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vol. 9 no. 5

Nov./Dec. 2024

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# IT'S COMIN' UP

## NOV./DEC. EVENTS

### Upcoming events

#### Sonnets and Songs

Waukegan Concert Chorus will present: Love - Sonnets & Songs on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Dr., Waukegan.

For more information, call the Jack Benny Center for the Arts at information 847-360-4740 or visit the website, [waukeganparks.org/wsocc](http://waukeganparks.org/wsocc).

#### Wauconda Turkey Trot

Mark your calendars for Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 28.

Compete in the 4-mile timed race around Bangs Lake or participate in the 2-mile family-friendly fun run/walk around Cook Memorial Park, all to benefit the Wauconda/Island Lake Food Pantry, Wauconda Township Historical Society and Wauconda H.S. Future Business Leaders of America.

For more information and to register, visit [wauconda-il.gov](http://wauconda-il.gov).

#### Mistletoe & Martinis

##### *A Festive Christmas Market*

Nov. 29, from noon to 5 p.m. at Countryside Banquets & Conference Center, 28874 Route 120, Lakemoor.

Featuring unique gifts and crafts, signature holiday drinks, festive music and holiday décor, special photo spots including mistletoe moments, best decorated booth contest and drop off location for Jeeps on the Run – Toys for Tots.

#### Supper with Santa and Craft Fair

On Thursday, Dec. 5, from 4 to 8 p.m., the Village of Round Lake will host this event at the Cultural & Civic Center of Round Lake Beach, 2007 Civic Center Way.

The cost is \$6 for all ages, \$1 off with donation of a non-perishable food item or a new, unwrapped toy. It will include a spaghetti supper, photos with Santa and live reindeer, kids' crafts, a craft fair and Christmas music.

#### Girls Night Out

##### *Elves and Ugly Sweaters*

Antioch – Thursday, Dec. 12, let's celebrate the holiday! Dress as an Elf or wear your Holiday Ugly Sweater for a chance to win prizes at this fun, annual event. Bring your friends for an evening of fun!

Enjoy browsing downtown Antioch in the Elves and Ugly Sweater Scavenger

Hunt for a chance to win a prize.

Plus, register to win raffle prizes at all participating businesses! Take selfies at the Selfie Stations and share on social media for a chance to win a prize.

Browse downtown from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Check-in between 5 and 6 p.m. at Heartland Bank on Lake Street (front entrance only). The After Party will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Rivalry Alehouse (Note that if fewer than 50 registrants, the After Party will be held at the Lodge of Antioch.)

The cost is \$21.50 per person, non-refundable however, the name on a ticket can be changed with at least 48 hours advance notice. For more information or to register, visit [antiochchamber.org](http://antiochchamber.org) or call 847-395-2233.

#### Cookie and Stocking Stuffer Sale and more

On Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., stop by the United Methodist Church, 848 Main St., Antioch, for the annual Cookie Walk/Stocking Stuffers and Christmas Resale Shoppe.

Entry is free. Cookies will be sold by the pound with many varieties available.

#### Titanic: Tribute to the Tragedy

Volo Museum, 27852 W. Volo Village Rd., Volo, is hosting the "Titanic: Tribute to the Tragedy" exhibit through June 2025.

An emotional 45-minute experience that pays tribute to the lives and losses on the fateful night of the Titanic's sinking in a completely original way that will captivate both Titanic history enthusiasts and fans who have only seen the movie.

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It aims to inspire a profound appreciation for the past while honoring the memory of those onboard. It is a poignant and intellectually enriching expedition, setting itself apart from typical attractions designed for fun and amusement.

One-time tickets are \$19.95 for ages 5 and up. Combine with a Volo Museum or Jurassic Gardens ticket and save \$5. Titanic tickets are date and time sensitive. Members get \$5 off when purchased at the ticket sales counter.

For more information, call 815-385-3644.

## THE SPIRIT

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## THE SPIRIT

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# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF A Madrigal Feaste production

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

This year marks the 50th year that the Kenosha high schools have produced the annual Ye Olde Englishe Christmasse Feaste.

