



December 2023 THINGS TO DO IN THE COMMUNITY

Christmas in the Ward

Date/Time: Friday December 1st / 5:30pm-8:30pm

Location: Catalano Square – 273 E Menomonee St. 53202

Cost: Free

Come for Santa and the Reindeer...stay for the tree lighting, fireworks show, live music, Christmas cookies and so much more.

Family Free Day

Date/Time: Saturday December 2nd / 9:30am-4:30pm

Location: Milwaukee County Zoo - 10001 W Bluemound Rd. 53226

Cost: Free

Winter is one of the best times to visit the Zoo and get up close with the animals! And on this Saturday, all guests receive free admission. (Parking and regular attraction fees remain in effect.)

ArtWorks for Milwaukee Intern Celebration

Date/Time: Saturday December 2nd / 11:30am-2:00pm

Location: ArtWorks' studio – 207 East Buffalo Suite 600, 53202

Cost: Free

You're invited to see all that our graphic design and mental health advocacy interns have accomplished with us this year. The interns will be presenting a gallery showcase of their projects as well as interactive activities they have designed. Additionally, the interns will offer free face painting for children and adults and will debut volume 2 of the Be Your Own Hero coloring book.

Sparkle & Shine

Date/Time: Saturday December 2nd / 1:00pm-3:00pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm

Location: OASIS Community Center– 2414 W Mitchell St. 53204

Cost: \$3 per person **includes five raffle tickets, warm drinks, and snacks*

Jingle & mingle this holiday season! Join Milwaukee Recreation at our second annual Sparkle & Shine event to enjoy holiday crafts, seasonal refreshments, and light snacks as you view our creatively decorated trees and visit with others. There will be additional exhibitions for Hanukkah and Kwanzaa as well.

Happy Holiday Angel Art Crawl

Date/Time: Saturday December 2nd / 2:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Downtown Waukesha– Waukesha, 53186

Cost: Free

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Hundreds of artisans at 20 galleries and showplaces are featured at the Waukesha Art Crawl seasonal event, walk the downtown streets to discover your next artistic treasure, shop the boutiques, listen to live music, or indulge in food and drink.

60th Annual Christmas Parade

Date/Time: Sunday December 3rd / 4:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Downtown Waukesha– Waukesha, 53186

Cost: Free

Downtown Waukesha comes alive with enchantment and merriment during its annual Christmas parade, a beloved tradition that brings the community together in the spirit of the season. The historic streets are lined with eager spectators, their faces lit up with anticipation as the first notes of festive music fill the air. Colorful floats adorned with shimmering lights and marching bands playing joyful melodies all make their way down the snow-dusted streets.

Milwaukee Fire Museum Open House

Date/Time: Sunday December 3rd / 1:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Milwaukee Fire Historical Society and Fire Museum – 1615 W Oklahoma Ave. 53215

Cost: Free

The Milwaukee Fire Museum is only open on the first Sunday of each month. Built in 1927, this small museum houses the first department ambulance – a 1947 Cadillac – plus two trucks built in the Milwaukee Fire Department Shop during the 1920s and 1930s. The building also has a vintage kitchen, locker room, and hose tower, a fire officer's office and more.

Wauwatosa Holiday Market

Date/Time: December 6th – 17th / Time varies each day

Location: Village of Wauwatosa – 7603 W. State St. 53213

Cost: Free

The Wauwatosa Holiday market offers authentic traditional food mirroring what you would have in Europe. You will enjoy a unique shopping experience, magical family-friendly events, and live entertainment.

Kids in the Kitchen: Build a Gingerbread House!

Date/Time: Wednesday December 6th / 6:30am-7:30pm

Location: Waukesha Public Library– 321 Wisconsin Ave. 53186

Cost: Free

Come to the Program Room at the Waukesha Public Library to build a gingerbread house while enjoying festive music. Children of all ages are welcome! We cannot guarantee that food served at this program has not come into contact with tree nuts, soy, or other allergens. Registration is required.

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Charles Allis Art Museum

Date/Time: Thursday December 7th / 10:00am-5:00pm

Location: Charles Allis Art Museum – 1801 N Prospect Ave. 53202

Cost: Free

Free for all visitors on the first Wednesday of every month!

Kohl's Thank You Thursday

Date/Time: Thursday December 7th / 10:00am-5:00pm

Location: Milwaukee Public Museum – 800 W Wells St. 53233

Cost: Free

ALL visitors* (excluding groups) receive FREE access to the permanent exhibits of MPM on the first Thursday of every month during Kohl's Thank You Thursday.

