

Holiday **Wishbook** 2024

Holiday Happenings
in the local area, gift
ideas, time-saving tips,
great offers!

You'll find all this and more in our
Holiday Shopper's Guide!

Shop local this
holiday season for
gifts that keep
on giving back to
our community and
economy!

Brought to you by:

**Amboy
News**

**Ogle
County Life**

**Rochelle
News-Leader**



JOHNSON TRACTOR

JOIN US FOR

SANTA'S SLEIGH STOP AT JOHNSON TRACTOR!

DECEMBER 18, 2024

3-5PM

JOHNSON TRACTOR - ROCHELLE
200 STEWARD ROAD, ROCHELLE IL

ACTIVITIES:

- **PICTURES WITH SANTA**
- **LIVE REINDEER**
- **HOT COCOA BAR**
- **CANDY CANES**
- **TOY & APPAREL SPECIALS**

Rochelle's Old Fashioned Christmas Walk set for Dec. 6

ROCHELLE — The 2024 Rochelle Christmas Walk will be held on Friday, Dec. 6 from 4-8 p.m. downtown. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. and reindeer will be at Terri Schaefer State Farm from 4-6 p.m.

The Snow Queen, sponsored by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, located on the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Lincoln Highway, will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. Ralfie's BBQ, located at the northwest corner of Fourth Avenue and Lincoln Highway, will be open from 4-7:30 p.m. or until all items are sold out.

The Flagg-Rochelle Public Library's "SnowmenAtNight" event, which includes crafts, snacks and fun, will run after the parade until 7:30 p.m. The Community Tree Lighting with hot chocolate and treats at City Hall will begin at 6 p.m.

Fire Department pork chops



will be available from 4:30-7:30 p.m. and carriage rides

in front of the museum will be available from 4-8 p.m. The

city will present its Gratitude Award at City Hall at 6 p.m.

\$5 Off
Your meal
(\$15.00 minimum purchase)
Expires 12-31-24

\$10
MATCH PLAY

Cruisin' I-39

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER & SHOW VALID ID TO REDEEM
One per person per visit, must present coupon.
May not combine with any other offer or promotion. Cruisin' I-39 has the right to refuse or revoke offer at any time.
EXPIRES 12-31-24

Cruisin' I-39

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

WE ARE OPEN!
Come dine with us or play our slots and win big!

Follow us on **Facebook** for deals and events!

IGS GAMING

815-393-7091
5532 N Limestone Rd, Monroe Center, IL



Oregon Candlelight Walk celebrating 38 years



OREGON—Thirty-eight years ago a group of merchants in Oregon’s Conover Square Mall combined their energies and created the 1st Candlelight Walk to celebrate the holiday season. Little did those businesses know that the event would grow to encompass the entire community, and the celebration became recognized as one of the best small town holiday events in Illinois! Thank you to those Conover Square businesses for their vision and creativity to create a lasting legacy for our community!

entertainment, guest performers, and special treats but we also want also invite you to visit all of our local Oregon businesses, celebrate our community tree-lighting ceremony, enjoy the horse-drawn wagon rides and local entertainment, get some special treats on Candy Cane Lane, find those unique gifts at the Holiday Gift Fair and Sip and Shop at The River’s Edge Experience, and visit Santa and have some special family fun at Kid’s Winter Carnival at the United Methodist Church. You will also want to make certain to register at local Red Bow merchants to win some special prizes!

Throughout the years, family-focused events have been added allowing residents and visitors alike to share in the celebration. Conover Square remains a staple in the tradition offering special

Please plan to join us Saturday, November 30th, 3-8 p.m. as we celebrate Oregon’s 38th Annual Candlelight Walk.

Christmas in Creston events on Dec. 6-7

CRESTON — The 2024 Christmas in Creston celebration will include a parade on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. with Santa Claus on the fire truck meeting with children afterward. There will also be a tree lighting with hot chocolate and cookies. On Saturday, Dec. 7, there will be a vendor



and craft show from 9-3 p.m. at Creston School.



