

The Flame

SEPT 2026

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS



“If anyone asks you what kind of music you play, tell him ‘pop.’ Don’t tell him ‘rock ‘n’ roll’ or they won’t even let you in the hotel.”

– Buddy Holly

The
FireSide

THE MAN... THE MYTH... THE LEGEND!

ON JANUARY 23, 1959 IN MILWAUKEE, A ROCK AND ROLL SHOW PLAYED ITS FIRST CONCERT OF A MIDWEST TOUR. IT WAS CALLED THE WINTER DANCE PARTY AND FEATURED THREE OF THE BIGGEST STARS IN ROCK. ELEVEN DAYS LATER IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLIZZARD IN CLEAR LAKE, IOWA THE PLANE CARRYING THESE THREE STARS WENT DOWN IN A FARMER’S FIELD. THAT NIGHT THE MUSIC WORLD LOST THE BIG BOPPER, RICHIE VALENS, AND THE INCOMPARABLE BUDDY HOLLY!

Buddy was one of rock and roll’s first superstars – before the Beatles and the Rolling Stones ever played a note. His death left a hole in the music world that has never been completely filled.

During his short career, Holly wrote, recorded, and produced all of his own material. He is often regarded as the artist who defined the traditional rock-and-roll lineup of two guitars, bass, and drums. He was a major influence on later artists including Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, and Elton John. Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, Rolling Stone magazine ranked him number 13 in its list of “100 Greatest Artists.”

We are thrilled to open our 2027 Season with BUDDY – The Buddy Holly Story – directed by Matt McClure who starred as Buddy in our 2019 production of the show. This entertaining show chronicles his life and career from the days when “Peggy Sue” was “Cindy Lou,” the meteoric rise of “That’ll Be The Day,” his marriage, The Crickets, and his untimely death.

Surprisingly, for a show about an American legend, BUDDY premiered at London’s Victoria Palace Theatre in 1989 and ran for over 12 years. Since then it’s been performed on Broadway, made several National Tours, and has enjoyed nearly continual productions around the world. Now it’s time for you to



CELEBRATING 63 YEARS OF KLOPCIC FAMILY HOSPITALITY!

enjoy an exciting new production on The Fireside's stage!

BUDDY includes all the songs you'll expect to hear, including "Oh Boy," "Everyday," "Not Fade Away," and "Rave On" as well as the Big Bopper's "Chantilly Lace" and Ritchie Valens' "La Bamba."

US Reviews of the show sang its praises from coast to coast. The Seattle Post-Intelligence said, "Clearly the music never died." "Extraordinary . . . A sensational night." reported the Denver Post. And The Boston Globe remarked, "How refreshing to be time-tunneled to a lighter, less angst-ridden era."

Whether or not you come in being a Buddy Holly fan, you will be when you leave!

Scenes from our 2019 production of BUDDY: The Buddy Holly Story.





MEET COURTNEY OSENROTH OF APPLETON'S MARY BETH NIENHAUS ACTIVITY CENTER

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!

Courtney Osenroth, an Appleton native, is right where she belongs as Associate Program Director for the Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center. Having begun her career working at nature centers in the area, she earned a degree in Wildlife Ecology from UW Madison. That led to several years teaching environmental outdoor education to school children in northern Minnesota and other locales before making her way back to Appleton. She and her husband wanted to raise their children near family. Courtney started with the center as their volunteer coordinator before moving into programming.

Courtney noted that she has always worked in the non-profit world and found it to be a great opportunity. The Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center is a true non-profit, which is rare for a 50 plus center, and they are grateful for the wonderful community support they receive. Funding comes from a small amount of city and county support, and the majority is a combination of grants, donations, and activity fees. The name change from the former Thompson Center on Lourdes was prompted by an extremely generous gift from Appleton-area philanthropist Mary Beth Nienhaus, leading to the creation of the new center the community has enjoyed since mid-2025.

The center had offered trips years ago but, of course, took a break during Covid. When she was still new to the programming position in 2022, participants were eager to have her bring back the trips and she bravely coordinated her first Fireside trip to WHITE CHRISTMAS. She thought it seemed like a safe way to get started, bringing everyone by bus to one location for a meal and show with our staff there to help and it went great. They haven't looked back, adding more and more shows each year to where she's now booking for all of them. She's especially looking forward to next season's return of WHITE CHRISTMAS!

