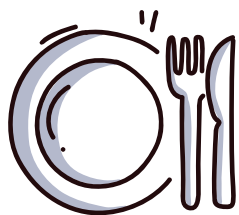


Eat and drink in heated igloo this winter



What's the Dish?

Waukesha County restaurant news

By Katherine Beck
kbeck@conley.net

Eating and drinking in the great outdoors is generally limited to a few warm months in Wisconsin, but thanks to heated, clear igloos that have become increasingly popular features at Waukesha County restaurants, even the chilliest, snowiest winter day can still feel warm and cozy — while enjoying nature's beauty.

Heated igloos are returning to **The Tap Yard** in Fox Brook Park for the second year and will be introduced in Menomonee Park for the first time this year.

"It's like sitting in a snow globe when it is snowing," said Tap Yard owner Nick Marking.

And there's a pretty good chance of snow falling during the rental period from Black Friday until the end of January. The igloos will be available for reservation from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

"It certainly gives people options to get out of the house," Marking said, adding the igloos provide an interesting option versus a traditional restaurant or bar.

In Fox Brook Park, 2925 N. Barker Road, Brookfield, the two-person igloos (and a six-person greenhouse) are set up in the covered pavilion next to the lake where there is a fireplace. They can be reserved for 90 minutes for \$50, which will be taken off the final bill. Food that is offered includes charcuterie boards, pizza and cheesecake, as well as hot chocolate, beer buckets, craft beer, canned cocktails and wine.

In Menomonee Park, W220-N7884 Town Line Road, Menomonee Falls, there are three big igloos that can hold up to eight people located in a covered pavilion. Reservations can be made online at thetapyards.com/events.

In downtown Oconomowoc, a heated igloo can be found on the rooftop patio of **The Etcetera Bar and Grill**, 118 E. Wisconsin Ave. The igloo is full-service until 10 p.m. for dining or drinks and is available after 10 p.m. on weekends for people looking for a "great place to enjoy drinks together," said Laura Fischer, a bartender at The Etcetera.

"This is our second year with the igloo, and we just wanted to bring a unique dining experience to Oconomowoc in the winter. We love our rooftop views, and this lets us enjoy them even in the winter," she said. Reservations are for 90



Photo courtesy of The Lowlands Group

Café Hollander in The Corners of Brookfield, 20150 Union St., Town of Brookfield, will have three "winter domes" that can accommodate groups of up to six people.

minutes and can be made at bit.ly/etceteraigloo.

Other Waukesha County restaurants featuring igloos include **Café Hollander** in The Corners of Brookfield, 20150 Union St., Town of Brookfield, which will have three "winter domes" that can accommodate groups of up to six people.

"Nobody does winter quite like Wisconsinites do," said Eric Wagner, CEO of Lowlands Group, which runs Café Hollander. "We are passionate about creating unique dining experiences for our guests, and our winter experiences allow us to extend the life of patio season and bring the magic of winter — and the holidays — to our beloved neighborhoods."

With each reservation for a Hollander Dome, guests will be given a complimentary signature welcome drink, that can be either alcoholic or non-alcoholic. In addition to the restaurant's regular menu, guests can order from curated, pre-order food and beverage menus designed for family-style service, with both themed and customizable options. Reservations can be made by going to lowlandsgroup.com/winter.

Dining and drinking in igloos is an option again this year in downtown Delafield thanks to

Belfre Kitchen, 606 Genesee St. "This beloved tradition continues to be a Lake Country favorite with holiday charm, cozy atmosphere and celebration with good food + friends," reads a post on Belfre Kitchen's Facebook page.

A special menu item — Dome Exclusive Cheese Fondue — can be pre-ordered at the time of online booking at belfrekitchen.com/domes.

Here Chicky Chicky closes

If you found yourself in the mood for a hot chicken sandwich at Here Chicky Chicky at 20340 W. Lord St. in The Corners of Brookfield, make other plans as the restaurant with a retro vibe has closed. The restaurant opened Oct. 20, 2022 and was a spinoff of co-owner Tamar Mizrahi's other café, Goddess and the Baker, also located in The Corners.

(Have a Waukesha County restaurant news tip? Email Katherine Beck at kbeck@conley.net.)

>> The What's the Dish restaurant news column runs every week in The Freeman.

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Say Jell-O to these weird family recipes

Sweet salads and Jell-O fluffs: You either love them or hate them

By **Bridget Dean**
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Cottage cheese and pineapple Jell-O. Green fluff. Watergate salad. These so-called salads and fluffs with questionable ingredient combinations and altogether too much Jell-O and Cool Whip are often served at the dinner table on holidays or family get-togethers. The origins of many of these dishes are unknown, usually found decades ago in an old cookbook or Jell-O box recipe.

