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Celebrating the people, places, and events of Geneseo



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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A LETTER FROM OUR TEAM

We all have fond memories of eagerly flipping through the newspaper to see our faces on Friday afternoons. Our kids lost that experience with the loss of our local print newspaper. This is the magic we want to bring back.

Our mission with the Current Scene is simple: Celebrate the people, places, and events of Geneseo. We'll let the news networks cover state and national news, politics, and economics. Our focus is this town we call home— the festivals, sporting events, and businesses and people that make our community what it is.

The Current Scene will be available at various locations within the community on the first Monday of every quarter- October, January, April, and July. We are committed to keeping this publication free and family-friendly.

Most importantly, we hope you find our first issue of the Current Scene to be inspiring, useful, and informative. This is our product that you can hold in your hand and keep in a cardboard box. Unlike the internet, it will never fade away. We hope that somewhere in our community there are a few youngsters tickled to see their faces on our pages.

THE CURRENT TEAM

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Embracing Autumn

COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH THE GENESEO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



As the crisp fall air sweeps through the Midwest, Geneseo's community spirit is reflected in the flurry of public events coordinated by the Geneseo Chamber of Commerce. This season, the Geneseo Chamber invites residents and visitors alike to partake in a series of unique signature events that celebrate the essence of autumn in our charming town.

Kicking off the fall festivities, the 9th annual State Street Market is set to be a highlight. Scheduled for Saturday October 5th, this event features 60 curated vendors – giving locals and guests a fantastic opportunity to do some holiday shopping, enjoy a warm meal, and experience autumn in Downtown Geneseo. Families can enjoy a fall-themed photobooth and food trucks. The festival also includes live music, providing a perfect backdrop for a day of community and of course, shopping!



As the leaves turn shades of red and gold, Halloween looms on the horizon. Geneseo celebrates Halloween with a unique scarecrow display at the Geneseo City Park called Scarecrow Row. 2024 marks the fifth year of Scarecrow Row, which allows residents to showcase their artistic ability in designing and creating original scarecrows. Happening on Saturday October 26, children are encouraged to dress in costume and trick-or-treat at the scarecrows from 10am to noon. Thousands of people attend Scarecrow Row to see almost 100 scarecrows at the City Park. If you would like to create a scarecrow, scarecrow frames are available for free from Smith Studio & Gallery.



For those who cannot wait for the holiday season, Geneseo's Christmas Open House provides the perfect appetizer for the holiday season. Taking place on Friday November 15 from 4pm to 7pm, this year's Christmas Open House will feature Horse & Buggy Rides courtesy of Springfield Armory, Candlelight Shopping, and the Geneseo Chamber will be hosting "The First Lighting" of the new City Christmas Tree at the intersection of State & Second Streets. The tree lighting will take place at 6 pm to officially kick off the holiday shopping season in Geneseo! It's a delightful way to begin the holiday season by experiencing the flavors of the season and supporting local businesses.

We close 2024 with Geneseo's biggest and most well-known annual event - the Geneseo Christmas Walk! The 2024 Geneseo Christmas Walk will be Saturday December 14 from 8am to 8pm, with the Lighted Christmas Parade taking place at 5pm in Downtown Geneseo. The 2024 theme for the event is "Too Many Santas", in which we are encouraging attendees to dress like Santa Claus as we honor him for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Geneseo. But can you help us find the real Santa? The Geneseo Christmas Walk will also feature holiday shopping, living windows, luminaries, a Lighted Christmas Parade, meal sites, kids' activities, Christmas music, and so much more. This is a cannot miss event. Make plans to indulge in the family fun and excitement at the 2024 Geneseo Christmas Walk!



This autumn, the Geneseo Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to creating moments of joy and connection while driving support to local businesses who help us host these outstanding events. Whether you're a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, there's no better time than autumn to experience the warmth of Geneseo. From vibrant markets to historical backdrops and seasonal treats, the Geneseo Chamber's fall events are a testament to the town's lively spirit and rich traditions.

So, bundle up, grab your loved ones, and step into the heart of Geneseo this fall. With so much to offer, it's the perfect season to celebrate community, heritage, and the simple joys of life in our picturesque town.



