



Celebrating 28 Years

Nov. 25-Dec. 31

2022

ROTARY LIGHTS
La Crosse, Wis.

Riverside Park, La Crosse, WI
rotarylites.org

Enjoy The Lights!



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With Deep Appreciation...



To say 2021 was an unusual year for Rotary Lights would be putting it mildly. We had our first ever incident of vandalism when our electrical cords were stolen for their copper content and followed that with an unexpected winter wind storm that destroyed a number of our key attractions. Our volunteers and the community quickly responded that allowed us to reopen the

park two days later. A huge accomplishment!

Over these last few months we lost two very special people that were pillars of our volunteer core. John Corems was our “go to” guy. John had many special talents and was in charge of our “Kiddie Train” we called Santa’s Express. He brought thousands of smiles to the kids. A short tribute to John appears in this booklet.

Bill Heinz was Mr. Everything. Helped wherever he was needed. He was Santa’s main helper, worked in the high lifts, trailered materials, and was another important “go to” guy. A short story on Bill is also in this booklet.

How can you refuse to buy a cute little Teddy Bear called Paddy? Rotary Lights is selling these bears for \$20 with 100% of the profits going to WAFER towards their new building on the north side. WAFER is the largest food pantry in the area serving close to 1,200 families per month. Their new facility will help tremendously with their mission. We have these bears in the Rotary Lights Gift Shop and at over 20 other locations that can be found on our website. (rotarylights.org).

This year’s ifeed is taking place on Nov. 5th at Logan High. The various high school teams will package over 50,000 meals that are going to Poland to help feed the Ukrainian refugees that are settled there. Please look for the special Ukrainian Flag that we created to show our support for their courageous efforts.

We have just under 40 establishments that volunteer to help feed our daily crew of volunteers. They are all listed on another page in this booklet. Our “food ladies”, Sue Crothers, Joanne Stephens, Patty Fitzpatrick, Ruth Dunn, and Joyce Diveley make certain our helpers are well fed. We learned a long time ago that it is better to not let your workers go home for lunch.

On behalf of the Stephens Family, my fellow Rotarians in La Crosse Rotary East, La Crosse Downtown, Valley View Rotary, After Hours Rotary, La Crescent, Caledonia, Holmen, and Onalaska Hilltopper Rotary Clubs, along with a very dedicated Board of Directors and Steering Committee, and over 3,000 community volunteers, please accept best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Irish holiday hugs,

Pat Stephens

Pat Stephens-President

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Happy Holidays



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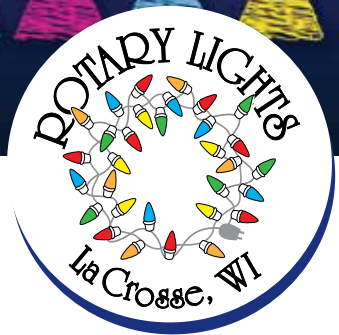
LA CROSSE, WI

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What Is Rotary?



Rotary Lights is sponsored by area Rotary Clubs who, in turn, are part of an international service organization. That organization is built on providing humanitarian aid, fostering high ethical standards, and promoting peace and goodwill throughout the world.

Any project or activity is based on the Four Way Test, questions on which Rotary decisions are based:

- Is it the truth?**
- Is it fair to all concerned?**
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**

As Rotary Lights entered the planning stages, these questions were addressed. Out of those discussions came the decision to collect food for hunger agencies and money for participating non profits. The questions were the basis for creating Rotary Lights as a free-to-the-public event. Rotary does more than light up Riverside Park between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. You may recognize some of these projects, all of which Rotarians have played a part in organizing, fundraising, and labor:

- Kids Coulee • Myrick Hixon Ecopark • Trees for Tomorrow • International Gardens
- Chad Erickson Park • Riverside Band Shell • Fight the Flood • St. Clare Mobile Clinic

On an international level, Rotary provides exchange programs for high school students, works tirelessly to eradicate polio, seeks ways to provide clean water, and much more.

