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EVERYDAY
SPECIALS**

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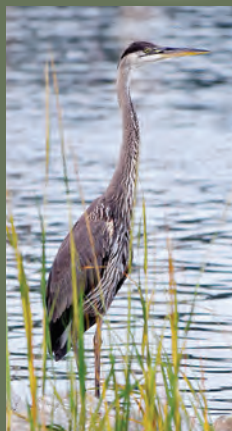
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ON THE COVER: Photo by Scott Winter

Maddie, a tuxedo cat, admires a Severna Park-themed ornament, one of many hometown items available for purchase at The Cottage. Discover full listings of where to buy gifts locally this holiday season on pages 16 and 19.

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KEEP YOUR DOLLARS LOCAL WHILE SPREADING CHEER THIS YEAR

BY MEREDITH WINTER

Perusing local stores for the perfect gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list is not only a fun way to spend a day with a friend or family member; it's also a great way to support people who also call the greater Severna Park area home. When people shop local and shop small, the whole community benefits.

According to a June 2025 report from Capital One Shopping Research, \$68 out of every \$100 spent at local stores stays local, equating to 289% more revenue retained for the local economy than chain stores. The report also states that small businesses make up to 136% more charitable donations per employee than those with more than 500 employees.

So, as you plan how to surprise your loved ones with special gifts this year, consider closing that browser tab or app and visiting a few of the neighborhood businesses below. And don't forget to mark your calendars for Small Business Saturday on November 29.

of treats: candy-cane crunch popcorn, chocolate peppermint bark, Christmas nonpareils, snowflake pretzels, snow-flurry gummies, gingerbread cookies and more.

BENFIELD GALLERY

www.benfieldgallery.com

For the fine art enthusiast in your life, stop by Benfield Gallery to peruse its jewelry, pottery, art and more. With a custom framing gift card, your loved one can make their own selections to frame their favorite artwork or photos. Benfield Gallery will hold holiday open houses on December 6, 13 and 20 from noon to 4:00pm, offering festive snacks and artist demonstrations. New this year, the gallery has stocked travel sketchbooks for anyone who might like to record adventures in a creative way. Visit McBride Gallery on Main Street in Annapolis for more fine art paintings and sculptures.

THE COTTAGE

www.shopthecottage.com

A local boutique with something for everyone, The Cottage has gifts spanning apparel to home décor. The shop has a large selection of enewton jewelry, a popular gift this year. Founded by a local Severna Park mom and cancer survivor, Kimberly James Jewelry is available as well — a line designed to help women embrace their unique journeys. The Cottage also carries the Oh My Mahjong collection, a robust selection of the coziest accessories by Barefoot Dreams, stylish winter apparel, and many local gifts including pottery and candles. Take advantage of the store's holiday gift wrap as well.

COTTONWOOD

www.cottonwoodinthepark.com

Know someone who loves to sew, embroider or quilt? Treat them to a top-of-the-line Bernina or Juki sewing machine, available at Cottonwood. You can shop a wide variety of quilts, antiques, vintage items, craft supplies and more at the store, too. Discover unique presents for the creative people in your life, gift them a class, or let them pick out their own favorite finds with a gift card.



THE SUGAR SHOPPE



FRANKLIN'S TOYS

ANNAPOLIS MARITIME ANTIQUES & WOODWORKS

www.annapolismaritimeantiques.com

Located in the Naptown neighborhood of Eastport, Annapolis Maritime Antiques & Woodworks offers some of the most unique gifts in town with a curated selection of art, books, nautical home décor, antiques, historical ship photographs, lighting and more. The shop also custom-builds furniture, from coffee tables to built-ins to desks and other pieces.

BD PROVISIONS

www.bdprovisions.com

A fresh cup of Joe brewed from locally roasted coffee is sure to start a winter day right for any coffee lover, and BD Provisions has a wide selection of roasted-in-house beans from which to choose. For personalized gifts, customers can fill a customizable gift basket with a variety

FISHPAWS MARKETPLACE

www.fishpawsmarket.com

Looking to create a personalized gift? Fishpaws Marketplace is offering bottle etching on two upcoming dates. The store will welcome Debra Healy, a calligrapher, engraver and lover of all things lettered on Friday, November 28, from noon-6:00pm and Saturday, December 20, from noon-6:00pm. Healy will engrave any wine or spirit to make a unique gift. If you can't attend either event, you can preorder an engraved product and pay in advance by speaking to a manager on duty.

FRANKLIN'S TOYS

www.franklinstoystore.com

Find something for boys and girls of all ages on the nice list at the only specialty toy store in Severna Park — it is stocked up and ready for the holiday season. Franklin's Toys carries top products from reputable manufacturers, including LEGOs, books, dolls, puzzles, puppets, games, model cars and trucks, and so much more. The store's knowledgeable staff members are always ready to help customers make great selections, and they offer free gift wrapping as well.

HOMESTEAD GARDENS

www.homesteadgardens.com

Check a lot of people off your shopping list with a single visit to Homestead Gardens. You'll find an impressive inventory of gifts for plant enthusiasts, bird watchers and pet parents. Popular items in the large kids' section include Jellycat stuffed toys — the winter collection just arrived, and the store even has a few hard-to-find retired ones, too. Delight a longtime local with Maryland sports team and locally themed collectables. Or, treat someone to unique apparel or a few pairs of cozy, crazy and cute socks. The pantry and stocking stuffer collections have sweet and savory goodies for all to enjoy.

HOUCK'S MENSWEAR

1382 Cape St. Claire Road

Fine men's clothing made in the U.S. is available on the Broadneck peninsula. Stop by Houck's Menswear in Cape St. Claire to find quality suits, sportcoats, pants, shorts, shirts and more. Whether you're looking for something formal or fun, the store can help you get holiday-party ready, too, with great clothes and great customer service.

LA RUCHE

www.la-ruche.co

Everyone knows someone with an appreciation for exquisite food, and La Ruche is the place to find good, clean ingredients and gifts that will inspire them in their cook-

ing. Select from among cheeses, French butter, olive oils, vinegars and spice blends you won't find at regular grocery stores. La Ruche also offers Marky's Caviar, curated gift baskets and favorite kitchen tools. While shopping for others, you can snag the perfect pieces to complete a beautiful holiday tablescape, too.

PARK HARDWARE

www.parkhardware.com

Park Hardware has a range of products from gardening supplies to power tools for the do-it-yourself men and women on your shopping list. The store is currently expanding its fishing section to two full aisles, and fishing lures make great stocking stuffers. Another popular gift item is a Milwaukee drill and impact set, which is on sale during the holidays. Help someone make their home a haven with outdoor cooking accessories from Big Green Egg and Weber, home security devices, patio furniture and more.

SANDERS DIAMOND JEWELERS

www.sandersjewelers.com

From anklets to bangles, bracelets to earrings, necklaces to watches, and so much more, find a gift at Sanders Diamond Jewelers in Pasadena for that special someone on your list. Popular this year, Sanders has a wide selection of gold chains in stock. Make the holiday memorable with an original design or stunning diamond piece. Sanders can also personalize many gifts with custom engraving.

SAVVY CONSIGNMENT

www.savvyconsignment.com

Looking to gift affordable name-brand clothing, handbags or shoes? Find them at Savvy Consignment, along with new and gently used furniture. Or, treat yourself to your new favorite holiday outfit. Gift cards are a great option for teachers and other important people in your life, and as stocking stuffers too!

THE SUGAR SHOPPE

www.sugar-shoppe.com

The holiday season isn't complete without sweet treats to share with all. Find Christmas candy galore along with advent calendars, pajamas, slippers, Christmas party supplies, décor, toys, ornaments and oh so many stocking stuffers at the Sugar Shoppe. You can also fill treat boxes with all of your loved ones' favorite chocolate, fruity, gummy and sour candies.

Zach Sparks contributed to this article.



LA RUCHE



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Sun Nov 23 - **RAVENS 1 PM**

Thurs. Nov 27 Thanksgiving, Bar Only 7 PM, **RAVENS 8:20PM**

Sat Nov 29 - Joey Fitz 8PM

Sun Nov 30 - **COMMANDERS 8:20PM**

Fri Dec 5 - Los Extranos 8PM

Sun Dec 7 - **RAVENS 1PM & COMMANDERS 1PM**

Fri Dec 12 - Honey Sol 8PM & Ugly Sweater Party

Sat Dec 13 - Michael Miller 7PM

Sun Dec 14 - **RAVENS 1PM & COMMANDERS 1PM**

Wed Dec 17 - Open Mic Night 7PM

Fri Dec 19 - Left of Center 8PM

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Santa Sightings Around Town

BY LAUREN COWIN

Santa Claus will make frequent stops in and around Severna Park this holiday season to greet kids young and young at heart. Here is where you can expect to find him.

Santapolis: A Magical Holiday Experience At Annapolis Mall

Through December 24

2002 Annapolis Mall Road, Annapolis

Find Santa tucked away in an interactive winter wonderland at Annapolis Mall, now through Christmas Eve. Photo slots can be booked online, and walk-ups are welcome when space is available. Santapolis is located next to Crate & Barrel. Learn more and register at www.whereissanta.com/mall/0786.

Sensory friendly option: On Sunday, December 7, from 9:00am-10:30am, Santa will be available for photos prior to the mall opening, allowing for a calmer, quieter experience.

Marley Station Mall

Friday, November 21 —

Wednesday, December 24

7900 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie

The jolly man in the red suit will make his first local stop at Marley Station Mall, where you can find Santa waiting in the center court. Photo hours vary daily, but if you visit between 3:00pm and 4:00pm, you might catch Santa feeding the reindeer! Photo slots can be reserved in advance at www.whereissanta.com/mall/0310.

Garten

Saturdays, November 29 — December 20

849 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park

Stop by Garten's holiday market on Saturdays beginning November 29 and stay for brunch with Santa. Featuring local vendors, the market will run from 8:00am-11:00am, and Saint Nick's standing Saturday brunch reservation for the season is at 11:00am.

Homestead Gardens

Weekends, November 29 — December 21

522 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park

Every weekend beginning Saturday, November 29, Santa Claus will visit Homestead Gardens in Severna Park. Photos with Santa are free, but online reservations are required. Registration will open

on Mondays at 10:00am for the following week-end. Guests will serve as their own photographers, so don't forget your camera! For registration and hours, visit www.homestead-gardens.com/upcoming-events.

Santa Paws: Pet parents are invited to bring their furry companions to Homestead Gardens in Severna Park for photos with Santa on Thursday, December 4, from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Again, bring your own camera.

Greater Severna Park And Arnold Chamber Of Commerce Tree Lighting

Friday, December 5

1 Holly Avenue, Severna Park

Gather with your neighbors for the annual chamber of commerce tree-lighting celebration on Friday, December 5, at 5:00pm. Enjoy music, dance performances and refreshments as the community officially kicks off the holiday season. Both Santa and his longtime wannabe foil, the Grinch, will be onsite and available for photos.