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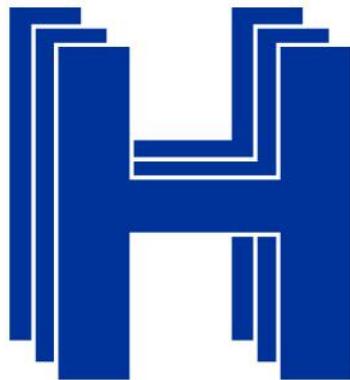
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2024 Annual Trains, Planes



& Automobiles Festival



Caramel Apple Crisp

Prep Time: 25 mins | Cook Time: 50 mins | Total Time: 1 hr 15 mins | Servings: 12



INGREDIENTS

Apple Filling:

- 5 large Granny Smith apples - peeled, cored, and thinly sliced
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ¼ cup water

Crisp Topping:

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup quick cooking oats
- 1 cup butter, softened

Caramel Sauce:

- 1 (14 ounce) package individually wrapped caramels, unwrapped
- 1 (5 ounce) can evaporated milk

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 F (175 degree C).

Toss apples in a medium size bowl with sugar, flour, cinnamon, lemon juice, and water; spread evenly into a 9x13-inch pan.

Mix flour, brown sugar, oats, and butter together in another bowl; spoon mixture evenly over apples.

To make the caramel sauce: Place caramels and evaporated milk in a heavy saucepan over low heat; cook, stirring frequently, until caramels have melted and sauce is smooth; drizzle over crisp topping.

Bake in the preheated oven until the apple mixture bubbles and the topping is golden brown, about 45 minutes. Serve warm with a dollop of ice cream or whipped cream.

NUTRITION FACTS

Calories 502

Total Fat 20g Saturated Fat 11g Cholesterol 46mg
Sodium 208mg Total Carbohydrate 81g Dietary
Fiber 3g Total Sugars 58g Protein 5g Vitamin C
5mg Calcium 107mg Iron 1mg Potassium 275mg



MODERNIZING

Downtown Geneseo

BY KATIE KUTSINIS, CONTRIBUTOR

You may not know that the parking lots behind the downtown buildings did not always exist. There were other buildings and businesses on those properties and there were hardly any parking spots for employees or for customers. So in the 60's several business owners joined together and raised money to buy and demolish those buildings to pave the parking lots. This was not a small undertaking nor a small investment. At the time, the city did not have the funds to do this. So the business owners banded together and raised the money.

I want to acknowledge the business leaders that made this happen. A few of the names you may or may not recognize, but they were key players in making our community what it is today. Collaborators included Don Klavohn, George Kutsunis, Bob Schaefer, Clyde Walters, Bill Wagle, Don Anderson, The Geneseo Foundation, and more. Most businesses gave \$5,000 to \$10,000 towards this project. That was in 1960 dollars. Today that financial contribution would certainly have been much greater. If those business leaders had not worked together and made the investment, I firmly believe that our downtown would not be as vibrant and could look like other less desirable towns.

The second project the downtown business community was instrumental in was in the 80's. At that time our town looked like a 1970's downtown. All of the awnings were metal, and we did not have light posts or planters. An architect from Chicago was hired to complete a streetscape design.

The conversion to fabric awnings, decorative street lamps that hold the flags and the flowers, and ornate planters all exist because of local contributions. The streetscape plan is still in place and the city maintains the standards of beautification for our town.

The City of Geneseo does a lot to maintain these investments. They bought the parking lots for \$1.00 many years ago but have spent countless dollars maintaining those parking lots for the benefit of Geneseo businesses and residents. The city also takes care of the flags, banners, and planters – both summer and holiday plantings, watering the summer flowers daily. We could not have maintained these initial investments of time and money of the retailers without the city's dedication and commitment.



