



Manistee County Visitors Bureau
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WHAT'S NEW – 2019

(NOTE – businesses located in city of Manistee unless noted otherwise)

New to See (Attractions, Exhibits, Grand Openings)

Grand Openings

- **Escape Room**, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts – *Opening in March 2019*. Sixty minutes. A locked room. Puzzles, hidden clues and unique challenges. This new escape room in the basement of the Ramsdell Theatre features the story of old, disgruntled Vaudeville Harry, an actor from the 1930s who “traps” his investors in a meeting. Reserve the room for your group of up to six people at ramsdeltheatre.org/escape/. Pricing: \$18-25 per person.
- **South Course, Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club**, Arcadia – *Grand opening in spring 2019*. The ninth golf course in Manistee County, this 18-hole, 310-acre course is off of M-22, 1.5 miles south of Arcadia Bluffs. Constructed on an old orchard with 60 feet of elevation change, the South Course is a great complement to Arcadia Bluffs, offering a playable, walkable and enjoyable experience with world-class conditions golfers expect at Arcadia. The facility includes the golf course, practice area and clubhouse with dining, pro shop, and locker room. Designed by renowned golf course architect Dana Fry of Fry/Straka Global Golf Course Design, the linear course with square greens and rectangular, flat-bottom bunkers is reminiscent of the Chicago Golf Club, the oldest 18-hole club in North America. arcadiabluffs.com.
- **Manistee Health & Fitness**, 1345 E. Parkdale Ave. – *Opened December 2018*. This full-service fitness facility is in Munson Healthcare Manistee Community Health Center. Flexible membership options are available, from one-month to one-year memberships, to punch cards and drop-in options. munsonhealthcare.org

Attractions

- **Universal Access Trail at Arcadia Marsh Preserve**, Arcadia – *Opening in spring 2019*. The second Universal Access (UA) trail to open by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy in the past few years (following the new UA Overlook Trail at Arcadia Dunes), this \$1.2 million, three-quarter mile boardwalk allows people with mobility issues to easily walk through the marsh. Because the current marsh trail is susceptible to soggy conditions due to fluctuating water levels, the boardwalk trail presents a substantial upgrade to all who visit. Aside from a path for hiking, birdwatching and more, the trail includes bump-outs with benches, two observation platforms, and a fishing pier on Bowens Creek. gtrlc.org/activeprojects/arcadia-marsh-ua-trail/
- **Hardy Hall Art Gallery**, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts – *Opening in March 2019*. Hardy Hall is being reconstructed with a new look to re-open next spring as an art gallery space featuring rotating exhibits throughout the year, with four planned for 2019 already. RamsdellTheatre.org.

- **G&D Alpaca Farm & Deb's Boutique**, 4796 Maple Rd. – *Opened in July 2018*. This petting zoo and specialty shop features male and female plus baby alpacas, and Deb's Boutique selling alpaca yarn and other local goods. Shop is seasonal and reopens in May 2019. [facebook.com/gdalpacafarm/](https://www.facebook.com/gdalpacafarm/)

New to Do (tours, classes, events, shopping, etc.)

Tours

- **Inn Fun Cruises**, Onekama – *Opened in June 2018*. Based out of Portage Lake, Inn Fun Cruises provides day and sunset private cruises along the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan. Tours include light snacks and beverages, and cruises can be customized for a better vacation experience. Perfect for anniversaries, birthdays, engagements and relaxing. innfuncruises.com
- **Explore the Shores Program expansion** – This network of sites providing barrier-free accessibility to recreation and fishing in Manistee County is expanding universally accessible access in Manistee County to Magoon Creek Natural Area and Bear Lake. visitmanisteecounty.com/project/explore-the-shores

Events

- **[Port City Documentary Series](#)**, Vogue Theatre of Manistee, last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This new monthly series brings the biggest and the best in documentary films to Manistee to enjoy in this historic, 1938-era Art Deco movie theatre with state-of-the-art sound.
- **Shoreline Music Society & Chamber Music Series** – The [Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts](#) partnered with the new non-profit [Shoreline Music Society](#) in October 2018 to launch a chamber music series at the Ramsdell with the goal of turning classical music into a conversation between the audience and performers, breaking down barriers between the two groups. Performances include an interactive period before the concert for the audience to meet and mingle with musicians, plus a chance to meet them afterward to continue the conversation. Performers also are dressed in casual clothes versus tuxedos to be more approachable. shorelinemusicsociety.com/. 2019 events scheduled so far include:
 - **Fourth Coast Ensemble**, April 6, 5-7:30 p.m. Founded in 2013, Chicago's [Fourth Coast Ensemble](#) vocal chamber quartet is committed to performing creative and accessible vocal chamber music. With a repertoire spanning Romantic to Contemporary, this ensemble presents salon-style performances in venues from parlor to concert hall – with each performance communicating warmth, variety and genuine expression. \$30 box seat/\$25 adults/\$15 students.
- **[Minnehaha Brewhaha](#)**, Arcadia, Aug. 31 This second annual Minnehaha Brewhaha is a local Michigan craft beer tasting and music festival fundraiser for the Ronald Stoops Memorial Scholarship Fund at Interlochen Arts Academy. [facebook.com/MinnehahaBrewhaha](https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaBrewhaha)
- **[LaborFest](#)**, Manistee, Sept. 31. Hosted by the Salt City Rock & Blues non-profit organization for the express benefit of constructing a public amphitheater between First Street Beach and Douglas Park, LaborFest is in its second year of celebrating the region's rich industrial history and the laborers who support the salt, lumber and sand industries. The festival features bands, kids' games, food trucks and a parade.