Kinder Farm Park Jingle Bell Hayride

Saturday, December 6

1001 Kinder Farm Park Road, Millersville

Join Santa and Mrs. Claus at Kinder Farm Park on Saturday, December 6, for Kinder Farm Park's annual Jingle Bell Hayride. The event runs from 10:00am-1:00pm, with hayrides every half hour. The cost is \$10 per person. Children ages 2 and under can participate for free, and children 10 and under must attend with an adult. Guests are encouraged to bring a clothing, toy, toiletry or baby item for Giving Back, Linda's Legacy. Reserve your spot and learn more about the donation drive at www.kinderfarmpark.org.

Cookies And Cocoa With Claus At Children's Theatre Of Annapolis

Saturday, December 6

1661 Bay Head Road, Annapolis

Celebrate the magic of Christmas with the jolly man himself at Children's Theatre Of Annapolis. Guests can enjoy cookies, hot cocoa and a story time. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and all attendees must purchase tickets in advance. Cookies and Cocoa with Claus will run from 11:00am-12:30pm, and tickets are available at www.ticketleap.events/tickets/cta-md/santa25.

Continued on page 11



Santa Sightings Around Town

Fence & Deck Connection's Annual Holiday Drive

Saturday, December 6

8057 Veterans Highway, Millersville

Fence & Deck Connection is kicking off December for a cause with its 19th annual holiday drive, Operation Elf Adventure, on Saturday, December 6, from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Enjoy sweet treats, a skating rink, games, crafts and holiday carols. Santa will join in on the fun and be available for photos. Guests are encouraged to bring a new-with-tags children's clothing item or toy to be donated to the Blue Ribbon Project.

Saturdays With Santa At Himmel's Landscape And Garden Center

Saturdays, December 6 and 13

4347 Mountain Road, Pasadena

Visit with Santa and his mini horse, Hershey, at Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center's Saturdays with Santa in mid-December. Santa will arrive at noon on December 6 and 10:00am on December 13. Both events run until 4:00pm. Attendees can look forward to a vendor market, food trucks, hot cocoa and face painting. Learn more at www.himmelsgardencenter.com.

Cookies And Cocoa With Santa At The Severna Park Community Center

Friday, December 12

623 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park

Shop local vendors, sip on hot cocoa and snap a photo with Santa at the Severna Park Community Center on Friday, December 12, from 5:00pm-8:00pm. This event is free to the community and will include festive treats, a movie, a holiday photo booth and crafts. Learn more at www.spccommunitycenter.org/events.

Santa On The B&A Trail

Saturday, December 13

Short on time? No problem. Jolly Old Saint Nick will travel the county trails on Saturday, December 13, offering candy canes and quick hellos. Plan your jog or bike ride around these expected Santa sighting times along the B&A Trail: Jones Station Road at 9:00am, Hatton-Regester Green at 9:45am, and 1:00pm at the Earleigh Heights Ranger Station. Catch Santa as he traverses the Broadneck Peninsula Trail at the Broadneck Library at 10:15am. Santa and his helpers will be

collecting nonperishable food items for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. In the event of rain, this event will be held at the Earleigh Heights Ranger Station from 9:00am-noon.

Breakfast With Santa And The Grinch At Severna Park Baptist Church

Sunday, December 14

506 Benfield Road, Severna Park

Severna Park Baptist Church invites the community to come out for breakfast with Santa and the Grinch on Sunday, December 14, at 9:15am. The morning of "giggles, grins and gospel truth" is free, but registration is required. All are invited to stay for the 10:45am worship service. To register, visit tinyurl.com/santaandgrinchspbc.

Santa On The Magothy

Sunday, December 14

Donnelly's Dockside:

1050 Deep Creek Avenue, Arnold

The Point Crab House & Grill:

700 Mill Creek Road, Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will embrace the local culture and ditch the sleigh in favor of a boat on Sunday, December 14. They will make stops at Donnelly's Dockside restaurant from noon-1:00pm and The Point Crab House & Grill from 2:00pm-3:00pm.

EHVFC Cookies & Cocoa With Santa

Sunday, December 14

161 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is hosting Santa for cookies and cocoa on Sunday, December 14, from 2:00pm-4:00pm at the firehouse. Entry is free, and printed photos with Santa will be available for \$5. Crafts and activities will be available while supplies last. Learn more at www.ehvfc.org.

Cookies, Bookies & SANTA At Park Books

Saturday, December 20

555 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park

Families are invited to join Santa for an evening of crafts, cookies and story time at Park Books on December 20 from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Each child will have a chance to visit and take a photo with Santa, and will also take home a signed copy of the book "How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?" This is a ticketed event, with proceeds benefiting Gold In Fight, a local nonprofit that supports families facing pediatric cancer. For tickets and more information, visit www.parkbooksmmd.com/events. ■

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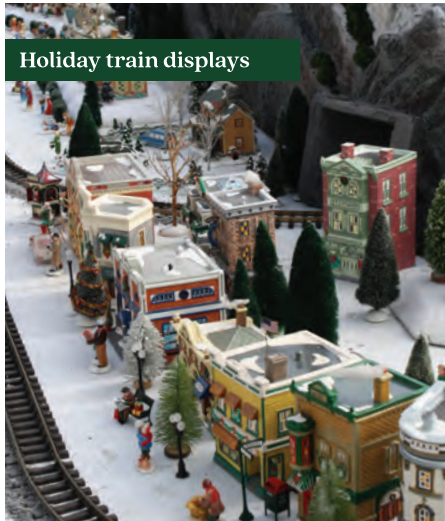
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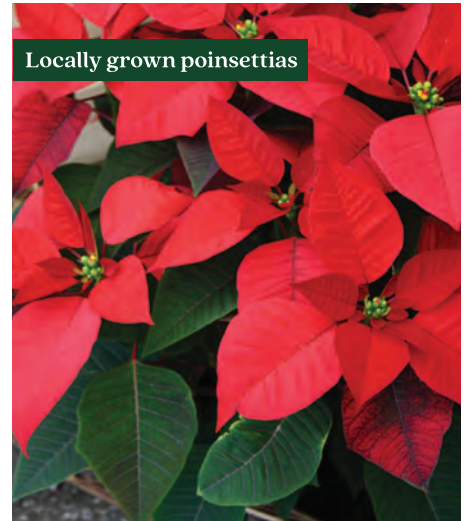
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Fence & Deck Connection Gives Back

With 19th Annual Holiday Drive: Operation Elf Adventure

By Nicole Bailey

Fence & Deck Connection

Helping homeowners make backyard memories is our greatest strength at Fence & Deck Connection, but giving back to our neighbors in need has and will continue to be a significant cornerstone of our company. Since day one, we've maintained the philosophy of giving back to the communities and customers we serve.

As we enter the season of giving, we are excited to announce our 19th annual holiday drive: Operation Elf Adventure, taking place on December 6 from 4:00pm-7:00pm at our Millersville location (8057 Veterans Highway). Our very own Tiny Hands, Big Hearts Elf Training Camp allows you to step into a world of magic and train to become an official elf! Journey through our Elf Village filled with festive fun, games and holiday cheer.

This joyous holiday event is also sponsored by our industry partners, Trex, YellaWood, Culpeper and Snavelly Forest Products, and it will directly benefit The Blue Ribbon Project.

The local organization offers several programs directly serving children who are the victims of child abuse and neglect as well as adult survivors of child abuse.

Admission to our holiday drive is completely free, although we will be collecting new (with tags) children's toys and clothing items at the entrance. Currently, The Blue Ribbon Project's greatest needs are tween (size 10-18) non-fleece pajamas, night-lights and toys. Donations are highly recommended and will directly support local children in need during the holiday season.

All attendees will be able to receive a free photo with Santa; enjoy free sweet treats and hot cocoa from T & J Waffles, a Laurel-based food truck and carryout storefront specializing in homemade waffles; and take a ride in our Polar Express. Guests can also enjoy our outdoor skating rink, gingerbread maze, face painting, crafts, games and more!

Bring your dancing shoes and jingle bells to sing along to holiday classics and current tunes by our DJ, or just cozy up by the bonfire

and watch your favorite holiday movie clips.

In addition to working with local organizations such as Warrior Events, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, Anne Arundel County SPCA, and many local sports and church groups over the years, Fence & Deck Connection has been proud to partner closely with The Blue Ribbon Project for more than a decade. Both the Annapolis and Millersville locations are drop-off locations for the organization's Backpacks of Love program, targeted toward children of all ages entering the foster care system. Donated backpacks include things such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, children's soap and body wash, children's shampoo, changes of clothing for the child's age, personal clothing (underwear, socks, pajamas), and age-appropriate books and toys.

If you would like to donate a filled backpack, visit Fence & Deck Connection in Annapolis (1544 Whitehall Road) or Millersville (8057 Veterans Highway).

If you'd like to give yourself a gift this upcoming holiday season, don't forget — Fence & Deck Connection installs year-round. Beat the spring rush and call 410-757-5511 to learn more about the many fence, deck and screened porch options customizable to your needs. This November, Fence & Deck Connection will donate a portion of its project sales profits to a local food bank. ■



Please Join Us For Our 19th Annual Holiday Clothing & Toy Drive

Tiny Hands, Big Hearts: Operation Elf Adventure!

Step into a world of magic and train to become an official Elf! Journey through our Elf Village filled with festive fun, games, and holiday cheer!

Bring a Donation & Enjoy Free Family Fun!

- ✓ Free Photo with Santa!
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- ✓ Polar Express Train Rides
- ✓ Elf Maze & Snowball Throws
- ✓ Hot Chocolate & Sweet Treats
- ✓ Face Painting + Much More!

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025

4:00pm - 7:00pm



**8057 Veterans Highway
Millersville, MD 21108**



This Event Directly Benefits
THE BLUE RIBBON PROJECT
& Their Programs That Support Victims of
Child Abuse & Local Youth in Foster Care.

We are collecting new toys
& new (with tags)
children's clothing for all ages:
Greatest needs are non-fleece
pajamas for tweens (sizes 10-18),
nightlights, and toys.

Please visit our website at www.fenceanddeckconnection.com or call 410-757-5511 for more details.

Behind The Lights

Residents Deck Out Their Homes As A Gift To Neighbors



By Zach Sparks

An electric meter spins out of control, a large switch labeled “Auxiliary Nuclear” is flipped and 25,000 twinkle lights cast a glow over an entire street.

That is a famous scene from the film “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation,” but what is it really like to create a neighborhood light spectacle in 2025? Two families took the Severna Park Voice behind the curtain.

PALASIK HOUSE — 410 LIGHTS

Address: 119 Sherburn Road, Severna Park

Specs: Over 6,000 lights, with music

On Sherburn Road, three wide-eyed, toothless trees sing to onlookers each holiday season. Meanwhile, snowflakes on the windows blink in unison with lights on the roof and front lawn.



Since 2018, Eric Palasik has transformed his parents’ Severna Park home into a synchronized lights display. With a background in electrical engineering, Eric became intrigued with the idea of creating an animated light show, and he persuaded his dad, Ray Palasik, to help with other parts of the display including hanging lights on the gutters and roof.

