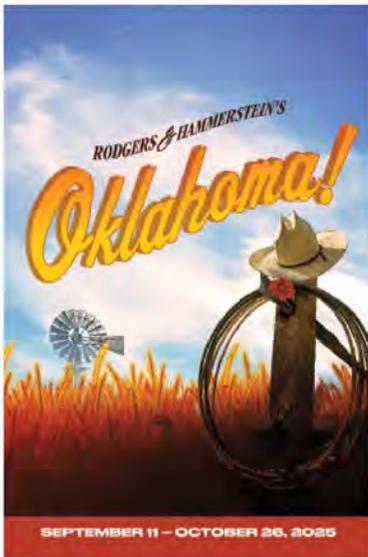




# The Flame

MAY 2025

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS



**“This is a rare chance for you to see a first rate, professional production of one of Broadway's most enduring, most entertaining, most beautiful musicals.”**

The  
**FireSide**

## OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MUSICAL!

THE CURTAIN RISES ON A FARM IN CLAREMORE IN 1906. AN OLDER WOMAN IS CHURNING BUTTER. A LONE COWBOY ENTERS SINGING A SONG ABOUT HOW BEAUTIFUL THE MORNING IS. IN 1943, THAT SIMPLE OPENING SCENE CHANGED THE FACE OF AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE FOR ALL TIME.

Two well-known, successful writers collaborated for the very first time to create one of the greatest musicals ever to open on Broadway – OKLAHOMA!

Richard Rodgers had already written 27 hit musicals with collaborator Lorenz Hart and hundreds of popular songs such as *My Funny Valentine*; *Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered*; *Blue Moon*; *Falling in Love with Love*; and many, many others.

Oscar Hammerstein II had also written a number of hit shows with composers such as Jerome Kern, Sigmund Romberg, and Rudolf Friml including another ground-breaking musical SHOW BOAT. In 1942, Rodgers and

Hammerstein decided to collaborate for the first time on a musical based on Lynn Riggs's play GREEN GROW THE LILACS.

OKLAHOMA opened on March 31, 1943 and ran for 2212 performances closing May 29, 1948. It included such great songs as *Oh What a Beautiful Morning*, *People Will Say We're In Love*, *Surrey With a Fringe On Top*, and the immortal title song – *Oklahoma!* It has been revived on Broadway numerous times and played all around the world. I've done the show three times at the Fireside. It's been 33 years since the last time we presented OKLAHOMA.

and it's high time we bring back this timeless classic.

I'm very excited about doing it again. We've come a long way in 33 years. Our productions have grown technically and artistically and this new production will be, by far, the best of all the past productions.

This is a rare chance for you to see a first rate, professional production of one of Broadway's most enduring, most entertaining, most beautiful musicals. Don't miss it!

*Ed Flavel*

Scenes from the original 1943 Broadway production,



the 1955 film starring Shirley Jones,



and our 1985 production. Anyone out there remember our 1979, 1985, or 1992 productions?



**CELEBRATING  
61 YEARS  
OF KLOPCIC  
FAMILY  
HOSPITALITY!**

# THE INSIDE SCOOP



Stephanie with her son, Broderick the day he came to help!

Stephanie Ehle brings the sunshine to Verona's Senior Center every day!

## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!

With a degree in Health and Wellness plus minors in Gerontology and Sociology, prior experience with activities in long term care facilities, her own wellness business, and a non-profit pregnancy center, Stephanie Ehle joined the Verona Senior Center as its Executive Director in the fall of 2019. A few months later, while re-inventing the wheel, she was offering cooking, craft, and exercise classes through Zoom along with social groups and educational presentations. But boy, did she miss the people!

The Verona Senior Center has one of the busiest and most robust activity calendars you'll find. The wide variety of options is a result of Stephanie's energy, her desire to please everyone, the range of interests in their several thousand 50 or older members, their wonderful staff, the volunteer trips committee, a great facility and support from the city. Plus, about 95% of their activities are free, as is membership itself. Their goal - to improve the quality of life for their members. Because they're "people people!"

On a typical day, such as the one we spoke to Stephanie, about 250 people would be at the center participating in one thing or another. The list included social hour, exercise, chair yoga, a mobile library, acupuncture, blood pressure checks, tech time, a movie, genealogy class, line dancing, ageless grace, transit rides to two pharmacies, and delicious catered meals that can be either grab and go, delivered, or enjoyed at the center. Looks like something for everyone!