The original program was the work of Kurt Chalgren, director of the Tremper High School Choir, as a way to show off the talents of his students and to celebrate the holiday season in a unique way. The first Christmas Feaste was held at the Elks Club in Kenosha. As the number of people attending and students participating increased, the program moved to St. Mark's Catholic Church, and then finally to Tremper High School (8560 26th Avenue, Kenosha), where it continues to be presented today.

All three of the Kenosha high schools – Tremper, Bradford, and Indian Trail – are now active participants in the yearly production, with each school providing cast members that range from singers and musicians to jesters and serving lads and wenches. All are there to ensure each guest

has a memorable experience.

In honor of the 50th anniversary, an additional event has been added at the Stella Hotel and Ballroom – formerly the Elks Hall – 5706 8th St., Kenosha. It will be a private party for alumni of the event, with slide shows and a chance to reminisce.

The alumni party is planned for Nov. 21. More information can be found at [www.feaste.org](http://www.feaste.org).

## Preparing for the 50th

Production begins for the Madrigal holiday event in the spring of each year, as music is selected and participants audition for parts.

“This year, it is even more difficult,” said John Choi, choir director at Indian Trail and the current choir director of the event. “We are going through all the songs we have done over the years and picking out the favorites to sing this year in memory of the ones that have been the favorites in past years.”

Choi also mentioned this is the first year the event will be without co-chair Polly



**above:** Madrigal Feaste guests are treated to a variety of entertainment throughout the program.  
**at right:** Upon arriving, the Beefeater guards the door that takes guests inside. There they will be transported back in time to Medieval Days, and enjoy dancing, singing, and a marvelous dinner.

COURTESY JEANNIE KOSTRO *Spirit of the Lakes*





Amborn, who retired in the past year after working for years with John and Emily Armbrecht of Bradford. New Tremper director Rachael Schrobilgin has joined the Armbrechts as they carry on the tradition.

The choir directors from the three schools participating in the Feaste are very busy working with the singers and pairing the right songs with the right singers. Once the singers for each song are chosen, practice begins in earnest.

"There are rehearsals for singers from all three schools every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. from September until the Feaste (in December)," shared Choi. "The singers participate in a weekend retreat to work on their performances. Advisors are chosen to work individually with each act."

According to Choi, because this is the 50th anniversary, everyone is working even harder than normal.

"There will be a different processional this year, bringing back the old form of a processional that we have used in the past," he said. "Another special treat will be the return of fencers to the show."

## Relying on volunteers

Many helpers also make

the event special. Brian Lynch and his wife, Laura Bothe, are traditionally in charge of the jesters for the show.

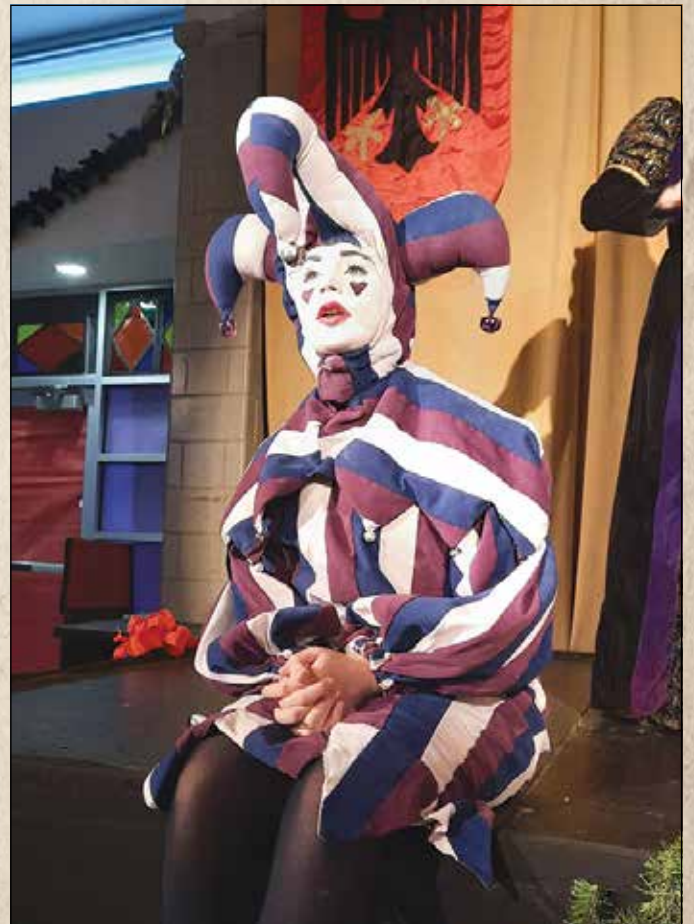
"My wife was a jester back when she was in high school here and our two children also served as jesters," said Lynch, who will be Lord High Chancellor at this year's event. "The year we had both children in high school, all four of us were on the stage at the same time. It was a really great experience."