Eric uses three controllers: one on the porch and two in the garage. All the wires snake from those spots to the yard. To connect it all, he uses a Raspberry Pi.

“A Raspberry Pi is like a minicomputer, like a hobbyist computer, and that schedules everything,” he shared.

The display is the same each year, with different songs that people can hear when turning their radios to 93.5 FM.

For Eric and Ray, the effort is all worthwhile when they receive joyful feedback.

“We have never done the letters to Santa that people put in a mailbox, but we have had people shove notes in our mailbox or our porch in children’s handwriting,” Eric said. “When my dad gets these, he screenshots them and sends them to me ... That part makes it all worth it. It’s cool to be on the other end and super gratifying.”

The show will run from 5:00pm-9:00pm daily. For updates, follow “410 Lights” on Facebook or Instagram @410Lights.

MALENA HOUSE

Address: 1049 Rustling Oaks Drive, Millersville

Specs: Estimated 10,000 to 15,000 lights



Shortly after Jim and Jeanine Malena moved to the Shipley’s Choice community in 2009, Jim started adorning their home each year for the holidays. The effort started with pine trees, wreaths, and lights strung on trees before growing into a full-scale display.

“I try to tell a story. I try to set up little scenes if I can so it’s not random,” Jim said. “The past few years, I had a broken-down pirate ship with skeletons for Halloween. I left that up and dressed the skeletons in Santa and elf costumes and have had them handing out presents.”

The Malena family won the Severna Park Voice’s 2021 holiday lights contest after readers and online followers voted the display as their favorite.

During December, red and green lights glow over the home’s brick exterior. An inflatable Santa rides down the sidewalk with his reindeer. Lights gleam from an arch over the driveway.

Jim has help from Jeanine and their three kids — ages 16, 14 and 14. Over the last few years, they have added more inflatables. For 2024, they filled their lawn with penguins sledding downhill and Charlie Brown characters.

Another recent addition: large string lights made using a creative method. “I used soda bottles, planters and foam pipes, and I spray-painted them,” Jim explained.

Jim begins work on the display by early November so that it is ready to be turned on by Thanksgiving weekend. It takes a few weeks to put together.

“I don’t do it for the gratification of the neighbors, but it’s really nice,” Jim said. “I like it to be bright. I like people to slow down and look at it and have a chuckle.” ■

BOWLING

It's Great Family Fun for the Holidays - Join Us!!

Family New Year's Eve Celebrations December 31st

Severna Park Lanes	Annapolis Bowl	Greenway Bowl
4:00-6:00pm	7:00-9:00pm	7:00-9:00pm
7:00-9:00pm	Call for more details.	

New Year's Eve 2025 Gala Celebration

December 31st • 9:30pm-1:00am

Includes: unlimited bowling, shoes, galaxy bowling, party favors, noise makers & door prizes.

Call for more details. Make your reservations now!

Includes: unlimited bowling, shoes, galaxy bowling, party favors, noise makers & door prizes. Valid at Severna Park Lanes, Greenway Bowl & Annapolis.

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410-551-7100
GoBowlingOdenton.com



Severna Park Lanes

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GoBowlingSevernaPark.com

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Intangible Gifts Provide Loved Ones With Experiences To Remember

BY MEREDITH WINTER

Wrapping paper flying through the air, ribbons landing in your hair, and tissue paper everywhere — the sometimes hectic flurry of holiday gift exchanges is an annual delight for both givers and receivers. Though for some, the intangible gift of an experience is just as much a treat — if not more — than toys, clothing or other wares. Below are places around town to consider for giving the ones you love experience-based gifts.



The Blended Essentials

www.theblendedessentials.com

Reserve a space at The Blended Essentials as a holiday gift or consider a gift certificate. The shop will host its annual BE Holiday Monday Makers Nights on December 1, 8 and 15. Participants can create personalized gifts and stocking stuffers. Craft mini candles, scrubs, bath soak ornaments, foaming hand soaps, lotions, fragrance rollers, and sprays while enjoying light snacks and refreshments.

Gotta Have HeART

www.gottahaveheartstudio.com

Give the gift of creativity and nourish imaginations with a gift card to Gotta Have HeART Studio, great for artists of all ages and skill levels. The studio offers various classes, open studio sessions, birthday parties and more. Gotta Have HeART welcomes beginners who are simply exploring their artistic side, seasoned artists, and those just looking to have fun doing creative activities with friends.



The Great American Car Wash

www.thegreatamericancarwash.com

For the loved one in your family who loves to keep their ride looking pristine, a membership to The Great American Car Wash's unlimited car wash club is the perfect gift and a great value. Or, surprise a special someone by getting their car looking new again with a full auto detailing.

iCode Severna Park

www.icodeschool.com/severna-park-md

Get your kids away from screens and devices and into an environment that both expands their imaginations and grows their skills by registering them for a class at iCode Severna Park. There, children can engage in hands-on coding classes and STEM education in a classroom environment that offers the latest hardware including gaming computers, 3D printers, robotics and drones.

Image Creators

www.imagecreatorssalonandspa.com

Self-care is both essential and a great gift, and a gift card to Image Creators Salon and Spa can help your loved one feel better through a variety of treatments and services. Image Creators' new moor mud body treatment is beneficial for detoxing, dry skin, psoriasis and inflammation, and its aromatic salt glow is an excellent way to fully exfoliate the body, leaving skin soft and revitalized. Spa services include nail care, massage therapy and more.

Jing Ying Institute Of Kung Fu & Tai Chi

www.jingying.org

Do you know someone interested in learning self-defense through a mar-

tial art? Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi offers kung fu classes for both children and adults, as well as tai chi classes. Available online, gift cards can be redeemed for pro shop goods, tuition or other services. Jing Ying hosts kung fu birthday parties, too.

Play Street Museum

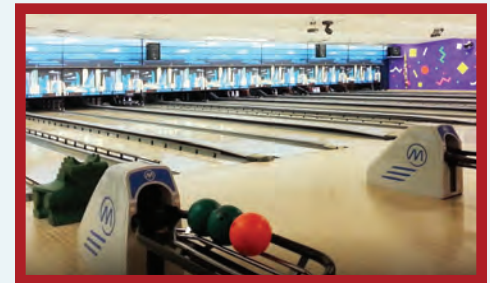
www.severnapark.playstreetmuseum.com

Located in the Park Plaza shopping center, Play Street Museum offers engaging and educational activities for toddlers and children up to 8 years old. Families can come for playtime, parties, special events and craft times. Visit the Play Street Museum website to purchase a five-visit punch pass or single play pass for your kids to enjoy a fun day out of the house.

Rolly Pollies

www.rollypolliesmaryland.com

Aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends can give the special kiddos in their lives the gift of "funtastic fitness" with a gift card to Rolly Pollies. The gym offers open playtime, classes, birthday parties and more. Whether gifting a single hour of open play, a kids' night out, an open-play pass, or a full nine-week gym class, Rolly Pollies has something for every child.



Severna Park Lanes

www.gobowlingsevernapark.com

Galaxy bowling, birthday parties, a full bar, food, cosmic bowling — Severna Park Lanes has a lot to offer in addition to the classic favorites of duckpin and tenpin bowling. Gift cards are a great gift for anyone, any age, who enjoys a fun — and perhaps competitive — time out with friends and family. ■

Enjoy Catering And Private Parties At Restaurants Around Town

By Jaina Peveto

W

hether you're longing for lasagna or begging for brunch, between catering options and private spaces for parties, restaurants around town offer many options to bring tasty Christmas cheer to your holidays.

CAFE MEZZANOTTE

Cafe Mezzanotte offers party platter trays for anyone interested in catering events. Owner Kosmas "Tommie" Koukoulis recommended the restaurant's lasagna trays. Cafe Mezzanotte's private dining options include buffet and plated event packages, hors d'oeuvres and dessert add-ons, and full-service bar options. Event hosts can also take advantage of private dining spaces and banquet rooms. The restaurant also provides off-premises custom catering.

CHICK-FIL-A

Chick-fil-A offers nugget trays, sandwich trays, wrap trays, grilled chicken trays and more. During the holiday season, the store is offering a free gallon of tea for every preordered large cold nugget tray.

The restaurant's catering can be ordered the same day as an event. Chick-fil-A is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas, so all holiday orders must be picked up the day before. Chick-fil-A is open from 6:30am-8:00pm on New Year's Eve, and 8:00am-8:00pm on New Year's Day.

CYPRESS RESTAURANT & BAR

While Cypress does not offer catering or have a private event space, the restaurant does have a section separated by a divider to hold larger parties. Deadlines are flexible for scheduling larger parties, but general manager Josh Malter asked that those interested in booking large parties reach out to him directly at jmalter@eatatcypress.com. Some of the restaurant's seasonal specials include a short rib grilled cheese, crispy brussels sprouts and smoked burrata.

DONUT SHACK

Donut Shack offers online preordering. For orders of 18 dozen or more doughnuts, the staff requests they be ordered at least five days ahead of time. Donut Shack will close for Christmas but is typically open 24 hours a day.

During the holiday season, some doughnuts will feature Christmas-themed sprinkles in red, green and white, and Thanksgiving time offers themed sprinkles as well. Donut Shack will keep serving its pumpkin cream cheese through winter, and apple cider donut holes will likely make a more regular appearance during the holiday season.

FIREHOUSE SUBS

Firehouse Subs' catering is available year-round for any home, office or family events. Its catering options include two platters: the Standard, with single meats, and Deluxe, with double meats. Catering salad options are also available. Half platters with a salad or with a snack are on the catering menu as well. Add-on platter packs include chips, cookies, brownies and drinks.

FOUNDERS TAVERN & GRILLE

Founders co-owner Steve Sumner recommended fried chicken as a great catering option, but the restaurant offers almost its entire menu for catering, "from pizza to meatloaf to pastas," Sumner said. The staff can prepare specialty items, like baked ziti, and curate menus for holiday parties.

Speaking of parties, the dining room can seat up to 60 guests and comfortably serves parties of 30 people or fewer. Event hosts can request a limited menu, a limited bar menu or cash bar.

For large parties, reservations should be made at least one week in advance. For large catering, pickup or curbside orders, the Founders staff asks for 24 hours of notice. The restaurant is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, so plan ahead if ordering meals for those occasions.

GARTEN

Garten has options for both offsite catering and onsite parties. The standard deadline for catering minimums and restaurant space reservations is 10 days out, though that timeline can be flexible, especially during the busy holiday season. Garten offers various types of platters, which serve eight to 10 people.

Those interested in celebrating the holidays with Garten should make plans sooner than later, as the restaurant is closed Tuesday, December 23, through Friday, December 26.

JB's

JB's asks that people call the restaurant to arrange catering, and the staff needs a day or two of notice in advance. The restaurant has space for large parties, though it isn't private. JB's is open on Thanksgiving for the Ravens game and will be open on Christmas Eve, but the restaurant is closed on Christmas Day. JB's current feature menu, which runs through December, includes garlic knots, a French onion burger, a peppermint shake, chicken enchilada soup, and Saturday and Sunday brunch features.