Their day trips, usually twice a month, include a show at The Fireside, Janesville's Rotary Botanical Gardens, the East Troy Railroad and Yerkes Observatory, History and Heritage of Green Bay, and even a hometown tour in nearby Fitchburg where they toured a Bavarian Sausage factory and enjoyed lunch at Quivey's Grove. Stephanie contracts with Collette Tours to provide week-long trips such as New England Fall Color and Greece. In 2026, she's venturing into planning her own starting with overnights to closer interesting locales such as Chicago, Michigan, and Dubuque.

“My favorite thing? The people! They all have such unique life experiences.”

Did I mention they have a social group just for Veterans? Also grief support, a knitting club, caregivers group, cardmaking, meditation, a book club that studies the classics, intro to Mahjong, and intro to chess. The thing is, anyone looking to make a connection with someone who enjoys similar things is almost certain to find one with such a huge variety of events and activities. The next new thing to come is pickle ball! The more connections people can make the less likely they are to be lonely, the more fun they'll open themselves up to, the greater their quality of life will be.

Outside of work, Stephanie and her husband, teenage daughter, and eight-year old son are rehabbing a 100 year old farmette complete with chickens and more animals to come. She seems to have energy for all of it, perhaps because you get back what you give in life or perhaps she's just that amazing. The people of Verona are lucky to have her on their team!

**KNOW  
WHAT'S  
NEW!**

# “MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS” IS AN INTRIGUING CHANGE OF PACE!

The thrilling Agatha Christie murder mystery **MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS** is a vast departure from our traditional musicals, yet it's very much a similar display of incredible talent both on and off The Fireside stage!

Running through June 1st, the show's characters have been perfectly cast and directed and are brilliantly performed seven times each week. The story is compelling and leaves most people wondering “whodunit” until the answer is revealed by the masterful detective, Hercule Poirot played by Hans Friedrichs.

Our stellar tech crew supports all of it and keeps everything on-track. The costumes, lighting, and scenery are both integral and amazing. Your groups will love it - and if you're not booked perhaps you owe yourself a treat to just come and see it on your own!



**CATCH THE SURPRISE HIT OF THE YEAR BEFORE IT SELLS OUT!**

SEE  
WHAT'S  
COOKING



## FEATURED MENU

*For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Matinees,  
Saturday Evenings,\* and Sunday MIDDAY.*

### Scallop Appetizer

Seared Fresh Atlantic Diver Scallop with a Potato Croquette presented on our Tomato Butter Sauce.

### Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

### Chicken Florentine

Pan seared Chicken Breast stuffed with Fresh Spinach and Cheeses, served over a Spinach Cream Sauce.

### Baked Almond Crusted Cod

Two tender Northern Cod Fillets coated with Dijon Mustard and crusted with Toasted Almonds, Japanese Breadcrumbs, and Fresh Herbs. Baked to crunchy perfection and served with our decadent Tarragon Sauce.

### Beef Short Rib

Slowly braised in beef stock and dressed with a red wine demi-glaze.  
With Garlic Whipped Potatoes and Roasted Asparagus.

### Vegetarian Manicotti with Red Sauce

### Double Layer Carrot Cake

With Cream Cheese Frosting.  
*Coffee, Tea and Milk*

OKLAHOMA is a true Broadway classic, and we've chosen several classic favorites for this show's menu. We're very excited to start out the meal with a new take on an old favorite - pairing a fresh seared Atlantic Diver Scallop with a house made Potato Croquette - presented on our amazing Tomato Butter Sauce!



The entree choices include our Baked Almond Crusted Cod you all loved during the run of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF last season. The cod loins are crusted with a blend of fresh breadcrumbs, Dijon mustard, roasted almonds and fresh herbs. This dish really

showcases the contrast between the juicy and flaky fish, and the crunchy and savory topping.

Our Beef Short Rib is another classic with prime cuts of beef slowly braised to be fork tender and melt in your mouth delicious! Or, you can choose our new Chicken Florentine - soon to become a classic - which features a pan seared chicken breast stuffed with Fresh Spinach and Cheeses and served on a Spinach Cream Sauce. Vegetarian guests will love our Manicotti with Red Sauce.

Finally, for a classic dessert that's loved by all - our bakery will treat you to Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting. Be sure to save room - and tell us how you liked it!



