

# ATLAS

May 2026

Your Local Guide to Arts, Dining & Entertainment

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OSHKOSH

*Classic, vintage suits emphasize importance of the cause*

## Motorcycle ride raises awareness, funds for men's health

By Jill Trotter

Over 100 motorcyclists will be driving through downtown Oshkosh in their finest attire for the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride on May 17.

The ride raises awareness and money for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and men's mental health.

The international event originated in Australia in 2012 and first took place in Oshkosh in 2021. Over the past six years, the Oshkosh ride has not only become the biggest in the state, but also one of the largest in the country.

Out of a total of 188 participating cities in the United States, the Oshkosh ride is currently in fifth place just behind Atlanta, Ga. The rapid growth and success of the Oshkosh ride is due in large part to local sponsors and host Kris Larson.

Larson, an avid motorcycle enthusiast and owner of Becket's restaurant in Oshkosh, spearheaded the event in Oshkosh. Once he became aware of the event, he contacted the organizers for permission to host a ride in Oshkosh.

Once permission was granted, he organized the event, gathered sponsors and helped get the word out. According to Larson, the Oshkosh ride has raised \$33,000 in the past five years. This year's fundraising goal is \$10,000. As of late April, almost \$3,000 had been raised.

In addition to fundraising for men's health, Larson said part of the appeal of this unique event is the attire the riders wear. They will be outfitted in classic and vintage suits while riding classic style motorcycles. While the exact route of the ride is top



secret, Larson said it will include Main Street to draw as many spectators as possible.

The collaboration with and support from local businesses has also been instrumental in the event's success.

"It has been absolutely amazing to see so many people excited to support such a wonderful and important cause," Larson said.

According to Larson, Discover Oshkosh has been active in getting the word out to local residents. Another local business, Violeta Stitchery and Upholstery Parlor, is offering one entry towards a \$100 Cycle Seat Gift Certificate for every \$10 donated as an incentive to donate. To enter to win, visit [gentlemansride.com/fundraiser/jimmylater520291](https://gentlemansride.com/fundraiser/jimmylater520291).

Additional sponsors include, but are not limited to, Koepnick Photography, Satori Imports, Becket's Restaurant, Wagner's Market, Andrew Bott Photo & Video, Vintage Racing Club, Oshkosh Aces, Time Machine Garage, Nav's Cycles and Triumph Waukesha.

Larson said this year's event is proving to be the largest yet in Oshkosh history – both in terms of the number of participants and the money raised. Larson has high hopes that the Oshkosh ride will continue to gain momentum and rise in the rankings in the future.

Regardless of the rankings, however, it is the cause that is most important to Larson.



*The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride will be in its sixth year in Oshkosh. The event raises awareness and money for men's health.*  
- Photo by Jim Koepnick



Riders dress in their finest attire for the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, which first took place 2021 in Oshkosh. The international event originated in 2012 in Australia. - Photograph by Jim Koepnick

"I'll always be looking to grow the event and awareness as it is an important cause," he said.

Registration to participate in the ride is free, but there is a limit on the number of participants. Despite its name, women are encouraged to participate as well. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for May 24.

To register as a participant or to donate toward the cause, visit [gentlemansride.com/events/united-states/oshkosh-wi](http://gentlemansride.com/events/united-states/oshkosh-wi).



- Photograph by Jim Koepnick

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Mark your calendars for the next ATLAS and upcoming 2026 Publication Schedule for October 2nd. For advertising information please call 920-385-4512 or email [advertise@oshkoshherald.com](mailto:advertise@oshkoshherald.com)

# FUTURE NEENAH



## Summer Starts in Neenah.

Live Music • Farmers Market • Free Family Fun

Feel the energy all season long—Neenah comes alive with music, markets, and moments you won't want to miss.

### EVENING CONCERT SERIES

#### Shattuck Park | 6-8PM

June 17 – August 12

Big sounds. Summer nights. Your midweek tradition.



### SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET

#### Shattuck Park | 8AM-NOON

June 10 – August 13

50+ local vendors. Fresh, homemade, handcrafted—every Saturday.

### CAN'T MISS EVENTS

#### SUMMER KICKOFF CONCERT

June 10 | Downtown Neenah | 6-9PM

Featuring *The Glam Band*

#### BOOGIE BACK TO SCHOOL

August 26 | Downtown Neenah  
6-9PM

Featuring *Boogie & the Yo-Yo'z*

### POP-UP CONCERTS

No tickets. No stage. Just great music popping up Downtown.



### LUNCH CONCERTS

#### Shattuck Park | 11:30AM-1PM

June 18 – Pocket Kings

July 16 – Randy Peterson

August 20 – Elvis John

## Plan Your Summer

[futureneenah.org](http://futureneenah.org)



We'll see you there.

*Big and bustling or small and scenic?*

## Two markets, two ways to summer

By Cassidy Johnson

Nothing epitomizes summer quite like going to the Farmers Markets to get fresh produce, browse the unique artisan goods and to eat those beloved egg rolls.

Winnebago County has two vibrant summer farmers markets in Oshkosh and Neenah to check out this summer.

### Oshkosh Farmers Market

Kicking off May 30 and going from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays until Oct. 31, the Oshkosh Downtown Farmers Market features over 100 vendors on the 400 and 500 blocks of Main Street.

"On any given Saturday, including early season and late season, we'll have 80 to 90 vendors," said market manager Michelle Schmid-Schultz. "We never got below 100 after the third week of June, and peak season we'll hit around 140."

The market has a wide range of vendors, including farmers, food trucks, coffee roasters, bakers, crafters and more, as well as live music every Saturday with a wide variety of different genres.

This year, the Oshkosh Farmers Market will also be bringing back its Plein Air Art Festival June 27 for the first time in a few years.

"We are excited to bring [this] back as a pop-up location for people to paint live at the market," Schmid-Schultz said.

Also coming back this year is Tomato-mania June 6 and 13, Christmas in July on July 11, YMCA Day Sept. 26 and the UW-Oshkosh Mariachi Cultural Exchange featuring vibrant mariachi music Oct. 3 to help celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Christmas in July will include a visit from Santa as he gets a head-start on his Christmas duties, where he will also be available for photos. The Salvation Army will also be getting a head-start with its Holiday Bell ringing, where they will be collecting donations and volunteers for the year's Holiday Kettle Campaign. Marketgoers can also get a jumpstart on shopping holiday items and decor with some Christmas-themed goods from vendors.