LEDO PIZZA

Ledo Pizza's catering menu is designed for anyone looking to hold a party or event. Pizzas are available with a variety of toppings. Specialty gluten-free pizzas can be catered as well. Other options include starters, wings and tenders, salads, pasta, sub platters, beverages and desserts. Ledo Pizza also has multiple sauces and dressings available for purchase.

While Ledo Pizza doesn't have a private event space in its Severna Park location, the Millersville Ledo Pizza has a separate dining room that can be reserved. Deadlines for reserving that space are flexible.



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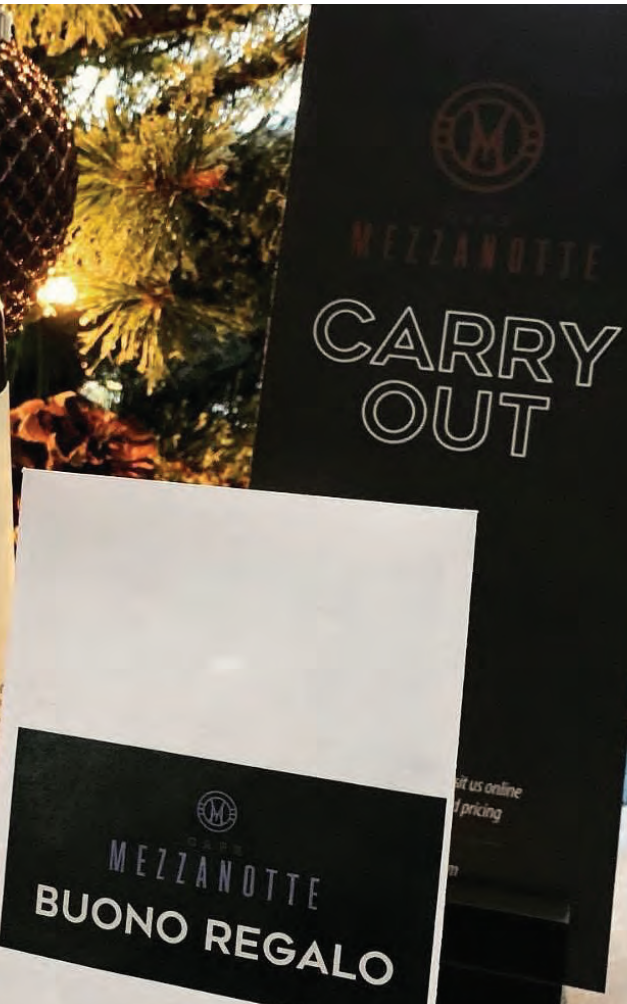
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Enjoy Catering And Private Parties At Restaurants Around Town

LIBATIONS

Libations has three private event spaces that accommodate various party sizes, and offers breakfast, lunch and dinner options, though December booking is already filling quickly. To hold a private event or party at Libations, go to www.libationstavern.com and fill out the event inquiry form.

Every Saturday, Libations holds a seasonal chef showcase, which features a three-course menu for \$50. The showcased meal changes from week to week, but upcoming weeks will be geared toward autumn and winter specials.

PARK TAVERN

Park Tavern has an area in the front of the restaurant that people can block off for private parties, although it comes with a room charge or check minimum. If possible, it's best to reserve the space by the beginning of December, as slots fill up quickly.

Park Tavern will be closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas, but the restaurant will be open on Christmas Eve, as well as on Black Friday for brunch. The chefs change the restaurant's features every few weeks.

Festive Flavors Beverages For The Season

To add some additional cheer to your holiday meal, consider these seasonal drinks recommended by restaurants.

MARTHA'S RUM PUNCH

In honor of the United States' original first lady, Martha Washington, Founders Tavern & Grill serves Martha's rum punch. The recipe includes white rum, dark rum, orange curacao, fresh squeezed orange and lemon, nutmeg cinnamon and clove-infused simple syrup, garnished with a cinnamon stick and lemon wheel, all served in a silver julep cup.

SEÑOR CHILE

Señor Chile offers both taco and fajita trays as catering options. The taco tray options include 10, 20 or 30 tacos, and the fajita trays can come with a side of rice or beans. A build-your-own taco option is also available, and it comes with tortillas, toppings and meat on the side so that people can customize their tacos. Catering does not have to be ordered far in advance, as orders can be placed with about a day's notice or even on the same day as the event that is being catered.

While the Severna Park location does not have a private event space, private events can be reserved for the Arnold location with a deadline of about a week in advance.

SEVERNA PARK TAPHOUSE

Severna Park Taphouse offers customized catering and buffet options. The restaurant's staff asks that catering is ordered with at least eight hours' notice. Owner and General Manager Jessica Tinordi highlighted wings and crab balls as party tray options, explaining that they "are perfect for football tailgate parties." Severna Park Taphouse also has a private event space for holiday parties, birthdays and special gatherings.

BEER TO CIDER

Cypress Restaurant & Bar has a host of drinks on tap and behind the bar. "We also have a new pumpkin ale draft (we feature local, craft drafts) and a holiday vanilla cinnamon spiced cider, a live-smoked maple old fashioned, and a true 'Bloody Mary-lander,' featuring Maryland's own George's organic vodka and George's spicy Bloody Mary cocktail," said Josh Malter, general manager of Cypress Restaurant & Bar.

FROM THE SHELF

In case you want a beverage that is ready to go, Fishpaws Marketplace offered the following list of suggestions:

Thanksgiving wines: rose, rieslings, gewurztraminer from New York or Alsace, pinot noirs

Pumpkin beers and winter beers: Tröegs Mad Elf, Brooklyn Brewery black chocolate stout, Sam Adams Old Fezziwig, Sam Adams holiday combo 12 packs

Thanksgiving spirits: Fulton's pumpkin spiced cream, pumpkin vodka for martinis

December wines: sparkling, champagne, cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, pinot noir, French burgundies

December spirits: peppermint vodka for martinis, peppermint cream liqueurs, Fishpaws single barrel selections, eggnog, Jack Winter Spice

SUGAR SHOPPE

The Sugar Shoppe's catering services can be decorated or personalized to accommodate outside events. The store can also make candy boards with holiday candy and create individual candy bags as a to-go treat or party favor.

For anyone interested in enjoying holiday festivities within the store itself, Sugar Shoppe offers private parties at the shop, including Mom's Night Out, shopping events and children's birthday parties. People can reserve the space for groups of adults or kids, and they are welcome to bring their own refreshments or enjoy refreshments provided by the shop. Sugar Shoppe also has optional craft activities for parties. There is not a specific deadline, but as December is filling up, Sugar Shoppe co-owner Eloise Patton encouraged interested parties to make their requests as soon as possible. ■



Anne Arundel Shows And Concerts Bring

By Jaina Peveto

From ballets to concerts to musicals, there are many opportunities to celebrate the wonder of Christmas through the magic of theater. Enjoy a festive night out with friends and family and watch performances of holiday favorites such as "The Nutcracker," Handel's "Messiah" and more.

"Elf The Musical"

Presented by Toby's Dinner Theatre
Through January 4, 2026
www.tobysdinnertheatre.com



Photo courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography

In Toby's Dinner Theatre's production of a modern holiday classic, Buddy, a young orphan who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts, is transported to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy grows up among elves, but his size and poor toy-making abilities force him to face the truth. "Elf The Musical" tells the story of Buddy embarking on a journey to New York City to find his biological father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

"The Nutcracker"

Presented by Ballet Theatre of Maryland at Coppermine Pantherplex and Maryland Hall
November 23
December 13-21

www.balletmaryland.org/nutcracker

This holiday season, experience the world premiere of Annapolis' own adaptation of "The Nutcracker" with Ballet Theatre of Maryland. The familiar story takes on local significance through vibrant dancing, historic costumes and festive sets. Beloved characters like Clara, her enigmatic Uncle Drosselmeier and the brave Nutcracker return with new depth as their stories weave into the history of 19th-century Annapolis.

"White Christmas"

Presented by Classic Theatre of Maryland
November 28 — December 28
www.classictheatremaryland.org

Join Classic Theatre of Maryland (CTM) for a beloved holiday classic brought to life onstage. "White Christmas" follows two World War II veterans who team up with a sister act to save a failing Vermont inn, spreading love, laughter and the timeless magic of the season — complete with Irving Berlin's unforgettable songs and dazzling dance numbers.

Trident Brass Holiday Concert

Presented by the United States Naval Academy
December 3
navyperforms.showare.com

The U.S. Naval Academy Band Superintendent's Combo and the Trident Brass Jazz Ensemble will present an evening of holiday jazz. Presented in collaboration with the academy's musical activities department and the Naval Academy Band, the concert will include timeless, festive classics in the yuletide repertoire for both small and large jazz band settings. Featured soloists will include all the members of the Superintendent's Combo and the vocalists of Trident Brass.

"A Christmas Carol"

Presented by Classic Theatre of Maryland
December 4-27
www.classictheatremaryland.org

Experience the timeless story of redemption and holiday spirit in CTM's original adaptation by Sally Boyett and Donald Hicken. Follow Ebenezer Scrooge on his journey from miserly cynicism to heartfelt generosity, brought to life with memorable characters, festive cheer and the magic of Christmas.

"DFC's Holiday Cabaret"

Presented by Children's Theatre of Annapolis
December 5
www.ticketleap.events/events/cta-md

Children's Theatre of Annapolis will hold its third annual DFC's Holiday Cabaret on December 5 from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Named in honor of CTA community member Darrell F. Conley after his passing in 2023, the cabaret will honor his memory and bring Christmas cheer with beloved holiday classics.

Winter Dance Concert

Presented by AACC Dance Company
December 5-6
www.aacc.edu/calendar

Anne Arundel Community College Dance Company invites audiences to a winter dance concert that reimagines "The Nutcracker Suite" with both Duke Ellington's swinging jazz suite and Tchaikovsky's timeless music. The program opens with original works created and performed by company dancers, showcasing fresh voices and vibrant choreography. The evening concludes with "Suite Dreams: Clara's Return," where audiences journey with Clara back to a cherished place from her childhood.

"Wonder and Glory" Christmas Concert

Presented by Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church
December 6
www.woodstix.org

The "Wonder and Glory" Christmas concert will include the adult choir, praise band, SEEK band, children's choir, Woods dancers, Elysian Dance Theater, guest musicians and members of the Woods family telling the stories of their Christmas treasures. They will sing popular Christmas carols and enjoy the sounds and the music of the season. This concert is free, but registration is required.

Handel's "Messiah"

Presented by the United States Naval Academy
December 6-7
navyperforms.showare.com



Photo courtesy of USNA Music Department

Continuing a longtime tradition, the United States Naval Academy (USNA) Glee Club combines with professional orchestra and world-class soloists to present selections from Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday and Sunday. Conducted by Aaron Smith, USNA director of musical activities, this elegant concert has been broadcast on public television stations both regionally and nationwide.

Holiday Cheer To The Stage

Benfield Brass Holiday Concert

Presented by Benfield Brass Band at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

December 7

[Benfield Brass Band on Facebook](#)

Benfield Brass will perform a variety of holiday favorites at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church on December 7 at 7:00pm. The concert is free and open to the public. The band is a nonprofit volunteer organization consisting of about 35 members.