BEAM

beauty + wellness

Don't forget a



for the **BEAUTY** on your list!



BEST

- Skin Care Products
- Day Spa
- Medical Facility
- Skin Care Services
- Weight Loss Clinic

HBV24

125 S. 4th Street,
Oregon, IL 61061

815-222-7115 | beambb.com













A Mendota Christmas scheduled for Dec. 7
 A Mendota Christmas, which is hosted by the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held in downtown Mendota on Saturday Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year will feature Santa, horse drawn carriage rides, touch a truck, and more to be announced. More than a dozen booths from local organizations and chamber member businesses will be set up with crafts and activities for kids. More information about A Mendota Christmas can be found at mendotachamber.com or on the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page.

Amboy Christmas Walk
 December 14th
 4pm-7pm
Santa's Village
 at Depot parking lot
 Santa arrives at 4pm

Trolleys Run to Move People

Vendor Shows at Central School & Johnson Tractor
 Food Vendors • Business Specials & Deals • Bars & Restaurants Open • Depot Museum /Schools Open
 • Face Painting For Kids • Characters Meet & Greet

Brian's PRO SHOP & HOBBY
 Bowling, Model Car Kits, Slot Cars, Die Cast Cars, Rockets & More

1211 S. 4th Street Suite 1, DeKalb
 815-758-4801
 M-F 2PM-7PM | Sat 11AM-4PM | Call First - Sun 12PM-4PM
 — LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON —
 FACEBOOK

HWB2024

Give Your Family a Magical Holiday full of surprises
COME SEE US FOR A HOLIDAY LOAN
 • Holidays • Auto • Vacation • Home improvements

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LOAN
 310 Eagle Drive, Rochelle, IL 61068
 815-561-4035
 Jami Rees, Branch Manager
 Tonia Holland
 All loans subject to our normal credit requirements and policies.



Scavenger Hunt at Miracle on 2nd Street is Dec. 6

BYRON — The Byron Chamber of Commerce and Byron Bank would like to invite the community and local businesses to participate in A Christmas Story Scavenger Hunt at Miracle on 2nd Street, Dec. 6, 2024, 6pm-8:30pm. We recommend participating businesses to offer a discount, coupon, or goody of their choice to the participants from the Scavenger Hunt.

How the game works:

The game starts with Byron Bank at Miracle on 2nd Street.

24 businesses may participate. This will be a first come, first served basis. It is \$50 for each business to participate. This \$50 includes the A Christmas Story character or object to find, marker, business name on printed materials related to the game, a sponsorship for Miracle on

2nd Street, and game participants entering your business.

A Christmas Story Character will be provided to each participating business to identify the participating business. The business will “hide” their character for the participants to “find”. We recommend each business provide a discount, coupon, or goody of their choice to participants.

Businesses will be featured on a stamp card, Facebook, email blast and press.

Each participant will have a card. Participants will pick up a card at Byron Bank or your business. They will come in, find the character, present the card to an employee (or ask for a card), and the employee will then mark the card on their business logo or name.

The participants will turn



in their cards by Dec. 6 at 8:30 to qualify for the cash prize. Cards that are completely full of stamps will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win \$100 cash prize and five opportunities to win \$20 cash prizes.

Participants must return the cards to Byron Bank, in Byron, no later than 8:30 on Dec. 6, 2024.

The winners will be drawn and awarded on Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. by Byron Bank and the Byron Chamber of Commerce.

Please contact the chamber office at 234-5500 or office@byronchamber.com, for an opportunity to participate in this communal game. Entry fees are due to the Chamber office by Nov. 25.