Participating Rotary Lights Clubs

After Hours	Onalaska Hilltoppers
Caledonia	Onalaska
Holmen	La Crosse Downtown
Rotary East	Valley View Rotary
La Crescent	



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The Mission of Rotary Lights

“TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY OF THE COULEE REGION”

Year	Number of Food Items Collected
1995	13,010
1996	20,014
1997	31,482
1998	42,323
1999	66,211
2000	86,475
2001	91,634
2002	101,789
2003	121,040
2004	125,892
2005	135,756
2006	171,252
2007	186,374
2008	204,178
2009	206,479
2010	204,188
2011	226,642
2012	232,580
2013	229,173
2014	237,246
2015	296,784
2016	302,586
2017	321,463
2018	318,640
2019	304,560
2020	284,680
2021	267,470

27 Year Total 4,822,549

The generous gifts of food that are collected unfortunately only last 8-10 weeks. The demand is high and growing. If you or an organization you are involved with would like to help organize an event in partnership with Rotary Lights to help us increase food collections, contact Rotary Lights at 608.784.9993.

We have collected items at the gate and other food items through the efforts of:

- The La Crosse Area Jeep Club
- Shamrock Club
- The Trane Company

Rotary Lights would like to partner with any groups that would like to be involved with food drives from November 1, through December 31.

Food Pantries Sharing Collections in 2022

In Park

- Caledonia Food Shelf
- La Crescent Food Basket
- New Horizons
- Onalaska Food Basket
- Salvation Army
- Holmen St. Elizabeth
- WAFER
- Place of Grace

Out of Park

- Cashton Cupboard
- Coulee Cap
- Hunger Task Force
- UW-L Food Pantry



This years goal will be to significantly top
5 MILLION COUNT IN 2022



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 **Just Believe**
Santa's Gift Shop



All proceeds from Just Believe will be used to further the Rotary Lights Mission of feeding the hungry in the Coulee Region

Located in the Santa House at Rotary Lights

Open Nightly
Nov. 29 - Dec. 23 5 pm - 8 pm
(while Santa is in the House)

Light up Christmas Items,
Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Jewelry,
Ornaments: Rotary Lights,
Military, and others
Books, Puzzles,
Toys, Home Decor

New
for '22

"PADDY"





JOHN COREMS—Rotary Lights Go-To-Guy

(Dec. 10, 1945 to March 14, 2022)



When John Njivar came to the United States at the age of 22, he was looking for a whole new life. And that included his name. When the folks at immigration told him he could change his Slovenian name, he jumped at the chance. “He was tired of people mispronouncing his name,” said daughter Tina Putney. And thus was born John Corems. And it wasn’t just any old name he chose. Corems represents

“Construction, remodeling maintenance service.” He lived up to that name, Putney said, and then some, giving those skills to Rotary Lights and other groups as he became an expert in animation and other trades that endeared him to Rotary Lights organizers.

Corems hooked up with Rotary Lights in the beginning because of his love for railroads. He was responsible for crafting a train that gave rides to about 10,000 children a year, said Rotary Lights President Pat Stephens.

But Stephens soon came to appreciate the meaning of Corems’ name as he kept acquiring new skills to apply at Rotary Lights.

“He was our go-to guy,” Stephens said. “He could fix anything and donated hundreds of hours.”

“He wanted to know everything,” said volunteer Steve Klankowski. “He always wanted to learn. He was just busy, busy, busy. But anything to do with the train, he put more emphasis,” Klankowski said, because it was for the kids.

While Corems started out working on trains, everything about Rotary Lights interested him, said his friend and fellow volunteer Leo Chaput.

“When I’m done with my train layout, would you teach me to do what you do,”

Corems asked Chaput, who was working on animation.

When Chaput asked him why, Corems said, “I don’t want to die stupid.” Corems was the go-to guy who never stopped, Chaput said. “When something would break in the building, he would fix it. If the furnace would break, he would fix it. He was just the right person for Rotary Lights.”

“John was a valuable asset to Rotary Lights, Tom Svec said. “He did many things to help. He was very helpful in keeping our building operating as well as many of the displays. He usually repaired many of the animated displays both large and small. He took command of the small train for the kids to ride in. He didn’t want anyone else to do it.”

Rotary Lights was the right fit for Corems, Putney said, because he could keep growing his skills and helping others. “When he had things in his mind, whatever he created, it was quality.”

Klankowski, who did welding and repair work with Corems, said Corems wanted to help wherever he could so he was down at the workshop just about any time of day or night.

“He would put things together,” Terry Slaback said, by figuring it out in his head. “His train had more bells and whistles than you can imagine. He would work endlessly on rewiring different things. It was unbelievable.”