"The Nutcracker"

Presented by The Dance Center at Severna Park Community Center; held at Severna Park High School

December 7

www.spcommunitycenter.org/events

Step into the magical world of sugar plum fairies and toy soldiers this season. The Dance Center at Severna Park Community Center invites you to experience the enchanting tale of "The Nutcracker." Perfect for the whole family, this timeless classic will spark your imagination, touch your heart, and transport you to a winter wonderland like no other.

"Celebration of Christmas"

Presented by Live Arts Maryland at Maryland Hall

December 12

www.liveartsmd.org/celebrationofchristmas

Live Arts Maryland not only decks the halls but also floods them with sound. "Celebration of Christmas" brings snow-dusted harmonies and velvet brass to Maryland Hall, featuring classic holiday favorites. Think "White Christmas" meets "Sleigh Ride" — plus a sing-along led by Maestro J. Ernest Green.

"A Merry Mix-Up"

Presented by The Talent Machine Company

December 12-23

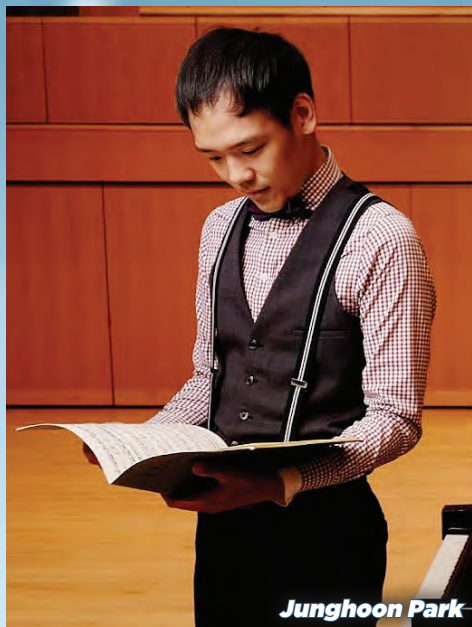
www.talentmachine.com

A high-energy musical revue, Talent Machine's annual holiday production, "A Merry Mix-Up," will feature Rudolf, elves, Frosty the Snowman and, of course, the illustrious Santa himself. The annual holiday spectacular is celebrating 38 years of magic. This year's cast of 54 kids ages 7-18 come from across Central Maryland and represent more than 20 area schools and the home-schooled community.

"Winter Daydreams" Piano Recital

Presented by Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 13



Junghoon Park

Join Woods Church pianist and organist Junghoon Park for a recital on December 13 at 2:00pm. The program features "Chaconne" by Bach/Busoni, the complete "Études" Opus 10 by Chopin, and "The Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikovsky/Pletnev. The event is free, and registration is not required. A love offering will be collected to support the Woods music ministry.

"Christmas Brass"

Presented by the Big Brass Band of Northern Virginia at Severna Park United Methodist Church

December 13

Comprised of 30 of the Washington D.C. metro area's finest brass and percussion players, the Big Brass Band of Northern Virginia will present a festive program blending sacred and secular selections — from cherished carols and hymns to sparkling arrangements of seasonal favorites — all performed in the rich, resonant sound of the traditional British-style brass band. Welcome the holidays with family members, friends and live music on Saturday, December 13, at 7:00pm. The concert is free with a freewill offering option at the door.

"The Nutcracker"

Presented by the Chesapeake Ballet Company at Children's Theatre of Annapolis

December 13-21

chesapeakeballetcompany.ludus.com

Chesapeake Ballet Company is celebrating 21 enchanting seasons of "The Nutcracker." Step into a world of dancing snowflakes, battling mice, and sugarplum dreams in this beloved holiday tradition. This year's production features stunning new choreography, exquisite costumes and a cast of talented local dancers.

Holiday Pops

Presented by the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra at various locations

December 19-21

www.annapolissymphony.org/events

Get ready to experience one of the most beloved traditions in Annapolis — the annual Holiday Pops concert hosted by the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (ASO). This festive season, join the ASO and its 70 world-class musicians as they bring the joy, beauty and warmth of the holidays to life with a dazzling mix of classic carols and heartwarming holiday tunes. The Bowie State University concert choir will join the ASO for performances at Maryland Hall and Bowie State University. The December 20 performance will be held at Severna Park High School.

Handel's "Messiah"

Presented by Live Arts Maryland at St. Anne's Episcopal Church

December 20-21

www.liveartsmd.org/messiah

Experience the awe and beauty of the season with the Annapolis Chorale's candlelight performances of Handel's "Messiah" at the historic St. Anne's Episcopal Church. Under the baton of J. Ernest Green, joined by stellar soloists and the acclaimed Annapolis Chamber Orchestra, this beloved oratorio comes to life surrounded by the warm glow of candlelight and the rich acoustics of St. Anne's. ■

Sharing Time, Talent And Treasure Together

By Judy Tacyn

After the latest tech device, favorite athlete jersey, or hottest toy of the season has been purchased and wrapped, some local families are looking for gifts without price tags that are as valuable to give as they are to receive. Charitable organizations are stretched thin this holiday season as many see an increase in families needing assistance.

With more people to serve, the need for volunteers and donors also increases, and many organizations would love your family to help them help our neighbors make the holiday season just a little bit brighter.

If your family, group or team is looking for a way to serve together, to give a gift that truly comes from the heart and can ease another's stress, you may want to consider partnering with one of these local organizations that are working hard to make the holidays merry for everyone.

GIVING BACK – LINDA'S LEGACY

One of the largest mass mobilization of volunteers in Maryland is the annual Giving Back – Linda's Legacy (GBLL) homeless drive, with Christmas Eve deliveries of 3,000 backpacks, clothes, food, and supplies to people experiencing homelessness and shelters in Baltimore and across Maryland. More than 500 volunteers are needed to accomplish this amazing feat.

There are many ways to assist:

Backpack Program – Gather, sort and pack supplies to fill backpacks. Assembly dates and times are flexible.

Toiletry Drive – Donate to, set up a drive, or sort and pack travel-size hygiene items that will be collected in Severna Park just before Christmas.

Coat and Clothing Drive – GBLL needs new or gently used warm coats and clothing for all ages, sizes and genders delivered to a collection site by late December.

Cakes and Cookies – Imagine a holiday without sweet treats. For many Anne Arundel County residents, providing a meal on the table is challenging, so a home-made dessert with family is a gift made possible by

donations. Homemade cakes and cookies are collected just before Christmas and are delivered to shelters and families on Christmas Eve.

Cards – An unexpected holiday card from a stranger with well wishes, encouragement and prayers offers an immediate and emotional connection. Store-bought cards or a handmade card from a child can make the recipient and the giver feel amazing.

Christmas Eve Backpack Deliveries – After volunteers have worked for weeks to collect, sort and pack, volunteers set out in caravans following delivery trucks to their assigned destinations on Christmas Eve. This is perfect for families and teens. The joy on the faces of those receiving these basic necessities is unforgettable.

Two nearby places to drop off donations for the GBLL drive are Kinder Farm Park's Jingle Bell Hayride event on December 6 (www.kinderfarmpark.org) and Phronesis Wealth Management's office through December 12 (www.phronesiswealthmanagement.com/events).

For a full list of hands-on volunteering opportunities with GBLL, go to www.homelessdrive.org.

"Volunteering with Linda's Legacy has become a cherished Christmas tradition for our family. It's our way of keeping the season focused on compassion and service, reminding ourselves, and especially our kids, that giving is at the heart of Christmas. My husband and I have seen how powerful it is for our children to step into someone else's shoes and understand that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Serving together deepens our connection as a family and reinforces the values we hope to pass on."

— KAREN CLAYTON, SEVERNA PARK RESIDENT AND LONGTIME GBLL VOLUNTEER

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

It's likely you've passed the red barn with the cross on it on East-West Boulevard near Veterans Highway without realizing it's one of 27 national branches of the international nonprofit Orphan Grain Train (OGT). The barn houses shelving filled to the ceiling with clothing, medical equipment and supplies, and so much more to be sent via shipping containers to people in need all over the U.S. and the world. No matter what time of year it is, OGT collects the same items. And when those items come in, they need to be sorted and packed, something

that families with teens can always help with.

If you or your family can help sort donations, check www.ogt.org/branches/md for hours of operation. Other ways to help are by organizing neighborhood clothing and supply drives.

"Right now, there is a coat drive, and coats will be distributed to those in need in inner-city Baltimore. Money is always needed, as shipping and operating costs are most expensive."

— LINDA ZAHN, BOARD MEMBER AT ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN



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November 28-December 26



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Sharing Time, Talent And Treasure Together

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. John the Evangelist Chapter in Severna Park, will feed nearly 100 families with complete Christmas dinners and provide qualified parents with \$25 gift cards to purchase Christmas gifts for their children through the annual

Giving Tree program. The all-volunteer organization provides year-round housing, medical and other necessary financial support to people through community donations. Families or individuals looking to support St. Vincent de Paul can organize food or toiletry drives, make financial and nonperishable food donations, or purchase Giving Tree gift cards at bit.ly/svdpgive.

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods)

Maia Grabau, director of operations at SPAN, said the number of people experiencing hardship coming to SPAN in 2025 has significantly increased, and the need for community involvement has never been greater.

This season, SPAN will support the parents of more than 450 local children by providing Christmas gifts. Of those children, identified with the assistance of Anne Arundel County Public Schools guidance counselors in elementary schools, 150 are students in the Severna Park area.

Grabau provided the following ideas for families looking to give back to their community:

- Organize a food, toiletry or grocery gift card drive in your neighborhood
- Have children create a birthday bag filled with their favorite items and a birthday cake mix
- Sponsor a family to provide holiday food, gifts and clothing
- Sign up to provide dinner boxes
- Volunteer in person.

For a full list of opportunities to give back through SPAN, go to www.spanhelps.org or email spanhelps@yahoo.com.

"There are many ways families can help SPAN client families. (The people being helped could be neighbors in need)." — **MAIA GRABAU, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AT SPAN**

WALK THE WALK FOUNDATION

Many elf hands make for light work, and at Walk The Walk Foundation (WTWF), the season is all about children. Whether your family can sort gifts, assemble bicycles, or shop for toys, the Walk The Walk "workshop" in Millersville is the place to be. The non-profit exists "to bless children in need by empowering individuals to serve through their time, talents and treasures." Over 20 years, its mission has inspired countless

families and individuals to volunteer, and the team is in need of helping hands again this year.

Consider sponsoring a child or family with gifts, or helping with assembly and distribution. Find sponsorship and volunteering information at www.wtwf.org.

"We are really passionate about families helping families," said Executive Director Nicole Dolan, "so we try to make our website easy to use and to offer as many opportunities as possible to families who want to help."

"We are really passionate about families helping families," said Executive Director Nicole Dolan, "so we try to make our website easy to use and to offer as many opportunities as possible to families who want to help."