Joey Scott, Kitchen Manager

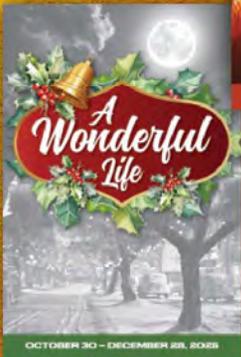
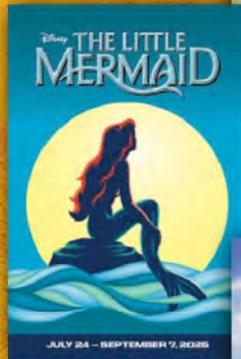
The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entrée selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Garlic and Herb Whipped Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Carrot Cake for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

The Sunday Matinee Brunch begins with Pastries from our Bakery and a Honey Glazed Fresh Fruit Medley with Yogurt and Natural Granola. We'll have two meats at the carving station along with the buffet of Eggs Benedict on Jones Canadian Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Jones Bacon and Sausage Links, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Bread Pudding, Breakfast Potatoes, a featured Beef Tenderloin dish, and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Carrot Cake for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

*Saturday Evening's menu also includes an Appetizer course.*

# Coming Shows!

We look forward to helping you promote your trips to The Fireside. Promotional materials can be ordered for any of our upcoming shows through Group Sales or on our website.



**NEW**

**SIX SHOWS ONLY!**

## GROUP SALES CORNER



Fun facts about OKLAHOMA! Rogers and Hammerstein's first musical collaboration opened on Broadway in 1943. In 1967 Oklahoma! opened in Tokyo, Japan with an all-female cast. In 1976 the original cast recording of Oklahoma! (the first of its kind) was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. In 1993, it's 50th anniversary year, Oklahoma! was awarded a special commemorative Tony Award. Oklahoma! also is notated as the first true "integrated musical." Before "Oklahoma!," musicals often had a collection of songs and dances that were not necessarily tied to the plot. "Oklahoma!" changed this by using the music and dance to advance the story and reveal character, creating a more dramatic and cohesive experience.

For personal help with any of your bookings, call us at 920-563-9505 or email [groupsales@firesidetheatre.com](mailto:groupsales@firesidetheatre.com).



What a great bunch of statistics for a wonderful story! We are so very excited to bring this amazing musical back to our stage. It truly is a fun, comedic musical filled with many popular songs for you to tap your feet to. "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" to come to The Fireside!



**This show is also a wonderful field trip opportunity for music and drama teachers - please share the idea with any that you know!** We have special pricing for school groups that can even include an educational seminar before the show with a member of the cast or production team!

Please give us a call if we can help in any way. We're here Monday through Friday from 10 - 5 at 920-563-9505 - just ask for Group Sales or email [groupsales@firesidetheatre.com](mailto:groupsales@firesidetheatre.com). Happy Traveling!

*Franki Elmore*  
Franki Elmore, Group Sales Lead

## GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT



Shop online anytime at  
[firesidetheatre.com](http://firesidetheatre.com)



"Oh, the farmer and the cowman should be friends . . ."

That line above is from one of the big dance numbers in OKLAHOMA - pitting the ranchers against the farmers who want to fence in their crops for protection. Whichever side you're on, America's love for horses goes back even farther than the Oklahoma Territory days and will surely live on forever. We love them for their beauty, intelligence, gentle nature, loyalty, the unique connection they're able to foster with humans, and their place in our shared history. Horse lovers in particular will appreciate these unique gifts you'll find in our shops!



Look for these items and more:

- Wall and free-standing signs
- Mugs and water bottles
- Books and note pads
- Plates and coasters
- Towels and socks

## CONTACT US TODAY AND SAVE!

CALL 920-563-9505

EMAIL [groupsales@firesidetheatre.com](mailto:groupsales@firesidetheatre.com)

ONLINE [FiresideTheatre.com](https://www.FiresideTheatre.com)

## GROUPS ARE OUR SPECIALTY - SO SPECIAL DISCOUNTS APPLY!

### WHAT IS A GROUP?

At The Fireside, there are many benefits for any group of 13 or more people (18 for the Sunday Middy). Our prices include both dinner and the show, however gratuity is not included.

Hold seating with a small deposit while you finalize your count, due four weeks before your visit. For weekday matinees, 18 paid tickets earns a complimentary package. For all other shows it's every 21st ticket. There is plenty of safe, free parking on-site for coaches and cars. The Fireside is accessible to guests with disabilities. Please let us know what special needs you have when making reservations.

- Save up to \$17.00 per person over individual ticket prices when you book a group of 13 or more. Please see our menu page for the menu choices for Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA!
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 13 or more is \$83.29 (\$78.95 tax exempt) per person - NO INCREASE FROM 2024.
- The Premier Group Rate offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance of Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! from September 11 - October 5, 2025.
- 2025 Premier Group Rate is \$80.13 (\$75.95 tax exempt) per person.
- The four-course Saturday Night Group rate is the same price as the other shows!
- 2025 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meals are offered at \$60.08 (\$56.95 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2025 School Group Rates are available for Thursday and Friday matinees as low as \$72.95 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.