



DITHER STUDIO *Good Neighbors*

**East Troy is home to some of the best chefs in the industry. Meet the crop of talented men and women, who share a passion for food and treating customers like family – Top photo (from left): Ashley Turner, Executive Chef and Culinary Director at East Troy Brewery; Darren Petushek, Head Chef at Ale Station Food & Brew; Leon Davis, LD's BBQ owner & pitmaster; & Martin Marsh, Executive Chef at East Troy House. Not pictured: Emma DeBord, Executive Chef at 2894 on Main & Thomas Cicero, Executive Chef at Hometown Sausage Kitchen.**

# WHAT'S COOKING IN East Troy

## Chef Q & A's

With an impressive amount of experience and an unmatched dedication to cooking, East Troy's chefs always do their best to make sure you enjoy your meal.

Check out these exclusive interviews and get to know some of the people behind favorite East Troy area restaurants and menu items.

**See WHAT'S COOKING, Page 2**

# Santa Claus is coming by rail Dec. 7

The East Troy Electric Railroad's Santa Parade Train will make its annual journey into downtown East Troy on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Presented by the East Troy Electric Railroad in conjunction with the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce and Mukwonago Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Center, the beautifully lit four-car train will travel down the century-old interurban trolley line between Mukwonago and East Troy.

The original East Troy Christmas Parade train, started by the East Troy Jaycees and the railroad in 1972, was an historic

**See SANTA CLAUS, Page 4**

# SEE THE SANTA PARADE TRAIN

Spectators can catch a glimpse of Santa along County Road ES. The train will stop briefly at the following crossings:

- 5:30 p.m., train departs at The Elegant Farmer
- 5:45 p.m., Army Lake Road – Army Lake Camp
- 6 p.m., St. Peter's Road
- 6:15 p.m., Byrnes Street
- 6:25 p.m., Division Street
- 6:30 p.m., Santa arrives at East Troy Village Square Park via East Troy Fire Department truck to light the Bob Barutha Memorial Christmas Tree



# 10 WAYS TO LOVE East Troy Winter

By Vanessa Lenz  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
EAST TROY CHAMBER

Something special happens to East Troy in winter with many of our favorite activities and events taking place in between the icy temperatures and snowflakes.

From celebrating freshly fallen snow on the square to embracing the chilly weather with a winter hike to sipping cups of

steaming hot cocoa after hitting the slopes, East Troy offers everything you need to embrace the most wonderful time of the year.

There's so much to see & do, you better start penciling them in your calendar now...

## 1. Hit the slopes at Alpine Valley Resort

Winter hasn't officially arrived in East Troy until you take a trip to Alpine Valley

Resort, which was recently voted number one for snow making and number one for family resort.

With its earliest opening in decades thanks to the October snow, Alpine features 20 slopes that range from beginner to expert mogul runs with 388 feet of vertical skiing. The hill also includes three Terrain Parks, which offer snowboarders and freestyle skiers a variety of rails, boxes and snow

features.

“We offer services that you would see out west but for half the price and locally. In specific to the ski hill aspect, we have three high speed quad chairlifts, five magic carpets and a snow carousel for kids,” said Elizabeth Firestone, Ski and Snowboard Director.

**See WINTER, Page 4**

# •What’s cooking

(Continued from front page)

## Thomas Cicero Hometown Sausage Kitchen

Age: 48

Hometown:  
Lombard, Ill.

Years in Industry:  
33

When did you know you wanted to be a chef?  
When I was 10. My grandmother was a



caterer and I used to help her in the kitchen.

What’s one ingredient you can’t live without? Olive Oil

What dishes can guests expect to see on your menu? French & Italian influence

Where do you eat when you are not at work? Home

What is your favorite meal to cook (at home or work)? Soup

Who is/was your food mentor?  
Micheal Sowin, the Executive Chef at the Hamilton Hotel in Itasca, Ill. It was my first

kitchen job and I was 15 years old.

What’s your best piece of advice for a novice chef or baker?

Cooking is not a living! It’s a lifestyle. You are working when everybody is not. Go and stage in kitchens for awhile to get an idea of the environment.

Most important – Have a VERY GOOD rapport with your significant other. Being a chef requires dedication and sacrifice. If you say yes to one thing, you have to say no to another.

Hometown Sausage Kitchen is at W1184 Couty Road L. For more information, visit [Hometownsausagekitchen.com](http://Hometownsausagekitchen.com).

## Emma DeBord 2894 on Main

Age: 26

Hometown: Wauwatosa

Years in Industry: 2

When did you know you wanted to be a chef? There wasn’t a concrete moment in time that I knew or didn’t know. I’ve just always enjoyed cooking and using food as a creative outlet.

What’s one ingredient you can’t live without? Kimchi

What dishes can guests expect to see on your menu? We’ve been adding more autumnal items lately, including a bacon, Brussels sprout and blue cheese salad with pears and croutons that is sold all day.

We’ve also started selling a steak quesadilla at dinner with pepperjack and cotija cheeses. And pretty soon we will be ready with a winter squash and asiago ravioli. There are a few more things in the works, too. Stay tuned.

Where do you eat when you are not at work? At home.

What is your favorite meal to cook (at home or work)? This time of year, it’s a red coconut curry with winter squash, red peppers, carrots, and whatever other veggies I have on hand. Also a big fan of making chili.

Who is/was your food mentor? A lot of people come to mind. But the biggest teacher, I think, was farming. Before cooking for work, I farmed organic vegetables on a nearby farm and learning about what is in season when made me a better cook.

What’s your best piece of advice for a novice chef or baker? Don’t forget to cook for yourself.