The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry will also be providing fresh-food collection in addition to hygiene items and peanut butter on the south end of the market near Merritt Avenue with the "Buy 1, Donate 1" opportunity encouraged.

The Oshkosh Farmers Market will also have many of the same fan-favorite food trucks such as the beloved egg rolls



*The Future Neenah Farmers Market has a variety of products from vendors to offer customers throughout the season.*

*- Winnebago Media Group Photograph*



*First UMC of Neenah shares info about various services that are offered, including lithium battery recycling. - Winnebago Media Group Photograph*

with over five different vendors, with some new food coming this season.

"I am very excited to be welcoming additional vendors [this year]," Schmid-Schultz said.

One new vendor "rolling" in will be a mobile sushi bar, grilled Asian meat skewers, some Mediterranean dips and salads, and even a vendor who smokes his own salmon.

Afterward, marketgoers can burn off some calories and browse the many crafts and goods from local vendors of all ages, including a mobile houseplant center — seen as a perfect way to get unique pieces while also supporting the community.

"Everyone at the market who vends has a reason," Schmid-Schultz said. "They're not just there for fun. I mean, they're paying for college or making ends meet or supplementing retirement or trying to save the family farm."

The Oshkosh Farmers Market even has a "Youth Entrepreneur Program" dedicated to providing kids with the real-life opportunity and experience of owning their own business beyond a lemonade stand on the street corner.

Kids sell a variety of things from bracelets, granola, and, yes, even lemonade.

Beyond providing kids with this entrepreneurial opportunity, the farmers market has found many ways to give back to the community.

One way is through the Shared Harvest Program, in which they give away still-fresh produce they won't be able to sell by next week's market.

Another is through the EBT Match Program. "Our EBT program is one of the 14th largest in the state," Schmid-Schultz said. "Last year, we generated \$32,000 in revenue for our food vendors at the market, both agricultural and homemade food vendors."

A nonprofit organization, they do all this and more while operating the entire farmers market solely on vendor fees, sponsorships and donations. Being an independent organization, however, allows the organizers to have more freedom at the farmers market.

"Because we have more control over what we can and cannot do, I think that's what sets us apart from other markets," Schmid-Schultz said. "We can do what we feel makes a successful market. We focus on agriculture, but we also [like to] focus on community."

Doing all this is no easy feat, but Schmid-Schultz says the people make it all worth it.

"I mean, essentially my job is to make 10,000 people happy every Saturday morning," she said. "9,900 of them usually are, and that's really cool. It's the people, the vendors. I get to be a part of people's businesses, [and] seeing all the smiles is amazing."

### Future Neenah's Farmers Market

The farmers market in Neenah will open on June 13 and continuing from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through Oct. 10 at Shattuck Park. It is an event that the nonprofit organization Future Neenah has been putting on for almost 35 years.

Neenah's event is seen as a quaint market that is perfect for a chill outing, although they have expanded to almost 60 vendors this season.

"We're right by the water, so you can pull up on your boat and buy all your fresh produce for the week, which I think is



*Chef Alex Little of Zuppas Cafe and Catering and Chef Cody Cottrell of Cannova's Pizzeria were the judges last year for a Fox Valley Technical College class cooking competition during the Future Neenah Farmers Market. - Winnebago Media Group Photograph*



*Thousands of visitors attend the Oshkosh Downtown Farmers Market each year. The season kicks off May 30 and runs on Saturdays through Oct. 31.*

*- Photograph by Michael Cooney*

pretty awesome," said Michelle Dunning, outreach and development director for Future Neenah.

With around 50 to 60 vendors, she said the market is a good size without being overwhelming.

"Some people just zip in, get what they need and they're done for the day," Dunning said. "I think that's definitely what sets us apart and what makes it unique and fun."

Something else that sets it apart is that everything in the market is handmade and home-grown.

"You're not going to find stuff there that isn't home-made," Dunning said.

Future Neenah is bringing back fan-favorites such as Alan's Produce, but organizers also like to make sure the market has a lot of variety.

"It's a good mix of things," Dunning said. "Our events coordinator, Meredith [Rathe], does a really nice job of lining up a good variety of foods, crafts and produce."

There will also be live music from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday, which Dunning said adds the perfect ambience to a morning stroll through the market. They also have "Kid's Days" June 27 and Sept 19, complete with bouncy houses and face painting.

"The market is a welcoming, social space where families, friends and neighbors come together to shop, connect and enjoy summer mornings," Dunning said.

To reward our frequent customers, they offer a Farmers Market loyalty card in which patrons can check in at the info booth and receive stamps. After five stamps, patrons get a free gift, and after 10 they get \$5 in tokens to spend at the market.

"It's just a fun way for us to reward our frequent local shoppers," Dunning said.



## ATTIC THEATRE 2026 SUMMER SEASON



**Decision Height**  
June 18—20 and 24—26 at 7pm  
June 27 at 2pm



**The Matchmaker**  
by Thornton Wilder

**The Matchmaker**  
July 16—18 and 22—24 at 7pm  
July 25 at 2 pm

**For more information and tickets:**  
[AtticTheatreInc.com](http://AtticTheatreInc.com)



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## 2026 LIVE MUSIC SERIES

JUNE 4TH	5PM	BIG AND TALL
JUNE 6TH	5PM	JIM NANCY
JUNE 11TH	5PM	TIM DORSEY
JUNE 18TH	5PM	AMELIA FORD
JUNE 20TH	5PM	RINGS BAND
JUNE 25TH	5PM	SECOND HAND STEREO
JUNE 28TH	4PM	JIM MILLER
JULY 9TH	5PM	GENTLEMEN GRIFTERS
JULY 12TH	4PM	JASON MCNABB DUO
JULY 16TH	5PM	ROSS CATTERTON
JULY 23RD	5PM	NADIA DORSEY
JULY 30TH	5PM	TIM DORSEY
AUGUST 6TH	5PM	JOE SLY
AUGUST 13TH	5PM	SUNDAE AND MR. GOESSL
AUGUST 20TH	5PM	BIG AND TALL
AUGUST 22ND	5PM	RINGS BAND
AUGUST 27TH	5PM	GENTLEMEN GRIFTERS
AUGUST 30TH	4PM	JIM MILLER

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# UPCOMING EVENTS



VenuWorks of Oshkosh has a packed event lineup this summer at the Oshkosh Arena. Come check us out!