Comfort. Home. Family.
There's No Place Like
Superior Carpet, Tile & Upholstery Cleaning

HOME for the Holidays

Meyers helps you make it **memorable... stop by!**

MEYERS
FURNITURE & FLOORING

Hours:
Mon - Fri 9-5
Sat 10-4 • Sun Closed

209 Powers Rd. Hwy. 251
Rochelle, IL
815-562-8792
meyersfurniture.com

Serving DeKalb, Lee & Ogle Counties
Independently owned & operated

Kishwaukee
815-762-7555
cdkishwaukee.com

a Deeper **Cleaning** for a **Healthier** Home

Drier. Cleaner. Healthier.®



OREGON SOAP SHOPPE

The famous affordable luxury soap everyone wants this Christmas!

Oregon Soap Shoppe & Green Art Etc.
 91 C South Daysville Rd. • Oregon, Illinois
 866-411-6614
 Open Wednesday thru Saturday 10am to 5:30pm
www.oregonsoapshoppe.com

MasterCard VISA American Express Discover

HWB2024

Ashton Christmas Walk to be held on Dec. 7
 The 2024 Ashton Christmas Walk will be held on Dec. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the in downtown Ashton. This annual event will include Cargill's carriage rides, vendors, a DJ, and a visit from Santa. There will be a Lighted Christmas Parade on Main Street at 4:30 p.m. and Santa will arrive on a fire truck. The St. John's Preschool Cookie Walk and a vendor fair will take place at the Mills-Petrie Building on Route 38 during the Ashton Christmas Walk.

Wishing You The Happiest Of Holidays From Our Family To Yours

See Us At The Amboy Deli For Your Holiday Party Needs:

- Meat and Cheese Trays
- Veggie Trays
- Cookie Trays
- Fruit Trays

Special Order Your Holiday Main Dish - Bone-In Ham and Prime Rib Roast

AMBOY FOOD & LIQUOR

242 E. Main Street, Amboy IL. 61310
 815-857-7020

HWB2024



Polo Christmas Festival returns on Dec. 7

POLO—The Polo Christmas Festival, presented by the Polo Chamber of Commerce, is back for its sixth year, bringing holiday cheer to the community on Dec. 7. This beloved annual event promises a day filled with fun, food, and festivities for all ages.

Donuts with Santa: Start your day with Santa at Crossroads Community Church from 8-10 a.m. Enjoy donuts and drinks while capturing memorable photos with Santa.

Reindeer Run: Join the Reindeer Run at 8:30 AM, benefitting the Polo Public Library. Lace up your running shoes and support a great cause.

Craft and Vendor Show: From 9 a.m. to noon, visit the Centennial School Gym for a variety of crafts and vendors. Enjoy cookie decorating and crafts for children, and grab a bite at the FFA concession stand.

Live Musical Performances and Lion's Club Dinner: Delight in live performances by the Polo Schools' Jazz Ensemble at 5 p.m., followed by the Polo Schools' Band at 6 p.m. at the Polo Senior Center. The Polo Lion's Club will also be serving an Italian Beef dinner, and hot dogs for children.

Parade of Lights and Tree Lighting: The festivities culminate with the Parade of Lights at 6:45 p.m., leading Santa to the Christmas Tree Lighting at Paul's Park at 7 p.m. Enjoy live Christmas music by the Spontaneous Combustion Barbershop Chorus and witness the drawing of the 60/40 raffle winner.

Various Activities and Refreshments: Throughout the day, visit local businesses and organizations offering a range of activities and refreshments, including photobooths, balloon twisting, face painting, games, a



scavenger hunt, and more.

Historical Trolley Rides: Take a ride through history with trolley rides starting at the Polo Historical Society Building at 12, 1, 2, and 3 p.m., courtesy of Gateway Trolley.

Soup Luncheon: Warm up with a soup luncheon at Polo Church of the Brethren from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Donations support their Children's Ministry.

Winter Carnival: Enjoy the Winter Carnival at Crossroads Community Church from 4:30-

6:30 p.m.

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides: Experience the charm of horse-drawn wagon rides available at the Polo Fire Department. Muddy Nuts Coffee will also be in attendance with delicious coffee, cocoa, and limited edition mugs.

For more information, please visit www.polochamber.org. Interested in volunteering during the festival? Contact polochristmasfestival@gmail.com. Students will get volunteer hours.