— **NICOLE DOLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT WALK THE WALK FOUNDATION**

SERVING BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER

"Even before children learn the real meaning of Christmas, the holiday season is a perfect opportunity for parents to teach their children the tremendous value of helping those less fortunate. The anticipation of Christmas and the birth of our savior is a feeling that families can have all year long when they work together to ease the burden of others. The spirit of giving isn't just for Christmas, and it truly is that in giving we receive."

— **RUTH GORSKI, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Celebrate Christmas With Worship Services Around Town



Churches of various denominations across the greater Severna Park area are planning worship services to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All services below are scheduled for Wednesday, December 24, unless otherwise noted. For more information about a particular church or its services and events, visit that church online.

Anchor Baptist Church

320 West Pasadena Road
Millersville
7:00pm - Christmas
Eve service

Antioch, The Apostolic Church

1535 Ritchie Highway
Arnold

Sunday, December 21

10:00am - Christmas
worship service

Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church

429 Asbury Drive
Severna Park

Sunday, December 21

9:00am - Christmas
cantata

Asbury United Methodist Church

78 Church Road, Arnold
4:00pm - Children's
Christmas Eve service
7:00pm - Family candlelight
Christmas Eve service

Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church

235 Bay Dale Drive, Arnold
6:30pm - Christmas Eve
candlelight service

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

8249 Jumpers Hole Road
Millersville

2:00pm - Christmas
Eve service

5:00pm - Christmas
Eve service

11:00pm - Christmas
Eve service

College Parkway Baptist Church

301 College Parkway, Arnold

6:00pm - Christmas
Eve service

CrossPointe Church

365 Jones Station Road
Arnold
6:00pm - Christmas Eve
candlelight service

Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church

461 College Parkway, Arnold
4:00pm - Family service
with communion
8:00pm - Candlelight
service with communion

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

400 Benfield Road
Severna Park

4:00pm - Family
Christmas Eve service
7:00pm - Candlelight
Christmas Eve service

Saints Baptist Church

160 Truck House Road
Severna Park

5:00pm - Traditional family
candlelight service

Come visit us at Trinity Bible Church!

December 24th

**Christmas Eve
Party - 6pm**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service - 7pm**

*Nursery Available During Service
No Reservation Required*

**Experience God.
Find Community.
Fulfill Your Purpose.**



**Weekly Worship
Service**

**meets every
Sunday - 11am**



99 Truck House Road, Severna Park, MD 21146

www.trinitysevernapark.org



St. John the Evangelist

689 Ritchie Highway

Severna Park (unless otherwise noted)

4:00pm - Christmas Eve mass

4:00pm - Christmas Eve mass

(at Severna Park High School)

6:00pm - Christmas Eve mass

8:00pm - Christmas Eve mass

Midnight - Christmas Eve mass

Thursday, December 25

9:00am - Christmas Day mass

11:00am - Christmas Day mass

Severna Park Baptist Church

506 Benfield Road, Severna Park

6:30pm - Christmas Eve service

Severna Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church

110 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena

6:00pm - Christmas Eve service

8:00pm - Christmas Eve service

Severna Park United Methodist Church

731 Benfield Road, Severna Park

3:00pm - Children's service

and pageant

5:00pm - Family service

and pageant

7:00pm - Festival service

(featuring Baltimore Brass)

9:00pm - Festival service

(featuring Baltimore Brass)

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

375 Benfield Road, Severna Park

4:30pm - Christmas Eve

service with pageant

9:00pm - Christmas Eve service

Thursday, December 25

10:00am - Christmas Day

service

Trinity Bible Church

99 Truck House Road,

Severna Park

6:00pm-6:45pm - Christmas

Eve party

7:00pm - Christmas Eve

candlelight service

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

611 Baltimore Annapolis

Boulevard, Severna Park

3:00pm - Family Christmas

pageant service

4:00pm - Family service

6:00pm - Contemporary

candlelight service

8:00pm - Candlelight service

with special music

10:00pm - Traditional

candlelight service with

communion ■

Menorah Lightings And Services To Celebrate Hanukkah

Observed with a nightly menorah lighting, prayers and special foods, the eight-day Jewish holiday of Hanukkah will begin on the eve of December 14 and conclude on December 22. This "festival of lights" commemorates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem.

The local Jewish community will celebrate with a parade of light on December 14 that will arrive at City Dock in Annapolis around 5:45pm. Hosted by the Chabad of Anne Arundel County, which is led by Rabbi Nochum Light, the event will include kindling a large menorah and offer latkes, doughnuts and warm beverages. The parade of light is free and open to all. RSVP at www.chabadaac.com/chanukahparade.

In Arnold, Temple Beth Shalom will hold a Hanukkah bazaar on December 7 from 9:00am-1:00pm and December 8 from 9:00am-11:00am. Rabbi Ari Goldstein will host a Hanukkah program on December 14 at 10:00am. On December 19, congregants can bring a menorah for the 7:00pm Shabbat Zimra Hanukkah service. Learn more at www.annapolistemple.org. ■



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Holiday Pops

December 20

Severna Park High School | 3:00 pm

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What Is Christmas All About?

While Christmas is celebrated today by Christians and non-Christians alike in many diverse ways, its origin story is found in the birth of Jesus. With the holiday approaching, the Severna Park Voice staff reached out to several local church leaders for their words of wisdom regarding a common question:

WHAT ARE THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS?

"John 3:16 says, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' Christmas is a reminder that despite the many ways we have turned away from God, God still chases after us. God loved us so much that God sent his son to be the embodiment of hope, peace, joy and love. And God's love is never-ending, never changing, and always available to us."

Reverend Tori Butler

Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church

"Two thousand years ago, God revealed himself to humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. That God would humble himself and become human and then pay for our sins on the cross is an awe-inspiring act. He changed the world then, and he continues to change lives today. 'Whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). Jesus invites us, 'Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28).

Pastor Dan Allen

College Parkway Baptist Church

"Christmas is about the greatest gift we could ever receive — the incarnation of the son of God. When Jesus took on flesh, he did so to live the life we could never live and die the death we all deserved to die. Thus, during Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our savior, who overcame our greatest sins and gives us eternal life by faith. Christmas is about the gift of Jesus. And that is worth celebrating."

Pastor Alex Bouffard

Saints Baptist Church

"When our daughter Christine was 4, she landed the role of Mary in the church's preschool Christmas pageant. She took her part so seriously that whenever she'd see a nativity scene in someone's front lawn that December, she'd proudly exclaim, 'There I am!' One of the meanings of Christmas is that we get to see ourselves as part of

God's story of love and redemption for the whole world, not as bystanders, but participants. Good tidings of great joy, indeed!"

Reverend Ron Foster

Severna Park United Methodist Church

"At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and the awesome mystery of the son of God becoming man. Christmas is all about God's amazing, pursuing love. Knowing we could never reach him on our own because of sin, he came to us! Jesus' humble birth means that our messy life is never too messy for God. Whatever the mess, whatever our sin may be, his love is able to heal and bring peace and order to our messy lives."

Father Erik Arnold

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

"One of the most sacred things God ever did was become human. That means your humanity — every part of it — is sacred. Not just the praying, worshipful or cleaned-up parts, but the messy parts too. God meets us in the mess in Jesus. When we dare to see the parts of ourselves we'd rather ignore and invite Jesus into that space where Jesus lovingly goes, we begin to glimpse the mystery of love incarnate. Emmanuel — God with us. Merry Christmas!"

Reverend Lauren Holder

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

"There is a reason that Christmas brings wonder and cheer to a weary world. Jesus is the reason for the season. The child born in Bethlehem brings hope amid hopelessness. He brings joy that is unspeakable. He is the prince of peace. He gave his life so that we could truly live. Christmas is about a God who loves you so much that he gave the ultimate gift, his son. Have you opened your heart to the child born in Bethlehem?"

Pastor Stephen Mitchell

Trinity Bible Church

"One of the most important but overlooked themes of Christmas is vulnerability. In the birth of Jesus, God does not come to us as a great prince born in a palace. God comes as the child of an unmarried couple, surrounded by farm animals and hailed by shepherds. And that means there is no person or place that is beneath or beyond God's presence, purpose and love. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birth as 'God with us,' which is good news for us all!"

Reverend J.C. Austin

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church



Peace On Earth, Good Will Toward Men

TIPS FOR A TRANQUIL HOLIDAY SEASON

By Meredith Winter

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

However, for many, it can be a stressful time of year as well. The holiday season is upon us, ripe with family gatherings, work parties, gift exchanges, faith observances, and many other celebratory traditions. But amid baking cookies, shopping for loved ones, and hosting parties, it's common to feel overwhelmed — even stressed — around the holidays.

In fact, a 2023 poll conducted by the American Psychological Association (APA) revealed that 89% of U.S. adults experience stress during the holiday season. The causes vary, but the results are the same: conflicting feelings of joy and angst.

However, there are ways to avoid common stressors and experience greater peace and cheer in the weeks ahead. Below are 10 tips to have a more tranquil holiday season.



Follow A Budget

Overspending or not having enough to spend was the number-one source of stress in the APA's survey. Consumer culture, relentless marketing, and even a well-intentioned desire to bless as many people as possible can all contribute to overspending. Creating and adhering to a holiday budget for gift-giving and travel can help mitigate sky-high credit card bills and financial strife. After all, you shouldn't book The Plaza Hotel with dad's credit card.

Curate Your Calendar

Invitations to holiday gatherings will fill your mailboxes and inboxes alike, but it's not impolite to decline a few. Prioritize events and gatherings that facilitate quality time with family and friends. Too many fun celebrations, outings and trips will leave you feeling tired and overwhelmed.



Put Family First

Don't let the tyranny of the urgent overshadow the blessing of what's most

important: creating lifelong memories with family. While offices and schools are closed, work and other obligations can take a backseat to meaningful connection and unforgettable experiences with the ones that matter most. While you're with family, challenge yourself to put your devices away as well. Miles Finch can wait; the days off are for Buddy and Michael!

Exercise Self-Control

Leaving most of the cookies for Santa and being mindful of food and alcohol consumption can help you feel physically better during the holiday season and do your immune system a favor leading into peak flu season, as well. Both sugar and alcohol are known to exacerbate stress, so try to indulge in moderation.



Set Healthy Boundaries

Staying physically healthy is important, but looking after your mental health can make the season brighter, too. You can mitigate conflict with family and friends by setting healthy boundaries. Establish clear expectations for family visits (especially with cousin Eddie), make unified decisions with your spouse, and avoid talking politics at the dinner table!

Seek To Serve

Many who celebrate Christmas hold that "Jesus is the reason for the season," and in his own words, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Helping those in need around us can be rewarding, fun, and a great teaching opportunity for children. Whether serving in a soup kitchen or donating to a toy drive, there are countless ways around the holidays to give of your time, treasure and talent. Be warned that if you do, your heart might grow three sizes.



Spend Time Outdoors

Exercise has long been known to help relieve stress and im-

prove mental health. Whether you travel from the North Pole to Manhattan by way of the candy cane forest, duke it out in an epic snowball fight, or just walk around your neighborhood, be sure to spend time doing things you enjoy outside this holiday season. Just don't shoot your eye out!