MAY 14

### MAC 'N BREW FUNDRAISER

6 to 10 p.m.  
Mac 'n Brew features chef-made macs, craft brews, live music from Doozey and Oshkosh Southwest Rotary's community fundraising.



MAY 16

### STATE ARM WRESTLING TOURNEY

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Wisconsin Arm Wrestling State Tournament May 16! Matches, raffles, food & more - all supporting the Christine Ann Center.



MAY 23

### OSHKOSH COMIC & TOY SHOW

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
A day of geeky goodness, presented by QuadCon: cards, comics and cosplay! Tickets are \$5 per person at the door.



JUN 6

### FINEST FOUR WHEELS SHOWCASE

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Experience the Finest Four Wheels Showcase, featuring the finest cars around.



JUN 19

### OSHKOSH'S FUNNIEST COMEDIAN

7 to 9 p.m.  
Preliminary Round 2. This stand-up showdown features 10 comedians battling it out for the title of "Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian."



JUN 20

### FOX CITIES ROLLER DERBY

5 to 9 p.m.  
Doors open at 4 p.m., and the first bout starts at 5 and second of the night begins at 7.



JUN 27

### 6TH ANNUAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

Event time TBA  
Stop by this Pride Month for the community's biggest LGBTQIA+ celebration! Vendors, performances and more. Free & open to all.



JUL 10-11

### ACA CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

All-day event, both Saturday and Sunday  
Test your cornhole skills at this exciting new event. Public is welcome to come & watch!



JUL 17

### OSHKOSH'S FUNNIEST COMEDIAN

7 to 9 p.m.  
Preliminary Round 3. This stand-up showdown features 11 comedians battling it out for the title of "Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian."



AUG 29

### CLAY WALKER WITH BLACKHAWK

7 p.m.  
Enjoy two top-notch legendary country music acts on one night for this concert!

FISH FRY FRIDAYS 4 TO 8 P.M. THROUGH OCTOBER

For full details on any of the above events or to see our full calendar listing, visit [www.oshkosharena.com](http://www.oshkosharena.com)

BUY TICKETS



*Biggest DIY festival in the area*

## The Jamb provides community space for music

By Emme Hornung

Audiences won't need to ask for an encore this spring and summer — between Jambalaya Arts Inc and its new sister venue The Jamb, their ever-growing calendar of events will be energizing the streets of downtown Oshkosh.

Jambalaya Arts has been a part of the downtown scene since 2001 when a group of like-minded artists needed a gallery to show their original artwork.

A nonprofit, it's run entirely by volunteers and supported by members, who, for a small monthly fee, can sell their art and also get experience in displaying, pricing and talking about their art. Many member artists are just starting out, and the gallery gives them the tools to succeed. In fact, members have ranged from their 80s all the way to just 7 years old.

About 10 years ago, they started hosting different craft workshops and classes, as well as live music shows. Believe it or not, hosting full on play productions and mosh pits in an art gallery wasn't easy; volunteers would spend hours taking all the art down and rearranging to accommodate these events.

Their solution was The Jamb, a new downtown venue for live music, workshops and more.

"The possibilities are endless with this space," said Uri Weber, music event coordinator of Jambalaya Arts and now The Jamb. "We've been cultivating our own music scene here in Oshkosh. We've given a lot of artists, touring and local, a place to perform. [Jambalaya Arts] finally outgrew itself, and we needed extra space, and we made the jump for it."

They didn't have to jump too far, though, as The Jamb on High Avenue is just a short walk from Jambalaya Arts on Main Street.

The group's hope for The Jamb is for it to be a multi-use community space for all talents, tastes and ages.

"We don't sell alcohol, and we don't allow it in here, so it's a venue for all ages," President Amie Brownfield said. "It's a safe space for teens and young adults."

Best known for punk music and high energy mosh pits, The Jamb welcomes music of any kind.

"We're setting up a few country shows, indie shows, all sorts of music," Weber said. "We definitely urge any musician, any performing artist, to try to use the space in some way."

While many musical acts are locally known or just beginning to find

their followers, this year even the legendary punk rock band, The Queers, will be on stage at The Jamb.

When the volume isn't turned up, The Jamb is open for whatever the community needs.

"We really want to be able to rent the space out for people to do whatever they want to do here, or have their own events," Brownfield said.

(Continued on page 11)



*The Jamb has become a new downtown venue for live music, workshops and more. - Submitted Photograph*

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

## MAY

- Thu May 14 Mac 'n' Brew - 6pm  
Oshkosh Arena, 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Fri May 15 Spring Craft and Vendor Show - 3pm  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
- WI Arm Wrestling State Tournament - 7pm  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Sat May 16 Walleye Tournament - 6am  
Fin 'n' Feather - 22 W Main St, Winneconne
- WI Arm Wrestling State Tournament - 8am  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Festival of Spring - 9am  
Paine Art Center & Gardens - 1410 Algoma Boulevard, Osh
- Spring Craft and Vendor Show - 9am  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
- Town of Winchester  
Cornhole Tournament and Fundraiser - 11am  
5298 County Road II, Larsen
- Oshkosh Area Women's Assoc Meat Raffle  
11am - Wehrmann's Bar - 1762 County Road FF, Oshkosh
- Harry and the Hendersons - 7pm  
The Time Community Theater - 445 N Main St, Oshkosh
- Sun May 17 Spring Craft and Vendor Show - 9am  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
- Distinguished Gentleman's Ride - 10am  
Becket's - 2 Jackson St, Oshkosh
- 12:34 Concert Series featuring Sundae & Mr. Goessel  
11:30am - Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church  
1174 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh
- "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass"  
presented by the Oshkosh Chamber Singers with special  
guests Monroe Crossing Bluegrass Band - 3pm  
Community Church Oshkosh - 2351 Ryf Road, Oshkosh
- Thu May 21 Sometimes at Pioneer Island Opening Day  
11am - 1000 Pioneer Drive, Oshkosh