The jesters are an entertaining group, as they perform on stage and then often come to the diners to steal some bread – which can be an unbelievable amount.

"No, it isn't just the quality, although it is very good," said Lynch. "It is also because that is the only item they can eat due to the white makeup on their face. Anything else would smear their makeup and add color to their faces."

Learning the jester's parts are always difficult for those who are new to the show, but with the help of returning jesters and Bothe's teaching (as well as that of her daughter), the performance comes together from September on forward.

It isn't only the performers that must be ready and have their parts perfect. Costumes are



**above:** Jestors are seen throughout the event, having fun, tumbling, and begging for food. **top:** Prior to the meal, the boar's head is carried through the crowd. The boar's head – which is not real – is a symbol of prosperity and peace.

COURTESY JEANNE KOSTRO *Spirit of the Lakes*



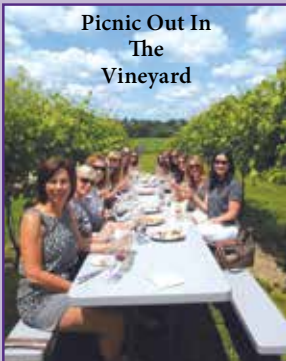


Steaming cups of soup are served followed by platters of meats, vegetables, and potatoes.

COURTESY JEANNE KOSTRO *Spirit of the Lakes*

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an important part of the whole Madrigal Feaste event and they too must be perfect. The costumes are all hand made by volunteer seamstresses who work under the direction of Heather Miles.

Each year, the costumes are dry cleaned after the performance and then carefully stored away for the next year's performance. In the fall of the year, they are again taken out and inspected for damage and repaired as needed.

Since there is a change in who will wear the costume each year, they need to be tried on and then adjusted for that person to look their best at the performance. New costumes are always being added due to replacement or additional characters.

Miles has been in charge of the costumes for many years, but her involvement with the program goes back to when she was in high school. She said volunteers spend countless hours perfecting the costumes, while other volunteers work to transform the cafeteria into a medieval castle.

Families often seem to stay with the program as volunteers even after they leave school, such as Laura Bothe has done along with her entire family.

"We have a family now involved that has two grandchildren, so they are the third generation to be involved," Choi said. "The two grandchildren are cousins and attend different schools, one at Tremper and the other at Indian Trail. Both are singers."

## A special meal

While the show is being prepared, so is the menu for the Feaste. Sophisticatering has been a well-known and respected catering company providing food for occasions large and small in Kenosha and the surrounding area for many years.

Owners Annette and Matt Flynn are known for providing the best possible food, and everything is made from scratch in-house. Breads and rolls are baked the day of the event, soups are made in-house, and quality meats are used.

When the Flynns took over cooking the Feaste twenty years ago, it truly became a feast – not just a dinner.

"Over the years, we have had to make some minor changes to some of our foods served, but they have mostly been minor changes," Annette explained. "Some were brought about because of complaints of allergies, such as when we served a crab spread as an appetizer. Another appetizer we served was a homemade liver pate. That was chosen because it was a favorite in the time period of the Madrigal Feaste.