Resist Perfectionism

Few of us can deck the halls like Martha Stewart, and that's OK! While many people take great joy in decorating their homes for the holidays, some feel the pressure of perfectionism — ensuring that everything looks just right for visiting family and friends. Rather than jeopardizing the power grid like Clark Griswold, keep things simple and to your taste. There's no need to hold yourself to a Better Homes & Gardens standard.



Give Yourself Grace

For some people, the holidays bring feelings of loneliness, grief and sadness. It may be the first major holiday without a loved one, or a reminder of happier times bygone. Be mindful of what those around you are going through, and give yourself the grace and space to process your own emotions. It's OK if it is not the most wonderful time of the year. Several local churches are holding Blue Christmas services in advance of the holiday; they can be found in the calendar on page 38.

Keep The Main Thing The Main Thing

"Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" an exasperated Charlie Brown asked in the 1965 animated "Peanuts" special. His friend Linus simply answered by quoting Luke 2 in the Bible: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the lord." Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or another holiday, leave space to celebrate its true meaning. Attend a service, re-read religious passages, and try not to lose the true meaning of the holiday amid the many festivities and gift-giving. ■



Find Unique Gifts From Crafters And

By Jaina Peveto

Vendor and craft shows can be the perfect places to find gifts unlike any you can get from somewhere else. Whether you are supporting local vendors during Small Business Saturday or at a Christmas craft fair, holiday markets can offer the opportunity to gather with fellow community members for a day full of festive shopping.

Advent Market Celebration

St. John the Evangelist

689 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park

Saturday, November 22, 11:00am-4:00pm

An advent market will take place at St. John the Evangelist for the fifth year, featuring food trucks, dozens of handmade crafters and artists, and religious items. Vendors will be on Larsen Field and in the school auditorium. Santa will also be around, and parents can take photos of their children with Santa for a donation. Pony rides and a petting zoo will take place during the event, as well as a cake walk. Those who preorder advent wreaths can pick them up during the market.

Holiday Bazaar

St. Margaret's Church

1601 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis

Saturday, November 23, 9:00am-2:00pm

Come find gifts for the holidays and enjoy some great food and fellowship. Attend St. Margaret's Church's holiday bazaar in Annapolis on Saturday, November 22, from 9:00am-2:00pm, to browse nearly 30 vendors and crafters, featuring a variety of jewelry, baskets, home décor items, photography, beauty needs, candles, hand-painted plates and glassware, knitted items and more.



Garten Holiday Market

Garten

849 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park

Saturdays from November 29 – December 20, 8:00am-11:00am

Garten will hold a holiday market on Saturdays from November 29 through December 20. Peruse local vendors for festive gifts while sipping on specialty coffees or hot cocktails and mocktails, and indulge in chef Greg's special Garten breakfast menu. Brunch with Santa follows at 11:00am.

Christmas Craft Extravaganza

Severna Park Elks Lodge

160 Truck House Road, Severna Park

November 29, 9:00am-3:00pm

The Severna Park Elks' third annual Christmas Craft Extravaganza and Toy Drive will take place on Small Business Saturday, November 29, from 9:00am-3:00pm. The event will feature lots of vendors, face painting, music, food, drinks, a visit from Santa and more. Photos with the Grinch will be available for purchase as well. To participate in the toy drive, bring a new, unwrapped toy.

Small Business Saturday Vendor Market

Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center

4374 Mountain Road, Pasadena

November 29, 10:00am-4:00pm

Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center will hold a Small Business Saturday vendor market on November 29 in Pasadena. Visitors can shop for unique gifts from local vendors, enjoy coffee and food truck snacks, pick up houseplants and enjoy a festive shopping day from 10:00am-4:00pm. Vendors will also be present at Himmel's Saturdays with Santa on December 6 and 13.

Holiday Vendor Fair: Small Business Weekend

Park Books

579 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park

November 30, 10:00am-1:00pm

Park Books will hold its fourth annual holiday vendor fair in honor of Small Business Weekend. Get into the holiday spirit by supporting local vendors, crafters and artisans by purchasing handmade products and gifts. The vendor fair will take place indoors in Park Books' community space.



Vendors At Holiday Markets

Annapolis Holiday Market

St. John's College in Annapolis

60 College Avenue, Annapolis
December 13, December 18-21

The Annapolis Holiday Market, now in its fourth year, will feature over 100 artisans, specialty food vendors and holiday entertainment. As the City Dock area is under construction, this year's market will take place on the front lawn of St John's College. On Thursday evening, downtown Annapolis stores will stay open until midnight, and music will fill the streets, allowing for plenty of time for late-night shopping during the Midnight Madness event.



Broadneck Craft Bazaar

Broadneck High School

1265 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis
Saturday, December 6, 9:30am-3:00pm

The Broadneck Craft Bazaar features handcrafted items from over 130 vendors and typically hosts over 2,000 shoppers. The bazaar includes a bake sale, a raffle of donated vendor items as well as full cashless concessions for breakfast and lunch items. This community event, which supports student-led clubs and organizations, is in its 41st year. An entrance fee of \$2 benefits Broadneck High School athletics.

Vintage Christmas Market At Wildberry

Wildberry Farms

1047 St. Stephens Church Road, Crownsville
Saturday, December 6, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Wildberry Farms' final Vintage Christmas Market will take place on December 6 from 1:00pm-4:00pm in Crownsville. Sip warm drinks, savor farm-baked holiday treats, and shop for the perfect gift created by hand-picked local makers and artisans. Free tote bags will be offered for the first 50 visitors, and all shoppers can look forward to a hot chocolate bar, live music and a special appearance from the Grinch. The event's rain date is December 7.

Holiday Marketplace

Severna Park Community Center

623 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park
Sunday, December 7, 1:00pm-5:00pm

The Severna Park Community Center will hold its Holiday Marketplace on December 7, showcasing vendors selling a variety of handmade products. The event will also feature holiday music performed by the Severna Park High School a cappella group. In addition, the community center's Cookies & Cocoa with Santa event on December 12 will include an opportunity to finish any last-minute holiday shopping.

Severna Park Farmer's Market Christmas Market

Severna Park Farmer's Market

Park and Ride on Ritchie Highway and Jones Station Road, Severna Park
Saturday, December 13, 8:00am-noon

Though the Severna Park Farmer's Market has ended its regular season, the opportunity to explore its vendors' merchandise isn't over yet. The farmer's market will return on Saturday, December 13, for a special Christmas market that will take place at its usual time and place of 8:00am-noon in the Park and Ride lot.



Holiday Craft Fair

Old Mill Middle School South

430 Old Mill Road, Millersville
Saturday, December 13, 9:00am-1:00pm

The Old Mill Middle School South holiday craft fair features many crafters, artisans and vendors with products for purchase. A variety of items will be available at different booths, including candles, 3D printing, tumblers, crocheted toys and animals, spices, jewelry and more. Food trucks will also be onsite. Admission is free, as is face painting. ■



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Holidays Can Be A Stressful Season For Pets

Sticking To Routines And Having Quiet Places May Help During The Holidays

By Kevin Murnane

As pet owners host seasonal soirees with family, friends and neighbors, the family pet often struggles with the merriment of the holidays.

"Pets can be overwhelmed by the amount of people and the noise of a holiday get-together," said Monica Capella, medical director of VCA Calvert Veterinary Center in Pasadena. "In addition to the noise, lots of food is accidentally dropped on the carpet or floor, which may be toxic to your pet."

Capella advises pet owners to speak to their veterinarian prior to hosting a large gathering or changing routines during the holiday season. The veterinarian can provide tips to help with sound phobias and change of routines that the pet will experience during the holiday season, including Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

"Routines are very important for pets," Capella said. "Dogs especially like a structured routine, such as specific times for walks and feeding. During the holidays, it is important that they stick to those schedules, especially diets."

Many food items offered during holiday parties are toxic to pets, including fatty foods, candies, cookies, fruit and breads, to name a few. Beware of bones in turkey

and other meats, too, because bones can get caught in the pet's esophagus, stomach or intestines.

In addition to food, many holiday plants — including poinsettias and lilies — are toxic to pets. Christmas tree pine needles don't digest well, and pet owners should remove them from floors throughout the season.

As for ornaments on Christmas trees, pet owners should not place breakable ornaments on the lower part of the tree and should avoid using tinsel and ribbon on the lower branches. Also, use caution when placing lights on the lower branches; some pets may chew the wires of the electrical connections of the lights.

New Year's Eve may be another stressful event for pets, especially dogs. Many neighborhoods set off fireworks, which can cause noise phobias for pets. Speak with your veterinarian and possibly have anxiety medications prescribed to help pets get through the night.

Capella advises all pet owners to keep poison control numbers on their refrigerators as well as veterinary emergency clinic numbers.

Make sure pets have a quiet area to go to during holiday events. It should be an area away from the get-together and where the pet feels safe. ■



Photo by Kevin Murnane

VCA Calvert Veterinary Center Medical Director Monica Capella held her dog, Smokey, on the exam table. Capella suggests that pet owners speak with their veterinarian before the holidays if they are hosting parties or changing a pet's routine during that time.

Poison Control Numbers

ASPCA Poison Control:
888-426-4435

Pet Poison Hotline:
855-764-7661

Anne Arundel Veterinary Emergency Clinic:
808 Bestgate Road,
Annapolis — 410-224-0331

Pet Presents

Of course, the holiday season is not just a time for careful boundaries when it comes to pets. They can join in the merriment, too.

As far as presents that will go under those Christmas trees, Capella recommends snuffle mats and puzzle feeders for pets.

"As we see our pets getting older, we want to ensure we keep them mentally stimulated and engaged, and puzzle feeders and snuffle mats can be a great way to do that," Capella said.

One of the more popular gift ideas for dogs is "squeaky" toys. Capella suggests that the pet owner carefully monitor those toys because the "squeaker" may be ripped out and could get lodged in the pet's throat.

Senior dogs should stay away from rawhide bones because they may damage teeth.

"Protect those teeth," Capella said. "If you can't bend or flex it or put a thumbnail imprint on it, it's too hard."



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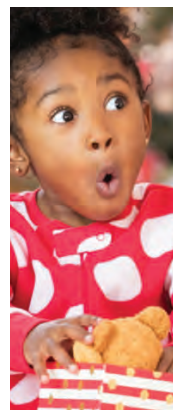
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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

ONGOING

Through November 30: Admiral Cleaners is collecting new and seldom-used coats for people in need. Info: 410-267-8381.

Through Dec. 5: Arundel Federal's 23rd annual toy drive. Accepting new, unwrapped toys at all five locations. Info: www.arundelfederal.com/about/news.

Through Dec. 12: Annual coat, clothing and toiletry drive organized by Phronesis Wealth Management and Giving Back, Linda's Legacy. Drop off items at 529 Benfield Road in Severna Park from 8:00am-5:00pm. Info: www.phronesiswealthmanagement.com/events.