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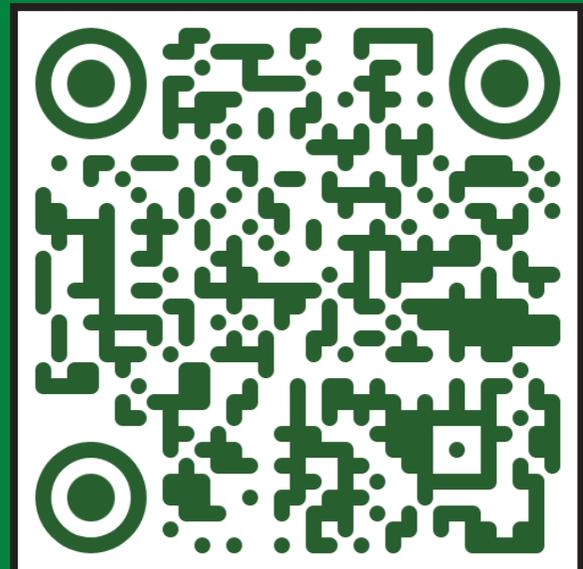
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SCAN HERE

for more photos and videos of the people,
places, and events covered in this issue.



MUSIC FEST - 2024







Erdman Construction Showroom & Cabinet Design Center **GRAND OPENING!**



Erdman Construction, a distinguished leader in custom home building and design, is pleased to announce the grand opening of its newly established Showroom & Cabinet Design Center. This significant milestone underscores our commitment to excellence.

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The new showroom will present an extensive selection of cabinetry designs and materials, offering clients the opportunity to explore and choose the ideal finishes for their projects. Additionally, our advanced cabinet design center will feature cutting-edge options and provide design consultations, ensuring that every detail aligns with our clients' distinct preferences and requirements.

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Bob DeBoever's Legacy in Geneseo

By Claudia Loucks, Correspondent

Bob DeBoever died in 2022, but he left behind a rich legacy to our community – understanding the importance of the American flag and the freedom it represents. He is remembered as one of the most patriotic men in Henry County. It was his tour of duty in Vietnam that made him appreciate the flag and what it represents. From a 2020 interview, I learned how Bob DeBoever came to appreciate his homeland and the American Flag.

When he was drafted into the military in January of 1966, he didn't know he was going to be a Marine. When he received his draft notice, his draft orders were to report to Chicago. "It was an open draft," he explained. "They lined everybody up and every other one of us went to the Marine Corps. It wasn't what I expected."

The 1963 graduate of Geneseo High School was farming on the family farm in Osco when he received the draft notice. He and his high school sweetheart, the late Judy (Olson) DeBoever, had planned to be married in January of 1966, and DeBoever said, "The

lady at the Henry County Courthouse said to me, 'you won't be here in January,' so Judy and I were married in December of 1965." After completing basic training with the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton near Oceanside, California, DeBoever left for Vietnam in July of 1966. He said, "We were all told from the beginning that we would be going to Vietnam. The drill instructors were tough on us because the whole idea was to train us to be 'good Marines.'"

His first assignment was as a truck driver, but he ended up doing very little of that, he said, and explained, "We were based out of Danang to begin with and then our unit moved to Hoi An. That's where the Marines were based and there was fighting all over the country of Vietnam at that time." DeBoever said the troops were "in constant danger and I, like everyone else who was there serving their country, was in constant danger. I went on frequent patrols and was shot at. I lived in fear for the thirteen months I was there."

Those experiences made him appreciate home, he said. "You see how the people live over there and you don't know who you can trust because the enemy and good Vietnamese all looked alike."



“I got a letter from another member of the Marine Corps who was stationed elsewhere in Vietnam, someone I met in basic training and he wrote, ‘how does it feel to know that you can die any minute over here?’ That pretty much sums it up. After seeing how people in that country lived and survived, it made me realize how fortunate we are to live in the United States of America.” “To me, the flag means freedom, national pride and it reminds me to respect our country, our individual rights, and our independence,” he said.

When he and his wife moved to their home just west of Geneseo, DeBoever said the couple put up a flag pole and added, “The American flag has flown on that pole ever since.” “I fought for our freedom and when you see how other people live in other countries, some under Communist rule, and who don’t have the freedom we do, it makes me realize just how lucky we are to have the freedom we have. We need to appreciate that.”

Until his passing in 2022, DeBoever actively participated in various initiatives dedicated to honoring the United States and the American flag. His commitment extended to the Geneseo’s Aisle of Flags project, where American flags were ceremoniously displayed at Geneseo City Park and North Park to commemorate and pay tribute to local veterans. DeBoever was president of the Aisle of Flags, a position he assumed when his wife died in 2018, as she had been president from 2011 until her death.