2894 on Main is located on the northwest corner of the East Troy Square. For more information, visit [2894onmain.com](http://2894onmain.com).

See WHAT’S COOKING, Page 3

## Leon Davis LD’s BBQ

Age: 54

Hometown:  
Army Brat

Years in Industry:  
10

When did you know you wanted to be a chef?  
Very early

What’s one ingredient you can’t live without? Pepper

What dishes can guests expect to see on your menu? Smoked Meats

Where do you eat when you are not at work? Home

What is your favorite meal to cook (at home or work)? Chicken

Who is/was your food mentor?  
Emeril - when he was having fun!

What’s your best piece of advice for a novice chef or baker? If it ain’t fun, run!

LD’s BBQ is located at 2511 Main St. For more information, visit [Ldsbbq.com](http://Ldsbbq.com).



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TASTY FORK

• **What’s cooking**

(Continued from page 2)

**Martin Marsh**

**East Troy House**

**Age:** 57

**Hometown:**  
Janesville

**Years in Industry:** 35

**When did you know you wanted to be a chef?** Thirty-six years ago I was in the Coast Guard, stuck on a buoy tender in Duluth Minn. Linda and I were recently married and couldn’t stand being apart while the ship was underway so I put in for a lot of schools and took the first one that came along; cook school. We transferred to Petaluma, Calif. and I fell in love.

**What’s one ingredient you can’t live without?** Roasted garlic – I use it as a base on flatbreads, pasta and lots of other dishes. I also use the oil produced by roasting for sautéed dishes.

**What dishes can guests expect to see on your menu?** Our burgers and sandwiches are the staples. The seafood alfredo is always a great seller, as well as the Cajun chicken bowl and beet salad. If you like Caesar salad you can’t do better than ours.

We do five or more specials that run Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday that feature whatever I feel like cooking that week. Of course, no one beats our fish fry. (Sorry, it’s just true.)

**Where do you eat when you are not at work?** My living room, usually Linda’s leftovers. Being a chef I rarely see her. She eats out a lot.

**What is your favorite meal to cook (at home or work)?** Sunday dinner for my family. It is one of my great pleasures in life to cook for my children, their spouses, and our grandchildren. Linda and I are truly blessed to have that special day together. The food isn’t nearly as important as the people you eat it with.

**Who is/was your food mentor?** When I left the Coast Guard, Linda and I moved to Milwaukee



and I worked two jobs to earn enough for us and our baby daughter (Leah) to live on. I worked fast food places during the day and fine dining at night.

There was a French-trained German Chef named Claus Bieneck who had a little cafe on Juneau Ave in Milwaukee (Claus on Juneau). He was doing food that no one else was doing at that time.

I walked in the back door one day and told the cook that I wanted to meet the Chef. I was expecting some rigid, arrogant European who was going to grill me on sauce ingredients and innuendo. Instead, he came into the kitchen shirtless, with a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other. I told him I would work for minimum wage just to learn from him.

I worked for him off and on for over 15 years. I find his influence at the root of much of my work.

**What’s your best piece of advice for a novice chef or baker?** Find someone who’s better than you and learn from them.

There are flavors that work well together, dishes that have evolved over time, techniques that work across different cuisines; learn to cook the great regional dishes under someone who knows them and whose bar is higher than yours.

Nailing together things that have never been nailed together before is not art – it’s narcissism. And only steal from the very best.

*East Troy House is at 2093 Division St. on the Square. For more information, visit easttroyhouse.com.*

**Darren Petushek**

**Ale Station**

**Age:** 55

**Hometown:**  
Milwaukee

**Years in Industry:** 39

**When did you know you wanted to be a chef?** When I was in third grade watching Graham Kerr (The Galloping Gourmet)



**What’s one ingredient you can’t live without?** Garlic

**What dishes can guests expect to see on your menu?** Burgers/ Pastas/ and Authentic Italian Cuisine

**Where do you eat when you are not at work?** I love to cook at home

**What is your favorite meal to cook (at home or work)?** Italian

**Who is/was your food mentor?** Chef Bettinger, the Executive Chef at The Marriott Brookfield, Wis.

**What’s your best piece of advice for a novice chef?** Make sure it is what you love to do.

*Ale Station is at 2645 Main St. For more information, visit alestation.com.*

**Ashley Turner**

**East Troy Brewery**

**Age:** 37

**Hometown:** Austin, Texas

**Years in Industry:** 22 years working, but I come from a family of restaurant industry folks, so it has always been a part of my life.

**When did you know you wanted to be a chef?**

I had always been very involved in art and music, with food as the backdrop to everything.

I was raised around restaurants as businesses but didn’t begin to see them as the creative enterprises that they are until college. The ability to build experiences through food was so exciting and interesting.

Colors, textures, aromas - they all come together to create something that we interact with every day and that can create so much joy. It is a creative art, and I was hooked!



**What’s one ingredient you can’t live without?** I realize it’s polarizing, but cilantro. The soap-gene folks have it tough. Cilantro crosses cultures and brightens; it’s lovely!

**What dishes can guests expect to see on your menu?** We’ve been able to have some fun with the menu at the Brewery and built dishes that are reflective of my life and culinary point of view.

For me that’s Texas-eclectic. “...A little bit country and a little bit rock-n-roll..” One of my favorite items is Apple Cider Pork and Green Chile Cheddar Grits, or our chicken sandwich, just the humble chicken sandwich, but done with care. We brine them for 24 hours, they’re buttermilk breaded and tossed in Smoky Honey Mustard and Buttermilk Aioli – it’s full flavored and fun!

We’ll be doing some Texas-style smoked items this winter, and we’re also working to keep veggie-forward and local items a focus.

