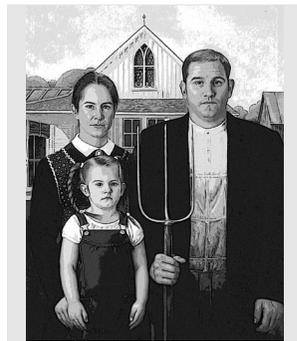


Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

Art for the holidays



Next week begins the "Official Christmas Holiday Shopping Marathon." This is a race I've never won. In fact, I always start shopping around Dec. 24 in the afternoon. Amazingly, most places are closed; the ones open are not crowded. Sure, the selection is limited, but it makes for a quick decision. The following suggestions and/or ideas are for the majority of people who are organized, always on time and want "art" on Santa's shopping list.

Several of the art galleries schedule special events during the holidays. The following events are grouped by town to save on fuel costs:

Miller Beach (Gary)
Lake Street Gallery, 613 S. Lake St., (219) 938-4566, Joyce Davis, owner

- Dec. 3, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. annual "Holiday Sing Along"
- Dec. 4 and 11, 11 a.m. 6 p.m. "Artist Markets" handmade gifts scarves, mitten, jewelry, holiday florals
- Unique gifts: fuschia suede passport cover \$21; Soda pop cap watch \$92, original pastel by David Hugg \$250

Chesterton
Chesterton Art Center, 115 South 4th St., 219-926-4711, Judy Gregurich, director

- Nov. 25, "Sugar Plum Visions Gingerbread House" display
- Unique gifts: one-of-a-kind gifts of jewelry, pottery, silk and small paintings

Lowell
The Art Gallery, 116 S. Nichols St., (219) 696-6487, Mona and Pete Kuechenberg, owners

- Nov. 25 and Nov. 26, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Nov. 25; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Nov. 26, Door prizes, free raffles, complimentary refreshments at the full service art gallery. The gallery



is part of the Christmas Walk. Don't miss Quilts & Things located inside the Gallery. It features: homemade Christmas stockings, quilts, table runners, placemats, purses, hats and more. Also housed in the gallery is P&D Unique Designs with many one-of-a-kind gifts. These are hand-crafted from solid hardwoods or exquisite fretwork silhouettes (including Victorian fretwork) and other home accessories.

St. John
St. John Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 717, 10400 W. 93rd, (219) 322-2055, Marion Thiel

- Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., "Craft show and Christmas shopping spree"

Town of St. John and Special Events Committee, Prairie West Park along 93rd Avenue, (219) 865-7841, Michelle Cash

- Nov. 26 to Jan. 1, "Festival of Lights," decorated trees provided by local businesses and organizations. Tree lighting and fireworks at 7 p.m. Nov. 26. Ice skating, entertainment, refreshments and Santa on Nov. 26.

The Steeple Gallery, 11107 Thiel St., (219) 365-1014, Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski, owner

- Dec. 4, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., "Icons of Religion." Joseph Malham, iconographer and author, will speak and demonstrate art of

religious panels and banners. Exhibit runs through Jan. 18. Reservations recommended.

- Dec. 22, 27, 29, Jan. 3 – A one-hour class for four days for ages 5 to 7 and 8 to 10. Call Chip Sobek at St. John Parks Department at 365-6236.

- Unique gifts: commission a portrait of a loved one (this includes animals) \$350 and up, embroidered art cards \$5 or framed memorabilia from the White Sox World Series or even tickets from a Cubs game. Give a gift certificate for art or framing (business card, award, collectible).



With the hustle-bustle of the holiday season, drop by the gallery for a lighter moment. Take your picture with our genuine autographed leg lamp from "A Christmas Story" by Jean Shepherd. BYOC (Bring Your Own Camera). I have started a collection of famous gallery visitors posing with the "Leg Art," including members of the St. John Chamber of Commerce, pictured above. I would list their names, but they refused to give them. Elvis P. called and asked to have his picture taken with the "leg" during the next few weeks.

I received the lamp and Red Ryder BB Gun last Christmas. They were the perfect gift for me from my husband and daughter as it's my favorite Christmas movie.

I'm not sure if the pink bunny suit will be part of my Christmas this year. As Santa said, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid."

Contact Sam at The Steeple Gallery at (219) 365-1014 or at samowner@sbcglobal.net.

Many at the Crown Point City Council's November meeting were surprised to note the presence of former Mayor **James Metros** standing in the back of the packed council chambers just listening.

After that meeting in the hallway and down the stairs employees were heard quietly chanting, "We want Jim."

... St. Clare's Kitchen serves dinner from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Tuesday in the basement of Holy Name Parish in Cedar Lake.

There will be a special pre-Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 22. It will be turkey with all the fixings.

Kitty Conley's

Scratching Post

It is offered free by the the Secular Franciscans and is open to the public.

The Secular Franciscans is an order of lay people founded about 1221 by St. Francis to do good works.

... Crown Point Mayor **Dan Klein** is attempting to get the White Sox trophy on display in Crown Point for a day. That would be a great fun thing.

... After Saturday night's storm that came charging through the area, Greenwood

Avenue was flooded in front of our house only because of the leaves in the gutters.

I could hear the water getting sucked down as my husband was raking the leaves away from the storm drain alongside our neighbor's house. Fun thing to do at 11 p.m.

... Lake County Sheriff **Roy Dominguez** is bringing the Mobile Neuter Scooter to Lake County Animal Control Jan. 11-12.

Schedule an appointment at www.neuterscooter.com. Fee is \$40 in advance or \$50 on the day of the event.

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Balance Tier	APY	Rate Tier	Current Rate
\$100,000 and over	3.21%	The Index	3.16%
75,000.00 - 99,999.99	3.10%	The Index - 0.10%	3.06%
25,000.00 - 74,999.99	2.95%	The Index - 0.25%	2.91%
10,000.00 - 24,999.99	2.69%	The Index - 0.50%	2.66%

Balances below \$10,000 do not earn interest and are subject to a \$15 fee that will reduce earnings on the account. Minimum balance to open a Premier Account is \$10,000. Offer available to new personal checking accounts opened with funds not currently on deposit at Sand Ridge Bank. Business and public funds accounts are not eligible.

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