Shopping

- **J. Catlett & Company**, 63 Maple St. – *Opened December 2018*. This specialty barber shop features pampering services for the discriminating gentleman – from classic haircuts and mustache trims; to revitalizing facials, gray blending and eyebrow waxing. Enjoy a relaxing treatment in this boutique-style barbershop, complete with a beer-stocked refrigerator and Michigan-made grooming products. jcatlettandcompany.com

- **G&D Alpaca Farm & Deb's Boutique**, 4796 Maple Rd. – *Opened in July 2018*. Located at G&D Alpaca Farm, Deb's Boutique sells alpaca yarn and other local goods. Shop is seasonal and reopens in May 2019. [facebook.com/gdalpacafarm/](https://www.facebook.com/gdalpacafarm/)
- **Anomalous Gallery**, 340 River St. – *Opened May 2018*. This art downtown gallery features art from the owners' personal collection and space for local artists to sell art. The owners also plan to collaborate on events with the Manistee Art Institute (MAI). anomalous-gallery.com/
- **Manistee Beverage Company**, 401 River St. – *Opened May 2018*. [Manistee Beverage Company](http://ManisteeBeverageCompany.com) is a retail beverage destination carrying craft beer, fine wines, unique spirits, and a selection of nonalcoholic beverages. They also have an assortment of snacks and other food items. manisteebeveragecompany.com/
- **Manistee Bridal**, 308 River St. – *Opened May 2018*. This consignment bridal boutique features a vast collection of bridal and formal attire sourced from various locations from Detroit to Traverse City. The store carries new and gently used formal and bridal wear, accessories, shoes and some décor. [facebook.com/ManisteeBridal/](https://www.facebook.com/ManisteeBridal/)

New to Eat & Drink

- **Taco 'Bout It Mexican Fusion**, 344 River St. – *Opening in March 2019*. This family-owned, authentic Mexican and fusion food business started two years ago as a food truck and is opening as a brick-and-mortar restaurant in the heart of downtown. Using mostly local ingredients, the owners prepare many items in a traditional manner but add twists and blends to keep it fresh, fun and exciting. thetacaboutittruck.com

New in Lodging and Meetings

- **Green Buoy Resort**, Onekama – *Opening in spring 2019 with more cottages added in fall 2019*. This cluster of quaint cottages is strategically located on M-22 across from Portage Lake, with lodging options ranging from a three-bedroom chalet, to a stone cottage, one-bedroom cottages and studio rooms. Cottage rental includes grills, picnic tables, fire pit, TVs and Wi-Fi, and an outdoor pool. greenbuoyresort.com

Major Expansions or Improvements

- **Iron Fish Distillery – new kitchen** – *Opened in December 2018*. This new “soil-to-spirits” distillery has added a kitchen with a wood-fired pizza oven. Now visitors can enjoy a delicious pizza in addition to a hand-crafted cocktail. ironfishdistillery.com

2019 Milestones and Anniversaries

150th Anniversary – City of Manistee – Manistee celebrates its sesquicentennial in 2019 – 150 years from its founding date of March 15, 1869 – when it was a lumber boomtown, with the most millionaires per capita in the United States. Numerous events are planned throughout the year at a variety of locations, including an original play written for the high school to perform about a famous murder in 1869, a special trolley tour of Maxwell Town, guided historic walking tours, classic movies, and a presentation at the Vogue Theatre. Events scheduled to date and presented by Manistee County Historical Museum Executive Director Mark Fedder unless otherwise noted include (*events and updates also can be found at <https://www.manisteeuseum.org/150-years>*):

- **Superman & the Motion Picture Houses of Manistee**, April 9, 6 p.m. at the Vogue Theatre (383 River St.). Learn about the many motion picture houses that operated in Manistee during the early 20th Century in this free presentation covering how these motion picture/vaudeville houses came to be, who operated them, where they were located and what happened to them. After the 45-minute presentation, enjoy a 40th anniversary screening of “Superman: The Movie” starring Christopher Reeve.