Sat May 23 Hmong National Memorial Day Festival - 8am  
Winnebago County Community Park  
501 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Menominee Park Zoo Opening Day - 10am  
520 Pratt Trail, Oshkosh

Spicy Tie - 2:30pm  
Fin 'n' Feather - 22 W Main St, Winneconne

Shaun of the Dead - 7pm  
The Time Community Theater - 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Sun May 24 Hmong National Memorial Day Festival - 8am  
Winnebago County Community Park  
501 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Mon May 25 Neenah-Menasha Memorial Day Procession  
9am - Downtown Neenah

Wed May 27 Military Veterans Museum & Education Center  
Golf Tournament - 9am  
Lake Breeze Golf Club - 6333 Ball Prairie Road, Winneconne

Fri May 29 Family Night Kickoff to Summer Camping Night - 4pm  
Norbert Rich School Forest - 5007 Ginnow Road, Omro

Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter  
7pm - The Time Community Theater - 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Sat May 30 Wings on Strings - 10am  
EAA Aviation Museum - 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh

Art Mercantile - 11am  
The Plaza and Globe Coffee - 229 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

The Magnificent Seven - 7pm  
The Time Community Theater - 445 N Main St, Oshkosh

Sun May 31 Sunday Concert: Walt Hamburger - 2pm  
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Washington St, Neenah

Neenah Summer Fun Run - 6pm  
Memorial Park - 1175 Apple Blossom Drive, Neenah

## JUNE

Tue June 2 Neenah Community Band Concert:  
Neenah Ambassadors Big Band - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

# ATLAS

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OCTOBER 6 ISSUE DEADLINES SEPT. 23RD.  
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# CALENDAR of EVENTS continued

## JUNE

**Fri June 5** Winnegamie Home Builders Association  
Golf Outing - 9:30am  
Lake Breeze Golf Club - 6333 Ball Prairie Road, Winneconne

Listen to the Loop Music Festival - 4:30pm  
Arrowhead Park - 355 Millview Drive, Neenah

Listen to the Loop Music Festival - 5:30pm  
Fritse Park - 937 N Lake St, Fox Crossing

**Sat June 6** Veterans Benefit and Ride - 8am  
4715 Sherman Road, Oshkosh

Fox Valley Dragon Boat Club Free Try-It Day  
8 or 10am - The Landings on the Wolf, Winneconne

The Finest Four Wheels Showcase - 9am  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 N Main St, Oshkosh

Remarkable Style - 4pm  
Miron Construction - 1471 McMahon Drive, Neenah

Downtown Gallery Walk & Night Gallery - 6pm  
Oshkosh

**Sun June 7** Oshkosh YMCA Kids Mud Run - 12:30pm  
20th Avenue YMCA - 3303 West 20th Ave, Oshkosh

**Tue June 9** Live at the Leach featuring NEW Dueling Pianos  
6pm - Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

Neenah Community Band Concert - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Wed June 10** Summer Kickoff Concert featuring  
The Glam Band - 6pm - Downtown Neenah

**Sat June 13** Pie on the Porch and Open House - 9am  
Morgan House - 234 Church Ave, Oshkosh

Learn to Sail - 10am  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Sun June 14** American Legion Giles Luce Post 364  
Brick Dedication & Centennial Celebration - 9am  
536 W Main St, Winneconne

Oshkosh Kids Foundation  
Cow Pie Bingo Fundraiser - 11am  
Sometimes at Pioneer Island, Oshkosh

Neenah Summer Fun Run - 6pm  
Memorial Park - 1175 Apple Blossom Drive, Neenah

**Tue June 16** Poetry Discussion Mary Doty and  
Effie Waller Smith - 4pm  
Doty Cabin Museum - 701 Lincoln St, Neenah

Brews by the Waterside featuring  
The Plastic Knives Acoustic Duo - 5pm  
Menominee Park, Oshkosh

**Wed June 17** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring  
Kyle Megna and The Monsoons - 6pm  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Thu June 18** Future Neenah Out to Lunch Concert - 11:30am  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Waterfest featuring Hairball and  
American English - 5:45pm  
Leach Amphitheater, 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

**Fri June 19** Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian  
Preliminary Round 2 - 7pm  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Sat June 20** Battle on Bago Summer Edition  
Oshkosh

Art Mercantile - 11am  
The Plaza and Globe Coffee - 229 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Fox Cities Roller Derby - 5pm  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Sun June 21** Battle on Bago Summer Edition  
Oshkosh

**Tue June 23** Brews by the Waterside featuring  
Frank Martin Busch and the Names - 5pm  
Rainbow Park - 1650 Rainbow Drive, Oshkosh

Neenah Community Band Concert - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Wed June 24** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring Grand  
Union - 6pm - Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Fri June 26** Tilly's Too Golf Outing - 8:30am  
Lake Breeze Golf Club - 6333 Ball Prairie Road, Winneconne

**Sat June 27** Oshkosh Pride - Noon  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

Party on the Point featuring Road Trip - 7pm  
Sometimes at Pioneer Island, Oshkosh

**Sun June 28** Oshkosh Century Bike Ride - 7am  
20th Avenue YMCA - 3303 West 20th Ave, Oshkosh

Neenah Summer Fun Run - 6pm  
Memorial Park, 1175 Apple Blossom Road, Oshkosh

**Tue June 30** Brews by the Waterside featuring  
Mason Street Band - 5pm - Menominee Park, Oshkosh

Children's Singer Tom Pease - 6pm  
Fritsch Park - 1651 Sandys Ln, Fox Crossing

## JULY

**Wed July 1** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring  
Copper Box - 6pm  
Shattuck Park, 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Oshkosh

**Fri July 3** Community Fest Parade of Lights - 9pm - Neenah

**Sat July 4** Fourth of July Parade - 9am  
Downtown Oshkosh

Community Fest - 11:30am  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Fireworks Display Over the Wolf River - 3pm  
Winneconne

Downtown Gallery Walk - 6pm - Oshkosh

Neenah Community Band at Community Fest  
7:45pm - Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Festival Foods Fireworks - Dusk  
Menominee Park, Oshkosh

Festival Foods Fireworks - 9:45pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Evening Fireworks Display - 9:45pm - Winneconne