Courtney is part of a staff of just four full-time people who, together with more than 150 dedicated volunteers, keep the Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center running. Volunteers assist in a variety of ways, including several who help with trips and one who helps coordinate them. They're up to 15 to 20 trips each year including Brewers games, Door County, Baraboo, Green Bay, Menominee Historic Preservation Cultural and Logging Museum near Shawano, and a Holiday Bakery Tour in Milwaukee that sounds amazing! They enjoy discovering gems throughout Wisconsin but have also ventured out on a three day/two night tour to Shipshewana.

“Make the connections! They need it and so do you!”

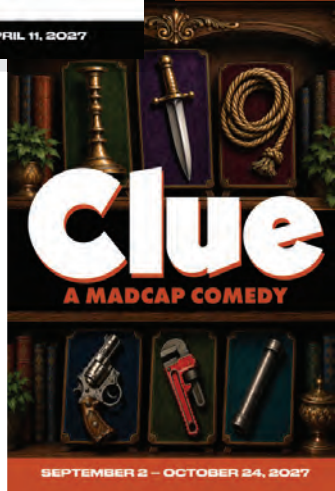
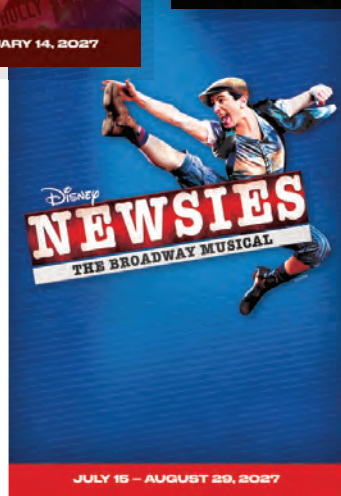
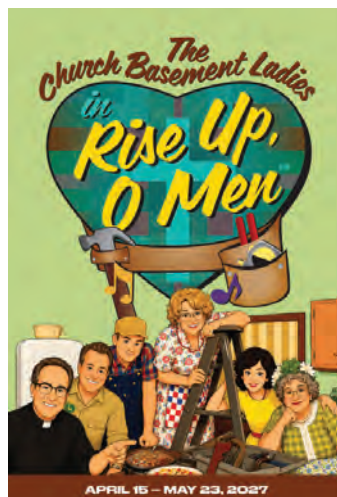
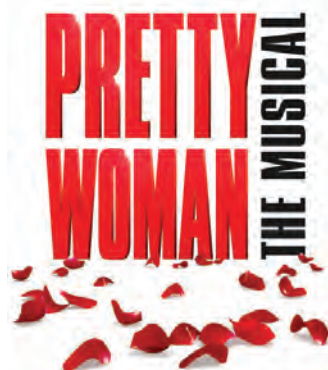
In addition to trips, Courtney helps coordinate about 400 programs each month, ranging from fitness and art classes to educational presentations and support groups, ensuring participants have access to valuable resources. They also partner with the Outagamie County Nutrition Program to offer lunch four days a week and invite local chefs in to teach nutritional cooking classes.

Courtney's favorite thing about her job is the people. While she considers herself a “secret introvert,” she puts herself out there to connect with participants and encourages them to do so as well. “It's great to see people building relationships and trying new things,” she remarked. “I love helping people who might be traveling on their own connect with others and build friendships during the trip.”

Her other full-time job is mom to a 9-year-old son and a 6-year-old daughter, which often means serving as a professional chauffeur with a color-coded Excel calendar. Their family stays active with the kids' activities, crafts, and hiking, sharing Courtney's love of the outdoors. She is a go-getter and the Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center is lucky to have her!

LOOK
WHAT'S
NEW!

BOOK YOUR 2027 SEASON
TODAY!



BUDDY - The Buddy Holly Story - Witness his story on the Fireside stage in a toe-tapping, hand-clapping, live-band extravaganza that will have you up and dancing. Features "That'll Be the Day," "Peggy Sue," "Not Fade Away," plus "La Bamba," "Chantilly Lace," and more!

PRETTY WOMAN The Musical - Once upon a time in the late '80s, unlikely soulmates Vivian and Edward overcame all odds to find each other . . . and themselves. This new stage version of the popular film will lift your spirits and light up your heart. (Contains mature themes and language.)