He recalled the project was started in 1981 by three ladies from the Geneseo VFW Auxiliary who had lost their husbands. “Their husbands’ memorial flags that had been on their caskets were put away on shelves in their homes and they wanted to get a program going to show the flags and fly them on Memorial Day, July 4 and Veterans Day, weather permitting.”

DeBoever’s commitment extended beyond the Aisle of Flags, as he held a lifelong membership with the Geneseo VFW Post. Since his enrollment in 1982, he notably served as commander on four occasions, each tenure earning him the prestigious title of All-State Commander. He also was in charge of the Memorial Day program held in Geneseo City Park, and he oversaw the registry of all deceased veterans and where they were buried. He was also the person who ordered the small cemetery flags for grave markers that are put in place on each veteran’s grave on Memorial Day and left there until after Veteran’s Day. He oversaw the firing squad during military funerals, conducted the flag folding ceremony, and presented the flag to the veteran’s family. In an interview four years ago, DeBoever expressed, “I am proud of the American flag and the freedom it represents, and I am proud to be a Marine.”

I am proud of the American flag and the freedom it represents, and I am proud to be a Marine.



Cutlines for photo taken in 2020. The late Bob DeBoever of Geneseo was photographed in 2020 by the Vietnam Memorial in Geneseo City Park. -- Claudia Loucks Photo

GHS ATHLETICS





COZY UP WITH *Convection* SETTINGS

Does Your Current Oven Have Convection Features That You've Never Tried Out? We're Here To Help You Get Comfortable With Convection and Make Your Holiday Meal Prep Much Easier



We often hear from customers that they have convection ovens but are too afraid to try out the option. You have invested in a great feature, let's get you comfortable with using it. Now is a great time to get more confident with convection ahead of the Midwest "cozy season" at home. Convection ovens are used in restaurants and bakeries because of their consistent results. If you have a countertop toaster oven or air fryer, chances are it uses convection.

"Convection is just a fancy term for an oven that keeps a consistent heat throughout the entire oven cavity using a fan. What dish couldn't benefit from surrounding your food on all sides with the temperature it is meant to bake at?...and as a bonus, preheat times are shorter." -Elizabeth Round

The fan at the back of the unit kicks on at intermittent times to help *surround* your dishes and bakeware with the heat coming from the heating elements in the oven. Baking 3 racks of cookies at once instead of in 3 different batches is possible with convection. Filling up your oven racks with multiple Thanksgiving side dishes and baking them all together at 350° is possible with convection. Standard conventional ovens just uses the element at the bottom of the oven and let the heat travel up from it. Convection cooking surrounds your dish (or dishes) with a consistent temperature from all directions using a fan to move heat around the cavity. In many of the oven models we offer, there may be an added heating element that partners with the convection fan. This is known as "True Convection" cooking. It is with this category that you may see the ability to adjust cooking times and temperatures. Don't be intimidated by that concept, most "True Convection" models we offer walk you through step by step when you are entering temperature and time info and the conversions/adjustments are made for you when you select start. Can't find the manual or instructions for your oven from Village? Contact our team and we can look up the info for you.



TAKE IT FOR A TEST DRIVE

Worried about something getting over or under cooked on your first attempt? Try it out ahead of a big gathering. We recommend test driving a favorite dish that you are already familiar making and use a convection. Casseroles or lasagnas are great candidates for convection. Be nearby during the last few minutes of cooking.

Angela's Thai Meatball Noodle Bowls

Rachele's Creamy Tuscan Tortellini Soup



SOUP COOKOFF RECIPES

We had a tie for last year's winners of our staff soup and chili cookoff. In celebration of soup season kicking off, find both award-winning recipes and a half-dozen more here on the Village Home Stores blog:



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†Occasional inflammation or muscle pain due to exercise or overuse. ^Based on enhanced absorption of CuraMed curcumin versus an equivalent weight of standard curcumin containing 2% curcuminoids. ***SPINScan Condition Specific Supplements Other (Brand Rank), 52-week data, based on Total Aggregate Unit Sales for Terry Naturally brand products. *These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. These products are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

Angie Snook Retires As Curator Of Geneseo Historical Museum

By Claudia Loucks, Geneseo Current

Retiring has been a “journey” for Angie Snook, curator/director of the Geneseo Historical Museum, and her retirement became official in June of this year. For Snook, the “third time” truly was a charm as she had planned to retire from her position at the museum two previous times...And moving into that phase of life is bittersweet for her.