There was always something more to learn and more to do, Slaback said.

I used to do a lot of welding for John, trying to help him with some of his projects,” Slaback said, including the animated dragon Corems worked on with Chaput.

Putney said she was so proud when she saw the dragon her dad had helped animate. “My dad did that, the animation of the wings,” she said. “He loved Rotary Lights. He really did.”

“The things that stick out about John are his love for trains and his love for Rotary Lights,” said fellow volunteer Zach Tudahl. “These two passions

intersected with two of his main tasks with Rotary Lights. “First, with the train layout in the Santa House. He put many hours into building that each year and loved watching the kids enjoy his display. He was so dedicated that they would not take breaks, so when I was working in the park I would bring him coffee and a cookie part way through the night. He always appreciated this so much.

“The other thing was the Kiddie Train. He was always so dedicated with these two tasks,” Tudahl said.

“He was just a special person,” Slaback said. “I told him, ‘John, you will be associated with Rotary Lights for the rest of your life. You’ve done more than anybody in this whole organization.’”

“He was an angel around here—crabby sometimes, but crabby doesn’t mean anything if it gets the job done,” said Chaput. “You can imagine how we’re going to miss this guy this year.”



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SHUPE-Volunteer Story

It begins to look a lot like Christmas at the end of October for the Doug and Merri Shupe family.

That's because the entire family volunteers at Rotary Lights in Riverside Park and work begins at the end of October when everything is trucked from the Rotary Lights workshop to Riverside Park.

But it's a drive that has to be made over and over again because volunteers have to transport all the displays that require millions of lights and the many structures visitors will be seeing this year.

For the Shupes' three sons, that was always the best part, Doug said. "Their favorite thing was hauling all the stuff on trucks and trailers," Merri said. "They will get there early just so they can get a truck."

Son Nick agrees, "We go to the 7 a.m. breakfast and then we dart over there," he said, to make sure they nab a truck.

Nick's friend Benjamin Storlie feels the same way about driving trucks, so he joins the Shupes at breakfast and then makes the break for the warehouse.

"It's an absolute blast," Benjamin said. "The sheer pace of trying to accomplish a collective goal with a group of guys," he said, is a shot of adrenalin.

But it isn't just about driving trucks, said Nick and Benjamin. It's about Christmas, which both feel is the most wonderful time of the year. And it's about helping others.

"I started to enjoy what it stood for," Nick said.

"The people keep bringing me back" said Benjamin. "It's just heartwarming to see all the work pay off. To give back is a meaningful thing as well."

All of this goodwill and volunteering is really thanks to Merri's brother Mark Dahlke, who told her and Don that this was a great project their whole family could be involved in.

"My brother Mark was involved and he sort of instilled the Rotary Lights as fun, and giving back to the community."

"We were always down in the park," Mark said. "And they were interested in adopting a charity."

So Doug joined, and then Merri, and soon their three sons and one daughter were also involved. And then they chose a night as the Shupe family night to work the park.

"The biggest thing is setting up all the displays," Doug said. "You have to transport all that stuff. There are several pickup trucks and trailer packages and you just keep driving back and forth. Once it's all transported to the park, you start putting it up."

And you just keep putting it up and testing lights until the Friday night after Thanksgiving when all the lights are turned on.

On their volunteer night, the Shupes are responsible for food collection, staffing the Santa Claus trailer, and making sure everything runs smoothly. That's right in Merri's wheelhouse since she's a retired teacher.

But they don't have to limit themselves to one night of working.

"If we want to go down there any given night, we can just show up at the trailer and volunteer. But each of the 32 nights is generally spoken for," she said.

One of the biggest jobs, Doug said, is making sure all the lights are lighting up.

"Everything is LED now and has been for several years and now we're replacing that. I don't think anybody really knows for sure" how many lights, he said.

"Over the years, we have purchased just under 5 million lights," said Rotary Lights Founder Pat Stephens. "We have not kept track of the broken, worn-out replacement with LEDs, etc. So we have close to 4 million in working inventory but because the park has lost so many trees over the years, we have more lights than we have trees to put them in," he



said, even though they buy five new trees a year.

"It's a lot of lights," said Doug with a laugh. "The beauty of it all set up, it's something to behold."