**Where do you eat when you are not at work?** I really love Odd Duck in Milwaukee or Story Hill BKE at brunch. I haven’t been in the Midwest long, so I’m exploring all the time!

**What is your favorite meal to cook (at home or work)?** This season I’ve really loved Gumbo. You have to take a roux to just the right spot, dark as it’ll go without burning. I also do a lot of pickling. Sweet-Soy Jalapenos on everything.

**Who is/was your food mentor?** I have a whole family of them! My great-grandmother had a little café in a whistle-stop style town, and my grandmothers, mother and father were and are all tremendous cooks, so I learned early and they have always been my true guideposts.

I’m also fortunate in the industry to now start to see many SHeroes to look up to and admire for their vision and hustle.

**What’s your best piece of advice for a novice chef?** One lesson is never just one. Pay attention to context. Be curious, try new techniques and be gracious when they fail. Follow through. Read everything. TASTE YOUR FOOD!

*East Troy Brewery is at 2905 Main St. on the Square. For more information, visit etbrew.com.*

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**22 - Nana's Yummy Cookies Workshop**

The East Troy Family Community Resource Center, located in the East Troy Area Intergenerational Community Center, 2040 Beulah Ave., will host Nana's Yummy Cookie Decorating Workshop from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22. The cost is \$30 and attendees will go home with six cookies. For more information, contact (262) 642-4900 or easttrofamily@gmail.com.

**30 - Designer Cookie Course**

Join Abigail from Poppy Cakes at the Hive Taproom, W2463 County Road ES, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30 for a cookie decorating class. Learn 6 different cookie designs and take them home to give away as gifts. For details, visit thehivetaproom.com.

**DECEMBER**

**1- FFA Chili Packer Party**

East Troy FFA will host its annual Chili Dinner Packer Party from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1 at Ivan's Backstage, 2093 Division St. The event will feature a silent auction, meat raffles, booze raffle and more. All proceeds support East Troy FFA.

**6 - Art Show at The Hive**

Check out The Hive Taproom Art Show, W2463 County Road ES, from 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec 6, featuring Emerald Tide Photography, Birds Tail Designs, Green Rabbit Pottery and music by Bear in the Forest. For details, visit thehivetaproom.com.

**6 - Ornament Design Class**

The Family Community Resource Center, located in the East Troy Area Intergenerational Community Center, 2040 Beulah Ave., will host an ornament design class with Debbie Robers of Life Expressions from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6. Choose your paints and decal to make a one of a kind design for someone special. To register, email easttrofamily@gmail.com.

See WINTER EVENTS, Page 9

## • Winter (Continued from front page)

If you are looking to get back on the slopes, Firestone suggests brushing up on your skills with one of Alpine's qualified and enthusiastic instructors.

Alpine offers classes for beginners to well-seasoned skiers and riders.

To make the most of this year's Alpine season, check out their Weekday Specials (non-holidays), including Tremendous Tuesdays (\$33 a.m. session lift tickets), Men's Day Wednesday (\$36 a.m. session lift tickets for men) and Women's Day Thursday (\$36 a.m. session lift tickets for women).

This year, Alpine will feature a Black Friday special geared toward community members.

"It includes a four-pack of lift tickets, no blackout dates or restrictions, (they can use for an all day, all access lift ticket even on the weekends) for \$175. That is a savings of about \$97," said Jennifer Ruskiewicz, Alpine Valley Resort Hotel Manager.

The special offer will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 29 at the ticket office only. No online or phone sales.

Students can get discounted rates by joining their school's ski club.

"East Troy Middle School, East Troy High School, East Troy elementary, East Troy Parks and Recreation and St. Peter's School all have ski clubs that families can get involved in," according to Ruskiewicz.

She said the resort has expanded the rental room to incorporate its snowboarding equipment.

"It will be faster and easier to get all of your equipment for skiing or snowboarding," Ruskiewicz said.

Weekday rates are \$43 (all area) and \$30 (beginner) from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 2 to 10 p.m. and \$58 (all area) and \$45 (beginner) for a full day. Weekend and Holiday rates are \$53 (all area) and \$38 (beginner) from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 2 to 10 p.m. and \$68 (all area) and \$53 (beginner) for a full day.

Alpine Valley is located at W2501 County Road D and can be reached at (262) 642-7374 and (800) 227-9395. For more information, visit alpinevalleyresort.com.

## 2. Sled down East Troy's biggest hill

Sledding is a popular winter pastime for young and old alike.

Mitchell Park, located directly north



VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors

**There are so many reasons to make the most of the season right in your own backyard. Share your favorite moments with us & tag your photos #EastTroy**

of the Rossmiller Sports Complex along Highway 20, is the largest sledding hill in East Troy, offering plenty of fun to delight sledding fans.

## 3. Build a snowman on the Square

Relive your childhood and create your own Frosty the Snowman at East Troy Village Square Park, 2881 Main St., East Troy. The park includes green space and a bandstand promoting the nostalgia of the rural community. It's also a great space for people watching.

Between the people buzzing in and out of the surrounding businesses, restaurants and bars and cars making their way around the heart of East Troy, there's rarely a dull moment.

## 4. Take long wintry walks

East Troy is home to some of the most beautiful areas for hiking and they become even better when you experience them during

every season. Here are our top winter walk spots:

**Price Park Conservancy:** Two miles of self-guided hiking trails run through the park, located at N6421 Hodunk Road in the Town of LaFayette, and include panoramic views of Sugar Creek, as well as other outstanding features of natural diversity.

**Beulah Bluff Preserve:** This Kettle Moraine Land Trust nature preserve, located at N9026 Bakavi Way, East Troy, overlooks the northwest shoreline of Lake Beulah. The Preserve gate is closed during the winter months, however there is space for two cars to park at the gate, and visitors are encouraged to walk or snowshoe into the preserve.