The Church Basement Ladies in RISE UP, O MEN - It's 1964, the township is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee, and the men are making some repairs in the church kitchen. Join us for more hilarious antics from the series and characters you've come to know and love.

HEARTBREAK HOTEL - Elvis is back in the building! This official Elvis Presley bio-musical takes a closer look at the rock star and incomparable icon whose impact shaped the history of music and culture. Features over 40 Elvis hits from "Love Me Tender" to "Don't Be Cruel."

Disney's NEWSIES - Set in New York at the turn of the 20th Century this high-energy hit delights audiences of all ages. You're going to love Jack Kelly and his ragged band of teen-aged "newsies" who dream, and strike, for a better life!

CLUE - Based on the beloved board game and cult-classic film, CLUE is a fast-paced, laugh-out-loud whodunit packed with twists, turns, and outrageous comedy!

Irving Berlin's WHITE CHRISTMAS - This heartwarming stage adaptation features 17 Irving Berlin classics in a story filled with romance, laughter, and holiday magic!

Call 920-563-9505 or email groupsales@firesidetheatre.com.



We're excited to kick off a new year of menus to go along with the new season. I'm personally pleased to have been involved in this process for the first time and have created several new entrees for you to enjoy throughout the year.

The first one being featured for the run of BUDDY is a Fontanini Sausage Stuffed Chicken Breast. A tender, hand-cut chicken breast is generously filled with savory Fontanini Italian sausage, roasted red and green peppers, and velvety cream cheese. It's perfectly roasted and presented over a silky sun-dried tomato cream sauce, creating an elegant harmony of rich Italian flavors. The sweet, concentrated flavor of sun-dried tomatoes, subtle garlic, fragrant herbs, and a touch of Parmesan add depth and richness, finishing each bite with a luxurious, savory warmth that lingers on the palate.

We're certain this will become a favorite along with the other choices for this show - our Shrimp Tempura, Grilled Pork Ribeye, and Vegetarian Stuffed Shells.

This menu, and all our menus, reflect our team's commitment to quality, comfort, and creating an experience that you and your guests will remember long after the meal is over. Your feedback is always welcome.

Be sure to save room for a slice of our New York Cheesecake for dessert!



Kevin Halpin
Executive Chef



SEE
WHAT'S
COOKING

FEATURED MENU

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

Cheesy Potato Soup with Dill

Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

Shrimp Tempura

Our signature Jumbo Shrimp, hand-dipped in house-made Tempura Batter and fried to a crispy golden finish. Served with house-made Cocktail Sauce and our famous Brandied Apricot Sauce.

Grilled Pork Ribeye

A juicy Pork Loin Ribeye, kissed on the grill for a tender, flavorful bite, and crowned with a smooth Pork Au Jus.

Fontanini Sausage Stuffed Chicken

A tender Supreme Cut Chicken Breast generously stuffed with authentic Italian Fontanini Sausage, colorful Green and Red Peppers, and Cream Cheese, resting on a Sun-Dried Tomato Cream Sauce.

Above entrées served with Garlic Parmesan Orzo and a California Blend of Fresh Vegetables seasoned with butter and our own one-of-a-kind seasoning salt.

Vegetarian Stuffed Shells

Delicate Pasta Shells generously stuffed with creamy Ricotta, Mozzarella, and Parmesan Cheeses, baked to perfection and surrounded by our vibrant, house-made Pomodoro Sauce. Served with the California Blend of Fresh Vegetables seasoned with butter and seasoning salt.

New York Cheesecake

Delicious and velvety classic New York-style Cheesecake with a buttery Graham Cracker Crust, finished with a vibrant Strawberry Sauce.

Coffee, Tea and Milk

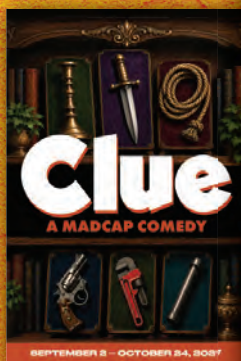
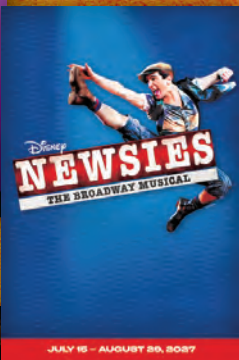
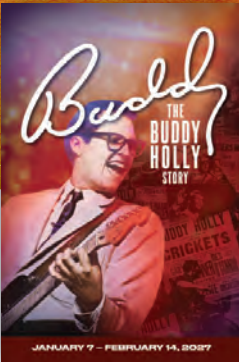
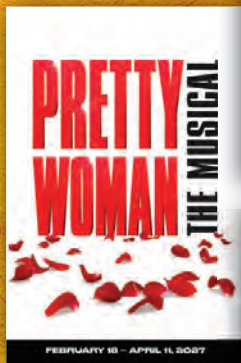
The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entrée selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura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