**Tue July 7** Live at the Leach featuring Bella Cain - 6pm  
Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

Doty Cabin Museum presents We The People  
of Neenah and Menasha Reflections of Native  
American Life by Cathy Caldwell - 6:30pm  
Neenah Public Library - 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Wed July 8** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring  
Party Animal - 6pm  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Thu July 9 to Sun July 12** Lifest - Sunnyview Expo Center  
500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

Waterfest featuring Uprooted with  
Michael Glabicki joined by Steely Dan - 5:45pm  
Leach Amphitheatre - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

**Sat July 11** Filthy Fun Run - 8:15am  
O'Hauser Park - 1986 Oleary Road, Neenah

Butte des Lions Summer Bazaar - 9am  
Lions Park - 5068 Washington Ave, Butte des Morts

Nekimi Mini Mud Run & Community Picnic - Noon  
Nekimi Town Hall - Intersection of WI Hwy 26 & Interstate 41

**Sun July 12** Faire on the Fox - 9am  
Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

Neenah Summer Fun Run - 6pm  
Memorial Park - 1175 Apple Blossom Road, Neenah

**Tue July 14** Brews by the Waterside featuring  
Swamp Water Boogie - 5pm  
Rainbow Park - 1650 Rainbow Drive, Oshkosh

Neenah Community Band Concert - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Wed July 15** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring  
The Britins - 6pm - Shattuck Park  
210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Thu July 16 - Sun July 19** Sovereign State Days - Winneconne

Future Neenah Out to Lunch Concert - 11:30am  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Waterfest featuring Vertical Horizon - 5:45pm  
Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh

**Fri July 17** Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian  
Preliminary Round 3 - 7pm  
Oshkosh Arena, 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

**Sat July 18** Art Mercantile - 11am  
The Plaza and Globe Coffee - 229 W Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Art in the Alley - Noon  
Algoma Art Alley, Oshkosh

**Mon July 20 - Sun July 26** EAA AirVenture 2026  
EAA AirVenture Grounds, Oshkosh

**Wed July 22** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring  
The Souvenirs - 6pm  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Thu July 23** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park  
presents The SpongeBob Musical - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Fri July 24** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park  
presents The SpongeBob Musical - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park, 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Sat July 25** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park  
presents The SpongeBob Musical - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park, 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Sun July 26** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park  
presents The SpongeBob Musical - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park, 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Tue July 28** Brews by the Waterside featuring  
Jet Pack Stereo - 5pm - Menominee Park, Oshkosh

1860's Picture Frame Root & Runner Creative  
6pm - Doty Cabin Museum - 701 Lincoln Ave, Neenah

Movie in the Park "Sketch" - 6:30pm  
Memorial Park - 1175 Apple Blossom Drive, Neenah

Neenah Community Band Concert - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

**Wed July 29 to Sun August 2** Winnebago County Fair  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh

**Wed July 29** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring  
Road Trip - 6pm - Shattuck Park, 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents  
The SpongeBob Musical - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

# CALENDAR of EVENTS continued

- Thu July 30** Waterfest featuring Al Jardine & The Pet Sounds Band - 5:45pm  
Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
- Thu July 30** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Fri July 31** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

## AUGUST

- Sat Aug 1** Winneconne Bass Open - 5:30am  
Winneconne Park, Winneconne
- Children's Day Parade and Community Celebration** - 10am - South Park - 1300 Georgia St, Oshkosh
- Downtown Gallery Walk and Night Gallery**  
6pm - Oshkosh
- Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents The SpongeBob Musical** - 7:30pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Tue Aug 4** Live at the Leach featuring WheelHouse - 6pm  
Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
- Neenah Community Band Concert** - 7pm  
Riverside Park, 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Wed Aug 5** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring Ants Marching - 6pm  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Thu Aug 6** Entertainer Elvis John - 6pm  
Fritsch Park - 1651 Sandys Ln, Fox Crossing
- Fri Aug 7** National Lighthouse Day Celebration - 4:30pm  
Kimberly Point Lighthouse - 270 E Lakeshore Ave, Neenah
- Sat Aug 8** GLASS Arts Festival - 10am  
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass - 165 N Park Ave, Neenah
- Sun Aug 9** Carp Festival - 11am - Lions Park, Butte des Morts
- Tue Aug 11** Brews by the Waterside featuring Eight Second Ride - 5pm  
Rainbow Park - 1650 Rainbow Drive, Oshkosh
- Neenah Community Band Concert: Happy Wanderers German Band** - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Wed Aug 12** Future Neenah Evening Concert featuring Murphy's Law - 6pm  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Thu Aug 13** Waterfest featuring Starship - 5:45pm  
Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
- Tue Aug 18** Brews by the Waterside featuring D. Willy & The Souvenirs - 5pm  
Menominee Park, Oshkosh
- Neenah Community Band Concert: Neenah Ambassadors Big Band** - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah

- Thu Aug 20** Future Neenah Out to Lunch Concert - 11:30am  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Waterfest featuring Little River Band** - 5:45pm  
Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Neenah
- Fri Aug 21** WI Waterfowl Hunters Expo - Noon  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
- Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian Preliminary Round 4** - 7pm - Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh
- Sat Aug 22** WI Waterfowl Hunters Expo - 8am  
Sunnyview Expo Center - 500 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
- Summer Festival** - 5pm  
St. Margaret Mary Parish - 620 Division St, Neenah
- Tue Aug 25** Brews by the Waterside featuring Rings - 5pm  
Rainbow Park - 1650 Rainbow Drive, Oshkosh
- Sat Aug 29** Oshkosh Jazz Festival - 12:30pm  
Downtown Oshkosh

## SEPTEMBER

- Tue Sept 1** Live at the Leach featuring That '90s Band  
6pm - Leach Amphitheater - 303 Ceape Ave, Oshkosh
- Sat Sept 5** Hmong National Labor Day Festival - 8am  
Winnebago County Community Park  
501 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
- Downtown Gallery Walk and Night Gallery**  
6pm - Oshkosh
- Party on the Point featuring Ask Your Mother**  
6:30pm - Sometimes at Pioneer Island, Oshkosh
- Sun Sept 6** Hmong National Labor Day Festival - 8am  
Winnebago County Community Park  
501 E County Road Y, Oshkosh
- Thu Sept 10** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents Neil Simon's Rumors: A Farce - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Fri Sept 11** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents Neil Simon's Rumors: A Farce - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Sat Sept 12** Neenah-Menasha InterTribal Pow Wow - 2pm  
Shattuck Park - 210 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents Neil Simon's Rumors: A Farce** - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Sun Sept 13** Riverside Players Theatre in the Park presents Neil Simon's Rumors: A Farce - 7pm  
Riverside Park - 500 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah
- Sat Sept 19** Roads and Runways - 10am  
EAA Aviation Museum - 3000 Poberezny Road, Oshkosh
- Sat Sept 26** Oshkosh's Funniest Comedian Series Finale - 7pm  
Oshkosh Arena - 1212 S Main St, Oshkosh

# The Jamb (continued)

"We have chairs and tables, and people can pack in. you could do a yoga class here in the mornings. We want to try to keep the cost down, too, so as many people can utilize it as possible."