Winter Wonder Woods

Date/Time: Saturday December 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th / 9:30am-4:30pm

Location: Hawthorn Glen – 1130 N 60th St. 53208

Cost: \$4 per person

Celebrate winter in style with Milwaukee Recreation's Winter Wonder Woods! See Hawthorn Glen in a new light as you stroll through our trails that are twinkling with holiday cheer. Tens of thousands of lights will illuminate the beauty of the Glen, winding you through the woods and past displays. Winter Wonder Woods will feature a selfie station, hiking Santa, educational facts along the trail, and more!

Holiday Storytime & Cookie Decorating

Date/Time: Saturday December 9th / 10:00am-11:00am

Location: Waukesha Public Library – 321 Wisconsin Ave. 53186

Cost: Free

Come to the Program Room at the Waukesha Public Library to enjoy festive stories and songs with Miss Kathy and decorate a delicious cookie!

Rooftop Stargazing

Date/Time: Friday December 15th / 8:00pm-9:00pm

Location: UWM Planetarium – 1900 E Kenwood BLVD University, 53201

Cost: Free

Join us on the Skydeck at the UWM Physics building for free public stargazing. Gaze through telescopes at the night sky and view the Moon, planets, star clusters, and other astronomical objects! The Skydeck is located on the 5th floor of the Physics building. In the event of inclement weather (cloudy skies, temperature below 0° F), we will cancel this event. Check our website the day of the event before you visit.

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Christmas Day Cinema + Coloring Workshop

Date/Time: December 25th / 9:30am-2:30pm and December 30th / 9:30am-4:30pm

Location: Jewish Museum Milwaukee - 1360 N Prospect Ave. 53202

Cost: Regular Museum Admission (\$6-\$9)

Looking for something fun to do on Christmas Day? Come to Jewish Museum Milwaukee to enjoy the star-studded 1980s award-winning comedy classic *9 to 5*, and a special coloring workshop that appeals to both children and adults!

Frosty Free Week

Date/Time: December 26th / 9:30am-2:30pm and December 30th / 9:30am-4:30pm

Location: Milwaukee County Zoo - 10001 W Bluemound Rd. 53226

Cost: Free

It's the season of giving, and the Zoo offers a week of free daytime admission to thank guests for their support. Visit the Zoo during "Frosty Free Week" – to enjoy animals and nature. All guests receive free daytime admission December 26-30. (Regular parking, concession, and attraction rates apply. Regular admission rates apply to the Zoo's Wild Lights night event.)

Holiday Lights

Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival – Downtown

November 16, 2023 – January 1, 2024

Mark your calendars to explore the lights and sights around Downtown Milwaukee. With sparkling interactive displays at Pere Marquette Park, Zeidler Union Square and Cathedral Square, it's the perfect chance to capture a memory that ignites joy for everyone, no matter their age.

Winter Wonders – Boerner Botanical Gardens

November 24, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Enter at: Whitnall Park Golf Course, 6751 S. 92nd St., Franklin

Gather family and friends for a spectacular drive-through holiday lights with over a million lights! Enjoy a variety of light displays throughout Whitnall Park from the comfort of your car as you drive alongside magnificent forest scenes and whimsical holiday fun.

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[Wild Lights at The Milwaukee County Zoo – Milwaukee County Zoo](#)

Dec. 1 – 31 with the exception of the following dates: Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 24, 25.

Location: 10001 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI

The Zoo will transform into an illuminated destination with millions (even more than 2022!) of glittering lights throughout the forests and pathways, letting guests enjoy an enchanted evening under the stars. Stroll along a 1-mile path glowing with animal-themed light displays.

[Holiday Show: Calm & Bright – The Mitchell Park Domes](#)

Nov 18, 2023 – Jan 7, 2024

Location: 524 S. Layton Blvd – Milwaukee

Gather your family in the warm glow of elegance and the timeless beauty of hundreds of velvety poinsettias. Capture photos of lasting memories and reunite in the spirit of the holidays.

[Miller Valley Holiday Lites – Miller Valley](#)

December 2 – December 25

Location: Miller Valley, 3897 W State St, Milwaukee, WI

Notes: Free. Kid-friendly lights show!

[Candy Cane Lane in West Allis](#)

Nov. 25 – Dec 25, 2022

Location: West Allis between 92nd-96th St. and between Montana Avenue and Oklahoma Avenue.

Bundle the kids in their jammies and let them sip cocoa while driving through an amazing spectacle of light. Donations are accepted and benefit the MACC Fund.

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