## 5. Cozy up with a book

At InkLink Books, East Troy's first bookstore, you're bound to find the perfect book to cozy up with on a wintry night.

See WINTER, Page 8

## • Santa Claus (Continued from front page)

reproduction of the Schuster's Christmas Parade in Milwaukee. The Schuster's Department store chain sponsored the parade, established in 1928, to kick off the Christmas shopping season. It disappeared in 1955 with the demise of the Milwaukee Electric Lines interurban and streetcar system.

### SANTA ON THE SQUARE

In anticipation of Santa's arrival, festivities will begin at East Troy Village Square Park at 5:30 p.m., including a tree lighting, winter activities, Holiday Marketplace, photos with Santa and more.

#### At East Troy Village Square Park

- Winter activities, including cookie decorating, s'mores station, DIY Photo Station, Cookie Crawl & more
- Christmas carol sing-along led by East Troy High School Choir members.
- Professional photos of children with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available following the tree lighting at about 6:40 p.m. at a cost of \$8 each, with the proceeds to benefit the East Troy Food Pantry. Photos sponsored by 2894 on Main and all participants will get a digital copy of their photo.
- Cub Scouts Pack 92 will sell chili, chili dogs and baked goods.

#### Inside Ivan's Backstage

- The East Troy Holiday Marketplace will feature vendors offering a variety of holiday gift items.
- Entertainment by Cork N Christmas Carols

## No line for photos with Santa

Professional photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available following the tree lighting after 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$8 with proceeds to benefit the East Troy Food Pantry.

Avoid the wait in line this year. Here's how it works: You check in at the photo area. Our volunteers get your name, enter the information into our system and then give you a number with an approximate wait time.

Linger outside, shop inside the holiday marketplace or check out the offerings at one of the establishments on the square until your number appears on one of numerous status boards, indicating it's your turn for photos.

inside Ivan's Backstage

- Kids Crafts

#### Lions Lodge

- The East Troy Lioness Club will offer walking tacos, hot dogs and hot cocoa in the warmth of the Lions Lodge beginning at 5 p.m.

#### East Troy Area Historical Society

- The East Troy Area Historical Society will offer refreshments and tours from 5-8 p.m.

For more information, visit easttroy.org.

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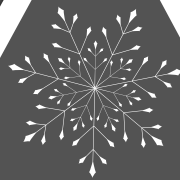
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## Santa on the SQUARE



## Santa Parade TRAIN



December 7  
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santa photos • christmas tree lighting • caroling • winter fun



easttroy.org



# East Troy Art & Wine Walk

PHOTOS BY DITHER STUDIO Good Neighbors



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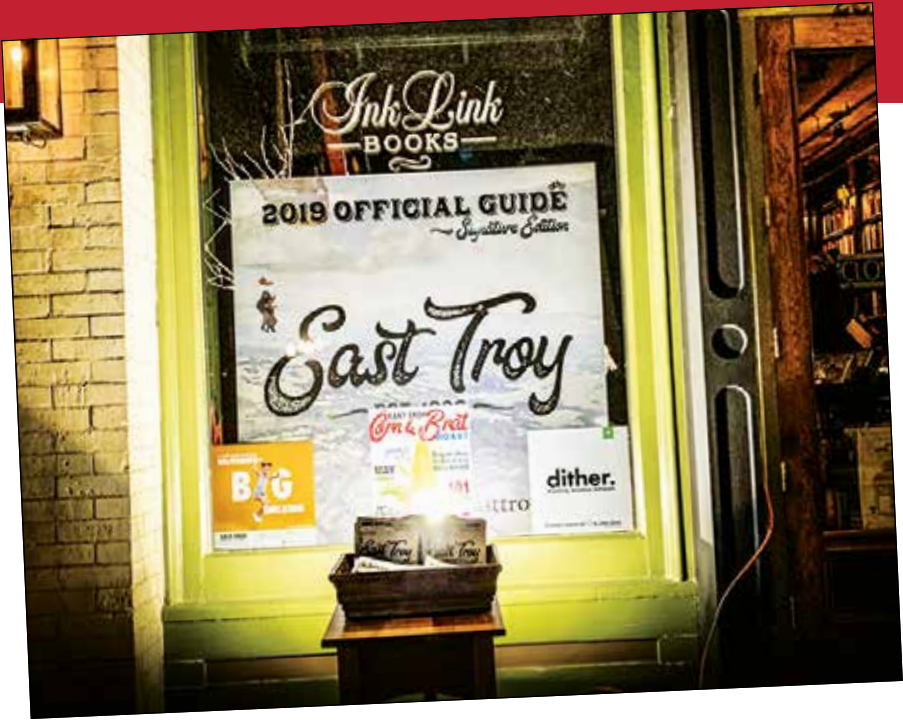


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Clockwise from far left: Lots of locals and out of town guests came out to enjoy the artwork, wine and cheese pairings during East Troy's First Fridays Art & Wine Walk Nov. 1. Attendees walked their way through 11 locations in downtown East Troy, including Home on the Square, which featured artist Rae Stone of Cival Collective. Owners Ron & Josie Hennigfeld serve up cheese samples from Hill Valley Dairy. The event, which concluded the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce's First Fridays event series with 20 unique wine samples curated by Certified Wine Educator Melanie Denhart of The Global Glass, cheese pairings by Hill Valley Dairy, mead from The Hive Taproom, art exhibits & music by DJ J.c. Hanna, featured a collaboration between numerous local businesses. The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce's official East Troy Guide, created in partnership with Dither Studio, was on display at InkLink Books. East Troy Brewery Head Brewer Ryan Hammerel serves up wine samples in the draft room.