Christmas Club Accounts 2025

Choose from \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50 weekly deposit amounts.

When you make all 49 payments to the account, we will make the final, 50th payment for you!

The First National Bank in Amboy

Amboy ST

Member FDIC

Is your Holiday Shopping STRESSFUL?

Shop our Local Unique Boutique

Raku Potteryworks • Candles

Red Light Therapy Bed • Cocoon

Wellness Pod • Purses • Jewelry •

Scarves • CC Hats & Much More!

BUY 1 PACKAGE GET 2ND PACKAGE 1/2 OFF!

ALL PACKAGES INCLUDED. GIVE A GIFT OF WELLNESS

RED LIGHT - COCOON - TANNING

CELESTIAL SUN WELLNESS SPA

BOUTIQUE & TANNING

8725 N IL RT 2 -BYRON (815)234-5588

HWB2024



Cardinal Community Christmas in Stillman Valley is Dec. 1



STILLMAN VALLEY — The Stillman Valley Cardinal Community Christmas will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. in the downtown area.

Among the activities will be a tree decorating contest, community tree lighting, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, live nativity, festive treats, hayrides, a bonfire, caroling,

horse-drawn carriage rides, a winter coat drive and a donation drive for Bread of Life.

Moreover, the 9th Annual MJHS Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair is scheduled from 2-7 p.m. at Meridian Junior High School. The event will feature character meet and greets with the Snow Queen, Snow Princess and Spider Hero.

Annual Holiday Open House

Fri., Nov. 29 (9am - 5pm)
Sat., Nov. 30 (8am - 1pm)

We design Custom Gift Baskets

Food Tasting

Christmas Gifts 10% Off

(non-food items)

- Cheese Boxes
- Unique Gifts
- Gourmet Foods

AVANTI FOODS

Cheese & Specialty Gift Shop
109 Depot St., Walnut, IL
800-243-3739
www.avantifoods.com

Regular Hours: Mon-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-1
Holiday Hours
Tuesday, Dec. 24 - 8am-noon
Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 8am-noon
Wednesday, Dec. 25 - CLOSED
Wednesday, Jan. 1 - CLOSED

HMB2024

MAZE LUMBER

BUILD IT ONCE. BUILD IT RIGHT.

NEW HOMES

WINDOWS

KITCHENS

FIREPLACES

815-223-1742 | 1100 Water St, Peru

f

MAZELUMBER.COM

i

A charming mix
of old and new
at prices that are
perfect for you

sweet revival

ANTIQUES
COFFEE & SWEETS

Wed-Sat 10 am - 5 pm

12554 E. ROUTE 64, KINGS, IL 61068 (815) 761-5643

HMB2021



Forreston's Christmas in the Country kicks off Dec. 6

FORRESTON — Forreston's annual Christmas in the Country kicks off Friday, Dec. 6. The day starts with the ever-popular Methodist Church rolls and coffee from 9am – 11am.

They will again offer their Christmas Corner and their soup, sandwich, and salad luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All food prices are as a donation. At 4 p.m., the Lutheran Church will host their annual cookie sale at the Forreston Township building. Get there early, because when the cookies are gone, the sale is over. The Forreston High and Jr High chorus students will be caroling in, and around, the businesses from 5-6 p.m. They will welcome Santa to the park at 6pm with "Here comes Santa Claus".

The lighted parade is back and a great way to welcome

Santa to the park. Registration and line up are at 5pm with the parade kicking off at 5:30. Line up is on Ash Street, north of Cherry St. If you have a side-by-side, a bicycle, a wagon, or just want to walk – you are encouraged to join in the fun.

The parade route starts on Ash St, west on Cherry, south in the alley behind the grade school, east on Elm, and north on Walnut ending at the park. Santa will disembark and help light the Community Christmas tree. After the tree lighting, the kids will have the opportunity to sit on his lap and chat with him and Mrs. Claus. There will be a drop box for letters to Santa. While at the park, grab a s'more and cook it over the fire. Hot cocoa will also be available at the park.

