

HUDSON CHRISTMAS

Tour of Homes

Christmas Tour of Homes draws 1,500 tour goers to kick off the holiday shopping season.

Now is its 36th year, the Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes continues to bring visitors from Hudson and the surrounding communities to tour the homes, shop, dine in the restaurants, and stay in local hotels enjoying all the events of the weekend. Again this year, the tour features lavishly decorated themed trees, dining tables overflowing with exceptional and unique treasures, gorgeous wreaths, embellished windows, and decorations that will awaken holiday memories. Tour-goers will be delighted and amazed visiting this year's four homes and the historic Octagon House, November 18-20.

Tickets can be ordered [online](#), or by calling (715) 386-8411. Place your order by November 11 to be eligible for grand prizes and Purple Bow door prizes. A list of participating businesses is included within your ticket. Check your ticket number at each home and at participating businesses to see if you won.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at the Chamber office throughout the tour weekend.

Children 12 and older are welcome to attend. Please note, tickets are non-refundable. Please wear socks since you will need to remove your shoes prior to entering the homes – shoe bags will be provided.

Thank you to the homeowners, retailers, restaurants, and lodging properties for all of their help and support of this annual event.

Two Tour Options

• Friday, November 18, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Dazzle Tour

Tour four homes in the evening hours and experience the season aglow on this self-guided tour. Your ticket for this tour may be used to tour the first floor of the Octagon House on Saturday or Sunday, during the hours of the Traditional Tour. This tour does not include transportation.

Tickets: \$38

• Saturday November 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 20, Noon to 4 p.m. – Traditional Tour

The Traditional Tour includes four private residences and the first floor of the Octagon House on either day. Spend the weekend to tour, dine, and shop. Free shuttle transportation is included, but not required. Your tour ticket can be split between both days to visit the homes.

Tickets: \$28

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THE PRESIDENT**

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Mary Claire Olson Potter
Chamber President

Watch your email: Your Involvement does make a difference!

In the upcoming weeks, a membership survey will be emailed to you. Please take the time to complete the survey and submit it back to the Chamber.

The results of this survey will be reviewed at the Board of Directors strategic planning retreat in December. Your feedback is very important as the board develops goals and areas that the Chamber will focus on in 2023.

Tell us which issues matter to you. As you know, members are the driving force of the Hudson Area Chamber. The Chamber is the voice for businesses – we value your feedback. Please respond to the survey! Thank you in advance for your time and input.

Board Retreat

The 2023 board of directors strategic planning retreat will be held on December 15. At this annual planning session, current and new board members, along with committee chairs, will develop the Chamber's Plan of Action for next year. As a result of this annual retreat, the Chamber can develop goals and objectives for each committee and determine the Chamber budget accordingly. To have an issue included in these discussions, contact any member of the board of directors, or Mary Claire at the Chamber at (715) 386-8411.

Save the Date – Thursday, January 26, 2023

Each January, the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau sets aside one special evening to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Chamber members at the Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet. Join us as we celebrate business award winners, thank outgoing board members, and welcome new board members.

Nominations for Large and Small Business of the Year, Chamber Member of the Year, Community Volunteer of the Year, Manufacturers Award, and the Marie Blakeman Award will be available soon. Watch for more information. ■



Congrats to Our October
Brand Champion

Congratulations to our October Brand Champion, Maria Machtemes with Citizens State Bank.

Maria is dedicated to bettering not only the Chamber, but our community as well. She serves on an array of committees, including the ambassador committee, golf committee, Hudson Business Connections, membership committee, and the Leadership Hudson steering committee.

In addition to her involvement with these committees, Maria goes above and beyond to ensure the Chamber and its events run smoothly. She volunteered to help set up as well as act as a cart driver at our annual Chamber Golf Tournament, assisted in the planning and execution of our annual Hudson Chamber MAX event, served as a greeter at many Chamber events, and actively assists in the recruitment of new members. We can always count on Maria. Thank you for all you do, Maria. We look forward to your continued involvement.

If you're wondering about the qualities of a Brand Champion, they include:

- Passionate and Supportive
- Knowledgeable and Communicative
- Invested in Success
- Interested in Building Loyalty

If you know of a great Chamber Brand Champion, let us know so we can recognize them and award them \$25 in Chamber Checks! ■



Seeking nominations for 2023 Board of Directors

The Chamber's Nominating Committee is currently accepting names for candidates to serve on the Chamber Board of Directors. Nominations may be mailed to the Chamber and addressed to the Nominating Committee.

Serving on a Board of any organization should always be considered an honor, and the Chamber Board is no exception. A board member is regarded as a leader in the business community, a visionary able to determine trends of the future.

Additional names of candidates for Directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signatures of at least ten (10) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee within ten (10) days after notice has been given of the names of those nominated. The determination of the Nominating Committee as to the legality of the petition shall be final. Bylaws of the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau. (Updated and Amended 11-12-15.)

