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Wednesday, November 23, 2022

'TIS THE SEASON



Avenue of Lights draws shoppers to Oconto Falls every year

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Kids run between the displays right after the Avenue of Lights is lit up for the first time in 2021.

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Shop Small Saturday, Holiday Stroll are a part of the season in Shawano

There's Black Friday on the day after Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday after the weekend, not to mention Giving Tuesday. More and more, the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend is being recognized as Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday has become an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season.

Historically, reported projected spending among U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday reached an estimated \$19.8 billion.

Locally, Shop Small Saturday is observed with in-store specials on the streets of Shawano Downtown from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 26.

Later in the day, visitors can enjoy Christmas music, hot chocolate and sweet treats while you stroll through the 100 decorated Christmas trees and visit with Santa and his reindeer during the Holiday Stroll from 3-5 p.m. at Franklin Park and the annual Tree Lighting at 5 p.m.

Activities at Franklin Park include:

- A Christmas stocking for each child, sponsored by Shawano Orthodontics.

- Hot chocolate and sweet treats available for purchase.

- Horse and wagon rides sponsored by Wolf River Dental.

- Christmas caroling with the St. Jakobi Church choir.

- Children's activities sponsored by saYPro, which will also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots during the event. Visitors are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy to donate.

- Children's activities sponsored by Shawano Area Early Childhood Partnership.

- Roasting marshmallows and making s'mores with the Shawano Park and Recreation Department.

- A rock quest throughout the park.

- The Shawano Optimist Club will be providing free holiday goody bags for area youth and will also be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to SAFPARC.

- Story time with the Shawano County Library at 3, 3:30, 4 and 4:30 p.m.

- Christmas music by Terryoke's Mountain Top Entertainment, sponsored by U.S. Cellular.



The tree in the center of Franklin Park is covered in twinkling lights during the 2020 Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting.

Avenue of Lights is a Christmas season tradition on Oconto Falls' Main Street



Santa and Mrs. Claus settle in after arriving with the Oconto Falls Fire Department and are surrounded by children with their 2021 Christmas lists at the ready.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Santa and Mrs. Claus' arrival is part of the opening ceremony

The Oconto Falls' Avenue of Lights is guaranteed to make you merry. Add sparkle to the holiday season with a visit to the free, walk-through or drive-through light display in the heart of the city. Every year, Main Street and the East Side Beach are decked out with 100 decorated trees and a dozen Christmas displays.

"All of the lights and decorations help you get into the holiday spirit," said Erica Beaumier, chairperson of the Avenue of Lights.

Organized by the Oconto Falls Lioness Club, the Avenue of Lights involves the entire community. Oconto Falls' businesses, families and nonprofits decorate trees for the holiday light display. Families oftentimes decorate trees in memory of a loved one, making the Christmas exhibit more meaningful.

Visitors can walk along Main Street to look at each display individually or drive through the lighted corridor to get a sweeping view. Many Oconto Falls residents make it

a point to drive down the Avenue of Lights on their way home from work every night.

The Avenue of Lights is lit at a special ceremony on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving. The lighting ceremony begins with live entertainment at 6 p.m., followed by Santa Claus arriving on a fire truck at 6:30 p.m.

"Everyone loves seeing Santa," Beaumier said. "We have cookies and hot chocolate, and everyone gets to talk to Santa. We have a choir singing

Christmas carols, and live music isn't always something you hear."

The Avenue of Lights remains lit from 6-10 p.m. daily for the Christmas season, ending Jan. 1.

So, load everyone into the car, turn on the holiday tunes and head to Oconto Falls for the lighting ceremony or a trip down the Avenue. It's a holiday tradition the whole family will love.

"I hope it brings joy to the community," Beaumier said. "That's why we do it every year."



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Spectacular Winter Wonderland greets visitors to Oconto campground



Christmas trees made of light line the entrance to Winter Wonderland at Holtwood Campground.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Every winter, Oconto's Holtwood Campground transforms itself from a riverside campground to a twinkling and colorful Winter Wonderland. Pack some hot chocolate and Christmas cookies, gather the family and hop in the car to enjoy Oconto's drive-through holiday light display.

The illuminated campground sparkles with over 150 displays, featuring a mix of traditional, religious and humorous scenes. Just driving into the park is a feast for the eyes. Visitors travel through spectacular arches and down a road lined by brightly lit trees.

"You just have to see it for yourself. It's really a pretty display," said Nicki Reed, Winter Wonderland organizer. "It's in the center of Oconto, and it really lights up the city. You can see it coming into Oconto."

Winter Wonderland, located at

Oconto Holtwood Campground, 400 Holtwood Way, Oconto, is open free of charge. Wonderland opens the day after Thanksgiving and remains open 5-11 p.m. daily until Jan. 1. Winter Wonderland has been a family tradition for generations of Oconto residents because it's something that everyone can enjoy, young and old alike.

"We try to get new displays every year to switch it up," Reed said. "It's free, and families can come and go as many times as they'd like."

Oconto-area businesses, nonprofits and families sponsor displays throughout the park, contributing to the display's community feel and holiday spirit.

Winter Wonderland is sure to get you in the Christmas mood. Who's ready for a road trip to Winter Wonderland in Oconto?



Winter Wonderland features more than 150 lighted displays provided by Oconto area businesses and organizations.

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"The reason for the season" is always included in Winter Wonderland displays.

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It doesn't seem like Christmas without an elf or a reindeer or two.

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and the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News.

GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS

GREEN & GOLD EXPRESS
Wednesday, November 24, 2021
PACKERS VS. RAMS
WWW.NEWMEDIA-WI.COM



THE OFFENSE HAS STILL GOT IT

Rodgers, Packers' offense finds life vs. Vikings

PAGE 2

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers looks on during the team's game against the Minnesota Vikings on Nov. 21 in Minneapolis. GREG MELLIS / NEW MEDIA

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2022 PACKERS

REGULAR SEASON

1	Sunday, September 11	at Minnesota Vikings	3:25 p.m.	FOX
2	Sunday, September 18	CHICAGO BEARS	7:20 p.m.	NBC
3	Sunday, September 25	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	3:25 p.m.	FOX
4	Sunday, October 2	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	3:25 p.m.	CBS
5	Sunday, October 9	vs New York Giants (London)	8:30 a.m.	ESPN
6	Sunday, October 16	NEW YORK JETS	*12 p.m.	FOX
7	Sunday, October 23	at Washington Commanders	*12 p.m.	FOX
8	Sunday, October 30	at Buffalo Bills	*7:20 p.m.	NBC
9	Sunday, November 6	at Detroit Lions	*12 p.m.	FOX
10	Sunday, November 13	DALLAS COWBOYS	*3:25 p.m.	FOX
11	Thursday, November 17	TENNESSEE TITANS	7:15 p.m.	NBC
12	Sunday, November 27	at Philadelphia Eagles	*7:20 p.m.	FOX
13	Sunday, December 4	at Chicago Bears	*12 p.m.	FOX
14	Monday, December 19	BYE WEEK		
15	Sunday, December 25	LOS ANGELES RAMS	7:15 p.m.	ESPN
16	Sunday, January 1	at Miami Dolphins	12 p.m.	FOX
17	January 7 or 8	MINNESOTA VIKINGS		
18		DETROIT LIONS		

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