She first retired as curator at the Geneseo Historical Museum in 2015, but returned in 2016 to take the place of a director who had resigned. In the fall of 2019, Snook thought she was stepping into retirement, but was once again asked to be in charge of the museum for a bit longer.

Her official retirement did take place though, on June 1st of this year.

Melanie Rice is now the curator/director. Rice was a social worker for the Geneseo School District, but retired from the school district in May of 2024.

Snook said, “I am excited for Melanie in her position as director. She has been on the museum board for many years and I know she has a passion for Geneseo history.”

Angie Snook is retired as curator at the museum, but continues to be actively involved, serving as a board member and an enthusiastic volunteer.

“I will always enjoy being involved with the museum,” she said. “The museum is like my baby. I have given it up for adoption, but I still have visiting rights.”

Even though she will not be at the museum on a daily basis, the popularity of the programs she began while serving as curator will continue as she has already scheduled future programs.

Snook was named curator in 1996, but her involvement with the museum’s place in history started nearly 20 years earlier during her time as a volunteer and board member.

She was instrumental in the purchase of the Italianate house for the museum, which had been located in the original Geneseo Public Library building on State St.

“As president of the Geneseo Historical Museum, I knew that house would be the perfect setting for the new museum,” she said.

The museum board submitted a bid to purchase the home and when that bid was opened by Rosalie Thede, owner of the home, Snook recalled Thede said, “That is what my mother always wanted.”

In November of 1996 the Thede house became the

Geneseo Historical Museum’s permanent home.

“We were working on a fund to pay for the new museum,” Snook said. “Don Stocks was the curator at that time and somehow found a way to save \$113,000 during his 25-year tenure. The late Marie Lodge, a museum board member, gave the Historical Association a \$100,000 loan “to get the museum up and going,” Snook said.

During the museum’s move from the “old library” to its new home, Stocks became ill and died.

In 1996, after being a preschool educator at Growth, Inc., Geneseo, Snook became the curator.

The museum opened the doors to its new home during Geneseo’s 1997 Victorian Walk.

“People were lined up to see the museum, to the north along the downtown street,” Snook said, adding that more than 2,700 people visited the museum on that evening.

“In the spring of 1998, the museum had so many tours and programs scheduled that the board decided it was necessary to set regular hours of operation,” she said.

“In 2014, there were about 11,000 visitors to the museum and about 3,200 students came for tours.”

And Snook also took museum programs “on the road” and she visited schools in the Quad City area, Galva, Cambridge, Colona and Orland Park in the Chicago area.

“Many high school football teams visited the museum when they came to play football in Geneseo...The ‘underground railroad’ stories are the biggest reason for all the programs and tours. Slavery and the freedom trail that are part of Geneseo’s heritage have generated great interest.”

In 2003, a museum volunteer, Bea Welsh, convinced Snook the museum would be the perfect place for tea parties for little girls.

Those were not just tea parties as Snook and volunteers incorporated “taking tea and tea etiquette” in the events.

“Little did we know how much fun it was going to be for the children, but also for myself and ‘Maid Alice’, (the late Aiice Lopez). The children loved it and our tea parties snowballed into teas for women, boys and girls and entire families,” Snook shared.

The rule at the tea parties was that everyone had to choose a hat from the museum collection to wear to the tea party.

“Over the years there have been hundreds of tea parties for all ages and it was one of the highlights that the



museum offered,” Snook said.

Snook commented that creating displays has always been a favorite for her.

“I loved the museum from the very first time I became involved as a volunteer,” she said. “Hearing stories from the visitors and sharing in their love for antiques and history brought me great joy.”

She said what gave her the most joy was when donors shared about what they were donating to the museum and how the item had been saved for generations...That is heartwarming,” Snook said. “To think they loved it enough to give it to the museum to preserve and display. Everything in the museum is a gift and is special.”