New this year is a vendor/

craft show and chili cook-off. Both events will be at the Forreston Grade School and will run from 5-8 p.m. There will also be chili and a baked potato bar available for purchase.

There will be wagon rides around town on the Candy Cane express. This is a fun time to see a lot of festive Christmas lights around Forreston. The Candy Cane express will drop off and pick up at Memorial Park, Forreston Grade School, and Forreston Fire Station. The fire department will have cookies and hot cocoa. The EMTs will be hosting a fundraiser by selling Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Also back this year is the Scavenger Hunt from 6pm – 8pm. This event is great for both teens and adults as the winning team will win \$100 in Cardinal Cash. Also on Friday night, the downtown



businesses will have extended hours until 7:30 p.m.

Saturday morning starts early with the 7am Men's Prayer breakfast at the Forreston Reformed Church. Santa will be back in town at the Forreston Library from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be snacks, crafts, and chats with the jolly old elf.

And finally, while you are out an about this weekend, look for the commemorative "Christmas in the Country 2024" mugs. They are \$5 a piece and are available at most downtown businesses. The weekend really has something for everyone.

Holcomb Bank's Christmas Club makes it a little easier to fill the stockings!

Holcomb Bank
Where Relationships Matter
www.holcomb.bank
Rochelle | New Milford | Creston | Byron
Member FDIC

Classic holiday films the whole family can enjoy

CELEBRANTS owe the joy of the holiday season to various components. Decor and gift-giving go a long way toward making December a joyous time of year. Holiday films also do their part to make the season so special. Many people have their own favorite holiday films, and the following are some that can engage viewers who are young or simply young at heart.

“A Christmas Story”

Released in 1983, this warmly nostalgic, humorous film is a perennial favorite among families. It follows the story of Ralphie, who has his heart set on a very specific Christmas present: a Red Rider BB gun. Amidst wintry exploits and family drama, the true spirit of Christmas manages to shine through in this beloved film.

See page 12



Where Hometown Hardware Tradition Continues!

Nov. 29 - Black Friday Sale **Dec. 6** - Open until 7:30pm
Nov. 30 - Small Business Saturday **Dec. 20** - Ho Ho Ho Hometown Hardware event Open 'til 7

Koeller Forrester Hardware
 Where Hometown Hardware Tradition Continues

104 E. Main St., Forrester, IL
 815-938-2240
www.doitbest.com/koeller
 M-F 7-5 • Sat 8-3 • Sun Closed

Shop online at www.doitbest.com/koeller

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK
 FOR MORE DETAILS!

HWB2024

Oregon's CANDLELIGHT WALK
 Enjoy a small town Christmas
 THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Oregon's 38th Anniversary
Saturday, November 30th, 2024
 3 - 8 pm

Join us in Downtown Oregon for an evening of old-fashioned holiday fun!

- Horse Drawn Carriage Rides
- Outdoor Food Vendors
- Sip-N-Shop Gift Fair
- Tree Lighting
- Winter Carnival
- Visit with Santa
- Live Performances
- Giveaways
- Entertainment
- Refreshments
- Shopping
- Hot Cocoa
- Build-A-Buddy Workshop
- And So Much More!

122 N. 4th St. Oregon, IL 61061
 815-732-2100
oregonil.com

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sponsored by
WOODS
 GET AFTER IT

candlelightwalk.com

From page 11

Some of the subject matter can be off-color, and there are some bullying scenes. So this is a movie best watched with children who are mature enough to make it through without being scared.

“Little Women”

Based on the Louisa May Alcott novel of the same name, the 1994 telling of this classic follows the March sisters, who confront financial difficulties, romance and family tragedies in mid-nineteenth century Massachusetts. While it’s not a traditional Christmas movie, the importance of spending time with family around Christmastime is a core theme in this coming-of-age tale.