- **Bricks, Mortar, Cornices and Corbels**, April 29, 5:30 p.m. at the Ramsdell Inn (399 River St.). Cost: \$20. Downtown Manistee is known for its beautiful Victorian architecture that creates a unique experience, complemented by the Manistee River channel. Meet in the lobby of the Ramsdell Inn where TJ's Pub will provide appetizers during the presentation that covers the beautiful buildings that are part of this Victorian port city, followed by a walking tour of the district. Seating is limited to 40 people, and tickets can be purchased at TJ's Pub and the Manistee County Historical Museum. A cash bar will be available.
- **A Walking Tour of the 'Hill' Homes: PART 1**, May 15, 2 p.m. at the Manistee County Historical Museum (425 River St.). Take a walking tour and learn about the history behind the homes on Manistee's west side. Local historian, John Perschbacher, will lead the tour focused not only on the current structures but also on the numerous residences lost over the years. This is a walking tour of the outside of the homes. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Free though donations welcome. 1.5 to 2 hours.
- **Manistee Before Manistee**, June 6, 6:30 p.m. at the Manistee County Historical Museum (425 River St.). While Manistee's sesquicentennial celebrates everything from 1869 onward, what was Manistee like prior to 1869? Former museum director, Steve Harold, will cover what was happening in Manistee before the city was incorporated. Free though donations welcome. Seating is limited.
- **Moments in Manistee's History**, June 26-Sept. 30 at Manistee County Historical Museum (425 River St.). A unique photo exhibit will explore moments from the city's last 150 years. Curated from thousands of photographs, this exhibit will display an array of photographs, from buildings and people to fires and events that all played a part in shaping the community. Entrance fee.
- **A Peek Inside the Lighthouse**, July 6, 1-4 p.m. at Manistee North Pierhead Lighthouse (Fifth Avenue Beach). Free but donations accepted. Look inside Manistee's iconic North Pierhead Lighthouse. While the entire lighthouse is not open for tours, historian and former museum director Steve Harold will answer questions about the history of the structure and discuss plans to restore the lighthouse interior.
- **The Old Churches of Manistee**, July-August at The Old Kirke Museum (304 Walnut St.). This exhibit displays archival and contemporary photographs, artifacts, and brief histories of the churches built in Manistee in its early days as a city. The show is housed alongside the Madsen Lumbering dioramas in the museum's newly developed exhibit space. The museum is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first and second Saturday of the month July to October and before and after the 10 a.m. First Person Stories and Songs speaker series Thursday mornings in July and August. Also open by appointment by calling John Hanson, (231) 723-2744. Free though donations welcome.
- **An Evening in the Park**, early August (*Date TBD*), 7, 6 p.m. at Rietz Park. Free but donations accepted. Manistee has some of the most beautiful recreational opportunities in Northern Michigan. Discover how the development of these parks is rich in history and how they came about.
- **To Maxwelltown & Beyond: A Trolley Tour**, Aug. 21, 5 and 6 p.m. at Manistee County Transportation (180 Memorial Dr.). An often-overlooked part of the city is the area referred to as "Maxwelltown" for generations. This unique neighborhood is one of the most historic areas in all of the city, with many buildings that have stood the test of time. Board the trolley at the Manistee County Transportation and explore the history of Maxwelltown. Seating capacity is limited to 21 people for each tour. The tour is free but donations to the museum will be accepted. Tickets will be issued to the first people that RSVP in person at the Manistee County Historical Museum. Tickets available starting July 15.
- **A Walking Tour of the 'Hill' Homes: PART 2**, Sept. 18, 2 p.m. at the Manistee County Historical Museum (425 Rive St.). Take a walking tour and learn about the history behind the homes on Manistee's west side. Local historian, Teena Kracht, will lead the tour. This is a walking tour of the *outside* of the homes. Wear walking shoes. Free though donations welcome. 1.5 to 2 hours.
- **How It Was Made: The Past & Present of Manistee's Industry and Manufacturing**, Nov. 4, 5:30 p.m. at North Channel Brewing Co. (86 Washington St.). Cost: \$20. While lumber and salt played an important part in developing Manistee, other industries that helped develop Manistee over the past 150 years. The

Manistee Manufactures Council will talk about current manufacturers. Seating is limited to 50 and tickets can be purchased at the Manistee County Historical Museum. A cash bar will be available.

80th Anniversary – [Manistee Civic Players](#)

20th Anniversary – [Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club](#)

20th Anniversary – [Little River Casino Resort](#)

10th Anniversary – [Tight Lines for Troops 10th Annual Charity Fishing Tournament](#), May 17-18. This annual, free fishing tournament for veterans began with Manistee County charter captain Bob Guenthardt, a former Ogema of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Army veteran, who wished to show appreciation for members of the military for their dedication and sacrifice. Approximately 50 captains and their boats take around 300 Michigan veterans from all wars and branches of service to fish Lake Michigan free, also offering a pier/shore division for veterans to fish from land.