"However, it was not enjoyed by many modern day eaters, as they often did not know what it was," she added.

The Feaste is served in a combination of ways. The plated salad is on the table



**above:**  
The Lord of the Manor welcomes his guests.

**above left:**  
Throughout the event, entertainment – including the singing of seasonal songs – adds to the festiveness.

**at left:** The tables are beautifully dressed with white tablecloths, cloth napkins, and red candles for the occasion. Salads are plated and in place when the guests arrive.

COURTESY  
JEANNE KOSTRO  
*Spirit of the Lakes*





Throughout the event the court jesters are present. Keep an eye on them and guard your bread, for they will likely try to steal it.

COURTESY JEANNE KOSTRO *Spirit of the Lakes*

and is available about an hour before the program begins. It is served with three choices of dressing and the fresh bread and rolls.

Once everyone has had a chance to enjoy their salad, all the honored guests are seated, and some of the entertainment has begun, the serving wenches appear with steamy beef barley soup and ladle it into small bowls to be served to the guests.

"A tradition of the Madrigal times is to serve hot Wassail in the holiday season," Annette said. "It is a drink made with apple cider and spices and very warming on a cold winter day. So, of course, we too have Wassail for the season."

The rest of the Feaste is served family style, with large platters of pork, chicken, Yukon gold potatoes (often in a dill sauce), green beans, and carrots. Figgy pudding is brought to the table to end the meal.

Figgy pudding is a traditional English Christmas dessert, which may vary by who is creating it. According to Annette, the Figgy pudding is a special bread pudding made using steam and a convection oven create a special texture and taste.

According to Annette, this year's menu will probably be similar or the same as in past years. But in these times when prices continue to rise and items are not always available, change may be necessary.

"We do hope to 'bling up' the event in honor of the 50 years, adding some gold highlights," she said. "New food items on the menu may depend on availability and cost."

Performances for this year's Madrigal Feast will be Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7, opening at 6 p.m. with the show starting at about 6:50 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 8, an afternoon performance will begin at 2 p.m.

Tickets go on sale at the beginning of November and must be purchased ahead of time. Tickets are \$42 per person and can be purchased online at [www.feaste.org](http://www.feaste.org). For more information, call 262-359-2200.



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# COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE THE holiday season

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

As the holiday season draws near, changes appear on the streets in the many communities in the Chain O' Lakes area. Throughout the area holiday lights, snowmen, nativity scenes, wreaths, and Santas are seen in the windows of local stores, in family homes, and along the streets. Many of these holiday decorations and activities start right after Thanksgiving, as we begin to embrace the spirit of the season.

Among the communities that come alive with this holiday spirit are some of our favorite communities along the Chain O' Lakes and along the Fox River.

## Antioch

For many years, the Antioch community has been very active in creating not only scenic holiday displays but also a variety of activities that will be embraced by the community throughout the season.

"Antioch continues to bring family fun programs to the community," shared Barbara Porch, Director of the Antioch Chamber of Commerce. "This year, we will continue to provide many of the programs we have offered in previous years. There

will be some additional programs in the newly created Sequoit Park, sponsored by the City of Antioch. Many of the programs offered by the Chamber are free to the public, due to sponsorship of Ray Chevrolet-Kia dealership."

One of the earliest holiday programs begins on Nov. 14 and continues through Dec. 4. It is the Holiday Pickle Hunt, where individuals make their way through many of the community's retail stores and try to locate the pickle hidden there. If found, have your map signed and continue to the next location participating.

When you have found at least half the number of pickles, turn in your signed sheet for a chance to win a prize. If you find them all, there will be two chances to win a prize.

This event is based on the old German tradition of hiding a pickle in the Christmas tree, and whoever finds it first receives a special gift. In the early days, it was a real pickle, and later, a pickle ornament.

For many years, the Antioch Dickens Christmas and Kringle Villages have been the highlights of the Antioch Christmas Season. Originally, the Dickens



**above:** A live person plays the role of the soldier in this living window display in McHenry. **top:** Don your best, warmest, and most Christmasy pajamas and join the fun in this adult pub crawl.