HILLTOP PUMPKIN PARTY

October 15 celebrated the 11th Annual Hilltop Pumpkin Party where over 350 children and families at Camp St. Croix Day Croix enjoyed a variety of activities while visiting members from businesses and organizations around the Hudson area. The event consisted of horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin decorating, a petting zoo, a kid's costume contest, food trucks, and numerous games. It also featured the 69th Annual Rotary Halloween parade and we were excited to partner with Hudson Rotary Clubs on this event. Overall, it was the perfect event for the whole family!

A special thank you to the Hilltop Pumpkin Party Planning Committee for all their hard work to put on this event:

- **Tava Ellingson**, Citizens State Bank
- **Chris Kost**, YMCA in Hudson
- **Linda La Kosky Eng**, Minuteman Press – Hudson
- **Zach McNamee**, McNamee Real Estate Team

Thank you to the following volunteers for all their help at the event:

- Hudson Ambassadors
- North Hudson Pepper Fest Royalty
- Youth Action Hudson

A special thank you to Camp St. Croix Day Croix for not only being our venue sponsor, but for also helping set up and tear down the event.

Thank you to the following sponsors for their continuous support:

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- Minuteman Press – Hudson
- WESTconsin Credit Union

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- Dot & Daisy
- Hudson Physicians, S.C.
- LearningRx Hudson
- Royal Credit Union
- Smiles in Motion, Pediatric Dentistry
- St. Croix Kids Pediatric Dentistry
- Valley Companies

Bronze

- Chiro One Wellness
- First State Bank and Trust
- Hudson Lions Club/Hudson Hot Air Affair
- McNamee Real Estate Team

Food Sponsor: Pita Pit Food Truck



*Community Life for the October **Leadership Hudson** class included a bus tour of Hudson with a stop at Birkmose Park. Special thank you to Mike Johnson and Mike Mroz with the City of Hudson for updating the class on current and upcoming road and development projects around Hudson.*



CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED
SEPTEMBER STATS!

WEBSITE: 6.1k VISITORS
LINKEDIN: 392 FOLLOWERS
CHAMBER FACEBOOK:
REACH: 5,500, LIKES: 4,860

DISCOVER HUDSON FACEBOOK: REACH: 17,393, LIKES: 16,842
DISCOVER HUDSON INSTAGRAM:
REACH: 5,336, FOLLOWERS: 4,709



A firefighter in the making!



The winners of the costume contest.



Children feeding animals from the petting zoo.



Children and parents alike enjoyed wagon rides pulled by Clydesdale horses.



Zach McNamee and his team passing out candy to children.



Beloved Makers LLC – located at 212 Locust St., Hudson. A gift shop featuring 50 makers from the Midwest, providing unique, high-quality items for customers and creating community for all of the handmade businesses. For more information, call (715) 928-0007.



Hudson Valley Dental – located at 709 Rodeo Dr., Ste. 114, Hudson. Dedicated to providing you with the highest quality dental care. Be sure to check out their new location! For more information, call (715) 386-3675.



Ember & Bean Coffee Co. – located at 401 2nd St., Ste. LL-B, Hudson. Small batch specialty coffee roaster serving inspired espresso-based drinks, unique pour overs, tea, and locally baked goods. For more information, call 1-(651) 587-0766.



Kwik Trip, Inc. – located at 520 Annabelle Way, Hudson. Kwik Trip, Inc. is one of the largest independently held convenience store chains in the U.S. and employs over 9,500 co-workers in more than 400 convenience stores in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. For more information, call (715) 381-9550.



Striker Brands, LLC – located at 651 Commerce Dr., Hudson. Aiming to create the best technical apparel in the industry. Purpose-built to defeat the elements with safety & comfort; giving anglers the freedom, trust & confidence to fish in any weather. For more information, call (651) 788-9858. ■



Guidelines: Submit 100 words or less by the 15th of the month for the next month's Chamber news.

We reserve the right to editor omit any submitted business briefs. Email submissions to info@HudsonWI.org.

Black Rooster Bistro

Upcoming events include a craft cocktail basics course Saturday, November 12 at 3:30 p.m. \$40/person for the one-hour class which includes an item off our bar menu. Space is limited. Upfront Payment required at the time of your reservation. Call 715-808-0560.

December 8 at 7 p.m. we have a 5-course tasting dinner with 45th Parallel. \$75/person, \$50 deposit required at time of reservation. Call to reserve your seat.

Reserve our back room for your holiday gathering! The room seats up to 32 people. We look forward to serving you!

Holiday Boutique & Craft Fair

Join Youth Action Hudson for their 12th Annual Holiday Boutique & Craft Fair on Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Hudson Middle School. This event features vendors with handcrafted direct sale items, food concessions, live music featuring Colleen Raye, and much more! There will be a \$1 admission fee at the door, with all proceeds going directly to support Youth Action Hudson. For a vendor application, contact yahudsonholidayboutique@gmail.com or visit www.youthactionhudson.org.