"I'm always amazed when we're working how many people are there and how much they appreciate it," Merri said. "Everybody is so happy there."

And Mark says you don't need to be an electrician or an animator to pitch in and help. You just have to be willing to work.

"I'm down there working," he said, along with serving on the steering committee and board of directors. "I don't have any real skills, but I help put up the animation. I'm willing to go down there in the cold and spend weekends down there putting up and taking down."

And a love for the holiday helps.

"I really love Christmas," Mark said. "I love the holidays. I love the light displays. My wife and I grew up in La Crosse," he said and they remember "when downtown was lit up." But when stores left downtown for the mall, the downtown got a bit dreary, Mark said.

Rotary Lights changed that for him.

"Lighting up Riverside Park was meaningful to me. And it's such a good cause—feeding the hungry."

And through the years of working in the park, he's seen how one idea has grown into a powerful force for joy and good works.

"I'm amazed at how big it's become. I always tell people, Pat Stephens thinks on a whole 'nother level, several levels above me. He's the visionary. Every year he's thinking of ways to be better. It's never going to be finished with Pat Stephens. He's always thinking, 'How can I make it better every year.'"

Part of that better is the crew of volunteers.

"My entire family volunteers," Mark said, "and my wife, Sarah, is volunteer coordinator."

It's a fun family event, he said, made better because his sister's family is in the park, too.

For Benjamin and Nick, Rotary Lights is important because of the good it does but also because that good is done in La Crosse.

"I like that it's in La Crosse, in the heart of La Crosse," Nick said. "I love La Crosse as a city. And I like the end product of it and seeing everything lit up at night, especially after hours when we've shut the gates and all the lights are still on. It's serene. I love all the nonprofits that benefit from it. It brings a lot of the community together and I like being involved in that."

"I'm there just as much as I can be," Benjamin said, even if that means taking out garbage or running supplies to the other end of the park.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Doug. "A lot of camaraderie."

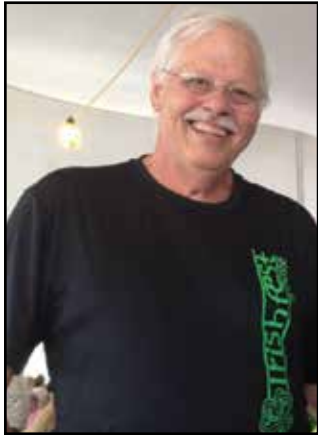


Participating & Benefiting Non-Profits 2022

4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 1195
7 Rivers Cardiac Arrest Preparedness and Education (was 7R-SCAA)
Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
Amaro Rose Foundation, Inc.
American Standardbred Adoption Program Inc.
Aptiv-La Crosse
Big Brothers Big Sisters of 7 Rivers Region
Bikers Against Child Abuse
Blessed Sacrament Elementary School
Bluff Country Family Resources
Bluffs Community Church
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse
Causeway Caregivers
Central High School NHS
Child Abuse Prevention Task Force
Citizen Advocacy of La Crosse
Congregational Preschool
Coulee Connections
Coulee Region Humane Society
Coulee Region Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Diocese of La Crosse
Disability Action Network
Downtown Neighborhood Resource Officers
Frontier Badger Masonic Lodge #45
Girl Scouts
Great Rivers United Way
Habitat for Humanity La Crosse Area
Health Science Academy
Holmen Area Foundation
Holmen High School ACE Academy
Holmen High School Interact Club
Holmen Knights of Columbus
Holmen Project L.I.V.E. Lifelong Independence and Vocational Education
Housing Authority of the City of La Crosse
La Crosse Area Water Ski Foundation
La Crosse Curling Club
La Crosse Dive Unit
La Crosse Lions Club
LaCrosse Jaycees
Lakeview Health Center & Assisted Living
Logan High School Band
MN State College-Winona Radiography Club
NAMI LaCrosse Vernon
New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers
Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center
Onalaska High School Athletic Booster Club
Onalaska High School FBLA
Onalaska High School Spanish Club
Onalaska High School National Honor Society
Onalaska High School French National Honor Society
Onalaska High School Rotary Interact
Onalaska Middle School WEB
Patient Experience Team- Gundersen
Preservation Alliance
River City Water Ski Show Team
Riverland Amateur Radio Club
Rush Wisconsin West Soccer Club
Sarras Hugs and Ears Inc.
Shamrock Club
St. Pat's Onalaska Knights of Columbus
Suicide Prevention Initiative
The Hunger Task Force
UWL Alpha Phi
UWL Alpha Xi Delta
UWL American Red Cross Club
UWL Beta Alpha Psi
UWL Colleges Against Cancer
UWL Delta Sigma Phi-Epsilon Iota
UWL Delta Sigma Pi - Eta Rho
UWL Eta Sigma Gamma, Beta Phi
UWL FLOW (Fitness Lifestyle Organization for Women)
UWL Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC)
UWL Gamma Sigma Sigma
UWL Golden Key
UWL Kappa Delta Pi
UWL Kinesis
UWL Microbiology Club
UWL Nuclear Medicine Technology Club
UWL Pre-Dental Club
UWL Pre-Med Club
UWL Pre-Occupational Therapy Club
UWL REC Club
UWL School Psychology Student Society
UWL Screaming Eagles Marching Band
UWL Screaming Eagles Marching Band Drumline
UWL Sigma Sigma Sigma- Theta Kappa
UWL Sociology Club
UWL Therapeutic Recreation Club
UWL University Staff Council
UWL Vanguard
UWLATA
Viterbo University Chi Sigma Iota-Delta Lambda
West Salem High School Music
Westby Syttende Mai Royalty
WTC HIT/MCS Club
WTC Respiratory Therapy Club