COURTESY MCHENRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *Spirit of the Lakes*



characters were created a few at a time by local artists, and each year the collection grew.

They were placed on Main Street in front of individual businesses, making one feel as if they were walking into the world of Dickens. This year, two of the life-sized Dickens figures will be placed out of doors at Main Street and Lake.

The Kringles, a large group of supersized shadow boxes that were donated to Antioch, are a gorgeous display of Christmas scenes that may bring memories to older visitors of the types of scenes that were enjoyed in the Chicago Marshall Field's windows in their childhood. Each scene is unique and very detailed and will be enjoyed by young and old.

While at the Kringles Christmas Village, be sure to take in the Community Christmas Tree contest. A variety of trees decorated by family groups, businesses, scout groups, and others will be on display and open for voting by visitors to choose the community's favorite.

The Kringles and Dickens



The handmade Dickens characters, created by local artists, are shown on display in the Kringles/Dickens showroom along with a beautifully decorated tree.

COURTESY ANTIOCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *Spirit of the Lakes*



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Christmas Village Showroom is available for viewing at 510 Orchard Street Plaza and there is plenty of free parking available.

The Kringles and Dickens programs will be held from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, and both will be held indoors at the Christmas Village Showroom, as it has the last few years. Be sure to stop in and enjoy.

There is nothing more beautiful than the Christmas Music Light program that can be enjoyed from the comfort of your automobile, another free community event. The music and light show will feature a synchronized light display paired with favorite Christmas music.

"Drive to the Bandshell in downtown Antioch and enjoy this 20-minute show while in your car," said Porch. "You will be directed to turn your car radio to a set station where you will enjoy the lights and music."

The Light and Music show will begin on Dec. 1 and continue through Dec. 25 each day from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be two separate 20-minute shows, one played on even days and the second on odd days. Be sure to enjoy both programs.

The Band Shell is located on Skidmore Drive, in downtown Antioch.

Are you ready to help save Christmas? Then be ready to attend the Grinch vs. Santa Breakfast held by the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Nov. 30. This fun holiday event will include breakfast with some of the Grinch's favorite foods. There will be a gift for the children, crafts to enjoy, and a showing of the Grinch movie. There might even be a snowball fight.

This event will be held at the VFW Hall, 75 North Avenue, Antioch on Nov 30 at 10 a.m. Only one seating, and tickets are limited. Order your tickets online from [Antiochchamber.org](http://Antiochchamber.org). Tickets are \$17 for those 13 years of age through adulthood and \$19 for children from 1 to 12 years of age. Children younger than 1 are free. A limited number of highchairs are available for 1- to 3-year-olds but must be requested when tickets are ordered.

Throughout the holiday season, there will be a variety of other events, which are listed on the Chamber website. Be sure to check them out so you don't miss any of the holiday fun and special shopping events.

"The Village of Antioch, Parks and Recreation will be holding the annual Christmas parade and the tree lighting ceremony in downtown Antioch on Friday,

Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m.," shared Kelley Crimmins, Antioch Communications and Event Specialist.

The Parade will travel down Main Street from Park to Orchard and end at Sequoia Creek Park, where there will be a lighting of the community Christmas tree.

What child doesn't look forward to visiting Santa Clause before Christmas to share their list of desired gifts? The children of Antioch will have the chance to visit Santa at the Hiram Buttrock Sawmill, 770 Cunningham Dr., Antioch, on Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 6 to Dec. 21 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Bring your camera to take photos of the visit with Santa.

Has Santa ever made a home visit before Christmas? This year, you can arrange for Santa to visit your home before he starts his journey to deliver gifts to all the children who have been good. Wish Santa safe travels when he stops by on Dec. 9, 11, 16, and 18. Home visit tickets are available, and the cost is \$25 for the house visit, which includes one child present and \$10 for each additional child.