Experience the Magic at Hudson Hot Air Affair

Hudson Hot Air Affair announces its 2023 event theme of "Experience the Magic" for its 34th annual celebration held on February 3-5, 2023. Known as the premier hot air balloon rally and winter festival in the Midwest, this family-friendly community event is presented by WESTconsin Credit Union and supported by hundreds of sponsors, partners and volunteers.

The magic theme will be observed throughout the Hot Air Affair weekend. Plans are underway to bring over 30 hot air balloons to Hudson for mass ascensions and the Moon Glow/Field of Fire on Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting). Many of the popular events like the Torchlight Parade, smooch board competition, marketplace and craft fair, and the Taste of Hot Air Affair fundraiser will be returning with a magical twist.

Hudson Hot Air Affair is currently seeking additional sponsors for the 2023 event with early bird deadline of November 15, 2022. Our sponsors have been the foundation for Hot Air Affair's success over the years. Consider promoting your business and supporting this event by becoming a sponsor. Hudson Hot Air Affair, Inc. is a Wisconsin not-for-profit

corporation, and this major event is run entirely by volunteers. We invite you to join the Hot Air Affair Committee.

For more information about becoming a sponsor or joining the planning committee and becoming part of this fun focused, community-oriented event, please contact Michelle Webb at 612-423-0177. Visit HudsonHotAirAffair.com for a sponsor form or to learn more about the Hot Air Affair.

Operation HELP: Volunteers Needed

Looking to get more involved in the community? Operation HELP is searching for additional volunteers to help staff their service center weekly. Since 2002, Operation HELP has strived to provide residents of St. Croix County with financial assistance, a place for support, and connections to resources to alleviate short-term crises. Volunteer today to be an active and engaging advocate for Operation HELP, while serving clients through challenging times in their lives. For more information on volunteer opportunities, [click here](#). ■



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November Calendar of Events

- 1 Hudson Business Connections, 9:00 a.m., Citizens State Bank, 375 Stageline Rd.
- 3 Manufacturers Roundtable, 11:00 a.m., Cardinal Glass, 2200 Rock St.
- Nov. 5 – Dec. 6 Find Santa
- Nov. 5 – Jan. 31 Have a Hudson Holiday
- 9 Retail/Restaurant Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Post american eatery, 225 Locust St.
- 9 Welcome to the Hudson Chamber New Member Orientation Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Zoom
- 10 Good Morning Hudson, 7:30 a.m., The Phipps Center for the Arts, 109 Locust St.
- 10 Hudson Community Affairs Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Zoom
- 11 Executive Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Zoom
- 11 Hudson Chamber Foundation Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
- 14 Finance Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Zoom
- 15 Leadership Hudson – Business & Industry/Economic Development Day
- 16 Tourism Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Zoom
- 17 Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00 a.m., First State Bank and Trust, 860 Annabelle Way
- 17 Ambassador Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m., Visits then Jonesy's Local Bar & Grill
- 18 Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- 19 Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 20 Hudson Christmas Tour of Homes, Noon – 4:00 p.m.
- 22 Membership Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- 24 Thanksgiving – Office Closed
- 25 Office Closed
- 25 Light Up Hudson, 7:00 p.m., Lakefront Park
- Nov. 25 – Feb. 10 Buena Vista: A Stroll in the Park

2022 Board of Directors

- Angel Duratti** – Angel's Pet World, Chair
Katie Kranz – First State Bank and Trust, Past Chair
Leanne Van Allen – University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Chair Elect
Joel Larsen – MidWestOne Bank, Treasurer
Kathy Ableidinger – Cardinal Health
Mark Hein – Integrity Cleaners, LLC
Chris Kost – YMCA in Hudson
Linda La Kosky Eng – Minuteman Press – Hudson
Mark McNamee – McNamee Real Estate Team
Deb Pittman – Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton
Kevin Urbik – Heywood, Cari & Anderson, S.C.
Blake Willman – Weathersafe Restoration, Inc.

Staff

The Chamber Newsletter is published monthly by the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau.

- Mary Claire Olson Potter**, President
Lauren Battis, Marketing & Membership Coordinator
Tyler Warwick-Mick, Special Projects Coordinator

MISSION: To provide value to and serve our members, promote a strong local economy, advocate for the interests of the business community, champion sustainability, and market the recreational and cultural opportunities in the Hudson area.

Congratulations to the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau Award Winners!

- Large Business of the Year – **Barker's Bar & Grill, San Pedro Café, Pedro's del Este**
 Small Business of the Year – **Christiansen Creative**
 Chamber Member of the Year – **Erica Johnson, Angel's Pet World**
Ashley Filkins, Angel's Pet World
 Community Volunteer of the Year – **Paul McGinnis, MD, FAAFP**
 Manufacturer of the Year Award – **Croix Gear & Machining**
 Marie Blakeman Award – **Gary Zappa, Zappa Brothers**

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