Remembering Bill Heinz



If you whispered a plea to Santa for a toy train on a visit to Rotary Lights, it is likely that Bill Heinz made sure Santa remembered to deposit it under your Christmas tree.

Heinz, who died this summer, will be missed—not just by the boys and girls who visit Santa’s village in Riverside Park, but by the other volunteers who work at Rotary Lights.

Bill and Teresa Peters, Mick and Rita Connors and Steve Dunn are just a few of the people who will be missing Bill. Likely, if you ever met him, they say, you’ll be missing him, too.

Heinz was a long-time “Santa’s Helper” at Rotary Lights, filling out the Santa suit four or five nights during Rotary Lights’ annual run.

“He loved kids,” said Bill Peters.

He was the first, and was probably the best Santa, say his friends. And they should know. The Connors have known him for 40 years and still miss him in the pew at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Holmen.

He was kind, he was funny, and fun to be around, said Steve Dunn. “He could talk to anybody.”

And he did, including a kid who wanted Santa to deliver a boa constrictor for Christmas.

“No,” shouted a startled Santa Bill, “Santa doesn’t do snakes. How about a puppy?”

There was a detailed explanation to the no-snakes rule, said Mick, including how the snake might get wrapped around Rudolph and ruin the whole flying around the world expedition.

But it wasn’t just kids that tickled Bill’s fancy. When he heard about a woman in Melvina, Wis., who called herself the Melvina Witch, he insisted on driving to Melvina to meet her. Surprised to see a big guy coming at her, she was a bit intimidated. But Bill said, “I’m just a guy who wants to find a witch,” and then he hugged her.

In the beginning of his stint as Santa at Rotary Lights, said Mick, Bill didn’t need the padding to play Santa. But he lost 100 pounds and then had to add to the costume to look the jolly part. And when he put on that costume, it had to be just right, said Teresa.

When Bill saw a Santa with a better beard, he found out where he got it so he could get one for himself.

“He did a lot of research,” said Teresa, who once filled in as Mrs. Claus. But she only got one shot at the gig, said her husband, because she was so good with the kids that it cut into Bill’s schtick.

“You don’t need to come back,” Bill told her with a fake scowl.

Rita Connor said he was a genuinely kind man who took care of those around him and noticed people who needed to be noticed. “He used to come to my mom’s nursing home,” she said, so he could visit with and cheer the lonely.

And if he was offered money for that or some other Santa gig, he would just tell them to donate it to Rotary Lights.

If there was a good time to be had, Bill Heinz was there having that good time whether it was as Santa in Riverside Park in the winter or as a commodore in Riverside Park at Riverfest in the summer.

And even though he wasn’t Irish, he was very involved in Irishfest because, as he told his Irish friends, it was a good time. “He was O’Heinz at Irishfest,” said Mick.

And outside of Rotary Lights season, Bill was big on kayaking. So big, in fact, that he created a website – BillHeinz.net – where he kept track of river heights, currents, temperatures and anything else a kayaker could need to know.