A variety of low-cost events have already taken place since the new venue opened in April, and even more are on the public calendar found on their website. Open mic and poetry jams, play productions, workshops to share artisan skills, and more.

On May 15 at The Jamb, indigenous culture will be celebrated at an event called Tribe Vibes, featuring indigenous musicians and performances, authentic vendors and artisans, informational exhibits, and even stand up comedy.

Over at the original gallery space, audiences can find the rest of their programming in full force.

On July 18, Jambalaya Arts will hold its sixth annual Art in the Alley event in the Algoma Art Alley, where more than 20 bands will perform throughout the day on a single stage.

"We are quite literally the biggest DIY music and arts festival in the area," Weber said. "We also have a lot of different art demonstrations going on at the same time, and we actively try to incorporate other cultural things from the area, whether it's a martial arts demonstration or possibly an indigenous powwow demonstration this year."



Organizers are hoping The Jamb's ever-growing calendar of events will energize audiences in downtown Oshkosh. Best known for punk music and high-energy mosh pits, The Jamb welcomes music of any kind. - Submitted Photograph

In collaboration with ArtSpace Collective, Oshkosh Art Collective, Oshkosh Fine Arts Association, and Downtown Oshkosh, Jambalaya Arts also hosts The Night Gallery, a juried exhibition of artists in the Art Alley during the Oshkosh Gallery Walk on June 6, Aug. 1 and Sept. 5.

Visit [jambalayaartsinc.wixsite.com/artfromwisconsin](http://jambalayaartsinc.wixsite.com/artfromwisconsin) to learn more.

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*A true experience, not just another event!*

# Music festival XRoads 41 returns with new line up

By Hope Hahn

In August, XRoads41 Music Festival returns with what organizers say is their best lineup yet.

The festival **Aug. 6-8 at Oshkosh Festivals Park** includes an array of new exhibitors, interactive experiences for fans and a continued focus on producing events with first-class production. The organizing team prides themselves on getting better each year and truly becoming the premier music festival in Wisconsin.

## Top performers

This year, XRoads 41 consists of headliners including Zac Brown Band, Lainey Wilson and Jason Aldean.

Zac Brown Band has more than a dozen No. 1 country hits, but also a mass appeal among fans of classic rock and Americana, and they've collaborated with hip hop artists and hard rock bands, so they check a lot of boxes.

Wilson is one of the top females in country music this decade. She has been sweeping the country award show nominations the last couple of years, plus she's forayed into acting, hosted the CMA Awards and is coming out with a new documentary on Netflix.

Aldean recently celebrated his 31st No. 1 country song. He could play a show of nothing but No. 1 songs, and he's been a Wisconsin favorite for years.

The down bill acts include Treaty Oak Revival, which is headlining at other major festivals this summer and will be opening for Aldean. Flatland Cavalry and Wyatt Flores are two of the hottest artists in the red dirt scene right now; Wiz Khalifa will be playing amphitheaters with Machine Gun Kelly most of the summer before coming to Oshkosh. There will be songs from 90's country artists like Tracy Byrd and hyped newcomers like Braxton Keith.

"We've doubled down on the talent on our second stage, which will be called 'the Raised Rowdy stage' this year," said Mindy Klein, marketing director for Oshkosh Festivals. "By that I mean we've got more performers on that stage, and we're bringing in some really hot up and coming singer songwriters like Blake Whiten, Noah Rinker and Caroline Jones. We've added a third stage called: The Sometimes Stage that will feature acoustic sets throughout the day."

There will be a free concert again in the campgrounds on the evening of Aug. 5, the night before the show begins inside the concert bowl. Frank Ray will be back to headline that show.

*XRoads 41 has drawn large crowds since it started three years ago with well-known headliners such as Nelly.*  
- Photograph by Michael Cooney



## Fan experience

Klein said the list of food vendors continues to be refined in order to provide a variety of cuisine. In addition to the food vendors, there will also be merchandise and activity vendors.

"We want to be known as the event with all the best vendors and experiences, so when our customers aren't immersed in the live music performances, then they are enjoying quality food and drinks," Klein said. "They'll be able to shop at unique vendor booths and visit interactive spaces that make it a true experience, not just another event."

This year, more features are going to be added to the campground, including improving the campground store and hub area. Last year, they partnered with a sponsor to provide golf cart rides from the parking lot to the main gate for those who don't want to walk, and this year that service will be expanded to the campground.

## Festival expansion

Klein said a one-day rock music event on Aug. 9 called XRoads41 Rock Detour will be a separate event with separate tickets. She said organizers see a demand for a rock music event in the market, and this is a chance to try a one day event while the infrastructure from the main XRoads41 festival is still in place.

The XRoads41 Rock Detour lineup includes Breaking Benjamin, Daughtry, Memphis May Fire, Dorothy, Drowning Pool, Atreyu, Saliva, Saving Abel, 12 Stones, Kelsey Hickman and Rogue Royal.

Tickets and details are available at [xroads41rock.com](http://xroads41rock.com).

## Long-term vision

Klein said organizers' long-term vision includes creating some legacy events for Oshkosh and the Fox Valley.

"We are seeing exponential growth in ticket sales for XRoads41 each year," she said.

From the start, Klein said the owners of XRoads41, a small group of investors known as Oshkosh Festivals LLC, have had three goals.

One was to bring back the live music entertainment events to the people and community of Oshkosh. The second was to recreate the music festival experience within this space where previous music events were held. The owners wanted to produce safer, more modern and more organized events than what had been done in the past.