Have you ever wanted to go to the North Pole? Now is the chance. From Dec. 3-19, The Polar Express will leave the Antioch

**left:** Keep an eye out for the Grinch in Antioch for he is known to try and steal Christmas.  
**right:** Santa welcomes two young girls who might have shared their Christmas wishes with him.

COURTESY ANTIOCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *Spirit of the Lakes*



Train Station at 9 a.m. and travel to the North Pole (Buffalo Grove), where there will be a variety of activities and lunch. Tickets are \$26 for Antioch residents and \$36 for non-residents. Check the Village of Antioch website for more information and to purchase tickets.

## Fox Lake

In Fox Lake, the spirit of Christmas is also emerging and will officially begin on Saturday, Nov. 30 when the Festival of Lights kicks off with the Kris Kringle Market, which will be on the Community Green, 17 E. School Ct.

"The market will offer craft and holiday items and food items from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.," said Kim Loewe, from the Fox Lake Recreation Department. "At 5 p.m., the parade will begin at Grant Community High School, 285 E. Grand Ave., and travel through downtown."

The parade will end at Millenium Park, where the Fox Lake Tree will be lit. After the lighting of the tree, Santa's cottage will be open from 6 to 8 p.m. for children to share their Christmas wishes with Santa.

The community will be turned into a winter wonderland during the community 2024 Holiday House Decorating Contest. During the season, homes will be transformed into winter wonderlands. Homes must register with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation by Dec. 13.

The houses are judged by the public, who can collect judging sheets from and return them to the Dept. of Parks and Rec. Winners will be announced by Dec. 20.

Prizes are awarded for the Best Use of Lights, Best Decorating Theme, Most Extravagant Display, and the Best Holiday Spirit.

Enjoy the decorations and events

**at right:** Featuring a living room scene, this display is complete with an iconic "leg" lamp and includes a Christmas living room with a variety of presents. **top:** Each life-sized window display in McHenry depicts a Christmas scene reminiscent of times past, with many of them including a live person such as this mannequin.

COURTESY MCHENRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *Spirit of the Lakes*



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celebrated in Fox Lake this season. For more information visit the Village of Fox Lake website, <https://foxlake.org>.

## McHenry

Ring in the holidays in McHenry, which will offer a variety of activities beginning in late November.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, Veteran's Park downtown will be the site for a variety of fun holiday activities.

"Beginning at noon and continuing through 4 p.m., horsedrawn sleigh rides will be held traveling around Veteran's Park," said Molly Ostap, of the McHenry Chamber of Commerce. "But that is just the beginning of the activities that will be held there on that day. During that time, Santa will also be found in the gazebo, ready for visits from local children."

There will be a variety of kid's games and craft activities provided by the McHenry Area Chamber members. Kids Build-It kits will be handed out by Home Depot.

At 4:30 p.m., the sound of music will fill the air as the McHenry High School Vocal Warriors will lead the singing of Christmas carols.

By 5 p.m., the switch will be turned on to showcase the thousands of twinkling lights in the park and around the downtown. The lights will be hung by the McHenry Parks and Recreation Department.

Prior to this day, on Nov. 22 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Living Windows and Cocoa Crawl will be a fun time, as the downtown stores will come to life with magical scenes of the season displayed in the store windows featuring live models.

Purchase a Cocoa Crawl mug to receive holiday treats and various cocoas at the participating businesses.

Nothing says the holidays are here more than beautifully decorated Christmas trees. From Nov. 22-29, the Festival of Trees will be on display at the McHenry Recreation Center, 3636 Municipal Dr. These attractively decorated trees are sponsored by a local business or civic organization, each with its own theme.

Visitors bring non-perishable food or toiletries and deposit them under the tree as their vote for their favorite. The one with the most donations is declared the winner, and while no prize is involved, bragging rights certainly are. The donations will be given to Veteran's Path to Hope.

For fun gifts, shopping local is always the best, and the Holiday Market at the Riverwalk is the place to find a variety of interesting gifts. The Holiday Market will be held at the Riverwalk Shops from mid-November through Dec. 7. Each week, a different theme will be featured and on Saturdays a food truck will be present.