“Klaus”

Perhaps not as well-known as other animated holiday flicks, “Klaus,” released in 2019, has a personality all its own. Postman Jesper, who is

not making the grade at the postal academy, is sent to work in a frozen town in the North, where he discovers a reclusive toy maker named Klaus. The unlikely duo ultimately team up to make and deliver toys and bring smiles to children’s faces.

“Meet Me In St. Louis”

Starring the irreplaceable Judy Garland, this movie musical focuses on four sisters who are awaiting the 1904 World’s Fair in their hometown, but learn that their father has accepted a new job and the family must move to New York beforehand. A Christmas miracle occurs and all is right in the end. Garland sings a memorable version of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” in the film, solidifying this as a holiday classic.

“The Santa Clause”

This Disney film came out in 1994 and remains a family favorite. When divorced dad Scott (Tim Allen) accidentally



kills a man in a Santa suit, he magically becomes the next Santa. He must learn to cope with the ways the transformation to the man in red interrupts his normal life, eventually giving over to the magic of Christmas.

“Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas”

Though this 1977 Jim Henson production is a television special and not a full-length

feature film, Generation X likely remembers the heartfelt tale of a poor otter family who sacrifice prized possessions to have what’s needed to enter a talent contest. The goal is to win the prize money to buy special Christmas presents. Audiences get to enjoy narration by Kermit the Frog.

Films are a popular component that help to make the holiday season so special.

It Feels Good to Give

From luxury facials to relaxing massage therapy and spa nail care, we have the remedy for holiday headaches.

Hair Care Just the Way YOU Want It!

Gift certificates are always in season.

JTI Salon & Spa
600 Gale Street, Oregon, IL 61061
815-732-2477

HWB2022

Gift CARD Available
Always a good stocking stuffer

THE Velvet POPPY

Floral Design, Boutique Clothing, Unique Gifts & More!

815-543-6864
Text or Call to Place an Order Today!

Visit our website or Facebook page
for holiday hours, events, and savings!

115 W 2nd St, Byron IL
velvetpoppyfloral.com
@velvetpoppyfloral

HWB24

Make holiday crafting a family affair

FAMILIES gather frequently during the holiday season as everyone enjoys the feasts and festivities that are synonymous with this time of year. Families often bake and decorate together, as these activities are inclusive of people of all ages.

This time of year also is one for dabbling in creative pursuits. Now is a prime opportunity to bond with children over a table full of paint, glue, beads, and other crafty supplies. The crafts made during the holidays often become cherished mementos that will be regarded fondly for years to come. Here are some ideas to inspire holiday creativity.

Snowman family

Handprint crafts are popular among children. Adults and children can dip their hands

into washable white paint and make a handprint stamp on a small canvas, wooden palette or even a terracotta flowerpot. Decorate the white fingerprints with black dots to look like the faces of the snowmen and paint on top hats and scarves. In the years to come, artists can marvel at how small their hand prints once were.

Wine cork reindeer

Repurpose wine corks by crafting adorable little reindeer. Two corks make up the head and the body, and four vertically will comprise the feet. Stick on googly eyes, and add a small red or black bead for the nose. Pipe cleaners can be bent to form the reindeer's antlers.

Family garlands

This craft also makes use of handprints. Ask all family members to trace their hand-

prints on different colors of construction paper or card stock. Cut out all of the paper hands, punch holes in the tops and then string a ribbon through. Decorate the Christmas tree or a mantle with this garland.

Miniature Christmas trees

Paint the tips of gathered pine cones with green paint

and allow to dry. Add white glitter or paint as "snow." Glue the pine cones to wine corks that will serve as the tree trunks, and attach a small wooden star to the top of the trees for the finishing touch.

Decoupage ornaments

Purchase wooden or plastic ball ornaments.

See page 14

Give the Golfer in Your Life

2025 Memberships ON SALE NOW

Single Memberships Starting at \$481

Family Memberships Starting at \$882

Add A Child for Only \$25

All They Want Fore Christmas

New Members Receive **30% OFF**

We have a large selection!