Through Dec. 24: Santapolis: A Magical Holiday Experience at the Annapolis Mall. Register for photos with Santa at www.whereissanta.com/mall/0786.

Through Dec. 24: Pictures with Santa at Marley Station Mall. Register at whereis-santa.com/mall/0310.

Through Dec. 31: Holiday train garden daily at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park from 10:00am-6:00pm.

Through Jan. 1: Lights on the Bay at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Info: www.lightsonthebaymd.org.

Through Jan. 4: Toby's Dinner Theatre presents "Elf The Musical." Info: www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 22: Motorcycle parade from American Legion Post 175 in Severna Park to Bubba's 33 in Glen Burnie. Registration starts at 8:30am, with ride at 10:00am. Info: "American Legion Post 175 Severna Park" on Facebook.

Nov. 22: Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church holiday bazaar from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Nov. 22: Holiday bazaar at St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis from 9:00am-2:00pm.

Nov. 22: Advent market celebration at St. John the Evangelist from 11:00am-4:00pm. Info: www.stjohnsp.org/events.

Nov. 22: Deep Creek Lighted Boat Parade at Donnelly's Dockside, 5:30pm.

Nov. 22: Emmanuel Lutheran Church holiday model train garden grand opening at Marley Station Mall. Info: "The Holiday Train Garden at Marley Station Mall" on Facebook.

Nov. 23: Ballet Theatre of Maryland presents "The Nutcracker" at Coppermine Pantherplex at 2:00pm. Info: www.balletmaryland.org/nutcracker.

Nov. 27: Thanksgiving

Nov. 28 – Dec. 28: Classic Theatre of Maryland presents "White Christmas." Info: www.classictheatremaryland.org.

Nov. 28: Holiday train garden at Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum through January 4. Info: www.howardcountymd.gov/holiday-train-garden.

Nov. 28: The Polar Express at B&O in Baltimore on select dates through December 23. Info: www.borail.org/polar-express.

Nov. 29: Small Business Saturday

Nov. 29 – Dec. 21: Weekend photos with Santa at Homestead Gardens. Info: www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-events.

Nov. 29: Christmas Craft Extravaganza and Toy Drive at the Severna Park Elks from 9:00am-3:00pm. Info: "Third Annual Small Business Saturday Christmas Craft Extravaganza & Toy Drive" event on Facebook.

Nov. 29: Small Business Saturday vendor market at Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center from 10:00am-4:00pm. Info: www.himmelsgardencenter.com.

Nov. 29 – Dec. 20: Garten Holiday Market, Saturdays from 8:00am-11:00am. Brunch with Santa begins at 11:00am. Info: www.garten-eats.com/events.

Nov. 30: Grand Illumination in downtown Annapolis. Celebration begins at 3:00pm, with tree lighting at 5:15pm. Info: www.downtownannapolispartnership.org/grand-illumination.

Nov. 30: Small Business Weekend holiday vendor fair at Park Books from 10:00am-1:00pm. Info: www.parkbooksmid.com/events.

Nov. 30: "Circus Pop! The Holiday Bubble-bration" at the Children's Theatre of Annapolis from 2:00pm-3:00pm. Info: www.ticketleap.events/events/cta-md.

DECEMBER

Dec. 2: Chesapeake Ballet Company presents "A Nutcracker Storytime" at the Severna Park Library from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Info: www.aacpl.net/events.

Dec. 3: Trident Brass holiday concert at the United States Naval Academy from 7:00pm. Info: navyperforms.showare.com.

Dec. 3: Deadline for stuffed stockings and donations to support the Partners In Care holiday stocking drive, Elves For Elders. Info: www.partnersincare.org/elves.

Dec. 4 – Dec. 27: Classic Theatre of Maryland presents "A Christmas Carol." Info: www.classictheatremaryland.org.

Dec. 4: Santa Paws pet photos with Santa at Homestead Gardens from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Info: www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-events.

Dec. 4: Midnight Madness in Annapolis from 4:00pm-midnight. Also Dec. 11 from 4:00pm-midnight, and Dec. 18 from 4:00pm-11:00pm.

Dec. 5: Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce tree lighting from 5:00pm-6:30pm. Info: www.gspacc.com.

Dec. 5: "DFC's Holiday Cabaret" at the Children's Theatre of Annapolis from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Info: www.ticketleap.events/events/cta-md.

Dec. 5-6: AACC Dance Company winter dance concert at Anne Arundel Community College at 7:30pm. Info: www.aacc.edu/calendar.

Dec. 6: Jingle Bell Run/Walk benefiting the DeCesaris/Prout Cancer Foundation at Quiet Waters Park at 9:00am. Info: www.dp-cancerfoundation.org/jingle-bell-runwalk.

Dec. 6: Broadneck Craft Bazaar at Broadneck High School from 9:30am-3:00pm. Info: www.broadneckboosters.org/craftbazaar.

Dec. 6: Jingle Bell Hayride at Kinder Farm Park with warm beverages, Santa and Mrs. Claus, donation drive and more from 10:00am-1:00pm. Info: www.kinderfarmpark.org.

Dec. 6: Cookies and Cocoa with Claus at the Children's Theatre of Annapolis from 11:00am-12:30pm. Info: www.ticketleap.events/events/cta-md.

Dec. 6: Partners In Care Elves For Elders event and stocking drive at The Rumor Meal in Pasadena from noon-5:00pm. Info: www.partnersincare.org/elves.

Dec. 6: Vintage Christmas Market at Wildberry Farms in Crownsville from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Info: www.wildberryfarmlifestyle.com/farm-events.

Dec. 6: Fence & Deck Connection's annual holiday drive from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Guests are encouraged to bring a new-with-tags children's clothing item or toy to be donated to The Blue Ribbon Project.

Dec. 6: Christmas market at Arden Town Hall from 5:00pm-9:00pm.

Dec. 6: St. John the Evangelist live nativity on Larsen Field from 6:15pm-7:30pm. Info: www.stjohnsp.org/events.

Dec. 6: "Wonder and Glory — This is Our Story" Christmas concert at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Info: www.woodstix.org.

Dec. 6-7: Handel's "Messiah" at the United States Naval Academy. Info: navyperforms.showare.com.

Dec. 6-13: Saturdays with Santa at Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center. Info: www.himmelsgardencenter.com.

Dec. 7: The Dance Center at Severna Park Community Center presents "The Nutcracker" at Severna Park High School from 1:00pm-2:00pm. Info: www.spcommunitycenter.org/events.

Dec. 7: Holiday Marketplace at the Severna Park Community Center from 1:00pm-5:00pm. Info: www.spcommunitycenter.org/events.

Dec. 7: S'music & S'mores with cocoa, baked potato dinner, music, crafts, pageant and more at Severna Park United Methodist Church from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Info: www.severnaparkumc.org/events.

Dec. 7: Benfield Brass holiday concert at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 7:00pm.

Dec. 9: 15th annual Taste & Sip Extravaganza at Chartwell Golf and Country Club from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Info: www.tinyurl.com/tasteandsipdec9.

Dec. 12: Cookies and Cocoa with Santa at the Severna Park Community Center from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Info: www.spcommunitycenter.org/events.

Dec. 12: Live Arts Maryland presents "Celebration of Christmas" at Maryland Hall at 7:30pm. Info: www.liveartsmd.org/celebrationofchristmas.

Dec. 12-23: The Talent Machine Company presents "A Merry Mix-Up." Info: www.talentmachine.com.

Dec. 13: Christmas Market at Severna Park Farmer's Market from 8:00am-noon.

Dec. 13: Holiday Craft Fair at Old Mill Middle School South from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Dec. 13: Santa on the B&A Trail. Find Santa at Jones Station Road at 9:00am, Hatton-Regester Green at 9:45am, or the Earleigh Heights Ranger Station at 1:00pm.

Dec. 13: Annapolis Holiday Market at St. John's College from 11:00am-9:00pm. Info: www.annapolisholidaymarket.com.

Dec. 13: "Winter Daydreams" piano recital at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church at 2:00pm.

Dec. 13: Eastport Yacht Club Lights Parade along the Annapolis Harbor from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Dec. 13: Big Brass Band of Northern Virginia presents "Christmas Brass" at Severna Park United Methodist Church at 7:00pm.

Dec. 13-21: Chesapeake Ballet Company presents "The Nutcracker" at Children's Theatre of Annapolis. Info: www.chesapeakeballetcompany.com.

Dec. 14: First night of Hanukkah

Dec. 14: Breakfast with Santa and the Grinch at Severna Park Baptist Church at 9:15am. Register at www.spbcm.com/events.

Dec. 14: Santa on the Magothy, with stops at Donnelly's from noon-1:00pm and The Point Crab House & Grill from 2:00pm-3:00pm.

Dec. 14: Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company Cookies and Cocoa with Santa from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Info: www.ehvf.org.

Dec. 14: Blue Christmas service at Severna Park United Methodist Church at 4:00pm. Info: www.severnaparkumc.org/events.

Dec. 14: Parade of Light car parade and menorah lighting at City Dock in Annapolis at 5:45pm. Info: www.chabadaac.com/chanukahparade.

Dec. 16: Blue Christmas service at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church at 7:00pm. Info: www.woodschurch.org.

Dec. 17: Blue Christmas service at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church at 7:00pm. Info: www.stmartinsinthefield.com/events.

Dec. 18-21: Annapolis Holiday Market at St. John's College, various times. Info: www.annapolisholidaymarket.com.

Dec. 19-21: The Annapolis Symphony Orchestra presents "Holiday Pops" at various locations. Info: www.annapolissymphony.org/events/holidaypops.

Dec. 20: Movies at the Library featuring "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" at the Severna Park Library from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Info: www.aacpl.net/events.

Dec. 20: "Cookies, Bookies & SANTA" at Park Books from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Info and tickets: www.parkbooksmid.com/events.

Dec. 20: Holiday Shoppe & Gift Wrapping at Severna Park United Methodist Church, with affordable gifts for kids to purchase and gift-wrapping services for a donation. Info: www.severnaparkumc.org/events.

Dec. 20-21: Live Arts Maryland presents Handel's "Messiah" at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis. Info: www.liveartsmd.org/messiah.

Dec. 25: Christmas

Dec. 26: First night of Kwanzaa

Dec. 26: "A Budweiser Clydesdale Miracle in Annapolis" at Maryland Hall from 2:30pm-4:30pm. Info: www.militarybowl.org/bowl-home/miracle.

Dec. 27: Go Bowling Military Bowl at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium in Annapolis at 11:00am. ■

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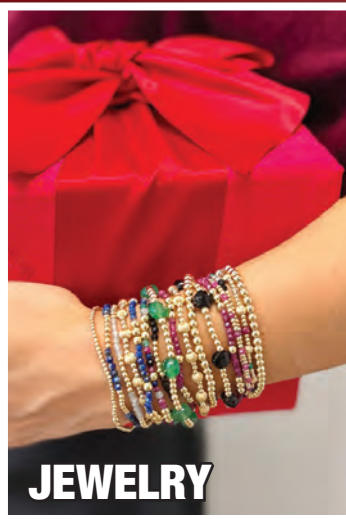


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