Don't miss the other events, including the adults-only Polar Express Pub Crawl which allows the "big kids" to put on their best Christmas pajamas and get out for some holiday fun.

With such a variety of events planned in Chain O'Lakes communities, there will be no shortage of ways to welcome the season of Christmas cheer!



**at right:** This Christmas tree in Antioch featured the Grinch trying to be sneaky. **top:** A group of children watch in awe while checking out this Kringle box of Santa's workshop.

COURTESY ANTIOCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *Spirit of the Lakes*



# Take the 26th Hike Lake County challenge

For those seeking a fresh way to embrace fall, the Lake County Forest Preserves has a challenge – or seven of them. Grab some walking shoes and head to the trails to participate in the 26th annual Hike Lake County program while enjoying the change of seasons, fall breezes, and autumn colors.

Medical research shows that being outdoors in nature has many wellness benefits. Hike Lake County provides a way to get a dose of wellness while walking in a beautiful preserve.

Complete seven of twelve designated walks before Nov. 30 and earn a free commemorative shield for a walking stick or a zipper pull. Each year features a new lineup of trails, shields, and zipper pulls. This year's medallion showcases a periodic cicada.

At each selected preserve, look for Hike Lake County logo signs at the preserve entrance and trailhead to get on the right route. Note that bicycling or horseback riding do not count toward the program.

To get started, walkers need an official travel log to record your routes, which can be found online at [lcfpd.org](http://lcfpd.org). One travel log can be submitted for up to five participants. For larger groups, submit additional travel logs.



Let a canine companion join in the fun and complete the hikes with you. Record their name on the travel log and receive a free commemorative dog tag (up to three dogs per participant).

To receive a free dog tag, zipper pull, or commemorative shield, submit your travel log online, or mail it with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Lake County Forest Preserves, 1899 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, IL 60048 by Jan. 31, 2025.

Walkers can also stop by the general office in Libertyville or the Ryerson Welcome Center, which is at 21950 N.

Riverwoods Rd., Riverwoods, to pick up free commemorative materials.

The 2024 Hike Lake County locations include: Captain Daniel Wright Woods in Mettawa; Cuba Marsh in Deer Park; Fourth Lake in Lake Villa; Fox River in Port Barrington; Half Day in Vernon Hills; Heron Creek in Lake Zurich; Lake Carina in Gurnee; Lyons Woods in Waukegan; Raven Glen in Antioch; Ryerson Conservation Area in Riverwoods; Sedge Meadow in Wadsworth; and Sun Lake in Lake Villa.

Participants can also choose a 2-mile trail location in any Lake County Forest Preserves as a "Wild Card".

For more information and travel log, visit [lcfpd.org](http://lcfpd.org).

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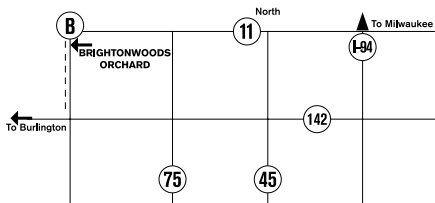
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Hike Lake County is an annual walking program that encourages residents to explore a variety of forest preserves.

A periodical cicada is featured on this year's commemorative shield, which can be earned by completing the required number of hikes by Nov. 30.

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES PHOTO  
Spirit of the Lakes

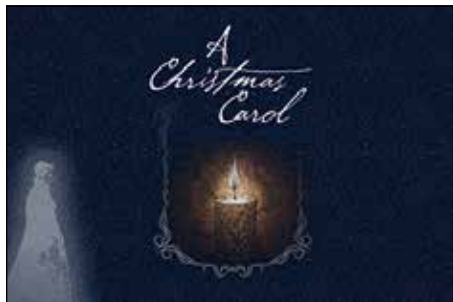


# PM&L Theatre to present 'A Christmas Carol'

## PLUS, A LOOK AT WHAT WILL TAKE THE STAGE EARLY NEXT YEAR

Here is a rundown of what will take the stage at PM&L Theatre in Antioch beginning in early December.