On the Kraft Heinz Jell-O webpage and recipe bank, numerous recipes for Jell-O salads and fluffs can be found. A literal slab of gelatinous cream cheese with cinnamon and pears, topped with lime Jell-O? That's called under-the-sea salad. The gelatin certainly isn't limited to sweet dishes. Jell-O has a recipe for a gazpacho salad, which is just veggies suspended in gelatinous tomato juice and shaped in a mold. In the 1960s, there were even a few savory Jell-O flavors available for the purpose of making savory salads.

The Freeman asked people to share their favorite holiday salads and fluffs, and they do not disappoint.

One of the odder-looking submissions was a dish that Mary Dehler of Pewaukee simply calls "Green Jell-O." She said that several members of her family make the dish for holidays, with her mother starting it over 55 years ago and passing it down to her children and grandchildren.

"It tastes just like the Yoplait whipped key lime yogurt," Dehler said. "It is made with lime Jell-O, cream cheese, whipped cream and a can of crushed pineapple. You drain the pineapple and use the juice with water to make the Jell-O," she said. An important detail of this dish is that it has to be made in a copper fish mold, which is shaped like the letter "U" and includes fish features. To top it off, green olives make the eyes and spine of the fish.

"Who knows on the olives. It's just how our mom did it. I suspect

it was a Betty Crocker recipe; I tried searching but no luck," Dehler said. "The olives are what usually weirds people out."

The picture submitted with the recipe was that of a minty-green "fish" only identifiable as a creature by its two protruding olive-eyes.

Continuing the theme of eyes, several people said they make a dish called frog-eye salad, which sounds borderline inedible. It's a dessert pasta salad featuring whipped topping and eggs; various fruits and mini marshmallows are recommended as add-ins. When searching for the recipe online there are many variations. The name comes from the acini di pepe pasta used, which looks like frog or fish eyes. Yum.

Others mentioned Watergate salad, otherwise known as green fluff or pistachio delight. This dish's base is pistachio pudding. It contains ingredients such as canned pineapple, pecans, marshmallows and whipped topping. Unfortunately, even the Jell-O team doesn't know the origin of the name, but according to the Kraft Heinz website, the recipe originated in the mid-1980s and was renamed to Watergate salad in 1993.

Other dishes shared were more Thanksgiving-themed and were accompanied by heartwarming stories, such as cranberry fluff. Natasha Siebert submitted a recipe her first-grade teacher taught her how to make in the mid-1980s, and she has served it ever since.

"Usually, the youngest member of the family makes it each year, so they can contribute to the family meal in a simple, yet meaningful way," said Siebert. The dish involves jellied cranberry sauce, red Jell-O and Cool Whip. "It is surprisingly delicious!"

As funny as some of these dishes sound or look — thinking of you, olive-eyed Jell-O fish — they serve as a way for families to share tradition and create a simple side dish for the holidays. So, go pick up a package or two of gelatin and consider making a sweet salad for your next gathering.



Courtesy of Lauren Moeller

"Green Jell-O" is a staple at Mary Dehler's holiday meals. The olive-eyed fish-shaped dish was introduced by her mother 55 years ago. Her niece made and captured the image above.



Boxes of Jell-O brand gelatin mix sit on a shelf at a grocery store, waiting to be made into a holiday salad.

Bridget Dean, Freeman Staff

UPDATE

Poplar Creek Town Center

LAST WE KNEW: Wimmer Communities is building a \$120 million redevelopment of the Northeast Quadrant of Bluemound and Barker Roads, which includes hotels and apartments, according to Wimmer Communities. Poplar Creek Town Center will have the Marriott Center, which will include two Marriott hotels — a Courtyard and a Residence Inn. Both hotels will offer fitness and office facilities, an indoor pool, and rooftop lounge. There will be 30,000 square feet of retail and dining space on the ground floor, the developer said.

Five residential buildings will offer amenities such as a golf simulator, billiards room and event space.

THE LATEST: Brookfield Town Administrator Tom Hagie said in general, the project is well on it's way. The progress is easy to see if you travel through the Barker Road/Bluemound Road intersection.

WHAT'S NEXT: The first phase of the project, which includes the Marriot Center, is scheduled to be completed mid-2024.



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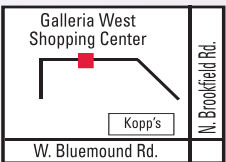
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A true dime-store story

The Woolworth Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, became America’s first successful 5-and-10-cent store. A traveling salesperson convinced a reluctant Frank Winfield Woolworth to buy one case of Christmas ornaments for his store. Woolworth replied, “People will never waste money on holiday decorations.” To the contrary, shoppers immediately purchased the glass bulbs at 5 cents each and all 144 ornaments sold out in a few hours! Woolworth was enthralled with the profit it generated. In the following years, he skipped the middle man, traveled to Europe and placed his own massive order for holiday decorations. Woolworth’s became known as a pioneer in retail merchandising.

