-bend.com.

Fat Bike Race

What: Winter bikers enjoy races through the parks, according to the website, which said the race is open to participants and spectators. An after-party will be held in the park starting at 1 p.m.
Where: Regner Park, 800 N. Main St., West Bend.
When: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21.
How much: \$40. A portion of the entry fee will be awarded as prize money for top finishers in several categories.
More info: www.downtownwest-bend.com.