The website is still there, even though Bill is not.

The one place you might still be able to find Bill is in the church pew at St. Elizabeth’s. For the first weeks after his July passing, the Peters and Connors made sure there was a hat where Bill used to sit so that his seat wouldn’t be taken.

“We miss him terribly,” said Teresa, and they still felt his presence when they looked over and saw his hat.

They stopped putting the hat there after a while, “But nobody has sat there yet,” said Mick. “He was always the first one at church,” he said, and it looks like Bill is keeping up the tradition.



Live Nativity

Dates: Nov. 25-26-27,
Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 25



For information
on WELs Churches
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johnson.maria@live.com

HA YRIDES ^{IN} THE PARK

Free family hayrides in the park
Nov. 30, Dec. 7-14-16-21-23-28

Ongoing from 5:30 p.m.
to 8:30 p.m.
Load at the west side
entrance of the
Ice Castle (heated tent).





2022 Traffic & Food Assignment

Park Program Staff and Commissioners

Date	Group Assignments	Food Goes To
Fri., Nov 25	La Crosse Downtown Rotary	Salvation Army
Sat., Nov. 26	Morrie's Brenengem	Holmen St. Elizabeth
Sun., Nov. 27	Fastenal	Onalaska Food Basket
Mon., Nov. 28	Verve Credit Union	Place of Grace
Tues., Nov. 29	Dairyland Power	WAFER
Wed., Nov. 30	Wieser Brothers	La Crescent Food Shelf
Thurs., Dec. 1	Optum Serve -LHI	WAFER
Fri., Dec. 2	Fowler and Hammer	Holmen-St. Elizabeth
Sat., Dec. 3	Mathy Construction	Salvation Army
Sun., Dec. 4	Wells Fargo Advisors	Onalaska Food Basket
Mon., Dec. 5	Marine Credit Union	Place of Grace
Tues., Dec. 6	WalzCraft	Holmen-St. Elizabeth
Wed., Dec. 7	Dahl Automotive	Salvation Army
Thurs., Dec. 8	Gundersen Health System	WAFER
Fri., Dec. 9	Associated Bank	Holmen-St. Elizabeth
Sat., Dec. 10	Altra Credit Union	Onalaska Food Basket
Sun., Dec. 11	IC System	WAFER
Mon., Dec. 12	Festival Foods	Salvation Army
Tues., Dec. 13	Cleary Management/State Bank Fin.	Onalaska Food Basket
Wed., Dec. 14	Kwik Trip	Caledonia Food Basket
Thurs., Dec. 15	Co-Op	Salvation Army
Fri., Dec. 16	Mayo Health System	WAFER
Sat., Dec. 17	J. F. Brennan	Holmen-St. Elizabeth
Sun., Dec. 18	The Shupe Family	New Horizons
Mon., Dec. 19	Inland	La Crescent Food Shelf
Tues., Dec. 20	Carpenters Local 1143	WAFER
Wed., Dec. 21	Reinhart Food Service	Salvation Army
Thurs., Dec. 22	Valley View Rotary	WAFER
Fri., Dec. 23	Bill Hoel Family and Friends	Holmen St. Elizabeth
Sat., Dec. 24	Dave and Cathy Thurston + Friends	WAFER
Sun., Dec. 25	Pat Stephens Family and Friends	Holmen St. Elizabeth
Mon., Dec. 26	Onalaska Hilltopper Rotary	Onalaska Food Basket
Tues., Dec. 27	Caledonia Rotary	Caledonia Food Basket
Wed., Dec. 28	After Hours Rotary	Salvation Army
Thurs., Dec. 29	La Crosse Rotary East	Onalaska Food Basket
Fri., Dec. 30	Holmen Area Rotary	Holmen-St. Elizabeth
Sat., Dec. 31	Citizen Advocacy	Salvation Army

For 28 years Rotary Lights has worked in partnership with the La Crosse Park and Recreation Department to put together one of the Midwest's premier holiday lighting displays that works hard to "feed the hungry". Special thanks to the Department for their help and understanding over these years.