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SARAH MANKE *Good Neighbors*

## Hitting the links for ET

Clockwise from above: American Family Insurance-Kyle Resler Agency, including captain Kyle Resler, Tyler Kinnick, Hand Becker and Sam Mantych took top honors during the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce's 22nd annual golf outing Sept. 27 at Alpine Valley Resort. Rebecca Caradonna (from left), Nick Caradonna, Carrie Wales, Vice President of Lending, Provisor, Inc. and Chad Wales were among golfers to hit the links for the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce. Larry Dopke, Justin Modrak and District Administrator Dr. Christopher Hibner of the East Troy Community School District celebrate a great shot. John and Keri Jacoby, both of the East Troy Computer Club, enjoy the day at Alpine Valley Resort in support of East Troy community development. See more photos from this year's event at [easttroy.org](http://easttroy.org)



## • *Winter* (Continued from page 4)

The bookstore is located on the north side of the East Troy Village Square at 2890 Main St. in a building, which dates back to 1862 and has been completely transformed into a chic yet comfortable space filled with beloved titles of every genre.

With a stunning Old World design, the shop captures the nostalgia of the best independent bookstores by filling its shelves with books from hyper-curated lists. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call (262) 642-9607 or visit [inklinkbooks.com](http://inklinkbooks.com).

### 6. Hunt for the perfect Christmas Tree

Going to the tree farm is a great family experience, as you search for the perfect tree, sip on hot chocolate, and take holiday pictures.

Evergreen Acres, located at N9171 Nelson Road in East Troy, lets you choose and cut the perfect Christmas fir. "Our trees are planted in sod and the fields are mowed to make your walk to find your tree easier," said owners Ann and Bob Feucht.

"We offer help in the parking lot for shaking, baling and loading your tree, as well as help in our heated barn for choosing your special freshly made wreaths and other fine greenery."

The Feuchts offer complimentary cocoa and cider to sip as you browse its selection of fresh wreaths, garland and a few center pieces – all made fresh at the farm.

The family operated farm has been in business since 1975. The farm opens the day after Thanksgiving and is open every day until Christmas from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [evergreenacresllc.com](http://evergreenacresllc.com) or call (262) 495-4502.

### 7. Go ice fishing

Bundle up, break out your portable seat and spend a relaxing (albeit chilly) day fishing for your dinner.

Lindey's on Beulah, W1340 Beach Road, will host the Triangle Sportsmen's Club 46th Ice Fishing Jamboree at 7 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1. Enjoy food and drink, raffles, contests, games, meat raffles, cash drawing, silent auction and more. For more information, call (262) 642-2600.

In the meantime, embrace the chilly season to the fullest with ice fishing or skating on one of these local lakes:

**Lake Beulah:** At 812 acres, the largest lake in East Troy is a favorite for catching fish like Panfish, Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike. The public boat access site is located on Wilmer's Landing in the Town of East Troy.

**Potter's Lake:** A 155-acre lake located in the Town of East Troy, features Panfish, Large-mouth Bass and Northern Pike. Visitors have access to

the lake from a public boat landing with access off County Road L.

**Army Lake:** Take a winter walk to the public access point on the west side of the lake – a half-mile driveway connects the property to St. Peter's Road in the Town of East Troy.

The 15.7-acre property at W1698 St. Peter's Road features a 78-acre lake and 989 feet of shoreline frontage on Army Lake.

### 8. Grab your skates

The Village of East Troy has created an outdoor ice skating rink, located immediately north of the East Troy Lions Public Library, 3094 Graydon Ave. Slip on some skates and glide across the rink, made with love. For details, visit [easttroy-wi.com](http://easttroy-wi.com).

### 9. Ride the rails with Santa

The East Troy Electric Railroad's Christmas Train merrily rides the rails on weekends, beginning Nov. 30 through Dec. 22.

These fun, family-friendly rides take passengers from the East Troy Depot at 2002 Church St. to Santa's Workshop at the Elegant Farmer and back.

The rides are just under two hours per round-trip and they include Christmas carols on the trains and hot chocolate and cookies at the Elegant Farmer, where kids can visit with Santa and have their photos taken.

Celebrating 112 years of riding the rails through Southeast Wisconsin's Kettle Moraine countryside, this not-for-profit railroad is operated and managed by over 130 volunteers committed to the preservation of historic trolleys and interurban railcars.

### 10. Get into the season

The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce will host its fourth annual holiday decorating contest for local businesses and residents.

The business contest is open to all local businesses with a storefront and is not limited to Chamber members. The resident contest is open to all homes in the East Troy Community School District.

Businesses and residents are encouraged to decorate their storefronts and homes in the spirit of the holidays and will be eligible to win a prize and special recognition for their efforts.

This year's entries will be evaluated by judges and the public.

The judging begins Dec. 7 and will run through Dec. 14. Winners will be announced on Monday, Dec. 16 on [easttroy.org](http://easttroy.org).

Prizes include free advertising and special recognition for businesses and \$200 for residents.

Register at [easttroy.org](http://easttroy.org) or email [vanessa@easttroy.org](mailto:vanessa@easttroy.org)



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# MAC Games: Passion project yields community-building tool

By Vanessa Lenz  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
EAST TROY CHAMBER

The gaming industry has gone through some major changes over the past several years with an increase in demand for favorite games from the '90s, which are currently experiencing a bit of renaissance.

As a result, East Troy's newest game store, MAC Games, has made sure it is well equipped to fill the need for those gamers looking for a brain challenge and place to build community.