Each item donated has been logged and numbered with the name of the donor.

The success of the museum would not be possible without the support from many people, Snook said. “There have been many people in my many years at the museum that have done much to insure the museum will always be alive with history.”

“None of the projects would have been possible without all the gifts, estates, grants, donations and the many volunteers sharing their time and talents. Many local businesses discount their materials and services for the museum.”

In 1996, the museum board made a wish list and with everyone working together, these visions came to fruition.

“We were able to add the Stees & Keppy Education

Wing in 2010 and the carriage house on Center St. in 2014. Both of those projects would not have been possible without all the donated hours of labor by the late Les Stees and his brother Gene Stees.”

The museum is a 501 © 3 non-profit organization which does not receive any city, state or federal tax dollars.

Snook’s family has been part of her “journey,” and she said from the time her own children were youngsters they went with her to the museum.

Angie and her husband, Mel, have one daughter, Ami (Jon) Murray, Geneseo; and their children, (Sam (Autumn) Murray, Geneseo; and Eryn Murray, Geneseo); and a son, Andy (Trista) Snook, (children Aydan and Josephine Snook) who live in Bangkok, Thailand. There is also a great-grandchild, Forrest Murray, Geneseo.

Many family vacations were spent doing research and Snook recalled the year she and husband Mel followed the freedom trail along the Ohio River.

“It confirmed the fact that Geneseo’s founding fathers were among the 70 early abolitionists,” she said. “That led to our research vacation to Genesee County in New York, and that trip proved that our founding fathers came here in their quest to abolish slavery...That discovery ranks right up there with me with getting married, having children and grandchildren.”

In her retirement Snook plans to continue to work on Geneseo’s history including the underground railroad.

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Buy the *Latte*

You know how life can be a bit of a whirlwind, right? Days rushing past like they've got a train to catch. But it's the little things, isn't it? That first glorious gulp of morning coffee, the crunch of leaves underfoot in the park, or precious time with your favorite people.

These small joys are like secret weapons for well-being. Think of it as taking a mini-holiday right in the middle of your day. Sounds good, doesn't it? These simple pleasures bring balance and happiness which can weather any storm.

Maybe it's a hearty laugh over a homemade meal, the comforting weight of a good book in your hands, or the sunlight's warm kiss through your window. These little things are the magic stitches in the tapestry of a well-lived life.

In a world always urging us to want more, faster, it's important to remember that true happiness often lives in the everyday moments. The fragrance of fresh flowers, your favorite song's soothing melody, or a cozy blanket on a chilly evening – these are the anchors, reminding us of the beauty and wonder surrounding us.

When we treasure these tiny joys, we nurture a mindset of gratitude and mindfulness. This shift in perspective can completely transform our view, making us stronger, kinder, and more aware. It's a gentle nudge that life's biggest treasures often hide in the smallest places.

So, the next time life feels like a whirlwind, take a breather and savor the simple pleasures. These are the quiet, loyal friends that enrich our lives, offering comfort and joy amidst the chaos. Embrace them and watch them light up even the darkest days with their gentle, enduring glow.



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christmas bucket list

- Decorate a Christmas Tree
- Bake Gingerbread Cookies
- Host a Festive Movie Night
- Make Homemade Hot Chocolate
- Build a Snowman
- Go Ice Skating
- Attend a Holiday Concert
- Read Christmas Stories
- Create DIY Ornaments
- Go to the Christmas Walk Parade
- Make a Snow Globe
- Visit a Local Nursing Home
- Take a Winter Nature Walk
- Make Christmas Crafts
- Go on a Christmas Light Tour
- Plan a Family Game Night
- Write a Letter to Santa



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



10.18

Cruise the Canal: Fall Foliage Tour



10.24 - 10.26

Witches Weekend



10.25

Scarecrow Row



11.06

Chamber of Commerce Fall Breakfast



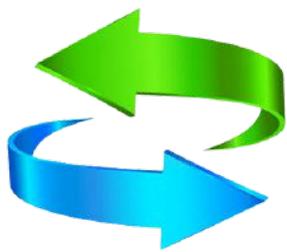
11.11

Veteran's Day - Aisle of Flags



12.04

Christmas Walk



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