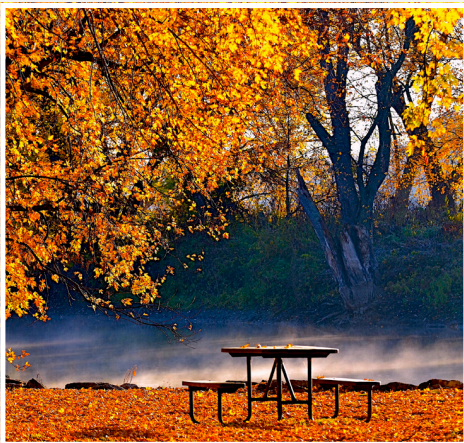
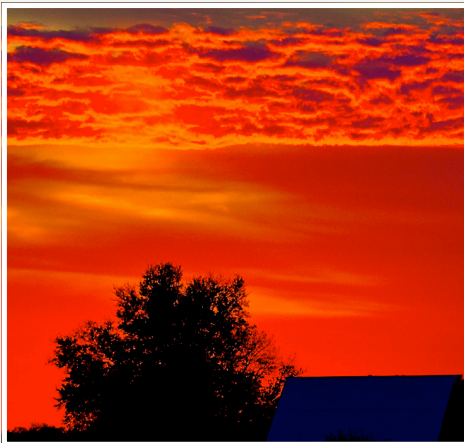
- Golf Balls • Gloves • Logo Hats • Logo Apparel • & Much More

Gift Cards Available

SHADY OAKS COUNTRY CLUB LIKE US ON **FACEBOOK**

577 US RT 52, Sublette, IL 61367
P.O. Box 137, Amboy, IL 61310
815-849-5424
www.shadyoaksc.com

"The grass will wither and flowers will fall...but something beautiful will remain" - by Val A. Stanley



VAL A. STANLEY

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Oregon, IL native, Val Stanley, has been honoring his skills in nature photography for several years. Not limited by this medium, Val has also received recognition in his poetry, and is an accomplished interdisciplinary artist in his works with pencil, oil pastels, and watercolor. His eye for the natural environment is seen through all methods of his artistic talents. - vastanley58@gmail.com



From page 13

Cover with small scraps of cut fabric or paper dipped in craft glue or Mod Podge®, and attach to the ornament in an overlapping fashion. Remember to add a string from which the ornament can be hung on the tree. Allow to dry completely before use.

Paper chain

Advent calendar

Cut strips of paper to make a link for every day of Advent. Advent begins on Sunday, December 1, 2024, and lasts until Christmas. The top link can be any design artists prefer, but those who need a little inspiration can consider a religious symbol, the face of a reindeer, a snowman, or a Christmas tree. Hang the chain and then children can take turns ripping off a link from the bottom each day as they count down to the holiday.



Popsicle stick snowflakes
Paint four popsicle sticks per snowflake in desired colors. Decorate with glue,

pompoms, beads, or other trinkets. Add small looped strings to hang the ornaments.

Parents, grandparents and children can have fun crafting holiday decorations this December.


CHRISTMAS
 — AT —
HIDDEN TIMBER GARDENS
 462 S CHANA RD. CHANA, IL

NOVEMBER 29 9AM - 5PM
NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 20TH

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: NOON - 5PM
SATURDAY-SUNDAY: 9AM-5PM

Fresh Cut Christmas Trees - Hand -Tied Wreaths - Swags -
 Holiday Decor - Porch Pots - Made to Order Garland &
 Roping - Mixed Evergreen Bundles - S'mores, Coffee, & Hot
 Cocoa On the Weekends!

815-751-4162 hiddentimbergardens.com


Merry CHRISTMAS

Bonita Willis - ABR, ePRO, C2EX, AHWD
 Designated Managing Broker


 Mary Lovgren - Broker
 (815)994-1449


 Justin Wiley - Broker
 (815)849-5390


 (815)849-5476
 WWW.WOODHAVENLAKES.COM

These decorative items add a lot to holiday festivities

IT'S easy to recognize the holiday season has arrived. Holiday-centric sights and sounds abound this time of year. In fact, the arrival of decorations in stores seemingly comes earlier and earlier each year, perhaps to accommodate people's undying enthusiasm for the holiday season.