Third, they want to create a legacy event or events; something that is built to last and done right, and will be enjoyed for many years to come, and be an investment in the community.

Klein sees two main ways to create the vision the owners were looking for: One is by trying to improve every single year. As soon as last year's event ended, the meetings began with all the teams and crews that worked on and at the event to hear about what worked well, and what did not, so everyone can do even better this year.

"The process repeats again as soon as the 2026 event ends," Klein said. "The team doubles down on the positives and finds solutions for anything that didn't work so well. They love to hear customer feedback as well and really take the post event surveys into consideration when planning for the next year."

More information is available at [xroads41.com](http://xroads41.com).

*Build-your-own bouquet*

# Creativity blooms at The Bloomtique

By Cassidy Johnson

Flowers, creativity and even love bloom at The Bloomtique. Started in April 2023 by Gena Tigert and her husband, Adam Tigert, the appropriately named Bloomtique is a boutique and flower farm that offers a build-your-own bouquet experience from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 3849 Nekimi Ave. in Oshkosh.

U-Pick season will start in late June when flowers are in their prime.

With fields of zinnias and wildflowers all in a variety of colors, customers can customize the bouquet to their preference — or a loved one's. Gena said to just buy a vase for \$15, grab shears and have fun with it. Students, seniors or military members can get it at a discount for \$12.

Gena will be there to offer tips and guidance, and at the end, customers will have a bouquet as unique as them. When customers are ready for fresh flowers, they can take the vase back and refill it for \$12.

Afterward, customers can check out the "boutique" part of "Bloom-tique" where they can shop unique pieces, fun knick-knacks and pieces from local artists, and say "hi" to the shop cats, Daisy and Lilly — or as Gena likes to call them — their "mascots."

Whether a customer is visiting alone or with loved ones, the experience is equally fun as it is therapeutic.

"When we make things with our hands, it's a piece of your soul," Gena said. "That's nurturing; it frees us a little bit."

Bouquets, nevertheless customized ones, can be expensive, so this provides a fun, cost-effective way to add life to a space and have a fun outing with loved ones. After all, Gena said who doesn't want to frolic around in a field of flowers?

Customers may be able to catch some of the good love ju-ju there, as there's an Airbnb that can be booked for weddings on the property — not to mention that the business itself was grown by two love-birds, with the idea "blooming" after Adam planted a flower garden for Gena.

"(I had) the desire to let people experience what I get to on a daily basis," Gena said. "I want people to have that deeper connection to the whole thing... the flowers, the butterflies, the creating and the appreciation of the environment. I think it's something everyone should get to enjoy."

Besides their U-Pick, the Bloomtique also has a variety of upcoming events for the summer.

**In June**, Gena said to make sure to keep an eye out for Paint 'n' Sips in the flower fields, yoga and bouquet-making classes and a tulip and peony bouquet build.

**In July**, customers can expect more Paint 'n' Sips and yoga and bouquet classes as well as Kiddo Workshops where Gena will be teaching children ages 6-8 how to create bouquets.

Yoga and Bouquet-making will return **in August**, with the addition of Children's Hour in the Garden, an experience for kids ages 6-8 and their families where they read a book, do a nature-themed scavenger hunt, pick flowers, make crafts and enjoy a treat of ice cream at the end.

**September** will have Craft Hour in the Garden and more Paint 'n' Sips and Yoga and Bouquet classes, as well as a Flower Fest and bike ride Sept. 19, a fundraiser for kids with diabetes.

Although dates aren't out quite yet, those interested can stay tuned on their website [bloomtiquefarm.com](http://bloomtiquefarm.com) and their socials, [@the.Bloomtique](#) on Instagram and "The Bloomtique" on Facebook for updates on dates and any other upcoming events.



Gena Tigert tends to some of the flowers in the field to prepare for the U-Pick season starting in late June when flowers will be in their prime.

- Photography by Cassidy Johnson



No matter a customer's age, Gena said there is fun to be had at The Bloomtique where she employs her vision of "fostering creativity, (being) thoughtful of the environment and truly caring."



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# Concerts added to music lineup in Neenah

By George Halas

Fans of all ages can enjoy live music throughout the summer at Shattuck Park in Neenah. - Rankin Photography



Members of Kyle Megna and The Monsoons – Noah Harmon, Aaron Zeplin, Fred Vepel, Kyle Megna, Michael Underwood, Ross Catterton and Kurt Shipe – will be kicking off the Future Neenah Evening Concert Series on June 17.

- Submitted Photograph

WAMI Award-winning band Kyle Megna and The Monsoons will kick-off the expanded Future Neenah Evening Concert at Shattuck Park series presented by Richard and Amy Jo Aylward on June 17.

All concerts being at 6 p.m. and go until 8 p.m. Admission is free.

In addition to the music and river views offered by Shattuck Park, the events include rotating food trucks featuring local favorites, a playground for the “little ones” and well-behaved leashed dogs are welcome. Seating is first come, first served and attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets.

Headliners include Grand Union on June 24, Copper Box on July 1, Party Animal on July 8, The Britins on July 15, The Souvenirs on July 22, Road Trip on July 29, Ants Marching on Aug. 5 and the series wraps up with Neenah-based Murphy’s Law on Aug. 12

The series includes some changes this year: “We’ve added one concert so that we will have nine instead of eight as in years past,” said Future Neenah events coordinator Meredith Rathe. “The stage will be bigger, it will be covered, it will have more signage, be more professional and look more like a concert.”

Perhaps the most significant, fan-friendly change is a partnership with the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel across the street from Shattuck Park that addresses the series’ biggest problem: rain.

“Along with the covered stage, this gives us more flexibility,” Rathe said. “Instead of cancelling and rescheduling due to rain, we’ll move the concerts across the street to the

DoubleTree by Hilton. They’re ecstatic to be working with us.”

One of the highlights is Future Neenah Donor Appreciation Night in conjunction with the appearance by The Britins on July 15. Sponsored by Simplicity Credit Union, Dairy Queen will be providing free ice cream sundaes to all attendees.

Future Neenah will be reducing its lunchtime concerts to three: one each in June, July and August — the July concert is a “kids” concert — but will replace them with what Rathe referred to as “pop up concerts.”

“Some will be held in the Alta Alley between Alta Resources and Knox Furniture, and some will be held in Gateway Park,” she said. “We are considering the possibility of a Saturday afternoon show as well as a Thursday Happy Hour concert.”