Although it started as a passion project for three East Troy natives – Timmy Standafer, Thomas Standafer and Mason Muszynski – the team of friends has since turned it into a much larger operation.

MAC Games recently celebrated its 1-year anniversary as East Troy's place to spend time playing games of all varieties.

Timmy, who has played games since he was a kid, said the store has been a way to share their passion while also becoming a community-building tool.

"There weren't a lot of fun, safe and interesting things for teenagers and kids to do in East Troy," Timmy explained.

From "Magic: The Gathering" to "Dungeons and Dragons" to "Super Smash Bros." and "Mario Kart," MAC Games has something for game enthusiasts of all ages and interests.

"Magic: The Gathering," a strategy card game currently experiencing a resurgence in popularity, is the game that Timmy considers "the backbone" of the store.

"You have a deck that you've built and you

use the cards to play against your opponent," he explained of "Magic," the sister franchise of "Dungeons & Dragons."

On Friday nights, MAC Games hosts a weekly social event, (which also runs at thousands of other hobby shops across the country,) called Friday Night Magic.

"It's a way to meet other players, play some games, check out new cards, test your latest deck designs, and just have fun," Timmy said.

While MAC Games hosts organized tournaments for players who are ready for a little friendly competition, Timmy said don't worry if you haven't taken that step yet.

"There's still plenty of fun to be had just hanging out and playing casual pick-up games with players who love Magic as much as you do," he said.

Timmy said their games are as accessible as ever to anyone looking to pick up a new hobby.

"All players are welcome. You can come in with your own group and play or if you're not in a group you can come solo and play," Timmy said.

"If you don't know how to play we have people that will teach you."

There is no cost to hang out at the store and a buy in for tournaments.

Kids younger than 13 need to be supervised.

Timmy said the store offers opportunities for people who want a low barrier way to ease into new games and said to not be afraid to check out the store's vibes.

"It's fun and interactive and a great way to be involved with other people," he said.



Above: The MAC Games crew, including (from left) Isabella Standafer, founders Thomas and Timmy Standafer and Mason Muszynski, Mason Retkowski and Rachel Standafer celebrate the MAC Games anniversary with some MAC and cheese and a commemorative cake. Below: MAC Games is East Troy's newest game store specializing in collectible card games, board games, role playing games and casual/competitive gaming events.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Good Neighbors

## The Lowdown

**ADDRESS:** 3066 Main St., Suite 110, East Troy (enter at back of building)

**PHONE:** (262) 505-5565

**HOURS:** 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday, 2 to 9 p.m. Friday, noon to 8 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday

**INFO:** Macgameset.com or macgameset@gmail.com.



## • Winter events

(Continued from page 4)

### 6- Christmas Cookie Sale

Troy Center United Methodist Church is holding a bake sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at First Citizens State Bank, 2546 Main St., East Troy.

### 7- St. James Holiday Bazaar

St. James United Methodist Church, 2945 Main St., will host its Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The event will feature a Christmas Bake Sale (homemade cookies, rolls, bread, candy), hot chocolate, cider, coffee, treats, handcrafted greeting cards, handstitched items, jewelry, cooking condiments, new and used books and more. For more information, call (262) 642-7642.

### 7- Pet Pictures with Santa

Martin's Hardware-Rental & Pet, 3288 Main St., will host its 10th annual Pet Pictures with Santa from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. Attendees are invited to bring in their pets (on leash or crate) and get a picture with Santa, a bag full of goodies and special store coupons for participants.

A \$10 donation to Lakeland Animal Shelter

is encouraged. There will be multiple in-store specials for the entire weekend. For more information, call (262) 642-3344.

### 7- Pancakes with Santa

The Salvation Army - Army Lake Camp, N8725 Army Lake Rd., will host Pancakes with Santa from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. Kids will have the opportunity to meet Santa and take photos, decorate a cookie, and receive a small gift.

Adults (13+) are \$9 at the door and \$8 online, children (5-12) are \$7 at the door and \$6 online, and children 4 and younger are free. To register in advance, visit [salar.my/santa2019](http://salar.my/santa2019).

### 7- Mountain Top Beer Fest

Alpine Valley Resort, in collaboration with the East Troy Family and Community Resource Center, will host its 3rd Annual Mountain Top Beer Fest from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Alpine Valley Resort, W2501 County Road D, East Troy.

The event will benefit the Holiday Help of East Troy Program, which supports local families in need during the holiday season.

Enjoy a variety of beers from an array

of breweries, hors d'oeuvres, live music, a complimentary raffle ticket for bucket raffles and more. Attendees will get a tasting glass to take home.

Tickets are \$37 per person in advance, \$45 at the door or \$25 with a regularly priced lift ticket. Purchase online, [alpinevalleyresort.com](http://alpinevalleyresort.com), or by phone (800) 227-9395.

### 7- Lioness Holiday Sale

The East Troy Lioness will be selling walking tacos and hot dogs from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 in the East Troy Lions Lodge, 2077 Division St. during East Troy's Santa on the Square festivities.

### 13-Bake Sale at First Citizens

First Citizens State Bank, 2546 Main St., East Troy, will hold its 11th Annual Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13. Items offered for sale will include a wide assortment of cookies, candy, breads and bars. All proceeds will be donated to the East Troy Food Pantry.

### 14- Home Party and Craft Fair

The East Troy Family Resource Center will

host its 10th Annual Home Party and Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 in the Bret Miller Gymnasium at East Troy High School, 3128 Graydon Ave.

The event will feature more than 80 different direct sale vendors and concessions with both breakfast and lunch items. Bake sale items will also be offered to benefit the Family Resource Center. Festive music will be performed by the middle school band and choral students. Admission is free.