Office Staff:

- Jay Odegaard.....Director
- Kerry Gloede..... Assistant Director
- Dan Trussoni..... Parks, Forestry,
Building and Grounds Manager
- Jared Flick..... Recreation and
Facilities Supervisor
- Kat Craugh..... Community
Program Specialist
- Jim Flottmeyer..... Project Specialist
- Leah Miller..... Outdoor Recreation
Coordinator
- Kate Kroll..... Administrative Assistant
- Tina Golding..... Administrative Coordinator
- Ian Olson..... Parks Crew Leader

Parks and Forestry Crew:

- Brian Adams
- Jenner Lepke
- Dan Sefferud
- Dave Zakem
- Dane Effinger
- Hayden Hess
- Larry Pertzsch
- Thomas Siefkes

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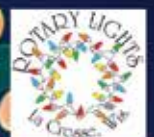
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- * Santa Claus





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Ugly Sweater 5k

Sat., Dec. 3, 2022



- 3:00 p.m. - Registration
- 4:15 p.m. - Santa Starts the Pace
(at Myrick Park)
- 5:00 p.m. - Awards Ceremony
(at Rotary Lights Warming Tent in Riverside Park)

For more info: oneugly5k.com

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Community

FOOD DRIVE

Great Rivers United Way is pleased to partner with Rotary Lights to expand its mission of feeding the hungry in the Coulee Region. The following businesses are conducting food drives now through December 31. Most are open to the public, and all donations will be collected by Rotary Lights.

Thank you!

Altra Federal Credit Union
Associated Bank
Bremer Bank
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City of La Crosse
Dairyland Power Cooperative
Dakota Supply Group
Diocese of La Crosse & its faithful
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Great Rivers United Way

For food drive dates and locations, visit: www.gruw.org/fooddrive.



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Feeding the Volunteers

Each year, there are just over 3,000 volunteers who help make Rotary Lights possible. To help us feed this army of big hearted souls, we asked some of our local food vendors to provide lunches, beverages and snacks to keep our troops moving. On behalf of all the volunteers we extend a very sincere thank you for helping us out. This is another great example that we live in a very special community.

4 Sisters
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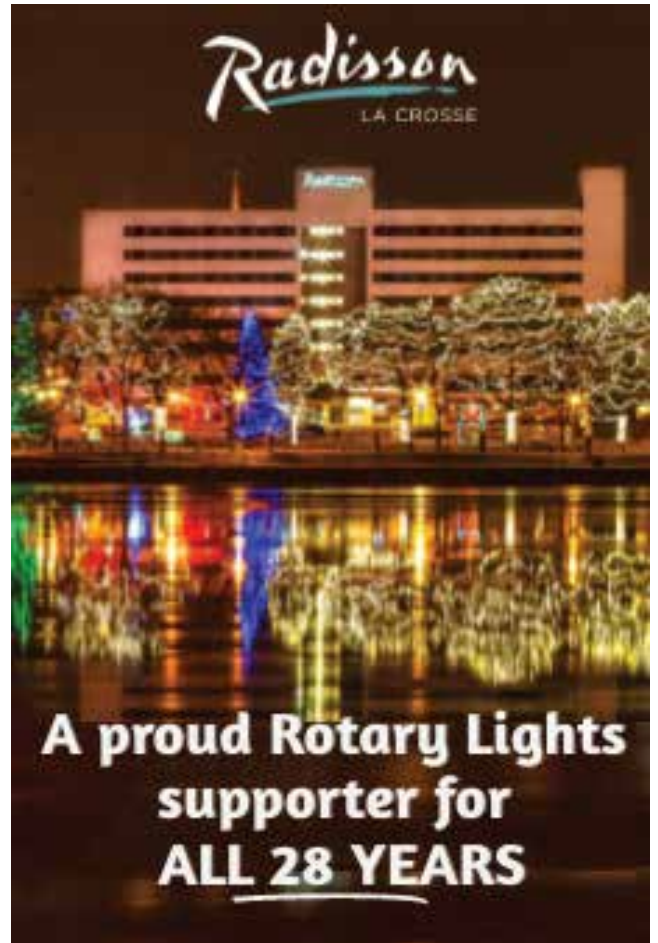
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Let's not forget the homemade chocolate chip cookies. We're convinced some people volunteer just because of the cookies. Almost 300 hundred dozen. Sharon and Bud Loomis (mostly Sharon) were the Master Bakers this year. Great volunteers!