“We’ve also expanded the types of music presented in the Wednesday night series,” she added. “Grand Union is more of a country music band and Party Animal is an 80’s band.”

When they perform June 17, Kyle Megna and The Monsoons will be returning to Shattuck Park for the first time in four years. The band won the WAMI (Wisconsin Area Music Industry) Award for Alternative Rock/Rock Artist of the Year in both 2017 and 2018 and Megna was named Male Vocalist of The Year in 2018.

The band includes multiple-WAMI winner Michael Underwood playing drums and percussion as well as guitarist Aaron Zeplin, bass player Fred Vepel, Noah Harmon playing keyboards, trumpeter Kurt Shipe and saxophonist Ross Catterton. All have at least one WAMI nomination to their credit.

“This lineup has been together for 10 years now,” Megna said. “They are a tight-knit group of accomplished, charismatic musicians with diverse musical backgrounds. These guys know how to have fun while always keeping it professional.”

The band’s high-energy live performances have made it one of only a few bands to play at every Mile of Music event in Appleton.

The band plays all original music that combines elements of rock, jazz, blues, folk and pop and, according to Megna, “keeps growing and evolving.”

“It’s the reason I keep playing,” he said. “If it was the same stuff all the time, I wouldn’t still be doing it. It wouldn’t be enough.”

The band has released 10 albums and EP’s. “I love to create and make music with these guys,” Megna said. “As life changes, it gives me different things to write about – I keep pushing myself as a writer – and we’re all growing as musicians.”

The Shattuck Park performance will include all four songs from the group’s latest EP, “This World.”

“We’ll play all four,” Megna said. “We road-tested three of the four songs last summer. It should be frill.”

The band has a full schedule of appearances around Wisconsin this summer. For a complete list of dates as well as videoclips, go to [kylemegnamusic.com](http://kylemegnamusic.com)

For more information on the Future Neenah Evening Concerts at Shattuck Park and other events like the Summer Kickoff Concert featuring the Glam Band playing on a closed off Wisconsin Avenue on June 10 and the end of the summer concert featuring Boogie and the Yo-Yo’z Aug. 26, go to [futureneenah.org](http://futureneenah.org).



The Glam Band will once again start the summer June 10 by performing on a closed off Wisconsin Avenue - Rankin Photography



Boogie and the Yo-Yo’z will be performing Aug. 26 at the end of the summer concert presented in partnership with Future Neenah and the Neenah Joint School District. - Rankin Photography

# *Festival puts Winneconne on the map*

## Sovereign State Days 2026

By Zach Bellin

A story that started as a wide speck on the 1967 Wisconsin highway map noticed by a Milwaukee salesman who was having a tough time trying to find Winneconne has turned into one of Wisconsin's premiere festivals.

"Every community has its summer festival, but I stand behind my opinion that Winneconne's has the coolest back story ever," said Dana Woods, one of the organizers of the festival. "It's one of rebellion, and a 'hey, we won't be ignored' kind of thing."

Woods said that alumni from the Winneconne High School will purposely schedule their reunions on the weekend of the Sovereign State Days festival, which is July 16-19.

"Everyone wants to come home for Sovereign State Days," Woods said. "It's a big thing with a bunch of pride wrapped up in it."

The Sovereign State Days celebration begins July 16 with a Family Fun Night at Waterfront Park that'll feature various activities like face painting, bouncy houses, a limbo contest and Big Wheel races.

For \$3, children ages three through five can register to race Big Wheels where competitors will earn a free ice cream serving from The Well Drive-In and a chance at first through third place trophies. On-site registration for the race will take place from 5 to 6 p.m.

Festivities continue on July 17 with a softball tournament starting at 6 p.m., a fireworks show over the Wolf River and two bands performing live music. The music kicks off with Swamp Water Boogie at 5:45 p.m., and The Presidents close the night out starting at 8:45 p.m., with an intermission for the fireworks show. The majority of attendees of the concert will have to pay a \$5 cover fee with children 10 and under being the exception.

July 18 will be highlighted by the Sovereign State Parade with supplemental activities happening all day. The busy day begins with the 12th annual Sovereign State 5K. Following the beginning of the 5K, an artisan fair will take place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. along with the Sovereign State Days Steak Cookoff



*The idea for Sovereign State Days stems from 1967 when Winneconne was left off the official Wisconsin highway map. The festival was created 'to put the town back on the map'.*

- Submitted Photograph

happening from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. where the winner takes home a \$1,000 grand prize.

The parade is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. and will make its way down to Marble Park from Winneconne Elementary School. This year's theme and parade marshal have yet to be announced by the Sovereign State of Winneconne.

"When somebody new is in the parade, I always tell them, 'Make sure you look at the crowd from the top of the bridge' because it's a sight they've never seen before," Woods said. "It's just the coolest sight, especially when you're looking down the street and you see masses of people ahead of you."

The scheduled festivities July 18 also include The Gin and Sonics performing a concert on the Beiser Realty Stage from noon until 3 p.m., as well as a coinciding pulled pork dinner and corn roast.

The final day of Sovereign State Days, July 19, features a tradition that's been around since its beginning, the Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast. They'll also be setting up the annual Toll Bridge on Main Street, hosting a meat raffle and one last live performance on the Beiser Realty Stage from 4 North Acoustic.



*Vendors fill Marble Park as part of the Sovereign State Days festival held in July in Winneconne.*

- Submitted Photograph



To wrap up the fun-filled weekend, a Sunset Worship Service will be held at the Lake Winneconne Park Gazebo at 7 p.m. Those who plan on attending are told to bring their own chairs.



*The Winneconne pyrotechnics team puts on fireworks displays such as for Sovereign State Days and the village's Fourth of July celebration.*

- Submitted Photograph



*Batman took a break last year to greet spectators in Winneconne.*

Submitted Photograph

# The **GRAND** at UW-OSHKOSH



**NEW SPACE.  
SAME GRAND EXPERIENCE.**

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As we look ahead to the exciting transformation of our home on High Ave., our 2026-2027 season will take place at the **UWO Theatre Arts Center**.

**We can't wait to welcome you.**

Stay up to date at [thegrandoshkosh.org](http://thegrandoshkosh.org)