Interested vendors should email [janelle.flintrop@gmail.com](mailto:janelle.flintrop@gmail.com). For more information, contact Marolyn Komperud at (262) 642-4900 or [easttroyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:easttroyfamily@gmail.com).

### 15 - St. Peter's Breakfast & Pictures with Santa

Join St. Peter's School, 301 Elm St., for a Pancake Breakfast and Pictures with Santa from 7 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Dec. 15. All proceeds with benefit St. Peter's School.

### 18 - Ornament Class

Join the Family Community Resource Center on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m. Pre-

See WINTER EVENTS, Page 11



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# A guide to holiday giving in East Troy

The Holiday Help of East Troy program will continue this year featuring a collaborative approach to assisting local families in need.

"It is through the generous support of local businesses, churches, organizations and community members that this program is able to continue," said East Troy Family and Community Resource Center coordinator Marolyn Komperud, who leads the six-year-old initiative.

Komperud said the program model makes it easier than ever to provide families in need with gifts, winter clothing and a holiday meal during the holiday season.

In 2018, Holiday Help of East Troy served 75 families with a combined 178 children.

"This is truly a community venture and a way for East Troy to come together to help struggling families to have a blessed holiday season," Komperud said.

Donations are due by Dec. 9 unless otherwise noted.

Here are ways to give this year:

## 1. Toy drive

The East Troy Lions Club is collecting gifts for children birth to 16 years of age for its new toy drive.

Donations can be dropped off at toy collection barrels at the following locations: Citizens Bank, Dollar General, First Citizens

State Bank and Frank's Piggly Wiggly East Troy through Dec. 10.

## 2. Gift giving trees

Giving trees to purchase gifts for local children will be located at East Troy Bible Church, Good Shepherd Church, Realty Executives Integrity and St. Peter's Catholic Church and School. Wrapped donations are due no later than Sunday, Dec. 8.

## 3. Secret Santa

Associated Bank, 3292 Main St., is seeking East Troy community members/groups to serve as secret Santas by purchasing gifts for residents of East Troy Manor. Wrapped donations are due no later than Friday, Dec. 19.

## 4. Winter clothing drive

The East Troy Lioness Club is collecting hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks and slipper socks for children (infant to 18 years old) at First Citizens State Bank, 2546 E. Main St. Donations should be taken to the bank by Friday, Dec. 8.

## 5. Gifts for children & teens

Citizens Bank East Brook Branch, 2541 E. Main St., Unit A, will be collecting donations of new children through young adult pajamas, socks, underwear, leggings and sweatpants.

The Hive Taproom, W2463 County Rd ES, will be collecting baby items, including diapers & wipes, shampoo/body wash, washcloths & towels, receiving blankets, teething toys, burp cloths, bibs, pacifiers, etc.

Citizens Bank Vernon Office, W236S7050 Big Bend Drive, Suite 3, Big Bend, will be collecting \$10 gift cards to local stores, shops and entertainment venues for teens.

## 6. Covering the necessities

East Troy Acupuncture, 3278 Main St., will be collecting hygiene items, including soaps, lotions, shaving supplies, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrushes, etc.

Wanezek Family Dentistry, 2564 Main St., and Bay View Veterinary Service, 890 Main St., will be collecting new unwrapped gifts of pajamas/socks and underwear, hygiene products, gift cards/monetary donations and more.

Martins Hardware- Rental & Pet, 3288 Main St., will be four packs of toilet paper, single or double rolls of paper towel, cleaning supplies, laundry soap and dish soap.

## 7. Monetary donations

Monetary donations for the Holiday Help Program can be sent to the East Troy Family Community Resource Center, PO Box 962, East Troy, WI 53120.

# Join the Brew Club

East Troy Brewery, 2905 Main St., will be featuring several new join options for its 2020 Brew Club Memberships.

Members will not only support their local brewery, but will also get delicious discounts, early access to hang out at East Troy Brewery events, and some East Troy Brewery gear.

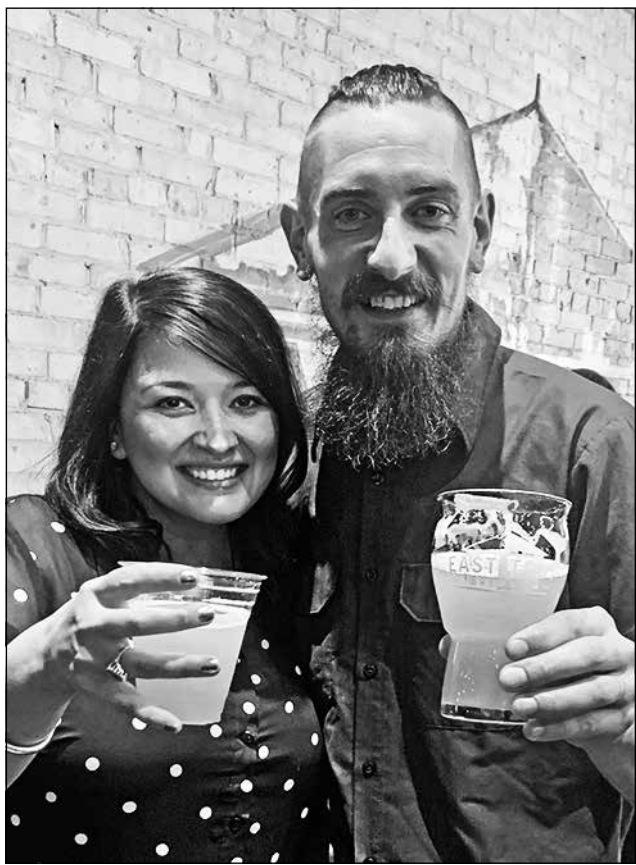
Memberships are annual and run from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

For more information, visit [etbrew.com](http://etbrew.com).