Decorating a home or business for the holidays involves some familiar items, but this is a time of year when people can truly make the holidays their own. With that in mind, here are some considerations for decorations and other trinkets that can add a lot of cheer to this already festive time of year.

- **Wreaths:** Wreaths are one of the simplest ways to dress up windows, doors or other areas of a home.



See page 16



Olde Timers Antique Centre

Lots of HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS & DECOR for sale!
New, Vintage and Antique



175 Showcases • Over 130 Dealers • 70 Booths

131 East Church Street (Route 34)
Sandwich, Illinois 60548 • 815.786.6430

Open Every Day 10AM-5PM

Visit us on Facebook!

Primitives • Kitchenware • Barware • Rugs • Lamps • Linens • Pottery • Mirrors
Watercolors, Oils, Lithographs • Sports Memorabilia • Fishing • Garden Art • Tools
Advertising • Jewelry • Vintage Clothing • Quilts • Clocks • Toys • Books • Dolls
Doll Furniture • Candles • Records • Luggage • Trunks • Baskets
Collectibles • Train Memorabilia • Etc.

**Upper level is a country/primitive themed
gift shop and more antiques**

HWB2023





Village of Ashton
LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Christmas Walk

Saturday, Dec. 7
from 4 - 7 pm



Horse & Carriage Ride
Vendor Fair at the Mills & Petrie Gym
Visit with Santa Claus
Downtown businesses open for holiday fun
Lighted Display at the Ashton Splash Pad
Holiday Bingo

HWB2024

Follow us on Facebook
@villageofashtonil and join our Event Page - Village of Ashton
Christmas Walk 2024 for updates.
Also visit us online at
www.ashtonil.com for more information.

2024 Holiday Wishbook



15

From page 15

These decorative items can be made from various materials. Evergreen boughs are one of the more traditional, but there's also colorful garlands, flowers or even ribbon that can be wrapped to make a wreath.

- **Lights:** Lights are integral parts of both Christian and Jewish holiday celebrations. Lights adorn homes to represent Christ being the Light of the World. In Judaism, the lighting of eight candles for Chanukah represents how a small amount of Temple oil miraculously burned for eight days and nights. Filling a home with artificial lights or candles adds a festive touch to dark winter evenings.

- **Advent calendar:** While it is called an advent calendar and traditionally ties into the time preceding Christmas, anyone can utilize an advent "countdown" calendar as

they anticipate the arrival of Christmas Day. There are different iterations of advent calendars, from chocolate calendars to decorative ones featuring doors behind which there are whimsical figurines. Kids may even want to get involved in making homemade calendars.

- **Poinsettias:** Poinsettias come in a variety of colors, but red is the hue of choice for holiday decorating. Perhaps surprisingly, poinsettias are tropical plants. The "flowers" you see on the plants aren't flowers at all. They're modified leaves called bracts. If you take good care of poinsettias, they even can be planted outdoors for the summer.

- **Boughs and branches:** One of the easiest ways to add a festive touch to a home for the holidays is with items that likely can be scavenged from outdoors. Take a hike and gather some evergreen



boughs, tree branches, pine cones, and holly sprigs, which can be turned into garlands, wreaths or centerpieces. With a little white speckle paint, you can give them a snow-covered look.

Decorating for the holidays is a popular tradition and one that can make spaces even more festive to enjoy. Various items can enhance the ambiance and set the scene for the joyous weeks to come.

WHITE PINES
Lodge

Holidays in the Park

Join us for Shopping, Holiday Dining and
Christmas Dinner Theater Shows!

6712 W Pines RD • Mount Morris, IL | 815-655-2400 | visitwhitepines.com