Mail-order catalogs were the way to shop

In 1914, the catalog from Aaron Montgomery Ward & Company required customers to calculate their own shipping charges based on the train delivery stop and item(s) purchased. The oversized catalog had 900-plus pages but only 19 pages were in color. As an alternative to horse-and-buggy travel, bicycles surged in popularity during this time. One of the foremost bicycle manufacturers who sold through this mail-order catalog was the Hawthorne Company of Chicago. This 1914 Deluxe Model gave an increased degree of mobility and had a high selling price of \$32.00!

As part of The Homestead Act in 1929, the federal postal system required a surcharge for catalog delivery at 1 cent per pound. To retain customers, (and offset company costs) the firm of Richard Warren Sears in Chicago offered a \$.25 rebate on any future orders.

Note: Very few catalogs were printed around the World War II years. Most paper pulp was being recycled for the war effort, including hundreds of outdated catalogs.

The Spring & Summer 1956 front cover of the Montgomery Ward catalog featured a ladies two-piece ensemble for \$17.98. For Easter season, there were nine pages of women’s Sunday hats printed in full color:



In 1960, the Chicago store owner Modie Joseph Spiegel opted for a new marketing approach: a slimmer, 55-page “sale catalog.” With only black-and-white photos and fewer pages, it was cheaper to produce and mail. It featured an assortment of popular items; the newest electric percolator for \$11.88, men’s heavy denim jeans, bargain priced at two pairs for \$5.70, and a single car tire — with the tube — for only \$14.32.



December is the ‘present’ month

Also in the 1960s, everything space-related attracted attention. This included Christmas tree items like these Atomic Starburst ornaments. The trendy stars have a built-in hook and are made of durable plastic. The ornaments were pro-

duced in silver tones but the bright, colorful examples can now sell up to \$8 each. There are countless reproductions and look-alikes on the market today.

To schedule an appraisal appointment at my office in the Waukesha Antique Mall or at your location, email Barbara J. Eash: beappraisals@gmail.com (fees vary).

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How to not break the bank during the holidays this year

By Karen Pilarski
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262-513-2657

WAUKESHA — The holidays can be a source of joy with festive trips, big meals and fancy gifts but it can quickly turn stressful with all the money spent. Waukesha money coach Kathy Bue, CPA, helps people with their behavior towards money to get where they want to be.

“People think I’m a financial advisor. I’m not, a financial advisor helps your money work for you. I work, as a coach, with your behavior with money and bring awareness and clarity to your spending patterns. I help you build up the behaviors and habits for successful skills with managing your day to day finances and money mindset,” Bue said.

People are often afraid to talk about money matters to others.

“We don’t talk about money. It is taboo and was something that we kept close to our chests. The result is we feel lonely if we have money issues. If you have that issue you feel like you are all alone, there is guilt, shame and anxiety. In reality if we sat in a room with 100 people, there would be probably 20-25 people in there who are dealing with some of the same stuff,” Bue said.

A pitfall people run into is putting things on credit cards and forgetting about them, according to the money coach. People don’t realize how much they have spent because they buy things here and there and it adds up.

“They don’t have a plan and go willy nilly. Parents don’t talk to each other and realize dad picked up this and mom picked up that,” she said.

She asks clients around October about the holidays and their plans and goals.

“The holidays can be one of the things where it sneaks up on you. Then you have this expense you didn’t plan for. The first thing you need to do is have a plan,” Bue said.

She pointed out it doesn’t need to be the

same plan you had in the past. There are often feelings of guilt or expectations of how the holidays should be.

“Make a plan, who are you going to buy for, who is on the list and who is not. How much are you going to spend per person or how much do you have to comfortably spend. Your financial health and mental well-being at the end of the season is more important than buying for extended friends or family just because we have always traded,” Bue said.

Bue suggests people talk with extended family, friends and neighbors about the plan. She said you might be surprised to hear those people feel the same.

“They could be in the same (financial) spot and would welcome taking down some of the stress level. It’s not that you don’t want to give gifts but want to enjoy the holiday more without the stress of having to buy 60 gifts for various people,” she said.

The gift of experience

People think more gifts means more love and it doesn’t, according to Bue, the gift of experience is more thoughtful.

Bue suggested gifting a trip to the museum, a zoo membership or swim lessons.

“You get all this stuff and think about last year Christmas with the toys. Watch carefully how long your kids play with those toys after Christmas,” she said.

The time together is what kids remember and not a doodad they wanted.

Another option is gifting people with help such as a babysitting or dog walking coupon. Bue said that would be more helpful to someone. People value time they have to spend with others, she said.

Another idea is to have a gift exchange where people pick names out of a hat. Perhaps it could work for all the kids in a family such as grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Bue again urged people to talk with their families about the plan.

For more information visit <https://bueadvisors.com/>.



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