## The lowdown

East Troy's first brewery offers world class beers brewed on site, along with a variety of locally sourced food cooked to complement its brews.

The locally-owned brewery, opened in late 2018 in a remodeled historic bank building dating back to 1892, features an outdoor patio, tasting room and kitchen on the southwest corner of the East Troy Village Square.



# Statewide cheers to beer!

Gov. Tony Evers and Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, along with state, county, city and community officials, join East Troy Brewery to celebrate Wisconsin Craft Brewery Day Sept. 26. East Troy Brewery was one of eight selected to participate in the statewide celebration out of Wisconsin's nearly 200 craft breweries. Head Brewer Ryan Hammerel and East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Vanessa Lenz join craft beer fans in a "Statewide Cheers."

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The East Troy native says her clients are almost like family to her. Over the years, she has watched them prosper, have children, and move into nicer, bigger homes, which she helped them finance.

Wales began in the financial service industry in 1997. But she really didn't feel she was having an impact on people's lives until she joined ProVisor in 1998.

For more information, email [carrie@provisor.com](mailto:carrie@provisor.com).



Carrie Wales- ProVisor

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Elite Snow Solutions- Jeff & Vicki McKone

## • Winter events

(Continued from page 9)

register via facebook or email [easttroyfamily@gmail.com](mailto:easttroyfamily@gmail.com).

### 15- Pancake Breakfast

East Troy Lions Club holds a pancake breakfast from 8-11 a.m. every third Sunday of the month at the Lions Lodge and Community Center, 2077 Division St. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger.

### 21- Jingle Bell Rock

Ivan's Backstage, 2093 Division St., will host the 6th Annual Jingle Bell Rock on Saturday, Dec. 21. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Featured musicians include Spare Change Band and more. Tickets are \$6 at the door. For more information, call (262) 642-7100.

### 28- MKE Yoga Social

MKE Yoga Social will hold yoga barside at The Hive Taproom, W2463 County Road ES, from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 28, followed by a social hour. For more information, visit [thehivetaproom.com](http://thehivetaproom.com).

Winning team gets to be famous on The Hive Taproom's winners board for the month.

The Hive Taproom is Wisconsin's newest mead taproom producing small batch mead, honey kombucha and soda elixirs. Ranging from dry to semi-sweet, its naturally gluten-free beverages feature local everything: honey, hops and produce. For more information, visit [thehivetaproom.com](http://thehivetaproom.com).

### Yoga on the Square

Connect mind, body, and spirit with certified yoga instructors Julie Scurek and Elizabeth Weinkauff at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays with 60-minute beginner's yoga classes at 2890 Main St., 2nd floor, above InkLink Books. Classes are \$12. Registration is not required, but attending yogis will need to bring their own mats and water.

### Bingo at East Troy House

East Troy House, 2093 Division St., will offer bingo on Thursday nights, featuring \$5 special martinis from 5-9 p.m. and Bingo from 6:30-9 p.m. Bingo cards are \$2 each or three for \$5. Winners get cash pots, prizes and drink tickets. For more information, call (262) 642-7100.

### Quizmaster Trivia at Brewery

Which three presidents did Forrest Gump meet? Which planet has longer days than years? Which four U.S. states meet at the four corners?

Expect fun questions like this every Monday at 7 p.m. at the East Troy Brewery, 2905 Main St., for Quizmaster Trivia night. This event is just \$1 per player (all a tip for your lovely Quizmaster host). Plus buy any app and get two for one house brews, every Monday during trivia.

Bring your team of up to eight players... there will be prizes every week for first place, second place and best team name. No need to actually be good at trivia to win something.

### Senior Movies

The East Troy Area Intergenerational Community Center, 2040 Beulah Ave., will host a movie for seniors from 1 to 3 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month featuring free popcorn and a movie. Bring your own liquid refreshment. (Enter via Division Street Parking Lot, Door 7.) For more information, call (847) 489-9222.

## Ongoing

### East Troy Schools' Concerts

The East Troy Community Schools Music Department will host several holiday music concerts in December:

- Wednesday, Dec. 11: Seventh and eighth grade bands will perform at 7 p.m. in the East Troy Middle School gym, 3143 Graydon Ave.

- Thursday, Dec. 12: Fifth grade band and general music class will perform at 6:30 p.m. in the Prairie View School Gym, 2131 Townline Road.

- Sunday, Dec. 15: Middle school and East Troy High School choirs will perform at 3 p.m. in the high school Brett Miller Gym, 3128 Graydon Ave.

- Monday, Dec. 16: High school bands will perform at 7 p.m. in the high school Gym 3.

### Tim's Taproom Trivia

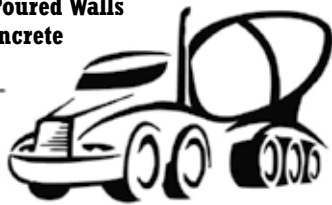
Test your Trivia skills every Thursday at the Hive Taproom, W2463 Rd ES, from 7 - 9 p.m. Enjoy the entertainment and compete for a \$30 gift card for The Hive Taproom.

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SARAH MANKE Good Neighbors

## Ready to dance

Infinity Dance showcased its new East Troy location at 3278 Main St. with a day-long Open House featuring sample classes, dance apparel pop-up shop and tours of its studio. Carissa Chanos, owner/artistic director, and Ashley Doblar, instructor, commemorated the occasion with an East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at the boutique-style studio. For more information, visit [infinitydanceteam.com](http://infinitydanceteam.com).

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