Bring a meaningful end to your year with the magic of *A Christmas Carol*. The first 2025 performance will be *She Loves Me*, followed by *Marjorie Prime* and *Hairspray*.



### **A Christmas Carol** Dec. 6 – Dec. 22

Watch the heartwarming transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a miser to a generous soul in this timeless production. Relive the spirit and charm of Dickens' classic tale, perfect for the holiday season. Rediscover the true spirit of the holiday season with our magical production of "A Christmas Carol"! Follow Ebenezer Scrooge's transformative journey as he learns the joy of giving and the power of redemption.



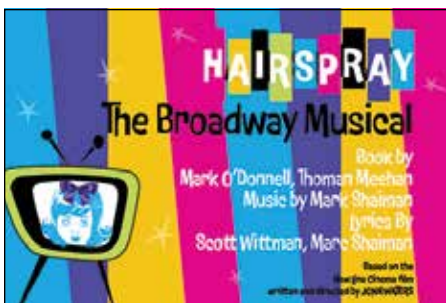
### **She Loves Me** Feb. 7 – Feb. 23, 2025

In a charming 1930s perfumery, two feuding clerks unknowingly fall in love through anonymous letters. This delightful and romantic musical will captivate your heart and leave you believing in the magic of love. Set in a charming 1930s Budapest perfumery, this musical comedy is a delightful tale of mistaken identity, secret admirers, and true love.



### **Marjorie Prime** March 28 – April 13, 2025

Consider a future where artificial intelligence brings past relationships to life. This compelling drama explores the intricate dance between memory and technology, posing thought-provoking questions about the essence of human connection. This drama delves into the complexities of memory, identity, and the impact of artificial intelligence on our lives.



### **Hairspray** May 30 – June 22, 2025

Join Tracy Turnblad on her quest for fame on a 1960s TV dance show, championing diversity and inclusion along the way. Bursting with catchy tunes and vibrant dance numbers, this energetic musical is a feel-good hit for all ages. Get ready to shake and shimmy with the irresistible energy of "Hairspray!" Bursting with infectious music and unstoppable dance numbers, this big-hearted musical celebrates diversity, friendship, and the power of change.

### **About the theatre**

A theatre community since 1960: Palette – symbol of the artist; Masque – symbol of the actor; Lyre – symbol of the musician.

These three symbols were put together

to form the name of the group of people who were interested at that time primarily in producing (overseeing the executive and financial aspects) of plays, art works, and concerts, according to history shared on the website.

A dozen individuals (actors, business people, artists, and musicians) banded together and donated \$10 each. With \$120 burning a hole in their pockets, the group set out to bring culture to Antioch. Shows and art exhibits were given for the benefit of the Antioch Women's Club, Lake County Mental Health Group, and various P.T.A.s.

Then, in 1963, the group was offered the opportunity to rent the Lakes Theatre (originally named the Crystal Theatre, constructed circa 1914) on Main Street. With the added responsibility of maintaining a theatre and putting something on the stage with some regularity, it was decided that membership should be broadened to include general members. The response was gratifying.

Palette, Masque, and Lyre, Inc. moved into what is now the PM&L Theatre, and with few exceptions has not looked back since.

"In fact, in 1982, the group (with some trepidation) purchased the building. Over 60 years later, we continue to work to provide quality theatre, while maintaining and striving to make additional improvements to our space," the website states. "Support from our patrons and the community is always appreciated as we continue to open doors to the arts for so many for now and into the future."

### **Get involved**

PM&L has been run and operated by its volunteer membership for over 50 years. From the sets they build, the props they make, the refreshments they serve, and the spectacles they create they are entirely volunteer driven.

Many may call it "community theatre" but to them it's really a theatre community – a group of dedicated volunteers with the mission of bringing the arts to the communities they serve through a community they create.

"No matter your experience, no matter your level of talent, there's a way for you to help us. Drop us a note and start your journey to becoming a part of the PM&L community," the website states.

To learn more about volunteering, visit the website at [pmltheatre.com](http://pmltheatre.com).



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