The Sunday Matinee Brunch begins with Pastries from our Bakery and a Fresh Fruit Smoothie. Enjoy Roast Turkey and Ham from the carving station with a 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, Breakfast Potatoes, Sweet Breakfast Confections, a featured Beef Tenderloin dish, and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. New York Cheesecake 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.



GROUP SALES CORNER



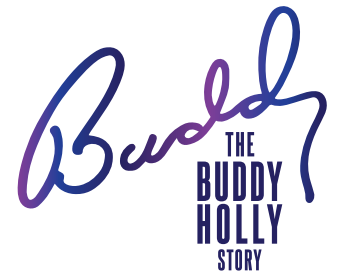
January 7, 2027 - "That'll Be The Day" we begin our 2027 Season with BUDDY - The Buddy Holly Story! That day will be here before you know it.

We've added **three Wednesday matinees** to meet demand for this show: **January 20, January 27, and February 3** are ready for your booking!

Buddy Holly's break-out song "That'll Be The Day" was released in 1957 and made him a big star. "Everyday" was released that same year. Unfortunately, just two years later his short yet spectacular career was over, "the day the music died" on February 3, 1959.

Don't miss this incredible collection of songs and stories of the bespectacled kid from Lubbock, Texas who is still considered one of rock and roll's greatest talents.

"Every day, it's a-getting closer. Going faster than a roller coaster . . . A-hey, a-hey-hey!" Book your tickets now!



If you're still hoping to get a holiday booking for A CHRISTMAS STORY, now is the time to call for that as well.

You can reach me or another Group Sales representative Monday through Friday from 11 - 5 at 920-563-9505, or email your question or request to groupsales@firesidetheatre.com. Happy Traveling wherever the road takes you!

Frankie Elmore

Frankie Elmore, Group Sales Lead

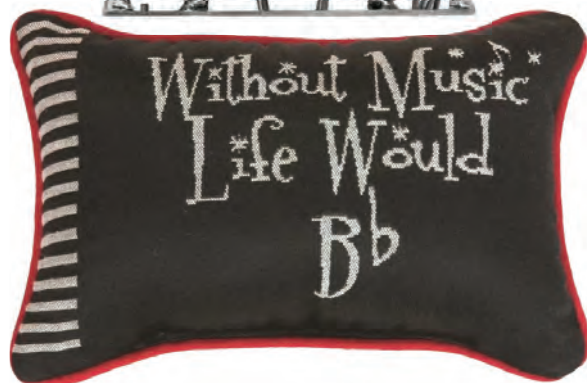


GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Shop online anytime at
firesidetheatre.com

Find Gifts Galore For Music Lovers!

Are you a music lover? Or do you have one in your life? Someone for whom music is a constant presence in their daily activities or just simply a part of who they are? We make it easy to find unique and cherished gifts for them with a wonderful selection of gifts and collectible items! Whether you're looking for decor like the items below or something specific to your favorite artist like Elvis, Taylor Swift, Dolly Parton, or The Beatles you're sure to find it in The Fireside Gift Shops!



**CONTACT US
TODAY AND SAVE!**

CALL 920-563-9505

EMAIL groupsales@firesidetheatre.com

ONLINE 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 Midday). 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 every 20 paid tickets earns a comp. 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 \$18.00 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 BUDDY - The Buddy Holly Story.
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 13 or more is \$87.57 (\$83.00 tax exempt) per person.
- The Premier Group Rate offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance of BUDDY from January 7 - 31, 2027.
- 2027 Premier Group Rate is \$84.40 (\$80.00 tax exempt) per person.
- The four-course Saturday Night Group rate is the same price as the other shows!
- 2027 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meals are offered at \$64.36 (\$61.00 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2027 School Group Rates are available for Thursday and Friday matinees as low as \$77.00 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.