**Merry
Christmas**

From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. John 1:16










Rotary Lights Carriage Rides

Cost: \$20 per couple \$30 per family/per load
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Scheduled Dates in the Park:

- Nov. 25-27
- Dec 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 22-25, 29-31

Sorry, no reservations. Rides are first come, first serve as we follow the car traffic through the park. Rides start when park opens at 5pm. Pickup/dropoff at the corner of Front & State St. by the entrance to Riverside Park.

A portion of each ride is donated to Rotary Lights.

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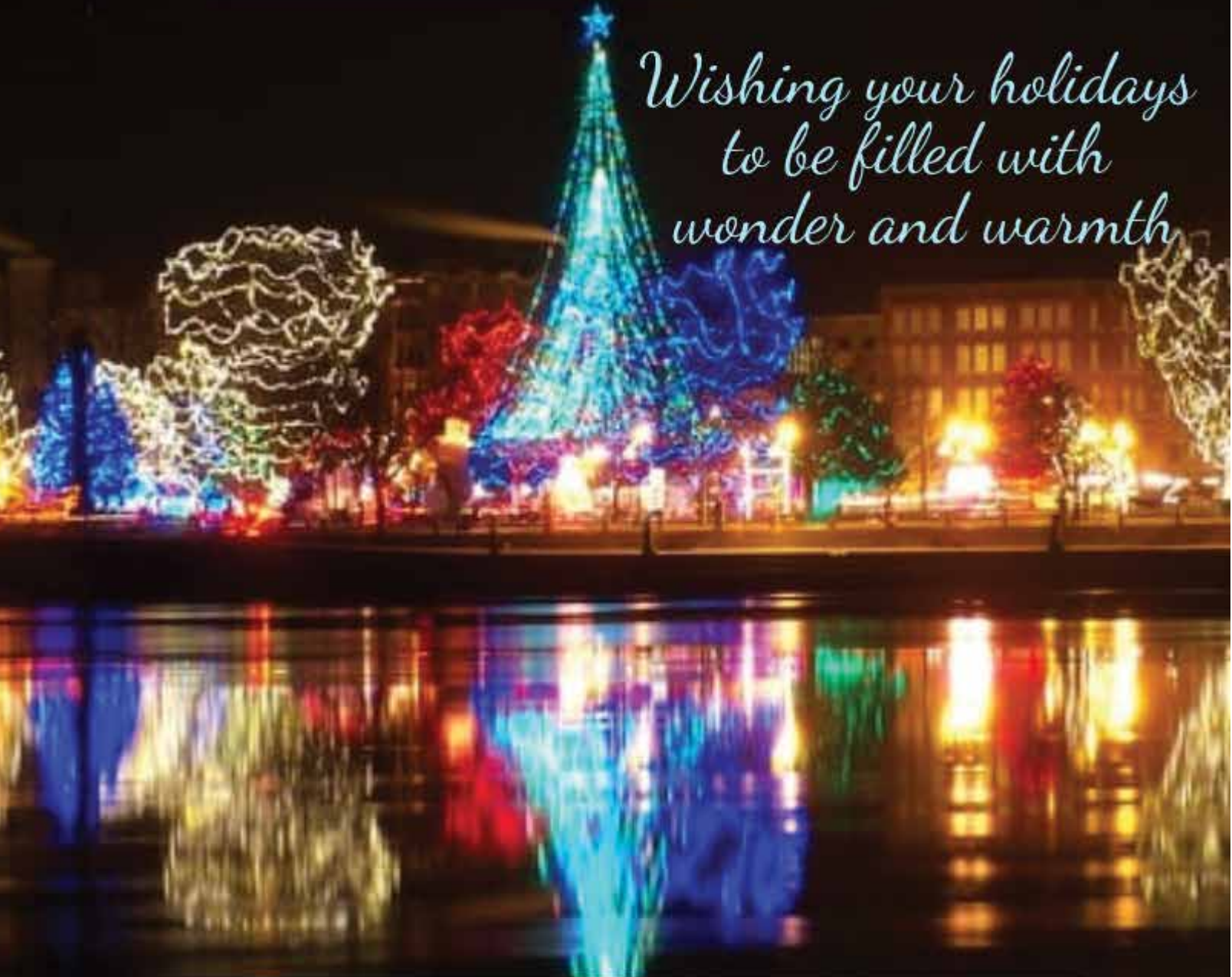
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